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: Loren Scott Godwin
Affiliation: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Permit Category: Research
Proposed Activity Dates: July 23-August 20
Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Vessel
Proposed Locations: Nihoa, Mokumanamana, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan Island and Midway Atoll(w/ Lisianski Island, Pearl and Hermes Atoll and Kure Atoll as alternates for weather eventualities)

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 18
Estimated number of days in the Monument: 28

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would…
conduct ecological assessments employing standardized methods to improve understanding of the spatial and temporal processes influencing the health of coral reef ecosystems throughout the archipelago.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would ….
use proven Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) methodologies to survey representative sites for fish, coral, macro invertebrates and document benthic habitat types.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by …
providing the information gained from this monitoring activity to resource managers and various public stakeholders to improve decision-making for the long-term conservation and management of coral reef resources within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Other information or background: In the past decade, increased awareness regarding the declining condition of US coral reefs has prompted various actions by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Presidential Executive Order 13089 created the US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) in 1998 to coordinate federal and state/territorial activities. Subsequently, the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 provided Congressional funding for activities to conserve these important ecosystems, including mapping, monitoring and assessment projects carried out through the support of NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program. Numerous collaborations forged among federal agencies and state, local, non-governmental, academic and private partners now support a variety of monitoring activities in Hawai'i.

As part of the Coral Reef Conservation Act mandates, efforts to create structured monitoring began in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) through the initiation of the NOWRAMP (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Reef Assessment and Monitoring, later shortened to RAMP) program. Led by the State of Hawaii, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA and several research institutions, efforts to characterize and monitor coral reefs and establish baselines to compare and facilitate monitoring of temporal changes in the ecosystem began. Since 2000, NOAA has conducted annual monitoring cruises to the NWHI, with leadership alternating between PIFSC/CRED and NOS/PMNM.