
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Council to Hold Public Hearings on Amendment 9 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP May 14-17, 2007

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold hearings on Amendment 9 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan to receive public input on management actions under consideration in Amendment 9. The proposed management actions could:

- 1) allow multi-year specifications for all four species managed through the FMP,
- 2) extend or eliminate the moratorium on entry into the directed *Illex* squid fishery,
- 3) revise the current overfishing definition for *Loligo* squid,
- 4) designate EFH for *Loligo* eggs,
- 5) implement area closures to reduce damage to habitat from squid-mackerel-butterfish fisheries,
- 6) increase the minimum codend mesh size requirement in the *Loligo* fishery,
- 7) modify the exemption of the *Illex* fishery from the minimum codend mesh size requirement of the *Loligo* fishery,
- 8) modify the *Loligo* incidental catch limit in the *Illex* fishery during *Loligo* fishery closures,
- 9) establish a requirement for electronic daily reporting in the directed *Illex* fishery,
- 10) establish gear restricted areas that are seasonally closed to small-mesh gear.

All hearings begin at 7:00 p.m. Dates and locations of the hearings are as follows:

- Monday, May 14, 2007: Hilton Garden Inn Providence Airport, One Thurber Street, Warwick, RI 02886.
- Tuesday, May 15, 2007: Holiday Inn Express East End, 1707 Old Country Road, Riverhead, NY 11901.
- Wednesday, May 16, 2007: The Grand Hotel, 1045 Beach Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204.
- Thursday, May 17, 2007: Days Inn Norfolk Airport, 5708 Northampton Blvd., I-64 & US 13, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

The public hearing summary document will be mailed to all entities on the Council's mailing list. The document will be available at all of the public hearings and is currently available via the Internet at <http://www.mafmc.org/mid-atlantic/comments/comments.htm>. The document can also be obtained on request from the Council office at the address and telephone number below.

Oral comments can be provided at any of the public hearings. Written comments should be directed to Mr. Daniel T. Furlong, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115 Federal Building, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904 (telephone 302-674-2331). Written comments may also be sent via fax to 302-674-5399, or by e-mail to info@mafmc.org. Please note on your correspondence (or include in the subject line of your e-mail): "MSB Amendment 9 Comments." All forms of written comments must be received by close of business on May 27, 2007.

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