



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

JUN 24 2013

Chris McGuire
The Nature Conservancy
99 Bedford Street
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Mr. McGuire:

We have approved your June 13, 2013, request to conduct a halibut tagging research program onboard several vessels enrolled in the Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector. This request is authorized under the current exemption granted to the sector to temporarily possess species for sampling purposes. However, you must ensure that all participating vessels carry copies of the project description and tagging instructions that were attached to your request. If you have additional questions, please contact Mark Grant at 978-281-9145.

Sincerely,

George H. Darcy
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc: Eric Brazer

