

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: Charles Littnan

Affiliation: National Marine Fisheries Service

Permit Category: Research

Proposed Activity Dates: June 1, 2010 - October 31, 2010

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Vessel

Proposed Locations: Nihoa and Mokumanamana

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

12

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 36

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...
enhance our understanding of the population and foraging ecology of monk seals at two largely understudied subpopulations in the NWHI.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would
conduct a series of low impact surveys using standard monk seal assessment techniques to better understand population size and reproductive and survival rates. We would also investigate the potential to place a video system overlooking the main pupping beach at Nihoa to monitor the behavior, population trends, and disturbances to monk seals and the island. Lastly, we would suspend a video camera from a vessel to determine habitat types at foraging "hot spots" determined by previously satellite-tracked monk seals.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by ...
better understanding the apparently healthier populations of monk seals at Nihoa and Mokumanamana. More closely assessing the demographic trends and conditions and describing the foraging ecology of these seals, we may better understand the ecological factors that are contributing to the rapid decline of monk seals in the rest of the NWHI.