

Permittee:

Study #:

TBD

Institution:

DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK

Accession #:

Park Specific Conditions

TBD

Deliverable Due Date(s):

Permit #: TBD

Renewal Date:

TBD

TBD

The permittee, in exercising the privileges granted by this permit, shall comply with the regulations of the Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS), and all federal, state, county and municipal laws, ordinances, or regulations which are applicable to the area of operations covered by this permit.

The permittee is liable to perform the duties as described in the permit or as limited by any conditions set forth in this permit. Any deviations must be submitted in writing prior to conductance of such activities. The conductance of such additional activities cannot begin until the permittee has an amended permit authorizing the additional activities.

Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO) reserves the right to ensure compliance with unannounced visits from any NPS staff member or their designee. Records, facilities, storage, procedures and methodology, personnel, and samples are subject to inspection.

This permit grants the permittee access into the park free of charge; however, the permittee is responsible for all fees associated with transportation and camping, if required.

No part of this permit authorizes permittee use of park facilities or equipment, except where available for use by the general public. Use of non-public park facilities and equipment requires separate approval from Dry Tortugas National Park. Please direct requests to Glenn Simpson, DRTO Park Manager.

A valid copy of this permit, and all other applicable state and/or federal permits, shall be in the permittee's possession, or at a minimum on the research vessel from which sampling activities are occurring, while operating within DRTO. A permit is valid only if it has all the attachments originally sent and the dates are still current.

Unless explicitly authorized in the permit specific conditions, no federal T&E (threatened or endangered) species may be collected under this permit. Accidental deaths, injury, or collection of T&E or any species not included in this permit must be documented and DRTO staff must be informed of their occurrence immediately, no later than 48 hours after the event. **Failure to do so may result in criminal prosecution. In the case of T&E species, the permittee must cease all sampling activities while the SFNRC re-evaluates the techniques used. In either case, pending the results of the circumstances, NPS may suspend all activities or modify the permit.**

All wildlife species must be monitored and/or taken in a humane manner in accordance with a valid Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review. Should NPS determine monitoring and/or collection practices are inhumane, such activities will immediately cease and collections will not resume until an acceptable method has been determined by NPS and the permittee has been issued an amended permit citing changes to the monitoring and/or collection method. Any inhumane taking will subject the permittee to the penalties of the Animal Welfare Act, including revocation of this permit.

When conducting research in the Park, cultural resources such as archeological sites, shipwrecks, human remains and/or other artifact features may be encountered. These resources are protected by laws and policies including the Antiquities Act and the Archeological Resources Protection Act. **If cultural resources are encountered, they should be reported immediately to the Chief of Cultural Resources.** A scientific research permit does not allow for the documentation or excavation of an archeological site, which requires an Archeological Research Protection Act Permit issued by the Regional Archeologist. As these sites can be vulnerable to looting and vandalism, disclosure of site locations is prohibited by law. Permit holders are responsible for all cooperators, support staff and contractors working pursuant to the terms of the contract. If there are any questions, **Chief of Cultural Resources can be contacted at 305-242-7755.**

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Disturbing submerged natural features, such as seagrass; disturbing historic artifacts or features; or violating any other regulations while engaging in activities associated with this permit may result in criminal prosecution as well as administrative sanction. The permittee must comply with all posted signs unless explicit authorization has been given to the contrary.

When possible, the permittee should avoid conducting sampling activities in view of the public. This may often be unavoidable, so investigators/technicians must be easily identifiable as to their intent (i.e. research), and the permittee should be prepared and willing to explain all facets of the project to inquiring public when asked.

All structures and materials placed in the field must be clearly marked with the permittee's name, institution, and study number. These items must be **removed at the conclusion of each project**. The permittee **must provide GPS coordinates** to the Research Permit Coordinator for every piece of infrastructure (i.e. monitoring station, well, instrumentation, marker, etc.) installed within DRTO within 48 hours of installation. Should this project go into hiatus for any reason (e.g. lack of funding, etc.), the permittee must notify the Research Permit Coordinator to discuss and evaluate the future of any installations associated with the project.

In the event that a permittee's structures, equipment, and/or instrumentation are damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster (i.e. hurricane, fire, flood, etc.) or any other means, the permittee may replace what was damaged or destroyed by the same methods and means employed when first installed. Any deviation from what was originally approved must be reviewed and approved by park staff through the Research Permit Coordinator prior to implementation.

Permittees conducting motorboat operations in the park must insure that boats have appropriate safety gear on board at all times (lifejackets, fire extinguishers, paddles, sounding devices, first aid kit, etc.) Boats must meet State, Federal, and USCG standards. DRTO cooperators using DRTO boats must have required safety gear, as specified in the DRTO motorboat manual. The permittee should also carry provisions (water, food, etc.) in case of an emergency that results in an extended stay in the field.

Prior to mooring buoys being installed and for research purposes only, boats can only be anchored on sandy-bottomed substrates while working within the boundaries of Dry Tortugas National Park, especially while within the RNA. Anchoring on coral rubble, sea grass, etc. is prohibited.

The permittee must report any lionfish observations in Dry Tortugas National Park to tracy_ziegler@nps.gov. The report for each observation should include the number of lionfish, estimated size (length) of each lionfish; the location, including GPS coordinates; and a brief microhabitat description, including depth (e.g., under a rock ledge at deep edge of a pinnacle reef, depth 58 ft [17.5m]).

Access Restrictions

Unless explicitly authorized in the permit specific conditions, access on or within the following areas is prohibited:

- On or within 100 feet of Bush and Long Keys (see attached map).
- On or within 100 feet of East, Middle, and Hospital Keys.
- Within the Coral Special Protection Zone near Garden Key defined by the following coordinates (see attached map):

CSPZ1: N24 37.253 W82 52.293

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TBD

TBD

CSPZ4: N24 37.374 W82 51.985

CSPZ5: N24 37.201 W82 51.849

CSPZ8: N24 37.073 W82 52.129

- Within the Shark Special Protection Zone near Garden Key from June through October (see attached map).
- Vessel access within the designated snorkel/swim areas (see attached map). Boats must be anchored in sand bottom outside the snorkel/swim areas; anchored boats are not allowed to drift into the swim areas.
- Nighttime sampling activities are prohibited. From sunset to sunrise, all vessels must be anchored within 1 nautical mile of Garden Key.
- Support ships with a length exceeding 50 meters must have a NOAA ATBA permit to operate in DRTO.

Dive Operation Requirements

If SCUBA diving operations will be performed, the permittee must ensure certain requirements are met depending upon the type of dive operation. There are two types of dive operations in the park, "reciprocity operations," and "independent operations." Reciprocity operations utilize *any* NPS dive resource, such as tanks, air fills, personnel, NPS dive gear, diving platforms, etc. In contrast, independent operations are fully autonomous of NPS resources (*i.e.*, liveaboard vessel with no DRTO divers, tanks, or gear).

For both types of dive operations: Please notify the DRTO park dive officer (PDO), Jim_Nimz@nps.gov, about the intended activities at least 30-days prior to the start of diving. Please include a general dive plan (approximate number of dives, depth, and times), as well as to the requirements for your operation type listed below.

In addition, dive logs need to be kept for all dives within the park and submitted to Jim_Nimz@nps.gov no later than November 1st of any calendar year. Dive logs must include site name and/or coordinates, diver name, buddy name, depth, and time.

For reciprocity operations: The permittee must submit a letter of reciprocity (LOR) to the Park Dive Officer (PDO), Jim_Nimz@nps.gov, for each reciprocity diver at least 30-days prior to the intended diving activity. New LORs must be submitted annually or anytime a change in the diver's status occurs (*i.e.*, break registration or employment, outdated refresher, new medical exam, expired certification, etc.). LORs for NOAA divers must be submitted more frequently than once a year. **Please submit all LORs in a single e-mail at least two weeks in advance of dive operations.**

When notifying the PDO with the intent to dive, please indicate what NPS resources (*i.e.*, boats, divers, approximate number of tank fills, etc.) will be needed. Reciprocity divers will follow DRTO's safe practices manual (SPM) and emergency operations plan (EOP). The DRTO PDO will submit these documents to the visiting researcher's Dive Safety Officer (DSO) upon notification of intent to dive. The permittee is responsible for distributing the DRTO EOP and SPM to all divers intending to dive in the park.

For independent operations: Divers diving independently of park dive resources will follow their own EOP and SPM. Permittee's and DSOs wishing to review the DRTO EOP and SPM for reference in development of their own, may request a copy of these documents from the DRTO PDO, Jim_Nimz@nps.gov when notifying the DRTO PDO with the intent to dive. Divers must follow an EOP that is appropriate to the remoteness of DRTO. Please submit these documents in a single e-mail to the DRTO PDO,

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TBD

TBD

Jim_Nimz@nps.gov.

Upon arrival at the park, please review your EOP with DRTO law enforcement staff to ensure the proper pathways are followed in an emergency. LORs do not need to be submitted for independent divers.

The permittee must deploy a dive flag when conducting dive and snorkel operations.

Curatorial Responsibilities

The permittee **must** contact the South Florida Collection Management Center (SFCMC) to obtain an accession number (required for the collection of all materials/specimens, whether kept as voucher specimens or destroyed through analysis). Contact SFCMC Registrar (Jennifer Stafford) at 305-242-7813 or Museum Curator (Nancy Russell) at 305-242-7826.

No materials/specimens can be collected, until an accession number has been issued by the SFCMC staff.

All voucher specimens (including materials/specimens kept for identification purposes) remain the property of the National Park Service, and must be accessioned and cataloged into the park's museum collection, which is managed by the South Florida Collection Management Center (SFCMC) at Everglades National Park.

All specimens must be returned to the SFCMC; they should not be sent directly to other repositories. SFCMC staff will send the specimens and loan forms to the requested repositories.

Prior to collecting voucher specimens in the park, the permittee must contact the SFCMC Museum Curator, to discuss repository for voucher specimens, discuss anticipated curation costs, and cataloging of specimens into the NPS museum catalog database (ICMS).

The permittee must request a NPS catalog number, from the Museum Curator or SFCMC staff, for every specimen collected that will be permanently retained.

The permittee will not request NPS catalog numbers for specimens that will be consumed through analysis.

Park accession numbers must appear on all reports and field notes.

All voucher materials/specimens sent to the SFCMC must be accompanied with field notes, GPS coordinates of collection sites, other collection site observations, etc.

The permittee will comply with all policies stated in the SFCMC *Curatorial Responsibilities* document (provided to the permittee when the SFCMC accession number is assigned).

Communications and Related Procedures

At least 7 days prior to commencing research activities within DRTO and again upon arrival prior to commencement of work, the permittee must provide notification to either the DRTO Park Manager or Law Enforcement Desk of impending research activities. Furthermore, prior to **every** field trip in DRTO, the permittee **must** contact, **by phone (not radio)**, the **ENP Communications Center**.

Contact Location	Phone Number Email
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Communications Center	305-242-7740
DRTO Law Enforcement Desk	305-224-4255
Glenn Simpson DRTO Park Manager	Glenn_Simpson@nps.gov 305-224-4222

When contacting the ENP Communications Center, the permittee **must** provide the dispatcher with the permittee's permit number, departure point, destination, mode of transportation, number of people in the field party, names of field staff, and the estimated time of return to the departure point. Upon completion of work and return to the departure point, the permittee **must** contact the Communications Center, by phone, to advise them that the days field operations are finished. *(ENP Communications Center must be contacted at the beginning of each field day and at the end of each field day).*

Note: Park radio traffic should be kept to a minimum. If the permittee must use a park radio for communications with other members of his/her field party, the permittee must make sure that all radios are on the local park channel (channel 1). All other channels energize park radio repeaters thereby transmitting messages park-wide.

If the permittee cannot establish contact with the Communications Center and the DRTO Law Enforcement Desk, field operations cannot take place.

When conducting field activities, within DRTO, the permittee must carry a radio for emergency purposes. All emergencies should be immediately reported to the Communications Center. Permittees with access to park radios can contact the Communications Center on channel 2. The Communications Center call sign is KIE 784. Permittees should use "624 and their last name" for identifying themselves to the Communications Center.

Permit Renewal Requirements

It is the permittee's responsibility to renew their permit if desired. Please note that a minimum of 3 months are needed for permit reviews and processing requirements. DRTO will not send notice that the permit has expired (**see "Header" for renewal date**).

The permittee **must** apply for permit renewal and submit an electronic version of their proposal, via the National Park Service Research Permit and Reporting System, at <https://irma.nps.gov/rprs>.

Permit renewals will only be considered if the permittee submits an application and a research proposal. The research proposal must indicate any changes to the original proposal (changes in scope of work, personnel, sampling locations, etc.).

Reporting Requirements

Once, per calendar year, the permittee **must** submit to the National Park Service Natural Resources Information Division (NPS-NRID) an **Investigator's Annual Report (IAR)**. The IAR must be submitted via the National Park Service Research Permit and Reporting System, at <https://irma.nps.gov/rprs>. (The IAR is used by the National Park Service Natural Resources Information Division to maintain a history of research accomplishments, track current research projects, and track the amount of money spent on research throughout the national parks). **The permittee will be notified by the National Park Service Natural Resources Information Division (NPS-NRID) or the DRTO permit coordinator as to when an IAR must be submitted. IARs are typically due on the last day of March of each calendar year.**

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A **comprehensive annual report** (both electronic copy and hardcopy) **must** be submitted, to the DRTO research permit coordinator, **no later than six months** after the permit expires (or, if a multi-year permit, **no later than six months** after each annual cycle that the permit is active). The comprehensive annual report should have an introduction, description of methods, results (provide data analysis, graphs, charts, figures, etc.), discussion of results, information on the location of sampling sites (GPS coordinates), a conclusion, provide information on species and quantities of specimens collected, and include all other ancillary data. A special report does not necessarily have to be composed specifically for the permit. If a separate report composed for another entity (e.g. funding source) has been completed and includes all required information, a copy of this report would be satisfactory. At this time the permittee must also submit all other obligatory deliverables (ex. voucher specimens, maps, photos, copies of field notes, electronic copy of data, etc.). This includes all documentation that was derived as a result of the study within the park (see “Header” for deliverable due date(s)).

The IAR submitted via the RPRS website is not a substitute for a comprehensive annual report.

Comprehensive annual reports should be mailed to the following address (electronic copies may be emailed to the Research Permit Coordinator):

Dry Tortugas National Park
Attn: Research Permit Coordinator
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034-6733

Failure to submit annual reports or other deliverables will be justification for denying issuance of any other collection permits to the person or the institution the person represents and revocation of current permits.

The permit number should be included on all correspondence.

Authorized Personnel

Only persons identified in this research permit are permitted to perform tasks associated with this permit. The permittee is responsible for the actions of any individual operating under the authority of the holder's permit. Additional persons must be screened carefully by the permittee to ensure compliance. Names added to the permit at a later time must be given to SFNRC before they participate in any activities.

Each person will be responsible for having a copy of the permit on his/her person while engaged in research in the park. Everyone working under this permit should carry a photo I.D.

In addition to those investigators listed on the first page of this permit, the following individuals are also authorized to conduct research activities:

Amendments/Additions to Permit Specific Conditions

Permittee:

Institution:

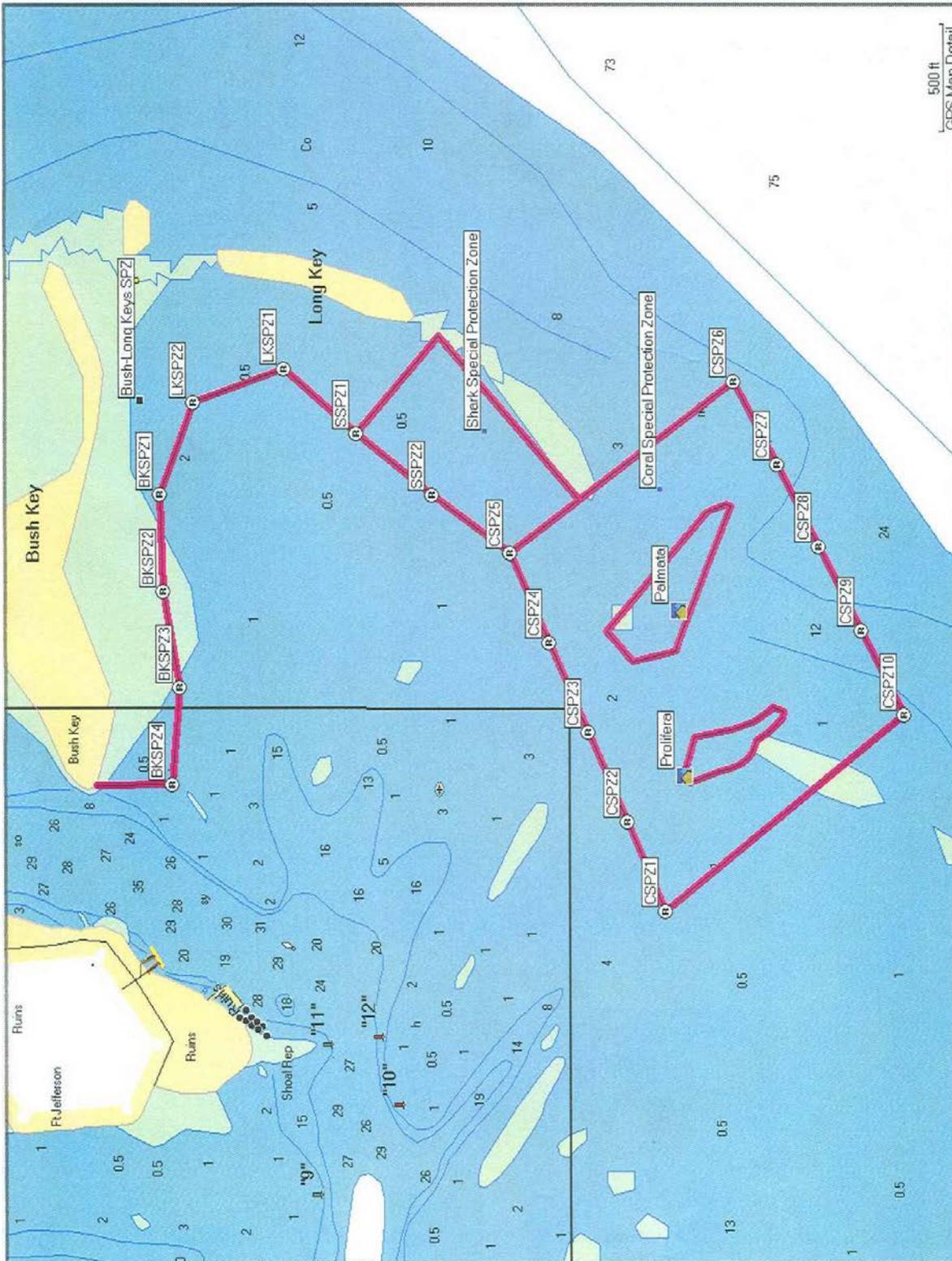
Deliverable Due Date(s):
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DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK
Park Specific Conditions
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Study #:
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DTNP Marine Special Protection Zones
Proposed Boundary Buoys [R] (8-6-07)

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