



The Role of MMHSRP and Recovery of Hawaiian Monk Seals

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Hawaiian Monk Seals are Critically Endangered

- Hawaiian monk seals have been in decline since ~1950s
- Only 1,100 Hawaiian monk seals remain and the population continues to decline
- Hawaiian monk seals present two conservation challenges:
 - Northwestern Hawaiian Islands: 900 seals, declining, ecological issues
 - Main Hawaiian Islands: 150 seals, increasing, human interaction and disease issues



Stranding Response Efforts and Hawaiian Monk Seals

- Primary objective of the Hawaiian monk seal program is identify and mitigate sources of mortality
 - Enhancement activities: translocations, shark predation mitigation, etc.
 - Interventions: captive care and rehabilitation, de-hooking, medical intervention in the wild, etc.



Stranding Response Efforts and Hawaiian Monk Seals

- MMHSRP has played a critical role in monk seal recovery
 - >40% of all interventions are related to health and stranding issues
 - Northwestern Hawaiian Islands focuses primarily on caring for malnourished and injured young seals
 - Main Hawaiian Islands focuses primarily on caring for hooked or sick seals



Approximately 30% of the current monk seal population is alive today because NOAA monk seal recovery efforts

Now and into the Future

MMHSRP disease monitoring & detection protects monk seals

- Detection of emerging threats in Pacific that could be catastrophic to Hawaiian monk seals (and other populations)
 - Morbillivirus – Northern fur seals and cetaceans in Hawaii

Current animal care and rehabilitation efforts are an investment in the survival and recovery of the species

- MMHSRP develops expertise outside of Hawaii that can be imported
- Prescott funds have assisted in developing captive care and emergency response in Hawaii
- New animal care facilities (The Marine Mammal Center, NOAA) and continued support by MMHSRP will help us reach our species recovery goals

