

ASN# _____
NOAA UAS Working Group
Marine debris surveys, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

Category: Flight Operations Area/Plan

Description of Flight Ops Area

(Revised 7/10/2007)

It is anticipated that flights will occur in the following areas:

1. UAS assisted surveys over open-ocean in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. The actual survey tracks will be determined by the latest available data (satellite images, wind curl stress models, calculated debris likelihood indices, and proximity to ship's location) and will be within the box defined by 28-35N and 180-170W.
2. Additional aerial survey operations for marine debris may be conducted around the remote and uninhabited Pearl and Hermes Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument.

A minimum 12 mile no-fly zone will be maintained around Midway Island, the site of the nearest air field. Note that the Midway Island air field is a low-usage facility (1 scheduled flight per week) and landing is by special permission only. Midway is over 1000 nm from the island of Kauai, the site of the nearest commercial airport.

The following maps have been included in the COA submittal package:

Filename: Map01-Overview.jpg

Overview of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands showing the maximum extents of open-ocean UAS survey operations. Note that not all of the region identified will be surveyed. Only a limited number of surveys will occur within the identified region.

Filename: Map02-Midway Island.jpg

Detail map showing the location of the Midway Island airstrip and also Pearl and Hermes Atoll to the south east of Midway. The extent of operations around Pearl and Hermes Atoll is identified on the map.