



## 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

July 15, 2019

Laura Hansen  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Greater Atlantic Regional Office  
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 Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM).

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, I support the issuance of an Exempted Fishery Permit to the applicant, i.e., CFRF and RI DEM. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

- 1.) Recreational fishery closure periods specified at 50 CFR 648.146; and
- 2.) Commercial and party/charter minimum size limits for black sea bass specified at §648.147(a) and (b).

The proposed research would collect data on black sea bass to better characterize catch and discard data for potential use in stock assessments. The research fleet consists of vessels fishing with gear types including, trawls, lobster pots, gillnets, and hook and line. All gear deployments will be typical of routine fishing practices of the black sea bass fishery.

Each vessel will be randomly selected to conduct sampling events during three trips per month in the waters of the black sea bass stock area. Up to 50 black sea bass would be temporarily held onboard to record their length and sex during each sampling event.

Please call or write if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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