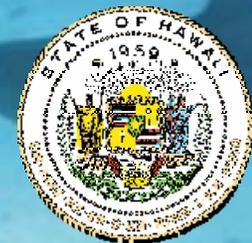


Papahānaumokuākea

MARINE NATIONAL  
MONUMENT

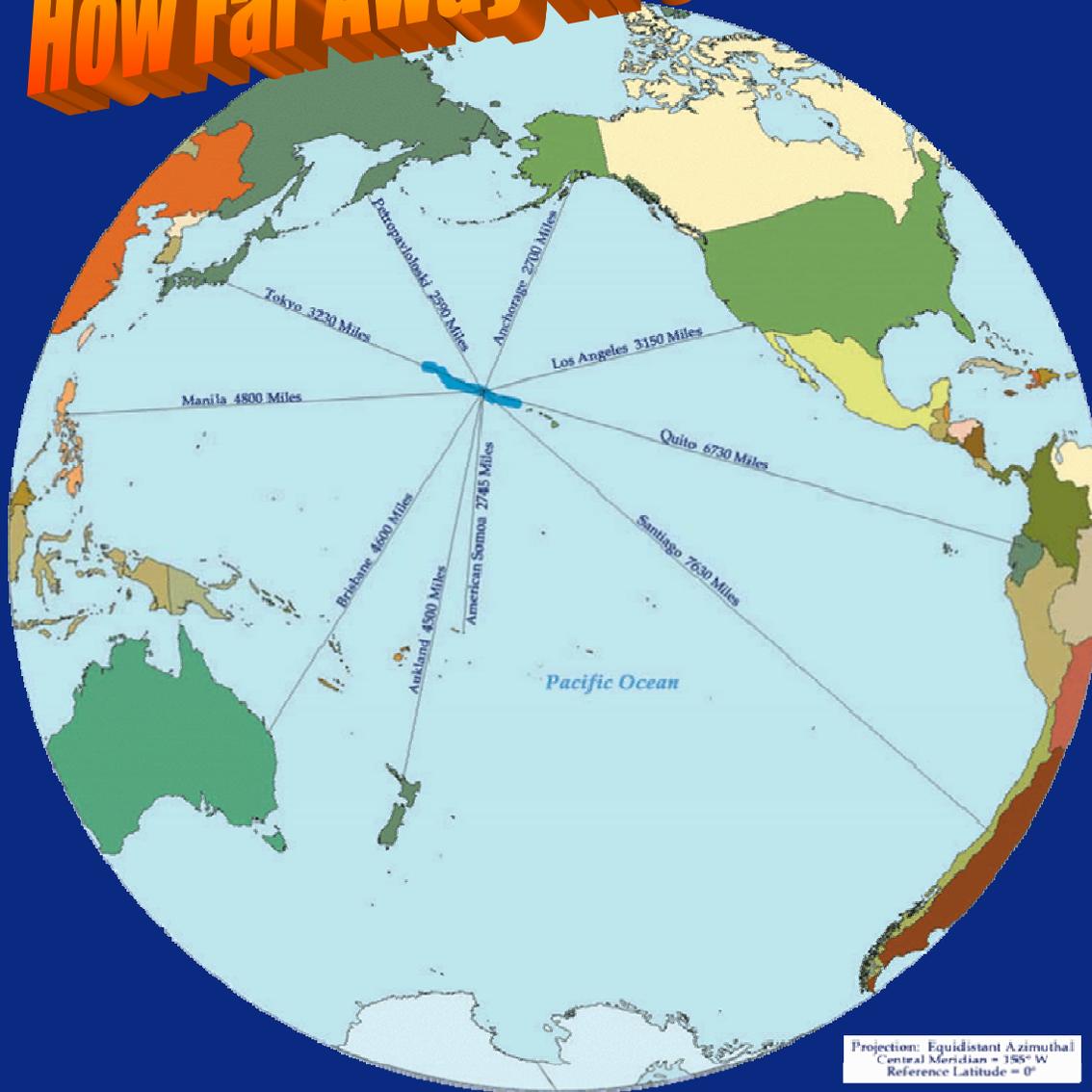


# A Global Treasure



**What and Where are the Northwestern  
Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)?**

# How Far Away Are You ?



Tokyo 3220 mi.

Petropovloloski 2590 mi.

Anchorage 2700 mi.

Quito 6730 mi.

Santiago 7630 mi.

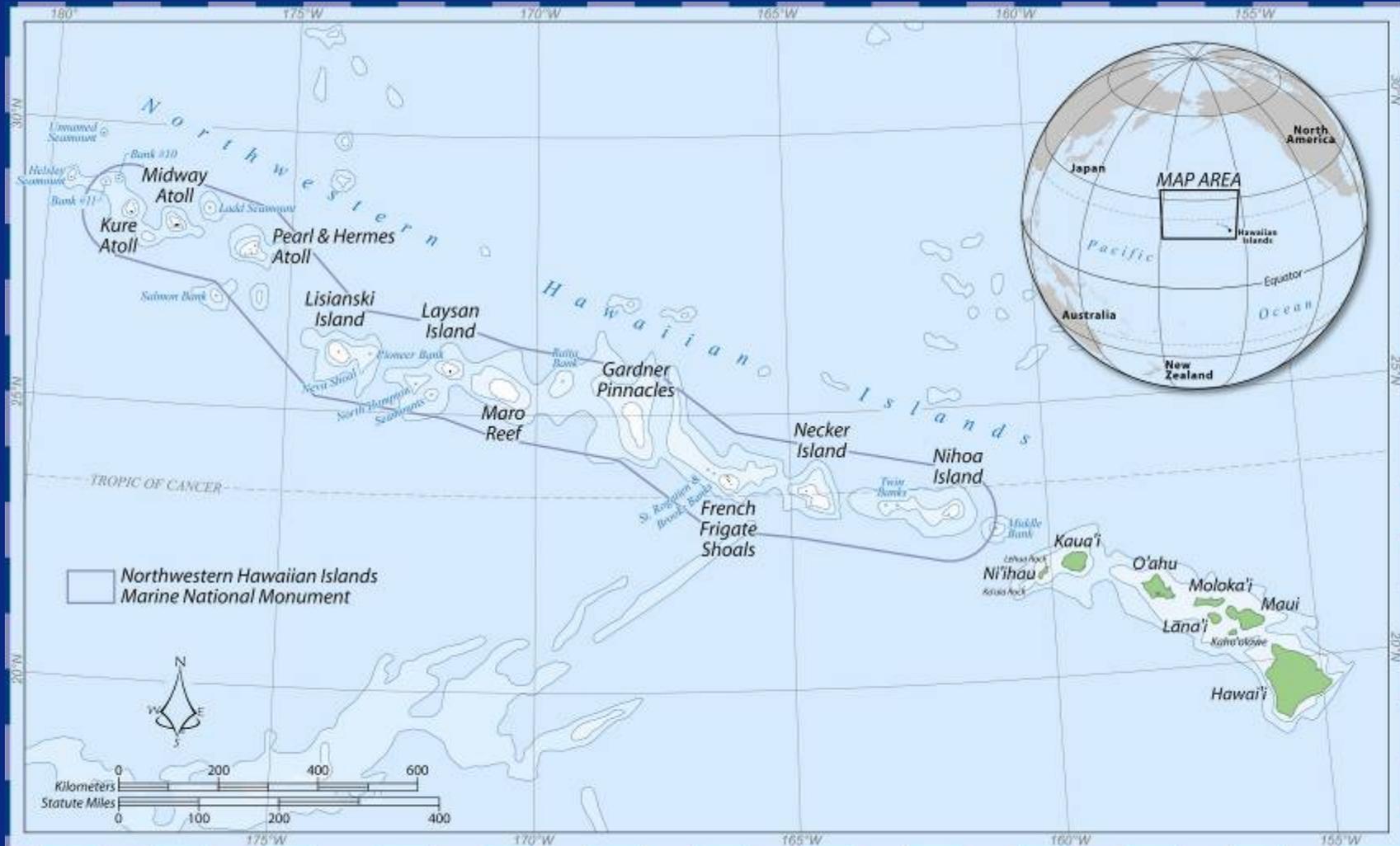
American Samoa 2745 mi.

Auckland 4500 mi.

Brisbane 4600 mi.

Manila 4800 mi.

# The NWHI Encompass 3/4 of the Hawaiian Archipelago



# A Pristine Ecosystem

At a time when the world's oceans face serious decline, the NWHI remain a grand oasis of life.

- Healthy and extensive coral reefs
- Safe nesting place for seabirds
- Healthy insect, plant and bird communities



## Sea of Life

- 7000 marine species, 25% endemic
- 90% of green sea turtles in Hawai'i nest in NWHI
- Nearly 100% of Hawaiian monk seal are found in NWHI



# Abundance on Land

Nesting ground for:

- 14 million seabirds

Home to:

- Three endangered land birds
- The world's rarest duck
- Six endemic plants on the Endangered Species Act



# A Monumental Region

- Last refuge for many species
- One of few remaining predator-dominated coral reef ecosystems
- Large predatory fish are 15 times as numerous as in the main Hawaiian Islands



# Nā Wahi Kūpuna

- Sacred place for Native Hawaiians
- Primordial darkness from which life springs and to which spirits return after death
- Hawaiians inhabited Nihoa for at least 700 years
- Numerous “wahi kūpuna” (ancestral sites)



# Maritime and Military Heritage

The NWHI are home to historic shipwreck sites.

- Approximately 120 ship and aircraft were lost in the NWHI
- Rare wrecks of whaling ships from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century

Midway Atoll is a significant military site.

- The pivotal Battle of Midway turned the tide of WWII
- The atoll was designated the National Memorial to the Battle of Midway in 2000



# Delicate Ecosystem



**Why do the Northwestern  
Hawaiian Islands need our help?**

# Remote But Not Immune

Despite their remote location and the absence of humans, the NWHI are still threatened.

## Major threats include:

- Alien Species
- Marine Debris
- Vessel Hazards
- Climate Change
- Illegal activities
- Cumulative effects



# History of Protection

- **1909:** President Theodore Roosevelt established the Hawaiian Islands Reservation which later became the Hawaiian Islands NWR
- **1976:** Congress created the 200 mile EEZ
- **1988:** Midway Atoll NWR established
- **1996:** Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary established
- **2000:** President Clinton established the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
- **2005:** Hawai'i Governor Lingle created a State Marine Refuge
- **2006:** June 15, President GW Bush created the NWHI Marine National Monument



# Public Input

Public input from a 5-year sanctuary designation process

Over 100 public meetings and 52,000 comments

Draft management plan for the region developed for the proposed sanctuary

Plan serves as foundation for Monument management



# Meeting the Challenge



**What is a monument?**

# What's the big deal?

Unprecedented protection

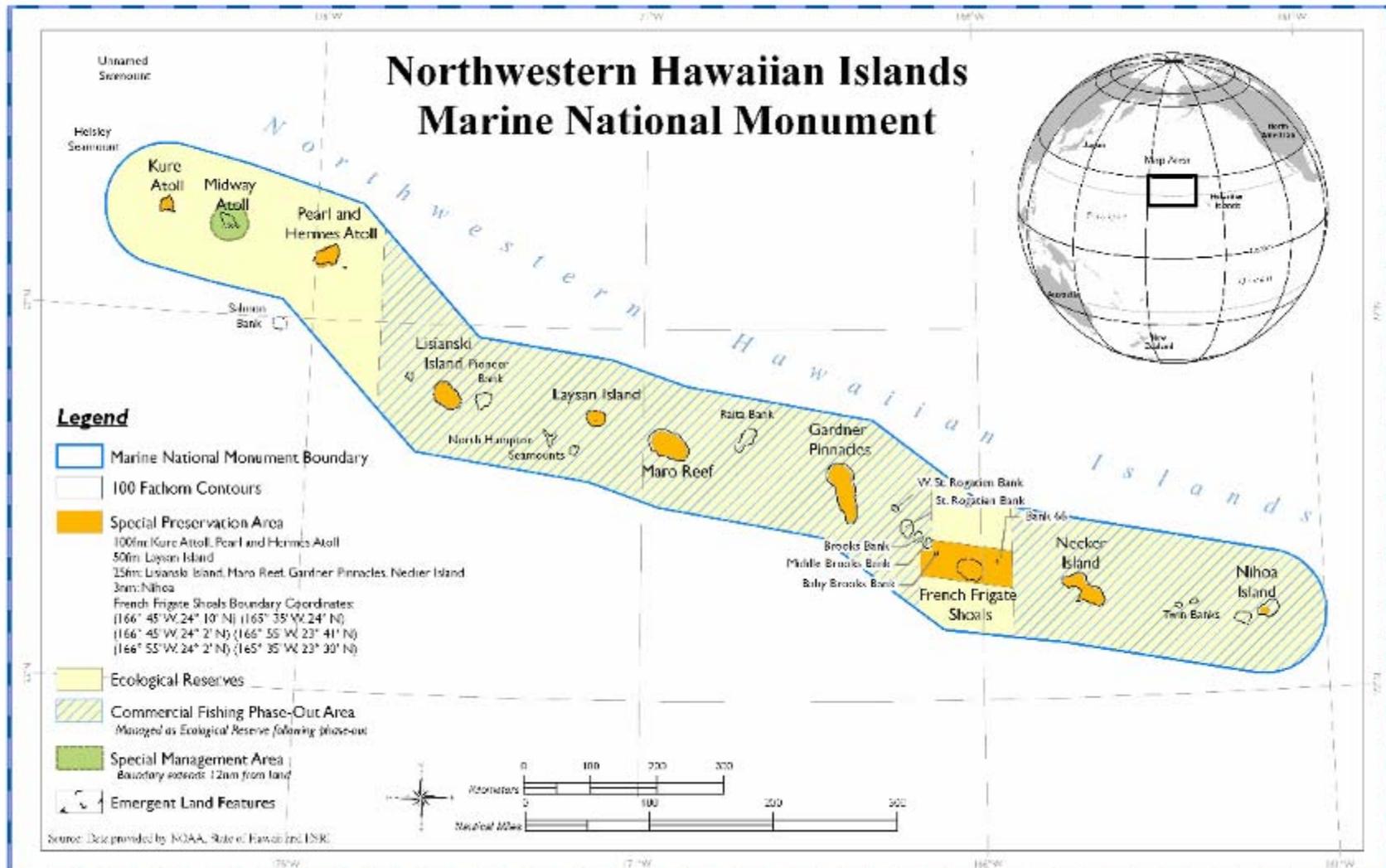
Significant step for marine conservation

Preserves land-sea connections

“Our duty is to use the land and seas wisely,  
or sometimes not use them at all.”



# Zones of Protection



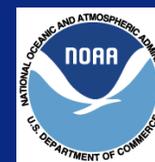
# Coordinated Management



How will it work?

# Memorandum of Agreement

- Signed Dec. 8, 2006 by State of Hawaii, Department of Interior and Department of Commerce
- First step in formalizing agreements
- Establishes objectives and responsibilities necessary for coordinated management



# Cooperative Conservation

- Federal and state agencies have worked for decades to conserve and manage NWHI resources
- Co-trustees:
  - Department of Commerce
  - Department of Interior
  - State of Hawai'i
- Monument Management Board
  - Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources
  - State of Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - NOAA



# Management Highlights

The monument will:

- Preserve access for Native Hawaiian cultural activities
- Provide for carefully regulated educational and scientific activities
- Enhance visitation in a special area around Midway Atoll
- Prohibit unauthorized access to the monument
- Phase out commercial fishing over a five-year period
- Ban other types of resource extraction and dumping of waste



# Key Management Initiatives

- Coordinated permitting and tracking system
- Enhanced enforcement
- Research to inform management
- Threat reduction and restoration
- Coordinated field operations
- Public education and outreach
- International partnerships



# Permits and Access

All activities within the monument are regulated and will require a permit

Notification is required for domestic vessels passing through without interruption

Permits are issued in six categories:

- Conservation and Management
- Education
- Native Hawaiian Practices
- Research
- Special Ocean Use
- Recreation (within the Midway Atoll Special Management area)



# Challenge & Opportunity Ahead



**What's Next?**

## What's Next?

- **Completion of management plan**
- **Development of enforcement capacity**
- **Enhanced visitor opportunities at Midway**
- **Management-driven science plan to guide research**
- **Building international partnerships**
- **World Heritage nomination**



## In Closing

Protecting this area allows us to:

- **Affirm that there should be places set aside**
- **Foster unified ocean governance**
- **Enable meaningful involvement of the Native Hawaiian community**
- **Conduct innovative marine research**
- **Apply the principles of ecosystem-based management**





[www.hawaiireef.noaa.gov](http://www.hawaiireef.noaa.gov)

# Hawaiian Naming Ceremony

