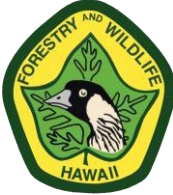
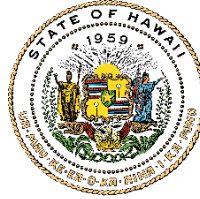


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April 2, 2026

Endangered Species Recovery
Committee State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Endangered Species Recovery Committee Evaluation of
Norwegian Cruise Line Implementation of the Kaua'i
Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan in 2025

Dear Committee Members,

The State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), requests that the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC) review the 2025 Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan (KSHCP) Annual Report prepared by Pacific Rim Conservation regarding Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL), an individual participant in the KSHCP. This request complies with the requirements outlined in Section 195D-25 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The 2025 KSHCP Annual Report compiles information from eight individual participants as part of the KSHCP and State Incidental Take Licenses (ITL) obligations. This submittal summarizes the NCL portion of the 2025 KSHCP Annual Report and includes additional information provided to DOFAW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (collectively, "the Agencies") by the participant over the past year.

BACKGROUND:

ITL Licensee: ITL-27; NCL (Bahamas) Ltd.

Project: NCL cruise ships *Pride of America*, *Norwegian Sun*, and any other NCL vessel operating in Hawaiian waters.

ITL Duration: June 12, 2020–June 12, 2050. At the conclusion of 2025, the participant is approximately 5.5 years (18%) through their permit term.

Miscellaneous:

NCL continues to retain ABR, Inc. ("ABR"), environmental consultants, to evaluate lighting, conduct training sessions, manage data, prepare downed wildlife reports, and prepare the KSHCP annual report.

In 2025, three NCL ships operated in Hawaiian waters during seabird fledgling season (September 15–December 15).

- The *Pride of America* (year-round)
- The *Norwegian Sun* (May 31–June 9, July 3–15, and September 26–October 6)
- The *Oceania Regatta* (July 28–August 5, September 26–October 4, October 24–27, and December 2–6)

Two other NCL ships were briefly in Hawaiian waters outside of seabird fledgling season:

- The *Oceania Nautica* (January 14–16)
- The *Oceania Insignia* (June 25–27)

Status of ITL:

Covered Species Under ITL-27: 'A'o (Newell's shearwater), 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel), and 'akē'akē (band-rumped storm petrel) fledglings.

NCL's current ITL does not authorize the take of adult seabirds. Because of the take of one adult 'a'o and one adult 'akē'akē in 2022, and one adult 'a'o and one adult 'ua'u in 2023, the participant has submitted a PIP amendment requesting the take of adult 'a'o, 'ua'u, and 'akē'akē. The amendment is currently under review by the Agencies.

Observed take of Covered Species in 2025: No take of covered species.

Take of non-listed species in 2025: 45 seabirds, including 15 wedge-tailed shearwaters, nine white-tailed tropicbirds, nine Leach's storm petrels, two unidentified petrels (pending species identification), four sooty terns, two black-winged petrels, one Bulwer's petrel, one mottled petrel, one flesh-footed shearwater, and one red-tailed tropicbird were recovered from NCL ships. Nineteen of these 45 birds landed on NCL ships outside the fledgling season.

Table 1. Authorized take, Cumulative take, Maximum 5-year rolling average, and Actual 5-year rolling average of fledgling take for Covered Species.

Covered Species	Authorized fledgling take (lethal / non-lethal)	Cumulative calculated* fledgling take through 2025 (lethal / non-lethal)	Maximum 5-year rolling average of fledgling take	Actual 5-year rolling average of fledgling take (2021 - 2025)
'A'o (Newell's shearwater)	30 / 30	2 / 2	1 / 1	0.4 / 0.4
'Ua'u (Hawaiian petrel)	6 / 6	2 / 2	N/A	N/A
'Akē'akē (band-rumped storm petrel)	2 / 2	0 / 0	N/A	N/A

* The PIP discovery rate of 100% was used for take calculations

The table above does not include the unauthorized take of two adult 'a'o, one adult 'akē'akē, and one 'ua'u, along with the associated indirect take of eggs and chicks.

Minimization Measures:

Downed Seabird Searches: Dedicated seabird searches are not conducted aboard NCL ships because staff and guests search 100% of the ship 100% of the time. Any downed seabirds found were recovered and transferred to Save Our Shearwaters (if found while docked or en route to Kaua'i), Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project (if found while docked or en route to Maui), or Hawai'i Wildlife Center (if found while docked or en route to O'ahu or Hawai'i). A downed wildlife report was completed for each incident.

In September 2025, before fledgling season began, three non-listed seabirds were released overboard by an Environmental Officer on the *Pride of America* rather than being recovered and delivered to rehabilitators. Corrective guidance was provided to ship staff, reinforcing that all seabirds found on board must be photographed, recovered, and delivered to the rehabilitators identified by the Agencies, regardless of the time of year.

Lighting: Because each ship is different, each is evaluated separately and receives a custom seabird lighting setting. There are general seabird lighting guidelines that are applied to all ships.

Pride of America: The Teen's Area was converted into 12 staterooms with balconies. All new balcony lights are equipped with timers that automatically turn off the lights after 15 minutes.

Norwegian Sun: ABR conducted a lighting audit aboard the ship on June 6, 2025. Lighting-minimization measures implemented in 2025 included adding shields to select existing lights, turning off basketball court floodlights, turning off every other shuffleboard light (Deck 12), reducing pool lighting (Deck 11), turning off unnecessary lights under the lifeboats (Decks 6 and 7), and training housekeeping to draw cabin shades 30 minutes after sunset.

Oceania Regatta: ABR conducted a lighting audit aboard the ship on January 20, 2025. Lighting minimization measures implemented in 2025 included turning off select lights, adding shields to select existing lights, and training housekeeping to draw shades 30 minutes after sunset.

Predator Control: Not applicable; predator control is not performed aboard NCL ships.

Staff Training and Guest Outreach: ABR provided seabird awareness or seabird responder training to 5,088 staff members across the *Pride of America*, *Norwegian Sun*, and *Oceania Regatta*.

NCL created a short, animated video that is played on passenger-cabin TVs as part of the Notice to Passengers videos. The video explains the reasons for seabird fallout and the procedures to follow if a downed seabird is observed. It also asks guests to turn off their balcony lights and close cabin shades in the evening, and to check their balconies for seabirds in the morning when opening shades.

As in previous years, information on seabird fallout and procedures to follow if a downed bird is observed is also included in each ship's daily newspaper.

Prior ESRC Recommendations

NCL implemented the following ESRC recommendations from the April 10, 2025, KSHCP Annual Review Meeting.

1. Expeditiously pursue a major amendment to request adult take of 'a'o, 'ua'u, and 'akē'akē to ITL/ITP. *The participant has submitted a PIP amendment. It is in progress and under review by the Agencies.*
2. Explore and implement additional measures to respond more quickly to birds on passengers' balconies.
3. Increase outreach to guests to minimize light attraction from guest balconies.
4. Identify and implement additional adaptive management measures, specifically lighting minimization, to minimize take of 'ua'u.

Outstanding ESRC Recommendations

1. Consider implementing seabird lighting protocols, staff training, and guest education across all NCL ships operating in Hawaiian waters throughout the seabird season (March 1–December 15) to minimize the take of adult covered species and non-listed seabirds.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DOFAW appreciates NCL's ongoing minimization efforts, and the new measures implemented in 2025, including further reducing lighting and increasing efforts to

ESRC Evaluation of Norwegian Cruise Line's Implementation of the Kaua'i


minimize the occurrence of downed seabirds on cabin balconies through guest education.

DOFAW Recommendations:

1. Address outstanding ESRC recommendations.
2. Assess the effectiveness of newly implemented measures to prevent seabirds from falling out on cabin balconies.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Yamaguchi, Habitat Conservation Planning Program Associate, at kelli.yamaguchi.researcher@hawaii.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH
Administrator