



American Samoa Ocean Planning Team

Teleconference Summary

April 6, 2017

Meeting Outcomes:

1. CONCUR will be in town May 8-19; an ASOPT teleconference and in-person meeting will follow.
2. Listening sessions will not be held concurrently with the in-person meeting; they will be developed at the in-person meeting then held a few weeks later.
3. The PI RPB coordinator will develop the AS Ocean Plan outline for review and input by ASOPT members.

Attendees: Miranda Foley, Scott McCreary, Meredith Cowart, Sarah Pautzke, Keith Mattson, Scott Burch, Nate Ilaoa, Mia Comeros, Fatima Sauafea-Leau, Chris King

Stakeholder Assessment: Kick-off meeting with Concur

CONCUR had a successful trip to American Samoa in March. They were able to talk to many people and get constructive, informative feedback. They are heading back for more interviews and meetings in early May and will include a trip to the Manua Islands. They drafted a letter to Paramount Chief Mauga requesting an additional meeting and will be following up with ASOPT members for interviews.

We were reminded that for teleconference calls, including interviews via phone, that 1-800 and 1-866 numbers are easier to dial than other toll-free numbers.

American Samoa ocean planning timeline

The ASOPT members discussed the timeline that was circulated.

Q: Is the Data Team up to our timeline for getting the draft plan complete?

A: We believe the Data Team can accomplish the task of getting a prototype mapping interface functional by the end of 2016, which works with the American Samoa timeline. And the work in American Samoa by EPA and DOC will also work with this timeline.

Q: Are there names associated with these tasks?

A: Yes, although we need to further develop the tasks. The PI RPB coordinator will develop the plan outline, then solicit feedback from the ASOPT members. Actual pen-to-paper filling in will be done by several ASOPT members, not just the coordinator. Those names will be added by the ASOPT based on members' expertise as the outline is developed.

Q: Proposed next meeting date: May 31-June 2. Is that a good date given the timing of CONCUR's meeting the first weeks of May?

A: CONCUR's hope is to have the draft report finished by the end of June. Given that, and that they will have just been there having meetings at the beginning of May, it would be prudent to wait until the end of June so that 1) we have information that will be useful in developing listening sessions, 2) it won't muddy the waters with meetings so close together, and 3) we can combine a report out by CONCUR with a full ASOPT meeting. The only major point that was raised with respect to putting off the meeting was that we should not remain idle until then.

Q: What will be in the plan's content and how will the plan be implemented? The plan will need local buy-in.

A: The key is engagement and awareness about our process. CONCUR will help us develop listening sessions to enhance our engagement. And, our core members will need to buy in to the process to demonstrate its usefulness first to our immediate community, then to the outside stakeholders. How the plan is implemented will need to be developed; other regions are still struggling with this and their plans have been approved. So, it is up to the ASOPT to determine what implementation of the plan will look like.

Comment: We need to balance not moving forward (stagnating) with moving forward too fast because we need to ensure the appropriate input and representation.

Q: Should we have 1) the ASOPT meeting in one week followed by listening sessions a few weeks later, or 2) the ASOPT meeting in conjunction with listening sessions (ASOPT by day, listening session by evening)?

A: The group unanimously agreed that the ASOPT meeting should be held a few weeks prior to listening sessions so that CONCUR input and listening session structure can be better developed.

PI RPB meeting outcomes

The PI RPB 2017 Goals:

Capacity Building:

1. Finalize draft American Samoa Ocean Plan
2. Begin planning in another jurisdiction
3. PI RPB CMSP goals and objectives development
4. Identify and increase general funding support for PI RPB capacity

Data:

5. Mapping interface prototype developed that relies on and includes jurisdictional knowledge
6. Identify data gaps for American Samoa and include draft list in their ocean plan

Stakeholder engagement:

7. Completed American Samoa stakeholder assessment

PI RPB feedback about ASOP goals and process:

- Ensure the team builds in flexibility to incorporate data, uses, etc. that are identified later in the planning process
- Consider competition for space related to different uses in the plan
- Consider the agency or jurisdictional footprint or process related to different uses by area (e.g. fishponds in Hawaii)
- Consider ranking objectives and priorities
- Regarding AS Goal 2 objectives: the objectives should include future and proposed uses
- Consider impacts related to future and proposed uses over time
- It may be challenging to capture the potential for impact mitigation, but it is possible. Be clear in your plan if a mitigation measure is preferable or not. For example: if you do not want an artificial reef to mitigate for coral reef loss due to harbor dredging, then identify that in the plan. You can also identify where you might WANT to have a particular mitigation measures.

ACTION: Sarah will email this input separately to the ASOPT members.

The PI RPB discussed that an ASOPT member will probably help another jurisdiction develop their plan; the ASOPT members agreed. This will help the next jurisdiction get started on the right foot based on successes in American Samoa. The PI RPB stressed that the success American Samoa is having in its plan development is why they are willing to begin planning in another jurisdiction. This is a change in their original decision to only do one jurisdiction at a time. However, the PI RPB remains committed to planning in American Samoa and strongly asserted that planning in another jurisdiction will not be at the detriment to planning in American Samoa.

Data support

The Data Team teleconference call is scheduled for April 10, 1-3pm AST.

The hope is that the Data Team and the ASOPT can work together to identify the necessary data that American Samoa would like to be able to map for ocean planning purposes. For example, the Pago Pago Harbor uses map incorporates data acquired through a mapping effort and that data is housed by AS DOC, EPA, and DMWR. That data is useful for ocean planning purposes. There are other data layers for other parts of American Samoa as well that can be acquired.

Wrap up

The ASOPT members agreed that we should have another teleconference call to discuss outcomes of the PI RPB meeting, next steps for CONCUR's visit, and content for listening sessions. That call should be before our next in-person ASOPT meeting but after CONCUR's trip in early May. It was suggested that the PI RPB members ensure others from ASG are on the call.

Members stressed that for the listening sessions, it's not just who is invited and participates, we need to also focus on the format and topics.

The ASOPT members suggested, and CONCUR offered, to have a follow up meeting at the end of their next trip to discuss preliminary results. CONCUR also advised the ASOPT that they will be coming back to present about the final results.