



MID-ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Listening Session: Clean Ocean Zone Initiative Presented by Clean Ocean Action

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 16, 2012- 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

Ocean Place, One Ocean Boulevard, Long Branch, NJ 07740
And Via the Internet at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/707531321>

Based on the input received during the Council's Visioning Project, ocean pollution is one of the most widely shared concerns among all stakeholder groups. At this month's Council meeting, the nonprofit organization Clean Ocean Action (COA) will give an overview of their long-term efforts to stop pollution and their current campaign to permanently protect the waters of the New Jersey/New York Bight. After the presentation, COA and Council leadership will be available to answer questions from the public.

COA is a broad-based coalition of 125 groups and organizations that has been working for nearly 30 years to improve the water quality off the New Jersey/New York coast through research, education, and citizen action. Most notably, the efforts of COA were instrumental in the shutting down of eight ocean dumpsites that were polluting mid-Atlantic waters with dirt, sewer sludge, acid waste, dredged material, and industrial waste.

During the listening session, COA will describe their current campaign to establish permanent protection for the NY/NJ Bight with the Clean Ocean Zone (COZ) Initiative. If passed, the Clean Ocean Zone bill would create a pollution-free area that would stop the regular authorization of destructive industrial practices in the COZ.

Following the presentation, COA and Council leadership will be available to answer questions from the public on the Clean Ocean Zone initiative or any other fishery issues of interest to the public.

You can attend in person or via the internet. **For online webinar access register at:** <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/707531321> or just click this link at the time of the meeting.

Please contact Jason Didden at jdidden@mafmc.org or (302) 526-5254 if you have any questions regarding the listening session process or if you would like to confirm that your computer is set up to access the webinar. The webinar works for most computers, but sometimes there are technical problems with remote voice communication from online participants. In such cases, participants may still use a chat feature in the webinar to submit their comments or questions.