

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale



Habitats

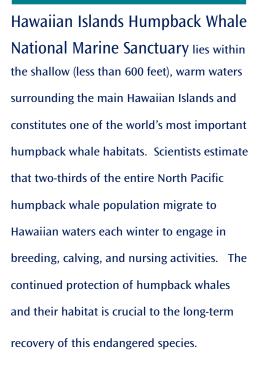
Humpback whale
breeding, calving,
& nursing
grounds

Coral reefs Sandy substrate

Key Species Humpback whale Spinner dolphin Hawaiian Monk seal False killer whale Green sea turtle Reef fish

Coral

Above: A mother and calf humpback whale; left to right: breaching whale; community event at Maui sanctuary office; diving humpback whale



Research Activities

The sanctuary serves as an important laboratory fro natural scientists seeking to better understand Hawai'i's marine resources. The sanctuary supports whale research and long-term monitoring to improve our understanding about social behaviors, population dynamics, habitat requirements, and impacts from natural and human factors on humpback whales.

Education Activities

Educational activities are an essential part of the sanctuary operations. Classroom and shipboard presentations, educational displays, kiosks, and videos all generate interest in the community. A sanctuary Web site, brochures, pamphlets, and poster contest are other ways citizens participate in sanctuary activities.



Location Within the 100-fathom isobath in the four-island area of Maui; Penguin Bank, and off the north shore of Kauai, the north and south shores of Oahu, and Kohala coastline off the Big Island.

Protected Area 1,370-square miles

Designation November 1992

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