

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge
Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850

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Amateur Radio Operation to be Allowed at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering amateur radio operators the opportunity to broadcast from Midway Atoll, which is located within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. This event will mark the first opportunity for amateur radio operators to broadcast from the atoll since 2002. In January 2008, a regularly scheduled visitor program began offering limited opportunities for people to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as for some specific nonwildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as amateur radio use.

To avoid any conflicts with atoll wildlife, amateur radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, from October 5 – 19, 2009. Travel arrangements to and from Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge are the responsibility of the individual or group. With minimal facilities on the atoll, lodging availability is very limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. All amateur radio operators on Midway must secure lodging reservations, as camping is not permitted. To make lodging reservations, contact Chugach Industries, Inc. Site Administrator Darlene Holst, at 808-954-4801 or dholst@chugach-ak.com.

To ensure the safety of the Refuge's wildlife, adherence to specific guidelines will be required. Radio operation will be allowed only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island and the use of portable generators will not be permitted (120V power is available at the operation site.) Any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance by the Refuge Manager and be paid for entirely by the radio operators. All participants will be required to attend a Refuge orientation shortly after arrival, which is designed to enhance visitor safety, wildlife protection, and overall enjoyment while visiting the Refuge and Monument.

Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity, this opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis. The Refuge Manager retains the authority to discontinue this activity, at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals.

For more information about this event contact Matt D. Brown, Refuge Manager, Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge at 808-954-4818 or Matt_D_Brown@fws.gov.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.