

Papahānaumokuākea

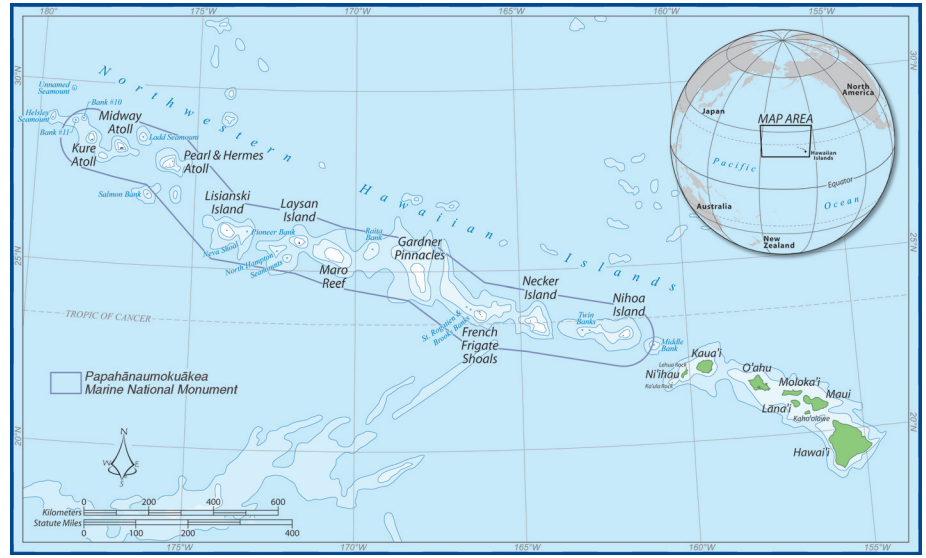
MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Conserving one of the last wild places on Earth

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is one of the largest fully protected marine managed areas in the world. The Monument is dedicated to the conservation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, which encompass an area northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands from Nihoa Island to Kure Atoll.

The Monument is nearly 140,000 square miles—more than 100 times larger than Yosemite National Park and larger than 46 states. It is made up of a chain of 10 islands, atolls, submerged banks, shoals, reefs, and their associated waters stretching more than 1,200 miles—about the distance from Chicago, Illinois to Miami, Florida.

Papahānaumokuākea holds great cultural and spiritual significance for Native Hawaiians. Distinct geology, biology and history make the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands one of the world's greatest treasures. These remote environments offer a rare glimpse of a thriving, intact ecosystem. The Monument provides a home for hundreds of unique marine species, endangered Hawaiian monk seals and land birds, millions of seabirds, and plant species found nowhere else on Earth.



COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION

The Monument was designated on June 15, 2006 when President George W. Bush signed Presidential Proclamation 8031, preserving and perpetuating our natural, cultural, and historic resources for future generations.

To meet the challenge of managing this vast, remote, and largely uninhabited area, the Monument is cooperatively managed through a partnership between the State of Hawai'i through its Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the U.S. Department of Commerce through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service. This interagency cooperation is essential to ensure strong, seamless protection across jurisdictions. The Monument showcases what cooperative conservation between federal and state agencies, Native Hawaiian and environmental organizations, volunteers, and the public can accomplish.



Top to bottom: An endangered Laysan duck; a giant Ulua.
Photos: James Watt

