



**American Samoa**

## **CORAL REEF LOCAL ACTION STRATEGIES**



In American Samoa, the Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) is responsible for implementing the Local Action Strategies (LAS). The following strategies are the result of a continuing process incorporating input from territorial agencies, non-profit groups, interested individuals, stakeholder groups, and federal agency partners. Each LAS continues to evolve and develop as new resources and information become available.

### **Population Pressure**

- Meetings held by the population pressure working team are building awareness of the harmful environmental effects of unsustainable population growth and have gathered stakeholder feedback on action plans.
- Hosted the first ever Population Pressure Summit with more than 130 participants, including several off island experts
- Drafting strategic action statements in areas of policy, education, outreach, communication, and data collection and management.
- Conducting ongoing community engagement and enforcement activities to minimize the coastal impacts of local piggeries.

### **Overfishing**

- Implementing a Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network Strategy.
- Shifting the management paradigm from prohibited to allowable gear.
- Establishing maximum and minimum size allowances for key species.
- Holding community based enforcement workshops and deputizing officers to enforce MPA regulations.
- Implementing a ban to prevent fishing of several rare species, including the giant grouper, bumphead parrotfish, humphead wrasse, giant trevally, and all sharks.

### **Land-Based Sources of Pollution**

- Continuing monitoring of Tutuila's coral reefs provides assessments of impacts of non-point source pollution and identification of biological variances due to watershed pollution.
- Addressing restoration, community engagement and conservation of the Pala Lagoon through an interagency working group.
- Evaluating monitoring data to determine needed changes to management practices.

### **Public Outreach and Awareness**

- Improving coral reef programs in schools and increasing coral reef media coverage.
- Expanding the Marine Science Program at the American Samoa Community College.
- Coordinating a Rare Pride Campaign for coral reef education and outreach.

### **Local Response to Global Climate Change**

- Training officials to create a rapid response plan for action to be taken during bleaching events.
- Incorporating biological and socio-economical resilience due to climate change into MPA planning.

For more information, please visit:

[www.allislandscorals.org](http://www.allislandscorals.org)

[www.crag.as](http://www.crag.as)