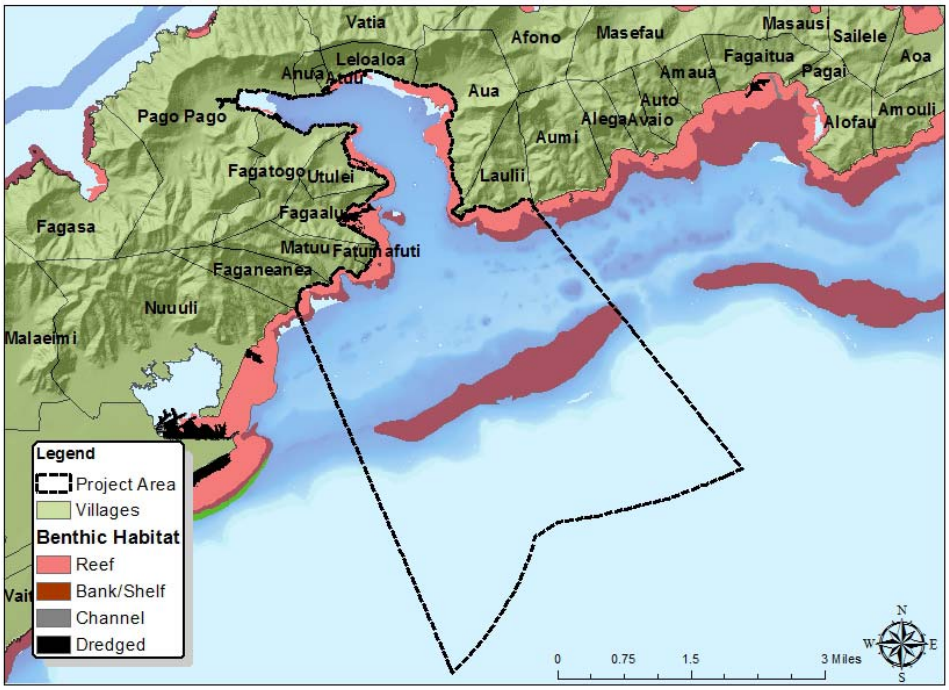
COASTAL USE MAPPING WORKSHOP
–AUGUST 9TH & 10TH 2012 –
FAGATOGO MARKET MEETING ROOM

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN SAMOA COASTAL USE MAPPING PROJECT?

The **American Samoa Coastal Use Mapping Project** is designed to fill a critical information gap in ocean management by mapping significant human uses taking place in the nearshore marine environment. The project will use participatory GIS to obtain information regarding where extractive and non-extractive activities take place, where ocean use is most intense, how uses overlap, as well as seasonal, cultural, and other aspects of different activities. The intent is to gain a better understanding of coastal and ocean uses directly from local experts (resource users, managers, and local residents) to create maps of ocean uses that will better inform resource management. Data, maps and analytical products will be made available to territorial and federal agencies and to local community groups.

WHAT LOCATIONS WILL BE MAPPED?

The American Samoa Coastal Use Mapping Project will focus on the **Fagaloa** area, or the extended Pago Pago harbor region. The harbor area is home to the widest range of ocean activities in American Samoa, including industrial activities, shipping, fishing, boating, and recreation.



For certain activities, maps will be created for the entire island of Tutuila. These are activities for which detailed data is already collected (spearfishing and bottom fishing), or where locations are few and well-known by resource users (ie. surfing, research activities).

What is Participatory GIS?

Participatory GIS is a tool that helps local resource users and stakeholders participate directly in the creation of computerized maps. Local "experts" who engage directly in activities being mapped can be the best sources of information regarding where activities take place, and they can also verify the validity of information that has already been collected. Local residents, fishermen, boaters, coast guard officials, divers, and other resource users will participate in a participatory GIS workshop to provide the best information to create detailed and accurate maps for American Samoa.

What Activities Are Being Mapped?

The mapping workshop will focus on the primary **extractive, recreational, and commercial/ professional activities** that take place in the Fagaloa region. This includes a wide range of fishing and gathering activities, boating, swimming, diving and snorkeling, shoreline recreation, shipping and transport, cruise ships, fish processing, research, and educational activities. The spatial range and intensity of each use will be mapped, and information will be collected on seasonality, economic importance, pulses in uses, and cultural significance of various activities.

Who Is Sponsoring the Mapping Project?

The Coastal Use Mapping Project is a project of NOAA's Pacific Island Regional Office (PIRO) and Pacific Services Center (PSC), working in collaboration with the American Samoa Coastal Management Program (ASCMP) and Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR). Primary funding for the project is from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, with in-kind support from ASCMP and DMWR.

What Are The Outputs and Outcomes of the Coastal Use Mapping Project?

• ***Regional Maps of Coastal and Nearshore Ocean Uses*** - Drawing upon pre-existing data sources and the experience and knowledge of regional resource users, local stakeholders, and experts in coastal use and management in American Samoa, the project will develop comprehensive GIS mapping layers and map books reflecting the variety and extent of ocean uses in the region. Map books will also include qualitative information on seasonality, cultural significance, and other important aspects of the uses mapped.

• ***Interactive Digital Mapping Tool for Local Stakeholders and Natural Resource Management Agencies*** - Once GIS layers are created, they will be assembled into a digital tool that will allow users to select for use-types of interest within the project region. Stakeholders will be able to understand how use-types relate to each other, the extent of different uses in different areas, and how coastal uses in the region relate to other spatial information (ie. mooring sites, primary fishing zones, potential pollution sources, etc.).

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

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