



WESTERN  
PACIFIC  
REGIONAL  
FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL

**American Samoa Community Activities**  
**159<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting**  
**Fiesta Resort, Saipan**  
**Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**New Fish Market Opened in Tualauta County**

Lafoga Alovao, a local fisherman who recently moved back to American Samoa from Waianae, has opened the doors of his new business, Figota O Le Sami – Seafood Market, in Nu'uuli village on the western side of the island. This is the first business to focus solely on selling fresh fish, seafood and value added products. Mr. Alovao has met with the Council staff and discussed his plans to expand his seafood market and work collaboratively with the local fishermen to make fresh seafood more readily available for local consumers.

**Port Administration Docking Space Solution**

In a meeting with longline owners on February 6, 2013 Port Administration's Director and Deputy Director outlined the administration's new plan to improve the docking space situation in Pago Pago Harbor. The plan focuses on two major areas – installing buoys for temporary docking and improved communication between the Port Administration, the longline operators, and the DMWR staff who look after the marina. Longline Association members agreed that the real issue which has led to problems with the docking space has been a lack of coordination between the involved parties.

**Seafood Safety and Handling Training for American Samoa Markets**

John Kaneko, Hawaii Seafood Council Program Manager is assisting the Council in coordinating a three day seafood safety and handling training workshop for any interested businesses that sell fresh seafood to consumers in American Samoa. This workshop is tentatively planned for May, 2014. The Council is partnering with the American Samoa Department of Commerce and the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce to offer this workshop to local businesses.

**Advisory Panel Discussions**

American Samoa Coordinator met with the members of the Advisory Panel to discuss fishery issues on a regular basis. The advisory panel members provide the Council with on-the-ground information from the local fishing community as well as getting pertinent information disseminated to the people of American Samoa. They have provided the following information to the Council on recent fishing topics:

In a discussion with DMWR's Chief Biologist (Dr. Ochavillo) and FAD expert (TJ Letalie) about FADs for the waters around the islands, the Advisory Panel members brought to light the fact that there were no longer any FADs deployed and the need for FADs to be redeployed around Tutuila, Aunu'u and Manu'a islands. DMWR is targeting April 2014 for deployment of 5 new deep water FADs and 2 nearshore FADs. AP members and DMWR staff discussed the need for cooperation between the government and fishermen for FAD maintenance. The Indian Ocean design will be utilized for the FADs to be deployed in April, and that outreach is needed for FAD awareness.

AP members were not in support of the possibility of a limited entry for the American Samoa longline fleet into the 50 nautical mile closure area. They felt strongly that the longline industry struggles did not justify any entry to the closed areas. Council social scientist spoke with the members about the longline situation and their views of the impacts of a possible longline fishery demise, and most felt that the repercussions would be limited to owners and the few individuals (most of them not residents of American Samoa) who work on the vessels.