



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

April 22, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Hansen:

The responds to Sarah Heil's letter regarding the application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) requested by Rutgers University.

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of an Exempted Fishery Permit to the applicant, i.e., Rutgers University. Rutgers University submitted a completed application for an EFP on March 21, 2019, to collect information on the effect of spawning by latitude and bottom temperature on black sea bass body condition and size at maturity. The sampling is designed around spawning activities and spatial/temporal energetic variability of black sea bass. The EFP would authorize four charter/party vessels to collect and retain up to 240 black sea bass for lab analysis. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

1. Recreational black sea bass possession limits specified at §648.145; and
2. Commercial and party/charter minimum size limits for black sea bass specified at §648.147(a) and (b).

Please call or write if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

CMM: mjs

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