



# Conservation and Traditional Village communities: The American Samoa Experience

*The Community-based Fisheries Management Program  
(CFMP)*

Selaina H. Vaitautolu-Tuimavave

Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources

# Presentation Contents

- What is CFMP?
- Brief History of CFMP
- Identify Target Group
- How CFMP is implemented
- Other CFMP activities
- CFMP Villages 2007
- Strengths & Challenges



# What is CFMP?

- Community-based Fishery Management Program
- Conservation measure that aims to work with village communities to protect their inshore fishery resources by establishing Village Marine Protected Areas
- Co-management effort between government and village communities for conservation
- “Bottoms-up” approach for coral reef fishery management

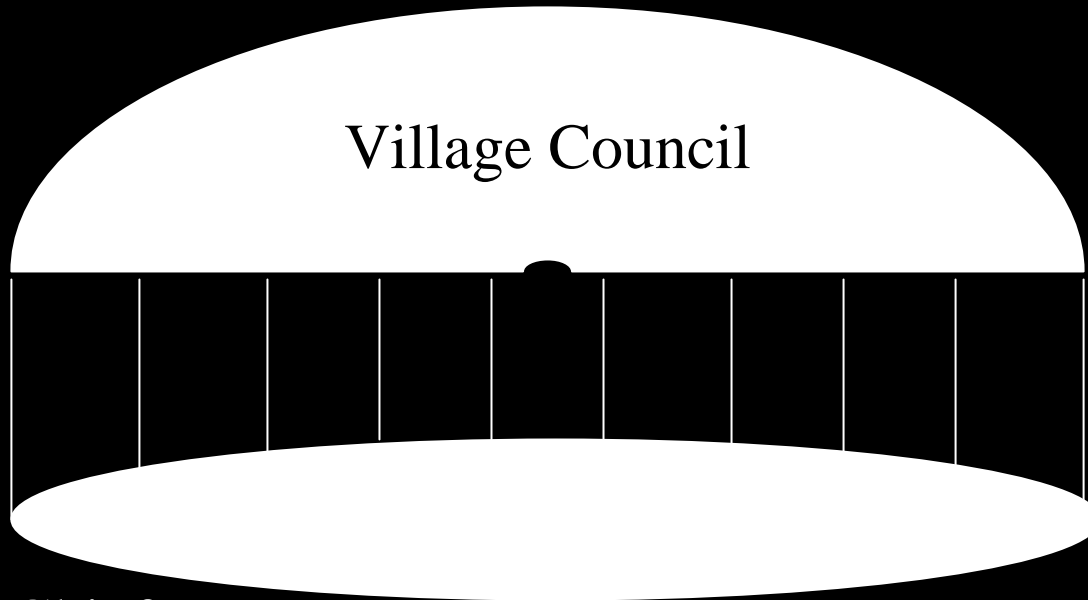


# History of CFMP

- Established in 2001
- Adopted the idea from neighboring Samoa
- Potential way to improve inshore fishery resources
- Developed after a village survey was conducted
- 10 participating village communities around Tutuila



# Traditional Village Community



Paramount Chief

High Chief(s)

- High Talking Chief(s)

- Chiefs

# The implementation process





First Meeting



GROUP



MEETINGS







# Fishery Advisory & Management Committee (FMAC)



# Village Fishery Management Plan







Community Outreach - Workshops



MPA Patrol - Community Site Visits



Community Outreach - Workshops



MPA Patrol - Community Site Visits

# Community-based Fishery Management Program Villages 2007

## Community-based Marine Protected Areas of American Samoa



Map created by Francesca Riolo, Department of Marine and Wildlife

# Strengths

- Enhances community involvement and participation in conservation programs
- Emphasizes a co-management scheme with governmental agencies
  - Encourages bottom-up approach for management
- Develop strong relationships with village communities
- Create educational opportunities for communities on marine environmental issues



# Challenges

- Limited attention span
- Not being able to meet community “needs” and sometimes “wants”
- Some communities are government dependent
- Availability schedules with communities
- Enforcement





**Your Reefs – Your Resources –  
Your Future!**

**2005 5 19**





**Any Questions????**