

The Hawaiian Monk Seal...

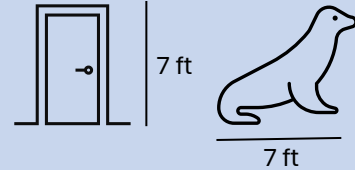
(*Neomonachus schauinslandi*)

One of the world's most endangered marine species

Where: The Hawaiian monk seal is only found along the Hawaiian Islands and nowhere else in the world!

Appearance: Their torpedo-shaped bodies and flippers make them incredibly fast swimmers!

Fun Fact: The Hawaiian monk seal can grow up to 7 feet long (or more)! This is close to the size of most household doors!

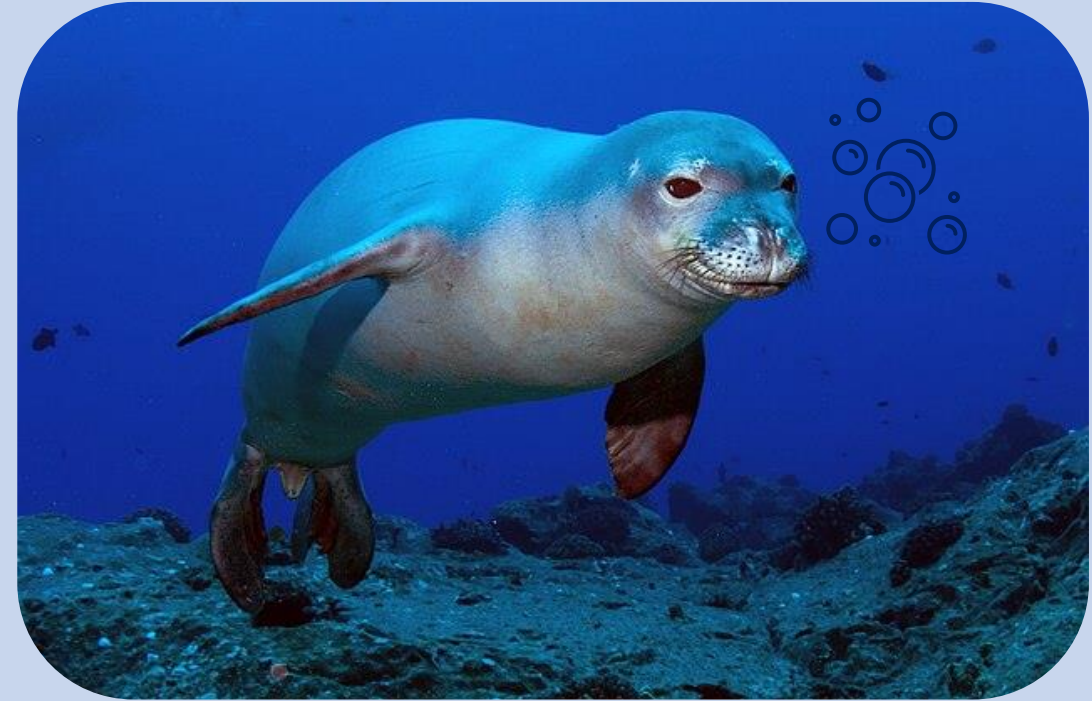


Diet: As a carnivore, this species eats a variety of fish, squids, crabs, lobsters, and other small marine species.



Lifespan: The Hawaiian monk seal can live to about 25 to 30 years in the wild.

Status: This species is endangered and its population is decreasing. Hawaiian monk seals face many threats including: separation from their mothers, malnutrition, habitat loss, predation, becoming trapped in or eating trash, and harmful interactions with humans. Today, about 30% of their population remains because of conservation.



How can I help?



- Pick up trash so it doesn't make its way into the ocean!



- Avoid using single-use plastics (e.g., bags, water bottles, utensils, straws).



- Stay away from these seals if you see them on the beach!

- Scan this QR code from The Marine Mammal Center to learn more!



Informational Artifact Supplementary Information

1. A **detailed description of the audience** you are targeting

- In general, I am targeting the lay audience with my exhibition label. This audience includes all individuals that have no specialized knowledge regarding the Hawaiian monk seal. I chose this audience because zoos and aquariums attract a large number of adults with young children who are likely unfamiliar with reading exhibition labels and the information within them. Because of this, I used language that was accessible (not above an 8th grade reading level) and appropriate sentence structure to ensure that my audience is able to fully comprehend the information presented. For example, rather than writing that the Hawaiian monk seal has a “streamlined, fusiform body,” I wrote that they have “torpedo-shaped bodies.” In addition to this, I also gave specific examples of single-use plastics.

2. An **explanation of the specific purpose** of your artifact

- My artifact has two purposes: to inform readers about an unfamiliar subject and to incite readers to action. Because my audience consists of individuals that are unfamiliar with Hawaiian monk seals, the first purpose of my exhibition label is to be informative. To do so, I organized my label into sections so that my readers are able to learn more about where the Hawaiian monk seal lives, what it looks like and eats, how long it lives for, and its conservation status. The second purpose of my exhibition label is to encourage readers to protect Hawaiian monk seals. For example, my label mentions the “endangered” status of Hawaiian monk seals as well as some of the threats they face. After touching on this information, I have a section labeled “How can I help?” that includes examples of practical measures that can be taken to protect Hawaiian monk seals (e.g., this species can eat or become tangled in trash, so one of the solutions that I listed includes “picking up trash”).

3. A **bibliography** for sources/images (in CSE format)

All of the images that I used were freely available, so I didn't cite them!

Bibliography:

NOAA. 2024. Hawaiian monk seal. NOAA Fisheries; [accessed 2024 Jan 20].
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/hawaiian-monk-seal>.

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TMMC. [date unknown]. Hawaiian monk seal conservation. The Marine Mammal Center; [accessed 2024 Jan 20]. <https://www.marinemammalcenter.org/science-conservation/conservation/hawaiian-monk-seal-conservation>.

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