



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492

Eric Reid, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

June 7, 2024

Mr. Michael Pentony
GARFO Regional Administrator
NMFS/NOAA Fisheries
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

RE: Comments on Coonamessett Farm Foundation EFP, "Investigation of baiting practices on catch and bycatch in gillnets and design of an effective outreach program to minimize seabird bycatch"

Dear Mike:

The New England Fishery Management Council has no objection to the exempted fishery permit to allow three vessels participating in the seabird bycatch study to be exempt from monitoring coverage as described in the *Federal Register* on May 31, 2024.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cate O'Keefe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cate O'Keefe
Executive Director