



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

August 26, 2019

Shannah Jaburek
Sustainable Fisheries Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Ms. Jaburek:

The responds to Sarah Heil's letter regarding the application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) requested by Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF).

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of an Exempted Fishery Permit to the applicant, i.e., CFRF. CFRF submitted a complete application for an EFP on June 12, 2019, for a 2019 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) project titled "Piloting a Novel Dredge Type to Reduce Bycatch and Improve Fuel Efficiency in the Southern New England Scallop Fishery." This project was funded under the 2019 Atlantic Sea Scallop RSA Program. Researchers expect to start the first trip for this project as soon as the EFP is issued. The project would look at how the modified dredge (the N-Viro dredge), a new gear type in the scallop fishery, would reduce bycatch, minimize habitat impacts by minimizing dredge penetration into and resistance along the seafloor, and improve fuel efficiency by towing at lower speeds.

Please call or write if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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