

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



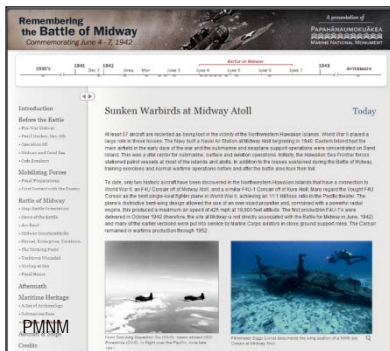
VISIT MIDWAY ATOLL VIA GOOGLE STREETVIEW

Thanks to a unique partnership between Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) and Google, the world can now tour the historic streets of Midway Atoll on Google Streetview. More than 9,200 panoramic images of 60 different natural and historic sites from Midway Atoll's three islands are now accessible on Google Maps and Google Earth, enabling people around the world to 'virtually' visit this unique remote wilderness. PMNM and Google staff captured nearly a terabyte of high resolution imagery using custom Google equipment and by peddling over 52 miles on the "Google Trike," which allows for image capture of roadways inaccessible by car.



FIRST CLOSED-CIRCUIT REBREATHER TRAINING IN NOAA

PMNM technical divers hosted NOAA's first official training in the use of closed-circuit rebreathers. Utilization of this advanced technology is critical to understanding the expansive deep coral ecosystem that exists between normal diving depths and 150 meters. Unexplored until now, research and monitoring in this fascinating region will provide invaluable insight into not only the marine life that inhabits the deep reef, but also the impacts of climate change and the spread of alien and invasive species, two of the primary threats to maintaining a resilient and healthy ocean.



BATTLE OF MIDWAY COMMEMORATED WITH WEBSITE

In collaboration with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Papahānaumokuākea launched a new website that explores the Battle of Midway through timelines, images, stories and maps. The website was unveiled alongside the new Battle of Midway exhibit in Midway Atoll's Visitor Center on June 4, 2012. Unveiling occurred during memorial activities observing the 70th anniversary of the historic air and sea battle that changed the course of WWII in the Pacific. The event was attended by several Battle of Midway veterans, both U.S. and Japanese.

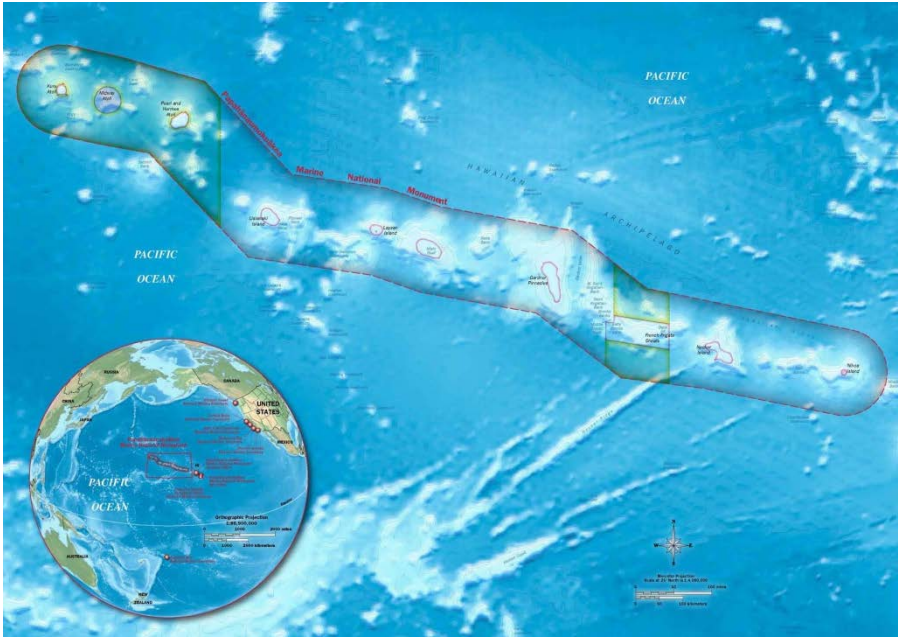


ONMS PARTNERSHIPS RAISE INTERNATIONAL PROFILE

Through innovative international agreements and collaborations, 2012 proved to be a high-profile year for PMNM. The site was asked to serve on the advisory committee for UNESCO's Marine World Heritage Programme; led a delegation to Rapa Nui (Easter Island) as part of a burgeoning relationship with Chile; participated in a World Heritage expert delegation to the Marquesas Islands; and was featured at 10 workshops, presentations and events at the World Conservation Conference in Jeju, Korea. Through *Big Ocean: A Network of the World's Large-Scale Marine Managed Areas* (founded by PMNM in 2010) PMNM led the development of a first-ever shared research agenda for member sites.

LOOKING AHEAD

- In May 2013, Papahānaumokuākea will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its Mokuāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo with several new interpretive exhibits, including the Bishop Museum's underwater virtual reality game. Since opening in 2003, the Center has hosted over half a million visitors from all over the world.
- Based on extensive input from local cultural practitioners, and as required by its Management Plan, Papahānaumokuākea will complete and begin implementation of its Native Hawaiian Plan, with the goal of ensuring Native Hawaiian culture and practices are integrated across all site management programs and activities.
- Though operating on a 15 year Management Plan, PMNM will be conducting its required five year Management Plan Review in 2013. ONMS will be coordinating input from, and review by, the Monument's seven co-managing agencies to ensure effective and adaptive management of the NWHI.



Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) was created by Presidential Proclamation as the country's first Marine National Monument. With a specific aim to protect both the natural and indigenous cultural heritage of the vast 140,000 square mile area, PMNM has become a globally recognized, best practice model for the governance and management of large-scale, remote marine ecosystems. The monument encompasses a multitude of marine habitats including seamounts, abyssal plains, epipelagic oceanic waters, and the country's only true atolls. Native species abound, but in deep waters, coral reef fish communities are over 90% endemic – the highest recorded level of endemism from any marine ecosystem. With a focus on connecting land, people and the sea, PMNM has renewed an understanding of 'āina momona (abundance) – serving as a reminder of what the world's oceans were once like before the global baseline of wellness shifted. Established June 15, 2006.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. For more information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>