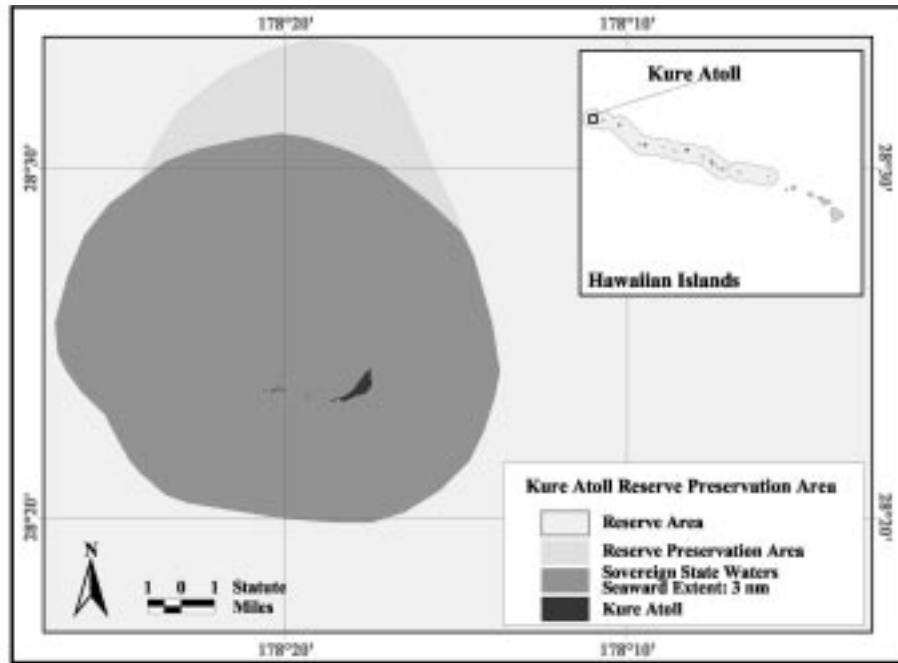


## Kure Atoll Reserve Preservation Area

### MAP



This reserve preservation area is approximated using fathoms (fm), but shall be represented in future maps by the Secretary using straight-line boundaries in longitude and latitude coordinates to clearly encompass the reserve preservation area and to provide clarity and ease of identification.

### RESERVE PRESERVATION AREA

The Reserve Preservation Area for Kure Atoll includes the waters and submerged lands from the seaward boundary of Hawaii state waters out to a mean depth of 100 fathoms.

### ENVIRONMENT

Kure Atoll is the northernmost coral atoll in the world. The atoll is nearly circular with a 6-mile (10 km) diameter, enclosing about 200 acres of emergent land. The outer reef almost completely encircles the atoll's lagoon except for passages to the southwest. The only permanent land in the atoll is crescent-shaped Green Island, located near the fringing reef in the southeastern part of the lagoon. Almost 80,000 acres of coral reef habitat are found at Kure.

Kure is a healthy growing atoll with diverse and abundant coral assemblages. Virtually all spur-and-groove formations are robust and healthy. At the north and northwest outer barrier reefs, the spur-and-groove habitat is widely separated and looks like rolling hills when compared to the steep canyons of Pearl and Hermes

Atoll. Some of Kure's lagoon reefs display exceptional coral development. Back reef environments also appear to support diverse and vigorous coral growth and provide strong evidence that the hard reef is growing.

Whereas coral cover is generally low, the atoll's coral diversity is as high as any other site except French Frigate Shoals. The combination of temperature, light constraints and water conditions at Kure all contribute to a flourishing reef environment and, like Midway and Pearl & Hermes Atolls, Kure is situated far enough north that it receives increased amounts of nutrients as the subtropical front migrates south during the winter.

Kure supports unique fish and dolphin populations while nurturing a breeding population of monk seals and many lobsters that occupy the well-circulated lagoon.

Derelict fishing gear and other types of marine debris are, however, having a major impact on the reefs and associated fauna of the Atoll. Over the past year, efforts have been undertaken to lessen the threat of this growing problem.