

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.

Summary Information

Applicant Name: Charles Nainoa Thompson

Affiliation: Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS)

Permit Category: Native Hawaiian Practices

Proposed Activity Dates: March 2020 – March 2021

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Vessel

Proposed Locations: Nihoa, Mokumanamana, Lalo

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 38

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 20 days

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...

allow for Hōkūleʻa and Hikianalia, Hawaii's Polynesian voyaging canoes, to sail to PMNM as a way for Hōkūleʻa and Hikianalia to continue to perpetuate traditional wayfinding and voyaging practices, and pay respect to and re-connect with Hawaii's kupuna islands in a culturally appropriate and significant way. The Northwest Hawaiian Islands are a known and valuable location important to the honing of voyaging practices. This activity would ensure new training navigators are given an opportunity to practice their skills in an area relatively close to the main Hawaiian islands.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would ...

sail into Papahānaumokuākea on two double-hulled voyaging canoes Hōkūleʻa and Hikianalia and one escort vessel (TBD), or combination thereof, to Nihoa, Mokumanamana, and Lalo. The waʻa will be used as a platform to continue to train and test apprentice navigators and crew members to practice the traditional Hawaiian/Polynesian skills of wayfinding (non-instrumental navigation) and voyaging. The crew will also continue to examine the gut content and size of fish caught by handline, continuing this practice from the 2013-2018 Worldwide Voyage (sustenance and subsistence fishing is being requested). The escort vessel (TBD) provides safety support for the waʻa in the event of an emergency or other unforeseen circumstances that may require immediate return to the main Hawaiian islands.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by ...

meeting a priority within the Monument Management Plan, which includes an activity in support of regular access for Polynesian voyaging canoes for wayfinding, navigational and cultural protocol training. We also note that wayfinding training and traditional voyaging were components of Papahānaumokuākea's successful nomination as a natural and cultural World Heritage site. Having this living tradition continue should be a priority for managers of this Marine World Heritage site.

Furthermore, besides perpetuating integral components of Native Hawaiian culture (voyaging and wayfinding), the use of traditional canoes in the Monument offers an opportunity to maintain a level of cultural integrity that is appropriate for spiritual ceremonies in Papahānaumokuākea. The ability of crewmembers to perform cultural/spiritual protocol and honor their ancestors perpetuates a centuries-old link of Native Hawaiians to their ancestors, their ancestral knowledge and the Kūpuna Islands.

Other information or background:

Hikianalia successfully and safely voyaged into Papahānaumokuākea in September 2013, with 6 apprentice navigators and 4 pwo (master) traditional navigators on board, providing an exceptional experiential learning opportunity. Subsequently, Hikianalia again successfully voyaged into PMNM in 2015 in collaboration with the 'Opihi Partnership, conducting science onboard the wa'a during the voyage. Both voyages have helped to provide a stronger awareness that the entire Hawaiian Archipelago is connected, sacred and worth protecting. It also helped to continue to draft the chart toward more regular access for Polynesian voyaging canoes into this traditional voyaging area and toward more collaboration among multidisciplinary champions of the perpetuation of the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i. For this reason, PVS is excited to continue to leverage expertise and resources from scientists, marine managers, educators, and cultural practitioners to further integrate western science and Native Hawaiian ways of knowing.