

## NWHI Reserve Preservation Areas

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As part of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve's designation, fifteen "Reserve Preservation Areas" were established. Within Reserve Preservation Areas, the Executive Order prohibits all consumptive uses, including taking or touching coral, and commercial and recreational fishing. Existing bottomfishing, and trolling for pelagic species by recreational and permitted bottomfishers, however, will be allowed to continue in 10 of the 15 Reserve Preservation Areas as described below. Through increased measures of protection, these areas will help to further protect the coral reef ecosystem and related marine resources and species of the Reserve.

### AREA DESCRIPTIONS

1. Reserve Preservation Areas extend from the seaward boundary of Hawaii State waters out to a mean depth of 100 fathoms at:

- **Nihoa Island**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue seaward of a mean depth of 25 fathoms, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment;
- **Necker Island**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue seaward of a mean depth of 25 fathoms, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment;
- **French Frigate Shoals**;
- **Gardner Pinnacles**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue seaward of a mean depth of 25 fathoms, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment;
- **Maro Reef**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue seaward of a mean depth of 25 fathoms, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment;
- **Laysan Island**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue seaward of a mean depth of 50 fathoms, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment;
- **Lisianski Island**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue seaward of a mean depth of 25 fathoms, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment;
- **Pearl and Hermes Atoll**; and
- **Kure Atoll**.

Reserve Preservation Areas also extend from 12 nautical miles around the approximate geographical centers of:

- **The first bank immediately east of French Frigate Shoals;**
- **Southeast Brooks Bank (the first bank immediately west of French Frigate Shoals),**

*provided that* the closure area shall not be closer than approximately 3 nautical miles of the next bank immediately west;

• **St. Rogatien Bank**, *provided that* the closure area shall not be closer than approximately 3 nautical miles of the next bank immediately east, provided that commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment;

Twelve nautical miles around the approximate geographical centers of:

• **The first bank west of St. Rogatien Bank (east of Gardner Pinnacles)**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue for a period of 5 years from the date of this order; and

• **Raita Bank**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue for a period of 5 years from the date of this order; and provided that both banks described above shall only continue to allow commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers after the 5-year time period if it is determined that continuation of such activities will have no adverse impact on the resources of these banks.

• **Pioneer Bank**, *provided that* commercial bottomfishing and trolling for pelagic species by recreational fishers and commercial bottomfishers shall be allowed to continue, unless and until the Secretary determines otherwise after adequate public review and comment.

## ADDITIONAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

1. In addition to the conservation measures articulated in the Executive Order, which are applicable to the entire Reserve, *the following activities are prohibited within the Reserve Preservation Areas* except as expressly otherwise stated;

- Commercial and recreational fishing;
- Anchoring where there are available mooring buoys or anchoring outside an available anchoring area when such an area has been designated by the Secretary;
- Any type of touching or taking of living or dead coral;
- Discharging or depositing any material or other matter except cooling water or engine exhaust;
- Such other activities the Secretary identifies after adequate public review and comment and after consideration of any advice and recommendations of the Reserve Council.

2. Notwithstanding the prohibitions in this paragraph, the Secretary may conduct, or authorize by permit, research, monitoring, education or management activities within any Reserve Preservation Area that further the Management Principles of the Executive Order.

3. The Reserve Preservation Areas are approximated using fathoms (fm), but shall be represented by the Secretary using straight-line boundaries in longitude and latitude coordinates to clearly encompass each Reserve Preservation Area and to provide clarity and ease of identification. The Secretary may make technical modifications to any such boundaries.

4. Native Hawaiian non-commercial subsistence, cultural, or religious uses may continue, to the extent consistent with existing law, within the Reserve and Reserve Preservation Areas. The Secretary shall work with Native Hawaiian interests to identify those areas where such Native Hawaiian uses of the Reserve's resources may be conducted without injury to the Reserve's coral reef ecosystem and related marine resources and species, and may revise the areas where such activities may occur after public review and comment, and consideration of any advice and recommendations of the Reserve Council.

This information can also be found on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Web site at: [hawaiiireef.noaa.gov](http://hawaiiireef.noaa.gov).