

Gulf & South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, Inc.

January 12, 2010

Dr. Roy E. Crabtree
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

RE: Request for Exempted Fishing Permit

Dear Dr. Crabtree:

The Foundation has been awarded funds under Awards # NA08NMF4330406 and #NA09NMF4540135 to conduct research that require the collection of characterization data in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. (Proposals are attached outlining the details of this research.) To allow adequate time for the fishery observer to collect, enumerate, weigh, and identify all samples/species brought aboard a cooperating fishing vessel, the Foundation is requesting an Exempted Fishing Permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service to allow retention of Federally managed species under the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's jurisdictions. The number of specimens that may be acquired on any given trip is highly variable, and specifying the number of individuals that will be retained is difficult. However, we anticipate approximately 500 sublegal and/or legal fish could be retained throughout the course of these studies, for continued onboard examination or returned to shore for lab analysis. No species retained for scientific purposes will be sold commercially.

The Foundation's current Awards are scheduled to end on July 31, 2010, however, one-year no cost extensions are also anticipated. Five hundred at-sea days have been anticipated for this study. Current Foundation contracted observers, Regional Coordinators and authorized personnel include: Frank Helies, Gary Graham, Lindsey Parker, Daniel Parshley, Robert Timmeney, David Mann and Mark Bane. Additional observers may be contracted during the course of this project.

Please note that contracted personnel who have undergone sea turtle training may handle threatened and endangered sea turtles that are encountered during normal fishing operations.

Dr. Roy Crabtree
January 12, 2010
Page Two

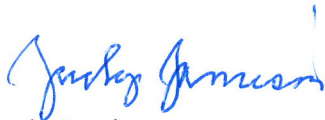
National Marine Fisheries Service funded research grants (correspondence attached) and as such, are authorized to handle sea turtles encountered during the course of Foundation studies.

A list of vessels available to cooperate in this research will be submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service as they are identified. Of the vessels identified, a sub-sample will be selected to participate in this project. Additional vessels may be identified throughout the course of the project and will be submitted to NMFS for approval.

Results of tests conducted will be provided in the final reports for the Awards issued.

Thank you for your assistance. Should you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,



Judy Jamison
Executive Director

Attachments: Research Proposals (#NA08NMF4330406 and #NA09NMF4540135)
October 22, 2009 Correspondence from Dr. Crabtree (Turtle Handling
Authorization)

Cc: Board of Trustees
Dr. Steve Branstetter (w/attachments)