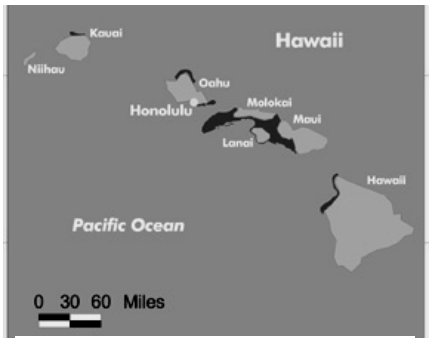
# Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

- **Year Designated:** 1997
- **Size (area):** 1,370 square miles
- **Location:** Extends seaward from shore to 100-fathoms, includes areas around the islands of Maui, Lana`i, and Moloka`i, and parts of O`ahu, Kaua`i and the Big Island of Hawai'i
- **State Waters:** Includes 714 square miles
- **Purpose:** To (1) protect humpback whales and their habitat; (2) educate and interpret for the public the relationship of humpback whales to the Hawaiian Islands marine environment; (3) manage human uses of the Sanctuary consistent with the designation and [the National Marine Sanctuaries Act]; and (4) provide for the identification of marine resources and ecosystems of national significance for possible inclusion in the Sanctuary.
- **Fully-Protected Areas:** None
- **Date Management Plan Issued:** 1997, reviewed in 2002
- **Date of Management Plan Review:** The management plan is scheduled to undergo a second review in 2007.



Map credit: Humpback Whale NMS

**Sanctuary Website:** http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/
**Sanctuary Regulations:** 15 C.F.R. § 922, Subpart Q

**Examples of Research and Monitoring Activities in the Sanctuary:**

- SPLASH (Structure of Populations, Levels of Abundance, and Status of Humpbacks), an international cooperative research effort to understand the population structure, levels of abundance and status of humpback whales across the entire North Pacific, will take place from 2004 to 2007.
- A Research Plan and Program is being developed to: 1) improve understanding of the central North Pacific population of humpback whales and their wintering habitat; 2) address and resolve specific management concerns; and 3) coordinate and facilitate information exchange among various researchers and institutions, agencies and the public.

**Examples of Endangered and Threatened Species in the Sanctuary:**

| Endangered | Threatened |
|---|---|
| Humpback Whale | Green Sea Turtle |
| Hawaiian Monk Seal | Newell's Shearwater |
| Hawksbill Sea Turtle | |
| Hawaiian Petrel | |
| Short-tailed Albatross | |

**Summary of Regulation of Activities and Uses in**
**the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary**
(For full regulations, see 15 C.F.R. § 922 and contact the regulating agencies)

| Type of Use | Regulated by the Sanctuary (NMS) | | | | Examples of Other Regulating Agencies, States/Territories, or Laws (may not be comprehensive list) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Zoned (areas closed to this type of use) | Restricted | Prohibited | Comments | |
| Commercial Fishing | | | | Not regulated by NMS regulations | State of Hawaii, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council |
| Recreational Fishing | | | | Not regulated by NMS regulations | State of Hawaii, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council |
| Bottom Trawling | | | | Not regulated by NMS regulations | State of Hawaii, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council |
| Collecting Aquarium Fish | | | | Not regulated by NMS regulations | State of Hawaii, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council |
| Aquaculture | | | | May be regulated under Discharges and Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor; Aquaculture in the NMS has been allowed in the past | State of Hawaii, Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Protection Agency |
| Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor | | | √ | | |
| Seabed cables or devices | | | | Not regulated by NMS regulations | Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Army Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, FCC |
| Exploring for, Developing, or Producing Oil and Gas | | | | May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor | Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act |
| Exploring for, Developing or Producing Other Minerals | | | | May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor | Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act |
| Removal/Damage of Natural Resources | | √ | | Take of humpback whales or possession of any part of a humpback whale is prohibited | |
| Removal/Damage of Cultural or Historical Resources | | | | Not regulated by NMS regulations | Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 |
| Overflights | | √ | | Restricted to at least 1000 feet above any humpback whale | Marine Mammal Protection Act |
| Use of motorized watercraft | | √ | | Restricted to more than 100 yards from a humpback whale; State regulations are more restrictive | State of Hawaii, Marine Mammal Protection Act |
| Underwater Noise | | | | Not regulated by NMS regulations | Marine Mammal Protection Act |
| Discharging or Depositing Material Within the NMS | | | √ | | U.S. Coast Guard |
| Discharging or Depositing Material Outside the NMS that Might Injure NMS Resources | | | √ | | U.S. Coast Guard |

**Other Regulations:** The Sanctuary does not issue permits, instead working within the existing permit processes of other Federal and State authorities. The Sanctuary's penalty schedule for violations of regulations protecting humpback whales is stricter than under the MMPA.