

# JARVIS ISLAND



Photo: Space Imaging

## KEY SPECIES

### *Birds*

Audubon's shearwaters  
Christmas shearwaters  
Wedge-tailed shearwaters  
Red-tailed tropicbirds  
Masked boobies  
Brown boobies  
Red-footed boobies  
Great frigatebirds  
Lesser frigatebirds  
Gray-backed terns  
Sooty terns  
Brown noddies  
Blue noddies  
White terns  
Polynesian storm petrels

### *Reptiles*

Green sea turtles  
(threatened)  
Hawksbill sea turtles  
(endangered)

### *Invertebrates*

48 stony coral species  
over 20 genera  
2 species of benthic  
cnidarians over 2  
genera  
11 species of macro-  
invertebrates other  
than cnidarians

### *Fish*

284 fish species over  
46 taxonomic  
families

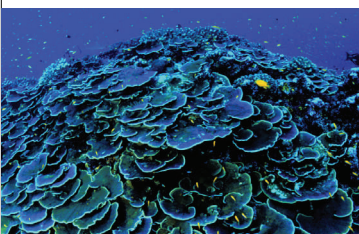


Photo: J E Maragos

## PROPOSAL

- Establish a National Monument that includes Jarvis Island and its surrounding waters
- Expand US Fish and Wildlife Service management authority from 3 to 12 nautical miles (nm)
- Manage the island and nearshore waters to 12 nm as a fully protected National Wildlife Refuge under authority of the Secretary of the Interior
- Establish appropriate conservation measures to protect and conserve the wildlife in the waters and on the seafloor surrounding the fully protected refuge, in particular shallow and deepwater corals, large predatory fishes, and seabirds. This zone from 12 to 200 nautical miles would be managed by the Secretary of Commerce acting through NOAA

## IMPORTANCE

- Elimination of rats, goats, mice, and cats by the FWS in 1990 led to the dramatic rise in the numbers of seabirds; 15 species of breeding seabirds is second only to Kiritimati Atoll in the Central Pacific Islands
- Supports communities of deep water corals at depths greater than 1000 meters
- Refuge for resident and migratory fish and wildlife including one of the largest sooty tern colonies, estimated at over one million individuals
- Strong cultural value for the early history of Polynesians and Micronesians
- Exploited for guano and phosphate rock deposits in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Jarvis Island encompasses approximately 1,100 acres of emergent reef and land and 36,342 acres of submerged lands. Jarvis Island and surrounding waters out to 3 nautical miles are currently managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Pacific Remote Island Area Refuge Complex, and is currently closed to all uses.

Jarvis Island is home to a wide variety of seabirds including a large population of breeding seabirds. Jarvis Island is also known for high diversity and density of fish species in surrounding waters including a large variety of shark species such as gray reef sharks, blacktip reef sharks, whitetip reef sharks, silvertip sharks, scalloped hammerhead sharks, and great hammerhead sharks.

## THREATS

- Localized upwelling around the island attracts illegal foreign commercial fishermen
- Potential shipwrecks, groundings, and oil spills from commercial fishing vessels in refuge waters
- Potential for transiting vessels to ground due to poor charts
- Lost fish aggregating devices (FADs) wash up on reefs and beaches as marine debris and entangle and kill wildlife; potential groundings by trespassing vessels retrieving FADs