



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

May 28, 2019

Alyson Pitts
Sustainable Fisheries Division
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, NMFS
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Ms. Pitts:

The responds to Sarah Heil's letter regarding the application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) requested by Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF).

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of an Exempted Fishery Permit to the applicant, i.e., CFF. The CFF submitted a complete EFP application on April 1, 2019, for a 2019 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) project titled "Seasonal Survey in the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery." Researchers expect to start the first trip for this project on August 8, 2019. This project would look primarily at the seasonal distribution of bycatch of yellowtail and windowpane flounder on the eastern part of Georges Bank in relation to sea scallop meat weight yield. Additional objectives include testing of an experimental cover net to collect bycatch and collecting biological samples to examine scallop meat quality and yellowtail flounder liver disease. Investigators would also work in cooperation with New Hampshire Fish and Game and the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association to tag female lobsters.

Please call or write if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

CMM: mjs

cc: M. Luisi, W. Elliott, S. Heil