

F I S H E R I E S F A C T S H E E T

American Samoa



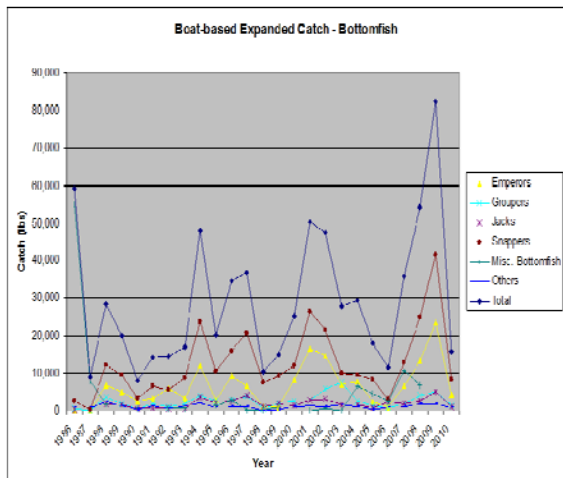
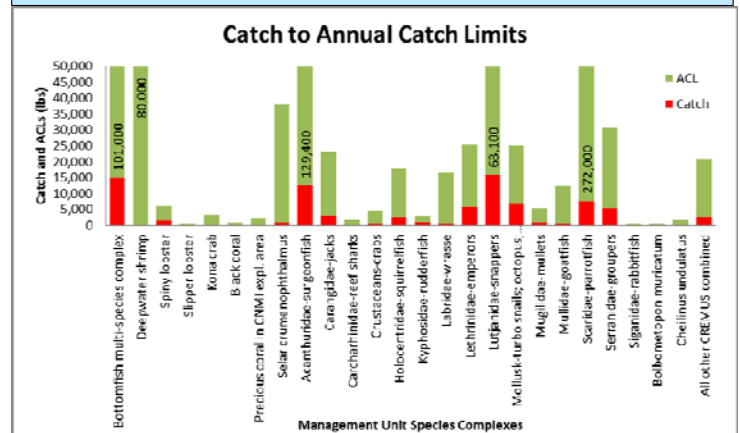
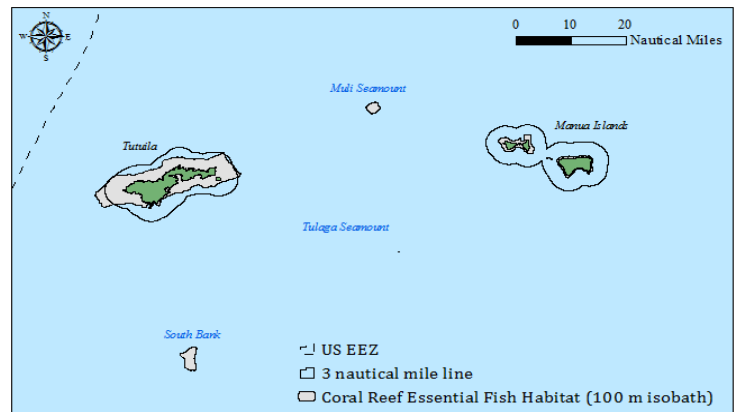
American Samoa fisheries consist of shore-based and boat-based catches of coral reef, bottomfish and pelagic species.

Coral Reef Fisheries

- Small-scale and important for subsistence, social and cultural purposes for food, cultural exchange and recreation
- Common shore-based fishing techniques include spearfishing, cast netting, hook and line, fence netting and gleaning
- Common boat-based fishing techniques include trolling, bottomfishing, spearfishing, octopus hooking, cast netting
- Common shore-based reef fish caught: surgeonfish, parrotfish, goatfish, groupers, wrasse
- Common shore-based techniques: hook and line, spearfishing, cast netting

Bottomfish

- Commercial and non-commercial bottomfish fisheries of the American Samoan archipelago harvest a complex of 17 species
- Primarily consists of small-scale local aluminum hulled alia (catamaran) boats engaged in local commercial and subsistence fishing (a few larger vessels do participate in the fishery)
- Gear consists of wooden hand powered reels used for both small scale long line and bottomfishing, monofilament main line and monofilament leaders and ganglions
- There are no federal permitting or reporting requirements for this fishery in Federal waters around American Samoa.



Annual Catch Limits: The reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 2006 required the Regional Fishery Management Councils to specify Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for species described in the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plans. ACL is a quota management to regulate catches to sustainable levels estimated by stock assessments conducted on various stock under Council management. There are 115 species and species complexes specified for the Western Pacific Region. For more information, browse the Council website (www.wpcouncil.org).



Management

FEDERAL

- Pelagic fishing managed under the Western Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem-based Management Plan (FEP)
- Permits and logbooks required
- Longline gear must be marked
- Longline exclusion zones (most are 50 nm from shore) in waters around American Samoa, the Main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and Guam
- Bottomfish 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
- Closed Areas for bottomfish by vessel size
- Annual Catch Limits
- Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC)
- Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Permits
- National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa
- Rose Atoll Marine National Monument

TERRITORIAL

- Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) functions for the protection and management of the Territory's marine and wildlife resources to the extent intended to best benefit the people of American Samoa while ensuring the integrity of such resources for posterity.
- Regulations governing fishing activities and harvest of marine resources can be found in the American Samoa Administrative Code, Title 24, Chapter 9



Council-led Fisheries Development Projects

- Constructed Manu'a Islands Fisheries Facilities with ice machines, cold storage, and fuel tanks
- Establishment of two fishermen's cooperatives in the Manu'a Islands
- Built two boat ramps on Tutuila to improve boating access and safety at sea
- Conducted fresh fish training workshops to support seafood safety and quality
- Prepared a study on the design of a new super-alia type small vessel capable of doing longline, trolling, and bottomfish operations
- Feasibility study and design plans for new longline dock in Pago Pago Harbor
- Renovation of the Fagatogo Fish Market including modern fish retail displays, ice machine, proper washdown facilities, cold storage
- Prepared study on a Fishermen's Lending Program that would provide small business loans to fishermen
- Prepared a fishermen's training program that includes fishing techniques, vessels operations, and business management skills
- Assist in FEMA document preparation
- Improvements to fishery data collection program