



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



NOAA In Your Jurisdiction

American Samoa

NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by congressional districts and cities or towns, and then territory-wide programs.

Highlights of NOAA in American Samoa

<u>National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa & Tauese P.F.</u>	Pago Pago
<u>Sunia Ocean Center</u>	
<u>NMFS Office of Law Enforcement Field Office</u>	Pago Pago
<u>Weather Service Office</u>	Pago Pago
<u>Samoa Observatory</u>	Tutuila Island
<u>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)</u>	Project Specific
<u>Projects</u>	

Fagatele Bay

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Ocean Acidification Observing Network \(NOA-ON\)](#)

The NOAA Ocean Acidification Observing Network (NOA-ON) is a sustained investment in ocean chemistry observing networks in U.S. waters and abroad. There are currently 16 buoys sponsored by the [NOAA OAR Ocean Acidification Program](#) in coastal, open-ocean and coral reef waters that contribute to this network. The long-term datasets collected from these moorings are key to understanding how ocean chemistry and other ocean conditions are changing over time, and their impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems. These buoys are located in Alaska ([Gulf of Alaska](#), [Bering Sea](#)), American Samoa ([Fagatele Bay](#)), California (California Current Ecosystem [1](#) & [2](#)), [Chesapeake Bay](#) (MD, VA), Louisiana ([Coastal LA](#)), Florida ([Cheeca Rocks](#)), Georgia ([Grays Reef](#)), Hawaii ([Kāne'ohe Bay](#) and [CRIMP-II](#), both in O'ahu) Oregon ([Coos Bay](#)), Maine ([Gulf of Maine](#)), Puerto Rico ([La Parguera](#)), Washington ([Cha'ba](#)), and Lake Huron ([Thunder Bay](#)).

Utulei

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa](#)

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, formerly Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, celebrates the natural and cultural resources of American Samoa in the cradle of Polynesia's oldest culture. The national marine sanctuary protects extensive coral reefs, deep water reefs, hydrothermal vent communities, rare marine archeological resources, and important fishing grounds. The national marine sanctuary is the only true tropical reef within the National Marine Sanctuary System and the only sanctuary site south of the equator. It is co-managed by the American Samoa Government where together programs such as education, outreach, research, science, monitoring, ocean services training, community livelihoods, partnerships and resource protection are implemented.

Originally designated by congress as Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 1986, NOAA designated an additional five protected areas within the sanctuary in 2012 and changed the name of the sanctuary to National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa. NOAA incorporated these additional areas in order to increase capacity for research opportunities, including those that can improve understanding of ecosystem threats and ways to limit impacts of such threats, and to fulfill the presidential mandate to incorporate the marine areas of Rose Atoll Marine National Monument into the sanctuary.

The Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center opened in August 2012 and has welcomed more than 42,000 visitors to date. The state-of-the-art facility features educational exhibits and interactive learning tools to promote ocean awareness and encourage good marine stewardship. It is the only NOAA office that has a visitor center in American Samoa.

Pago Pago

National Ocean Service - [Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center](#)

The Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center is a visitor center for the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, featuring exciting exhibits for all ages. The Ocean Center is a learning, training and discovery center that celebrates the importance of cultural and natural ocean resources in American Samoa. The exhibits address the value of coral reefs, understanding the ocean ecosystems, how our culture ties into the management of coral reefs, as well as the natural and anthropogenic threats to our reefs. Free Admission (private and walk in tours).

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Law Enforcement Field Office](#)

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only federal law enforcement agency that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws, international treaties, and regulations dedicated to protecting wildlife, and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement actions if there are violations. In addition, the Cooperative Enforcement Program gives OLE the ability to leverage its resources with the assistance of 27 coastal states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in supporting its Federal enforcement mission.

Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support all the communities throughout the Pacific Islands. The American Samoa field office, located in Pago Pago, is part of the Office of Law Enforcement's Pacific Islands Division which is headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)

The National Ocean Service (NOS) operates one long-term continuously operating tide station in American Samoa, which provides data and information on tidal datum and relative mean sea level trends, and is capable of producing real-time data for storm surge and tsunami warning. This station is located in Pago Pago and provides critical tsunami detection functionality for tsunami warning in the Pacific Basin. The station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land. Station data feeds into many CO-OPS products that are used to support safe navigation, mitigate coastal hazards, and protect communities. Such products include:

- Coastal Inundation Dashboard - view water levels in real-time and during storms
- High Tide Flooding Outlooks
- Sea level trends and maps
- Real-time current measurements
- Hydrodynamic models
- Tidal and water level datums

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Service Office](#)

The area of responsibility of NWS Pago Pago Weather Service Office (WSO) is the Territory of American Samoa and adjacent territorial waters. The WSO conducts surface and upper air observing programs and provides a full suite of watch, warning, advisory, and forecast products for the general public and marine communities. WSO Pago Pago is also responsible for coordination of its meteorological products with the Meteorological Service in the Independent State of Samoa.

Tutuila Island

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [American Samoa Atmospheric Baseline Observatory](#)

Established in 1974, the American Samoa Atmospheric Baseline Observatory is one of four observatories operated by the NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML) and is located on the northeastern tip of Tutuila Island in the Village of Tula,, on a ridge overlooking the South Pacific Ocean. The observatories are part of a global network that acquires long-term records of atmospheric gases, surface radiation, and meteorological parameters to study the causes and consequences of global and regional changes. Air samples are collected weekly in specially designed flasks that are then delivered to GML in Boulder for analysis. This program allows us to track trends in the trace gases associated with climate change and those most responsible for anthropogenic depletion of the ozone layer. The American Samoa Observatory also measures total column ozone above the observatory with ground-based spectrometers and flies balloon sondes to record vertical profiles of ozone and meteorological measurements. These long-term measurements help determine the effectiveness of efforts to protect and restore the ozone layer, which shields the surface from the sun's ultraviolet radiation. Excess ultraviolet radiation is responsible for increased incidence of human skin cancer, crop damage, and damage to other biogenic substances. Furthermore, these measurements also help us to fulfill our Congressionally mandated responsibility to track the recovery of the ozone layer.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [American Samoa/Antarctic Station Chief](#)

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations an officer at the Samoa Observatory as Station Chief in support of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Global Monitoring Laboratory. This officer oversees the daily management of administrative tasks, operational equipment calibration, rough data analysis, preparation of monthly reports, parts inventory and resupply, facility maintenance and upkeep, and public relations interactions. They are also the shore-side

contact for the NOAA Ships visiting the island during field-season port calls. This position rotates each year as the incumbent prepares to take over as Station Chief at the South Pole Observatory.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#)

The National Coastal Resilience Fund restores, increases, and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) executes this program in partnership with NOAA to invest in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features, such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands, which minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities. In American Samoa, three projects have been funded: one in FY20, one in FY22, and one in FY23.

Entire Jurisdiction

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Pacific Islands Regional Office](#) and [Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center](#)

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation, and protection of living marine resources within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. The Pacific Islands Region includes the waters surrounding American Samoa, Guam, Hawai'i, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as the Pacific Remote Island Areas. It is the largest geographic area within NMFS jurisdiction, with a U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone of more than 1.7 million square nautical miles of ocean. Four [major laws](#) drive NOAA Fisheries work in the region: the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and The National Environmental Policy Act.

The **Pacific Islands Regional Office** uses ecosystem-based strategies to manage the marine resources in the region.

Key responsibilities include:

- Maintaining healthy fish stocks for commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing in coordination with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- Protecting and recovering populations of protected species
- Preserving and restoring marine habitat
- Coordinating with international organizations to implement and monitor fishery agreements and treaties

The Pacific Islands Regional Office also supports co-management of four [marine national monuments](#); administers grants and other [funding opportunities](#); and fosters sustainable [aquaculture in the region](#). The regional aquaculture coordinator assists federal and state agencies with permitting and other activities. They also support aquaculture outreach and education, and work with industry, academia, and other stakeholders on a variety of regional marine aquaculture topics. Regional Office staff in the American Samoa field office coordinate [essential fish habitat reviews/consultations](#), oversee local fisheries Coral Reef Conservation Program efforts, participate in a wide variety of community partnerships, and review local Army Corps of Engineer permit applications. Staff also monitors activities of the U.S. purse seine fleet under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. The American Samoa at sea longline [observer program](#) operates out of this office and places observers on longline fishery boats to obtain data on interactions with all protected species, record fish that are kept and discarded, and process selected specimens for life history information.

The Pacific Islands Fisheries conducts scientific research, monitoring, and analysis in support of the effective management of living marine resources in the region and surrounding high seas. Its mission is to provide essential scientific information and foster partnerships that enable the sustainability of living marine resources within Pacific Island communities.

- The Ecosystem Sciences Division conducts research, monitoring, and analysis of environmental and living resource systems in the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Humans are a key part of these ecosystems, and this research also includes the social, cultural, and economic aspects of fishery and resource management decisions.
- The Fisheries Research and Monitoring Division coordinates fisheries monitoring, fisheries data management, fisheries interactions, fish life history studies, and stock assessment. They work closely with local, state, federal, and international governmental and non-governmental partners.
- The Protected Species Division provides the scientific foundation for the conservation of whales, dolphins, Hawaiian monk seals, and sea turtles in the Pacific Islands through the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and international agreements. Their work includes assessing populations, identifying and mitigating threats, and understanding habitats and trends.

The Regional Office and Science Center are based out of the NOAA Inouye Regional Center (IRC), located on Ford Island, Honolulu, Hawai'i. At the IRC, the Science Center operates a seawater facility—which is capable of housing sea turtles, Hawaiian monk seals, and fishes—and multiple laboratories to complement its field research activities. The NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette* serves as the Science Center's primary at-sea research platform. It is managed and operated by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. Staff provide logistical and coordination support for all Science Center research in the jurisdiction. In addition to American Samoa, both the Regional Office and Science Center have field offices located in and serving American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program](#)

NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research is administered by NOAA Fisheries' [Office of Habitat Conservation](#). Mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, it is the nation's only federal research program dedicated to increasing scientific understanding of deep-sea coral ecosystems. Deep-sea corals occur off of every coastal state in the country, and create important habitats for countless species, including many fish species. The Program collaborates closely with partners, including other NOAA offices, to study the distribution, abundance, and diversity of deep sea corals and sponges. This work then informs critical management decisions in the waters of the United States and its territories. These decisions enhance the sustainability of deep-sea fisheries and other ocean uses, while conserving deep-sea coral and sponge habitats.

The Program works with partners to complete multi-year regional fieldwork initiatives, as well as smaller projects around the country, centered on integrating new and existing information on these vulnerable and biologically diverse habitats. The first research initiative took place from 2009 to 2011 in the U.S. South Atlantic region and provided valuable information to help decision-makers refine protected area boundaries. The Program's focus from 2025-2027 is the U.S. Pacific Islands.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Coral Reef Monitoring Program](#)

NOAA's [Coral Reef Conservation Program](#) established an integrated and focused monitoring effort with partners across the United States—the [National Coral Reef Monitoring Program](#). Coral reef monitoring data can help to inform science-based management decisions about these invaluable natural resources. These findings are shared with local agencies, partners, and communities to inform both federal and local management strategies. The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center conducts monitoring efforts. Teams survey coral reefs at more than 40 islands and atolls throughout the Pacific ocean on a rotational basis. They monitor reef fish populations, corals, and ocean conditions. To track biological trends and monitor climate-driven impacts, the teams use the same suite of survey methods at each island. Over time, scientists track how reefs have changed—an important part of reef conservation. After collection and a thorough review process, results are shared with local management agencies and the public. This data gives us a snapshot of coral reef health and is presented in [status reports](#), and used to answer questions from local resource

managers. These long-term surveys across a wide variety of reefs illuminate the drivers of reef health and help predict future impacts.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), and NOAA General Counsel - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life. American Samoa is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in American Samoa. For more information about our work in American Samoa, visit: [DARRP in Your State](#) (and use the top menu to navigate to "Hawai'i & American Samoa") and this [interactive map](#).

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [OR&R Response and Restoration Coordinators](#)

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is a center of expertise in preparing for, evaluating, and responding to threats to coastal environments, including oil and chemical spills, releases from hazardous waste sites, disasters, and marine debris. To fulfill its mission of protecting and restoring NOAA trust resources, OR&R provides scientific and technical support to prepare for and respond to environmental threats that coastal communities face; determines damage to natural resources from those releases; protects and restores marine and coastal ecosystems; and works with coastal communities to address critical local and regional coastal challenges.

- The **Regional Preparedness Coordinator (RPC)** is strategically placed within the region to ensure that NOS and our partners are able to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards, including coastal disasters. The RPC serves as a liaison between NOS and its federal, state, and local disaster preparedness and emergency response partners. A key role of the RPC is to better understand the needs and opportunities within the region and to ensure partners have the tools and resources necessary to inform decision-making. The RPC has expertise across the spectrum of emergency management and provides preparedness, response, and recovery services including planning, training, exercises, response coordination, continuous improvement, and long-term recovery. The RPC, based in San Diego, California, serves the West Coast & Pacific Islands region – California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping coastal communities build the future they want to see. The legislation provides a historic investment in coastal protection and restoration that will increase community resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, and improve how we manage our ocean resources. Projects funded under this law protect and restore ecologically significant habitats, including conserving lands that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to natural hazards. American Samoa received funding for one project in FY22, as well as funds in FY22 and FY23 to build the territory's capacity to protect its coastal communities and resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System\)](#)

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) is one of 11 regional associations of IOOS. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development. IOOS regional partners provide coordination with regional stakeholders while contributing data and other outputs to the national system. The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing

System (PacIOOS) empowers ocean users and stakeholders throughout the Pacific Islands, by providing accurate and reliable coastal and ocean information, tools, and services that are easy to access and use. Fishermen, commercial operators, surfers, resource managers, scientists, and many others rely on PacIOOS' real-time, model, and archival coastal and ocean information to make well-informed decisions and to enhance our understanding of the Pacific Ocean. The PacIOOS wave buoy off Aunu'u, for example, provides real-time information on wave height, direction and period, and sea surface temperature.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Pacific Islands Environmental Response Management Application and Response Tools for Oil and Chemical Spills](#)

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Pacific Islands Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, providing an easy-to-use common operating picture for environmental responders and decision makers. Pacific Islands ERMA covers the Hawaiian Islands and outlying territories. ERMA staff continued to work closely with Federal and State agencies for drills, hurricane response, and incidents. Maintained habitat data for sensitive species. Ensured data was kept up-to-date and data collection methods were kept consistent. In addition to ERMA, the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) offers a suite of [tools](#) to support emergency responders dealing with oil and chemical spills. From Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps and data which provide concise summaries of coastal resources including biological resources and sensitive shorelines to GNOME, a trajectory and fate model that predicts the route and weathering of pollutants spilled on water, and so much more, these tools provide easy-access to critical data that support a wide range of needs for emergency responders, ultimately supporting our coastal communities.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. There are 17 COOP sites on American Samoa.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters](#)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are two NWR transmitters in American Samoa.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships in American Samoa](#)

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) in the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) leads national and international efforts to reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, prevention, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local audiences. In American Samoa, the MDP is working with the American Samoa Department of Port Administration, through funding provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to assess and remove abandoned vessels from the waters surrounding Tutuila Island, American Samoa. The project will also collaborate with the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources to monitor removal sites. Further, through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Ocean Odyssey Marine Debris Awards for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA), MDP provided funding to Kewalo Marine Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, to support the study of coral ingestion of microplastics in American Samoa. These funds were provided to support initiatives that investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris in communities that are underserved, underrepresented, or overburdened.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Zone Management Program](#)

Through a unique federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the American Samoa Department of Commerce to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in American Samoa. NOAA provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources. The office also provides a regionally focused staff member to serve as the liaison between NOAA and the American Samoa Coastal Program.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Digital Coast](#)

The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers. The Digital Coast Act authorizes the Digital Coast as a standing national program and supports NOAA's efforts to increase access to authoritative data, tools, and training that enable coastal communities to plan for long-term resilience, manage water resources, and respond to emergencies.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Phytoplankton Monitoring Network](#)

The Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) is a nationwide community-based volunteer program of citizen scientists monitoring for the presence of organisms that can lead to Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) formation. Volunteers serve as data collectors for marine and freshwater blooms at more than 200 coastal and inland sites in the U.S. and Caribbean. Monitoring is conducted year-round and volunteers are trained to measure salinity, air and water temperatures, and how to collect phytoplankton samples using a plankton net. Samples are then analyzed for any HAB organisms via microscopy. Data collected by PMN volunteers enhances the Nation's ability to respond to and manage the growing threat posed by HABs by collecting important data for species composition and distribution in coastal and freshwater environments and creating working relationships between volunteers and professional marine biotoxin researchers. Event monitoring can assist state and federal agencies to issue timely warnings about shellfish consumption and other public health concerns.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coral Reef Conservation Program](#)

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program brings together multidisciplinary expertise from over 30 NOAA offices and partners to protect, conserve, and restore coral reef resources. The program focuses on three threats to coral reefs -

climate change, fishing impacts, and land-based sources of pollution - as well as coral reef restoration. In response to identified threats and management priorities developed by coral reef managers in American Samoa, the program invests in efforts to maintain and improve the status of fish stocks, improve coastal watershed quality, plan and mitigate the effects of global climate change, and promote collaboration between environmental agencies. Examples of projects in the territory include tools and workshops for sustainable coral reef fisheries management planning, development and implementation of watershed management plans to reduce sediment and nutrient loads to American Samoa's coral reefs, coral reef ecosystem assessments, and documenting and mapping the exceptionally large and old colonies of coral. NOAA's Coral Management Liaison is located in Pago Pago.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Susan L. Williams National Coral Reef Management Fellowship](#)

The Susan L. Williams National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program is a partnership between NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs, Nova Southeastern University's Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, and the U.S. Coral Reef All Islands Committee. The program recruits Coral Reef Management Fellows for the seven U.S. coral reef jurisdictions, including American Samoa. The Fellow for American Samoa is working with the Coral Reef Advisory Group and partners to install and monitor restoration interventions at sites around the island of Tutuila and monitor new and existing interventions for success. Information gained from this work will also help inform updates to American Samoa's Action Plan for Coral Reef Restoration.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Honolulu, Hawai'i serving the Pacific region including American Samoa. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Students for Zero Waste Week](#)

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [NOAA Ocean Guardian School Program](#)

A NOAA Ocean Guardian School makes a commitment to the protection and conservation of its local watersheds, the world's ocean, and special ocean areas, like national marine sanctuaries. Funds are provided to schools at \$4,000 per year if the school makes this commitment by proposing and then implementing a school- or community-based conservation project. Once the school has completed its project, the school receives official recognition as a NOAA Ocean Guardian School. To date, the Ocean Guardian School Program has reached more than 88,797 students and 3,599 teachers.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador Program](#)

Youth aged 13-18 from across the United States and its territories that are committed to ocean conservation and stewardship of our blue planet can apply to become a NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador. This year-long program

looks for enthusiastic youth with new ideas and a unique perspective who want to learn more about [America's underwater treasures](#) and share their passion with others. Youth learn how to become a leader at their school or in their local community to make a difference in the conservation of the ocean through marine protected areas.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)

OCS navigation managers are strategically located in U.S. coastal areas to provide regional support to federal and state agencies in order to assist with navigational challenges. NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Pacific Islands. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in American Samoa and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Seattle, WA to support mariners and stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Islands region.

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\) / Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) Projects](#)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was entrusted with billions of supplemental federal funding dollars with passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law on November 15, 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act on August 16, 2022. This historic infrastructure funding has been invested in communities across the nation to build resilience in the face of climate change. NOAA distributed funding to communities, tribal, state and local governments, higher education programs, businesses, non-profit organizations, and facilities in need. NOAA funded billions of dollars in grants and cooperative agreements across the country to fund projects that enhance climate resilience, restore coastal and marine habitats, improve safety, and create jobs. For an interactive map of NOAA BIL and IRA investments in your state, visit <https://www.noaa.gov/bil-ira-awards-explorer>.

BIL

Staff Recruitment and Capacity Building Training of ASCMP staff, \$450,000

This funding will build the capacity of the Territory's federally-approved coastal management program within the American Samoa Department of Commerce to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through funding opportunities connected to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, the American Samoa Coastal Management Program will use these funds to establish two new full-time staff positions to coordinate habitat restoration and wetland delineation projects, and provide capacity building opportunities for staff to effectively manage American Samoa's coastal resources. These efforts will include outreach and coordination with various stakeholder groups and the public to ensure they have a voice in the process and the technical assistance needed.

American Samoa Wetlands Delineation, \$203,000

This award will support continued wetland delineation to include all wetlands in the territory, plus monthly wetland monitoring, partner training, and community outreach workshops in American Samoa. The project will benefit ecosystems and communities by helping the coastal zone management program and their partners to better manage, protect, and enhance wetlands and educate the community about the ecosystem services these natural resources provide. Project outcomes also include recommendations for supporting updated land use permitting policies and regulations, and recommendations for nature-based restoration projects in each wetland village.

Removal of Large Marine Debris from several locations around Tutuila Island, American Samoa, \$3,049,396

The American Samoa Department of Port Administration is removing abandoned and derelict vessels from various locations on the island of Tutuila, American Samoa.

IRA

CZM Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding: Coastal Resilience and Habitat Restoration Projects for American Samoa, \$288,000

This funding will effectively balance economic development and coastal resources management in the Territory. The American Samoa Coastal Management Program (ASCMP), which is housed in the American Samoa Government (ASG) Department of Commerce (DOC) Resource Management Division(RMD), will implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, ASCMP will address task projects including: Development of a Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) for American Samoa which will identify and establish priorities and procedures for protecting and managing the territory's infrastructure, Conduct Living Shoreline Initiatives through Development of Native Plant Nurseries, Build Capacity within ASCMP staff and CRP Working group, as well as Conduct the Nu'uuli Pala Lagoon and Wetlands Restoration project.

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