



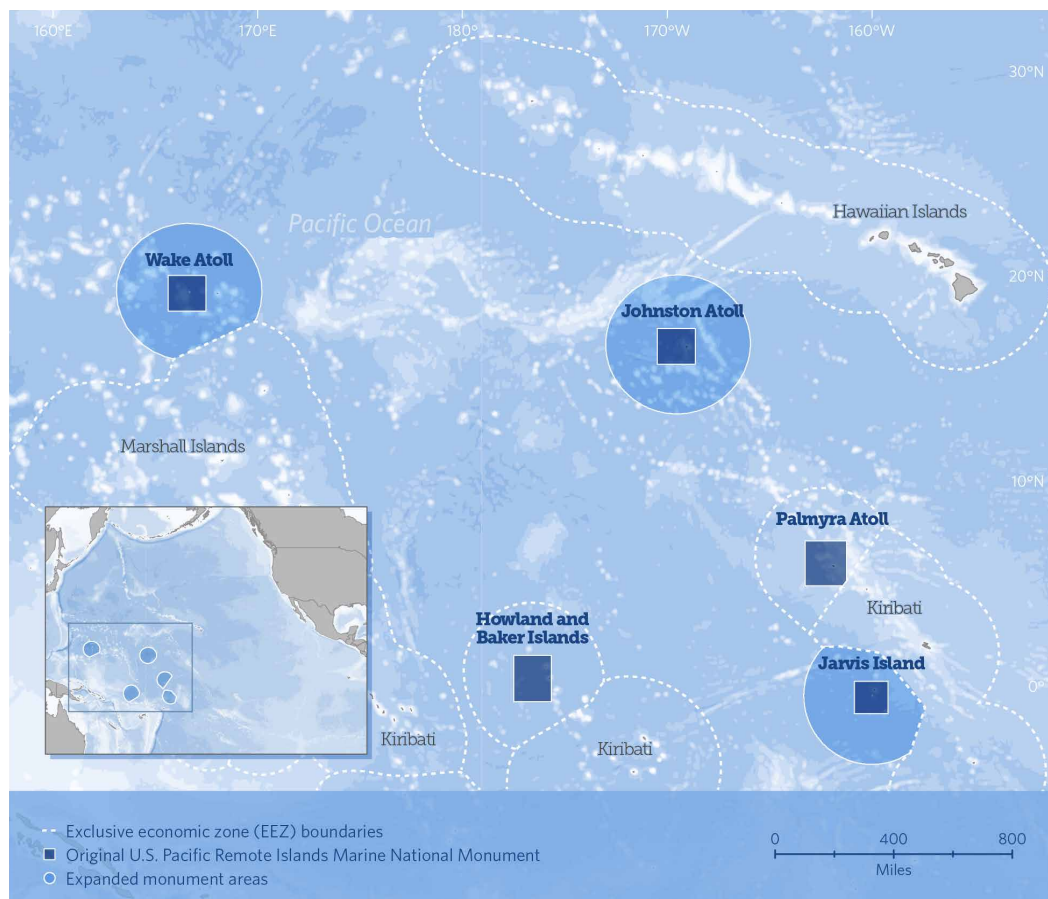
# Expanded Protections for a U.S. Pacific Ocean Treasure

On Sept. 25, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama announced a significant expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, a group of five highly protected marine reserves located thousands of miles southwest of the Hawaiian Islands. President George W. Bush had designated the monument in 2009. These U.S. waters are home to some of the nation's most important ocean habitat and provide sanctuary for whales, sea turtles, fish, and millions of seabirds.

Figure 1

## New Steps to Protect Remote U.S. Pacific Island Waters

3 marine reserves expanded



Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Marine Protected Areas Inventory, and Marineregions.org database  
Plate Carree projection.

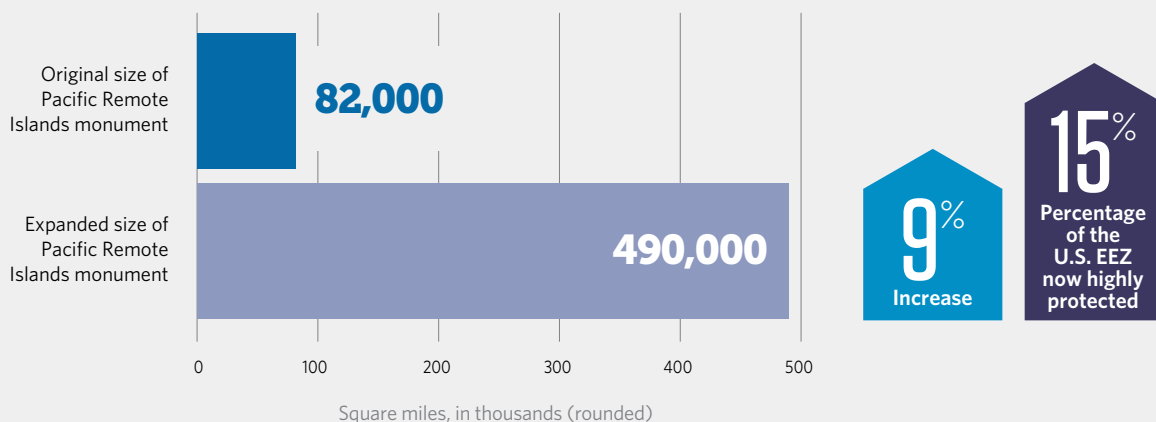
© 2014 The Pew Charitable Trusts

With this one act by President Obama, the total amount of highly protected U.S. ocean territory has more than doubled from approximately 6 to 15 percent. The United States has more ocean territory than any other nation.

Figure 2

## A Significant U.S. Contribution to Ocean Conservation

A bipartisan tradition of protecting special natural places



Source: Council on Environmental Quality, [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).  
© 2014 The Pew Charitable Trusts

The Johnston Atoll, Wake Atoll, and Jarvis Island marine reserves expand from 50 to 200 miles from shore. Taken together, the new boundaries add 408,000 square miles (approximately 1,050,000 square kilometers)—equivalent to slightly smaller than California and Texas combined—to the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM). That brings the total size of the monument to 490,000 square miles (approximately 1.27 million square kilometers).

With this one act by President Obama, the total amount of highly protected U.S. ocean territory has more than doubled from approximately 6 to 15 percent. The United States has more ocean territory than any other nation.

The enlarged Johnston Atoll, Wake Atoll, and Jarvis Island marine reserves rank third, fourth, and sixth in size, respectively, among the world's top highly protected reserves. Their expansion is the latest step in a global movement to create large reserves of this kind to address dramatic declines in ocean health.

Over the past decade, The Pew Charitable Trusts' Global Ocean Legacy project has worked around the world with governments, scientists, fishermen, and residents to create the first generation of great marine parks. We have played leading roles in the designations of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument by the United States, the Chagos Marine Reserve—the world's largest—by the United Kingdom, and the Coral Sea Marine Park by Australia.

Figure 3  
**It All Adds Up to a Healthier Ocean**  
 Marine reserve efforts underway around the globe

Global rank	Marine Reserve	Country	Location	Size of highly protected area (sq km)	Size of highly protected area (sq mi)
1	Chagos Marine Reserve	United Kingdom (as part of the British Indian Ocean Territory)	Indian Ocean	640,000	247,000
2	Coral Sea Marine National Park	Australia	Pacific Ocean	503,000	194,000
3	Johnston Atoll*	United States	Pacific Ocean	464,000	179,000
4	Wake Atoll*	United States	Pacific Ocean	433,000	167,000
5	Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument	United States	Pacific Ocean	363,000	140,000
6	Jarvis Island*	United States	Pacific Ocean	318,000	123,000
7	Motu Motrio Hiva (Parque Marino Salas y Gómez)	Chile	Pacific Ocean	150,000	58,000
8	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	Australia	Pacific Ocean	114,000	44,000
9	South Orkney Islands Southern Shelf Marine Protected Area	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	Southern Ocean	94,000	36,000
10	Macquarie Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Australia	Pacific Ocean	58,000	22,000
11	Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef*	United States	Pacific Ocean	54,000	21,000
12	Howland Island and Baker Island*	United States	Pacific Ocean	52,000	20,000
13	Marianas Trench Marine National Monument	United States	Pacific Ocean	42,000	16,000
14	Rose Atoll Marine National Monument	United States	Pacific Ocean	34,000	13,000

Note: Due to rounding and differences in the projections used in spatial analyses, the area of the total Pacific Remote Islands monument in this table may be larger than other estimates.

\* Collectively designated through the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

Sources: The Sea Around Us Project at the University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre, the Government of Australia, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, MPAAtlas, UNESCO, the National Environment Research Council, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

© 2014 The Pew Charitable Trusts

---

**For further information, please visit:**

[pewtrusts.org](http://pewtrusts.org)

---

**Contact:** Veronica O'Connor, communications officer

**Email:** [voconnor@pewtrusts.org](mailto:voconnor@pewtrusts.org)

**Project website:** [pewtrusts.org](http://pewtrusts.org)

---

**The Pew Charitable Trusts** is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and stimulate civic life.