

Nonnative Species Inspection Requirements at Midway Atoll

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Background:

Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge as part of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is a unique ecosystem. Nonnative species accidentally or purposely transported to Midway in cargo, luggage, or on clothing could have devastating effects to the native plants and animals found here and cost the Refuge millions of dollars to eradicate. For this reason, the transportation of soil, seeds, plants, insects, or animals to Midway is not allowed unless permitted.

Requirements:

Please insure that all cargo, luggage, clothing, and shoes are clean and do not contain any of these items. In addition, the following protocol should be followed:

- Scrub the bottoms of shoes with a brush and soapy water.
- Unlace shoes to make sure no seeds are trapped.
- Check socks carefully for trapped seeds.
- Turn backpack inside out to remove all seeds and wash it.
- Check the bottom of suitcase for seeds.
- Check binocular straps for seeds.

Note: If you work on a farm or have visited a farm, do not bring the same clothing and/or shoes to Midway that were worn on the farm.

Additional vessel requirements: Passengers arriving by vessel are required to clean their footwear before coming ashore. Sailboats are inspected by FWS staff upon arrival and before docking to ensure they are rat free. In addition, all permitted vessels must have their hulls inspected and cleaned when required, including the visual inspection of anchors and tender vessels. Proclamation 8031 prohibits the release of ballast water within the Special Management Area. All vessels require a Monument permit for Midway Atoll as part of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Inspections:

You and your personal items may be inspected before boarding the aircraft to Midway. If any of your gear may contain nonnative soil, seeds, plants, insects, animals or spores, buy new gear. An inspection may be conducted both before departure from Honolulu and before departure from Midway. In addition, visitors going to Eastern Island will be asked to check their gear for mice before departure to prevent accidental introductions. Prior to returning to Sand Island, they will be asked to clean their shoes, clothing, and gear to prevent spread of the invasive black mustard onto Sand Island.

Point of Contact:

Please contact john_klavitter@fws.gov (808-954-4817) with any questions.