



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

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181st CM

181st Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

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AMERICAN SAMOA EDUCATION & OUTREACH REPORT

American Samoa Summer Fisheries & Marine Resource Management High School Course

The Council will carry out its annual Summer Fisheries and Marine Resource Management Course in American Samoa this July and August. The Council holds these summer courses for high school aged students in Hawaii, American Samoa, CNMI and Guam each year to foster interest in the fisheries and marine sciences with island youth. The classes are a combination of classroom and field setting lessons to introduce the students to the fisheries of American Samoa, how ecosystem management is conducted by local and federal agencies in the territory, as well as by people and groups in the communities. The course also teaches students hands-on fishing method, seafaring lessons and scientific monitoring and analysis techniques. Students in the class will be introduced to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act under which the Fishery Management Councils operate, and learn about the Council process, its history and mandate in the Western Pacific region. Students are also taught water safety and given CPR and first aid certification.

Last year the course was taught by Paula Stevenson McDonald, owner of South Pacific Water Sports & Fitness. She is slated to return and teach the course again this summer. Paula is working with the Council's staff in American Samoa and the local Advisory Panel to develop an agenda for the three-week course. Tentatively, the following lessons are planned for the class:

- Council Process and the MSA:
 - Classroom lesson
- Fishing Industry and Economics:
 - Classroom lesson – AS Fisheries
 - Tuna cannery tour – StarKist Samoa
 - Purse seine and longline vessel tours
- Fishing Method:
 - Classroom lesson – fishing methods and gear type; knot tying; rod and reel lure and bait rigging
 - Rod & reel fishing trip – DMWR Marina
 - Spear fishing – Coconut Point

- Pelagic trolling – charter fishing trip
- Coral reef monitoring:
 - Reef transects – DMWR Coral Reef Advisory Group
- Sanctuary exploration – National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa
- Atmospheric monitoring – NOAA Global Monitoring Division
- Weather monitoring – US National Weather Service Pago Pago
- Mangrove planting – Tuasivi Family’s Hideaway Getaway Resort

American Samoa Advisory Panel Developing High School Fishing Derby Proposal

The Council’s American Samoa Advisory Panel has included in its 2020 Plan, a fishing derby for high school aged students in American Samoa. In January, members of the panel submitted a draft proposal for a competition. After discussing the project, it was decided that a pilot derby would be held as in in-school derby for Manu’a High School on Ta’u Island before it is implemented on Tutuila Island where there are nine public and private high schools. One of the AP members from Manu’a has been in communication with residents there who have received the idea well and have committed to participation when the derby takes place.

The Advisory Panel will work with the Council staff as well as the local Department of Education in planning the fishing tournament, which the members hope will become an annual event for the youth of American Samoa, and perhaps even extend to the elementary and intermediate aged students in the future. The members will discuss local sponsorship and planning at their next official meeting in February.

US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Applications 2020-2021

The Council put out notice in American Samoa, Guam and CNMI that applications were being accepted for its scholarship program for the school year 2020 to 2021. The program helps to build capacity of fisheries and marine resource managers in local government. Students from the US Pacific Island Territories receive assistance for the costs of attending universities in Hawaii and Guam and return to their home islands to work for the local government agencies.

Since the Council’s Education Committee developed the scholarship, a total of four students from American Samoa have been accepted into the program. One of those students has graduated and returned to the territory and fulfilling her obligation to work for the local Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources in its Coral Reef Advisory Group Division. A pair of graduates from the American Samoa Community College were accepted into the program last fall and are currently enrolled at the University of Hawaii Hilo where they are working toward their undergraduate marine science degrees.

The US Pacific Territories Capacity-Building Scholarships are available to students looking to complete the last two years of their undergraduate degrees or returning students who wish to complete their masters or doctorate degrees. Eligible institutions are the University of Hawaii (Manoa or Hilo campuses), Hawaii Pacific University, and the University of Guam.

Students must return to their home islands and work an equal number of years for their local government as they were enrolled in the Council's scholarship program.