



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge  
Battle of Midway National Memorial  
1082 Makepono St.  
Honolulu, HI. 96819



February 20, 2016

### Interested Parties:

I am honored to be the newest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Manager for Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Battle of Midway National Memorial, part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, as of January 24, 2016.

Please be advised that Midway Atoll was closed to public visitation in 2013 due to flat and declining budgets and remains so today and for the foreseeable future. The closure is necessary in order to maintain a stable staffing capacity to protect resources and historic infrastructure and to support Henderson Air Field as an emergency twin engine landing facility. We remain hopeful that Midway will be able support a sustainable visitation program sometime in the future.

Currently, only activities that directly support airfield operations and conservation management of the Refuge/Memorial and the Monument are allowed. These specific Monument-sponsored conservation management activities are defined under the Monument permit categories of Research Permit and the Monument Managers' Co-trustee Conservation and Management Permit. The Co-trustee Permit allows authorized activities to be conducted by the Co-trustees, their designated agency representatives, habitat restoration contractors, and currently permitted researchers.

I appreciate your patience and understanding during this challenging time. Your support and contributions over the years have been critically important to the missions at Midway and throughout Papahānaumokuākea. I welcome your thoughts as we continue to look for ways to work together and help each other to be successful.

Respectfully

Robert L. Peyton, Refuge Manger  
Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge  
Battle of Midway National Memorial