



National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

*A Partnership between the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the
American Samoa Department of Commerce*

Contact: Joseph Paulin
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 22, 2014

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Advisory Council Meeting August 25, 2014 from 8:00am to 10:30am at the Naumati Room of the Tradewinds Hotel

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa will hold a public meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (council) in the Naumati Room of the Tradewinds Hotel, American Samoa. Items on the agenda include presentations from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries National Director and a Marine Protected Areas-Federal Advisory Committee/National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council Representatives Joint Statement relating to Recreation, Travel, and Tourism (potential action item).

Those wishing to speak on agenda items may add their name to the public comment sign-up sheet located at the Naumati Room on the day of the meeting. Oral testimony may be limited to three minutes per person depending on time. Any persons wishing to testify on agenda items is requested to submit a written copy of their testimony to Joseph Paulin by August 24, 2014 for distribution to the council prior to the meeting. After August 24, 2014 it is the submitter's responsibility to provide sanctuary staff with an adequate number of copies for distribution to the council members in attendance (a minimum of 25 copies) the day of the meeting. Written comments may be E-mailed to: Joseph.Paulin@noaa.gov. To receive more information, please contact the sanctuary office at 684-633-6500.

WHAT: Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

WHEN: Monday, August 25, 2014
8:00AM TO 10:30AM

WHERE: Naumati Room
Tradewinds Hotel
American Samoa

WHO: NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

Established in 2005, the Sanctuary Advisory Council is a community-based body that provides advice and recommendations on managing and protecting the sanctuary. The council is composed of ten government and twelve non-governmental seats. Serving in a volunteer capacity, the council members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public.

The 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 sp.* coral heads in the world, along with deep water reefs, hydrothermal vent communities, and rare marine archaeological resources, and also



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encompasses important fishing grounds, the southernmost point in the United States, and waters surrounding one of the world's smallest atolls. The sanctuary is also the only true tropical reef within the National Marine Sanctuary System, and is the most remote location within that system. 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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