American Sāmoa
Ocean Resource Management Plan

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For the
American Sāmoa Coastal Management Program
American Sāmoa Department of Commerce
This plan was the result of a year-long collaboration between the Social Science Research Institute, the American Sāmoa Coastal Management Program, representatives of numerous American Sāmoan government departments and agencies, village leaders, and community members. Appendix A contains a list of project participants. The high level of public participation was instrumental in developing the plan.

This document provides a structure for managing American Sāmoa's marine resources in a manner that balances ecological, economic, and cultural needs. It is a living document, in that it is designed to evolve and change with time. Continued public participation will help make the plan a success.
AMERICAN SĀMOA
OCEAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. Executive Summary 7

II. ORMP Rationale 11
   A. Guiding Philosophy
   B. Benefits of an Ocean Plan
   C. Structural Goals

III. Current Environmental Activities 14
   A. Current Resource Management Plans
   B. Resource Management Groups
   C. Gap Analysis

IV. ORMP Structure 20
    A. Ocean Resource Management Council
    B. Ocean Resource Management Working Committee
    C. Resource Advisory Groups

V. Resource Areas Issues and Strategies 22
   A. Watersheds
   B. Near Shore Waters
   C. Harbors
   D. High Seas
   E. Pivotal Issues

APPENDICES

A: ORMP Participants 30
B: ORMP Structural Charts 32
C: Ocean Jurisdictions 34
D: Environmental Agencies in American Sāmoa 35
E: Bibliography 38
F: Acronyms 39
G: Text of the Governor's Proclamation 41
I. Executive Summary

In 1969 the Stratton Commission released its influential report, Our Ocean Our Seas, which initiated an era of ocean and coastal protection in the United States. The Coastal Zone Management Act [CZMA] of 1972 later established many of the seminal strategies used by resource managers. In 1990 the Section 309 Grants Program began offering funding for agencies to develop program changes in eight [later ten] enhancement areas - enabling the states, territories, and commonwealths to manage coastal resources in a manner emphasizing regulated development and conservation of resources. The funding for this Ocean Resource Management Plan came out of the Section 309 Program.

Resource managers have made significant progress in protecting the coastal and marine environment since 1972. These successes, however, have been mitigated - and in some cases negated - by increased development in the coastal zone, increased non-point source pollution, and the continued over-exploitation of fish stocks. There is a growing consensus among researchers and managers that ocean policy now needs to move to another level, to focus on the ocean ecosystem as a whole rather than on individual marine-related issues, and to develop policies on a regional rather than on a local basis.

Two recently convened national commissions have brought a renewed focus on ocean resource management. The Pew Commission, funded by the Pew Charitable Trust, recently concluded a three year study of ocean related issues with the June 2003 publication of America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change. This was the first comprehensive review of ocean resources and policies since the Stratton Commission released its findings over thirty years ago. Warning of potential ecosystem collapse, the commission calls for a unified national ocean policy, the coordinated governance of resources, a restructuring of fisheries management institutions, habitat protection, managed coastal development, and increased pollution control measures.

The U.S. Commission of Ocean Policy began its work in September 2001. The commission, as mandated by the Oceans Act of 2000, will present its recommendations on developing a comprehensive and coordinated national ocean policy to the President and Congress in November 2003. The commission's report will address issues ranging from improving the
nation's stewardship of its ocean resources to enhancing the system of marine science, commerce, and transportation.

While American Sāmoa shares many of the ocean-related management issues facing the contiguous states, it also has concerns unique to tropical island states and territories. The entire territory is within the coastal zone, and each of its watersheds empties directly into the ocean. This compares to the nation as a whole, where coastal counties cover close to 20% of the land area [Beach 2002]. Population growth and development in the coastal zone are also critical issues that are shared by both the territory and the nation. Tualauta County in American Sāmoa is expected to more than double its 1990 population of 14,724 by the year 2015. Its population was a mere 3,671 persons in 1970. American Sāmoa's fisheries, like those of the contiguous states, are another shared issue. In near-shore waters traditional and subsistence-level fishermen are catching fewer and smaller fish, while on the high seas many nations are reliant on tuna and albacore stocks of unknown size. Finally, American Sāmoa is already witnessing some of the impacts of global climate change. If warming trends continue the impact on the territory could be devastating. Rising sea levels, warmer seas, droughts, and increased storms could all take their toll on the archipelago's coral reef ecosystem.

It is the strength of fa'ašāmōa, however, the traditional Sāmoan way, that truly distinguishes the territory from other areas. Villages in American Sāmoa, like other island societies in the Pacific, are based on localized social systems in which family leadership [mata] and village councils [fono-a-mata] manage local resources in a communal manner. But contemporary Sāmoa is a society in transition, and many villages now demonstrate a mix of private property and communal perspectives [O'Meara 1990].

Fa'ašāmōa creates a planning context that is unique among the nation's states and territories. On the positive side, the islands have a long history of consensus decision making, a strong village leadership that offers potential for community based resource management, and a culture that espouses an environmental ethos. The culture also presents resource managers with distinctive challenges. Some feel that government-run programs conflict with tradition. In particular, many in the territory view traditional land ownership as absolute — i.e., that no person or agency has the right to tell any family how they can and cannot use their land.
A variety of efforts have been undertaken to better manage American Sāmoa’s ocean and ocean-related resources, and many comprehensive resource management plans exist. Significant plans and programs currently include the Coral Reef Management Plan, the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program, the Watershed Protection Plan, the Port Master Plan, the Five Year Fisheries Management Plan, and the Village Based Community Fisheries Plan. This proposal outlines a means for integrating existing resource management efforts under a five-year Ocean Resource Management Plan for American Sāmoa [hereafter referred to as either ORMP or the Ocean Plan]. Plan development was the result of a year-long process spearheaded by the American Sāmoa Coastal Management Program and overseen by an advisory council composed of government and private industry representatives. A consultant team from the Social Science Research Institute [SSRI] out of the University of Hawai‘i, composed of Dr. Michael Hemmett, Michael Cain, and Cheryl Anderson, conducted the background research and facilitated the planning process.

The process formally began with briefings with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor in October 2002, and the appointment of the ORMP advisory panel. That same month SSRI and the panel held a series of public workshops with government agency representatives, community members, and traditional leaders. Workshop attendees developed a long list of priority environmental concerns, which the consultant team later categorized geographically into four main areas: watersheds, near shore waters, deeper waters, and Pago Pago Harbor.

The team followed this with an analysis of gaps in existing plans in November. SSRI found that American Sāmoa already has a comprehensive set of plans that directly and indirectly protect the marine environment. There were very few programmatic gaps in existing plans; the weak link appeared in implementation. Each agency faced a similar set of implementation difficulties including limited funding, personnel, and resources. Enforcing existing regulations was another universal concern. SSRI and the advisory council then decided that the ORMP would not present a new list of programs for each agency to follow, but would rather focus developing a structure for coordinating and integrating existing resource management plans.

The team then reviewed other existing state and international ocean policy regimes for models applicable to American Sāmoa. While many good ideas came out of this, the final model for the Ocean Plan came from the territory itself: the Coral Reef Advisory Group.
This group, which to develop the American Sâmoan Coral Reef Initiative in 1994, had achieved many notable successes in their efforts to protect the archipelago's reefs, and had already been acting as de facto ocean resource managers.

The final Ocean Plan calls for the creation of four resource area advisory groups: one each to deal with watersheds, near shore waters, harbors, and the territorial and high seas. The groups will be composed of representatives from territorial and federal government agencies, environmental and non-profit groups, private industry, and community members. The advisory groups will be tasked with coordinating existing resource management plans, and developing and implementing three to five year action strategies for their resource areas. These four groups will be the main centers of activity of the Ocean Plan.

An Ocean Resource Management Council will act as a policy body and oversight committee for the four advisory groups. It will be composed of the Lieutenant Governor and the department heads of five key agencies: the AS Department of Commerce, the AS Department of Health, the AS Environmental Protection Agency, the AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, and the Department of Ports Administration. The council will meet at least quarterly and report on the groups' work to the governor twice a year.

The next stage of the plan development was to determine which government and non-government agencies should be represented in each group. These groups met in May 2003, refining the priority issues for their area and brainstorming possible action plans. The groups met again in July 2003, this time to refine the list of possible strategies for the action plans.


A few steps still need to be taken to make the ORMP fully functional. The resource advisory groups need to develop action strategies based upon the existing plans and proposed strategies. An ORMP coordinator will be hired to facilitate this process. The resource council also needs to meet to implement a timeline process. Finally, a legal intern with the AS Department of Commerce will finalize a review of the executive order with the intention of turning it into a statute.
II. ORMP RATIONALE

A. Guiding Philosophy

Four general principles guided the development of the Ocean Plan. The first was the idea of ecosystem management. Natural resources do not exist in isolation, but are rather part of a complex ecological and cultural system. The Ocean Plan was designed to address the entire ocean ecosystem, including the watersheds that feed into the ocean, the harbors and near shore waters that are integral to the Sāmoa’s culture and economy, the deep ocean beyond its three mile territorial border, and wider Pacific and planet-wide issues.

The notion of resource stewardship is another vital component of the Ocean Plan. American Sāmoa has cultural, economic, and ethical interests in ocean resources beyond its three-mile territorial border. The Ocean Plan does not claim legal jurisdiction over this area; rather, it provides a framework for Territorial involvement in federal and international policy development.

Promoting sustainable economic development is a third guiding principle. It is important that any environmental plan in American Sāmoa provide for a balance between economic development and resource protection. American Sāmoa’s economy is heavily dependent on the tuna fisheries and the two canneries; an ocean plan needs to protect this vital resource for both environmental and economic reasons. Limited funding has consistently hampered environmental protection efforts in American Sāmoa; sustainable economic development should provide more resources for these environmental programs.

The final principle involves a respect for fa’asāmoa, the traditional Sāmoan way. Sāmoan culture is thousands of years old, and has proven very robust and adaptable as it merges with modernity. The Sāmoan government itself is a fusion of tradition and western style democracy, although there are still conflicts between villages and the larger American Sāmoan government. The Ocean Plan needs to work within the existing cultural framework of Sāmoa.
B. Benefits of an Ocean Plan

Integrated resource management offers American Sāmoan planners and citizens a number of significant benefits. The first is that it offers government agencies a chance to coordinate their environmental work. The most successful projects in American Sāmoa have been those that involve multiple agencies coordinating their efforts. Currently many ocean ecosystem related initiatives are 'stand-alone' projects, resulting in project overlap, inefficient use of limited resources, and significant gaps. Coordinated planning and resource management can alleviate many of these problems.

Coordinated planning will lead to the increased visibility of ocean related issues. Raising the political profile of these issues results in increased public and legislative awareness, increased availability of funding, and greater political influence.

Synergy, where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, is another benefit of integrated planning. Increased communication expands each agency's perspective, and agencies working in concert can accomplish what might have been impossible with each acting alone.

The Ocean Plan will also allow American Sāmoa to effectively address issues that transcend agency boundaries. Each government agency in American Sāmoa is dealing with issues of staff turnover, research coordination, enforcement difficulties, and limited financing — to name a few. These are pivotal issues, in that improving any will have a wide-ranging positive impact on any agency's goals and projects. The Ocean Plan allows pivotal issues to be tackled jointly, in a cohesive and integrated method.

In addition, there are certain large-scale projects that can only be addressed through a coordinated, multi-agency approach. Two examples would be the clean-up of Pago Pago Harbor and resource protection in the rapidly developing Tutuila Plains.

Finally, an Ocean Plan allows for project continuity in program management. By providing a stable structure for ocean resource management, programs can survive high staff turnover with limited impact.
C. Structural Goals

There were a number of programmatic goals that guided the development of the Ocean Plan. The primary one was that it would utilize existing resources, rather than call for the development of new layers of policies, plans, and infrastructure. The final Ocean Plan does not call for a new management regime, but rather proposes setting up a coordinating body that can make existing plans more effective.

The Ocean Plan also needed to be dynamic enough to address changing environmental, economic, and political conditions. Allowing the four Resource Advisory Groups to set up their own short and long-term goals gives them the flexibility to adapt to changing situations.

A third goal was to expand the dialogue and participation level beyond the key players who have been active in resource management programs to date. There is currently a small group of men and women in American Sāmoa who have been the driving force behind many of the existing environmental initiatives. The Resource Advisory Groups are designed to encourage participation from additional agencies and individuals.

It was also important that the Ocean Plan provide a base for interagency coordination and cooperation. Most of the current ocean-related plans in American Sāmoa are 'stand-alone' plans that exist independent of other work being done in the territory. The three tiers of the proposed Ocean Plan allow government departments to coordinate their work with other departments, which result in both more effective and less costly plans.

The Ocean Plan also needed to be goal-oriented, rather than policy-oriented. American Sāmoa has a very comprehensive set of resource management plans; as the gap-analysis showed, there is very little that is not covered on paper. The challenge for American Sāmoa is to implement many of these plans and to show concrete results on the ground.

Finally, the Ocean Plan needed to provide a mechanism to coordinate American Sāmoa's activities with both national and regional ocean programs. The top tier provides a link between the work of the Resource Advisory Groups and the activities of federal and international agencies.

AS Ocean Resource Management Plan
Plan Rationale
III. CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

A. Current Resource Management Plans

1. Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act calls for coastal organizations to develop a 309 Assessment and Strategy every three years. The last was finished in March 2002 and contains strategies in three priority areas identified by an advisory task force and the community: the cumulative and secondary impacts of development, wetland preservation, and ocean resource management. The last recommendation initiated the development of the Ocean Resource Management Plan.

2. The Community-Based Fisheries Management Program helps villages to establish fisheries management plans under the direction of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. Five of American Samoa’s thirty coastal villages are active participants, two are in the process of setting up management plans, and five more have requested to take part in the program. The program allows the villages to manage resources on a local level.

3. The Coral Reef Management Plan’s goals include monitoring the harvest of reef resources; implementing a step-wise recovery plan for Pago Pago Harbor; and establishing Marine Protected Areas. The American Samoan Government has a goal of designating 20% of reefs as no-take areas by 2010. Currently only 5% of the reefs are designated as protected areas, and only 1% as no-take areas.

4. The Fisheries Management Plan is a five-year management plan developed by the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) that calls for research on the sustainability of albacore fisheries, and more study on bottom-fish stock.

5. The Flood Mitigation Plan was adopted to meet the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency / National Flood Insurance Program. The plan contains objectives and policies for overall land development, land use activities, infrastructure networks, and flood reduction. Specifically, it calls for amending the floodplain management regulations, coordinating road building with flood mitigation, and increasing the availability of flood insurance rate maps.
6. The Hazard Mitigation Plan [draft] of the Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office assesses the risk and vulnerability of American Samoa to coastal hazards and proposes activities to reduce the impacts of those hazards. The mitigation strategy focuses on land-use regulations, infrastructure standards, building codes and standards, and environmental protection.

7. The Non-Point Source Pollution Control Plan was developed in 1995 by the American Samoa Coastal Management Program, in association with the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency [ASEPA], to meet the requirements contained in Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Amendments Reauthorization Act of 1990. Non-point source [NPS] pollution refers to pollution of waters that comes from a broad area rather than a specific-source location, such as sewer outfall from a pipe. NPS generally results from rainwater running off the land, and is amplified by hydrologic modification projects such as stream hardening and channeling. The NPS Control Plan provides management and design guidelines to agencies and private businesses. Management measures include:

* An Environmental Quality Incentive Program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service that assists farmers with erosion control and animal waste management.


* A Used Oil Recycling Program run by the ASEPA, the American Samoa Power Authority [ASPA], and private businesses. There are currently six collection spots on Tutuila.

* A Stray Dog Eradication Program involving the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Health, Public Safety, and ASPA.

* A Wetland/Stream Restoration and Enhancement Plan run by the ASEPA and ASCC.

* Promoting Best Management Practices for agriculture, urban areas, marinas, and treatment systems.

* A Water Quality Monitoring Program that regulary tests and publicizes water quality results from streams and beaches.

* Flood control projects for Pago Pago, Faga'itua, and Faga'alu watersheds.
8. The Population Task Force's Call for Action was released in May 2000. The plan had no single agency responsible for its oversight and implementation, and only a few of its recommendations were carried out. The Department of Commerce has since assumed responsibilities for the Call to Action; however, the agency lacks the personnel to fully implement the strategies.

9. The Port Master Plan of the Department of Port Administration is composed of a short-term Five Year Plan [1999-2004] and a twenty-year blueprint [1999-2019] for Pago Pago harbor and port development. Its nineteen priority projects are designed to help the port handle containers [as opposed to the break-bulk cargoes it was designed for], to upgrade its decaying facilities, and to integrate harbor development with the broader planning objectives of the territory.

10. The 2002 Territorial General Plan is a three-year plan containing policy recommendations to guide government programs. It addresses environmental protection and resource management, commerce and economic development, social infrastructures, and capital improvements. Significantly, the plan calls to integrate the concepts of watershed protection into all applicable program activities. Significant among these are recommendations for water quality improvements, flood reduction, open space preservation, fish and wildlife habitat, and watershed health.

11. The Watershed Protection Plan of 1998 makes 311 recommendations, with the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency mandated to "facilitate coordinated resource management efforts" within each of the territory's 41 watersheds. Many of the recommendations deal with land-use planning, resource monitoring, and involving local village leadership in resource protection. Five watersheds were prioritized by the EPA as not meeting environmental standards: Nu'uuli, Tafuna, Leone, Pago Pago, and Faga'alu.

12. The West Harbor Development Plan calls for revitalizing Pago Pago Park and Utulei Beach Park with Community Development Block Grants and redeveloping Malaloa Shoreline Park as a recreational site and small boat harbor. It will be integrated with the Port Master Plan and the Ecotourism Development Plan being developed by the Department of Commerce.
B. Resource Management Groups

1. The Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) is a governor-appointed multi-agency body responsible for the purpose of development and implementation of coral reef management in American Samoa. They began meeting as part of the Coral Reef Initiative in 1994 to address coral reef issues, and expanded and formalized their procedures in 2000. CRAG is currently developing local area strategy plans focusing on its top four priority threats: land based pollution, climate change, over fishing, and population growth.

2. The Disaster Mitigation Council is convened by the Lieutenant Governor and administered by the Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office. The council works to reduce the risks associated with natural and man-made hazards and will be overseeing the implementation of the recently completed Hazard Mitigation Plan.

3. The ASCC-Community and Natural Resources Division is the lead agency for Forest Retention Programs. The Territorial General Plan calls for the submission of a needs assessment to receive the Forestry Legacy Program, to identify forested land with DOC for special management practices, and to support replanting of cleared land with native forest species.

4. The Geographic Information Systems Users Group includes both public and private entities that meet for the purpose of fostering and facilitating the use of Geographic Information Systems for public service. The group has since completed data layers for most of the territory’s infrastructure and geography. The group was first convened in February 2001. More information and some data are available online at www.americansamoa.com.

5. Le Tausagi is a group of environmental educators and specialists from a variety of government agencies that coordinates environmental education. Tausagi runs an eco-camp in cooperation with the Arts and Humanities Council, the Department of Education, and AmeriCorps.
6. The Piggery Management Council is composed of the EPA, the ASCC Community and Natural Resources Division, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's Soil and Water Conservation Board. The Council's goals are to reduce the negative impact of piggeries on the environment through public education, technical assistance, and legislative action.

7. Project Notification and Review System [PNRS] is a one-stop environmental review board for land use permits. Comprised of eight government agencies, PNRS ensures that coastal resources are not adversely impacted by proposed development activities in the territory. More information is available online at www.amssamo.com/pnrs.htm.

8. The Watershed Interagency Advisory Committee meets monthly to discuss status of key actions. Major current projects include the interagency efforts to protect Faga’alu Stream and the EPA-managed community wetland restoration programs in Nu’uuli and the Tafuna Plain.

9. The West Harbor Planning Group is a coalition of private businesses, community members, and government agencies working for the economic and environmental revitalization of the west Pago Pago Harbor area.

10. The Wetlands Protection Program is led by the Coastal Management Program at the Department of Commerce, with the participation of the EPA, the American Sāmoa Community College [ASCC], and the DMWR. The program's goals are to develop village-based ordinances, research programs with the EPA, programs for alternative development [such as eco-tourism], and wetland restoration efforts. A GIS mapping program for thirteen wetland villages covering 74% of AS's wetlands should be completed soon.
C. Gap Analysis

American Sāmoa’s laws and policies on environmental and ocean resource management are quite comprehensive, and no major de jure gaps were found during the assessment. There were a number of programmatic issues, however, that were raised repeatedly, and cut across agencies and jurisdictions. These create de facto gaps in marine resource management. The Ocean Plan structure addresses some of these gaps; others are potential strategy areas that the Resource Area Advisory Groups might choose to address. The major pivotal issues are:

- **Project Coordination:** There are many horizontal linkages and inter-agency cooperation in some areas [most notably with coral reef protection], and a distinct lack of coordination and communication in other areas [most notably with the multitude of projects occurring that impact the territory’s watersheds].

- **Limited Funding and Resources:** Few agencies in American Sāmoa have the fiscal resources to fully carry out their mandate.

- **Staffing Issues:** Local wages and American Sāmoa’s relative isolation make it difficult to recruit and maintain professional staff. The consequent high staff turnover rate hinders project continuity.

- **Monitoring and Assessment:** There is a lack of historic baseline data, a lack of continuity among studies conducted by resource management agencies, a high level of marine species diversity that makes it difficult for scientists new to Sāmoa, and a lack of a central data depository or widespread access to data.

- **Enforcement Issues:** A lack of enforcement officers, difficulty in enforcing laws at the village level, landholder opposition to existing laws, limited resources for follow-up, a lack of coordination between the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government, and no local mechanisms for upholding federal laws all hamper the enforcement of existing policies and regulations.

- **Implementation:** Many existing plans either lack an implementation strategy, or ignore possible technical, cultural, and fiscal barriers to their implementation.

- **Education:** Environmental education programs have had a positive impact in Sāmoa, and Le Tausaga has been active in bringing environmental educators together on cooperative projects. There has only been mixed success, however, in creating an environmental ethic in villages.
IV. ORMP STRUCTURE

In accordance with the goals and philosophy outlined in Section Two, the Ocean Plan calls for a two-tiered system of Ocean Resource Management decision-making. The working groups of the second tier were designed around geographical divisions, which allow them to capture the most pressing marine issues in the territory. The top tier was developed as a way to coordinate the working groups, minimize overlap, and provide a link to executive level decision making.

A. Top Tier: Ocean Resource Management Council

The Ocean Resource Management Council will act as a policy body and oversight committee of the resource area advisory groups. The Lieutenant Governor will chair this group, which will be composed of the Department Heads [or their representatives] of five key agencies: the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Port Administration, and the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources.

B. Second Tier: Resource Advisory Groups

Four Resource Area Advisory Groups will be set up, one each to deal with watersheds, near shore waters, harbors, and the territorial and high seas. Each group will be composed of representatives from select government agencies and departments and non-governmental organizations. While some agencies and departments will have representation on more than one advisory group, it is hoped that agency heads will name different individuals for each group, rather than relying on the same person to sit on all groups.

The Advisory Groups are charged with coordinating existing resource management plans. They will accomplish this through by developing and implementing three to five year action plans. These groups are modeled after the existing Coral Reef Advisory Group [CRAG], which has had many successes in coral reef protection in American Sāmoa.

C. Task Forces and Ad Hoc Committees

Either the Management Council or any of the Resource Advisory Groups are authorized to convene temporary task forces and ad hoc committees to address pivotal and/or emerging issues.
Representatives for the four Resource Area Advisory Groups will be:

**Near Shore Waters Advisory Group**

**Jurisdiction:** High tide mark to 3-mile offshore territorial border  
**Chair:** AS Department of Commerce  
**Members:** AS Community College Community and Natural Resources Division, AS Department of Commerce [Coastal Management Program and Fagatene Bay National Marine Sanctuary], AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, AS Environmental Protection Agency, National Park of American Sāmoa

**Watersheds Advisory Group**

**Jurisdiction:** Island summit to high tide mark  
**Chair:** AS Environmental Protection Agency  
**Members:** AS Community College Community and Natural Resources Division, AS Department of Agriculture, AS Department of Commerce, AS Department of Health, AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, AS Department of Port Administration, AS Power Authority, Fagatene Bay National Marine Sanctuary, National Park of American Sāmoa, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Harbor Advisory Group**

**Jurisdiction:** Pago Pago Bay  
**Chair:** AS Department of Port Administration  
**Members:** AS Department of Commerce, AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, AS Environmental Protection Agency, Fisheries [Private], National Marine Fisheries Service, United States Coast Guard, West Harbor Planning Group

**Territorial and High Seas Advisory Group**

**Jurisdiction:** Territorial [three to twenty four miles from shore] and High Seas [Twenty four miles to EEZ boundary]  
**Chair:** AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources  
**Members:** AS Department of Commerce, Fisheries [Private], Governor's Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park of American Sāmoa, United States Coast Guard, Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council
V. RESOURCE AREAS: ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

The following issues were deemed the greatest threat to American Sāmoa's ocean resources by resource managers. The potential strategies were developed by the Resource Advisory Groups as the first step in developing their three to five year action plans.

Watersheds: Marine and terrestrial ecosystems are intimately connected, and American Sāmoan resource managers estimate that over 90% of the anthropogenic impacts on the territory's marine environment originate on land [Watershed Advisory Group Meeting, July 29 2003]. Mounting research suggests that serious environmental degradation occurs when as little as 10% of a watershed's land is covered by impervious surfaces [Beach, 2001]. Watershed management thus becomes an integral part of ocean resource management in the territory.

Near Shore Waters: Coral reefs have proved to be far more resilient than scientists once thought. Researchers now believe that reefs go through a natural cycle of 'boom and bust,' where periods of damage are followed by periods of strong growth. This growth is threatened, however, by a myriad of anthropogenic impacts. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 helped resource managers tackle many of the main point sources of pollution, but non-point sources remain a threat.

Harbors: Pago Pago Harbor does not flush efficiently, and effluent, trash, and pig waste remain longer in its semi-enclosed waters than in open systems. It is considerably cleaner today than it was a decade ago; the Coast Guard helped remove many grounded and abandoned vessels, and the cannery and sewage outfalls were moved to deeper waters. Sea grass beds are re-appearing, and corals are beginning to re-colonize the benthos. The waters are still seriously polluted, and action needs to be taken if the Harbor is to fully recover.

Territorial and High Seas: The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea states that coastal nations have an obligation to protect the marine environment, and calls for these nations to act on a regional and global level to manage marine resources. Appendix C contains a diagram of the various legal boundaries of the coastal waters, territorial seas, and high seas.
The following diagram was used in presentations to community and advisory groups during plan development.
Watershed Issues

The Watershed Protection Plan outlines six categories of issues:

1. Invasive alien species can clog waterways, disrupt natural systems, and contribute to erosion through the destruction of native forests.

2. Hazardous materials that are improperly disposed of can wash into the territory’s waterways.

3. Hydromodification projects include wetland filling, stream channeling, and stream hardening. In natural streams nutrients, sediments, and wastes settle out; in hydromodified systems they are transported directly and quickly into the marine environment.

4. Eutrophication, the artificial enrichment of the marine environment, is caused by piggery waste, agricultural runoff, and inadequate wastewater treatment. The increased level of nutrients disrupts the aquatic ecosystem, making it more susceptible to other stressors.

5. Sedimentation in high levels smothers coral. Sources of sedimentation include illegal and/or poorly planned construction sites and deforested lands. Resource managers are unclear on how much sedimentation is natural and how much is caused by human impacts.

6. Solid waste is washed into the marine environment during the islands’ frequent floods.

In addition, community workshops and advisory group meetings raised the following concerns:

7. Population growth is putting increased strain on the environment. In American Sāmoa growth is characterized by low-density sprawl, which puts a greater stress on the environment than higher density developments.

8. Enforcement difficulties make many environmental protection regulations ineffective.

9. Plan implementation has been hindered by a number of factors. These include:
   • Recommendations that do not take into account AS’s limited economic resources.
   • Projects often are one time deals, or focus on short-term impacts rather than long-term change.
   • Project funding is year-to-year, not long term, which limits the ability of agencies to conduct long range planning.

10. Institutional and legislative roadblocks to economic development hinder coordinated planning.

11. No long-term vision of Sāmoa’s future has been formally articulated.

12. The territorial and federal governments must most environmental projects, resulting in a lack of “ownership” by stakeholders and community members.
Watershed Potential Strategies

1. Focus on solid waste clean-up and mitigation. Elements of this might include:
   - A repeat of the Paradise 2000 Clean-Up;
   - Using fishnets to catch debris in streams before they empty into the marine environment;
   - Working on recycling programs;
   - Developing more waste collection points
   - Linking citations with clean-ups, rather than simply levying fines; and
   - Advocating for an incinerator to burn waste, bilges, and waste oil.

2. Focus on legislative and institutional change. One proposal is to require urban storm water runoff to be classified as 'point source' pollution. A second is to look creating watershed conservation banks.

3. Work in cooperation with existing community-based programs, specifically the Community Based Fisheries Management Program. A village-based watershed management program would both strengthen and be strengthened by a parallel wetlands program.

4. Focus on implementing existing watershed management plans, either comprehensively in one model watershed, or working on one task across multiple watersheds. Significant existing plans include:
   - The Non-Point Source Pollution Plan [EPA/ASCMP]
   - Watershed Protection Plan [EPA]
   - Local Action Plan for Land Based Pollution [CRAG]

5. Focus on population issues and implementing the recommendations developed by the Population Task Force.

6. Focus on research and data compilation and sharing. Much of the research done by one agency could assist others in their management efforts. Options include finding a location for a document library; compiling a database of source material and location; or developing a digital library on-line.
Near Shore Waters Issues

1. Sedimentation in high levels can smother the coral reef. Significant sources of sedimentation include Faga‘alu quarry, illegal and/or poorly planned construction sites, and lands that have been deforested. Other causes include sand mining and shoreline hardening and development, all of which interrupt the currents that have helped build and shape the current reef systems.

2. Other non-point sources of pollution include storm runoff from paved surfaces, piggy waste, and nitrates from agriculture. Many beaches exhibit high levels of bacteria near stream mouths, particularly after rainstorms.

3. Over fishing and illegal fishing [using such methods as dynamite and poisoning] have decreased the quantity and size of near-shore fish stocks.

4. Coral bleaching and disease appear to be on the increase worldwide. While the causes of this increase are unknown, researchers suspect that the increase is due to a combination of global climate change and human disturbance of the environment.

5. Natural events such as storms and typhoons, crown-of-thorns invasions, and abnormally high tides can cause extensive damage to coral reefs. Recent scientific studies have shown that coral reefs are remarkably resilient, and can recover quickly from these natural disasters. Human-caused stressors, however, hinder the reef’s ability to return to normal.

6. Sewage outflow has the potential of becoming a serious issue as Tutuila’s population continues to grow. Large amounts of effluent increase the risk of bacterial and toxic contamination of Sāmoan waters. It can also lead to uncontrolled algae growth, which can smother reefs.

7. Global climate change poses a number of threats to the marine environment, including an increase in storms and El Nino – Southern Oscillation events, higher sea levels, more acidic seas, and higher sea temperatures.
Near Shore Waters Potential Strategies

1. Assist with the Local Action Strategy Plans developed by the CRAG. Among the highlights of the strategies for each of the four key areas are:
   a. Land Based Pollution: Strategies include coordinating and developing monitoring regimes, disseminating data to resource managers, implementing projects from the AS Non-Point Source Pollution Control Plan, and coordinating public education and outreach programs.
   b. Climate Change: Strategies include collaborating with other regional and international agencies, monitoring local reefs for signs of change, promoting the territory as a place to do research into the effects of climate change, and advocating for a governor-level task force.
   c. Overfishing: Strategies include developing monitoring and assessment programs, enabling communities to set up local fishing regulations, developing fisheries infrastructure, and facilitating university training in marine sciences and management.
   d. Population Growth: Strategies include conducting public awareness campaigns on population growth and its impacts.

2. Focus on the implementation of the Marine Protected Areas [MPA] program. A May 2002 planning workshop set up a planning timeline that would eventually establish 20% of American Sāmoa's reefs as no-take areas. CRAG and DMWR have been spearheading a public awareness campaign, and have been working with OSA to develop MPA agreements with villages. The programs objectives for 2004 and 2005 are to implement the first third of the planned MPA's.

3. Evaluate and assist with aquaculture development. Aquaculture offers many potential economic benefits to the territory. It can also pose a number of environmental risks, and any program will need to be monitored to ensure that these risks are mitigated. The creation of genetically modified fish, designed to be farmed, promises to revolutionize the field [Promise of a Blue Revolution] – and American Sāmoa will need to be prepared to deal with the potential benefits and hazards of this change.
Harbor Issues

1. Abandoned vessels often ground during storms, damaging the environmental health, navigability, and aesthetic beauty of the Bay. Abandoned vessels also leak oil into the environment. There is currently one abandoned vessel in the harbor and a sunken gas tanker at the mouth of the Bay.

2. Bilge water and ballast dumping introduce oil and toxins into the marine environment. Oil spills are extremely damaging to marine life, even in small amounts. Oil spreads across the top micro-layer of water, where fish and coral larvae develop. One gallon of oil in one million gallons of water will kill half of all exposed fish larvae, and greatly reduce the number of plant life that form the basis of the aquatic food chain. Fish in Pago Pago Harbor are contaminated with dangerous toxins.

3. Point-source pollution hotspots include an untreated sewage outfall from the village of Aua and industrial run-off from the ship repair yard. Discharge from the Utulei Treatment Plant and the two canneries is often cited as other major sources of pollutants, although EFA studies suggest that the effluent is undetectable in nearby waters. Non-point source pollution hotspots include two landfills that are leaching toxins into the water: the park at Pago Pago in the inner harbor, and the sports field near Anasosopo.

4. Debris washes into the Bay in large quantities after storms. Plastic bags present a particular danger, as they tend to settle on the benthos and suffocate the young coral colonies that have recently begun to re-colonize the harbor.

5. Commercial development is displacing recreation areas and shore front access along the harbor shoreline.

6. There is a lack of social and economic infrastructure on the docks for sailors, fishermen, and visitors [i.e. telephones, running water, toilets]. There is also a lack of cultural / recreational activities near the docks [i.e. restaurants, internet cafes, shops, parks]. Other islands are developing their ports to make them more attractive to users; American Samoa risks becoming less competitive unless it improves its harbor area.
Harbor Potential Strategies

1. Focus on shoreline and marina development by coordinating existing plans:
   
   • The West Harbor Development Plan, with its focus on town redevelopment, public space, shoreline protection and development, and tourism.
   
   • The Port Master Plan, with its focus on much needed commercial and industrial infrastructure development.
   
   • The Eco-Tourism Development Plan which — although still in the development stages — promises to increase the level of environmental awareness across the territory, as well as increasing the economic incentives for environmental protection.

2. Focus on clean-up and mitigation efforts on three levels:
   
   • The Benthos: Dredging and bio-remediation is needed to remove the soils on the harbor floor. The soils are toxic and would be considered hazardous waste if they are lifted. Current projects involve pushing near shore soils into deeper waters in the center of the harbor.

   • Water Quality: Improvements can be made by building bilge-water reclamation facilities, developing a coordinated small spill prevention program [a model from Texas can be found online at www.glo.state.tx.us/oilspill/prepare.html#bilge], and developing waste/sewage/water hookups for small craft.

   • Harbor Surface: Improvements can be made by re-institutionalizing the post-storm debris clean-up program, encouraging village clean-ups and litter prevention, and using trash gates, booms, or silt fences to keep debris from flowing downstream during heavy rains.
Territorial and High Seas Issues

1. The seas surrounding American Sāmoa are part of an international ecosystem, and managing its resources requires regional cooperation. Major trans-boundary species include tuna, humpback whales, sea turtles, and a variety of coral, fish, and invertebrate larva.

2. Optimal and sustainable yields are still unknown for commercial fish species. This will become an increasing concern if Independent Sāmoa and Fiji expand their fishing fleets.

3. Boundary issues are unresolved with independent Sāmoa, which has not adopted the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

4. The potential for using thermal energy and wave-generated energy in the territory has not been studied.

5. Marine debris accumulates in the open ocean, both floating on the surface and collecting on the benthos.

6. The by-catch of many vulnerable marine species needs to be reduced. Hawksbills are rapidly approaching extinction, and green sea turtles are potentially endangered. Long-liners are also threatern shark and seabird populations.

7. Much of the by-catch from long-liners is wasted. Scientists estimate that 25% of the incidental catch worldwide is discarded [Pew Oceans Commission]. By-catch numbers are not known, as there are few observers on the fishing boats, and self-reported by-catch numbers are unreliable. Many fish are discarded in favor of albacore, which fetches a higher price at the canneries.
Territorial and High Seas Potential Strategies

1. Establish a National Marine Sanctuary for marine mammals and sea turtles. Other Pacific Island nations and territories [most recently Niue and French Polynesia] have declared their entire EEZ’s to be sanctuaries for marine mammals, sea turtles, and sharks. The Government of American Samoa has already declared that Samoan waters would be considered a sanctuary for sea mammals and turtles. Regional coordinated programs are needed to protect these vulnerable species.

2. Develop joint research programs with Independent Samoa on fisheries management. Fishermen in both Samoa pursue the same stock of commercial fish, and bilateral management efforts are needed to preserve the stock.

3. Work for full utilization of by-catch. The Tautai Fisherman’s Association has made efforts over the past decade to develop a fish market in Pago Pago. With such a market by-catch could be sold to the community rather than be discarded at sea. A coordinated effort by the advisory group and Tautai could bring the idea to fruition.

4. Establish the Advisory Group as the main mechanism to disseminate information on fisheries management and other marine issues. WestPac is currently placing observers on fishing boats, and the information they gather will be useful to the management efforts of other agencies. Sharing information will also be useful for each agency’s enforcement efforts. The group can also serve as point of contact for American Samoa participation in regional groups such as Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific [CROP].
Pivotal Issues

The following are recommendations that came out of the series of public workshops held in October 2002 and February 2003, as well as other program assessments.

1. Research Coordination
   a. Develop a research program on oceanic fisheries, with an initial study on albacore.
   b. Create a central data depository for scientific findings and data in the territory.
   c. Standardize measurement techniques with the forthcoming National Ocean Policy.
   d. Advocate for a focus on practical management-oriented research

2. Education / Promoting an Environmental Ethic
   b. Work with the Coastal Service Center to train agency staff.
   c. Develop the ASCC as venue for paraprofessional training programs and marine resource management.
   d. Develop a program with the University of Hawai‘i to outline training services and staff needs, and submit it to MAREPAC.

3. Enforcement
   a. Allow the Coastal Management Program to cite and fine violators of permit conditions.
   b. Administrative Law Judge review of cases should not have to be a de novo review.
   c. Combine environmental enforcement under one authority.
   d. Increase the range of management options, integrating such options as compensatory mitigation, fee in lieu, and mediation.
   e. Have Marine Conservation Officers with US National Marine Fisheries Staff as observers on vessels.
   f. Use the Coast Guard to patrol the EEZ.
   g. Investigate the cross-deputation of environmental officers.
   h. Allow pulenu‘u [village mayors] to cite violators.
   i. Allow federal laws to be upheld locally.
Appendix A: ORMP Advisory Group

The following are the main meetings held by the Advisory Group and the consultants:

Oct 18, 2002: Ocean Resource Public Workshops, Utulei Convention Center
Oct 21, 2002: Eastern Region Workshop, Utulei Convention Center
Oct 22, 2002: Western Region Workshop, American Samoa Community College
Dec 05, 2002: Video Teleconference, Advisory Group, Consultants. Honolulu / Pago Pago
May 15, 2003: Joint meeting of Harbors and High Seas Advisory Groups, Pago Pago
May 16, 2003: Watershed Advisory Group Meeting, Pago Pago
May 20, 2003: Near Shore Waters Advisory Group Meeting, Pago Pago
May 20, 2003: ORMP Advisory Group Meeting, Pago Pago
July 29, 2003: Watershed Advisory Group Meeting, Utulei Convention Center
July 29, 2003: High Seas Advisory Group Meeting, Utulei Convention Center
July 30, 2003: Watershed Advisory Group Meeting, Utulei Convention Center
July 30, 2003: Near Shore Waters Advisory Group Meeting, Utulei Convention Center
July 30, 2003: ORMP Advisory Group Meeting Utulei Convention Center

The following people represented their agencies on the ORMP Advisory Group, which guided the development of the Ocean Resource Management Plan:

American Samoa Community College Community and Natural Resources
Darren Okimoto

American Samoa Department of Commerce
Lelei Peau
Gene Brighouse
Nancy Daschbach

American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Ray Tulafono
Alofa Tuaumu
Fatima Sauafea

American Samoa Department of Port Administration
Chris King

American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
Togipa Tausaga
Edna Buchan
Guy Didanado

National Park of American Samoa
Peter Craig

Private Sector [Fisheries]
Pete Galeal
The following agency representatives and community members participated in the various meetings and workshops that guided the development of this plan:

**Planning Meetings**
- Allimanu Scanlon, DOC
- Alofa Tuaumu, DMWR
- Andrew Scanlan, DPA
- Anwar Karim, NRCS
- Apelu Aitaoto, DOC / ASCMP
- B.J. Bukatta, DOC
- Bernard Matatumua EPA
- Carol Whittaker, ASCC
- Charles Selitz, DOC / West Harbor
- Chris Hawkins, DOC
- Chris King, DPA
- Darren Okimoto, ASCC
- Derek Dostie, US Coast Guard
- Don Vargo, ASCC
- Doug Neighbor, NPS
- Edna Buchanan, EPA
- Emmanuel Coutures, DMWR
- Eva Didonato, NPS
- Fatima Sauafea, DMWR
- Fini Aitaoto, WestPac
- Fred Malala, D3H
- Gene Brighouse, DOC / ASCMP
- Guy Didonato, EPA
- Henry Wendt, PPG Consulting
- J.R. Sauni, DOC
- Kevin Cronk, DPA
- Lelei Peau, DOC
- Mary Midkiff, DOC
- Matthew Allen, DOC
- Meghann Otnieru, DOC
- Mike Dworsky, ASFA
- Nancy Daschbach, DOC / FBNMS
- Pete Gwili, Samoa Parking
- Peter Craig, NF-5s
- Peter Peshut, EPA
- Peter Te'o, COS Samoa Parking
- Rachel Peters, DOC
- Ray Tulafono, DMWR
- Sillia Patane, EPA
- Suegogo Schrimer, DPA
- Tali Tuiel, DOC
- Togipa Tausaga, EPA
- Vicky Gerberic, DOC
- Wally Jennings, NRC
- Wil Sword, BP Petroleum

**Community Meetings**
- Martina Sapapolutele
- Simona Laati
- Faumuina Satele
- Sipa Ana'i
- V. Suafo'i's
- Matt Le'i
- Danny Masanai
- Pulese Tuiloosega
- Edwin Seui
- Taguaia Faagata
- Tuipaga Misioa
- Aullava Saani
- Rosa Tavita
- Peter Gurr
- The matal of Manua, Eastern, and Western Tutuila Districts also gave input at meetings held at the Office of Samoan Affairs

AS Ocean Resource Management Plan

Appendices 31
Appendix B: ORMP Structural Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCEAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Lieutenant Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members: Heads [or their representatives] of the AS Department of Commerce, the AS Department of Health, the AS Environmental Protection Agency, the AS Department of Port Administration, and the AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources</td>
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<th>Near Shore Waters Advisory Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jurisdiction: High tide line to 3 miles from coast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Department of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members: AS Community College Community and Natural Resources Division, AS Department of Commerce (Coastal Management Program and Fagatole Bay National Marine Sanctuary), AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, AS Environmental Protection Agency, National Park of American Samoa</td>
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<td>Chair: Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>Members: AS Community College Community and Natural Resources Division, AS Department of Agriculture, AS Department of Commerce, AS Department of Health, AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, AS Department of Port Administration, AS Power Authority, Fagatole Bay National Marine Sanctuary, National Park of American Samoa, Natural Resources Conservation Service</td>
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<td>Jurisdiction: Territorial [three to twenty four miles from shore] and High Seas [twenty four miles to EEZ boundary]</td>
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<td>Chair: AS Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members: AS Department of Commerce, Fisheries [Private], Governor’s Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park of American Samoa, United States Coast Guard, Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council</td>
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### Structural Chart – Alternate View

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<td>West Harbor Planning Group</td>
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<td>AS Power Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries [Private Sector]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor’s Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States Coast Guard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council</td>
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</tbody>
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AS Ocean Resource Management Plan  Appendices  33
Appendix C: Ocean Jurisdictions

State Tidelands and Submerged Lands
Shoreline to 3 miles offshore
Submerged land and resources owned by coastal states and territories
Submerged Lands Act of 1983
[43 U.S.C. 1301-1315]

3 Miles

Exclusive Economic Zone
3 miles to 200 miles offshore
US claims jurisdiction over living and non-living resources
Presidential Proclamation 5030 of 1980
Note: The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 gives states authority over federal activities within the EEZ that impact the coastal zone.

200 Miles
Appendix D: Environmental Agencies in American Sāmoa

Following is a list of federal and territorial agencies, departments, and authorities that are involved, directly or indirectly, with marine resources. The descriptions are taken from the agencies' own vision and/or mission statements. Listings are current as of September 2003.

American Sāmoa Community College, Community and Natural Resources Division incorporates the national Land Grant and Sea Grant programs. Land Grant's mission is to serve the community through research-based knowledge in and out of formal classroom learning. Sea Grant is a partnership between the nation's universities and the NOAA that encourages the wise stewardship of marine resources through research, education, outreach and technology transfer.

P.O. Box 5319  Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-699-1575 / Fax: 684-699-5011
Land Grant: www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/apc2/ascc_landgrant
Sea Grant, National: www.nsgo.seagrant.org
Pacific: www.soest.hawaii.edu/seagrant

American Sāmoa Department of Agriculture assists the territory's farmers with food production, safety, and diversification.

Executive Office Building  Utulei AS 96799
Phone: 684-699-1467 / Fax: 684-699-4031
www.as.gov.com/departments/dao.asg.htm

American Sāmoa Department of Commerce is responsible for the management of economic development and for environmental protection for the Territory. The Environment Division houses the American Sāmoa Coastal Management Program and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

American Sāmoa Coastal Zone Management Program was established in 1990 to provide effective resource management by protecting, maintaining, restoring, and enhancing the resources of the coastal zone. The coastal zone is defined as all non-federal lands, coastal waters, and submerged lands within the boundaries of the territorial sea.

Executive Office Building  Utulei Ad 96799
Phone: 684-633-5155 / Fax: 684-633-4196
www.samoacoastmgmt.htm

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary became the nation's seventh marine sanctuary in 1986. It is co-managed by the Department of Commerce and the National Marine Sanctuaries division of NOAA. The Sanctuary's primary focus is coral protection, education and outreach, scientific research and coral reef monitoring.

PO Box 4313  Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-633-7354 / Fax: 684-633-7355
fagatelebay.noaa.gov

American Sāmoa Department of Health has a mission to effectively and efficiently deploy available public health human and material resources to promote physical and mental health and prevent disease, injury, and disability in American Sāmoa.

LBJ Tropical Medical Center  Pago Pago, AS 96799
Phone: 684-633-4929 / Fax: 684-633-2167
www.as.gov.com/departments/doh.asg.htm
American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources has a mission to undertake monitoring, research, and resource management activities that will facilitate sustainable use of marine and wildlife resources, and to protect the integrity of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems in perpetuity.

P.O. Box 3730  Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-633-4456  /  Fax: 684-633-5944

American Samoa Department of Parks and Recreation oversees the maintenance, development, and protection of recreational programs and parks in the territory.

Pago Pago, AS 96799
Phone: 684-699-9614  /  Fax: 684-699-4427
www.aas.gov.ai/departments/lpr.asa.gov

American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency is charged to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment – air, water, and land – upon which life depends. It is 100% funded by the U.S. EPA Region IX through a Consolidated Environmental Program Grant.

Executive Office Building
Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-633-2304  /  Fax: 684-633-5801
www.aas.gov.ai/agencies/epa.asa.gov

American Samoa Department of Port Administration works with port users with the stated goal of raising the standard of living of the Territory to that of a developed country in a manner that protects our environment and maintains the best of our lani/laua.

American Samoa Government
Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-633-4449  /  Fax: 684-633-5291
www.aas.gov.ai/departments/lpa.asa.gov

American Samoa Power Authority is in charge of power, water, solid waste, and wastewater in the territory. They run power plants in Tafuna, Satuala, and Mau, and sewage treatment plants in Utulei and Fogafogo.

PO Box PPA  Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-644-2772  /  Fax: 684-644-5005
www.aaspower.com

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs created in 1993. AmeriCorps provides trained, dedicated people to help nonprofits accomplish more and make more effective use of volunteers.

www.americorps.org

National Marine Fisheries Service has three goals in its strategic plan: to rebuild and maintain sustainable fisheries, to promote recovery of protected species, and to protect and maintain the health of coastal/marine habitats.

PO Box 4150  Pago Pago AS  96799
Phone: 684-633-2265  /  Fax: 684-673-1420
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

36 Appendices  All Ocean Resource Management Plan
National Park of American Sāmoa was authorized on October 31, 1988, and is composed of two rain forest preserves and one tropical reef totaling 9000 acres, on the islands of Tutula, Ofu, and Tau. All of the lands are leased from the respective villages.

Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-633-7092 / Fax: 684-633-7085
www.nps.gov/npsa/home.htm

Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office works to protect the lives and property of the people of the territory from the adverse effects of natural and manmade disasters.

Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-696-6481 / Fax: 684-696-6414
www.asp.gov.com/agencies/temco.asp.htm

Office of Sāmoan Affairs coordinates the administration of the territory's district, county, and village affairs, and provides a link between the constitutional and traditional governments.

Pago Pago AS 96799
Phone: 684-633-5201 / Fax: 684-633-5590
www.asp.gov.com/departments/osa.asp.htm

United States Army Corps of Engineers in Sāmoa is part of the Pacific Ocean Division out of Hawai‘i. The Corps' marine work centers on navigation, flood control, and environmental protection.

National: www.usace.army.mil
Pacific: www.pod.usace.army.mil

United States Coast Guard maintains a permanent marine inspection detachment in Sāmoa. Its mission includes marine pollution education, prevention, response, and enforcement; foreign vessel inspections; living marine resources protection, and promoting marine and environmental science.

Pago Pago Plaţa
Pago Pago AS 96799
www.uscg.mil

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service assists owners of America's private lands with conserving their soil, water, and other natural resources. They also provide assistance to local, state and federal agencies and policymakers.

P.O. Box 4076, Pago Pago, AS 96799
Phone (684) 633-1031 / Fax (694) 633-1062
National: www.nrcs.usda.gov
AS Field Office: gu.nrcs.usda.gov/AMSASM.html

Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council is the policy-making organization for the management of fisheries in the exclusive economic zone around American Sāmoa, Guam, Hawai‘i, the Northern Mariana Islands and other US possessions in the Pacific.

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400 Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813
Phone: 808.522.8220 / Fax: 808.522.8226
www.wpfcouncil.org
Appendix E: Bibliography


AS Ocean Resource Management Plan

Appendices 39


Tsameny, Martin. A Pacific Regional Ocean Policy. Center for Maritime Policy, Australia.


Appendices
Appendix F: An Island of Acronyms

AS  American Sāmoa
ASCC  American Sāmoa Community College
ASCMP  American Sāmoa Coastal Management Program
ASEPA  American Sāmoa Environmental Protection Agency
ASPA  American Sāmoa Power Authority
CRAG  Coral Reef Advisory Group
CROP  Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific
CZMA  Coastal Zone Management Act
DMWR  Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
DOC  Department of Commerce
EEZ  Exclusive Economic Zone
EPA  Environmental Protection Agency
GIS  Geographic Information Systems
MAREPAC  Marine Resources Pacific Consortium
NPS  Non-point Source [Pollution]
ORMP  Ocean Resource Management Plan
OSA  Office of Sāmoan Affairs
PNRS  Project Notification and Review System
SSRI  Social Science Research Institute
TEMCO  Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office
UN  United Nations
USDA  United States Department of Agriculture
WestPac  Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council
Appendix G Text of the Governor's Proclamation

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. ______-2003

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING AN OCEAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS AND PLAN FOR AMERICAN SÂMOA

Section 1. Authority

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Section 6 and Section 7, American Sâmoa Revised Constitution, and ASCA Section 4.0111.

Section 2. Preamble

Ocean and coastal resource managers in the United States are confronted with an ever-increasing variety of challenges. Coastal populations continue to grow rapidly, stressing coastal and ocean resources that are increasingly recognized as both fragile and finite. The situation has led to the development of coastal and ocean management policy in the United States that recognize the unique environmental and social conditions of its extensive coastline and ocean areas.

Coastal and ocean resource management in American Sâmoa is especially challenging because the Territory has experienced an unprecedented rate of population growth. Population growth is a critical factor underlying pressure on coastal resources and habitats in American Sâmoa. External pressures are also considerable, and the importance of regional and international cooperation in effective management of common property resources, such as migratory fish species, sea turtles, and marine mammals, is critical as we begin the 21st century.

Growth-related and trans-boundary pressures are not unique to American Sâmoa, but the planning context is. Contemporary Sâmoa is a society in transition, espousing many of the amenities and much of the culture of modern American life amidst a background of traditional village-based political economies, social organization, and culture. Villages in American Sâmoa, like other island societies in the Pacific, are based on very localized social systems in which the matai and the village council have historically managed local coastal and marine resources in a communal manner. But tradition has been challenged in recent decades, and many villages now demonstrate a mix of private property and communal perspectives. Some villages have begun to participate in regional government resource
management processes and policies, while others have retained more localized perspectives and control of resources. Despite extensive variation in intra- and inter-village and regional perspectives and social processes, there remains a strong and common sense of cultural identity with faa'amāăoa. Central to life in all coastal villages and the very process of being Sāmoan is the ocean and the use of ocean and coastal resources.

A variety of planning efforts have been undertaken so far to better manage American Sāmoa’s ocean and ocean-related resources. However, there is a need to integrate all these efforts under an encompassing Ocean Resource Management Plan for American Sāmoa.

Section 3. Establishment and Purpose

Therefore, I hereby establish an Ocean Resource Management Council. The purpose of the Council is to:

A. Design a five-year Ocean Resource Management Plan for American Sāmoa to coordinate and implement existing resource management plans, including, but not limited to, the Coral Reef Management Plan, the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program, the Watershed Protection Plan, the Port Master Plan, the Five-Year Fisheries Management Plan, the Village-Based Community Fisheries Plan, and the Marine Resources and Management Plan, and

B. Establish the framework for a process that will gradually engage the full range of traditional and transitioning coastal villages in the management of American Sāmoa’s ocean-related resources.

Section 4. Composition

The Ocean Resource Management Council shall consist of the following agencies, along with advisory groups:

A. The Ocean Resource Management Council shall be chaired by the Lt. Governor and shall consist of the following individuals:

   Director, Department of Commerce
   Director, Department of Health
   Director, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
   Director, Department of Port Administration
   Head, American Sāmoa Environmental Protection Agency

The Council will act as a policy body and oversight committee of the other groups; and will report to the Governor.
B. The Ocean Resource Management Advisory Groups shall be organized around four resource areas: Watersheds, Near Shore Waters, Harbors, and High Seas. Each of these working groups shall be organized as follows:

1. **Watersheds**
   The Watersheds Advisory Group shall be chaired by a representative of the American Sāmoa Environmental Protection Agency. Its membership shall include, but is not limited to, the American Sāmoa Power Authority, the American Sāmoa Community College, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health, the Fagatene Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. The Department of Commerce shall invite and encourage the participation of the National Park of American Sāmoa, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and appropriate non-governmental organizations in this Group.

2. **Near Shore Waters**
   The Near Shore Waters Advisory Group shall be chaired by a representative of the Department of Commerce. Its membership shall include, but is not limited to, the American Sāmoa Community College, the Coastal Management Program, the Fagatene Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, and the American Sāmoa Environmental Protection Agency. The Department of Commerce shall invite and encourage the participation of the National Park of American Sāmoa and appropriate non-governmental organizations in this Group.

3. **Harbors**
   The Harbors Advisory Group shall be chaired by a representative of the Department of Port Administration. Its membership shall include, but is not limited to, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, the American Sāmoa Environmental Protection Agency, and the West Harbor Planning Group. The Department of Commerce shall invite and encourage the participation of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States Coast Guard and appropriate non-governmental organizations in this Group.
4. **High Seas**

   The High Seas Advisory Group shall be chaired by a representative of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. Its membership shall include, but is not limited to, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Port Administration and the Office of the Governor. The Department of Commerce shall invite and encourage the participation of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the United States Coast Guard, the National Park of American Samoa and appropriate non-governmental organizations in this Group.

   The Advisory Groups are tasked with coordinating and implementing existing resource management plans.

D. **Both the Council and the Advisory Groups are empowered to convene Task Forces and Ad Hoc Committees as needed.**

**Section 5. Reporting**

A written report of the Council shall be transmitted to the Governor biannually. The report should contain a description of the Council's progress, findings, and recommendations regarding the management of American Samoa's ocean resources.

**Section 6. Effective Date**

This Order shall take effect immediately.


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TOCIOLEA T. A. TULAFONO
Governor

cc: Per Standard List and Council and Advisory Groups members