



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER25: NM

Mr. George O'Dale
7201 Springer Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28411

APR 26 2016

Dear Mr. O'Dale,

This letter responds to your inquiry to use traps to harvest spiny lobster recreationally in Federal waters off North Carolina.

The recreational harvest of spiny lobster in Federal waters off North Carolina is allowed in accordance with regulations at 50 CFR Part 622. Among other applicable requirements, the regulations specify vessel and gear identification, trap construction, and harvest limitations for spiny lobster, including bag limits. Your fishing activities must be consistent with all the requirements specified in the regulations.

NOAA Fisheries assigns you a color code of yellow and blue. The color code is used to identify your vessel and buoys. The color code on your vessel must be a circle at least 20 inches (50.8 cm) in diameter on a contrasting background, and it must comply with the other requirements stated in 50 CFR 622.402. We recommend that you divide the circle in half horizontally and place one color above the other.

You must display your assigned North Carolina vessel registration number on your vessel, traps, and buoys used to mark the traps according to the regulations at 50 CFR 622.402.

If you have any questions, please contact Nikhil Mehta, Sustainable Fisheries Division, at 727-824-5305 or nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
NMFS, Office of Law Enforcement
U.S. Coast Guard

