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| NOAA Header |
| **NOAA In Your Territory****American Samoa** |
| *“NOAA's work touches the daily lives of every person in the United States and in much of the world. Our products and services are the result of the hard work of NOAA’s dedicated staff and partner organizations located in program and research offices throughout the country. The following is a summary of NOAA programs based in, and focused on, your territory.”** Dr. Jane Lubchenco

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphereand NOAA Administrator |
| ***American Samoa******Coastal*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Coastal Services Center** **NOAA Coastal Storms Program** The Coastal Storms Program now has a project area in the Pacific Islands to increase the resilience of Pacific Island communities. NOAA will work in this region for three to five years to provide products and services that improve weather forecasts, address climate impacts, provide risk and vulnerability assessments, and translate the information to remote communities through training. The NOAA Pacific Services Center and Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana is a part of this effort, which includes the Hawaii Sea Grant and a small grants competition that supports local hazard resilience projects. <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/csp/>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Integrated Ocean Observing System Program****IOOS Regional Association**The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) program manages the development of a national network of Regional Associations (RAs) for coastal ocean observing. The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) creates an effective partnership of data providers and users working together to develop, disseminate, evaluate and apply new ocean data and information products designed specifically to address the needs of the communities, businesses and resources that call the Pacific home. The PacIOOS region is defined as the state of Hawaii, the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States in the Pacific and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific.<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/pacioos/>***Entire Territory*****National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Pacific Islands Region****Habitat Conservation Field Office**The Habitat Conservation field office in American Samoa is an extension of the Honolulu office that reviews local Army Corps of Engineer permit applications and is engaged in extensive fieldwork to support project reviews. This field office responds to requests from other NMFS divisions as the local experts providing valuable information on habitat and protected resources. The Habitat Conservation division in American Samoa coordinates activities of the NMFS Coral Program including responsibility in revising local action strategies and works closely with coral reef program points of contact on issues of funding projects in the area. There are field offices in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands serving similar functions.<http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Pacific Islands Region****International Fisheries Field Office**The essential duties of the International Fisheries field office in American Samoa are to monitor activities of the U.S. purse seine fleet under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty and to fulfill a variety of ancillary activities related to treaty obligations. This field office is responsible for sampling the catch of U.S. purse seiners for species composition and collecting length frequency data, which contributes to tuna stock assessments. They facilitate the placement of Forum Fishery Agency deployed observers on U.S. purse seiners and monitor the purse seine fleet through the Vessel Monitoring System. They act as the point of contact for fishery related treaty issues with the Forum Fishery Agency and other foreign nations on issues of mutual interest.<http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Pacific Islands Region****Observer Program Field Office**The Observer Program in American Samoa is responsible for fielding observers in the American Samoa longline fishery to obtain data on incidental sea turtle take and collect fishing effort data. The observers document interactions of all protected species, record data on fish that are kept and discarded, and process selected specimens for life history information. The Pacific Islands Region uses observer data to calculate official estimates *(e.g.* protected species interactions) and produce technical reports.<http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Pacific Islands Region****Pacific Islands Regional Office & Fisheries Science Center**NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone. The Pacific Islands Region, encompassing the waters surrounding American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands as well as many remote island areas, 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. Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, promotes sustainable fisheries, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitat and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (i.e. Hawaiian monk seals, five species of sea turtles, and a variety of cetacean species). NMFS co-manages the Pacific Island marine national monuments, including the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument..The Pacific Islands Regional Office, located in Honolulu, HI, uses ecosystem-based strategies to manage the marine resources of the region. 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, and coordinating with international organizations to implement and monitor fishery agreements and treaties. The Pacific Islands Regional Office also manages the at-sea observer system for longline vessels in the region. The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, also located in Honolulu, HI, is responsible for monitoring and research on fisheries and protected species populations as well as coral and oceanic ecosystems and the diverse human components of this region. The Fisheries Science Center has two research facilities: the Kewalo Research Facility located on the Honolulu waterfront, has seawater capabilities for conducting research on live large pelagic fishes, monk seals, and sea turtles, and the Aiea Research Facility that has a wet laboratory supporting fish biology research. The Center uses the NOAA ship *Oscar E. Sette* as its primary at-sea research platform and shares the NOAA Ship *Hi’ialakai* with the National Ocean Service. The Science Center runs fishery bio-sampling, Monument science, and fishery information programs in each area through their science coordinator in each island area.The Regional Office and Fisheries Science Center both have field offices serving American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.<http://www.fpir.noaa.gov> and <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov>**National Weather Service (NWS)****Cooperative Observer Program****American Samoa 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 Department of Homeland security, the insurance industry, and energy sector, and many others. These and other federal, state and local governments, and private company sectors use the data daily to make billions of dollars worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine everyone's energy bill monthly. There are 15 COOP sites in the Territory. [http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map\_images/state-maps/coop\_09/as\_coop.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map_images/state-maps/coop_09/as_coop.pdf%20) and <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/>**National Weather Service (NWS)****NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards****American Samoa Transmitter**NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service 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 1100 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 the Territory. <http://www.weather.gov/mirs/public/prods/maps/map_images/state-maps/nwr_09/as_nwr.pdf> and <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>**National Weather Service (NWS)****Pacific Region****Headquarters**Located in the Mauka Tower of the Pacific Guardian Center in downtown Honolulu, HI, this regional office has administrative and management responsibilities for all National Weather Service field operations in Hawaii and the territories of American Samoa, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These areas include offices in Honolulu, Hilo, Kahului, and Lihue, Hawaii; Guam; Pago Pago, American Samoa; Koror, Republic of Palau; Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands; and Pohnpei, Yap and Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. The NWS Pacific Region operates its five Micronesian offices in cooperation with the Republic of the Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in accordance with the provisions of the Compact of Free Association between the United States and each Micronesian government. The five Micronesian Weather Service Offices provide the United States with critical Upper-Air Data and Aviation Weather Observations. These offices also provide adaptive weather forecasts and warnings to their local constituents. The Pacific Region Headquarters also oversees the Central Pacific Hurricane Center and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, and it hosts the International Tsunami Information Center.[http://www.prh.noaa.gov.](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/)**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)****Office of Law Enforcement****Field Office**The mission of NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities.<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/pi_pacificislands.html>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****American Samoa Coastal Management Program**Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA’s OCRM works with the American Samoa Coastal Management Program (ASCMP) to implement the National Coastal Management Program in American Samoa. OCRM provides the ASCMP with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act to protect, restore and responsibly develop our nation’s coastal communities and resources by balancing the often competing demands of coastal resource use, economic development and conservation. The American Samoa Coastal Management Program boundary includes the entire island of Tutuila, the Manu’a Islands, Aunu’u Island, Rose Island, and Swains Island.<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/mystate/american_samoa.html>***Pago Pago*****National Ocean Service (NOS)****Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services****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 datums 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. This station provides critical tsunami detection functionality for tsunami warning in the Pacific Basin.[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/)**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of National Marine Sanctuaries****Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Learning & Discovery Center - Under Construction** Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects and preserves a fringing coral reef ecosystem nestled within an eroded volcanic crater on the southern coast of Tutuila, American Samoa. The site is uniquely rich in both natural resources and cultural heritage. Fagatele Bay provides a home to a wide variety of animals and plants that thrive in the protected waters of the bay. The only sanctuary in the system south of the equator, FBNMS is completing a new facility that will become an Ocean Learning & Discovery Center to highlight special marine and ocean areas in American Samoa through exhibits, displays, and offices. The facility is scheduled to open May 2012. <http://fagatelebay.noaa.gov/>**National Ocean Service (NOS)****Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management****Coral Reef Conservation Program**American Samoa is composed of high volcanic islands and low-lying atolls that have narrow reef flats with fairly diverse marine life and are in relatively good condition. However, warming seas and intense fishing pressure have begun to take their toll on these reefs. The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) conducts seafloor mapping, assessment and characterization, and monitoring activities in each U.S. jurisdiction with coral reefs. The CRCP also conducts research to better understand coral reef structure, function, and health. Each U.S. jurisdiction receives coral reef grants annually to conduct research, monitoring, and management activities and in addition have developed Local Action Strategies to promote effective local management of coral reefs. A coral reef status report is produced every 2-3 years based on monitoring and research conducted in each jurisdiction. The program also strives to foster coral reef resiliency through a ridge-to-reef approach that includes effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as well as addressing land-based sources of pollution.[http://http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov](http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/)**National Weather Service (NWS)****Weather Service Office****Pago Pago WSO**The Pago Pago Weather Service Office’s (WSO) area of responsibility is the Territory of American Samoa and adjacent territorial waters. The office 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.<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/samoa/>**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)Pacific Islands Fisheries Science CenterScience Operations Field Office**The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (based in Honolulu, HI) is responsible for research on Federally managed marine fisheries, protected species, and ecosystems in the entire western and central Pacific Ocean, in both insular (near island) habitats and pelagic (open ocean) environments. The Pago Pago Science Operations Field Office provides logistical and coordination support for all Science Center research in the area, and provides direct outreach support to the American Samoa Biological Sampling Program and the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument’s Science Program. <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov>***Tutuila Island*****Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Monitoring Division****Monitoring the Surface Atmosphere – Halocarbon Measurements**NOAA’s Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) operates a sampling network to measure the distribution and trends of the gases most responsible for human-caused depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer. Weekly samples are collected in high-pressure flasks at fixed locations. The air sample flasks are delivered to the ESRL laboratory, located in Boulder, CO for analysis. Some locations conduct continuous surface measurements on site. Halocarbon measurements help determine the effectiveness of efforts to protect and restore the ozone layer - so it can protect us from the sun’s ultraviolet radiation.<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/hats/>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Monitoring Division****Monitoring the Surface Atmosphere – Ozone Measurements**ESRL conducts long-term monitoring of ozone at the surface, with aircraft, and with balloons, through cooperative relationships with local partners. The ESRL tropospheric ozone aircraft measurement program is being done in conjunction with the Carbon Cycle and Greenhouse Gas (CCGG) group's existing aircraft sampling network. Aircraft based in-situ tropospheric ozone measurements provide data relevant to: pollution events, lower atmosphere mixing dynamics, boundary layer stability, ozone trend studies, and the validity of other samples collected in-flight. Near ground level ozone is currently monitored using ultraviolet absorption photometers at eight sites that are generally representative of background conditions. These sites provide information on possible long-term changes in tropospheric ozone near the surface and support air quality research.<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ozwv/>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Monitoring Division****Samoa Observatory**The Samoa Observatory is one of five baseline observatories supported by NOAA's Climate Observations and Analysis Program and operated by the NOAA Research, Earth System Research Laboratory, located in Boulder, CO. The observatories are part of a global network of observatories monitoring atmospheric constituents that cause climate change and depletion of the ozone layer. The Samoa Observatory was established in 1974 and is located on the northeastern tip of Tutuila Island, on a ridge overlooking the South Pacific Ocean. It maintains monitoring programs in greenhouse and other trace gases, atmospheric aerosols, solar radiation variability and meteorological parameters.<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/obop/smo/index.html>**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)****Earth System Research Laboratory/Global Monitoring Division****Stratospheric Aerosol Lidar Measurements**NOAA’s Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) operates three stratospheric lidar systems to measure atmospheric aerosol profiles. The Samoa system went online in 2004. Stratospheric lidar systems measure aerosol light for monitoring stratospheric aerosols from volcanic origins. Volcanic aerosols in the stratosphere from future eruptions could act as catalysts for large scale stratospheric ozone depletions until anthropogenic stratospheric halocarbon concentrations decrease to lower levels by mid-century. These ongoing observations are important for monitoring the recovery of the stratospheric ozone layer, which protects us from the sun’s ultraviolet radiation.<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ozwv/> |
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