



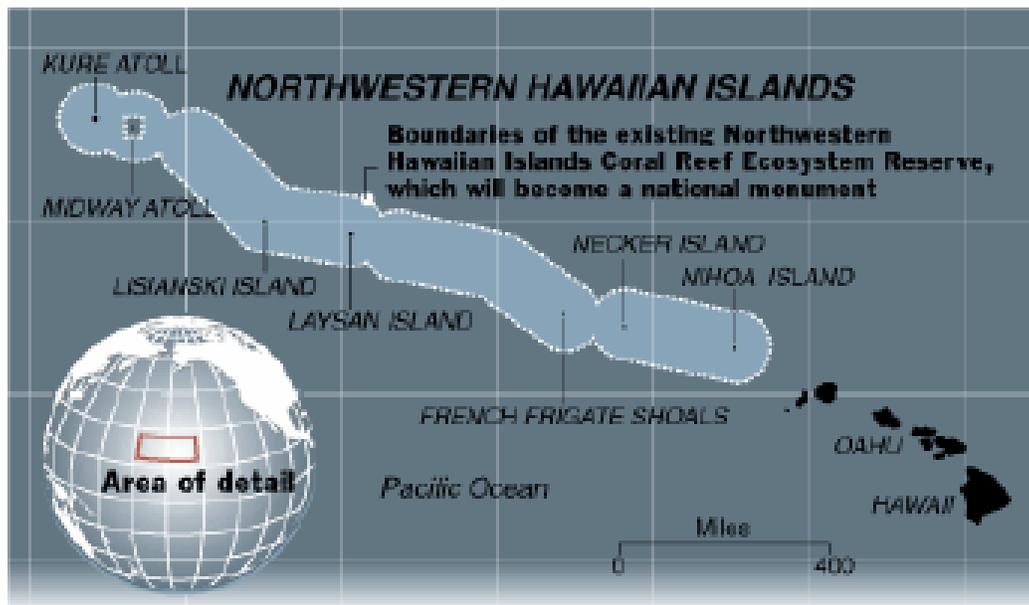
**NOAA Teacher at Sea  
Christopher Monsour  
Onboard NOAA Ship OSCAR ELTON SETTE  
June 12 – July 12, 2007**

**NOAA Teacher at Sea: Chris Monsour**  
NOAA Ship OSCAR ELTON SETTE  
Mission: Lobster Survey Western Hawaiian Islands  
Day 21, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007

Third week at sea and the course of the rest of the trip is still up in the air. We are currently on our way to Midway. As you may know, Midway was an important sea battle during WWII and an important victory for the Allies in the Pacific Theater (I know this is supposed to be a science log, but history is just as important). Yesterday we picked up two researchers from the island of Lisianski (see below). We traveled from Necker Island to Lisianski, then off to Midway.

*The New York Times*

June 14, 2006



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This map was part on an article found in the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 edition of the New York Times.

The Northwest Hawaiian Islands Education Project had some good information about Lisianski Island. Lisianski Island is 1.5 square kilometers (381 acres), about the size of Honolulu. Its highest point is a sand dune about 40 feet above sea level. Though the island is small, the reef area to the southeast, called Neva Shoals, is huge, covering 979 square kilometers (241,916 acres), an area nearly the size of O`ahu.

A ship picking up survivors of a shipwreck introduced mice to the island in 1844. Rabbits were introduced later, and along with mice, they devastated the island's ecology and are believed to have caused the demise of the Laysan rail. Feather collecting began on Lisianski about 1904. In response to public outcry about the feather trade, Theodore Roosevelt established the Hawaiian Island Bird Reservation, which included Lisianski, in 1909. An armed party landed on the island in 1910. They



**NOAA Teacher at Sea Chris Monsour takes in the sand and sun on Lisianski Island during a brief stop. Behind Chris are the endangered Monk Seal and some Albatross.**



**An Albatross preens its young. Lisianski Island is an important nesting area for the Albatross as well as other seabirds.**

arrested feather poachers and confiscated and destroyed about 1.4 tons of feathers, representing 140,400 birds. Today, Hawaiian monk seals and green sea turtles are common visitors to Lisianski's sandy white beaches. Migratory shorebirds seen on the island include the kolea (golden plover), ulili (wandering tattler), and kioea (bristle-thighed curlew). Nearly three-fourths of the Bonin petrels nesting in Hawai`i make this island their home. In some years, more than a million sooty terns visit Lisianski.



**This photo of a mother Monk Seal with her cub was taken by NOAA Teacher at Sea Chris Monsour during a visit to Lisianski Island. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is an endangered marine mammal that is endemic to the warm, clear waters of the Hawaiian Islands. `Ilio-holo-i-ka-uua is how it is known to the indigenous people of Hawaii. The Monk Seal gets its common name from its round head covered with short hairs, giving it the appearance of a medieval friar. The name may also reflect the fact that the Hawaiian Monk Seal lives a more solitary existence, in comparison with other seals that in places collect in large colonies.**