



USS Arizona

Once a site of human devastation, now a haven for marine life.

Resting on the bottom of Pearl Harbor, the USS Arizona Memorial is now a place of healing and spiritual renewal. While water quality remains an issue, the wreck of the USS Arizona has been reborn as an artificial reef teeming with life.



Pearl Harbor over time

pre-1800s

Ke awalau 'o Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor) was a vast wetland that provided an abundance of seafood. Hawaiian legends say a mo'o (supernatural lizard deity) brought i'a hāmau leo, the native pearl oyster, to the area.



1943

Pearl Harbor was the mobilization zone for WWII Pacific theater. An unfortunate side effect was the pollution of the Harbor with chemicals and heavy metals.



1962–1980

In 1962, the USS Arizona Memorial was dedicated. In 1980, the operation of the Memorial was transferred from the US Navy to the National Park Service.

present

Nature is slowly reclaiming Pearl Harbor and the hull.



Pearl Harbor sediment blankets the hull

The USS Arizona sits on top of deep mud. Most of the wreck is covered with about seven inches (~18 cm) of silt, built up from river sediment.

Upland agriculture and development sediment runoff settles on the hull.

Life rebounds, even where disaster struck

Seven decades later, marine life rejuvenation in Pearl Harbor is represented by the diverse reef community growing on the hull.

Corals, sponges, and small reef fish have made the hull their home.

Oil continues to seep in small drops from the hull

The USS Arizona sank with 1.5 million gallons (5.7 million liters) of oil aboard. About 0.5 million gallons (1.9 million liters) remain.

Oil leaks from the hull still rise to the surface of the water.

New marine species are introduced by shipping

Increased wartime shipping activity accelerated the rate of new marine species introduction, some of which persist and threaten native species.

This invasive red algae forms huge mounds and thrives where water quality is poor.

Hull deterioration is influenced by marine life

Corals, sponges, invertebrates, and algae encrust parts of the USS Arizona. Over time, these organisms are colonizing the hull.

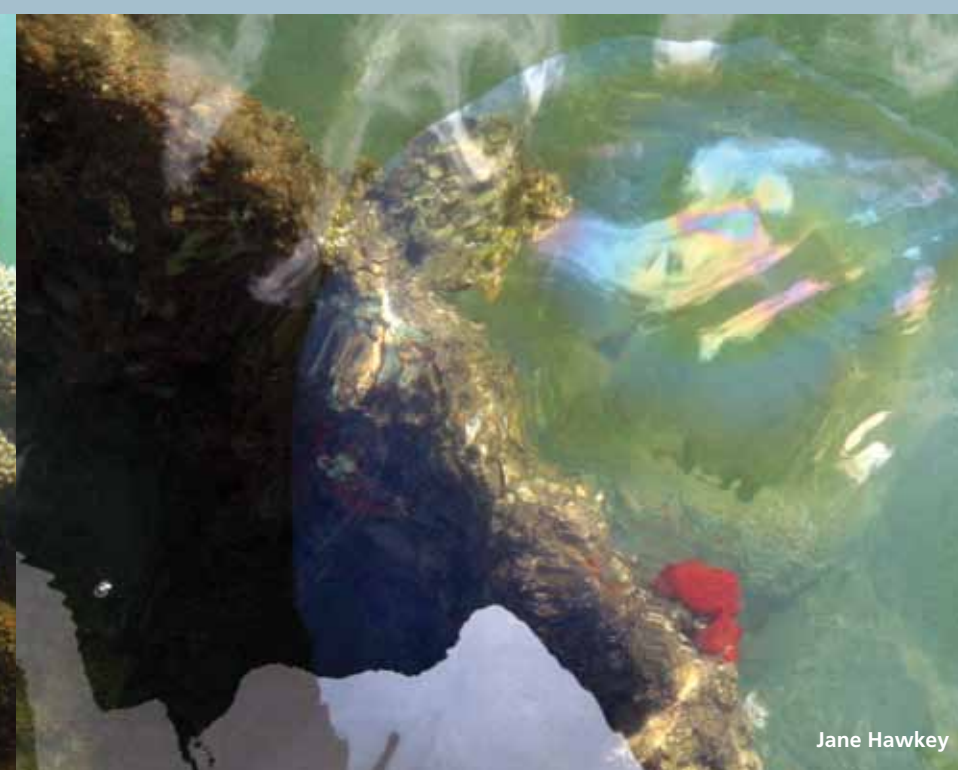
Encrusting marine life grow around a portal on the ship's hull.



Brett Seymour



Brett Seymour



Jane Hawkey



Jennifer Smith



Brett Seymour

