

State of Hawai'i  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Aquatic Resources  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

May 22, 2015

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Request for Authorization and Approval to Issue a Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Research Permit to Loren Scott Godwin, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, for Access to State Waters to Conduct Reef Assessment and Monitoring Study Activities

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) hereby submits a request for your authorization and approval for issuance of a Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument research permit to Applicant Mr. Loren Scott Godwin, Resource Protection Specialist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, pursuant to § 187A-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), Chapter 13-60.5, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), and all other applicable laws and regulations.

The research permit, as described below, would allow entry and management activities to occur in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, including the NWHI State Marine Refuge and the waters (0-3 nautical miles) surrounding the following sites:

- Nihoa Island
- Mokumanamana (Necker)
- French Frigate Shoals
- Gardner Pinnacles
- Maro Reef
- Laysan Island
- Lisianski Island, Neva Shoal
- Pearl and Hermes Atoll
- Midway Atoll
- Kure Atoll

The activities covered under this permit would occur between July 25, 2015 – July 24, 2016.

The proposed activities are largely a continuation of work previously permitted and conducted in the Monument.

## INTENDED ACTIVITIES

The Applicant proposes to conduct reef assessment and monitoring activities throughout the Monument as part of the annual NWHI RAMP (Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program) cruise, conducted every year since 2006. This project would improve the understanding of spatial and temporal processes influencing the health of coral reef ecosystems within the Monument. It would also contribute to long-term, continuing research used to support ecosystem approaches to management within the Monument. On a broader scale, data collected in the Monument would be compared to data collected using similar methodology in the Main Hawaiian Islands providing information on coral reef ecosystems across the Hawaiian archipelago.

The RAMP use quantitative Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) methodology to perform surveys focusing their studies on four groups: algae, coral and coral disease, invertebrates, and fish all within a depth of 0 to 33m throughout the Monument.

Up to twelve (12) staff members would enter the Monument and conduct activities under this permit from the NOAA ship R/V HI'IALAKAI (separately permitted under PMNM-2015-006). Proposed activities include: (1) reef assessment monitoring using non-invasive transects; (2) photography; (3) sampling of diseased coral (1 cm length); (4) fish surveys using belt transects and stationary point counts; (5) collect samples from up to one-hundred and twenty (120) different algal specimens (one 24-ounce Ziploc bag at each site – see ITEM F1a, Attachment A); and collect invertebrate voucher specimens (following Monument *Voucher Specimen Guidelines* – see ITEM F1a, Attachment B).

The activities proposed by the Applicant directly support the Monument Management Plan's priority management need 3.1 – Understanding and Interpreting the NWHI, 3.1.1 – Marine Science Action Plan, Activity MCS-1.2: Continuing monitoring of shallow-water coral reef ecosystems to protect ecological integrity (PMNM MMP Vol. 1, p. 123, 2008). This Activity emphasizes the importance of conducting quantitative surveys in shallow-water coral reef ecosystems to better define resource baselines for comparisons in protection and management efforts.

The activities described above may require the following regulated activities to occur in State waters:

- Removing, moving, taking, harvesting, possessing, injuring, disturbing, or damaging any living or nonliving Monument resource
- Touching coral, living or dead
- Swimming, snorkeling, or closed or open circuit SCUBA diving within any Special Preservation Area or Midway Atoll Special Management Area

## REVIEW PROCESS

The permit application was sent out for review and comment to the following scientific and cultural entities: Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources, Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (NOAA/NOS), NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office (NOAA-PIRO), United States Fish and Wildlife Service Hawaiian and

Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex Office, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). In addition, the permit application has been posted on the Monument Web site since February 18, 2015, giving the public an opportunity to comment. The application was posted within 40 days of its receipt, in accordance with the Monument's Public Notification Policy.

**Comments received from the scientific community are summarized as follows:**

QUESTIONS:

None

COMMENTS:

1. *Besides following the established PMNM Best Management Practices, the applicant should implement sterilization protocols for all equipment used at one site before being used at another site.*

Comment noted. Will follow BMP for all activities.

2. *OHA appreciates the need and the value of the Reef Assessment and Monitoring Cruise and hopes to see it continue this year and into the future. It is recommended that results of these RAMP cruises be utilized to help benefit our current management efforts within the populated southeast Hawaiian Islands through outreach opportunities and comparative research.*

Comment noted.

**Comments received from the Native Hawaiian community are summarized as follows:**

Cultural reviews support the acceptance of this application. No concerns were raised.

**Comments received from the public are summarized as follows:**

No comments were received from the public on this application.

**Additional reviews and permit history:**

Are there other relevant/necessary permits or environmental reviews that have or will be issued with regard to this project? (e.g., MMPA, ESA, EA)      Yes       No

If so, please list or explain:

- The proposed activities are in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.
- The proposed activities are in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.
- The Department has made an exemption determination for this permit in accordance chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR. See Attachment ("DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION FROM THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CHAPTER 343, HRS AND CHAPTER 11-200 HAR, FOR

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT RESEARCH PERMIT TO LOREN SCOTT GODWIN, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT, FOR ACCESS TO STATE WATERS TO CONDUCT REEF ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES UNDER PERMIT PMNM-2015-012”)

Has Applicant been granted a permit from the State in the past? Yes  No   
If so, please summarize past permits:

- The Applicant was granted permits for similar activities in 2011, 2012, and 2014 PMNM-2011-022, PMNM-2012-034, PMNM-2014-018, respectively. The Applicant was granted additional permits in 2010, 2012 and 2014 to inventory and monitor alien marine invertebrates (PMNM-2010-022, PMNM-2012-035, and PMNM-2014-08, respectively).
- Permits for similar activities have been granted to Applicants since 2006. In 2006, Dr. Peter Vroom was granted permit NWHIMNM-2006-011. In 2007, Dr. Randall Kosaki was granted permit PMNM-2007-048. In 2008, 2010, and 2013, Dr. Russell Brainard was granted permits PMNM-2008-062, PMNM-2010-052, and PMNM-2013-024, respectively. In 2009, Ms. Elizabeth Keenan was granted permit PMNM-2009-058.

Have there been any a) violations: Yes  No   
b) Late/incomplete post-activity reports: Yes  No

Are there any other relevant concerns from previous permits? Yes  No

#### STAFF OPINION

PMNM staff is of the opinion that the Applicant has properly demonstrated valid justification for their application and should be allowed to enter the NWHI State waters and conduct the activities therein as specified in the application with certain special instructions and conditions, which are in addition to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Research Permit General Conditions. All suggested special conditions have been vetted through the legal counsel of the Co-Trustee agencies (see Recommendation section).

#### MONUMENT MANAGEMENT BOARD OPINION

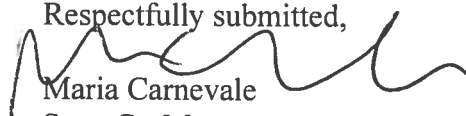
The MMB is of the opinion that the Applicant has met the findings of Presidential Proclamation 8031 and this activity may be conducted subject to completion of all compliance requirements. The MMB concurs with the special conditions recommended by PMNM staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize and approve a Research Permit to Loren Scott Godwin, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, with the following special conditions:

1. That the Board declare that the actions which are anticipated to be undertaken under this permit will have little or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
2. Upon the finding and adoption of the department's analysis by the Board, that the Board delegate and authorize the Chairperson to sign the declaration of exemption for purposes of recordkeeping requirements of chapter 343, HRS, and chapter 11-200, HAR.
3. This permit is not to be used for nor does it authorize the sale of collected organisms. Under this permit, the authorized activities must be for noncommercial purposes not involving the use or sale of any organism, by-products, or materials collected within the Monument for obtaining patent or intellectual property rights.
4. The permittee may not convey, transfer, or distribute, in any fashion (including, but not limited to, selling, trading, giving, or loaning) any coral, live rock, or organism collected under this permit without the express written permission of the Co-Trustees.
5. To prevent introduction of disease or the unintended transport of live organisms, the permittee must comply with the disease and transport protocols attached to this permit.
6. Tenders and small vessels must be equipped with engines that meet EPA emissions requirements.
7. Refueling of tenders and all small vessels must be done at the support ships and outside the confines of lagoons or near-shore waters in the State NWHI Marine Refuge.


Respectfully submitted,



Maria Carnevale  
State Co-Manager

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL



SUZANNE CASE  
Chairperson

**Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**  
RESEARCH 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](mailto: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:** Loren Scott Godwin

**Affiliation:** NOAA-NOS-ONMS-Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM)

**Permit Category:** Research

**Proposed Activity Dates:** July 27-August 25, 2015

**Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane):** NOAA Vessel Hiialakai

**Proposed Locations:** Nihoa, Mokumanamana, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island/Neva Shoal, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll, and Kure Atoll

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

12

**Estimated number of days in the Monument:** 30

**Description of proposed activities:** (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...  
conduct ecological assessments employing standardized methods to improve understanding of the spatial and temporal processes influencing the health of coral reef ecosystems throughout the archipelago.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would ....  
use proven Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) methodologies to survey representative sites for fish, coral, macro invertebrates and document benthic habitat types.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by ...  
providing the information gained from this monitoring activity to resource managers and various public stakeholders to improve decision-making for the long-term conservation and management of coral reef resources within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

**Other information or background:** In the past decade, increased awareness regarding the declining condition of US coral reefs has prompted various actions by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Presidential Executive Order 13089 created the US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) in 1998 to coordinate federal and state/territorial activities. Subsequently, the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 provided Congressional funding for activities to conserve these important ecosystems, including mapping, monitoring and assessment projects carried out through the support of NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program. Numerous collaborations forged among federal agencies and state, local, non-governmental, academic and private partners now support a variety of monitoring activities in Hawai'i.

As part of the Coral Reef Conservation Act mandates, efforts to create structured monitoring began in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) through the initiation of the NOWRAMP (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Reef Assessment and Monitoring, later shortened to RAMP) program. Led by the State of Hawaii, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA and several research institutions, efforts to characterize and monitor coral reefs and establish baselines to compare and facilitate monitoring of temporal changes in the ecosystem began. Since 2000, NOAA has conducted annual monitoring cruises to the NWHI, with leadership alternating between NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service-Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and NOAA-National Ocean Service-Office of National Marine Sanctuaries-PMNM.



**Section A - Applicant Information**

**1. Applicant**

Name (last, first, middle initial): Godwin, Loren, Scott

Title: Resource Protection Specialist

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

Loren Scott Godwin

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

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

For students, major professor's name, telephone and email address:

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

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Ocean Service-Office of National Marine Sanctuaries-Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

**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):**

TBD Data Manager

TBD Media/Outreach Coordinator

Paula Ayotte, Fish Survey Diver

Tate Wester, Fish Survey Diver

TBD Fish Survey Diver

TBD Fish Survey Diver

TBD Fish Survey Diver

TBD Fish Survey Diver  
Megan Akiko Onuma, Coral Survey Diver  
LTJG Hadley Owen, NOAA Corps Coxswain  
TBD Dive Chamber Operator

**Section B: Project Information**

**5a. Project location(s):**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nihoa Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necker Island (Mokumanamana)	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> French Frigate Shoals	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gardner Pinnacles	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maro Reef			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laysan Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisianski Island, Neva Shoal	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pearl and Hermes Atoll	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midway Atoll	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kure Atoll	<input type="checkbox"/> Land-based	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep water
<input type="checkbox"/> Other			

**Ocean Based**

NOTE: There is a fee schedule for people visiting Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge via vessel and aircraft.

**Location Description:**

Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) sampling for fishes and benthic flora and fauna will be conducted at the following locations: Nihoa, Mokumanamana, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll and Kure Atoll. At each location, a stratified random survey design will be employed to sample coral reef habitat. The stratification scheme comprises the combination of three reef zones—fore reef, back reef, and lagoon—and three depth ranges—0 to 6 m, 6 to 18 m, and 18 to 33 m. A sampling 'site' denotes an area of 100 m by 100 m containing coral reef habitat. The target number of sampling sites for each location will be based on available field days and weather conditions.

At each location, sampling sites will be allocated proportionally among reef zone-depth strata according to the amount of coral reef habitat within each stratum. Specific site locations to be sampled within each stratum will be randomly selected from the complete list of stratum sample sites compiled using a Geographical Information System (GIS). A secondary list of alternative sampling sites will also be randomly generated for each stratum. In some situations, a randomly selected site may be determined upon arrival by the field team to be unsuitable for sampling, e.g., non-reef habitat, unsafe sea conditions, etc. In the case of unsuitable habitat, adjacent sampling sites (approximately 100 m in each direction from the original point) will be searched to the extent possible and substituted for the original site if suitable coral reef habitat is located. Sites determined to be unsuitable for REA sampling will be substituted with an alternative site from the secondary sample list.

**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:***

These efforts contribute to continuing research providing scientific information needed to support ecosystem approaches to the management of coral reef systems of the Monument. The use of consistent interdisciplinary methods across this vast region allows for an opportunity to perform comparative biogeographic and ecological analyses of diverse ecological, environmental, and oceanographic gradients. Patterns of variability of fish biomass, coral disease, diversity, and other reef metrics are paramount to assessing habitats in a coral ecosystem such as Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (The Monument).

**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?

Surveys will be conducted in a manner that brings the divers in very limited direct contact with the natural resources. In rare instances, there will be algae and invertebrates encountered that cannot be readily identified. Many species of algae and invertebrates require microscopic or histological examination to confirm identification, so very limited numbers of voucher specimens will be collected and preserved as necessary to make positive identifications. Additionally, if coral disease is documented a small sample of the infected colony would be collected and preserved to ascertain pathology.

These surveys will not occur in the vicinity of any known Native Hawaiian or western archaeological sites within the Monument, and thus are unlikely to impact any such resources. If possible archaeological sites are seen, Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for the sites as well as a general description will be taken and provided to Monument staff.

Because of the close relationship between Native Hawaiians and the ocean, the marine life of the Monument constitutes a living cultural resource whose well-being is integral to the perpetuation of cultural values and practices. Many, if not most, of the species surveyed by the methods outlined in this application are of great cultural significance to Native Hawaiians, in spiritual, religious, nutritional, utilitarian, and other ways. A program such as the RAMP time series, whose goal is to characterize and monitor the Monument's living marine resources, can provide information on the distribution and abundance of these resources that has potential use by traditional managers and Native Hawaiian practitioners.

Finally, all scientists and ship's crew participating in this cruise will receive a cultural briefing by a representative from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs before departure.

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 proposed activities are consistent with the terms of the Proclamation in that they will "further understanding of Monument resources and qualities," and will "assist in the conservation and management of the Monument." They are also consistent with the Findings regarding the issuance of permits by the Trustees. Management regulations pertaining to the Monument, such as regulations for the mitigation of disease and alien species transport, are strictly adhered to when conducting operations within the Monument. The proposed activities will provide critical data that will greatly enhance the Monument managers' ability to characterize and understand the coral reef ecosystems within the Monument. The scientific methods to be used on this cruise are designed to have minimal, if any, negative effects on the environment. There are no anticipated indirect, secondary or cumulative effects of the proposed methods.

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. The RAMP effort is conducted throughout the archipelago of Hawai'i, which provides for the opportunity of comparison between the populated and geologically younger southeastern islands and the islands of the Monument. The variances generated within a data set are potentially unique to each site due to the abundance and distribution of the organisms present there. Similar tests conducted in the southeastern islands of the Hawai'i archipelago or elsewhere would be of questionable applicability because of fundamental differences in the assemblage structures of marine organisms when compared to the NWHI. Thus, the efficacy of the revised data collection protocols for monitoring in the Monument cannot be tested anywhere but the NWHI

d. How does the end value of the activity outweigh its adverse impacts on Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity? Annual monitoring surveys are necessary to establish baseline abundances of coral reef organisms, to begin to understand the range of natural spatial and temporal variability that characterizes the ecosystems of the Monument, and to establish a baseline against which changes due to the effects of large scale, long-term natural and anthropogenic impacts can be compared. These baselines will also be useful in documenting the impacts of episodic or localized natural and anthropogenic perturbations of the environment, such as storm damage, invasive species and vessel groundings. There are to be no adverse impacts on the Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities and ecological integrity from the proposed activities.

e. Explain how the duration of the activity is no longer than necessary to achieve its stated purpose. The time allotted for this research is the minimum amount of time needed within Monument waters to complete the required work. Due to the considerable size of the Monument and the transit time between locations, we are only able to survey a subset of islands that represent the broadest characterization of habitat types. The schedule of activities will maximize the operational days allotted aboard the NOAA research vessel Hi'ialakai.

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

The Monument staff and their partners involved in conducting the yearly coral reef monitoring have proven themselves capable of collecting monitoring data with no adverse impacts to the natural resources of the Monument. RAMP cruises have been successfully conducted on an annual basis in the NWHI since 2000 in conjunction with NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division, the State of Hawaii, and other partners. Team members are experienced divers and highly trained personnel who will be under the guidance of the Chief Scientist (CV attached).

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. There is an allocation of 30 days at sea aboard the NOAA vessel Hi'ialakai from NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, and the RAMP effort is a line item in the budget of the Monument.

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.

Standardized survey procedures are employed during operations, and are the minimum effort needed to obtain the data. The procedures are designed with the intention of monitoring and assessing the coral reef ecosystem with as little impact as possible to the Monument resources. Through various expeditions conducted historically in the NWHI the methods used have shown to have little impact on the habitat being observed.

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

Under the PMNM entry permit requirements for the vessel, the Hi'ialakai is outfitted with a mobile transceiver unit that is approved by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement.

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

I am not aware of any other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.

### **8. Procedures/Methods:**

In order to properly manage the coral reefs and related waters of the Monument, RAMP cruises utilize several disciplines to monitor the various biota and environments. The primary research components are listed below with accompanying descriptions.

## Benthic Field Survey Methodology

At each survey site, two to three 25 m transect transects are the focal point for the benthic surveys.

### Coral and Coral Disease:

Within each of the two transects above, five, 2.5-meter segments are surveyed (beginning at points: 0, 5, 10, 15, and 20 meters), whereby in each segment, all coral colonies whose center falls within 0.5 meters of either side of the transect line are identified to the species level and two planar size metrics collected (i.e., maximum diameter and maximum diameter perpendicular to the maximum diameter). The extent of colony mortality, both recent and old, is also estimated for each colony; special attention is paid to identifying as best as possible the extent of the former live colony. In addition, cases of disease or compromised health are recorded and additional information collected, including type of affliction (bleaching, skeletal growth anomaly, white syndrome, subacute tissue loss, band diseases, necroses, pigmentation responses, algal and fungal infections, as well as other diseases of unknown etiology, and predation), severity of the affliction (mild, moderate, marked, severe, acute), as well as photographic documentation and in some cases tissue samples. Coral tissue samples 1 centimeter in length are collected, catalogued and fixed in buffered zinc-formalin solution for further histopathological analyses.

### Fish Survey Methodology:

Non-invasive underwater surveys are used to enumerate the diverse components of diurnally active shallow-water reef fish assemblages. Surveys are replicated at sites within and/or among the various habitat types present around each island or bank. Fish are identified to lowest possible taxa and their size estimated. Resulting data therefore provide information on size structure and provides the basis for estimation of biomass densities by taxa.

From 2000-2008 the primary survey method was a transect-based method. In 2009 methodology was shifted to a Stationary Point Count method. In 2009 both transects and SPC methods were conducted to create conversion metrics to allow for comparison/conversion between methodologies. Both methods are described below for inclusion within this permit submission.

**Belt transects:** A pair of scuba diver-observers conduct parallel swims along three 25 m long transect lines, recording size-class specific (TL) counts of all fishes encountered, to species-level where possible, within visually estimated but defined belt widths: 4 m wide for fishes > 20 cm TL (100 m<sup>2</sup> area) on the initial swim-out, and 2 m wide for fishes < 20 cm TL (50 m<sup>2</sup> area) on the subsequent swim back. Reef ledges and holes are visually searched. Stations are completed on all sides of the island/atoll, weather and sea conditions permitting.



Stationary Point Counts (nSPC): Stationary point counts are the main method now to survey reef fish assemblages. At each site, replicate nSPC surveys are conducted by a pair of divers, surveying adjacent visually-estimated cylinders of 7.5 m radius, centered on the divers. Each nSPC diver records the number, size (TL, to nearest cm), and species of all fishes present or passing through the cylinder in the course of the survey. nSPC surveys consists of 2 components: (i) a 5 minute species listing component – the aim of which is to build a list of species present pr passing through the cylinder; and (ii) an enumeration component, in which each diver records the number and sizes of fishes of those listed species in a series of instantaneous visual sweeps of their cylinder. Where time allows, 2 pairs of nSPC cylinders are surveyed per site per dive. nSPC Survey sites are randomly located with specified habitat strata encompassing all 0-30m hard bottom areas at each surveyed reef -with specific position generated prior to each cruise based on the random-stratified survey design.

**NOTE: If land or marine archeological activities are involved, contact the Monument Permit Coordinator at the address on the general application form before proceeding, as a customized application will be needed. For more information, contact the Monument office on the first page of this application.**

**9a. Collection of specimens - collecting activities (would apply to any activity): organisms or objects (List of species, if applicable, attach additional sheets if necessary):**

Common name:

Macro-Algae Voucher Specimens-Assorted green, red, and brown algae species  
Invertebrate Voucher Specimens.

Scientific name:

Macro-Algae-See Attachment A  
Invertebrates-See Attachment B

# & size of specimens:

Macro-Algae Voucher Specimens- Specimen size equivalent to 24 ounce sample bag  
Invertebrate Voucher Specimens - A 5centimeterX5centimeter piece for encrusting forms (e.g. sponges,hydroids, bryozoans, tunicates) or 1centimeter in length for branching forms. For mobile species (e.g. sea stars, crabs, worms) the collection of a whole specimen is required for accurate taxonomic identification. All specimens will be collected as per the voucher specimen guidelines required by the Monument.

Collection location:

Nihoa, Mokumanamana, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island/Neva Shoal, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll, and Kure Atoll

Whole Organism  Partial Organism

**9b. What will be done with the specimens after the project has ended?**

Any specimens collected will be deposited with Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. Macro-Algae will be deposited with the Botany collection manager, Barbara Kennedy and invertebrate specimens will be deposited with the marine invertebrate collection manager, Holly Bolick.

**9c. Will the organisms be kept alive after collection?**  Yes  No

• General site/location for collections:

While in the field, all specimens will be kept in a preserved state in the wetlab aboard the NOAA research vessel Hi'ialakai: Algal specimens will be frozen and invertebrate collections will either be frozen or preserved in 95% Ethanol.

• Is it an open or closed system?  Open  Closed

n/a

• Is there an outfall?  Yes  No

n/a

• Will these organisms be housed with other organisms? If so, what are the other organisms?

n/a

• Will organisms be released?

n/a

**10. If applicable, how will the collected samples or specimens be transported out of the Monument?**

All specimens will be kept aboard the NOAA research vessel Hi'ialakai and transported back to Honolulu.

**11. Describe collaborative activities to share samples, reduce duplicative sampling, or duplicative research:**

All specimens will be deposited at Bishop Museum with the appropriate collections manager (see 9b), so that they can be accessed by local researchers from the University of Hawaii, NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Hawaii.

**12a. List all specialized gear and materials to be used in this activity:**

Specimens will be collected by the use of hand tools such as scrapers, chisels or snips.

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

95% Ethanol, buffered formalin, bleach

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

n/a

**14. Provide a time line for sample analysis, data analysis, write-up and publication of information:**

Monitoring data will be archived on servers located at the Monument offices and the NOAA PIFSC, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division. Any specimens collected and deposited at Bishop Museum will be identified to the lowest taxonomic level within 12 months after returning.

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

Castro, P & L.S. Godwin. 2006. First record of coral crabs of the family Tetraliidae (Crustacea: Brachyura) from the Hawaiian Islands. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers. 88:53-55

Godwin, L.S. & H. Bolick. 2006. Inventory of intertidal and shallow sub-tidal marine invertebrates at Kalaupapa National Historic Park. Contribution No. 2006-003 to the Hawaii Biological Survey. 58 pp.

Kenyon J, S. Godwin, A. Montgomery, and R. Brainard 2007. Rare sighting of *Acropora cytherea* in the main Hawaiian Islands. *Coral Reefs* 26: 309

Maragos, J., J. Miller, J. Gove, E. Demartini, A. Friedlander, S. Godwin, C. Musburger, M. Timmers, R. Tsuda, P. Vroom, E. Flint, E. Lundblad, J. Weiss, P. Ayotte, E. Sala, S. Sandin, S. McTee, T. Wass, R. Brainard, D. Obura, S. Ferguson, and B. Mundy. 2007. U.S. atolls and low reef islands in the Line and Phoenix Islands, Central Pacific Ocean. Report to the U.S. Coral Reef Taskforce.

Martin J.W., S. Godwin, R. Moffit. 2008. Additions to the decapod crustacean fauna of the Hawaiian Islands, I. A review of the crab genus *Sakaila* Manning & Holthuis, 1981 (Decapoda, Brachyura, Calappoidea) with a description of a new species from French Frigate Shoals, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. *Zootaxa* (In Press)

Godwin, L.S. and I. Baums. 2008. The hermit crab *Calcinus isabellae*, Poupin, 1997 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Diogenidae), a new record for the Hawaiian Archipelago, including a review of the genus *Calcinus* Dana, 1851 in Hawai'i. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers 100: 52-54

Knapp, I.S., L.S. Godwin, J.E. Smith, G.J. Williams, and J.J. Bell. 2011. Records of non-indigenous marine species at Palmyra Atoll in the U.S. Line Islands. *Marine Biodiversity Records* 4:1-7. doi:10.1017/S1755267211000078

Baums, I.B., S. Godwin, E. Franklin, R. Toonen and D. Carlon. 2013. Population expansions occurred during periods of Pleistocene sea level rise in four species of coral associated hermit crabs (Anomura: Diogenidae). *Journal of Biogeography* doi:10.1111/jbi.12181



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 Kalia Drive # 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

**Attachment A. Potential Algal Genera Requiring Voucher Collections**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>		<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Algae	Caulerpa		Algae	Dasya
Algae	Caulerpella		Algae	Heterosiphonia
Algae	Codium		Algae	Hypoglossum
Algae	Halimeda		Algae	Martensia
Algae	Bryopsis		Algae	Schizoseris
Algae	Derbesia		Algae	Vanvoorstia
Algae	Pseudobryopsis		Algae	Amansia
Algae	Avrainvillea		Algae	Chondria
Algae	Chlorodesmis		Algae	Chondrophyucus
Algae	Rhipidosiphon		Algae	Herposiphonia
Algae	Rhipilia		Algae	Laurencia
Algae	Tydemania		Algae	Lophosiphonia
Algae	Udotea		Algae	Neosiphonia
Algae	Palmophyllum		Algae	Polysiphonia
Algae	Phyllocladon		Algae	Spriocladia
Algae	Cheatomorpha		Algae	Womersleyella
Algae	Cladophora		Algae	Amansia
Algae	Dictyosphaeria		Algae	Tolypiocladia
Algae	Microdictyon		Branched coralline algae	non-geniculate
Algae	Valonia		Crustose coralline algae	
Algae	Acetabularia		Algae	Amphiroa
Algae	Bornetella		Algae	Hydroolithon
Algae	Neomeris		Algae	Jania
Algae	Boodlea		Algae	Mastophora
Algae	Siphonocladus		Algae	Erythrotrichia
Algae	Ventricaria		Algae	Gelidium
Algae	Entocladia		Algae	Pterocladia
Algae	Ulvella		Algae	Acrosymphyton
Algae	Ulothrix		Algae	Caulacanthus
Algae	Uronema		Algae	Gibsmithia
Algae	Ulva		Algae	Carpopeltis
Algae	Chnoospora		Algae	Halymenia
Algae	Dictyota		Algae	Hypnea
Algae	Distromium		Algae	Kallymenia
Algae	Lobophora		Algae	Predaea
Algae	Padina		Algae	Peyssonnelia
Algae	Styopodium		Algae	Ahnfeltiopsis
Algae	Asteronema		Algae	Plocamium
Algae	Feladmanna		Algae	Portieria

Algae	Hincksia		Algae	Platoma
Algae	Sargassum		Algae	Gracilaria
Algae	Turbinaria		Algae	Actinotrichia
Algae	Hydroclathrus		Algae	Galaxaura
Algae	Sphacelaria		Algae	Ganonema
Algae	Sporochnus		Algae	Scinaia
Algae	Bangia		Algae	Tricleocarpa
Algae	Porphyra		Algae	Liagora
Algae	Asparagopsis		Algae	Trichogloea
Algae	Aglaothamnion		Algae	Trichogloeopsis
Algae	Anotrichium		Algae	Yamadaella
Algae	Antithamnion		Algae	Stylonema
Algae	Centroceras		Algae	Gelidiopsis
Algae	Ceramium		Algae	Gloiocladia
Algae	Corallophila		Algae	Lomentaria
Algae	Crouania		Algae	Botryocladia
Algae	Griffithsia		Algae	Chrysymenia
Algae	Haloplegma		Algae	Coelarthrum
Algae	Lejolisea		Algae	Coelothrix
Algae	Ptilothamnion		Algae	Halichrysis
Algae	Spryridea		Blue green algae	cyanobacteria
Algae	Wrangelia		Turf algae	

Attachment B. Potential Marine Invertebrate Requiring Voucher Collections

<b>PHYLUM PORIFERA</b>	
<b>Class Calcarea</b>	
<b>Family Heteropiidae</b>	
	<i>Heteropia glomerosa</i> Bowerbank, 1873
<b>Class Demospongiae</b>	
<b>Order Hadromerida</b>	
<b>Family Suberitidae</b>	
	<i>Suberites zeteki</i> de Laubenfels, 1936
<b>Family Chalinidae</b>	
	<i>Sigmatocia cf. caerulea</i> Hechtel, 1965
<b>Family Niphatidae</b>	
	<i>Gelloides fibrosa</i> Wilson, 1925
<b>Order Poecilosclerida</b>	
<b>Family Mycalidae</b>	
	<i>Mycale grandis</i> Thiele, 1903
<b>Family Raspailidae</b>	
	<i>Echinodictyum asperum</i> Ridely and Dendy, 1886
<b>Family Dysideidae</b>	
	<i>Dysidea</i> sp.
<b>PHYLUM CNIDARIA</b>	
<b>Class Hydrozoa</b>	
<b>Family Halocordylidae</b>	
	<i>Pennaria disticha</i>
<b>Family Bougainvilliidae</b>	
	<i>Bougainvillia ramosa</i> van Beneden, 1844
<b>Family Sertulariidae</b>	
	<i>Dynamena crisioides</i> Lamouroux, 1824
<b>Class Anthozoa</b>	
<b>Family Diadumenidae</b>	
	<i>Diadumene leucolena</i> Verrill, 1866
	<i>Diadumene lineata</i> (Verrill, 1869)
<b>Subclass Octocorallia</b>	
	<i>Carijoa riisei</i> Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860
<b>PHYLUM ANNELIDA</b>	
<b>Family Sabellidae</b>	
	<i>Sabellastarte spectabilis</i> Grube, 1878
	<i>Branchiomma nigromaculata</i> Baird, 1865
<b>Family Serpulidae</b>	



	Hydroides elegans Haswell, 1883
	Hydroides dirampha Morch, 1863
	Hydroides crucigerus Morch 1863
	Pomatoleios kraussii Baird, 1865
	Pomatoceros cf. minutus Rioja, 1941
	Salmacina tribranchiata Moore, 1923
	Serpula vermicularis Linnaeus, 1767
	Serpula cf. watsoni Willey, 1905
<b>Family Spirorbidae</b>	
	Eulaeospira orientalis Pillai, 1960
	Simplicaria pseudomilitaris Thiriot-Quievreux, 1965
	Janua pagenstecheri Quatrefages, 1865
	Neodexiospira preacuta Vine, 1972
	Neodexiospira foraminosa Moore and Bush, 1904
	Pileolaria militaris Claparede, 1868
	Circeus cf. americana Saint-Joseph, 1894
<b>PHYLUM MOLLUSCA</b>	
<b>Family Vermetidae</b>	
	Vermetus alii Hadfield & Kay, 1972
<b>Class Gastropoda</b>	
	Hipponix australis Lamarck, 1819
	Crucibulum spinosum (Sowerby, 1824)
	Hiponix sp.
<b>Class Bivalvia</b>	
	Chama macerophylla Gmelin, 1791
	Chama fibula Reeve, 1846
<b>PHYLUM ARTHROPODA</b>	
<b>Class Cirrepedia</b>	
<b>Order Thoracica</b>	
<b>Family Balanidae</b>	
	Balanus amphitrite Darwin, 1854
	Balanus eburneus Gould, 1841
	Balanus trigonus Darwin, 1854
	Megabalanus californicus Pilsbry, 1916
	Megabalanus tanagrae Pilsbry, 1928
	Megabalanus peninsularis Pilsbry, 1916

<b>Family Chthamalidae</b>	
	Chthamalus proteus
<b>PHYLUM ARTHROPODA</b>	
<b>Order Amphipoda</b>	
<b>Family Caprellidae</b>	
	Caprella acutifrons
<b>Family Gammaridae</b>	
	Erichthonius brasiliensis Dana, 1853
	Jassa falcata Sexton & Reid, 1951
<b>Class Decapoda</b>	
<b>Order Brachyura</b>	
<b>Family Grapsidae</b>	
	Pachygrapsus fakaravensis Rahtbun, 1907
	Metopograpsus oceanicus (Jacquinot, 1852)
	Nanosesarma minutum (De Man, 1887)
<b>Family Xanthidae</b>	
	Glabropilumnus seminudus (Miers, 1884)
<b>Class Stomatopoda</b>	
	Gonodactylaceus 3utates Lanchester, 1903
<b>PHYLUM PYCNOGONIDA</b>	
	Anoplodactylus sp.
<b>PHYLUM ECHINODERMATA</b>	
<b>Class Ophiuroidea</b>	
	Ophiactis savignyi Muller and Troschel, 1842
<b>Class Holothuroidea</b>	
	Holothuria n. sp
<b>PHYLUM BRYOZOA</b>	
<b>Class Gymnolaemata</b>	
<b>Family Bugulidae</b>	
	Bugula neritina Linnaeus, 1758
	Bugula robusta MacGillivray, 1869
	Holoporella pilaefera Canu & Bassler, 1929
<b>Family Chorizoporidae</b>	
	Rhamphostomella argentea Hincks, 1881
<b>Family Scrupocellariidae</b>	
	Scrupocellaria cf. sinuosa Canu & Bassler, 1927
<b>Family Hippopodiniidae</b>	
	Hippopodina feegeensis Busk, 1884
<b>Family Schizoporellidae</b>	

	Schizoporella errata Waters, 1878
<b>Family Vesiculariidae</b>	
	Amathia distans Busk, 1886
<b>Family Watersiporidae</b>	
	Watersipora edmondsoni Soule & Soule, 1968
<b>SUBPHYLUM UROCHORDATA</b>	
<b>Class Ascidiacea</b>	
<b>Suborder Aplousobranchia</b>	
<b>Family Didemnidae</b>	
	Diplosoma listerianum Milne-Edwards, 1841
<b>Suborder Phlebobranchia</b>	
<b>Family Ascidiidae</b>	
	Phallusia nigra Savigny, 1816
	Ascidia syndneiensis
<b>Suborder Stolidobranchia</b>	
<b>Family Styelidae</b>	
	Botrylloides simodensis Saito and Watanabe, 1981
	Symplegma brakenhielmi Michaelsen, 1904
	Polyandrocarpa sagamiensis Tokioka, 1953
	Eusynstyela hartmeyerii Michaelson, 1904
	Styela plicata Lesueur, 1823
	Styela clava Herdman, 1882
<b>Family Pyuridae</b>	
	Microcosmus exasperatus Heller, 1878
	Herdmania momus Savigny, 1816

## **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Compliance Information Sheet**

**1. Updated list of personnel to be covered by permit. List all personnel names and their roles here (e.g. John Doe, Diver; Jane Doe, Field Technician, Jerry Doe, Medical Assistant):**

Fish Diver 1 Tate Wester(UH)

Fish Diver 2 TBD (UH)

Benthic Diver 1 Scott Godwin (NOAA) CS

Benthic Diver 2 Megan Onuma (UH)

Fish Diver 3 Paula Ayotte (NOAA)

Fish Diver 4 TBD (UH)

NOAA VOC Hadley Owen (NOAA Coxswain)

Data Manager, Jon Martinez/Pua Borges-Smith (NOAA)

NOAA Chamber Operator Jim Bostick (NOAA-NDC)

**2. Specific Site Location(s): (Attach copies of specific collection locations):** French Frigate Shoals, Maro Reef, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, Kure Atoll, Midway Atoll

**3. Other permits (list and attach documentation of all other related Federal or State permits):** PMNM-2014-019

**3a. For each of the permits listed, identify any permit violations or any permit that was suspended, amended, modified or revoked for cause. Explain the circumstances surrounding the violation or permit suspension, amendment, modification or revocation. n/a**

**4. Funding sources (Attach copies of your budget, specific to proposed activities under this permit and include funding sources. See instructions for more information):** RAMP 2015 included in NOAA Fleet Allocation Plan funding

**5. Time frame:**

Activity start: July 27, 2015

Activity completion: August 25, 2015

Dates actively inside the Monument:

From: July 28, 2014

To: August 24, 2014

Describe any limiting factors in declaring specific dates of the proposed activity at the time of application: n/a

Personnel schedule in the Monument: All personnel list in #1 will be present at all sites listed in #2

**6. Indicate (with attached documentation) what insurance policies, bonding coverage, and/or financial resources are in place to pay for or reimburse the Monument trustees for the necessary search and rescue, evacuation, and/or removal of any or all persons covered by the permit from the Monument:** This is an activity carried out by the federal government, which is a self-insured entity. Therefore, all included under this permit are covered.

**7. Check the appropriate box to indicate how personnel will enter the Monument:**

Vessel

Aircraft

Provide Vessel and Aircraft information: NOAA R/V Hiialakai

**8. The certifications/inspections (below) must be completed prior to departure for vessels (and associated tenders) entering the Monument. Fill in scheduled date (attach documentation):**

Rodent free, Date:

Tender vessel, Date:

Ballast water, Date:

Gear/equipment, Date:

Hull inspection, Date:

**9. Vessel information (NOTE: if you are traveling aboard a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel, skip this question):**

Vessel name:

Vessel owner:

Captain's name:

IMO#:

Vessel ID#:

Flag:

Vessel type:

Call sign:

Embarkation port:

Last port vessel will have been at prior to this embarkation:

Length:

Gross tonnage:

Total ballast water capacity volume (m3):

Total number of ballast water tanks on ship:

Total fuel capacity:

Total number of fuel tanks on ship:

Marine Sanitation Device:

Type:

Explain in detail how you will comply with the regulations regarding discharge in the Monument. Describe in detail. If applicable, attach schematics of the vessel's discharge and treatment systems:

Other fuel/hazardous materials to be carried on board and amounts:

Provide proof of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement-approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Provide the name and contact information of the contractor responsible for installing the VMS system. Also describe VMS unit name and type:

VMS Email:

Inmarsat ID#:

\* Individuals MUST ENSURE that a type-approved VMS unit is installed and that its automatic position reports are being properly received by the NOAA OLE system prior to the issuance of a permit. To make sure your VMS is properly configured for the NOAA OLE system, please contact NOAA OLE at (808) 203-2503 or (808) 203-2500.

\* PERMITS WILL NOT BE ISSUED TO INDIVIDUALS ENTERING THE MONUMENT VIA VESSEL UNTIL NOAA OLE HAS CONTACTED THE MONUMENT PERMIT COORDINATOR WITH A 'POSITIVE CHECK' READING.

## 10. Tender information:

On what workboats (tenders) will personnel, gear and materials be transported within the Monument? List the number of tenders/skiffs aboard and specific types of motors:

10m launch (diesel inboard)

8m launch (diesel inboard)

(2 ) 17 ft Safeboat (gas twin outboard)

## **Additional Information for Land Based Operations**

**11. Proposed movement of personnel, gear, materials, and, if applicable, samples:**

**12. Room and board requirements on island:**

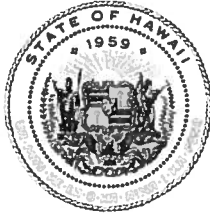
**13. Work space needs:**

DID YOU INCLUDE THESE?

- Map(s) or GPS point(s) of Project Location(s), if applicable
- Funding Proposal(s)
- Funding and Award Documentation, if already received
- Documentation of Insurance, if already received
- Documentation of Inspections
- Documentation of all required Federal and State Permits or applications for permits



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

May 22, 2015

TO: Division of Aquatic Resources File

THROUGH: Suzanne Case, Chairperson

FROM: Maria Carnevale  
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION FROM THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CHAPTER 343, HRS AND CHAPTER 11-200 HAR, FOR PAPAĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT RESEARCH PERMIT TO LOREN SCOTT GODWIN, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, PAPAĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT, FOR ACCESS TO STATE WATERS TO CONDUCT REEF ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES UNDER PERMIT PMNM-2015-012

The following permitted activities are found to be exempted from preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200, HAR:

Project Title:

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Research Permit to Loren Scott Godwin, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, for Access to State Waters to Conduct Reef Assessment and Monitoring Activities.

Permit Number: PMNM-2015-012

Project Description:

The research permit, as described below, would allow entry and activities to occur in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, including the NWHI State waters from July 25, 2015 through July 24, 2016.

The Applicant proposes to conduct reef assessment and monitoring activities throughout the Monument as part of the annual NWHI RAMP (Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program) cruise, conducted every year since 2006. This project would improve the understanding of spatial and temporal processes influencing the health of coral reef ecosystems within the Monument.

SUZANNE CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAIHOOLOAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

The RAMP use quantitative Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) methodology to perform surveys focusing their studies on four groups: algae, coral and coral disease, invertebrates, and fish all within a depth of 0 to 33m throughout the Monument.

Staff would enter the Monument and conduct activities under this permit from the NOAA ship HI'IALAKAI (separately permitted under PMNM-2015-006). Proposed activities include snorkeling and/or SCUBA to:

1. Reef assessment monitoring using non-invasive transects to randomly sample coral reef habitat at three (3) depths, 0 to 6m, 6 to 18m, and 18 to 33m. Each depth would be termed a sampling site and would measure 100 by 100m<sup>2</sup>. The total number of sampling sites would depend on the number of field days and weather conditions during the cruise;
2. Collect photographs along survey transects;
3. Sample diseased coral (1 cm length);
4. Conduct fish surveys using belt transects and stationary point counts. Belt transects would be performed on all sides of the island/atoll surveyed, while stationary point counts would be performed twice at each sampling site; and
5. Collect voucher specimens (following Monument *Voucher Specimen Guidelines* and shared with the Holly Bolick of the Bishop Museum).
  - a. Collect samples from up to one-hundred and twenty (120) different algal specimens (one 24-ounce Ziploc bag at each site – see ITEM F1a, Attachment A); and
  - b. Collect samples from invertebrates. Sample sizes for encrusting forms would be 5 by 5 cm. Sample sizes for branching forms would be 1 cm length. Whole specimens of mobile species would be collected (see ITEM F1a, Attachment B).

The proposed activities are in direct support of the Monument Management Plan's priority management needs 3.1 – Understanding and Interpreting the NWHI (through action plan 3.1.1 Marine Conservation Science). This action plan specifies to “marine research, characterization, and monitoring designed to support an ecosystem-based approach to protection and management” (Activity MCS-1.2: Continue monitoring of shallow-water coral reef ecosystems to protect ecological integrity, PMNM MMP Vol 1, p. 123). It also notes that monitoring data can help scientists understand causes of change. Activities to support marine conservation science, including community composition and change studies such as those to be carried out by the permittee, are also addressed in the Monument Management Plan (MMP) Environmental Assessment (EA) (FONSI, December 2008). This EA summarizes that understanding the populations change could be helpful to forecast, prepare for and mediate potential threats to populations within the Monument (PMNM MMP Vol 2, p. 171). Annual ecological assessments, such as those proposed, would enhance this understanding.

Consulted Parties:

The permit application was sent out for review and comment to the following scientific and cultural entities: Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources, Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (NOAA/NOS), NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office (NOAA-PIRO), United States Fish and Wildlife Service Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex Office, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). In addition,

the permit application has been posted on the Monument Web site since February 18, 2015 giving the public an opportunity to comment. The application was posted within 40 days of its receipt, in accordance with the Monument's Public Notification Policy.

Exemption Determination:

After reviewing HAR § 11-200-8, including the criteria used to determine significance under HAR § 11-200-12, DLNR has concluded that the activities under this permit would have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and that issuance of the permit is categorically exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment based on the following analysis:

1. All activities associated with this permit; including reef assessment monitoring, photography, sampling, and surveying; have been evaluated as a single action. As a preliminary matter, multiple or phased actions, such as when a group of actions are part of a larger undertaking, or when an individual project is precedent to or represents a commitment to a larger project, must be grouped together and evaluated as a single action. HAR § 11-200-7. This permit may involve an activity that is precedent to a later planned activity, i.e. the continuation of annual reef assessment and monitoring; the categorical exemption determination here will treat all planned activities as a single action.

2. The Exemption Class for Scientific Research with no Serious or Major Environmental Disturbance Appears to Apply. Chapter 343, HRS, and § 11-200-8, HAR, provide for a list of classes of actions exempt from environmental assessment requirements. HAR §11-200-8.A.5. exempts the class of actions which involve "basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource." The proposed removal activities here appear to fall squarely under the exemption class #5, exempt item #2 as described under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife exemption list published on June 12, 2008. This exemption class has been interpreted to include "surveys, new transect lines, recording, and sampling", such as those being proposed. As discussed below, no significant disturbance to any environmental resource is anticipated in the reef assessment and monitoring studies. Thus, so long as the below considerations are met, an exemption class should include the action now contemplated.

To minimize the potential of disease introduction or transfer during field sampling and diving activities, the Applicant would follow Monument Best Management Practice (BMP) 011 – Disease and Introduced Species Prevention. For sample storage and transport, the Applicant would follow Monument BMP 006 – General Storage and Transport Protocols for Collected Samples. The Applicant would also follow Monument BMP 004 – Boat Operations and Diving Activities to eliminate any adverse impacts of protected marine species during boating and diving activities. When operating boats around Tern Island, the Applicant would follow BMP 013 – Special Conditions and Rules for Small Boat Operations at Tern Island.

3. Cumulative Impacts of Actions in the Same Place and Impacts with Respect to the Potentially Particularly Sensitive Environment Will Not be Significant. Even where a categorical exemption appears to include a proposed action, the action cannot be declared exempt if "the cumulative

impact of planned successive actions in the same place, over time, is significant, or when an action that is normally insignificant in its impact on the environment may be significant in a particularly sensitive environment.” HAR § 11-200-8.B. To gauge whether a significant impact or effect is probable, an exempting agency must consider every phase of a proposed action, any expected primary and secondary consequences, the long-term and short-term effects of the action, the overall and cumulative effect of the action, and the sum effects of an action on the quality of the environment. HAR § 11-200-12. Examples of actions which commonly have a significant effect on the environment are listed under HAR § 11-200-12.

The proposed activities, monitoring and collecting activities to characterize shallow-water marine habitats, would be a continuation of work previously conducted by the Applicant and others in the Monument. Permits have been issued for this study each year since 2006, and it is likely that future requests for permits will be received to continue this work. No deleterious effects have resulted from these activities in the past. With this in mind, significant cumulative impacts are not anticipated as a result of this activity, and numerous safeguards further ensure that the potentially sensitive environment of the project area will not be significantly affected. All activities will be conducted in a manner compatible with the management direction of the Monument Proclamation in that activities do not diminish monument resources, qualities, and ecological integrity, or have any indirect, secondary, cultural, or cumulative effects. The joint permit review process did not reveal any anticipated indirect or cumulative impacts, nor did it raise any cultural concerns, that would occur as a result of these activities.

The proposed project would be supported by the NOAA ship R/V HI‘IALAKAI (PMNM-2015-006). Table 1 lists additional activities that are anticipated to take place on this ship pending approval of permit applications. Though proposed permits from Dr. Courtney Couch (PMNM-2015-013) and Christopher Wall (PMNM-2015-016) would be conducting coral activities, no cumulative impacts are anticipated. Each Applicant is emphasizing a different monitoring and assessment activities, with Couch focusing on coral health and community structure and Wall focusing on coral bleaching. Table 2 and Table 3 list activities potentially occurring at the same time as the proposed project. At this time, no other concurrent activities are known. The culmination of this permit, occurring throughout the Monument over approximately one month, is not anticipated to have significant cumulative impacts.

Table 1: Concurrent projects aboard NOAA Ship HI'IALAKAI

Permit	Purpose and scope	Location
PMNM-2015-006 Simon HI'IALAKAI (approved)	This permit allows the NOAA Ship HI'IALAKAI entry into the Monument. Personnel aboard the vessel would be permitted under separate permits	All locations
PMNM-2015-013 Couch (proposed)	This proposed action would be to conduct coral health and community structure assessment surveys in the NWHI	All locations
PMNM-2015-015 Gleason (proposed)	This proposed action would be to conduct maritime heritage activities in the NWHI	All locations
PMNM-2015-016 Wall (proposed)	This proposed action would be to conduct coral bleaching assessment activities in the NWHI	All locations
PMNM-2015-019 Littnan (proposed)	This proposed action would be to conduct monitors and surveys of various areas using an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)	Laysan, Lisianski, Pearl and Hermes, Midway Atoll
PMNM-2015-020 Meyer (proposed)	This proposed action would be to conduct top predator research consisting of fishing for various shark and fish species	All locations

Table 2: Concurrent projects about NOAA ship SETTE

Permit	Purpose and scope	Location
PMNM-2014-005 Koes SETTE (approved)	This permit allows the NOAA SETTE entry into the Monument. Personnel aboard the vessel would be permitted under separate permits	All locations
PMNM-2014-001 Co-Trustee (approved)	This permit allows monk seal field camp operations with activities from June - September 2014.	French Frigate Shoals, Lisianski Island, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll, Kure Atoll

Table 3: Concurrent projects aboard NOAA Ship OKEANOS

Permit	Purpose and scope	Location
PMNM-2015-025 Wetzler OKEANOS	The permit would allow NOAA Ship OKEANOS into the Monument to support separately permitted activities	All locations
PMNM-2015-018 Elliott (proposed)	The proposed action would conduct bathymetric mapping activities to characterize deepwater areas and coral communities	Nihoa, Mokumanamana, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan, Lisianski and Neva Shoal, Pearl and Hermes

Since no significant cumulative impacts or significant impacts with respect to any particularly sensitive aspect of the project area are anticipated, the categorical exemptions identified above should remain applicable.

4. Overall Impacts will Probably be Minimal and Insignificant Any foreseeable impacts from the proposed activity will probably be minimal, and further mitigated by general and specific conditions attached to the permit. Specifically, all conservation and management activities covered by this permit will be carried out with strict safeguards for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Monument as required by Presidential Proclamation 8031, other applicable law and agency policies and standard operating procedures.

Conclusion. Upon consideration of the permit to be approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the potential effects of the above listed project as provided by Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200 HAR, have been determined to be of probable minimal or no significant effect on the environment and exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

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Suzanne Case  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

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Date