

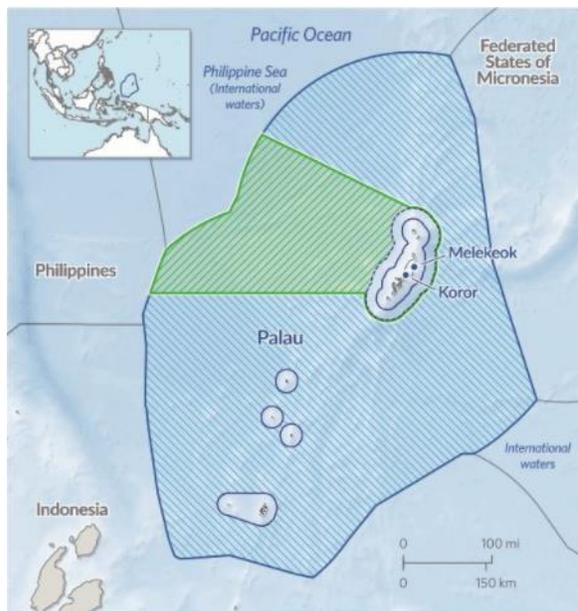
## Areas of Interests from the South and West Pacific Data Center:

### 1. Palau National Marine Sanctuary

The Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS), which was established in 2015 and came into effect in January 2020, is a large-scale no-take MPA which covers 80 % of Palau's EEZ. The remaining 20 % is zoned for regulated offshore fishing activities. A hundred percent of Palau's EEZ is now under full management, honouring Palau's Ocean Panel commitment of 100 % ocean management (<https://oceanpanel.org/ocean-action/transformations.html>). The establishment of the PNMS highlights Palau's commitment to ocean conservation and achieving 30 % ocean protection by 2030.

The PNMS expands Palau's marine conservation efforts from nearshore MPAs, which covers important coral reef, seagrass and mangrove habitats, to include our offshore and deep-sea environments. The PNMS is a fully offshore large-scale MPA, one of only a handful of such MPAs found globally. With over 470 000 km<sup>2</sup> of unexplored ocean, ranging in depths from 1000 to 8000m, the PNMS is full of untapped potential in terms of resources, diversity and ocean knowledge.

The overarching aim of the PNMS is to conserve Palau's ocean heritage and increase the sustainable contribution of the ocean to livelihoods and human wellbeing (<https://picrc.org/picrcpage/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/PICRC-COS-PNMS-Report-Executive-Summary-2019DEC-FINAL-WEB.pdf>). This will be achieved through science driven MPA conservation and management, by nurturing stronger pelagic fisheries for Palauans and by attracting responsible tourism to Palau. The PNMS is thus committed to both ocean conservation as well as the development of sustainable ocean resources.



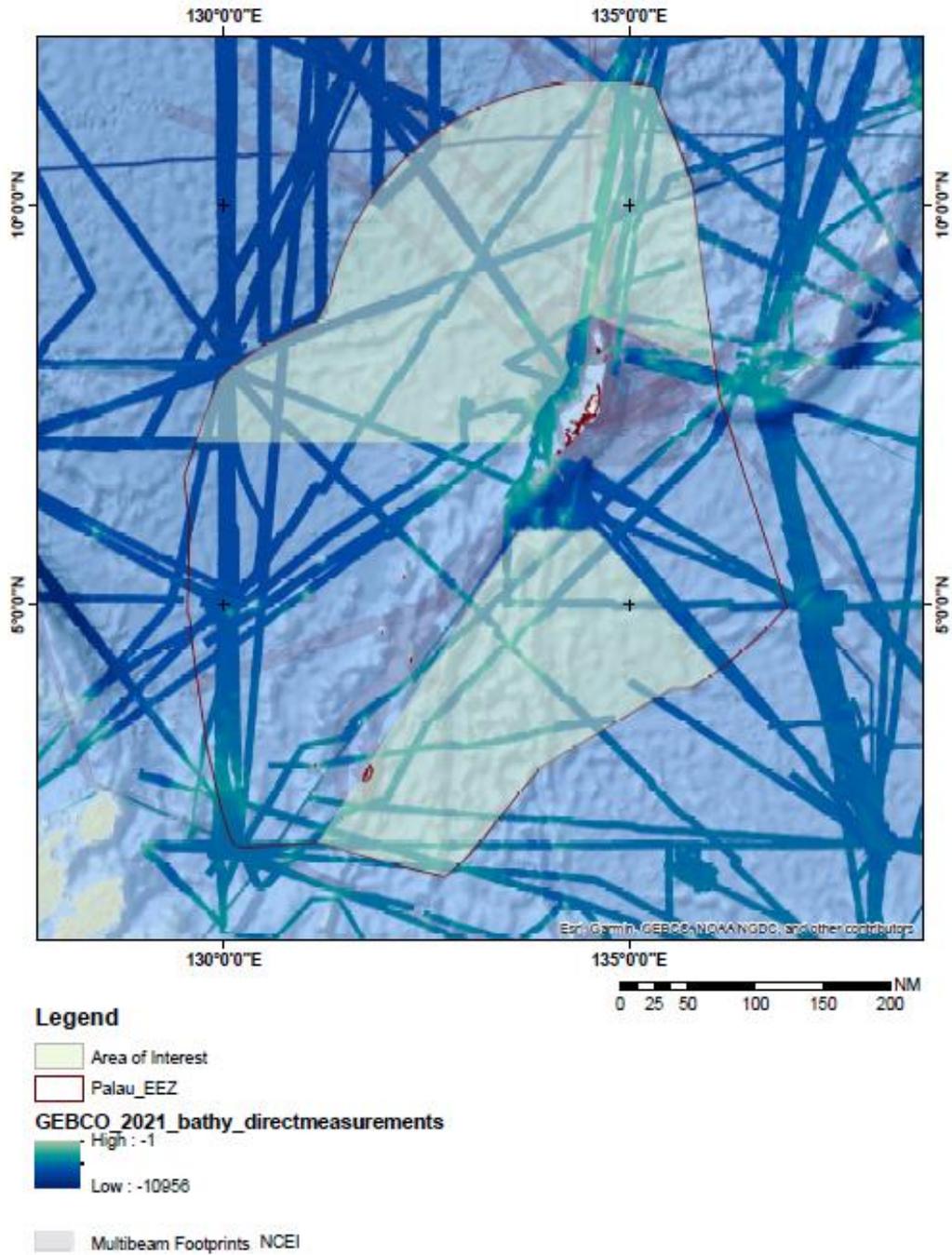
- Palau National Marine Sanctuary (475,077 sq km)
- Domestic fishing zone (117,572 sq km)
- Commercial fishing zone (105,491 sq km)
- Unaffected state coastal waters (18,628 sq km; out to 12 nm)
- Artisanal fishing zone (12,081 sq km; out to 24 nm)
- Palau EEZ

Note: Domestic fishing zone includes commercial and artisanal fishing zones.

Sources: Republic of Palau, Senate Bill 10-157, HD1 (2019); GEBCO; EEZs from marinesregion.org; Natural Earth

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<https://picrc.org/picrcpage/palau-national-marine-sanctuary/>

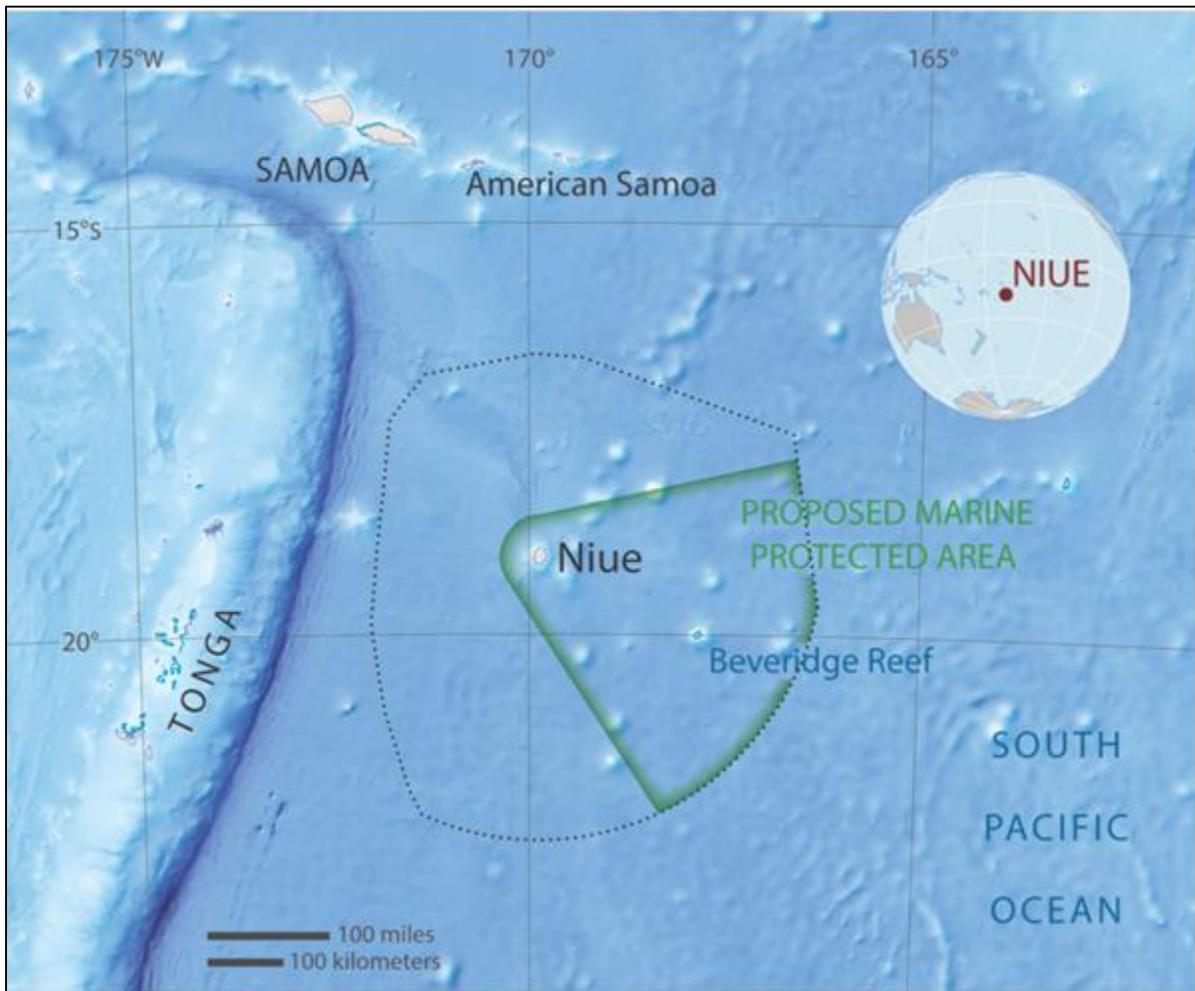


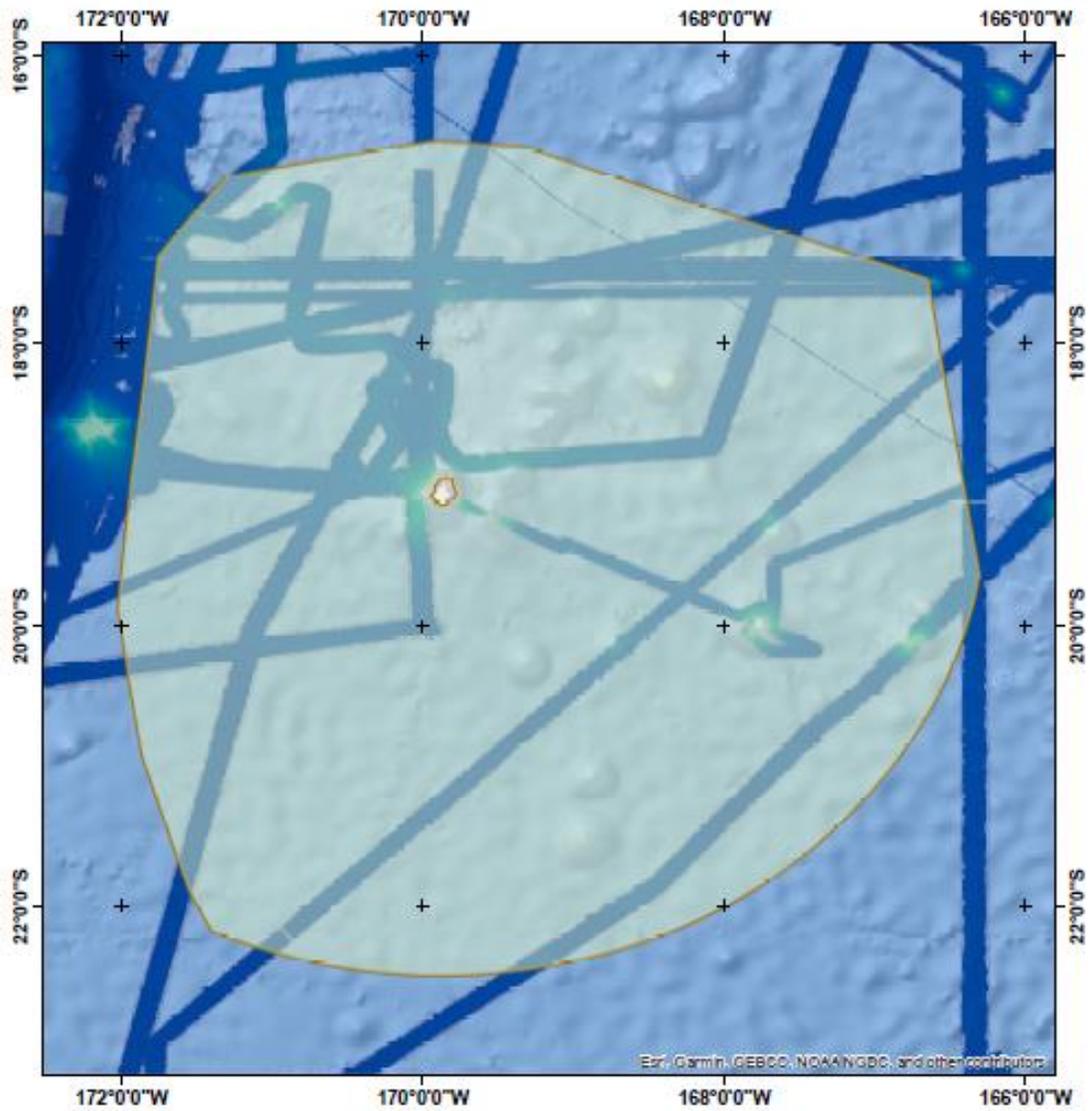
Research Activities: Seafloor mapping, backscatter, benthic classification, underwater camera, benthic sampling, sediment analysis

Possible Research Partners / Collaborators: PNMS, PICRC, Palau Government, SPC

## 2. Niue Marine Protected Area

The Government and people of Niue, in collaboration with Tofia Niue through the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) project, passed the Niue Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area Regulations 2020, formalizing and giving legal effect to the protection of 40% of Niue's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), of 127,000 square kilometers. The Large Scale Marine Protected Area (LSMPA) includes a Special Management Area (SMA) around and including Beveridge Reef named the "Beveridge Reef Nukutulueatama Special Management Area" a biodiversity jewel in Niue's Ocean Crown.





**Legend**

- Area of Interest
- Palau\_EEZ
- GEBCO\_2021\_bathy\_directmeasurements**
- High : -1
- Low : -10956
- Multibeam Footprints NCEI

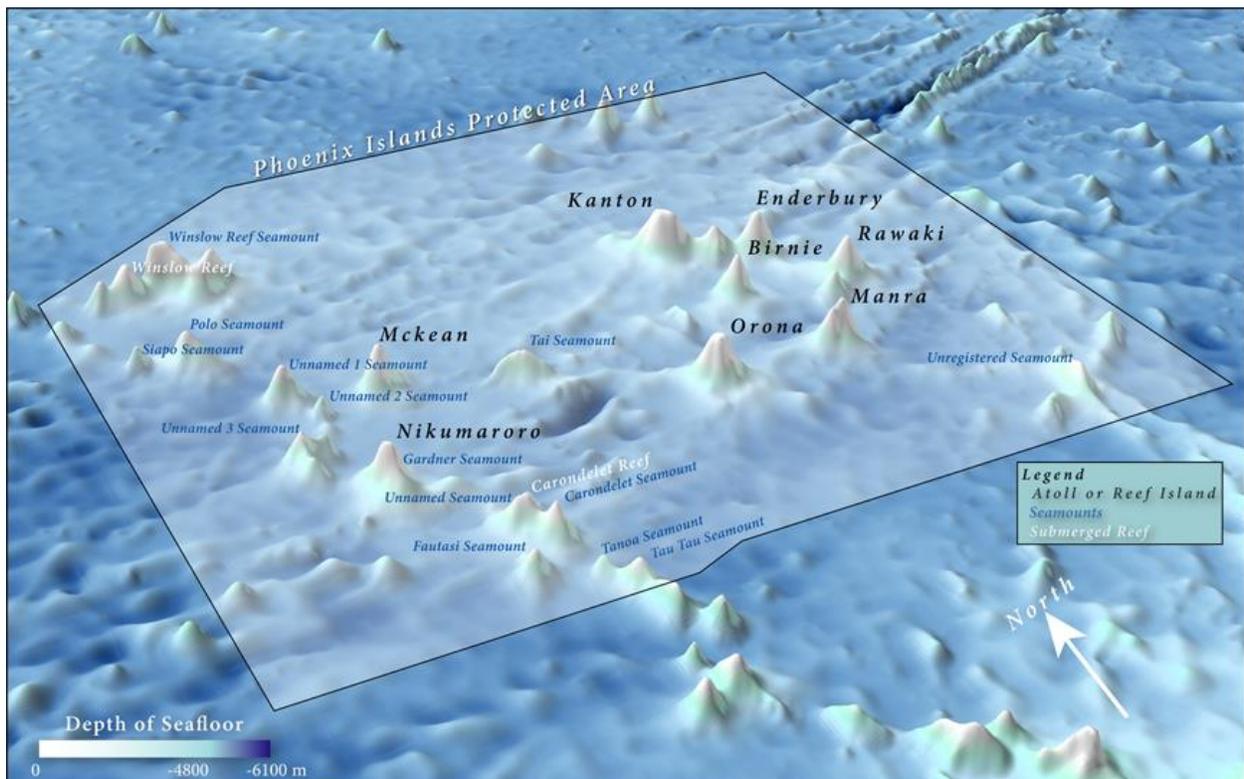


Research Activities: Seafloor mapping of the entire Niue EEZ, backscatter, benthic classification, underwater camera, benthic sampling, sediment analysis

Possible Research Partners / Collaborators: SPC, LINZ, Niue Government, Niue Ocean Wide project

### 3. Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA), Kiribati

The Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA) is a 408,250 sq.km expanse of marine and terrestrial habitats in the Southern Pacific Ocean. The property encompasses the Phoenix Island Group, one of three island groups in Kiribati, and is the largest designated Marine Protected Area in the world. PIPA conserves one of the world's largest intact oceanic coral archipelago ecosystems, together with 14 known underwater seamounts (presumed to be extinct volcanoes) and other deep-sea habitats. The area contains approximately 800 known species of fauna, including about 200 coral species, 500 fish species, 18 marine mammals and 44 bird species. The structure and functioning of PIPA's ecosystems illustrate its pristine nature and importance as a migration route and reservoir.



Research Activities: Seafloor mapping, backscatter, benthic classification, underwater camera, benthic sampling, sediment analysis

Possible Research Partners / Collaborators: PNMS, PICRC, SPC, NZ MFaT, Conservation International