

Baker Island

(territory of the US)

Geography

Location: Oceania, atoll in the North Pacific Ocean, about one-half of the way from Hawaii to Australia.

Map references: Oceania.

Area:

total area: 1.4 sq km.

land area: 1.4 sq km.

Coastline: 4.8 km.

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm.

territorial sea: 12 nm.

Climate: equatorial; scant rainfall, constant wind, burning sun.

Terrain: low, nearly level coral island surrounded by a narrow fringing reef.

Natural resources: guano (deposits worked until 1891).

Land use:

arable land: 0%.

permanent crops: 0%.

meadows and pastures: 0%.

forest and woodland: 0%.

other: 100%.

Irrigated land: 0 sq km.

Environment:

current issues: no natural fresh water resources.

natural hazards: the narrow fringing reef surrounding the island can be a maritime hazard.

Note: treeless, sparse, and scattered vegetation consisting of grasses, prostrate vines, and low growing shrubs; primarily a nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat for seabirds, shorebirds, and marine wildlife.

People

Population: uninhabited; note - American civilians evacuated in 1942 after Japanese air and naval attacks during World War II; occupied by US military during World War II, but abandoned after the war; public entry is by special-use permit only and generally restricted to scientists and educators; a cemetery and cemetery ruins are located near the middle of the west coast.

Capital: none; administered from Washington, DC.