2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Pacific Region Supports Interns in Marine Conservation Fields
The Pacific Islands Region is collaborating with partners to facilitate student interns working at regional sites. The University of Hawai‘i’s Institute of Marine Biology has begun collaboration on a new fellowship program that supports master’s-level marine science students for two semesters. The students will work at a regional site and complete a two-month internship in a NOAA office in Washington, D.C. In addition, two graduate students in the NOAA Office of Education’s Graduate Science Program have begun working for regional partners. Upon graduation, the students will then join the Pacific Islands Region team.

NOAA Preserve America Supports Projects in the Pacific Islands Region
The Pacific Islands Region was awarded two NOAA Preserve America Initiative Grants in 2009. One allowed the region to conduct a historical preservation project focusing on Lahaina’s colorful history, and will be used to record oral histories and produce outreach products from that knowledge. A second grant supported a training for University of Hawai‘i Marine Option Program students to learn marine archaeology survey techniques. The students trained were then trained by regional maritime archeologists on O’ahu, then traveled to Lāna‘i to survey a historic inter-island steamship wreck. In addition, the county of Kaua‘i was designated a Preserve America Community, through a process supported by the Pacific Islands Region. This designation makes Kaua‘i the second county in Hawai‘i to achieve this status.

Rose Atoll Designated a Marine National Monument
On Jan. 6, 2009, Rose Atoll in American Samoa was named a marine national monument. Presidential Proclamation 8337, which established the monument, directs NOAA to initiate a process to add the marine areas of the monument to the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuary Act. The Pacific Islands Region is supporting Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary as it addresses this issue through its management plan review process.

FAGATELE BAY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers
Ocean Recreation: Dean Hudson (Chair)
Fishing: Henry Seseapa (Vice Chair)
Education: Netini Sene (Secretary)

Teritorial Government
American Samoa Community College: Eunice Teau Siau
American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources: Lucy J. Jacobs

Other Non-Governmental Members
Research: Charles Birkeland
Community At-Large: Uiagaleli Lealofi

Governmental Members
Territorial Government
American Samoa Community College: Ephraim Temalia
American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources: Lucy Jacobs

Federal Government
National Park Service (non-voting): Mike Reynolds
NOAA Pacific Services Center (non-voting): Bill Thomas
NOAA Fagatele Bay NMS (non-voting): Gene Brighouse
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (non-voting): Kevin Hantner

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary embraces a fringing coral reef ecosystem contained within an eroded volcanic crater in American Samoa. Fagatele Bay is the nation’s smallest marine sanctuary at one-quarter square mile and its only true tropical reef. Hundreds of species of corals, colorful reef fish, algae and other invertebrates can be found in the warm waters of the sanctuary, along with sea turtles, dolphins, sharks, giant clams and migratory humpback whales. Established Apr. 29, 1986.
Establishing a Hyperbaric Wound Care Center

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary is revising their management plan and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff has been working with Thunder Bay staff to identify additional sites for possible sanctuary designation. This process provides an opportunity for sanctuary staff and the public to share their thoughts on possible sites.

In November 2008, the Thunder Bay team visited American Samoa and met with more than 30 local stakeholders to help promote the project. Through these meetings, Fagatele Bay sanctuary staff received very positive feedback, including possible financial commitments from the National Park of American Samoa and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Sanctuary staff continues to work together with the public to receive input on the management plan and agency meetings to discuss these topics.

Sanctuary staff worked closely with their territorial partner agency, the American Samoa Department of Commerce, to host a series of public scoping and agency meetings to receive input on the management plan and seventeen of the nine proposed locations.

Designation of Rose Atoll Marine National Monument

On Jan. 6, 2009, designated Rose Atoll as a Marine National Monument. The Marine National Monument is a dynamic and complex system that supports a diverse array of fish, seals, and other unique species. This designation was intended to protect the unique and valuable marine environment. The Marine National Monument supports a diverse array of fish, seals, and other unique species. This designation was intended to protect the unique and valuable marine environment.

Developing a Climate Change Action Plan for the National Marine Sanctuaries Act

Sanctuary staff began work on a Climate Change Action Plan to help inform climate change adaptation strategies throughout the National Marine Sanctuaries. A socioeconomic assessment of perceptions of climate change threats and solutions among community-based climate change adaptation strategies and early specific education and outreach needs was presented at the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s regional environmental economics meeting held in Fiji in September. For inclusion in the second report on the economics of ecosystem and biodiversity, the report which will cover the role, the goal of the research was to define the local humpback whale population, to clarify its relationship to other parts of the world.

Environmental Education Continues in American Samoa

American Samoa to encourage students to learn about marine science and ecosystem services for coastal communities. Through interactive games and activities, the group also supports Earth Day, Arbor Week, and Ocean Week activities. The group also supports Earth Day, Arbor Week, and Ocean Week activities. The group also supports Earth Day, Arbor Week, and Ocean Week activities. The group also supports Earth Day, Arbor Week, and Ocean Week activities. The group also supports Earth Day, Arbor Week, and Ocean Week activities.

Sanctuary Staff Assist in Tsunami Recovery

On September 29, 2009, a magnitude 8.3 earthquake struck 19 km southeast of American Samoa. The earthquake generated a tsunami that devastated shoreline throughout American Samoa. A tsunami that devastated shoreline throughout American Samoa. The tsunami that devastated shoreline throughout American Samoa. The tsunami that devastated shoreline throughout American Samoa. The tsunami that devastated shoreline throughout American Samoa. The tsunami that devastated shoreline throughout American Samoa.