

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

### **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan Midway Atoll and Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuges**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has completed the Monument Management Plan (MMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument which includes Midway Atoll and Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges). The MMP will guide management of the Refuges for the next 15 years. The MMP, EA, and supporting documents describe the Service's proposals for managing the Refuges and their effects on the human environment under 2 alternatives, including the no action alternative.

#### **Decision**

Following comprehensive review and analysis, the Service selected Alternative B for implementation because it is the alternative that best meets the following criteria:

- Achieves the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Achieves the purposes of the Refuges.
- Will be able to achieve the vision and goals for the Refuges.
- Maintains and restores the ecological integrity of the habitats and populations on the Refuges.
- Addresses the important issues identified during the scoping process.
- Addresses the legal mandates of the Service and the Refuges.
- Is consistent with the scientific principles of sound wildlife management and endangered species recovery.
- Facilitates priority public uses compatible with the Refuges' purposes and the Refuge System mission.

As described in detail in the MMP, EA, and supporting documents, implementing the selected alternative will have no significant impacts on any of the environmental resources identified with the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

#### **Public Review**

The planning process incorporated a variety of public involvement techniques in developing and reviewing the MMP. This included 10 public workshops, planning updates, numerous meetings with partners, elected officials, and neighbors, and public review and comment on the planning documents. The details of the Service's public involvement program are described in the MMP.

#### **Conclusions**

Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references, I have determined that implementing Alternative B as the MMP for management of Midway Atoll and Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuges is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, the Service is not required to prepare an environmental impact statement.

This Finding of No Significant Impact and supporting references are on file at the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument - USFWS, 300 Ala Moana Blvd. Room 5-231, Honolulu, HI, 96850 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Planning and Visitor Services, 911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97232. These documents can also be found on

the Internet at <http://papahānaumokuākea.gov>. These documents are available for public inspection. Interested and affected parties are being notified of our decision.

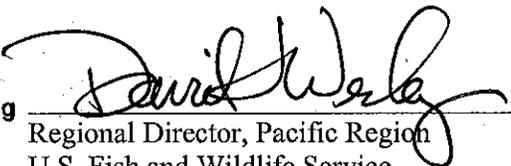
### Supporting References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. December 2008. *Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Final Environmental Assessment.*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. December 2008. *Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan.*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. December 2008. *Statement of Compliance for Implementation of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan.*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. December 2008. *Appropriate Use Findings and Compatibility Determinations for Implementation of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan.*

Acting   
Regional Director, Pacific Region  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

12/12/08  
Date