

February 2, 2017 - Presentation to the RAC: DoD Activity in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
Responses to RAC Questions

1. What is the status of the "HAUTS" range that was proposed in the Auau Channel? (Tammy Harp, Native Hawaiian Representative)

The Navy could find no record of a "HAUTS" range proposed in the vicinity of the Auau Channel. However, based on information provided by Tammy Harp, the description is consistent with a project referred to as the Hawaiian Islands Shallow Water Training Range (HISWTR). This project was funded by Congress in the mid 1990's and proposed to install permanent underwater acoustic tracking devices in waters south of Maui, with cables running to shore in Kihei. After completing the environmental permitting process, military priorities were re-directed and no hardware was ever installed. The project was cancelled in the late 1990s and there are no current plans to revive it.

2. What is the Navy/military's interest in and use of Midway runway? (Linda Paul, Conservation Representative)

The airfield at Midway Atoll is no longer a military facility. Henderson Field (MDY) is listed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as a public use airport and known diversion runway for aircraft in a condition of "extended range operations" under FAA policy (AC 120-42B). No uses of MDY are currently planned by military aircraft. However, any uses that would occur would be completed within Federal Aviation regulations and advisories posted by the FAA.

3. Correction to the Navy's response to Tim Johns' question regarding why the Navy reinitiated ESA consultation in 2014/2015.

ESA consultation was reinitiated in response to the listing of the Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, not the Main Hawaiian Islands Insular False Killer Whale as stated at the meeting. The False Killer Whale reinitiation occurred in 2012.