



National Marine Sanctuary Designation for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument



Mokumanamana (Necker Island) is known for its numerous religious sites and artifacts. Photo: Ruben Carrillo



Rare species live at Kure Atoll. Photo: NOAA/Richard Pyle-Bishop Museum



Galapagos sharks (manō) school at Maro Reef. Photo: James Watt/NOAA

There is a long history considering this area for a national marine sanctuary designation, beginning with an executive order in 2000 by President William J. Clinton, followed by the designation of the monument by President George W. Bush in 2006. In 2016, President Barack H. Obama expanded the monument with a Presidential Proclamation.

In December of 2020, the Senate Appropriations Committee directed NOAA to initiate the process to designate Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a national marine sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Stakeholder groups and partners, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council and the state of Hawai'i, have also indicated their support for the process of designating a national marine sanctuary.

This process does not change the monument designation. The national marine sanctuary designation would add the conservation benefits of a national marine sanctuary to the marine areas of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument by providing a stable framework and additional protections that safeguard resources. The co-management structure that is a hallmark of the monument will continue.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has been a key partner and co-managing agency in the management of Papahānaumokuākea since the initial designation of the site as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve in 2000.

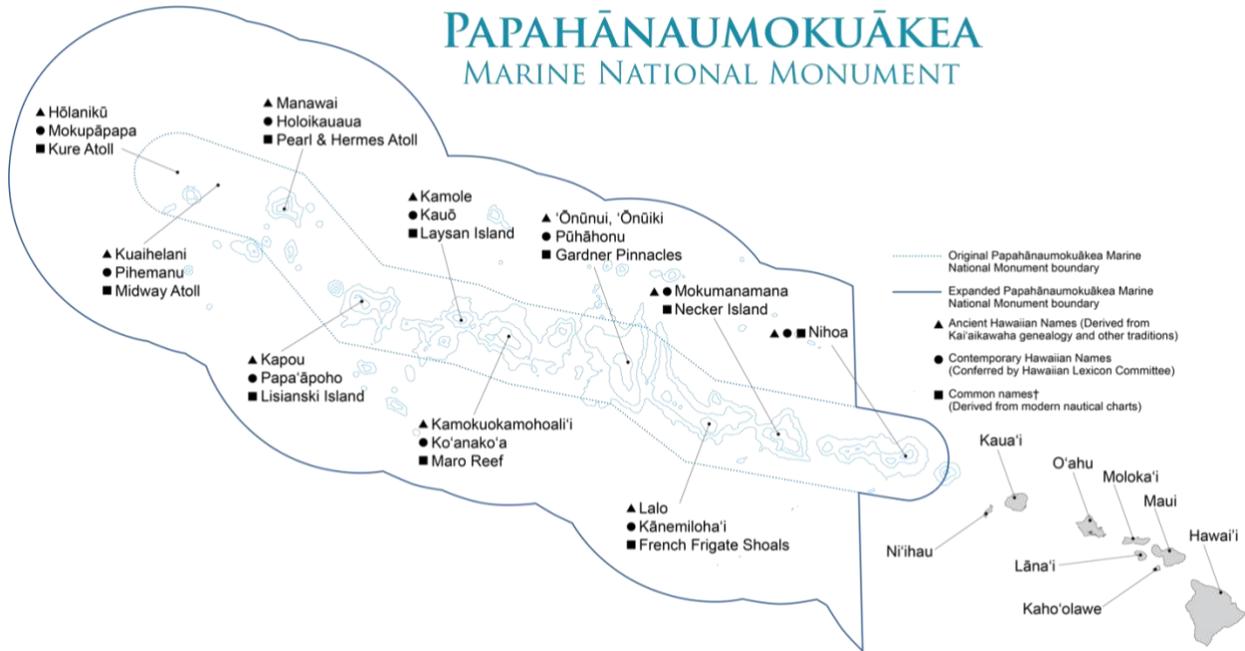
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

The National Marine Sanctuary System encompasses 15 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT



Designation as a national marine sanctuary would strengthen and increase the long term protections provided by the proclamations, but cannot diminish them. It would enhance existing authorities and the regulatory and enforcement framework.

The establishment of a national marine sanctuary would ensure strong and lasting protection for the marine waters of the

monument, but would not include any terrestrial areas.

The process to designate a national marine sanctuary will be done in concert with the monument's co-managing agencies.

The foundational framework of any sanctuary designation and future updates to the Monument Management Plan will be done in coordination to ensure consistency of protections.

The process will be conducted as a public process and include significant opportunities for public comment.

Native Hawaiian culture is a foundational element of the management of Papahānaumokuākea. We will continue to honor and perpetuate spiritual and cultural relationships with this special place.



NOAA maritime archaeologists located the wreck of the *Two Brothers*, lost in 1823. Photo: NOAA



A juvenile Hawaiian monk seal (*ʻĪlio holoikauaua*) swims near Trig Island, French Frigate Shoals. Photo: Mark Sullivan/NOAA



Papahānaumokuākea provides refuge for endangered species such as the Hawaiian green sea turtle (*honu*). Photo: John Burns/NOAA