

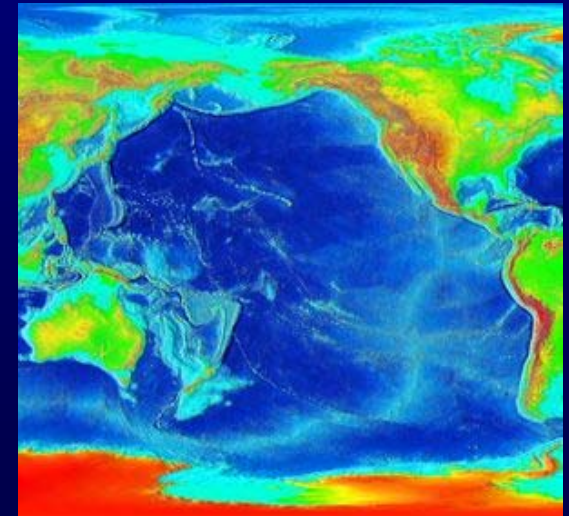
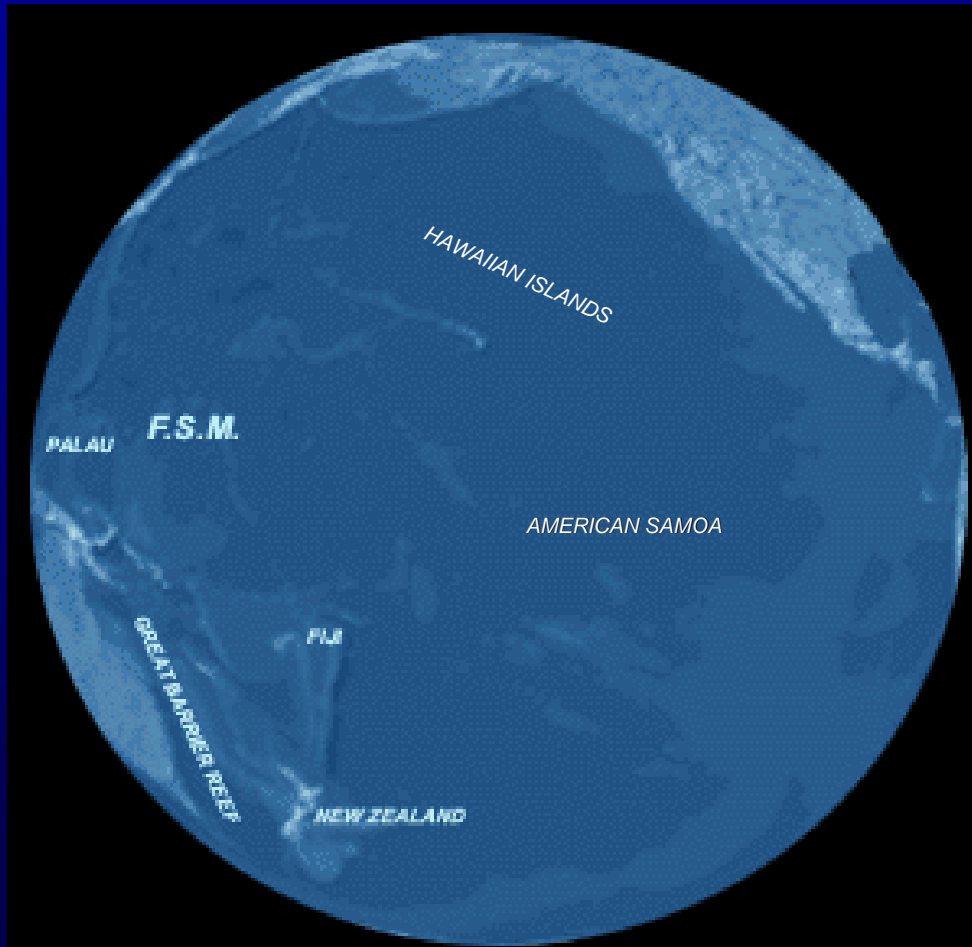
Our Sea of Islands: Challenges and Opportunities



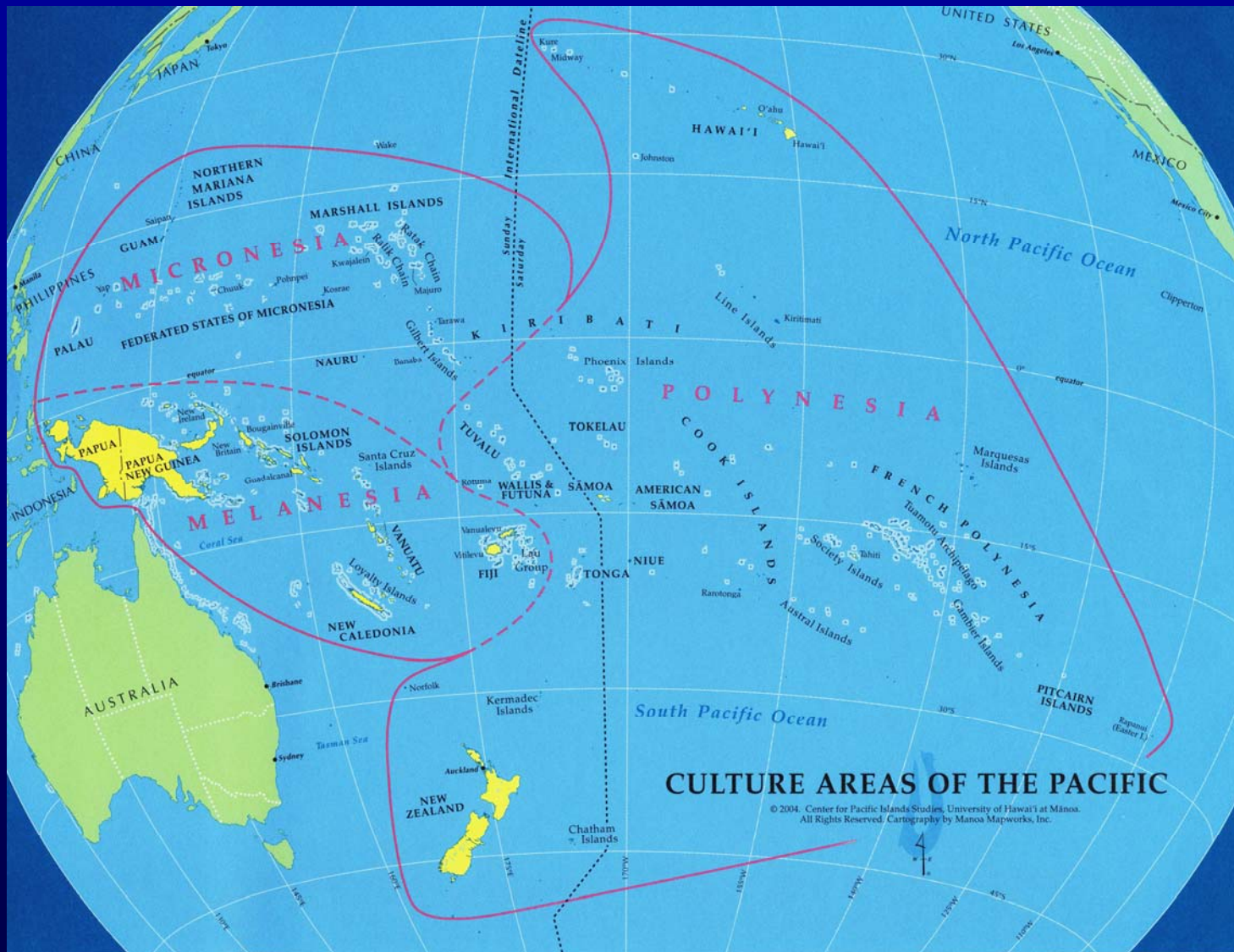
Daniel J. Basta, Director
NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program



The Pacific Ocean Spans One Third of the Earth's Surface



Oceania



Marine Managed Areas in Oceania

- Roughly 25% of the world's marine managed areas are in Oceania
- Each jurisdiction in Oceania has established marine managed areas using **community-based and traditional approaches**
- The three largest marine managed areas in the world are in Oceania:
 - **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**
 - **Phoenix Islands Protected Area**
 - **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**



Our Sea of Islands

A Regional Forum for Oceania on Marine Managed Areas and World Heritage – to:



- Highlight current efforts to **protect important marine areas** in Oceania
- Share and expand **technical and traditional expertise** -- both locally and globally
- Develop balanced management practices by **incorporating science and customary practices**
- Expand on **established networks** in the Pacific

Our Sea of Islands Outcomes



Over 100 resource managers, scientists and cultural practitioners participated in six (6) “priority” targeted work sessions and generated:

- Eight (8) implementation agreements
- Fourteen (14) recommendations to governments and organizations engaged in Marine Managed Areas
- A joint communiqué from Oceania

Our Sea of Islands Outcomes

Oceania Communiqué to the World

A Call for Action:

- Strengthen **relationships** and **peer learning exchanges** and capacities across Oceania
- Integrate **customary resource management** into **national and regional** marine management policies
- Ensure that **scientific research** is driven by **local and national needs**.
- Strengthen World Heritage activities to **include cultural landscapes** as critical for Marine Conservation

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Communiqué and reports now available!



Why Should We Care?



Global Change impacts may first manifest themselves in **the Pacific** – hence what is learned in Oceania will have global implications

“Eyes” are on Oceania

A Planetary Laboratory

- Increased international recognition of the importance of islands
- Oceania is interconnected by culture and the vast Pacific ocean
- Traditional knowledge and practice still alive
- Collision of systems and values



What Can We Do ?

- Given: solutions will require an evolving and adaptive “learning form” of Traditional Practices and integration with science
- Given: all solutions will require extraordinary “MOTIVATION” by all
- Given: Motivation is primarily a function of values
- Given: it may be axiomatic that traditional value structures are a key

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Consequently, **capacity and infrastructure building** in Oceanic is critical for all





What Can NOAA's Marine Sanctuaries Program Do ?

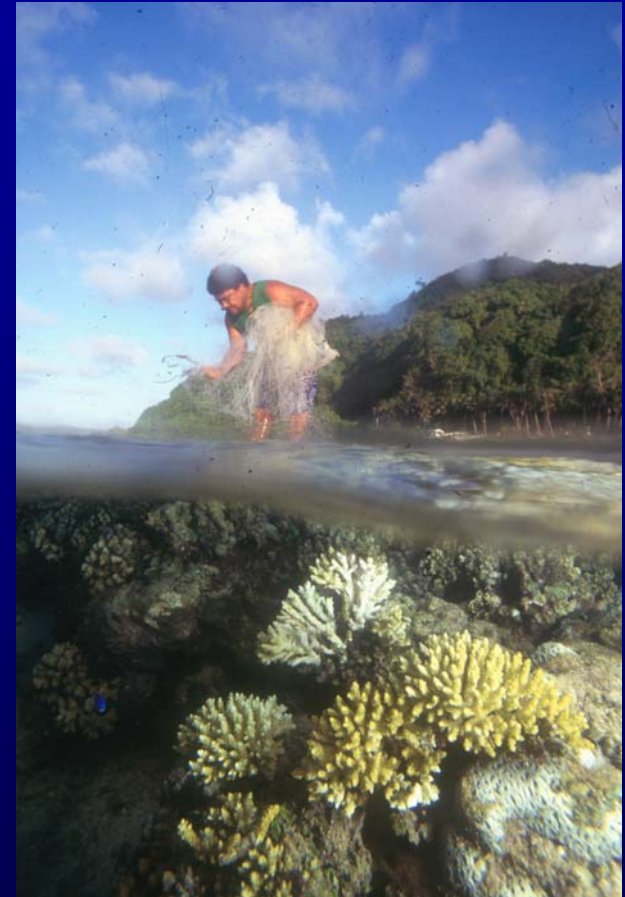
- Share and transfer **enforcement research and technology** appropriate for the context of Oceania
- Help support **resident research capacity** in Oceania
- Help build **comprehensive and innovative management capacities** at multiple scales



The Reality of What Sanctuaries Can Move towards now

Given : Fagatele Bay is the only National Marine Sanctuary in the Central Pacific -- We will:

- Seek to develop with others in Oceania the **requirements and an implementation strategy** for developing a centralized training and learning center at Fagatele Bay
- Help American Samoa develop a capacity that can serve as an **important regional hub** among other hubs in the Pacific





Our Time – Our Challenge