

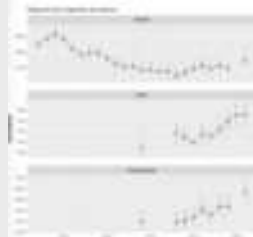
# IS THAT SEAL **DEAD** OR **ALIVE**?

Read the article below [on right](#) and [answer questions on the left](#)

## When do Hi Monk Seals haul out on the beach?



## What does “Endangered” mean?



## What does “TAKE”?



## Seals and Beachgoers

Description of Activity As the number of Hawaiian monk seals in the Main Hawaiian Islands increases, so will the number of encounters and interactions that beachgoers have with seals. Monk seals are frequently seen **hauled out** on beaches where they are sleeping or resting. Monk seals also come on land to give birth and nurse their pups, and to molt. Because of the difficulty seals have moving on land, hauled out animals are especially vulnerable to disturbance by people and dogs.

## Legal Protections and Management

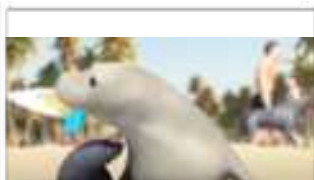
The Hawaiian monk seal is listed as an **endangered** species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and designated a "depleted" species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Both the ESA and MMPA have provisions that direct NOAA to protect depleted and listed species from harm and encourage the recovery of these populations. The MMPA prohibits the "take" of any marine mammal. "**Take**" includes actions such as hunting, harassing, killing, capturing, injuring and disturbing a marine mammal;



Watch the video above: Please explain what is "Kahakai?"



As more Hi monk Seals comes on shore on main Hi islands, what kind of challenges do they pose??



the law also prohibits the feeding of any marine mammal in the wild. The penalty for feeding a seal may be as much as \$6,000 depending on the circumstances. The ESA prohibits the "take" of a threatened or endangered species listed under the act. Under the ESA, **"take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect a listed species, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.** The take of a listed species may result in a federal fine of up to \$50,000 and up to one-year in jail.

Usually, the volunteer will set up a 'seal protection zone' (SPZ) around the seal using a rope, cones or signs. The SPZ helps to prevent disturbance of the seal and enhances public safety. The volunteer's job is to provide beachgoers with valuable conservation and life history facts about the monk seal, as well as encourage responsible viewing of the animal from a safe distance. SPZs are especially important in cases of pupping events or when a seal hauls out on a densely populated beach, like Poipu Beach on Kaua'i or Waikiki Beach on O'ahu. If the creation of a SPZ is not appropriate, volunteers may nonetheless stay on site to alert beachgoers about the presence of the seal and advise them about responsible viewing.

### Impact on Seals

Some beach users who do not respect the seal as part of Hawai'i's natural heritage may engage in a variety of behaviors that may be considered violations of state or federal law. These behaviors include disturbing a seal with noise, touching or sitting on a seal, scaring a seal into the water, playing with a seal, or injuring a seal by poking it or throwing rocks at it. Also, feeding a seal is illegal. A beachgoer's dog could harass or bite a seal, raising the possibility of transmitting canine distemper to the bitten seal (which could transmit it to other seals or other dogs). Each of the four major counties requires dogs to be leashed and under control.

The major reason for **avoiding direct human interactions with monk seals is to prevent seals from becoming accustomed to people.** A monk seal that becomes comfortable with humans is likely to seek out more human contact. While this may seem harmless or even amusing to some, a seal that becomes a nuisance may have to be relocated to another site or island, to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, or even taken out of the wild into captivity to ensure the safety of beach users.

Article : [https://marine-conservation.org/media/filer\\_public/filer\\_public/2014/04/04/interactions\\_packet\\_4\\_4\\_14.pdf](https://marine-conservation.org/media/filer_public/filer_public/2014/04/04/interactions_packet_4_4_14.pdf)



### Activity #1

#### Activity #1: Role Play : 📺 TV Commercial Concept: "Respect the Seal - Protect Hawai'i's Treasures!"

In a small group,

1. Read the direction and script first,
2. Decide which role you are excited to take,
3. Create the setting in outdoor if possible,
4. Rehearse the scene,
5. And film the commercial to have your impact on "Protecting seals."
- 6.

#### Opening Scene (0:00–0:10):

*Visuals:* A peaceful Hawaiian beach, serene waves, and a monk seal resting on the sand.

*Voiceover (child's voice):*

"Did you know this is one of Hawai'i's rarest treasures? This is a Hawaiian monk seal — endangered, and in need of our respect."

#### Middle Scene (0:10–0:30):

*Visuals:*

- A volunteer setting up an SPZ (Seal Protection Zone) with cones and rope.
- Kids and families watching the seal from a safe distance.
- Flash scenes showing "bad" behaviors with a red "X" over them: a person trying to touch the seal, a loose dog near the seal, someone shouting near it.

*Voiceover:*

"When you see a monk seal, stay back at least 50 feet. Never touch, feed, or scare it. And keep your dogs leashed — they could hurt the seal or spread disease."

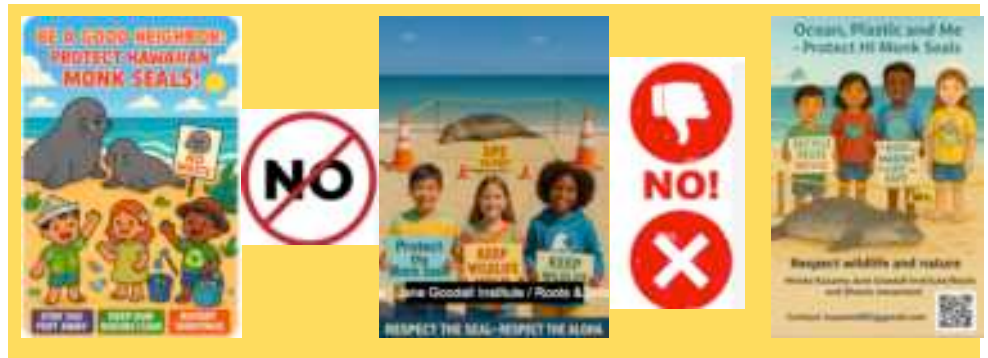
#### Tagline + Call to Action (0:45–0:60):

*Text on screen:*

**"Respect the Seal. Respect the Aloha. Learn more at "Good Neighbors: How to Share Hawaii's Beaches with Endangered Monk Seals"**

*Voiceover (in unison):*

"Respect and protect the Hi Monkseal — it's up to us!"



## Activity #2:

### Task#2: Video Commercial Project: Protect Hawaii's Monk Seals

#### Objective:

As part of our ongoing efforts to protect Hawaii's endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals, we are asking you to create a short video commercial to raise awareness about the importance of sharing our beaches with these beautiful creatures. Your video should educate the public on how they can be respectful neighbors and protect these seals from harm.

Pre-task: In you group,

1. Read the Project Guide line first.
2. Then share an idea what kind of setting you like to vision.
3. What is the most important issue you want to mention re Protecting HI Monk Seals as a good neighbor to share our beautiful beaches.
4. Then look at the posters below that each one has a few incorrect information YOU DON'T want to repeat.
5. Share your ideas and complete a fantastic Video Commercial that ALL TV stations love to air!!

Encourage people to become "Good Neighbors" to the seals and remind them of the importance of keeping our beaches safe for all marine life.

#### Guidelines:

Your video should be 1-2 minutes long.

Be creative! You can use animation, live-action footage, or a mix of both.

Make sure your message is clear and easy for viewers of all ages to understand.

Deadline: None

### Task#2: Video Commercial Project: Protect Hawaii's Monk Seals

#### Positive Call to Action:

Encourage people to become "Good Neighbors" to the seals and remind them of the importance of keeping our beaches safe for all marine life.

#### Guidelines:

Your video should be 1-2 minutes long.

Be creative! You can use animation, live-action footage, or a mix of both.

Make sure your message is clear and easy for viewers of all ages to understand.

Deadline: None

We look forward to seeing your creative solutions to protect our Hawaiian Monk Seals!

