

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT Permit Application

NOTE: *This Permit Application (and associated Instructions) are to propose activities to be conducted in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The Co-Trustees are required to determine that issuing the requested permit is compatible with the findings of Presidential Proclamation 8031. Within this Application, provide all information that you believe will assist the Co-Trustees in determining how your proposed activities are compatible with the conservation and management of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument).*

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Any or all of the information within this application may be posted to the Monument website informing the public on projects proposed to occur in the Monument.
- In addition to the permit application, the Applicant must either download the Monument Compliance Information Sheet from the Monument website OR request a hard copy from the Monument Permit Coordinator (contact information below). The Monument Compliance Information Sheet must be submitted to the Monument Permit Coordinator after initial application consultation.
- Issuance of a Monument permit is dependent upon the completion and review of the application and Compliance Information Sheet.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Send Permit Applications to:
NOAA/Inouye Regional Center
NOS/ONMS/PMNM/Attn: Permit Coordinator
1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
nwhipermit@noaa.gov
PHONE: (808) 725-5800 FAX: (808) 455-3093

SUBMITTAL VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL IS PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED. FOR ADDITIONAL SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS, SEE THE LAST PAGE.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Permit Application Cover Sheet

This Permit Application Cover Sheet is intended to provide summary information and status to the public on permit applications for activities proposed to be conducted in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. While a permit application has been received, it has not been fully reviewed nor approved by the Monument Management Board to date. The Monument permit process also ensures that all environmental reviews are conducted prior to the issuance of a Monument permit.

Summary Information

Applicant Name: CDR Mark A. Wetzler, Commanding Officer, NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer

Affiliation: NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)

Permit Category: Conservation and Management

Proposed Activity Dates: A subset of dates between July 1 and September 30, 2015. Current cruise dates are July 3 - July 24; July 31- August 22; September 7 - September 30, 2015. Dates may shift within the July 1- September timeframe.

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Vessel, NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer

Proposed Locations: Waters deeper than 250 m around Middle Bank, Nihoa, Westpac Bank, Twin Banks, Keoia Seamount, Necker, and French Frigate Shoals, Rogatien Banks (all), Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan, North Hampton Seamounts, Kaiuli Seamount, Pioneer Bank, Lisianski, Bank 9, Pearl & Hermes, Gambia Shoals, and 4 unnamed seamounts south and east of Pearl & Hermes.

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit:
26 crew

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 50

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...

NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer is a 224' vessel owned and operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The vessel will act as a platform for research activities conducted within the boundaries of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Research scientists aboard the vessel will work under separate permits from the ship.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would

Transport research scientists traveling within the Monument, act as a platform for remotely operated vehicle (ROV), multibeam mapping, and other acoustic operations.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by ...

Providing a data collection platform for scientists to conduct research activities to take the next major step in baseline characterization of deepwater areas within the monument. The information and data generated by projects supported on NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer will directly contribute to a better understanding of the deep water habitats, ecosystems and geologic history of the NWHI by providing PMNM basic information about the about the rich and unique biological resources and habitats of this region. It is this understanding that provides continuous support for the monument and its protection of these resources. A separate permit request has been submitted to conduct science activities within PMNM.

Other information or background:

Section A - Applicant Information

1. Applicant

Name (last, first, middle initial): Wetzler, Mark A.

Title: Commanding Officer, NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer

1a. Intended field Principal Investigator (See instructions for more information):

N/A

2. Mailing address (street/P.O. box, city, state, country, zip): NOAA Ship Okeanos

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For students, major professor's name, telephone and email address: N/A

3. Affiliation (institution/agency/organization directly related to the proposed project):

United States Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration/Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

4. Additional persons to be covered by permit. List all personnel roles and names (if known at time of application) here (e.g. John Doe, Research Diver; Jane Doe, Field Technician):

CDR Mark Wetzler, Commanding Officer, NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer,

[REDACTED]

All officers and crew of NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer (see attachment #1)

Section B: Project Information

5a. Project location(s):

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nihoa Island | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necker Island (Mokumanamana) | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> French Frigate Shoals | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gardner Pinnacles | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maro Reef | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laysan Island | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisianski Island, Neva Shoal | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pearl and Hermes Atoll | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midway Atoll | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kure Atoll | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | | | |

Ocean Based

Remaining ashore on any island or atoll (with the exception of Midway & Kure Atolls and Field Camp staff on other islands/atolls) between sunset and sunrise.

NOTE: There is a fee schedule for people visiting Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge via vessel and aircraft.

Location Description:

All mapping and ROV operations are expected to be in depths of 250m and deeper and will not include work within State waters. Permission to conduct CTD rosette operations in State waters is being requested.

5b. Check all applicable regulated activities proposed to be conducted in the Monument:

- Removing, moving, taking, harvesting, possessing, injuring, disturbing, or damaging any living or nonliving Monument resource
- Drilling into, dredging, or otherwise altering the submerged lands other than by anchoring a vessel; or constructing, placing, or abandoning any structure, material, or other matter on the submerged lands
- Anchoring a vessel
- Deserting a vessel aground, at anchor, or adrift
- Discharging or depositing any material or matter into the Monument
- Touching coral, living or dead
- Possessing fishing gear except when stowed and not available for immediate use during passage without interruption through the Monument
- Attracting any living Monument resource
- Sustenance fishing (Federal waters only, outside of Special Preservation Areas, Ecological Reserves and Special Management Areas)
- Subsistence fishing (State waters only)
- Swimming, snorkeling, or closed or open circuit SCUBA diving within any Special Preservation Area or Midway Atoll Special Management Area

6. Purpose/Need/Scope *State purpose of proposed activities:*

The purpose of the ship's activities are to provide an at sea research platform to support ROV, multibeam mapping, and other acoustic operations for underwater deep sea ocean exploration.

*Considering the purpose of the proposed activities, do you intend to film / photograph federally protected species? Yes No

For a list of terrestrial species protected under the Endangered Species Act visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/Endangered/>

For a list of marine species protected under the Endangered Species Act visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/>

For information about species protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/>

7. Answer the Findings below by providing information that you believe will assist the Co-Trustees in determining how your proposed activities are compatible with the conservation and management of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Monument:

The Findings are as follows:

a. How can the activity be conducted with adequate safeguards for the cultural, natural and historic resources and ecological integrity of the Monument?

The ship is routinely inspected for sanitation (i.e. rats, insects, etc.) by the Navy, and any corrective action needed is undertaken before the ship enters the PMNM. Additionally, underwater hull inspections are conducted by Monument staff prior to entering the PMNM. Divers are deployed to remove any potentially harmful biofouling agents.

The ship's crew will receive an annual cultural briefing from OHA personnel and respect the cultural significance of the NWHL.

Okeanos Explorer follows a waste management plan in compliance with all United States Coast Guard, international, and PMNM rules and regulations.

Okeanos Explorer will be fitted with a vessel monitoring system (VMS) in compliance with PMNM regulations when she arrives to Honolulu.

Okeanos Explorer follows all PMNM regulations not specifically mentioned above. The vessel supports very low impact projects that only involve collecting mapping, video, and sensor data. Any video of Federally protected species would be unintentional. A

separate permit request has been submitted to conduct science activities within PMNM (submitted by Kelley Elliott and PI Chris Kelley).

b. How will the activity be conducted in a manner compatible with the management direction of this proclamation, considering the extent to which the conduct of the activity may diminish or enhance Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity, any indirect, secondary, or cumulative effects of the activity, and the duration of such effects? All operations conducted on NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer will be activities permitted by the co-trustees of the Monument.

We are aware of the significance and cultural importance of the NWHI to Native Hawaiians. As a sacred place, and especially in the realm of Po (beyond Mokumanamana), our hope is to tread lightly and leave no footprint from our activities. Recognizing that natural resources are, in fact, cultural resources for Native Hawaiians, it is our hope that the information and data generated by the research projects supported onboard NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer will assist PMNM by providing basic information about the about the rich and unique biological resources and habitats of this region. This knowledge will contribute directly to the documentation of these natural/cultural resources, and it is this understanding that allows for enhanced protection of these resources.

c. Is there a practicable alternative to conducting the activity within the Monument? If not, explain why your activities must be conducted in the Monument.

The vessel is an at sea research platform to transport scientists and scientific gear to locations throughout the Monument. Without this safe mode of transportation, research and conservation and management activities would be significantly limited or would not occur at all. The ship's mission also supports and fosters critical partnerships between multiple government agencies, both state and federal.

d. How does the end value of the activity outweigh its adverse impacts on Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity?

The NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer supports scientific research that will directly contribute to a better understanding of the deep water habitats, ecosystems and geologic history of the NWHI. As noted in 7.a. (above), there are no significant anticipated impacts to PMNM cultural, natural, or historic resources. No shore access is required. In the science team's estimation, the end value of this activity far outweighs any potential impacts, thus meeting the criteria noted under Finding 1.d. in Proclamation 8031.

e. Explain how the duration of the activity is no longer than necessary to achieve its stated purpose.

Even with a relatively large number of ship days, projects supported onboard Okeanos Explorer cannot complete the huge task of groundtruthing all of the interesting and unique deepwater seafloor features within the monument boundaries. However, this is

long enough to at least briefly investigate many of the highest priority targets identified by recent work in the area.

f. Provide information demonstrating that you are qualified to conduct and complete the activity and mitigate any potential impacts resulting from its conduct.

The officers and crew of Okeanos Explorer will be operating in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument for the first time and will be fully briefed on the importance of the Monument and all of the resources contained within the Monument. In order to understand all impacts and operational best practices, the officers and crew will receive instruction and SOPs from sister ships who routinely operate within the Monument. Okeanos Explorer routinely conducts undersea exploration in sensitive ecological areas and understands the critical importance of operating the ship in accordance to Monument rules and regulations to ensure the protection of the Monument and its resources.

NOAA Commanding Officers are authorized to operate NOAA Vessels in accordance with annual Sailing Orders and the Fleet Allocation Plan. NOAA ships are public vessels and comply with regulations regarding personnel qualifications and operations.

g. Provide information demonstrating that you have adequate financial resources available to conduct and complete the activity and mitigate any potential impacts resulting from its conduct. The federal government is self insured.

Okeanos Explorer is a public vessel of the United States of America operating in the monument to support activities approved by the monument co-trustees. The U.S. government is self-insured. Funding for Okeanos Explorer originates from the federal budget of the United States of America, specifically the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

h. Explain how your methods and procedures are appropriate to achieve the proposed activity's goals in relation to their impacts to Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity.

Prior to beginning our work in the Monument the ship will request to have a member of the Monument staff brief the crew on the historical and cultural significance of the Monument. Additional literature and briefing materials will be available on the ship throughout the year. Each crewmember is required to read and sign the permit abiding by the conditions set forth within the document. The crew honors and respects the cultural, spiritual, and historical significance of Papahānaumokuākea.

The only activities the ship will be conducting in support of other permitted projects are those specifically stated in the approved scientific permits.

i. Has your vessel been outfitted with a mobile transceiver unit approved by OLE and complies with the requirements of Presidential Proclamation 8031?

No, but we have made arrangements with PMNM to borrow their 750 Faria Watchdog VMS unit and have it installed during Okeanos Explorer's inport period in Honolulu in June or early July prior to proposed work in PMNM.

j. Demonstrate that there are no other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.

All methods and procedures will be performed with the safety and welfare of personnel, the protection of Monument's natural and cultural resources, and the accomplishment of mission objectives as top priorities.

There are no other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.

8. Procedures/Methods:

The ship will transit from Pearl Harbor to the Monument, operating within the Monument conducting mapping and ROV operations.

Crew activities will include SCUBA as necessary for emergency operations. Primary operations will include supporting the scientific team by transiting to the areas of interest or locations of ROV dive sites.

Regarding discharge activities, the ship may discharge gray water (i.e. drainage from dishwasher, shower, laundry, bath and washbasin drains) outside of all Special Preservation Areas and the Midway Atoll Special Management Area.

NOTE: If land or marine archeological activities are involved, contact the Monument Permit Coordinator at the address on the general application form before proceeding.

9a. Collection of specimens - collecting activities (would apply to any activity): organisms or objects (List of species, if applicable, attach additional sheets if necessary):

Common name:

N/A to platform permit application

Scientific name:

& size of specimens:

Collection location:

Whole Organism Partial Organism

9b. What will be done with the specimens after the project has ended?

N/A to platform permit application

9c. Will the organisms be kept alive after collection? Yes No

N/A to platform permit application

• General site/location for collections:

• Is it an open or closed system? Open Closed

• Is there an outfall? Yes No

• Will these organisms be housed with other organisms? If so, what are the other organisms?

• Will organisms be released?

10. If applicable, how will the collected samples or specimens be transported out of the Monument?

N/A to platform permit application

11. Describe collaborative activities to share samples, reduce duplicative sampling, or duplicative research:

Many of the ROV surveys will be in areas mapped during the recent Falkor cruises. Additional mapping done by Okeanos Explorer will complement mapping accomplished during previous expeditions. Okeanos Explorer has an open data policy so all data collected during the expeditions will be freely available through the NOAA Data Centers. This should ensure that there will be no duplication of this research in the future.

12. List all specialized gear and materials to be used in this activity:

SCUBA gear if necessary for ship emergency activities

A separate permit request has been submitted to conduct science operations onboard NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer using the following equipment:

- Kongsberg Simrad EM302 Multibeam sonar system and sound velocity profilers for calibrating the systems at different locations within the monument.
- Kongsberg Simrad EK60 singlebeam sonar.
- Knudsen Chirp 3260 Sub-bottom profiler.

- Deep Discoverer and Seirios remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and Tracklink 10,000 Ultra Short Baseline system for tracking the location of the ROVs underwater.
- Seabird Electronics Model 9/11+ CTD in 24-position niskin rosette frame with seabird SBE-32 carousel, and ports for auxiliary sensors (Light Scattering Sensor, Oxidation – Reduction Potential, Dissolved Oxygen).

13. List all Hazardous Materials you propose to take to and use within the Monument:

The Okeanos Explorer carries small quantities of hazardous materials for essential ship operations. A complete hazardous material inventory is maintained aboard the ship. Crew are trained in MSDS and proper handling of hazardous materials.

The only Hazardous Materials held in significant quantity are fuel and lubricants such as gasoline, #2 Diesel Fuel, lubrication oil, and hydraulic oil (Amounts will vary per cruise).

The list of hazardous materials is attached in list #2.

14. Describe any fixed installations and instrumentation proposed to be set in the Monument:

None

15. Provide a time line for sample analysis, data analysis, write-up and publication of information:

All data acquired on Okeanos Explorer will be provided to the public archives without proprietary rights. All data management activities shall be executed in accordance with NAO 212-15, Management of Environmental and Geospatial Data and Information [http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/ames/administrative_orders/chapter_212/212-15.html]. All data acquired by Okeanos Explorer are archived and publically available within 90 days of the end of each cruise via the NOAA Data Centers.

16. List all Applicant’s publications directly related to the proposed project:

N/A

With knowledge of the penalties for false or incomplete statements, as provided by 18 U.S.C. 1001, and for perjury, as provided by 18 U.S.C. 1621, I hereby certify to the best of my abilities under penalty of perjury of that the information I have provided on this application form is true and correct. I agree that the Co-Trustees may post this application in its entirety on the Internet. I understand that the Co-Trustees will consider deleting all information that I have identified as “confidential” prior to posting the application.

Signature

Date

**SEND ONE SIGNED APPLICATION VIA MAIL TO THE MONUMENT OFFICE
BELOW:**

NOAA/Inouye Regional Center
NOS/ONMS/PMNM/Attn: Permit Coordinator
1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
FAX: (808) 455-3093

DID YOU INCLUDE THESE?

- Applicant CV/Resume/Biography
- Intended field Principal Investigator CV/Resume/Biography
- Electronic and Hard Copy of Application with Signature
- Statement of information you wish to be kept confidential
- Material Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Materials