



Papahānaumokuākea Research and Conservation Fund

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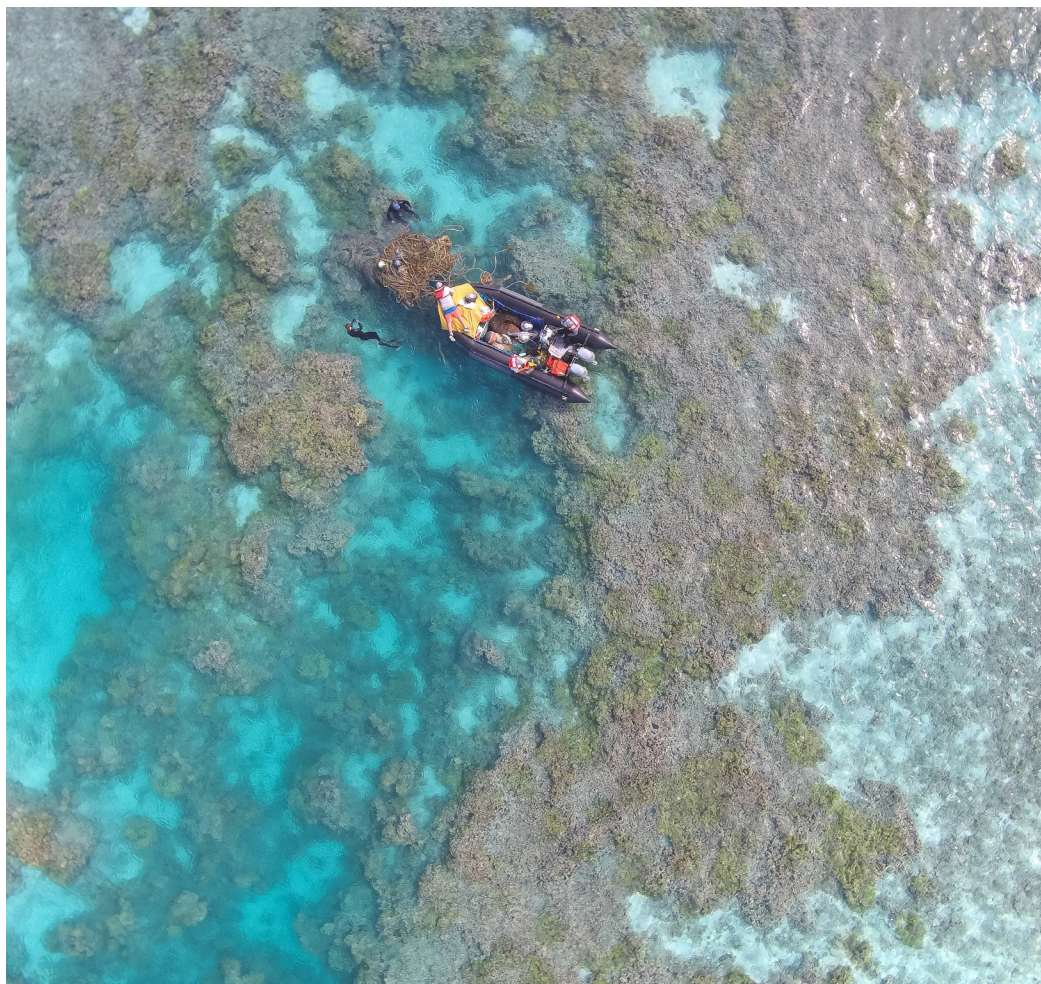
ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Removing marine debris at Papahānaumokuākea | Credit: Steven Gnam, JIMAR/NOAA PIFSC

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and NOAA's Office of Marine Sanctuaries announced funding in support of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument through a special initiative of the Hawaii Conservation Landscape Program. One million dollars in funding was awarded to increase the capacity to conserve the wildlife and habitats of the Monument. The six awards announced leveraged more than \$3 million in matching funds from the grantees to generate a total conservation impact of over \$4 million.

The Papahānaumokuākea Research and Conservation Fund seeks to advance the management of the remote island archipelago of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands with a focus on the interconnectivity of these marine island systems and their adaptability to environmental stressors. The 2020 slate also addresses two recent events in the Monument, an outbreak of a highly invasive and impactful algae, and significant destruction from Hurricane Walaka.

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Laysan albatross

The following six projects directly implement the five initial priorities for the Fund, set by the locally based Advisory Committee, to address critical management questions and actions to benefit wildlife and habitat in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument:

- 1) Increase management capacity** to assess and respond to potential impacts of predicted environmental stressors such as ocean acidification and sea level rise on wildlife and their habitats
- 2) Characterize unexplored habitat** like the deep mesophotic zone to evaluate importance of these habitats to the food web and as potential refugia
- 3) Decrease the impacts of marine debris** to wildlife and habitat from entanglement, ingestion and scouring
- 4) Explore new innovations** like autonomous vehicles as a way to increase management capacity in remote environments
- 5) Support shared marine and terrestrial goals** such as restoration of native species and translocation of species impacted by sea level rise to safer areas within the Monument

Equipping Albatross with Radar-Detecting Tags to Monitor Fishing Around Papahānaumokuākea (HI)

Grantee: Oregon State University

Grant Amount:\$216,904

Matching Funds:\$363,298

Total Project:\$580,202

Deploy radar-detecting tracking devices on breeding black-footed and Laysan albatrosses at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge to determine the frequency of vessel encounters and potential drivers of albatross-fisheries associations within and outside the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Project will allow managers to infer and mitigate the potential bycatch risk to breeding albatrosses, thus furthering conservation goals for the species, and increase monitoring of illegal fishing.

Community Engagement Programing for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Discovery Center (HI)

Grantee: National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Grant Amount:\$200,491

Matching Funds:\$230,500

Total Project:\$430,991

Provide dedicated cultural programming at the Mokupapapa Discovery Center and other Hawaii based education centers to nurture and strengthen connections

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Reef fish in Papāhānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | Credit: Andrew Gray

with the remote ocean wilderness of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Project will create exhibits, host public outreach events and use social media to highlight the ecological and cultural resources of the Monument and spotlight the work that is being supported to protect them.

Marine Debris Removal from Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (HI)

Grantee: Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project
 Grant Amount:\$299,629
 Matching Funds:\$1,953,958
 Total Project:\$2,253,587
 Mitigate hazards to protected species and coral reef habitat of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument through large-scale marine debris removal from the coral reefs and shorelines. Project will remove an estimated 240,000 pounds of derelict fishing gear and plastics, restoring 1,300 acres of coral reef habitat and 400 acres of shoreline habitat.

Responding to Invasive Species and Hurricane Walaka Impacts in the Papahānaumokuākea (HI)

Grantee: University of Hawaii
 Grant Amount:\$299,891
 Matching Funds:\$306,021
 Total Project:\$605,912
 Increase conservation and management capacity for mitigating the impacts of an invasive species outbreak and hurricane damage at two locations in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Project will evaluate the potential management/control options for the invasive red alga outbreak at Pearl and Hermes Atoll and recommend monitoring and management actions for reefs and island

habitats at French Frigate Shoals damaged by Hurricane Walaka.

Discovering Deepwater Habitats and Species in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (HI)

Grantee: University of Hawaii at Manoa
 Grant Amount:\$122,460
 Matching Funds:\$73,419
 Total Project:\$195,879
 Establish an online catalog of deep-sea habitats and species of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to increase management understanding of the resources of these remote environments. Project will combine animal records from 284 submersible dives conducted in deep-sea habitats into a single, standardized dataset and create an animal identification guide and interactive web map.

Understanding the Impacts of the Invasive Alga to Support Management of Papahānaumokuākea (HI)

Grantee: College of Charleston
 Grant Amount:\$120,000
 Matching Funds:\$120,000
 Total Project:\$240,000
 Understand and mitigate the effects of the invasive alga at Pearl and Hermes Atoll in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Project will determine its current distribution in the Monument, ecological impact on diversity at multiple scales, assess its population dynamics, describe and model its physiological characteristics in cooperation with oceanographic phenomena, and develop best management practices for removal.