



## Press Release

For Immediate Release – 6 March 2013

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### Fishermen, Community Invited to Forum on Monitoring and Planning for Pago Pago Bay

HONOLULU (6 March 2013) American Samoa fishermen and community members are invited to participate in the Fishers Forum on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning and Environmental Monitoring for Pago Pago Bay. The Forum is free and will run from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium (Fale Laumei) in Pago Pago. It is being hosted by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council as part of its 156<sup>th</sup> meeting being held March 12 to 14 at the same location. The Council is responsible for providing the US Secretary of Commerce with recommendations for federally managed fisheries in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the remote US Pacific Island areas.

The Forum will begin with informational tables provided by the Council, the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources and NOAA Ocean Watch. It will be followed by presentations moderated by Council Member Taulapapa William Sword. These will include an overview of biological monitoring and resources of Pago Pago harbor, water quality and monitoring outreach, resource use in Pago Pago Bay, and overviews of the coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) process and the recent CMSP workshop held in American Samoa.

CMSP is one of the nine priority objectives of the National Ocean Policy established by President Barack Obama by Executive Order on July 19, 2010. According to the White House, CMSP provides a public policy process for society to better determine how ocean and coastal areas are sustainably used and protected – now and for future generations. For more on the White House initiative, go to [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/cmstp](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/cmstp).

For complete agendas of the Fishers Forum and the 156<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, go to [www.wpcouncil.org/meetings](http://www.wpcouncil.org/meetings); phone the Council office in Honolulu at (808) 522-8220, or fax (808) 522-8226; or email [info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov](mailto:info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov) or the Council's on-site coordinators in American Samoa at [nate@lava.net](mailto:nate@lava.net) (Nate Ilaoa) or [fini.aitaoto@noaa.gov](mailto:fini.aitaoto@noaa.gov) (Fini Aitaoto).

**Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council:** Appointees by the Secretary of Commerce from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawaii governors: William Sword (vice chair), recreational fisherman/civil engineer/manager (American Samoa); Michael Duenas (vice chair), Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam); Richard Seman (vice chair), education/outreach specialist (CNMI); Edwin Ebisui (vice chair), attorney (Hawaii); Michael Goto, United Fishing Agency (Hawaii); Julie Leialoha, environmentalist (Hawaii); and F. McGrew Rice, charter fisherman (Hawaii). Designated state officials: Arnold Palacios (chair), CNMI Department of Land & Natural Resources; William Aila, Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources; Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources; and Mariquita Taitague, Guam Department of Agriculture. Designated federal officials: Michael Tosatto, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; Susan White, U.S. Fish and Wildlife; RAdm Charles Ray, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District; and Bill Gibbons-Fly, US Department of State.

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