


Hawaiian Monk Seal | NOAA Fish: x +

fisheries.noaa.gov/species/hawaiian-monk-seal

## How You Can Help



### Report Seal Sightings

Please report monk seal sightings by contacting your [local stranding network](#), or sending an email to [pifsc.monksealsighting@noaa.gov](mailto:pifsc.monksealsighting@noaa.gov). Provide the following information:

**Date and time.**


**Descriptive location**—including island, beach name, and GPS coordinates (if available).

**Estimated size** of seal (length).

**Identifying characteristics** (flipper tags, scars, or other markings).

**Seal's behavior**—including interactions with people and other animals.

**Photos** (if possible).




### Keep Your Distance

It's natural for monk seals to come ashore or haul out on the beach for long periods of time. Please give them the space they need to rest and don't attempt to push them back into the water. If approached by a seal, move away to avoid interaction. If you're in the ocean, cautiously exit the water.


Respect any roped off areas or signage that indicate the presence of a monk seal on the beach. When observing resting monk seals, **follow the "rule of thumb"** to figure out how much space to give them. Simply make a "thumbs-up" gesture and extend your arm out straight in front of you, with your thumb parallel to the ground. If your thumb covers the entire seal, you are far enough away.

[Read our viewing guidelines >](#)



### Report Marine Life in Distress

Report a sick, injured, entangled, stranded, or dead animal to the Pacific Islands NOAA Marine Wildlife Hotline at **(888) 256-9840**. Reporting ensures that professional responders and scientists know about it and can take appropriate action. Numerous [organizations around the Pacific Islands](#) are trained to receive reports and respond when necessary.



### Reduce Nearshore Fishery Interactions

Serious and sometimes fatal monk seal injuries can occur when these animals are accidentally hooked. Here are some tips to prevent injuries to monk seals:


**Use barbless circle hooks.**

**Reuse or share your leftover bait**—don't feed seals.


**Reel in your line** if monk seals are near.

**Change locations** if seals show interest in your bait or catch.

[Learn more about how to prevent injuries to monk seals when fishing >](#)



Send Us Your Feedback



Screenshot of NOAA Fisheries website with instructions on how to report information on Hawaiian monk seal sightings and injured or distressed monk seals. CSC Project 20 Hawaiian monk seal reporting project.