



Workshop on the Proposed Designation of a National Marine Sanctuary in the Pacific Remote Islands

Summary Report



September 12-13, 2023

Pago Pago, American Samoa



Executive Summary

On March 24, 2023, [President Biden](#) directed the Secretary of Commerce to consider initiating the [designation process](#) for a proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pacific Remote Islands area. On April 18, 2023, NOAA issued a Notice of Intent to conduct scoping and prepare a draft environmental impact statement to consider a proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pacific Remote Islands. NOAA invited the public to submit comments and hosted public meetings between April 18, and June 2, 2023.

As part of scoping, NOAA continues to meet with federal agencies that have management authority in the region to review additional information related to issues raised during the public meetings. To inform the development of the draft sanctuary designation documents (i.e., the draft environmental impact statement, draft management plan, and proposed rule), the American Samoa Government (ASG) and NOAA co-hosted a workshop and public forum between September 12, and 13, 2023, at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Pago Pago, American Samoa. Information and discussions from the workshop and the evening public forum in American Samoa will help inform the development of the draft sanctuary designation documents. NOAA anticipates releasing these documents for public comment in 2024.

Governor Lemanu Mauga gave opening remarks at the workshop, and highlighted the importance of the tuna industry to the economy of American Samoa. He also noted the firsthand experiences of not only losing a cannery, but the negative impacts of climate change resulting in continued vulnerability to food and water insecurity, lack of access to social services and in the worst cases, forced displacements. He closed his remarks by using an ancient Samoan proverb, “seu le manu ae taga’i ile galu,” (be mindful of the net, as you snare the bird). His analogy compared the tuna industry to a net that has provided for the people of American Samoa, and the importance of sustaining and keeping the net safe for our people.

The workshop brought together more than 230 federal and territorial agency representatives and stakeholders to discuss the proposal for a national marine sanctuary in the Pacific Remote Islands, and to share information about possible benefits and impacts. Topics included an overview of the Pacific Remote Islands, the national marine sanctuary designation process, perspectives from the U.S. Pacific territories, how fisheries support food and economic security for American Samoa and the U.S., and the importance and connection of the Pacific Remote Islands to American Samoa and other territories.

A public forum with about 100 participants was held on the evening of September 12, 2023. It provided an opportunity for the ASG and NOAA to share information about the proposed national marine sanctuary and listen to community concerns. During the forum, participants discussed potential impacts and opportunities, resource conservation, education and outreach, cultural and maritime heritage, and research and monitoring issues related to the proposed designation.

The following section summarizes issues raised during the workshop sessions.

- ***Workshop Session 1: Understanding the Sanctuary Designation Process***

The objective of this session was to ensure all participants had a basic understanding of the sanctuary designation process and emphasize that NOAA is still in the information gathering and document development phase, and that NOAA has not made any final decisions regarding sanctuary boundaries, allowable activities, or other features of a proposed sanctuary. NOAA presented an overview of the National Marine Sanctuary System, the sanctuary designation process, and the goals and objectives specific to the proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pacific Remote Islands. NOAA summarized main topics raised during the [public scoping meetings](#) and comments received. Participants asked questions about the steps in the sanctuary designation process, the difference between fishing regulations developed by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) and sanctuary regulations, boundary options, and the socioeconomic analysis for the draft environmental impact statement. The workshop facilitator led a whiteboard exercise to clarify the sanctuary designation process and emphasize that NOAA is in the information collection phase of the designation process, and has not made any final decisions related to the alternatives or its preferred alternative.

- ***Workshop Session 2: Perspectives from American Samoa***

The objective of this session was to ensure workshop participants had the opportunity to interact with officials and stakeholders from American Samoa, to understand more about the overall cultural and socioeconomic landscape of the region, and how the proposed sanctuary designation could affect the territory. The ASG invited representatives from the Office of Samoa Affairs, the Chamber of Commerce, the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management, and the American Samoa Power Authority to give presentations and provide pertinent information germane to the importance of the tuna industry. Topics included cultural values and the importance of fishing to Indigenous Pacific Islanders, the value of the StarKist Samoa tuna cannery to the economy of American Samoa,

projected impacts to fuel suppliers and marine terminal operators associated with reductions in fishing effort and port calls, and the way that the cannery subsidizes energy and other utility prices for residential customers. The Chamber of Commerce representative shared a birth rate chart that showed a sharp decline over the last two decades, and surmised a direct correlation to the decline in the fishing fleet in the territory and a cannery closure. A larger discussion regarding the sustainable future for American Samoa took place and the ASG representatives discussed the significance of environmental and cultural values, Indigenous Knowledge, and the voices of women and children in decision making related to ocean stewardship.

- ***Workshop Session 3: Creating a Sense of Place and Understanding about the Pacific Remote Islands***

The objective of this session was to ensure all participants had a basic understanding of the natural and cultural significance of the Pacific Remote Islands and the agencies and organizations involved in managing the area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA gave an overview of the significance of the Pacific Remote Islands as well as their role in coordinated management of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument through the Monument Proclamation authority, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and other relevant laws and regulations (Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), etc.). The Nature Conservancy (TNC) summarized their management of TNC Palmyra Preserve within Palmyra Atoll and their research efforts at the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Laboratory stationed on the atoll. Next, the WPRFMC briefly spoke about its role in fisheries management and discussed its authority to develop fishing regulations within the PRI under the MSA. WPRFMC further clarified that they are in the process of determining whether fishing regulations are necessary, and if so, what those regulations would be. WPRFMC closed by saying that their final recommendations are due on December 20, 2023. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) spoke about their role in enforcement and noted the challenges associated with patrolling the expanse of the Pacific. Workshop participants shared questions and concerns about the threat of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing from foreign fishing vessels in the U.S. Economic Exclusive Zone (U.S. EEZ) and region, and the challenges regarding enforcement. There was interest in increasing USCG activity but limitations associated with support services and remoteness were noted.

- ***Workshop Session 4: From Ocean to Table, Understanding How Fisheries Support Food and Economic Security for American Samoa and the U.S.***

The objective of this session was to ensure workshop participants had the opportunity to understand more about how commercial fishing supports the economy in American Samoa. NOAA led presentations regarding the sustainable management and economic implications of the U.S. pelagic fisheries. NOAA reported on scientific analyses that demonstrate that target stocks are not overfished or experiencing overfishing according to MSA and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act. NOAA presented on the relationships between the direct and indirect economic contributions of the fishing industry to the American Samoa economy. They previewed forthcoming work from their economic model, built using the Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) modeling platform, and noted the unique socioeconomic challenges that identify American Samoa as disadvantaged (Climate and Economic Justice Tool from the White House Council on Environmental Quality), underserved (NOAA Fisheries Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy) and more acutely vulnerable (Community Social Vulnerability Indicators). They referenced the Hampton et al. 2023 study on the Phoenix Islands Protected Area which concluded that "large marine protected area (MPA) closures are not likely to be effective management tools for tropical tunas and other species having similar life history characteristics" because they are highly mobile and have wide distributions outside the MPA. NOAA noted that the results from this one study in Phoenix Islands may not apply to all MPAs and species' behaviors and life-history characteristics must be considered when assessing potential conservation benefits of any management action. Furthermore, this particular study did not analyze the conservation value of large oceanic MPAs in the protection of coral reef ecosystems and other non-highly migratory species that might otherwise be heavily fished. NOAA closed by suggesting that the objectives of large MPAs should be clearly specified, and their potential success in supporting the health of fish stocks be evaluated before implementation.

The ASG Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) presented on the importance of the tuna industry, and fishing access within the U.S. EEZ, to American Samoa. DMWR expressed that approximately 30% of U.S. shelf-stable tuna available in the U.S. market was from American Samoa, and that 75% of tuna needed for local processing is from the U.S.-flagged purse seine fleet based in American Samoa. They also presented on the challenges facing the tuna industry in the territory, some of which are federal actions (proposed sanctuary, NOAA proposed rulemaking on the Effort Limit Area for Purse Seiners (ELAPS),

Borders Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), Marine Ocean Monuments, 30 x 30 Initiative, and increased operating costs). Representatives from the U.S. purse seine fleets and the shipyard in Pago Pago followed with select briefings on socioeconomic challenges and limitations affecting the fishing industry. Many workshop participants asked NOAA to consider allowing commercial fishing in the proposed sanctuary in order to support the fishing industry for the American Samoa economy.

- ***Workshop Session 5: Lives & Livelihoods - Understanding the Socioeconomic Context of the Pacific Remote Islands for American Samoa & the Territories***

The objective of this session was to share information about the socioeconomic context and an overview of available socioeconomic data about the contribution of the sanctuary to territorial economies. NOAA outlined what is required in the economic analysis for the proposed sanctuary study area and contractors from the Eastern Research Group summarized their [understanding of the economic indicators](#) and how they characterize the ocean economy of the Pacific Island Territories. The ASG Department of Commerce and a representative from the StarKist Samoa spoke about the role of the cannery in sustaining their families through both food security and employment. The ASG shared concerns regarding federal regulations impacting economic development in American Samoa including federal minimum wage, the Jones Act (Cabotage Law), inherent barriers through the Build America Act, and the Federal permitting processes (i.e., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit). They concluded their statements by highlighting ongoing economic diversification initiatives including a Department of Commerce master plan for infrastructure upgrades, hotel development, sports complexes, an innovation and technology campus, and an Alia (Local Fishing Vessel) program to support local fisheries.

- ***Workshop Session 6: Final statements & Wrap Up***

The workshop co-chairs concluded the final day with closing remarks. Lieutenant Governor Talauega E. V. Ale expressed appreciation for the workshop and the participation of the Federal government. He hoped that a “happy medium” could be found between conservation efforts and sustainable use, but noted that any restrictions on commercial fishing would drastically affect American Samoa’s local economy. NOAA (represented by its Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, John Armor), shared its final statements and emphasized the following key takeaways:

- The cannery is extremely important to the economy of American Samoa in many ways, which is why a potential national marine sanctuary is causing such anxiety and fear.
- The cannery relies heavily on migratory tuna that are caught in portions of the proposed sanctuary.
- Additional regulatory restrictions, including from the proposed sanctuary designation, and other international tuna treaty and management measures, could contribute to the closing of the cannery due to cumulative impacts.
- The uncertainty of the negotiations with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission on existing tuna quotas in the region is also causing a lot of concerns.
- There is a strong desire to diversify the economy of American Samoa over the long term but this will take time.
- There is a desire for finding a way to meet conservation goals while supporting community wellbeing throughout American Samoa.

- ***Public Forum***

Following the first day of the workshop, NOAA hosted a public forum in the evening to engage community members about resource conservation issues in American Samoa and the Pacific Remote Islands. Members of the public were encouraged to join breakout groups based on their interests and expertise. Topics included: commercial fishing and onshore processing, economic impacts and opportunities, education and outreach, conservation science and resource protection, and cultural and maritime heritage. NOAA provided brief one-pagers on each topic with discussion questions to prompt participants to share additional information NOAA should consider. At the end of the forum, representatives from each break-out group presented a summary of issues raised during their break-out group to the full forum. Many workshop attendees from earlier that day attended the public forum which increased group understanding and dialogue.

Appendix 1: Participants and Agencies Represented

- American Samoa Government
 - Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga
 - Lieutenant Governor Talauega Ale
 - American Samoa Legislature (Fono)
 - Attorney General's Office
 - Department of Commerce
 - Department of Port Administration
 - Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management
 - American Samoa Power Authority
 - American Samoa Shipyard Services Authority
 - Department of Marine and Wildlife Services
 - Office of Samoan Affairs
 - American Samoa Government Veterans Affairs Office
 - Territorial Energy Office
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Youth & Women's Affairs
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Telecommunications Authority
 - Homeland Security
 - Department of Parks & Recreation
 - Office of Political Status & Constitutional Review
 - American Samoa Visitors Bureau
- Guam Government
 - Department of Agriculture
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)
 - Headquarters Protected Area Policy Division
 - Headquarters Science & Heritage Division
 - Pacific Islands Regional Office
 - National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa
 - Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
 - Tetra Tech (Contracted through ONMS to prepare the EIS/MP)
 - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
 - Pacific Islands Regional Office
 - Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
- Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

- Rose Atoll Marine National Monument
- DOI Field Representative - Insular and International Affairs
- Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
- White House Council on Environmental Quality
- Department of the Air Force
- U.S. Coast Guard - District 14
- The Nature Conservancy - Hawai‘i and Palmyra
- American Samoa Private Sector
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - StarKist Samoa
 - American Samoa Shipyard Services Authority (fuel & repair suppliers)
 - Tautai o Samoa Longline Association
 - American Tuna Boat Association
 - Western Pacific Fisheries Inc.
 - Territorial Bank of American Samoa
 - Pacific Energy

Appendix 2: Workshop Resources and Materials

- Resources:
 - PRI Fact Sheet:
<https://nmssanctuaries.blob.core.windows.net/sanctuaries-prod/media/pri/2023-proposed-designation-prinms.pdf>
 - FAQs: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/pacific-remote-islands/faqs.html>
 - Sanctuaries and Monuments one-pager:
<https://nmssanctuaries.blob.core.windows.net/sanctuaries-prod/media/docs/20230901-sanctuaries-and-monuments.pdf>
- Session Presentations: Available upon request, please email proposed.primms@noaa.gov.

Appendix 3: News and Video Coverage

Local News Coverage

- Samoa News:
 - Governor opens NOAA PRIA workshop on sanctuary designation:
<https://www.samoanews.com/local-news/governor-opens-noaa-pria-workshop-sanctuary-designation>
 - Office of National Marine Sanctuaries received 57,000 comments on proposed PRIA sanctuary:
<https://www.samoanews.com/local-news/office-national-marine-sanctuaries-received-57000-comments-proposed-pria-sanctuary>
 - Lt. Governor wraps up the two-day NOAA PRIA Workshop:
<https://www.samoanews.com/local-news/lt-governor-wraps-two-day-noaa-pria-workshop>

- Talane News:
 - Public invited to comment on proposed national marine sanctuary:
<https://www.talane.com/2023/09/12/public-invited-to-comment-on-proposed-national-marine-sanctuary/>
 - Governor urges feds to listen and understand local concerns:
<https://www.talane.com/2023/09/12/governor-urges-feds-to-listen-and-understand-local-concerns/>
 - NOAA official says local concerns will be considered:
<https://www.talane.com/2023/09/13/noaa-official-says-local-concerns-will-be-considered/>
 - Purse seiner owner decries state of tuna industry:
<https://www.talane.com/2023/09/15/purse-seiner-owner-decries-state-of-tuna-industry/>
 - Lt. Gov. optimistic feds understand impact of marine sanctuary:
<https://www.talane.com/2023/09/18/lt-gov-optimistic-feds-understand-impact-of-marine-sanctuary/>

Local Video Coverage

The event was live streamed on Facebook by a local American Samoa TV network (KVZK TV):

- Workshop Day 1: Tuesday 9/12/23
 - Formal Opening:
<https://www.facebook.com/KVZKTV/videos/1162193391403996>
 - Sanctuary process and American Samoa perspective sessions:
<https://www.facebook.com/KVZKTV/videos/6280908928687545>

- Public Forum: Tuesday 9/12/13
 - <https://www.facebook.com/KVZKTV/videos/631340272473619>
- Workshop Day 2: Wednesday 9/13/23
 - NMFS Fisheries sessions:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/KVZKTV/videos/1027626118689610>
 - ONMS socioeconomic session (incomplete):
 - https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=704306004895820
 - ASG socioeconomic session (American Samoa economic entities):
 - <https://www.facebook.com/KVZKTV/videos/264209016513376>
 - Closing Statements:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/KVZKTV/videos/264209016513376>

Relevant Post-Workshop Coverage

- Samoa News
 - Amata calls for prioritizing ‘Buy American’ when it comes to tuna: <https://www.samoanews.com/local-news/amata-calls-prioritizing-buy-american-when-it-comes-tuna>
 - WesPac calls for status quo for proposed Pacific Remote Islands Sanctuary:
 - <https://www.samoanews.com/local-news/wespac-calls-status-quo-proposed-pacific-remote-islands-sanctuary>
 - U.S. House committee hears testimony on importance of fishing rights to Am Samoa: <https://www.samoanews.com/local-news/us-house-committee-hears-testimony-importance-fishing-rights-am-samoa>
- Talane News
 - Scientific Committee discusses potential rules for planned marine sanctuary:
 - <https://www.talane.com/2023/09/14/scientific-committee-discusses-potential-rules-for-planned-marine-sanctuary/>
 - Uifa’atali rejects NOAA claim that sanctuary plan has minimal impact:
 - <https://www.talane.com/2023/09/19/uifaatali-rejects-noaa-claim-that-sanctuary-plan-has-minimal-impact/>
- U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources
 - Examining Barriers to Access in Federal Waters: A Closer Look at the Marine Sanctuary and Monument System | Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=414811>

- Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council:
 - Press Release - Status Quo Preferable for Proposed Pacific Remote Islands Sanctuary:
<https://www.wpcouncil.org/press-release-status-quo-preferable-for-proposed-pacific-remote-islands-sanctuary-19-september-2023>

Appendix 4: Workshop Agenda

Workshop Agenda on the Proposed National Marine Sanctuary Designation for the Pacific Remote Islands

Tuesday, Sept. 12 - Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023

Lee Auditorium

Pago Pago, American Samoa

Workshop Goals

- Connect with Pacific Island communities and create space to learn about individual views concerning the proposed national marine sanctuary designation for the Pacific Remote Islands;
- Consider how the proposed sanctuary would benefit and/or impact Pacific Island communities with economic, cultural and historic ties to the region; and
- Gather information, perspectives, and knowledge from local communities and the territorial and state governments.

Day 1: Connections and Context

Tuesday - Sept. 12, 2023

8:30 a.m. Start

Day 1 Objectives: *Ensure all participants meet each other and understand the purpose and desired outcomes of the workshop.*

8:30 - 9:00 am – Opening & Welcome

- **Welcome** - *Atuatasi Lelei Peau*, Superintendent, NMSAS
- **Prayer** - *Reverend Leitualasa Malieitulia*, CCCAS Nu'uuli
- **Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs**

- Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga, *Governor of American Samoa*
- John Armor, *Director of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries*
- **Introduction of our Workshop Facilitator Anu Gupta - *Atuatasi Lelei Peau***

9:00 - 10:00 am – Introduction & Overview - Anu Gupta, Facilitator

Introduction

- Purpose of the workshop
- Review the workshop agenda
- Ground rules and guiding principles

Group Picture & Break

10:00 am - 12:00 pm – Session 1: Understanding the Sanctuary Designation Process

Session Objective: *Ensure all participants have a basic understanding of the sanctuary designation process.*

National Marine Sanctuaries & the Designation Process

Kalani Quicho, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Islands Region & Brady Phillips, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

- What are national marine sanctuaries?
 - Overview of National Marine Sanctuaries
 - Monuments and Sanctuaries: What's the difference?
- What prompted the sanctuary designation process for the Pacific Remote Islands?
- How does a sanctuary designation work?
 - Stages, timing and opportunities for public input
- Goals and Objectives
 - What are the Goals and Objectives for the proposed sanctuary?
 - How do the Goals and Objectives guide the sanctuary designation process?
- Scoping Summary
 - Public Comment Summary
- Coordination with government agencies
- Questions and Discussion

12:00 to 1:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 pm – Session 2: Perspectives from the U.S. Pacific Territories

Session Objective: *Ensure workshop participants have the opportunity to dialogue with officials from the territories to understand more about the overall landscape in the region and how the proposed sanctuary designation could affect the territories.*

- Select briefings by American Samoa and other Territories
 - *Speaker of the House of Representatives, Savali Talavou Ale, AS Legislature PC Mauga Asuega, Secretary of Samoan Affairs:* Cultural value & importance of fishing industry to indigenous people
 - *Chamber of Commerce:* On behalf of Chairman, Jason Betham - Lewis Wolman (Proxi),
The value of the cannery and tuna industry to small businesses and consumers
 - *Director Lisa Tuato’o, American Samoa Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) / Pacific Energy:* Perspectives from a fuel supplier / terminal operator
 - *Deputy CEO, Ryan Tuato’o, American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA):* Starkist electricity volumes in relation to residential customers

- Questions and Discussion

Break

2:30 - 4:00 pm – Session 3: Creating a Sense of Place and Understanding about the Pacific Remote Islands

Session Objective: *Ensure all participants have a basic understanding of the extraordinary natural and cultural significance of the Pacific Remote Islands and who is involved in managing the area.*

Overview of the Pacific Remote Islands

- Overview of natural, cultural, and historical significance and connections to Pacific Islanders
- Past and current uses (including research, exploration, fishing, military, shipping, undersea cables, traditional voyaging, etc.) and associated benefits and impacts of those activities
- Other processes affecting natural, cultural, and historic resources in the Pacific Remote Islands (e.g., oceanographic shifts, climate change, marine debris, etc.)

- Current management of the Pacific Remote Islands within the Monument and in the adjacent Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)
 - Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument authorities (*Malia Chow & Brett Schumacher*, NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands Regional Office & *John Klavitter*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
 - Monument Proclamations
 - USFWS and NOAA Fisheries coordinated management
 - National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
 - Other relevant laws and regulations (MMPA, ESA, MBTA, etc.)
 - Development of management plan PRI Marine National Monument
 - The Nature Conservancy’s activities at Palmyra Atoll (*Trevor Taylor*)
 - Air Force activities in the Pacific Remote Islands (*Keith Roberts*, U.S. Air Force)
 - Pacific Remote Islands Area waters outside the Monument (*Sarah Malloy* and *Pua Borges*, NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands Regional Office)
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
 - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act
 - Other relevant laws and regulations (MMPA, ESA, MBTA, etc.)
 - Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) activities in the Pacific Remote Islands (*Josh DeMello*)
 - Enforcement (U.S. Coast Guard) (*Andrew Williams* and *Marc Stegman*)

4:00 - 4:30 pm – Closing Discussions & Conclusion

4:30 p.m. End of Day 1

Public Forum Agenda
Tuesday - Sept. 12, 2023
5:00 - 7:30 pm

Session Objective: *Host a public forum to engage community members about resource conservation issues in American Samoa and the Pacific Remote Islands.*

5:00 – 5:30 PM

- Welcome – *Atuatasi-Lelei Peau*, Superintendent, NOAA/NMSAS (Co-Chair) & *Taotasi Archie Soliai*, Director, DMWR (Co-Chair) (5 Minutes)

Introduction & Purpose of the Event

- *Atuatasi-Lelei Peau*, (Co-Chair)NOAA/ NMSAS) introduces Public Forum Facilitator *Anu Gupta* – (5 minutes)

Short summary of Day 1 of the workshop – *Anu Gupta*, Facilitator (5 minutes)

Update on the proposed sanctuary designation process & next steps (5 minutes)

Brady Phillips, NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Perspectives from American Samoa –*Taotasi Archie Soliai* (ASG Co-Chair) (10 Minutes)

Overview of Breakout Sessions – *Anu Gupta* (15 minutes)

5:30 – 6:45 PM

Breakout Group Session (5) by topic:

- **Commercial Fishing & Onshore Processing at Cannery:** Exploring the importance of commercial fishing and onshore processing to the American Samoa economy
- **Economic Impacts & Opportunities:** Expanding economic opportunities in American Samoa
- **Education & Outreach:** Connecting local environmental education and outreach to the Pacific Remote Islands
- **Conservation Science and Resource Protection:** Bridging local marine research and monitoring efforts to connect to the Pacific Remote Islands and other areas in the Pacific
- **Cultural & Maritime Heritage:** Exchanging stories and information about cultural and marine heritage to connect Pacific Island communities

6:45 – 7:00 PM – *Each Group Highlights key takeaways & what stood out that should be considered about that topic.*

7:00 – 7:15 PM – Next Steps -*Anu Gupta*

7:15 – 7:30 PM – Closing By Co-Chairs, *Atuatasi-Lelei Peau & Taotasi Archie Soliai*

Day 2: Lives & Livelihoods
Wednesday - Sept. 13, 2023
8:30 a.m. Start

Day 2 Objectives: *Develop a holistic understanding about socioeconomic opportunities and challenges in American Samoa.*

8:30 - 9:00 am – Insights and Reflections from Day 1 -Anu Gupta, Facilitator

9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Session 4: From Ocean to Table, Understanding How Fisheries Support Food and Economic Security for American Samoa and the U.S.

Session Objective: *Ensure workshop participants have the opportunity to understand more about how commercial fishing supports the economy in American Samoa.*

- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (NOAA Fisheries) presentation (*Keith Bigelow and Justin Hospital*)
 - *NOAA Fisheries data on current fishing effort in the Pacific Remote Islands*
 - *How changes in fishing effort or environmental factors (i.e., climate change) in the Pacific Remote Islands or adjacent areas may impact American Samoa*
- Select briefings by American Samoa government
 - ASG: *Archie Soliai* (DMWR) The importance of the Tuna industry to Am Samoa
 - Industry: *Stuart Chikami* (Western Pacific) – Purse seine operations
 - ASG Shipyard: *Carlos Sanchez* – Shipyard services (operations & value to the fishing fleet)
- Discussion, Q&A

12:00 to 1:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm – Session 5: Lives & Livelihoods - Understanding the Socioeconomic Context of the Pacific Remote Islands for American Samoa & the Territories

Session Objectives: *Share information about the socioeconomic context and an overview of available socioeconomic data.*

- Applications of socioeconomic data in the required economic analysis to the proposed study area (*Danielle Schwarzmann*, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries)
- Socioeconomic data from the Pacific Island Territories (*Charles Goodhue and Jeremy Halstead*, Eastern Research Group)
- Presentations from the Territories - TBD

Discussion, Q&A

- What information do you have or know about that can contribute to our analysis?
- How can NOAA get this information?
 - Are there specific people you would like us to reach out to to discuss data availability and/or these analysis?
- Are there members of your community that would like to learn more about the planned socio-economic analysis?

3:00 - 3:30 pm – Session 6: Final statements & Wrap Up

Session Objective: *Ensure all participants understand each other's perspective and the next steps in the designation process.*

- American Samoa
 - *Hon. Governor Lemanu Mauga*
- NOAA
 - John Armor, Director, ONMS
- Others

3:30 – 4:30 pm: Wrap up & Moving forward (Anu Gupta, Facilitator)

4:30 pm ADJOURNMENT