



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

November 3, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Grant:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits related to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI).

This would amend an EFP published on April 9, 2020. This amended EFP would allow one vessel participating in the maximized retention electronic monitoring program an additional exemption from the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank regulated mesh areas codified at 50 CFR 648.80(a)(3)(i) and (a)(4)(i) to use codends with either square or diamond mesh as small as 4.5 inches (11.4 cm). The exemption would be used to conduct exploratory fishing to increase the catch of pollock and Gulf of Maine haddock while on trips targeting Acadian redfish. This EFP would be effective for the 2020 and the 2021 fishing years, through April 30, 2022 using alternative codend configurations to target haddock and pollock on trips targeting Acadian redfish is outside of the scope of the project as currently approved, GARFO is taking public comment on the revision request.

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