

Summary of Permits and Notifications for Marine Field Activities in Okinawa

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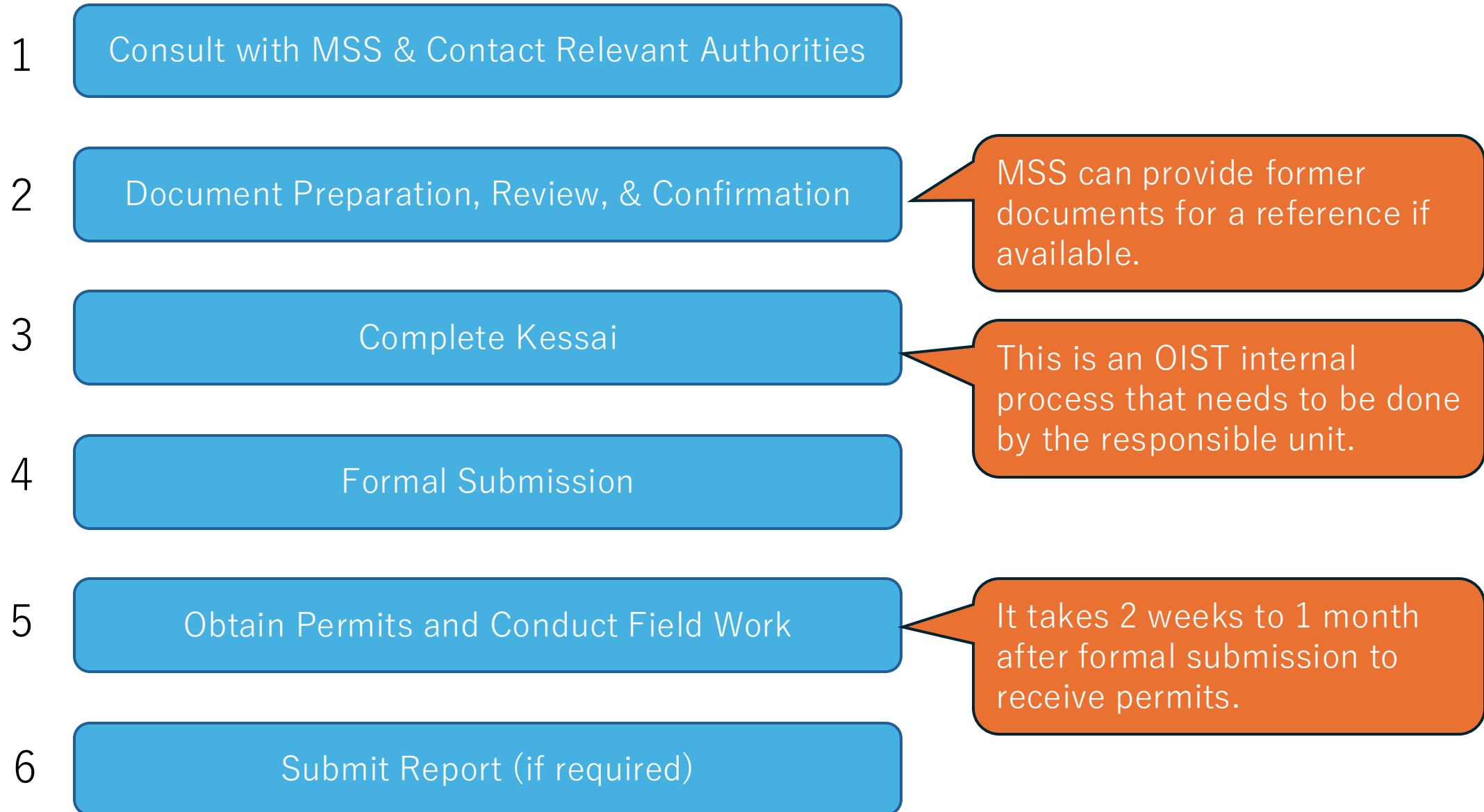
Introduction

- Depending on your filed work, multiple permits may be needed from several organizations.
- For example, if you would like to collect coral samples from the Kerama islands, you will need to obtain:
 - Permit from the Ministry of Environment
 - Special collection permit from Okinawa Prefectural Government
 - Agreement forms from local fisheries cooperatives
- This is a summary for permits related to marine field work in Okinawa.
- Violations could lead to penalties, imprisonment and/or fine.

	Permit/notification	Purpose	Area	Contact
1	Permit from 11th Coast Guard	Diving/snorkeling work	Applied area	11 th Coast Guard
2	Special collection permit	Restricted species, fishing method, closed season, protected areas, & etc	See detail later	Okinawa Prefectural Government, Fisheries Division
3	Permit for Breaking up reefs	Reef breaking	Entire Okinawa	
4	Permit to occupy public property or for sand collection	Equipment installation or sand collection	Entire Okinawa	
5	Permit from Ministry of the Environment	Work in Marine Park Zone in National Park	Keramashoto NP Iriomote-Ishigak NP	Ministry of the Environment, Okinawa-Amami Nature Conservation Office
		Work in Nature Conservation Area	Sakiyama-Amitori Bays	
6	Permit for the use of paralyzing substances	Using paralyzing agents in water	Entire Okinawa	Fisheries Agency
7	Permit for alteration of the existing condition	Sample collection in National Place of Scenic Beauty	Kabira Bay, Ishigaki	Ishigaki City, Board of Education
8	Fisheries Cooperative agreement document	Sample collection	Entire Okinawa	Each Fisheries Cooperative Office
9	Shiraho notification form	Work in Shiraho district	Shiraho , Ishigaki island	Shiraho Conservation Council

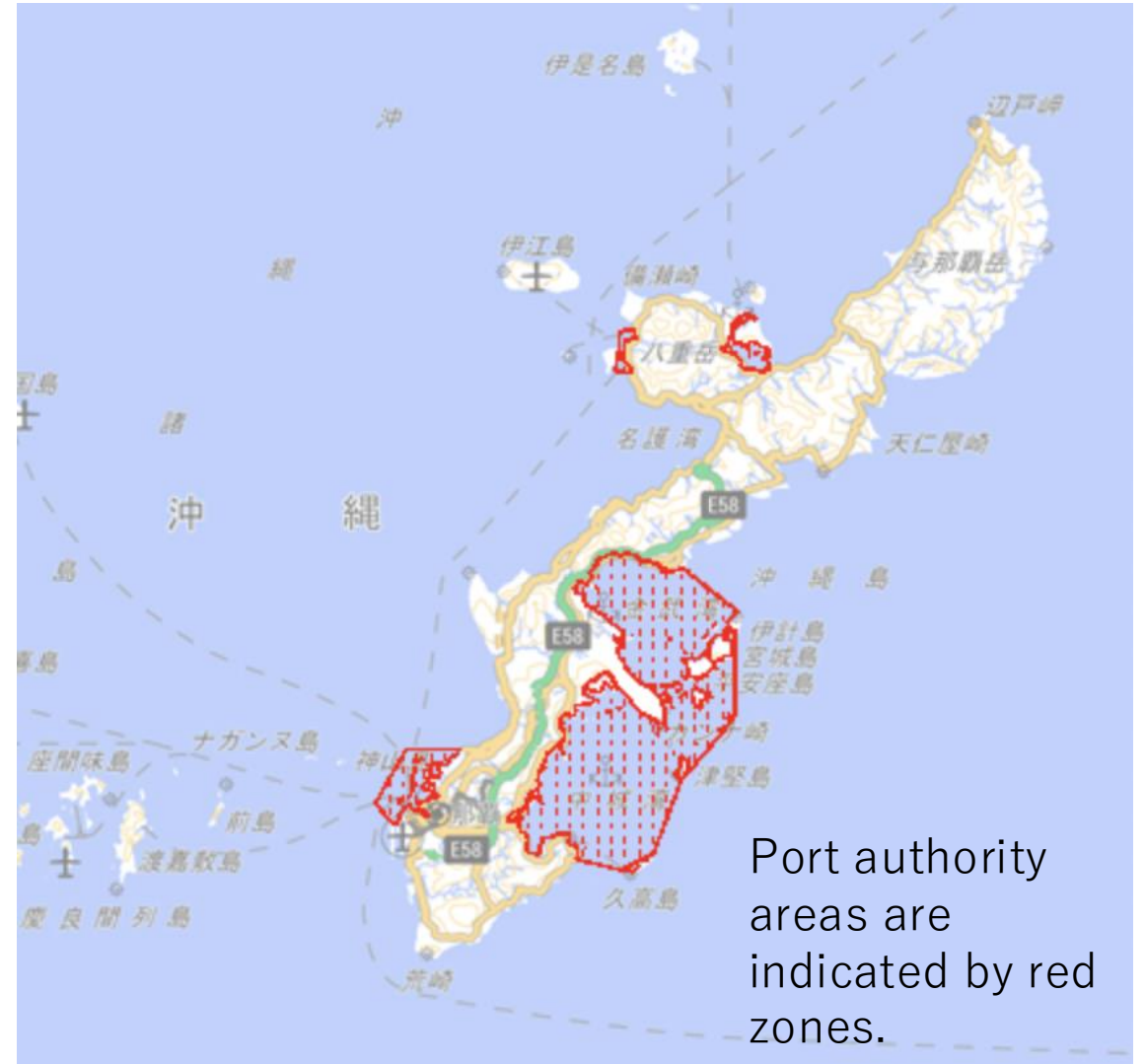
General Application Procedure

It takes about 3 months or more to obtain permits.



1. Permit from Coast Guard

- Field work in designated port authority areas requires a permit from the relevant Coast Guard Office. (For Okinawa main island, they are either the Naha, Nago, or Nakagusuku branches)
- The permit application should include detailed description of the work, exact location including maps, and most importantly, detailed safety measures.
- Lead time is said to be about 1 month.



2. Special Collection Permit

- Okinawa Prefecture Fishery Adjustment Regulations (OPFAR) establishes various rules related fisheries.
- For the official document in Japanese, see [OPFAR](#).
- For the summary in English, see [OPFAR Summary](#).
- In [Marine Park Area of Okinawa Kaigan Quasi-National Park](#), collection of some species are restricted.
- Required documents
 - Application form issued by OPGFD
 - Research plan
 - Agreement document from local fisheries cooperatives

2. Special Collection Permit

REMEMBER!!

- **Keep a record of your collection!**
- **It is mandatory to return the permit and submit a REPORT after the collection is completed!**
- **Do NOT exceed the amount on the permit!**



3. Permit for Reef Breaking

- Breaking up a part of reef is prohibited by OPFAR.
- Permit for reef breaking is categorized into 1) consultation and 2) formal approval depending on the nature of the activity.
- Either way, the application may require considerable time compared with other permits, so we recommend preparing with sufficient lead time.



4. Permit to Occupy Public Property or for Sand Collection

- This permit is for installing an equipment on the seabed, e.g. water temperature sensor or collecting sand.
- Contact first to OPG Civil Engineering Office(CEO). Depending on the locations, CEO may redirect you to another office.
- There are 5 CEOs and The jurisdiction is determined according to each office. See [jurisdiction map](#) (JP only).
- Note that sea cucumber larvae may live in the sand. Careful collection method should be considered.
- Required documents
 - Application Form issued by OPGCEO.
 - Research plan
 - Agreement document from local fisheries cooperatives



5. Permit from Ministry of the Environment

- [Natural Parks Act, article 22](#) prohibits the collection of marine organisms from the Marine Park Zone.
- Contact first the Ministry of the Environment, Okinawa-Amami Nature Conservation Office to inquire about the work within National Park or Nature Conservation Area.
- Required documents
 - Application documents with research plan
 - Agreement document from local fisheries cooperatives



6. Permit to use of paralyzing substance

- [Act on the Protection of Marine Resources, article 6](#) prohibits collecting aquatic plants and animals by using poisonous substances that paralyze or kill them.
- Required documents
 - Application documents with research plan
 - Agreement document from local fisheries cooperatives



7. Permit for alteration of the existing condition

- Kabira Bay in Ishigaki Island is a part of the Cultural Property, National Place of Scenic Beauty, designated by the Cultural Affair Agency.
- Required documents
 - Application Form with research plan issued by the Ishigaki City, Board of Education (ICBOE)
 - Request of transfer form issued by the ICBOE. This is just a letter to ask ICBOE to forward the application to the Cultural Affair Agency.



8. Fisheries Cooperative (FC) agreement document

- This serves to prevent misunderstandings at the field, such as being mistaken for poachers.
- Obtain an agreement form from the fisheries cooperative that has fishery right over the area where the field work will be conducted.
- Please inquire MSS for contacting FC offices.
- Required document
 - Agreement form
 - Research plan



9. Shiraho notification form

- In Shiraho ward, Ishigaki island, the entire community is engaged in efforts to protect the local natural environment.
- The local council asks to submit the prior notification and report after work.
- Form can be obtained from their website: [Shiraho form](#).

