

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: Dr. Lindsay Young

Affiliation: Wildlife Biologist, Pacific Rim Conservation and local organizing chair, Pacific Seabird Group

Permit Category: Special Ocean Use

Proposed Activity Dates: February 13-20, 2012

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Plane

Proposed Locations: Midway Atoll

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 18

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 7

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...

Allow professional seabird biologists from around the Pacific Rim learn more about Hawaii's largest seabird colony and the numerous conservation challenges faced by the agencies charged with ensuring the protection of the Monument.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would

Bring 18 members of the Pacific Seabird Group to Midway Atoll for 7 days to learn about Midway's unique and numerous seabird species, marine debris, protected species issues, invasive species problems and the long history of human effects in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. This would be done by providing pre-departure information covering cultural and historical information on Midway (including monument rules) and providing supervision and interpretation throughout the groups time on Midway. This would be supplemented with information provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service staff on-site. Activities will include bird watching, snorkelling, nature walks, history walks, video presentations and nightly presentations on various seabird research projects by the participants themselves.

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

Educating seabird biologists from around the world on the challenges faced by the monument and giving them the opportunity to provide input and discussion with Midway managers for information exchange. This will raise awareness within the seabird community about the challenges faced at Midway as well as create public ambassadors to help speak for conservation and protection at Midway. While on-island, the group will volunteer with ongoing conservation programs including marine debris removal, removal of invasive species, planting of native plants and seabird banding whenever possible. The group will also offer nightly presentations to Midway staff on various seabird research projects they have undertaken in their careers as biologists.

Other information or background: This trip is being offered as a field trip as part of the Pacific Seabird Group's 38th annual meeting in Makaha, Hawaii. The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is a society of professional seabird researchers and managers dedicated to the study and conservation of seabirds.

PSG was formed in 1972 out of a need for increased communication among academic and government seabird researchers. The principal goals of PSG are:

- (1) to increase the quality and quantity of seabird research through facilitating exchange of information and
- (2) to identify and assess the importance of threats to seabird populations and provide government agencies and others with expert advice on managing the threats and populations.

PSG is a member of the Ornithological Council and the American Bird Conservancy. PSG members include biologists, wildlife managers, students and conservationists from the United States, Mexico, Canada and Japan and 12 other countries. PSG annual meetings and publications provide forums where members can share their findings on all research topics relating to Pacific seabirds and discuss local and large scale conservation issues.

At yearly conferences, seabird researchers share their discoveries and conservation concerns with each other and the public. Reflecting the international distribution of Pacific seabirds, PSG annual meetings are often attended by people from throughout the world. Attendees benefit from the support, constructive criticism and insights of fellow participants, as well as from the exchange of scientific reports. Student presentations and reviews of ongoing research are encouraged. At the annual meeting, educational field trips are often offered to provide attendees with the opportunity to learn more about the host location's seabird resources. The 2012 Midway field trip would be an exceptional opportunity to learn about the unique seabird resources of Hawaii and for managers of the monument to benefit from having a large group of professional biologists for information exchanges. This same field trip was conducted in 2001 at the PSG annual meeting on Kauai.

Section A - Applicant Information

1. Applicant

Name (last, first, middle initial): Young, Lindsay C

Title: Wildlife Biologist, Pacific Rim Conservation; local organizing chair, Pacific Seabird Group
Dr. Lindsay C Young & Ron LeValley

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

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:

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

Pacific Seabird Group

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):

Leader - Young, Leader - LeValley, + 16 participants TBN

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:

All of our work in the Monument occurs at Midway Atoll.

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:*

At yearly conferences, seabird researchers share their discoveries and conservation concerns with each other and the public. At the annual meeting, educational field trips are offered to provide attendees with the opportunity to learn more about the host location's seabird resources as well as to provide volunteer services for seabird conservation. The 2012 Midway field trip will allow regional seabird biologists with the opportunity to learn about and photograph the unique seabird resources of Hawaii and for managers of the monument to benefit from having a large group of professional biologists for information exchanges.

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 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, part of the P

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 trip is largely observational in nature, and as such we do not remove, disturb or harass any Monument resources. Both primary leaders are very familiar with the Monument and with Midway Atoll, and will ensure that no adverse effects on the cultural, natural and historic resources occur through close supervision of the group. We will coordinate closely with FWS staff to ensure that we are operating within the guidelines that are established to protect both wildlife, and cultural features of Midway.

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?

The activities being conducted are primarily observational in nature and will occur on approved trails/platforms and thus should not diminish the resources in any way. The goals of this trip are to educate regional seabird biologists on the management of cultural, natural and historic resources of the Monument, and therefore will fit entirely with the educational mandates and management philosophy of the Monument. Trip participants will also contribute to

conservation efforts directly on Midway, as we work with the FWS to remove marine debris, plant native vegetation and eradicate invasive species whenever possible. Communication with Sue Schulmeister and John Klavitter, the managers on Midway, has been initiated in order to design appropriate service projects for the group that will enhance the existing natural and cultural resources of Midway. Given the extensive experience this group has in seabird conservation and biology, it is expected that they can contribute a great deal to restoration and conservation projects on Midway and leave it a better place than when they arrived.

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 are no practical alternatives; this trip is designed to provide hands-on experience in observing the ecosystem and seabird habitats of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

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

There will be no adverse impacts on Monument resources since the trip is observational in nature, and as discussed above, the group will actually be enhancing the island in several ways through habitat restoration and information exchange. We expect to leave the island with more native species and fewer invasive ones than when we started resulting in a net benefit to the resources.

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

The duration of the activity corresponds with available flights to and from Midway.

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

Both leaders are established conservation biologists and have spent many years in the field conducting research and leading direct conservation actions. Furthermore, both leaders are very familiar with the Monument and have visited Midway multiple times. Dr. Lindsay Young has participated in the annual albatross count and serves as the chair of the North Pacific Albatross working group and completed her Ph.D. work on Laysan Albatross. Dr. Young has conducted research in the Monument previously, and

has published on findings from this research in the primary scientific literature (see publications below). Ron LeValley has 20 years of experience leading eco-tours and has previously visited Midway where he gave a talk on shorebird migration in the Pacific. He is currently a biologist with Mad River Biologists and has extensive knowledge of seabirds and marine mammals. As such, both leaders have a great understanding of, and appreciation for the cultural, natural and historic resources of the Monument and is especially well prepared for addressing any issues that may occur during the trip.

While this trip is not expected to have an impact on the island since it will be primarily observational in nature, any impact that does occur will be more than offset by the service visits to help with habitat restoration. Additionally, our trip participants are typically highly educated, working biologists who spend substantial portions of their careers working in sensitive locations such as Midway and as such are not only familiar with how to behave appropriately, but on how to help enhance the areas they are visiting. For events beyond our control, all participants will be asked to purchase medivac insurance ahead of time in order to supplement PSG's existing liability policy.

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. All trip costs are covered by the Pacific Seabird Group which has a current bank account balance of \$263,680.675 which will more than cover the cost associated with the plane charter and per diem for 18 people for 7 days. The Pacific Seabird Group also has a general liability insurance policy, proof of which is attached.

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.

Prior to departure, all participants will be provided with extensive information covering cultural, historical and natural history information on Midway (including monument rules) by the trip leaders. During their time on Midway, all participants will be provided supervision and interpretation by the group leaders and supplemented with information provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service staff on-site. We have been, and will continue to work with USFWS staff to design a mutually agreeable itinerary that achieves 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 we will be travelling by plane.

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

The Pacific Seabird Group is a highly respected scientific organization and has a long history of providing field trips to biologically and cultural sensitive locations for biologists during their annuals meetings. Our trip participants are typically highly educated, working biologists who spend substantial portions of their careers working in sensitive locations such as Midway and as such are not only familiar with how to behave appropriately, but on how to help enhance the areas they are visiting. The Pacific Seabird Group offered this very same field trip in 2001 during their Kauai meeting and was a great success on all accounts. Our activities will be low impact and overseen by both trip leaders as well as monument staff. As a result, there are no other factors that would make issuance of a 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?

Yes. Our group will be actively participating in multiple service visits while on the island designed to enhance and restore the habitat. In addition, trip participants, many of whom are professional biologists, will provide nightly presentations on seabird research they have conducted for the residents of Midway.

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

Yes. Our activities are compatible with Midway Atoll NWR designation in that we are bird watching, practicing photography and conducting environmental education.

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:

Contact has already been initiated with local FWS staff by the tour leaders to arrange service activities and to obtain information to provide to participants ahead of time on rules, regulations and guidelines for appropriate behavior in the monument. Daily activities will include walking or using bikes along approved paths for bird and wildlife watching and photographing. Planned activities include using a hired FWS vessel for excursions to Eastern Island (conditions and schedule dependent) as well as snorkeling excursions. While the Pacific Seabird Group as an organization does not plan to sell any photographs originating from this trip, there will be several professional photographers who are trip participants. None of the photographers will be using models or props that are not a part of the site's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities; or conduct photography at places or locations closed to the public; and photographic activity won't result in additional administrative costs. Photographic activities of our group will not cause any resource damage; or any unreasonable disruption of the public's use and enjoyment of the site; or pose health or safety risks to the public or to the wildlife and plants present during our visit. The purpose of our photography will primarily be to increase public awareness of ecological issues in the monument and with seabirds in general. All photographs will be offered to the refuge free of charge for use in conservation activities and/or for sale through the Friends of Midway Atoll. All activities will be conducted within the scope of the monument rules and regulations and will continue to be coordinated closely with on-island staff.

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:

PSG has general liability insurance as outlined above and proof of which is attached.

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

We have been working with USFWS staff to ensure that our dates do not overlap with other groups that may need to be on Midway at the same time. In the event that there is extra space on the charter flight, we are happy to offer this to staff or researchers in need of access during the dates we have requested.

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

No specialized equipment will be brought to Midway aside from participants' personal camera and optical gear.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Publications from the leaders that are relevant to the natural resources at Midway Atoll include:
Young, L.C. Inferring colonization history and dispersal patterns of a long lived seabird by combining genetic and empirical data. 2010. *Journal of Zoology*. 281(2010): 232-240

Young, L.C., Vanderlip, C, Duffy, D.C., Afanasyev, V. and S.A. Shaffer. Bringing home the trash: do differences in foraging lead to increased plastic ingestion in Laysan Albatross? 2009. *PLoS ONE* 4(10): e7623. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0007623

Young, L.C., VanderWerf, E.A., Smith, D.G., Polhemus, J., Swenson, N., Swenson, C., Liesemeyer, B.R., Gagne, B., and Conant, S. Demography and Natural History of Laysan Albatross on Oahu, Hawaii. 2009. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. 121:722-729

Young, L.C., Zaun, B.J. and VanderWerf, E.A. Successful same sex pairing in Laysan Albatross. 2008. *Biology Letters* 4: 323-325

Young, L.C. and E.A. VanderWerf: Prevalence of avian pox virus and effect on fledging success in Laysan Albatross. 2008. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 79 (1): 93-98

VanderWerf, E.A. and L.C. Young: The Red-billed Tropicbird, *Phaethon rubricauda* in Hawaii, with notes on interspecific behavior of tropicbirds. 2008. *Marine Ornithology* 35: 81-84

VanderWerf E.A., Swindle K, Young L: Pox virus in Laysan Albatross chicks at Kaena Point, Oahu: How can we help? 2005. *Elepaio* 65(1).

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