

July 12, 2017

HICEAS follow-up questions (NMFS) from May 4, 2017 RAC Meeting

Write-up by Amanda Bradford ([amanda.bradford@noaa.gov](mailto:amanda.bradford@noaa.gov))

1) Has anyone brought up fish farms (I believe specifically those being proposed for Federal waters) as an activity that could be informed by HICEAS data?

A: To date, no one has brought up fish farms specifically as an activity that could be informed by HICEAS data, at least not that we know of, but all data from HICEAS will be available to inform any activity in Federal waters.

2) There is interest in the seabird data and what we've learned. I mentioned that the seabird surveys have largely been led by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, but I wonder if there are any references or documents that we could pass on or a contact who they could follow-up with for more information.

A: We don't have any references or documents on hand, but Lisa Ballance at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center <[lisa.ballance@noaa.gov](mailto:lisa.ballance@noaa.gov)> would be a great contact for more seabird information, as she's been leading the HICEAS seabird surveys.

3) I was asked if any countries are approaching EEZ-wide line-transect surveys like we do. I mentioned that there are definitely small- and large-scale line-transect surveys for cetaceans by various countries and that there are multinational efforts (e.g., IWC) to conduct line-transect surveys over large areas. But, I couldn't think of a country that approaches assessment in exactly the same way - if you have more to add, please do.

A: We don't have much more to add than my original response. To our knowledge, we don't know of other countries that conduct multi-species line-transect surveys of their EEZ specifically, which - for us - essentially forms a management boundary for population assessment under the MMPA. We know of many examples of countries or multinational management bodies conducting line-transect surveys that target certain cetacean species or perhaps groups of species in a certain area, some even quite large, but not in the EEZ per se. If there is interest in some of these surveys, I can facilitate getting some information to the RAC. Also, I was not 100% sure I understood the question, so let me know if my interpretation was not correct.