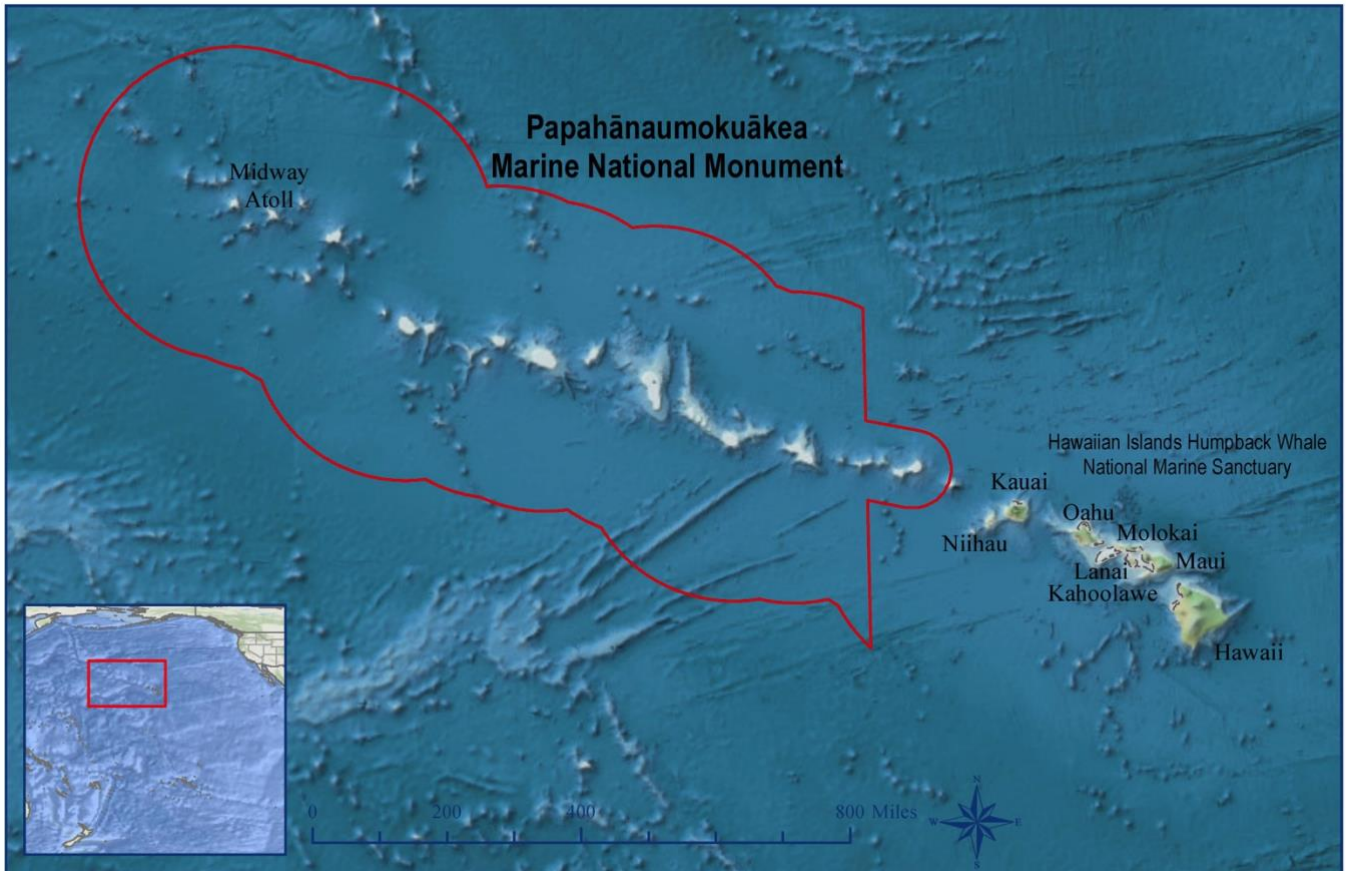




FY18 Accomplishments



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.

<http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/>

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument



Photo: Lormona Meredith, Polynesian Voyaging Society

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument staff celebrate World Oceans Day at Ko 'Olina.



Photo: U.S. Geological Survey

An ashy plume rises from Halema'uma'u crater at Kīlauea's summit on May 27, 2018. The base of the plume is about 2,000 ft wide.



Photo: Ocean Exploration Trust

An orange anglerfish was found below 2000 meters deep on Naifeh Seamount in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Thousands enjoy World Oceans Day festivities and premiere of 'ōlelo Hawai'i Moana

Thousands gathered on the sand for the second annual World Oceans Day event at Ko 'Olina Resort on the island of O'ahu to celebrate ocean conservation efforts, educational outreach, and awareness – and attend the world premiere of the 'ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) version of Walt Disney Animation Studio's "Moana." The event was a collaboration between Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and additional NOAA offices, Ko 'Olina Resort Association, Aulani - a Disney Resort & Spa, University of Hawai'i Academy for Creative Media System, University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, the Polynesian Voyaging Society, and other community partners.

Mokupāpapa Discovery Center partners with National Park Service

NOAA's Mokupāpapa Discovery Center on Hawai'i Island allows visitors to experience the culture and natural environment of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Mokupāpapa hosted a temporary national park center when eruptions of Kīlauea volcano destroyed over 700 homes and caused the closure of the majority of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Rangers and center staff presented over 130 eruption updates to the community and supported education programs for hundreds of school children over four months. The partnership-effort program served thousands of visitors and provided health and safety updates to the community.

"Enigmatic Seamounts" expedition explores expansion area

For 17 days, scientists and educators aboard E/V *Nautilus* mapped and explored 10 seamounts within Papahānaumokuākea's expanded boundary. The expedition garnered worldwide engagement with 24/7 live streaming of remotely operated vehicle (ROV) dives and 69 ship-to-shore interactions reaching more than 2,400 people in 15 U.S. states, American Samoa, and Mexico. Outreach efforts resulted in thousands of stories globally, including a video of a gulper eel that went viral with more than 2 million views in the first week!

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Looking Ahead to FY19

- The "Symposium on Science in Support of Archipelagic Management" will focus on terrestrial and marine ecosystem composition and function, natural resources monitoring, protected species research, conservation genetics, climate change biodiversity, and research techniques with presentations on archipelagos across the Pacific.
- The ethnography video project, "Voices of Papahānaumokuākea: Hawaiian Oral Histories on Cultural Heritage in Large Scale Marine Protection," will explore historical events and highlight the natural and cultural significance of Papahānaumokuākea from a Native Hawaiian perspective.
- The monument will finalize the Papahānaumokuākea State of the Monument report, a science-based assessment on the status and trends of key biological resources.

<http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/>