

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: Mark Grantham

Affiliation: Galápagos Travel

Permit Category: Special Ocean Use

Proposed Activity Dates: March, April or May 2011

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Chartered aircraft from HHL

Proposed Locations: Midway Atoll (Sand and Eastern Islands)

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

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 8

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...
...bring an escorted group of Natural History and Wildlife oriented individuals, including photographers, to Sand and Eastern Islands (if conditions permit), to experience and document the rich wildlife plus learn about Native Hawaiian cultural and historical elements of the monument (within permit restrictions).

b.) To accomplish this activity we would
...include extensive pre-departure information covering cultural and historical aspects, plus monument rules, in addition to providing supervision and interpretation throughout the group's time on Midway, all supplemented by the briefings from the US Fish & Wildlife Service ranger. Activities would include nature walks by foot, bike and golf cart, history walks and video presentations, a cultural briefing on the importance of the Monument, and snorkeling (including the emergent reef if conditions allow).

c.) This activity would help the Monument by ...
...fostering conservation and promoting public awareness of the Monument and its great importance, culturally, historically, and in conserving wildlife. By creating a group of individuals who understand the value of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in

these areas you in turn create public ambassadors to speak out for conservation and protection. In addition to educating our participants on aspects of the monument, we would also encourage volunteer participation through the Fish and Wildlife Service on a day of volunteering as appropriate (invasive plant removal, outplanting native plants, beach clean-up - any project FWS might find helpful during our stay).

Other information or background: Galápagos Travel is a Natural History and Photography oriented tour operator, with 20 years experience in creating educational expeditions to the Galápagos Islands / Galápagos National Park. Occasional other workshop expeditions are to the Polar regions, plus Madagascar and Easter Island/Rapa Nui. Our focus is always on in-depth exploration and education on the areas visited, whether singularly the rich biodiversity of places like the Galápagos Islands and the Polar regions, or the combined biodiversity and wealth of cultural and historical significance of Madagascar or Rapa Nui.

Our travelers/clients tend to be older, with a keen interest in learning about, and documenting, the world around them. Many have traveled with us on multiple expedition workshops.

Mark Grantham is the owner of Galápagos Travel, and has experience on Midway Atoll as a volunteer for U.S. Fish and Wildlife service on the Annual Albatross Count in 2007 and 2009 (as well as extensive expedition experience in Galápagos, Polar Regions, Rapa Nui & Madagascar).

Section A - Applicant Information

1. Applicant

Name (last, first, middle initial): Grantham, Mark, J

Title: president, Galápagos Travel

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

n/a - I will be with the group

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For students, major professor's name, telephone and email address: n/a

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

president, Galápagos Travel

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):

A tourist group of 15 participants

Section B: Project Information

5a. Project location(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> Nihoa Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<u>Ocean Based</u>	
<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			

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

Location Description:

Midway Atoll, including Sand & Eastern Islands

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:*

Our purpose/scope is photographic documentation and observation of the biodiversity of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, as found at Midway Atoll, in addition to the history and cultural significance of the Monument.

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?

A combination of education about Monument guidelines and regulations, coupled with careful in-team supervision of participants, should allow for a rich experience without negative impacts. Photographic documentation and observation are "hands off" activities, neither disrupting of wildlife activities/behavior nor impacting habitat.

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?

Our activities should not diminish the Monument or its resources in any way.

Conversely, our participants will leave Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument with not only photographic documentation of their experience, but also an awareness of the ecological, historical and cultural importance it played/plays. An indirect benefit is in creating a greater outside awareness of the Monument and its importance through the photographs and stories these returning travelers will share with their families, friends, and communities.

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.

Midway Atoll is a unique and very special location like no other; home to the world's largest breeding colonies of Laysan Albatross, Black-footed Albatross, White Terns & Bonin Petrels, plus significant numbers of other unique wildlife including Laysan Ducks.

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

Working in partnership with local FWS staff and existing infrastructure no adverse impacts are anticipated through our activities.

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

Intended duration is one week, designed to fit with standard charter dates for the plane.

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

Galápagos Travel has been in business for 20 years, operating specialized educational workshops in one of the most protected National Parks and Marine Preserves in the world. We are highly respected for our programs, which are some of the most educationally oriented available in Galápagos. I have personally been with Galapagos Travel for 16 years. I have participated in volunteer field-work on Midway Atoll twice, for the annual Albatross Count in 2007 and 2009 (with additional on-site volunteer work in invasive plant removal, beach clean-up, and Albatross monitoring).

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.

The Charter flights would be pre-paid. In addition we are happy to pre-pay any portion of the FWS/Chugash Room and Board invoice requested in advance (or make deposits). As a Tour Operator in California we participate in the CA Seller of Travel program, safeguarding tour participant's funds. In addition we carry a \$3 million general liability insurance policy in the event of any unforeseen incidents.

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.

Our group would be provided extensive information by Galápagos Travel on the Monument in advance of their visit, and accompanied on the expedition by a qualified guide. We would work with Tracy Ammerman or other FWS staff to design an itinerary honoring the goals of the Monument.

i. Has your vessel has been outfitted with a mobile transceiver unit approved by OLE and complies with the requirements of Presidential Proclamation 8031?

n/a

j. Demonstrate that there are no other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.

We have a long history of taking travelers to biologically and culturally sensitive locales. In addition we are one of the few tour operators recommended by the Galápagos Conservancy for travel within the Galápagos Islands. In addition we have a proven track record working with universities, museums and zoos to provide educational and photography programs to their members and students.

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?

Yes, by creating proponents for the Monument of these educated visitors - once home they may talk of the value of the Monument as well as share photos.

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

Yes.

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:

Within the Midway Atoll SMA we would anticipate getting to, and seeing, wildlife by combination of walking and/or biking on the approved roads and trails. Planned activities would also include using FWS vessel for hired excursions for snorkeling at the emergent reef and visiting Eastern Island (depending on conditions and fitting the FWS schedule).

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:
Galápagos Travel carries a \$3 million dollar general liability policy, renewed annually.

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

Our plan is that our group would be the only scheduled visitors in the Midway Atoll during the week of our program.

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

Individual travelers are anticipated to bring photographic equipment, binoculars, etc., but nothing more specialized. Snorkeling gear would be rented from FWS as fits possible activities.

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

With knowledge of the penalties for false or incomplete statements, as provided by 18 U.S.C. 1001, and for perjury, as provided by 18 U.S.C. 1621, I hereby certify to the best of my abilities under penalty of perjury of that the information I have provided on this application form is true and correct. I agree that the Co-Trustees may post this application in its entirety on the Internet. I understand that the Co-Trustees will consider deleting all information that I have identified as “confidential” prior to posting the application.

Signature

Date

**SEND ONE SIGNED APPLICATION VIA MAIL TO THE MONUMENT OFFICE
BELOW:**

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

DID YOU INCLUDE THESE?

- Applicant CV/Resume/Biography
- Intended field Principal Investigator CV/Resume/Biography
- Electronic and Hard Copy of Application with Signature
- Statement of information you wish to be kept confidential
- Material Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Materials