

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: Carl Meyer

Affiliation: Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Permit Category: Research

Proposed Activity Dates: June 1-August 31 2009

Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Vessel

Proposed Locations: Deep water habitat (>100m) outside State waters around French Frigate Shoals Atoll

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

6

Estimated number of days in the Monument: 90

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...

Support research quantifying the movements of sharks at French Frigate Shoals (FFS) Atoll by ensuring a bait supply for shark fishing at FFS in the event that frozen bait supplies are depleted.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would

Capture up to 5 tuna per day as needed to supplement frozen bait supplies for shark fishing. Tuna will be only be taken outside State waters.

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

Facilitating capture and tagging of sharks in order to provide Monument managers with empirical data on shark movement patterns at FFS. This information is vital for a better understanding of shark predation on Hawaiian monk seals and selecting appropriate management strategies for mitigating predation impacts on monk seals.

Other information or background: We are requesting a limited take (up to 5 fish per day) of tuna from Monument waters > 3 miles offshore (outside state waters) to supplement frozen bait supplies. This will have minimal impact on monument resources because tunas are fast growing, extremely wide-ranging, pelagic fishes and we are requesting a minimal 'as needed' take. Without this ability there may be periods when field personnel stationed at Tern Island are unable to fish for sharks because supplies of frozen bait are depleted. This will have a direct impact on the number of sharks tagged and our ability to address key questions about shark movements related to predation on critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal pups.