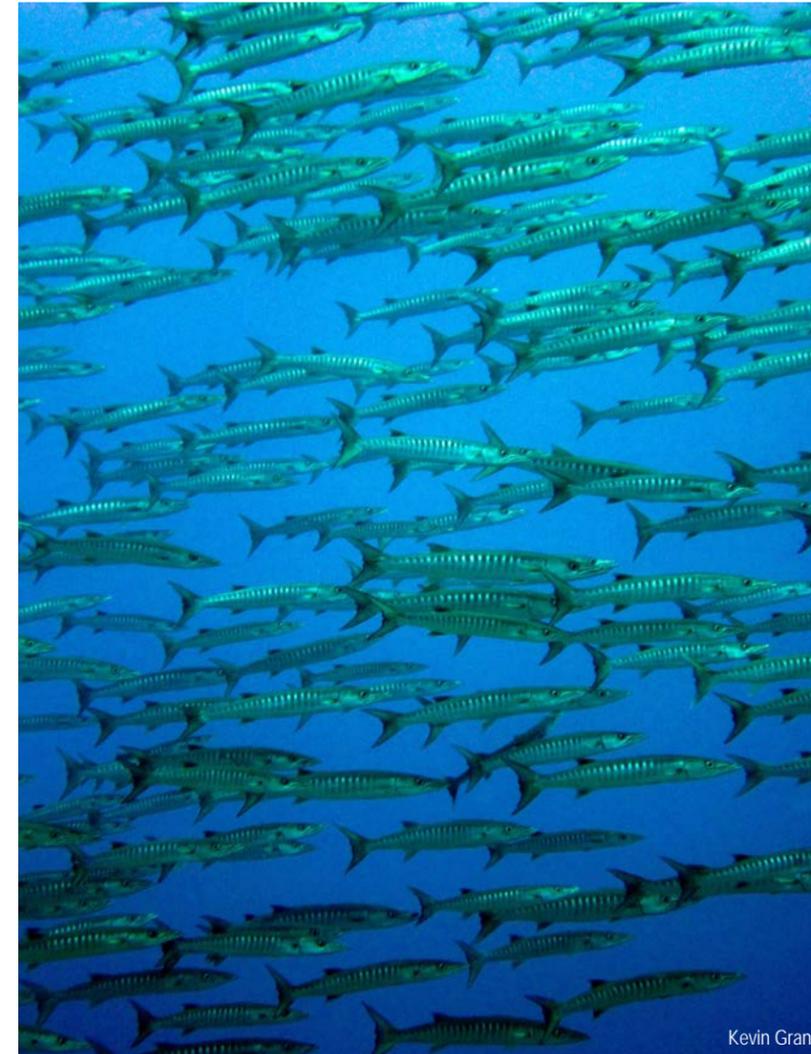


A Look Ahead

In FY12, FBNMS will focus on the release of their Final Management Plan that may include the addition of five new sanctuary units in American Samoa. In addition, FBNMS will work towards finalizing their certification to become one of the first 'Climate Smart' sanctuaries in the country. FBNMS staff plan to move into their new offices in late spring, followed shortly thereafter by the opening of the Marine Education Center by the end of summer. FBNMS also plans to partner with the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center to open a regional hyperbaric chamber to treat divers as well as provide wound care treatment for diabetic patients.



2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Fagatele Bay Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

Officers

Chair: Dean Hudson
Vice Chair: Va'amua Henry Seseapasara
Secretary: Netini Sene

Non-Governmental Members

Research Science Advisor: Charles Birkeland
Ocean Recreation: Dean Hudson
Commercial Fishing: Va'amua Henry Seseapasara
Education: Netini Sene
Community-at-Large (West Side): Uiagalelei Lealofi
Community-at-Large (Manu'a Islands): Le'i Sonny Thompson
Community-at-Large (East Side): vacant

Business/Industry: vacant
Tourism: David Vaeafe
Student (non-voting): vacant

Governmental Members

Territorial Government
American Samoa Dept. of Commerce: Falesau Paopao
American Samoa Dept. of Marine and Wildlife Resources: Ufagafa Ray Tulafono
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency: Fanuatele To'afa Vaiaga'e
American Samoa Community College/ University of Hawaii Sea Grant: Ephraim Temple

Federal Government

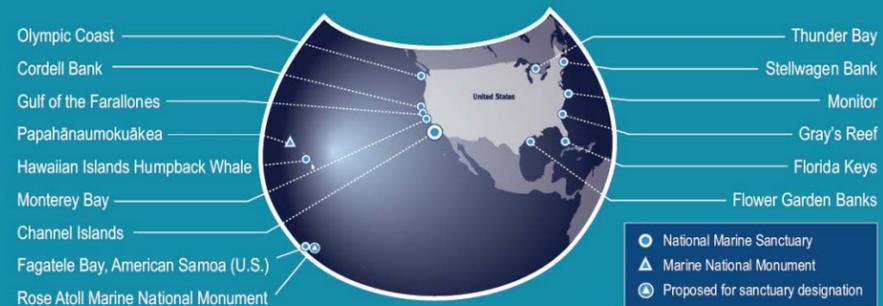
National Park Service (non-voting): Mike Reynolds
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (non-voting): Kevin Painter
U.S. Coast Guard (non-voting): Eric Roberts
NOAA Pacific Islands Region Office (non-voting): Fatima Sauafea-Leau
NOAA Fagatele Bay NMS (non-voting): Gene Brighthouse
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region: Allen Tom

Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator
Emily Gaskin

<http://fagatelebay.noaa.gov>

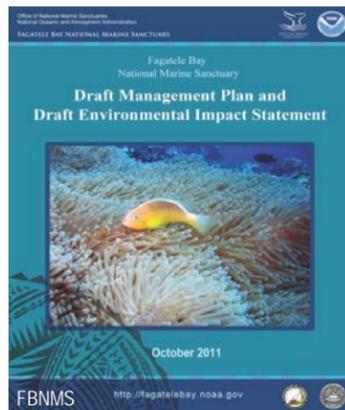
Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary encompasses a fringing coral reef ecosystem contained within an eroded volcanic crater in American Samoa. Fagatele Bay is the nation's smallest marine sanctuary at one-quarter square mile and its only true tropical reef. Hundreds of species of corals, colorful reef 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 April 29, 1986.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



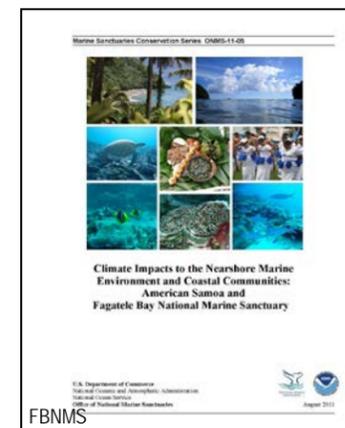
NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.





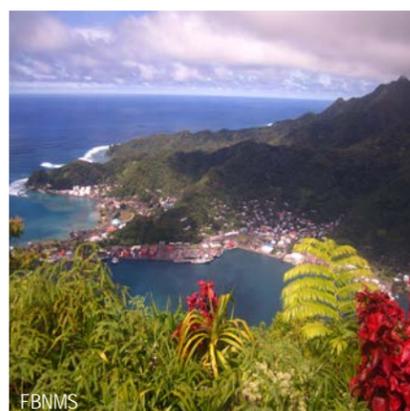
Draft management plan & environmental impact statement

FBNMS released a comprehensive draft management plan and environmental assessment in October 2011. The new draft plan and accompanying proposed rule propose the addition of five new reef and offshore areas, and a change of the sanctuary's name to American Samoa National Marine Sanctuary. The proposed new areas are Larsen Bay, waters around Swains Island and Muliāva (also known as Rose Atoll), and some of the waters around Aunu'u Island and Ta'u Island. Inclusion of these areas into the sanctuary will result in a high degree of protection for some of the oldest and largest known corals in the world.



Climate impacts report

FBNMS released a document titled: *Climate Impacts to the Nearshore Marine Environment and Coastal Communities: American Samoa and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary*. The document identifies potential climate impacts in American Samoa and the surrounding region over the next fifty years. The study found that global and regional changes to the marine environment associated with climate change may have significant consequences for coral reef ecosystems, coastal communities and maritime heritage resources relevant to FBNS. This information will inform priority management actions for the sanctuary to take in response to the impacts of climate change on natural systems and human activities within the sanctuary.



Two Samoa's Initiative

FBNMS staff participated in the completion of products and materials for collaborative discussions with independent Samoa on environmental and resource management connectivity in the Samoan Archipelago. Two meetings were held, one in Samoa in November; the other in American Samoa in February. Outcomes included the endorsement of collaboration through an MOU, a framework for the working group, and next steps in developing a strategic plan for prioritizing actions, implementing a timeline and fundraising.

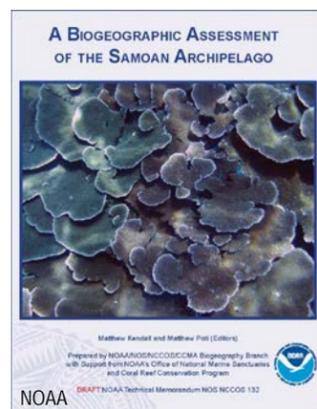


Dive into Education Teacher Program

FBNMS collaborated with the American Samoa Department of Education and Department of Commerce to host a training for local elementary school teachers. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the teachers with the skills to integrate marine science education into their classrooms. Each of the teachers received a \$500 voucher for school supplies to teach marine science and conservation lessons and to share their training with other teachers in their school interested in applying ocean and climate change literacy skills.

Biogeographic Assessment Report

The National Center for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS) released *A Biogeographic Assessment of the Samoan Archipelago* funded by FBNS. The assessment includes biological, oceanographic and human dimension components and will serve as a prototype for assessments in other areas of the Pacific. In addition, the assessment serves to compliment the ongoing sanctuary management plan review process and provide information for MPA network design in the archipelago. The report utilizes existing datasets from numerous sources including DMWR and NOAA's Coral Reef Ecosystem Division, as well as data from independent Samoa.

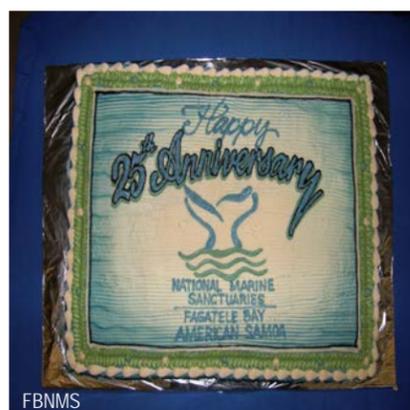


Educational kiosks

FBNMS installed two interactive kiosks at the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center and Pago Pago International Airport. The kiosks include information in both English and Samoan about the sanctuary program, resource protection, education, research, marine life, threats and partner agencies. Several Sanctuary Advisory Council agencies have an informational page on the kiosk, including the National Park of American Samoa, the American Samoa Visitor's Bureau and the American Samoa Department of Commerce. The kiosks will increase the visibility of the sanctuaries program and promote marine conservation in the territory.

FBNMS celebrates twenty-five years

To commemorate the twenty-five year anniversary of FBNS, the site hosted an Oceans Forum at the Governor Rex Lee Auditorium to showcase ocean conservation in American Samoa. Following the Oceans Forum, sanctuary staff joined the Governor of American Samoa, the Honorable T.A. Tulafono, on a four day expedition to Swains Island. The trip was conducted to highlight the natural and cultural history of the remote island. In addition, marathon swimmer Bruckner Chase successfully completed an 8-mile swim from Aunu'u Island to Utulei Beach on Saturday, May 14. The swim was part of a multi-year national challenge to swim every national marine sanctuary in the system.



Facility plans

FBNMS is currently renovating staff offices and creating an Ocean Learning & Discovery Center that will serve as a premier marine educational, outreach and learning facility in the territory. The Ocean Learning & Discovery Center will facilitate direct contact with the community as well as provide a platform to increase the visibility of National Marine Sanctuaries throughout the greater Pacific Islands region. In addition, FBNS is working with the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center to establish a dive chamber that not only increases dive safety in American Samoa, but becomes a public health treatment facility for 40% of the territory's diabetic community, in addition to serving other medical treatments.