



## UAS or Drone Permits Within NOAA Regulated Overflight Zone

[15 C.F.R. §§ 922.132](#) prohibited or otherwise regulated activities include:

5. Taking any marine mammal, sea turtle, or bird within or above the Sanctuary, except as authorized by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, as amended, (MMPA), 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq., Endangered Species Act, as amended, (ESA), 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended, (MBTA), 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq., or any regulation, as amended, promulgated under the MMPA, ESA, or MBTA.
6. Disturbing marine mammals or seabirds by flying motorized aircraft, except as necessary for valid law enforcement purposes, at less than 1,000 feet above any of the four zones within the sanctuary described in Appendix B to this subpart. Failure to maintain a minimum altitude of 1,000 feet above ground level above any such zone is presumed to disturb marine mammals or seabirds.

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) can process a permit for use of an uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS). **When applying for a permit to conduct UAS operations within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, please address the following questions within your permit application:**

1. What type of survey craft will you be using? (e.g., fixed wing, vertical take-off and landing) and its payload components (i.e., what is the UAS carrying?) Please list all potential UAS that will be used and provide spec sheets and images.
2. Type of survey or sampling method (e.g., line/strip transects, photogrammetry, whale breath sampling)
3. Will you be hovering? If so, include the time spent over each group/animal/location.
4. Minimum altitude that you would like to fly and what are the decibels at that altitude?
5. What are the dates/times/events when you plan to fly?
6. What NOAA regulated overflight zone would you like to fly in? Provide an estimated number of flights and their duration, and proposed launching/landing locations.
7. Will the UAS ever be beyond the line of sight of the operator (pilot)?
8. Describe the launching stations (boat or land).
9. What are your retrieval strategies should the UAS go in the water?
10. Will you be the pilot? If not, all pilots operating under an ONMS permit will need to sign an authorized user form indicating they have read and understand the terms and conditions.
11. What is the battery life of the UAS?
12. How will you avoid disturbing marine mammals or birds?
13. What are the concurrent activities?
14. Do you have the appropriate [Federal Aviation Administration](#), [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), [NOAA Fisheries](#), [U.S. Forest Service](#), [California State Lands Commission](#), [California Film Commission](#), and/or [California Department of Fish & Wildlife](#) permits/authorizations for proposed UAS activities? Provide a copy of those permits or list which permits you will be/are applying for.