



MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Listening Session:
Lessons Learned from Offshore Wind Development in the United Kingdom

Guest Speaker: Tom Watson
Fishery Liaison Officer for DONG Energy, United Kingdom

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 - 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Montauk Yacht Club, 32 Star Island Road, Montauk, NY 11954
And via the internet at <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/april2014>

During next week's meeting in Montauk, New York, the Council will host a public listening session on offshore wind power in the United Kingdom. The listening session will be held on Wednesday, April 9 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. and will also be accessible via webinar at the link above. Guest speaker will be Tom Watson, Fishery Liaison Officer for DONG Energy, the largest European offshore wind power developer.

Tom Watson is an experienced mariner with 45-year career as a fishing trawler captain and fishing industry representative. In his current position, he is responsible for managing the activities of more than 270 large and medium sized vessels fishing in and around seven wind farms in the Eastern Irish Sea. During the listening session, Watson will share his experiences and lessons learned from his work to mitigate navigational hazards, ensure fisheries' access during construction and operational phases, and increase fishing industry role in data collection around wind farms. His visit to US ports is sponsored by Ocean Conservancy.

In February 2014, three individuals from the United Kingdom participated in the Council's workshop on Best Management Practices for Offshore Wind Development. Presentations, documents, and the final report from this workshop are available at <http://www.mafmc.org/workshop/offshore-wind>.

The presentation will be followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion. Questions may be submitted through the webinar's live-chat feature or by emailing them in advance to mclark@mafmc.org.

Briefing materials and a complete agenda for next week's meeting are available at <http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/april-2014>.

About Listening Sessions

Listening sessions are held during each Council meeting as an open and informal opportunity for the public to interact with Council members and leadership, as well as with experts in a range of relevant fields. Most listening sessions focus on a specific topic of current interest. Listening sessions are always accessible via webinar. For questions about listening sessions or how to participate via webinar, please contact Mary Clark at mclark@mafmc.org.