



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**  
University of California Santa Barbara  
Ocean Science Education Building 514, MC 6155  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-6155

March 20, 2023

Kasey Cantwell  
NOAA Ocean Exploration  
15 East-West Hwy  
SSMC3  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mrs. Cantwell:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has approved the issuance of permit number MULTI-2022-008 to conduct activities within Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones, Monterey Bay and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries (CINMS, CBNMS, GFNMS, MBNMS and OCNMS; or sanctuaries) for research purposes. Activities are to be conducted in accordance with the permit application and all supporting materials submitted to the sanctuary, and the terms and conditions of permit number MULTI-2022-008 (enclosed).

This permit is not valid until signed and returned to ONMS. Retain one signed copy and carry it with you while conducting the permitted activities. Additional copies must be signed and returned, by either mail or email, to the following individual within 30 days of issuance and before commencing any activity authorized by this permit:

Sean Hastings  
Permit Coordinator  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
113 Harbor Way  
Santa Barbara, California 93109  
[Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov](mailto:Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov)

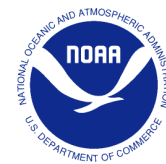
Your permit contains specific terms, conditions and reporting requirements. Review them closely and fully comply with them while undertaking permitted activities.

If you have any questions, please contact Sean Hastings at [Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov](mailto:Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov). Thank you for your continued cooperation with ONMS.

Sincerely,

Chris Mobley  
Superintendent

Enclosure





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
University of California Santa Barbara  
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Santa Barbara, CA 93106-6155

## CHANNEL ISLANDS, CORDELL BANK, GREATER FARALLONES, MONTEREY BAY AND OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES RESEARCH PERMIT

**Permittee:**

Kasey Cantwell  
NOAA Ocean Exploration  
15 East-West Hwy  
SSMC3  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Permit Number:** MULTI-2022-008

**Effective Date:** April 1, 2023

**Expiration Date:** December 31, 2023

**Project Title:** NOAA Ocean Exploration U.S. West Coast Expeditions

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This permit is issued for activities in accordance with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), 16 USC §§ 1431 *et seq.*, and regulations thereunder (15 CFR Part 922). All activities must be conducted in accordance with those regulations and law. No activity prohibited in 15 CFR Part 922 is allowed except as specified in the activity description below.

Subject to the terms and conditions of this permit, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) hereby authorizes the permittee listed above to conduct research activities within Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones, Monterey Bay and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries (CINMS, CBNMS, GFNMS, MBNMS and OCNMS; or sanctuaries). All activities are to be conducted in accordance with this permit and the permit application received September 23, 2022 and all supplemental information provided to sanctuary managers. The permit application is incorporated into this permit and made a part hereof; provided, however, that if there are any conflicts between the permit application and the terms and conditions of this permit, the terms and conditions of this permit shall be controlling.

**Permitted Activity Description:**

The following activities are authorized by this permit:

- *Discharging or depositing into the sanctuaries remotely operated vehicle (ROV) gravel ballast, expendable bathythermographs (XBTs) and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs)*
- *Drilling into or otherwise altering the submerged lands of the sanctuaries with temperature probes, temporary and minor disturbances associated with ROV and AUV operations and collection of biological and geological samples*
- *Abandoning gravel used as ballast on ROVs and XBTs on the submerged lands of the sanctuaries*
- *Moving, removing, taking, collecting, catching, harvesting, disturbing, breaking, cutting, or otherwise injuring, or attempting to move, remove, take, collect, catch, harvest,*



*disturb, break, cut, or otherwise injure, any sanctuary resource located more than 3,000 feet below the sea surface within the Davidson Seamount Management Zone*

- *Possessing any Sanctuary resource, the source of which is more than 3,000 feet below the sea surface within the Davidson Seamount Management Zone*

These activities would be otherwise prohibited by sanctuary regulations:

15 C.F.R. §§ 922.72(a)(3)(i), 922.82(a)(2), 922.132(a)(2), 922.112 (a)(2)(i), 922.152(3), 922.72(a)(4), 922.82(a)(5), 922.132(a)(4), 922.112 (a)(4)(ii), 922.152(5) 922.72(a)(5), 922.82(a)(5), 922.132(a)(4), 922.112 (a)(4)(ii), 922.152(5) 922.132(a)(11)(i), 922.132(a)(11)(ii)

No further activities prohibited by sanctuary regulations are allowed.

**Permitted Activity Location:**

The permitted activity is allowed only in the following location(s):

Throughout CINMS, MBNMS, GFNMS, CBNMS and OCNMS in waters deeper than 200 meters.

**Special Terms and Conditions:**

1. This permit is effective from either April 1, 2023 or the day it is signed by the permittee and delivered to the Permit Coordinator (see General Terms and Condition #1), whichever is later. The executed permit will be valid through December 31, 2023. The permit holder(s) may request an amendment from the CINMS Superintendent a minimum of 60 days in advance of this expiration date, to extend the effective date of this permit. Amendments to this permit cannot be made after expiration.
2. No activity authorized by this permit shall disturb or impact any historical or marine archaeological resources of the sanctuaries. If historical or marine archaeological resources are disturbed or impacted at any time, the permittee shall cease all further activities under this permit and immediately contact the Permit Coordinator(s) for each site.

<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
<b>Sean Hastings</b> (contact for all work)	<b>CINMS</b>	<b>Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov</b> (805) 705-1790
Sophie De Beukelaer	MBNMS	<a href="mailto:Sophie.DeBeukelaer@noaa.gov">Sophie.DeBeukelaer@noaa.gov</a> 831-647-1286
Lilli Ferguson	Northern MBNMS, GFNMS, and CBNMS	<a href="mailto:Lilli.Ferguson@noaa.gov">Lilli.Ferguson@noaa.gov</a> 415-530-5367
Katie Wrubel	OCNMS	katie.wrubel@noaa.gov (360) 406-2081

3. The equipment authorized by this permit shall be used in accordance with the methods and objectives identified in the original permit application and supplemental information and special terms and conditions included here. Disturbance of any other sanctuary resources is prohibited.
4. The permittee will ensure all research equipment and vessels do not harbor any introduced species, to prevent introduced species from being released within or into the sanctuaries.
5. Ballast discharged during research operations shall only be discarded in areas where there is no visible macrofauna to minimize any benthic impacts.
6. In the event that any non-permitted equipment is abandoned or lost in the sanctuary for any reason, the permittee must notify the CINMS permit coordinator, Sean Hastings ([sean.hastings@noaa.gov](mailto:sean.hastings@noaa.gov)) at the earliest extent possible. The permittee shall use all available means to locate and recover the affected item(s). The location and description of any equipment abandoned or lost in the sanctuaries for any reason shall also be noted in the annual report with an explanation why the equipment was not recovered.
7. If contacted by Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) staff, the permittee agrees to provide project metadata from these permitted activities to the SIMoN via a web-based interface. The permittee shall provide the information to SIMoN within three (3) months of the request date. See <http://www.sanctuariesimon.org> for more information.
8. The permittee shall submit an annual report of all activities conducted under this permit to the Permit Coordinator ([sean.hastings@noaa.gov](mailto:sean.hastings@noaa.gov)) no later than 3 (three) months after the conclusion of the field operations, and no later than March 31, 2024. The report should include information regarding daily activities such as location (latitude and longitude) of samples, discovery or disturbance of historical artifacts, problems encountered, equipment lost, a synopsis of research results to date, and specifically, the report must include:
  - the kg per sanctuary of ballast discharged and abandoned;
  - the number of AUVs and number of AUV missions per sanctuary;
  - the number of XBTs discharged and abandoned per sanctuary;
  - the number and location of temporary and minor disturbances associated with ROV and AUV operations; and
  - the amount and location of biological and geological samples taken per sanctuary.
9. When possible, please log marine mammal and other megafauna sightings in the following apps: Whale Alert or Ocean Alert. If access to the applications is not available please log marine mammal sightings in the marine mammal sightings log sent via email with the permit and provide the completed log after the research cruises or with the annual report.
10. This activity may also require permission from other agencies. The enclosed permit is not valid until all other necessary permits and/or authorizations are obtained. Any direct or

incidental harassment of marine mammals requires a permit from NMFS (contact [pr.esa.incidentaltakepermits@noaa.gov](mailto:pr.esa.incidentaltakepermits@noaa.gov)) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ([USFWS]; contact the Ventura USFWS office at 805-644-1766). Direct or incidental harassment of seabirds requires a permit from the USFWS. Deployment of mooring or surface buoys may require authorization from the US Coast Guard (contact Mike Salsman at [michael.j.salsman@uscg.mil](mailto:michael.j.salsman@uscg.mil)). Research conducted within California state waters or California state marine protected areas (MPA) may require permission from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (contact Lara Slatoff at [Lara.Slatoff@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Lara.Slatoff@wildlife.ca.gov)). The use and/or occupation of state-owned lands may require a lease or other authorization from the California State Lands Commission (contact Drew Simpkin at [Drew.Simpkin@slc.ca.gov](mailto:Drew.Simpkin@slc.ca.gov)).

11. The permittee will contact the U.S. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Community Planning & Liaison Officer for the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) a minimum of 48 hours prior to the planned operations in the Northwest Testing and Training area. The permit holder(s) is required to work with the U.S. Navy to avoid conflicts with naval operations. The current contact is Ms. Kimberly Peacher, who can be reached at (360) 930-4085 (work cell) or [kimberly.peacher@navy.mil](mailto:kimberly.peacher@navy.mil). The OCNMS Permit Coordinator should be informed of any communication and agreements between the U.S. Navy and the permittee.
12. The permittee will notify the U.S. Coast Guard D11 and D13 Waterways Management Branch of deployment locations and determine whether it is necessary to place a notice in the "Local Notice to Mariners". The Permit Coordinator (see General Terms and Conditions #1), will be informed when this communication has occurred and informed of the determination, and provided with a copy of the "Local Notice to Mariners", if one is issued.
13. The permittee may be required to pay any or all expenses associated with the locating of and/or removal by NOAA or its designee of any equipment that is not recovered by the permittee, including equipment associated with possible whale entanglement issues requiring a federal response.
14. In the unlikely event of an injury or mortality of a marine mammal due to this project, please immediately contact our regional stranding coordinators, Kristin Wilkinson (Washington and Oregon) at (206) 526-4747) or Justin Viezbicke (California), at (562) 980-3230.
15. Any scientific publications and/or reports resulting from activities conducted under the authority of this permit shall identify that the activity was conducted under National Marine Sanctuary Permit MULTI-2022-008. Copies of / links to any publications resulting from work conducted under this permit shall be submitted to [Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov](mailto:Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov). Additionally, the permittee is required to acknowledge during any media coverage (press releases, video/photo, social media, or other means) activities occurred within the sanctuary and under MULTI-2022-008.

**General Terms and Conditions:**

1. Within 30 (thirty) days of the date of issuance, the permittee must sign and date this permit for it to be considered valid. Once signed, the permittee must send copies, via mail or email, to the following individual:

Sean Hastings  
Permit Coordinator  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
University of California, Bldg 514, MC 6155  
Santa Barbara, California 93106  
[Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov](mailto:Sean.Hastings@noaa.gov)

2. It is a violation of this permit to conduct any activity authorized by this permit prior to the ONMS having received a copy signed by the permittee.
3. This permit may only be amended by ONMS. The permittee may not change or amend any part of this permit at any time. The terms of the permit must be accepted in full, without revision; otherwise, the permittee must return the permit to the sanctuary office unsigned with a written explanation for its rejection. Amendments to this permit must be requested in the same manner the original request was made.
4. All persons participating in the permitted activity must be under the supervision of the permittee, and the permittee is responsible for any violation of this permit, the NMSA, and sanctuary regulations for activities conducted under, or in conjunction with, this permit. The permittee must assure that all persons performing activities under this permit are fully aware of the conditions herein.
5. This permit is non-transferable and must be carried by the permittee at all times while engaging in any activity authorized by this permit.
6. This permit may be suspended, revoked, or modified for violation of the terms and conditions of this permit, the regulations at 15 CFR Part 922, the NMSA, or for other good cause. Such action will be communicated in writing to the applicant or permittee, and will set forth the reason(s) for the action taken.
7. This permit may be suspended, revoked or modified if requirements from previous ONMS permits or authorizations issued to the permittee are not fulfilled by their due date.
8. Permit applications for any future activities in the sanctuary or any other sanctuary in the system by the permittee might not be considered until all requirements from this permit are fulfilled.
9. This permit does not authorize the conduct of any activity prohibited by 15 CFR Part 922, other than those specifically described in the "Permitted Activity Description" section of this permit. If the permittee or any person acting under the permittee's supervision

conducts, or causes to be conducted, any activity in the sanctuary not in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this permit, or who otherwise violates such terms and conditions, the permittee may be subject to civil penalties, forfeiture, costs, and all other remedies under the NMSA and its implementing regulations at 15 CFR Part 922.

10. Any publications and/or reports resulting from activities conducted under the authority of this permit must include the notation that the activity was conducted under National Marine Sanctuary Permit MULTI-2022-008 and be sent to the ONMS official listed in general condition number 1.
11. This permit does not relieve the permittee of responsibility to comply with all other federal, state and local laws and regulations, and this permit is not valid until all other necessary permits, authorizations, and approvals are obtained. Particularly, this permit does not allow disturbance of marine mammals or seabirds protected under provisions of the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, or Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Authorization for incidental or direct harassment of species protected by these acts must be secured from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA Fisheries, depending upon the species affected.
12. The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless ONMS, NOAA, the Department of Commerce and the United States for and against any claims arising from the conduct of any permitted activities.
13. Any question of interpretation of any term or condition of this permit will be resolved by NOAA.

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates you accept and agree to comply with all terms and conditions of this permit. This permit becomes valid when you, the permittee, countersign and date below. Please note that the expiration date on this permit is already set and will not be extended by a delay in your signing.

21 March 2023

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Kasey Cantwell  
NOAA Ocean Exploration

Date



20 March 2023

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Chris Mobley  
Superintendent  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Date