

**Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
Monument Permit Application Unified Public Notification Policy**

Effective 02/01/08

Background

A permit is required for most activities allowed in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument), including Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, Battle of Midway National Memorial, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands State Marine Refuge, Kure Atoll Hawaii State Seabird Sanctuary, and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. Permit applications are accepted:

- February 1: For activities occurring between June 1 and Aug 31
- May 1: For activities occurring between September 1 and December 31
- September 1: For activities occurring between January 1 and May 31

Permit applications received after the deadline dates are not guaranteed to be processed before the associated activity period commences.

The following unified public notification policy will engage and inform the public of activities proposed to occur within the Monument. Posting of a permit application does not equate to permit approval. After posting, each application is thoroughly reviewed. Final permitted activities may differ from the proposed activities.

Policy

- Within 10 calendar days of receipt of application, a summary of the applicant's proposed activities will be posted on an agency web site for public viewing.
- Within 40 calendar days of receipt of application, full permit applications will be posted on an agency website for public viewing. A full application is one from which reviewers are able to evaluate the merits of the proposed activity.
- The permit application will be posted for a minimum of 30 calendar days prior to agency determination.
- Proposed activities that respond to urgencies, meet a high management priority, and are exigent in either opportunity or need for execution shall be considered separately. Examples of such occasions from the 2007 field season include providing twin monk seal captive care, as well as an unanticipated opportunity to gather critical mapping data.

It is noted that there are additional opportunities for public notification and input:

- Monument Regulations (50 CFR Part 404.11) require Monument permit applications for Special Ocean Use be posted for public notice and comment 30 days prior to the issuance of a Monument permit.
- Appropriate regulatory and environmental reviews (e.g. Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Assessments, and Compatibility Determinations) related to Monument permit applications are posted for public comment.
- Monument permit applications that include proposed activities within the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands State Marine Refuge are posted to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) website for seven days prior to the scheduled BLNR meeting as part of the overall Land Board submittal.

This policy provides guidance to the Co-Trustee representatives for public notification of permit applications for proposed activities in the Monument.

It is also important to note that the permit application that is posted may not include some of the detailed logistical and compliance information being considered prior to permit issuance. An activity may be provisionally approved based on the posted full application, but a permit will only be issued after the receipt of all required information (e.g. final crew/team roster, hull inspection certification, etc.).