Sanctuary Advisory Council

Dean Hudson, *Chair*

Va'amua Henry Sesepasara, *Vice Chair*

Netini Sene, *Education*

Charles Birkeland, *Research Science Advisor*

Sonny Thompson, *Community At-Large (Manu'a Islands)*

David Vaeafe, *Tourism*

Ephraim Temple, *America Samoa Community College*

Faleseu Paopao, *American Samoa Department of Commerce*

Ufagafa Ray Tulafono, *Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources*

Fanuatele To'afa Vaiaga'e, *Environmental Protection Agency*

Mike Reynolds, *National Park Service*

Kevin Painter, *NOAA Office of Law Enforcement*

Eric Roberts, *United States Coast Guard*

Fatima Sauafea-Leau , *NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office*

Gene Brighouse, Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Allen Tom, *Pacific Islands Region: Nation Marine Sanctuary*

Address:
Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Program
PO Box 4318
Pago Pago, AS, 96799

Website:
http://fagatelebay.noaa.gov

Thursday, January 05, 2012

Dear Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent,

On behalf of the Fagatele Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council I would like to submit the following comments on the Draft Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/EIS). On Wednesday, January 04, 2012, the Council met to discuss and vote on the proposed comments.

The following people were in attendance at the meeting:

Council Members:
Voting Members:
Dean Hudson
Henry Sesepasara
Netini Sene
Charles Birkeland
ASCC (represented by Ephraim Temple)
DOC (represented by Solialofi Tuaumu)
DMWR (represented by Domingo Ochavillo)
EPA (represented by Va'asa Simanu)
Non-Voting Members:
Fatima Sauafea-Leau
FBNMS (represented by Gene Brighouse)
NPS (represented byMike Reynolds)
Allen Tom (ONMS)

Public:
Tafito Aitaoto
Ioane Tomanogi
Tim Clark
Alice Lawrence
Siaumau Siaumau Jr.
Leafaitulagi Siaumau
Sailitafa Samoa
Tuifeleamato R.A. Tagovailoa
Josephine Siaumau

Council Coordinator:
Emily Gaskin

Council members from the American Samoa Department of Commerce (DOC), Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were unable to attend the meeting and so they designated staff to attend the meeting and represent their departments on their behalf. It was the first occasion that the three staff had attended a Council meeting and voted on behalf of their agency. A quorum (eight of the ten voting members) was in attendance at the Council meeting. A comment passed if a majority (five of the eight voting

members) voted in favor of the decision. A full report of the meeting can be found in the *Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes* which are available on the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary website (http://fagatelebay.noaa.gov) or by contacting Council Coordinator Emily Gaskin at emily.gaskin@noaa.gov.

We propose the following:

1. Need to extend the timeframe for comment.

2. Additional outreach with the residents and village councils in the communities.

3. Additional communications with some of the partner agencies that are involved and impacted by this decision.

4. Revisit site selection incorporating MPA design and biological and socioeconomic data.

5. There must be a way to recognize the unique social structure in American Samoa and incorporate into the management plan.

6. Opposition to the no-take designation to the East of Aunu'u.

7. Opposition to the call-in requirement for Area B of Aunu'u.

8. No restriction on traditional non-destructive fishing in Fogama'a.

9. No restriction on traditional non-destructive fishing in Aunu'u.

Sincerely,

Dean Hudson, Chair
Fagatele Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council