

# Hawaiian Monk Seal

|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>DOMAIN</b><br><i>Eukaryota</i> |  <b>KINGDOM</b><br><i>Animalia</i> |  <b>PHYLUM</b><br><i>Chordata</i>  |  <b>CLASS</b><br><i>Mammalia</i>         |
|  <b>ORDER</b><br><i>Pholidota</i>  |  <b>FAMILY</b><br><i>Phocidae</i>  |  <b>GENUS</b><br><i>Nemonachus</i> |  <b>SPECIES</b><br><i>Schauninslandi</i> |

## WHERE DO THEY HANG OUT?

Hawaiian monk seals live exclusively in Hawaii. They mainly reside in the northwestern islands, a small number lives on the main islands.



## BLUBBERY CUTENESS

When born, Hawaiian Monk Seals are black. When they mature, their coats become dark gray to brown on their backs, and their bellies are light gray to yellowish brown. They molt once a year. Most seals have scars or bleach spots on them. These markings help scientists and researchers identify them. Males and females are similar in size.



## WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



Hawaiian Monk Seals are pursuit predators. They eat octopuses, common fishes, eels, squids, and crustaceans.

They forage near the sea floor and go after food that hides from them.



Photo by Daniel Torobekov via pexels

Extinct  
EX

Threatened  
EW CR EN VU NT

Least Concern  
LC

## CURIOUS BY NATURE

Hawaiian monk seals are friendly and won't attack humans unless provoked. Young seals may seek contact with humans, and adult seals may become aggressive if they interact with humans at a young age. Wild monk seals never seek contact with humans, and they get relocated when they start seeking humans or interact with them often.

## HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL FAMILIES

Hawaiian Monk Seals mate at sea. Females can become pregnant as early as 5 years old. They carry the pup for 10 months before giving birth on land. A newborn pup nurses for a month while the mother does not go out and forage for food. After the nursing period, the pup learns how to swim and forage.



### THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL



Habitat loss



Entanglement



Diseases



Hawaiian Monk Seals are endangered due to:

- **Food limitation**
- **Shark predation**
- **Entanglement**
- **Male seal aggression**
- **Habitat loss**
- **Fishery Interactions**
- **Disease/Contaminants**
- **Human-seal interactions**
- **Intentional killing**

In 2008, the Hawaiian Monk Seal was designated as the Hawaiian state animal. This helped bring awareness to the conservation of them.



Photo by Daniel Torobekov via pexels



*Did you know?*

## 5 FUN FACTS ABOUT HAWAIIAN MONK SEALS



They can hold their breath for up to 20 minutes.



The Hawaiian name is ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua, which means dog that runs in rough water.



There are more males than females



Their name comes from the folds on the neck, which look like monks' robes.



They came to Hawaii 3.5 million years ago.