



## Student Scholarship Internship Opportunity (SSIO) Online System

[Main page](#)   [Logout](#)   [Help](#)

### SSIO 2015 Internship Opportunity Position

#### Internship Information

Project title: **Identifying and understanding challenges to Papahānaumokuākea's Joint Permit Processing and Management System**

NOAA mission goal: **Administration, Management, and Operations Enterprise**

Hypothesis or objectives: **Analyze and evaluate Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's (PMNM) joint permit system processes and procedures to identify and provide solutions to potential bottlenecks in permit processing and data management.**

Academic status: **Graduate**

Area(s) of discipline: **Communication, Computer And Information Sciences, Computer Science, Economics, Information Systems, Mathematics, Natural Resource Management, Political Science And Government, Social Sciences**

Internship location: **Honolulu, HI**

Duties and responsibilities: **This project would evaluate the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) permit review, issuance, data collection, and management processes to identify bottlenecks within the system that cause permit processing delays and/or data processing delays and gaps. A better understanding of identified joint permit processing challenges and suggested solutions would assist managers in implementing new policies and procedures to ultimately improve the joint permitting process for access to PMNM. The PMNM joint permitting system has been evolving and improving since its inception in 2006.**

Processing time for issuing a PMNM permit is estimated to take approximately 3-4 months. In recent years, processing times for permit processing has increased to approximately 5-6 months. In an effort to better understand the underlying issues causing such bottlenecks in processing, managers would like to identify areas of processing delays to institute policy changes to improve such processes. In addition, PMNM managers believe the human element of interaction and basic communication skills is an important element to understanding the source and potential solutions to identified bottlenecks in the permit processing system. As such, one-on-one interviews with permit coordinators, PMNM managers, and permit applicants will be an important component to successfully evaluate and identify areas of concern.

**As part of our evaluation team, the intern's duties and responsibilities would include:**

- 1) Gain an understanding the PMNM permitting system by attending meetings such as weekly Permit Coordinator meetings, Monument Management Board meetings, and special working group meetings;**
- 2) Analyze a discretely identified subset of permit data related to permit processing from receipt of a PMNM permit application to issuance of a PMNM permit;**
- 3) Evaluate and identify areas for improvement in the management of permittees and facilitation of permit report submission;**
- 4) Identify, contact, and interview individuals directly involved with processing identified permits;**
- 5) Identify and evaluate areas of concerns related to permit processing;**
- 6) Develop and submit a report evaluating and reporting on findings and recommendations for improvement.**

Special skills/training required:

**Desired attributes:**

- 1) Major in fields of math or science, preference given to individuals with working knowledge and understanding of statistical analysis**
- 2) Ability to review and analyze complete data sets to improve system policies and procedures. Statistical tool, math, and visualization tool skills are needed to be able to manipulate data in an effort to discover potential patterns and correlations as well as present data to scientists and managers alike**
- 3) Develop, implement, and interpret evaluation methods for the efficacy of education and outreach activities**
- 4) Ability to communicate effectively to and conduct interviews with PMNM managers and staff as well as permit recipients of permits identified to be part of the test data set**
- 5) Willingness to work in small groups and conduct one-on-one interviews**
- 6) Strong work ethic, detailed oriented, organized, completes assignments, works well individually and as a member of a team, communicates clearly**
- 7) Computer literacy – MS office applications; working knowledge of data management software preferred**

Expected outcomes:

**This experiential opportunity will place the scholar amidst a team of managers and scientists focused on the management and protection of PMNM. The scholar would develop a written and oral report based on the findings of their research, aiding in the development of their written and oral skills. Throughout, he/she would be given a large amount of responsibility in data review, analysis, evaluation, and recommendations and will receive ample guidance to ensure successful completion of the project. There will be opportunity for feedback by PMNM managers on the**

Hollings Symposium presentation as he/she develops it during the summer. This will include written / score-based reactions to their practice presentations which will be given to a select audience during their last three weeks in the office.

By the end of the 9-week period, the scholar will have become familiar with the PMNM co-management structure as well as the PMNM joint permitting process and be able to articulate areas of concern and recommended improvements to the PMNM permit process. If time allows, the scholar will be involved with projects outside of the project he/she will report on. This experience will broaden his/her exposure to NOAA and place-based and resource management as well as cultivate skills for participating in team projects.

In addition, the scholar will learn important professional skills from project organization and data manipulation and management to effective communication and interview skills. From this experience, the scholar will establish multiple professional contacts within NOAA as well as other partner agencies that co-manage PMNM such as Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Located at NOAA's Daniel K. Inouye Regional Center on Ford Island, the scholar will be exposed to multiple NOAA line offices and activities, including NMFS, NWS, PTWC, OMAO, and NOS.

Guidance and supervision: **The scholar will receive guidance and supervision from three sources.**

The primary source of guidance and supervision will come from the mentor. She will provide initial information, host for site visit, and orient the scholar upon arrival in May. She will meet regularly with the scholar to first discuss the project and recommended approaches, draft a schedule, and work with the scholar on project implementation. The mentor will provide the primary guidance on project development, survey design, data analysis and drafting a presentation.

The second source of guidance and supervision is the PMNM Monument Management Board (MMB) and co-managing agency staff involved in the permit process. The Monument is administered jointly by three Co-Trustee agencies – the Department of Commerce through NOAA, the Department of the Interior through USFWS, and the State of Hawaii through the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) (collectively, the Co-Trustees). The Co-Trustee agencies work in close collaboration and consultation with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to ensure that both cultural and natural resources are protected in a manner aligned with Native Hawaiian resource management best practices. This unique management partnership of PMNM allows for the protection of the entire ecosystem, from remote sub-tropical islands to the deep sea.

The third source of guidance comes through interview discussions conducted with permittees/permit recipients and agency staff that previously worked on PMNM permits and have since moved on to other positions.

A combination of all three sources of guidance will provide an abundance of valuable and diverse feedback to the scholar.

Lastly, in preparation for the end of the summer Symposium in Silver Spring, the scholar will submit and present his/her project proposal and provide a practice presentation of their results

before their departure for Silver Spring in late July.

Posted or modified date/time: **Friday, October 10, 2014 - 4:46:00 PM**

### Internship Travel Information

Purpose (student's role): ---

Mode of transportation: ---

Date(s): ---

Destination: ---

Estimated cost: ---

Source of funding: ---

### Mentors Contact Information

Name: **Tia Brown**

Organization: **National Ocean Service (NOS)**

Program office: **ONMS**

Mailing address: **1845 Wasp Blvd., Bdg 176  
Honolulu, HI 96818**

Fax number: **None**

Phone number: **808-725-5805**

Email: **tia.brown@noaa.gov**

Co-Mentor name: **Tia Brown**

Co-Mentor email: **tia.brown@noaa.gov**

Agency or organization: **NOAA/NOS/ONMS/Papahānaumokuākea  
Marine National Monument**



Revised September 24, 2013 | Questions, Comments? [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [NOAA Disclaimer](#)  
Publication of the NOAA Office of Education | [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) | [U.S. Department of Commerce](#)  
Best viewed in Internet Explorer 5+, Mozilla Firefox 2+, Netscape 6+, or Safari 3+ | [Contact Webmaster](#)