



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 9, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Talmage:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of an Exempted Fishing Permit related to the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries (MCCF).

Activity under this EFP would occur from October through April 2021, within a subset of statistical area 512, from approximately Port Clyde to Swan's Island, Maine, out to the Federal lobster Area 1 boundary. During EFP trips, vessels would deploy commercial lobster traps as normal and would opportunistically fish with handgear for cod sampling when captains deem appropriate based on operational factors such as weather conditions and haul schedules. Vessels would record location, gear, bait, bottom type, depth, and time for each deployment of hook gear. There are two depth strata, 0-50 fathoms (0-91.4 m) and 50-100 (91.4-182.9 m). On each EFP trip, vessels would be allowed to keep up to 2 cod at or above a minimum size of 24 inches (60.9 cm) from each depth strata. Any other fish caught while fishing with handgear would be returned to the ocean as soon as possible.

Please call or write if you have any questions
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Moore".

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: M. Luisi, W. Townsend, M. Pentony