



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JACK MONToucET
SECRETARY

January 18, 2018

Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Roy -
~~Dr. Crabtree:~~

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries would like to submit the attached Exempted Fishing Permit application for review and approval by NOAA, as per your September 29, 2017 written request. We appreciate this opportunity and feel it will greatly enhance our knowledge of fishing effort over various habitats off of Louisiana's coast, while allowing access to a growing fishery resource by our anglers. It will also help further show Louisiana's ability to manage a recreational fishery in both state and federal waters within the boundaries of annual catch limits (ACLs) and under the conservation principles of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Thank you and your staff for working collaboratively with us during the developmental process. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 225.765.2370 or via email at pbanks@wlf.la.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Banks", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick D. Banks
Assistant Secretary
LDWF Office of Fisheries