

From: Jack McGovern <John.McGovern@noaa.gov>
To: Lewis Augusta <lpa1@bellsouth.net>
Cc: Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov; Bonnie.Ponwith@noaa.gov; Kate Michie <Kate.Michie@noaa.gov>; Phil Steele <Phil.Steele@noaa.gov>; Nikhil Mehta <Nikhil.Mehta@noaa.gov>
Sent: Tue, November 17, 2009 8:49:55 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: exempted fisheries permits for big fish,inc.

Jack,

Thank you for your prompt response to our request for an exempted fisheries permit.

The project entails collecting data on shallow water grouper and vermillion snapper of the east coast of Florida during the closed season. We are located at the Ft. Pierce City Marina and generally fish from approximately 12 miles S.E. of the inlet to 30 miles N.E. of the inlet. We fish from depths ranging from 60' to 120'. We fish exclusively in the EEZ. The data would be provided for fish caught from this area. The data we would provide will include the following;

- 1) Number of fish caught and/or released for all species for which the permit is requested.
- 2) Exact location fished with either LORAN or GPS coordinates provided.
- 3) Type of gear used to include type of hook (J or Circle), # test and type of line used (Braid or Mono).
- 4) Type of bait used, live, dead, artificial, etc.
- 5) Water temperature and current (direction of current).
- 6) Type of structure fished and depth.
- 7) Discard mortality including use of venting and hook disgorging tool effectiveness.
- 8) Tagging of fish released if appropriate agency issues us tags and provides training on proper use. Keep records on where tagged fish were released to include #'s, species, etc.
- 9) Maintain racks for 24 hours to be made available to the appropriate agencies fisheries biologists. Racks will be available at the boat dock.
- 10) Provide access for on board observers on all trips.
- 11) Availability of bait in the area fished including type, i.e. grunts, pinfish, cigar minnows, etc.
- 12) All data provided will be for the closed season and this data would not be otherwise available.
- 13) Keep all fish kept within the size and bag limits currently in effect for the recreational fishery within the SAFMC area unless specifically requested to do otherwise.
- 14) No cost to the participating agencies for the data collected.
- 15) Legal size fish will be retained by the anglers or given away when we return to the dock.
- 16) Retain up to 25 vermillion snapper per 8 hour trip and 5 shallow water grouper within the current recreational bag and species limits per 8 hour trip.

We use rod and reel.

The vessel to be used is the F/V Capt. Lew. She is a 65' DMR party fishing boat licensed for 70 passengers up to 100 miles offshore. Her official # is 907086.

The principal investigator is Capt. Lewis P. Augusta whose address is 2170 Seminole Shores Lane, Vero Beach, Florida 32963. He is also the captain of the vessel and owner of Big Fish, Inc. the owner of the F/V Capt. Lew. The telephone # is 1-772-231-8192.

The vessel's Certificate will be sent to you as soon as I receive the address.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact me.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Capt. Lew Augusta
F/V Capt. Lew
Big Fish, Inc.

Supplemental information requested from NMFS:

Nik,

Good speaking with you the other day. Information very helpful.

As we discussed you needed some additional data;

- 1) Geographic area for permit-Southern boundary-43100 line LORAN coordinate
Eastern boundary-61940 line LORAN coordinate
Northern boundary-43525 line LORAN coordinate

The area would be within those LORAN coordinates and form a box where the Southern and Northern boundaries intersect the Eastern boundary.

- 2) We use rod and reel for all our fishing. We take a minimum of 8 anglers and a maximum of 35 anglers. Average over last 10 years has been approximately 20 anglers/trip. Number of hooks in the water would range between 16-70 if everyone used a 2 hook rig. We have a number of anglers who exclusively use a single hook rig. Assuming average # of anglers for last 10 years the average # of hooks in the water would be 40.

- 3) Soak time-our trips are 8 hour trips. It takes us approximately 1.5 hours to reach the grounds and same to return to the dock. Generally, make 2-5 stops per trip which take about 10 minutes each from drop to drop. Of the 5 remaining hours about 4.5 hours are spent with lines in the water with about .5 hours spent moving from drop to drop.

If you have any questions, need clarification or additional information, please let me know.

Thanks for your help.

Lew