

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: Kevin Bachar

Affiliation: Pangolin Pictures and PBS/Thirteen

Permit Category: Special Ocean Use

Proposed Activity Dates: Last week of June and first week of July, 2020

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): NOAA compliant vessel “The Searcher”

Proposed Locations: French Frigate Shoals

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

Thirteen individuals estimated including film crew and boat crew

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 9 days

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...

be to film a sequence in French Frigate Shoals of Great Frigatebirds and various species of albatross who mate, hatch, fledge and display other behavior, as well as Hawaiian monk seals for a natural history documentary for the respected PBS series titled NATURE, airing on PBS for free to the public in 2020 or 2021. We would also like to film tiger sharks exhibiting a behavior that is unique to Hawai'i and demonstrates their intelligence and learning ability to travel to FFS precisely when albatross first start to fledge. We are also requesting to film with a drone only over water, never over land, carefully following FAA drone guides as well as guides from the Monument.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would

charter the NOAA compliant vessel, The Searcher, from Kewalo Basin, Honolulu to French Frigate Shoals where we are requesting permission to film for five days from the boat, in shallow water and on land. All crew will sleep and eat on the

vessel. Only Mr. Atkins and his film assistant, as well as any necessary boat crew, will leave The Searcher to film on beaches or in seabird colonies. Mr. Atkins will be filming with a telephoto lens that allows exceptional cinematographic quality while maintaining sufficient distance between Mr. Atkins and any wildlife. They would travel from the main vessel to shore on a 20-foot Zodiac Mark V. For drone filming, a licensed FAA pilot, Daniel Kwiatkowski, specialising in cinematic drone filming of wildlife would launch the drone from the boat (a small, cinematic drone that weighs less than 6 pounds - Mavic II). It would only film over water, never in or over the bird colonies. A drone camera assistant will spot the drone to ensure that it does not interfere with bird flight patterns. Mr. Kwiatkowski assisted Mr. Atkins in 2013 on our previous filming permit in the Monument so he is familiar with the fragile and important ecosystems of the Monument (it should be noted that there was no drone filming at the time of our 2013 filming).

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

supporting the Vision and Mission of the Monument by using the powerful and engaging medium of documentary television to reach nearly every household in the United States and territories to encourage a deep reverence, appreciation, and respect for the importance of the Monument and Hawaiian ecosystems. Filmmaking plays an important role in shaping culture; this film will have the power to inspire appreciation for the natural world, ecosystems in Hawai‘i, and Hawaiian culture which is so closely tied to the ocean and native animals. Public support for the natural world is a key player in shifting policy towards protection and perpetuation of ecosystems, including NWHI ecosystems, for generations today and for posterity.

Other information or background:

In 2013, Pangolin Pictures had the honor of sending a two person film crew to French Frigate Shoals for the filming of a scene for our documentary “Wild Hawaii” which aired on National Geographic and was ultimately nominated for an Emmy (permit number PMNM-2013-007). Paul Atkins was the director of photography for our 2013 program and is director of photography for our current PBS NATURE program. Mr. Atkins has specialized in wildlife filmmaking for four decades, has a Bachelor of Science (FSU) and Master of Science (HU) studying coral reef behavior and zoology, has won numerous Emmy awards, filmed on nearly every continent, worked on renowned Hollywood productions (such as Academy Award winning films “Master and Commander” and “The Revenant”), was praised by Sir David Attenborough for “his profound understanding of the animals he films,” and is a Hawai‘i local.