

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

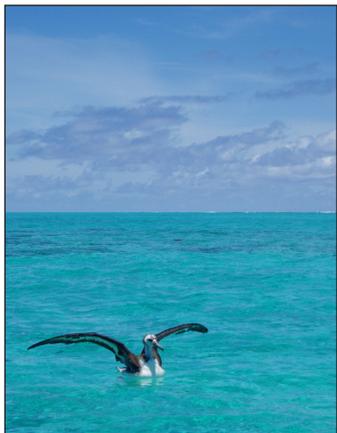


Photo: Claire Fackler

Final Monument Management Plan Released

The Papahānaumoku kea Marine National Monument Management Plan and associated environmental documents were released on Dec.23, 2008. The draft plan was available for a 90-day public comment period beginning in April 2008, during which monument staff held 10 public meetings in nine communities in Hawaii and one in Washington, D.C., to gather input on the plan. The completed plan contains information about the monument's resources, describes the management framework, and features 22 action plans consisting of strategies and activities to address specific priority management needs over the next 15 years. This plan was developed by the monument co-trustees (NOAA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the state of Hawaii) in conjunction with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to meet each of the agencies' planning requirements.



Photo: Paulo Maurin

Climate Change Workshop

In September 2008, approximately 40 coral biologists, marine managers and educators participated in a four-day workshop at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, situated at Moku o Lo'e in Kane'ohe Bay, Oahu. This workshop, sponsored by the Papahānaumoku kea Marine National Monument, NOAA's Coral Reef Watch and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, assembled participants from Palau, Kiribati, American Samoa, Samoa, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Hawaii. The primary aims of the workshop were to provide participants with the latest tools and information on coral bleaching and ocean acidification and to expand their understanding of these important issues using indigenous knowledge. The participants went through curriculum modules covering topics such as addressing ecological impacts, coral resilience, and predicting and identifying coral bleaching events. Following the workshop, the participants could use their newly acquired skills to develop a local coral bleaching response plan for their community.



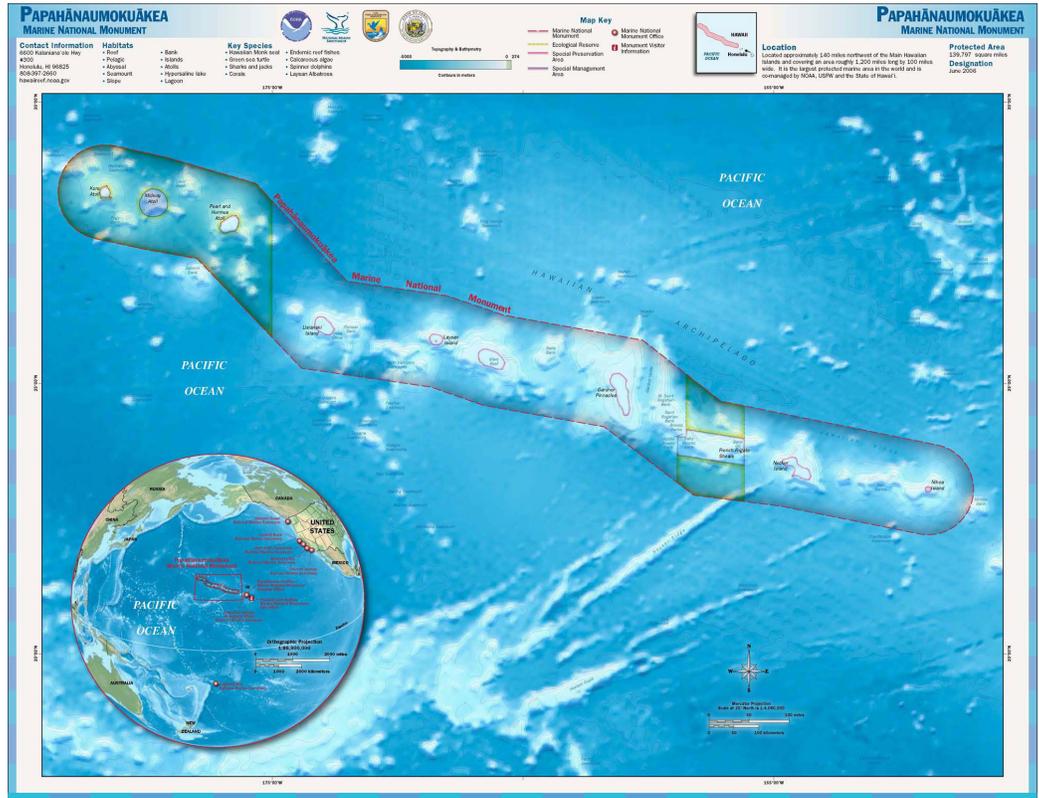
Photo: Paulo Maurin

Special Issue of *Current Journal* Dedicated to Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

The January/February 2008 issue of the National Marine Educators Association professional journal of marine education, *Current*, featured the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries – specifically, the Papahānaumoku kea Marine National Monument. The issue contained 10 articles written by experts – inside and outside the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries – that highlight the beauty, uniqueness, ecological diversity and cultural heritage that makes the Papahānaumoku kea Marine National Monument one of America's ocean treasures. The National Marine Educators Association brings together those interested in the study and enjoyment of the world of water and is affiliated with the National Science Teachers Association.

Sanctuaries Partner with Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

In late 2007, the Pacific Islands Region of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries created a partnership with Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HAVO). The purpose of this partnership is to establish cooperative interpretive efforts illustrating the connections between the Main Hawaiian Islands and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. This collaboration is being accomplished through cross-training of staff and volunteers from the monument's Mokuapapapa Discovery Center and HAVO. Formal interpretation workshops at HAVO, content training of HAVO interpreters, as well as shadowing and mentoring of interpretive techniques, are all currently being implemented. In addition, sanctuary staff are bridging the Hawaiian Archipelago by incorporating exhibits and media illustrating the history of the 1,600-mile island chain, which will help millions of visitors to HAVO each year to learn more about what happens when the lava stops flowing.



Sanctuary maps available at sanctuaries.noaa.gov

Incorporating Traditional Knowledge into Marine Conservation

Pacific Island leaders in marine conservation have identified the urgent need to abate the loss of traditional knowledge and marine ecological practices. To address this challenge, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument has supported efforts to incorporate traditional knowledge into modern marine conservation – including an Oceania educators research expedition and a knowledge exchange workshop. In July 2008, monument staff selected outstanding educators from Oceania to visit the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands aboard the NOAA ship *Hi'ialakai*. The mission, celebrating International Year of the Reef, brought together representatives from Pacific nations who share conservation challenges for coral reefs. The participants expressed concern over local and global issues, and highlighted the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge into community-based conservation efforts. For more information, visit <http://www.hawaiianatolls.org>.

Earth and Sea Partnership Links Sanctuaries with Hawaii TV Stations

In January 2008, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region began a ground-breaking partnership with Honolulu television stations KHNL and KFVE. "The Earth and Sea Project: Going Green in Hawaii" is a year-long series of environmental reports on KHNL News 8 and K5 News, focusing on local environmental preservation and protection. Hot topics included sustainability, climate change, and what individuals, government agencies, non-profit organizations and corporations are doing to repair and enhance the environment on land and in the ocean. In addition to weekly Earth and Sea Project reports, KHNL produced a series of vignettes highlighting steps people can take to help protect Hawaii's fragile terrestrial and ocean environment and two half-hour special reports in 2008. This partnership generated nearly 20 stories specific to NOAA and the sanctuary system, leading to approximately two hours in airtime.

To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit sanctuaries.noaa.gov

