



American Samoa Ocean Planning Team¹

Meeting Summary

March 28-29, April 1, 2016

THE PLANNING TEAM:

DAY 1

Dept. of Marine and Wildlife Resources: Domingo Ochavillo
DOC Coastal Zone Management: Sandra Lutu, Gina Faiga, Tuulalo Farani
NOAA Sanctuaries: Atuatasi Lelei Peau
NOAA Fisheries: Fatima Sauafea-Leau
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC): Nate Ilaoa
WPFMC Advisory Panel: Christinna Lutu-Sanchez
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Brian Peck
PI RPB: Sarah Pautzke, Nicole Griffin (US DOD)

Day 2

Dept. of Marine and Wildlife Resources: Domingo Ochavillo
DOC Coastal Zone Management: Tuulalo Farani
DOC Planning: Nerelle Que
U.S. Coast Guard: Brian Donahue
NOAA Fisheries: Fatima Sauafea-Leau
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Brian Peck
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC): Nate Ilaoa
WPFMC Advisory Panel:
PI RPB: Sarah Pautzke, Nicole Griffin (US DOD)

Day 3

Port Administration: Chris King
Dept. of Marine and Wildlife Resources: Domingo Ochavillo
DOC Coastal Zone Management: Tuulalo Farani, Sandra Lutu
American Samoa EPA: Mia Comeros
U.S. Coast Guard: Brian Donahue
NOAA Fisheries: Fatima Sauafea-Leau
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC): Nate Ilaoa
WPFMC Advisory Panel: Christinna Lutu-Sanchez, Krista Corry
PI RPB: Sarah Pautzke, Nicole Griffin (US DOD)

¹ Support for this effort comes from the Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Audience:

Udall Foundation: Lauren Nutter

US DOD: Joan Malik (Day 3 only)

Fisherman: Carlos Sanchez (Day 3 only)

Facilitator:

ecoLOGIC: Miranda Foley

Marine Management Solutions: John Parks

OBJECTIVES:

1. Review and revise the draft vision statement.
2. Identify opportunities to improve stakeholder engagement and provide additional stakeholder engagement opportunities.
3. Outline a process to develop the jurisdictional plan.
4. Review and revise the task list.
5. Appoint a chair.

VISION STATEMENT

The first two days were spent discussing and refining the vision statement. The draft vision statement that the group worked with was:

An ecologically healthy, economically sustainable, and culturally resilient community for American Samoa through collaborative and effective coastal and ocean resource management and planning.

The ASOPT members felt that, while the statement was compelling, inspiring, idealistic, and causal, it was too long and difficult to remember. One key decision immediately agreed on was to remove reference to management from the vision, and instead capture it in the goals. The rationale was that with effective collaboration and management, inevitably there will be healthy and sustainable communities.

The group spent a lot of time talking about different adjectives to describe what they want American Samoa to look like in the future. Some adjectives caused different feelings in different people, particularly when trying to make the sentence inspiring (e.g. using vibrant instead of resilient due to the different feelings and ideas it conjures).

The statement was reworked to start with “American Samoa’s oceans, coasts, and communities” instead of having them at the end. The ASOPT also wanted to capture the idea of developing, growing, evolving human communities and that not only do the oceans and coasts need to be taken care of, but so do the people. There was a request to incorporate the word “accessible” or “access” that was tabled until the third day’s discussion.

Primary nouns to consider: oceans, coasts, communities, economy, ecology, culture

Primary adjectives to consider: vibrant, sustainable, thriving, secure, accessible, developing

The ASOPT ended with two vision statements on day 2:

- 1) American Samoa's sustainable oceans, coasts, and communities are developing and thriving: economically, ecologically, and culturally

- 2) American Samoa's sustainable oceans, coasts, and developing communities lead to a thriving ecology, economy, and culture.

The ASOPT provided a vote of confidence for the second statement, which was used to obtain feedback in the listening session held on March 30th and Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body (PI RPB) meeting held March 30-31st.

After the listening session and PI RPB meeting, the ASOPT edited the vision statement based on input. First, "Ecology" was changed to "environment." Second, there was lengthy discussion about whether to reference people in the vision statement to openly state ownership; the counter argument was that the vision is not being written for people outside of American Samoa, thus ownership is implied. Consensus from the ASOPT was to add people: *The people of American Samoa, with their healthy ocean, coasts, and communities, enjoy a thriving environment, economy, and culture.*

Third, the word "developing" was discussed. Some members felt it was important to capture because the general feeling in American Samoa is that the resources, uses, and the economy should be developed. The group discussed whether there was a Samoan word for developing that might be more appropriate; it was decided to keep the vision statement in English.

Fourth, the ASOPT discussed adding "secure" to the vision statement. It was pointed out that the New England draft plan has a section focusing on security: ensuring we are protecting ourselves, our water, and our data from illegal actions, such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices. Department of Defense, the US Coast Guard, and local enforcement provide security, and the Port Administration relies on a secure port. It was agreed to add "secure": *"enjoy a thriving and secure environment, economy, and culture."*

The ASOPT discussed "watershed" and "society." It was argued that "watershed" is already captured by saying "oceans, coasts, and communities" and that "society" is already captured in "The people of American Samoa....".

Lastly, there was a recommendation to add Fa'a Samoa to the vision statement in addition to or in replacement of "culture": *"...enjoy a thriving environment and economy, and protect Fa'a Samoa."* There was discussion about whether that included people beyond those who are Samoan and how they might feel, and that someone who is Samoan may feel that it does not also capture the feeling of being an American. Pluralizing "culture" was suggested, but it was felt that the Samoan culture then is not prioritized. It was pointed out that "Fa'a Samoa" means "way of life," thus it captures not just the culture of American Samoa, but how all people are living there. There was a suggestion to put "protect and promote" in front of "Fa'a Samoa",

but the conclusion was that “protect and promote” were better captured in the goals and objectives.

The agreed-upon vision statement:

The people of American Samoa, with their healthy ocean, coasts and communities, enjoy a thriving and secure environment, economy, and Fa’a Samoa.

The ASOPT discussed whether the revised and approved vision statement needed to go back out to the community. There was agreement that the revised vision statement did need to go back to the communities to show them how their input was incorporated, but not for a second round of review to result in more revisions. However, the process for final approval of the vision statement has yet to be determined.

There was discussion about translating the vision statement into Samoan. It was agreed this is important and Ms. Sauafea-Leau offered to translate it.

STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT

Stakeholders, whose contact information was provided by members of the ASOPT, were asked to answer several questions about ocean planning in American Samoa and the Pacific Islands Region. Mr. Parks gave the overview of the raw results. There was a 40% response rate, which is typical of email surveys. The largest set of respondents were coastal and ocean managers.

There was discussion about data accessibility and confidentiality. It was confirmed that raw data will not be shared beyond the immediate ASOPT, while the summaries will be shared publicly and with the PI RPB. Raw data did not include names of people.

ADDITIONAL INPUT

The ASOPT again emphasized the need to incorporate the Office of Samoan Affairs. The ASOPT later outlined a detailed process where agency officials meet with community leaders, building on existing relationships (see Process notes).

The PI RPB is strongly encouraged to get a community liaison to help build capacity, network with the community, and work with Office of Samoan Affairs. Title: American Samoa Ocean Planning Coordinator. Function: building relationships and stakeholder input.

Recommendation: Secure an American Samoa Ocean Planning Coordinator.

LISTENING SESSION

The ASOPT discussed whether additional people needed to be invited to the listening session. We were encouraged to invite people from hotels and also Blue Sky Telecom. Following the ASOPT meeting, a member of the planning team hand carried letters to the Governor, Office of Samoan Affairs, Speaker of the House, and Senate President.

PLANNING PROCESS

We were encouraged to tie agencies to their responsibilities within the AS Ocean Plan. Also, the plan should be as tight as possible before it goes to the public. To accomplish this, the ASOPT identified areas in the planning process where they would like PI RPB input.

Recommendation: The ASOPT would prefer input from the PIRPB early and often, not at the end.

Regarding the recommendation: a comment matrix should be maintained to prevent flip-flopping of ideas across drafts of the plan.

Regarding the land-based territorial plan under development – some elements of the ocean should be incorporated into the territorial plan. The land-based plan is intended to be a 20-year plan. The ASOPT was encouraged to work with the territorial planner to ensure plans are not duplicative, but instead build upon and integrate with each other.

There was detailed discussion about how to involve the Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA) and the communities appropriately. We were encouraged to liaise with staff from OSA so that they can help champion the effort. The stakeholder engagement group will need briefing materials with which to engage OSA that is supplied by the ASOPT. Summaries of the briefing materials should be translated into Samoan to assist getting the word out to communities.

It was also suggested to identify a few villages that would benefit the most from ocean planning, go there first, and get some support after those communities see success. We were reminded that we need to give the communities something they can actually use – communities are experiencing engagement fatigue and several already have management plans. Those plans should be integrated into the ocean plan with delivered outcomes relevant to the communities. One important comment was that there should be a feedback loop that indicates the ASOPT keeps getting input.

There was also a strong suggestion to get a local coordinator to be the driver on island. This was brought up at the ASOPT meeting and the RPB meeting. The person should be already connected to ocean management and OSA. Territorial resource scholarship individuals were suggested.

Recommendation: There should be a local coordinator on island in American Samoa.

The ASOPT developed a process for working with communities on the AS Ocean Plan s. During the next in-person ASOPT meeting, they will further refine and develop the process that started with:

1. Develop presentation/outreach materials to provide to ASG staff, the Governor, and OSA.
2. Identify staff from the Governor's Office, American Samoa government, Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA), and federal and local agencies to have face-to-face meetings with

using the briefing materials. These face-to-face meetings should include Directors Ruth Matagi-Tofiga and Claire Poumele, the Governor's appointees to the PI RPB.

3. Then use those materials to have face to face meetings with OSA, the Governor, elected officials, the federal government, and other local agencies. These face-to-face meetings should be hosted by Directors Ruth Matagi-Tofiga and Claire Poumele, the Governor's appointees to the PI RPB.
4. Send letters to follow up on the face-to-face meetings.
5. Identify ways to improve the process so that it includes overlapping public education and awareness with community level engagement, engages a wide audience, gets the community enthusiastic, and integrates efforts to mitigate burnout.

It was asked why the ASOPT is seeking additional support from the Governor. The reason is twofold: 1) the Governor can direct agencies other than DMWR and Port to participate in ocean planning, thus allowing them to prioritize it in addition to their other workload, and 2) the feedback from the listening session was that people needed to be engaged correctly. Additionally, the Governor can be updated on encountered obstacles and then help to remove barriers.

A letter should have been sent to the Governor asking for his support. Ms. Pautzke will follow up with Mr. King and Mr. Ochavillo to assess if that happened. If not, the letter should be updated to include activities since then, and be provided to the Governor at the appropriate time identified in the process the ASOPT developed above.

TASKS:

- 1) The Interim Chair will set up a teleconference call of the ASOPT as well as the next in-person meeting.
- 2) Mr. King and Mr. Ochavillo will determine the status of the original letter to the Governor.
- 3) Ms. Pautzke and the Interim Chair, with assistance and input from the ASOPT, will develop one-page summaries of the PI RPB and other briefing materials to support the ASOPT.
- 4) Ms. Sauafea-Leau will translate the vision statement into Samoan.