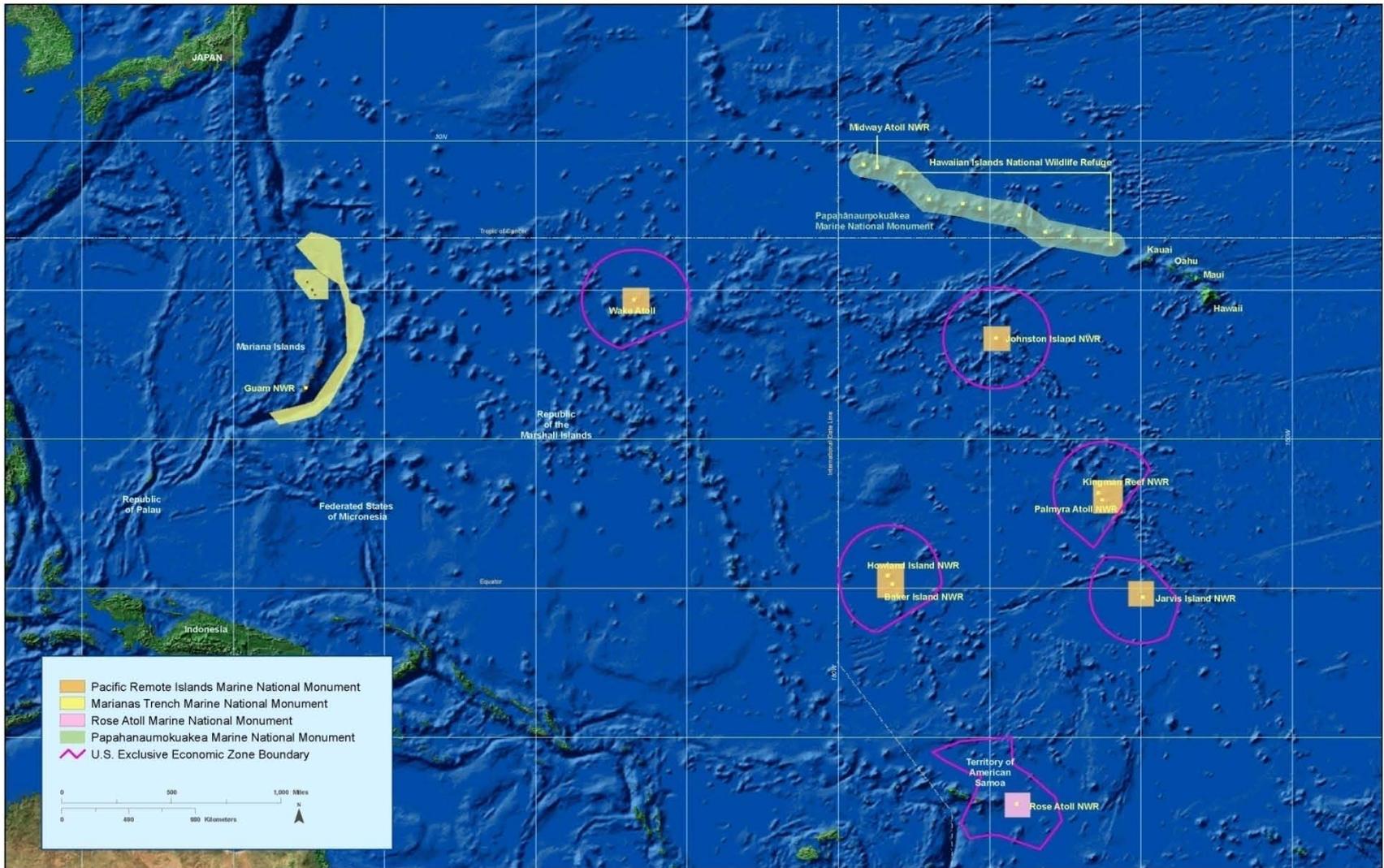


# Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument





## Central Pacific Marine National Monuments

# Johnston Island

## National Wildlife Refuge



One of the most isolated atolls in the world, Johnston Island National Wildlife Refuge sits on a submerged coral platform more than 32,000 acres in size and less than 100 feet deep. A portion of the atoll has been a National Wildlife Refuge since 1926.



Once home of a U.S. Navy seaplane base, air station, nuclear testing site, chemical munitions storage facility, and the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, since June 2004, the atoll has been cleaned and returned to the wildlife that call it home.



Johnston supports a high density of reef formations, including coral pinnacles, mounds, and platforms. Some 32 species of coral thrive here, including at least 10 species of *Acropora* (table corals), seven of which may have dispersed from Johnston to French Frigate Shoals and its neighboring Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The only land in 750,000 square miles of open ocean, Johnston hosts 16 species of breeding seabirds numbering in the hundreds of thousands. Another 38 bird species visit. Since all humans departed in 2004, numbers of seabirds on Johnston Island are increasing.



The atoll may be range limit for 39 species of Hawaiian fishes not found further south. Nahacky's pygmy angelfish is endemic to Johnston Atoll.

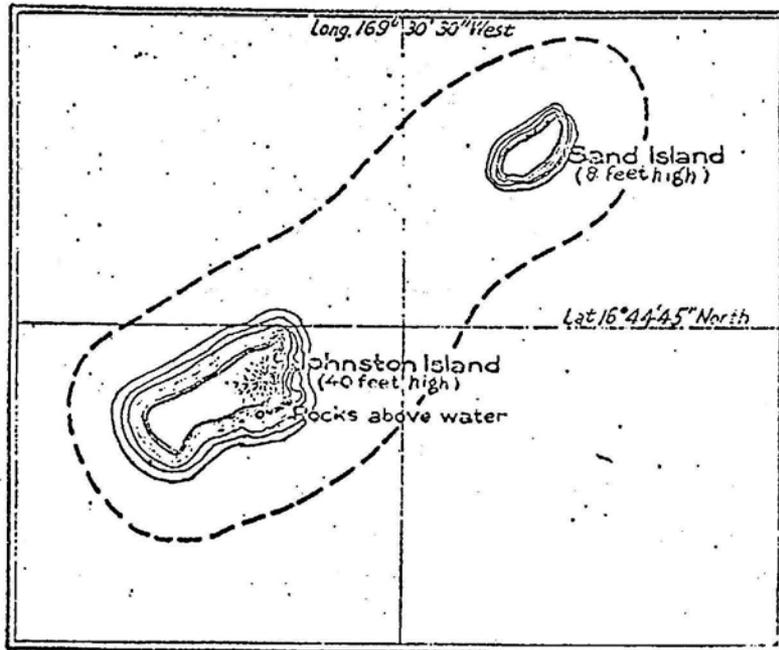
Peppercorn Moray Eel and Sully Light Foot Crab



# JOHNSTON ISLAND RESERVATION

For the Protection of Native Birds

*Embracing two small islands known as Johnston Island and Sand Island located in the Pacific Ocean approximately in Latitude  $16^{\circ}44'45''$  North Longitude  $169^{\circ}30'30''$  West*



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Hubert Work, Secretary

GENERAL LAND OFFICE

William Spry, Commissioner



**EO 4467, June 29, 1926  
by Calvin Coolidge**

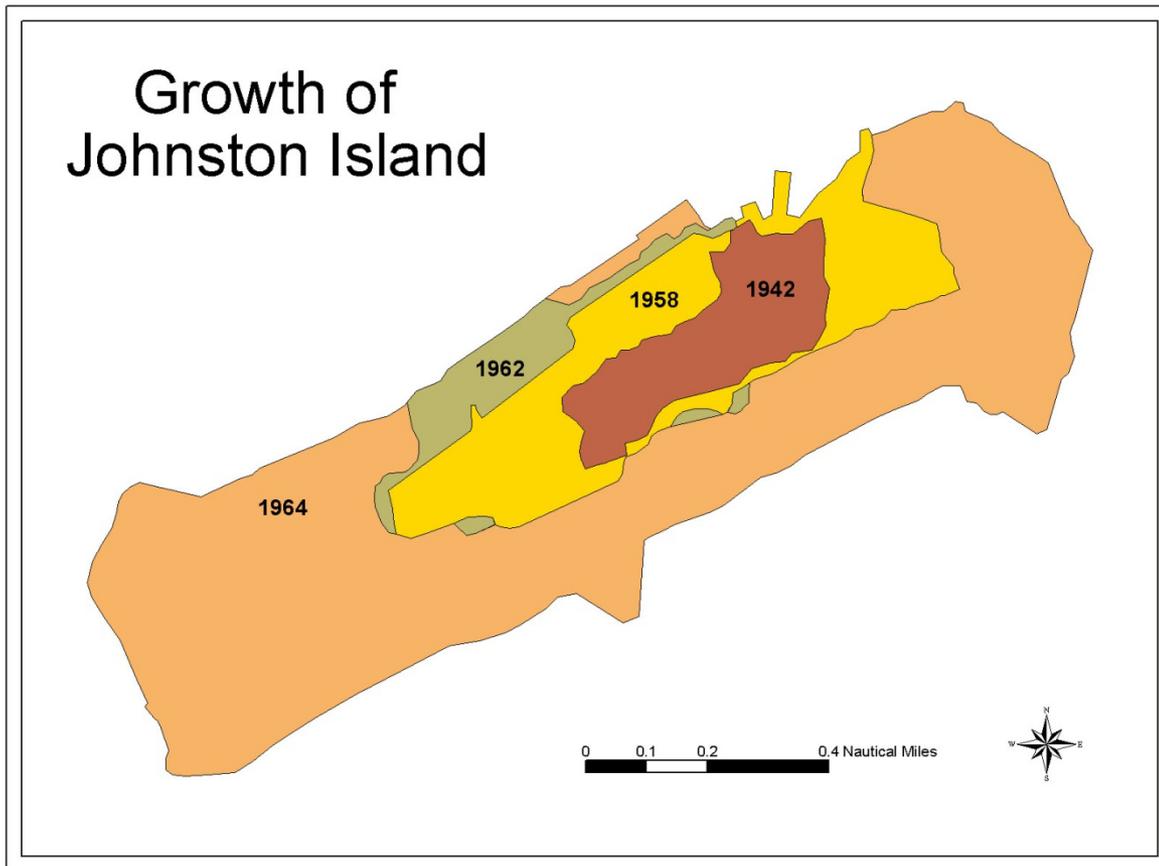
**"...located in the Pacific Ocean approximately in latitude  $16^{\circ}44'45''$  North and longitude  $169^{\circ}30'30''$  West from Greenwich, as segregated by the broken line..."**

**"...hereby reserved and set apart for the use of the Department of Agriculture as a refuge and breeding ground for native birds."**

Johnston Island was originally about 64 acres; it was enlarged in stages by DOD dredge and fill operations to its present size of about 640 acres

Johnston Island served as chemical weapons storage and disposal facility until 2003

Air Force has cleaned and removed infrastructure and contamination as part of termination of mission in accordance with RCRA permit



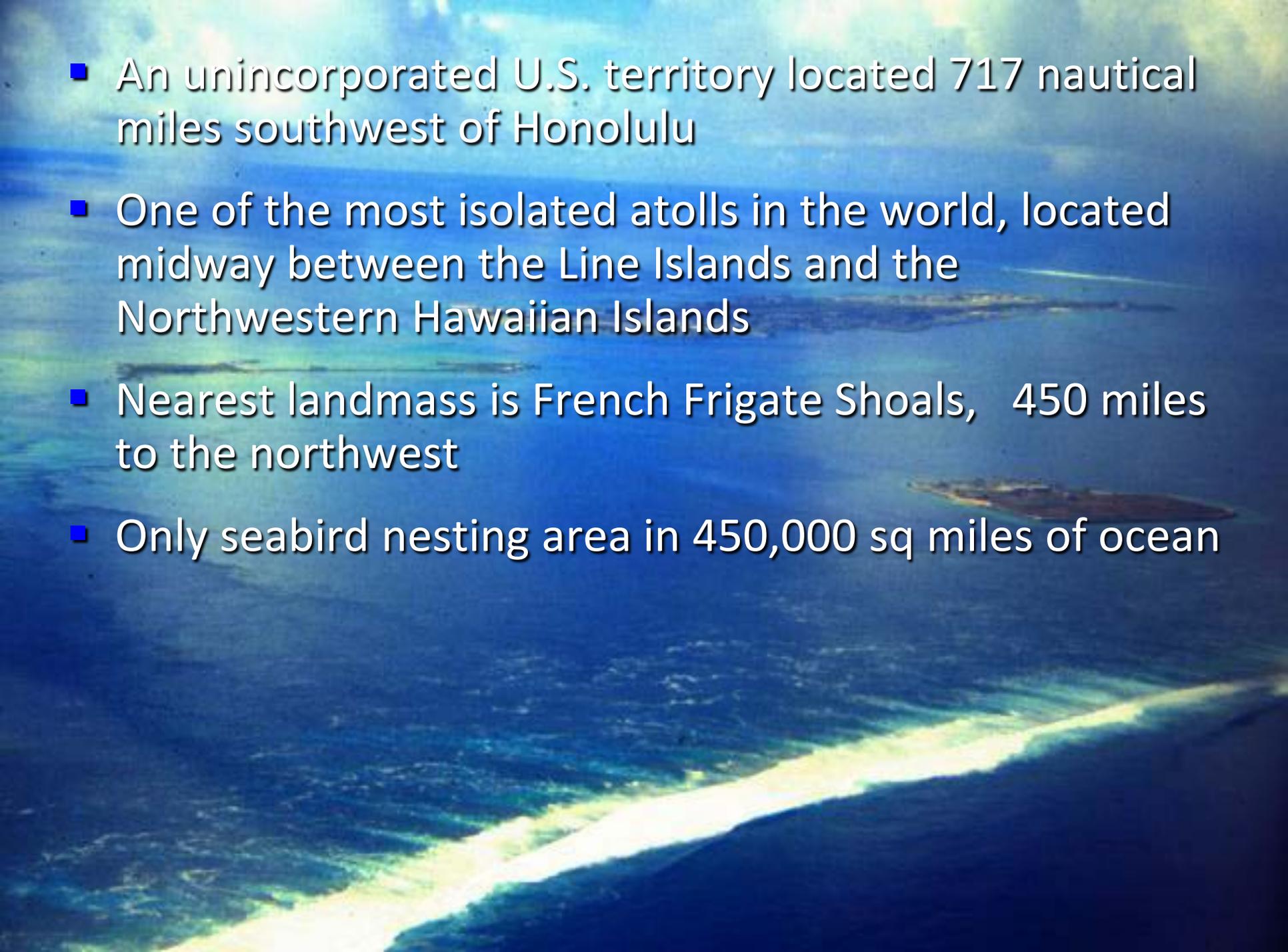
# Johnston Island 1941





**Johnston Island**

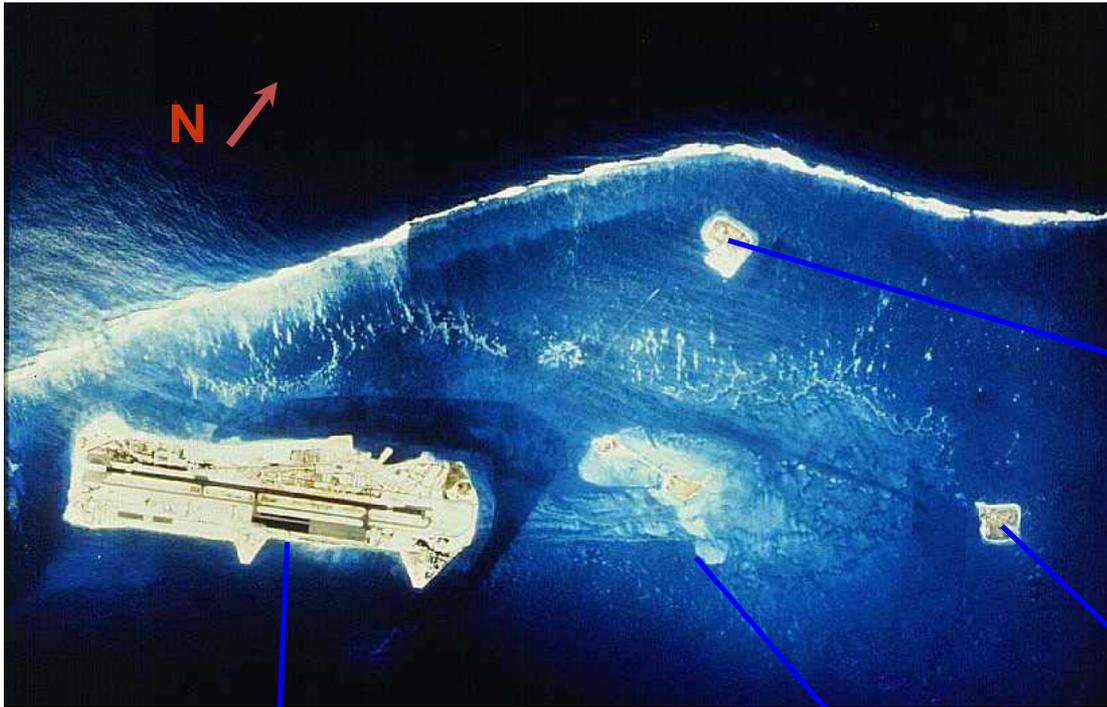
**Photo courtesy of US Government Archives**

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- An aerial photograph of a tropical atoll. The foreground shows a wide, light-colored sandy beach curving along the edge of the island. The water is exceptionally clear, showing a gradient from shallow turquoise near the shore to deep, dark blue further out. In the distance, other smaller islands and reefs are visible, some with white sandbars. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.
- An unincorporated U.S. territory located 717 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu
  - One of the most isolated atolls in the world, located midway between the Line Islands and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
  - Nearest landmass is French Frigate Shoals, 450 miles to the northwest
  - Only seabird nesting area in 450,000 sq miles of ocean

# Fringing Reef and Islands of Johnston Atoll



# Islands of Johnston Atoll



**North "Akau" Island  
(26 acres)**



**Johnston Island (633 acres)**



**Sand Island (16 acres)**



**East "Hikina" Island  
(21 acres)**



**Johnston Island 2000**

# Johnston Island July 2004



# Johnston Island May 2009



# Ant infestation February 2010



Johnston Island January 2006  
Seabirds are moving onto the  
deserted landscape





All the buildings (except one and some bunkers) were removed. But the roads, runway, sidewalks, and building concrete pads remain. Leaving a landscape of a ghost town being taken over by seabirds.





# Red-footed Boobies





Red-footed booby

# Brown Booby



# Sooty Terns





**Masked booby**



Frigatebirds

Red-tailed tropicbird



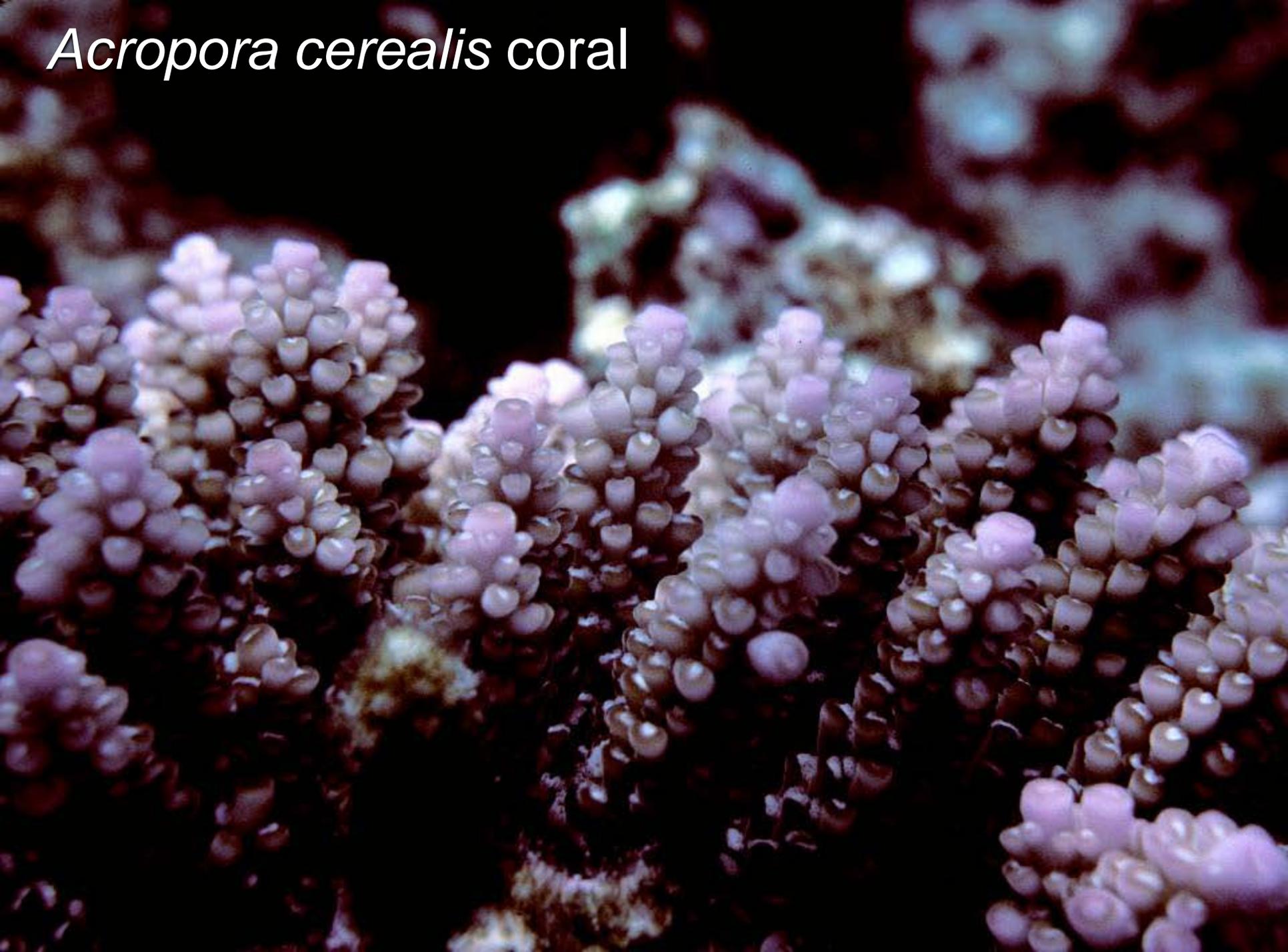


White tern

# *Acropora* Corals



*Acropora cerealis* coral





# Green Turtle



photo: J. Maragos

Peppered moray eel

