

**Fish Processing Licensing Board Meeting**

**October 22-23, 2020**

**Board Recommendations**

Dear Minister Loveless,

The Fish Processing Licensing Board (Board), met in St. John's on October 22 and 23, 2020. The Board considered four applications that were comprised of the following:

- A primary processing licence for groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), snow crab, crab (other), lobster, sea cucumber, scallop, sea urchin, clam, lumpfish, shrimp, whelk, and seal for Dandy Dan's Fish Market Limited, Ship Harbour;
- A primary processing licence for snow crab, groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), whelk, and sea cucumber for Deep Atlantic Sea Products Incorporated, St. Mary's;
- A primary processing licence for groundfish (all species), and pelagics (all species), for Seaward Seafoods Company Limited, New Ferolle and;
- Add the following species to an existing primary processing licence for Dorman Roberts Limited, Triton; groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), snow crab, shrimp, clam, crab (other), eel, lumpfish, salmonids (wild), salmonids (aquaculture), scallop, sea cucumber, sea urchin, seal, and whelk.

In two of the applications, applicants were seeking a primary processing licence for snow crab, shrimp, and whelk. It's the Board's view that no new processing licences for snow crab, shrimp or whelk be issued, due to drastic declines in the resource over the past several years and absent of any other mitigating circumstances (resource availability and regional balance), that would warrant granting these species authorizations under licensing policy.

The Board is making the following recommendations:

1. Dandy Dan's Fish Market Limited, Ship Harbour, requested a primary processing licence for groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), snow crab, crab (other), lobster, sea cucumber, scallop, sea urchin, clam, lumpfish, shrimp, whelk, and seal. There was one letter of objection and no letters of support received during the period of advertisement. The company currently has an in-province retail fish establishment licence in Ship Harbour, and an approval-in-principal for a secondary processing licence in Argentia. It is the Board's view that the species not recommended for approval are now fully utilized within the area (resource availability and regional balance). After careful consideration, it has been concluded that there are no other mitigating circumstances that would warrant granting these species authorizations.

The Board recommends **approving** a primary processing licence for groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), crab (other), lobster, lumpfish, and seal for Dandy Dan's Fish Market Limited, Ship Harbour.

The Board recommends **not approving** a primary processing licence for snow crab, sea cucumber, whelk, sea urchin, scallop, shrimp, and clam.

2. Deep Atlantic Sea Products Incorporated, St. Mary's, requested a primary processing licence for snow crab, groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), whelk, and sea cucumber. There was one letter of objection and no letters of support received during the period of advertisement. In October 2018, HSF Ocean Products Ltd., O'Donnell's, burned down. The company has not rebuilt to date, but holds a primary processing licence for lobster, mussels (aquaculture), groundfish (all species), scallop, whelk, and pelagics (all species). The former plant is located in close proximity (approximately 40 km's away), to the applicant. It is the Board's view that the species applied for are now fully utilized within the area (resource availability and regional balance). After careful consideration, it has been concluded that there are no other mitigating circumstances that would warrant granting these species authorizations.

The Board recommends **not approving** a primary processing licence for snow crab, groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), whelk, and sea cucumber for Deep Atlantic Sea Products Incorporated, St. Mary's.

3. Seaward Seafoods Company Limited, New Ferolle, currently has a buyers licence for lobster and groundfish (all species). The company has requested a primary processing licence for groundfish (all species), and pelagics (all species). There was one letter of objection received and no letters of support during the period of advertisement.

In May 2019, Gulf Shrimp Limited, Black Duck Cove, was completely destroyed by fire. The company was licensed to process shrimp and employed approximately 100 plant workers. Black Duck Cove is approximately 49 km or a 40 minute drive from New Ferolle, so there may be opportunities for some of the former plant workers to obtain employment at Seaward Seafoods Company Limited, if this application is approved.

The Gulf Unit 1 redfish resource is at unprecedented strength. Science estimates that the fishable biomass will soon reach 5 million metric tonnes. A significant amount of perch will be landed on the west coast and northern peninsula. The Board's view is that the province should have the capacity in the region to handle this increase in perch, to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador is able to acquire its fair share of the resource. This application will help establish the ability to process a share of the catch and provide economic activity in the region that is closest to this resource.

The Board recommends **approving** a primary processing licence for groundfish (all species), and pelagics (all species), for Seaward Seafoods Company Limited, New Ferolle.

4. Dorman Roberts Limited, Triton, has a primary processing licence for lobster and mussels (aquaculture). The company has requested to add the following species to an existing primary processing licence; groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), snow crab, shrimp, clam, crab (other), eel, lumpfish, salmonids (wild), salmonids (aquaculture), scallop, sea cucumber, sea urchin, seal, and whelk. There was one letter of objection and no letters of support received during the period of advertisement. Ocean Choice International (OCI), has a processing facility in the same community as the applicant, and is licensed for groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), snow crab, and lobster. In reviewing the application and business plan with the applicant, it was determined that a secondary processing licence may be more applicable for this facility. It is the Board's view that the species applied for are now fully utilized within the area (resource availability and regional balance). After careful consideration, it has been concluded that there are no other mitigating circumstances that would warrant granting these species authorizations.

The Board recommends **not approving** the addition of the following species to an existing primary processing licence; groundfish (all species), pelagics (all species), snow crab, shrimp, clam, crab (other), eel, lumpfish, salmonids (wild), salmonids (aquaculture), scallop, sea cucumber, sea urchin, seal, and whelk for Dorman Roberts Limited, Triton.



Reg Anstey

Chair, Fish Processing Licensing Board

November 4, 2020

Date