



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-311 Box 50187, Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: 808 792-9530 Fax: 808 792-9583

For Release: April 30, 2010
Contact: Barbara Maxfield, 808 792 9531 or 753-0440

PIEA-10-09

New Fish and Wildlife Service Leader for Three Marine National Monuments Named

Continuing her 21-year career in the management of marine protected areas, Susan White has been named the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's new Project Leader for the Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which oversees the three newest Marine National Monuments in the Pacific. She will be transferring into her new role on May 9 after serving for the past 3 years as the FWS Superintendent for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

"We are fortunate to have someone with Ms. White's experience to lead our expanded opportunities for managing the Rose Atoll, Pacific Remote Islands, and Marianas Trench Marine National Monuments," said Barry Stieglitz, Project Leader for the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex. "These vast areas – more than 125 million acres – are the Nation's last frontiers for wildlife conservation and scientific exploration."

In her new role, Susan will be working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the governments of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam; as well as partners from private organizations, universities, and the public; to implement the Presidential Proclamations establishing the three Marine National Monuments.

As a Papahānaumokuākea Superintendent, White worked with her comanagers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to develop and implement the Papahānaumokuākea Monument Management Plan and nominate the Monument as a World Heritage site. She directly supervised management and operations of the two National Wildlife Refuges (Midway Atoll and Hawaiian Islands) within the Monument, focusing on conservation of the 14 million seabirds, 23 threatened or endangered species, native habitats, sacred cultural sites, and iconic World War II historic resources.

Prior to coming to Hawai'i in 2007, White helped supervise managers of 28 refuges in Florida, Mississippi, and southern Alabama and also coordinated marine conservation initiatives. From 2002 through 2005, she was the Deputy Project Leader at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge in coastal southwestern Florida.

She served as the national marine protected area and coral reef program coordinator at the headquarters of the FWS National Wildlife Refuge System between 2000 and 2002, leading FWS and the Department of the Interior in interdepartmental implementation of the Executive Orders on Coral Reef Protection and Marine Protected Areas. She also served as the Department's staff point of contact for the Coral Reef Task Force and the National Commission on Ocean Policy. She has been a member of the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas since 1990. Prior to her Washington, D.C., responsibilities, Susan had a long history of working on islands, including the Florida Keys and Saba Marine Park in the Dutch West Indies.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.