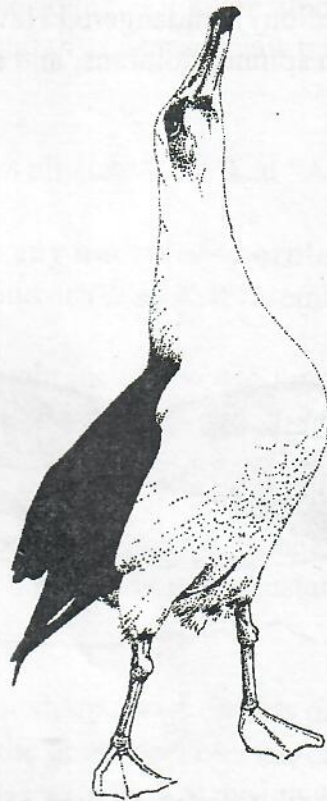


1998

Welcome to
Midway Atoll
National Wildlife Refuge



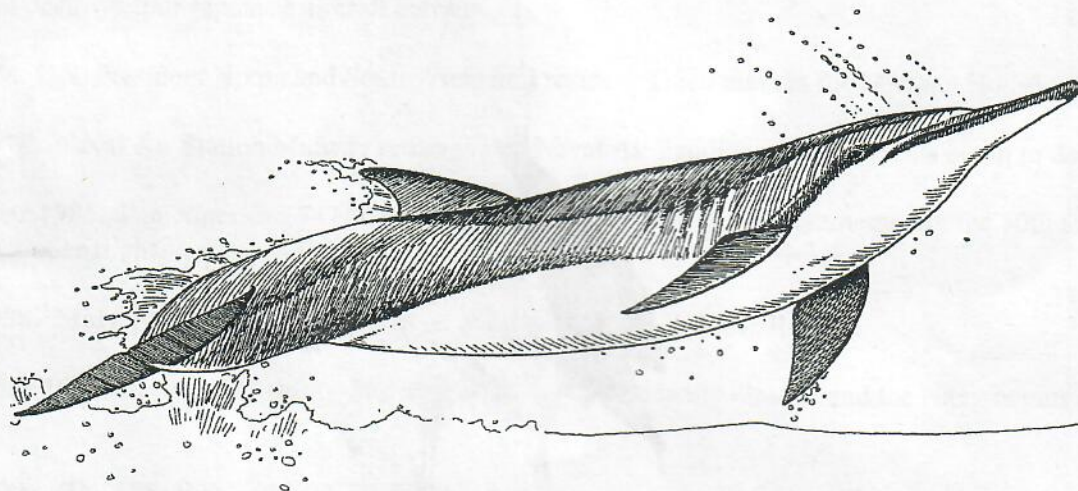
National Wildlife Refuges preserve a national network of lands and waters for the conservation and management of the plants, fish, and wildlife, of the United States, for the benefit of present and future generations.



Welcome to Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge -- we're glad you decided to visit. A unique cooperative agreement between the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** and privately owned **Midway Phoenix Corporation** now enables the opening of these exciting Pacific islands to visitors for the first time in over 50 years. A very special experience awaits you!

This packet outlines the programs and activities available to you during your visit, and provides basic information such as operating hours, points of contact, and safety measures. We hope you'll take the time to review this important information and we encourage you to keep it handy throughout your visit with us.

Though made famous by its pivotal role in World War II, Midway Atoll now provides essential wildlife habitat for 15 species of migratory seabirds (including the world's largest Laysan albatross colony and second largest black-footed albatross colony), endangered Hawaiian monk seals, threatened green sea turtles, migratory shorebirds, Hawaiian spinner dolphins, and more than 250 species of fishes in and around the lagoon.



Midway was an important Naval Air Facility for more than 55 years. On June 30, 1997, the last U.S. Navy personnel stationed on Midway departed after overseeing an extensive 3-year environmental cleanup and removing more than 100 fuel tanks, thousands of gallons of leaked petroleum product and tons of disintegrating asbestos tiles, and flaking lead-based paint. The efforts of the Navy and its contractors significantly improved Midway's habitat for wildlife and people.

Midway has traded "guns for goonies" and we're glad you can now take part in that transition. Please feel free to ask questions of our Fish and Wildlife Service staff at any time -- just look for us in uniform. We hope you have a memorable and safe experience!

Safety First!

Please keep safety in mind as you enjoy the island's amenities, and remember, although excellent medical facilities operate 24 hours a day, it's a long way from Midway to the emergency services available in Honolulu.

Airfield Operations: Only mission essential personnel may use the runway, taxiway, and aircraft parking apron. Your *Visitor Access Map* clearly defines approved crossing sites and trails that allow use of some of the runway edges. **Transient aircraft may arrive or depart at any time**, so please use caution and common sense whenever using these pathways. When the runway lights are on please do not cross the runways or travel along the edges. If you are along the runways and the lights come on, move immediately away from any potentially hazardous air traffic. Stay put until the runway lights are turned off.

Abandoned Buildings: Stay away from all clearly marked "ABANDONED/OFF LIMITS" buildings.

Unexploded Ordnance: **Never touch any unexploded ordinance.** Contact Midway Phoenix or Fish and Wildlife staff immediately if you find anything that resembles a bullet or bomb.

Fish Poisoning: Do not eat any fish caught inside the Atoll waters. Ciguatera poisoning can kill you. Only catch and release fishing is permitted inside the reef. For further information about ciguatera, contact the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wildlife. Please give all wildlife full consideration and "space." Do not stress animals or risk getting bitten by attempting to pet birds. Stay on paved roads and established trails to avoid crushing birds and burrows.

Beach. Please be alert to broken glass or sharp metal objects partially buried in the sand, and always scan the area for monk seals hidden in the dunes and bushes, or swimming into your area. Always swim with a buddy and during daylight hours. Swim only at designated beaches.

Smoking. Please refrain from smoking in the Fuel Farm/Tank Farm area, the flight line, and other posted areas.

Emergencies. In case of an emergency, please use a cellular or rotary telephone to call 911.

Emergency Procedures. If the fire alarm goes off in your barracks, immediately exit the building at either end of the hall. Wait outside the building for further instructions. Under extremely rare circumstances, such as tsunami conditions, **a constant blast from the island warning siren** means head for the second floor of the hangar and wait for instructions from Midway Phoenix or FWS Staff.

Remember, don't give common sense a vacation!

Midway Points of Contact

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Carolyn Rogers	Office Assistant	3363 (24 hours)
Rob Shallenberger	Refuge Manager	3365 (24 hours)
Bob Dieli	Outdoor Recreation Planner /Law Enforcement	3323 (24 hours)
James Aliberti	Refuge Ranger	3319
Lisa King	Refuge Ranger	3373

Midway Phoenix Corporation Office

Midway Phoenix staff may be reached 24 hours a day on the following cellular numbers:

◆ Guest Services		3327, 3328
◆ Terry Stewart	Guest Services Coordinator	3355
◆ Medical emergency		911

Midway Phoenix employs about 140 people to keep Midway Atoll operating and make your visit more enjoyable. Included in this outstanding labor force are Filipino, Sri Lankan, and Thai workers who played a vital role in the successful transition of Midway from a Naval Air Facility to a National Wildlife Refuge. The cultural differences brought to Midway by our diverse work force greatly enrich our community.

Oceanic Society

OS is located on Nimitz Avenue in the building adjacent to the Midway Mall and Station Theater.

◆ OS Representatives	3354 or 3334
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Midway Sport Fishing, Inc.

The Midway Sport Fishing office is found at the end of Hennessy Avenue on the Inner Harbor.

◆ MSF Representatives	3440 and 3331
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Midway Sport Divers

The dive shop is next to Midway Sport Fishing at the end of Hennessy Avenue on the Inner Harbor.

◆ MDS Representatives	3440 and 3339
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Midway Programming & Activities

Scheduled Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

By now, you've probably already attended our orientation program designed to introduce you to Midway's wonders as well as provide the most up-to-date information about current activities you can enjoy during your visit. The Fish and Wildlife Service also offers three regularly scheduled tours of Sand Island entitled *Midway's Miraculous History*, *Future Midway*, and *West Beach Trail*, and weather permitting, a 90 minute tour of *Eastern Island*.

The Fish and Wildlife Service posts its daily programs in our office window and the Galley. Please contact our office to confirm schedules with us on the day of the event.

Special Service Providers

If you booked your visit with Oceanic Society, Midway Sport Fishing, or Midway Sport Diving, your individual representative will acquaint you with all of their organized trips and activities.

Special Events

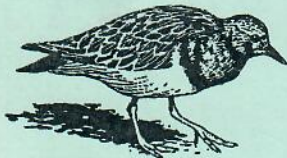
The Fish and Wildlife Service welcomes everyone to attend our free **special activities** such as guest speakers, presentations, visits to the historic Midway House, and educational video screenings. Check at the Fish and Wildlife Service office notice board for more information.

Midway Sport Fishing, Inc. provides **fishing trips** with all necessary tackle, boats, crew, and guides. Guests who did not book a fishing trip to Midway may still enjoy a day of fishing, but priority goes to those who booked a fishing package. You may rent shore-based fishing tackle from Midway Sport Fishing. Please contact the Midway Phoenix Corporation Guest Services Coordinator or the Midway Sport Fishing representative (see Points of Contact list) to check availability and daily rates, and please remember that variable weather conditions may affect outings. Be sure to pick up the ***Recreational Fishing at Midway*** brochure from the Fish and Wildlife Service office before you go fishing.

The qualified PADI instructors of Midway Sport Diving take **snorkel and SCUBA** enthusiasts into the beautiful Pacific waters around Midway Atoll. Priority goes to those guests who booked a dive package, but limited spaces may be available for other visitors. Contact the Midway Phoenix Corporation Guest Services Coordinator or the Midway Sport Diving representative (see Points of Contact list) to check availability and daily rates, and please remember that variable weather conditions may affect outings.

HISTORICAL MIDWAY

- ▶ **5 July 1859.** Captain Nick Brooks of the Hawaiian Bark "Gambia" discovers Midway, naming it "Middlebrook Islands."
- ▶ **28 August 1867.** Captain William Reynolds of the USS Lackawanna takes possession for the United States, making Midway the first offshore islands annexed by the U.S. government.
- ▶ **20 April 1903.** Commercial Pacific Cable Company's first contingent arrives on an island.
- ▶ **June 1903.** U.S. Navy ejects Japanese poachers and squatters and appoints Commercial Pacific Cable Company as island custodians.
- ▶ **4 July 1903.** President Roosevelt sends first "around the world" cable message via Midway.
- ▶ **12 April 1935.** Pan American Airways sets up an air base for weekly Trans-Pacific Flying Clipper Seaplane service.
- ▶ **1 August 1941.** U.S. Naval Air Station Midway is commissioned.
- ▶ **7 December 1941.** Two Japanese ships shell Midway and four Americans die.
- ▶ **4-6 June 1942.** Japanese launch a major invasion against Midway, but the U.S. Fleet ambushes the Japanese Fleet north of the Atoll and destroys four Japanese aircraft carriers.
- ▶ **8 June 1969.** U.S. President Nixon and South Vietnam President Thieu meet in the Midway House.
- ▶ **October 1978.** Naval Air Station Midway redesignated Naval Air Facility and dependents begin to depart.
- ▶ **23 November 1985.** Pan American 747 "China Clipper II" visits Midway to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first China Clipper flight.
- ▶ **22 April 1988.** Midway Atoll is designated as an overlay National Wildlife Refuge.
- ▶ **30 September 1993.** Naval Air Facility Midway listed as "operationally closed" and the Navy begins environmental cleanup.
- ▶ **2 August 1996.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and privately owned Midway Phoenix Corporation sign a unique cooperative agreement for the operation and management of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.
- ▶ **31 October 1996.** President Clinton signs Executive Order 13022 transferring jurisdiction of Midway Atoll from the U.S. Navy to the Department of the Interior. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge to maintain and restore its natural biological diversity, provide conservation and management of the wildlife and habitats within refuge boundaries, provide opportunities for scientific research and environmental education, maintain the atoll's historical significance, and provide compatible wildlife-oriented activities to the visiting public.



The Fish and Wildlife Service
welcomes you to
Midway Atoll National
Wildlife Refuge
and hopes you enjoy
this special place.

