



# Papahānaumokuākea Research and Conservation Fund

## NFWF CONTACT

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## PARTNER



## 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, foundation and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Convict tangs graze along finger coral in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

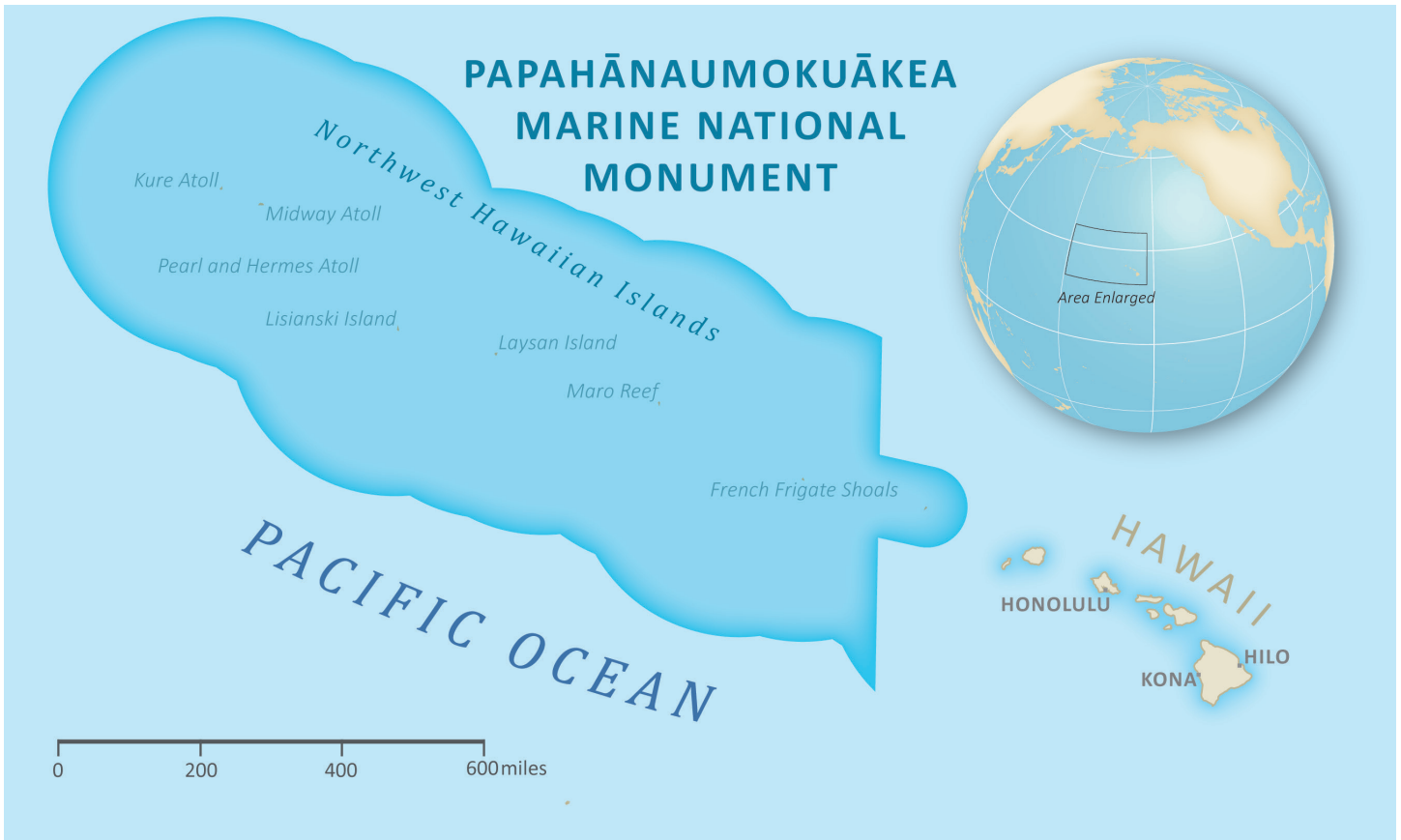
| Credit: Claire Fackler, CINMS, NOAA

## BACKGROUND

The Papahānaumokuākea Research and Conservation Fund (PRCF) was established by the U.S. Congress in 2018 to advance the management of the remote island archipelago of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, with a focus on the interconnectivity of these marine and island systems and their adaptability to environmental stressors. The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument was established in 2006 to protect this geography and is made up of 1,350 miles of coral islands, seamounts, banks and shoals supporting a variety of coral, fish, birds, marine mammals, sea turtles and other flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the Hawaiian Island chain.

In its first five years, the PRCF has invested more than \$5.4 million across 13 projects, leveraging more than \$4.5 million in support of the Monument's natural resources for a total conservation impact of nearly \$10 million. Major funding is provided by NOAA's Office of Marine Sanctuaries and the Benioff family.

*(continued)*



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The fund focuses on five initial strategies set by a Hawaii-based Advisory Committee to address critical management needs:

- Increase management capacity to respond to potential impacts of predicted environmental stressors
- Understand the role of deep water habitats to the food web and as potential refugia
- Decrease the impacts of marine debris to wildlife and habitat
- Explore new innovations for working in remote environments

- Support shared marine and terrestrial goals across management agencies such as restoration of native species and translocation of species impacted by sea level rise

The fund's investments are provided to support management across the Monument, however an initial focus has been placed at French Frigate Shoals as a hot spot for endangered wildlife within the Monument and a case study for addressing management challenges and threats that are found throughout its boundaries.



Monk seal and green sea turtles | Credit: Koa Matsuoka



Marine debris at French Frigate Shoals | Credit: Koa Matsuoka