

Hawaiian Monk Seals: Facts and Figures

- ✎ There are only 1,000 monk seals left in the whole world.
- ✎ The total number of monk seals is dropping each year. 60 more seals were lost in 2010.
- ✎ Monk seals came to Hawai'i over 10 million years ago.
- ✎ Monk seals are the oldest species of seal on the planet.
- ✎ Monk seals are named in verse 556 of the Kumulipo. They are called '*iole holo ka uaua*'.
- ✎ The Kumulipo classifies the seals as "nibblers." They do not eat bigger fish.
- ✎ Monk seals have a low metabolism, so they eat much less than other animals their size.
- ✎ Hawaiian monk seals can only survive in Hawai'i's temperature range.
- ✎ Most monk seals lived in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands until recently.
- ✎ Since the 1970's, more have been migrating to the main Hawaiian Islands.
- ✎ They are coming to the main islands because they are starving in the NW Hawaiian Islands.
- ✎ Commercial fishing operations wiped out most of the seal's food in the 1900's.
- ✎ Example: 11 million lobsters were taken from the NW Hawaiian Islands from 1970-1999.
- ✎ Today, the lobsters are not coming back, so the seals have no food.
- ✎ Humans ruined the seals' environment, so now they are looking for a place to survive.



Young Monk Seal Starving in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands