

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council Minutes
August 20, 2008

Present: Dean Hudson, Mark Monaco, Alan Friedlander, Sarah Marquis, Emily Gaskin, Gene Brighthouse, Kevin Painter, Ephraim Temple, Bert Fuiava, Roger Moder, Veronika Mortenson, & Kevin Grant

Call to order: 2:09pm

Review of minutes from 7/8/08 meeting - minutes accepted: motion to approve minutes by Roger Moder, seconded by Ephraim Temple

Gene provided brief introduction and explained the purpose of the SAC meeting. She introduced five speakers for the day (four presentations), leading right into the first presentation.

1. Update on Biogeographic Assessments in Support of MPAs: Mark Monaco and Alan Friedlander
 - a. Mark and Alan distributed the Draft Concept Document: a document that described planned biogeographic assessment activities in American Samoa
 - b. Mark explained the Objectives of the Biogeographic Assessment as follows:
 - i. Provide spatial and temporal analyses of key geophysical features including reefs and associated habitats, marine fish, fish assemblages, shelf features, and oceanographic variables.
 - ii. Identify the resource users (subsistence fishermen, consumptive divers, eco-tourism, etc.), extent of use (person-days of recreational activity, fishing catch, etc.), spatial distribution of resource use, and how much income, if any, is dependent upon the resources.
 - iii. Provide alternative boundary scenario's for a network of protected areas that is integrated with all Samoan MPA initiatives.
 - c. Mark gave a presentation on the Biogeographic Assessment and explained that while they in American Samoa, they planned on obtaining data sets to further enhance the assessment, and to assist with analysis for data sets already collected by Territorial Agencies
 - d. Explained how this biogeographic assessment could benefit the complimentary activities related to MPAs that are currently underway in American Samoa (Fagatele Bay NMS management plan review, Territorial MPA network strategy, the Two Samoas Initiative, etc.) through synthesis and integration of information (physical, biological, oceanographic, and human dimensions).
2. Socioeconomic Assessment Survey for Fagatele Bay NMS: Emily Gaskin
 - a. Emily provided an update on the Socioeconomic assessment survey project she lead for Fagatele Bay and the surrounding villages with ASCC students.
 - b. The Assessment was a study of the social, cultural, economic and political conditions of people, groups, communities and organizations; and will provide critical information needed for the FBNMS management plan review as well as serve as a possible template for further socioeconomic studies in AS.
 - c. Emily explained the project was a partnership among FBNMS, ASCC, and DOC
 - d. Target was 10% of population in Vailoatai, Futiga, Taputimu, and Vaitogi – though they exceeded the 10% target

- e. Households were chosen opportunistically; surveys were given to all family members over age of 13; surveys provided in both English and Samoan
 - f. Analyzing the data is the next step
 - g. Emily ended by talking about the Fagatele Bay tours (lead by Emily and Gene) provided to participants of the Pacific Arts Festival and educational tours planned for students and church youth groups in future.
3. Management Plan Review/Timeline: Kevin Grant
- a. Kevin offered a brief explanation of the upcoming Fagatele Bay Management Plan Review and the American Samoa Sanctuary Network (Site Expansion) efforts.
 - b. Kevin presented the timeline for these efforts that will run on a parallel course, with Public Scoping for BOTH efforts to be held in February of 2009.
 - i. The details of the Scoping meeting(s) are yet to be determined
 - c. Mark Monaco suggested that the “Identification of Criteria for Site Selection” should occur earlier in the process to better inform the biogeographic assessment
 - i. Agreed – this step has been moved up in the sequence of events for site expansion
 - ii. Timeframe for site expansion has been moved back, as Mark Monaco informed all that the biogeographic assessment and synthesis maps would likely not be completed until March of 2010
 - d. SAC AGREEMENT ON MPR/SITE EXPANSION TIMELINE
4. MPR Communications: Sarah Marquis
- a. Sarah outlined MPR communications Goals and Objectives, Key Messages, a communications workplan, the SAC role, and briefly discussed working with the media
 - b. MPR Communications Goal:
 - i. *Inform and involve as many constituents as possible, representing a diverse range of user and interest groups in the management plan review.*
 - c. MPR Communications Objectives:
 - i. *Inform the public and stakeholders about how they can actively participate in management plan review (MPR).*
 - ii. *Raise awareness about Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary and important issues affecting its current and future management.*
 - iii. *Garner broad public involvement in MPR and support for the final management plan and implementation.*
 - d. Key Messages:
 - i. *A public review of FBNMS’s management plan will be underway.*
 - ii. *With public input, the FBNMS Advisory Council, stakeholder representatives, and sanctuary staff will be evaluating the sanctuary’s current education, research, and resource protection programs and regulations.*
 - iii. *This open and public process will bring the sanctuary’s management plan up to date and provide a roadmap for managing and protecting sanctuary resources while allowing uses compatible with the primary objective of resource protection.*
 - e. Sarah discussed possible challenges (misinformation, criticism of sanctuary actions or lack of action, etc.) and explained that these challenges also present opportunities (communicated accurate info, involve public, etc.)

- f. Sarah then led a discussion about sensitivities/issues, specific to American Samoa, which may arise during the MPR/Site Expansion processes. The SAC came up with the following list:
 - i. Protocol – How to approach communities
 - ii. Inclusion of partners/other agencies
 - iii. The “What’s in it for me” attitude
 - iv. For FB MPR, likely to have low interest/attendance
 - 1. need to take the message to them, don’t expect them to come to us
 - 2. need intensive, local effort – likely need to have meetings in villages
 - v. Possible public scoping faux pas: a Matai can give blessing to effort, but then Scoping requires open comment by others (who, in traditional Samoan culture would have less standing on the matter as compared to the Matai)
 - vi. Likely need to go through village councils for meetings
 - vii. Could go through Council of Churches to get info out to public
 - g. Sarah discussed possible outreach materials to get information to the public (e.g., fact sheets, brochures)
 - i. The SAC supported putting this information on the FB website
 - h. Sarah explained the role of the SAC in MPR
 - i. *Serve as a liaison between the sanctuary and its community, disseminating information about the sanctuary to the various constituencies of members and bringing the concerns of constituents and the public to the sanctuary staff.”*
 - ii. *The sanctuary may often rely on the council as a body and individual council members to help share information with the media.*
 - iii. *Council members are free to communicate as they wish, with whomever they wish, as private individuals not representing the council’s interests*
 - 1. *Council members may not speak for the sanctuary or the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries without the consent of the sanctuary manager and the council body*
 - 2. *Remember: The public will often view you [SAC members] as an extension of the sanctuary.*
5. FBNMS Activities/Projects Report: Gene Brighthouse
- a. Gene reiterated Emily’s take on the Fagatele Bay Trail Hikes that occurred during the Pacific Arts Festival.
 - b. Gene provided an update on the Hyperbaric Chamber and Community College project (Alpina, MI CC and ASCC)
 - i. Representative from Alpena Medical Center, Thunder Bay NMS, and Alpena CC are coming to Pago Pago in Nov (10th).
 - ii. Visit is mainly a fact finding mission for our site and LBJ (Thunder Bay NMS and Alpena Regional Medical Center have a business plan for a hyperbaric chamber)
 - iii. There is currently a chamber on-island (at Industrial Gas)
 - c. Gene briefly described Dave Matilla’s whale research
 - i. An unusual migration was tracked from AS to Antarctica – south of Australia
 - ii. More tracking slated for this year (Oct)
 - d. SAC AGREEMENT ON MPR/SITE EXPANSION TIMELINE

- e. Next SAC meeting, possibly week of Nov 10-17
 - i. REQUEST THAT SAC MEETING BE HELD ON A TUESDAY
- f. FBNMS To provide via email – Update News to SAC members in lieu of meeting each month.
- g. SAC AGREEMENT on a Letter to Dan Basta to ensure FBNMS MPR was a priority for funding and support in AS.