



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

October 14, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Hansen:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits related to the Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA).

Exempted Fishing Permits that waive monkfish landing limits have been routinely approved since 2007 to increase operational efficiency and optimize research funds generated from the Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program. These EFPs would facilitate compensation fishing in support of the projects funded under the 2020/2021 monkfish RSA competition. Consistent with previous years of the monkfish RSA program, these RSA compensation fishing EFPs would authorize an exemption for participating vessels from days-at-sea (DAS) landing limit restrictions in the Monkfish Northern and Southern Fishery Management Areas found at 50 CFR 648.(b)(1) and (2). Vessels fishing under an RSA DAS would be allowed to harvest monkfish in excess of the usual landing limits associated with their Federal permits.

Please call or write if you have any questions
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Moore".

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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