

**Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**  
EDUCATION 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:** Timothy Brown

**Affiliation:** Aquarist; Mokupapapa Discovery Center, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

**Permit Category:** Education

**Proposed Activity Dates:** January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

**Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane):** Vessel and plane

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

**Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit:** 8

**Estimated number of days in the Monument:** 24

**Description of proposed activities:** (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...  
involve the collection and removal of a limited number of target live fishes and corals from the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. These specimens will be collected with extreme care by trained and highly experienced professional biologists. Accidental by-catch and incidental mortalities will be avoided by targeting select specimens, and extreme care will be taken to not damage the habitat. It is the goal of Mokupapapa staff and PMNM field team to collect specimens and return them alive and in good condition to the Mokupapapa Discovery Center, where they will be maintained and put on public display in an exhibit highlighting the fauna and ecosystem of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would ....  
use SCUBA and snorkeling techniques within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, specifically around the islands of Midway Atoll, French Frigate Shoals, Maro Reef, and Pearl and Hermes Atoll, but also including other islands/reefs

within the Monument. A small boat or vessel will be used to reach those few collecting sites where direct access from NOAA research ship Hi'ialakai is not possible. The target organisms will be collected by trained and experienced biologists using non-destructive and non-lethal collecting methods, namely handnets, barrier nets, geological picks, small hand tools, fishkeeps and other small collection containers. Specimens will be targeted individually to avoid the accidental capture or incidental mortality of unwanted specimens that can occur during non-targeted netting activities.

For fishes, to minimize post capture trauma, emphasis will be placed on collecting smaller, juvenile specimens so as to avoid the stress-related issues that sometimes occur with larger specimens during transportation and introduction to captivity. Additionally, this protocol aims to, whenever possible, avoid the removal of larger, reproductively mature animals from the population.

For corals, priority will be given to collecting fragments which have become detached naturally from parent colonies. Fragmentation of intact colonies will be undertaken only when naturally occurring fragments are not plentiful or available, and will be done with utmost care so as to minimize impact to the parent colony. Mokupapapa and PMNM field divers are highly experienced and extremely competent in this procedure and any deleterious effects from sampling will be minimal and short lived.

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

presenting a living reef habitat representative of that found in the Monument to our 60,000 visitors annually. Mokupapapa is the only public facet of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and the aquarium exhibit is dynamic living tool to underline the education and conservation message of PMNM. The Center is free and open 5 days a week to the public with special educational programs for visiting school groups from pre-k through university level on an almost daily basis.

Visiting Mokupapapa results in increased public awareness, and detailed knowledge of the Monument. Furthermore, it will also give rise to an improved understanding of the unique nature of the marine faunas found there, and why it is so important to preserve and protect them.

**Other information or background:**

In 2003, the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center (MDC) was established to interpret the natural science, culture and history of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and surrounding marine environment. Since most people will never have the opportunity to visit these remote islands, our facility on the bayfront in Hilo, Hawai'i serves to "bring the place to the people" and spur greater public awareness of the region and ocean conservation issues.

Housed in Hilo's historic, century old Koehnen Building, Mokupāpapa features a 3,500 gallon saltwater aquarium, interactive educational exhibits, lifesize models of wildlife found in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, artwork inspired by those islands and Hawaiian culture, and many interpretive panels in both Hawaiian and English. The beauty of the historic Koehnen building has been preserved and refreshed to show off its majesty, including a koa wood staircase, Hawaiian hardwood floors, and high ceilings.

In our new facility, the nature and culture of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands come alive as never before, transporting visitors to this remote ocean wilderness where predators rule the reefs, the skies teem with swooping, screeching seabirds, and the Native Hawaiian chanting of the Kumulipo (a Hawaiian creation chant) sets the mood for exploration and learning.