

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
RESEARCH 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:

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Permit Coordinator
6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy. # 300
Honolulu, HI 96825
nwhipermit@noaa.gov
PHONE: (808) 397-2660 FAX: (808) 397-2662

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: : Russell E. Brainard, Ph.D. (Chief Scientist TBD)

Affiliation: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center/Chief (PIFSC), Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED)

Permit Category: Research

Proposed Activity Dates: between 09/1/13 and 09/30/13

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): NOAA Ship Hi'ialakai

Proposed Locations: Deep and shallow water reefs of the Monument including the reefs associated with: Kure Atoll, Pearl & Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll, French Frigate Shoals, Lisianski Island, Laysan Island, Nihoa Island, Necker Island, Gardner Pinnacles and Maro Reef.

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit:
22

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 217

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...

conduct reef assessment and monitoring activities throughout the islands and atolls of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. These efforts would contribute to continuing research providing scientific information needed to support ecosystem approaches to the management of coral reef systems of the Monument and areas across the Pacific region. The primary focus of the multi-institutional team of scientists, led by NOAA's CRED, would focus on collaborating with local agencies to implement the Pacific Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (RAMP).

b.) To accomplish this activity we would

use monitoring efforts including rapid ecological assessments of corals, macro-invertebrates, fish, and algae to species or genus level using multiple methods; spatial towed-diver surveys of benthic composition and the abundance and distribution of

ecologically and economically important macro-invertebrate taxa and large fish; passive acoustic monitoring of biotic and anthropogenic sounds; and multi-platform oceanographic and water quality monitoring using shipboard surveys, moored instrument arrays, and satellite remote sensing.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by ...
the use of consistent interdisciplinary methods across this vast region allowing for an opportunity to perform bio geographic and ecological comparative analyses of diverse ecological, environmental, and oceanographic gradients. Patterns of variability of fish biomass, coral disease, diversity, and other reef metrics are paramount to assessing an ecological niche as valuable as Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Other information or background:

Other information or background: CRED conducts integrated, multidisciplinary, ecosystem research, habitat mapping, and long-term monitoring of coral reef ecosystems in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands. CRED's work is a key component of NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP). CRED scientists describe, map, and monitor coral reef ecosystems. The program's approach is to apply a suite of standardized methods- including ecological assessments, oceanographic and water quality measurements, and benthic habitat mapping, to improve understanding of the spatial and temporal processes influencing the health of coral reef ecosystems throughout the region. The knowledge gained is shared with resource managers and various public stakeholders to improve decision-making for the long-term conservation and management of coral reef resources.