

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: Dr. Kelly Gleason

Affiliation: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Permit Category: Conservation and Management

Proposed Activity Dates: 5/1/2013-10/10/2013

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Vessel

Proposed Locations: Nihoa, Mokumanamana, Lisianski, Laysan, French Frigate Shoals, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll, Kure Atoll, Maro Reef, Gardner Pinnacles

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 6

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 60

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...

The annual PMNM maritime heritage resource management cruise will conduct activities to fulfill Monument management activities including: 1) non-invasive wreck site assessment survey of selected maritime heritage sites; 2) ground truthing of selected dive targets for potential shipwreck and sunken aircraft sites at Midway Atoll relative to the Battle of Midway; 3) continued monitoring of known shipwreck and sunken aircraft sites for the purposes of understanding impacts and changes to maritime heritage sites; 4) exploration for new maritime heritage sites through non-invasive remote sensing survey (magnetometer and side scan sonar) and/or snorkeler towboard survey of high potential wreck site areas. The first activity is a detailed investigation of a single wreck or archaeological site and will assist in the creation and distribution of important outreach and education products related to maritime heritage sites that will aid in interpretation, protection and preservation of the significant site including a widely distributed film as well as the continued development of PMNM maritime heritage themed exhibits; the third activity will work to test archaeological, observational and ecologically based methods of interpreting and monitoring maritime heritage sites in the NWHI. Finally, the second and fourth activities describe efforts towards broader searches for previously un-located and undiscovered resources and allows for identification and inventory of maritime heritage sites.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would

This project is part of a continued effort to conduct maritime heritage management activities in the Monument including exploration for new sites that will contribute to the PMNM inventory (an ONMS annual Maritime Heritage performance measure requirement), and documentation and interpretation of known maritime heritage sites. Comprehensive non-invasive assessment surveys of previously located wreck sites allow managers to compile an inventory of critical and non-renewable maritime heritage resources. Of the possible 126 shipwreck and historic aircraft lost in the area, 20 have been confirmed by field investigation. To date, surveys of ten of these 20 have been completed in the NWHI. Maritime heritage summaries of site surveys are available at <http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/maritime/welcome.html> and upon request to the Monument Maritime Heritage Coordinator. A simple low impact technique known as “baseline trilateration” is used to map wreck sites (see Methods).

Monitoring activities will be conducted in 2013 utilizing archaeological, observational, and environmental parameters. The annual assessment and monitoring of maritime heritage sites for change is an important component of long term protection. The 2009 and 2010 surveys conducted by Derek Smith on shipwreck sites in the Monument helped to establish an important baseline dataset to advance interdisciplinary monitoring efforts at maritime heritage sites in the NWHI. Developing this monitoring program will help to inform the investigation of such issues as the effects of climate change on heritage sites.

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

2013 maritime heritage project data (site survey, outreach film development, exploration, and monitoring) will contribute to the management inventory for the PMNM, as well as provide the program invaluable material for ongoing education and outreach efforts. Monitoring work at maritime heritage sites in 2013 will assist managers in better understanding the interaction between these sunken sites and the ecosystem, as well as help to develop an understanding of their structural integrity. 2013's monitoring efforts at shipwreck sites will continue a project initiated in 2009 and will assist in better understanding the changes occurring at these sites. Certain data generated by the survey is sensitive and will be protected from unregulated public distribution as determined by the PMNM (also see NHPA section 304). Maritime heritage survey will be conducted in compliance with the appropriate preservation regulations (National Historic Preservation Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Antiquities Act, Sunken Military Craft Act et al) and satisfies federal and state mandates for heritage resource inventory of controlled waters.

Other information or background:

The 2013 maritime heritage survey is a multidisciplinary project including efforts to further inventory and assess shipwreck sites in the NWHI, and share these findings with the public in a responsible manner.

Currently, NOAA’s Maritime Heritage Program is the only agency engaged in maritime heritage survey in the PMNM.

Over 60 shipwrecks have been reported lost in the PMNM, some dating back to 1805. Many of these wrecks may be important cultural or historical resources, capturing information about the maritime history of the region. Sites may furnish information about western seafaring, as well as Native Hawaiian seafaring, for many historic ships (such as whalers) recruited Native Hawaiians as skilled crew members. Due to the time required for careful site survey and the logistical constraints of research cruises, often only portions of the required mapping/survey work at each site can be completed during each season. Completed site assessments are the most effective heritage resource survey tool because they allow managers to fully understand the sites they are mandated to protect.

Survey work in 2013 will continue upon efforts initiated in 2002 with the first maritime heritage resource survey in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Subsequent work continued in 2003, and then annually since 2005. The planned survey work to be conducted in 2012 will continue these efforts, focusing on non-invasive non-excavation data recording at selected heritage sites at Midway, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Lisianski, and French Frigate Shoals, as well as the recovery of a diagnostic artifact from a shipwreck site at French Frigate Shoals (Section 106 compliance pending).

Without an understanding of the resource base, without an accurate inventory of significant heritage material, maritime heritage resource management is impossible. Historic shipwrecks are subject to natural deterioration as well as intentional or inadvertent damage (dredging, looting, re-use). The first step in management is to create a resource inventory by confirming identification of sites. The next step is to conduct site assessment, characterizing the nature of the resource. Inventory and assessment are heritage preservation actions common to a number of federal and state programs. The 2013 research therefore supports cultural and historical management efforts on behalf of the different agencies of the Monument Management Board. This survey specifically addresses mandates for maritime heritage resource inventory as stated in the the PMNM Management Plan and PMNM Maritime Heritage Research, Education and Management Plan. 2013 work will also include significant education and outreach initiatives and the continued interpretation of the Two Brothers shipwreck site.