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## Establishment of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument

Read the following passage. This passage summarizes part of a proclamation by the former President of the United States of America, George W. Bush. On January 6, 2009, he declared the creation of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument in a press release.

The Mariana Trench is approximately 940 nautical miles long and 38 nautical miles wide. It lies within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and contains the deepest known points in the world's ocean.

The area around the Trench is of interest to scientists for many reasons. The area includes the largest active mud volcanoes on Earth. The Champagne vent is located at the Eifuku submarine volcano. It produces almost pure liquid carbon dioxide. This phenomenon has only been observed in one other location in the world. The Sulfur Cauldron is a pool of liquid sulfur found at the Daikoku submarine volcano. The only other known location of molten sulfur is on Io, a moon of Jupiter. The northernmost Mariana reefs have unique volcanic habitats that support marine biological communities requiring basalt. Basalt is a type of volcanic rock that other reefs across the Pacific do not require. And Maug Crater is one of only a few places on Earth where communities of life requiring photosynthesis and chemosynthesis coexist.

The waters of the Northern Mariana Islands are among the most biologically diverse in the Western Pacific. They include the greatest diversity of hydrothermal vent life ever discovered. These volcanic islands are surrounded by coral ecosystems with very high numbers of sharks and reef fish. They also contain one of the most diverse collections of stony corals in the Western Pacific. These relatively pristine coral reef ecosystems are essential to the long-term study of tropical marine ecosystems.