

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
SPECIAL OCEAN USE 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: Kohsaku Yokoyama

Affiliation: OWS (Non-profit Organization The Oceanic Wildlife Society)

Permit Category: Special Ocean Use

Proposed Activity Dates: June 7, 2010 - June 14, 2010

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Plane (charter)

Proposed Locations: Midway Atoll

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 16

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 8 days

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...

The proposed activity is to conduct a small group tour from Japan to Midway Atoll in order to increase the public awareness of conserving nature by observing terrestrial and marine wildlife as well as marine debris washing up on the beaches of Midway Atoll.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would

To accomplish this activity we would participate in tours conducted by USFWS Rangers to gain knowledge of the current situation of Midway; visit Eastern Island to observe nesting grounds of short-tailed albatross; conduct our own beach clean-ups to understand and record what types of marine debris reach Midway; participate in habitat restoration projects; take photographs of terrestrial environments as well as marine life by snorkeling, and spend the rest of the time observing birds from the existing trails.

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

This activity would help the Monument as this tour will be conducted by a non-profit organization focusing on increasing the public awareness on the importance of conserving nature (especially marine life) and spreading the means of environmental education for a sustainable

future. Through this activity, we will be taking photographs of the natural resources and marine debris, which we will post on our website and create large panels for exhibit purposes to be used for our own presentation sessions and to be leased out for free to institutions, schools and other non-profit organizations for educational purposes. The increase in public awareness in Japan will reveal the environmental, ecological, cultural and historical integrity of the Monument, which will eventually lead to more media coverage and activities in Japan related to decreasing plastic and other wastes in the ocean.

Other information or background:

Section A - Applicant Information

1. Applicant

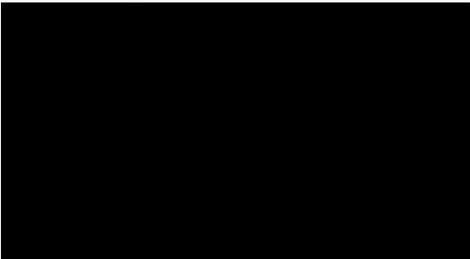
Name (last, first, middle initial): Yokoyama, Kohsaku

Title: Chief Director, Non-profit Organization OWS (the Oceanic Wildlife Society)

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

Kohsaku Yokoyama

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



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

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

OWS (the Oceanic Wildlife Society)

URL (Japanese only): <http://www.ows-npo.org/>

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):

Sonobe, Kuniko - Translator / Tour Coordinator

14 other participants; names unknown at the time of application

Section B: Project Information

5a. Project location(s):

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

Ocean Based

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

Location Description:

Midway Atoll, land-based and shallow water of less than 15 meters in depth

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 this activity is to increase public awareness within Japan on the importance of conserving nature by experiencing the natural, historical and cultural significance of Midway Atoll and witnessing the effect of the marine debris washing up on the beaches of the Monument on seabirds and other living resources. Through this activity, we will be taking photographs of the natural resources and marine debris, which will be used for exhibit and educational purposes to deepen the understanding of what kind of efforts can be made to protect wildlife and conserve nature. The increase in public awareness within Japan will lead to more media coverage and domestic activities related to decreasing plastic and other wastes in the ocean.

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?

This tour will be conducted by a non-profit organization with extensive experience in ecological nature and scuba diving tours, and will be led by the Chief Director of this organization who has been engaging in scuba diving operations with minimal impact to nature and its ecosystem. The tour participants will be comprised mostly of members from our organization, who have experience in undergoing our educational programs and have taken part in outdoor and indoor activities. Every participant will receive a briefing as well as a handbook on the cultural, natural and historic resources of Midway Atoll before departing from Japan, regardless of the membership to our organization. We will also be guided by a USFWS Ranger or other Monument staff member while we are on Midway, and we will receive a briefing after arrival.

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? As stated earlier, this tour will be conducted by a non-profit organization with extensive experience in ecological nature and scuba diving tours, and will be led by the Chief Director of this organization who has been engaging in scuba diving operations with minimal impact to nature and its ecosystem. The tour participants will mainly be members of our organization, who have experience in taking part in our outdoor and indoor educational programs. Every participant will receive a briefing as well as a handbook on the cultural, natural and historic resources of Midway Atoll before departing from Japan. We will also be guided by a USFWS Ranger or other Monument staff member while we are on Midway, and we will receive a

briefing from them after arrival. Every activity will be conducted with adequate safeguards and utmost care to prevent disturbing or damaging any marine or terrestrial environment.

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.

There is no practicable alternative to conducting this activity on the Monument as our objective is to increase public awareness about the current situation of marine debris reaching Midway and how they affect the ecosystem. There is no other place like Midway where we could see and experience such an environment first hand.

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

Our organization has been practicing and educating the public on observing nature with minimal impact to the environment for over a decade, with the support and advice from marine biologists and specialists of various marine and terrestrial wildlife. As our purpose is to learn about the current situation and to spread the awareness of Midway Atoll to the people of Japan, this activity will have a great significance in increasing the awareness of the chain of impact which can be caused by our own actions in our daily lives. As a result, more people in Japan will become interested in the future of the Monument as well as Midway Atoll itself.

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

One week should be enough to introduce and experience the significance of Midway to the group of guests from Japan, with minimum exposure possible to its natural resources.

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

As stated earlier, this tour will be conducted by a non-profit organization with extensive experience in ecological nature and scuba diving tours, and will be led by the President of this organization who has been engaging in scuba diving operations with minimal impact to nature and its ecosystem since 1981.

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. Every participant will be required to prepay all expenses in advance, including chartered airfare, accommodations, meals and other incidentals. All payments made from the participants to OWS will be wire transferred to the Monument prior to our arrival.

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.

As previously stated, this tour will be conducted by a non-profit organization with extensive experience in ecological nature and scuba diving tours, and will be led by the Chief Director of this organization who has been engaging in scuba diving operations with minimal impact to nature and its ecosystem. The tour participants will mainly be members of our organization, who

have experience in taking part in our outdoor and indoor educational programs. Every participant will receive a briefing as well as a handbook on the cultural, natural and historic resources of Midway Atoll before departing from Japan. We will also be guided by a USFWS Ranger or other Monument staff member while we are on Midway, and we will receive a briefing from them after arrival. Every activity will be conducted with adequate safeguards and utmost care to prevent disturbing or damaging any marine or terrestrial environment.

i. Has your vessel has been outfitted with a mobile transceiver unit approved by OLE and complies with the requirements of Presidential Proclamation 8031?
We will not be using vessels for our activities.

j. Demonstrate that there are no other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.
With the above statements, we are positive that this activity will deepen the public appreciation towards the Monument, and there are absolutely no factors that would make the issuance of the permit inappropriate.

FOR SPECIAL OCEAN USE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF MIDWAY ATOLL SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

k. Will the activity directly benefit the conservation and management of the Monument?
N/A

l. Is the purpose of the activity for research or education related to the resources or qualities of the Monument?
N/A

m. Does the activity involve the use of a commercial passenger vessel (defined as a vessel that carries individuals who have paid for such carriage)?
N/A

FOR SPECIAL OCEAN USE ACTIVITIES WITHIN MIDWAY ATOLL SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

n. Does the activity further the conservation and management of the Monument?
The purpose of this activity is to increase public awareness within Japan on the importance of conserving nature by experiencing the natural, historical and cultural significance of Midway Atoll and witnessing the effect of the marine debris washing up on the beaches of the Monument on seabirds and other living resources. Through this activity, we will be taking photographs of the natural resources and marine debris, which will be used for exhibit and educational purposes to deepen the understanding of what kind of efforts can be made to protect wildlife and conserve nature. The increase in public awareness within Japan will lead to more media coverage and domestic activities related to decreasing plastic and other wastes in the ocean.

o. Is your activity compatible with the purposes for which the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was designated?

Yes, our activity is compatible with the purposes for which the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was designated. It will increase public awareness of the current situation of Midway Atoll.

NOTE: If this is a first time Special Ocean Use activity, it will be subject to a pilot project. Additionally, public notice of the application and an opportunity to provide comments is given at least 30 days prior to issuing the permit.

8. Procedures/Methods:

Our activities will mainly consist of bird watching, snorkeling, beach clean-ups and participating in habitat restoration projects. Each participant will have binoculars, snorkeling gear, and gloves / bags to place marine debris for these activities. Every participant will view and photograph marine and terrestrial wildlife from an appropriate distance, and we will not touch or move any natural resources without the permission from a USFWS Ranger. Most of our activities will be escorted by a member of USFWS and will receive the appropriate directions under their supervision.

9. Provide proof of general liability insurance, or indicate that you will be posting an equivalent bond against claims arising out of activities conducted under the permit:

Every participant will be required to join the Travel Liability Insurance prior to their departure from Japan, which will cover the activities which will be held on Midway as well as the flight to and from Honolulu. They will not be able to join until their participation has been confirmed with the full payment of their travel expenses.

10. If applicable, describe how you are collaborating with others in any way to reduce duplicative activities in the Monument or elsewhere?

N/A

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

No specialized gear or materials will be used, except for binoculars, cameras (land and underwater) and snorkeling gear.

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

None

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

None

14. List all Applicants' publications directly related to the proposed project:

None

