

French Frigate Shoals Presentation

March 2019

- Lots of change at French Frigate Shoals in 2018
- In September Trig Islet (a monk seal pupping islet) was lost under water. This islet has not disappeared before and is not expect to rebuild. This is the second islet to be lost at French Frigate since 1996
- In October Hurricane Walaka made a direct hit at French Frigate Shoals as a category 3 or 4 storm. It caused significant damage, including the near total loss of East Island, a major Hawaiian green sea turtle nesting site. The good news is that from satellite photos it does appear that the island is somewhat re-forming.
- The hurricane also severely damaged infrastructure at Tern Island, causing collapse of several small buildings and large water towers. There was also increased erosion on the north shore and potential new areas of breaching in the seawall.
- There was also a significant number of birds and turtle nests lost in the storm.
- There is a crew headed to Tern this week with the mission of evaluating storm damage, mitigating entrapment hazards, and translocation of Tristram Storm Petrels from the island to James Campbell NWR on Oahu. They are expected to return in early April.