



Aquaculture Policy and Procedures Manual

Fisheries and Land Resources

September 2019


Newfoundland
Labrador



AQUACULTURE POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

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OVERVIEW

This manual provides policy and procedural guidance for the development, licensing and operation of an aquaculture facility including aquatic animal health responsibilities.

The justification for the issuance of a new licence or licence transfer will be consistent with government policies and consider all of the criteria outlined in this manual. It will be the applicant's responsibility to identify and address, as fully as possible, all matters relevant to the specific proposal and to comply with all governmental and regulatory requirements.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of Aquaculture Policy and Procedures are to:

- Promote the orderly development of an environmentally sustainable aquaculture industry;

- Establish Newfoundland and Labrador as a world leader in aquaculture health and production; and

- Increase public trust.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Aquaculture Act provides the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources with the authority to oversee the development and governance of the aquaculture industry. The purpose of the Act is to promote the prudent and orderly development of the industry, secure property rights, minimize resource user conflicts and engage in co-operative decision making with external government agencies.

AQUACULTURE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policies and procedures contained in this manual are subject to change.

AP 1 – Classification of Licences

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 11(a)

Scope:

Aquaculture facilities may be licensed for commercial and/or non-commercial purposes.

Potential applicants should contact an Aquaculture Development Officer to discuss the most appropriate application type prior to applying.

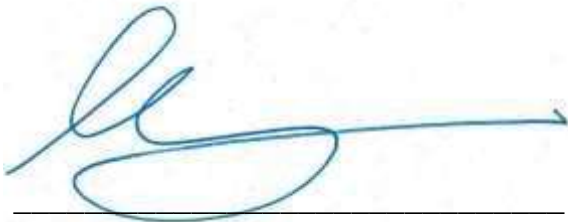
Policy:

1. There are two classes of licences available for conducting aquaculture: (i) Commercial and (ii) Non-commercial.
2. Commercial licences provide the licensee the ability to harvest and market aquaculture product produced on the site.
3. Non-commercial licences provide the licensee the ability to grow aquaculture product for research, training, food security or other non-commercial purposes acceptable to the department. Product produced cannot be sold for commercial purposes without prior written consent of the Minister.
4. An aquaculture licence may have both classifications. Multiple classifications will be listed on the licence by species.
5. The requirements for each class of licence may differ during the application and annual reporting processes.
6. It is the responsibility of licensees to ensure compliance with the requirements for each licence class.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 2 – Application Requirements

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Classification of Licences, Site Transitions, Buying and Selling of Aquaculture Licence Applications, Public Reporting, Fish Disposal, Aquatic Animal Health Disease Surveillance Designation, Integrated Pest Management Plans, Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits, and Financial Standing with Provincial Government

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4(3), 11(c), 11.1 and 11.2(k)

Scope:

Applications must demonstrate that the proponent has the technical and business expertise to develop, operate and maintain an aquaculture operation, as well as access to adequate levels of capital to cover the associated capital and operating expenditures. Applications must also demonstrate that the applicant has considered environmental impacts and has an adequate plan in place to address environmental monitoring and waste management.

Applications must also demonstrate the requirements outlined for the appropriate classification of licence.

Applicants must demonstrate they are in compliance and in good financial standing with the province.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Definitions:

New Applicant – a person or entity that does not currently have a licensed commercial aquaculture site in Newfoundland and Labrador for the species proposed.

Existing Operator – a person or entity that currently has one or more commercial sites licensed for the species proposed and is actively involved in the commercial-scale production of the species proposed in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Technical Ability – the ability demonstrated by an applicant and/or employees to operate and maintain an aquaculture facility in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.

Policy:

Commercial Applications

1. Commercial aquaculture licence applications must include information to show that technical, business planning and financial capability requirements have been met by the applicant.
2. Applicants may be required to provide additional information as determined by the department.

Technical Requirements

1. All operations must be able to show management/personnel experience with respect to:
 - a. Technical ability;
 - b. Business operations; and
 - c. Project management.
2. New applicants must provide management and key personnel resumes as proof of experience, as required in (1). Existing operators with resumes on file are not required to provide proof of expertise.
3. Proof of experience can be shown through successful completion of a directly relevant technical and/or managerial training program from an approved public or private educational institution or through direct substantial industry experience.
4. Demonstration of ISO or certified third-party engineering standards for sea cage system cage components and installation for new Atlantic salmon operations as of January 1, 2020.
5. As of January 1, 2024, all salmonid sea cage culture operations will be required to demonstrate that marine site cage system components and installation meet ISO or certified third-party engineering standards.

Business Planning Requirements

1. Applicants are required to provide a business plan with an application submission in addition to the information requested in an aquaculture licence application.

2. The business plan must include, at a minimum, the following information:
- An overview of the entity, including a description of current lines of business;
 - Associated entities (e.g. subsidiaries or parent companies);
 - Where the applicant is a company or partnership, a list of owners identifying names, addresses and percentage of ownership, including any subsidiaries or parent companies;
 - A site map that shows the exact location and details of site layout, including any existing or proposed structures;
 - An overview of the proposed operation, including details on planned capital expenditures;
 - An Environmental and Waste Management Plan;
 - An Incident Management System Plan;
 - A Production Plan specific to proposed species that may include month and year of stocking, number of fish to be stocked, grow-out period, average weight at introduction and harvest, anticipated losses, feed conversion ratios, final production quantity and fallow schedule, total number of collectors and socks deployed. Production plans must be in accordance with the department's established Bay Management Area principles, or other Area Management principles, and the department must be updated within 30 days to reflect any production changes due to a depopulation, mass mortality or other incident event, as applicable;
 - A plan related to below surface (dive inspections) inspections to be conducted and recorded every 30 days for finfish operations;
 - A statement outlining how veterinary oversight will be accomplished and the Designated Veterinarian (e.g. private veterinarian, company veterinarian, etc.);
 - A Fish Health Management Plan, which is to include a Biosecurity Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan, and Fish Disposal Plan;
 - As of January 1, 2021, sea lice abundance numbers must be reported to the department on a monthly basis and the operator must post sea lice abundance numbers publicly, on a monthly basis, on the industry association or corporate website. Further details as to sea lice reporting parameters will be determined through stakeholder engagement, prior to this date;
 - Prior to October 2020, mitigation measures must be implemented to prevent mortality events. Mitigation measures must be approved by Fisheries and Land Resources and include, but are not limited to, installation of nets that are a minimum of 20m, aeration devices and optimal farmed fish stocking density. Stocking of sites must not commence until departmental approval is granted. Licensees requesting a variance of less than 20m net depth must submit supporting evidence of geophysical and biophysical site characteristics and proof of alternate

mitigation measures to Fisheries and Land Resources for review and approval;

- Submission of biophysical data to include, but not limited to, dissolved oxygen, temperature and salinity at different depths at all active aquaculture marine sites daily. Submission of this data must occur quarterly to the Aquaculture Development and Aquatic Animal Health Divisions of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources; and
 - Additional information, as required, specific to the proposed operation.
3. Existing operators with an approved business plan on file with the department may not be required to submit a full business plan for a new application. The type of information and level of detail required from existing operators will be determined by the department.

Financial Requirements

1. All applicants must demonstrate the ability to access adequate levels of capital to develop, operate and maintain a proposed facility prior to being considered for an Aquaculture Licence, including the ability of finfish operations to establish a security bond.
2. Financial information may be included as a component of the business plan or as a separate submission as requested by the department.
3. Applicants are required to provide, at a minimum, the following financial information in addition to the information requested in an aquaculture licence application:
 - a. An itemized projected statement of monthly cash flows. Cash flows should be provided for a minimum of three years, or until positive cash flows are achieved;
 - b. A schedule of planned capital expenditures for a minimum of three years, or until positive cash flows are achieved;
 - c. Identification of funding sources, including all provincial and federal public departments and agencies. The list should include both approved and proposed funding sources; and
 - d. Additional information may be required, including, but not limited to, audited financial statements, projected financial statements or statements of personal net worth.
4. Existing operators and publically traded entities may not be required to submit a full set of financial requirements. In these situations, the type of information and level of detail required will be determined by the department.

5. Applications may be approved in principle, subject to funding, where loans and/or grants will be part of the financing for the operation. The applicant shall have a maximum of one hundred and twenty (120) days to finalize funding for the development. A licence will not be issued until documentation has been submitted to the Registrar confirming that funding has been secured.

Aquatic Animal Health Requirements

1. All applicants must submit a Fish Health Management Plan which is to include a Biosecurity Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan, Fish Disposal Plan and Designated Veterinarian with an application submission.
2. Information included in each plan may differ, depending on the nature of the application. Plans must include the information outlined by the department.
3. Applicants seeking further information on additional requirements should contact the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian for assistance.

Environmental Requirements

1. Applications must include an Environmental and Waste Management Plan for construction and operations.
2. The submitted Environmental and Waste Management Plan must be included with an aquaculture application.
3. Information included in each plan may differ, depending on the nature of the application. Proponents must work with applicable departments on plan content and development. Plans must be submitted in full to the department as part of the application submission.
4. Plans should be developed in accordance with the department's Environmental Guidance document. Applicants seeking to obtain a copy of this document or requiring further information should contact an Aquaculture Development Officer for assistance or consult with the departmental Environmental Scientist.

Non-commercial Applications

1. Non-commercial aquaculture licence applications must include a detailed project description, objectives, financial considerations, project partners, and timelines.

2. The department may request additional information to inform the application review.

Technical Requirements

1. All operations must be able to show management/personnel experience with respect to:
 - a. Technical/Research ability;
 - b. Financial management; and
 - c. Project management.

Project Plan Requirements

1. The project plan must include, but is not limited to, the following information:
 - An overview of the entity, including a description of current lines of business;
 - Associated entities (e.g. subsidiaries or parent companies);
 - Where the applicant is a company or partnership, a list of owners identifying names, addresses and percentage of ownership, including any subsidiaries or parent companies;
 - A site map that shows the exact location and details of site layout, including any existing or proposed structures;
 - An Incident Management System Plan;
 - An Environmental and Waste Management Plan;
 - A Production Plan specific to proposed species that may include month and year of stocking, number of fish to be stocked, grow-out period, average weight at introduction and harvest, anticipated losses, feed conversion ratios, final production quantity and fallow schedule, total number of collectors and socks deployed. Production plans must be in accordance with the department's established Bay Management Area principles , or other Area Management principles, and the department must be updated within 30 days to reflect any production changes due to a depopulation, mass mortality or other incident event, as applicable;
 - A plan related to below surface (dive inspections) inspections to be conducted and recorded every 30 days for finfish operations;
 - A statement outlining how veterinary oversight will be accomplished (e.g. private veterinarian, company veterinarian, etc.);
 - A Fish Health Management Plan which is to include a Biosecurity Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan, and Fish Disposal Plan;
 - As of January 1, 2021, sea lice abundance numbers must be reported to the department on a monthly basis and the operator must post sea lice abundance numbers publicly, on a monthly basis, on the industry association or corporate

- website. Further details as to sea lice reporting parameters will be determined through stakeholder engagement, prior to this date;
- Prior to October 2020, mitigation measures must be implemented to prevent mortality events. Mitigation measures must be approved by Fisheries and Land Resources and include, but are not limited to, installation of nets that are a minimum of 20m, aeration devices and optimal farmed fish stocking density. Stocking of sites must not commence until departmental approval is granted. Licensees requesting a variance of less than 20m net depth must submit supporting evidence of geophysical and biophysical site characteristics and proof of alternate mitigation measures to Fisheries and Land Resources for review and approval;
 - Submission of biophysical data to include, but not limited to, dissolved oxygen, temperature and salinity at different depths at all active aquaculture marine sites daily. Submission of this data must occur quarterly to the Aquaculture Development and Aquatic Animal Health Divisions of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources; and
 - Details on project objectives and commercial applicability. Applicants seeking a non-commercial licence for research purposes may be requested to provide summary results to the Minister, which may be released publically.
2. Existing operators with an approved business plan on file with the department may not be required to submit a full business plan for a new application. The type of information and level of detail required from existing operators will be determined by the department.

Financial Requirements

1. All applicants must submit a cost analysis for the proposed project that will identify the source of financing.
2. All applicants must have the ability to access adequate levels of capital to develop, operate and maintain a proposed facility prior to being considered for an Aquaculture Licence, including the ability of finfish operations to establish a security bond, as applicable.
3. The type of information and level of detail required for existing operators and publically traded entities will be determined by the department.
4. Where loans and/or grants will be part of the financing for the operation, applications may be approved in principle, subject to funding. The applicant shall have a maximum of one hundred and twenty (120) days to finalize funding for the development. A licence will not be issued until documentation has been submitted to the Registrar confirming that funding has been secured.

Aquatic Animal Health Requirements

1. All applicants must submit a Fish Health Management Plan which is to include a Biosecurity Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan and a Fish Disposal Plan with an application submission.
2. Information included in each plan may differ, depending on the nature of the application. Plans must include the information outlined by the department.
3. Applicants seeking further information on additional requirements should contact the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian for assistance.


Environmental Requirements

1. Applications must include an Environmental and Waste Management Plan (WMP) for construction and operations.
2. The submitted Environmental and Waste Management Plan must be included with an aquaculture application.
3. Information included in each plan may differ, depending on the nature of the application. Proponents must work with applicable departments on plan content and development. Plans must be submitted in full to the department as part of the application submission.
4. Plans should be developed in accordance with the department's Environmental Guidance document. Applicants seeking to obtain a copy this document or requiring further information should contact an Aquaculture Development Officer for assistance and consult with the departmental Environmental Scientist.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

AP 3 – Aquaculture Licence Fees

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Aquaculture Licensing Process and Site Transition

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(d), 11.1 and 16

Scope:

There are fees and other costs associated with the licensing process for new licence applications and licence amendments. There is also an annual fee for existing licences.

Applicable licensing fees depend on the operation type and the species licensed.

The department administers licensing fees. Additional costs may be incurred by the applicant due to other provincial or federal requirements.

It is the responsibility of the applicant/licensee to ensure that all fees are paid in full prior to licensing, renewal or amendment. The department will not register an application where the applicable fees have not been received

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

New Licence Application

1. The department collects fees directly associated with the licensing process for new applications.
2. Licence application fees that must be included in an application submission are:
 - a. aquaculture licence application fee;
 - b. Crown Lands application fee; and
 - c. Water Use Licence fee.

3. Other fees associated with the licensing process are the responsibility of the applicant, who will be notified.
4. Additional costs, including the provincial public notification of the undertaking, will be the responsibility of the applicant.
5. Fees and other costs associated with federal government review processes, including public notification for the formal review process under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act will be administered through the Federal Government.

Annual Licence Fees

1. The department collects an annual licence fee for all licensed aquaculture sites.
2. The annual licence fees are due no later than 45 days prior to March 31 of each year. Should licence fees not be paid within the specified time frame, administrative penalties may be applied by the Minister.
3. Other annual fees associated with operating the site are the responsibility of the licensee, who will be notified.

Licence Amendment Requests

1. Licensees may apply for three types of Licence Amendments, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Change of Ownership (Site Transition);
 - b. Species Add-on; and
 - c. Site Boundary Amendments.

Change of Ownership (Site Transition)

1. The department collects fees directly associated with the licensing process for change of ownership requests.
2. Fees that must be included in an aquaculture licence application for Change of Ownership requests are:
 - a. aquaculture licence application fee;
 - b. Crown Lands Notice of Assignment fee; and
 - c. Water Use Licence fee.
3. Other applicable provincial or federal fees or costs associated with the licensing process will be the responsibility of the licensee, who will be notified.

Species Add-on

1. The department collects the fee for Species Add-on requests.
2. Other applicable provincial or federal fees or costs associated with the licensing process will be the responsibility of the licensee, who will be notified.

Site Boundary Amendments

1. Site Boundary Amendments require the same fees as a New Licence Application. See New Licence Applications for the list of fees.
2. Other applicable provincial or federal fees or costs associated with the licensing process will be the responsibility of the licensee, who will be notified.
3. Additional costs, including the provincial public notification of the proposed development, will be the responsibility of the licensee.
4. Fees and other costs associated with Federal Government review processes, including public notification for the formal review process under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act will be administered through the Federal Government.

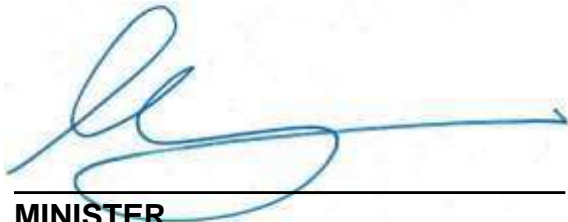
General

1. Application fees are non-refundable.
2. Fees are subject to change without notice.
3. Fees may be paid by cheque or money order made payable to the Newfoundland Exchequer Account, or by using the government's online payment system.
4. The online payment system for aquaculture licence application and annual fees can be found at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/pay-online/>
5. All licensing-related fees collected by the department, with the exception of the aquaculture licence application fee - finfish and annual licence fee - Finfish, can be paid through the online payment system.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

Annex A

Aquaculture Licensing Fee Schedule

Activity	Name of Fee	Agency Responsible	Fee
New Licence Application Fees			
	Aquaculture Licence Application Fee - Finfish	FLR	\$145/hectare
	Aquaculture Licence Application Fee - Finfish Other	FLR	\$1,000
	Aquaculture Licence Application Fee – Shellfish	FLR	\$500
	Crown Lands Application Fee	FLR	\$150 (+HST)
	Water Use Licence (Aquaculture)	MAE	\$400 (+HST)
	Title Document Preparation for Crown Lands Lease fee	FLR	\$300
Change of Ownership Fees			
	Aquaculture Licence Application Fee - Finfish	FLR	\$145/hectare
	Aquaculture Licence Application Fee - Finfish Other	FLR	\$1,000
	Aquaculture Licence Application Fee – Shellfish	FLR	\$500
	Crown Lands Notice of Assignment Fee	FLR	\$200
	Water Use Licence (Aquaculture)	MAE	\$400 (+HST)
Annual Licence Fees			
	Finfish	FLR	\$145/hectare
	Finfish Other	FLR	\$1,000
	Shellfish	FLR	\$500
	Crown Lands Annual Rental Fee	FLR	\$8/hectare
	Water Use Charge (Marine)	MAE	\$1,000
	Water Use Charge (Freshwater)	MAE	\$10,000
	Water Use Charge (\$5 per 1,000 m ³ licensed and used plus \$0.50 per 1,000 m ³ licensed but not used)	MAE	
Species Add-on Fees			
	Species Add-on fee – Finfish	FLR	\$1,000
	Species Add-on fee - Shellfish	FLR	\$500

**Licence Boundary
Amendments**

see New Licence Application Fees

* Note: Does not include other associated provincial and federal costs

FLR - Fisheries and Land Resources
MAE - Municipal Affairs and Environment

AP 4 – Aquaculture Licensing Process

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Application Requirements, Aquaculture Licence Fees, Public Consultation, Public Reporting, Site Transitions, Buying and Selling of Aquaculture Licence Applications, Policy Variance Requests, Appeals Process and Financial Standing with Provincial Government

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4; 4(f), 4.2, and 4(6)-4(15), 10, 11.1, 11.2(k) and 15

Scope:

The department oversees the licensing process for all aquaculture operations in the province. This one-stop shopping concept and the departmental web-based service have been developed in an effort to make the aquaculture licensing process more efficient and responsive to industry.

Licensees are responsible for ensuring that all permits and approvals are in place prior to developing or stocking an aquaculture site.

Applicants seeking additional information on the licensing process should contact the Manager of Aquaculture Licensing and Administration.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Completed applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis from proponents who adequately demonstrate the necessary technical and financial capability to operate an aquaculture facility, unless otherwise directed by the Minister.
2. These applications will be referred for comment to those departments and agencies that have jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the site and to the general public.

3. Referral agencies will be asked to identify any potential conflicts based on their respective jurisdictional authority and will provide a recommendation or advice to the department on whether or not the site should receive an Aquaculture Licence.
4. During the application process the general public will be given opportunity to document their comments in relation to an application.
5. Comments received in accordance with Public Consultation will be referred to the appropriate agency and applicant for comment or action, if necessary.
6. Applicants must be in good standing with departmental policies.
7. Applicants are required to be in good standing with the Registry of Companies.
8. Before an application is referred externally, a review will be conducted to determine whether the applicant is in good financial standing with the Provincial Government. Applicants found to be in arrears with the Provincial Government will not be granted an approval until the applicant can demonstrate clear financial standing.

Application Process:

Pre-submission:

1. Applicants must contact the Manager of Aquaculture Licensing and Administration prior to completing an application for an Aquaculture Licence. An Aquaculture Development Officer (ADO) will be assigned to provide the applicant guidance with respect to completing the licence application.
2. Applicants must send the ADO the completed application. The ADO will verify the completeness of the application and ensure all components are included. Components may include:
 - Crown Lands Application (where applicable)
 - Maps / Drawings
 - Business Plan / Development Plan (where applicable)
 - Plans related to aquatic animal health including a Fish Health Management Plan, Biosecurity Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan, Fish Disposal Plan and Designated Veterinarian.
 - Plans related to environment and waste management
 - Plans related to incident management
 - Application fees
 - Proof that a security bond is in place for finfish applications
 - Variance requests

- Demonstration of ISO or certified third-party engineering standards for sea cage system cage components and installation for new Atlantic salmon operations as of January 1, 2020.
 - As of January 1, 2024 all salmonid sea cage culture operations will be required to demonstrate that marine site cage system components and installation meet ISO or certified third-party engineering standards.
 - As of January 1, 2021, licensees must report sea lice abundance numbers to the department on a monthly basis and post sea lice abundance numbers publicly, on a monthly basis, on the industry association or corporate website. Further details as to sea lice reporting parameters will be determined through stakeholder engagement prior to this date.
 - Prior to October 2020, applicants must implement mitigation measures to prevent mortality events. Mitigation measures must be approved by Fisheries and Land Resources and include, but are not limited to, installation of nets that are a minimum of 20m, aeration devices and optimal farmed fish stocking density. Stocking of sites must not commence until departmental approval is granted. Licensees requesting a variance of less than 20m net depth must submit supporting evidence of geophysical and biophysical site characteristics and proof of alternate mitigation measures to Fisheries and Land Resources for review and approval.
 - Other, as necessary.
3. The ADO will advise licensing that the application package is complete.

Submission and Review:

4. Applicants must submit the application package and associated fees to licensing.
5. Licensing will deposit the fees (non-refundable) and registers the application.
6. Licensing will refer the application to the ADO, who will coordinate the department's Initial Assessment (IA) within a 30-day timeline per application.
7. The ADO will notify licensing that the IA is complete and proceed with the external referral process.
8. Licensing will refer the application to the applicable provincial and federal referral agencies (see Annex B), requesting a 30-business-day timeframe for application review and response. Consideration will be given to agencies requiring additional time as per their policy and legislative requirements to inform review.
9. At the discretion of the department, a courtesy notification may also be sent to other groups who may be impacted by the proposed development.

10. At the same time of external referral, licensing will notify the applicant to advertise the application as per Public Consultation.
 - a. Comments received as per Public Consultation will be forwarded to the appropriate agencies.
 - b. Applicant will also be advised so that they may attempt to address concerns to the satisfaction of all parties.
11. Where a referral agency advises the department that there is insufficient information to finalize an application assessment, the proponent will be advised in writing by the Aquaculture Licensing Administrator to provide the necessary information within a specified time frame.
12. If requested information is not received within the specified timeframes, the application may be considered incomplete and returned to the proponent. The site will then be available to any other interested proponent.
13. Licensing will complete an Application Summary, which summarizes the application, recommendations received from the IA and referral agencies, public comments, and all other pertinent information regarding the application.
14. The Aquaculture Licence Committee (ALC) will review the Application Summary and makes a recommendation to the Minister to approve, reject, or approve-in-principle.
 - a. The ALC will not consider an application unless the application can show that there is an emergency recapture licence, approved by DFO. It is the responsibility of the applicant to work with DFO to obtain the emergency recapture licence.
 - b. Where an agency does not recommend approval and the issue cannot be resolved, the applicant will be advised in writing that the application was unsuccessful.
 - c. Where there is public opposition raised as per policy standards, in an effort to address the concerns the department may request:
 - i. Further consultation with specified stakeholders.
 - ii. Additional actions to be taken by the applicant.
 - d. The ALC may require additional information prior to making a recommendation.
15. When an application is approved by the ALC, a recommendation to issue an aquaculture licence is forwarded to the Minister, who will make the final decision on the application.
16. Where an application has been rejected by the ALC, the applicant will be advised in writing by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries and Aquaculture or Minister designate.

17. The applicant will be given an opportunity to appeal the decision in accordance with the Appeals Process.

Approval-in-Principle

18. Where an application is approved-in-principle, the ALC will direct the Aquaculture Licensing Administrator to advise Crown Lands (where applicable) and advise the applicant in writing of the specific conditions, timeframes for completion, and other actions necessary.
 - a. Approval-in-principle is used:
 - i. When applicants require a level of assurance of approval to present to funding agencies.
 - ii. When land tenure is to be finalized.

Aquaculture Licence Issuance

19. Once the above-noted conditions have been fulfilled, a recommendation to issue an aquaculture licence will be forwarded to the Minister.
20. The aquaculture licence will contain terms and conditions relating to optimal resource utilization, aquatic animal health, the environment, and other conditions that may apply.
 - a. For all finfish licences, a requirement to complete and maintain records for below surface cage inspections every 30 days will be a condition of licence.
21. The licensee is responsible to comply with the terms and conditions of the licence, permits issued, and all relevant policies and legislation. Failure to comply may result in suspension, cancellation or non-renewal of the Aquaculture Licence. Further action may result at the discretion of the Minister.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

Annex A

AQUACULTURE LICENSING COMMITTEE	
Chair: Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch	The Chair is responsible for the overall operation of the Committee
Alternate Chair/Member: Manager of Aquaculture Licensing and Administration	The Manager is responsible for all aspects of the licensing process, and in the absence of the Chair is responsible for the operation of the Committee.
Members: Director of Aquaculture Development (or alternate)	The Director of Aquaculture Development is responsible for the overall delivery of programs, licensing and development of the industry.
Members: Program and Policy Development Specialist (Aquaculture) (or alternate)	The Program and Policy Development Specialist (Aquaculture) is responsible for policy development and program planning as it relates to aquaculture.
Members: Financial Analyst, Planning Services	The Financial analyst is responsible for ensuring projects are in compliance and acceptable from a financial management standpoint.
Secretary: Aquaculture Registrar (non-voting)	The Registrar disseminates information on the Aquaculture Licensing Program, acts as Licensing Registrar, and is secretary to the Aquaculture Licensing Committee.

The Aquaculture Licensing Committee may request the attendance of provincial or federal government officials whose knowledge may be of benefit when reviewing applications.

Meetings

Aquaculture Licensing Committee meetings will be held, as needed, to address applications. Recommendations will be made to the Minister by consensus of the committee or by majority vote if no consensus is achieved. Where deemed necessary, a vote may be conducted via email. A quorum of this Committee shall be the Chair or alternate chair, plus two voting committee members or their named alternates.

Annex B

Referral Departments/Agencies include, but are not limited to:

Department of Fisheries and Land Resources

Aquaculture Development Division
Licensing, Inspection and Quality Assurance
Division Lands Branch;

Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Water Resources Management Division
Local Governance and Planning
Division Engineering Division;

Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation

Arts and Heritage Division (Provincial Archaeology Office);

Transport Canada

Navigation Protection Program;

Fisheries and Oceans, Canada

Ecosystems Management
Fisheries Management
Policy and
Economics Science;

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Shellfish Water Classification Program;

Municipalities where applicable;

Others as deemed necessary;

Other resource user groups and the general public (via public advertisements).

AP 5 – Public Consultation

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Application Requirements; Aquaculture Licensing Process; and Buying and Selling of Aquaculture Licence Applications

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 11.2(k)

Scope:

Aquaculture licence applications are advertised to provide an opportunity for other resource user groups and members of the general public to submit comments to the department on proposed aquaculture operations.

This notification is in addition to the consultation requirements set out in the licence application.

This notification is separate from the public notification process required by Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. All new licence applications must be advertised in accordance with standards and procedures outlined by the department. Applications to amend site boundaries will also be advertised. Species Add-on and Change in Ownership Amendment applications that do not impact approved production schedules are not required to be advertised.
2. Applicants are required to place a public notification in a minimum of two different newspapers. One publication must be province-wide and the other must be a regional publication circulating in the area of the proposed site. In the absence of a regional publication, a department-approved method of public notification must be used by the applicant.

3. Public notifications must appear in the classified section of each newspaper and must run for a minimum of two consecutive weeks. For daily publications, notifications must run for a minimum of two consecutive Saturday editions. Weekly publications must run for a minimum of two consecutive weeks.
4. All public notices must include the following information:
 - a. Company/Applicant Name;
 - b. Type of Licence;
 - c. Proposed Species;
 - d. Location of Proposed Site, including coordinates;
 - e. Deadline date for comments to be received by the department.
5. The content and layout of notices must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Minimum size of 2.25 inches (width) by 5 inches (height);
 - b. Sans-serif font for text with a minimum 10 point font; and
 - c. All capitalized, bolded heading with a minimum 11 point font.
6. Applicants must provide proof to the department that public notices have occurred in accordance with the department policies and procedures. Applicants must provide copies of the advertisements, along with a confirmation of the newspapers utilized and the dates of placement to the Registrar.
7. The public comment period will be for a minimum of 20-business-days. The deadline date for public comment must extend for a minimum of 10-business-days following the last date the notification was advertised.
8. The deadline date for comments will be strictly adhered to, except where valid health or public safety issues have been identified that were not addressed through the aquaculture licence application referral process.
9. Responses to public notifications must be provided in writing and contain the following:
 - Name of person making the comments, with contact information (address, phone number, email); and
 - Description of how the person will be impacted by the proposed development.
10. Written comments submitted in accordance with the requirements will be presented to the applicant and the department or agency having legislative jurisdiction.

11. Valid concerns are to be addressed by the applicant, where possible. Every reasonable attempt should be made to address valid concerns, including conducting additional consultation and providing alternative solutions.
12. Valid concerns that cannot be addressed through reasonable attempts will be considered during the application assessment process.
13. A separate public notification is required for each application submitted.
14. Costs associated with public notifications are the responsibility of the applicant.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

Annex A

NOTICE OF AQUACULTURE LICENCE APPLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that **Company Name** has applied under the provisions of the Aquaculture Act for the issuance of an Aquaculture Licence to operate a **Type of Licence and Proposed Species** facility at **Proposed Location, Site Latitudes and Longitudes** in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Comments on this application should be directed to:

Aquaculture Licensing Administrator
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
P. O. Box 679
58 Hardy Ave.
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL, A2A 2K2
Tel: 709-292-4103
Fax: 709-292-4113
E-mail: aquaculturelicensing@gov.nl.ca

Comments must be received no later than **specify date - no less than two weeks after the date of the last advertisement** and will only be considered if they are in writing.

Although all comments conforming to the above will be considered, no individual response will be sent.

AP 6 – Aquaculture Licence Renewal

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Financial Standing with Provincial Government

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4(4) (c), 11.1, 11.2(k), 16

Scope:

All licensed operations must be renewed on a set schedule.

The licence renewal process is separate from the Crown Lands Lease renewal process and any other provincial or federal approval processes that require renewal after a specified term.

It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that all licences, leases, permits and other required approvals are in good standing.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Aquaculture licences are valid for up to a six-year term.
2. The expiry date for a licence is March 31, regardless of the date of issue. For example, a licence issued in November 2018 will expire on March 31, 2024.
3. Licensees will be sent notification of licence expiration approximately 90 days prior to the expiration date.
4. Licensees are required to complete the aquaculture licence renewal application for each licence and submit to the department no later than 45 days prior to March 31.
5. Licensees are required to submit quarterly biophysical data to both the Aquaculture Development and the Aquatic Animal Health Divisions of the


Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. Biophysical data submitted must include daily records for all active aquaculture marine sites which includes dissolved oxygen, temperature and salinity at different depths.

6. Renewal applications are reviewed by the department prior to renewing a licence.
7. Licensees are required to be in good standing with departmental policies and must ensure permits and approvals associated with the licence are in good standing.
8. Finfish licensees must provide proof of a security bond.
9. Licensees are required to be in good standing with the Registry of Companies.
10. A review will be conducted to determine whether the licensee is in good financial standing with Provincial Government. Applicants found to be in arrears with Provincial Government will not be granted an approval until the licensee can demonstrate clear financial standing.
11. The department may request additional information to finalize a review of a renewal application. If additional information is required, licensees must provide it, as directed by the department, to ensure the renewal process is completed within the required timeframes.
12. As of January 1, 2024 all salmonid sea cage culture operations will be required to demonstrate that marine site cage system components and installation meet ISO or certified third-party engineering standards.
13. As of January 1, 2021, licensees must report sea lice abundance numbers to the department on a monthly basis and post sea lice abundance numbers publicly on a monthly basis on the industry association or corporate website. Further details as to sea lice reporting parameters will be determined through stakeholder engagement prior to this date.
14. Late renewal applications and insufficient information may result in administrative penalties and/or non-renewal of the licence.
15. Licensees that do not intend to renew a licence are required to notify the department in order to commence the site decommissioning processes.
16. The Minister may not renew a licence at his/her discretion.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

AP 7 – Annual Reporting

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquaculture Licence Renewal; Net Washing; and Aquatic Animal Health Reporting

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 11(1), 11.2(l), 11.2(r), and 16

Scope:

The department collects information annually on aquaculture activity in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Annual reporting is required for each licensed aquaculture site, regardless of whether there was activity at that site over the past calendar year. Data collected is dependent on the species cultivated and the nature of the operation.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

Commercial Licences

1. Licensees are required to provide the following information on an annual basis for each licensed site:
 - a. Aquaculture production statistics;
 - b. Annual employment statistics;
 - c. Production plan update;
 - d. Net Cleaning and Disinfection Report;
 - e. Environmental and Waste Management Plan, as required; and
 - f. Annual Aquatic Animal Health Report.

2. The department will provide notification to the licensee requesting annual information requirements in January of each year. Annual reporting requirements are due no later than 45 days prior to March 31 of each year for each site licence.

3. Statistics forms must be completed online as identified by the department. A link to the forms will be provided in the notification sent to the licensee. Where paper copies of statistics forms are required, forms will be sent to the licensee.
4. Production plan updates must be submitted to the department through the Aquaculture Licensing Administrator. Submission can be through email or mail, where required.
5. It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that annual information requirements are completed and submitted to the department within required timelines.
6. Submitted information is not considered finalized until it has been reviewed by the department staff to ensure accuracy and completeness.
7. Licensees will be notified of incomplete or inaccurate information and requested to submit information within 10 days of the date of the notification.
8. Licence renewals or amendments will not be granted where there is required information outstanding for that licence.
9. Late submission of required information may result in administrative penalties and/or licence cancellation.

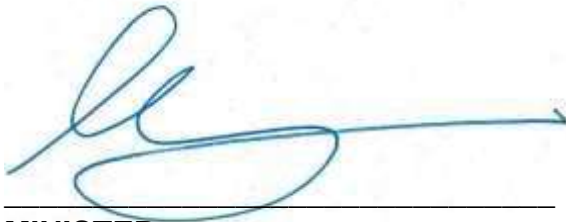
Non-commercial Licences

1. Licensees are required to submit an annual project update that outlines the activity on the site over the past year.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 8 – Site Utilization

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Application Requirement, Aquaculture Licensing Process; Aquaculture Licence Renewal; and Annual Reporting

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4(4) (g), 11(i), 11.2(a), 11.2(l), 11.2(r)

Scope:

Development of resources for the purpose of aquaculture should occur in an efficient and orderly manner that maximizes the overall benefit to the province.

Aquaculture Licences are granted based on approved business and production plans that are assessed with respect to efficient site utilization to ensure optimal site production.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. All licensed aquaculture sites should be developed in accordance with approved business and production plans on file with the department. Production plan updates must be submitted to the department on an annual basis outlining stocking plans and contingency plans.
2. Where site development does not occur in accordance with approved business and/or production plans, the Minister may cancel or refuse to renew a licence.
3. Where site development does not occur in accordance with approved business and/or production plans due to external factors, those factors will be considered prior to taking further action.

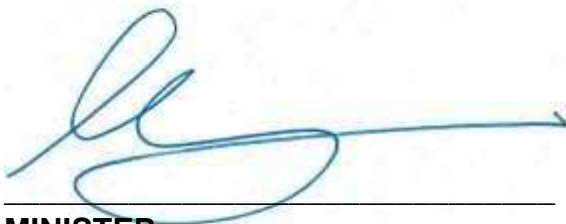
4. Licensees are required to notify the department of modifications to a business or production plan for a licensed aquaculture site. Modifications to plans will be reviewed and approved by the department on a case-by-case basis.

5. Where site utilization does not occur in accordance with approved business and/or production plans, the department will not accept further applications for new site licences, licence expansions or species add-ons from the licence, until existing sites are developed or updated in accordance with approved business and production plans.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 9 – Onshore Developments in Vicinity to Aquaculture Sites

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References:

Scope:

The department reviews applications for developments that are in the vicinity of an aquaculture operation, to determine whether there are potential impacts on existing operations.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

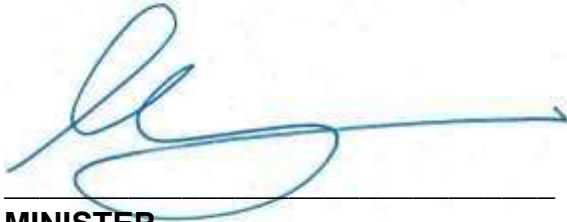
The department reviews proposed referrals, where there is at least one licensed aquaculture site in the vicinity, to determine whether the development may have potential negative impacts on the existing licensed site.

1. The department should not recommend approval of a proposed development that is within 500 meters of the boundary of an existing bivalve aquaculture site.
2. For municipal sewage outfall developments located at a distance of less than 500 meters from the existing aquaculture operation, FLR will not recommend approval.
3. Proposed developments in the vicinity of finfish sites are subject to review.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 10 – Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References:

Scope:

The Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP) is a federal program that outlines the requirements and guidelines for shellfish aquaculture operators marketing product. The program works to provide assurances to consumers by mitigating the human health risks from consuming contaminated shellfish.

This policy applies to all licensed shellfish aquaculture sites.

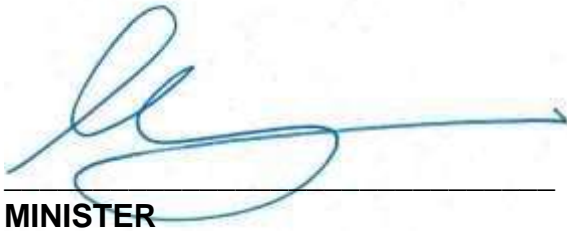
Policy:

1. All licensed commercial shellfish operations are required to comply with the CSSP.
2. Commercial shellfish applications (grow-out) in areas unclassified or permanently closed under the CSSP will not be considered by the department.
3. Applications for blue mussel seed collection sites in unclassified or permanently closed areas may be considered for licensing.
4. Seed collection applications in unclassified or permanently closed areas will only be considered if the area meets the standards for bivalve seed collection as outlined in the CSSP.
5. The department must notify Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) prior to approval of a seed collection licence within unclassified or permanently closed areas. ECCC may require additional testing and analysis prior to licensing.
6. Licensed seed collection sites in unclassified or permanently closed areas must not have blue mussel seed exceeding 40 mm in shell length while on the collection site.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 11 – Aquaculture Inspection Program

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Moorings and Temporary Licences

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 6

Scope:

As per the Aquaculture Inspection Program, inspections are conducted by Aquaculture Inspectors to ensure marine and freshwater (with the exception of fish-out ponds) aquaculture facilities are operating in accordance with the Aquaculture Act and Regulations.

Section 6 of the Aquaculture Act prescribes the authority given to those who are designated as Aquaculture Inspectors by the Minister.

Policy:

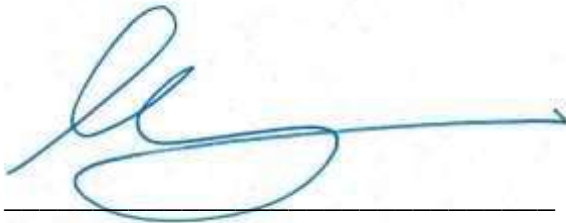
1. Aquaculture Inspectors conduct the following types of inspections:
 - a. Primary Site inspections
 - b. Re-inspections
 - c. Site Decommissioning
 - d. Suspension
 - e. Abandoned Sites
 - f. Other
2. Frequency of inspections will be determined by the department to ensure compliance.
3. Aquaculture Inspectors will contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) prior to visiting a site to ensure the visit does not pose biosecurity related issues.
4. Aquaculture Inspectors will make the effort to contact the licensee or owner prior to conducting site visits.

5. Aquaculture Inspectors will follow established disinfection protocols for gear and equipment when conducting site inspections as directed by AAHD.
6. Aquaculture Inspectors will follow established Safe Work Practices.
7. Sites that are not established (e.g. no gear deployed) may not require an inspection.
8. The licensee or owner will be sent a copy of the inspection report.
9. Inspection reports will also be sent to other regulatory agencies, where appropriate.
10. In the event of non-compliance, Aquaculture Inspectors will issue a directive to the licensee or owner, which will identify the issue, the corrective action required, and the timeframe for compliance.
11. Licensees or owners may request an extension to corrective action timeframes, in writing to the department, which is subject to approval.
12. If an Aquaculture Inspector observes a navigational hazard, the Aquaculture Inspector will advise Transport Canada.
13. In the event an Aquaculture Inspector has any concern any regarding fish health, the Aquaculture Inspector will advise the AAHD.
14. Non-compliance with directives issued by an Aquaculture Inspector may result in penalties, licence suspension, licence cancellation and/or other action deemed necessary.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 12 – Transfer and Transport Permits

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Broodstock

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 8

Scope:

To permit the movement of aquatic plants and animals for aquaculture purposes into and within the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador through the 2003 National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Written approval is required through the 2003 National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms for all transfer and transport permits for aquaculture purposes.
2. The movement of aquatic plants and animals to and from research institutions may be exempt.
3. The movement of aquaculture product for harvesting purposes does not require a permit unless the product is held at some interim site and maintained until harvesting occurs.
4. Transfer and transport of aquatic plants and animals should be permitted to sites with valid aquaculture licences and that are in compliance with relevant legislation.
5. Transfer and transport permits will be subject to terms and conditions as identified on the permit.

6. All transfers of live aquatic plants or animals into or within the province require the prior written approval of the Minister or designate.
7. Prior to the issuance of transfer and transport permits, aquatic animal health information must be sent to the Aquatic Animal Health Division for a disease risk evaluation. Aquatic animal health information required can be obtained from the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian.
8. Provided the applicant has met Canadian Food Inspection Agency requirements, the NL Introductions and Transfers Committee will recognize the Certificate of Health for Transfer for live cultured finfish (COHFT) under the Health Policy for the Transfer of Live Cultured Finfish in Atlantic Canada as the disease risk evaluation.
9. In all cases, a transfer and transport permit application must be submitted to the department detailing the product to be moved.
10. The importation and/or transport of bivalve shellfish will be subject to Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program terms and conditions.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 13 – Lobster Fisheries and Aquaculture Facilities

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquaculture Licensing Process

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g) and 11(b)

Scope:

Marine resources are shared spaces with multiple users. Licensees are encouraged to work with other marine users in areas where aquaculture is occurring.

Aquaculture and traditional lobster fisheries may coexist in the same geographical areas.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

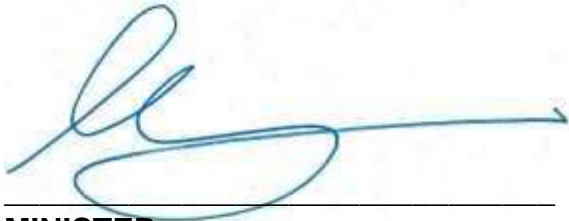
Policy:

1. Licensees may allow access to their site to licensed commercial lobster fishers who have traditionally fished the site to enable the traditional lobster fishery to continue, with the exception of when a site is officially quarantined.
2. The Minister may make adherence to this policy a condition of licence. A condition of licence will be added where there has been a traditional lobster fishery, as determined by FLR and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), where the aquaculture gear proposed will not be affected, and an access agreement is established with the licensee.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 14 - Moorings

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.1

Scope:

This policy is to ensure moorings are placed and marked adequately for the safety of marine and land-based resource users in the vicinity of aquaculture sites in an effort to minimize safety and navigational hazards. Shore-fastened mooring systems have been shown to be a significant safety hazard for all users of the marine and land based resources in the vicinity of aquaculture sites.

This policy applies to water-based aquaculture operations.

Definitions:

Site Moorings: Moorings that are installed to ensure aquaculture gear is secured within the site boundaries. These moorings may also include those attached to the shoreline at the low water mark as approved by Transport Canada and are subject to any other applicable legislation or policy.

Shore-Fastened Mooring: Aquaculture facility mooring line attached to the shore or anchored to the seabed at a depth less than two 2 vertical meters below the low water mark.

Policy:

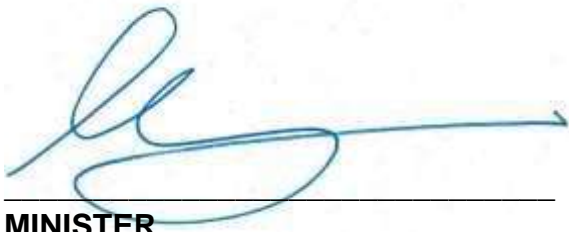
1. Site moorings are not to be installed without an aquaculture licence being issued for the site.
2. All site moorings are to be contained within the area approved by Transport Canada (TC) Navigation Protection Act (NPA) formal approval document.

3. All site moorings are to be installed in accordance with the NPA formal approval document and subject to any other applicable legislation or policy.
4. Deviations to the TC formal approval document must be reported to TC as well as the department by the licensee. The Minister or Inspector may impose additional requirements.
5. Shore-fastened moorings are prohibited.
6. Use of ice booms and temporary gear to secure damaged gear are recognized and approved by Transport Canada.
7. Licensed sites will be monitored by department Inspectors to ensure compliance.
8. Sites with unapproved moorings will be subject to enforcement action.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 15 – Net Washing

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(e)(f)(g), and 4.(9)

Scope:

Regular cleaning of aquaculture nets promotes improved aquatic animal health and sustainable management.

The department oversees the procedural and reporting requirements for the cleaning and disinfection of nets used for the purposes of aquaculture.

This policy applies to all finfish operations.

Policy:

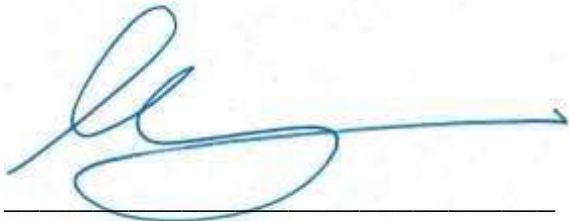
1. Licensees are permitted to use in-situ (in water) net cleaning during the course of a production cycle.
2. Licensees are required to remove all nets from the site at the end of a production cycle. Nets are numbered and their maintenance must be tracked for review by department inspectors.
3. Licensees must service and disinfect nets on land, prior to reinstallation.
4. Licensees must submit a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to the department for the cleaning and disinfection of nets prior to installation at a production site. The licensee's SOP for the cleaning and disinfection of nets will address aquatic animal health emergency preparedness. Licensees must submit all amendments of its SOPs to the department prior to implementation.

5. Licensees must submit an annual Net Cleaning and Disinfection Report to verify the cleaning and disinfection of all nets serviced under its SOP. The report will include the net inventory number, and verify the location and time of its cleaning and disinfection.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 16 – Feed Bag Handling

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4(4)(e)(f)(g) and 4.(9)

Scope:

Proper disposal of aquaculture feed bags supports environmental stewardship.

It is the responsibility of the licensees to ensure that aquaculture feed bags are handled and secured in accordance with the following department standards. This policy applies to all finfish sites.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

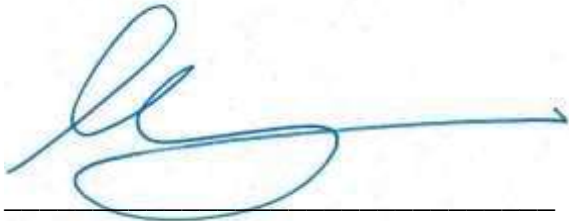
Policy:

1. Licensees are required to ensure all feed bags are secured in such a way as to prevent loss at sea immediately after being emptied of feed.
2. Licensees are required to secure feed bags by means of bales or other mechanism approved by the department prior to land transport to a waste management facility, in order to mitigate the risk of loss prior to disposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 17 – Public Reporting

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

**Date Revised: October 10, 2019
November 4, 2019**

**Policy Cross References: Application Requirements,
Aquaculture Licensing Process**

**Legislative References: Occupational Health and Safety Act,
Environmental Protection Act**

Scope:

Marine areas surrounding the province are a shared, publically-owned resource. Aquaculture licensees have a responsibility to be open and transparent with the general public, with respect to escape, quarantine, depopulation and incident events that occur on a licensed aquaculture site.

This notification is separate from federal reporting requirements for disease, escape, quarantine and depopulation events.

This policy applies to all finfish and shellfish operations.

Definitions:

Escape: Escapement of fish from sea-cage aquaculture into the wider marine environment.

Quarantine Order: An official containment measure, issued by the department, taken to prevent the introduction or spread of a disease by controlling or prohibiting movement of fish, fish products, feed, equipment or any other thing to or from the site.

Depopulation Order: An official order issued by the department to require a licensee to remove finfish and shellfish from a defined area.

Incident Event: Any event that caused or under slightly different circumstances would have caused abnormal mortality, harm or an imminent threat to farmed finfish or shellfish, marine installation or structure or vessel on a licensed finfish or shellfish aquaculture site. It also includes any event that impairs the function of any equipment required to sustain aquatic fish health and prevention of escape, and any other event deemed to be reportable by the department.

Policy:

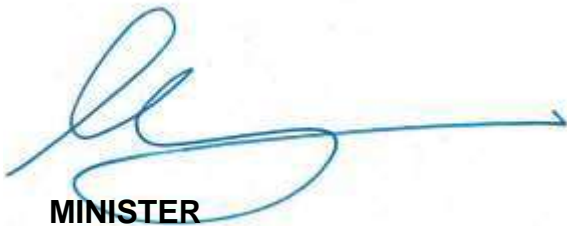
1. All suspected and confirmed escape events from a licensed finfish aquaculture site must be reported to the public within 24 hours of the suspected escape and/or confirmation of the escape.
2. For all suspected escape events, the licensee is required to report:
 - a. the site(s) of the escape;
 - b. the species escaped; and
 - c. any other information deemed by the department to be reportable.
3. For all confirmed escape events, the licensee is required to report:
 - a. the site(s) of the escape;
 - b. the species escaped;
 - c. the cause of the escape;
 - d. the estimated number of fish escaped;
 - e. the recapture plan for escaped animals; and
 - f. any other information deemed by the department to be reportable.
4. Detection of federally Reportable Diseases or quarantine or depopulation orders or directives issued by the Provincial Government for a licensed aquaculture site, must be reported to the public within 24 hours of the detection or order or directive being given. The department may issue a fine, directive or penalty in the event that these deadlines are not met.
5. For all detection of federally Reportable Diseases or quarantine or depopulation orders or directives, the licensee is required to publically report on:
 - a. the site(s) impacted;
 - b. the species stocked on that site;
 - c. the estimated number of finfish or shellfish species affected;
 - d. any orders and directives issued in relation to the action initiated;
 - e. information related to disease detected;
 - f. the underlying reason for order, directive and/or action;
 - g. the method of depopulation or other mitigations; and
 - h. any other information deemed by the department to be reportable.
6. Detection of federally Reportable Diseases, or suspected escape or confirmed escape or quarantine or depopulation directed or ordered or approved by the province must be reported by the licensee on their corporate or industry association website.
7. As of January 1, 2021, sea lice abundance numbers must be reported to the department on a monthly basis and the operator must post sea lice abundance numbers publicly, on a monthly basis, on the industry association

- or corporate website. Further details as to sea lice reporting parameters will be determined through stakeholder engagement prior to this date.
8. All finfish and shellfish operators shall report to the Aquatic Animal Health Division and the Aquaculture Development Division of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, any abnormal mortality event within 24 hours of the event occurring. The operator is required to submit to the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV) and the Director of Aquaculture Development, Standard Operating Procedures for abnormal mortality removal for departmental review and approval and must demonstrate that other agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities have approved the Standard Operating Procedures. Written updates must occur to the CAV and the Director of Aquaculture Development every 10 days following the initial report. When the incident event and removal operations are complete, the final numbers of finfish or shellfish removed are to be reported in writing to the CAV and the Director of Aquaculture Development, and any other information deemed by the department to be reportable.
 9. As part of the application for licence, all finfish and shellfish operators are required to develop, implement and maintain an Incident Management System. This Incident Management System must be effective, and include processes for internal reporting and analysis of hazards, incident events and for taking corrective actions to prevent their reoccurrence.
 10. For all incident events, following immediate actions taken to ensure the safety of farmed finfish or shellfish, marine installation or structure or vessel on a licensed aquaculture site, all finfish and shellfish operators are required to provide immediate verbal notification of incident events to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources.
 11. For all incident events, all licensed finfish and shellfish operators must provide a written notification to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 24 hours, after the operator becomes aware of any incident. Written notification must contain:
 - a. date and time of the incident or event;
 - b. licensed aquaculture operator name and licence number;
 - c. contact name and telephone number;
 - d. location of the site(s) impacted;
 - e. the finfish or shellfish species stocked on site;
 - f. the estimated number of finfish or shellfish species affected;
 - g. list of other agencies notified;
 - h. description of the incident event;

- i. description of site operations and relevant environmental conditions at the time of the incident event;
 - j. immediate response action(s) taken including implemented emergency measures;
 - k. planned response action to be taken; and
 - l. any other information deemed by the department to be reportable.
12. For all incident events, planned responses must be reviewed and approved by applicable agencies with jurisdictional authority and the department. Should planned responses vary from those outlined in the written report, all licensed finfish and shellfish operators must provide the department with an immediate verbal update in advance of implementation of the response measure followed by submission of an updated response plan for approval in writing within 24 hours.
13. The operator must publicly report the incident event within 24 hours through public communication acceptable to the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, in addition to the corporate or industry association website.
14. The operator must publicly report the response plan within 24 hours of approval being granted by the required agencies.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT (709)
292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

AP 18 – Inactive Aquaculture Licence Application

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Application Requirement; Aquaculture Licence Fees; Aquaculture Licensing Process; Site Transitions; and Buying and Selling of Aquaculture Licence Applications.

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(2)(3), 11.1 and 11.2(k)

Scope:

The aquaculture licensing process functions to promote the prudent and orderly development of the provincial aquaculture industry. It is the responsibility of the department to ensure that marine resources dedicated to aquaculture are developed and utilized in a manner that maximizes the economic benefits for Newfoundland and Labrador.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Definitions:

Active Application: An application where assessment, administrative, or other work related to the application is continuing at regular time intervals. Requests for assessment status may be considered work on the application in cases where a delay is due to the aquaculture licensing referral process.

Inactive Application: An application can be considered inactive when there is no correspondence or other work on the application for a 60 day period, due to an action or inaction of the applicant.

Policy:

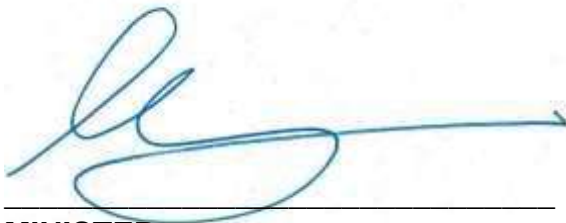
1. All registered applications must remain in active status throughout the licensing process.
2. Applications that become inactive may be removed from the system.

3. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure applications remain in active status.
4. The department will notify an applicant that an application has become inactive. The applicant is required to complete the actions specified, within established timelines, to bring the application back into active status.
5. Where an applicant does not complete the actions specified within established timelines, the application may be cancelled.
6. A cancelled application cannot be re-activated.
7. Application fees for cancelled applications are non-refundable.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 19 – Site Transitions

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Application Requirements; Aquaculture Licence Fees; and Aquaculture Licensing Process

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4 and 11.1

Scope:

To outline the conditions for buying, selling, and sub-leasing aquaculture sites.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

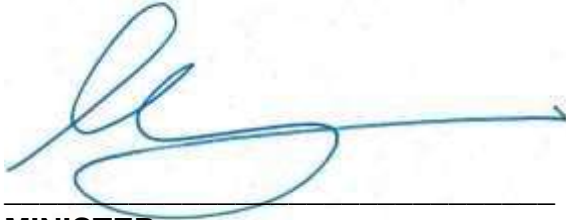
Policy:

1. AP 4 Aquaculture Licensing Process must be followed before:
 - a. The site ownership can be transitioned; or
 - b. A site can be sub-leased.
2. The site must be in compliance with departmental policies.
3. Sublessor and Sublessee must be in compliance with:
 - a. Departmental policies;
 - b. CADO; and
 - c. Department of Finance.
4. New business plans may be required if they significantly vary from approved plans on file.
5. Business plans that do not meet departmental requirements will not be considered for transition until conditions are met.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 20 – Buying and Selling of Aquaculture Licence Applications

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Application Requirements; Aquaculture Licence Fees; Aquaculture Licensing Process; Public Consultation; and Inactive Aquaculture Licence Application

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4 and 11.1

Scope:

The department permits an applicant to transfer ownership of an active aquaculture licence application.

Applicants seeking to transfer ownership of an active aquaculture licence application to a third party must contact the Manager of Aquaculture Licensing and Administration.

This policy applies to all aquaculture licence applications.

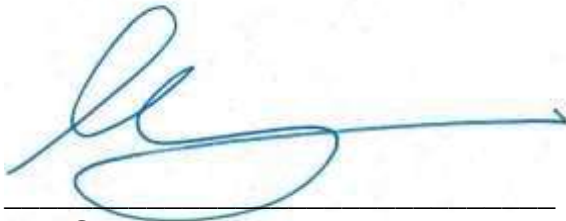
Policy:

1. Applications that are complete can only be transferred with prior written approval of the department.
2. A new set of application documents identifying the new ownership must be submitted prior to a decision on the application.
3. The new set of application documents are subject to the Aquaculture Licensing Process.
4. The application is subject to Public Consultation requirements.
5. Applications that do not meet the above requirements will not be considered for licensing until conditions are met.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 21 – Temporary Licences

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquaculture Licensing Process; Public Consultation; and Aquaculture Inspection Program

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4, 6 and 16

Scope:

The department may grant a Temporary Licence under certain circumstances; for example, in the case of site clean-up, death of a licensee, etc. A Temporary Licence is not intended for site hold purposes.

Those seeking a Temporary Licence must contact the Manager of Aquaculture Licensing and Administration.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

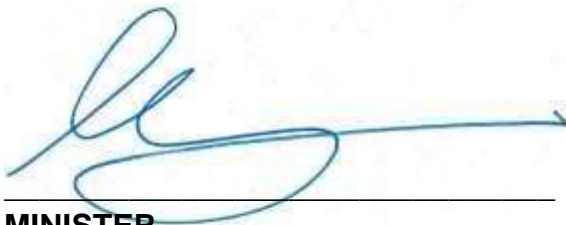
1. An individual seeking a Temporary Licence must submit a written request and any other documents the department may require to inform review.
2. The request is subject to review by provincial and federal referral agencies identified in the Aquaculture Licensing Process.
3. Public consultation may be required depending on proposed work and the responses received from referral agencies.
4. Duration of a Temporary Licence will be determined by the department.
5. A Temporary Licence will identify terms and conditions deemed necessary by referral agencies and the department.
6. The department may request reports associated with the work authorized under the Temporary Licence.

7. Site will be subject to inspection to ensure compliance with conditions.
8. In instances of non-compliance, licence suspension, cancellation and administrative penalties may apply.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 22 – Alternative Species or Innovation Production Methods

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Classification of Licences; Application Requirements; Aquaculture Licence Fees; and Aquaculture Licensing Process

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4, 11.2(k)

Scope:

Alternative species and/or innovative production methods support the diversification of the aquaculture industry. The department will consider applications for alternative species and/or innovative production methods on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants seeking an alternative species or innovative production licence should contact an Aquaculture Development Officer for further information.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Definition:

Alternative Species - May include but are not limited to cod grow-out, integrated multi-trophic aquaculture and fish-out ponds.

Innovative Production Methods – New and emerging production methods or technology.

Policy:

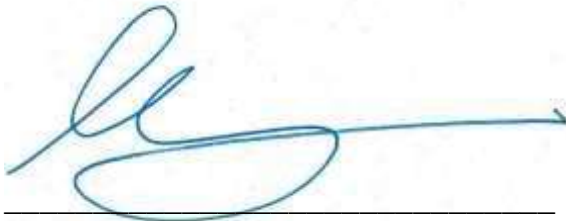
1. Applicants seeking to use alternate species and/or innovative production methods must submit a full application to the department that will be subject to the regular application process and relevant policies.
2. Information and research related to any proposed alternative species or innovative production methods must be provided to the department for review during the application process.

3. Following a time period determined by the Minister or designate, a non-commercial licence holder must apply for and obtain a commercial aquaculture licence to market product for sale and/or human consumption.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 23 – Fish Disposal

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Legislative References:

Scope:

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by effectively managing the handling and disposal of fish (including mortalities) from aquaculture operations.

Fish disposal is jointly regulated federally and provincially. It is the responsibility of the licensee to obtain all required permits and approvals from other departments or federal agencies. The department is not responsible for seeking or obtaining approvals from other departments or federal agencies.

During a Reportable Disease event, the licensee must follow the Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) Contingency Plan and any federal requirements.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. All farms will have a Fish Disposal Plan, outlined in a Waste Management Plan.
2. Fish Disposal Plans must be submitted by the licensee and approved by the department, at the time of licensing, and on an annual basis.
3. Licensees must submit Fish Disposal Plans to all relevant agencies with a regulatory responsibility for waste management prior to implementation
4. Licensees must submit amendments for approval by the department and all other external agencies with a regulatory responsibility for waste management prior to implementation.

5. During a Reportable Disease event, the Fish Disposal Plan will be subject to additional requirements as required under the NL AAHD Contingency Plan.
6. Any fish or fish by-products (including mortalities) in a quarantined area, under a Quarantine Order, must obtain a Licence To Move before they can be moved off the aquaculture facility/site.
7. The Fish Disposal Plan must be accessible to the department.
8. The department may request additional information regarding the Fish Disposal Plan.

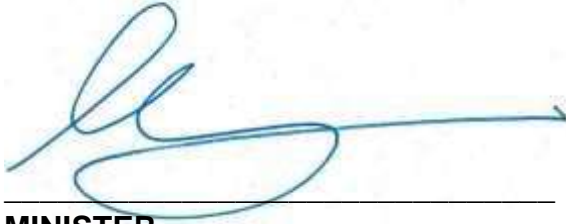
Fish Disposal Plan

1. A Fish Disposal Plan (within a Waste Management Plan) must:
 - a. Be developed for each licensed site;
 - b. Include disposal of fish, fish by-products and mortalities during:
 - iii. Normal operations;
 - iv. Mass mortality; and
 - v. Reportable disease events.
 - c. Include:
 - vi. Handling;
 - vii. Transport;
 - viii. Biosecurity Measures;
 - ix. Standard Operating Procedures;
 - x. Destination;
 - xi. High Risk Material specific Standard Operating Procedures; and
 - xii. Approximate maximum capacity for the fish destination (disposal site).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387

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**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 24 – Single Year Class

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

Single year-class sites reduce the risk of pathogen/disease spread from older fish to younger fish. Only single year-class sites will be permitted. For Atlantic salmon sites, the Bay Management Areas Agreement must be followed.

Licensees seeking additional information on the single year-class stocking should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all finfish operations; however, non-commercial licences are excluded from this policy.

Policy:

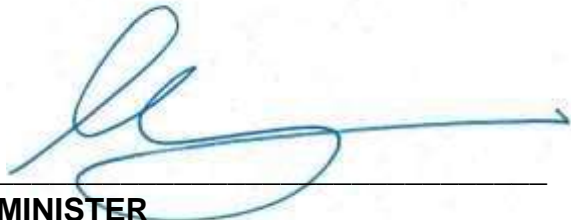
Licensees are required to stock a single year-class of species on site for all licensed finfish sites.

1. Multiple year-class stocking of cleaner fish may be permitted on a case-by-case basis, as approved by the Minister.
2. Licensees must comply with the stocking schedule outlined in the Bay Management Areas Agreement for Atlantic salmon. This agreement is reviewed by the Bay Management Committee on a regular basis.
3. Steelhead trout sites located in the inner Bay d'Espoir region can over-winter multiple year-classes in accordance with the Roti Bay Management Plan.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 25 – Species Separation

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Integrated Pest Management Plans

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

Species separation promotes biosecurity and sustainable management of aquaculture operations. The department limits aquaculture sites to a single species stocking, except where otherwise noted in this policy.

Licensees seeking additional information on species separation should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all finfish operations; however, non-commercial licences are excluded from this policy.

Policy:

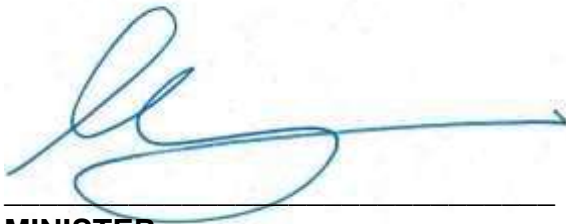
1. Licensees are permitted to stock one species at a time on a licensed aquaculture site. Sites that are licensed to produce more than one species are permitted to have only one species on site at a time.
2. Licensees are required to use one strain of a species on a site. Different strains of the same species will be considered different species for the purpose of this policy.
3. Shellfish sites may be granted permission to stock two different shellfish species on the site where there is a minimum distance of 1000 meters between species. Existing shellfish sites that have two species on the same site less than the 1000 meter distance will not be subject to section 3 of this policy.
4. Cleaner fish and Atlantic salmon may be co-stocked as part of an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP). For more information see IPMPs.

5. Approved integrated multi-trophic aquaculture sites are exempt from this policy.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 26 – Site Separation

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

Aquaculture operations are required to have a minimum distance between sites, as directed by the department.

Atlantic salmon commercial sites operate under a Bay Management Area (BMA) Agreement and must comply with the requirements outlined therein.

Licensees seeking additional information on site separation should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Aquaculture licence applications (commercial and non-commercial) are reviewed to ensure that proposed sites meet the minimum site separation distances approved by the department.
2. Existing finfish sites (defined as sites approved prior to the enactment of this policy) that are less than 5000 meters apart must meet a minimum requirement of 1000 meters apart.
3. Applications that have proposed sites less than the minimum site separation distances will not be accepted by the department.

Finfish Site Separation

1. New finfish sites (not Atlantic salmon), not operating under a BMA agreement, (defined as sites not approved) must be a minimum of 5000 meters between site boundaries.
2. New finfish sites growing Atlantic salmon must operate under the BMA principles.
3. Steelhead trout overwintering sites must be a minimum distance of 100 meters between site boundaries while in their overwintering location. Sites may be required to be a distance greater than 100 meters between site boundaries as directed by the Department of Transport Canada.
4. New site applications must be located a distance of 5000 meters or greater from any existing fish processing facility.

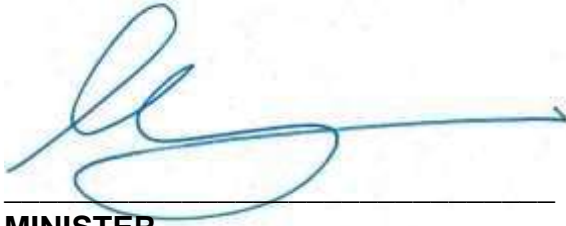
Shellfish Site Separation

1. Shellfish sites must be a minimum of 400 meters between site boundaries for sites of the same species.
2. New site applications must be located a distance of 5000 meters or greater from any existing fish processing facility.
3. Sites that have different shellfish species must be a minimum of 1000 meters between species.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 27 – Site Fallowing

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

Fallowing between production cycles is required by the department and may significantly reduce or eliminate pathogens/disease by breaking the pathogen life cycle.

Licensees seeking additional information on site fallowing should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all finfish operations.

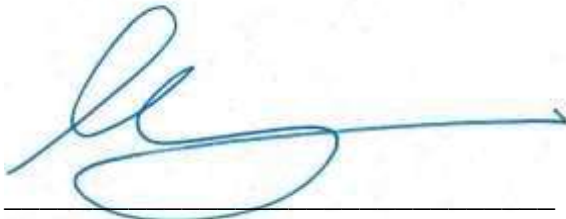
Policy:

1. All finfish sites must be fallowed:
 - a. following each production cycle or when all cultured fish are removed from the site for any other purpose; and
 - b. the length of the fallow period will be:
 - i. in accordance with the minimum period specified by Bay Management Area principles for licensed sites producing Atlantic salmon, or
 - ii. 12 months for licensed sites producing finfish other than Atlantic salmon and steelhead trout, or
 - iii. at least 5 months for licensed sites producing steelhead trout in the inner Bay d'Espoir region.
2. Finfish removed from a site due to the detection of a Federal or Provincial Reportable Disease may be subject to different fallow periods than is stated in this policy.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 28 – Fish Size at Sea Cage Entry

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Transfer and Transport Permits

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

The department sets minimum standards for fish size at sea cage entry for all licensed finfish sites. Optimal fish size at sea cage entry promotes healthy fish.

Licensees seeking additional information on fish size at sea cage entry should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all finfish operations.

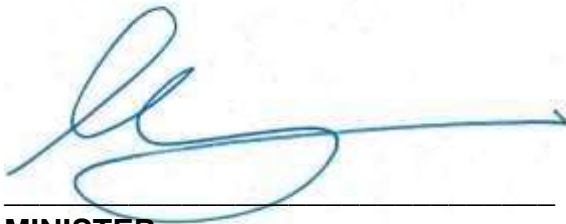
Policy:

1. All movements of live fish into and around the province must be approved and receive a transfer permit from the department, in accordance with Transfer and Transport Permits.
2. Atlantic salmon, Rainbow Trout or Steelhead Trout must be a minimum of 50 grams for all smolt stocked on a licensed site.
3. The minimum size for alternative species will be determined on an individual case-by-case basis. The minimum size for alternate species will be written on the transfer permit issued by the department.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 29 – Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Public Reporting, Aquatic Animal Health Disease Surveillance Designation and Aquatic Animal Health Reporting

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4(4)(g)

Scope:

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by effectively managing aquatic animal health surveillance. The species-specific Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) Surveillance Plan (Surveillance Plan) requires industry to:

- a. Provide access to aquaculture sites/facilities for AAHD surveillance; and
- b. Conduct diagnostic sampling.

The AAHD will conduct a risk-based, targeted, active surveillance in addition to surveillance performed by a Designated Veterinarian as referenced in the Aquatic Animal Health Disease Surveillance Designation policy. The AAHD may conduct multiple activities at the time of the surveillance visit. For example, a biosecurity audit and surveillance can occur at the same time to maximize efficiencies.

Aquatic animal health management is jointly managed by the Province and the Federal Government.

Licensees seeking additional information on the Surveillance Plan should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all finfish aquaculture operations. Policy:

1. All licensees must have access to a Designated Veterinarian for the purposes of the Surveillance Plan.

2. In all cases of increased mortalities, operators must verbally notify the Assistant Deputy Minister immediately, followed by submission of a written report to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian and Director of Aquaculture Development within 24 hours.
3. Detection of reportable diseases must be reported to the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian within 24 hours.
4. Licensees must grant access to AAHD staff, or their designated representative, to their aquaculture site/facility to conduct surveillance activities.
5. Licensees are required to provide tissue samples and disease testing results as described by the species specific Surveillance Plan.
6. Quarterly Aquatic Animal Health Reports must be submitted to the CAV as described in the Aquatic Animal Health Reporting policy.

Surveillance Plan:

To fulfill the requirements of the Surveillance Plan:

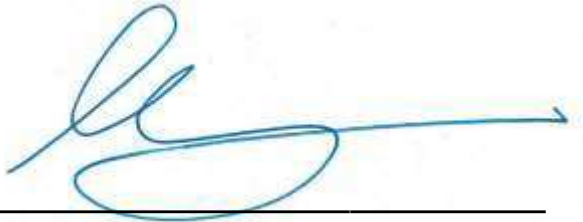
- a. A Designated Veterinarian will oversee a surveillance visit on every active finfish site every 30-45 days (weather and logistics dependent);
- b. The surveillance visit can only be conducted by a Designated Veterinarian or by a Designated Fish Health Technician under the direction of a Designated Veterinarian;
- c. Samples will be collected as outlined in the Surveillance Plan;
- d. Samples will be submitted to a Designated Laboratory;
- e. Test results obtained for the purposes of the AAHD Surveillance Plan must be submitted to the AAHD upon receipt from the laboratory;
- f. AAHD staff will conduct surveillance visits quarterly in each Bay Management Area that has active sites.

An aquaculture site will be deemed active if at least one (1) cage is on site and has been stocked with fish for thirty (30) days.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

AP 30 – Shellfish Surveillance

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Aquatic Animal Health Reporting; Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4(4)(g)

Scope:

Shellfish surveillance by the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) is conducted by performing regular visits to sentinel sites in NL waters.

Aquatic animal health management is jointly managed by the province and the Federal Government.

Licensees seeking additional information on the Surveillance Plan should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all shellfish aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Operators of any site designated by the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV) as a sentinel shellfish site must allow entry to AAHD staff and assist in sample collection as instructed by the CAV.
2. Operators of non-mussel shellfish sites must allow entry to AAHD staff or designated representative and assist in sample collection as instructed by the CAV.
3. In all cases of increased mortalities, operators must verbally notify the Assistant Deputy Minister immediately followed by submission of a written report to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian and Director of Aquaculture Development within 24 hours.

4. Detection of reportable diseases must be reported to the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian within 24 hours.
5. Quarterly Aquatic Animal Health Reports must be submitted to the CAV as described in the Aquatic Animal Health Reporting policy.

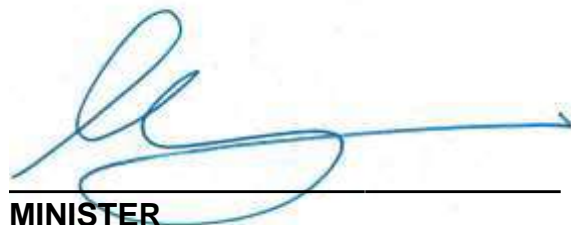
Shellfish Surveillance

1. AAHD staff or designated representative will visit shellfish sites identified as sentinel sites in the spring and fall of the year.
2. Representative samples will be obtained from the site (site design and logistics dependent).
3. 125 samples will be submitted for histological screening at each visit.
4. Non-mussel shellfish producers will be subject to additional visits and diagnostic tests as determined by an AAHD risk analysis.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

AP 31 - Broodstock

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Transfer and Transport Permits

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

Broodstock for the purpose of aquaculture must be managed under a broodstock program approved by the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV) to address aquatic animal health and meet provincial testing requirements.

Licensees seeking additional information on broodstock should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

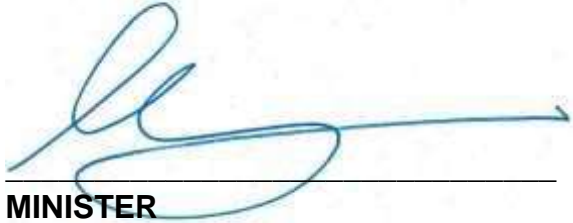
Policy:

1. All broodstock programs must follow the Certificate of Health for Transfer (COHFT).
2. All broodstock programs must meet the requirements of the species specific Surveillance Plan.
3. Broodstock are not permitted at marine sites.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 32 – Aquatic Animal Health Reporting

Effective Date: September 24, 20019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Annual Reporting; Public Reporting; Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan; Aquatic Animal Health Finfish Surveillance; and Shellfish Surveillance

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 7(2)

Scope:

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by effectively managing surveillance and contingency planning for Reportable diseases in aquaculture. Industry must follow the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) species specific Surveillance Plan (Surveillance Plan) and if a Reportable disease is suspected or detected it must be reported to the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV). The suspicion or detection of a Reportable disease will initiate the AAHD Contingency Plan (Contingency Plan) during a reportable disease event/outbreak.

The department also publically reports on a scheduled basis, specific diseases that have been detected on aquaculture sites. This includes both Reportable and non-Reportable Diseases.

Any Reportable Diseases listed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) must be reported by the licensee to both the Federal and Provincial authorities.

Licensees seeking additional information on Reporting should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Definition

Reportable Disease- A disease that the Minister determines must be reported to the CAV.

Policy

1. Licensees must keep health records for the current stock at the aquaculture site/facility and must give the CAV access to these records upon request.
2. Licensees must report to the CAV within 24 hours any knowledge or suspicion that a cultured finfish or shellfish may have a Reportable Disease.
3. Zoonotic diseases must be reported to the CAV, processing plant (if applicable), Health Canada and local medical practitioners.
4. Treatment and health records for any escape events must be made available to the CAV, upon request.

Reporting Process

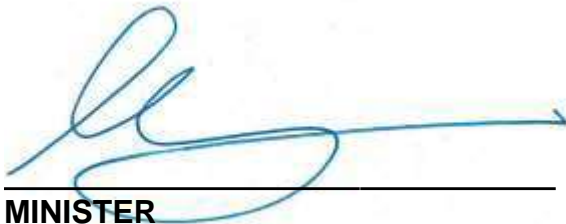
1. The quarterly report “Quarterly Aquatic Animal Health Report” can be obtained from the CAV and must be submitted to the CAV on as outlined below:
 - a. April 15 (covering a period of January 1 – March 31);
 - b. July 15 (covering a period of April 1 - June 30);
 - c. October 15 (covering a period of July 1 – September 30); and
 - d. January 15 (covering a period of October 1 – December 31).
2. The annual report “Annual Aquatic Animal Health Report” can be obtained from the CAV and must be submitted according to the “Annual Reporting” Policy.
3. A licensee must immediately report to the CAV any suspicion or knowledge of a Reportable Disease or zoonotic disease. A written report must be submitted no later than 24 hours after the telephone report. The written report must include the following:
 - a. Name of licence holder;
 - b. AQ number;
 - c. Location of site (address);
 - d. Contact information (both email and telephone);
 - e. Species;
 - f. Age or year class;
 - g. Average weight of the animals;
 - h. Total number of animals on the aquaculture site/facility;

- i. Total number of cages/tanks/holding units on site;
- j. Number of animals suspected affected and the associated cages/tanks/holding units;
- k. Any recent movements off the aquaculture site/facility;
- l. Presumptive diagnosis;
- m. Recent mortality numbers;
- n. Clinical signs; and
- o. Diagnostic testing results (if applicable).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

AP 33 – Aquatic Animal Health Contingency Plan

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Fish Disposal; Aquaculture Motor Vehicle, Vessel, Boat and Barge Biosecurity; Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits; Aquaculture Equipment Biosecurity; Aquatic Animal Health Reporting; Public Reporting; Aquatic Animal Health Disease Surveillance Designation; Shellfish Surveillance; Inflow and Outflow Wharves; and Blood Water and Offal

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 7(3)

Scope:

Mitigation measures must be implemented during Reportable Disease events/outbreaks to eradicate or prevent pathogen spread.

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by effectively managing Reportable Diseases in aquaculture. Industry is required to follow the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) Contingency Plan (Contingency Plan) during a Reportable Disease event/outbreak. In the event of a disease event/outbreak of Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus (ISAv), industry is required to follow the AAHD Viral Management of Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus - Contingency Plan Guidelines.

Some Reportable Diseases are under the care and control of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and therefore the licensee must follow both the Federal and Provincial contingency plans under these circumstances.

Licensees seeking additional information on the Contingency Plan should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Licensees will follow the AAHD Contingency Plan during a provincial Reportable Disease event or outbreak.
2. Licensees will follow the AAHD Viral Management of Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus (ISAv) - Contingency Plan Guidelines during an ISAv event or outbreak.
3. Where a disease event or outbreak is under the care and control of the CFIA, the licensee must also adhere to any applicable federal regulations.

Requirements of the Contingency Plan:

1. Licensees are required to report diseases listed as Reportable by the Federal or Provincial Government to the appropriate regulatory bodies as identified in the Aquatic Animal Health Reporting policy.
2. The department may issue a Quarantine Order when a Reportable Disease is suspected, designating any aquaculture site/facility, growing region (i.e. Bay Management Area), equipment, vessel or vehicle as a quarantined area.
3. Upon receipt of the Quarantine Order, the licensee must submit to the CAV inventory of all items within the quarantine area. This must be provided to the CAV within 72 hours of the Quarantine Order being issued. Items to be included:
 - a. Fish numbers
 - b. Fish cages/tanks with cage/tank identification numbers
 - c. Fish nets with net identification numbers
 - d. Vessels
 - e. Barges
 - f. Trucks
 - g. Equipment
 - h. Buoys
 - i. Lines
 - j. Trays/cages/tanks/socks or other applicable holding units
 - k. Other items/equipment contained within the quarantine area
4. A Quarantine Order, issued by the department, will remain in effect until it is lifted by the department. Criteria that will allow the Quarantine Order to be lifted:
 - a. Animals in the quarantined area are not confirmed positive and are no longer suspect positive of a Reportable Disease. In addition, a Depopulation Order must not have been issued;
 - b. For Atlantic salmon at marine cage sites: all animals, equipment and things have been removed from the quarantined area with an approved Licence To Move and this has been reconciled with the original site

- inventory. After the quarantine has been lifted, the site must remain fallow for 4 months. Restocking of fish at marine cage sites can only occur in accordance with the Bay Management Areas (BMA) Agreement or BMA principles;
- c. For Atlantic salmon marine cage sites exposed to Infectious Salmon Anemia virus (ISAv), with only grid lines remaining in the quarantined area: All animals, equipment and things with the exception of grid lines have been removed from site, with an approved Licence To Move, and this has been reconciled with the original site inventory. After a negative ISAv test result, using viral culture, has been received by the CAV for the grid lines, the quarantine will be removed. The site must remain fallow for 4 months. Restocking of fish at marine cage sites can only occur in accordance with the Bay Management Areas (BMA) Agreement or BMA principles;
 - d. For salmonid hatcheries or nurseries: Animals, equipment and things that must be removed from the quarantined area are removed, cleaning and disinfection of the facility and negative specific pathogen test results have been received by the CAV. After the Quarantine Order has been removed, the site must be fallow for 4 months;
 - e. For all other species in the marine environment or on land: All animals, equipment and things must be removed from the quarantine area with an approved Licence To Move (LTM) and a fallow period (based on a risk assessment conducted by the AAHD) has been met;
 - f. If a risk assessment conducted by the AAHD concludes that a different fallow period is required for the specific Reportable Disease event or outbreak then this fallow period must be adhered to; and
 - g. Once the Quarantine Order has been lifted and restocking has resumed, the CAV may order the licensee to conduct specified diagnostic testing of the new stock for a specified period.
5. Upon receipt of the Quarantine Order, the licensee must submit Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) for review. The licensee is responsible for approval of the SOPs from agencies with regulatory authority of the practices outlined in the SOPs. SOPs will be approved by the CAV or their designate.
- a. SOPs to be submitted:
 - i. General site biosecurity
 - ii. Personnel movement to and from the site
 - iii. Cleaning and Disinfection protocols
 - iv. Mortality Removal
 - v. Mortality Disposal
 - vi. Other as deemed necessary by the Designated Veterinarian or the CAV

6. Upon receipt of the Quarantine Order, the licensee will be provided with the AAHD Reportable Disease Questionnaire from the CAV or their designate. This must be returned to the CAV within 72 hours after receipt.
7. Prior to any animal, animal by-product (including mortalities), object or thing being removed from a quarantined area an SOP must be submitted to the AAHD for review 72 hours prior to movement. SOPs will be reviewed by the AAHD and approved by the CAV or their designate and a LTM will be issued prior to movement. Nothing can move out of a quarantined area without a LTM. Once an LTM is issued by the CAV, 72 hours notice of the movement must be given. The CAV has the discretion to alter these timelines under special circumstances. The CAV will list on the LTM the approved wharf that may be utilized by a site under a Quarantine Order.
8. All aquatic animal health records must be available for review upon request by the CAV.
9. Additional data requested by the AAHD as part of the case investigation must be provided within three days of the request.
10. AAHD staff, or a designated representative, must be granted permission to audit the facilities/activities.
11. Licensees must participate in the AAHD enhanced surveillance plan.
12. The department may issue a Depopulation Order for a group of animals with an agreed upon deadline for animal removal and timeline for cleaning and disinfection for the site. The Depopulation Order will include the date required for animal removal as well as the cleaning and disinfection completion date. The department may issue a fine, directive or penalty in the event that these deadlines are not met.
13. The licensee must start preparations for depopulation within 24 hours of receiving a Depopulation Order. All activities involved in Depopulation must have SOPs approved by the CAV or their designate. Any animals, animal products, equipment or things that are removed from site must have a Licence to Move.
14. A licensee that depopulates a site, which is under a Quarantine Order, must submit an SOP to the AAHD for review. SOPs must include a deadline for animal removal and timeline for cleaning and disinfection for the site. The department will issue a Depopulation Order which will include the date required for animal removal as well as the cleaning and disinfection completion date. The department may issue a fine, directive or penalty in the event that these deadlines are not met. All SOPs will be approved by the CAV or their designate. Any animals, animal products, equipment or things that are removed from site must have a Licence to Move.

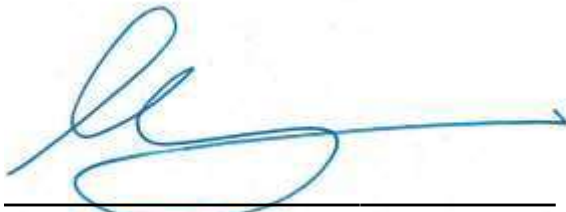
15. The CAV or their designate may order the following:

- a. Diagnostic testing
- b. Epidemiological investigation
- c. Treatment of the fish
- d. Vaccination of the fish
- e. Fish movement
- f. Enhanced biosecurity

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL

HEALTH (709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

AP 34 – Aquatic Animal Health Disease Surveillance Designation

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquatic Animal Health Finfish Surveillance and Application Requirements

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

The Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) Surveillance Plan (Surveillance Plan) requires industry to:

- a. Provide access to aquaculture sites/facilities for AAHD surveillance; and
- b. Conduct diagnostic sampling.

The AAHD will conduct a risk-based, targeted, active surveillance in addition to surveillance performed by a Designated Veterinarian. The AAHD may conduct multiple activities at the time of the surveillance visit. For example, a biosecurity audit and surveillance can occur at the same time for efficiency.

Aquatic animal health management is jointly managed by the Province and the Federal Government.

Licensees seeking additional information on the Surveillance Plan should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

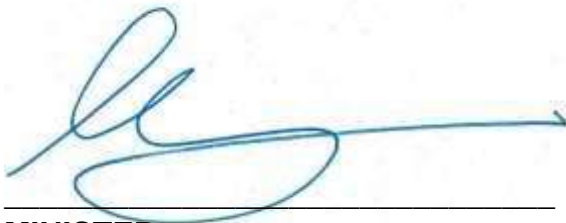
1. Licensees are required to have access to a licensed veterinarian. In accordance with the Veterinary Medical Act, only a licensed veterinarian can practice veterinary medicine, preventative medicine, perform surgery and diagnose with interpretation and treatment (prescriptions and mitigation).

2. Licensees are required to meet the species specific Surveillance Plan. Only Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) Designated veterinarians, fish health technicians and laboratories can be utilized as part of the Surveillance Plan.
3. The AAHD will maintain a list of AAHD Designated aquaculture veterinarians, fish health technicians and diagnostic laboratories.
4. Details regarding AAHD designation can be obtained from the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV).
5. AAHD Designated fish health personnel must be supervised by an AAHD Designated aquaculture veterinarian.
6. For a veterinarian, fish health technician or laboratory to become Designated by the AAHD, the licensee must submit a letter to the CAV indicating who they want to designate and what laboratories they wish to designate.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 35 – Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Application Requirements; Aquaculture Motor Vehicle, Vessel, Boat and Barge Biosecurity; Aquaculture Equipment Biosecurity; and Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g), s.7

Scope:

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by overseeing biosecurity utilizing the Aquatic Animal Health Division Biosecurity Audit Plan (Biosecurity Audit Plan).

Licensees seeking additional information on the Biosecurity Audit Plan should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Licensed sites are required to have a company-specific biosecurity plan approved by the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) at the time of licensing, enforced at all times, with responsibility designated to an employee of the licensed site.
2. Biosecurity plans must be submitted to the department for review and approval at the time of licensing, when updates are made to the company's plan or upon request by the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV).
3. Licensees must grant AAHD staff or a designated representative access to their aquaculture sites/facilities to conduct biosecurity audits of the premises and/or activities, as described by the Biosecurity Audit Plan.

4. Licensees must grant AAHD staff or a designated representative access to company records for the purposes of conducting an audit as part of the Biosecurity Audit Plan.
5. All components of finfish and shellfish aquaculture, including but not limited to: shipping and receiving, equipment, personnel, vehicles, vessels, and facilities may be subject to audit by the AAHD as outlined in the Biosecurity Audit Plan.


Powers of the Auditor

1. An auditor may do any of the following:
 - a. Enter and inspect any aquaculture site/facility or location
 - b. Accompany individuals who are collecting or analyzing samples
 - c. Accompany individuals who are auditing equipment or gear
 - d. Document procedures and activities
 - e. Obtain samples
 - f. Inspect records (both written and electronic).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 36 – Aquaculture Motor Vehicle, Vessel, Boat and Barge

Biosecurity

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquaculture Equipment Biosecurity; Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits; and Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g), 7

Scope:

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by overseeing biosecurity regarding motor vehicles, vessels, boats and barges used to move animals or aquaculture equipment/things, to mitigate the risk of pathogen transfer into and around the province. Motor vehicles, vessels, boats and barges utilized in the aquaculture industry are regulated by both the Provincial and Federal Government.

Licensees seeking additional information on motor vehicle, vessel, boat and barge movement should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD).

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Definitions:

Motor Vehicle: A car, bus, truck or other vehicle powered by a motor that uses roads.

Trailer: An unpowered vehicle towed by a powered vehicle, commonly used for the transport of goods and materials.

Vessel or Boat: A watercraft used as a means of transportation on water.

Barge: A type of vessel used for the purpose of carrying cargo, tugged or towed along by other vessels or boats on the water.

Policy:

Motor Vehicles and Trailers

1. All motor vehicles and trailers used to move aquaculture fish, products or equipment will be subject to an audit by the AAHD as per the Biosecurity Audit Plan.
2. All motor vehicles and trailers traveling between Bay Management Areas (BMAs) must follow any established BMA biosecurity protocols set by the BMA committee and the company.
3. During a disease event or outbreak, motor vehicles and trailers used to move aquaculture fish, products or equipment may be subject to additional requirements as determined by the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV).
4. Motor vehicles and trailers included in a Quarantine Order must obtain a Licence To Move from the CAV prior to anything leaving the Quarantined site.
5. All aquaculture motor vehicles and trailers traveling from other provinces/countries must follow the Biosecurity Audit Plan.
6. Any aquaculture motor vehicle and trailer that travels from, into or through areas known to have exposure to pathogens not endemic to the province may be subject to additional requirements as determined by the CAV.

Aquaculture Motor Vehicles Entering the Province from Other Provinces/Countries

1. All motor vehicles and trailers traveling from other provinces/countries must meet the following conditions:
 - a. The AAHD Motor Vehicle Biosecurity Audit Form must be completed prior to movement, as per the Biosecurity Audit Plan.
 - b. Notification prior to movement is required 7 days, 48 hours and 24 hours prior to departure and must be given to the CAV. A 24-hour contact for the motor vehicle journey must be provided to the CAV.
 - c. Biosecurity audits by the AAHD may occur upon arrival into NL. All biosecurity records will be reviewed, including cleaning and disinfection records.
 - d. Additional requirements may be requested by the CAV.

- e. All motor vehicles and trailers traveling from other provinces/countries must provide the following information to the CAV in advance:
 - i. Originating facility
 - ii. Destination facility
 - iii. Planned route including estimated departure and arrival time/date
 - iv. Cargo

Vessels, Boats and Barges

1. Aquaculture vessels, boats and barges must not travel within 5 km of a marine site unless it is the destination site. Variance to this will be accepted when the vessel cannot safely stay outside of 5 km.
2. All vessels, boats and barges must be cleaned and disinfected between fish handling events and will be subject to an audit by the AAHD as per the AAHD Biosecurity Audit Plan.
3. All harvest vessels, boats and barges must have the capability to contain blood water with no release into the surrounding waters.
4. All vessels, boats and barges traveling between Bay Management Areas (BMA) must follow BMA biosecurity protocols and may be subject to additional requirements during a disease event or outbreak.
5. All inflow vessels, boats and barges must use the inflow wharves associated with their BMA as per the FLR's Wharf Usage Agreement.
6. All outflow vessels, boats and barges must use the outflow wharves as per the FLR's Wharf Usage Agreement.
7. All vessels, boats and barges traveling from other provinces/countries must follow the requirements as outlined in the Biosecurity Audit Plan.
8. Any vessel, boat or barge included in a Quarantine Order must obtain a Licence To Move.
9. Any vessel, boat or barge that travels from, into or through areas known to have exposure to pathogens not endemic to the province, may be subject to additional requirements as determined by the CAV.

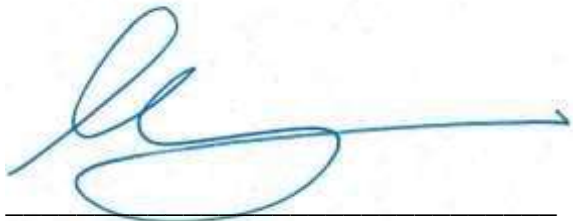
Vessels, Boats and Barges Entering the Province from Other Provinces/Countries

1. All vessels, boats and barges traveling from other provinces/countries must meet the following conditions:
 - a. The AAHD Vessel Biosecurity Audit Form must be completed prior to movement, as per the Biosecurity Audit Plan.
 - b. New lines and equipment must replace existing ones where possible.
 - c. Upon arrival into the province, a biosecurity audit will be conducted and records will be reviewed. Records that must be available include Cleaning and Disinfection/Dry Docking at the point of origin.
 - d. All routes the vessel, boat or barge will take and any ports of call must be provided prior to travel; any deviation from this must be documented and communicated to the CAV immediately.
 - e. Notification prior to movement is required 7 days, 48 hours and 24 hours prior to departure and must be given to the CAV. A 24-hour contact for the vessel journey must be provided to the CAV.
 - f. Biosecurity audits by the AAHD may occur upon arrival into the province.
 - g. Additional requirements may be requested by the CAV.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

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**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 37 – Aquaculture Equipment Biosecurity

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquaculture Motor Vehicle, Vessel, Boat and Barge Biosecurity; Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits; and Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g), 7

Scope:

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by overseeing biosecurity regarding aquaculture equipment to mitigate the risk of pathogen transfer into and around the province.

Licensees seeking additional information on aquaculture equipment movement should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD).

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Aquaculture equipment movement must follow the AAHD Biosecurity Audit Plan and equipment may be audited by the AAHD.
2. Aquaculture equipment includes any equipment used in or at an aquaculture site/facility that is used for the purposes of aquaculture. Some examples include nets, feeding pipes, buoys, cages, tanks and forklifts.
3. Aquaculture equipment included in a Quarantine Order must obtain a Licence To Move from the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV), prior to anything leaving the Quarantined site.
4. All aquaculture equipment must undergo cleaning and disinfection prior to movement from one aquaculture site/facility to another.

5. All aquaculture equipment moving between BMAs must follow the BMA biosecurity plan and will be subject to an audit by the AAHD. The CAV must be informed prior to movement.
6. Any piece of aquaculture equipment that travels from, into or through areas known to have exposure to pathogens not endemic to the province may be subject to additional requirements as determined by the CAV.

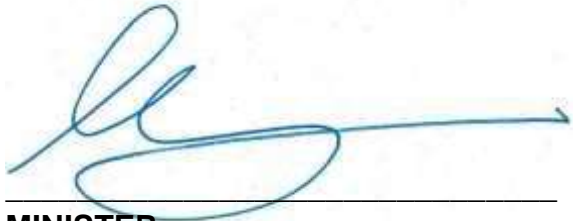
Aquaculture Equipment Entering the Province from Other Provinces or Countries

1. All equipment traveling from other provinces/countries must meet the following conditions:
 - i. The AAHD Equipment Biosecurity Audit Form must be completed prior to movement, as per the Biosecurity Audit Plan.
 - ii. Notification prior to movement is required 7 days, 48 hours and 24 hours prior to departure and must be given to the CAV. A 24-hour contact must be provided to the CAV.
 - iii. Biosecurity audits by the AAHD may occur upon arrival into the province. Review of biosecurity records including cleaning and disinfection will be conducted at the time of the audit.
 - iv. Aquaculture vehicles or vessels used to transport equipment will be subject to an audit and requirements as outlined in the vessel or aquaculture vehicle policies.
 - v. Additional requirements may be requested by the CAV.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 38 – Inflow and Outflow Wharves

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by overseeing the biosecurity and use of wharves. Wharves utilized in the aquaculture industry are regulated by both the provincial and federal government.

The department oversees biosecurity of aquaculture-dedicated wharves. The use of wharves by the aquaculture industry is dictated by BMAs. The Fisheries and Land Resources Wharf Usage Agreement outlines what activities can be performed on dedicated wharves.

Licensees seeking additional information on wharf usage and biosecurity should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD).

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

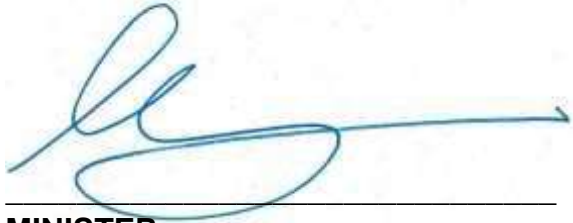
1. All users of inflow wharves must sign a Wharf Usage Agreement with the department.
2. An inflow wharf (as defined by the Wharf Usage Agreement) will be associated with a Bay Management Area (BMA) or group of BMAs. All users must use an inflow wharf designated for that particular BMA.
3. Outflow activities (as defined by the Wharf Usage Agreement) must not occur at inflow wharves.

4. The Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV) may place additional biosecurity restrictions or measures on any inflow or outflow wharf and their activities during a disease event or outbreak.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 39 – Blood Water and Offal

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquatic Animal Disease Contingency Plan

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 7.(3); Fisheries Act – Fish Inspection Operations Regulations s.35

Scope:

Processing plants in close proximity to aquaculture finfish operations have extra conditions placed on their operations to protect aquaculture operations from potential pathogen transfer, as overseen by the department.

During Reportable Disease events or outbreaks the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) requires that blood water and offal from High Risk Material be contained and decontaminated to prevent pathogen spread.

This policy applies to all fish processing operations.

Policy:

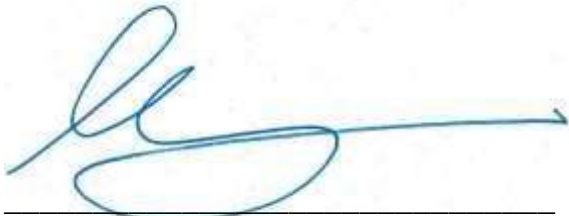
1. Processing plants operating within 20 kilometers of a finfish aquaculture facility are required to have an approved blood water treatment system.
2. The management of all water and wastewater and disposal of all fish by-products from processing plant operations must adhere to aquaculture protections specified in the provincial Fisheries Act, Fish Inspection Operations Regulations.
3. Blood water transported off site with the harvest must be transported and disposed of in a biosecure manner, and is subject to an audit by the AAHD.
4. Spillage of blood water on vessels and wharves must be immediately treated with a suitable disinfectant using the appropriate contact time.

5. Annual biosecurity audits will be conducted by the AAHD to check the waste water treatment operations and general biosecurity at the time of harvest, off-loading and processing.
6. In order to process High Risk Material (HRM), processing plants must meet the following requirements:
 - a. The processing plant must pass envelope testing (required every 5 years);
 - b. The waste water treatment must pass phage testing (required every 5 years);
 - c. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be approved by the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV) or their designate. SOPs will be reviewed and approved prior to handling HRM.
 - d. Any other requirements as determined by the CAV.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 40 – Integrated Pest Management Plans – including Sea Lice Management Plans

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised: November 4, 2019

Policy Cross References: Application Requirements

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

The department promotes sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry by overseeing Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPMPs) including Sea Lice Management Plans.

Licensees seeking additional information on Integrated Pest Management should contact the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD).

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

Policy:

1. Each licensee must have a pest specific IPMP implemented and monitored by the company veterinarian. This will be updated as deemed appropriate by the veterinarian.
2. The company IPMP must be submitted by the licensee and approved by the AAHD at the time of licensing and when amended.
3. The company IPMP must be accessible to the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV).
4. Licensees must participate in the NL IPMP.
5. The NL sea lice IPMP must be followed, where applicable.

6. As of January 1, 2021, sea lice abundance numbers must be submitted on a monthly basis by the licensee to AAHD.
7. As part of the NL IPMP for sea lice, licensees must submit sea lice numbers (where applicable) into an agreed upon third party database (e.g. FishiTrends).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL

HEALTH (709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

November 4, 2019

AP 41 – Emergency Chemotherapeutant Release

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References:

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

Emergency chemotherapeutant releases are approved by the Federal Government. The Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV) must be notified of any Emergency Drug Release (EDR) application prior to submission to ensure appropriate consultation.

Licensees are responsible for obtaining all required permits and approvals, prior to releasing a chemotherapeutant.

This policy applies to all licensed aquaculture operations.

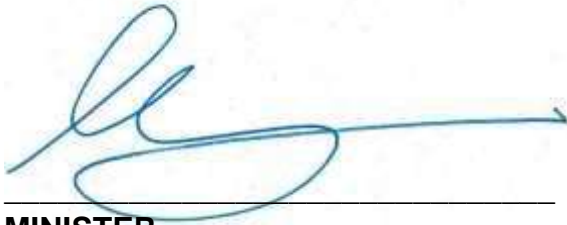
Policy:

1. The CAV must be notified of any EDR prior to their submission.
2. The CAV must be notified of the outcome from any EDR submission.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 42 – Animal Welfare

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

**Policy Cross References: Aquatic Animal Health Disease Surveillance
Designation**

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(4)(g)

Scope:

The province oversees the welfare of animals in aquaculture, in conjunction with federal counterparts, covering their welfare throughout the life of the fish.

This policy applies to all finfish aquaculture operations.

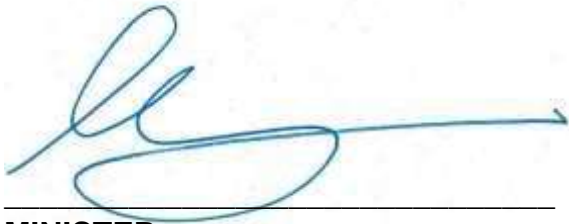
Policy:

1. A licensee must ensure optimal animal welfare during transport, sampling, fish handling, depopulation and normal operations.
2. A licensee must have their designated veterinarian performing, overseeing, or instructing employees on the humane euthanasia of fish during fish handling, sampling events, depopulation and normal operations.
3. Proper tools necessary for humanely euthanizing animals must be available and supplied to personnel performing euthanasia where required.
4. A licensee using fish for research, teaching and testing must follow the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines for care and use of fish, including the euthanasia of animals.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 43 – Provincial Criteria for Aquaculture Quarantine Facilities

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 7(3)

Scope:

Aquaculture quarantine facilities are often land-based facilities used for research purposes and they must meet federal regulations to ensure biosafety and biocontainment. Aquaculture quarantine facilities are not to be confused with quarantined areas utilized as part of a Quarantine Order. Other quarantine facilities are utilized to hold animals for a period of time before moving them into a general population or to an aquaculture site/facility. All quarantine facilities are subject to provincial approval and biosecurity auditing.

Licensees seeking further information on requirements for a quarantine facilities should contact the Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian (CAV).

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

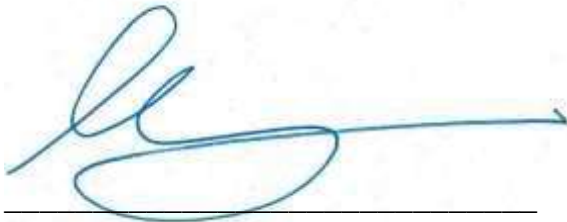
Policy:

1. All quarantine facilities must be approved by the CAV.
2. All licensees with a quarantine facility must grant access to the aquaculture facility by Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD) staff or designated representatives to conduct biosecurity audits as per the AAHD Biosecurity Audit Plan.
3. Quarantine facilities are subject to an annual review and biosecurity audit by the AAHD.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

(709) 729-0387



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 44 – Policy Variance Requests

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Application Requirements; Aquaculture Licensing Process; and Financial Standing with Provincial Government

Legislative References:

Scope:

The department oversees the licensing process for all aquaculture operations in the province. Licensees are responsible for ensuring that all permits and approvals are in place prior to developing or stocking an aquaculture site.

Applicants seeking additional information on the licensing process should contact licensing staff.

Licensees and aquaculture licence applicants may request consideration of a variance from departmental policies in situations where the protection of the industry and other resource users are not at risk.

This policy applies to all aquaculture licence applicants and existing operators.

Policy:

All variance requests must clearly state the variance requested, the reason for the variance, and be submitted in writing to the Director of Aquaculture Development.

Existing Licensee

Licensees seeking a variance as part of an existing aquaculture operation must contact the Director of Aquaculture Development to inform of a forthcoming request for a variance. The Licensee will be required to work with an Aquaculture Development Officer (ADO) to submit updated and detailed technical, business and financial expertise documentation.

New Applicant

Aquaculture licence applicants may seek a variance from standard licensing criteria through submission of a variance request as part of the aquaculture licensing process. The applicant must include detailed documentation as part of the applicant's technical, business and financial expertise in the accompanying aquaculture application.

Completed applications including variance requests will be reviewed with the final decision resting with the Minister. The department shall be bound by all relevant federal and provincial legislation and variances will not be considered where the protection of the industry and other resource users is deemed to be at risk.

Process:

Existing Licensees

1. Licensees must submit variance requests in writing, stating the variance being requested, and reason for the variance.
2. Licensees may be required to provide additional information as determined by the department.
3. The variance request will be reviewed by departmental staff and/or committees deemed necessary by the department.
4. A recommendation will be made to the Minister.
5. Licensees will be advised of the decision in accordance with the standards set out in the aquaculture licensing process, providing no further documentation is required.

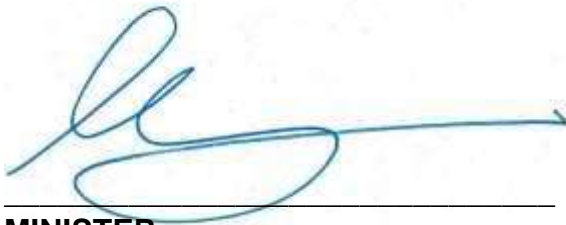
New Applicants

1. Aquaculture licence applications must be submitted in accordance with the Application Requirements and the aquaculture licensing process. Applicants will include details of the requested variance as part of these processes.
2. Applicants may be required to provide additional information as determined by the department.
3. Depending on the nature of the variance request, the request may be subject to review by departmental staff and/or committees other than those identified in the aquaculture licensing process.

4. Applications will be processed and applicants will be notified in accordance with the aquaculture licensing process.
5. A recommendation will be made to the Minister.
6. Applicants will be advised of the decision in accordance with the standards set out in the aquaculture licensing process, providing no further documentation is required.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 45 – Appeals Process

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Aquaculture Licensing Process

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(7.1) and 10

Scope:

The department oversees the licensing process for all aquaculture operations in the province. Licensees are responsible for ensuring that all permits and approvals are in place prior to developing or stocking an aquaculture site.

Applicants seeking additional information on the licensing process should contact licensing staff.

Decisions made by the department in regards to an aquaculture licence application may be appealed by the applicant.

This policy applies to all aquaculture licence applicants.

Policy:

Applicants who wish to appeal a licensing decision must do so in writing to the Minister within 30 days of the receipt of the written notification. Appeals will be accepted only from an applicant who has applied to the department and is appealing a decision that directly involves their application for an Aquaculture Licence.

All appeals must be dated, identify the applicant's name, clearly state the decision being appealed, the reason for the appeal and contain any supporting documentation. A fee of \$100.00 will be required and may be paid by cheque payable to the NL Exchequer. Failure to submit the required information and fees may result in rejection of the appeal application.

Appeals will be reviewed by an internal independent Appeals Committee (AC) with the final decision resting with the Minister.

The department shall be bound by relevant policies, except in instances of approved variances, as well as all relevant Federal and Provincial legislation. For example, the following decisions are not eligible for appeal where the application:

- a. has been deemed to pose a hazard to navigation or the environment (Navigable Water Protection Act or Canadian Environmental Assessment Act);
- b. contravenes the Bay Management Agreements or principles; or
- c. is for a grow-out site in an area closed under the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program.

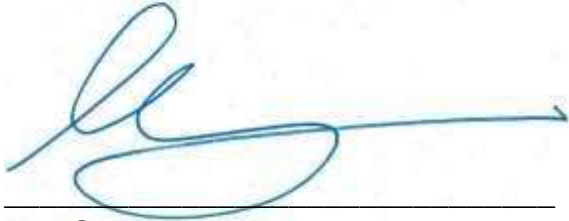
There is no provision for second level appeals.

Process:

1. Once a decision has been rendered on an aquaculture licence application, the applicant will be advised of the decision in writing by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries and Aquaculture or Minister designate.
2. The letter will advise the applicant of the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Minister within 30 days of receipt of the notification.
3. The Minister will provide the AC the appeal application. The AC may request additional information and/or call upon others deemed appropriate to inform review.
4. The AC will review the appeal application and make a recommendation to the Minister within five days of receipt from the Minister. The recommendation will be based on all available information and predicated by:
 - a. Determining if the Appellant was fairly treated in accordance with the department's licensing policies, practices and procedures; and
 - b. Determining if extenuating circumstances exist for deviation from established policies, practices and procedures.
5. The Minister will make the final decision on the appeal application and inform the AC.
6. The AC will provide a summary of the decision in writing to the Appellant.
7. If the Appellant is successful, he/she will be reimbursed the appeal fee.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
(709) 292-4100



**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

AP 46 – Financial Standing with Provincial Government

Effective Date: September 24, 2019

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Application Requirements; Aquaculture Licence Fees; and Aquaculture Licensing Process

Legislative References: Aquaculture Act s. 4.(7)(b)

Scope:

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR) is committed to the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry in a manner that provides economic benefits to the province. Aquaculture operations currently operating, or seeking to operate, in the province must be in good financial standing with the Provincial Government.

This policy applies to all aquaculture operations.

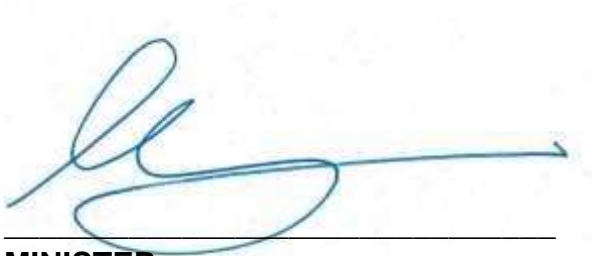
Policy:

1. Prior to issuance of licences, renewals, amendments or funding from Fisheries and Land Resources, the department will conduct a review to determine whether the applicant is in good financial standing with the Provincial Government.
2. Applicants found to be in arrears with the Provincial Government will not be granted an approval until the applicant can demonstrate clear financial standing.
3. Applicants in arrears with the Provincial Government may only receive an approval with an explicit exemption as a Directive from Cabinet or the Minister.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

(709) 292-4100

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**MINISTER
FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES**

September 20, 2019

ACRONYM LISTING

AC	Appeals Committee
ADO	Aquaculture Development Officer
AAHD	Aquatic Animal Health Division
ALC	Aquaculture Licensing Committee
BMA	Bay Management Area
CADO	Companies and Deeds Online
CAV	Chief Aquaculture Veterinarian
CCAC	Canadian Council on Animal Care
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
COHFT	Certificate of Health for Transfer
CSSP	Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EDR	Emergency Drug Release
FLR	Fisheries and Land Resources
HRM	High Risk Material
IPMP	Integrated Pest Management Plan
IPMPs	Integrated Pest Management Plans
ISAv	Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus
LTO	Licence To Move
MAE	Municipal Affairs and Environment
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
NPA	Navigation Protection Act
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TC	Transport Canada
WMP	Environmental and Waste Management Plan

