

GET INVOLVED

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



MARCH
20, 2015

NOAA published the draft management plan and accompanying draft environmental impact statement on March 20, 2015, and the proposed rule published on March 26, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The sanctuary invites input from the public on the draft management plan, proposed regulations and draft environmental impact statement.

????????????????



Sanctuary management is interested in hearing your views on our proposal. We invite you to provide comments on the web (regulations.gov), or via mail, email or attend one of our public meetings in April/May held throughout the main Hawaiian Islands.

????????????????



ENDS
6/19

There will be a public comment period ending June 19, 2015, during which time the sanctuary invites input from the public on the draft management plan, proposed regulations and draft environmental impact statement.



BACKGROUND

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was established November 4, 1992, by Congress to protect humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i. The sanctuary is managed by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in partnership with the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources. National marine sanctuaries protect ocean and Great Lakes areas of national significance.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary lies within the shallow, warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands and is one of the most important humpback whale habitats in the world. Scientists estimate that two-thirds of the entire North Pacific humpback whale population migrates to Hawaiian waters each winter to breed, calve and nurse their young. The continued protection of humpback whales and their habitat is crucial to the long-term recovery of this endangered species.

HULIĀ MAHI
(Many Hands)

WE BELIEVE THAT NO TASK IS TOO GREAT WHEN SHARED BY ALL



Proposed Rule &
Draft Management Plan &
Environmental Impact Statement of

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

E X P A N S I O N

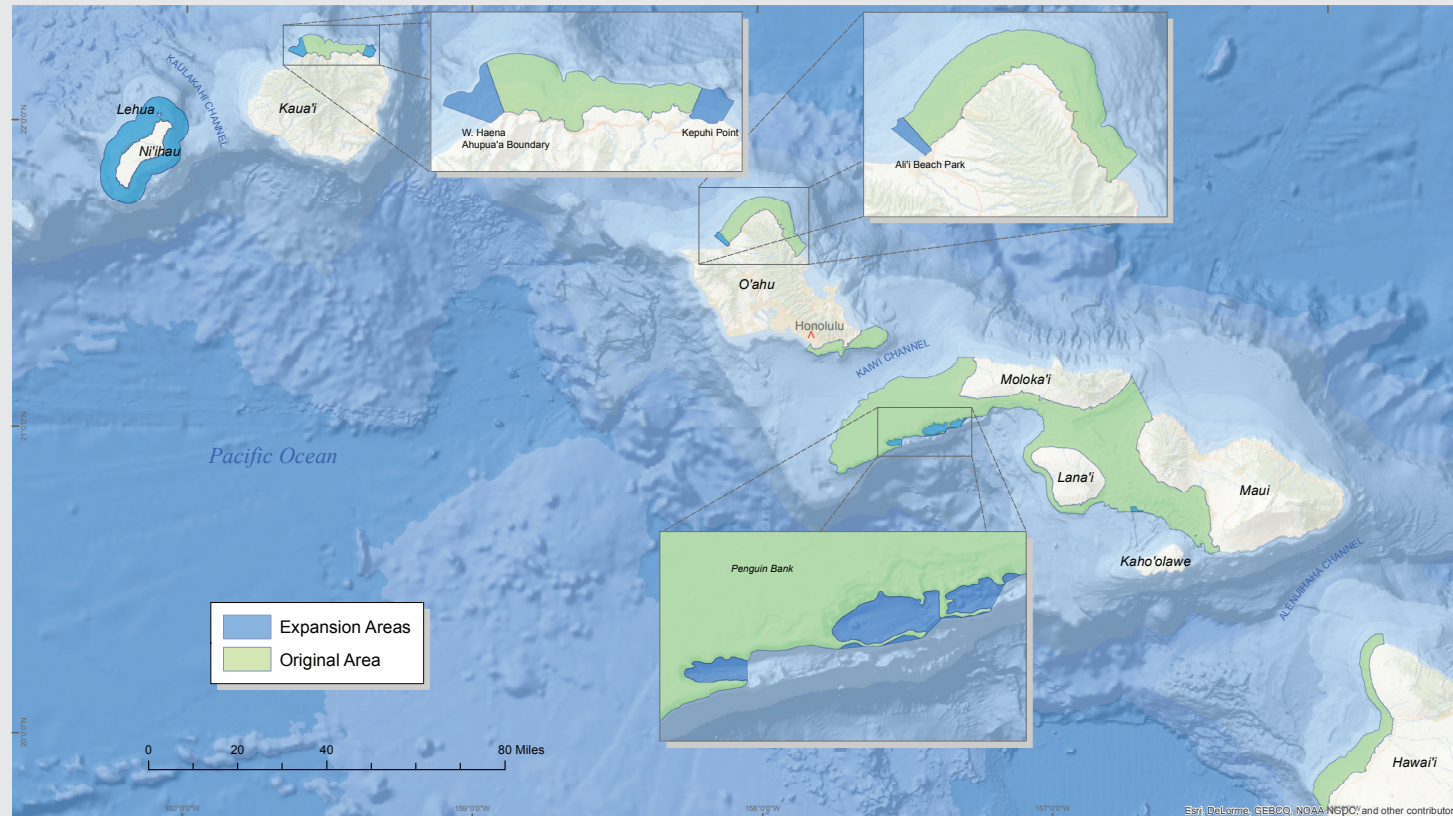
WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING

HOW WE GOT HERE

1

CHANGES TO THE BOUNDARY

The proposed rule includes a boundary expansion that adds 255 square miles of state and federal waters around O'ahu, Kaua'i and Ni'i'hau, bringing the total sanctuary area to 1,621 square miles.



2

NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN

Backed by science and traditional native Hawaiian management approaches, the sanctuary made a determination that the new management plan proposes an ecosystem-based management framework – focusing on marine species, habitats, water quality and the human communities living on and near the shores of this sanctuary.



3

REGULATORY CHANGES

4

A NAME CHANGE



management plan review

The sanctuary began its management plan review process five years ago by going to the public, through a series of scoping meetings throughout the state, and asking them what they thought was most important for us to address in our new management plan.

12,000

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

More than 12,000 public submissions were received which were used to identify priority issues that the sanctuary would address during its management plan review.

working groups

The Sanctuary Advisory Council formed working groups with subject matter experts to explore these priority issues and develop recommendations on what role, if any, the sanctuary should have in addressing these issues.



Working Group RECOMMENDATIONS

Several working groups determined that it was necessary to move from single species management of humpback whales, to a more holistic, ecosystem-based management approach in order to be most effective in addressing the priority issues identified by the public.

