

Lindbergh fish, bird sanctuary proposed

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By **ROBERT C. MILLER**
United Press International

The creation of the world's largest marine and bird sanctuary is being proposed as a memorial to the late Charles A. Lindbergh.

William J. Mullahey, a pioneer Pacific aviation executive and colleague of Lindbergh's, urged that a submerged mountain chain extending 1,050 miles northwest from Hawaii be given to the United Nations, both as a perpetual monument to peace, and as an "International Ecological Preserve to be kept in perpetuity for the benefit of all mankind."

The area encompasses thousands of square miles of the Central Pacific and includes the dozen or so islands and reefs known as the Hawaiian Bird Island Chain extending from Kure Island to Necker and Nihoa.



Typical Kure Island bird.

THE ISLANDS and reefs are the property of the United States, and Mullahey believes the state of Hawaii should take the initiative in offering the atolls and surrounding waters as a perpetual monument to peace.

"The United States could accept the trusteeship," the retired Pan American executive said, "and in the tradition of the several American wilderness reserves, hold this corridor of the Pacific for future generations to perpetuate this bird island sanctuary for indigenous flora and fauna — both aerial and marine."

Naturalists agree that the area contains some of the last breeding and nesting grounds for such dwindling species as the Hawaiian Hair Seal, the Laysan albatross, Hawaiian tern, various species of whales, sea turtles and other varieties of aquatic life. The islands provide vital "stopping places" for a number of migrating seafowl on the Pacific fly ways between the Arctic and Antarctic.

The big, ruddy-faced Irishman, who has waded ashore on more Pacific Islands than perhaps any other American, visualizes the establishment of such an International Ecological Reserve as "a world symbol for the prudent care and conservation of all natural resources."

PRAGMATIST Mullahey is no star-studded visionary, but a slide rule engineer fully cognizant of the muscle, sweat and patience necessary to budge the various bureaucratic mentalities into making his dream a reality.

"There are, of course, many practical details to be worked out," admits Mullahey. "Boundaries must be established, the protective administration of the reserve must be planned. The residents in the re-

serve — including those minimal U.S. Navy and Coast Guard activities — must be protected, and all trespassers must be prohibited except those authorized for legitimate scientific study and conservation."

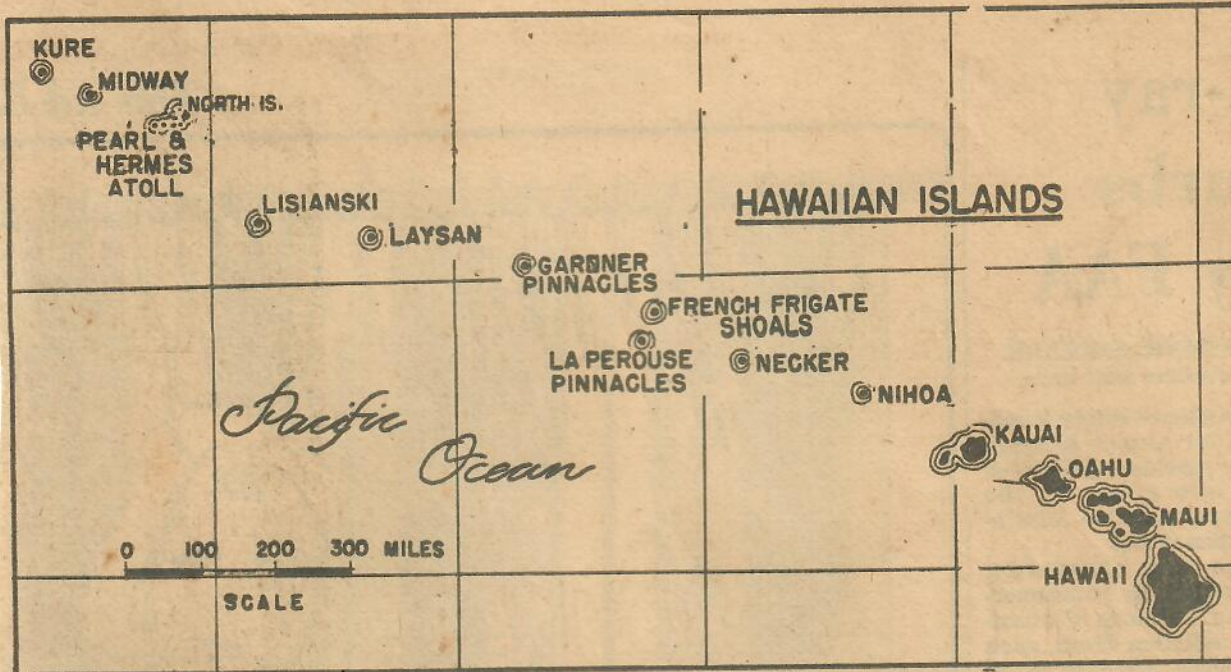
Mullahey said he could think of no more fitting tribute to Lindbergh who he considers was one of the world's great naturalists and conservationists.

"We first discussed the idea three years ago on an inaugural Pan Am 747 flight over Kauai and up to Necker and Nihoa islands. Lindbergh and Sam H. Pryor, the former executive vice president of Pan Am, were both enthusiastic about the idea of creating such a mid-Pacific sanctuary," Mullahey said.

THE ISLANDS along the thousand-mile chain are all sandy atolls, many are coral reefs of fantastic coloring. None has an elevation of more than a few feet above high tide. Geologists say the islands were formed from the same giant cleavage in the earth's crust that allowed the molten lava to pour forth and form the Hawaiian Islands.

However, the northern end of the rift was narrower and less lava seeped to the surface so the islands are smaller and shallower and the summits of some of the submerged mountains still lie beneath the surface of the Pacific.

The United States Coast Guard maintains a LORAN (navigational aid) station at French Frigate shoals permanently populated with about 20 people. The Gardner and LaPerouse Pinnacles are little more than shoals. Kure, 40 miles north of Midway, also has a LORAN station. The most populated of all the islands in the chain is Midway of World War II fame which still houses several hundred U.S. Navy personnel and is used as an emergency air field and rescue base as well as a communications center.



Map above shows Hawaiian Bird Island Chain extending 1,050 miles northwest from Hawaii. Photo at right is an aerial view of French Frigate Shoals.

