

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2022

One of the largest conservation areas in the world, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument protects more than 580,000 square miles of the Pacific Ocean. The monument's coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals include some of the healthiest coral reefs in the U.S. and support dynamic habitats containing a diversity of fish, coral, birds, marine mammals, and other flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the Hawaiian Archipelago.



Partnership expands Native Hawaiian participation in Expeditions

The Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group and Ocean Exploration Trust continued to build an equitable and inclusive partnership transforming research to honor indigenous knowledge and increasing indigenous participation in ocean sciences. This partnership has led to increased engagement with Hawaiian language immersion schools, created culturally-grounded educational content in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language), and a NOAA webinar. These initiatives have also demonstrated a serious commitment to equally valuing indigenous science and participation to cultivate a collective understanding of the monument as a biocultural seascape.

Nomenclature Group Names New Species

As a group of Native Hawaiian kūpuna (elders), researchers, cultural practitioners, educators, and community members who have deep connections and historical ties to Papahānaumokuākea, the Native Hawaiian Nomenclature working group helps to create Hawaiian names for newly discovered species as an important step towards honoring Hawaiian traditions and knowledge systems. Most recently, this partnership honored the highly respected community and conservation leader, Laura Kalaukapu Thompson by using her Hawaiian name as the formal scientific epithet for new species of red algae, *Croisettea kalaukapuae*.



An intern on an E/V Nautilus expedition in Papahānaumokuākea. Photo: Ocean Exploration Trust.



Live, freshly collected specimen of *Croisettea kalaukapuae*. Photo: NOAA

Mokupāpapa Discovery Center Reopening

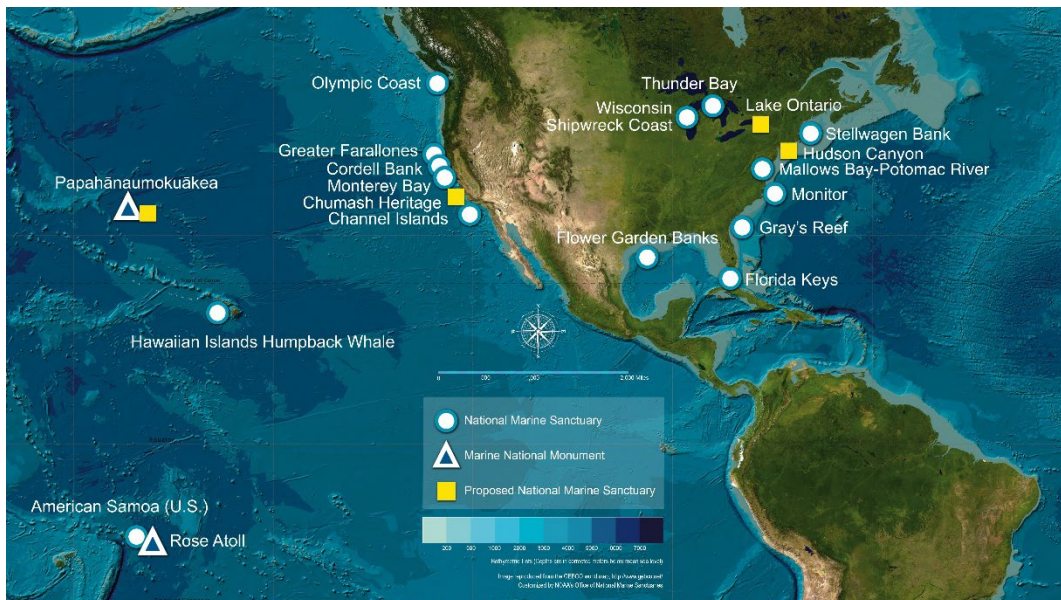
The Papahānaumokuākea Mokupāpapa Discovery Center reopened in June, and over 16,000 visitors have since enjoyed refreshed and new attractions. As part of the reopening, a new Kenyan K. Beals Community Robotics Center was dedicated and a new cooperative partnership with the Multiscale Environmental Graphics Laboratory (MEGA) Lab at University of Hawai'i, Hilo was developed to highlight their cutting-edge technology used to study and conserve coral reefs. With over \$100,000 of external funding invested in the center by these two partnerships, local mentors are finding new and innovative opportunities to inspire students to follow pathways in marine science and related fields. A partnership with three other Downtown Hilo museums, called Museum Square, was also formed which provides an interpretive trail through downtown Hilo, quarterly community events, and culturally based activities for families.



Over 350 people attended the dedication ceremony for the Kenyan K. Beals Community Robotics Center. Photo: NOAA

Looking Ahead

- NOAA plans to hold public hearing meetings during the upcoming year to gather public input on the draft documents to support the sanctuary designation process of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.
- Papahānaumokuākea will continue to support ongoing field and lab research on the newly discovered invasive alga, *Chondria tumulosa*, which was first observed in 2019 at Manawai (Pearl and Hermes Atoll), where it formed mats in excess of 10,000 square meters each, smothering all native benthic life.



The National Marine Sanctuary System is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The network includes a system of 15 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.