

Papahānaumokuākea



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Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Planning Underway

The three government agencies responsible for managing the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument are developing a unified Monument management plan in accordance with the Presidential Proclamation establishing the Monument. A draft plan and associated environmental assessment will be distributed for public review and comment early in 2008.

The interagency document will modify the draft management plan for the proposed national marine sanctuary developed for the area prior to the Monument's designation (available on the Internet at <http://www.hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/management/mp.html>) and will incorporate both the requirements for comprehensive conservation planning for the two National Wildlife Refuges within Monument boundaries and State of Hawai'i planning needs.

A notice advising the public of the Monument management planning effort was published in today's Federal Register. Public comments received during the previous Northwestern Hawaiian Islands sanctuary designation planning process that are relevant to decisions to be made in the Monument plan will be considered during this planning process. Comments submitted in response to the draft visitor services plan for Midway Atoll also will be taken into consideration. Mailing lists generated by previous planning efforts will be combined for the new planning effort.

Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, the Fish and Wildlife Service is required to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each National Wildlife Refuge by 2012. The plans provide a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and FWS policies. Incorporating these requirements into the Monument plan will ensure each agency's needs are considered during the planning process.



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Additional comments that identify new environmental issues resulting from new information or changed circumstances since the previous comment periods may be submitted to Don Palawski, Monument Plan Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 50167, Honolulu, Hawai'i 95850 or by e-mail to PMNM_MMP_Comments@fws.gov. Comments are requested by June 4. Individuals wishing to be added to the Monument management plan mailing list may submit their contact information to the same address.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and State of Hawaii share jurisdiction within the Monument. Presidential Proclamation 8031 reserves all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the government of the United States in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, including emergent and submerged lands and waters out to a distance of approximately 50 nautical miles from the islands. The Monument extends approximately 1,200 miles around coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals. The 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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