

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE HUMPBACK WHALE SANCTUARY

The humpback whale relies on Hawaiian waters for wintering habitat where whales engage in reproduction activities, including breeding, calving, and nursing, all necessary to the long-term survival of their species. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was designated to provide a sanctuary for humpback whales, with the primary objective of protecting the humpback whale and its habitat. The Sanctuary is tasked with the protection, preservation and management and conservation of this habitat including its ecological, recreational, research, educational, historical, cultural and aesthetic resources. The regulations enacted by Congress (16 U.S.C 1431 *et. Seq.* and subtitle C, title 11, Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5005) specifically task the Sanctuary to work with other existing authorities, such as HINMSA (Hawaiian National Marine Sanctuary Act) and NMSA (National Marine Sanctuary Act), to monitor, supervise and regulate the following activities:

- All public and private use of the Sanctuary plus customary and traditional subsistence use by Hawaiian peoples, including cultural and religious activities;
- Conflict resolution between compatible uses of the Sanctuary, including cultural, recreational, commercial and military activities;
- Maintenance, restoration and enhancement of humpback whales and their habitat to contribute to the health of natural assemblages of humpback whales for future generations;
- Research related to the Sanctuary resources and responsibilities, and;
- Educational outreach concerning the whales and their ecosystem.

The Sanctuary's enabling regulations may also be modified to fulfill additional responsibilities including provision of additional protections for humpback whales and their habitat, and the conservation and management of other marine resources, qualities and ecosystems of the Sanctuary determined to be of national significance.