Marianas Trench
Marine National Monument
A Closer Look Into the Deepest Trench on Earth

Islands Unit

The Islands Unit contains unique coral reef ecosystems and an abundance of marine life.

At Maug, photo- and chemosynthetic communities coexist, creating a natural laboratory for studying ocean acidification.


Volcanic Unit

The Volcanic Unit includes undersea mud volcanoes and hydrothermal vents where unusual life forms thrive in some of the harshest conditions on Earth, which may provide clues to the origins of life.

Found at the Northwest Eifuku volcano, the Champagne vent produces almost pure liquid carbon dioxide—one of only a handful of known sites in the world.

Trench Unit

The Trench Unit includes the crescent-shaped Mariana Trench, where the deepest known areas on Earth exist.

Islands Unit

For more information visit: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/habitat-conservation-marine-national-monuments-pacific


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Deeper Discoverer

Challenger Deep*
~36,000 feet/
~11,034 meters

~5,249 feet/
1,600 meters

~600 feet/
183 meters

Depth Profile

Key to Features and Animals

1 Flying Fish, Family Exocoetidae
2 Smaller Dolphin, Stenella longirostris
3 White-sided Dolphin, Lagenorhynchus obliquidens
4 NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer
5 Benthic Deepwater Animal Identification Guide
6 Healthy Coral Reef
7 Orange-Fin Anemonefish, Amphiprion chrysopterus
8 Orange-Spine Unicornfish, Naso lituratus
9 Convict Tang, Acanthurus triostegus
10 Kidako Moray, Gymnarchus kidako
11 Smalltooth Sawfish, Pristis pectinata
12 Octopus, Family Octopodidae
13 Bumphead Parrotfish, Bolbometopon muricatum
14 Highly Acidic Reef at Maug
15 Green Sea Turtle, Chelonia mydas
16 Short-Finned Pilot Whale, Globicephala macrorhynchus
17 Yellowfin Tuna, Thunnus albacares
18 Ruby Snapper, Lutjanus saxatilis
19 Long-Tail Red Snapper, Lutjanus apodus
20 Octopus, Family Octopodidae
21 White Sea Squid, Tanaids sp.
22 Benthic Platyhectenid Ctenophore, Lyrocteis sp.
23 Sea Anemone, Order Actiniaria
24 Deep Sea Corals
25 Tubeworm, Lamellibrachia sp.
26 Barnacles, Alcockianum sp.
27 Hydrothermal Vent Crab, Gandalfus yunohana
28 Chemosynthetic Mussels, Bathymodiolus sp.
29 Squat Lobster, Munidopsis sp.
30 Champagne Vents at NW Eifuku
31 Shrimp, Family Sergestidae
32 Jellyfish sp.
33 Jellyfish sp.
34 Sea Cucumber, Order Synallactida
35 Aphyonid Fish, Barathronus sp.
36 Acorn Worm, Family Torquaratoridae
37 Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Deep Discoverer

*Challenger Deep, the deepest point on Earth at about 36,000 feet, is just outside the southwest boundary of the Monument. At 35,210 feet, Sirena Deep is Earth’s second deepest point and the deepest point within the Monument.

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