

Researchers discover three new species of fish off Hawaii

June 16 2016, by Caleb Jones



This photo provided by Bishop Museum and NOAA shows a male Hawaiian Pigfish, one of the deep-water fishes never before seen by divers, found during a 25-day research expedition from May 22 to June 15, 2016, in the waters in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Researchers in Hawaii have discovered three probable new species of fish while on an expedition in the protected waters of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. (Richard Pyle/Bishop Museum and NOAA via AP)

Researchers in Hawaii have discovered three probable new species of fish while on an expedition in the protected waters of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

In a statement released Wednesday, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials said divers collected two previously unknown species of [fish](#) and filmed a third.

NOAA's Randall Kosaki, the expedition's chief scientist, said the team collected the first specimens of male Hawaiian pigfish about 300 feet below the surface.

The scientists also observed significant coral mortality in the region that was the result of a mass bleaching event in 2014.

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology researcher John Burns said a 2015 trip found about 90 percent of the coral around Lisianski Island had died. This year, the team found that dead [coral](#) was covered in a green algae bloom.



This photo provided by Bishop Museum and NOAA shows a wrasse, left, one of

deep-water fishes never before seen by divers, found during a 25-day research expedition from May 22 to June 15, 2016, in the waters in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Researchers in Hawaii have discovered three probable new species of fish while on an expedition in the protected waters of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. (Richard Pyle/Bishop Museum and NOAA via AP)

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