

## **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Permit Application Cover Sheet**

This Permit Application Cover Sheet is intended to provide summary information and status to the public on permit applications for activities proposed to be conducted in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. While a permit application has been received, it has not been fully reviewed nor approved by the Monument Management Board to date. The Monument permit process also ensures that all environmental reviews are conducted prior to the issuance of a Monument permit.

***\*\*Please see attached additional document that includes officially reviewed/ approved dive plan, underwater risk assessment and emergency evacuation.\*\*\****

### **Summary Information**

**Applicant Name:** Tobias Nowlan

**Affiliation:** Producer, Silverback Films, Netflix Production

**Permit Category:** Special Ocean Use

**Proposed Activity Dates:** 20<sup>th</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> July (conservative window to include duration of 26 day shoot)

**Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane):**

Searcher (<http://searcherhawaii.com/>)

IMUA (under Co-Manager's permit PMNM-2021-001)

**Proposed Locations:** Southeast Island, Pearl & Hermes Atoll

**Laysan Island**

East Island, Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals

**Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit:** 5

**Estimated number of days in the Monument:** Estimated 20 days filming + 6 days' travel

**Description of proposed activities:** (complete these sentences):

- a.) The proposed activity would document the development and fledging of Laysan and/ or black-footed albatross on film, as well as any possible interactions with tiger sharks, as part of a film showcasing the extraordinary journeys undertaken by these North Pacific migratory species.
- b.) To accomplish this activity, we would film the pre-fledging development and final interactions between parent and chick (before fledging) from shore using long lens and stabilized hand-held cameras. We would then film the fledging behavior from shore with powerful long lenses and capture an element of both fledging and shark-albatross

interaction from the water surface level (from the boat) and underwater. The shoot will predominantly focus on documenting the important moment where black-footed and Laysan albatrosses leave the beach on their maiden voyage (their first flight), and as such the majority of filming will be conducted from a respectful distance away from the chicks on land using the longest lenses in the industry (the use of these lenses enables us to maximize our distance from our subjects while minimizing disturbance). One lesser element of the sequence may require filming of albatross fledging behavior from within the water. This will be using closed circuit rebreather systems (currently consulting all experts closely who have worked at the location and this has been proposed as the safest, least-disturbing and most effective course of action; please see detailed underwater plan).

- c.) This activity would help the Monument by demonstrating to a huge global audience the importance of these islands as the principal outpost for the most extraordinary of all of Earth's migratory species. This series will highlight the most important locations on the planet for the world's most notable and threatened migratory animals. These two albatross species (Laysan and black-footed) and the tiger shark are three such species, and among the world's most accomplished travelers. Atolls in the Hawaiian National Monument, including Pearl & Hermes Atoll and French Frigate Shoals are unique in that they host each of these species as important breeding and/ or staging grounds, providing a rare and exceptional platform for interactions that occur nowhere else on the planet. We are eager to reveal the regional and global rarity and enormous significance of this remote and vulnerable location, as well as to feature the challenges that the colony faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (including the effects of global climate change), demonstrating just what is at stake, and how important it is that outposts such as these are supported and protected. Principally, however, we wish to demonstrate the ecological significance of the Monument and to document the remarkable lives and journeys of these protected species.

### **Other information or background:**

*Our Planet on the Move* is an exciting new landmark series from Netflix, and is the sequel to their globally renowned series *Our Planet*, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, released in 2019 – arguably the most ambitious environmental film impact project ever designed. *Our Planet on the Move* is the next instalment in this franchise, and in 2023 will be released in over 190 countries worldwide, with a global reach of hundreds of millions of people. The series specifically looks at animal movements and migrations – for at any given moment on our planet, billions of animals are on the move. For many it's a migration, an annual trek that will take them thousands of miles across land, sea and air; for others, survival simply depends on never staying in one place, or setting out to find a new territory. Every journey has its own challenges, not least in this modern world where our travelers' routes are blocked, impeded and boxed in, and as habitats are destroyed across ancestral migration paths.

Our North Pacific albatrosses (we will feature black-footed and Laysan albatrosses) are perhaps the most important characters in the entire series, returning multiple times throughout the series as the world's most accomplished travelers. The Laysan albatross, as the oldest living bird on

Earth, may cumulatively travel more miles in its lifetime than any other bird (and almost any other animal), earning this title as the most impressive of all ocean travelers. We will follow our albatross characters from the reunion of their parents after a year at sea, their lonely, challenging life on the nest as young chicks, and the all-important first flights as they fledge.