

Fish Processing Licensing Board Meetings

November 16-18, 2021

Board Recommendations

Dear Minister Bragg:

The Fish Processing Licensing Board (Board), met in St. John's from November 16-18, 2021. The Board received a stock status update on codfish, pelagics, sea cucumber and snow crab from DFO scientists. The Board also met with ASP and the FFAW to hear their views on the snow crab industry.

The Board considered two applications that were comprised of the following:

1. A primary processing licence for lobster for TMB Seafoods Inc., Plum Point.
2. A primary processing licence for mussels (Aquaculture) for L.B.A Enterprises Limited, Little Bay.

The Board is making the following recommendations:

1. T.M.B Seafoods Incorporated, Plum Point, currently has a fish buyer's licence for halibut, lobster and scallop. The company is applying to the Board for a new primary processing licence for lobster. There were two letters of support and one letter of objection.

The Board has determined that there is sufficient processing capacity within the northern region of the province to accommodate current lobster landings. It is the Board's view that the species applied for is fully utilized within the area (resource availability and regional balance), and after careful consideration, the Board has concluded that there are no other mitigating circumstances that would warrant granting this species authorization.

The Board recommends **not approving** the issuance of a primary processing licence for lobster to T.M.B Seafoods Inc., for the facility in Flower's Cove.

2. L.B.A Enterprises Limited, Little Bay, is applying to the Board for a new primary processing licence for Mussel (Aquaculture). The company currently holds Aquaculture licences for two sites. There were two letters of support and three letters of objections.

The Board has determined by issuing this licence, it will enable the company to increase its production and sales volume to both in-province and export markets located in Atlantic Canada. This licence will help expand operations, build and maintain markets, and promote the province as a reliable source of high quality and sustainable seafood.

The Board recommends **approving** the issuance of a primary processing licence for mussels (Aquaculture) to L.B.A Enterprises Limited, Little Bay.

When the Board met in July 2021, it developed guidelines that will be taken into consideration before making any recommendations on new snow crab processing licences. During this meeting, the Board met with Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientists and have concluded that there is not sufficient data to make a decision on any snow crab applications at this time. The snow crab biomass was at its lowest point in 2019, just two years ago. Although there have been increases in the last two years, there are still concerns from Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientists that while we are seeing an uptake in numbers, they anticipate it will only last two to four years before declining again. The Board has decided to continue deferring all licence applications involving snow crab until Fisheries and Oceans Canada release their 2021/22 assessment numbers on the health of the stocks and the future growth potential of the stocks.



Reg Anstey
Chair, Fish Processing Licensing Board

December 3, 2021

Date