Where Wildlife Comes First: One mile of the reserve’s coastline is open, from the reserve’s north entrance to Kanahena (all of ‘Āhihi Bay).

The open area contains the most diverse and abundant reef in the entire reserve. The remaining two miles of reserve coastline is closed. That’s 2.1% of Maui’s coastline where turtles, seals, dolphins, and other native species can live wild, without human disturbance.

Follow these laws and guidelines each time you enter the reserve:

1. “Never Stand Unless on Sand” when in the water, and enter the ocean only where there is sand under your fins or feet.

   Its a win-win: you won’t get cuts on your feet that can become dangerously infected, and you won’t kill the fish food growing on the rocks. Look for this fish on signs marking the best entries at Kanahena Beach and ‘Āhihi Cove.

2. “Where are the dolphins / turtles / rays / sharks / seals?”

   View wildlife from a distance. Wildlife protection laws prohibit following, chasing, touching or feeding dolphins, seals, and turtles. Closely approaching or interacting with wild marine animals (even sharks and fish) interrupts daily survival activities, driving them into poor or dangerous habitats. (16-USC-chapter 31 & HR§195D-4)

3. Wear water-shirts or zinc or titanium sunblocks instead of chemical sunscreens.

   Before you buy or apply, read the labels. Chemical sunscreens contain compounds which are highly toxic to corals and fish even in small amounts.

4. Take only photos and memories. It is unlawful to take rocks, coral, plants, wood, animals, or shells from the reserve. They belong to everyone and must be left where you find them. (HAR §13-209-4)

5. Leave the rocks and coral where nature and history placed them. Archeological sites abound along this coastline. Stacking or moving rocks or coral to spell messages is vandalism: it destroys history and is culturally disrespectful. (HAR §13-209-4)

6. Let the fish and birds find their own food.

   Feeding makes them aggressive, and supports alien species that do not belong in the reserve. Your food scraps, husks, seeds, peels, and shells will not rot in this desert. Pack them out. (HAR §13-209-4)