



MAR 26 2019

**NORTH • CAROLINA
AQUARIUM**
at Fort Fisher

900 Loggerhead Road, Kure Beach, NC 28449 • www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher
Phone: (910) 772-0500 • Fax: (910) 458-6812

March 21, 2019

To: Roy E. Crabtree, PhD
Administrator, Southeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Dr. Crabtree,

This letter is a request for renewal of The North Carolina Aquariums Exempted Fishing Permit (F/SER25:NMSER09-044) for the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper FMP/ Coral-Coal Reefs FMP.

Renewal of our South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper FMP/ Coral-Coal Reefs FMP Exempted Fishing Permit (F/SER25:NMSER09-044) is requested to support the continued education display of native fauna at the North Carolina Aquariums at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores, Fort Fisher, and Jennette's Pier. Through the Aquarium's mission statement of "Inspiring appreciation and conservation of North Carolina's aquatic environments" more than 1.2 million people annually are educated regarding the diversity of life found along our coastline and the necessity of preserving our natural resources. We continue to uphold the highest standards in animal care and are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

The North Carolina Aquariums are requesting permission to collect and transport for educational exhibit the following species with the maximum number listed per calendar year over a 5 year period:

16 Red Hind	16 Red Grouper	24 Amberjack (lesser and greater)
16 Rock Hind	16 Gag	24 Almaco Jack
16 Graysby	9 Yellowedge Grouper	100 Bar Jack
24 Red Porgy	9 Yellowfin Grouper	50 pounds of Live Rock
24 Black Sea Bass	16 Yellowmouth Grouper	24 Dolphin
16 Coney	36 Vermilion Snapper	
16 Scamp	20 Red Snapper	
3 Snowy Grouper	36 Yellowtail Snapper	

Collections would occur year-round between Latitude 33°10'N to Latitude 36°30'N (along the N.C. coast) from three miles out, and up to 100 fathoms, and would be carried out using SCUBA, hook-and-line, and monitored traps for all species listed above. Primary collection vessels are 25' Parkers owned by the Aquariums, registration numbers NC5836P, and NC5857P, as listed on our current EFP.



Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Roy Cooper, Governor • Susi H. Hamilton, Secretary • David R. Griffin, Division Director





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The following personnel would be the primary participants involved in collecting:

Hap Fatzinger, Brian Germick, Brian Dorn, Julie Johnson, Stuart May, Jeff McBane, Clint Taylor, Madeline Marens, Rich Bamberger, Michael Holleman, Shelly Anthony, Jane Kepler, Stephanie Lambeth, Medardo Londono, Mike Suchy, Marc Neill, Ryan McAlarney, Jason Sheremeta, Amber Wright, Stacey Murray, Britt Purtee, Allen McDowell, Kristin Clark, Jessica Foti, Kristine Davis, Amber White, Maddie VanMiddlesworth, Sheena Jones, Emily Lewis, Brian Lumley, Matthew Quattlebaum, Katie Benya, Alex Jeddrey, Connie Dobbs, Melanie Flannigan, Trent Boyette.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Julie B. Johnson, Curator of Husbandry, NCAFF
(julie.b.johnson@ncaquariums.com)

CC: Amber Wright (Amber.wright@ncaquariums.com)

Collection vessel information:

NC5857P located at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, P.O. Box 967,
Manteo, NC 27954

Operator: Olivia Burrus, 1-866-332-3475, ext. 233

NC5836P located at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, 900
Loggerhead Road, Kure Beach, NC 28449

Operator: Hap Fatzinger, 1-866-301-3476, ext. 217

Traps

- will be two styles: standard commercial fish traps (e.g. as in sea bass fishery) and standard minnow traps (1/4" mesh)
- will use six traps per trip but may want to increase this if the method is effective for what we need
- soak time is 4 to 8 hours or up to two days
- most of the time traps will be set first thing in the morning and retrieved at the end of the same day
- when the weather is good we may leave traps overnight for one night
- will be retrieved by hand to reduce swim bladder expansion
- will be used in hard bottom and ledge habitats offshore

Hook and Line

- 10 hours per day duration
- 2 hooks per line
- maximum 4 lines in the water at once
- mostly during the day
- trip durations are for one or two days (2 days maximum)
- fishing may occur at night on a 2-day trip