
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Council to Hold Public Hearings on Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP June 9, 2008; June 17, 2008; June 18, 2008

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold hearings on Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan to receive public input on management actions under consideration in Amendment 10. To reduce general discards and to allow the butterfish stock to rebuild to BMSY and protect the long-term health and stability of the rebuilt butterfish stock, the proposed management actions could:

- 1) Develop a butterfish mortality cap program for the *Loligo* fishery;
- 2) Increase the *Loligo* minimum codend mesh size;
- 3) Eliminate exemptions for *Illex* vessels from *Loligo* minimum codend mesh requirements; and
- 4) Establish seasonal gear restricted areas (GRAs).

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

- Monday, June 9, 2008: Sheraton Convention Center, Two Miss America Way, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
- Tuesday, June 17, 2008: Hilton Garden Inn, One Thurber Street/Jefferson Blvd, Warwick, RI 02886
- Wednesday, June 18, 2008: Holiday Inn Express East End, 1707 Old Country Road, Riverhead, NY 11901.

The public hearing summary document will be available at all of the public hearings and via the Internet (as of May 30) 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 10 Comments." All forms of written comments must be received by close of business on June 23, 2008.

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