Update on East Island Recovery Post - Hurricane Walaka

Reserve Advisory Council Meeting
Inouye Regional Center, Ford Island
June 6, 2019

Presented by: Brian Hauk for Keolohilani Lopes
JIMAR Resource Protection Manger for PMNM
Brian.hauk@noaa.gov
Remote Hawaiian island vanishes underwater after powerful hurricane struck earlier this month, according to federal officials citing satellite images.

East Island, a strip of gravel and sand northwest of Honolulu, "appears to be under water" after Hurricane Wialaka surged past the state, the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument said in a Tuesday statement.

The island has played a key role in the survival of beleaguered seals and sea turtles, said the officials, who are "working to better understand the implications" of its sudden disappearance.

"There's no doubt that it was the most important island for sea turtle nesting," Charles Littman, a biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told the Honolulu Civil Beat, which first reported the island's disappearance.

The 11-acre islet acted as nesting grounds for half the world's Hawaiian green sea turtles, the Civil Beat reported. It served as the birthplace for roughly one-seventh of all Hawaiian monk seals.
Note: The cone contains the probable path of the storm center but does not show the size of the storm. Hazardous conditions can occur outside of the cone.

**Hurricane Walaka**
Wednesday October 03, 2018
8 PM HST Intermediate Advisory 18A
NWS Central Pacific Hurricane Center

**Current information:**
- Center location 23.9 N 167.2 W
- Maximum sustained wind 125 mph
- Movement NNE at 22 mph

**Forecast positions:**
- Tropical Cyclone
- Post/Potential TC
- Sustained winds:
  - D < 39 mph
  - 39-73 mph
  - 74-110 mph
  - M > 110 mph

**Potential track area:**
- Day 1-3
- Day 4-5

**Watches:**
- Hurricane
- Trop Storm

**Warnings:**
- Hurricane
- Trop Storm
Walaka vs. East Island

Photo: Left, NOAA. Right, Civil Beat
Resolution: 3.7 m²

**Time Series**

- Sept 25, 2018 (Prior to Walaka)
- Oct 13, 2018
- Dec 13, 2018
- Jan 09, 2019
- Feb 22, 2019
- April 01, 2019

Photos: Planet Labs
Results

- Sept 25, 2018
- Oct 13, 2018
- Dec 13, 2018
- Apr 1, 2018

- Water
- Shallow Sand
- Vegetation
- Shallow Reef
- Sand
QUESTIONS?

- Keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov

East Island
5/20/2019

Image: Planet Labs