

A Look Ahead

2012 marks Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's second full year as both the nation's only mixed, natural and cultural World Heritage site, and leader of *Big Ocean: A Network of the World's Large-Scale Marine Managed Areas*, which links over half the protected seas on Earth. The monument will continue to build on the international momentum created when it hosted the first-ever meeting of marine World Heritage site managers. It will also conduct the second Pacific Exchange event under the U.S.-French bilateral agreement, a cooperative effort to share research, education, and management best practices. The monument will implement its forward-looking coral bleaching response plan and mesophotic research program, while partnering with a myriad of agencies and organizations to minimize the impact of the March 2011 Japan tsunami marine debris, projected to reach the monument in early 2012.



Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council Members

Officers

Chair: Timothy E. Johns
Vice Chair: Linda Paul
Secretary: Kem Lowry

Non-Governmental Members

Native Hawaiian (Elder): Louis "Buzzy" Agard
Alternate: vacant
Native Hawaiian: vacant
Alternate: vacant
Native Hawaiian: Tammy Harp
Alternate: vacant
Research: Don Schug
Alternate: Bill Worcester
Research: Cindy Hunter
Alternate: Kanekoa Shultz
Research: Bill Gilmartin
Alternate: Brian Bowen
Conservation: Jessica Wooley

Alternate: vacant
Conservation: Laura Thompson
Alternate: Carol Wilcox
Conservation: Linda Paul
Alternate: Julie Leialoha
Ocean-Related Tourism: vacant
Alternate: Matt Zimmerman
Recreational Fishing: Rick Gaffney
Alternate: Rick Hoo
Commercial Fishing: Bobby Gomes
Alternate: Gary Dill
Education: Gail Grabowsky
Alternate: Gail Clarke
Citizen-at-Large: Kem Lowry
Alternate: Sean Naleimaile

Governmental Members

State Government

State of Hawai'i: Timothy E. Johns

Alternate: vacant

Federal Government (non-voting)

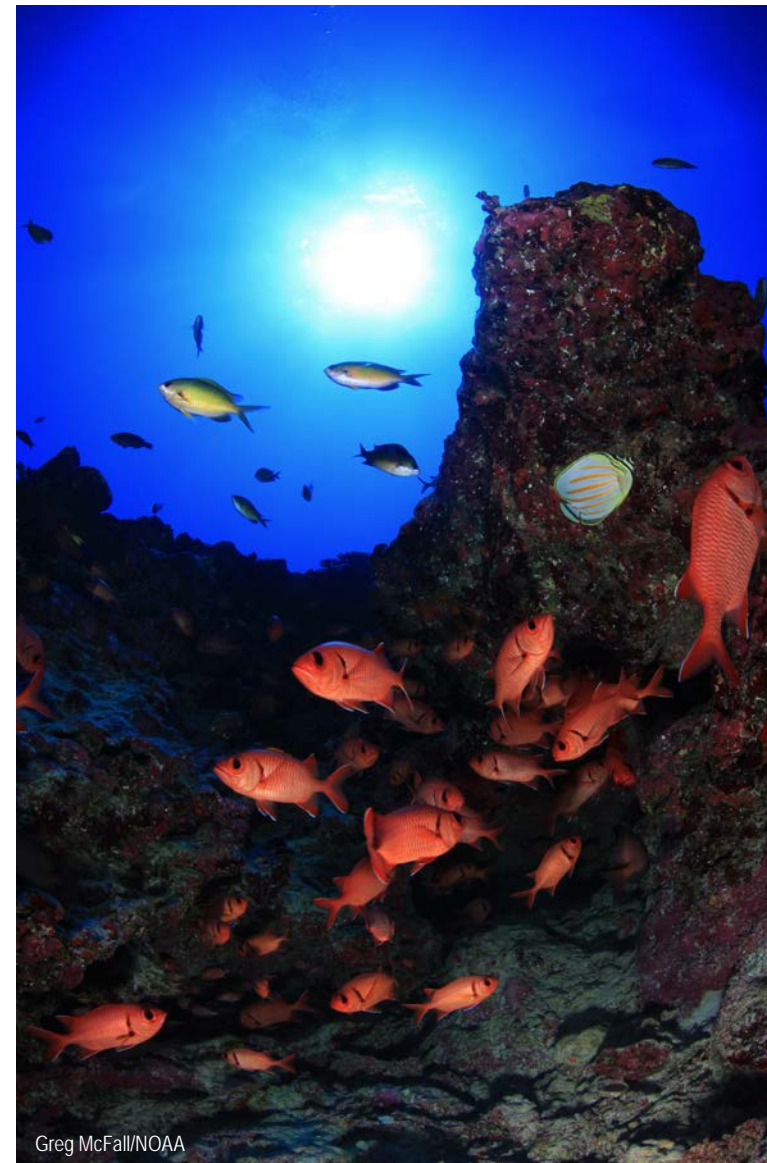
National Science Foundation: Phillip Taylor
Marine Mammal Commission: David W. Laist
Department of Defense: Becky Hommon
U.S. Coast Guard: Eric Roberts
U.S. Department of State: vacant
DOI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Tom Edgerton
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council: Kitty Simonds
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service: Michael Tosatto
NOAA/Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary: Malia Chow
NOAA/ Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument: 'Aulani Wilhelm

Reserve Advisory Council Coordinator
Wesley Byers

<http://papahanaumokuakea.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) was created by Presidential Proclamation as the country's first Marine National Monument. With a specific aim to protect both the natural and indigenous cultural heritage of the vast 140,000 square mile area, PMNM has become a globally recognized, best practice model for the governance and management of large-scale, remote marine ecosystems. The monument encompasses a multitude of marine habitats including seamounts, abyssal plains, epipelagic oceanic waters, and the country's only true atolls. Native species abound, but in deep waters, coral reef fish communities are over 90% endemic – the highest recorded level of endemism from any marine ecosystem. With a focus on connecting land, people and the sea, PMNM has renewed an understanding of 'āina momona (abundance) – serving as a reminder of what the world's oceans were once like before the global baseline of wellness shifted. Established June 15, 2006.

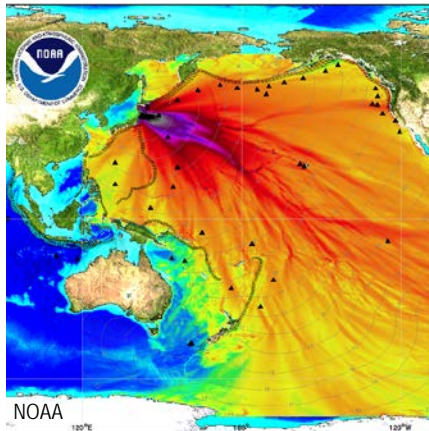




Andy Collins, NOAA/ONMS

World Heritage inscription ceremony and 10th anniversary of Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve

Hundreds of conservation managers, marine scientists, conservation activists, political leaders and policy makers helped celebrate two globally significant milestones for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument at the Hawai'i Convention Center on December 3, 2010. Highlighting the event was the commemoration of Papahānaumokuākea's inscription on the World Heritage List. High-level representatives from many government and international agencies participated in an official inscription ceremony to recognize Papahānaumokuākea as a place of universally outstanding natural and cultural features. The event also commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, established on December 4, 2000.



NOAA

Interagency team responds to March tsunami

Papahānaumokuākea employees responded to the March 11, 2011 tsunami, ensuring staff and families, computer equipment, and valuable artifacts were out of harm's way. The staff then led a multi-agency aerial survey of tsunami damage in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). During the flight, the team surveyed damage to natural resources, facilities and field camps, as well as shoreline changes, on all but two islands and atolls. NWHI were the first U.S. land masses struck by the earthquake-induced tsunami that originated off the coast of Japan. Surges of up to five feet washed ashore on many of the tiny atolls, which are mere feet above sea level. Damage to terrestrial natural resources was extensive, including seabird mortality in the thousands.

Maritime heritage exhibit honored with national award

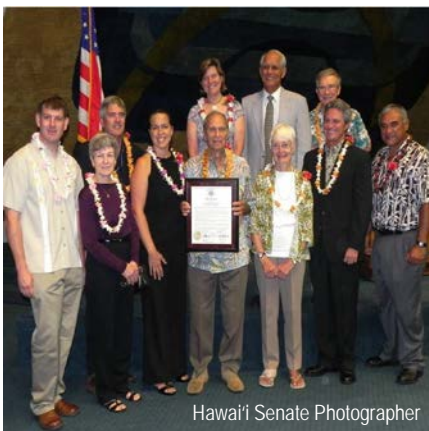
The Society for History in the Federal Government chose Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's *Lost on a Reef* maritime heritage exhibit at the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo, HI as one of two projects to receive the John Wesley Powell Prize for outstanding achievement in the field of historical displays. The award committee made the selection based on the exemplary manner in which the exhibit's artifacts, displays and associated film (*Lost on a Reef*) communicate the significance and unique challenges of underwater archaeology, and the Federal government's important role in protecting underwater cultural resources.



Andy Collins, NOAA/ONMS

Hawai'i State Senate honors PMNM

The Hawai'i State Senate made a formal presentation to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. Ten influential people who have supported the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands over the years were present on the Senate floor to receive the certificate. Founding Reserve Advisory Council member, Uncle Buzzy Agard, was specifically mentioned by Senator Michael Gabbard as being the "heart and soul" of what has become one of the largest marine protected areas on the planet, as well as the nation's only natural and cultural mixed World Heritage site.



Hawai'i Senate Photographer



Mark MacDonald/FWS

Nihoa Millerbirds released, providing hope

In a historic and collaborative effort to save a species from extinction, 24 critically endangered Nihoa Millerbirds were successfully relocated from Nihoa Island to Laysan Island in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The release was the result of many years of research and detailed planning by biologists and resource managers, led by a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Bird Conservancy. The translocation restores this insect-eating songbird to Laysan's ecosystem; Millerbirds have been absent from Laysan for nearly 100 years after a closely related subspecies went extinct in the early 20th Century.



Shauna Kehaunani Springer

Intertidal monitoring expedition integrates Western science and Native Hawaiian cultural knowledge

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's inaugural intertidal monitoring expedition recently completed research and monitoring activities along the shorelines of Nihoa, Mokumanamana and French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Focused on monitoring 'opihi and other species that inhabit the intertidal zone, this interdisciplinary cruise integrated Western research activities with Native Hawaiian cultural knowledge. As data was collected, cultural and natural resources were treated as one and the same. The monitoring team consisted of biologists from the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in California, conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, and community members from Hana, Maui and Kalapana, Hawai'i Island.



Andy Collins, NOAA/ONMS

Mokupāpapa Discovery Center sets visitation record

During 2010, nearly 61,000 people toured the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo, HI to learn about the extensive natural and cultural resources of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Mokupāpapa is situated near the southernmost end of the Hawaiian archipelago and features exhibits, displays, interactivity and images highlighting life in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The center opened in May 2003 and has since logged over 427,000 visitors. For 2010, total visitation at Mokupāpapa Discovery Center was 60,979 people, up nearly 5,000 visitors from the previous year.

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands exhibit opens at Waikīkī Aquarium

On August 18, 2011, the Waikīkī Aquarium unveiled its Northwestern Hawaiian Islands exhibit, its first major new exhibit in six years. Among the fascinating organisms featured in the 4,400-gallon public display are table corals, masked angelfish, bandit angelfish and Japanese pygmy angelfish; many of these marine species are found only within the waters of the monument. Interactive touch screens associated with the exhibit provide additional information on the significance of the islands, their ecology and biodiversity, and the importance of preserving this almost pristine marine ecosystem for future generations. Partnerships with entities like the Waikīkī Aquarium play a significant role in our mission to bring the monument to the people.



Kahi Fujii, NOAA/ONMS