

American Samoa Archipelago FEP Managed Species

BOTTOMFISH

Snapper: palu-gutusaliva (*Aphareus rutilans*); asoama (*Aprion virescens*); palu malau (*Etelis carbunculus*); palu-loa (*E. coruscans*); savane (*Lutjanus kasmira*); palu-i'usama (*Pristipomoides auricilla*); palu-'ena'ena *P. filamentosus*); palu-sina (*P. flavipinnis*); palu (*P. seiboldii*); palu-ula or palu-sega (*P. zonatus*)

Grouper: fausi (*Epinephelus fasciatus*); papa or velo (*Variola louti*)

Trevally or Jack: sapoanae (*Caranx ignobilis*); tafauli (*C. lugubris*)

Emperor: filoa-gutumumu (*Lethrinus amboinensis*); filoa-paomumu (*L. rubrioperculatus*)

Amberjack: malauli (*Seriola dumerilii*)

CRUSTACEANS

Spiny lobster: ula (*Panulirus marginatus*); ula-sami (*Panulirus penicillatus*)

Slipper lobster: papata (*Family Scyllaridae*)

Crab: pa'a (*Ranina ranina*)

Deepwater shrimp: *Heterocarpus spp.*

CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM

(Currently harvested coral reef taxa)

Surgeonfish: afinamea, aanini, ponepone, gaitolama, alogo, pone-i'usama, laulama, maogo (*Acanthurus spp.*); pone, pala'ia, logoulia (*Ctenochaetus spp.*); ume-isu, ili'ilia, umelei, ume-masimasi, ume-ulutao (*Naso spp.*)

Triggerfish: sumu, sumu-laulau (*Balistoides viridescens*), sumu-'apa'apasina, sumu-si'umumu (*Melichthys vidua*), sumu-uli (*Melichthys niger*), sumu-uo'uo, sumu-aloalo (*Rhinecanthus aculeatus*), sumu-gase'ele'ele (*Sufflamen fraenatum*)

Scad: atule (*Selar crumenophthalmus*); atuleau, namuauli (*Decapterus macarellus*)

Sharks: malie-aloalo (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*); aso (*C. albimarginatus*); malie (*C. galapagensis*); apeape, malie-alamata (*C. melanopterus*); malu (*Triaenodon obesus*)

Soldierfish: malau-ugatele, malau-va'ava'a, malau-tui, malau-mamo, malau-tuauli, malau-pu'u (*Myripristis spp.*); malau-tianui, malau-tui, malau-talapu'u, malau-tusitusi, malau-pauli, tamalu, mu-malau, malau-toa (*Sargocentron spp.*)

Rudderfish: nanue, mata-mutu, mutumutu (*Kyphosus spp.*)

Flagtail: safole, inato (*Kuhlia mugil*)

Wrasses: lalafi, tagafa, malakea, lalafi-matamumu, lalafi-matapua'a, lalafi-pulepule (*Cheilinus spp.*); sugale (*Oxycheilinus spp.*); sugale-tatanu (*Xyrichtys aneitensis*); sugale-mo'o (*Cheilio inermis*); sugale-laugutu, sugale-uli, sugale-aloa, sugale-lupe, sugale-gutumafia (*Hemigymnus spp.*); lape, sugale-pagota, sugale-a'au, sugale-pagota, ifigi, sugale-ululeva (*Halichoeres spp.*); uloulo-gatala, patagalao, lape-moana, sugale-samasama (*Thalassoma spp.*); sugale-la'o, sugale-taili, sugale-gasufi (*Novaculichthys taeniourus*)

Goatfish: i'asina, vete, afulu, afolu, (*Mulloidichthys spp.*); afoul, afulu, tusia, tulausaena, ta'uleia, matulau-moana, moana-ula, i'asina, matulau-ilamutu (*Parupeneus spp.*)

Mullet: anae, aua, fuafua (*Crenimugil crenilabris*); moi, poi (*Neomyxus leuciscus*)

Eels: pusi, maoa'e, pusi-pulepule (*Gymnothorax spp.*)

Octopus: fe'e (*Octopus spp.*)

Threadfin: umiumia, i'ausi (*Polydactylus sexfilis*)

Bigeye: matapula (*Heteropriacanthus cruentatus* and *Priacanthus hamrur*)

Parrotfish: fuga (*Calotomus carolinus*); fuga, galo-uluto'i, fuga-valea, laea-mamanu (*Scarus spp.*); ulapokea, laea-ulapokea (*Hipposcarus longiceps*)

Dogtooth tuna: tagi (*Gymnosarda unicolor*)

Rabbitfish: loloa, lo (*Siganus aregenseus*)

Barracuda: sapatu, saosao (*Sphyraena spp.*)

Turban shells: alili (*Turbo spp.*)

PRECIOUS CORALS

Pink coral: amu piniki-mumu (*Corallium spp.*)

Gold coral: amu auro (*Gerardia spp.*, *Narella spp.*, *Calyptrophora spp.*)

Bamboo coral: amu ofe (*Lepidisis olapa*, *Acanella spp.*)

Black coral: amu uliuli (*Antipathes spp.*)

Federal Regulations for American Samoa FEP Managed Species

BOTTOMFISH

• All fishing vessels are prohibited from using or possessing bottom trawls and bottom set gillnets, poisons and explosives

• All fishing vessels must carry an observer when directed to do so by the National Marine Fisheries Service

CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

• Special permit, reporting and pre-landing notification for any directed fishery on potentially harvested coral reef taxa

• Gear types limited to hand-harvest, spear, slurp gun, hand/dip net, hoop net for Kona crab, throw net, barrier net, surround/purse net that is attended at all times, hook-and-line, crab and fish traps with vessel ID number affixed, and remote operating vehicle/submersible

• Ban on possession and use of poisons, explosives or intoxicating substances to take coral reef ecosystem species

• Ban on harvest of live rock and living corals except for indigenous people for traditional uses and aquaculture operations for seed stock under special permit, reporting and pre-landing notification requirements

• The vessel number must be affixed to all fish and crab traps on board the vessel or deployed in the water by any vessel or person holding a permit when fishing for coral reef taxa

• Fishing for American Samoa coral reef taxa is prohibited within the boundary of National Wildlife Refuges within US EEZ waters around American Samoa unless specifically authorized by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, regardless of whether that refuge was established by action of the President or the Secretary of the Interior

CRUSTACEANS

• Federal permit and logbook required

• Ban on fishing for, taking or retaining lobster with explosives, poisons or electrical shocking devices

• Notification before port landing and before offloading

• Observer coverage when requested by National Marine Fisheries Service

PRECIOUS CORALS

• Federal permit and reporting required

• Use of only selective gear that can discriminate or differentiate between type, size, quality or characteristics of living or dead corals

• Annual fishery quota of 1,000 kg for all species combined (except black coral)

• 10-inch minimum height for live pink coral

• Minimum stem diameter of 1 inch or minimum height of 48 inches for live black coral

• Moratorium on gold coral 2008 to 2013

Next Steps

Successful ecosystem management will require an increased understanding of a range of social and scientific issues:

• Appropriate management objectives

• Biological and trophic relationships

• Ecosystem indicators and models

• Ecological effects of non-fishing activities on the marine environment

• Cultural and social components of the environment

• Involvement in management, especially by people who rely on the environment for their livelihood, social relations and cultural identity

The Council will use this information to adapt its management of fisheries in the American Samoa Archipelago.

Non-fishing Impacts on Marine Fisheries and Resources

• Pollution caused by land-based activities

• Habitat destruction associated with development

• Marine debris

• Aquatic invasive species

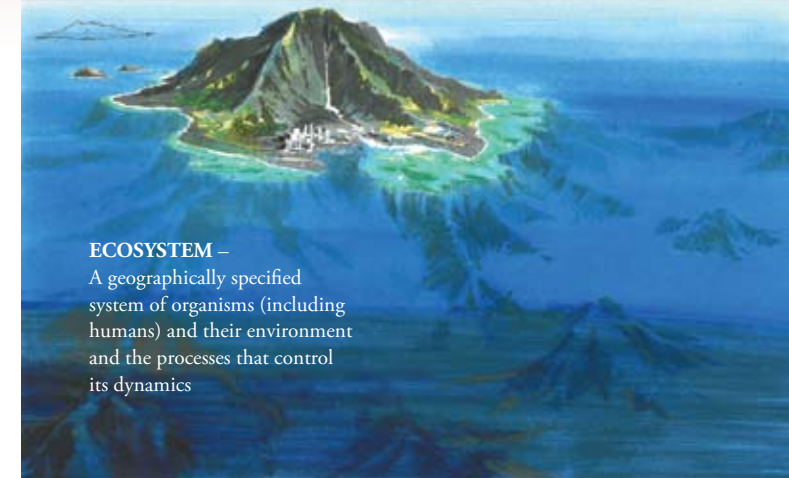
• Hurricanes

• Global warming, coral bleaching and climate change

• Population increase

• Ocean acidification

American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan



ECOSYSTEM –

A geographically specified system of organisms (including humans) and their environment and the processes that control its dynamics

The American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) establishes the framework for implementing an ecosystem approach to the management of fisheries in US exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters around American Samoa (3-200 miles offshore except where restricted by other nation's EEZ waters). This place-based FEP brings together in a single document the management measures and regulations applicable to American Samoa found in the species-based Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for Coral Reef Ecosystems and for Crustaceans, Precious Corals, and Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council approved the American Samoa Archipelago FEP in December 2005. Council staff and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Islands Regional Office are finalizing the document for approval by the Secretary of Commerce. Once approved, the American Samoa FEP—along with those for the Hawaii and Mariana Archipelagos and the Pacific Remote Island Areas—will replace the aforementioned FMPs.



Photo: Evelyn Lilio

Objectives of the American Samoa Archipelago FEP

1. To maintain biologically diverse and productive marine ecosystems and foster the long-term sustainable use of marine resources in an ecologically and culturally sensitive manner through the use of a science-based ecosystem approach to resource management.
2. To provide flexible and adaptive management systems that can rapidly address new scientific information and changes in environmental conditions or human use patterns.
3. To improve public and government awareness and understanding of the marine environment in order to reduce unsustainable human impacts and foster support for responsible stewardship.
4. To encourage and provide for the sustained and substantive participation of local communities in the exploration, development, conservation, and management of marine resources.
5. To minimize fishery bycatch and waste to the extent practicable.
6. To manage and co-manage protected species, protected habitats, and protected areas.
7. To promote the safety of human life at sea.
8. To encourage and support appropriate compliance and enforcement with all applicable local and federal fishery regulations.
9. To increase collaboration with domestic and foreign regional fishery management and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, communities, and the public at large to successfully manage marine ecosystems.
10. To improve the quantity and quality of available information to support marine ecosystem management.

Community Participation and FEP Management Structure

Communities are encouraged to participate in the decision-making process for the American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). Your participation ensures that fisheries development and planning is consistent with your community's long-range goals. The FEP process uses a bottom-up approach, which begins with recommendations from communities during public meetings and through several advisory groups. The FEP management structure also fosters increased collaboration with territorial, federal and international government and non-governmental organizations.

FEP Advisory Panel

The FEP Advisory Panel (AP) provides the Council with advice on fishery management issues and on the content and likely effects of management measures. It is comprised of several subpanels. The American Samoa subpanel has eight members—two representatives each from the territory's commercial, recreational and subsistence fisheries and two persons who are knowledgeable about the territory's ecosystem and habitat. The Community Demonstration Project Program (CDPP) subpanel has eight members, two from American Samoa. AP members serve a two-year term.

Archipelagic FEP Plan Team

The Archipelagic FEP Plan Team oversees the ongoing development and implementation of the American Samoa FEP and is responsible for reviewing information pertaining to the performance of the fisheries and the status of the stocks managed under it. The FEP Plan Team is made up of federal and local government and non-government specialists who are appointed by the Council and serve indefinite terms.

Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee

The American Samoa Archipelago Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee (REAC) includes Council members and representatives from federal and territorial government agencies; businesses; and non-governmental organizations with responsibility and interest in land-based and non-fishing activities that potentially affect the area's marine environment. Current members include the American Samoa Departments of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Commerce,

Public Works, Agriculture, Health, and Parks and Recreation; Office of Samoan Affairs; Environmental Protection Agency; American Samoa Community College's Marine Science, Land Grant and Sea Grant Programs; Coral Reef Advisory Group; Coalition of Reef Lovers; Alofa Lures and Longline Service; Small Business Construction Initiative; the National Marine Fisheries Service, Weather Service and Park Service; the National Marine Sanctuary Program; and the US Coast Guard.

Science and Statistical Committee

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is composed of scientists from local and federal agencies, academic institutions, and other organizations. These scientists represent a range of disciplines required for the scientific oversight of fishery management in the Western Pacific Region.

FEP Standing Committees

The American Samoa Islands Ecosystem and the Fishery Rights of Indigenous People Standing Committees are composed of Council members who, prior to Council action, review all relevant information and data including the recommendations of the FEP Advisory Panel, the Archipelagic and Pelagic Plan Teams, REACs, and the SSC. The recommendations of the Standing Committees and the other advisory bodies described above are presented to the full Council for consideration prior to its taking action on specific measures or recommendations.

Indigenous and Community Programs

The Council-facilitated Community Development Program, Community Demonstration Projects Program and Marine Education and Training Program are designed to foster increased fishery participation by indigenous communities in the US Pacific Islands.

International Management and Research

The Council actively participates in the development and implementation of international agreements and research regarding marine resources. The most important international issue for the American Samoa Archipelago FEP is likely the management of the bottomfish fishery because the stocks it targets are believed to be part of the same population targeted by the fishery in nearby Samoa.

To become involved, contact the Council at (808) 522-8220 or at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov. In American Samoa, contact the Council's island coordinator at (684) 633-5102.



**Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council**
1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813
www.wpcouncil.org