

NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE
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Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office
Attn: Midway Draft EA Comments
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231
Honolulu, HI, 96850
midwayEA_comments@fws.gov

April 19, 2018

Re: Midway Seabird Protection Plan Draft Environmental Assessment.

The RAC supports the purpose and preferred alternative to remove mice from Midway as outlined in the Draft EA. The RAC recognizes that there is a sense of urgency for the action and strongly supports full funding and implementation of the mouse eradication project.

We share the following comments and questions:

Comments:

- The biosecurity plan could be more detailed in areas. For example, the plans for ship visits are comprehensive, but plans for aircraft visits, especially emergency landings, are lacking.
- We appreciate that USFWS is partnering with organizations that have experience with mice eradication efforts. The RAC suggests that the USFWS also work with partners who have expertise in community relations to gain and maintain support for the project.
- Midway is culturally as well as biologically important. The RAC encourages USFWS to consult with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on cultural protocols to assist with the success of the project.
- USFWS should consider whether climate change contributed to the problem.

Questions:

- What additional steps will USFWS take should initial efforts not result in complete eradication?
- How successful has mouse eradication been. on similar sized islands?
- How will USFWS determine that there are no mice remaining on Midway?
- How will the spread of fine bait particles by helicopter rotor wash be monitored?
- How will the effects of eradication efforts on nearshore areas, turtle nests, and monk seal mothers and pups be monitored? What steps will USFWS take should any of these animals or areas experience unforeseen impacts?

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment,

Sincerely,



William Aila, Jr.
Chair, Reserve Advisory Council