

Fish Processing Licensing Board Meeting
April 2-5, 2019
Board Recommendations

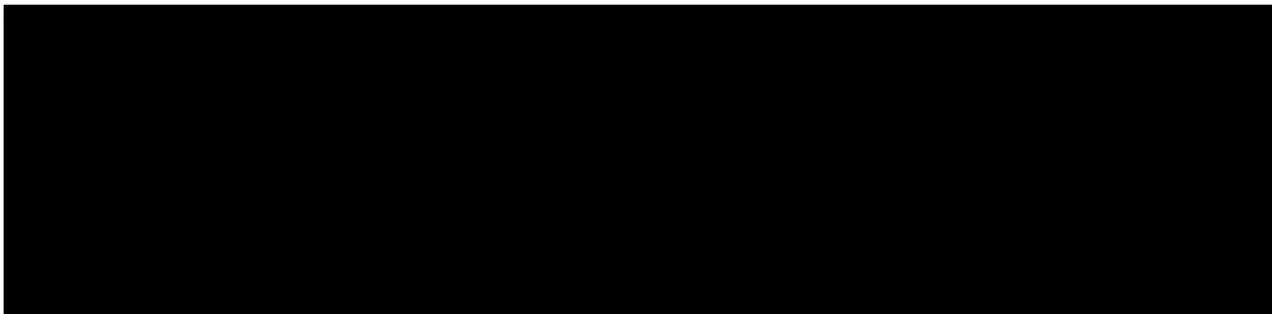
Dear Minister Byrne,

The Fish Processing Licensing Board (Board), met in St. John's from April 2-5, 2019. The Board considered 16 applications from fish processors that were comprised of the following; 4 Change of Operators; 9 for the addition of a new species (7 for sea cucumber only, and 2 for sea cucumber and other species), to an existing processing licence; and 3 licence transfers.

Of the 9 applications that were received for the addition of sea cucumber, 3 of them were heard by the previous Board in 2017, but were deferred pending further information and decisions from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Due to the significant increase in the number of sea cucumber applications, the Board felt it was necessary to bring in a scientist from DFO to give a presentation on the biology, life cycle, current stock status, and outlook on the future of the stock, as well as a resource manager to talk about the current management processes in place.

The Board heard a presentation from Julia Penton, biologist at DFO, and after reviewing all the material presented, the Board has come to the conclusion that at this time there is sufficient processing capacity for sea cucumbers; however, there are exploratory fisheries underway in other parts of the province that will require local processing capacity in order to develop those areas.

Section 4 Fisheries Act



The Board is making the following recommendations:

1. Barry Group Inc., Witless Bay, requested the addition of the species capelin, scallop, and sea cucumber to a primary processing licence. As outlined in section 2.1 of the Fish Processing Licensing Policy Manual, pelagics are governed by resource thresholds which dictates that approvals would be subject to the thresholds for the targeted species being achieved. The resource threshold has not been achieved for pelagics. With respect to scallops and sea cucumbers, the Board determined that there was sufficient processing capacity to accommodate current landings. The Board recommends not approving a pelagic, scallop, or sea cucumber licence for Barry Group Inc., Witless Bay.

2. Quinlan Brothers Ltd., Old Perlican, requested a transfer of species (scallop and mussels) from Woodman's Sea Products Ltd., New Harbour, to Old Perlican.


The Board recommends not approving the transfer from Woodman's Sea Products Ltd., New Harbour, to Quinlan Brothers Limited, Old Perlican.

3. Gulf Shrimp Ltd., Baie Verte, requested a transfer of species (groundfish and whelk) from Woodman's Sea Products Ltd., New Harbour, to Baie Verte.


The Board recommends not approving the transfer from Woodman's Sea Products Ltd., New Harbour, to Gulf Shrimp Ltd., Baie Verte.

4. Waterside Fish Market, Twillingate, requested a transfer of an in-province retail fish establishment processing licence (Unchartered Seafood's) from St. Mary's, to Twillingate. There were no letters of objection to the transfer. The Board recommends approving the transfer of the in-province retail fish establishment processing licence from St. Mary's, to Twillingate.

5. Quin-Sea Fisheries Ltd. requested a Change of Operator for Woodman's Sea Products Ltd., New Harbour.


The Board recommends not approving the Change

of Operator from Woodman's Sea Products Ltd., New Harbour, to Quin-Sea Fisheries Limited.

6. Barry Group Inc. requested a Change of Operator for Allen's Fisheries Ltd., Benoit's Cove. There were no letters of objection received. The Board recommends approving the Change of Operator application.
7. Mike Philpott Enterprises Ltd. requested a Change of Operator for Avalon Ocean Products Ltd., Fairhaven. There were no letters of objection received. The Board recommends approving the Change of Operator application.
8. Rhonda Verge requested a Change of Operator for Terra Vista Ltd., Glovertown. There were no letters of objection received. The Board recommends approving the Change of Operator application.
9. Wood-Pick Enterprises Ltd., Wareham, requested the addition of sea cucumber to a primary processing licence. The previous Board heard the original application that was filed by the company in 2017; however, the Board elected to defer the application pending further information from DFO. The Board has determined that there is sufficient processing capacity to accommodate current landings. The Board recommends not approving a sea cucumber licence for Wood-Pick Enterprises Ltd., Wareham.
10. Hodder's Shellfish Inc., Stoneville, requested the addition of sea cucumber to a primary processing licence. The previous Board heard the original application that was filed by the company in 2017; however, the Board elected to defer the application pending further information from DFO. The Board has determined that there is sufficient processing capacity to accommodate current landings. The Board recommends not approving a sea cucumber licence for Hodder's Shellfish Inc., Stoneville.
11. Golden Shell Fisheries Ltd., Hickman's Harbour, requested the addition of sea cucumber to a primary processing licence. The previous Board heard the original application that was filed by the company in 2017; however, the Board elected to defer the application pending further information from DFO. The Board has determined that there is sufficient processing capacity to accommodate current landings. The Board recommends not approving a sea cucumber licence for Golden Shell Fisheries Ltd., Hickman's Harbour.

12. Labrador Gem Seafoods Inc., Ramea, requested the addition of the species lobster, whelk, sea cucumber, lumpfish, and sea urchin to a primary processing licence. Danny Dumaresque, owner of Labrador Gem Seafoods Inc., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Section 2.1 of the Fish

Processing Licensing Manual notes that applications for new licences, licence transfers, or Changes of Operators, must clearly demonstrate that they have access to the fish resources they plan to process. This access should not negatively impact other processing operations or regions within the province. Mr. Dumaresque indicated that he is only interested in purchasing in the Ramea area. The Board recommends not approving lobster, as there are other buyers in the Burgeo area, but to approve a licence for whelk, sea cucumber, lumpfish, and sea urchin for Labrador Gem Seafoods Inc., Ramea.

13. Northern Lights Seafoods Inc., Main Brook, requested the addition of sea cucumber to a primary processing licence. The company would like to develop the sea cucumber fishery on the Northern Peninsula. Exploratory fishing permits have been issued in the area, but there are no buyers for sea cucumbers in the area, so fish harvesters will not go fishing. The company noted they have no intentions of trucking sea cucumbers in from the East Coast, just the Northern Peninsula. Section 2.1 of the Fish Processing Licensing Manual notes that applications for new licences, licence transfers, or Changes of Operators, must clearly demonstrate that they have access to the fish resources they plan to process. This access should not negatively impact other processing operations or regions within the province. In order for the sea cucumber fishery to develop on the Northern Peninsula, there has to be a licensed processor in the area. The nearest sea cucumber processors are on Change Islands and Fogo Island. The Board recommends approving a sea cucumber licence for Northern Lights Seafood Inc., Main Brook.

14. Notre Dame Seafoods Inc., Comfort Cove-Newstead, requested the addition of sea cucumber to a primary processing licence. The Board has determined that there is sufficient processing capacity to accommodate current landings. The Board recommends not approving a sea cucumber licence for Notre Dame Seafoods Inc., Comfort Cove-Newstead.

15. HSF Ocean Products Ltd., O'Donnells, requested the addition of sea cucumber to a primary processing licence. The Board has determined that there is sufficient processing capacity to accommodate current landings. The Board recommends not approving a sea cucumber licence for HSF Ocean Products Ltd., O'Donnells.

16. Bay Roberts Seafoods Ltd., Bay Roberts, requested the addition of sea cucumber to a primary processing licence. The Board has determined that there is sufficient processing capacity to accommodate current landings. The Board recommends not approving a sea cucumber licence for Bay Roberts Seafoods Ltd., Bay Roberts.

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Reg Anstey
Chair, Fish Processing Licensing Board

May 24/19
Date