

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: 1/1/2012 to 12/31/2017

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

Proposed Locations: Midway Atoll (Sand and Eastern Islands)

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 36 per year

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 8days/7 nights per group

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...
...bring escorted groups of Natural History and Wildlife oriented individuals, including photographers, to Sand Island as well as Eastern Island (as 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 (including participants receiving a copy of the book Isles of Refuge, by Mark Rauzon, 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, video presentations, nightly presentations by the Tour Leader, 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 Papahanaumokuakea 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 over 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 in Madagascar and Rapa Nui.

We brought our first visitor group to Midway Atoll and the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument March 7-14, 2011.

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, 2009 & 2010 (as well as volunteer work surrounding the 2011 tsunami). Additional experience includes extensive expedition experience in fragile environments such as Galápagos, Polar Regions, Rapa Nui & Madagascar. He is also a published photographer.