

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA



For Immediate Release

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Public Comment Period for Draft Monument Management Plan Extended

HONOLULU, HI – The 75-day federal public comment period for the Draft Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan has been extended for an additional 15 days, until July 23. The draft plan was released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Hawai‘i’s Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on April 22. During a series of ten public meetings in June, members of the public requested an extension of the comment period due to the size of the draft plan.

The Draft Monument Management Plan and associated environmental assessment are available on the Internet at <http://papahanaumokuakea.gov>, as well as at local libraries within the State of Hawai‘i, or by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service at 808.792.9530. Written comments may be mailed to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850 (must be postmarked by July 23); hand delivered to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument at 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231 in Honolulu; or e-mailed to PMNM_MMP_Comments@fws.gov.

The 90-day federal comment period will end on July 23. Although the official State comment period occurs from June 8 through July 8 in accordance with State regulations from the Office of Environmental Quality Control, the State will review, consider and address public comments received during the entire comment period. All substantive comments received during the public comment period will be addressed in a Summary of Public Comments section of the final Monument Management Plan, which will compose Volume V of the plan.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is managed jointly by three co-trustees — the Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior and the State of Hawai‘i — and represents a cooperative conservation approach to protecting the entire ecosystem. The monument area includes the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge/Battle of Midway National Memorial, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, the Hawai‘i State Seabird Sanctuary at Kure Atoll, and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands State Marine Refuge.

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