



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

*Planning Update 4, Fall 2008*

*The final CCPs provide for long-term management of the lands and waters of Howland Island, Baker Island, and Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuges. Photo: Reef fish / J. Maragos, USFWS*

## The Comprehensive Conservation Plans are Completed!

We are pleased to announce that the Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) for Baker Island, Howland Island, and Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges) have been completed and approved. Many dedicated people helped to develop and complete the CCPs, and we thank all of you who participated in our planning process and provided

valuable comments. Since the last planning update announcing the public comment period for the Draft CCPs and Environmental Assessments, the planning team responded to public comments and made revisions to the final CCPs.

The final CCPs were signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Director for the Pacific

Region on September 25, 2008. The CCPs will guide management of the Refuges for the next 15 years.

A copy of each CCP is available on the Internet at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>. Printed and compact disk copies are also available by contacting the Pacific Remote Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex at (808) 792-9550.

## What Happens Next?

As funding becomes available, management projects will be implemented as identified in the CCP.

**Native Species Recovery.** Establishing breeding pairs of Phoenix petrel and Polynesian storm-petrel is a high priority for each Refuge.

### **Inventory and Monitoring.**

Increasing baseline data on terrestrial habitats and marine communities, with an emphasis on coral reefs, fish, sea turtles, and seabird species, are high priorities under these CCPs.

### **Public Uses.**

To ensure the protection of nesting seabirds and sensitive coral reef habitats, and to maintain wilderness values, these refuges will remain closed to public uses and access, including commercial fishing.

## Summary of Public Comments on the Draft CCPs

The CCP Planning Team is grateful for the public comments we received during the 45-day public review and comment period for the draft CCPs. The drafts were released on September 18, 2007. A Planning Update summarizing the alternatives analyzed in the draft CCPs/EAs was distributed

to approximately 550 members of the public, nonprofit organizations, local, State and Federal agencies, and elected officials. The draft CCPs/EAs were distributed to about 190 individuals and organizations, and posted on Service's Pacific Region Website. Nine review comments were received during

the 45-day comment period. The comment summary is presented in Appendix H of each final CCP along with the Service's responses. A brief summary of the comments is provided in the table below.



Green turtle / USFWS



Pacific golden plover / USFWS

Topics	Wildlife Management	Commercial Fishing	Seabird and Commercial Fishing Interactions	Climate Change	No-Take Marine Protected Area
Public Comments	Support for the "wildlife first" philosophy for managing these Refuges was expressed. We received a request to provide a method for taking inventory of the impact of human activities on species populations. A suggestion to include monitoring and enforcement provisions was made.	Two comments suggested that the treatment of commercial fishing and jurisdictional issues in the Draft CCPs were incomplete. Suggestions to explain in each CCP the processes and coordination necessary to achieve any management regime applicable to Federal fisheries, were also received.	We were requested to provide more information on the linkage between effects on seabird health and pelagic fishery operations.	It was suggested that the CCPs provide more information on the potential effects of climate change on the Refuges.	Several people wrote in support of maintaining this management regime for the Refuges.
Changes to the Preferred Alternative	By implementing the preferred alternative, these Refuges will continue to be managed as wild, natural areas. This management regime will contribute to recovery, protection, and management efforts for all native species with special consideration for seabirds, migratory shorebirds, federally listed threatened and endangered species, and coral reef species.  Refuge management will be limited to monitoring terrestrial and marine plants and animals and removal of non-native species. The Refuges will remain closed to public use to protect the extensive seabird nesting colonies, reduce the threat of introduction of invasive species, and conserve the pristine coral reef ecosystems. Goal 5 of the CCPs has been expanded to include biological resource preservation. An objective and associated strategy has been added to encompass enforcement provisions to accomplish preservation goals.	The CCP has been revised to clearly indicate that the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, requires the Service to maintain sole and exclusive management authority over all national wildlife refuge areas. The Refuges will remain closed to all public uses, including commercial fishing.  The information in Appendix G pertaining to the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management and Conservation Act has been revised to identify the National Marine Fisheries Service's jurisdiction to regulate commercial fishing outside the Refuges' boundaries.	Information and scientific citations have been added to the CCPs to document the linkage between the foraging habits of seabirds and commercially harvested pelagic fish species.	New information that recently emerged on this issue has been added to the CCPs. We have also included an objective in the CCP to increase understanding of impacts of global climate change by working with other agencies or institutions to conduct baseline global climate change investigations at the Refuges.	No changes to the CCPs.

## Contact Us

Donald Palawski, Refuge Manager  
Pacific Remote Islands  
National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231  
Box 50167  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

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

OR on the planning website at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>.

## More Information is available . . .

**Information about the  
Howland Island, Baker  
Island, and Jarvis Island  
Refuges is available at:**

<http://www.fws.gov/howlandisland/>  
<http://www.fws.gov/bakerisland/>  
<http://www.fws.gov/jarvisisland/>

**General information  
about refuges and the  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Service is available at:**

<http://www.fws.gov>.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pacific Remote Islands NWRC  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231  
Box 50167  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

*Change of address requested.*

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