

## We Welcome Your Review and Comments

Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to:  
 Donald Palawski, Refuge Manager  
 Pacific Remote Islands NWRC  
 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231  
 Box 50167  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Or, comments may be e-mailed to:  
[FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov](mailto:FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov). Include "Pacific Island NWR CCP" in the subject line.

General information about Refuges and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available at:  
<http://www.fws.gov>.

You may review or request copies of the Draft CCPs/EAs at:  
 Pacific Remote Islands NWRC  
 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231  
 Box 50167  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Or the documents are available on the planning website at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>. Select the link for "Projects Online" then select "Howland Island, Baker Island, and Jarvis Island NWRs Comprehensive Conservation Plan" to view the Draft CCP/EA, and Planning Updates 1, 2, and 3. General information about CCP planning and other refuge planning efforts is also available on this site.



Pacific Remote Islands NWRC  
 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231  
 Box 50167  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

*Change of address requested.*

In this issue:  
 The Draft CCPs for Howland Island, Baker Island, and Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuges are available for review and comments.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Howland Island, Baker Island, and Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuges

*Planning Update 3, Summer 2007*



Photo: Masked boobies on Howland Island USFWS

*The Draft CCPs for Howland Island (pictured), Baker Island, and Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuges describe long-term management activities proposed for the refuges.*

## Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plans are Ready for Public Review and Comments

Since fall of 2005, we have worked on developing Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) and Environmental Assessments (EA) for Howland Island, Baker Island, and Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges). Members of Federal and State agencies, as well as members of the general public have offered constructive comments, which were incorporated into the draft documents.

In our last update, we indicated that planning documents for the Baker and Jarvis Island Refuges would follow Howland's Draft CCP. Instead, the Draft CCPs and EAs for all three refuges are now available for your review and comment. The deadline for comments is October 30, 2007. We would like to thank everyone for providing their knowledge and insight into this process to date.

## Are the Draft CCPs the Same for Each Refuge?

The Refuges are almost identical in their establishment purposes, wildlife and habitat resources, and management challenges and activities. The notable exception is the contaminant issue on Baker Island, and the need to quantify and remediate the site. Otherwise, the goals, objectives, and many management activities identified in the Draft CCPs apply at each refuge. In many cases

it would be impractical to have individual and independent management strategies, such as quarantine protocols, for visiting the islands. For these reasons, the CCPs' alternatives contain many similarities and are interdependent among the Refuges. Any characteristic unique to a refuge is described in its respective CCP.

**In This Update:**

Alternatives.....2  
 Planning Schedule.....2  
 Refuges Map.....insert  
 We welcome your review and comments..4

To obtain copies of the Draft CCPs, see page 4, or . . .

. . . the CCPs are available on the Internet at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/>

## What are the Alternatives?

Each of the Draft CCPs/EAs identify and evaluate four alternatives—A, B, C, and D—for managing the Refuges for the next 15 years. In each Draft CCP, the proposed action is to implement Alternative B. Alternative B would achieve the Refuges’ purposes, vision, and goals; contribute to the National Wildlife Refuge System mission; and at the same time, be cost efficient and practical to implement. The Refuges are currently closed to all public use activities and would remain closed under each alternative.

### Alternative A (No Action Alternative)

The No Action alternative provides a baseline from which to compare the other alternatives.

Management practices such as routine biological surveys, inspection of entrance signs, monitoring for the presence of invasive species, and collection of marine debris would continue. Visits occur once every 2 years and are dependent upon partner agencies and organizations.

### Alternative B

Alternative B is the Service’s Preferred Alternative. The frequency of the activities described in Alternative A would increase and occur annually. There would be no increase in the scope or complexity of management activities. Some additional management activities may include projects to attract two rare seabird →

species back to the Refuges using remotely operated electronic bird calls, and to conduct additional marine habitat exploration.

### Alternative C

A substantial increase in the duration of yearly visits, and increases to the scale and scope of management activities conducted during site visits, would occur. A chartered research vessel, crew, and their operational needs are required components of this alternative. Monitoring populations and habitats, restoring habitats, and other management activities could occur during a 4-month seasonal field camp. Deployment of the field camp at the Refuges would occur concurrently, which would allow for some biological comparisons

among the Refuges, but would not provide a complete understanding of annual cycles of the Refuges’ wildlife populations.

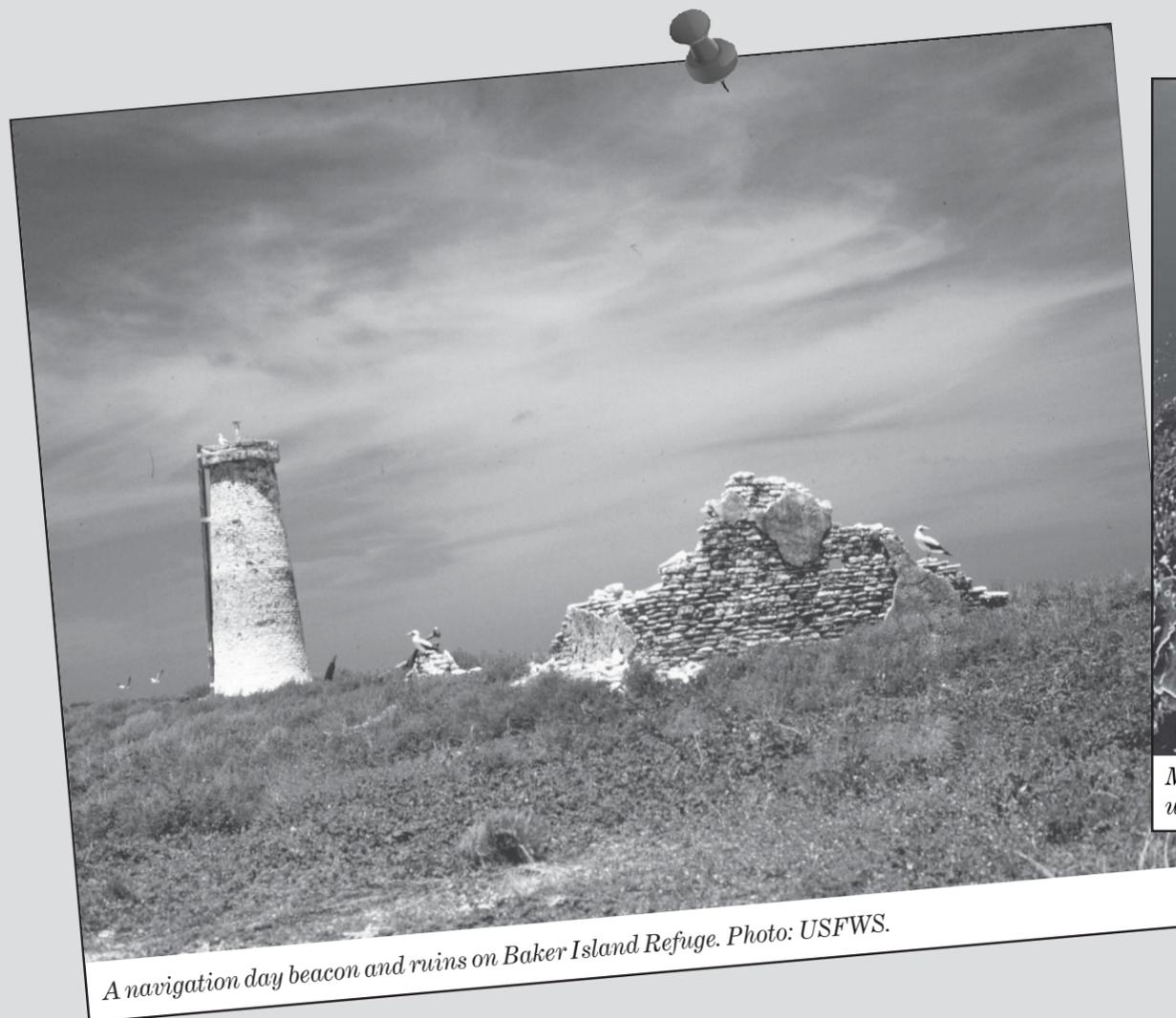
### Alternative D

A year-round field camp would be rotated among the Refuges. A Service-owned and operated vessel would be an integral and required component of this alternative. Surveys and monitoring efforts under this alternative would provide the greatest understanding and most effective management of refuge resources. Scientific research would be encouraged and enhanced, with the opportunity for the Refuges to serve as baseline sites for global climate change research.

## CCP Planning Schedule

Planning Step:	Target Date:
Planning Update 1.....	completed Summer 2005
Public Scoping Comments..	completed October 2005
Planning Update 2.....	completed Spring 2006
Planning Update 3.....	completed September 2007
Draft CCPs.....	comments due October 30, 2007
Distribution of final CCPs/EAs...	December 2007

*We will keep you informed if the target dates change as CCP planning progresses.*

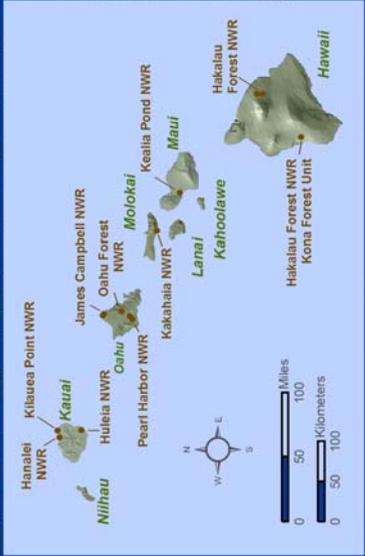
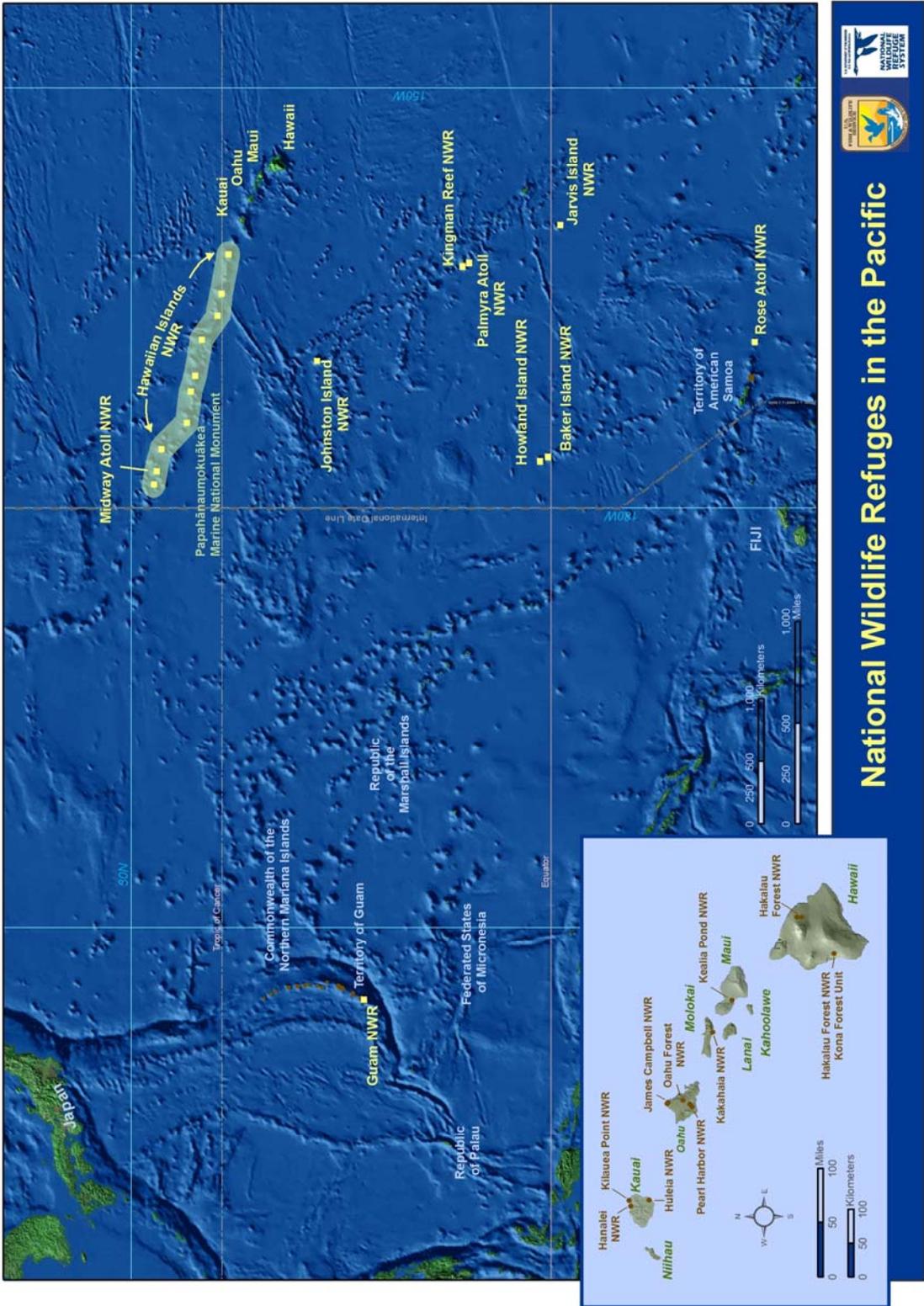


*A navigation day beacon and ruins on Baker Island Refuge. Photo: USFWS.*



*Management responsibilities at Jarvis Island Refuge extend into ocean waters within the Refuge’s boundary, including this coral reef. Photo: USFWS.*

Map of National Wildlife Refuges in the Pacific.



# National Wildlife Refuges in the Pacific