Hawaiian Monk Seal Body Parts

If you see me on the beach, I am probably taking a nap. Please let me sleep and keep yourself and any pets at least 150 feet away. Call the Monk Seal Sighting’s Hotline: 220-7802 to let NOAA know where I am. Remember, I may look cute, but I am a wild animal and I may bite if I am disturbed. Please give me the space that I need to survive. Mahalo!!!

vibrissae (whiskers)

pelage (fur)

bleach marking

flipper tag

fore flipper

hind flipper

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Hawaiian Monk Seal Vocabulary Words

VIBRISSAE: stiff hairs or whiskers located on the Hawaiian monk seal’s face

PELAGE: the fur on the Hawaiian monk seal’s body

PINNIPED: fin-footed mammals whose limbs are modified into flippers, these include seals, sea lions and walruses

ENDEMIC: found in one geographic location and nowhere else in the world

ENDANGERED SPECIES: a species threatened with extinction

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Hawaiian Monk Seal Find What’s Different

The two pictures look the same but they’re not!
Can you spot the 6 things that are different in the picture on the right?
Hawaiian Monk Seal  What’s an Endangered Species?

A species is considered endangered when it is at risk of becoming extinct (has died out and does not exist anymore). In the U.S. endangered species are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The purpose of the ESA is to conserve threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems. The listing of a species as endangered makes it illegal to kill, harass or harm it.

Reasons to be at risk for extinction are: being few in numbers, loss of natural habitat, being over used or over hunted, or killed off by disease.

The Hawaiian monk seal is endemic to Hawaii, which means it is only found in the Hawaiian Islands and nowhere else in the world! There are currently more Hawaiian monk seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, although their numbers are increasing in the Main Hawaiian Islands.

TOP THREATS to Hawaiian Monk Seals

- human disturbance
- infectious disease
- habitat loss/ climate change
- fishery interactions
- male aggression
- shark predation
- food limitation
- entanglement in marine debris
- low juvenile survival rate
Hawaiian Monk Seal Viewing Guidelines

You can help protect the Hawaiian monk seal! Please follow these viewing guidelines:

1. Do not disturb, feed, pursue, encourage, or otherwise approach seals. Seals are wild and may bite if disturbed.

2. Keep at least 50 yards away (150 feet).

3. Although monk seals may approach people, always move away to avoid interaction.

4. Keep dogs away from seals. Contact with humans or dogs may transmit diseases.

5. Limit your time watching an animal to half an hour.

For additional information please visit:
http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_hawaiian_monk_seal.html

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