



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

September 8, 2023

**GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 223 – 23**

To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, CEOs, President and Executive Directors of Authorities, Directors, Agency and Office Heads

From: Governor of American Samoa

Subject: PRIA Marine Sanctuary Designation Workshop with NOAA

The American Samoa Government in conjunction with NOAA will be hosting a workshop regarding the PRIA national marine sanctuary designation at the Rex Lee Auditorium on Tuesday, September 12 – Wednesday, September 13, 2023. This workshop is one of the last opportunities for us to support the American Samoa fishing industry and reiterate the Governor's staunch opposition to the marine sanctuary designation. Our local cannery depends on your participation in this event.

The workshop will begin at 8:30AM each day and conclude at 4:30PM. On Tuesday, September 12, there will be a public forum from 5:00PM – 7:30PM at which time community members will be engaged. As each department prepares for this event, please be sure to consult with Director Taotasi of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources on your presentation and relevant data. We appreciate your support as together we defend our local economy.

LEMANU P. S. MAUGA  
Governor

Attached: Workshop Agenda

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***Workshop Agenda on the Proposed National Marine  
Sanctuary Designation for  
the Pacific Remote Islands***

Tuesday, Sept. 12 - Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023

Lee Auditorium

Pago Pago, American Samoa

**Workshop Goals**

- Connect with Pacific Island communities and create space to learn about individual views concerning the proposed national marine sanctuary designation for the Pacific Remote Islands;
- Consider how the proposed sanctuary would benefit and/or impact Pacific Island communities with economic, cultural and historic ties to the region; and
- Gather information, perspectives, and knowledge from local communities and the territorial and state governments.

**Day 1: Connections and Context**

**Tuesday - Sept. 12, 2023**

**8:30 a.m. Start**

*Day 1 Objectives: Ensure all participants meet each other and understand the purpose and desired outcomes of the workshop.*

***8:30 - 9:00 am – Opening & Welcome***

American Samoa Government & NOAA National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

***9:00 - 10:00 am – Introduction & Overview***

**Introduction**

(Facilitator & NOAA - Pacific Islands Region)

- Purpose of the workshop
- Review the workshop agenda
- Ground rules and guiding principles

**Participant Introductions**

- American Samoa Government

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- Guam, CNMI and Hawaii Government (tbd)
- Federal Partners
  - White House Council on Environmental Quality
  - NOAA (Sanctuaries and Fisheries)
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Air Force
  - U.S. Coast Guard
- Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- Other Workshop Participants from American Samoa

### ***10:00 am - 12:00 pm – Session 1: Understanding the Sanctuary Designation Process***

*Session Objective: Ensure all participants have a basic understanding of the sanctuary designation process.*

#### **National Marine Sanctuaries & the Designation Process**

(NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries)

- What are national marine sanctuaries?
  - Overview of National Marine Sanctuaries
  - What benefits do NOAA Sanctuaries provide?
  - Monuments and Sanctuaries: What's the difference?
- What prompted the sanctuary designation process for the Pacific Remote Islands?
- How does a sanctuary designation work?
  - Stages and timing
  - Opportunities for public input
- Goals and Objectives
  - What are the Goals and Objectives for the proposed sanctuary?
  - How do the Goals and Objectives guide the sanctuary designation process?
- Scoping Summary
  - Public Comment Summary
- Coordination with government agencies
  - NEPA Cooperating Agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force)
  - National Marine Sanctuary Act section 304(a)(5) process - provides the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council the opportunity to draft fishing regulations, as necessary, to implement the proposed designation.
  - Territories and States



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- Questions and Discussion

### **12:00 to 1:00 p.m. - Lunch**

#### ***1:00 - 2:30 pm – Session 2: Perspectives from the U.S. Pacific Territories (American Samoa, Guam and CNMI Governments)***

***Session Objective:*** *Ensure workshop participants have the opportunity to dialogue with officials from the territories to understand more about the overall landscape in the region and how the proposed sanctuary designation could affect the territories.*

- **Select briefings by American Samoa and other Territories (tbd)**
- Questions and Discussion

#### ***2:30 - 4:00 pm – Session 3: Creating a Sense of Place and Understanding about the Pacific Remote Islands***

***Session Objective:*** *Ensure all participants have a basic understanding of the extraordinary natural and cultural significance of the Pacific Remote Islands and who is involved in managing the area.*

#### **Overview of the Pacific Remote Islands**

(USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and The Nature Conservancy)

- Overview of natural, cultural, and historical significance and connections to Pacific Islanders
- Past and current uses (including research, exploration, fishing, military, shipping, undersea cables, traditional voyaging, etc.) and associated benefits and impacts of those activities
- Other processes affecting natural, cultural, and historic resources in the Pacific Remote Islands (e.g., oceanographic shifts, climate change, marine debris, etc.)
- Current management of the Pacific Remote Islands within the Monument and in the adjacent Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)
  - Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument authorities
    - Monument Proclamations
    - USFWS and NOAA Fisheries coordinated management
      - National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act
      - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

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- Other relevant laws and regulations (MMPA, ESA, MBTA, etc.)
  - Development of PRIMN management plan
  - Air Force activities in PRI
  - The Nature Conservancy's activities at Palmyra Atoll
- Pacific Remote Islands Area waters outside the Monument
  - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
  - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act
  - Other relevant laws and regulations (MMPA, ESA, MBTA, etc.)
- Enforcement (U.S. Coast Guard)

***4:00 - 4:30 pm – Closing Discussions & Conclusion***

**4:30 p.m. End of Day 1**

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### ***5:00 - 7:30 pm – Public Forum***

***Session Objective:*** Host a public forum to engage community members about resource conservation issues in American Samoa and the Pacific Remote Islands.

#### **Public Forum Agenda (Proposed)**

5:00 -5:30 PM – *Welcome, Intro & Purpose of the Event* (overview of the topics & process) - Archie, John, Anu (Facilitator)

- Short summary of workshop - 5 min.
- Update on where we are in the proposed sanctuary designation process and next steps - 5 min.
- Perspectives from American Samoa - 10 min.
- Panel discussion or break out groups in the room. Each topic leader provides a short overview of the topic and what will be discussed in the group - 10 min.

5:30 -6:45 PM – *BREAKOUT GROUPS* (5) by Topic with 2 staff per table to facilitate discussions (1 ASG & 1 NOAA who run leading questions to guide discussions) 1 Note taker/Recorder (NOAA STAFF) & gather better understanding of issues;

- **Commercial Fishing & Onshore Processing at Cannery:** Exploring the importance of commercial fishing and onshore processing at the cannery to the American Samoa economy
- **Economic Impacts & Opportunities:** Expanding economic opportunities in American

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- **Education & Outreach:** Connecting local environmental education and outreach to the Pacific Remote Islands
- **Research & Monitoring:** Bridging local marine research and monitoring efforts to connect to the Pacific Remote Islands and other areas in the Pacific
- **Cultural & Maritime Heritage:** Exchanging stories and information about cultural and marine heritage to connect Pacific Island communities

6:45 PM – Each Group Wraps Up

7-7:15 –Next Steps

7:15-7:30 PM –Closing

*Groups each have –*

ASG & NOAA Co-chair (both share at leading the sessions –alternatively –each takes turns in asking Q's (10 mins per Question).

Recorder – ASG/NOAA Staffer

*Materials Used*

Laptop

Easel Pad/Pen

Notepad

Each group has 3-5 Questions (all the same generic ones that allow each topic to hold discussions) – make them generic for each topic (we need to provide a description of each topic).

**Questions such as:**

1. Name & why you are Interested in the topic?
2. Is there anything you would like to share about this topic?
3. Are there resources not known about this topic that should be considered? (if so, what, where, who, why?)

### **Day 2: Lives & Livelihoods**

**Wednesday - Sept. 13, 2023**

**8:30 a.m. Start**

*Day 2 Objectives: Develop a holistic understanding about socioeconomic opportunities and challenges in American Samoa.*

**8:30 - 8:45 am – Opening & Welcome**



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ASG & National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

***8:45 - 9:00 am – Insights from Day 1 -Anu Gupta (Facilitator)***

***9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Session 4: From Ocean to Table, Understanding How Fisheries Support Food and Economic Security for American Samoa and the U.S.***

(NOAA Fisheries, American Samoa Government, and stakeholders (tbd))

***Session Objective:*** *Ensure workshop participants have the opportunity to understand more about how commercial fishing supports the economy in American Samoa.*

- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (NOAA PIFSC) presentation
  - *NOAA Fisheries data on current fishing effort in the Pacific Remote Islands*
  - *How changes in fishing effort or environmental factors (i.e., climate change) in the Pacific Remote Islands or adjacent areas may impact American Samoa*
- **Select briefings by American Samoa government - tbd**
- Discussion, Q&A

**12:00 to 1:00 pm - Lunch**

***1:00 pm - 3:00 pm — Session 5: Lives & Livelihoods - Understanding the Socioeconomic Context of the Pacific Remote Islands for American Samoa & the Territories***

***Session Objectives:*** *Share information about the socioeconomic context and an overview of available socioeconomic data.*

- Applications of socioeconomic data in the required economic analysis to the proposed study area (Danielle Schwarzmann, NOAA ONMS)
- Socioeconomic data from the Pacific Island Territories (Jeremey Halstead, Eastern Research Group)
- **Presentations from the Territories - TBD**

Discussion, Q&A

- What information do you have or know about that can contribute to our analysis?
- How can NOAA get this information?

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- Are there specific people you would like us to reach out to to discuss data availability and/or these analysis?
- Are there members of your community that would like to learn more about the planned socio-economic analysis?

### ***3:00 - 3:30 pm – Session 6: Final statements & Wrap Up***

***Session Objective:*** *Ensure all participants understand each other's perspective and the next steps in the designation process.*

- American Samoa
- NOAA (Sanctuaries and Fisheries)
- Guam (tbd)
- CNMI (tbd)
- Hawaii (tbd)

### ***3:30 – 4:30 pm: Wrap up & Moving forward***

### ***4:30 pm ADJOURNMENT***