

## A Look Ahead

April 26, 2011, marks the 25th anniversary of the only national marine sanctuary in the southern hemisphere. Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary is planning activities to commemorate this historic milestone. A biogeographic assessment of the Samoan archipelago will be finalized around the same time, providing a comprehensive look at its marine life, geography, human activities, and marine protected network design, as well as a scientific framework for marine spatial planning.

In conjunction with this study, the sanctuary will be releasing its draft management plan for public comment. The draft plan is the culmination of three years working with numerous constituents to develop a "road map" for the next 5-10 years of sanctuary management. The draft plan includes strategies and activities that address concerns, opportunities and needs raised during the public scoping process, including possible expansion of the sanctuary in American Samoa.

### Supporting Jobs, Communities and Culture

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary is located in the remote Pacific Islands of American Samoa. With a population of approximately 67 thousand people, the islands drew 6,500 tourists in 2009. A recent study estimated the total annual value of reefs in American Samoa to be \$10 million, with the majority of this being non-use or existence value. Popular recreation activities include snorkeling, scuba diving, sport fishing, kayaking, and hiking. A small commercial fishing fleet operates in American Samoa.

*NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.*

## Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

### Officers

Chair: Dean Hudson

Vice Chair: Vaamua Henry Sesepasara

Secretary: Netini Sene

### Non-Governmental Members

Research Science Advisor: Charles Birkeland

Ocean Recreation: Dean Hudson

Commercial Fishing: Vaamua Henry Sesepasara

Education: Netini Sene

Community-At-Large (West Side): Ulagatelei Lealofi

Community At-Large (Manu'a Islands):

Nu'uiat Sonny Thompson

Community At-Large (East Side): vacant

Business/Industry: vacant

Tourism: David Vaeafe

Student (non-voting): vacant

### Governmental Members

#### Territorial Government

American Samoa Department of Commerce, Environment  
Division: Falesau Paopao

Designee: Nathan Iloa

American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife  
Resources: Ulagata Ray Tulafono

Designee: Lucy Jacob

American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency:  
Famuatele To'afa Vaiaiga'e

Designee: Tumau Lokeni

America Samoa Community College/ University of Hawaii Sea  
Grant: Ephraim Temple

#### Federal Government

National Park Service (non-voting): Mike Reynolds

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (non-voting):

Kevin Painter

U.S. Coast Guard (non-voting): Eric Roberts

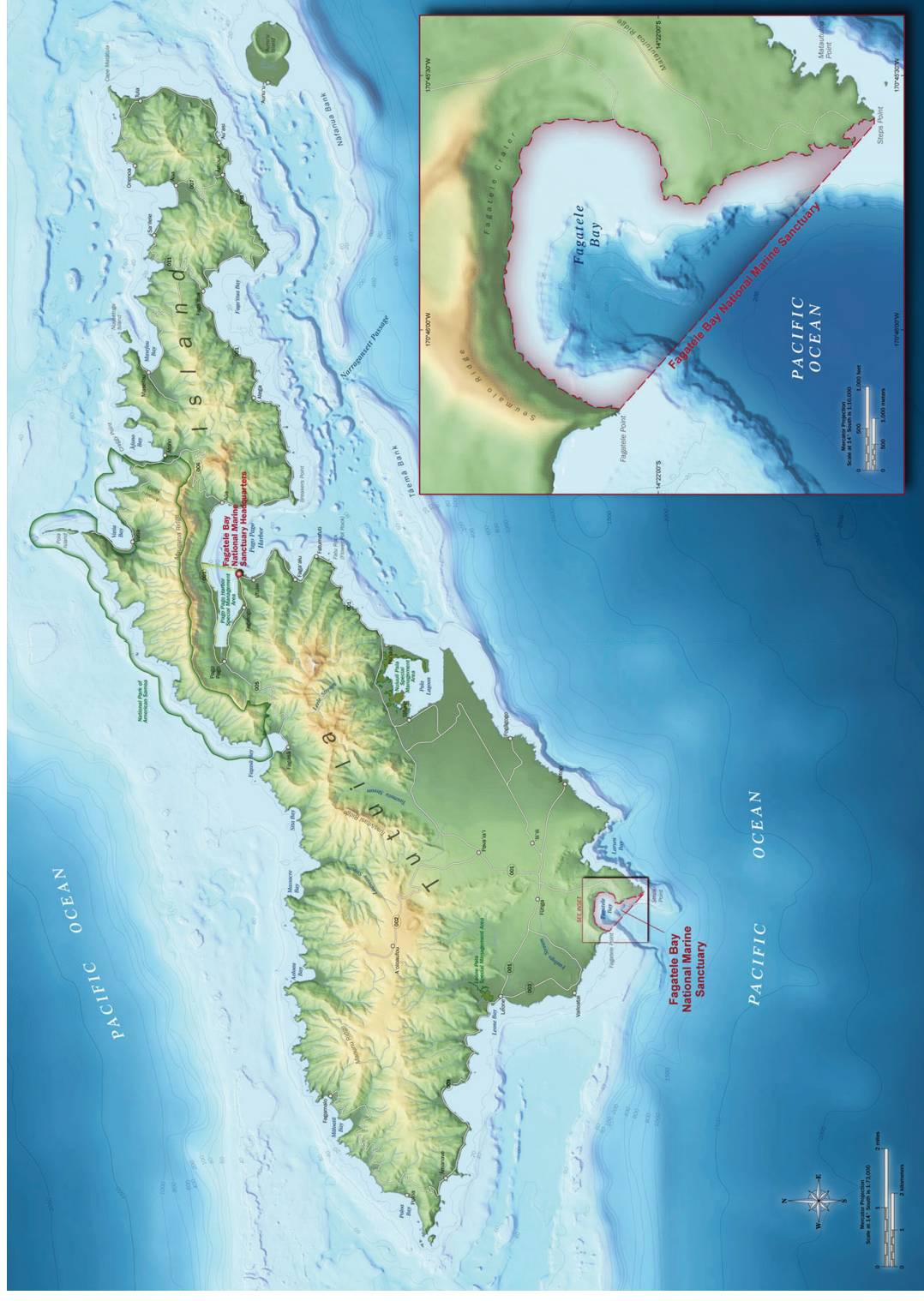
NOAA Pacific Islands Region Office (non-voting):  
Fatima Sauafea-Leau

NOAA Fagatele Bay NMS (non-voting):  
Gene Brighthouse

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
Pacific Islands: Region: Allen Tom

Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator  
Emily Gaskin

## 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary** encompass a fringing coral reef ecosystem contained within an eroded volcanic crater in American Samoa. Fagatele Bay is the nation's smallest marine sanctuary at one-quarter square mile and its only true tropical reef. Hundreds of species of corals, colorful reef fish, algae and other invertebrates can be found in the warm waters of the sanctuary, along with sea turtles, dolphins, sharks, giant clams and migratory humpback whales. Established Apr. 29, 1986.

## Dive into Education and Teacher Program

The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in conjunction with Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the American Samoa Department of Commerce and the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) hosted the Dive into Education teacher workshop in July 2010. Participants included education and outreach specialists from all fourteen field sites within the National Marine Sanctuary System. More than 140 elementary and high school teachers from both private and public schools in American Samoa participated in the two-day event. This unique professional development opportunity for local teachers offered engaging and innovative sessions related to the ocean. Following the Dive into Education Workshop, a Teacher Program was established by the sanctuary and ASDOE, to continue support and implementation of skills and lessons learned during the workshop. The primary goal of this program is to provide five teachers with resources and training to support ocean literacy in the classroom. These five teachers will act as our core team to showcase, track and liaise with during the school year. In addition, they will provide hands-on activities that can increase knowledge, promote support and appreciation for a sanctuary.



Claire Fackler, OMNMS

## Cultural and Indigenous Resource Protection Workshop

On Friday, July 30, 2010, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, in collaboration with the American Samoa Department of Commerce hosted 100 people who participated in a Cultural & Indigenous Resource Protection Workshop. The event focused on the integration of traditional indigenous knowledge and marine management planning in areas where there are both a national marine sanctuary and living, vibrant indigenous cultures including American Samoa, Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest. Two panel discussions were held: Cultural Knowledge and Practices in Marine Management and Bridging Traditions in a Time of Change: Management Case Studies. Participants included Fofu Sunia as the keynote speaker and panelists: Kepa Maly from Lanai, Hawaii; Loraini Sivo of Conservation International from Fiji; Carol Bernthal of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary; Ed Johnstone of the Quinault First Indian Nation in Washington State; Selaina Vaitautolu Tuimavave of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources; Tavita Togia of the National Park of American Samoa; Francois Martel of Conservation International from Apia, Samoa; and Veronika Mata'utia Mortenson of the Fagatele Bay sanctuary.



Kevin Grant, FBNMS

## Preserve America Nomination and Program

Preserve America is a federal initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy their cultural and natural heritage. Community status recognizes those that use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourages people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. On Friday, April 1, 2010, American Samoa became the 814th community to receive the designation since the Preserve America's inception in 2003. The territory was designated for its robust history and living culture, as well as our commitment to "American" heritage. Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary celebrated this designation with a commemoration ceremony held at Utulei Beach on July 26, 2010.



Kevin Grant, FBNMS

## Marine Mammal Survey 2010

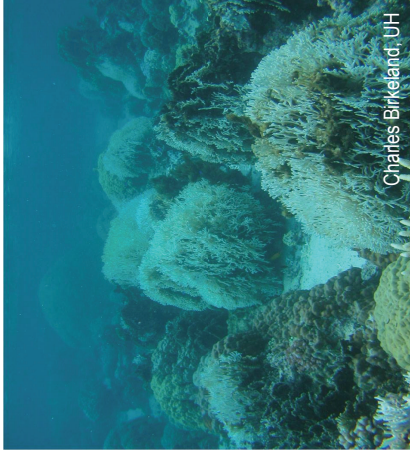
Researchers with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources continued their efforts to learn more about American Samoa's role as a breeding ground for South Pacific humpback whales. Scientists are using photo-identification, biopsy (skin) sampling and whale song recordings, to better understand the local humpback whale population, clarify its relationship to other parts of the South Pacific region, and to identify its Antarctic migratory destinations. This year, scientists aboard the R/V *Manumā* observed several humpback mothers with newborn calves close to shore, sometimes in very small coves and bays.



Alden Tagamo, AS DMWR  
NOAA Fisheries, Permit # 174-1734

## Climate Smart Sanctuary

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary recognizes the immense value of community-based management, and has adopted a participatory approach to climate change adaptation planning in American Samoa. In an effort to promote community resiliency and protect coastal resources from the potential impacts of climate change, the sanctuary is implementing the Climate Smart Sanctuary process to help inform climate change planning in the territory. The Climate Smart Sanctuary process was developed by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to guide climate change planning at national marine sanctuary sites across the United States. The process includes the development of a climate change site scenario and a sanctuary climate change plan as well as steps to make sanctuary offices greener. In 2010 the sanctuary worked with local and regional climate scientists to gather existing information on the main climate change impact drivers and the potential impacts to ecosystems, heritage/cultural resources and communities.



Charles Birkeland, UH

## Climate Change Workshop

In April 2010, Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary in collaboration with the Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group and the American Samoa Department of Commerce hosted a capacity building workshop in American Samoa to encourage the sharing of climate change planning experiences, knowledge, and skills among participating managers and community members. Participants engaged in sharing case studies and lessons learned, presented and collaborated on both group and individual projects and conducted problem-solving exercises. Participants worked together to develop an adaptation planning framework as a model for addressing areas in American Samoa that are vulnerable to the affects of climate change.



Stone Lam, AS DMWR

## Sanctuary Advisory Council Recruitment

In 2010, the Sanctuary Advisory Council added nine new seats to include key constituents and stakeholder groups. The council felt that the additional representatives would connect the council and sanctuary to more sectors of society as well as increase expertise on the council. The additional government seats represent NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement, NOAA's Pacific Islands Region Office, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency. The additional non-government seats include Tourism, Business/Industry, Community At-Large: East Side, Community At-Large: Manu'a Islands, and Youth.



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## Education Programs

In 2010, Fagatele Bay staff coordinated several education initiatives for Samoan youth throughout American Samoa. Staff led tours for school groups to visit the sanctuary and gave lectures on marine conservation and the wise use of marine resources. Several science field trips were coordinated through the American Samoa Coastal Management Program in conjunction with its annual Coastweeks events in July. On Tuesday, March 23, 2010, the sanctuary in collaboration with Commander Caskey and the crew of the NOAA research vessel *Hii'ialakai*, and NOAA's Coral Reef Ecosystem Division hosted a one-day educational workshop aboard the *Hii'ialakai*. Students participated in unique hands-on educational learning activities coordinated and run by the research scientists working aboard the ship.



Grant/Mortenson, FBNMS