

## FB & SITE EXPANSION SCOPING SESSIONS

### GROUP BREAKOUT NOTES TEMPLATE

Facilitator \_\_\_\_\_ Lupe \_\_\_\_\_ Recorder Kevin Grant \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. General (ALLOW 5 minutes for this)

Are there any issues from the presentation that you would like clarified?

- Enforcement is one of the top topics regarding expanding sites; in 22 years the program (Sanctuary) has not worked in terms of enforcement; how can we get more resources for enforcement – if not, may as well not expand
- If one sanctuary is not functioning well, it doesn't make sense to expand; get the current sanctuary working well – sort out problems – before expanding
- Did DOC or DMWR do enforcement well? Fully support expansion with enforcement
- Hoping to see success stories (other sanctuaries) to the presentation – need to piggy back from other sanctuaries management plans that are successful, then modify to fit Samoa
- Is problem poor enforcement (to Monaco): in some examples enforcement may be good, but if you start with no fish you may not see results immediately
  - FKNMS is a success story
  - FBNMS – most people don't even know there is zoning, so it may not be an enforcement issue; a combination of enforcement, outreach/education, others?
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#### 2. Topics for Discussion

##### Bio-Geographical Assessment

##### Fagatele Bay NMS

Are there specific living marine resources, cultural, social, economic or historical resources or artifacts of scientific or historic interest in Fagatele Bay that needs to be addressed in a new management plan?

For example:

- Items of interest related to World War II

- Important elements to telling the culture or history of the Pacific Islands
  
- Unique ecosystems or living or non-living marine resources
  
- Highlights for tourism

### **Site Expansion**

Are there specific areas, living marine resources, cultural, social, economic or historical resources or artifacts of scientific or historic interest in American Samoa that needs to be addressed?

## **Education/Outreach**

### **Fagatele Bay NMS**

Are there specific education/outreach areas that would be beneficial –what has worked and not worked in Fagatele Bay NMS?

- Items of interest to highlight in education/outreach campaign (e.g., unique approaches, target audiences, messages needed?)

- Are there any opportunities to strengthen/partner on education/outreach campaigns?

### **Site Expansion**

Are there specific education/outreach areas that would be beneficial for special sites within the Territory that is needed?

### **Regulation/Policy/Program Development/Management**

Would the territory benefit from improved management of Fagatele Bay? How about additional sites?

-What are types of improvements?

Could there be better coordination on enforcement, policy implementation and management? Or better federal – local coordination? Why? How?

Are there opportunities for additional partnerships between federal agencies, territories and villages/communities?

Should there be additional protections put in place to limit adverse effects from existing or future activities, or to maintain the character and resources of Fagatele & additional sites?

For example from:

- Development - cables, pipelines
  
- Discharges – dumping, wastewater
  
- Extraction - fishing, mining, energy development
  
- Other - ship groundings, anchoring

**Science/Research/Learning**

Would the territory benefit from improved science, learning and research in Fagatele?  
In additional sites? What? How? Where?

Could there be better coordination on science, learning and research in Fagatele? In additional sites? Or better federal – local coordination? Why? How?

Are there opportunities for additional partnerships between federal agencies, territories and villages/communities to link science/learning to management in Fagatele or in additional sites?

- Enforcement is one of the top topics regarding expanding sites; in 22 years the program (Sanctuary) has not worked in terms of enforcement; how can we get more resources for enforcement – if not, may as well not expand
  - Fully support site expansion if we can get proper enforcement
  - CFMP enforced by villagers
- If one sanctuary is not functioning well, it doesn't make sense to expand; get the current sanctuary working well – sort out problems – before expanding
- Did DOC or DMWR do enforcement well? Fully support expansion with enforcement
- Hoping to see success stories (other sanctuaries) to the presentation – need to piggy back from other sanctuaries management plans that are successful, then modify to fit Samoa
- Is problem poor enforcement (to Monaco): in some examples enforcement may be good, but if you start with no fish you may not see results immediately
  - FKNMS is a success story
  - FBNMS – most people don't even know there is zoning, so it may not be an enforcement issue; a combination of enforcement, outreach/education, others?
- FBNMS could be a good site for 'hands-on' outreach/education on marine conservation
- Concern over “eagerness” for site expansion, without proper man-power or without having FBNMS “working properly”
- Good opportunity to partner with ASCC
- Opportunities for increasing/promoting ecotourism
  - Many people on island do not know where FBNMS is, nor how to actually get to the trail head – NEEDS BETTER SIGNAGE – and NEEDS TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS (safety and prevent erosion)
- Please explain “Partnerships”:
  - ASCC and MOP example, LBJ and hyperbaric chamber example– its wide open and not just about marine conservation – looking for opportunities that are mutually beneficial to FBNMS and the people of American Samoa
  - FBNMS needs to work in partnership/collaboratively with DMWR and their existing MPA efforts (20% No-Take and CFMP)
  - MPAs (Federal or Territorial) are being brought together by the science already (biogeographic assessment)
  - Provide local groups (boys/girls groups, church groups more opportunity to partner so that they get empowered and support the effort (e.g., help with enforcement) – go out and partner with local groups
  - Partner with OSA and village mayors to get the village perspective
    - Biogeo to provide maps to help decisions on site expansion
  - EPA
  - Tourism Bureau
- Get rid of zoning in FBNMS & make it all No-Take
  - Is a small area
  - Supported by preliminary DMWR biorecon data

- Zoning is confusing to users and enforcement officers
- Look at local zoning laws (Title 26) – couple zoning with Title 26; make clear our definition of “zoning”
- Title 26 is terrestrial/business zoning
- Ed/Outreach:
  - Partnerships – FBNMS funding cut for 8<sup>th</sup> grade “Classroom/ocean” to take kids to MPAs (including Manu’a) – got permission from parents to have kids swimming and actively in the water
    - Supplementary materials exist for this program
    - Strengthen this relations for expertise and materials / field trips
    - Revamp and strengthen partnership w/ DOE for materials, curriculum
      - Start at early education level
  - Use local media – get articles on FBNMS in local papers
  - Participate in science fair/Science Symposium
- Water Quality:
  - Proximity to landfill – find out if this is a problem
  - Partner w/ EPA (water quality act)
- Trail is overgrown – need to better maintain
  - Possibly with the villagers (provide funds)
- Encourage communities to participate, but not for \$\$ - because they get a sense of ownership
- Research:
  - Support bringing in off-island special projects
  - Develop better research and monitoring plan for FBNMS
  - NEED economic valuation of FBNMS
- Problems getting funding for enforcement (salaries/vessel/etc)
  - DMWR cannot do enforcement alone
  - Partnered with NOAA OLE, who deputized DMWR enforcement staff
  - NEED OLE, DMWR Officers AND Village enforcement (aumaga) to help solve issue of enforcement (Enforcement/Partnerships)
- For DMP – go to villages and directly explain what is in the draft, not just hold the meetings in public areas
  - Villages will have other opportunities to comment – other meetings could be expensive for staff
  - Better publicity for these meetings – get the word out
- NEED SOCIOECONOMIC BASELINE DATA and SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS re cost/benefit of sanctuary

**Main issues:**

No issues on the management review, or biogeo assessment. Fully supported.

Need more enforcement, and resources to implement.

Must not affect small fishermen/alias who depend on resources.

Must collaborate on management.

Must keep transparent in terms of process and what's happening. No surprises.

Managers must not lose sight of the cultural and traditional components of fishery management.

Don't lump all fishermen together as one. Each case/individual is different.

**FB & SITE EXPANSION SCOPING SESSIONS**

**GROUP BREAKOUT NOTES TEMPLATE**

Facilitator **Gene** Recorder **Jeremy**

**1. General** (ALLOW 5 minutes for this)

Are there any issues from the presentation that you would like clarified?

Site expansion is of greater concern than the management review. How will that work, and what sites would you use?

Depends on bio-geo results, where are the hotspots, what's being used, etc... We can merge traditional uses and commercial fishing, for instance, but we're not there yet. It's a balancing act.

How are fishing activities illegal and damaging? Gene: mostly boats, although have been instances of spearfishing, dynamite fishing, etc... I recommend you take into account the indigenous people, who come from shore, and use small boats. We shouldn't limit their fishing areas.

I encourage and support the expansion into Larsen's and other bays. We need to make it bigger, it's a beautiful place.

Fishermen are not here, there are no representatives from those industries here to state their opinions. We voiced them at Rose, and it was unanimous to three miles, but President says 50 miles. What happened to those comments? Can our children change this declaration in the future? I want to know that my comments and questions count, I'd rather not talk about this if I



am wasting my time. More indigenous boat owners exist, and there are no representatives here, that is not right.

We do not want to draw up a plan that restricts the activities of indigenous fishermen and their rights.

We put so much effort in conserving and preserving, but not into promoting and developing our fisheries. The scale is unbalanced. I think it's because we have money to protect, but we forget about the people making money on the resources, maybe as nobody see people going into fisheries. It's too bad there is no fisheries development here despite it being a proven industry. Nobody goes to meetings, because nothing happens. People talk but they're not heard.

We manage, but that includes the sustainable development of industry.

Our fishery is in its infancy, compared to rest of the world. We are small, but maybe it's due to other people coming in.

We can't just close down a fishery for the sake of doing it. It's a balancing act. We must ensure everyone is represented.

We just want to be informed, don't surprise us as to what's happening, we have to survive on our own

We need a lot more signs in the Sanctuary so people know what's going on. People need to know what the rules are.

## **2. Topics for Discussion**

### **Bio-Geographical Assessment**

#### **Fagatele Bay NMS**

Are there specific living marine resources, cultural, social, economic or historical resources or artifacts of scientific or historic interest in Fagatele Bay that needs to be addressed in a new management plan?

For example:

- Items of interest related to World War II
- Important elements to telling the culture or history of the Pacific Islands
- Unique ecosystems or living or non-living marine resources
- Highlights for tourism

Indigenous people use the Sanctuary, and their rights should be protected. There is no tourism here. We shouldn't block our small boats from fishing, alias barely ever go beyond three miles. There's more and more boats trying to block out the little guys.

Land development and land use is often neglected, but it's a huge issue on sea issues, sedimentation, run off, etc....

### **Site Expansion**

Are there specific areas, living marine resources, cultural, social, economic or historical resources or artifacts of scientific or historic interest in American Samoa that needs to be addressed?

I absolutely oppose site expansion out into the ocean, unless get approval with data, and villages, and locals, and fishermen. We need to strike a balance on the rights of the people. Samoan land includes the water, you cannot take that away from them.

Include Samoan legends in the outreach, and for tourists. We need to take into account culture in everything FBNMS does.

## **Education/Outreach**

### **Fagatele Bay NMS**

Are there specific education/outreach areas that would be beneficial –what has worked and not worked in Fagatele Bay NMS?

- Items of interest to highlight in education/outreach campaign (e.g., unique approaches, target audiences, messages needed?)
- Are there any opportunities to strengthen/partner on education/outreach campaigns?

The media has been advertizing these meetings, the ASCC has as well trying to get people to come to the meeting. Maybe send people out into the villages to gain comments firsthand, we can go to them to gain comments?

### **Site Expansion**

Are there specific education/outreach areas that would be beneficial for special sites within the Territory that is needed?

## **Regulation/Policy/Program Development/Management**

Would the territory benefit from improved management of Fagatele Bay? How about additional sites?

-What are types of improvements?

There should be an evaluation prior to expanding. Why expand when not sure how you're doing now? We need to increase enforcement. There has been no real evidence of biological improvement since FBNMS got set up, based upon all the reports.

Could there be better coordination on enforcement, policy implementation and management? Or better federal – local coordination? Why? How?

what is the point in expanding management if you do not, and cannot, enforce the existing site? We need an evaluation and monitoring of illegal fishers and the enforcement issue entirely. You must be able to fully manage a site before you move on. Need technology to assist – cameras, more staff, more boats?

GPS on boats to stop illegal fishermen? Proposed by Maloy to CRCP.

Bad idea for small boats. You are discouraging fishermen from fishing with all the regulations. Need to be specific on who you are discussing, be specific, not bunch everyone together into one group, i.e. fishing activity, or fishermen. That is not fair.

I am for the fishermen, believe me, I'm from DMWR. We will not be using the information to affect fishing grounds.

It's a sanctuary, we've visited it often for ASCC marine science, it needs to be that there is no fishing there, keep it preserved, protect the fish, let them grow. Fishing lines can harm the reef, right in the bay, it should be stopped. We saw lots of it.

There is concern with FBNMS proximity to the landfill, and if there is impacts on water quality?

It's of great interest to us, and we have a project planned but no funding. Containment is an issue regarding the leachate.

Are there opportunities for additional partnerships between federal agencies, territories and villages/communities?

Partner with EPA or others to monitor water quality issues, based on the impacts of the landfill leachate. Monitor nutrients in the water, and impacts on fish.

Partner with DMWR, Coast Guard, etc... to assist with enforcement issues.

Should there be additional protections put in place to limit adverse effects from existing or future activities, or to maintain the character and resources of Fagatele & additional sites?

For example from:

- Development - cables, pipelines
- Discharges – dumping, wastewater
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Coast Guard should be in charge of oil spills, they have a national mandate. You should partner with them so they settle that issue. There is no current contract, they cancelled it. We spill oil in the bay.

Anchor damage is a big issue. There are boats that use huge anchors that damage the reefs. There are weird anchors on them, we need mooring buoys to protect the reefs.

Overfishing is a concern. There is no more fish. What about traditional fishing practices? What happened to that? We have to educate our people on other issues too, littering. There is plastic cups everywhere. There are foam cups everywhere. Land based issues are a big concern. Education across the board on all the issues.

### **Science/Research/Learning**

Would the territory benefit from improved science, learning and research in Fagatele? In additional sites? What? How? Where?

The ASCC students have seen the Sanctuary, seen its beauty, and want to protect it.

Could there be better coordination on science, learning and research in Fagatele? In additional sites? Or better federal – local coordination? Why? How?

You need a park ranger for education/outreach, and as an enforcement officer. This is good, stupid actions of ignorant people negatively affect those who are following the rules. You can encourage fishermen to report illegal fishers, such as foreign vessels. Public outreach person should be noticeable, have a presence, so people will be less inclined to break the rules. Have 3-4 people to rotate out, to spread positivity, not just fining people and being negative.

Are there opportunities for additional partnerships between federal agencies, territories and villages/communities to link science/learning to management in Fagatele or in additional sites?

How do you envision this site expansion working? That's the big DMWR concern. We fully support management review and biogeo assessment. How can all MPA partners work together in MPA designation process? How will this work? Clarification on collaborations would be good... I'd ideally like to see FBNMS, no take and CFMP go to village together, then let them choose which tool they'd like to use for their village. Collaborative partnerships are what we're looking for, not conflict which wastes our time. We need more resources.

You need to clarify which project is in which department. It's confusing if everyone is doing different things. Why is DOC involved in conservation and environment? They should be concerned with economic development and commerce.

## **FB & SITE EXPANSION SCOPING SESSIONS**

### **GROUP BREAKOUT NOTES TEMPLATE**

**Facilitator** Veronika Mortenson

**Recorder** Emily Gaskin

#### **1. Review of Topics for discussion**

##### **Education and Outreach**

- Education should be done at the site
- People are aware that Fagatele Bay is there but it has been a “secret place”
- The site should instead be used as a laboratory for high school and college students
- An outdoor recreational planner or a park ranger
- Need for a visitors center

##### **Enforcement**

- Lack of enforcement caused by:
  - Manpower
  - Resources (Boat)
  - Safety
- Recommendations:
  - Time should be charged to Fagatele Bay account
  - Need for a dedicated person to help with enforcement
  - Village involvement in enforcement efforts
  - Camera in the bay
  - Greater awareness would facilitate enforcement efforts
- Regulation awareness is a common issue for NMS nation-wide
- DMWR uses a sign-in sheet, surface patrol both during the day and at night, NOAA surveillance camera (currently in Honolulu and available for use subject to being re-fixed)
- DMWR Village Marine Protected Areas engage local villagers to enforce fishing at their own site.
- Fisher-man who are caught often come by land and claim they own land adjacent to the site.
- It is important for people to be aware of cameras
- Are any agencies besides DMWR issuing citations? Currently DMWR issues citations in Fagatele Bay through a cooperative agreement between the offices
- The only people who are not familiar with the regulations are from off-island

##### **Village Partnerships**

- At Fagatele Bay the Village should be playing a larger role

- Large number of people are not aware of regulations
  - Potential disconnect between environmental education and site knowledge
- Village could offer tours of Fagatele Bay
  - Could potentially be modeled off of Aunuu
- Need for village to recognize the benefit of the Bay
  - Fagatele Bay is considered taboo
- Call for school PTAs to do fundraising to take students out to the Bay
- The site should not employ people
- The village partnership will receive more support if villagers perceive the value

### **Emergency Response**

- Exist for other national marine sanctuaries
- Has not been created in the past because it has been relatively isolated
- Team in DC evaluates sites for oil spills, groundings, etc...
- Existing fund to develop emergency response plans for human made scenarios

### **Monitoring**

- Limited to Birkeland's long-term monitoring study
- Recommendations:
  - Temperature buoys
  - Must be constant
- Potential for a partnership with the US-EPA
  - US-EPA gel packets absorb contaminants to evaluate the health of the water
  - US-EPA currently doing monthly stream sampling

### **Site Expansion**

- Support ongoing community fisheries program
- Integration of all of the MPA sites on island
- An additional tool to support existing efforts
- The territory (CFMP, MPA) is already accounting for marine protection
- The territory would like to manage additional marine areas – however they believe we already have the resources on island to manage these sites
- Territorial waters should be a territorial issue and not a Federal reserve because there becomes a question of ownership
- The territory has the agency who can do the work so why bring in the federal government
- CLARIFICATION: Fagatele Bay is not only controlled by the federal government. It is a joint partnership with DOC and subject to continued approval by the government
- However if the laws are broken it becomes a Federal issues
- How does this differ from the relationship between DMWR and Samoan Affairs? Fagatele Bay cannot make decisions without going through a territorial authority
- The territory does not currently have the resources to maintain constant enforcement activities

- The federal government can assist the territory by providing services instead of expanding sites
- The biogeographic study is another example of assistance provided by a Federal agency
- The territory would prefer to receive the funds directly to contract someone themselves to do the work
- The feds must go through the territory to go to the villages
- The lead agency is subject to the decision of the governor
- The territory is concerned about who will be the lead agency because of the potential for overlapping jurisdictions
- Sharing responsibilities is different from overlapping – even if it is overlapping why does it matter if it benefits the territory?
- How is the federal government interfering with the territory’s work?
  - Local waters are the territory’s jurisdiction
- Why doesn’t Fagatele Bay go to DMWR?
  - Because the Governor made this decision
- This is an issue that needs to be addressed with the Governor
- Is there anything that the territory cannot do because of interference?
  - There is currently a partnership between NOAA and DMWR for enforcement
- Are the primary goals the same? NO
  - The primary goals of CFMPs is sustainable fisheries
  - The primary goal of NMS is the conservation of biodiversity
- Are the means the same to accomplish these goals?

### **Rose Atoll**

- The monument establishes marine protection out to 50 miles
- The same process will be held to talk to the partners and the people who are involved
- The enforcement issue will be included in these discussions
- Important to get the information out to the people so that they know what the restrictions and regulations are

### **What happens when an MPA designation expires 5 years?**

- The village is consulted

There is an opportunity to be included in the National Framework of MPAs.

Clarification: The penalty schedule used by DMWR is more limited than that used by the Federal Government.



**Scoping Session on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009**  
**Fagaitua HS**

**Facilitator** Fatima

**Recorders** (Matt & Gene)

**General Comments**

- Coconut & Bush Crabs need to be conserved. Fisheries traditionally are important, protect and conserve is supported. He agrees with conservation, hard to access allows coral and fisheries to be damaged or exploited. Knowledge of currents traditionally – timing is important and this social/cultural knowledge. AS next to Samoa – how is this connected through currents – talked about palolo harvest (coral spawning) the current comes at a very particular angle in his village. Currents from Fagaitua – East currents are very important for coral spawning. October to November is coral spawning – connection needs to be made with science and traditional knowledge.
- Put science together with a layer of traditional practices/socio on top of the biology (Mark).
- There are a lot of bays, little fish, and no turtle's b/c of the currents. Connections of animals (land and ocean in our culture are connected and sometimes describes trends) are important and needs to be considered.

DMWR program has the same, why name a sanctuary, are they not doing their work? Why is the similar effort with this program and MWR? He supports community fisheries, did not understand the reason why there are many of these types of programs. Why is the federal system looking at sites but allow \$ to go to DMWR to support the CBMF program? Thinks that the federal system will take over the marine space and not allow community focus, thinks that federal regulations are harder. Give the resources to the ASG.

Fagatele is over 20 years, need to improve the area. Preserve & protect for future generations, programs get funding to implement activities.

How do you measure the success? Long term monitoring studies – no large fish, overfishing continues, enforcement is needed.

Need to monitor better.

Embayments are important because they are secured and sheltered.

What is the distance of expansion out to sea? Biology will determine the miles of protection out to the reef or beyond territorial waters. Can't just protect coral reefs, need to protect the fisheries.

Are there any areas/sites/special issues that need to be considered for sanctuary additional sites? There are no fish, no special species, no need for inshore for gleening, no more coral reefs....He supports if the fisheries is regenerated, land areas are protected...

Are there similar areas to Fagatele – Larsen’s Bay? Supports the site expansion/additional sites for fish stock, seeding....We need more areas like Fagatele for AS. Need to include Larsens Bay to site expansion. Need to address land based issues b/c they affect the ocean/sea environment/marine life.

Seasonal closings are more in tune with village needs for subsistence fishing.

Likes the partnership with federal for greater resources, increase protection to make connections..... the people benefit no matter if we don’t protect all these will be lost and we will have nothing for the future.

Does not support seasonal closings – it will not allow recovery or re-generation for species or allow them to grow. Link land to sea – important, can’t just look at one system they are connected.

### **Education and Outreach**

- Education should be done at the site

### **Enforcement**

- DMWR has its regulations – be clear on these differences.
- Land based activities need to be controlled to deter impacts on the ocean, there needs to be connectivity to land.
- Resources are needed for greater enforcement – boat monitoring and surveillance.
- Village enforcement very important and needed.

### **Village Partnerships**

### **Emergency Response**

- Exist for other national marine sanctuaries
- Has not been created in the past because it has been relatively isolated
- Team in DC evaluates sites for oil spills, groundings, etc...
- Existing fund to develop emergency response plans for human made scenarios

### **Monitoring**

- Should study the impacts of the proximity of the landfill to Fagatele – need to study if this use is causing damage to the sanctuary.

### **Site Expansion**

- The territory (CFMP, MPA) is already accounting for marine protection
- If a site is designated such as Fagaitua there needs to be mangrove replanting occurring.
-

**Rose Atoll**

**What happens when an MPA designation expires 5 years?**

## FB & SITE EXPANSION SCOPING SESSIONS

### GROUP BREAKOUT NOTES

Facilitator **Veronika Mortenson** Recorder **Emily Gaskin**

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009

Location: American Samoa Community College

#### **Additional Sites/Site Expansion**

*The coral in Leone has been destroyed by people walking on the reef. Can Leone be considered as an additional site?*

*What qualifies a site?*

- People
- Science

*Will Fagatele be expanded out 50 miles?*

That refers to Rose Atoll

*How many MPAs will there be around the island?*

Under the CFMP program there are currently eleven MPAs in American Samoa.

*How do you select other sites?*

We are going to establish a set of criteria. Scientific understanding is very important to identify candidate sites. We will then try and identify where there is local support. The village will be involved in the process.

*Is this currently the process for Fagatele as well?*

Yes the site expansion/additional site process will be run in parallel with the Fagatele Bay management plan review process.

*How will traditional bottom fishers be affected by the expansion?*

The bio-geographic data will serve to protect the fisherman. As part of the US Department of Commerce, we are also concerned with protecting fisheries.

In establishing CFMPs we also consider fishing. Once a site is closed down, the number of fish increase and spill over into other areas increasing fisheries abundance elsewhere.

My grandfather is a fisherman and he believes that poor water quality affects fishery abundance. Therefore setting up an MPA will not serve a purpose.

The bio-geographic data will also help to address this issue.

I understand you plan to build partnerships with the villages for additional sites. I know for a fact this is a sensitive issue.

*Is it up to the villages to decide how long the rules will apply?*

Marine Sanctuary designations are permanent. Rules can only be modified through the management plan review process. Sanctuaries bring national and international recognition to a location.

*Can the community only be involved during the management plan process?*

The community has complete control over the management process, including denying the presence of a sanctuary.

*If you have so many problems why do you want to expand?*

We are using this as an opportunity to revise and change our plan.

*Why aren't the villagers here? Don't you think it is just promoting the problem by expanding the sites while these problems exist?*

### **Bio-Geographic Assessment**

*How does the bio-geographic assessment benefit American Samoa?*

It currently doesn't exist so this is an opportunity to work with local agencies. It is unique to have the data in one place to identify areas that can be considered marine protected areas. Allows us to make wise resource management decisions and sustainably protect the resources.

### **Education and Outreach**

*Since Fagatele Bay lies adjacent to the landfill, is there potential for an educational program related to waste? Recycling? Water quality?*

Current information suggests that Fagatele Bay has not been impacted by the landfill.

I think that education and outreach should be a primary factor because greater public awareness means greater understanding. Local residents should be involved.

Most of the people who fish are adults. We just swim there. Therefore you need ways to reach the elders and they will educate us.

It is important that you talk to the villages at Fagatele. It would have saved you 20 years of anguish if you had gone straight to the villages.

I was a resident of Futiga for ten years and I never knew anything about Fagatele Bay. I found out about it when I started working at DMWR. All I knew was that it was right next to the landfill and therefore I did not think it was important. Therefore I agree that it is very important that you communicate with the villages. Your socioeconomic surveys indicate that people don't know about the regulations and you don't have enforcement.

You should realize use the media to promote Fagatele since you do not have a large staff.

You should partner with the geology class to come and work in the Bay.

You should partner with the Samoan Studies institute so that everything can be done in Samoan.

You should have a call out for students to go snorkeling in the Bay.

### **Management**

*How is the management process working right now? How are the zones working?*

The results of the socio-economic study clearly indicate there is a lack of understanding of regulations. The reef has been resilient to crown-of-thorns outbreaks and hurricanes.

*Does illegal fishing occur elsewhere on the island?*

The results of the study only refer to Fagatele Bay.

*Are there partnerships with village councils and youth groups?*

Right now the partnerships are interagency. Current medical efforts will involve working with other agencies. Partnerships will be a new focus of our education and outreach.

*What exactly are you managing?*

We are managing people and ensuring that people manage resources. The management involves education, enforcement, partnerships, research, etc... Since 1986 it has been illegal to fish in Fagatele Bay.

You should have been talking to the villages since 1986. Partnerships are essential. Our culture goes by the *matai* culture and those below have no power. As you are education the younger generation you should also be educating the leaders who have the control.

Spear fishing is illegal in the territory.

I know that fisherman are using modern technologies. Can fisherman be encouraged to use traditional fishing techniques?

You should have a park ranger to monitor the Bay.

### **Enforcement**

*How does enforcement work?*

Generally enforcement is done by reporting. We advertise for information relating to an incident. This often occurs after the fact. We had a camera that could track movement. We are also working with the Coast Guard.

*Is there a time span?*

The response is often immediate.

*Do you have a boat?*

Fagatele Bay does not currently have enforcement officers. DMWR is currently using our boat. We have heard recommendations for a ranger.

I think you should pick certain times for rangers to go out but vary the times. You should not let the public know about the surveillance process.

## FB & SITE EXPANSION SCOPING SESSIONS

### GROUP BREAKOUT NOTES TEMPLATE

**Facilitator** Kevin Grant

**Recorder** Jeremy Goldberg

#### 1. General (ALLOW 5 minutes for this)

Are there any issues from the presentation that you would like clarified?

Need clarification on set up concerning joint management of FBNMS between AS and feds

NRM division of DOC was initial partner, signed MOU stating roles of each party, management on ground is cooperative arrangement, as such all issues require collaboration, i.e. this meeting couldn't be done without DOC, for support/resources, as well as office space

Why do you have such a small budget?

Sanctuary program is peanuts compared to other things, i.e. DOD, new program existing for 20 years, only 13 sites, lots of work to do,

What are existing details on enforcement in FBNMS?

Difficult to enforce, no village can see the bay, DMWR in charge via an MOU with NOAA stating #1 priority is FBNMS, yet they lack equipment/resources. NOAA enforcement has new 36' boat, which should help. FBNMS has had a lot of manager turnover in the past few years, 3 supers in past 4 years, which leads to difficulty in program continuity as new people have to learn the system/work. Now, Super has experience, and has support on the ground via Nika/Kevin. Past few years, FBNMS has not had attention it deserves, that has changed now. (he discusses zone A/B differences, via slide)

What's the chances the zones will change during this process?

Good, if public wants them to change. The decision is influenced by what people think. Right now, neither zone is a no-take zone. Territory mandate is to have 20% as no take areas. If public thinks FBNMS is a good site for no take efforts, that'll compliment territory efforts. We're trying to work together to reach the same Territory goals.

If there's so many issues now, and limited budget, why are you expanding now? Why not fix the current issues first? There is limited staff, and they are probably overwhelmed with ongoing work. If expansion goes through, they'll have even more work, which they might not be able to do.



Feds will not give us more resources to manage and not help pay for it. It may not be immediately, but it'll come.

Would person be prosecuted via federal law if in territorial waters?

Yes. Wouldn't go to fed prison. We can write the regulations. Sanctuary primary goal is resource protection, but want to encourage compatible uses, so long as goes along with protection of resources, i.e. no dynamite, etc... Fishing can occur but needs to be sustainable.

Student: FBNMS is protecting for food security. Our ancestors used the ocean for food. Now, we're Americanized. Good to protect the bay for food security.

Student: You have to support the culture with the Bay and the public. Maintain Fa'asamoa.

## **2. Topics for Discussion**

### **Bio-Geographical Assessment**

#### **Fagatele Bay NMS**

Are there specific living marine resources, cultural, social, economic or historical resources or artifacts of scientific or historic interest in Fagatele Bay that needs to be addressed in a new management plan?

For example:

- Items of interest related to World War II
- Important elements to telling the culture or history of the Pacific Islands
- Unique ecosystems or living or non-living marine resources
- Highlights for tourism

#### **Site Expansion**

Are there specific areas, living marine resources, cultural, social, economic or historical resources or artifacts of scientific or historic interest in American Samoa that needs to be addressed?

Student: You should protect Ta'u, the big coral in Manu'a as part of the Sanctuary.

## Education/Outreach

### Fagatele Bay NMS

Are there specific education/outreach areas that would be beneficial –what has worked and not worked in Fagatele Bay NMS?

- Items of interest to highlight in education/outreach campaign (e.g., unique approaches, target audiences, messages needed?)
- Are there any opportunities to strengthen/partner on education/outreach campaigns?

Student: You're not doing your job if nobody knows about the regulations.

Student: I have no idea about the zones, isn't that the whole point of the Bay? Why have two zones, not one?

Can fish in deeper water, so corals still protected.

Is there an ongoing outreach effort with the surrounding communities?

There have been efforts, but no steady program. Planning document is 20 years old. Villages/individuals were invited to come, nobody came.

Does Futiga have a role in developing the management plan?

Not specifically, but as part of the public.

That's one of the first things you should do, so they're involved in the plan. This may help with enforcement. If they're not involved in the process, they're not going to take ownership of the plan or site. Need to focus on the village nearby, for the plan and the education/outreach.

Student: You should educate all the villages around FBNMS.

Student: Is there concern with the landfill? I am concerned. Water dripping off rocks is from the landfill, and currents sweep it into the water. Sediments too, can be major impact on corals. Water quality is a big issue. Studies on the landfill are needed.

Please clarify DMWR no take, and the FBNMS. Seems both are trying to protect marine environment.

They have the same goals. Big difference is that FBNMS doesn't have to be no take and FBNMS is co-managed by feds and local. Outreach is a crucial gap in our efforts. We

are trying to establish village and school partnerships, more signs/posters. NMS programs brings national and international significance to AS.

Three students: You should have internships for college and high school, for we can get experiences, and we can talk to people about the Sanctuary. One for education/outreach experience. One for working with FB to help them preserve it – science and management.

Student: You should advertize to gain support from the public. Have fundraisers.

Hold scoping meetings but in the areas you are wanting to protect. Local ones. And have food! If you don't have food, nobody comes. Like here. And have them at better times, so people can take the bus. If later, like now, nobody will come as they don't have a car. It's not that they don't care, it's a challenge for them to attend. Timing is off too, people don't get off until 4. Have it on a Saturday. There's no Sa in some villages. Saturday afternoon, go, when everyone is home.

Student: Fix the road to FB so more people can visit.

Student: Have meetings with the local high school students to get their opinions.

Student: Develop a cultural center for tourists to visit, and include FBNMS.

Student: Did you guys advertize this meeting?

### **Site Expansion**

Are there specific education/outreach areas that would be beneficial for special sites within the Territory that is needed?

Student: What about Pala Lagoon? Maybe make that a sanctuary, there's a diversity of wildlife and mangroves there too. Now it's just trashed, and water quality is bad. There's trash everywhere. I think you should make that a sanctuary and help it out.

Student: Can you help stop the runoff from Nuuuli?

Can't work on land, but can establish partnerships to.

### **Regulation/Policy/Program Development/Management**

Would the territory benefit from improved management of Fagatele Bay? How about additional sites?

-What are types of improvements?

Student: You guys should get into tourism with the cruise ships.

Student: Yeah, tourism should be increased. It will help people take care of the island. Like the arts festival, people cleaned it up. They said it's the cleanest/nicest it's ever been.

Could there be better coordination on enforcement, policy implementation and management? Or better federal – local coordination? Why? How?

Are there opportunities for additional partnerships between federal agencies, territories and villages/communities?

Should there be additional protections put in place to limit adverse effects from existing or future activities, or to maintain the character and resources of Fagatele & additional sites?

For example from:

- Development - cables, pipelines
- Discharges – dumping, wastewater
- Extraction - fishing, mining, energy development
- Other - ship groundings, anchoring

### **Science/Research/Learning**

Would the territory benefit from improved science, learning and research in Fagatele? In additional sites? What? How? Where?

I think there's enough research now.

Could there be better coordination on science, learning and research in Fagatele? In additional sites? Or better federal – local coordination? Why? How?

Are there opportunities for additional partnerships between federal agencies, territories and villages/communities to link science/learning to management in Fagatele or in additional sites?

To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend the creation of a site based curriculum which utilizes Fagatele Bay to engage students in stewardship and ocean awareness. This curriculum should incorporate a holistic approach which includes place based history, tradition, science, art, and math. Once established the curriculum could be used by teachers, and community organizations, as a tool to support outdoor, place based stewardship programs throughout Samoa. Using Fagatele Bay as a bench mark, students could determine the ecological balance in their own communities.

Similar programs supported by Polynesian Voyaging Society, US Fish and Wildlife Services, and NOAA have been adopted by ahupua'a (distinct land areas) in Hawaii with positive response from teachers, students and community members. These sustainable programs addressed the specific environmental issues in each community so that students participated in educated solutions and outreach. By immersing students in existing natural wonders in Samoa, this program could establish lifelong relationships between the youth of Samoa and their ecosystem. Please feel free to contact me if you feel that you could benefit from seeing similar curriculum and programs which have been used in Hawaii. Best wishes and good luck in your future endeavors.

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Monday, 23 March 2009

Gene Brighthouse,  
Superintendent  
Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Convention Center, Utulei  
Pago Pago, AS 96799

SUBJECT: Comments Regarding Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review

*Talofa* Superintendent Brighthouse,

As a visitor and supporter of Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, as well as a marine conservation professional, it is my honor and privilege to offer the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries the following set of comments and suggestions regarding the current Management Plan Review process. I do so pursuant with the open public comment period, as identified within the Federal Register and on the Sanctuary website.

Based on my familiarity with the natural beauty, cultural importance, and biological significance of Fagatele Bay, I would like to recommend that the Sanctuary boundaries be adapted to satisfy four key considerations, and the updated management plan revised pursuant these needs, as follows:

- 1.) Over 20 years after its original designation, and given the tremendous populations growth and development pressure that the Island of Tutuila now faces, it is obvious that Fagatele Bay is insufficiently large enough to offset the upland and marine threats that now face it. My impression and concern is that the conservation value of the Bay as currently delineated is or will soon be marginalized, or 'squeezed out', by the increasing effects of development, urbanization, and population growth on Tutuila. Many of our similarly-sized marine protected areas (MPAs) in Hawaii on have directly experienced this since their designation in the 1960s and 70s. As such, the **boundaries of the Sanctuary need to be greatly expanded** in order to mitigate against these threats and serve as a counter-balance to the rapid development and population pressures occurring on and around Tutuila. Such an expansion should include the boundaries of the Sanctuary to be expanded to include adjacent coastline and bay(s) to the Fagatele, as well as deepwater areas outside of the Bay, running parallel along the adjacent coastline and bay(s). The new boundaries should include an enlarged, 'core reserve' area of full protection from any extractive use, as well as an enlarged 'buffer zone' around this core reserve where there are limited, multiple extractive and non-extractive uses occurring. This expansion in area of waters protected should be inherently designed to address current international MPA design criteria and standards, in order to account for adequate ecological management considerations, including: (a) sufficient biological protections for the residing reef species assemblage and community structure, and (b) migratory/pelagic marine mammals and fish. Such design should reflect and provide adequate management opportunity to protect migration and home range behaviors of resident organisms, and sustain fish and invertebrate population dynamics between adjacent bay

systems and given nearshore benthic habitat complexity (including enhanced recruitment, and spawning/larval source opportunities).

- 2.) The current boundaries of Fagatele Bay enclose an area that is slightly larger than the area enclosed within Hawaii's famed Hanauma Bay on Oahu. Since the State of Hawaii government imposed sufficient infrastructure, visitor use regulations, and visitor capacity limitation, Hanauma Bay has become a fairly good model recognized world-wide for a marine protected area (MPA) that today attracts a sufficient amount of tourism that does not exceed the carrying capacity for the Bay to enable the site to be both biologically and economically sustainable. While tourism in American Samoa is clearly different than that of Hawaii, nonetheless there is the opportunity for the revised management plan to provide sufficient visitor infrastructure (all but lacking at present), regulation, and limitations (not necessary at present due to low visitation rates) in order to **promote tourism at Fagatele Bay in a sustainable manner that helps to support the costs of management** (via visitor and 'membership' revenue streams), while also educating visitors on the unique value and biological importance of the Bay and other MPAs (including establishment of a visitor education center; see the Hanauma Bay visitor education center as a model – required for entry by all visitors into the Bay). Fagatele Bay's management plan should be re-written to adequately spur and attract sufficiently large and diversified sources of investment capital from private interests, including business and 'membership' interests beyond Tutuila and outside of American Samoa. As part of the management plan review process, a sustainable financing mechanism that reflects public and private financing should be developed and established. Other National Marine Sanctuaries (e.g., Humpback Whales and Florida Keys) have experienced success in both attracting new business investments and increased tourism revenues while remaining focused on biological conservation.
- 3.) The revised Sanctuary would be most successfully adapted and biologically beneficial long-term **as one site among a network of MPAs around Tutuila**, as per international marine protection guidance and standards today. I would recommend that the Sanctuary be re-designated as a network of sites (if possible) beyond the current geographic scope of Fagatele Bay, or be used to promote the passage of a new set of MPAs around Tutuila by the American Samoa government. Clearly, the creation of additional MPAs around the most populated island within the Fa'a Samoa customary ownership system would make this process one that requires significant public input and support, as well as difficult public discussion and compromises. That being said, the opportunity to use the management planning review process to identify and publically raise this need cannot be ignored, and must be taken advantage of. Such a process would likely require community groups and non-government entities to advocate for the creation of such a network of new areas.
- 4.) I would recommend that the management planning review process include future **provision of sufficient administrative and enforcement resources** (including both staff, infrastructure, and finances) so as to encourage the effective management of the Sanctuary. During one of my visits to the Sanctuary several years ago with the Superintendent at the time, in the water we found recent evidence of dynamite fishing damage to several areas within the back reef flat and on patch reef. We relayed this finding to other colleagues with experience assessing damaged reef systems, who confirmed this observation. It was clear



that insufficient public awareness and support, insufficient enforcement capacity, and a lack of on-site Sanctuary staff presence had contributed to this destructive poaching behavior. The future management effectiveness of Fagatele Bay is predicated upon sufficient financial, infrastructure, enforcement, and on-site management capabilities.

I hope that these comments and suggestions are carefully considered by the management plan review committee, and adequately reflected within an adapted and strengthened management plan for Fagatele Bay. Having spent my career working to build MPA management capacity around the world, including in setting international standards, I strongly believe that the future biological viability of this biologically and culturally outstanding site is dependent upon doing so.

I thank the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for the opportunity to offer these comments, and its consideration of the stated recommendations. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments in regard to this submission. I would like to close by extending my and my family's gratitude to all of the federal and Territorial government representatives and the people of American Samoa for your efforts and leadership on this important and vital pursuit. *Fa`afetai tele lava.*

Sincerely,

John Parks

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March 19, 2009

To: Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
American Samoa

From: Peter Craig, PhD  
Biologist, American Samoa

Re: Public comments about Rose Atoll Monument

I would like to provide the Sanctuary with these written comments regarding the management of the newly designated Rose Atoll Monument.

I am concerned that the new Monument designation for Rose Atoll may now provide significantly less protection for atoll's coral reef resources than it did when Rose Atoll was a National Wildlife Sanctuary. This is not good.

First let me characterize the Monument by clearly separating its two main biological components: the shallow-water coral reef zone and the offshore pelagic zone. Rose Atoll is a steep pinnacle that rises from an otherwise relatively flat seafloor that is 2-3 miles deep. Most corals require light to live, so they occur only in a thin band around the tip of the pinnacle, from the water surface down to 300 deep. Due to the steepness of the pinnacle, the 300-foot depth is quickly reached within a 0.5 mile boundary around the atoll. Thus the coral reef ecosystem is restricted to a very tiny portion (less than 1% in area) of the new monument. The other 99% of the monument is deepwater ocean supporting pelagic fish such as tuna, masimasi and swordfish.

The Monument, by extending the no-fishing zone out to 50 miles off shore, provides slight additional protection for the pelagic fish (it is only about 1% of our EEZ).

On the other hand, the tiny coral reef ecosystem on the pinnacle of Rose Atoll itself is a unique resource that deserves full protection. Rose Atoll NWS had been a no-take marine protected area from land out to 3 miles offshore. Although this regulation was largely unenforced due to the remoteness of the atoll, it did allow for occasional Coast Guard overflights to view the atoll for potential infractions.

With its new Monument status, Rose Atoll may now be opened up to subsistence and sport fishing. However, the atoll is so small (about 1 square mile) that any coral reef fishing there can significantly reduce the biomass and diversity of fish and invertebrates there, diminishing the very purpose for designating the site as a refuge/monument. For example, it only takes about 15 minutes to boat completely around the atoll, and a boat jigging for snappers, groupers, and jacks could easily crop off most large fish on the atoll, thus reducing the value of the "Monument" to that of just another overfished habitat at a time when the world is striving to protect any coral reef ecosystem that remains in a healthy condition.

This fishing loophole also weakens enforcement by complicating the determination of when fishing is or is not permissible. It probably requires definitions of subsistence fishing, bag limits, possession limits, and especially transport limits of giant clams and fish caught at the atoll and taken back to Tutuila for family use.

Instead, I would hope that managers take a clear and straightforward position that the coral reef ecosystem around Rose Atoll shall remain a no-take marine protected area, no exceptions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the management plan review for Fagatele Bay NMS. In briefly reviewing the previous goals, objectives, and management activities described in the 2002 State of the Sanctuary Report, we would like to offer the following broad suggestions:

- Incorporation of a more "ridge to reef" approach in developing the next management plan, including specific regulations and management actions to protect and restore the watershed
- Inclusion of more measurable objectives under all goals, to better assess the effectiveness of your activities
- Expansion of the science goal, objectives, and activities to incorporate effectiveness monitoring to assess the impact of specific management activities
- Expansion of the boundaries of the Sanctuary to include the new Rose Atoll Marine National Monument

We are excited that you are undertaking this management plan review and look forward to the results. Also, in light of the possibility that we may be providing some support in the future to the CRAG as part of a new NOAA NGO partnership grant for which we submitted a proposal, please let us know if there are particular areas in this process with which you think we may assist more directly, and we will try to do so.

Sincerely,  
Trina Leberer

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**Trina Leberer**  
*Director*

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March 25<sup>th</sup> 2009

To: National Marine Sanctuaries, Fagatele Bay

From: Lucy Jacob, American Samoa (representing individual view)

Re: Fagatele Bay Management Plan Review and Site Expansion Process

Here are some points that I would like to be considered for the public scoping of Fagatele Bay Management Plan Review and Site Expansion Process. Some are new points and others have already been stated at the Public Scoping.

### MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

- Fagatele Bay (FB) needs more signs all around the island in English and Samoan
- The track should be built properly out of wood or some other suitable material to stop erosion and make it more accessible to people
- Education should be improved so that people know about the sanctuary and are aware of the regulations
- Signs at the top of the hill should be cleaned
- Tracks to Sliding Rock and Larsen's should be cleared more regularly and clearly marked.
- There should be markers of the signs that do exist saying 'YOU ARE HERE'
- FB should have no zoning and should be made entirely a no-take Sanctuary. This would make public awareness and enforcement easier and may also improve the possibility of biological effectiveness.

### 'SITE EXPANSION' PROCESS

- Having been in the REAC meeting on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, it became apparent that the word 'expansion' is confusing to members of the public. It became apparent that members of the REAC meeting had no understanding about the process of 'site expansion.' Although one person had been present in the scoping meetings and another had seen the T.V. appearance of FB's Education Coordinator, there was much debate over whether FB was planning to expand 'sideways' or 'outwards'. It was explained by the FB representative in the REAC meeting that under no circumstances would the boundaries of any new sanctuaries touch the existing sanctuary. This raised the issue of expanding into Larsen's Bay which would surely mean that the boundaries would touch. It was also stated that when translated into Samoan, the word 'expansion' implies making something larger (similar to the English meaning).

Due to the significant confusion amongst people that have seen presentations from the Sanctuary staff, I would like to recommend that the Sanctuary changes the wording that it is using for the 'site expansion process' so that people are clear that they are proposing making **additional sites**. This should be clarified to the public.

- The Sanctuary should work closely with existing territorial programs if they do indeed intend to make additional sites in territorial waters. As they are very aware, there are existing programs working to create MPAs in territorial waters (mainly DMWR). Despite promises that the Sanctuary will work cooperatively with DMWR, little evidence of this is seen in the current plans and the new timeline now produced by the Sanctuary. It is also very difficult for the public to understand the differences between different types of MPA and time should be taken by different agencies to work together to explain these differences to the public.
- The new speeded up timeline of FB's 'site expansion process' appears to be very rushed with no particular reason other than perhaps a desire to compete (not complement) territorial efforts. In the latest 'milestone' document (issued in the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March) it states that preliminary site identification will be based on public scoping comments and best available science. Very few members of the public were present in the 'public scoping' meetings and people were not asked to recommend new sites nor state their opinion on whether new sites should be identified. Rather, they were told that the results of the Biogeographic Survey would determine whether or not additional sites should be selected. It is my understanding that this assessment will not be completed by July 2009. I would therefore say that this a very weak basis for identifying preliminary sites at such an early stage in the process.
- It is my opinion that the poor history of overall management in the Sanctuary throughout the last 23 years does not warrant the creation of additional sites within the territory. For example, in a recent socioeconomic study carried out by the Sanctuary (Socioeconomic Trends in Communities near Fagatele Bay, January 2009) it was found that only 20% of those interviewed were aware of any regulations and 57% of interviewees believed that there are no regulations in the bay. In addition the most recent biological monitoring results of Fagatele Bay have found a decrease in overall fish abundance from 2004 – 2007 and no detectable trends in fish diversity (Fenner et al. 2008). **I feel that it would be best to improve the management of one single site and concentrate efforts on having one successful Sanctuary before jumping ahead to create additional sites that there may be no local need for.**

#### Reference

Fenner, D., Green, A., Birkeland, C., Squair, C., Carroll, B. Long term monitoring of Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Tutuila Island, American Samoa: results of surveys conducted in 2007/8, including a re-survey of the historic Aua Transect. 2008. Report prepared for U.S. Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government, NOAA.

## Comments on the Fagatele Bay Management Review

Douglas Fenner, Ph.D.

The title "Sanctuary" seems to imply some kind of protection. I know that in the Marine Sanctuary system the Sanctuaries are not always closed to exploitation. I know the inner part of Fagatele Bay is closed to non-traditional fishing methods, and the outer part allows line fishing. So some protection is afforded. But not a lot. I have been diving and snorkeling there a number of times, and have never seen a single large fish. I have seen a fisherman with a spear (which I believe is illegal). If there is no protection and no enforcement, then the "Sanctuary" is just a line drawn on a map that does not correspond to any reality. The only reality is that there is funding and jobs for people to do education and outreach and manage budgets and so on. Little or no effect on the actual reef. I understand that few villagers in the area understand what the regulations are. At times there may not be much support for it. Apparently education and outreach to the villagers in the area hasn't worked very well. If the only effect of the Sanctuary designation is to pay some people in the office to do work that doesn't have much impact on the villager knowledge or the protection of the reef in the bay, then I wonder why do it? We have essentially no no-take areas in American Samoa. There is a great need for them, and a previous governor mandated that there be 20% of the reefs in no-take areas by 2010. With the money and staff the Sanctuary has, shouldn't it try to get the community to accept having this tiny, remote, part of the reefs to be no-take?

I urge the Sanctuary to move to gain acceptance of the bay as a no-take area. If Sanctuaries do not mean protection, then I question why expand it to a network of Sanctuaries? Why a network of paper parks?? It would be great to have a network of no-take MPA's, and if the Sanctuary program is willing to work toward that, I would support it. But a network of paper parks is a waste of money in my opinion. If you can't do it in Fagatele, why would we think it can be done elsewhere? We need some leadership, and Fagatele could provide that, I urge it to do so.

Douglas Fenner, Ph.D..  
Coral Reef Monitoring Ecologist  
Dept Marine & Wildlife Resources  
American Samoa

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USA  
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"Now is the time to confront [the climate change] challenge once and for all. Delay is no longer an option.

Denial is no longer an acceptable response. The stakes are too high. The consequences, too serious."

Barack Obama, Nov. 18 2008

Kevin Grant

Public notices I have seen are confusing as to the final comment period. The Fagatele Bay web site says March 26th, the public comment form scoping meetings says March 27th. To be on the safe side, since I have been thinking about the subject since February 11th is to send in these questions and comments before midnight local Samoa time.

So first questions;

1). I looked at the DOC FY 2009 Budget and saw no breakdown for Fagatele Bay National Sanctuary. Only the CZM Budget which I assume includes FBNMS in the amount of \$956,000 (travel; \$27,500, personnel; \$631,000, contracts; \$20,000)

So... the question;

of this sum of money, how many US Citizens and US Nationals are on the payroll? Since the entire DOC Federally Funded Budget (\$3,150,000) is made up of US Taxpayers money I think US Citizens like myself deserve the right to know of all positions funded, which are held by US Nationals or US Citizens?.

If this question is difficult to answer I request it under the Freedom of Information Act.

2). In the FY 2009 DOC CZM Budget I see no amount allocated to pay for the right of way, and maintenance of the road across communal family lands to get to the Bay. Question; What dollar amount is paid for the easement right of way and why isn't the lease agreement recorded at the Registrars Office?.

3). Since the Upper House,( the Senate), is made up of Matai's appointed by their Districts Chief, who show no real regard to comments from untitled (individuals), people, even though the funds are from the US Taxpayers, how are we to give any "input" other than through this public comment channel?

If I could get answers to these questions by tomorrow morning I can give my public comments to DOC by 1600 friday.

Thanks,  
Jim McGuire

PS I was at the public hearing back in 1985, 86 when Fagatele Bay was discussed as a potential Sanctuary. my comments were recorded then as were the Profish Members at the meeting

March 26, 2009

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council written comments regarding the initiation of review of management plan/regulations of the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary; intent to prepare draft environmental impact statement and management plan; scoping meetings (74 FR 5641).

1. The Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (FBS) should not be expanded to include Rose Atoll or any other areas. American Samoa has a small EEZ and local fishermen are already losing access to fishing areas which provide important commercial, nutritional and socio-cultural benefits, as well as room for the further development of small-scale fisheries around American Samoa.
2. The scoping process to date has been inadequate and needs to be reinitiated. Less than 10 members of the public attended the recent scoping meetings and no scoping was held on Manua, which would be significantly affected by the inclusion of Rose Atoll in the FBS due to its proximity
3. FBS scoping and Sanctuary Review materials need to continue to be provided in the Samoan language as this is the primary language of those who are most affected.
4. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) asserts that one of its goals is to provide a “transparent, cooperative and coordinated” approach, the outreach and scoping process to date is not a good example of this.
5. The Council supports the goal of characterization and monitoring of FBS resources including the establishment of an understanding of baseline conditions. The Council is disappointed that apparently this was not done when the FBS was established and believes that all future research and monitoring should be science-based. Detailed results from all research and monitoring programs should be peer reviewed and made available to the public (including in the Samoan language).
6. The conduct (and peer-reviewed publication) of scientific research within the existing FBS should be the top management priority as this will allow managers, scientists and the public to apply the findings to other areas as appropriate.
7. The ONMS should provide access to all individual public comments via the internet, rather than only by personal inspection at the FBS office so as to maximize access to this information by all interested parties.



Veronika Mortenson  
Fagatele Bay Coordinator,  
DOC, ASG

Dear Ms Mortenson

Pursuant to our phone conversation and the comment form in front of me it states "all comments must be received by March 27th 2009. So... here is my comments in my capacity as a tour operator and Kayak charter business. ASG license number 01635.

Background;

I have been diving, sailing and kayaking around Tutuila, Aunu'u and the Manua Islands since arriving hereto work at Marine Resources. My good friend Gordon Yamasaki, also arrived at the same time to work at OMR back in March 1973. We both dove in Fagatele Bay many times before in became a US Sanctuary. Back on January 18, 1984 at NOAA's public hearing at the Convention Center I made the following comments, which are on the record. "American Samoa Commercial Fishing Association, James McGuire- 1/18/84 Comment: He expressed skepticism over the enforcement of regulations, feeling that it is impractical. He also felt that the bay is more protected now than it would be with sanctuary designation and its increased use". Also commenting were Gordon Yamasaki, Tom French, Larry Kirkland, Sam Puleasi and Mel Makaiwi ,all experienced fishermen and water sport enthusiasts. Dr. Richard Wass from OMR also commented.

Point; In the past 25 years since this comment was made enforcement to protect the marine life in Fagatele Bay has not changed.

Solution; Get an easement right of way to the Ridge overlooking the Bay and like ASEPA deputize people to issue citations to violators (most always at night) and pay for it. Employee people from the land owners family as a first attempt to solve the problem. Ever since Nancy Daschbach was the Superintendent has the land owner had funds budgeted to cross communal land to get to the bay quicker, especially when sea conditions make in impractical coming all the way from Pago Harbor at night? Most local boats fishing illegally could out maneuver any existing government boat approaching them any way. Offer a bounty also. Enforcement officers who are currently deputized are limited to EPA. Besides in this cultural setting it is a dangerous job to do at night, that's part of the reason its never been done. Risk of physical harm has been to high. So, pay for the risk.

Positive Comments:

The education programs offered from June to August are great. However to few and infrequent for 9 to 12 year old kids. To see the Bay the boat ride from the dock in Pago is too far, better to walk in and out. Have an information booth near the turn off to the Futiga Dump road from 1300 week days, Saturdays and by appointment on Sundays for tourists.

The Art & Tide Calendar is also a big plus and the \$5000 spent on printing is worth the cost. However, from a kayak rental tourist point of view the calendars are not getting to the people who could benefit from them the most. Kids living in the outer Villages on the coast (from Sliding Rock to the West end of Tutuila, Laulii to Onenoa and the north shore Villages). When Blue Pacific does charters in these locations we give the calendars to the kids, the actual people

who play in the water. We even go to grade schools to explain how to read the calendar. At an apparent cost of \$4 each to many of the calendars hang on adults walls who never even use the ocean as a playground. Although the calendar cost appears to be split between DOC, ASCZM, ASEPA and previously National Marine Sanctuaries the calendar is not reaching Village kids who play in the ocean daily. The kids that we give them to every year all over the island love the calendar and its a great way to break the ice when I take tourist kayaking in Villages like Puloa. The Yacht Club, on the middle section of Pago Harbor is also a great launching site to take experienced Kayakers from the Harbor into and past Fagatele Bay stopping at Sliding Rock or Leone, depending on wind, swell and visibility conditions. For a shorter run to Fagatele Bay (during hurricane season months), launching from Sliding Rock paddling into the swells going south east is a short paddle. Coming back is easier due to a potential tail wind and following sea. As a small Kayak, water sport tour business we support the effort Department of Commerce has made over the years to develop ocean awareness in younger people. Most local kids who play in the shore line waters of their Village take to kayaking and outrigger canoeing easier than sailing. Sailing on any boat to Fagatele Bay requires much more water sport skills that motoring on an alia, or small motor boat.

On the negative side... briefly.

- 1). Sanctuary Advisory Council should have a better cross section of members. People that enjoy water sport recreational sports and water sport athletes.
- 2). Since up through March 30 2009 the Program has been funded 100% by US Federal Funds, BPMC feels US Citizens and US Nationals should have more input into budgetary funding. Input through a Senator is difficult here due to the "Cast System" (Matai vs non Matai) and budgetary input through faipule in the house is also difficult since most budgetary hearings are not advertised adequately.
- 3). Although culturally Sunday is a day of rest, respected by all many tourist would might come to our shores would like to walk into places like Fagatele Bay on Sundays. Since the program is Federally funded access on Sundays should be possible.
- 4). CZM's budget(\$956,000), for FY 2009 includes Fagatele Bay expenses. This entire budget is 100% federally funded. Obama, our new President, is all for transparency, so why can't tour operators like BPMC have some input on the annual budget?
- 5). Rose Atoll Trips there should be available for any US Citizen that wants to see the atoll, not just the elite on Samoa's Society.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. Will it take another 25 years before anybody listens?

James L. McGuire, Director BPMC

sources of information;

- 1). Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Condition Report
- 2). Future of the Sanctuary
- 3). Flood Insurance Rate Map number 6000010069C
- 4). US Coast Guard Chart of of Tutuila and Aunu'u
- 5). Web site [fagatelebay.noaa.gov](http://fagatelebay.noaa.gov)
- 6). Comments from kids and adults talked to in Tutuila, Aunu'u, Ofu, Olosega, and Tau



## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific West Region  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, California 94607-4807



IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (PWR-RD)

March 26, 2009

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Management Plan Review)  
P.O. Box 4318  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Re: Fagatele Bay NMS NOI and EIS Preparation Notice for Management Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and to propose recommendations for consideration as you begin the planning process for the future Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan. With the concurrence of the local community and the American Samoa Government (ASG), an expansion of the existing Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) would be beneficial to the long-term protection of the Bay's resources.

Two additional areas for consideration in the EIS and Management Plan specific to the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Plan include the following:

- **Education and Interpretive Outreach Partnership** – The NPS, which manages the National Park of American Samoa, including a unit on Tutuila, where Fagatele Bay NMS is located, is in the process of developing and expanding its visitor and educational outreach programs. There are currently few off-island visitors to American Samoa and it is a challenge to engage and effectively educate the public about preservation of marine resources. The NPS encourages NOAA to work closely with the NPS as NOAA develops education and interpretive strategies. This coordinated development should result in a more effective and efficient education program.
- **"No Take" Zone** – The ASG, Division of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) is actively encouraging an increased number of "no take" fishing zones around Tutuila in American Samoa. Fagatele Bay currently contains two distinct fishing zones – one which requires "traditional" fishing methods and the other which allows contemporary methods. The boundary between these is unclear. The NPS actively encourages consideration of a "no-take" designation for all of Fagatele Bay, including any new areas which might be added to the sanctuary. Enforcement is minimal to non-existent, the establishment of "no take" zones throughout the Bay would simplify both enforcement and education goals and make them more achievable. The NPS is prohibited by its enabling legislation from using NPS leased land as no-take without the consent of the local villages impacted.

As the NOAA Action Plans are prepared to address specific issues and management plans are developed during the overall planning process, please also incorporate by reference all pertinent

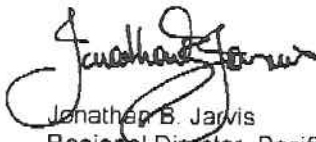
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**IN AMERICA** 

information relevant from the NPSA General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. These documents are located on the park's website at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/npsa/parkmgmt/planning.htm>

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) was designated as the lead agency for jurisdiction issues, management and protection of Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) under the newest Marine Monument designation. The proposal to expand the Fagatele Bay NMS to include co-management of Rose Atoll NWR offshore areas by NOAA in partnership with the FWS may have merit, and further consultation between agencies should take place as part of the EIS preparation process.

In closing, the NPS is supportive of the planning process you have begun and look forward to participating in the next steps for the development of the Draft Management Plan for Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Please contact Mr. Frank Hays, Pacific Area Director, at (808)541-2693 ext. 723 or by email at [Frank.Hays@nps.gov](mailto:Frank.Hays@nps.gov) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jonathan B. Jarvis  
Regional Director, Pacific West Region