

From: **James Morris - NOAA Federal** <james.morris@noaa.gov>
Date: Mon, Feb 13, 2017 at 8:45 AM
Subject: Re: New Release: Protected species and marine aquaculture interactions
To: PFMC Comments - NOAA Service Account <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Good morning -

We would like to bring to your attention a new science assessment [Protected Species and Marine Aquaculture Interactions](#). This global assessment summarizes the current state of knowledge regarding documented and potential interactions of species listed under the ESA, such as sea turtles and marine mammals. An in depth analysis was conducted for offshore longline mussel culture gear interactions as a case study (see workshop report [here](#)). This assessment will strengthen the ability of NOAA and other regulatory agencies to make science-based decisions and recommendations as part of the review and consultation process required to permit aquaculture operations. In addition to providing a state of science analysis, the assessment includes a preliminary risk analysis to evaluate potential for harmful interactions between aquaculture and protected species, identifies knowledge gaps, provides management recommendations, and highlights areas of needed research.

This work was a joint effort between NOS/NCCOS/NMFS/Greater Atlantic Fisheries Regional Office/Protected Resources Division, and the NMFS Office of Aquaculture.

We hope you will find this assessment valuable and would very much appreciate hearing back from you at james.morris@noaa.gov.

For more information on other aquaculture planning and siting products developed by NOAAs National Ocean Service, please visit:

https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/scem/marine_aquaculture/.

Warmest regards,

James Morris

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Learn about NCCOS and how we are growing sustainable marine aquaculture practices at http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/scem/marine_aquaculture