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NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa seeks advisory council applicants

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa is seeking applicants for six primary seats on its advisory council. The council ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

"The members of our advisory council represent an extremely important element of our community," said Gene Brighthouse, sanctuary superintendent. "Their input, experience and expertise assist the sanctuary in making informed and timely decisions on how to best manage our wildlife and habitats."

The sanctuary is accepting applications for the following seats: Tutuila East/community-at-large, Manu'a/community-at-large, education, commercial fishing, research, and tourism.

Candidates are selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regarding the protection and management of marine resources. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve a three-year term.

The sanctuary advisory council was established to ensure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The council's 14 voting members and eight non-voting members, serve on a volunteer basis, represent a variety of local user groups, the general public, and territorial and federal governmental jurisdictions.

Applications are due December 31. To receive an application kit, or for further information please contact Joseph Paulin via email at joseph.paulin@noaa.gov; by phone at 684-633-6500; or by mail at National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, PO Box 4318, Pago Pago, AS 96799. Application kits can also be downloaded from the sanctuary's website at <http://americansamoa.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa is located in the cradle of Polynesia's oldest culture and is thought to support the greatest diversity of marine life in the National Marine Sanctuary System, including a wide variety of coral and other invertebrates, fishes, turtles, marine mammals and marine plants. The sanctuary protects extensive coral reefs, including some of the oldest and largest *Porites* species coral heads in the world, along with deep water reefs, hydrothermal vent communities, and rare marine archaeological resources NOAA co-manages the sanctuary with the American Samoa Government and works closely with communities adjacent to the sanctuary, all within the context of Samoan cultural traditions and practices.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

On the Web:

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa: <http://americansamoa.noaa.gov>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

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