

until Sept. 30, 2021. More information can be found at the Council's website at www.wpcouncil.org/coronavirus.

A bill introduced in March 2020 would establish a regulatory system for sustainable offshore aquaculture in the US exclusive economic zone. H.R. 6191, also known as the Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture (AQUAA) Act, would provide national standards for sustainable offshore aquaculture; require the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate regulations for permitting and siting of aquaculture activities; and not consider offshore aquaculture as fishing for the purposes of the Magnuson Stevens Act. The Council is keeping an eye on this bill as it may have impacts on its actions to develop a permitting framework for aquaculture in the Western Pacific Region.

In addition, the White House issued an Executive Order (EO) on May 7, 2020 promoting American seafood competitiveness and economic growth. The EO specifically proposes to remove outdated and unnecessarily burdensome regulations; strengthen efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and remove barriers to aquaculture permitting and project development.

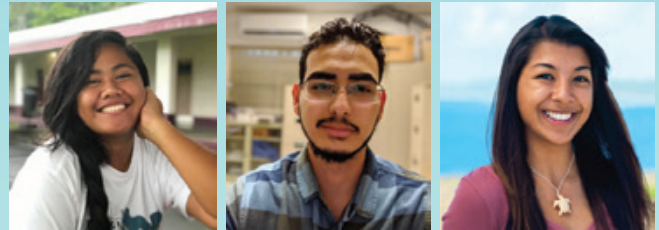


Council Family Updates

At the 181st Council meeting, the Council supported the following advisory body changes:

- **Nonu Tuisamoa** and **Joseph Fa'a'ita** are joining the American Samoa Advisory Panel.
- The Archipelagic Plan Team welcomes three new members: **Michael Quach**, NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC); **Bryan Ishida**, Hawai'i Dept. of Aquatic Resources; and **Marc Nadon**, NOAA PIFSC.
- The Pelagic Plan Team welcomes four new members: **Donald Kobayashi**, **Michael Quach** and **Michael Kinney**, NOAA PIFSC; and **Sean Felise**, American Samoa Dept. of Marine & Wildlife Resources (DMWR).
- The Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee-Technical Committee welcomes two new members: **Michael Quach** and **Joseph O'Malley**, NOAA PIFSC.
- The Education Committee welcomes two new members: **Alexandra Bayless**, NOAA PIFSC; and **Maria Mauga-Vaofanua**, American Samoa DMWR. 🐟

2020-2021 US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Winners Announced



From left: Aveipepa Fua, Jude Lizama and Leilani Sablan are the three recipients of the US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship for 2020-2021.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020-2021 US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship. The scholarships are offered annually to college students with close connections to American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) who are pursuing degrees that will bolster the Territories' capacity to manage their fishery ecosystems. Students who accept a scholarship agree to work with their local fishery agency upon graduation for an equivalent amount of time that they receive the scholarship.

The 2020-2021 recipients include Aveipepa Fua (American Samoa) who will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in marine science at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo; Jude Lizama (CNMI) who will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in oceanography with a concentration in fisheries science at Hawai'i Pacific University; and Leilani Sablan (Guam) who will be pursuing a master's degree in biology at the University of Guam.

Since the scholarship program began in 2016, five recipients have graduated, with three having fulfilled their work requirements in American Samoa and the CNMI and two beginning their work commitment in 2019; and six recipients are poised to graduate in 2020 (two students) and 2021 (four students).

The scholarship program was established through a memorandum of understanding involving several federal agencies, the local fishery agencies in the Territories and several colleges and universities in Hawai'i and the Territories. It is funded by the Council, NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office. 🐟