



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

June 7, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Hansen:

The responds to Sarah Heil's letter regarding the application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) requested by The University of Connecticut.

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of an Exempted Fishery Permit to the applicant, i.e., The University of Connecticut. The University of Connecticut submitted a complete EFP application on May 1, 2019. If the EFP is approved, this study would take place from May to September 2019. The EFP would authorize participating vessels to collect up to 18 female egg-bearing lobsters from Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2 and 3. The lobsters collected for this study would range in weight from 1.5 – 4.5 lb. (0.68-2.04 kg). Fishermen would ship the lobsters overnight to a researcher at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. The researcher would transfer the lobsters to a holding tank to conduct further analysis of blood samples for the presence of endocrine disruptors and monitor larval development. The researcher will return surviving lobsters to the ocean following the experiments.

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