

The United States of America's
Nomination of



Papahānaumokuākea

Marine National Monument

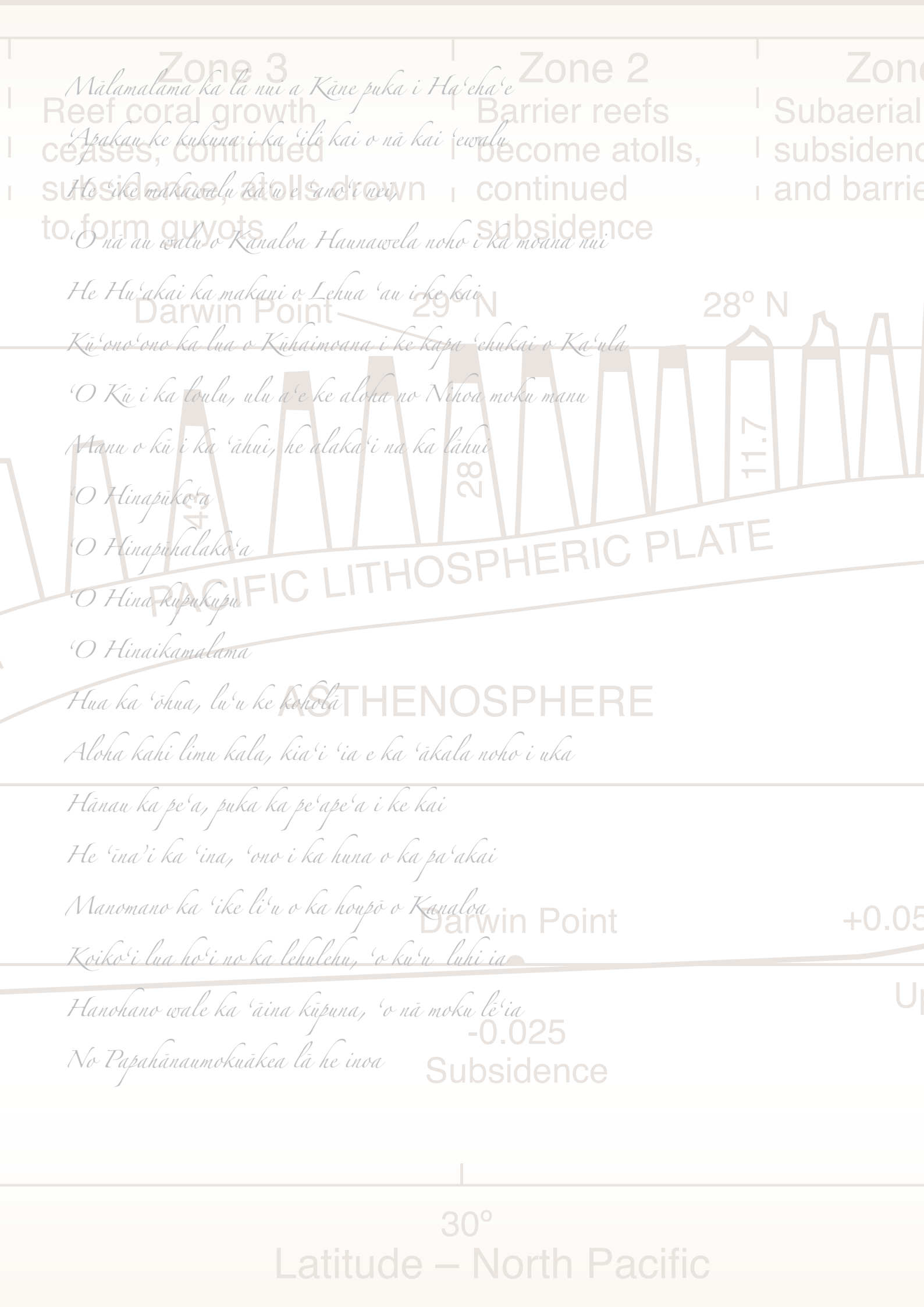


for Inscription
on the World Heritage List

January



2009



Zone 3

Reef coral growth
ceases, continued
subsidence, atolls drown
to form guyots

Zone 2

Barrier reefs
become atolls,
continued
subsidence

Zone 1

Subaerial
subsidence
and barrier

Mālamalama ka lā nui a Kāne puka i Ha'eha'e
Apakau ke kukuna i ka 'ili kai o nā kai 'ewalu
He ike mākāwala ka'u e 'ano i nei
'O nā au walu o Kanaloa Haunawela noho i ka moana nui

He Hu'akai ka makani o Lehua 'au i ke kai
Kū'ono'ono ka lua o Kūhaimoana i ke kapa 'ehukai o Ka'ula
'O Kū i ka loulou, ulu a'e ke aloha no Nihoa moku manu
Manu o kū i ka 'āhui, he alaka'i na ka lāhui

'O Hinapūko'a
'O Hinapūhalakō'a
'O Hina Kūpukupu
'O Hinaikamalama

Hua ka 'ōhua, lu'u ke kanohi
Aloha kahi limu kala, kia'i 'ia e ka 'ākala noho i uka

Hānau ka pe'a, puka ka pe'ape'a i ke kai
He 'ina'i ka 'ina, 'ono i ka huna o ka pa'akai
Manomano ka 'ike li'u o ka hōpō o Kanaloa
Koiko'i lua ho'i no ka lehulehu, 'o ku'u luhi ia

Hanohano wale ka 'āina kūpuna, 'o nā moku lē'ia
No Papahānaumokuākea lā he inoa

Darwin Point

+0.05

-0.025

Subsidence

30°

Latitude – North Pacific

The United States of America's

Nomination of



Papahānaumokuākea

Marine National Monument



for Inscription
on the
World Heritage List

January



2009



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Cover and Layout: Garcia and Associates, Rad Smith

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

6600 Kalanianaʻole Highway, Suite 300 - Honolulu, Hawaiʻi - USA 96825

State of Hawaiʻi, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Nomination of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument for Inscription on the World Heritage List. Honolulu, Hawaiʻi. 280 pages



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

December 5, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary
United States Department of Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is with great honor that the State of Hawaii recommends that the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument be nominated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site. The nomination of this site has been a key goal of my administration and I enthusiastically support it. Covering a vast area in one of the world's most isolated archipelagos, the protected islands and atolls of Papahānaumokuākea offer a unique seascape dotted with islets that are rich in ecological, geological and cultural heritage. Hawaii recognizes the significance of Papahānaumokuākea's consideration as a mixed natural and cultural site with an associative cultural landscape administered under provisions of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Convention).

On June 15, 2006, President George W. Bush issued Presidential Proclamation 8031 establishing the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (AA)(16 U.S.C. 431). The site was later renamed by Presidential Proclamation 8112 as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to reflect its Native Hawaiian cultural significance. The Monument protects natural, cultural and historic resources encompassed within an area of approximately 139,793 square miles (362,075 square kilometers) around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a place that has seen increasing levels of protection since 1909.

In recognition of the obligation under Article 5 of the Convention, and in coordination with the federal Co-Trustees, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawaii shall, insofar as possible, take all appropriate measures including legal, scientific, technical, and administrative, necessary for the protection, conservation, and preservation of the outstanding universal value of the Monument and its resources. This obligation is satisfied through the protective measures taken in the President's Proclamations, State and federal implementing regulations, and the management plan.

Hawaii fully supports the United States' efforts to nominate Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to the UNESCO World Heritage List, and offers any needed assistance to ensure the nomination successfully navigates the approval process through the U.S. and UNESCO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

DEC - 5 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is with great enthusiasm that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recommends the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument be nominated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site. Covering a vast area in one of the world's most isolated archipelagos, the protected islands and atolls of Papahānaumokuākea offer a unique seascape dotted with islets rich in ecological, geological, and cultural heritage. NOAA recognizes the honor of Papahānaumokuākea's consideration as a mixed natural and cultural site with an associative cultural landscape administered under provisions of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Convention).

On June 15, 2006, President George W. Bush issued Presidential Proclamation 8031 establishing the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (AA)(16 U.S.C. 431). The site was later renamed by Presidential Proclamation 8112 as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to reflect its Native Hawaiian cultural significance. The Monument protects natural, cultural, and historic resources encompassed within an area of approximately 139,793 square miles around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a place that has been given increasing levels of protection since 1909.

In recognition of the obligation under Article 5 of the Convention, and in coordination with its Co-Trustees; the State of Hawaii, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA, shall take all appropriate measures including legal, scientific, technical, and administrative necessary for the protection, conservation, and preservation of the outstanding universal value of the Monument and its resources. This obligation is satisfied through the protective measures taken in the President's Proclamations, implementing regulations, and the management plan.

NOAA supports the United States' efforts to nominate Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to the UNESCO World Heritage List, and offers any needed assistance to ensure the nomination successfully navigates the approval process through the United States and UNESCO.

Sincerely,

William J. Brennan, Ph.D.
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere

THE ADMINISTRATOR



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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



December 5, 2008

Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) heartily endorses the nomination of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site. As recognized both by President Theodore Roosevelt some 100 years ago and by President George W. Bush in 2006, these remote islets, reefs, and waters offer a wealth of natural, cultural, and historic resources that truly deserve not only national but international acknowledgment. It is an honor for the Service to support consideration of Papahānaumokuākea as a mixed natural and cultural site with an associative cultural landscape administered under provisions of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Convention).

Numerous natural treasures of international significance are found within Papahānaumokuākea, including the clearest illustration of “hotspot” island progression in the world, the largest tropical seabird rookery in the world, numerous threatened and endangered species, literally thousands of endemic species found nowhere else in the world, and one of the few remaining predator-dominated coral reef ecosystems in the world. Equally significant are Papahānaumokuākea’s cultural resources, including unique archaeological sites on Nihoa and Mokumanamana, the strong association of the seascape with the cosmology and oral traditions of Native Hawaiians, and its continuing opportunities to allow Native Hawaiian practitioners to perpetuate customary practices such as wayfinding.

In recognition of the obligation under Article 5 of the Convention, and in coordination with its Co-Trustees, the State of Hawai‘i and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will, insofar as possible, take all appropriate measures including legal, scientific, technical, and administrative, necessary for the protection, conservation, and preservation of the outstanding universal value of the Monument and its resources. This obligation will continue to be met through the protective measures required by the National Wildlife Refuge System for the two National Wildlife Refuges within Monument boundaries and by the Presidential Proclamation establishing Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, its implementing regulations, and its management plan.

Thank you for your efforts to recognize this unique natural and cultural treasure. If we can provide any further assistance during the nomination’s consideration by the United States and UNESCO, please contact Barry W. Stieglitz, Project Leader, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands NWRC at (808) 792-9540.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-------------|
| List of Figures and Tables | viii |
| Acronyms and Abbreviations | xi |
| Executive Summary | 2 |
| 1. Identification of the Property | 10 |
| 1.a Country | 10 |
| 1.b State, Province or Region | 10 |
| 1.c Name of Property | 10 |
| 1.d Geographical Coordinates to the Nearest Second..... | 11 |
| 1.e Maps Showing Boundaries and Management of the Nominated Property | 11 |
| 1.f Area of Nominated Property..... | 15 |
| Introduction: Native Hawaiian Culture and Papahānaumokuākea | 19 |
| 2. Description and History of the Property | 25 |
| 2.a Description of the Property..... | 26 |
| 2.b History and Development of the Property | 89 |
| 3. Justification for Inscription on the World Heritage List | 105 |
| 3.a Criteria Under Which Inscription is Proposed..... | 106 |
| 3.b Statement of Outstanding Universal Value | 124 |
| 3.c Comparative Analysis..... | 126 |
| 3.d Integrity and Authenticity..... | 143 |
| 4. State of Conservation and Factors Affecting the Property | 151 |
| 4.a Present State of Conservation of the Property | 152 |
| 4.b Factors Affecting the Property..... | 166 |
| 4.b (i) Development Pressures | 166 |
| 4.b (ii) Environmental Pressures..... | 166 |
| 4.b (iii) Natural Disasters and Risk Preparedness | 172 |
| 4.b (iv) Visitor/Tourism Pressures..... | 173 |
| 4.b (v) Number of Inhabitants within the Property and the Buffer Zone | 174 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| 5. Protection and Management | 175 |
| 5.a Ownership | 176 |
| 5.b Protective Designations | 178 |
| 5.c Implementation of Protective Measures | 192 |
| 5.d Existing Plans | 195 |
| 5.e Monument Management Plan | 199 |
| 5.f Sources and Levels of Finance..... | 202 |
| 5.g Expertise and Training..... | 203 |
| 5.h Visitor Facilities and Statistics..... | 204 |
| 5.i Property Promotion and Presentation | 205 |
| 5.j Staffing Levels | 211 |
| 6. Monitoring | 213 |
| 6.a Key Indicators for Measuring State of Conservation | 214 |
| 6.b Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring Property | 217 |
| 6.c Results of Previous Reporting Exercises | 219 |
| 7. Documentation | 223 |
| 7.a Photographs, Image Inventory and Other Audiovisual Materials | 224 |
| 7.b Texts Relating to Protective Designation and Management Plans | 229 |
| 7.c Form and Date of Most Recent Records or Inventory of Property..... | 232 |
| 7.d Locations of Inventory, Records and Archives | 232 |
| 7.e Reference List..... | 232 |
| 8. Contact Information of Responsible Authorities | 263 |
| 8.a Preparers | 264 |
| 8.b Official Local Institution/Agency | 265 |
| 8.c Other Local Institutions | 265 |
| 8.d Official Web Address | 265 |
| 9. Signature on Behalf of the State Party | 267 |
| Glossary | 270 |
| Line Art Glossary | 279 |

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

| | | |
|-------------|--|-------|
| Figure 1.1a | Proposed nominated area: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument geographic coordinates | 3 |
| Figure 1.1b | Proposed nominated area: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument geographic coordinates (inclusive) | 11 |
| Figure 1.2 | Proposed nominated area: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument overview | 4, 12 |
| Figure 1.3 | Management Area of Papahānaumokuākea | 13 |
| Figure 1.4 | Proposed nominated area: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) | 15 |
| Figure 2.1a | Biomass comparisons between the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) and the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) by trophic group | 32 |
| Figure 2.1b | Geographic pattern of apex predator biomass density (tons/ha) in the NWHI | 33 |
| Figure 2.2 | Percent fish endemism at each of ten emergent Papahānaumokuākea reefs | 36 |
| Figure 2.3 | Mean coral cover by site, within Papahānaumokuākea | 37 |
| Figure 2.4 | Relative abundance of coral taxa genera throughout Papahānaumokuākea | 38 |
| Figure 2.5 | Unique morphospecies collected at FFS by phylum in 2006 surveys | 39 |
| Figure 2.6 | Comparison of biomass in major trophic guilds between the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the main Hawaiian Islands | 40 |
| Figure 2.7 | Population sizes and nesting sites of rare seabird species, Green Turtles, and monk seals in the Pacific Island region | 43 |
| Figure 2.8 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Nihoa | 65 |
| Figure 2.9 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Mokumanamana | 67 |
| Figure 2.10 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at French Frigate Shoals | 70 |
| Figure 2.11 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Gardner Pinnacles | 73 |
| Figure 2.12 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Maro Reef | 75 |
| Figure 2.13 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Laysan Island | 77 |
| Figure 2.14 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Lisianski Island | 80 |
| Figure 2.15 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Pearl & Hermes Atoll | 82 |
| Figure 2.16 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Midway Atoll | 84 |
| Figure 2.17 | Number of endemic and indigenous species at Kure Atoll | 87 |
| Figure 3.1 | Age of volcanoes within the Hawaiian Archipelago | 114 |
| Figure 3.2 | Various measures of percent endemism at each of 10 Papahānaumokuākea islands and atolls, illustrating patterns of endemism with latitude | 117 |
| Figure 3.3 | Comparative biomass of large predators, lower carnivores and herbivores among coral reef ecosystems of the world | 118 |
| Figure 3.4 | Top 10 coral reef hotspots, based on percentage of endemic reef fishes of the total fish fauna | 128 |
| Figure 3.5 | Comparison of World Heritage Site reef fish endemism rates | 128 |
| Figure 3.6 | Total and endemic species of stony coral in Papahānaumokuākea by location | 129 |

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| Figure 4.1 | Mean coral cover at permanent transects by location | 154 |
| Figure 4.2 | Fish biomass and trophic guilds from 2000–2005 | 156 |
| Figure 4.3 | Long-term trend in the abundance of female nesting Green Turtles at French Frigate Shoals | 157 |
| Figure 4.4 | Historical trend in non-pup beach counts of Hawaiian Monk Seals at the six main reproductive subpopulations..... | 158 |
| Figure 4.5 | Estimated abundance of monk seals at six breeding sites | 158 |
| Figure 4.6 | Quantity of marine debris removal in the NWHI | 167 |

List of Tables

| | | |
|------------|--|---------|
| Table 1.1 | Other popular or historic placenames for the property..... | 10 |
| Table 1.2 | Names of individual islands, reefs, shoals (from SE to NW) | 10 |
| Table 1.3 | Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument perimeter estimates | 15 |
| Table 1.4 | Area of lands and waters in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument..... | 15 |
| Table 2.1 | Seabird species known to breed in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | 46 |
| Table 2.2 | Number of terrestrial arthropod species in Papahānaumokuākea summarized by order and island..... | 47 |
| Table 2.3 | Biogeographic description of land plants of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | 48 |
| Table 2.4 | Nihoa: Archaeological sites and postulated functions | 59 |
| Table 2.5 | Mokumanamana: Archaeological sites and postulated functions..... | 61 |
| Table 2.6 | Island-by-island comparisons of land and reef areas (hectares) | 62 |
| Table 3.1 | IUCN Red-Listed Species found within Papahānaumokuākea | 120 |
| Table 3.2 | Comparable World Heritage Sites to Papahānaumokuākea and summary of their cultural significance | 136-137 |
| Table 3.3 | Comparison of Papahānaumokuākea to relevant cultural landscape World Heritage Sites | 138 |
| Table 4.1 | Overview of seabird monitoring efforts | 159 |
| Table 4.2 | Marine alien species in the Papahānaumokuākea | 169 |
| Table 4.3 | Anticipated staff on each island/atoll under Monument Management Plan | 174 |
| Table 5.1 | Protections in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | 179 |
| Table 5.2 | Monument vision, mission, guiding principles, and goals | 201 |
| Table 5.3 | Visitation at Midway Atoll, 2005-present..... | 205 |
| Table 6.1a | Indicators of conservation for natural resources | 214-215 |
| Table 6.1b | Indicators of conservation for cultural resources | 216-217 |
| Table 6.2 | Relationship between management and monitoring..... | 218 |
| Table 7.1 | Image inventory and authorization | 224-228 |

List of Text Boxes & Illustrations

| | |
|---|---------|
| A Historic Moment..... | 16-17 |
| The Naming of Papahānaumokuākea | 28 |
| Endemic Sea Life | 34-35 |
| Language | 52 |
| Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Relative Biogeographic Comparison | 44-45 |
| Cultural Heritage Sites within Papahānaumokuākea | 50-51 |
| Hawaiian Wayfinding (non-instrument navigation) | 54-55 |
| Nihoa’s Archaeological Sites | 59 |
| Mokumanamana’s Archaeological Sites | 61 |
| Nihoa: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery | 64 |
| Mokumanamana: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery..... | 67 |
| French Frigate Shoals: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery..... | 70 |
| Gardner Pinnacles: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery | 73 |
| Maro Reef: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery..... | 75 |
| Laysan Island: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery | 77 |
| Lisianski Island: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery | 80 |
| Pearl & Hermes Atoll: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery..... | 82 |
| Midway Atoll: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery..... | 84 |
| Kure Atoll: benthic habitat, bathymetry and satellite imagery | 87 |
| Timeline of Events: Official Hawaiian presence in NWHI following Western Contact | 91 |
| Laysan Duck | 103 |
| Predator-Dominated Coral Reefs | 118 |
| Seabird Species | 123 |
| Exploring the Unknown: Diving Deep into Papahānaumokuākea Waters..... | 155 |
| Bringing the Place to the People: Navigating Change | 164 |
| From the Blog: Papahānaumokuākea Marine Educators’ and Cultural Practitioners’ Cruise | 190-191 |
| Day 3: Images from the Nihoa Expedition | 194-195 |
| Our Sea of Islands | 206 |

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|---------|---|---------|--|
| AAUS | American Academy of Underwater Sciences | MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| ATBA | Areas to be Avoided | MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| BRAC | Base Realignment and Closure | NCCOS | National Center for Coastal Ocean Science |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations | NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| COPPS | Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving | NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| CoRIS | NOAA Coral Reef Information System | NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| CPUE | Catch-per-unit-effort | NRC | National Research Council |
| CRED | PIFCS Coral Reef Ecosystem Division | NRDA | Natural Resource Damage Assessment |
| CRER | Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve | NRSP | Natural Resources Science Plan |
| DLNR | State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources | NWHI | Northwestern Hawaiian Islands |
| DOC | U.S. Department of Commerce | NWR | National Wildlife Refuge |
| DOD | U.S. Department of Defense | OHA | Office of Hawaiian Affairs |
| DOI | U.S. Department of the Interior | OLE | Office of Law Enforcement |
| EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | ONMS | Office of National Marine Sanctuaries |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act | OPA | Oil Pollution Act |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration | PCB | Polychlorinated Biphenyls |
| FAD | Fish Aggregation Device | PIFSC | NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center |
| FWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | PISCO | Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans |
| FFS | French Frigate Shoals | PMNM | Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument |
| GIS | Geographic Information System | PSSA | Particularly Sensitive Sea Area |
| HAR | Hawaii Administrative Rule | RAC | Reserve Advisory Council |
| HAZWOPR | Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response | ROP | Reserve Operations Plan |
| HIMB | Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology | R/V | Research Vessel |
| HINWR | Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge | SCUBA | Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus |
| HRS | Hawaii Revised Statutes | SEB | Senior Executive Board |
| HURL | Hawai'i Undersea Research Lab | SHIELDS | Sanctuaries Hazardous Incident Emergency Logistics Database System |
| ICC | Interagency Coordinating Committee | SMA | Special Management Area |
| IMO | International Maritime Organization | SOU | Special Ocean Use |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change | SPA | Special Preservation Area |
| LORAN | Long Range Aids to Navigation | SST | Scientific Support Team |
| MARPOL | International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization |
| MBTA | Migratory Bird Treaty Act | UXO | Unexploded Ordnance |
| MHI | Main Hawaiian Islands | USCG | United States Coast Guard |
| MMB | Monument Management Board | VMS | Vessel Monitoring System |
| MMPA | Marine Mammal Protection Act | | |
| MMP | Monument Management Plan | | |



Harlequin Crab
(Photo: Susan Middleton & David Liittschwager)



Papahānaumokuākea

Marine National Monument

No Papahānaumokuākea

Mālamalama ka lā nui a Kāne puka i Ha'eha'e
'Apakau ke kukuna i ka 'ili kai o nā kai 'ewalu
He 'ike makawalu ka'u e 'ano'i nei,
'O nā au walu o Kanaloa Haunawela noho i ka moana nui
He Hu'akai ka makani o Lehua 'au i ke kai
Kū'ono'ono ka lua o Kūhaimoana i ke kapa 'ehukai o Ka'ula
'O Kū i ka loulou, ulu a'e ke aloha no Nihoa moku manu
Manu o kū i ka 'āhui, he alaka'i na ka lāhui
'O Hinapūko'a
'O Hinapūhalako'a
'O Hina kupukupu
'O Hinaikamalama
Hua ka 'ōhua, lu'u ke koholā
Aloha kahi limu kala, kia'i 'ia e ka 'ākala noho i uka
Hānau ka pe'a, puka ka pe'ape'a i ke kai
He 'ina'i ka 'ina, 'ono i ka huna o ka pa'akai
Manomano ka 'ike li'u o ka houpō o Kanaloa
Koiko'i lua ho'i no ka lehulehu, 'o ku'u luhi ia
Hanohano wale ka 'āina kūpuna, 'o nā moku lē'ia
No Papahānaumokuākea lā he inoa

- Na Kainani Kahaunaele a me Halealoha Ayau

The sunrise of Kāne at Ha'eha'e shines bright
The rays of the sun spread throughout Hawai'i
I yearn for the deep knowledge
The knowledge of Kanaloa who lives in the ocean
The Hu'akai wind is of Lehua that swims in the sea
Rich is the pit of Kūhaimoana in the seaspray of Ka'ula
Kū is of the loulou (endemic fan palm) and our respect grows for
Nihoa, isle of birds
Manu o kū (white tern) flies in a bunch and leads the nation
The multiple forms of Hina of coral and moon
The 'ōhua (juvenile wrasse, tang, unicorn, parrot fish) spawns,
the whale dives
Love for the limu kala (Sargassum seaweed), whose land
counterpart is the 'ākala (Hawaiian raspberry)
The pe'a (Hawaiian bat) gives birth to the pe'ape'a (starfish) in
the sea
The 'ina (endemic sea urchin) is the seasoning, delicious with salt
The deep knowledge of our Kūpuna lies in the depths
Extremely important for us to grasp, it is my passion
Honored of the land of my ancestors, the abundant islands
A name song for Papahānaumokuākea

- by Kainani Kahaunaele and Halealoha Ayau

Cultural practitioners Kainani Kahaunaele and Halealoha Ayau made a gift of this *mele* (name song), *No Papahānaumokuākea*, to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in November 2007. This *mele* celebrates Papahānaumokuākea's outstanding natural, historical, and cultural resources, and exemplifies the way in which the site's natural and cultural significances are intertwined. When chanted, such as in opening public meetings, the *mele* is offered in honor of and to give thanks to the place and to the *kūpuna* (elders). An audio recording of practitioners chanting the *mele*, *No Papahānaumokuākea*, is included (see Appendix P).



Executive Summary

Country

United States of America.

State, Province, or Region

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is comprised of lands and waters under the management, control and jurisdiction of the United States of America, and also includes lands and waters of the State of Hawai'i.

Name of Property

"Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument"

Papahānaumokuākea (pronounced Pa-pa-HAH-nou-mo-koo-AH-keh-ah) comes from an ancient Hawaiian traditional chant concerning the genealogy and formation

of the Hawaiian Islands. An explanation of the meaning and process for naming Papahānaumokuākea is found at the beginning of Section 2.a.

Geographical Coordinates (See Figure 1.1 a)

The center point for the geographic coordinates is:

N 25°20'56.652" W 170°8'44.952"

The outer boundaries include:

N 22°53'35.016" W 161°2'9.456"

N 28°37'41.196" W 179°14'43.764"



Nesting Great Frigatebirds (Iwa) and aquamarine lagoons link the land and sea in this vast seascape
(Photo: James Watt)

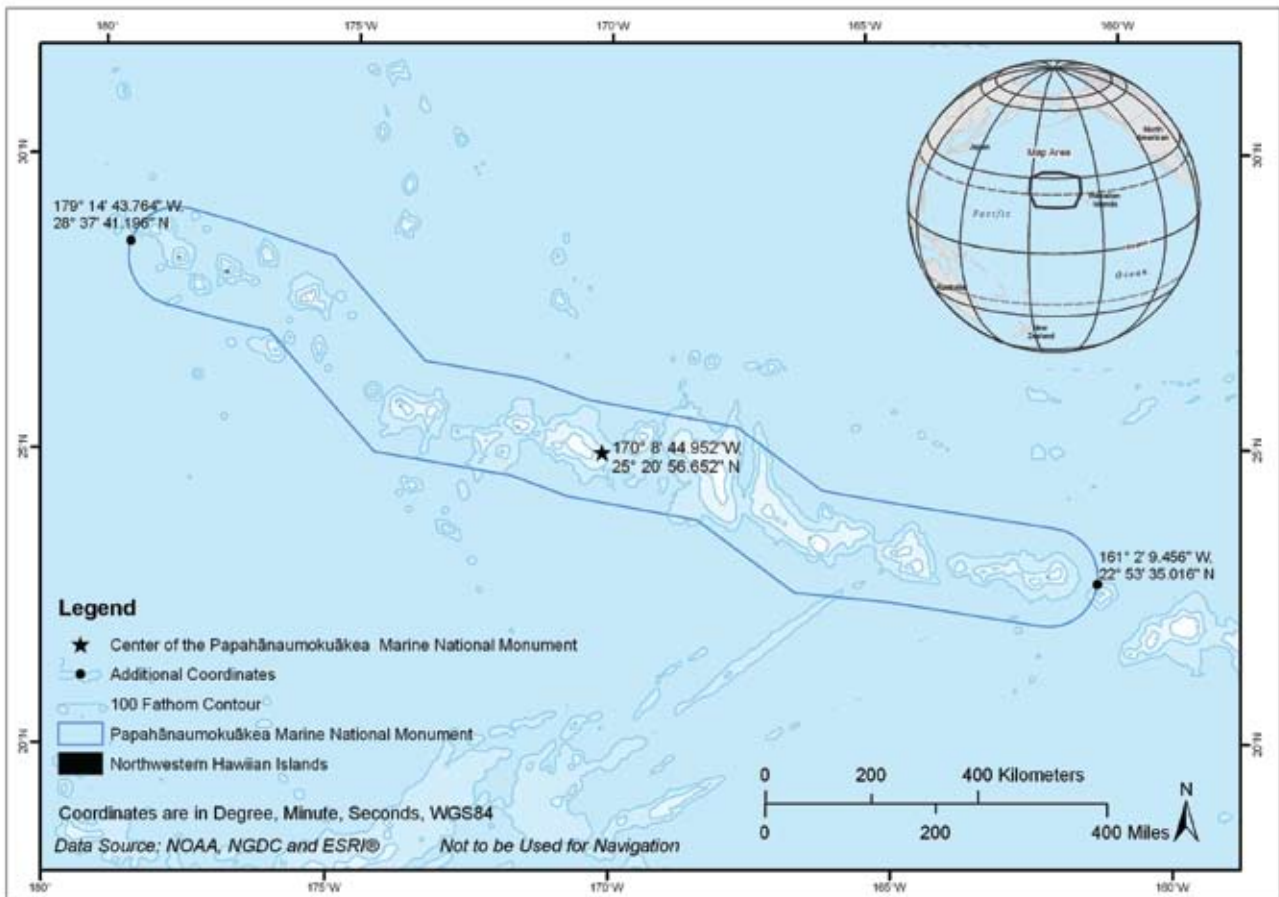


Figure 1.1a Proposed Nominated Area: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument geographic coordinates

3

Textual Description of the Boundaries of the Nominated Property

Papahānaumokuākea is situated in the northwestern portion of the Hawaiian Archipelago, located northwest of the Island of Kauaʻi. It encompasses an area of approximately 36,207,499 hectares (362,075 square kilometers or 139,797 square miles). Spanning a distance of approximately 1,931 kilometers (1,200 miles or 1,041 nautical miles), the region, 185 kilometers wide (115 miles or 100 nautical miles), is dotted with small islands, islets, reefs, shoals, submerged banks, and atolls that extend from subtropical latitudes to near the northern limit of coral reef development (see Figure 1.2).



Sea creatures such as this Red Pencil Urchin or *hā'uke'uke 'ula'ula* (*Heterocentrotus mammillatus*) abound within Papahānaumokuākea
(Photo: James Watt)

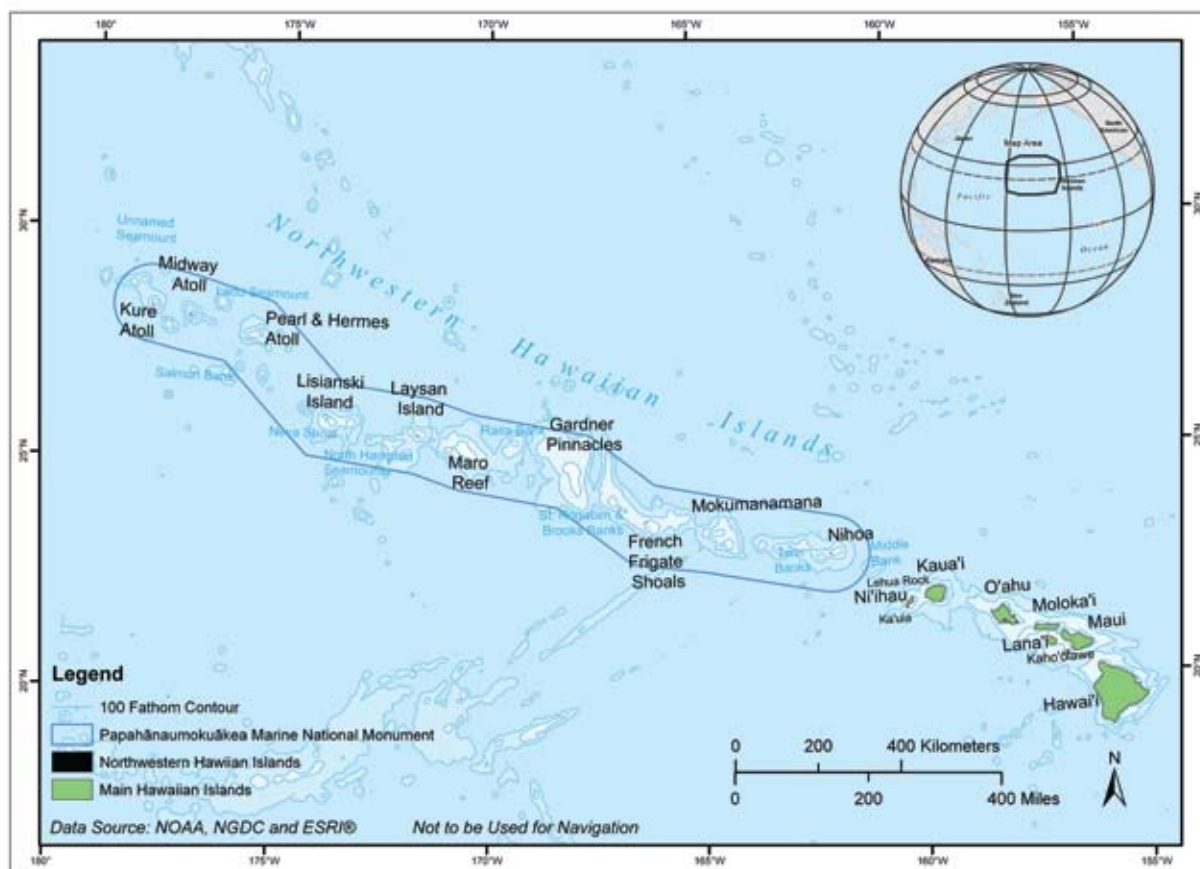


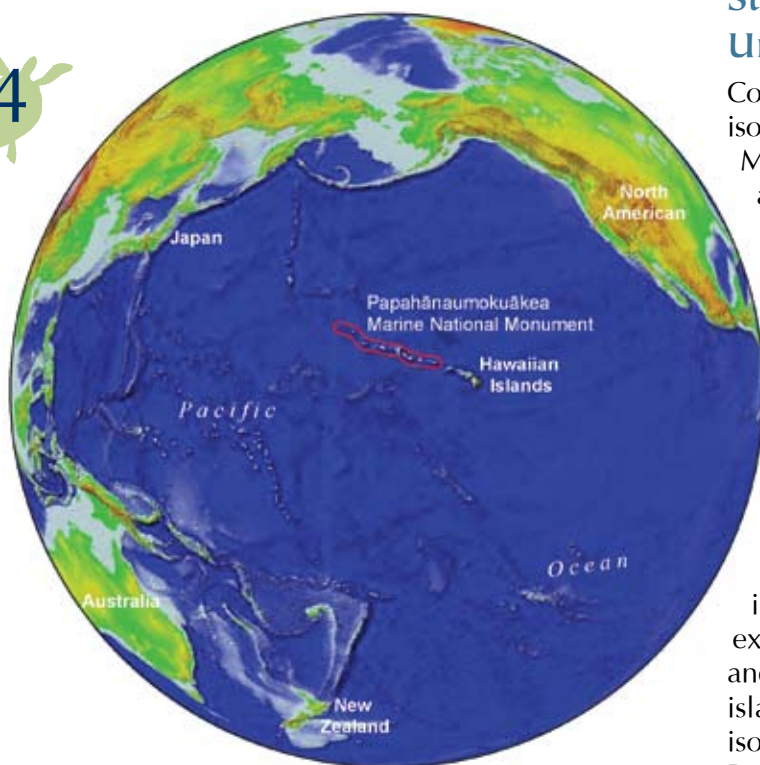
Figure 1.2 Proposed Nominated Area: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument overview

4

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Covering a vast area in one of the world's most isolated archipelagos, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument encompasses a significant expanse of low-lying islands and atolls, predator dominated coral reef ecosystems, and marine and terrestrial flora and fauna that show significant patterns of enhanced speciation with numerous endemic and endangered species. It is a unique seascape, rich in ecological, geological and cultural heritage.

The islands and atolls of Papahānaumokuākea comprise an important prototype and outstanding example of ongoing geologic processes and the clearest illustration of 'hotspot' island progression in the world. The sheer isolation of these islands and waters causes Papahānaumokuākea to function as an intact miniature evolutionary universe. It contains innumerable excellent examples



Location of proposed nominated property in the Pacific Ocean

of ecological and biological evolutionary processes (such as dramatic examples of adaptive radiation) that continue undisturbed, resulting in very high rates of endemism. The region provides a crucially important habitat for the conservation of many endangered or threatened species of global concern. Papahānaumokuākea is also a sacred cultural landscape, a region of deep cosmological and traditional significance to the living Native Hawaiian culture that contains a host of intact and significant archaeological sites. The entire region provides a largely undisturbed ancestral environment, whose preservation both illuminates and embodies the Hawaiian concept of the literal and spiritual kinship of all things in the natural world, including man, and represents the site where life originates and the place where spirits return after death.

Criteria Under Which Property is Nominated

Papahānaumokuākea is nominated for inscription to the World Heritage List as a mixed site for its natural and cultural values and as an associative cultural landscape under the following criteria:



Native Hawaiian people consider Papahānaumokuākea as one of Hawai'i's last-remaining places of abundance, or 'āina momona (Photo: James Watt)

Criterion iii: “to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization, which is living or which has disappeared”

Papahānaumokuākea's remarkable archaeology and significant ritual sites (*heiau*) bear exceptional testimony to the shared historical origins of all Polynesian societies, and to the growth and expression



The Hawaiian Monk Seal is one of 22 IUCN-listed endangered species dependent on Papahānaumokuākea for survival (Photo: James Watt)



Over 90% of the threatened Green Turtle nestings in Hawai'i occur within Papahānaumokuākea (Photo: James Watt)



of a culture that evolved from the last and most difficult wave of cross-Pacific Polynesian migration. As the only Mystery Islands (once-inhabited but now abandoned outposts at the farthest reaches of Polynesian migration) that continue a cultural association with their indigenous people, the islands of Nihoa and Mokumanamana can reveal much about cultural resilience in a changing environment.

Criterion vi: “to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance”

Papahānaumokuākea, as an associative cultural landscape, represents core elements of Native Hawaiian cosmology and tradition. The islands northwest of the Tropic of Cancer are believed to lie within the region of primordial darkness from which life originates and to which it returns. For a culture that considers nature and civilization to be part of a genealogical whole, Papahānaumokuākea

offers a “place of abundance” to reconnect with an ancestral environment, and its seas are also a traditional and contemporary testing ground for the revitalized art of Polynesian wayfinding.

Criterion viii: “be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth’s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features”

The string of islands in Papahānaumokuākea, 1,931 kilometers long, comprise a classic, important and unparalleled example of later stages of island and atoll evolution. The archipelago has provided some of the most compelling confirmation of current theories of global plate tectonic movements.

Criterion ix: “be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals”

Papahānaumokuākea is a spectacular example of evolution in isolation, which results in enhanced speciation and a phenomenally high degree of endemism in both the marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. The coral reef ecosystems of Papahānaumokuākea also represent one of the world’s last apex predator dominated ecosystems, a community structure characteristic of coral reefs prior to significant human exploitation.

Criterion x: “contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation”

The region is home to, and a crucial refuge for, many endangered, threatened, and endemic species, including critically endangered marine mammal, bird, and plant species for whom it is the last or only refuge anywhere on earth. Papahānaumokuākea is also the largest tropical seabird rookery in the world.

Integrity

Papahānaumokuākea is a pristine marine ecosystem, which allows biological and ecological processes and systems to continue undisturbed, to a degree seen in few other places on earth. It includes all key areas and ecosystems that are needed to maintain ecological integrity and the long-term conservation of its unique diversity. Papahānaumokuākea is also a complete and intact cultural and maritime landscape that is in continuous use by its cultural



Laysan Albatross (below) and Masked Boobies (above), members of the largest tropical seabird rookery in the world



Schooling lauwiliwili, the endemic Milletseed Butterflyfish (Chaetodon miliaris) (Photo: James Watt)

descendants, Native Hawaiians. Its densely scattered, well-preserved and varied archaeological sites have been subject to very few human disturbances.

Authenticity

The authenticity of Papahānaumokuākea lies in the continuing strong association of the landscape with the cosmology and oral traditions of Native Hawaiians, the embodiment of an ancestrally pristine and spiritually meaningful marine environment, and the perpetuation of customary practices such as wayfinding.

Requirements for Protection and Management

Papahānaumokuākea is protected by a significant federal and state legal regime, including an extensive management plan; enforcement, surveillance, and monitoring activities; and severe restrictions on access. Tourism is restricted to limited numbers at only one site, on Midway Atoll. The area is managed to provide opportunity for significant input and advice from key stakeholders and has a long history of public engagement.

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