



American Samoa Ocean Planning Team

Meeting Summary

August 9-11, 2017

Outcomes

- Integrated the stakeholder assessment recommendations into objectives and actions
- Narrowed down objectives to prepare for public input
- Established that Henry Seseapasara is the ASOPT lead
- Acknowledged representation by all ASG agencies and federal partners during the meeting

Day 1: August 9

Attendees: Nate Ilaoa, Atuatasi Peau, Fatima Sauafea-Leau, Brian Peck, Jason NPS, Keith Mattson, Chris King, Selaina Tuimivave, Gina Faiga, Scott McCreary, Tanner Stiehl, Fale (ASCC), Tamari (ASCC), Archie Soliai, Miranda Foley, Sarah Pautzke, Hideyo Hattori, Maria Vaofanua, Krista Corry

Funding

Moore Foundation funding for this initiative must be used by June 2018 (after the just-approved extension). Funding is also being used to kick off ocean planning in the Marianas, but not at the expense of activities in American Samoa. The PI RPB is currently looking for additional funding.

PI RPB Update

The PI RPB made two decisions that impact the ocean planning in American Samoa:

- 1) The PI RPB would continue its work under this new Administration until directed otherwise
- 2) The PI RPB resolved that planning in American Samoa takes priority over new planning initiatives.

Regarding timing, the PI RPB aims to have the American Samoa draft ocean plan completed by December 2017 and the plan finalized by mid 2018. The kick-off of Guam and CNMI will be fall this year, with a draft plan aimed for by 2019 and finalized in 2020. The PI RPB regional plan will begin being drafted in 2018, with a draft plan by 202 and final plan in 2021.

Roles within the ASOPT

American Samoa agency participants include two agencies who also serve as members of the PI RPB, and then other ASG agencies. The ASG PI RPB members serve as liaisons between the ASOPT and the PI RPB on behalf of ASG. They promote the ASOPT within the ASG, to the Governor's Office, and energize communities. The other ASG agencies participate on the ASOPT and work to develop the plan. They use their existing outreach and communications channels to promote the effort.

The federal agency participants liaise between the ASOPT and the PI RPB if they are the same members; otherwise they represent their respective agency's mission on the ASOPT. They participate on the ASOPT and develop the plan, and use their existing outreach and communications channels to promote the effort.

Non-government individuals will be consulted when needed. The ASOPT determined that because actions within the plan will be done by the agencies, non-agency people would inform but not develop the plan.

CMS Needs

The ASOPT reviewed their need for a coastal and marine spatial (CMS) plan. They were reminded that in January 2016 they filled out a questionnaire in which they determined that there are resources of concern (biophysical, cultural, social, economic, historical, other) that warrant special protection, there are human use activities that may threaten or have impacts on the resources of concern, there are conflicts between human use activities, and there is shared jurisdictional authority.

Stakeholder Assessment

CONCUR conducted a stakeholder assessment over spring 2017. Their work resulted in a number of recommendations. Scott McCreary, CONCUR Principal Investigator, attended the ASOPT meeting to provide additional feedback and respond to questions. The ASOPT reviewed the recommendations and assessed where they felt with respect to progress. ASOPT members discussed a way forward for three recommendations.

Recommendation #1: Further develop and articulate clear and consistent leadership to deepen the credibility of the ocean planning process.

Action A: Establish clear leadership for the ASOPT among ASG agencies so it's apparent there is strong local commitment to the planning process, and willingness and capacity to implement the plan.

Discussion: There is strong leadership from the AS PI RPB representatives and their alternates. DMWR Director Henry Seseapasara accepted the lead position of the ASOPT at the August 2017 meeting, taking over from the Port Administration. The PI RPB coordinator confirmed his acceptance by Director Seseapasara in person prior to the ASOPT meeting. Lastly, the recommended ASG agencies are now ASOPT members, including DOC, OSA, DMWR, PA, and AS EPA.

ASOPT Steps to take:

- 1) Develop an organization chart for the ASOPT with the agencies, but no specific names
- 2) Develop a document that details ASOPT roles as part of the plan

Action B: Clarify roles of federal agencies and regional partners in the ASOPT as supporting and contributing members to the locally-driven planning process.

Discussion: The ASOPT has a pie chart it has agreed to regarding the roles of local government, federal government, and non-government people. It also has a Terms of Reference developed by the PI RPB.

ASOPT Steps to take (Due 8/31, Coordinator):

- 1) Add jurisdictional agencies to the document that clarifies roles and responsibilities (e.g. public comment with stakeholders)
- 2) Expand the pie chart to include stakeholders
- 3) Build upon the PI RPB's TOR
- 4) Add the Governor's role of review and approval

Recommendation #2: Further refine and communicate a clear and compelling purpose for the AS Ocean Plan

Action A: Examine participant territorial and federal agencies roles and responsibilities relative to ocean planning and marine resource management, and conduct a gap analysis to identify ocean planning needs not sufficiently addressed.

Discussion: The ASOPT developed a list of issues and related agencies during the January 2017 kick-off meeting. We could utilize the surveys as a way to conduct the gap analysis; survey respondents could include the list of existing stakeholders and the CONCUR list of participants. We can refer to the American Samoa Ocean Resource Management Plan for the ASG and federal agency roles and responsibilities.

ASOPT Steps to take:

- 1) Gap analysis (i.e. inventory) of mandates and responsibilities
- 2) Use the stakeholder list to identify coverage and gaps in mandates and activities
- 3) Compare ASOPT membership to previous ORMP membership

Action B: Draft a clear, succinct Statement of Purpose for the ASOP that defines the needs it's intended to address in relation to existing American Samoan and federal plans and programs. Ideally, this statement should support and advance the priorities and responsibilities of each involved agency.

Discussion: The ASOPT has a one-pager developed that describes the effort and the agencies involved. The PI RPB has a charter from which language can be pulled. Appendices from CONCUR can also be reviewed for language.

ASOPT Steps to take:

- 1) Draft a statement of purpose (CK and SP by 8/31/17)
- 2) Edit the one-pager, specifically:
 - a. Edit the last paragraph to reflect statement of purpose
 - b. Add a date
 - c. Refine reference to President Obama, which makes it seem outdated
 - d. Add language regarding AS owning its ocean's future
 - e. Add statement of purpose to the plan (e.g. Chapter 1)

Action C: Clearly communicate the ASOP purpose to stakeholders

Discussion: The ASOPT has a stakeholder engagement plan and a diverse ASOPT and stakeholder network with which to disseminate the purpose. The ASOPT should communicate its digital presence. It can also utilize postcards. ASOPT members could be present at outreach events and leaders can have one-on-one meetings with the Governor. Lastly, communication items such as the one-pager should be translated.

Actions to take:

- 1) Continue with engagement noted in the discussion
- 2) Draft a postcard with purpose. Add to Take Box at 1st Fridays or the ASOPT could mail it out
- 3) Do a 30-60 second PSA during football, featuring a cabinet member and/or ASOPT member
- 4) Do a press release

Recommendation #4: Work with Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA) and key resource agencies to engage villages

Action C: Structure outreach to pulenu'u geographically by convening subcommittees of key leaders from adjoining villages that share a reef or other ocean resources and help them focus on specific problems and solutions.

Discussion: The ASOPT identified the OSA as the conduit to the pulenu'u. We can utilize the structure of the stakeholder assessment as a model for coordinating with the pulenu'u and for getting introductions to relevant mata'i. The listening session stakeholders and survey recipients can be used as an engagement mechanism as well.

Actions to take:

- 1) We can provide regular feedback to the stakeholders (e.g. newsletter, email)
- 2) Host more sessions for public input
- 3) Review Udall data to identify village or pulenu'u champions
- 4) We can ask the pulenu'u to speak to the villages with our help regarding the message so that it is not misconstrued
- 5) We can ask current stakeholders for names or types of additional stakeholders (e.g teachers)
- 6) Identify gaps in stakeholder groups
- 7) Revitalize the ORMP/CZM working groups
- 8) Ensure we obtain village input, which is critical to the effort
- 9) Utilize the Pago Pago use map as an example or pilot effort

Listening Session Development

The ASOPT members discussed development of the listening sessions slated for September 25 – October 6. This also allowed the team to discuss Stakeholder Assessment Recommendation 6B and 6C:

6B) Build in sufficient time to conduct stakeholder engagement in Manu'a to account for delays and travel changes that may occur.

6C) Consider combining ASOP stakeholder engagement with other scheduled agency visits to Manu'a.

The ASOPT members recommended that the Coordinator (SP), Facilitator (MF), OSA, a translator, and ASOPT members attend the listening sessions. For the Manu'a Islands, the ASOPT recommended chartering a boat (Peter Crispin), which is consistent (unlike the flights) and can take 6 people. Another option is a vessel operated by the Port Administration, although that is only if the vessel is going at that time. Further scheduling will need to be done to discern if listening sessions are compatible logistically with Port's travel.

The Park Service has a ranger on Ofu, and DMWR also has staff there. These two people can be leaned on for getting messages to the villages, as well as helping with the meetings.

For our next engagement with the villages, we should build on the stakeholder assessment meetings just completed, and ensure we have translation for technical terms. Regarding translation at meetings, there are a couple options: 1) utilize the translators that CONCUR used, and/or 2) have assistance from ASOPT members.

Follow-up with stakeholders: We should revisit stakeholders in person within 6 months or when there is new information or progress to share.

Timing: It was determined that we should engage stakeholders at the end of September/early October to obtain feedback about the goals and objectives. Then we should revisit to provide the draft plan and demonstrate how their feedback was incorporated. Lastly, we should revisit to provide the final plan and again describe how their feedback was incorporated.

Meeting protocols: We should arrive with our key points in a condensed message. OSA and/or Director Sesepasara should provide the introductions. Time should be built into the meeting for translation. Meetings should be led by Samoans, particularly an ASOPT member. It will make for a smoother meeting that demonstrates local ownership. Director Sesepasara should lead, with help from CZM, AS EPA, DMWR, and NOAA (Fatima).

September 25 – October 6: The team discussed the strategy for getting to the Manu’a Islands. It was suggested that we head to Ofu on Tuesday, do the listening session on Ofu on Tuesday, then a listening session on Olesega on Wednesday. Head to Ta’u on Thursday, do a listening session there, then fly on Thursday or boat back on Friday to Pago Pago. The thinking was then that the coordinator and facilitator would fly back to Honolulu the following Monday after meeting with the pulenu’u. The first week could be spent in town participating in Ocean Week and hosting local stakeholder listening sessions.

Day 2: August 10

Attendees: Nate Ilaoa, Scott McCreary, Mia Comeros, Tanner Stiehl, Fatima Sauafea-Leau, Gina Faiga, Brian Peck, Daniel George, Sarah Pautzke, Miranda Foley, Maria Vaofanua, Krista Corry

Objectives discussion

Survey Responses

- 81% and 72% of respondents were generally satisfied with the proposed objectives for goal 1 and 2, respectively
- 88% and 64% of respondents were generally satisfied with the word choice/language of the proposed objectives for goals 1 and 2, respectively
- Goal 1 objectives feedback: objectives are broad enough to accomplish goal one, very well drafted, concern that maintaining the natural beauty of the islands was lost as an objective, explain in the plan applies to the whole EEZ or only a certain range, an important objective should be focused on local communities addressing littering and improper garbage disposal, and preservation can be taken to an extreme so there is concern about removing peoples’ use of ocean resources.
- Goal 2 objectives feedback: objectives are general enough to accomplish goal 2, they are clear and precise.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES REWORDS IN RED:

Objectives for Goal 1: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems		
INITIAL	Suggested Edits from Survey	FINAL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and preserve species and habitat to restore the natural beauty of the island 2. Enhance, promote, and maintain traditional values, knowledge, and practices on island 3. Prevent, eliminate, and/or mitigate land-based and marine sources of pollution 4. Enhance and maintain climate change adaptation and resilience 5. Prevent, control and eliminate invasive species 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and preserve species and habitat to restore the natural beauty of the island 2. Enhance, promote, and maintain traditional values, knowledge, and practices on island 3. Prevent, eliminate, and/or mitigate land-based and marine sources of pollution 4. Account for enhance and maintain climate ecosystem change adaptation and resilience 5. Prevent, control, and eliminate invasive species 6. Take a balanced and sustainable approach to ecosystem resources 7. Green sea turtle protection under the ESA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage species and habitats to maintain and/or restore healthy ecosystems and natural beauty 2. Prevent, eliminate, and/or mitigate land-based and marine sources of pollution 3. Enhance and maintain climate change adaptation and resilience

DETAILS:

- Initial objective #2 was removed and made its own goal
- Initial objective #5 was integrated into final objective #1
- Green sea turtle protection suggestion was incorporated into a broader protected species action under the final objective #1
- “Balanced and sustainable” was incorporated into the Statement of Purpose for the plan

Objectives for Goal 2: Sustainable Ocean and Coastal Uses		
INITIAL	Suggested Edits from Survey	FINAL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage sustainable and appropriate coastal development and uses through spatial mapping tools 2. Maintain BMP for sustainable fisheries. Identify, implement, and improve BMPs following a systematic and spatially-explicit approach for coastal uses, including mapping areas for current and optimal uses. 3. Increase coordination and communication within the community, among stakeholders, and across all levels of government 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage sustainable and appropriate coastal development and uses through spatial mapping tools 2. Maintain BMP for sustainable fisheries. ID, implement, and improve BMPs following a systematic and spatially-explicit approach for coastal uses, including mapping areas for current and optimal uses. 3. Increase coordination and communication within the community, among stakeholders, and across all levels of government 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage sustainable and appropriate coastal development and uses 2. Encourage sustainable and appropriate near shore/reef development and uses 3. Encourage sustainable and appropriate open ocean development and uses 4. Spatially plan for and implement measures to ensure ocean, coastal, social, and economic resilience

Objectives for Goal 2: Sustainable Ocean and Coastal Uses		
INITIAL	Suggested Edits from Survey	FINAL
4. Spatially plan for and implement changes to ensure ocean, coastal, and economic resilience 5. Data portal to support activities 6. Promote ocean activities?	4. Spatially plan for and implement changes to ensure ocean, coastal, and economic resilience 5. Data portal to support activities 6. Promote outreach ocean activities	
<p><u>DETAILS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial mapping tools were removed from the objectives, as was “data portal to support activities” • Promoting ocean activities was also removed • Encouraging sustainable and appropriate development and uses was divided out by area (nearshore, coastal, and ocean) • Initial objective #2, maintaining BMPs for sustainable fisheries, now falls under objectives 1-3 as an action (see below) • Initial objective #3 was elevated to be a guiding principle 		

Day 3: August 11

Attendees: Bert Fuiava, Joe Paulin, Grace Felise, Joseph Meredith, Michael Marsik, Hideyo Hattori, Nate Ilaoa, Chris King, Fatima Sauafea-Leau, Gina Faiga, Brian Peck, Sarah Pautzke, Miranda Foley, Maria Vaofanua, Krista Corry

Goals and Objectives Continued...

After discussing the suggested edits, the ASOPT refined the objectives and drafted associated actions as follows:

Goal 1: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

Objectives	Actions
<p>1. Manage species and habitats to maintain and/or restore healthy ecosystems and natural beauty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID habitat (e.g. EFH, critical habitat, ...) • ID species of concern, species with other designations (e.g. IUCN red list, ESA, MMPA, MSA, migratory seabirds), species with cultural value, species with economic value • Baseline layers (e.g. footprint of mangroves, coral reefs, ports, harbors...) • Spatially ID protected species potential habitat and lifestage habitat • ID special management areas, regulations, and documents that point to management policies so that all can see • Utilize identified species and habitats to update policies and management actions to ensure new data and information are incorporated to keep management current and relevant • Update and strengthen effective enforcement • Control threats to ecosystem health, both natural and anthropogenic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Monitor for and control invasive species ❖ Monitor and control nuisance species ❖ Promote/improve biosecurity measures • Create effective management and monitoring of invasive species • Promote education/outreach/awareness initiatives • Develop regulations or revisit/review/reinforce/strengthen enforcement or implementation
<p>2. Prevent, eliminate, and/or mitigate land-based and marine sources of pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sources and basins of pollution • Support local communities • Refer to agencies that address littering (EPA), strengthen information flow • Increase community capacity
<p>3. Enhance and maintain climate change adaptation and resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan for climate change impacts and increasing sea levels • Map shifts in ocean species, habitats of interest, and chemistry

Goal 2: Sustainable Ocean and Coastal Uses

Objectives	Actions
<p>1. Encourage sustainable and appropriate coastal development and uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure traditional and future uses and practices are integrated • Identify zoning processes and regulations for SMAs • Identify, implement, and improve BMPs for current coastal uses • Identify areas appropriate for specific types of development and future uses • Identify economic trends and sustainable/appropriate growth of coastal areas • ID coastal uses and jurisdiction • Identify management agencies and enforcement • Identify collaborative management with best available science for coastal areas.
<p>2. Encourage sustainable and appropriate near shore/reef development and uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure traditional and future uses and practices are integrated • Identify zoning processes and regulations for SMAs • Identify, implement, and improve BMPs for current nearshore / reef uses • Identify areas appropriate for specific types of development and future uses • Identify economic trends and sustainable/appropriate growth of near shore / reef areas • ID nearshore / reef areas uses and jurisdiction • Identify management agencies and enforcement • Identify collaborative management with best available science for near-shore / reef areas
<p>3. Encourage sustainable and appropriate open ocean development and uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure traditional and future uses and practices are integrated • Identify, implement, and improve BMPs for current open ocean uses • Identify areas appropriate for specific types of development and future uses • Identify economic trends and sustainable/appropriate growth of open ocean areas • ID near open ocean areas uses and jurisdiction • Identify management agencies and enforcement • Identify collaborative management with best available science for open ocean areas
<p>4. Spatially plan for and implement measures to ensure ocean, coastal, social, and economic resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and move infrastructure in response to higher sea levels and storms • Operations..... • Anticipate ___ for future uses • Anticipate impacts to villages and land ownership/ use • Look back at CC initiative (especially social resilience)

The ASOPT added a third goal because traditional uses and knowledge did not fit appropriately as an objective to either goal 1 or 2.

Goal 3: Actions to promote Fa'a Samoa

<p>1. Enhance, promote, and maintain sustainable traditional values, knowledge, and practices on island</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) surveys (existing MPAs, climate info) • Integrate TEK with body of scientific knowledge • Work with communities that have existing management plans and provide spatial tools to support local management of resources • ID keepers of TEK • ID areas where traditional practices have occurred, do occur, and could occur in the future
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Feedback on American Samoa Ocean Plan Outline

The ASOPT members reviewed what a CMS plan could look like and a mock-up of the American Samoa Ocean Plan’s current structure, which includes the vision statement, draft goals, draft objectives, and draft actions. Chapter 1 is introductory, with the vision statement, agency information, and other basic information. Chapter 2 begins the discussion of the main core issues. The ASOPT discussed how best to draft the plan, including whether to divide it by use and/or spatial (nearshore, offshore, etc). They agreed with the visual representation and provided the following feedback:

- Start drafting the plan. Use visuals and call-out boxes during drafting, not waiting until the final version. Incorporate photos as well.
- Up front in introduction:
 - Identify the scope of the plan
 - Insert a summary of species, habitats, threats, and uses
 - Summary of stakeholder assessment
 - Summary and visuals of the timeline
 - Describe the geographic extent: limit of scope with other EEZs, coastal, nearshore, and ocean footprints
- Add a description of content under fishing
- Provide electronic links within the text and provide shortcuts to content
- Identify who can write details
- **ACTION:** Circulate list of existing documents from the January 2016 meeting
- Include:
 - Acronyms list
 - Local regulations in the appendix
 - List of links
 - Regarding Stakeholder Assessment: provide link at end, in call outs, and in link section
 - Executive summary from Stakeholder Assessment in appendix
- Chapter 2: Ecosystems goal
 - May be best organized by objective
- Chapter 3: Uses
 - Add objectives to cover other geography, such as ocean and nearshore
 - Coordinator given artistic license to reorganize

Data Team

The Data Team had a teleconference call on August 1. AS DOC has a representative on the Data Team. They agreed to develop Courses of Action that will walk them through their Work Plan. The Work Plan will be approved shortly. The ASOPT provided the following comments to the Data Team:

- ArcGIS online is where the ASG is moving and they have data there, although internet speed is an issue
- The land use portal is hosted locally and is very fast
- DOC has a license agreement with ESRI
- The plan was for DOC to house the data locally, but they need another server to do so
- DOC acquires data from other agencies and loads the data onto their server
- There are special management areas on the land use portal, but no other federal data is on the portal

Housekeeping

The ASOPT agreed that the dates for the next teleconference and in-person meetings would be determined via email.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Draft a statement of purpose (CK and SP by 8/31/17)
- 2) Edit the one-pager – SP and MF
- 3) Circulate list of existing documents from the January 2016 meeting – SP and MF
- 4) Start drafting ocean plan - SP