

**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:**