



REPORT
March 11, 2013

**American Samoa
Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop**
March 6 & 7, 2013

Governor Rex Lee Auditorium (Falelaumei)
Utulei, American Samoa

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) conducted a 2-day Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop for Council family members and ASG agency, industry and other organization representatives on Wednesday and Thursday, March 6/7, 2013 at the Falelaumei Center, Utulei, American Samoa. The workshop targeted primarily Council family advisors from the American Samoa Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee, Advisory Panel, Plan Team and Scientific and Statistical Committee. Other participants represented ASG staff and fishing industry interests.

The intended outcome of the workshop was to inform participants of the purpose, framework and process in the CMSP for preparing regionally comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, and ecosystem-based plans that address both present and the future management of ocean and coastal resources.

Twenty six people participated in the 2-day workshop from eleven ASG agencies and organizations. Four Council Advisory Panel members participated. The content and material used in the workshop was developed by Ms. Anne Walton from the International Capacity Building Program of the National Ocean Service, NOAA. The two day workshop was led by Council staff who worked with Ms. Walton to develop the materials and exercises for the American Samoa workshop. Three Council staff led the workshop, Mark Mitsuyasu, Joshua DeMello and Marlowe Sabater. Sarah Pautzke, Pacific Island Region Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Program, also worked staff to facilitate breakout groups.

Participants Name Organization

Veronika Apulu, NMSAS
Tafito Aitaoto, DMWR
Michael Crook, Advisory Panel
Neil Gurr, ASCC Land Grant
Douglas Fenner, DMWR
Marian Fitisemanu, Department of Health
Manaima P. Fualaau, Department of Public Works
Christopher J. King, AS Port Authority
Robert Koch, Department of Commerce

Anthony Langkilde, Advisory Panel
TeeJay Letalie, DMWR
Christina Lutu Sanchez, Longline Services
Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, DMWR
Kuka Matavao, AS EPA
Domingo Ochavillo, DMWR
Ameko Pato, AS EPA
Lelei Peau, Department of Commerce
George Poysky Advisory Panel
Taimalelagi, Dr. Claire Poumele, AS Port Authority
Carlos Sanchez, Longline Services
Sean Sifo, DMWR
Derek Toloumu, CRAG
Selaina Tuimavave, DMWR
Chritianera Tuitele, AS EPA
Kitara Vaiau, Advisory Panel
Ray Tulafono, Retired, Former Director DMWR

The 2-day workshop provided a participatory working example of the CMSP process with the goal of demonstrating how the process might be leveraged to address complex management plans for marine and coastal environments. CMSP workshops held by the NOAA International Capacity Building Program are usually conducted over a 10 day period. This abbreviated workshop was designed to provide a glimpse into the elements and thought process behind each step as a plan is considered, developed, analyzed and vetted through stakeholders. The major topic areas focused on in this workshop included:

- 1) Current coastal and marine resource management issues in the local area;
- 2) Overview of Place-Based Coastal and Marine Planning
- 3) Evaluating the need for CMSP
- 4) Defining the Area of Focus for the CMSP
- 5) Identifying Target Resources
- 6) Identifying, Mapping and Ranking Priorities for Target Resources
- 7) Using Management Objectives as Drivers for Decision Making
- 8) Building Objectives for Place Based Management
- 9) Mapping uses of Coastal and Marine Environment
- 10) Identifying, Characterizing and Managing Stakeholders Engagement
- 11) Considering Impacts from Outside the Management Area from Future Uses
- 12) Identifying Areas of Conflict and Compatibility
- 13) Overview of Place-Based Marine Plan
- 14) Identifying and Selecting Management Strategies for Marine Specific Uses in the Management Area; and
- 15) Developing Spatial Allocation Categories and Objectives.

For most of agenda items, the team of facilitators provided a presentation on the specific topic area that was followed by group exercises. Five pre-assigned working teams were based on the participant backgrounds to ensure different perspectives and expertise within each group.

The workshop succeeded in the familiarization, or *instructive phase* of the lesson plan and provided all participants with some orientation as to “place” and “purpose.” Incorporated into the design was a practicum that included a more focused hands-on *constructive phase* that provided the participants the opportunity to apply textbook theories and case studies to the practical aspects of comprehensive coastal marine spatial planning. Although the outcomes reported by the breakout teams varied by breadth of focus, level of detail, and analytical assessment, their shared findings profited all the participants and encouraged beneficial exchanges that helped to connect the dots between information and experiences with application and understanding (about comprehensive planning processes and plans).

The teams worked through the planning process identifying top priority resources and linked objectives. Current uses, activities and resources were mapped and the activities assessed for overlap and conflict. For example, team one selected an objective to mitigate stream run off and associated impacts in the coastal areas round Pago Pago bay. Others identified the canneries and commercial fisheries as an economic priority resource that should be maintained. Teams then evaluated the impacts between identified resources and consistency with plan objectives. From there, management measures were explored which included both temporal and spatial approaches.

At the end of the workshop, each team presented their findings and proposed management approaches to the group. As expected, the five team outcomes differed as each worked toward different objectives to protect/conserves/manage their priority resources.

Participants were asked to complete a workshop evaluation at the end of the workshop. Based on the responses received, workshop participants thought the training was informative and helpful. Most all respondents said they would recommend this training for others. They also noted that materials, interactive exercises and information were helpful. A couple participants noted the need for ASG leadership to participate in the entire workshop.