

# **National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa**

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## **Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Notes**

Monday, August 25, 2014  
Naumati Room, Tradewinds Hotel  
8:00-10:30AM

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**Purpose:** To discuss the Call to Action Joint Statement by the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and the National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils *"Destination Marine Protected Areas: Sustaining America's Most treasured Ocean Places for Recreation and Stewardship."*

Participants:

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dean Hudson, Chair, Ocean Recreation/Eco-Centered Tourism  
Sepp Stephany, Fishing  
Tony Ta'ase, Fishing  
Teri Peters, Education  
Tom Oliver, Research  
Peter Crispin, Diving  
Betty Cavanaugh, Tourism  
Atapana Fili Ulufale, Community-at-Large (West Tutuila)  
Alex Jennings, Community-at-Large (Swains Island)  
Togiola Tulafono, Community-at-Large (East Tutuila)  
Kelley Anderson Tagarino, American Samoa Community College/Sea Grant Fatima Sauafea-Leau,  
NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office  
Kevin Painter, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement  
Allen Tom, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), Pacific Islands Regional Director

### **EXCUSED**

Thomas Drabble, Business/Industry  
Dr. Ruth Matagi, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR)  
Keniseli Lafaele, American Samoa Department of Commerce (ASDOC), Protected Resource Division  
Eric Roberts, United States Coast Guard

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Domingo Ochavillo, DMWR  
Sandra Lutu, ASDOC, Protected Resource Division  
Rula Deisher, United States Coast Guard

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Dan Basta, National Director, ONMS  
Angela Calos, ONMS

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Dana Wilkes, ONMS

Adam Pack, Chair, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Peter Eves, DMWR-Enforcement

Va'amua Henry Seseapasara, Fono

James McGuire, BPMC

### **NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA (Sanctuary)**

Gene Brighthouse, Sanctuary

Atuatasi Lelei Peau, Sanctuary

Apulu Veronika Moilo'o Mata'utia Mortenson, Sanctuary

LT. Charlene Felkley, Sanctuary

Isabel Gaoteote, Sanctuary

Tanimalie Letuli, Sanctuary

Alma Cornejo, Sanctuary

Dr. Wendy Cover, Sanctuary

Joseph Paulin, Sanctuary

#### **I. Welcome, Dean Hudson, Council Chair**

##### **A. Roll Call & Introduction:**

- Council roll call was taken and introductions were made for everyone in attendance.

##### **B. Dan Basta, National Director, ONMS**

1. Swearing in of council members
2. Swearing into federal service Atuatasi Lelei Peau, Sanctuary
3. Presentation of Award of Excellence in leading sanctuary programs to Gene Brighthouse

##### **C. Review and Approval of March 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to Approve (Dean Hudson)
- Seconded by (Alex Jennings)
- Passed – Unanimous

##### **D. Approval of Agenda**

- Members approved the agenda

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### E. Reminders:

- i. Council Member Recruitment:
  - The current council member recruitment ends on September 30, 2014. Seats that are available include Community-at-Large Aunu'u, Community-at-Large Manu'a, and the Youth Member (ages 14-25).
- ii. Council Officer Elections:
  - At the next council meeting there will be elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The term of each position is 2 years. If you are interested in running please send a brief biography and statement of interest to Joseph Paulin (joseph.paulin@noaa.gov) to be forwarded to the council.

## II. Presentations

### A. Dan Basta, Director of Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

- Dean Hudson summarized the National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council (NMSAC) Summit held in Galveston, Texas in June of 2014. Dean discussed how the Joint Statement was developed in joint sessions with the Marine Protected Area-Federal Advisory Committee (MPA-FAC) during the past two National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council Summits 2012 and 2014). The MPA-FAC voted to support the Joint Statement in Galveston at their annual meeting. They then asked all advisory council members to take it back to their councils to be discussed and to decide if each council would also support the Joint Statement.
- Dan Basta discussed how the Joint Statement came about and how it gained traction. The President passed a proclamation called "The Great Outdoors" developed by people in the National Parks System. A goal being to increase visitation to outdoor areas in the US. In the past this really has not included marine areas. The effort of the last two years has included leaders in advising marine protected areas, MPA-FAC and NMSAC representatives, that have provided extensive input in developing the Joint Statement. This is a call to action to support, where appropriate, responsible recreation opportunities in marine protected areas.

### A. Joseph Paulin, Presentation on the MPA-FAC/NMSAC Joint Statement relating to Recreation, Travel, & Tourism (Action Item)

The presentation included:

- How the Joint Statement was formed and more details about Galveston meetings.
- Identifying audiences and disseminating information.
- Ensuring pro-active management, maintaining specialness of areas, maintaining ecosystem health, and encouraging recreational uses.

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- Four Main Themes: 1) Inviting people to play respectfully, 2) Embracing the human dimensions of these places, 3) Sustaining ecosystems of the MPAs, and 4) Engaging recreational users as ocean stewards.
- National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils that have already discussed and supported the Joint Statement.
- Council Action Today: discuss and decide if the council would like to support the statement as is, no additional changes can be made.

### **Council Discussion:**

- Recommendation that a summary of the document be written in Samoan.
- Commend the statement, need to consider the responsibilities of council in striking a balance between working with communities and maintaining sustainability of ecosystems, especially when it comes to sustenance and cultural concerns within communities. Support the chair in signing the statement on behalf of the council.
- In general believe the Joint Statement to be a great document. There are considerations for enforcement. American Samoa is blessed to have healthy ecosystems and fully supports the document.
- The administration will hear the councils with the signing of the Joint Statement.
- We are blessed in having an unspoiled resource and right now we do not have much pressure on it. We need to add to consider our economy and at the same time protect what we have.
- This is a good document as it is pro-active, but what is the opposition we have faced?
- The Hawaiian council's main concern was that they were not able to make changes to it. But it would be difficult to allow all councils to make changes and it would not get to a point to be voted on.
- Some other issues have included thoughts that any activities within some MPAs is bad and stimulating more recreation could destroy the ecosystems.
- Fishing and sustenance fishing should be addressed within the document.
- More local use tourism should be encouraged within the document.
- This is about general ocean stewardship and recreation within MPAs.

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- The statement empowers all the utilizers of these areas and people must come under a special awareness to want to preserve and protect them. This will lead to support from the 'powers that be' in DC.
- Correct, this does not change any regulations, but may lead to more funding and more support for conservation.
- This may be another way to create interest in tourism and recreation. However....Can this lead to a call for expansion?
- We do not want to confuse the Joint Statement with the proposed expansion of the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument. That is a different program and process.
- We need clarification on the differences between Marine National Monuments and National Marine Sanctuaries?

Question: What is the difference between a National Marine Sanctuary and a Marine National Monument?

Answer: Both national marine sanctuaries and monuments can be established to protect and manage special marine areas.

New national marine sanctuaries can be designated by NOAA or Congress and are managed by NOAA using the *National Marine Sanctuaries Act*.

Marine national monuments are designated by the President using the *Antiquities Act* and can be managed by NOAA together with other Federal and State partners.

Marine sanctuary designations are extensive, grassroots, community-based processes that typically take three to five years. The designation process depends on a range of factors, including the complexity of the area, the proposed regulations, the level of support from current user groups, and agency resources.

Marine National Monuments do not have such an extensive, multi-year, public process for designation.

- Dan Basta stated that he supports the sanctuary designation process since it is much more involved and allows for many more opportunities for community and stakeholder participation.

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- Information was sent out to the council prior to the meeting describing the differences between the programs and processes. This was in response to a headline in the August 13, 2014 Samoa News that read “*Marine Sanctuary Expansion Looms.*” This headline was inaccurate and the article was actually referring to a proposed expansion of Marine National Monuments by President Obama. The information was also sent to the newspaper and Chamber of Commerce.
- As the ASCC stands the national marine sanctuary has been a huge boost to the Marine Science studies on island. This Joint Statement does even more to encourage opportunities and does not inhibit or change anything. Any opportunities to get students out in the field is good.

### **III. Public Comment**

- Va’amua Henry Seseapasara: Fono member, former sanctuary advisory council member, President of Alia Fisherman Association. We have a saying that we do not play with our food. We do not waste. We eat all we catch. The federal regulations brought into the territory need to respect the people and culture of the territory. The document and discussion speaks of recreation but what about the commercial and sustenance fishing here in American Samoa? Subsistence fishing is one of the biggest topics to bring to any federal table. When we talk about tourism, of course protected areas are good for tourism. How many tourists come here? Do we have a count of how many come here and utilize this area? And then how many people fish here? What is our priority? My priority is the livelihood of my family. Was the document given to other fishing federal regulatory agencies? We are here, as fishermen, to speak on anything that will affect our fishing.
- Council Chair: The Joint Statement addresses recreational activities in marine protected areas not fishing regulations or increasing/decreasing fishing regulations.
- In response to the question regarding the document being given to other fishing federal regulatory agencies Joseph Paulin mentioned that a representative from the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Eric Kingma, was aware of the document and participated in discussions on the Joint Statement at an early meeting of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. Both Dean Hudson and Joseph Paulin participated in the meeting. Joseph Paulin gave the presentation on the development of the Joint Statement via webinar that was given to the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Advisory Council today.
- There were no additional public comments or council discussion.

### **IV. New Business**

- Motion (Dean Hudson) to support the Joint Statement and for sanctuary advisory council chair to sign the document on behalf of the sanctuary advisory council.

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- Seconded by (Sepp Stephany)
- Motion Passed
  
- The newspaper has misrepresented the sanctuary again, stating it to be part of the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument proposed expansion. Should the SAC be doing something about this?
  
- The council is able to form a letter on the subject and ask that superintendent forward it to the director and that the director forward it on. The council can also make a request to be captured in the meeting notes. The council chair will draft a letter on behalf of the council and forward to the National Director through the sanctuary management.
  
- The council formed a Fishing Working Group to organize a fishing tournament and assist in raising awareness of allowable fishing practices in the sanctuary management areas. There may be possibilities to combine with an existing national tournament known as the Sanctuary Classic. Council members interested in participating include:
  - Peter Crispin, SAC Diving Representative, Fishing Working Group Chair
  - Sepp Stephany, SAC Fishing Representative
  - Tony Ta'ase, SAC Fishing Representative
  - Dean Hudson, SAC Ocean Recreation/Ocean-Centered Ecotourism Representative, SAC Chair
  - Tom Drabble, SAC Business/Industry Representative
  - Betty Cavanagh, SAC Tourism Representative
  - Togiola Tulafono, SAC Community-at-Large Eastside Tutuila Representative
  - Kelley Tagarino, SAC ASCC/Sea Grant Representative

### V. Status Updates

- Gene Brighthouse provided a presentation to update the council on recent, current, and upcoming sanctuary programs and events. She also reminded the council of write-ups on programs and events that are included in the sanctuary update report.

### VI. Action Items

- At the next council meeting there will be elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The term of each position is 2 years. If you are interested in running please send a brief biography and statement of interest to Joseph Paulin (joseph.paulin@noaa.gov) by 2 November 2014 to be forwarded to the council.
  
- Council Chair Dean Hudson will sign on behalf of the council the Call to Action Joint Statement by the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and the National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils *"Destination Marine Protected Areas: Sustaining America's Most treasured*

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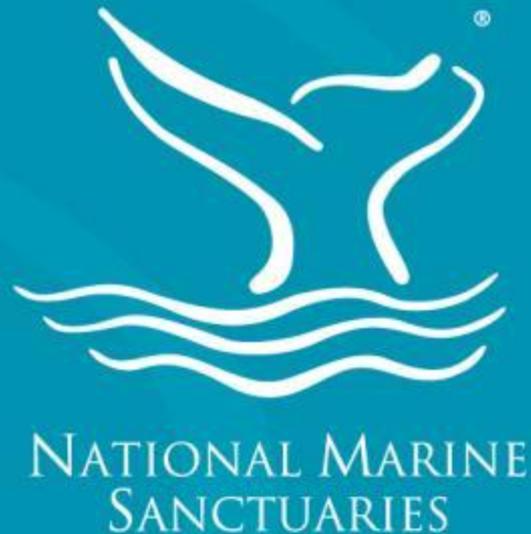
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*Ocean Places for Recreation and Stewardship.”*

- The council chair will draft a letter on behalf of the council relating to recent inaccuracies about the sanctuary published in the paper and forward to the National Director through the sanctuary management.

**VII. Concluding Remarks, Dean Hudson – Closed Meeting.**

**DRAFT**



# **MPA-FAC & NMSAC Joint Statement**

*Expanding the reach of marine protected areas  
through recreation & tourism*

# What is the Joint Statement ?

A call to action of the nation's leading advisory council bodies on MPAs

Responsible Management



# Background and Process

- **2012 SAC Summit** at Monterey Bay NMS Exploration Center
- **MPA-FAC & NMSAC** chairs held joint sessions
- **Discussed** how to foster links between MPAs & recreation, travel, & tourism industries (\*over 70 representatives)



# 2012 Discussions: Importance of Special Ocean Places to Travel & Tourism

- Ideal **destinations** for ocean activities
- Attract millions of **visitors** each year
- Support local **economies**
- Unique ocean & cultural **experiences**



# 2014 Advisory Council Summit

- **Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary – Galveston TX**
- Additional **joint sessions** with **MPA-FAC & NMSAC** members
- **Building on** the work of the **2012 NMSAC Summit**
- **Continuing** to move forward **together**



# Developing the Joint Statement

## *The Process*

- **5 groups** of MPA-FAC & NMSAC members
- **Reviewed draft** joint statement
- Determined **additional concepts** that **should be included**
- **Addressed** areas of **concern**
- **Group report-outs** between sessions
- **Recommendations** were **used** to **refine** the **initial draft**

# Sharing a Common Voice Discussions

- **ID specific audiences**
- Steps for **disseminating** joint statement



# Affirming the Common Voice Discussions (Day 2)

- **Outcomes** of previous day and **changes** to draft statement
- Introduce the **final draft joint statement** on the value of MPAs to recreation, tourism, & coastal communities.
- **NMSAC members** asked to take **back to their councils** for **consideration**
- **MPA-FAC approved the Final Joint Statement**
- **Currently** being **discussed** for action **by councils** throughout the **ONMS Program**

# Purpose

- **Ensure proactive management** of growing ocean recreation in special places (MPAs)
- To **sustain, conserve, and protect** those things of **natural** and **cultural importance** to **people** and **places**



# Why?

- **Healthy** marine **ecosystems** are **fundamental** for **ocean life** as well as successful **recreation** and **tourism**
- **Maintaining qualities** within **MPAs** will help **ensure** continued **visitation** and **benefits** for **coastal communities**



# The Call to Action

“As members of the **Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee** and the **National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils**, we call upon federal ocean agencies, working with state, local, territorial and tribal governments, and indigenous groups and communities, **to chart a new course for America’s MPAs...**

# The Call to Action Continued

...**That course must embrace recreational uses where appropriate, and manage them to ensure these places have a lasting role in America's future.**"



# Call for 4 Federal Actions

## 1. Invite people to Play (Responsibly) in MPAs

- **Ocean Agencies** should act to **work with communities** to **promote recreation** while **ensuring** continued **protection of resources**.



# Call for 4 Federal Actions

## 2. Embrace the Human Dimensions of Ocean Places

- **Federal programs** should **invest** and **collaborate** for **better understanding** the **benefits** and **potential impacts** of ocean recreation.



# Call for 4 Federal Actions

## 3. Sustain MPA Ecosystems and Values

- **Invest in filling gaps in information for improved understanding, protection, and proactive management.**



# Call for 4 Federal Actions

## 4. Engage Recreational Users as Ocean Stewards

- **Recognize** and **promote** strong **conservation values** and the **importance** of **understanding** and **sustaining ecosystems** and **culture**.



# Making it Happen

*This is in the national interest and critical at this time to commit the necessary resources, guidance, and programming*

- **Collaborate** and **share resources** across agencies
- Additional **funding**
- **Building** partner **capacity**



# Distribution of Statement

- **HQ** developing strategy based on audiences identified by the MPA-FAC and NMS Advisory Council Joint Meetings 2012 & 2014.

## **Examples:**

- White House
- Congress/Other Elected Officials
- DOC
- Federal Ocean Management Agencies
- Fishery Management Councils
- Tourism Development Councils

# Advisory Councils That Have Signed On

- Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
- Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- Flower Garden Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Marine Protected Area – Federal Advisory Committee

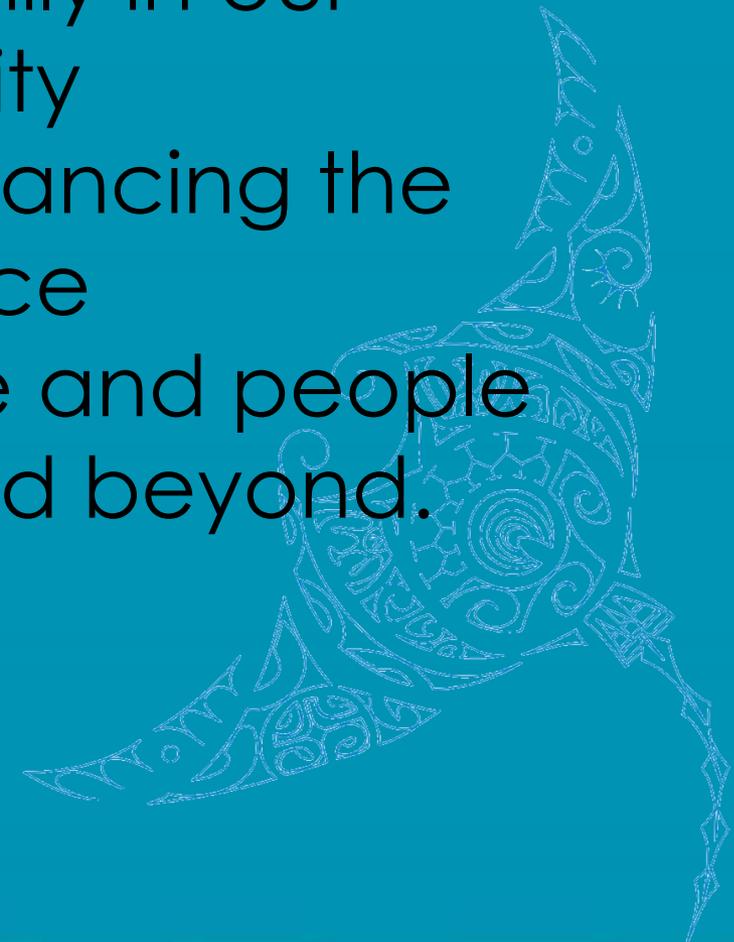
# Potential SAC Action Today

- **Discuss** the **Final Joint Statement** as a **council**.
- **Decide** if the **SAC** would like to **support** the **statement as is**.
- **NOTE:** It is not possible to make additional edits.





We are one family in our  
community  
committed to advancing the  
importance  
of our special place and people  
in the Pacific, and beyond.



*A Call to Action from the  
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and the  
National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils*

**Destination Marine Protected Areas: Sustaining America's Most Treasured  
Ocean Places for Recreation and Stewardship  
June 2014**

***This is a call to action from the nation's leading advisory bodies on marine protected areas. It reflects our collective commitment to ensure proactive management of growing ocean recreation in these special places in order to sustain the natural and cultural assets that we treasure.***

Recreation is growing rapidly throughout the US, and recreation along our coasts and in our ocean is no exception. From sport fishing, to bird and whale watching, to stand-up paddling, Americans are playing in our oceans, Great Lakes and along our coasts in numbers and ways not anticipated just a few years ago. We believe strongly that healthy, viable marine ecosystems are fundamental to successful ocean recreation and tourism. People are drawn to clean waters, healthy habitats, diverse biological communities and intact cultural resources. Consequently, maintaining these qualities within marine protected areas through management of recreational uses will, in turn, ensure continued visitation and use along with the attendant benefits they generate to coastal communities. Most importantly, visitation to these places may help reshape how we, as a people, relate to our oceans.

A new Executive Order (#13597) calls for the significant expansion of travel and tourism in the US, particularly among federal lands and waters. As members of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and the National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils, we call upon federal ocean agencies, working with state, local, territorial and tribal governments, and indigenous groups and communities, to chart a new course for America's MPAs. That course must embrace recreational uses where appropriate, and manage them to ensure these places have a lasting role in America's future.

When planned and managed sustainably, recreational activities in MPAs can yield health, education and economic benefits to users and coastal communities. However, if recreational uses are allowed to expand haphazardly, they have the potential to inadvertently undermine the very qualities that draw people to these special ocean and coastal places everywhere in America today. The following federal actions in four related areas will, in our view, greatly enhance the ability of all MPAs to meet both the challenges and the opportunities posed by America's renewed attention to the sea, especially in a time of change.

**1. Invite People to Play (Responsibly) in MPAs**

Ocean agencies, working with local communities, should actively shape how and where ocean recreation occurs in MPAs and along our coasts. Powerful actions with lasting benefits for protected ecosystems, cultural resources and coastal communities, include: (i) highlighting MPAs as destinations for sustainable recreation through travel, tourism and outdoor equipment industries; guides and charters; educational programs; hospitality industry; general media; and visitor centers; (ii) using a consistent set of messages to inform visitors about compatible uses in MPAs and along our coasts; and, (iii) ensuring that ongoing national recreation, travel and tourism initiatives sustains the natural and cultural assets that make these places special.

## **2. Embrace the Human Dimension of Ocean Places**

Ensuring that recreational uses are sustainable in MPAs and along our coasts requires more than just a welcome sign. To effectively manage growing recreational uses and to realize their largely untapped potential for building lasting constituencies, MPA agencies must also better understand how, where and why people connect to these special places, and how their recreational activities reflect and shape local communities, cultures and economies. To this end, federal programs should collaborate and invest now in understanding: (i) the origins, drivers, status and emerging trends in recreational uses of MPAs; (ii) the social, cultural and economic benefits and possible detriments of those uses to coastal communities; (iii) how recreational uses fit into the broader and evolving picture of other commercial, military, scientific and tribal and indigenous uses in these areas and along our coast.

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are defined as “Any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by federal, state, territorial, tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.” MPAs vary widely in their purposes and level of protection. Familiar examples include National Marine Sanctuaries, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges and the state counterparts to these programs.

## **3. Sustain MPA Ecosystems and Values**

Expanding ocean recreation poses new challenges to MPA managers who may lack sufficient information, tools or authorities to sustainably manage them. MPA agencies should invest in filling that gap where it exists, for example by: (i) improving understanding of carrying capacities for common recreational uses (i.e. how much is too much?); (ii) implementing new and proactive management approaches to ensure sustainability, including special use areas to allocate specific activities to appropriate areas within the MPA; (iii) evaluating the adequacy of, and if necessary, adjusting existing management authorities to meet anticipated needs for ecologically sustainable recreation and thereby informing all communities along our coast.

## **4. Engage Recreational Users as Ocean Stewards**

Many recreational users share strong conservation values and understand the importance of sustaining the ecosystems and cultural sites they choose to visit. MPA sites can do much to encourage sustainable recreation by, for example: (i) engaging key user groups in adopting best practices that ensure the long-term viability of the ecosystems they value; (ii) forging innovative public-private partnerships with recreational industries and associations with the ability to influence key user groups; (iii) fostering citizen science to engage visitors in data collection for management; (iv) promoting visitor centers to connect inaccessible sites to the broader public; and, (v) developing cadres of ocean stewards (e.g. on the water docents) including youth and underserved communities, linked by common experiences of recreating in MPAs and carrying those conservation messages to other ocean areas wherever they travel.

## **Making It Happen**

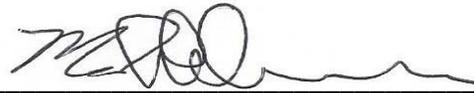
We are acutely aware of the fiscal challenges facing all coastal and ocean agencies. Many of the actions recommended above involve collaborating and sharing resources and capabilities across agencies. Others require additional funding and can build capacity among our partners. It is in the national interest, and critical at this time, for you to consider these ideas and commit the necessary resources, guidance and programming to ensure that our nation’s special ocean places can realize their vast potential to serve America and its future.

This statement was developed based on joint sessions of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and the Chairs of the National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils in December 2012 and June 2014. It was formally adopted by the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee on June 4, 2014, and will be presented to each of the 13 National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council for formal approval during Summer 2014.



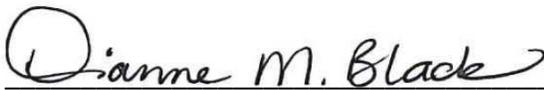
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George Geiger  
Chair, Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Council



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Michael Denmark  
Vice-Chair, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



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Dianne Black  
Chair, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



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Dominique M. Richard, Ph.D.  
Chair, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



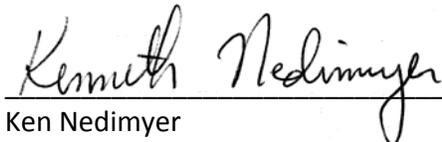
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George Clyde  
Chair, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



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Adam Pack, Ph.D.  
Chair, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



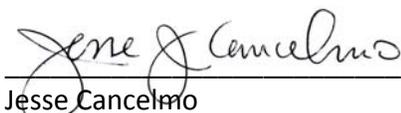
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Ken Nedimyer  
Chair, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

*To be discussed at a future meeting*

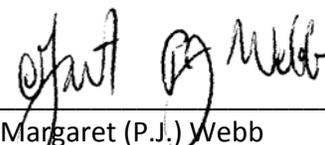
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Susan Langley, Ph.D.  
Chair, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



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Jesse Cancelmo  
Chair, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



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Margaret (P.J.) Webb  
Chair, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



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Dean Hudson  
Chair, National Marine Sanctuary of American  
Samoa Advisory Council

*To be discussed at a future meeting*

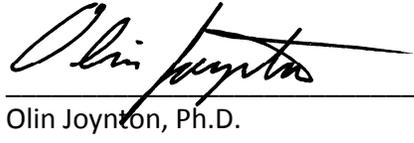
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Richard F. Delaney  
Chair, Stellwagen Bank National Marine  
Sanctuary Advisory Council



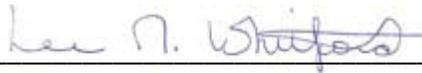
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Timothy E. Johns  
Chair, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral  
Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council



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Olin Joynton, Ph.D.  
Chair, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council



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Lee Whitford  
Chair, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
Advisory Council

National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES



3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

July-Sept.

2014



# OUTLINE



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES  
AMERICAN SAMOA

- Community Based Programs
- Highlights from April-June 2014
- Projects/Events for July-September 2014



# Community-Based Programs

## 2009

- New Vessel
- One ton tsunami debris removed
- School outreach

## 2010

- Marketplace mural
- Dive into Education 200 teachers trained in a workshop

## 2011

- Kiosks installed
- Ocean Swimming Ocean Science (OSOS)
- Youth Ocean Forum
- Swains Island video
- Visitor center broke ground

## 2012

- 75 student participants in OSOS
- Youth Ocean Summit
- Hyperbaric chamber diabetic treatment saves 4 lives
- Aunu' u Fale (Rest Shelter)
- NOAA ship Hi'ialakai Education Program
- Opening of Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center
- Volunteer Program

## 2013

- Dive/ocean safety skills trains 60 people
- COTS Removal
- 4 Festival of Sites
- 3 Sanctuary Liaisons
- Ocean Star Program (30 Kids)
- Village interpretive training
- Penina Tutasi i Amerika Samoa film
- Swains Island Expedition
- 2 scholarship students attend UH-Hilo

## 2014

- 3 Sanctuary Liaisons
- 1000's of Crown of Thorns Removed
- NOAA Vessel Training
- 3 Festival of Sites
- One NOAA for AS Community
- Hokule'a Voyage
- S.E.A
- Sanctuary Wellness
- Google Street Maps & Google Ocean
- Hyperbaric Training for LBJ
- Jean Michel Cousteau - Swains Island- The Last Jewel of the Planet
- O le Fogava'a e Tasi Film
- Mote Marine Lab Partnership - ASCC interns
- Trails/Signs Being developed for Aunu'u, Fagatele, & Fogama'a/Fagalua
- Tamaiti Tales (Paul Chetirkin)
- Business Exchange Program
- 4 Scholarship Students, 7 Interns
- Ocean Star Program (35 Kids)

# April

## HŌKŪLE'A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COMPETITION WINNERS

### Tutuila Winner



O'Riley Siona Le'au,  
Fagaitua High School

O'Riley Siona Le'au is the oldest of four boys to Mrs. Fatima Sauafea-Le'au and Mr. Oliver John Le'au of Aua and Leone villages. He graduated from Aua Elementary School in 2013 and is currently a freshman at Fagaitua High School with great interests in Science and Math. His hobbies are playing basketball, football, video games, and swimming. He likes to eat pizza but his favorite is his mom's honey barbeque chicken. O'Riley enjoys learning new things and to take on challenges to build himself as a better person. He hopes to build his interests in Science and Math and pursue higher education in these fields.



### Runner-Up:

Gabrielle Langkilde, Fa'asao-Marist High School

### Ta'u Winner



Hope Fa'afouina Autele,  
Manu'a High School

Hope Fa'afouina Thompson Autele is the daughter of Rev. Iosefa Autele and Mrs. Fa'afouina Autele of Faleasao, Manu'a. Hope is currently a junior at Manu'a High School: "Home of the Segaula." She is outgoing and sociable. She expresses great interest in Marine Science and History. She enjoys volleyball, swimming, exploring, and taking on challenges that can lead her to a better and promising future. Hope plans to further her education, majoring in marine biology. After completing her studies, she hopes to return and teach the youth of American Samoa about ocean conservation and the importance of its most precious resource, the ocean. She believes that with the help of the Lord, her hopes and dreams will come true. She dedicates her accomplishments to her loving parents and her grandmother, Hana Thompson.

### Runner-Up:

Patricia Penitito, Manu'a High School



## National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa



invites the Public for the  
Alamea or Crown-of-Thorns  
Removal Briefing

Monday, April 28th 2014  
at 10:00 am

Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center

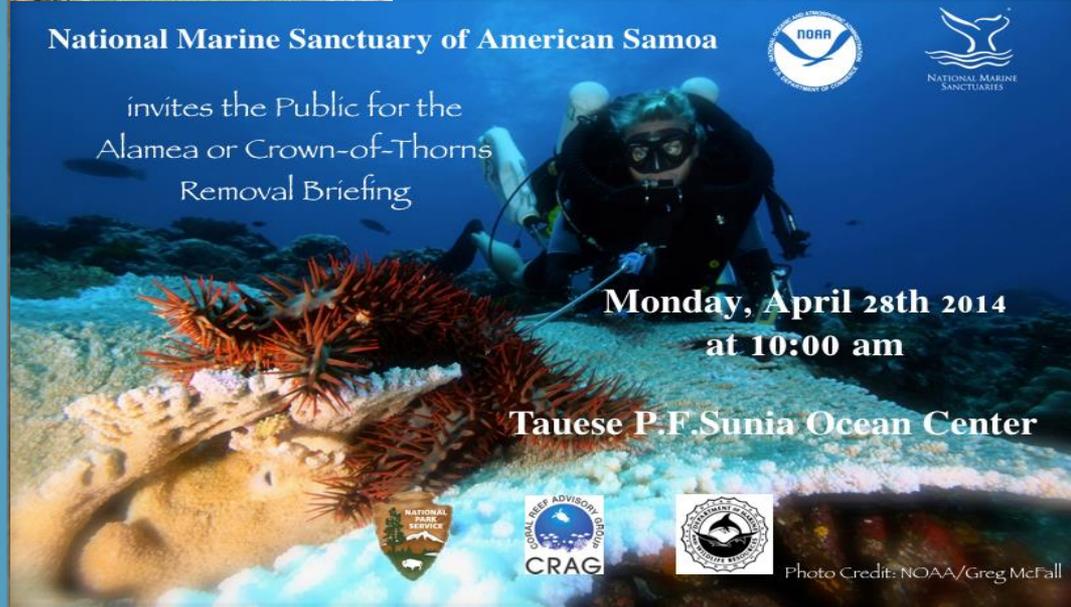


Photo Credit: NOAA/Greg McFall



# May



# June



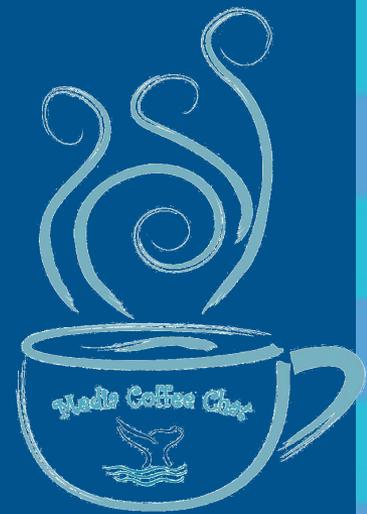
DISCUSS CHALLENGE INTEREST research LEARN  
 PROGRAMS EDUCATION DATA apply INSIGHT PARTICIPATE ASK GRADUATE  
 YOUTH WORKSHOP  
 COLLEGE TOOLS OPPORTUNITIES CAREER  
 HYPOTHESIZE INQUIRE SUPPORT METHODS  
 COMMUNICATION



WHEN: Saturday, May 31 – 8:00AM to 10:30AM  
 WHERE: Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center in Utulei



For all American Samoa high school students. **YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND.**  
 Register by contacting Charity Porotesano at [cporotesano@gmail.com](mailto:cporotesano@gmail.com) / 733-1905



Projects/Events  
July-Sept  
2014

# July



**Ocean Star**  
National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

**Starts June 23 - July 17**

**Monday - Thursday  
9:00 - 12:00pm**

**Max. 35 Students  
5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (10-12 years old)**

**REGISTER NOW AT  
THE OCEAN CENTER  
IN UTULEI**

**Registration ends June 20, 2014**

**for more information call 684-633-6500 or email: charlezmiller\_25@hotmail.com**



**Pacific Islands Climate Services Dialog**  
- Preserving Freshwater Resources and Minimizing the Impacts of Drought -  
July 17 and 18, 2014  
Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center  
American Samoa

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is conducting a series of activities to enhance scientific and technical capacity to support climate change adaptation in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS). These activities include the development and delivery of new or enhanced products and services that focus on climate issues critical to the region and respond to unique user needs. Preserving freshwater resources and minimizing the impacts of drought has been identified as an issue of concern.

Information sharing dialogs will be held between climate experts and community water managers and planners, agro-forestry resource managers, disaster risk managers and other decision makers within the 'Two Samoa's' and beyond with the following objectives:

- Explore and learn about best practices to preserve freshwater resources and minimize the impacts of drought with an emphasis on ENSO.
- Explore and learn about seasonal climate-related science and information. This includes placing current observations and forecasts into a local context, and making it easier to access and use.
- Raise awareness of the state of knowledge of climate science, impacts, and adaptation and available climate and weather service products and services to support climate adaptation planning, disaster risk management, and sustainable development.

Two days of dialog are planned. They will involve sharing and building climate stories as a means to outline key messages and best practices for water resource management. Existing efforts, projects, products will be highlighted during the morning of day one. During the afternoon, attention will be given to describing historical events and impacts, with a particular emphasis on water resources and ENSO. On the morning of day two, attention will shift to an assessment of existing products and services to identify what works and what could be improved – for example better integration and tailoring of information or better use of local observations, improved communication. Day two will culminate in the creation and presentation of climate stories, as well as a consideration of monitoring and reporting needs and opportunities.

Improved ability to generate accurate, timely and regionally-relevant forecasts that helps to preserve fresh water resources and minimize the impacts of drought will be an outcome of this meeting. Also, the user community will be better informed about the current state of knowledge about climate variability and its impacts, and as a result be able to make better decisions as they set priorities and allocate resources. The provider community will be better informed about what problems and questions are most relevant and, as a result, are better able to match products and services to user requirements.

Agenda: Draft Attached

For more information: [John.Marra@noaa.gov](mailto:John.Marra@noaa.gov), NOAA National Climatic Data Center (808-944-7453) or [Michael.Krueb@noaa.gov](mailto:Michael.Krueb@noaa.gov), ERT Inc, at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (828-271-4095).



# August

8/21-8/27

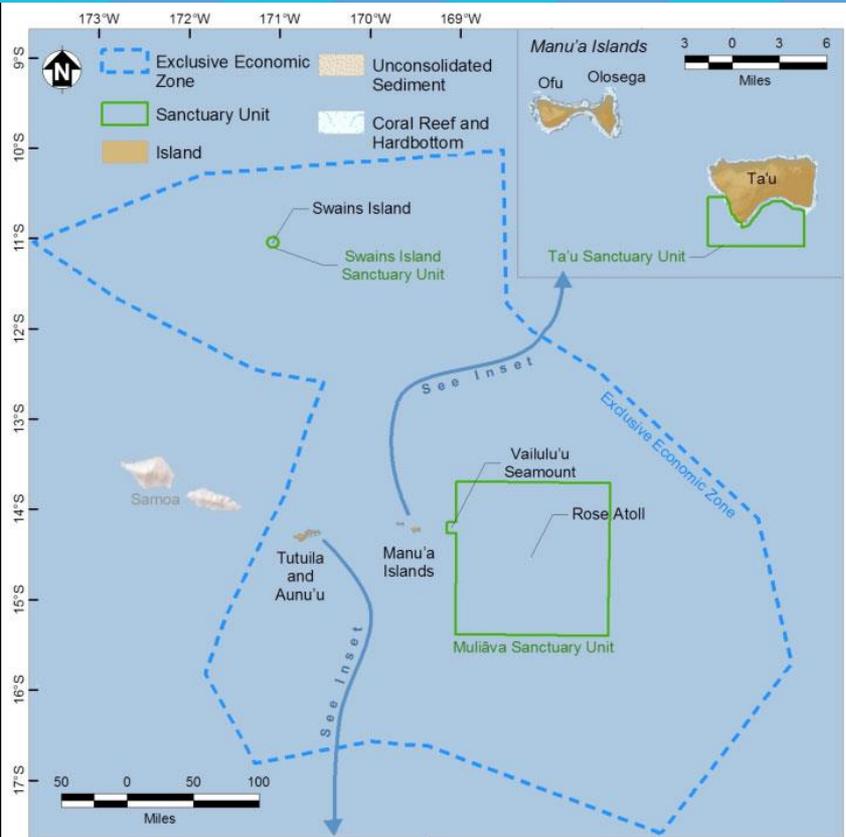


Jean-Michel Cousteau OCEAN ADVENTURES



8/11-9/26

# September



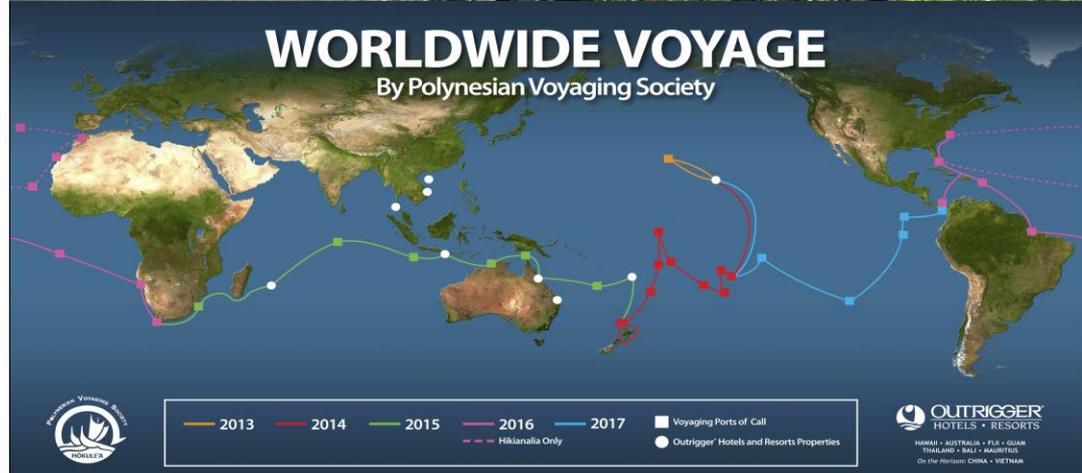
Swains



Aunuu



Pago Pago

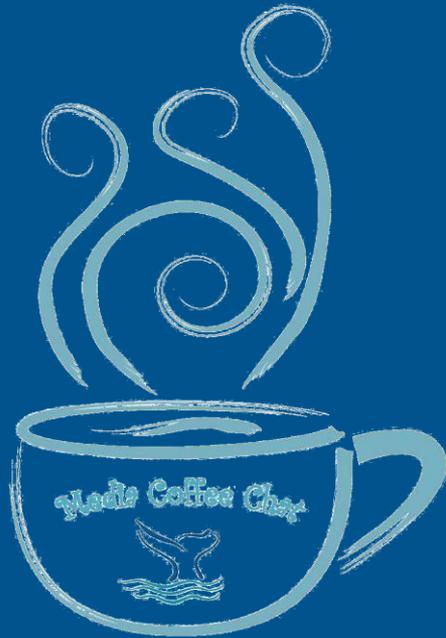




# Special Mentions

## Summer Interns & Volunteers





# Questions



# National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

*Ua aofia ile futiafu e tasi*



*Of one mind in an assembly*



## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

### Sanctuary Update NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA April-August 2014

#### Accomplishments

#### 1) Cultural Heritage and Community Engagement

##### **Sanctuary Wellness Champions!**



Fitness champions in the NMSAS wellness program are flanked by their coach.

NMSAS profiled 6 individuals who have lost more than 50 pounds from participating in Sanctuary Wellness-Tae Bo Fitness since its launch last year in May. The 6 individuals shared their success stories with the media—how they stayed determined and committed to the program, and why. NMSAS has consistently assisted the community in combating health issues affecting American Samoa! "It is all about staying fit and eating healthy", said the Senator's good lady, Etenauga LamYuen Lutu. The 6 individuals are; Fa'asolo Tago lost 220 lbs., Dick Kuka, 59 lbs., Katrina HS, 70 lbs., Patricia Fu'a, 55 lbs, Anthony Maugaotega, 65 lbs and Ete LamYuen Lutu—fit, healthy, and feeling great all the time! On May 17<sup>th</sup>, they will

participate and share their testimonies at the "Healthy People, Healthy Ocean Family Fun Day". Contact [veronika.mortenson@noaa.gov](mailto:veronika.mortenson@noaa.gov).

*Significance: Promoting fitness and health to the community, enabling them to make the right choices, preserving our cultural and natural resources.*

##### **Healthy People – Healthy Ocean (Sanctuary Wellness)**

NMSAS staff hosted the "Healthy People-Healthy Ocean Family Fun Day", an occasion to commemorate the one year anniversary of the Sanctuary Wellness—Tae Bo Fitness at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center. The event attracted close to 400 individuals, including children, each of whom received information about the importance of marine conservation, as well as pointers on fitness and healthy eating/living. Fitness demos from the different fitness groups on island, (Hot Hula, Zumba, Body Combat, MMA, and Tae Bo), were enjoyed to the fullest by everyone. The Kids' Korner was buzzing with an array of fun games.

Six individuals who triumphed in the past year were honored and recognized for the huge accomplishment in their health. Fa'asolo Tago lost 230 pounds and was presented with a round trip airline ticket to Apia donated by Polynesian Airlines. Katrina Seumanutafa lost 70 pounds and was presented with a \$50 gift voucher donated by Tradewinds Equator Restaurant. Anthony Maugaotega lost 67 pounds, Dick Kuka lost 59 pounds, Patricia Fu'a lost 52 pounds. Etenauga Lutu was recognized as the oldest participant who consistently participates to maintain cardio health. Contact: [veronika.mortenson@noaa.gov](mailto:veronika.mortenson@noaa.gov)

*Significance: Connecting how we take care of our oceans to taking care of our health! Our*

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

*ocean and national marine sanctuary sites need our assistance in ensuring these special places are maintained, kept healthy and nurtured for future generations.*



Sanctuary team and community members enjoy the Healthy People-Healthy Ocean Family Fun Day

### **Swains Island film debuts**



The new PBS documentary film “Swains Island: One of the Last Jewels of the Planet” debuted on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at the Inouye Regional Center on Ford Island, Hawaii. Superintendent of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (sanctuary) Gene Brighthouse said the film was shared with the many Swains community residents who reside in Hawai’i so they can have the opportunity to see it before it was officially launched in American Samoa.

Renowned French explorer, environmentalist, educator and film producer Jean Michel Cousteau officially delivered the PBS film to the Swains community on August 22.

“Icons such as National Geographic’s Sylvia Earle — otherwise known as ‘Her Deepness’— were also present in American Samoa on invitation by Nainoa Thompson of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. Nainoa Thompson, Jean Michel Cousteau, Sylvia Earle and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta launched a Pacific Ocean Campaign. The events were timed in conjunction with the monumental landing of the World Wide Voyage (Hokule’a) which arrived in Pago Pago on August 21.

The hour-long film showcases the unique ecological and cultural aspects of Swains Island, including the coral reef, the lagoon, the tapua, and the village. The film was shot and produced by experienced diver and filmmaker Jim Knowlton who travelled with a delegation to Swains Island in August of 2013.

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The film is narrated by Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of famous oceanographer Jacques Cousteau. Cousteau was invited to visit Swains Island in 2013 by the Jennings family and the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa. He expressed his gratitude for the special opportunity to participate in the expedition, to better understand the mysteries of Swains Island. The premier of Swains Island: One of the Last Jewels of the Planet took place on Tutuila on August 22, 2014 to share this unique film with the residents of American Samoa. For additional information contact Gene.Brighthouse@noaa.gov.

*Significance: The film will bring international attention to Swains Island, one of the most remote places in the world.*

## 2) Marine Conservation

### Pacific Islands Region Collaborative Crown of Thorns Eradication in American Samoa



In response to an anthropogenically driven outbreak of coral-eating, crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS), also known as *Alemea* or *Acanthaster planci*, National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa team members partnered with representatives from the National Park American Samoa, American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group, and Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources on a crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) eradication effort at priority reefs and sanctuary management areas around Tutuila and Aunu'u. Led by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa with support from sanctuary colleagues and the NOAA Dive Center in Seattle, the team conducted 32 dives between April 14 and 29 for a total of 184 hours underwater and covered more than 21 miles of reef, removing 1,440 crown-of-thorns starfish. Priority areas covered included National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa management areas, the National Park of American Samoa, a Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources No-Take-Marine Protected Area, and a U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Priority Watershed, among many others. Following the conclusion of the project, results were presented to agency directors, community members, students and members of the media at an open public meeting at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center.

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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Planning included pre-operation tow-board and drop surveys that identified areas with high concentrations of COTS to focus removal efforts and achieve maximum success. Team roles and agency participation for all phases of the effort were also determined. The mission involved local, regional, and national collaborations and also included team members from the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and NOAA Dive Center as well as assistance from partners including the American Samoa Community College, Department of Public Safety Marine Patrol, US Coast Guard, LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Blue Sky Communications, Hawaiian Airlines, and volunteers.

American Samoa is currently experiencing outbreak levels of the coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish or Alemea, (*Acanthaster planci*). Triggered by nutrient inputs and oceanographic changes, outbreaks with thousands to millions of crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) can occur, collectively consuming so much coral that they decimate reefs. COTS destroy essential fish breeding grounds and habitat and can have a long term, negative effect on local fisheries. In the late 1970's, an outbreak killed most of the corals around Tutuila, including over 90% of the corals in Fagatele Bay. At the time, Fagatele Bay was not a national marine sanctuary, but this disaster propelled the decision for the site's designation. Eradication efforts have begun in the hope of reducing numbers before the breeding season and preventing secondary populations from forming. The most efficient removal method is to inject COTS with ox bile, a substance that kills the starfish but does not harm the reef. Injections are fast and reduce the risk of divers being stung by the COTS. To date, combined efforts have removed over 10,000 COTS, but the densest populations remain.

**Status:** In recent years, COTS have been monitored since outbreaks were sighted in mid 2012. The southern and northern portions of the island of Tutuila have been affected. As of April 2014, crown-of-thorns starfish have been sighted within the National Marine Sanctuary, National Park of American Samoa, the DMWR No-Take MPA at Fagamalo and other priority reefs around the island.

**Further Work:** Due to the ongoing COTS outbreak, there is an immediate need to ramp up the COTS removal program and protect the sanctuary management areas, national park sites, and other priority reefs in American Samoa. Additionally, a long-term and sustainable solution to addressing this threat in the Territory must be developed in cooperation with all relevant agencies and partners. Operations for the coming year are already being planned with ONMS rebreather divers from Hawai'i.

### Protocols

1. **Survey Reefs for COTS.** Ten minute tow-board surveys were conducted around Tutuila and Aunu'u to determine the distribution of COTS and to find hotspots to target for removals. COTS sightings and locations were recorded and GPS coordinates were taken to determine where to target eradication efforts.

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

- 2. COTS Removal.** In areas where COTS were seen, sanctuary, parks, NOAA Dive Center divers and partners removed and/or inject all COTS observed. Ox bile injections were used due to its efficiency and safety. The effort involved three boats and a team of divers from April 14-28, 2014.
- 3. Documentation.** The number of COTS observed and removed were reported to the central data collector and entered into the shared project database between agencies to inform future efforts. Information will be used to inform agency directors, community members, and the media. A media event was held at the Ocean Center on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Following the project on April 28<sup>th</sup> another event was held to brief partners, the public, and the media at the Ocean Center. Findings from the project will also be written up and published accordingly.

*Significance: This extensive effort has worked to enhance partnerships and collaborations to address a major threat to natural resources, the local economy, and livelihoods. The mission involved local, regional, and national collaborators and included team members from across the National Marine Sanctuary System, laying a solid foundation for future sanctuary collaborations on research, monitoring, and reducing threats to natural and cultural resources in American Samoa. The valuable and effective teamwork and leadership that Pacific Islands Region sanctuary sites have contributed to this effort benefits not only the sanctuary but the greater Territory of American Samoa.*

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### 3) Climate Change

#### **Climate Monitoring in Fagatele Bay**

As part of a long-term project to monitor temperatures on shallow-water reefs in Fagatele Bay, a nearshore temperature logger was retrieved and a new one deployed on Tuesday. Monitoring temperature on shallow reefs gives us insight on the temperatures experienced by corals in the most vulnerable and variable locations, adding to data from offshore buoys and sea surface temperature readings.

Contact [wendy.cover@noaa.gov](mailto:wendy.cover@noaa.gov).



NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

**4) Ocean Literacy**

**National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa exhibits at the 2014 Samoa Tourism Exchange**

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (Sanctuary) participated in the 2014 Samoa Tourism Exchange in Apia, Samoa from April 1-4. The trade show provided American Samoa and Samoa the opportunity to network with tourism suppliers, international tour operators, and media from New Zealand, Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Europe, China, South Korea.

and



The NMSAS booth display at the Samoa Tourism Exchange 2014 in Apia, Samoa

Sanctuary staff, Veronika Mata'utia Mortenson and Tanimalie Letuli, provided travel/trade agents with an overview of the National Marine Sanctuaries and emphasized ocean recreation in American Samoa.

The Sanctuary secured one booth (6.5'x6.5' ) to market Sanctuaries as travel destinations across the nation and in the Pacific. Trails to the units as well as snorkeling and diving opportunities throughout the units in American Samoa were significantly highlighted in the presentations and meetings with representatives.

The Sanctuary booth predominantly attracted representatives that coordinate hiking/backpacker adventures and dive expeditions. Other interested parties were representatives for exclusive tours and volunteers of citizen science projects.

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The exhibit consisted of one laptop that featured a PowerPoint presentation that was set on kiosk mode to allow visitors to view the slides on a continuous loop. In between meetings with tour and trade representatives the film *Penina Tutasi i Amerika Samoa*, which markets the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and the Samoan culture, was played for casual observers. In line with “Projecting the Value of People & Place”, a digital frame with images featuring underwater shots of the units, trails, and the Festival of Sites were also displayed. Rack cards and brochures about the National Marine Sanctuaries, the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center were also available. For more information, contact



[Veronika.Mortenson@noaa.gov](mailto:Veronika.Mortenson@noaa.gov).

### **Sanctuary Announces the Hokule'a high school winners**

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the sanctuary announced the winners for the Hokule'a essay competition. The Tutuila winners are O'Riley Le'au (1<sup>st</sup>) and Gabrielle Langkilde (2<sup>nd</sup>). The Ta'u winners are Hope Autele (1<sup>st</sup>) and Patricia Penitito (2<sup>nd</sup>). O'Riley and Hope shared with the Press in an interview



about their winning essays.

O'Riley's essay was about his great grandfather and his trips to the Big Island of Savai'i on a small boat, navigating using only the alignment of stars, moon, sun, currents and birds.

*“All his techniques focused on science and math, my two favorite subjects.”* O'Riley explained.

During Hope's interview she expressed her feelings about winning the competition.

*“It never crossed my mind that I would win a seat on*

*the Hokule'a but when I received the good news*

*that I was selected, I was thrilled,”* Hope said, adding that her essay took a lot of effort and research, as her resources were limited, considering her remote location in the Manu'a Islands.

Two- winners traveled to Hawaii in mid-July for one-week to receive hands-on navigational training and visit the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary offices. Upon their return, they volunteered, assisting with the sanctuary's summer outreach programs. For more information, contact

[Isabel.Gaoteote@noaa.gov](mailto:Isabel.Gaoteote@noaa.gov).



## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

### **RIP Current meeting at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center**



The National Weather Service presented an introduction to the Rip Current Awareness Week to over 100 Pulenu'u (village Mayors) at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center. This was the first-ever Rip Current Awareness Week, from June 1-6, 2014 organized by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS) and TEMCO

along with its participating partners.

The RIP Current meeting reached out to village Mayors to spread the news about what Rip current is and events for the Rip Current Awareness week. Activities included an opening ceremony and the unveiling of the Rip Current sign in the village of Utulei (Suigaula), song/poem competitions with prizes, 3-day village outreach, and the launching of over hundreds of floating lanterns to close out the week on June 6th at the harbor behind the Fagatogo market. Contact [isabel.gaoteote@noaa.gov](mailto:isabel.gaoteote@noaa.gov)

*Significance: The Rip Current Awareness Week will increase awareness about this threat to ocean users.*

### **American Samoa to be highlighted on Google Street View and Catlin Underwater Earth**



Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's Kālewa Correa spent a week in American Samoa filming for the Google Street View application. With the help of the sanctuary team, and a little McGuivering of their truck, Kālewa collected 18.2 miles of trails and roads for sanctuary and 152 miles for the people of American Samoa, including Fagatele Bay, Fagaluva/Fogama'a, and the island of Aunu'u. Also filmed were the Sunia Ocean Center and gift shop. He was able to attach the Trekker Street view unit (see photo), designed for collecting data while walking, to their truck and drove all the roads on Tutuila!

Additional imagery is planned for September 2014 with new partners Catlin Underwater Earth (see links below) to include 360 degree imaging of land and below the ocean surface of Manu'a, Swains Island Rose Atoll, and additional work around Tutuila and Aunu'u.. These images of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa will be available on the Internet and will provide people around the world with panoramic views of our treasured gems. Since first posting the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's imagery two years ago, they have received over 1,000,000 views.

Contact: [gene.brighthouse@noaa.gov](mailto:gene.brighthouse@noaa.gov)

[Experience PMNM on Google Street View](#)

[http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/education/virtual\\_visits.html](http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/education/virtual_visits.html)

Underwater<sup>TM</sup>  
EARTH



#### CATLIN SEAVIEW SURVEY

<http://www.catlinseaviewsurvey.com>

<https://plus.google.com/+CatlinSeaviewSurvey/posts>

<https://www.facebook.com/CatlinSeaviewSurvey>

<https://twitter.com/SeaviewSurvey>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CATLINSEAVIEWSURVEY>

*Significance: Google Street View and Catlin Underwater Earth provides an internet window into less accessible locations around the world, and adding American Samoa to the virtual travel experiences will bring attention to our most remote site.*

### 5) Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

#### **National Park of American Samoa Assists with Development of Marine Sanctuary Trails**

Representatives from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and the National Park of American Samoa met recently to discuss plans for development of trails and signage for several locations overlooking the national marine sanctuary, including Fagatele Bay, Fagalua/Fogama`a, and Aunu`u. National Park staff provided an overview of the plans, which emphasize improving access to portions of the sanctuary and improving visitor experience through interpretive material. Rejuvenation of the Fagatele Bay trail is set to go ahead first, with Fagalua/Fogama`a and Aunu`u to follow. For more information, please contact [Charlene.Felkley@noaa.gov](mailto:Charlene.Felkley@noaa.gov).

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

*Significance: These improvements will help foster a greater connection between the public and the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, which was expanded in 2012 to include several new areas where visitor access and signage are limited.*

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### **Meet with ASDOC to Discuss Exciting Opportunities**

With President Obama's travel and tourism mandate in mind, sanctuary team members met with delegates from the American Samoa Department of Commerce to discuss up-and-coming travel and tourism opportunities. On such opportunity includes a Business Exchange Program organized through the National Marine Sanctuary that began in April 2014. Three local business leaders, who have pledged to aide travel/tourism efforts in three different Pacific Islands Region sanctuary sites were chosen to travel to Kona, HI. In Kona these business leaders participated in tourism activities and learned what it will take to bring these tourism activities here to American Samoa. Vital connections will be made to help mentor this development with the ultimate goals of improving visitor services and creating tourism-based jobs.

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### **Media Coffee Chat**



The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa continues to host quarterly "Media Coffee Chats" at the Tauese P. F. Sunia Ocean Center. Recent meetings highlighted the events, programs, and activities that were planned for the upcoming months.

Communication/Outreach Coordinator Isabel Gaoteote and Education Outreach/Community Coordinator Veronika Mortenson also showed the Office of National Marine

Sanctuary's (ONMS) "Investment" clip, followed by photos of events that have occurred since January. LT Charlene Felkley and Joseph Paulin also shared previous and upcoming Science events: the Search and Rescue Training with National Park of American Samoa and the collaborative efforts on the Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTs) removal. The Outreach Team presented on the Hokule'a winners, the Ocean Star Summer Program, Sphere Casting Tsunami presentation, Festival of Sites, and The Healthy People Healthy Ocean Day. For more information, contact [Isabel.Gaoteote@noaa.gov](mailto:Isabel.Gaoteote@noaa.gov)



### **Media Training**

In June 2014 the sanctuary team participated in a seminar for Media Training that was conducted by Richard Brundage (President and CEO of Center for Advanced Media Studies). NMSAS also invited staff from the NOAA Weather Station, National Park, Department of Marine and Wildlife, and Department of Commerce. Mr. Brundage discussed the secret formula to media, which was (1) to create themes, (2) inform

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

your audience within 12 seconds and (3) always speak from your heart. In addition, Mr. Brundage had hands on activities or case studies that allowed groups to be in a certain situation and follow the secret formula. Afterwards, one group member was put in front of the camera for an interview, which was later critiqued and was shown to the audience.

*Significance: When it comes to talking to media one needs to use “trigger words” instead of “talking points”, and always speak from the heart.*

### Recent Events



**\*August 12<sup>th</sup> – SSV Seamans Open House** – Sponsored by the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, this public event offered tours of the SSV Robert C. Seamans to discover the nautical and marine science possibilities aboard a working sailing school vessel.

In early August 2014, the Sea Education Association sailed the SSV Seamans from the Phoenix Islands Protected Area to Pago Pago, American Samoa. Arrival in American Samoa marked a six week stay for the vessel and her crew. During the six weeks, the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa will be organizing and hosting alongside the SEA crew, several days of programs for the benefit of the American Samoa Community.

**\*August 18<sup>th</sup> – World Renowned Explorers and Navigators Arrived in American Samoa** – Explorer Jean Michel Cousteau, Filmmaker Jim Knowlton, oceanographer and explorer Sylvia Earle, Native Hawaiian Master Navigator and President of the Polynesian Voyaging Society Nainoa Thompson, and Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Dan Basta. The group, invited guests of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, was scheduled to head to the Manu'a Islands on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> to dive in the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, Ta'u management area. This area, known as Valley of the Giants, is home to spectacular corals including what is believed to be the largest *Porities sp.* coral head in the world. Additionally, the team was to visit cultural sites and the National Park of American Samoa, Ofu Marine Park. However, due to rough seas the plans were changed and several events, dives, and underwater filming around Tutuila and Aunu'u took place.

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**\*August 21st – Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage Visits American Samoa - Arrival of Hokule'a and Hikianalia into Pago Pago Harbor.** Scheduled events included a traditional welcome, ava ceremony, and festivities lead by the Swains Island Community and American Samoa Community College Samoan Studies Student Association. Festivities also included showcases of cultural and traditional dancing and songs to celebrate the safe journey and arrival of the Hokule'a to American Samoa.



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**\*August 22nd - Launch of Jean Michel Cousteau's and Jim Knowlton's PBS Documentary - "Swains Island - The Last Jewel of the Planet."** This public event was led by Jean Michel Cousteau and Jim Knowlton and hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa at the Ocean Center. In addition to Jean Michel Cousteau, invited guests featured oceanographer Sylvia Earle, Master Navigator Nainoa Thompson and Dan Basta, Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The crew of Hokule'a and Hikianalia were also attendance.



**\*August 23rd - Polynesian Voyaging Festival** - crew and members of the Hokule'a and Hikianalia ran stations to share traditional knowledge and dialog with local residents, youth, and elders of American Samoa on the importance of Polynesian navigation, voyaging and link to culture. This event was featured as a festival in 5 work stations at the Ocean Center where films as well as demonstrations were highlighted.



**\*August 19<sup>th</sup> – Sanctuary Opens New Dive Exhibit**



**\*The coral bleaching research conducted by Dr. Tom Oliver** (Sanctuary Advisory Council Member) of **University of Hawai'i** will be continuing into next quarter and starting to train ASCC students to continue the work.