



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

11.E(1)
170th CM

170th Council Meeting

*Laniakea YWCA, Fuller Hall,
1040 Richards St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Thursday, June 22, 2017
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

American Samoa Education & Outreach Report

American Samoa Summer Fisheries and Marine Resource Management Course

This July, the Council will host a three-week course for local high school and college aged students and introduce them to American Samoa's fisheries and marine management. Classroom and field lessons will be used to introduce the students to ecosystem management and fishing methods. They will also learn what the Council is doing in terms of managing the local and regional fisheries. Through hands-on activities and classroom lessons, students will get an up close look at the tuna industry and get to see why the fisheries are American Samoa's main economic businesses. During a tour of the StarKist Samoa plant, the students will have the opportunity to find out more about what jobs are available in this economic field and the educational pathways required to work in the industry. The class will also learn the process of the tuna coming off the boat, into the cleaning area, and then onto the assembly line and out in cans and pouches works.

All students will be certified in CPR/First Aid by representatives of the local American Heart Association, and given swimming and water safety lessons by the local Aquatics Association. Safety and the capacity to respond effectively to emergencies will be a component for the program. Fishing methods will be learned by the students during this program. The students will also learn about the boat-based fisheries, including the various methods used for bottomfishing, trolling, longlining, and purse seining. There will also be a seafood component to the course. This will be a multi-tiered set of lessons, with students receiving a nutrition presentation that focused on seafood diet from the American Samoa Community College's Land Grant Wellness Program staff. A local top chef will present a seafood cooking demonstration for the students, teaching them easy methods of preparing seafood and vegetable dishes to promote a seafood diet. The students also learn how fish travels from the fishing boats to local markets and how the business side of the fishery operates.

A NOAA field visit with the local PIFSC officer will allow students to learn the ins and outs of SCUBA from a certified dive instructor, and learning about atmospheric and weather balloon tests that are done daily in the territory. At the NOAA Weather Station, the students

will receive a lesson in predicting weather using models, and also discussed the threat of climate change to American Samoa. A NMSAS Ocean Center tour will also be a part of this course.

Graduating Students Employment

Two students from American Samoa have recently completed Council-sponsored scholarship programs and have received their undergraduate Bachelor of Science degrees. The two students – Valentine Vaeoso and Faasalafa Diana Kitiona – have graduated from the University of Hawai'i Hilo this past spring semester. Valentine Vaeoso participated in a Council scholarship program in partnership with the American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG), and Faasalafa Kitiona completed the US Pacific Territories Capacity-Building Scholarship Program. Both students, under the terms of the two programs, will now return to American Samoa and work for the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources.

The two scholarship programs provide assistance for American Samoa's Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources to more effectively manage their fisheries and related resources through employment of local people. Both Valentine and Faasalafa met with the department's Director, Henry Sesepasara this past March in Honolulu to discuss their upcoming employment with DMWR, and the roles they will be placed in upon their return to the territory. The addition of the two graduates now bolsters the DMWR staff, with two young, qualified local employees improving the department's capacity. While their exact positions within the department are not yet finalized, an update will be given at the 171st Council Meeting in American Samoa detailing the first months of the graduates' employment at DMWR.

Other Student Programs in American Samoa

A Hawaii-based youth conservation corps has partnered with the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS) to offer two AmeriCorps internships in American Samoa at the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa's Ocean Center. This will be a 10-month internship for two students to work on a climate change adaptation project in the territory beginning in spring of 2017. The students will set their own schedules – and it will be less than 20 hours per week – to work in the various Samoan communities and engage the residents, with a goal of enhancing awareness and the community's knowledge and resilience to climate change.

At the time of this report, the NMSAS indicated that they were re-advertising the internship. This is a paid internship, and the students will learn and also be compensated for their efforts. The product of the internship will be the development of a climate change adaptation plan which will include an evaluation report based on their work during the 10 months of the program. As this will be in partnership with the NMSAS, the students' work will be within the units of the NMSAS – Fagatele and Fagalua/Fogama'a Bays, and areas around Aunu'u, Ta'u, Swains and Rose Atoll.

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS) will also be hosting two other summer programs aimed at the American Samoa youth. The two youth programs being held in the Territory are the “Ta’iala ole Sami Youth Summit” in June, and the Sanctuary Summer Science in the Village project. The youth summit will bring in local schools to develop class-based projects to promote conservation efforts by methods such as marine debris removal, water quality testing, and turtle tracking. Through song, developed PSAs, student-produced videos, display boards, and a fashion show featuring recycled materials, students will learn an appreciation for their marine environment.

The Sanctuary Summer Science in the Village project will focus on youth learning in the village setting. It will be hosted by the NMSAS in coordination with the local community college to motivate, encourage, and challenge youth to be great stewards of the ocean by learning about the various sanctuary units in the territory. Utilizing guest speakers, and various lessons and activities, NMSAS will attempt to reach youth within the village setting. The dates for the program are June 5-9 in Ta’u, Manu’a; June 12-22 at Fagatele Bay; June 26-July 7 at Aunu’u; and July 10-20 at Fagaluva/Fogama’a.