



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

April 23, 2019

Frank Helies
NOAA - NMFS
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505

Dear Mr. Helies:

The responds to Lauren Lugo's letter regarding the application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) requested by North Carolina Aquariums.

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of an Exempted Fishery Permit to the applicant, i.e., North Carolina Aquariums. This EFP would exempt North Carolina Aquariums from federal snapper-grouper regulations found at 50 CFR 622.180 (prohibited gear and methods), 622.183 (area and seasonal closures), 622.184 (seasonal harvest limitations), 622.185 (size limits), and 622.187 (bag and possession limits); from federal regulations governing coral harvest found at 50 CFR 622.225 (harvest limitations); and from federal regulations for dolphin and wahoo found at 50 CFR 622.275 (size limits), and 622.277 (bag and possession limits). The EFP would be valid for five years, commencing on the date the EFP is issued.

Please call or write if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

CMM: mjs

cc: M. Luisi, W. Elliott, L. Lugo