

Appendix E Midway Atoll Cruise Ship Requirements

Cruise Ship Visits to Midway Atoll Special Management Area

Special Conditions – 2007

1. All cruise ship companies proposing to stop at Midway Atoll must apply for a Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Special Ocean Use Permit and meet all of the requirements found in Presidential Proclamation 8031 and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 404. Among others, these include requirements for an approved vessel monitoring system (VMS); hull inspections and, if appropriate, hull cleanings; and discharge and disposal of waste.
2. Cruise ship companies must provide a point of contact and billing address to the Refuge Manager at least 4 months in advance of their planned arrival on Midway. Due to staffing restrictions and in accordance with the Interim Visitor Services Plan, only three individual cruise ship visits can be accommodated during the year.
2. Ship visits should be scheduled between April 1 and November 1. Scheduled cruise ship visits during winter months are more likely to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions than during the summer months.

Entry to Midway Atoll

3. Weather permitting, cruise ships may stop outside Midway's lagoon at a site to be approved by the Refuge Manager (generally southeast of the channel outside the first channel buoy) and use the ship's transfer boats to bring passengers to Sand Island. Maritime security requirements and environmental/safety concerns preclude entry of commercial passenger ships into the lagoon.
4. The ship's Captain will determine if it is safe to offload passengers into transfer boats. Once loaded, transfer boats will follow the channel directly to the pier or seaplane hangar apron in Sand Island's inner harbor. Transfer boats are to operate at a moderate speed (10 knots) inside the harbor and be alert for Hawaiian monk seals and sea turtles that may be present in the water. If spotted, these protected species are not to be approached and are to be given a wide berth.
5. Cruise ships are encouraged to arrive at Midway at least 1 hour after sunrise and depart at least 1 hour before sunset of the same day to ensure safe operations. All onshore activities must be scheduled in order to ensure compliance with this schedule. Within this framework, adequate time should be allowed so that all passengers have the opportunity to learn about and enjoy Midway's historic and natural resources, and the monument's cultural resources, without feeling unduly rushed.

6. Midway's on-island contact information:

e-mail: midway@fws.gov

phone: 808.674.8237, ext. 104, 170 (home) or 176 (airport/operations manager)

24-hour emergency pager: 480.768.2500 and dial pager # 881631492270

fax: 808.693.8615

Satellite Phone: 001 872 763 219 948 Chugach—primary contractor

Satellite Phone: 001 872 793 219 952 American Airports

Marine: Channel 16—156.800

7. Declaration of Security information will be exchanged prior to the port of call. The vessel's security officer or his/her designated will accompany the first transfer vessel to Sand Island to meet with Midway's Facility Security Officer (Refuge Manager) and perform the required Declaration signatures and update each other concerning security procedures and any concerns.

Visitation Requirements

8. No more than 400 passengers and crew will be permitted on Sand Island at one time, unless with the express permission of the Refuge Manager for a special event. Ships that plan to disembark more than 400 passengers and crew will stagger the use of transport boats in order to remain within this limit.

9. The Service will provide additional information for duplication and distribution to cruise ship visitors and staff describing the refuge, monument, and the tour. At the ship's request and if personnel are available, two interpreters may join the ship at its last port of call before Midway to provide briefings and an orientation for ship passengers prior to arrival.

10. All existing refuge and monument regulations will be enforced. In addition, special regulations may be in place during cruise ship visits to further minimize disturbance to wildlife and wildlife habitat. Visitors who do not comply with regulations will be asked to return to their ship immediately.

11. Because we want your passengers to have an enjoyable and informative visit to Midway Atoll, please schedule an adequate number of hours on site to allow passengers at least 2½ - 3 hours ashore. In general, a 650-passenger vessel would need to moor at Midway for a minimum of 8 hours.

12. The ship is encouraged to provide passengers with bottled water to carry during their tour. The refuge will provide water stations along the route to refill these bottles. These bottles are to be returned to the ship to alleviate recycling issues from this remote island.

Staffing Costs

13. Additional staff will be required to provide interpretation and expanded compliance with refuge regulations during cruise ship visits. The cruise ship company will be responsible for covering the per diem costs of these additional staff. Payment will not be refundable if weather

or other contingencies prevent the cruise ship from entering the lagoon and/or disembarking passengers.

Number of Visiting Passengers	Number of Additional Staff
Up to 500 Passengers	6 Staff
501-750 Passengers	7 Staff
751-1000 Passengers	9 Staff
1000-1500 Passengers	10 Staff

14. The ship also will be responsible to cover the aircraft charter costs (approximately \$30,000 per charter) for the needed additional staff. Payment will be due prior to the ship visit and will not be refundable if weather or other contingencies prevent the port visit.

15. The ship will remit a \$25.00 visitor access fee per passenger coming ashore on Midway. This fee will be used to cover on-island staff costs. The Service will bill the ship after the visit, using the actual visitor count.

16. The cruise ship company will provide staff to serve as on-island group escorts and, if required, translators for non-English speaking visitors. Two guides are needed for each tour group to escort visitors from one interpretive site to the next.

Environmental Restrictions

17. No cruise ships will be permitted to release any substance (e.g., wastewater, bilge water, other materials) into waters within the monument boundary, which extends 50 nautical miles beyond the atoll reef.

18. No garbage or other materials will be offloaded. Due to limited on-island resources, we cannot provide cruise ships with fuel, water, or other materials.

19. Other restrictions will apply while cruise ships are within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which extends outward approximately 50 miles in each direction along the entire Northwestern Hawaiian Islands chain from Nihoa Island to Kure Atoll. The Monument is jointly administered by the Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the State of Hawai‘i.

- All vessels entering the monument must be equipped with an approved Vessel Monitoring System.
- No material may be discharged inside monument boundaries except that incidental to vessel use such as deck wash, approved marine sanitation device effluent, cooling water, weather deck runoff, and engine exhaust.
- Additional information is available at <http://www.hawaiiireef.noaa.gov> or by calling 808 397 2660.

For more information about visiting Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, please contact:

Barry Christenson, Refuge Manager
808 674 8237 extension 102
midway@fws.gov

Concurrence by Cruise Ship Company or Agent:

I agree to the terms and conditions outlined above.

Signature

Title

Company Name

Address

Telephone

Anticipated date of visit to Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge

Ship's name