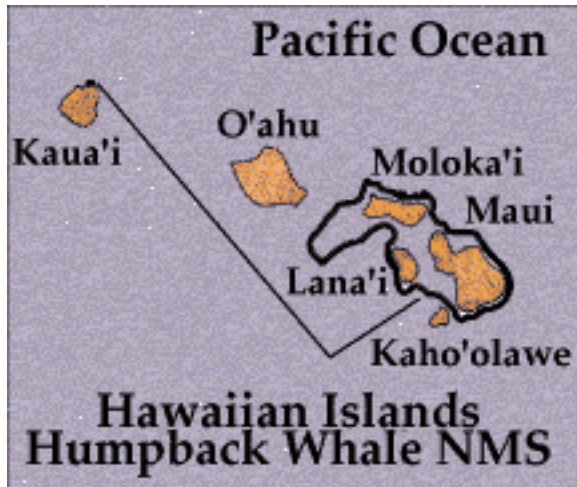


## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale

(Hawaii)



### Description:

The shallow, warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands constitute one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats. Scientists estimate that two-thirds of the entire North Pacific humpback whale population migrate to Hawaiian waters each winter to engage in breeding, calving, and nursing activities. The continued protection of humpback whales and their habitat is crucial to the long-term recovery of this endangered species.

---

### Habitats and Key Species

#### **Habitats**

Humpback whale breeding, calving, & nursing grounds  
Coral reefs  
Sandy beaches

#### **Key Species**

Humpback whale  
Pilot whale  
Hawaiian Monk seal

Spinner dolphin  
Green sea turtle  
Trigger fish  
Cauliflower coral  
Limu

---

### **Specifications**

**Location:** Within the 100-fathom isobath in the four-island area of Maui, Penguin Bank, and off Kilauea Point, Kauai

**Protected Area:** 1,300-square miles

**Designation:** November 1992

---

### **Education Activities**

Classroom and shipboard presentations

Educational displays, kiosks and videos

Sanctuary newsletter, brochures, pamphlets, and poster contest

Participation in community events

---

### **Research Activities**

Whale population and behavior studies

Support for graduate student whale research

Marine Option Program intern program

Research and management workshops

Volunteer water quality monitoring project on Maui

---

**Administration and Support**

Sanctuary staff on Maui, Oahu, and Kauai coordinate management and outreach activities

Sanctuary advisory council provides community participation in sanctuary management

Cooperative partnerships with other government and private sector organizations

Volunteer program

**Contact Address:**

726 South Kihei Road

Kihei, HI 96753

(808) 879-2818

(808) 874-3815 (fax)

Email: [hihwnms@ocean.nos.noaa.gov](mailto:hihwnms@ocean.nos.noaa.gov)