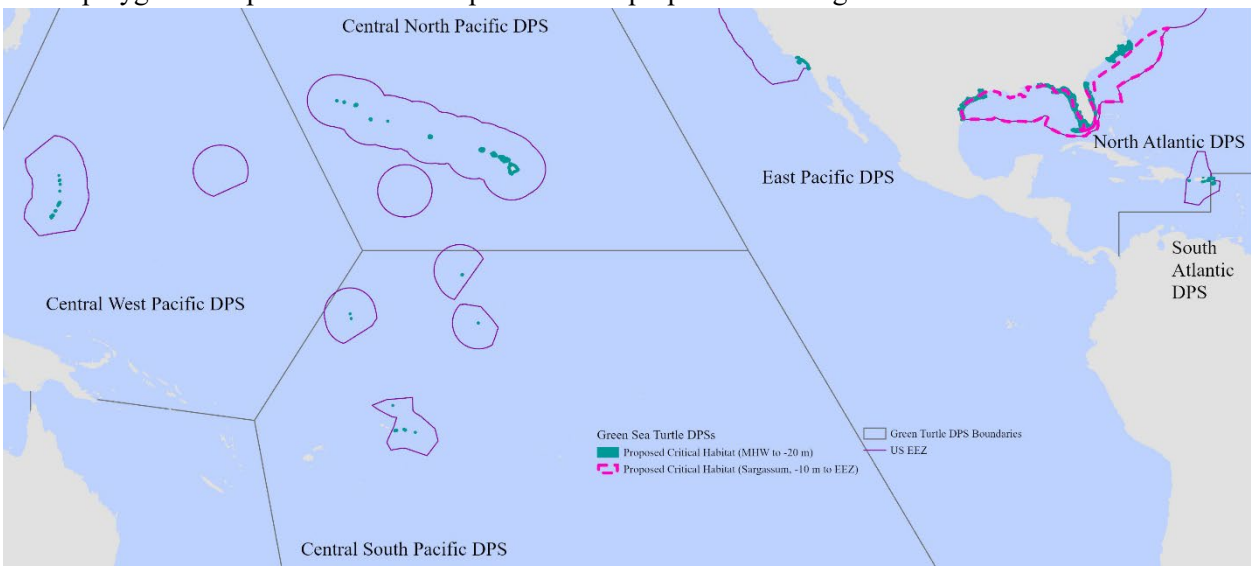
NOAA Fisheries' Proposed Marine Critical Habitat for Six Green Turtle Distinct Population Segments under the Endangered Species Act

To view these maps online (for example, to zoom into a particular area, please go to our critical habitat page, scroll down the table to "Sea Turtles," and click on "view" for the relevant distinct population segments (DPS). This will take you to a page that provides access to the GIS data, where you can click on "Open in Map View," which will show you that DPS's proposed critical habitat.

You can also go directly to our National Critical Habitat Mapper, where you can see all critical habitat in your area of interest.

Figure 1. Overview of NOAA Fisheries' proposed marine critical habitat for six green sea turtle DPSs. Green polygons and pink dashed line represent areas proposed for designation.

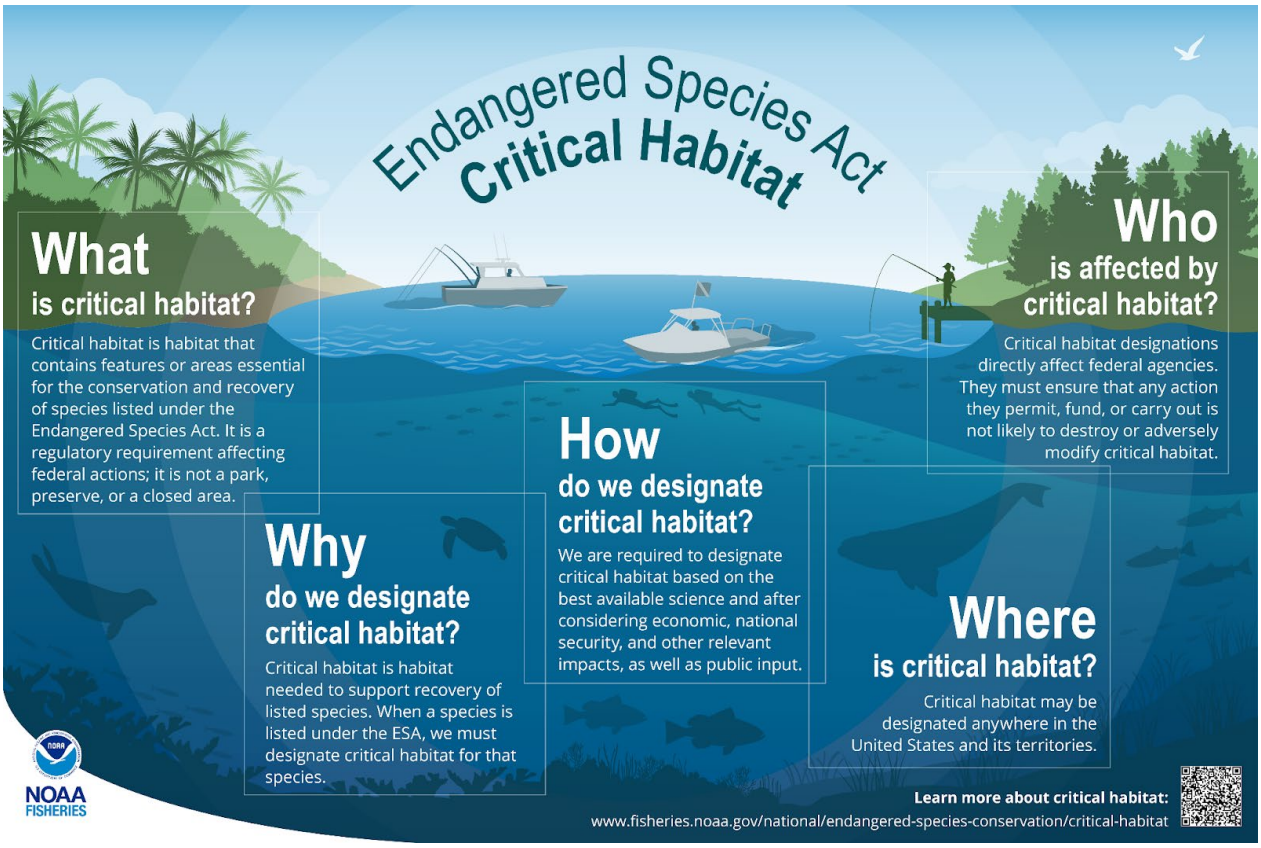


Features essential to the conservation of the DPSs include:

- **Reproductive (not East Pacific DPS):** From the mean high water line to 20 m depth, sufficiently dark and unobstructed nearshore waters adjacent to nesting beaches designated as critical habitat by USFWS, to allow for the transit, mating, and internesting of reproductive individuals and the transit of post-hatchlings.
- **Migratory (North Atlantic and East Pacific DPSs only):** From the mean high water line to 20 m depth (North Atlantic DPS) or 10 km offshore (East Pacific DPS), sufficiently unobstructed waters that allow for unrestricted transit of reproductive individuals between benthic foraging/resting and reproductive areas.
- **Benthic foraging/resting:** From the mean high water line to 20 m depth, underwater refugia and food resources (i.e., seagrasses, macroalgae, and/or invertebrates) of sufficient condition, distribution, diversity, abundance, and density necessary to support survival, development, growth, and/or reproduction.
- **Surface-pelagic foraging/resting ("*Sargassum*;" North Atlantic DPS only):** Convergence zones, frontal zones, surface-water downwelling areas, the margins of major boundary currents,

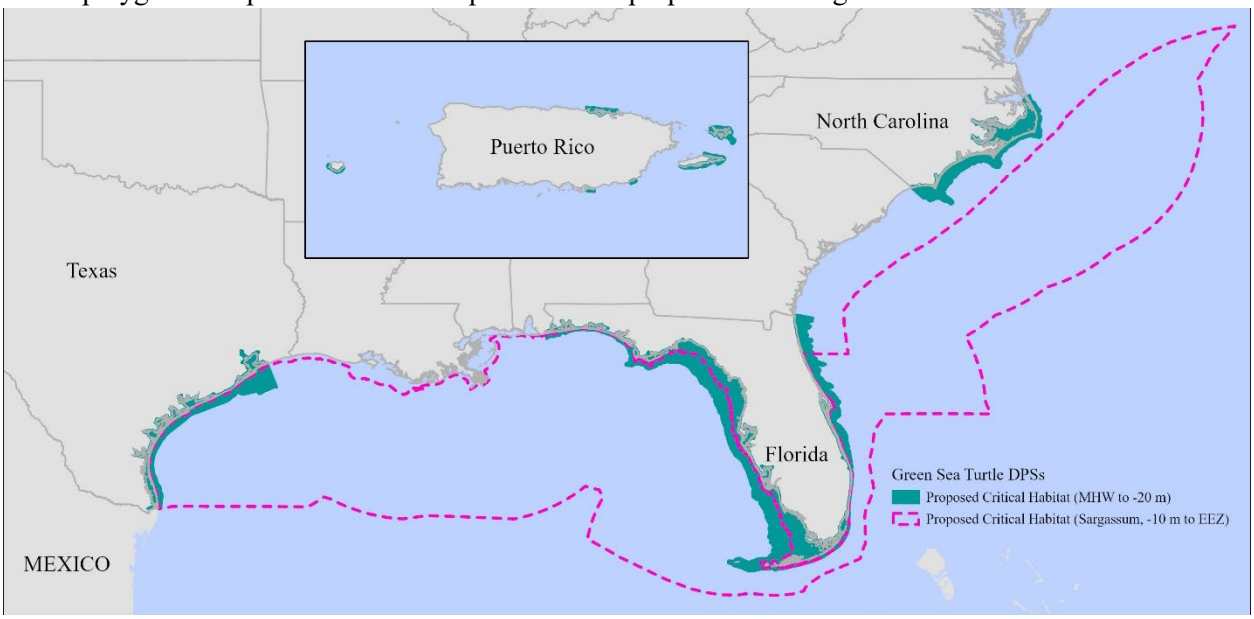
and other areas that result in concentrated components of the *Sargassum*-dominated drift community, as well as the currents which carry turtles to *Sargassum*-dominated drift communities, which provide sufficient food resources and refugia to support the survival, growth, and development of post-hatchlings and surface-pelagic juveniles, and which are located in sufficient water depth (at least 10 m) to ensure offshore transport via ocean currents to areas which meet forage and refugia requirements.

Figure 2. Infographic explaining critical habitat.



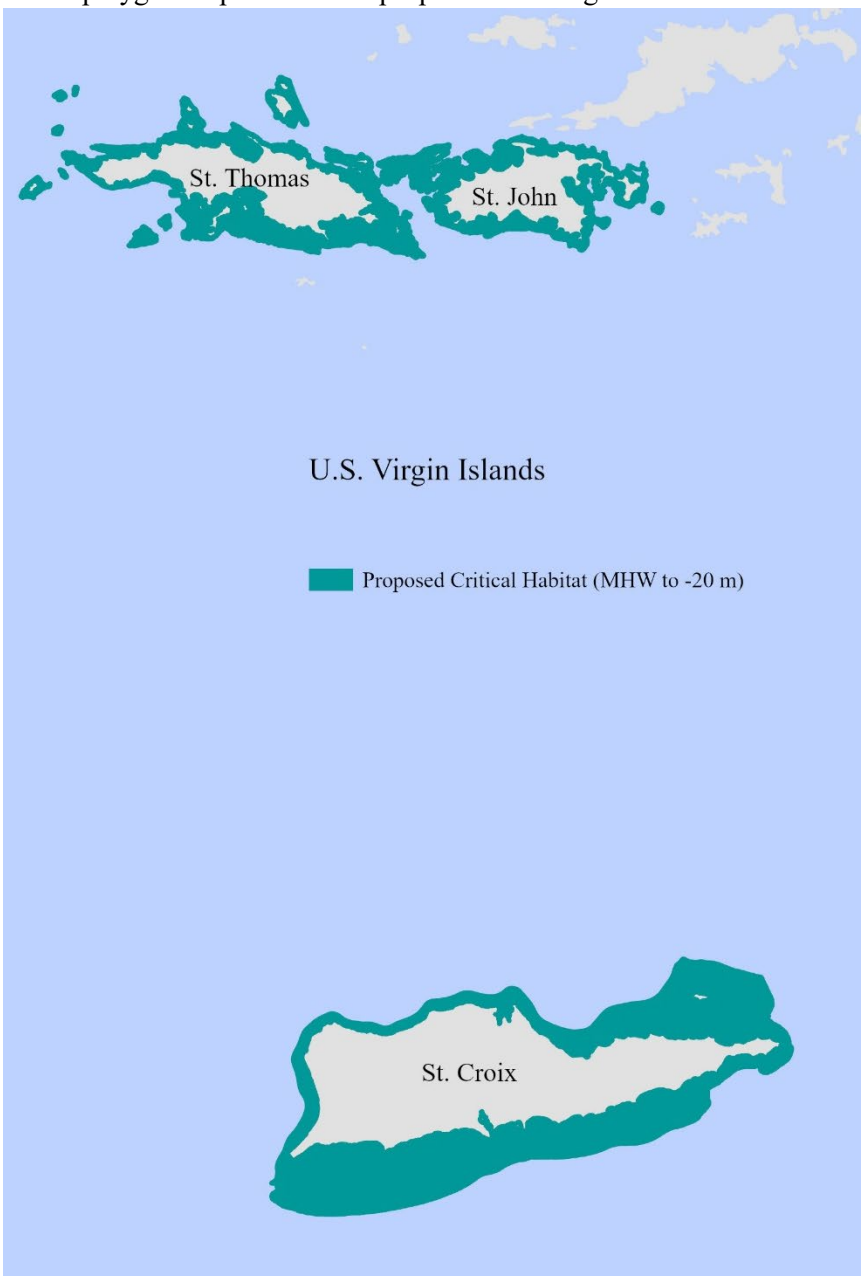
North Atlantic DPS (link to GIS data)

Figure 3. Overview of NOAA Fisheries' proposed marine critical habitat for the North Atlantic DPS. Green polygons and pink dashed line represent areas proposed for designation.



South Atlantic DPS (link to GIS data)

Figure 4. Overview of NOAA Fisheries' proposed marine critical habitat for the South Atlantic DPS. Green polygons represent areas proposed for designation.

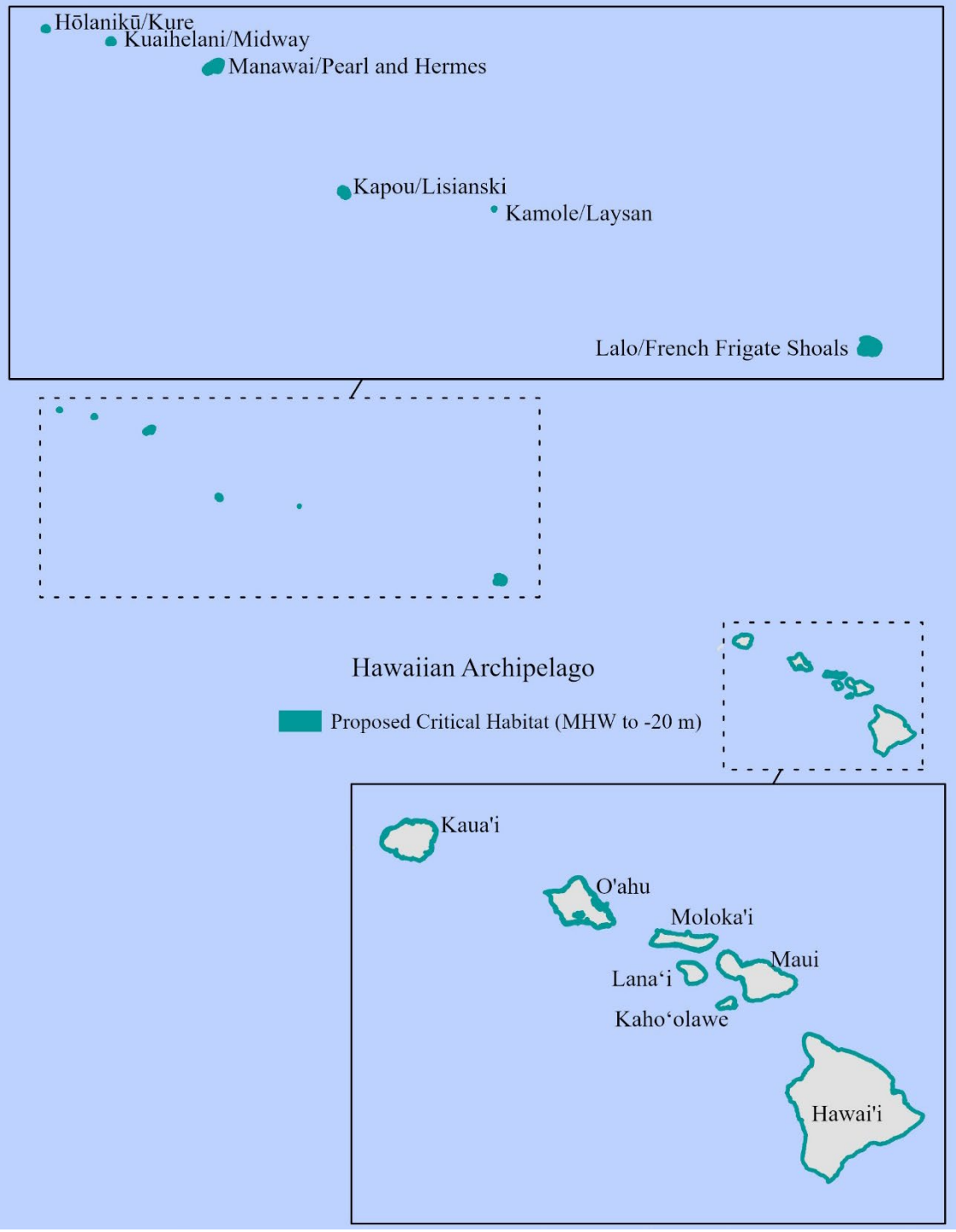


East Pacific DPS (link to GIS data)

Figure 5. Overview of NOAA Fisheries' proposed marine critical habitat for the East Pacific DPS. Green polygons represent areas proposed for designation.

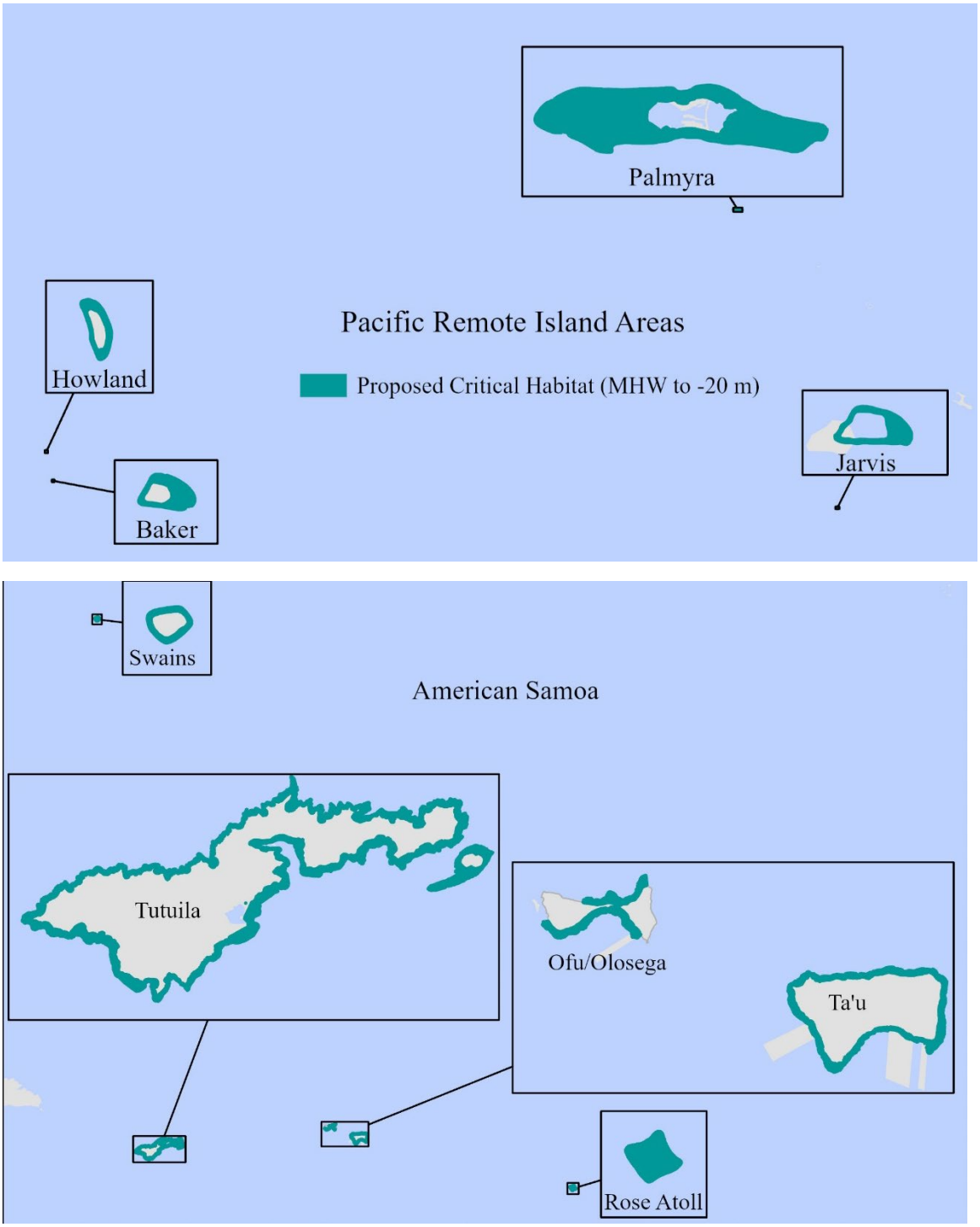
Central North Pacific DPS (link to GIS data)

Figure 6. Overview of NOAA Fisheries' proposed marine critical habitat for the Central North Pacific DPS. Green polygons represent areas proposed for designation.



Central South Pacific DPS (link to GIS data)

Figure 7. Overview of NOAA Fisheries' proposed marine critical habitat for the Central South Pacific DPS. Green polygons represent areas proposed for designation.



Central West Pacific DPS (link to GIS data)

Figure 8. Overview of NOAA Fisheries' proposed marine critical habitat for the Central West Pacific DPS. Green polygons represent areas proposed for designation.