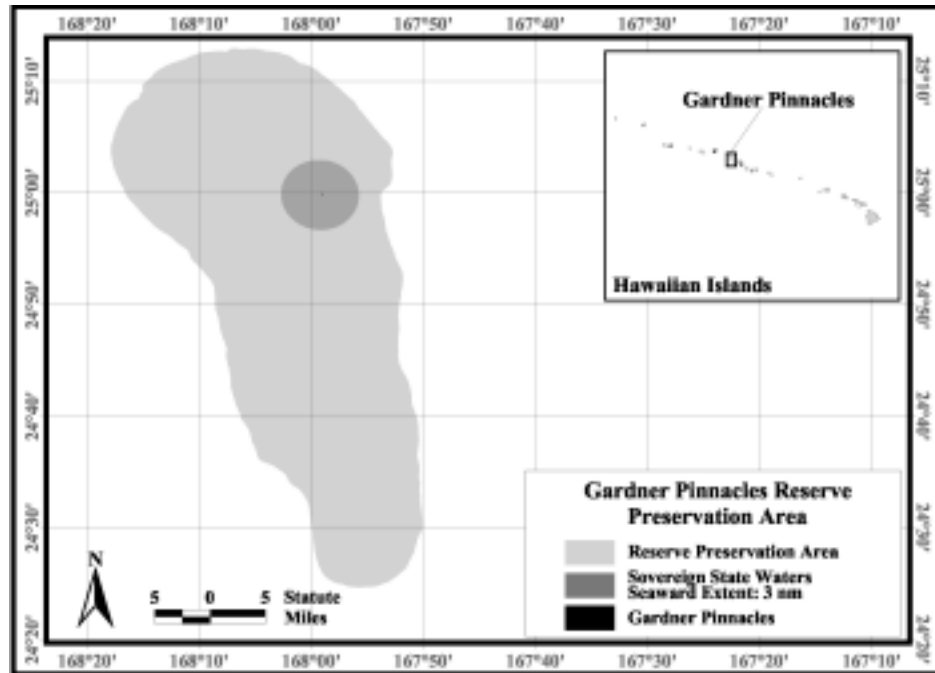


Gardner Pinnacles Reserve Preservation Area

MAP



This reserve preservation area is approximated using fathoms (fm) but shall be represented in future maps by the Secretary using straight-line boundaries in longitude and latitude coordinates to clearly encompass the reserve preservation area and to provide clarity and ease of identification.

RESERVE PRESERVATION AREA

The Reserve Preservation Area for Gardner Pinnacles includes the waters and submerged lands from the seaward boundary of Hawaii state waters out to a mean depth of 100 fathoms, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue seaward of a mean depth of 25 fathoms, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment.

ENVIRONMENT

Gardner Pinnacles consists of two volcanic peaks and spans 5 acres in total. The peaks' frosted appearance indicates their importance as a roosting site and breeding habitat for 12 species of tropical seabirds. About 600,000 acres of coral reef habitat surround the pinnacles and consist mostly of relatively flat banks in the 15 to 20 fathom (30 to 40 meters) depth range. Very little survey work has been conducted over the banks surrounding Gardner, but the few observations that have been made suggest a mostly sand and algal bottom with occasional rock outcroppings.

The ocean environment at Gardner Pinnacles is turbulent most of the time and the two small

islands do not offer much protection from the area's heavy waves and currents. Coral at the Pinnacles is more abundant on elevated surfaces and behind rises or mounds that are protected from wave action. The high diversity of corals reflects the variety of habitats at the Pinnacles, while its low abundance reflects the wave and scour-controlled nature of the environment. The lack of shallow water environments around the Pinnacles limits the number of reef building species that can survive the conditions at the reefs and powerful wave action reduces the growth rate of corals, coralline algae, and other reef-building organisms.

Based on occasional visual observations and satellite tag tracking data, it is known that a few monk seals haul out on Gardner's rock ledges and forage over the surrounding banks.

The Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge is currently administered out to 10 fathoms at Gardner Pinnacles.