



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

July 19, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Farr:

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. CFF submitted a complete application for an EFP on May 1, 2019. Experimental fishing activity would test a one-way extended link dredge modification to reduce flatfish bycatch and catch of pre-recruit scallops in the scallop dredge fishery. Any modification would comply with existing scallop gear regulations. The EFP must be used in conjunction with a valid compensation fishing letter of authorization issued separately from the proposed EFP.

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