

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Photo: Elizabeth Moore

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Declared Particularly Sensitive Sea Area

The fragile and unique marine ecosystems encompassed by the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument received additional protection under a new internationally recognized designation. The designation, which was finalized on April 3, 2008, by the International Maritime Organization, declares the waters of the monument a “Particularly Sensitive Sea Area” (PSSA). The designation puts into effect internationally recognized measures designed to protect marine resources of ecological or cultural significance from damage by ships while helping keep mariners safe. The monument is the world’s 11th marine protected area to receive PSSA designation, joining special places like Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Galapagos Archipelago.

MPA Management Capacity Building Program Continues Ongoing Programs and Expands Into New Territory

The Marine Protected Area Capacity Building Program completed its third year of training in Vietnam with programs including “Planning for Sustainable Fisheries” and “Planning for Climate Change in the Coastal and Marine Environment.” The Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape (ETPS) program – including Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador – hosted a training in Machialla National Park, Ecuador, on Planning for Sustainable Fisheries” and a workshop in Las Baulas, Costa Rica, on the “Seascape Approach to Managing the ETPS,” focusing on educators and researchers. New programs for 2008 included a training course titled “MPA 101,” hosted by the University of the South Pacific, the International Ocean Institute and U.S. Embassy in Fiji. A workshop titled “How is Your MPA Managed?” was also held in Barcelona, Spain, as a pre-conference workshop to the World Conservation Congress.



Photo: Elizabeth Moore

ONMS Co-Chairs IMCC/IMPAC2 Steering Committee

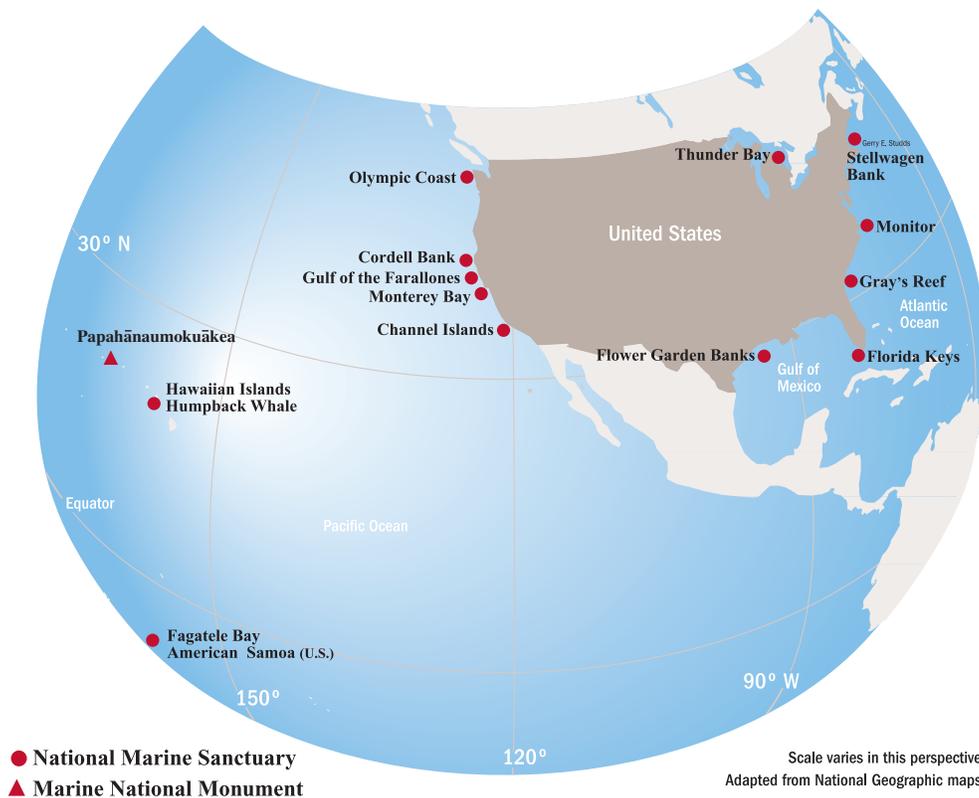
The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, along with the National MPA Center, is co-chairing the steering committee for the second International Marine Protected Area Conference (IMPAC2), which is part of the International Marine Conservation Congress that will be held at George Mason University in May 2009 in Fairfax, Va. IMPAC2 follows the first IMPAC, held in Geelong, Australia, in 2005. In addition to four days of individual papers, speed presentations, workshops and symposia, IMPAC2 will include a pre-conference training opportunity called “MPA U,” a seminar on MPAs and the arts, and an MPA reception during the conference.



Photo: Ed Lindstedt

Sanctuaries Go to Barcelona

In October 2008, thousands of conservation professionals, researchers, interest groups and students met in Barcelona, Spain, at the World Conservation Congress. Four staff members from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, along with other NOAA colleagues, met to share experiences, learn from international colleagues, maintain ties to current partners, and lay the foundation for future partnerships and projects.



ONMS Leads Effort for First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas

A group of marine mammal and MPA experts, led by Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary staff, formed a steering committee that is developing the First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA). The ICMMPA will be held in Hawaii in late March 2009, and will feature such themes as: “Establishing Linkages and Maintaining Communication between MPAs”; “Tools for Establishing, Evaluating and Adapting Marine Mammal MPAs”; and “The Role of Traditional Culture in Design and Implementation.” The conference will also include a number of training sessions designed to be of practical use to managers.

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

