



Australia-Oceania :: Palmyra Atoll
(territory of the US)

Introduction :: Palmyra Atoll

Background:

The Kingdom of Hawaii claimed the atoll in 1862, and the US included it among the Hawaiian Islands when it annexed the archipelago in 1898. The Hawaii Statehood Act of 1959 did not include Palmyra Atoll, which is now privately owned by the Nature Conservancy. This organization is managing the atoll as a nature preserve. The lagoons and surrounding waters within the 12-nautical-mile US territorial seas were transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and were designated a National Wildlife Refuge in January 2001.

Geography :: Palmyra Atoll

Location:

Oceania, atoll in the North Pacific Ocean, about half way between Hawaii and American Samoa

Geographic coordinates:

5 52 N, 162 04 W

Map references:

Oceania

Area:

total: 11.9 sq km

land: 11.9 sq km

water: 0 sq km

Area - comparative:

about 20 times the size of The Mall in Washington, DC

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

14.5 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

Climate:

equatorial, hot, and very rainy

Terrain:

very low

Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m

highest point: unnamed location 2 m

Natural resources:

terrestrial and aquatic wildlife

Land use:

arable land: 0%

permanent crops: 0%

other: 100% (forests and woodlands) (2011)

Natural hazards:

NA

Environment - current issues:

NA

Geography - note:

about 50 islets covered with dense vegetation, coconut trees, and balsa-like trees up to 30 meters tall

People and Society:: Palmyra Atoll

Population:

no indigenous inhabitants

note: 4 to 20 Nature Conservancy staff, US Fish and Wildlife staff (July 2008 est.)

Government:: Palmyra Atoll
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Transportation:: Palmyra Atoll
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Military:: Palmyra Atoll
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Transnational Issues:: Palmyra Atoll
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