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:
NOAA/Inouye Regional Center
NOS/ONMS/PMNM/Attn: Permit Coordinator
1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
nwhipermit@noaa.gov
PHONE: (808) 725-5800 FAX: (808) 455-3093

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: Takahiro OTSUKA
Affiliation: Fuji Television, Producer

Permit Category: Special Ocean Use
Proposed Activity Dates: May 7th to May 28th 2019
Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Vessel: M.V. Searcher for Nihoa, Necker, Leysan Islands & French Frigate Shoals; chartered plane from Honolulu to Midway.
Proposed Locations: Nihoa , Necker, Laysan, Islands, French Frigate Shoals & the Midway Atoll. If possible, NOAA researchers

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 12
Estimated number of days in the Monument: 9

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would… cover unique aspects of natural flora, fauna, marine life within the Monument as it relates to our documentary series on environmental science & climate change for Japanese TV company FUJI TV [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuji_Television]. In the past, we have covered The Maldives, Great Barrier Reef, Croatia, Mongolia, India, Thailand and of course, Japan. The Producer, Taka Otsuka, also after having participated in a US State Dept-sponsored one-month program studying issues in the US with other foreign journalists – and this led to identifying The Monument as an ideal subject of study for our next documentary.

To accomplish this activity we would ….look to visually document the aspects of the Monument as it relates to human presence as well as culture and history of the islands, unique aspects of wildlife & fauna including fragility in the venues of Nihoa , Necker, Laysan, Islands, French Frigate Shoals & the Midway Atoll. We're open to qualified recommendations on any venues that may be more appropriate or seasonal.

Nihoa Island: the physical features of Dog's Head Peak & Pinnacle Peak, early Hawaiian settlement, the avian wildlife & the vulnerability posed by the guano.

Necker Island: the unique pre-historic shrines, in addition to the avian wildlife. If possible, aspects of the cliffs.

Laysan Islands: in addition to the wildlife including Hawaiian Monk Seals, it is the salt lake that we would like to feature. And, if the currents still carry plastic waste to its shores – in particular, from Japan – it's an issue we'd like to examine.

French Frigate Shoals: The larger wildlife such as the Hawaiian Monk Seals, the sea turtles and albatrosses and if it represents a good opportunity, the coral reefs.

The Midway Atoll: the sunken relics from WWII might be of interest but the understanding is that depths are too deep. If there might be remaining evidence of damage to the albatross population caused by the 2011 tsunami wave from Japan, that might be a unique way to look at connectivity and wildlife fragility.

b.) This activity would help the Monument by …providing positive attention to issues including environmental ones that in some cases stem from Japan. This May 2019, Japan's ANA will commence direct service using Airbus 380's from Haneda to Honolulu; however, "no" it would be ludicrous to encourage an influx of tourists to a protected but ecologically sensitive area. Rather to open the audiences eyes & help them realize the dimensions of history, ecological diversity & uniqueness as well as natural beauty are much larger than they likely realize about Hawaii. And, similar to how the deadly 1918-1920 Spanish Flu managed reach all corners of the earth including Alaska and Hawaii and the S Pacific, plastics pollution – from Japan – can find its way to remote shores & endanger rare species. Therefore, raising awareness of both beauty & vulnerability.

Other information or background:

- If it is possible to make request to NOAA staff who would be able to accompany as experts, that would be ideal. If not, although their expertise has nothing to do with The Monument, Senior Senior Hydrometeorologist, at NOAA Oregon, Alex Orr or Dr. Chris Terai [his area is more in clouds but he speaks Japanese] at UC Irvine [ex Lawrence Livermore] might be consulted. Alex's brother is former US AMB to the ADB Robert "Skipp" Orr who lives in Japan and also pointed out aspects of The Monument I did not realize [he was in Hawaii early Jan for the Obama Foundation board meeting].