

## RODENT PREVENTION AND INSPECTION STANDARDS FOR PERMITTED VESSELS

### *Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument*

Pursuant to General Condition #11 in all Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) permits, all permitted vessels intended for operations within the PMNM shall implement a rodent-free plan and be inspected for the presence of rodent species prior to entering PMNM<sup>1</sup>. Rodents pose a serious threat to native wildlife and their habitat through predation, disease, and competition for habitat. Implementing a vessel rodent-free plan and conducting inspections is the most effective approach to prevent the introduction of rodent species to the islands and atolls of PMNM to protect wildlife and their habitat from this threat.

The following preventative measures shall be implemented while preparing for departure and during stopovers in the PMNM (e.g., Midway Atoll) prior to and after inspections:

1. Use appropriately sized rodent line-guards on all tending lines while tied up to piers.
2. Practice strict sanitation through proper handling of food and disposal of waste.
  - a. Frequently clean living quarters and spaces where food is stored, prepared or served, and where dishes and utensils are washed and stored.
3. Maintain active bait stations and traps throughout the ship while tied up to piers and for the cruise duration.
  - a. Place traps along runways, travel routes and around food sources.
4. Maintain an active log that tracks the implementation and maintenance of the rodent free prevention plan. This should include the date and time of actions, notes and comments pertaining to any discoveries. This log should be available onboard at all times.
5. Inspections should only occur after all gear/equipment/materials with the exception of hand carried items (defined as personal gear and electronics) have been loaded on the vessel<sup>1</sup>.

Permitted vessels shall comply with the following inspection standards:

1. Inspections shall be conducted within 48 hours prior to departing for PMNM.
2. Inspection reports to be submitted no later than 24 hours prior to entering PMNM.
3. Inspections shall be completed by a qualified organization specializing in the prevention and eradication of rodent species according to industry standards.
4. The organization/agency completing the inspection shall provide the permittee, vessel owner/operator and permit coordinator point of contact a report documenting:
  - a. When and where the inspection occurred.
  - b. The identification of any rodent species, or evidence of rodent species, observed and where found.
  - c. A summary of efforts to remove species if observed
  - d. Certification that the vessel is free of rodent species

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<sup>1</sup> Biosecurity threats to PMNM are not limited to rodent species. Permitted individuals are responsible for following all biosecurity protocols included in their respective permit(s).

5. For vessels making more than one trip to PMNM, an inspection is required prior to each entrance if a docking took place or if goods were transported to the ship while it was at sea.