



AMERICAN SAMOA OCEAN PLANNING TEAM LISTENING SESSIONS SUMMARY

September 26-October 5, 2017

The American Samoa Ocean Planning Team (ASOPT) hosted a series of listening sessions from September 26 through October 5, 2017, to obtain feedback about the goals and objectives of the ocean plan they are developing as well as obtain cursory use information through a mapping exercise. Almost all ASOPT agencies participated in at least one session. Listening sessions were held with communities and with specific stakeholder groups. The community listening sessions were led by DMWR Director Henry Seseapasara, while stakeholder group sessions were led by Port Administration Deputy Director Chris King. Fatima Sauafea-Leau (NOAA PIRO) translated the goals and objectives for the community meetings. Director Seseapasara and Deputy Director King provided translation between the communities and the facilitators. The community listening sessions were held with the assistance of the Office of Samoan Affairs and Director Seseapasara.

Structure

Six listening sessions were held throughout the first week on Tutuila. There were two *community* sessions and four *stakeholder group* sessions. The four stakeholder groups included:

- Port users: stevedores and shippers
- Port users: infrastructure (such as American Samoa Power Authority)
- Recreational users: paddlers, surfers, swimmers, and charter fishermen
- Commercial fishermen: longliners and canneries

The second week, Director Seseapasara, Deputy Director King, Chief Fuega representing OSA, and Sarah Pautzke (Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body coordinator) held community meetings with the pulenu'u in Manua.

Content

The listening sessions were divided into two halves. The first half included a description of this effort, followed by a facilitated request for feedback on the ocean plan's goals and objectives. The goals and objectives can be found in Appendix 1. The second half was a facilitated mapping exercise.

The mapping exercise consisted of providing 6 maps of Tutuila or Manua (location-dependent) to the stakeholders and asking them to put different colored dots on corresponding to different uses. Four of the maps related to current uses and two maps related to future uses. Maps of current uses included: 1) Fishing and village-based uses including sand mining, shoreline recreation, access points, and

shipwrecks, 2) Fishing and village-based uses including swimming, non-commercial fishing, and cultural fishing, 3) Commercial uses such as shipping and cannery operations, and 4) Recreation and research/education including recreational diving and paddling. The categories were initially developed by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council for a coastal and marine spatial planning training held in 2013; the full content of the categories is in Appendix 2. The two maps of future uses were for stakeholders to identify future use locations and locations where they did not want to see a particular use. Four broad use categories were identified for these two maps: tourism, recreation, commercial, and energy uses.

Tutuila – East Side Community Listening Session

Six chiefs and 8 others from the village of A’ua attended. Director Seseapasara led the meeting. The primary issue raised was that funds are needed to clean up streams because dirty water is running into the ocean during flooding rains, and USACE and EPA should be involved for two reasons: it’s their responsibility and jurisdiction. The village suggested that EPA has money for flood mitigation and clean up. The village also raised their suggestion about building a dock. During a tsunami or other natural disaster, if the road is cut off through Pago Pago Harbor, there is no way to reach the hospital. Thus have dock capacity in A’ua would provide that access via boat.

The village asked that we leave the maps, goals, and objectives with them so that they could seek additional input from other members of the community.

ASOPT members at the meeting were from ASG DMWR and AS Port Administration.

Tutuila – West Side Community Listening Session

The meeting was held in Leone at the Governor’s Chief of Staff’s guest house. Twenty-four people attended the meeting, including mayors from the west side of Tutuila, the Governor’s Chief of Staff (Chief Fiu), the western district governor, and Director Samana from Department of Homeland Security.

Again the issue of dirty stream water was raised. During heavy rains, flooding brings down garbage and sedimentation from upland Tutuila. Garbage can be as big as large appliances. One comment was that EPA monitors the water but that there is no mitigation for the debris and trash. The hope is that money can be made available from this ocean planning effort.

They also raised the concern of sea walls, which are important for protecting the village against coastal erosion – sea walls are necessary, but slides occur.

The village asked that we leave the maps, goals, and objectives with them so that they could seek additional input from other members of the community.

ASOPT members at the meeting were from ASG DMWR and AS Port Administration.

Tutuila- Port Users Stakeholder Listening Session

Port users attended two listening sessions. Again, pollution was raised as a topic of concern. One suggestion was that awareness about flooding and pollution could be increased through the immigration department by talking to newcomers about pollution and how their actions impact the environment.

ASOPT members at the meeting were from AS Port Administration, NOAA Sanctuaries, and US Coast Guard.

Tutuila- Commercial Fishing Stakeholders Listening Session

Commercial fishermen representing longliners and the canneries attended the meeting. Because many had attended the ASOPT meeting in August 2017, they declined to give feedback about the goals and objectives because they'd done so previously. They filled out the maps, identifying current uses, potential future uses, and areas they did not want to see particular uses.

ASOPT members at the meeting were from AS Port Administration, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS).

Tutuila- Recreational Users Stakeholder Listening Session

Recreational users representing paddling, swimming, and diving attended the meeting. They identified current race routes for paddling and access points, new potential tourism sites, and places they would like to see commercial activities excluded.

ASOPT members at the meeting were from the AS Port Administration, NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS), and US FWS.

Coasts Week Family Fun Day Table

AS Department of Commerce Coastal Management Program (CMP) provided a table at the American Samoa Coasts Week Family Fun Day for the PI RPB. Several people placed dots on the maps for known uses and future uses they would like to see or exclude.

ASOPT members at the table included NOAA NOS and AS DOC CMP.

Ta'u – Fiti'uta Community Listening Session

There were several chiefs in attendance at the Fiti'uta community meeting on Ta'u. The meeting was opened by Chief Taliga Vaiolo, who represented Office of Samoan Affairs on behalf of Chief Mauga. Director Sesepasara led the meeting, while Deputy Director King provided translation. We were well-received, however the village asked for additional time to formulate responses about the goals and objectives, as well as fill out the maps. The village was given two weeks and asked to return the maps to Director Sesepasara by October 20.

Ta'u – Ta'u Community Listening Session

There were a few chiefs and several fishermen in attendance representing the villages of Ta'u and Faleasao. Again the meeting was opened by Chief Vaiolo, led by Director Sesepasara, and translated by Deputy Director King. They also asked for additional time to respond to the request for feedback about the goals and objectives, as well as fill out the maps. The village was given two weeks and asked to return the maps to Director Sesepasara by October 20.

Ofu and Olesega Community Listening Session

Fishermen and village chiefs attended the meeting held jointly with individuals representing Ofu and Olesega. The meeting was opened by Chief Vaiolo, led by Director Sesepasara, and translated by Deputy Director King. The team let them know what the goals and objectives are, and left those along with the maps for the villages to talk more about and then return feedback to Director Sesepasara by October 20.

Take-home points for future engagement

The communities needed time to digest the information and then provide feedback at a later date. NOAA PIRO staff Fatima Sauafea-Leau translated the written goals and objectives, but the team was asked for the 'map uses' to be translated as well. For future meetings, the information will go to the communities in Samoan at least 2 weeks prior to the meetings.

Meetings will also be coordinated well in advance to ensure the appropriate villages and higher numbers of attendees are present. Additionally, email reminders should have been sent prior to the meetings with follow up calls to confirm attendance, or emails to individuals.

There was lower than expected turnout at the stakeholder listening sessions held during the day at the Port Administration. One suggestion was to include the stakeholder portion as an agenda item during a regularly scheduled Port meeting. Another option might be to hold one or two bigger all-inclusive stakeholder meetings.

Meetings with the villages need to be arranged by the ASOPT and OSA a couple weeks in advance with follow-up by OSA the week before to ensure increased turnout.

In Manua, having someone of stature, such as a director from OSA or ASG was a must – they not only act as translators, but their presence facilitates cultural aspects of these meetings. Director Sesepasara paved the way for stakeholder engagement in the villages – the ASOPT effort would not have been as successful without him.

If the draft plan is to receive input during the next round of listening sessions, the Executive Summary of the plan should be translated into Samoan and it should be distributed a couple weeks prior to the meetings.

APPENDIX 1: Goals and objectives for which the ASOPT sought input

Goal 1: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

Autu 1: Sami ma le gataifale matagofie ma le saogalemu

1. Manage species and habitats to maintain and/or restore healthy ecosystems and natural beauty
Puipui i tamaoaiga ma o latou nofoaga ina ia tumau le olaola lelei ma le matagofie.
2. Prevent, eliminate, and/or mitigate land-based and marine sources of pollution
Fo'ia, fa'aitiitia, ma fa'alelei tulaga o lo'o maua mai ai le otaota mai le laueleele ma le sami.
3. Enhance and maintain climate change adaptation and resilience
Fa'amausali ma fa'aleleia fuafuaga aua ina ia mafai ona tete'e i a'afiaga mai le fesuia'iga o le tau.

Goal 2: Sustainable Ocean and Coastal Uses

Autu 2: O le mautu ma lelei o le fa'aaogaina o le sami ma le gataifale

1. Encourage sustainable and appropriate coastal development and uses
Fa'amalosia le fa'aaogaina lelei ma le tatau o le gataifale aua atina'e ma ni isi tulaga.
2. Encourage sustainable and appropriate near shore/reef development and uses
Fa'amalosia le fa'aaogaina lelei ma le tatau o le a'au 'amu aua atina'e ma ni isi tulaga.
3. Encourage sustainable and appropriate open ocean development and uses
Encourage le fa'aaogaina lelei ma le tatau o ogasami loloto po'o nofoaga i tua a'au aua atina'e ma ni isi tulaga.
4. Spatially plan for and implement measures to ensure ocean, coastal, social, and economic resilience
Fa'atautaia ni ta'iala ma ni fuafuaga aua le olaola lelei ma le mautu o tulaga o le sami, gataifale, tagatanu'u, ma le atina'e.

Goal 3: Actions to promote Fa'a Samoa

Goal 3: Fuafuaga e mausali ai le Fa'a Samoa

1. Enhance, promote, and maintain sustainable traditional values, knowledge, and practices on island
Fa'alautele, fa'amausali, ma fa'atumau le olaola lelei o fa'atinoga o tu ma aga o le aganu'u Fa'a Samoa.

APPENDIX 2: Use categories for the mapping exercise

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL HARBOR ACTIVITIES		
Use type	Includes	Excludes
Shipping / commercial shipyard	Shipping of supplies / equipment to and from island, storage of shipping materials	Fish transport and processing, transportation of people
Cannery operations / fish processing	Structures and vessels associated with the cannery and processing of fish	Fish for local consumption or not to be canned
Transport by boat / ferry	Ferry and boat-based transportation	Fishing boats, shipping of goods
Fueling / Fuel transport	Locations associated with fueling boats, transport of fuel for island	Transport of people, transport of fish or goods
Cruise ship operations	Transit and docking areas for cruise ships, areas of heavy cruise ship tourism use	Non-cruise-ship passenger transit, non-cruise ship tourism activities
Yacht mooring	Mooring locations for yachts	Mooring for fishing and other boats
Coastal access points	Access routes/points to coast	Areas where coast is inaccessible
Shipwrecks	Known sites of shipwrecks	

FISHING AND VILLAGE-BASED ACTIVITIES

Use type	Includes	Excludes
Swimming	Recreational, exercise	Free diving, snorkeling, wading, scuba
Spearfishing	In water use of spear (gun, 3-prong) for fish, crab, lobster, and octopus >5 feet deep; includes commercial and non-commercial, day and night activities	Shoreline/intertidal gathering <5 feet deep
Bottom fishing	Fishing for bottom-fish species (boat-based)	Nets, fishing for non-bottom fish species, spear
Trolling	Trolling with pole and line (or handline) from a boat	Shore-based fishing, bottom fishing
Handlining / bamboo pole / rod and reel fishing from shore	Shore based fishing with handline, bamboo pole or rod/reel	Trolling, boat-based fishing, bottom fishing
Shoreline and nearshore gleaning/gathering (<5 ft deep)	Intertidal and shallow water gathering of (most) invertebrates including shellfish, crab, sea cucumbers, octopus (from shore), seaweed < 5 feet deep	In water diving for fish, lobster, octopus, and invertebrates (>5ft deep); palolo gathering
Culturally significant fishing and other activities	Palolo, atule fishing with lau, i'asina, fishing for other culturally significant species or culturally significant fishing events, fishing using Enu (trap); fautasi racing	Commercial fishing, non-culturally significant activities
Gill nets	Use of gill net	All other types of nets
Throw nets	Throw net	Gill nets
Sand mining	Mining sand from coast and nearshore	
Shoreline recreation	Picnicking, organized sports, recreational activities	Commercial activities, use of shore as transit to marine area
Coastal access points	Access routes/points to coast	Areas where coast is inaccessible
Shipwrecks	Known sites of shipwrecks	

RECREATION AND RESEARCH / EDUCATION

Use type	Includes	Excludes
Recreational paddling	Individual or group use of kayak, outriggers, other paddle-powered vessels; for fun or competition, fautasi racing	Motorized boating, use of kayak or paddle-boat for fishing
Swimming	Recreational, exercise	Free diving, snorkeling, wading, scuba
Recreational diving	SCUBA diving (not for the purpose of fishing or gathering), shore-based and vessel-based	Research oriented diving, Scuba spear, extractive activities, diving for professional reasons
Recreational snorkeling	Snorkeling, free-diving (not for the purpose of fishing or gathering), shore-based and vessel-based	Spearfishing and extractive activities, research activities, snorkeling for professional reasons
Surfing	Surfing, boogie-boarding	
Recreational sailing	Use of sailboat, yacht for recreation and transit purposes	Use of sailboat or yacht for fishing
Jet skis	Use of jet ski	Non-jet-ski motorized vessels
Educational activities	Locations of education and outreach activities for school groups and the general public	University / agency research sites
Research activities (University and local agency)	Locations used for research and monitoring of natural resources on island	Recreational diving and snorkeling
Coastal access points	Access routes/points to coast	Areas where coast is inaccessible
Shipwrecks	Known sites of shipwrecks	