

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: Jessica M. Pociask

Affiliation: WANT Expeditions - Wildlife and Nature Travel

Permit Category: Special Ocean Use

Proposed Activity Dates: February 20-27, 2012

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Plane

Proposed Locations: Midway

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

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 8

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...
Enable the general public to visit an important historical and ecological national monument.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would
Coordinate with FWS staff to visit all accessible locations on Midway, as well as attend lectures and video presentations on the conservation of the wildlife, and the crucial role that Midway plays for seabirds and other marine life. In addition, we will also coordinate with the staff member in charge of ecological restoration and arrange at least two opportunities for guests to donate their time and efforts for verbena removal, or some other much needed volunteer restoration project.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by ...
Generating public awareness and funding to keep such an important location protected for future generations, and providing labor at no charge for habitat restoration on the island.

Other information or background:

Section A - Applicant Information

1. Applicant

Name (last, first, middle initial): Pociask, Jessica M.

Title: Ms.

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

Akos Hivekovics

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[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):

WANT Expeditions - Wildlife and Nature 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):

Jessica M. Pociask - Expedition Leader, WANT Expeditions,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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:

Eastern Island & Sand Island

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 only way to fully understand the importance and necessity of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and the wildlife and natural aspects protected within, is to visit both the animals onland, as well as in the water, which can only be accomplished by providing snorkeling activities, and excursions over to Sand Island.

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?

In order to ensure that we are working to ensure the conservation and management of all the natural resources of the Monument, we will coordinate with FWS staff to ensure that we are operating within the safeguards they, and other governing bodies, have designed to protect the wildlife and natural features i.e. maintaining an adequate distance from all endangered species such as Hawaiian Monk Seal and Short-Tailed Albatross.

To protect the cultural resources, we will emphasize to our guests, through discussions and videos offered at the monument, the spiritual ties between nature and ancient Hawaiian tradition concerning the paths their ancestors take as they cross from life into death and formation of the Hawaiian Islands, which it is why it is equally important to respect the monument in the same fashion one would a cemetery, church, or other religious/spiritual element.

The Monument has many military relics, significant to the United States and the defeat of the Japanese in WWII, so similar to understanding and protecting the cultural and natural resources, we will corroborate with the Monument staff to organize a military

tour of the island that will allow us to visit the historic places of Midway, without potentially disturbing or deminishing their significance.

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?
Once the visitors have completed an orientation of Midway and its ecological and historical resources with Monument staff, visitors will protect the integrity of the monument by maintaining required distance from protected wildlife and staying out of closed areas. In addition, none of our activities will include disturbing or molesting any of the Monument's Resources as that we are taking only photographs and leaving only footprints. The monument will be enhanced by visitors participating in several habitat restoration sessions, and following their return home, acting as ambassadors for the protection of the Monument, as a result of direct experiences with its cultural, natural, and historical resources.

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.

Due to the monument's location and unique wildlife, there is no other practical alternative that could substitute for such an experience.

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

As that our visit is not adversely impacting the Monument's resources, but actually improving it in several ways, such as habitat restoration, we foresee that the end value is a win-win experience for the Monument and its resources.

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

Due to flight schedules, size of the monument, and the amount of time scheduled for our total visit, we have just enough time to experience all of the Monument's resources a maximum of two times, which is necessary to safeguard against rain or other inclement weather.

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

All personnel included in this permit application have extensive experience as expedition leaders in highly sensitive and restricted environments, such as Antarctica.

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.

WANT Expeditions maintains liability insurance for such purposes.

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 company's premise is to promote responsible tourism polices, no matter what location in the world that we travel. Our guests are throughly informed of any and all policies, rules and requirements for traveling to these destinations, and our tour leaders are extremely well experienced in conducting such trips and conservation projects associated with them.

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

Yes

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

We are visiting the Monument with the sole intention of promoting conservation and awareness for the general public who desire to visit and support such a project. Our activities are overseen by Monument staff, and are very low impact in general i.e. walking on paths, taking only photographs. There are no other factors or alterior motives that would make the 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

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:

To get to Eastern Island and for snorkeling opportunities, we will use the boat as provided and driven by FWS staff or other managing authority. In order to access other parts of Midway, we will use golf carts or walk along designated pathways. All other activities will be conducted within the scope of the monument rules and regulations and will be coordinated with 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:

Liability Insurance

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

We are coordinating with Monument Staff to ensure that we are the only tour group on at the Monument, while at the same time piggybacking on flights to reduce potential flight impact on the Monument.

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

Cameras, snorkel 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:

N/A

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