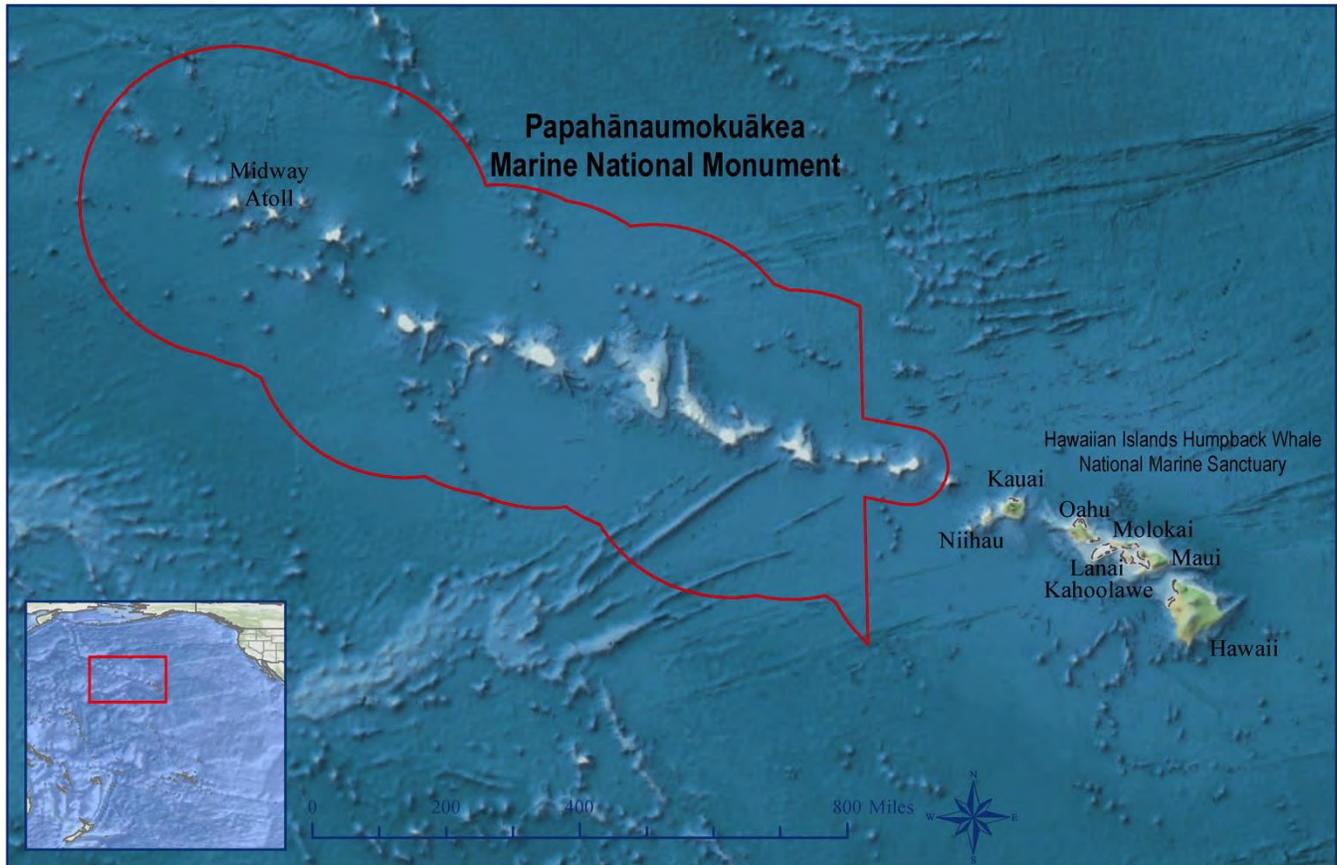


FY17 Accomplishments



BACKGROUND

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is one of the largest conservation areas in the world, protecting more than 580,000 square miles of the Pacific Ocean. The coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals of the monument include some of the healthiest coral reefs in the U.S. and provide an amazing geological record of the area. The monument supports a dynamic habitat containing an incredible diversity of coral, fish, birds, marine mammals, and other flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the Hawaiian Archipelago.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is part of the National Marine Sanctuary System, which is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. National marine sanctuaries are managed for the conservation of their natural and cultural resources, while supporting sustainable recreation, tourism and compatible commercial activities. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and **Papahānaumokuākea** and **Rose Atoll** marine national monuments.



Photo: Greg McFall/NOAA

Prognathodes basabei is a new species of butterflyfish found in the monument's "coral reef twilight zone."



Photo: Jamie Makasobe

A Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner sounds the pū (conch shell trumpet) at Nihoa Island.



Photo: Tane Casserley/NOAA

A NOAA maritime archaeologist investigates an anchor at the *Two Brothers* shipwreck site at French Frigate Shoals.

Two new species of deep reef fish discovered in Papahānaumokuākea

The Bishop Museum and NOAA scientists published a description of a new species of butterflyfish from Papahānaumokuākea's deep coral reefs. Live specimens of the butterflyfish, *Prognathodes basabei*, are on display at the Bishop Museum, Waikīkī Aquarium, and NOAA's Mokupāpapa Discovery Center. Scientists also published a description of a new species of deep-reef basslet, *Tosanoides obama*. This basslet was discovered by rebreather divers on a reef more than 300 feet deep in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs added as the monument's fourth Co-Trustee Hawai'i Governor David Ige, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), and U.S. secretaries of Interior and Commerce signed an updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that formally designated the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as a co-trustee of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. OHA's primary responsibility is representing the interests of the Native Hawaiian community, through the perpetuation of Hawaiian cultural resources. The revised agreement was the product of four months of hard work and negotiations by the Monument Management Board agencies.

Two Brothers shipwreck listed on the state and national registers of historic places. The Nantucket whaleship, *Two Brothers*, was accepted for listing in the State of Hawai'i Register of Historic Places in March and the National Register of Historic Places in August. *Two Brothers* had been commanded by the captain of *Essex* – the inspiration for *Moby-Dick* – and wrecked on a reef in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in February 1823. The shipwreck was rediscovered by NOAA archaeologists in 2008. It is the first shipwreck site in Papahānaumokuākea listed on the national register, and the first shipwreck site listed on the Hawai'i register.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Looking Ahead to FY18

- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument co-managers will continue developing a joint Management Plan.
- In 2018, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument will finalize the State of the Monument Report, a science-based assessment on the status and trends of key biological resources.
- The Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Plan will be finalized through a multi-stakeholder participatory process and will assess new approaches to combine western science and indigenous knowledge.