

The Hawaiian Monk Seal



Its Role in the Ecosystem

The Hawaiian Monk Seals are predators to fish, squid's, octopuses, eels, and crustaceans and prey to Galapagos sharks

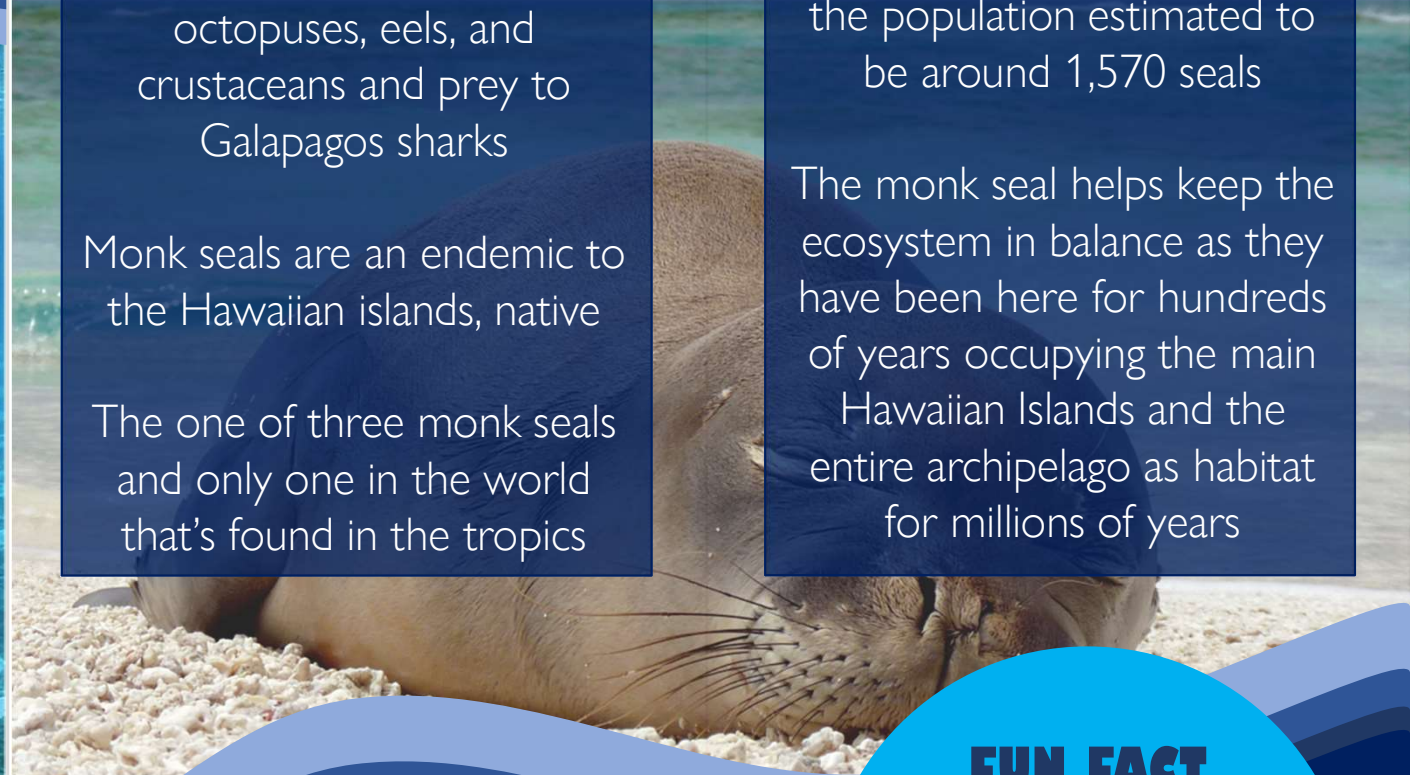
Monk seals are an endemic to the Hawaiian islands, native

The one of three monk seals and only one in the world that's found in the tropics

The Problem

The Hawaiian Monk Seal population is declining with the population estimated to be around 1,570 seals

The monk seal helps keep the ecosystem in balance as they have been here for hundreds of years occupying the main Hawaiian Islands and the entire archipelago as habitat for millions of years



FUN FACT

They eat 5.8-12.9% of their own mass in food per day

By: Abigail Paulus

What is the Cause?

Some factors that threaten the population of monk seals are:

- Food Limitations
- Shark Predation
- Entanglement
- Male Seal Aggression
- Habitat Loss
- Fishery Interactions
- Disease And Contaminants
- Human-seal Interactions And Intentional Killing

A Current Research Project

NOAA Fisheries partnered with the Marine Mammal Center to create recovery plan with action steps that will include:

- Investigating Factors Affecting Food Limitation
- Preventing Entanglement
- Reducing Shark Predation
- Conserving Habitats
- Reducing Interaction
- Reducing Male Aggression
- Continuing Population Monitoring And Research

What Can YOU Do?

Report Sightings

This will help count the number of seals in the wild

Keep Distance

Will allow them to live undisturbed in their natural habitat

Report Distress

Allows for scientist to know about it and act appropriately

Reduce Interactions

Injuries can occur when seals accidentally get hooked

FUN FACT

They can grow
an average
7-7.5ft long