Paradise Found

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Leads in Stewardship of the Largest Protected Area on the Planet
Why Marine National Monuments Matter

With the expansion of Marine National Monuments in the Pacific by the George W. Bush and Barack Obama Administrations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now manages the largest system of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on the planet. This responsibility, taken on in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the State of Hawai‘i, and many other partners, continues a tradition of marine and terrestrial management by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that dates back to 1869, when the Congress under President Ulysses S. Grant designated the Pribilof Islands as the first federal wildlife reserve, set aside for the protection of Northern Fur Seal.

Today, 4 Marine National Monuments that encompass 12 National Wildlife Refuges stretch across 473 million acres of intricately interdependent lands and waters throughout the Pacific Ocean. These vast pelagic and terrestrial systems support more than 28 million seabirds, from Laysan Albatross to White Terns, the Pacific Remote Islands MNM contains some of the most pristine coral reef atoll ecosystems in the world. This species breeds almost exclusively within the Papahānaumokuākea MNM.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the only agency with the statutory authority to effectively safeguard the trust resources of the Marine National Monuments. To properly steward these globally precious resources not just for the American public but for the world, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must have research, management, transportation, and law enforcement capabilities that allow them to meet the obligations with which the agency and its employees have been entrusted.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association requests appropriations of $22 million in operations funding to support critical management and protection needs for the Pacific Marine National Monuments. This increase in funding will be leveraged by funding through NOAA, the State of Hawai‘i, and private organizations. This request is the minimum needed to meet the agency’s most basic obligations.
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Marine National Monuments of the Pacific Ocean Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Established in 2006 by President George W. Bush: 89,470,187 acres

Administered jointly by the Secretary of the Interior through USFWS, the Secretary of Commerce through NOAA, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources through the State of Hawai‘i.

National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) encompassed within this Marine National Monument:
- Hawaiian Islands NWR (Nihoa Island, Mokumanamana-Necker Island, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, and Pearl and Hermes Atoll) (established 1909)
- Midway Atoll NWR / Battle of Midway National Memorial (overlay refuge in 1988; established 1996)

Marianas Trench Marine National Monument

Established in 2009 by President George W. Bush: 61,077,668 acres

Management responsibilities assigned to the Secretary of the Interior and delegated to USFWS, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce through NOAA; NOAA has primary management of fishery-related activities in consultation with USFWS. Both agencies manage in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

National Wildlife Refuges encompassed within this Marine National Monument:
- Mariana Arc of Fire NWR (established 2009)
- Mariana Trench NWR (established 2009)
Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

Established in 2009 by President George W. Bush: 52,575,873 acres
Expanded in 2014 by President Barack Obama: 313,941,852 acres

Management responsibilities assigned to the Secretary of the Interior and delegated to USFWS, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce through NOAA; NOAA has primary management of fishery-related activities in consultation with USFWS. Secretary of Defense continues to manage Wake Atoll NWR.

National Wildlife Refuges encompassed within this Marine National Monument:

- **Baker Island NWR (established 1936, moved to NWRS in 1974)**
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 0-50 nm offshore, 0-12 nm defined as NWR
  - NOAA: 12 nm refuge boundary-50 nm monument boundary, only for fishery-related activities

- **Howland Island NWR (established 1936, moved to NWRS in 1974)**
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 0-50 nm offshore, 0-12 nm defined as NWR
  - NOAA: 12 nm refuge boundary-50 nm monument boundary, only for fishery-related activities

- **Jarvis Island NWR (established 1936, moved to NWRS in 1974)**
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 0-200 nm offshore, 0-12 nm defined as NWR
  - NOAA: 12 nm refuge boundary-200 nm monument boundary, only for fishery-related activities

- **Johnston Atoll NWR (established 1926)**
  - U.S. Air Force: terrestrial lands (portions of the emergent lands at Johnston Atoll that are currently under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the Air Force will continue to be managed by the Air Force until such administrative jurisdiction is terminated, at which time those emergent lands shall be administered as part of the expanded NWR)
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 0-200 nm offshore, 0-12 nm defined as NWR
  - NOAA: 12 nm refuge boundary-200 nm monument boundary, only for fishery-related activities

- **Kingman Reef NWR (established 2001)**
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 0-50 nm offshore, 0-12 nm defined as NWR
  - NOAA: 12 nm refuge boundary-50 nm monument boundary, only for fishery-related activities

- **Palmyra Atoll NWR (established 2001)**
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 0-50 nm offshore, 0-12 nm defined as NWR
  - NOAA: 12 nm refuge boundary-50 nm monument boundary, only for fishery-related activities

- **Wake Atoll NWR (established 2009)**
  - U.S. Air Force: terrestrial lands
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 0-200 nm offshore, 0-12 nm defined as NWR (USFWS will not commence management of the emergent lands at Wake Island, and the Department of the Air Force shall continue to manage such emergent lands, according to the terms and conditions of the Agreement between the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Interior, unless and until such agreement is terminated)
  - NOAA: 12 nm refuge boundary-200 nm monument boundary, only for fishery-related activities

Rose Atoll Marine National Monument

Established in 2009 by President George W. Bush: 8,609,045 acres

Management responsibilities assigned to the Secretary of the Interior and delegated to USFWS, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce through NOAA; NOAA has primary management of fishery-related activities in consultation with USFWS. Rose Atoll NWR is co-serviced with the American Samoan Government.

National Wildlife Refuge encompassed within this Marine National Monument:

- **Rose Atoll NWR (established 1973)**
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 0-50 nm offshore, NWR extent defined as “the exterior boundary of this refuge is the extreme low waterline outside the perimeter reef except at the entrance channel where the boundary is a line extended between the extreme low waterlines on each side of the entrance channel.”
  - NOAA: area beyond such mean low waterline only for fishery-related activities

Sharks, trevallies, and other predatory fish species are common on most reefs throughout the Papahānaumokuākea MNM, one of the few marine ecosystems remaining on the planet still dominated by apex predators.
A Paradise in Peril?

Spanning over 473 million acres of land and water in the Pacific Ocean, from the Hawaiian Archipelago to the Mariana Trench to Rose Atoll south of the Equator, four Marine National Monuments (MNM) that encompass 12 National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) form the largest system of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) on the planet. This extensive system encompasses more than 200 undersea mountains, atolls, islands, coral reefs, and deep sea canyons, which together provide habitat for more than 7,000 marine species—including 23 seabird species, 30 marine mammal species, 200 coral species, 25 threatened and endangered species, and a world of microorganisms in the deep sea that are as yet unknown to science.

Set aside by a series of Presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush and Barack Obama, the Pacific Marine National Monuments form a true refuge for sustaining intricate ocean systems and wildlife, as well as cultural and historic landmarks. Once plundered for bird feathers and eggs, mined...
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for precious guano, overfished, and used as strategic strongholds during World War II, these diverse pelagic terrains, islands, atolls and reefs now represent one of the last frontiers for wildlife in the world. Despite their isolation, conservation and management of these areas is crucial to ensuring the long-term stability of the Pacific Ocean’s complex ecosystems for generations to come. Such protection ensures opportunities for scientific discovery and inquiry and builds resiliency against perhaps the largest challenge facing humanity: climate change. In fact, the Pacific Ocean plays a major role in resiliency and has been directly linked to slowing global surface warming over the past 15 years.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the only agency with the statutory authority to effectively safeguard the trust resources of the Marine National Monuments. Entrusted with this responsibility through the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Department of the Interior and its U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the honor and immense responsibility for managing the world’s largest system of Marine Protected Areas. This responsibility is shared through many partnerships, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as well as state, non-profit, and private partners; however, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ultimately serves as the primary manager.

Unless Congress adequately funds and supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with new funding for the Pacific Marine National Monuments, these rainforests of the sea will be exposed to a myriad of international threats, ranging from damaging effects of marine pollution to illegal overfishing. In order to support critical management and protection needs, Congress must act quickly to fund the Service with at least $22 million for the Pacific Marine National Monuments.

This funding will support management of the Pacific’s incredible natural resources, as well as preserving and recognizing our nation’s military history throughout the Pacific—giving a proper tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of World War II heroes—and celebrating ancient Hawaiian, Polynesian, Samoan, and Chamorro heritage and cultural resources. This way, the Service can share these “pearls of the Pacific” with the American public and world at large, and foster unique learning and engagement opportunities, ranging from hands-on education to world-class eco-tourism.

The Champagne Vent at the Northwest Eifuku Volcano deep within the Marianas Trench MNM produces almost pure liquid carbon dioxide—one of only two known sites in the world. The Marianas Trench MNM also features the largest and deepest canyon in the world, measuring more than 7 miles in depth and over 1,580 miles in length (five times the size of the Grand Canyon).
It’s a Lot More Than Just Water

Unparalleled Abundance and Biodiversity, Above and Below

It is said that still waters run deep. Indeed, life abounds beneath the turquoise waters of the Pacific Ocean where highly complex and productive ecosystems unfold. Composed of millions of plants, fish, and animals, these species depend upon one another to survive underwater, in the skies above, and on remote sandy atolls and islands. Coral reefs, some more than 5,000 years old, surround atolls, islands, and shallow islets, and support hundreds of species of invertebrates, fish, and marine mammals. On the land above, long-lived pelagic seabirds like Laysan Albatross and Black-footed Albatross fly thousands of miles across the Pacific to collect nutrient-dense food for their chicks during the breeding season. Seabirds and thousands of other species depend on unique environmental

Top: Millions of seabirds representing 19 different species, such as Great Frigatebirds, Red-footed Boobies, Brown Noddies, and Sooty Terns, depend on the highly productive waters of Pacific Remote Islands MNM for breeding and foraging year-round. Center: Hawaiian Squirrelfish at French Frigate Shoals. Papahānaumokuākea MNM supports 1,750 marine species found nowhere else on Earth. Left: Adult male Great Frigatebird displays his red gular sac for a prospecting female at Midway Atoll NWR in the Papahānaumokuākea MNM.
conditions in the Pacific Ocean that create unusually dense areas of food resources. Moreover, these resources support one of the world’s few remaining apex predator-dominated systems. The Pacific Marine National Monuments harbor the world’s highest densities of sharks, trevallies, and other marine predators, all of which are critical to ensuring healthy coral reefs, extraordinary biological diversity, and high rates of productivity. Together, they serve as the foundation for the rest of the food web—from tiny zooplankton to Humpback Whales. Over 28 million seabirds use the Marine National Monuments as premier migratory and nesting grounds—testament to the importance of these resources.

In addition to flourishing hotspots of biodiversity, the Pacific Marine National Monuments also harbor remarkable successes in conservation. Recovery of endangered and threatened species is a long-term commitment and their survival depends upon continued preservation of key habitats. Laysan Ducks, Nihoa Millerbirds, Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles, and Humpback Whales, are examples of rebounding species, many of which live and breed exclusively within the protected boundaries of the Pacific Marine National Monuments.

**Marine Protected Area (MPA)**

Defined in Executive Order 13158, MPAs are “any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by federal, state, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.” Marine environments include open ocean, coastal areas, inter-tidal zones, estuaries, and the Great Lakes. MPAs vary widely in purpose, legal authorities, agencies, management approaches, level of protection, and restrictions on human uses.

**Marine National Monument (MNM)**

National Monuments are any historic landmark, historic and prehistoric structure, or other object of historic or scientific interest that is situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the federal government. Marine National Monuments are a type of MPA designated by Presidential Proclamation via the Antiquities Act of 1906. National Monuments are usually managed by one of four agencies: National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, or Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Generally, MNMs are managed by the Secretary of the Interior through USFWS, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce through NOAA.

**National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)**

National Wildlife Refuges are protected areas part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRs), a unique network of lands and waters that protects and benefits wildlife and associated habitat that is administered and managed through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Department of the Interior. In the Pacific Ocean, NWRs are encompassed within Marine National Monuments.
Left to right: Even less explored than the Moon, the depths of the Marianas Trench MNM reveal bizarre biological wonders. Pictured are Galatheid Crabs and shrimp grazing on bacterial filaments of mussel shells. Over 90% of threatened Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles in the Hawaiian archipelago nest only at French Frigate Shoals in the Papahānaumokuākea MNM; continued monitoring and habitat management is key to this species' survival. Melon-headed Whales, like many marine mammals, are highly migratory and depend on vast, protected places like the Pacific Remote Islands MNM. An endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal swims in the Papahānaumokuākea MNM. It is estimated that 1,100-1,200 seals remain in the wild.
65 and Counting

The World’s Oldest Breeding Bird

Wisdom, a Laysan Albatross, is the world’s oldest known breeding bird in the wild and breeds exclusively on lands protected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (at left in photo, with her mate on the right). On November 19, 2015, Wisdom was spotted with her mate in the world’s largest nesting albatross colony—Midway Atoll NWR in the Papahānaumokuākea MNM—home to nearly 70% of breeding Laysan Albatross and almost 40% of Black-footed Albatross. Now in her 8th consecutive year of breeding at Midway, Wisdom is once again a mother and has broken her own record! Deemed the oldest breeding bird in the wild, Wisdom was banded back in 1956. If she had hatched in that year, she would be 60 now. However, since she was already breeding in 1956, she was estimated to be at least 5 years of age then—making her at least 65 years old now! In fact, Wisdom could be older, since Laysan Albatross (like many other seabirds) delay sexual maturity until at least age 5 and may not breed successfully until ages 8 to 10.


Shared Heritage: Learning From and Remembering our Past

The Pacific Marine National Monuments contain significant historical, cultural, and maritime heritage resources. Many of the Monuments were sites of U.S. military bases and battles, including the Battle of Midway, as well as historical shipwrecks and sunken aircraft. More than 100 vessels and aircraft are known to have been lost within the Papahānaumokuākea MNM. Notable shipwrecks include the American whaler, the Parker (lost in 1842 at Kure Atoll), and the USS Saginaw (lost in 1870), which represents a slice of Civil War history in the Pacific Ocean. Although the attack on Pearl Harbor is perhaps the most well-known event from World War II in the Pacific Theater, the war was pervasive throughout the Pacific ocean, since many isolated atolls and islands served as strategic strongholds. In addition to sunken ships and aircrafts from the Battle of Midway, remnants from World War II can be found throughout the Marine National Monuments, ranging from restored officers’
Top left: On July 2, 1937, Amelia Earhart was expected to arrive for a refueling stop at tiny Howland Island NWR in the Pacific Remote Islands MNM. Although her radio broadcasts were heard on Howland Island, her plane never arrived. Earhart Light, pictured here circa 1939, remains intact on Howland Island NWR as a reminder of her courage and pioneering spirit.

Top right: A typical war-time setting at Midway Atoll NWR in 1943: this Laysan Albatross “tended her egg despite the sound and fury” among 1,000-pound demolition bombs. Bottom: Mokumanamana in the Papahānaumokuākea MNM is known for its numerous wahi pana (religious places) and mea makamae (cultural objects). The shrines, which follow the spine of the island, may have been used for navigational purposes during the great trans-Pacific voyages of the early Hawaiians and Polynesians.

In addition to military history, Polynesian and Micronesian heritage permeates the Marine National Monuments with numerous traditional cultural sites and archaeological features. Ceremonial sites on Nihoa and Mokumanamana (Necker Island) in the Hawaiian Islands NWR are believed to contain the highest concentration of heiau (shrines) in the Hawaiian archipelago and are among the most deeply valued facets of Hawaiian culture. Given the Marine National Monuments’ treasured natural, cultural, and historical diversity, it is of utmost importance to preserve the region with effective monitoring, enforcement, and management.
Marine Conservation: An American Tradition, A Lasting Legacy

Bi-partisan support has been a common thread in conserving our nation’s unique ecosystems and biodiversity throughout American history. The need to protect both marine and terrestrial ecosystems together began with the designation Alaska’s Pribilof Islands by Congress as a federal reserve for the Northern Fur Seal in 1869. Protection of marine resources continued throughout the development of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) when visionary President Theodore Roosevelt created Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in 1903, followed by refuges that included the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge in 1909, thus recognizing the inextricable link between marine systems, coastal wetlands, and watersheds as well as mountains, prairies, and inland marshes.

As the Refuge System expanded, so did the role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conserving and managing fish, wildlife, plants and their associated habitats. Currently, the Service manages over 473 million acres in the Pacific, composed of 4 Marine National Monuments that encompass 12
National Wildlife Refuges and 1 National Memorial. Moreover, the expansion of protected areas through the Pacific has been championed across party lines. In 2006, President George W. Bush established all four of the current Marine National Monuments, and President Barack Obama followed suit in 2014 by expanding conservation protections for ecological, cultural, historic, and economic resources in the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

In total, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now protects over 568 million acres of land and water, with Marine National Monuments and National Wildlife Refuges spanning from the Arctic Ocean to the South Pacific and from Maine to the Caribbean. Despite its reputation for waterfowl and big game management, the Service protects more marine ecosystems than any other federal agency through a network of Marine National Monuments and National Wildlife Refuges throughout the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Arctic Ocean, and Pacific Ocean, as well as 2.9 million acres of protected pristine coral reefs.
## The Establishment and Expansion of Marine National Monuments in the Pacific

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<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Theodore Roosevelt</td>
<td>1903: Executive Order 199A</td>
<td>Placed Midway Atoll under control of U.S. Navy in response to massacre of seabirds for feathers and eggs by poachers.</td>
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<td>1909: Executive Order 1019</td>
<td>Established the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.</td>
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<td>Calvin Coolidge</td>
<td>1926: Executive Order 4467</td>
<td>Established the Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.</td>
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<td>1940: Presidential Proclamation 2416</td>
<td>Changed the name of Hawaiian Islands Bird Reservation to Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge; transferred management to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and broadened Refuge purposes to protect all wildlife.</td>
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<td>Bill Clinton</td>
<td>1996: Executive Order 13022</td>
<td>Transferred full jurisdiction of Midway Atoll from the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Department of the Interior; Midway Atoll becomes a National Wildlife Refuge.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2000: Secretarial Order 3217, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt</td>
<td>Designated Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge as the Battle of Midway National Memorial.</td>
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Navigating The Future

Managing a Global Treasure

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the primary governing authority of the Marine National Monuments. Although management structure varies between the Marine National Monuments depending on the time of their establishment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Monuments in partnership with the Secretary of Commerce through NOAA and collaborates with other federal, territorial, and state agencies. In the case of the Papahānaumokuākea MNM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service co-manages the Marine National Monument with NOAA and the State of Hawai‘i. With more than 473 million acres of terrestrial and marine resources to manage, collaboration across federal, territorial, and state agencies is essential to the long-term conservation of these Marine National Monuments.

Management of Pacific Marine National Monuments is uniquely challenging due to the remoteness of these protected atolls, islands, and reefs. To establish and maintain a presence, staff must be transported to and from isolated locations and goods and services need to be consistently delivered over vast distances. Moreover, the nature of the operations and maintenance of these marine protected areas is very different from that required in land-based conservation areas, where many services (such as waste management and emergency medical service) are available nearby. In some cases, it takes up to 8 days to reach a Marine National Monument from its nearest port, thus it may be visited only once every 2 years. The logistics of basic operations and maintenance consumes valuable resources and staff time, all of which must be balanced with the main purpose of the Pacific Marine National Monuments—to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Left: Over 98% of the world’s population of Laysan Albatross and Black-footed Albatross breed exclusively within the Papahānaumokuākea MNM. Top: Howland Island NWR in the Pacific Remote Islands MNM is home to large numbers of the Strawberry Hermit Crab. These plentiful land crabs play a dominant role in terrestrial food webs on the island by consuming a wide variety of organic matter.
Clockwise from top: Giant clams, absent or rare throughout most of the Pacific, are abundant and dominate the reef landscape in Pacific Remote Islands MNM at Kingman Reef NWR. Cool, clear, nutrient-rich oceanic waters and vibrant coral reefs support a spectacular diversity of corals, algae, fishes, marine mammals, sea turtles, and migratory seabirds throughout the Pacific Remote Islands MNM. On the summit of East Diamante (170 meters below the surface) of the Marianas Trench MNM, soft corals and tropical fish create a vibrant paradise.
Moving Forward into Uncharted Waters

Today, there are fewer resources available to manage and protect Marine National Monuments in the Pacific Ocean than before their respective designations and expansions in 2006, 2009, and 2014. Currently, 4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff are responsible for managing 750,000 square miles of protected marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Although the Service is the primary manager of these Marine National Monuments, collaboration is key to the successful protection and conservation of our national treasure and natural heritage. Not only do our protected areas in the Pacific Ocean represent the world’s largest conservation effort, they also set the stage for how conservation will proceed and succeed into the future. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has and will continue to manage a myriad of marine resources—however, the scale of management needed for the Pacific Ocean is unprecedented to all other protected areas.

To be fully operational for FY 2017 and beyond, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the Pacific Marine National Monuments would need the following investments:

• 55 full-time staff
• Research and management equipment
• Reduction of aging infrastructure
• Support for critical research and management partnerships
• Increased capacity for surveillance, enforcement, and transportation

The Service and NOAA have forged a close collaboration on conservation and habitat management throughout the Pacific Marine National Monuments, but additional funding and support is needed for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to lead as an effective and valuable steward of the Pacific Ocean’s natural resources. In certain cases, NOAA does not have the statutory authority to enforce conservation protections whereas the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services does.

Continued protection is crucial to building resiliency of our natural resources in the face of an uncertain future—but what is certain is our need to secure adequate resources and support. At least $22 million for the Pacific Marine National Monuments is required to support the management and protection of these incredible natural resources, recognize our nation’s military history in the Pacific, preserve ancient Hawaiian, Polynesian, Samoan, and Chamorro heritage and cultural resources, and foster unique learning and engagement opportunities, ranging from hands-on education to world-class eco-tourism.

| Partnering to Protect: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners in the Pacific |
| American Samoan Government |
| Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands |
| Island Conservation |
| Marine Mammal Commission |
| National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association |
| National Park Service |
| Office of Hawaiian Affairs |
| State of Hawai‘i, Department of Lands and Natural Resources |
| The Nature Conservancy |
| University of Hawai‘i |
| U.S. Air Force |
| U.S. Coast Guard |
| U.S. Department of Defense |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| U.S. Geological Survey |
| U.S. Navy |

Majestic creatures with wing spans of up to 22 feet across, Manta Rays are a common sight in Pacific Remote Islands MNM at Palmyra Atoll NWR, where they are protected and consequently have flourished.

ANDREW WEGMANN | ISLAND CONSERVATION
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Top: USFWS and American Bird Conservancy team members risk life and limb to safely move Nihoa Millerbirds to a transportation vessel during the 2012 collaborative translocation effort. Center: Endangered Nihoa Millerbird at a nest after a successful translocation effort of 24 birds in the Papahānaumokuākea MNM from Nihoa to Laysan Island. Above: Pushed nearly to extinction in the early 20th century, Laysan Ducks now occur in the hundreds across Kure Atoll, Midway Atoll NWR, and Laysan Island of Papahānaumokuākea MNM. Laysan Ducks are endemic to the Hawaiian Archipelago and occur nowhere else in the world; their ongoing recovery is a conservation success story. Left: USFWS employee John Klavitter sterilizes a Laysan Duck’s feet before translocation in the Papahānaumokuākea MNM from Midway Atoll NWR to Kure Atoll in 2015 in an attempt to create a back-up population to avoid extinction.