

Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination in the Pacific

Don Palawski, Refuge Manager
Pacific Remote Islands National Wildlife
Refuge Complex

Governmental Jurisdictions in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zones of the Pacific

- State of Hawaii
- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Guam
- U.S. Island Possessions (Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Atoll, Palmyra Atoll, Wake Atoll)

U.S. Exclusive Economic Zones in the Pacific



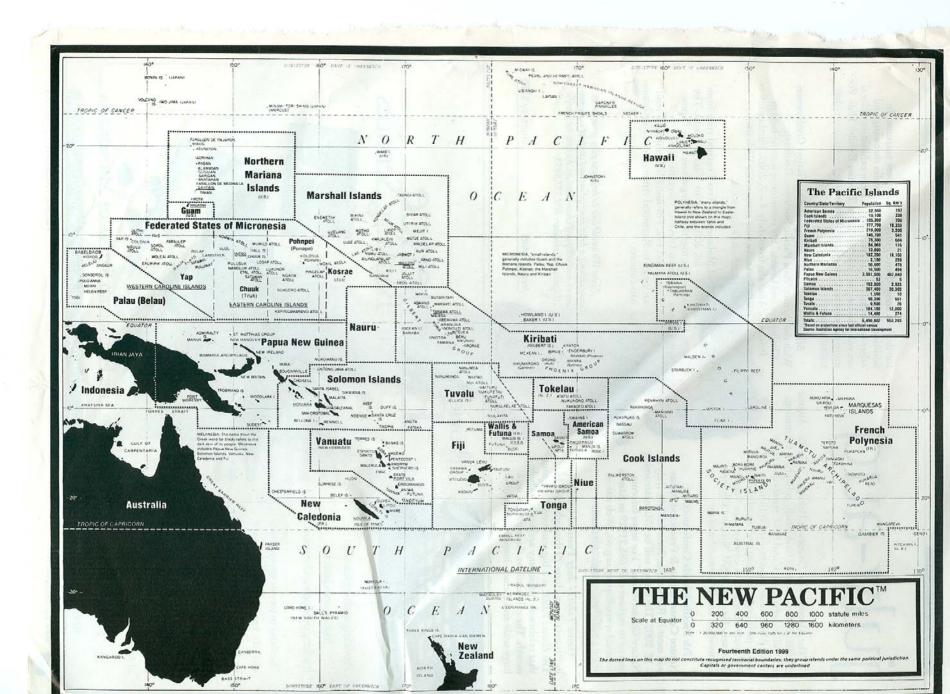
Governmental Jurisdictions in the Pacific having a unique relationship with the U.S.

- Marshall Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Palau

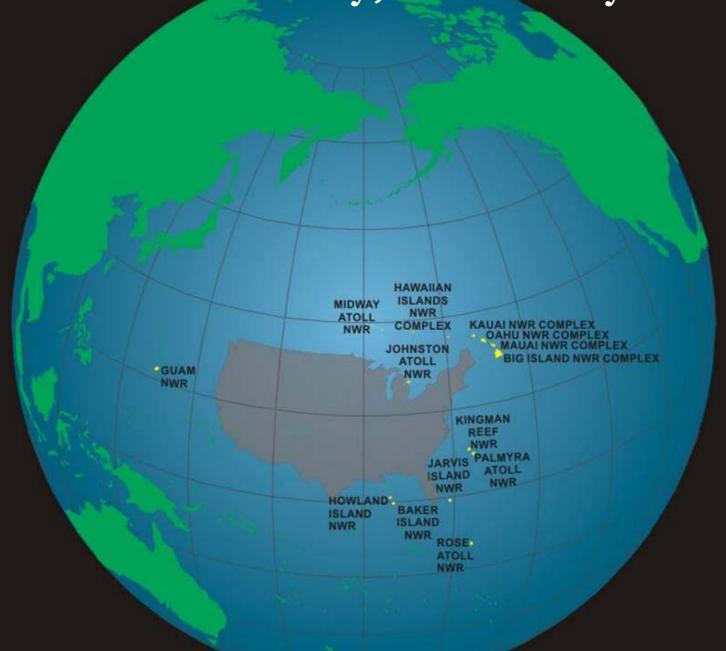
Compact of Free Association

Other Governmental Jurisdictions in the Pacific

- South Pacific Island Nations: French
 Polynesia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tokelau
 Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Figi, Tuvalu, Wallis &
 Futuna, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia,
 Vanuatu.
- Southeast Asian Island Nations: Indonesia,
 Papua New Guinea, Philippines
- Australia



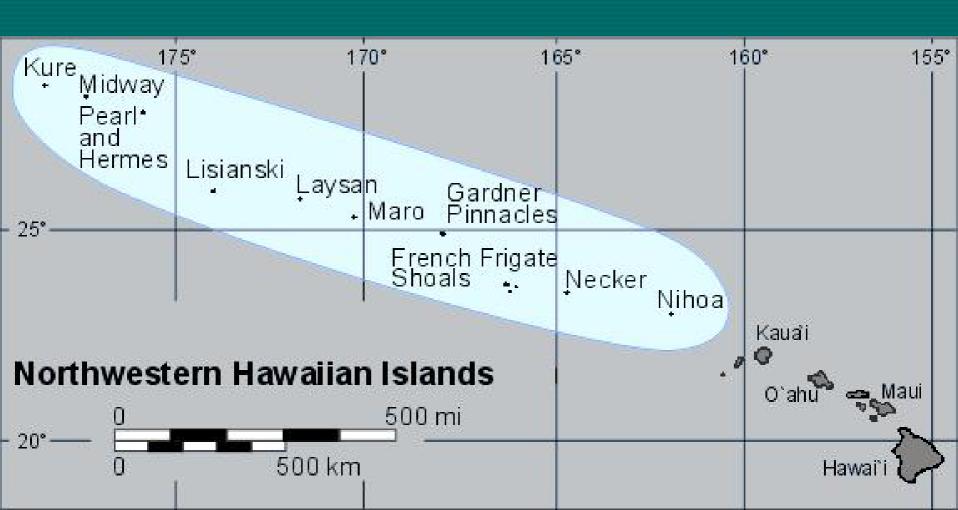
"Think Globally, Act Locally"



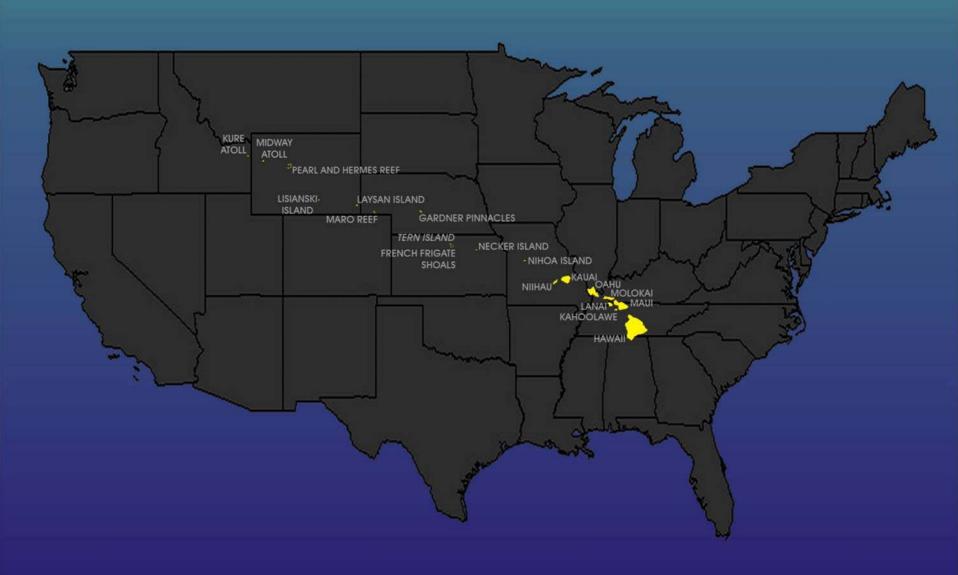
Central Pacific Coral Isles and Atolls

- Are ancient, carrying a long history in their rocks
- Have been previously protected by their remoteness and inaccessibility
- Can serve as havens for many depleted and unique species
- Serve as a natural laboratory for large marine ecosystem management for an area straddling the Equator and many latitudes
- Support some of the oldest, wettest and driest atolls, islets, and associated habitats on the planet

Agency Coordination in the Hawaiian Islands and other Pacific Islands



Large Marine Ecosystem Management



Cooperative Education and Outreach

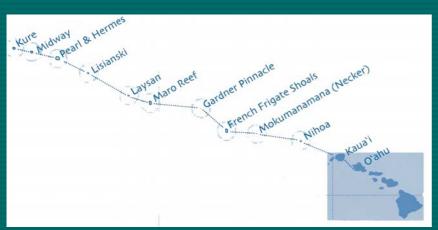
Navigating Change: inspired by Polynesian Voyaging Society this vision is shared by:

- Hawaii Department of Education
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
- NOAA National Ocean Service
- Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii
- University of Hawaii

Navigating Change focuses on the NWHI as a catalyst for change to occur in our own communities.



Teacher's Guide Grades 4 & 5











Cooperative Research on Hawaii/Pacific Corals and Reefs

MAJOR COLLABORATORS 2000-1

- NMFS Honolulu Lab & NOAA Townsend
 Cromwell
- Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources
- USFWS Pacific Remote Islands NWR
 Complex
- Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI
- University of California, Santa Cruz

Multiple techniques used to assess and monitor coral populations:

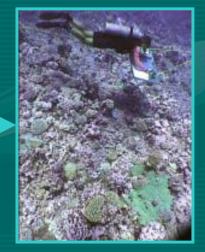
• REAs (Rapid Ecological Assessments) – all institutions



- Towed Diver Habitat Surveys (NMFS)
- •Reproduction & Recruitment (NMFS)



- Permanent Stations (FWS)
- Coral Coring/Growth/Disease (UCSC, FWS & HI-DLNR)





Biogeography of Coral Species Richness



- Hawaii overall: low species richness, high endemism (more than 25%) due to long-term geographic isolation
- 12 coral spp. in NWHI not found in MHI
- Colonizing larvae of some *Acropora* species probably derived from Johnston Atoll where same species abundant

Biogeography of Coral Species Richness



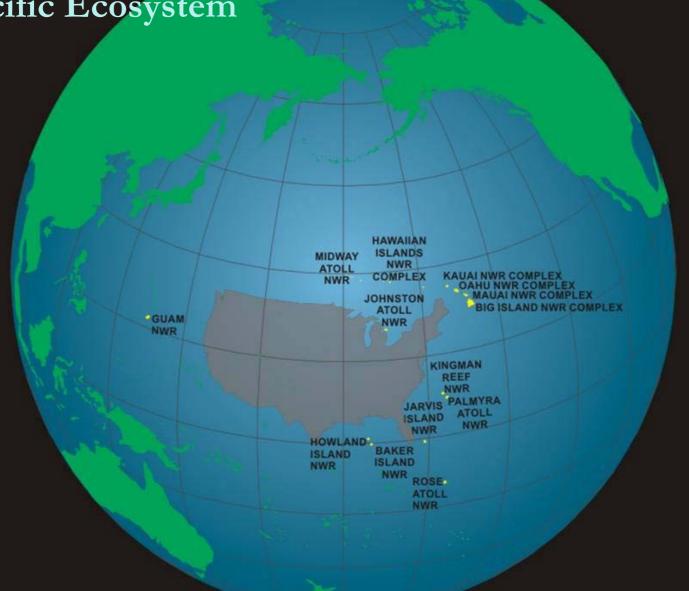
- Howland, Baker, Jarvis in path of westward-flowing Pacific Equatorial Current; all have limited habitat diversity but lower spp diversity to west
- Palmyra, Kingman sporadically bathed by eastward-flowing North Equatorial Countercurrent; diverse habitats; highest coral species richness of any Central Pacific island or atoll



Resource Protection and Management

- Large Marine Ecosystem Management
- Coordinated Management vs. Co-Management
- Small No-Take Marine Protected Areas that represent the species and habitats in the Central Pacific Ecosystem

A Model of the Use of No-Take MPAs to Conserve and Protect Resources of the Central Pacific Ecosystem



Recommendations for the Pacific Region

- Promote recognition by the U.S. and other jurisdictions of the immense importance of using MPAs in the Pacific to protect the world's biodiversity;
- Conduct additional scientific surveys to promote large marine ecosystem management;
- Recognize that while there are key geographic areas in the Pacific for which scientific knowledge may be limited, such areas still need to be protected as soon as possible for the benefit of future generations;

Recommendations for the Pacific Region (cont.)

- Provide adequate support for management capacity and freely communicate the best conservation practices through educational initiatives
- Regularly monitor MPAs with sufficient intensity to ensure perptual natural resource protection in the Pacific region
- Include cultural experts in decision-making to identify potential MPA sites and assist in their management

