

FACILITIES

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



New Multipurpose Building Provides Opportunity for Outreach and Education

Construction of a new multipurpose building at the Kihei, Maui, campus of Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was nearly completed and will be ready for use in early 2009. This new building complements an existing education center and will provide a venue for research and education programs and other activities that promote marine conservation. A facility programming and planning project for the entire Kihei campus was conducted to determine how to best utilize the existing buildings with the new facility.



Hurricane Preparedness Takes Center Stage at Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary

Renovation design documents were completed for the first floor of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary administrative office building on the campus of the National Marine Fisheries Service laboratory in Galveston, Texas. Exterior building repairs that were completed include the installation of hurricane windows and hurricane roofing tiles, exterior doors, and a new coat of paint. These improvements helped protect the building from serious water damage during Hurricane Ike which struck the Galveston area in September 2008.



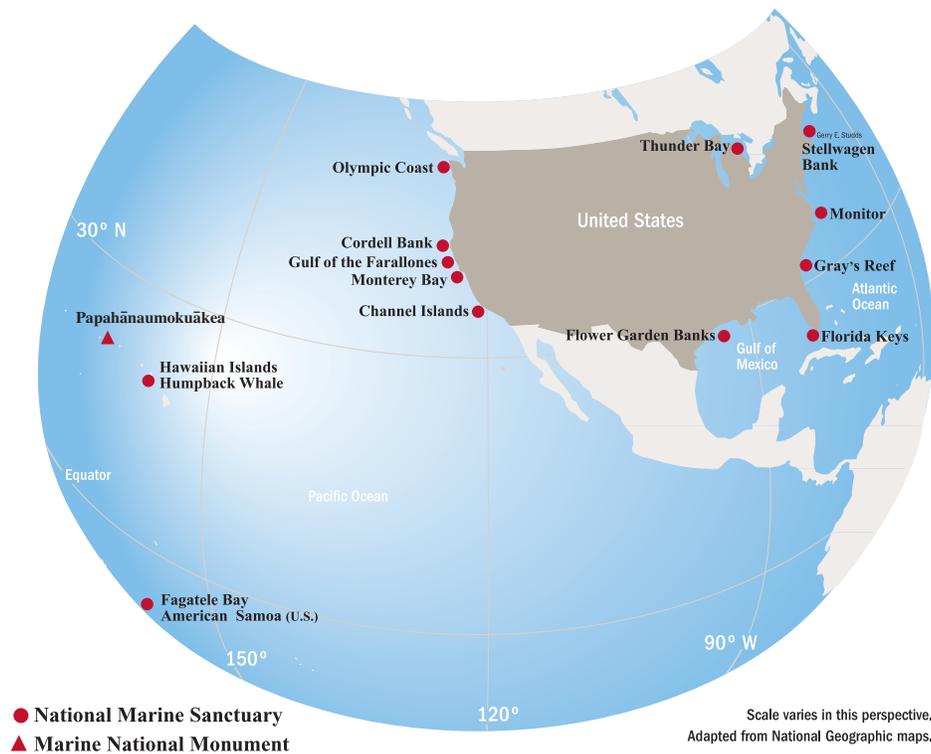
Partnership with the Department of Energy Lights Path to “Green” Buildings

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Energy (DOE) in early FY08, for the purpose of sharing DOE technical expertise with the sanctuaries and using sanctuary sites as demonstration sites for DOE projects. Under the memorandum, DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory engineers have visited and performed energy assessments at two NOAA-owned facilities, including the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary complex in Scituate, Mass., and the Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center in Key West, Fla. The implementation of recommendations made by the engineers, in addition to the corrections they made on-site, have resulted in significant energy savings at both facilities. National Renewable Energy Laboratory personnel also evaluated design documents for new sanctuary construction and renovation projects, including the joint-use Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary/Marine Science Institute “Ocean Science Education Building” on the campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara, Calif.; the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz, Calif.; and renovation design work at Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's Crissy Field Campus in San Francisco, Calif.



Pacific Islands Region Partner to Improve Visitor Services

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) initiated a coordinated facility and exhibit planning effort for the Pacific Islands Region, which includes Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary. ONMS visitor centers and local offices in the region play key roles in facilitating partnerships with local communities and providing opportunities for the public to learn about these special places and to help protect them through good stewardship. The plan provides a quick snapshot of our current visitor and office facilities in Hawai'i and American Samoa, as well as a vision for future facilities. The ONMS has not made any final decisions on future locations, sites or type of centers, and further discussions with staff, community members, and partners will take place before any plans are finalized.



To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit sanctuaries.noaa.gov

