

# Hawaiian Monk Seal

## *Ilio holo ikauaua*

### Public Opinion Survey

### Survey for Individuals



Your participation in this survey is voluntary. Any material that might identify you will be destroyed at the end of the study.

OMB Control #: XXXX-XXXX  
Expiration Date: xx/xx/xxxx

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This survey is being conducted to gather information on the public's knowledge and opinions about **wild Hawaiian monk seals** (*Ilio holo ikauea; Monachus schauinslani*). The questions in this survey are about the Hawaiian monk seal in the wild rather than monk seals in public display facilities (i.e., zoos and aquaria). Throughout this survey all references to monk seals mean Hawaiian monk seals. The results of the survey will be used to help develop public outreach activities for wild Hawaiian monk seal conservation and to help develop and assess management strategies for dealing with human-seal interactions. Your participation will help provide valuable information.

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Q 1. Have you ever personally seen a monk seal in the wild in Hawai'i (outside of zoos and aquaria)?

  

Yes (Go to Q 2)

No (Go to Q 4)

Q 2. If you have seen monk seals in the wild, how many different times have you seen them in the past five years? (Mark one)

1 time

2-5 times

6-10 times

More than 10 times

Q 3. If you have seen a monk seal in the wild, where? (Mark all that apply)

  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  

Seal was on the beach

Seal was in the water

I was on the beach

I was in the water (swimming, snorkeling, diving, etc.)

I was on a commercial tour

I was in a personal /non-commercial boat or other type of watercraft

Don't know

Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT DO PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT MONK SEALS?

Q 4. What is your level of knowledge about the Hawaiian monk seal?

No knowledge      Small amount      Moderate amount      Large amount

Q 5. Do you think monk seals are native to the Hawaiian Islands?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Q 6. Do you think the population of Hawaiian monk seals in general has been increasing or decreasing over the past twenty years?

Significant decrease	Slight decrease	Stable (neither increasing nor decreasing)	Slight increase	Significant increase	Not sure
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Hawaiian monk seals are legally protected under Federal and State laws.

Q 7. Prior to this survey, were you aware of any legal protections in place for the Hawaiian monk seal?

Yes (Go to Q 8)  
 No (Go to Q 9)

Q 8. How well do you think the monk seal is protected under current regulations?

Not at all protected      Protected, but not enough      Well protected      Over protected      Not sure

Q 9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *Protection of the Hawaiian monk seal is NOT very important because there are many types of seals throughout the world.*

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not sure
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Q 10. Are you familiar with the Endangered Species Act?

- Never heard of it (Go to Q 12)
- Heard of it, but don't know much about it
- Somewhat familiar
- Very familiar

Q 11. Do you think that violations of the Endangered Species Act are regularly enforced?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

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## HUMAN-MONK SEAL INTERACTIONS

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Q 12. People have different opinions about what is considered appropriate behavior around wildlife. Which of the following, if any, do you consider appropriate behavior regarding monk seals? (Mark all that apply)

- Viewing monk seals from 100 ft away
- Viewing monk seals from 10 ft away
- Approaching monk seals within 10 ft on land
- Touching monk seals
- Feeding monk seals
- Swimming close to monk seals
- Shooting at or around monk seals
- Photographing monk seals
- Fishing around monk seals
- Yelling, or making other very loud noises around monk seals
- Trying to scare monk seals away
- Allowing dogs to approach and/or interact with monk seals

Q 13. Do you think it is dangerous for people to approach monk seals on land?

- Yes, for the person only
- Yes, for the seal only
- Yes, for both the person and the seal
- No, if the seal is used to being around people
- No, I think it is safe
- Depends on the situation
- Don't know / Not sure

Q 14. Do you think it is dangerous for people to swim with or be in close contact in the water with monk seals?

  
  
  
  
  
  
  

Yes, for the person only  
Yes, for the seal only  
Yes, for both the person and the seal  
No, if the seal is used to being around people  
No, I think it is safe  
Depends on the situation  
Don't know / Not sure

Q 15. If you encountered a monk seal while you were on land, what do you think you would do? (Mark all that apply)

  
  
  
  
  
  

Touch it  
Report sighting to lifeguard  
Report sighting to authorities  
Do nothing  
Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_  
Don't know / Not sure

Q 16. If you encountered a monk seal while you were in the water, what do you think you would do? (Mark all that apply)

  
  
  
  
  
  
  

Swim away  
Swim close to it without touching it  
Touch it  
Report sighting to lifeguard  
Report sighting to authorities  
Do nothing  
Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_  
Don't know / Not sure

Q 17. Do you think that it is dangerous for dogs to interact with monk seals?

- Yes, for the dog only
- Yes, for the seal only
- Yes, for both the dog and the seal
- No, I think they can interact safely
- Depends on the dog
- Don't know/ Not sure

Q 18. If you encountered a live monk seal tangled in a net, how would you be likely to respond? (Mark all that apply)

- Do nothing
- Try to cut it free
- Call the authorities
- Don't know/Not sure
- Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q 19. Do you know which authorities to report monk seal sightings to?

- Yes (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_
- No

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### **FISHING AND MONK SEALS**

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Q 20. Do you or any family members in your household fish on a regular basis?

- Yes (Go to Q 21)
- No (Go to Q 27)

Q 21. If you any family members in your household fish on a regular basis, we would like to know why. (Mark all that apply)

- Fish to provide food for my family
- Fish to provide income
- Fish for recreation/sport only
- Fish for recreation/sport and sometimes keep part of my catch to eat
- Fish for recreation/sport and sometimes sell part of my catch
- Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q 22. Do you think that if monk seals are present in an area where you are fishing, you catch less fish?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q 23. Do you think that if the number of monk seals increases, you would catch less fish?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q 24. If you were fishing and a monk seal became hooked on a fishing line how would you likely respond? (Mark all that apply)

- Cut the line
- Try to get the hook free in some way
- Call the authorities
- Try to scare it away
- Don't know/Not sure
- Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q 25. Would you be willing to use hooks without barbs while fishing in order to reduce the possibility of hooks becoming stuck in the mouths of monk seals?

- Yes
- No
- Only if required by law
- Only in areas where monk seals are present
- Not sure

Q 26. Do you believe that using hooks without barbs would affect fish catch?

- Yes
- No
- Only for certain types of fish
- Not sure

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People have various opinions about whether fishing should be regulated to protect monk seals.

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Q 27. Do you agree or disagree that regulations for recreational hook and line fishing in the main Hawaiian Islands should be enacted SPECIFICALLY to reduce or prevent monk seals from becoming hooked?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not sure
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#### **RESTRICTING HUMAN ACTIVITY AROUND MONK SEALS**

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Q 28. Do you think certain human activities should be prohibited around monk seals?

- Yes (Go to Q 29)
- No (Go to Q 30)
- Not sure (Go to Q 29)

Q 29. Do you think that any of the following human activities should be prohibited in the known presence of monk seals? (Mark all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Beach going	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishing with nets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boating (motor)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Surfing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jet skis/Personal watercraft
<input type="checkbox"/>	Snorkeling and / or Diving	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water skiing, parasailing and other motorized towing activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spear fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the activities listed should be prohibited.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishing with hook and line		

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When monk seals haul out onto beaches that people frequent, an area around the monk seal is often roped off to ensure people do not try to get too close.

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Q 30. Do you agree with current practice of closing a portion of the beach surrounding monk seals when they are present?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please describe) _____

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Female monk seals select a site to give birth, usually the same each year, and nurse their newborn pup for five to seven weeks. During this time the mother usually remains on land without eating.

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Q 31. Do you think it is appropriate to close sections of beach areas that are heavily used by mother monk seals to human activity during the height of the birthing season (March & April)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only when a mother and pup are present

Not sure

Q 32. If small areas of beach you visit were blocked off from all human activity during periods of the monk seal birthing season, would you consider this a hardship?

Yes

No

Only in certain instances (Please describe)

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Not sure

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### **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

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Q 33. How did you learn what to do or what not to do when encountering monk seals? (Check all that apply).

I don't have any knowledge about what to do when encountering monk seals

Internet

Television

Newspaper

Magazines

Radio

Aquarium or zoo

Word of mouth (e.g., from friends and family)

From school – (learned it yourself, or learned it from a child who learned it in school)

From Federal programs (such as NOAA)

From State programs (such as Division of Aquatic Resources)

From law enforcement agents

From lifeguards

Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q 34. In your opinion, what are the best methods to help you or members of your household learn about wild monk seal conservation issues? (Mark one number for each category)

	Not at all effective	Somewhat effective	Very effective	Not sure
Educational brochures and pamphlets	1	2	3	0
TV public service announcements	1	2	3	0
Radio public service announcements	1	2	3	0
Print public service announcements	1	2	3	0
Internet	1	2	3	0
Signs	1	2	3	0
Newspaper	1	2	3	0
Boater training courses	1	2	3	0
Workshops or community meetings	1	2	3	0
Social media (Facebook, MySpace, Twitter)	1	2	3	0
School presentations	1	2	3	0

Q 35. How likely are you to read informational signs or pamphlets placed in the following locations? (Mark one number for each category)

	Not at all likely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Doesn't apply to
At parks and beaches in the parking lot	1	2	3	0
At parks and beaches near the shoreline	1	2	3	0
Near life guard stands	1	2	3	0
On city buses	1	2	3	0
In airports	1	2	3	0
With information given when renting a car	1	2	3	0
In hotel lobbies	1	2	3	0
At fishing supply shops	1	2	3	0
At marine recreation gear rental shops (kayak, diving, snorkeling, etc.)	1	2	3	0

Q 36. Do you have any other suggestions on ways to inform and educate people about monk seal conservation issues?

Q 37. Would one of the signs below, if placed near a monk seal, be likely to convince you not to disturb the seal?

- Yes (If yes, please mark the one that would work best)
- No
- Not sure (If not sure, please mark the sign you prefer)
- Both signs would be equally effective



Q 38. Would you be likely to participate in a “beach clean-up”? (A group of people gathering for a few hours to pick up debris and remove it from the beach).

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q 39. Would you be likely to participate in a one-day, semi-annual state wide monk seal count that takes place every April and October?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Q 40. If a healthy live monk seal was found on a beach near your residence or where you are staying in Hawai'i, what would be your level of interest in participating in efforts to protect that monk seal while it was there?

Not at all interested	Probably not	Undecided	Somewhat interested	Very interested
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## DEMOGRAPHICS

The following demographic information will be used to help make general conclusions about the survey participants. Any personal information will be destroyed at the end of the study.

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Q 41. Which statement best describes your living situation.

- I am a permanent resident of Hawai'i (Go to Q 43)
- I am part-time residents of Hawai'i (Go to Q 43)
- I am a first-time visitor to Hawai'i (Go to Q 43)
- I am a repeat visitor to Hawai'i (Go to Q 42)

Q 42. Including this current trip, how many times have you visited Hawai'i?

2-5 times

6-10 times

More than 10 times

Q 43. What type of water activities do you enjoy in Hawai'i? (Mark all that apply)

Diving

Snorkeling

Fishing

Swimming

Surfing

Boogie boarding

Kite surfing/ Wind surfing/ Sail boarding

Motorized water activities

Lounging on the beach

Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q 44. Are you a member of any organizations or associations related to the activities below? (Mark all that apply)

Boating

Fishing

Water-based recreational sports (e.g., swimming, canoe club, diving)

Conservation

Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q 45. What is your home zip code, or if you are from another country, what is your home country? \_\_\_\_\_

Q 46. What is your sex?

Male

Female

Q 47. What is your ethnicity?

Hispanic or Latino  
 Not Hispanic or Latino

Q 48. What is your race? (Mark all that apply)

Asian  
 American Indian or Alaska Native  
 Black or African American  
 Native Hawaiian  
 Other Pacific Islander  
 White

Q 49. Which of the following describes your employment status?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Employed full-time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired
<input type="checkbox"/>	Employed part-time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Currently unemployed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Self employed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student
<input type="checkbox"/>	Homemaker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Q 50. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Some high school or less  
 High school diploma or equivalent  
 Some college, no degree  
 Two year degree (AA, AS) or technical school  
 Four year college graduate (BA, BS)  
 Some graduate work but did not receive a graduate degree  
 Graduate degree (MA, MS, PhD, JD, MD, etc.)

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated! Please use the space below to provide any additional comments.

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*This survey is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 20 minutes, including time for reviewing instructions, answering all questions and returning the survey to the administrator. Please send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Jennifer Metz, National Marine Fisheries Service, Outreach and Education Specialist, Protected Resources Division, NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands Regional Office, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-0047. All responses will be protected and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form (and without providing and personally identifying characteristics). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.*