

# 2021

January 13, 2021 - January 31, 2022

## POPULAR FISHING SPOTS



**AMERIKA SAMOA LUNAR CALENDAR**

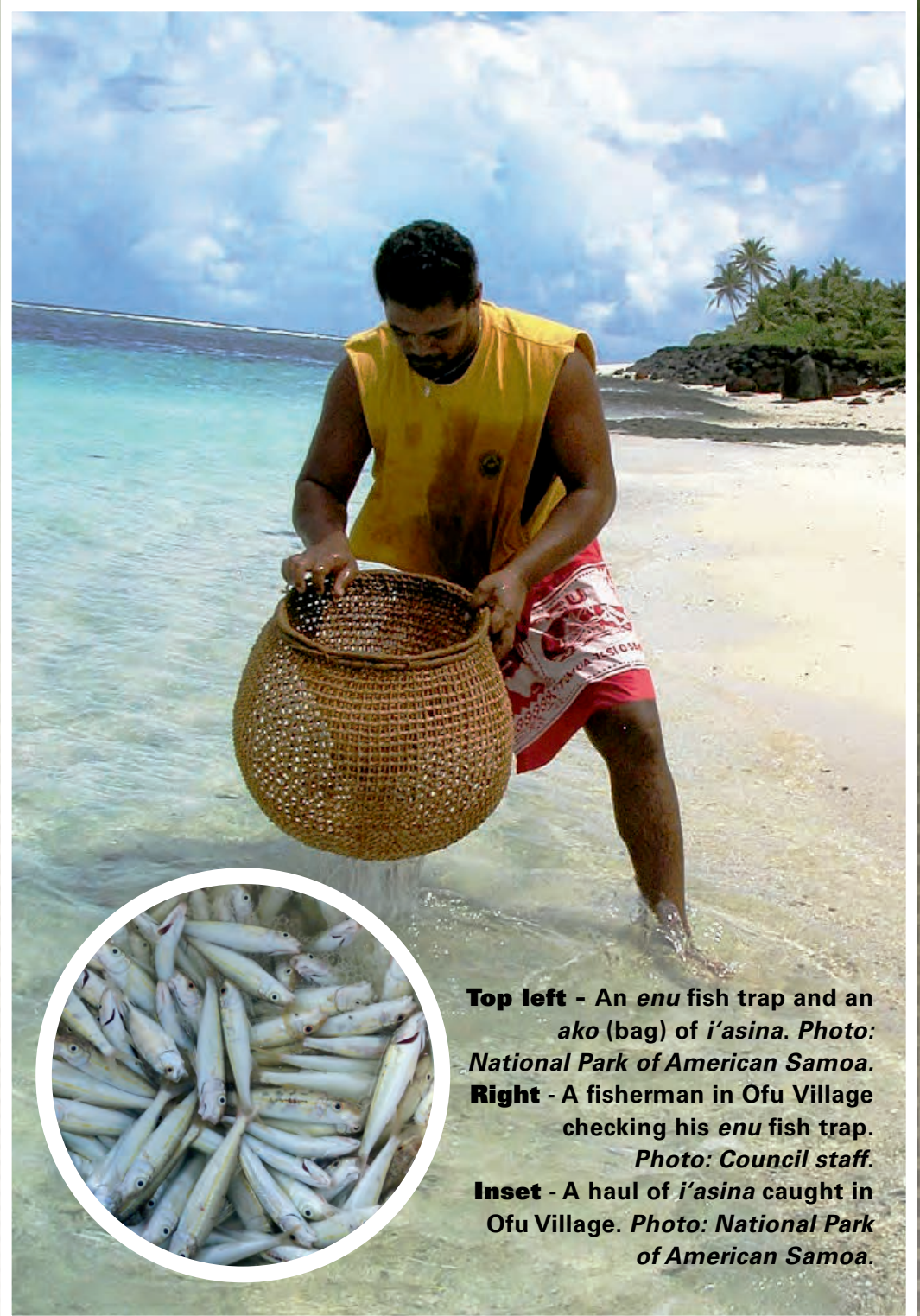


Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



## Ofu Village

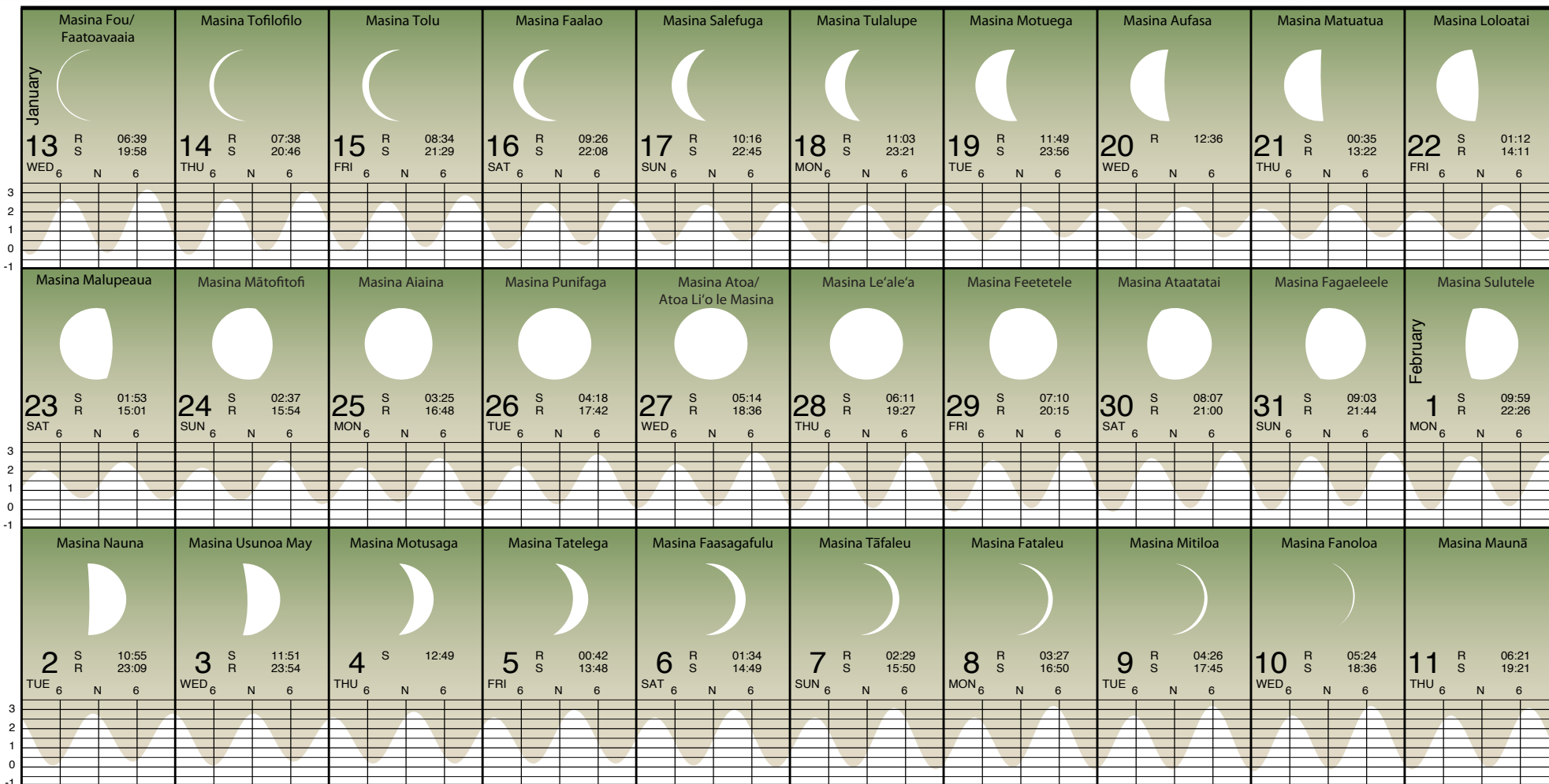
**Ofu Village** in Manu'a is the location for one of American Samoa's oldest and most famous traditional fishing practices. Many of the old fishing methods have been replaced by modern techniques and gear, but on the sandy beaches along the southern coast of Ofu, the practice of *enu* trap fishing is still alive and well. The *enu* is a fishing trap basket woven with vines. The 'ie'ie vines are soaked in seawater for one week and buried in a pit near the water. Then they are cleaned off and hung out to dry. Long lengths of braided *afa* (coconut fiber) lashings are used to tie the vines together. It takes over 100 feet of the braided *afa* to construct a single *enu* trap. The completed traps are baited with *uga* (hermit crab) meat and partially buried in the sand near the shoreline when the *i'asina* (yellowstripe goatfish) are running.



**Top left** - An *enu* fish trap and an *ako* (bag) of *i'asina*. Photo: National Park of American Samoa.  
**Right** - A fisherman in Ofu Village checking his *enu* fish trap. Photo: Council staff.  
**Inset** - A haul of *i'asina* caught in Ofu Village. Photo: National Park of American Samoa.

# Utuvāmua

Januari 13 - Fepuari 11, 2021



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



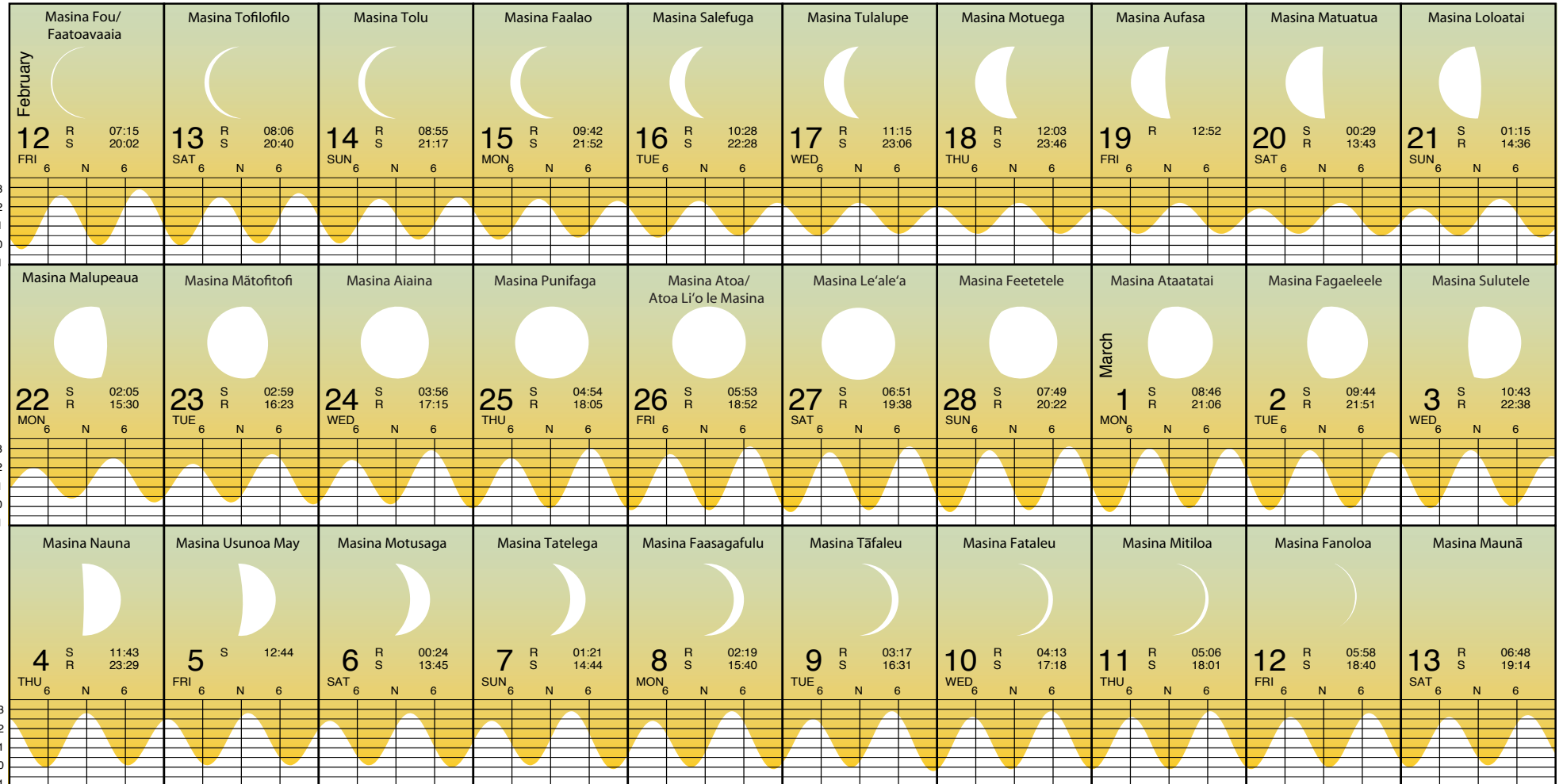
## Faga'alu Beach

Spearfishing is a popular fishing method in American Samoa. Fishermen often fish during the night with spears and flashlights to catch sleeping fish. Reef areas, such as the one off **Faga'alu Beach**, are well-known places to catch favorite species like *alogo* (lined surgeonfish) and *tafala* (amberjack). The catch from those spearfishing trips is primarily sold from coolers by the roadside, with a portion saved for the family of the fisherman and communal obligations.

**Top left** - *Laea* (parrotfish) are a favorite target species for local spearfishermen. **Photo: Keith Ah Soon.** **Top right** - A *laea* caught by a local fisherman. **Photo: Jessica Ludgate.** **Bottom right** - *Ula-sami* (spiny lobster), a favorite local food, is usually speared at night. **Photo: Keith Ah Soon.** **Inset** - A cooler full of fish after a night of spearfishing. **Photo: Keith Ah Soon.**

# Fa'aafu

Fepuari 12 - Mati 13, 2021



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



## Alao Village

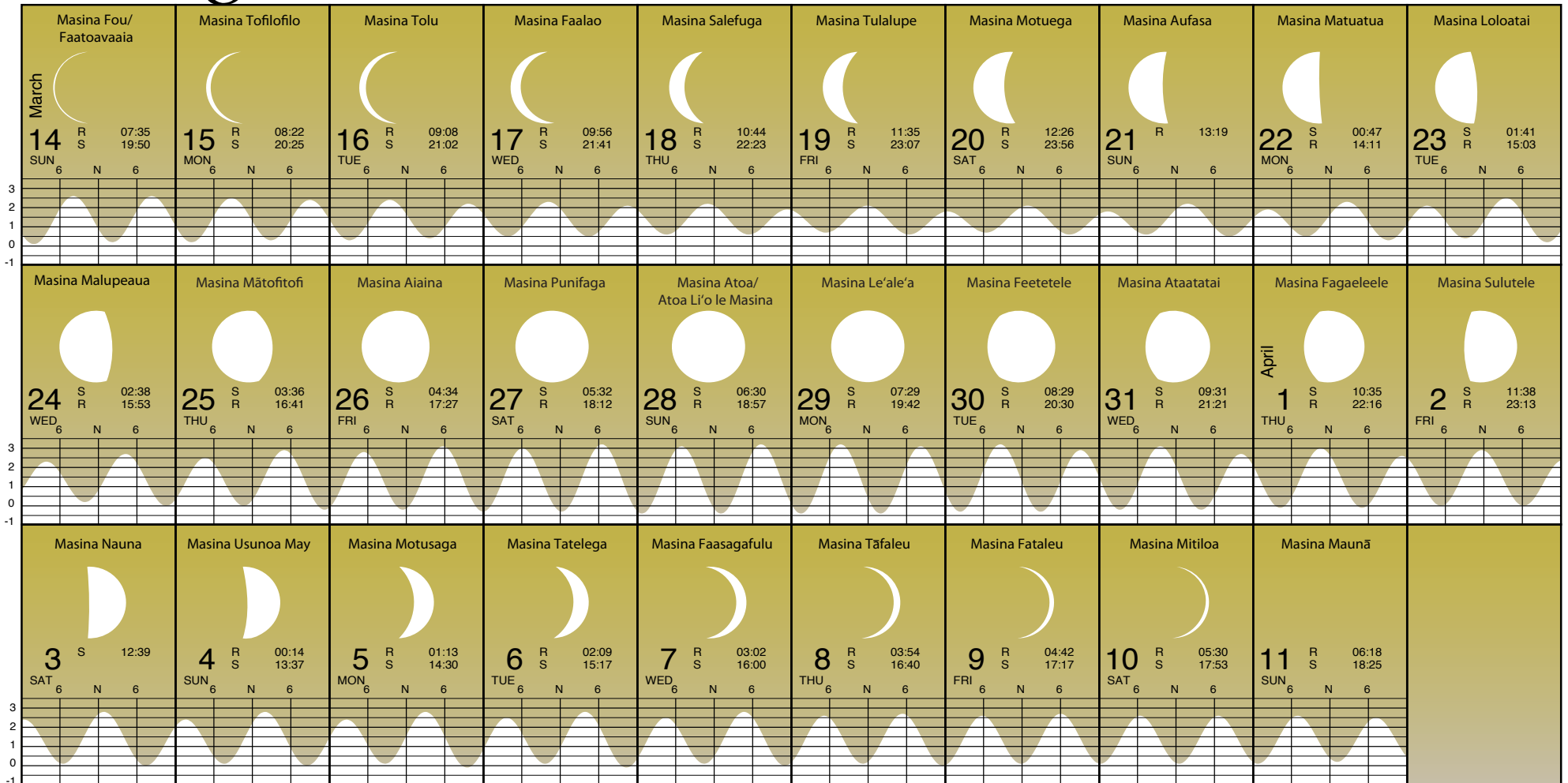
Shallow shorelines with flat bottoms and no coral reefs, such as near **Alao Village**, are prime locations for fishermen to catch passing schools of fish with a *kili* (throw net). Traditionally, a *kili* is made with tree fiber and produced in villages away from the coast where those trees grew in greater abundance. Today, a *kili* is made out of monofilament mesh, but the technique remains largely unchanged.

**Top** - Fisherman Aleni Snow casts a *kili* for *i'asina* (yellowstripe goatfish). *Photo: Jes Ludgate.* **Bottom** - A family preparing for a day of net fishing. *Photo: Noel Mamea.*



# Fānoga

Mati 14 - Aperila 11, 2021



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



## Fagasa Village

When the *atule* (bigeye scad) seasonal run occurs, people in American Samoa still practice a fishing method that is thousands of years old. Lengths of *lau* (braided coconut fronds) are held by village members and used to herd fish onto the shore where they are scooped into nets and baskets. In **Fagasa Village** on the north shore of Tutuila Island, this method is still used today. The fish are caught and divided among the families of the village and, if it is a large catch, given as gifts to other villages.

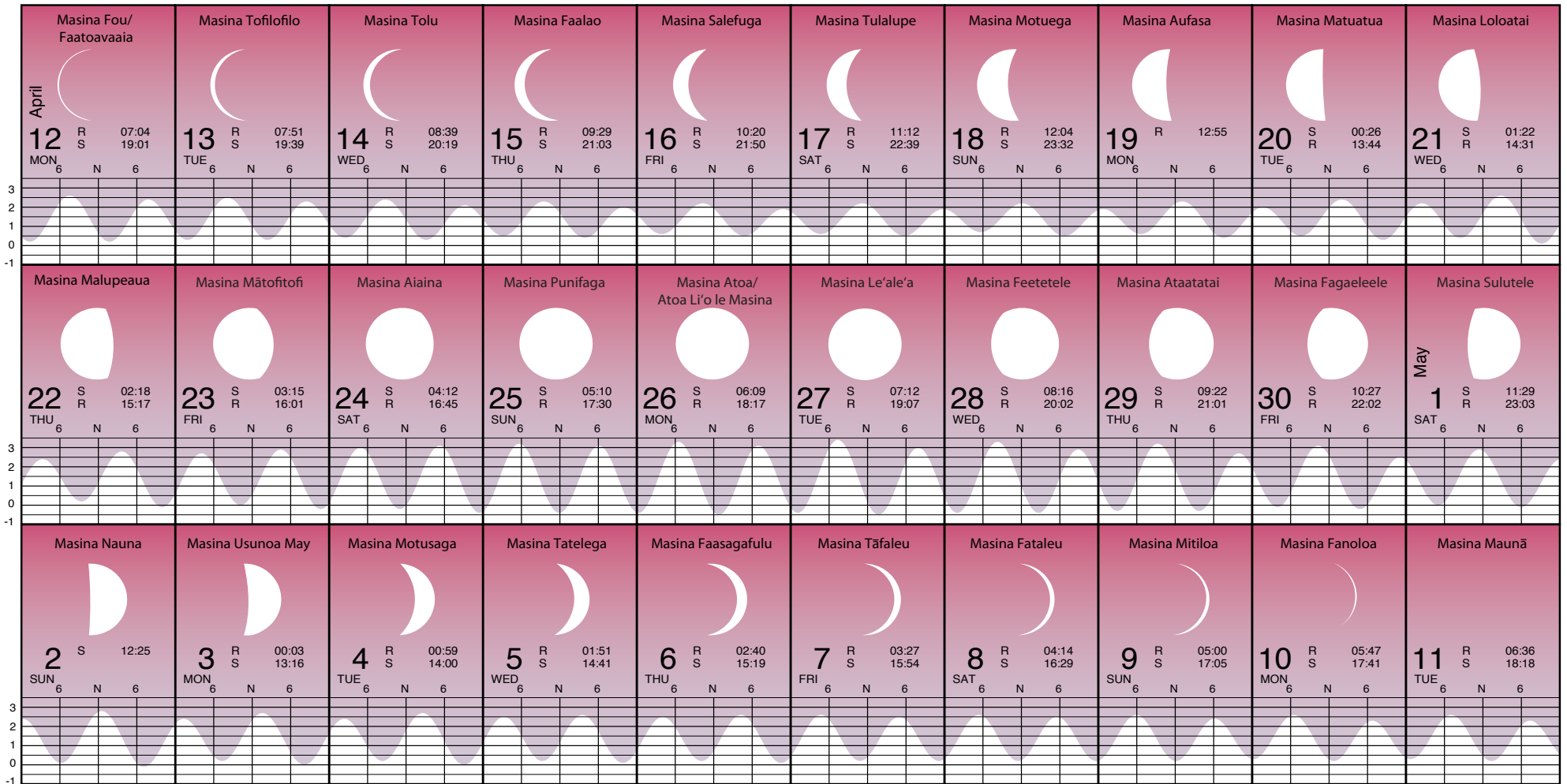
**Top** - Village members prepare *lau* and trap large schools of fish near the shore where they are collected in nets and shared among the residents. **Bottom** - A school of fish is collected in a large hand-woven basket. **Left inset** - *l'asina* (yellowstripe goatfish) is another seasonal run species caught using a *lau*. **Photos: National Park of American Samoa. Right inset** - One villager's share of the *atule* catch. **Photo: Jessica Ludgate.**





# Aununu

Aperila 12 - Me 11, 2021



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



## South Bank

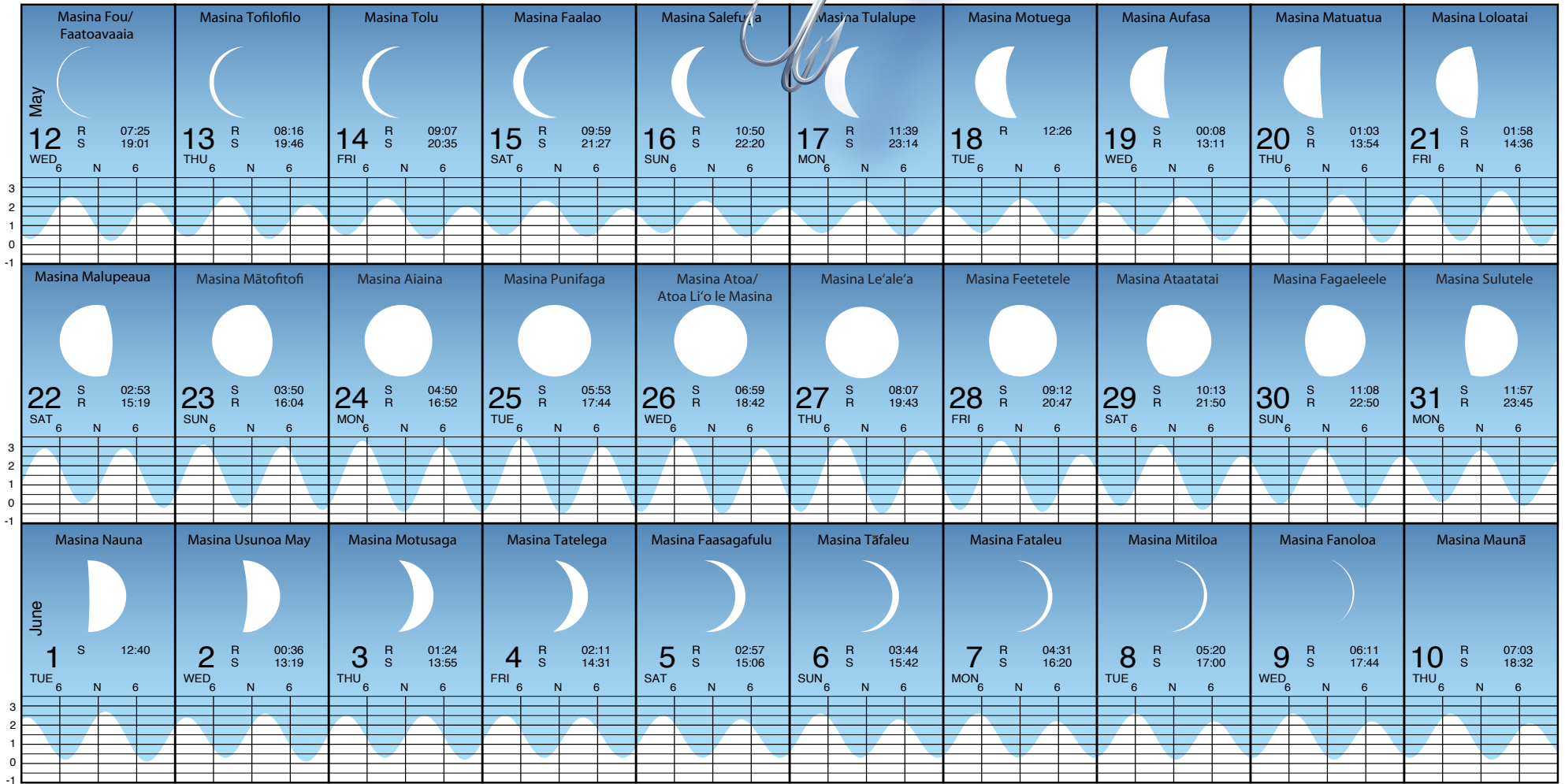
Located 36 nautical miles south of Tutuila Island, the **South Bank seamount** is the largest isolated feature in the surrounding waters. The bank is home to hundreds of species of coral and fish. Fishermen catch prized species such as *palu-malau* (ruby snapper), which live on reef edges and seamounts. Pelagic gamefish are also abundant on the bank, making it one of the best fishing locations in the territory. Boats that can make the long trip are usually rewarded for the effort.



**Top left** - Fisherman Clayton Mahuka fishing off the south coast. *Photo: Nathan Sagapolutele.*  
**Top right** - *Palu-malau* caught on the banks around Tutuila. *Photo: Council staff.* **Bottom right** - Mixed trolling and bottomfish fishing trips are common at places such as South Bank. *Photo: Nathan Sagapolutele.*

# Oloāmanu

Me 12 - Iuni 10, 2021



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council

## Aunu'u Island

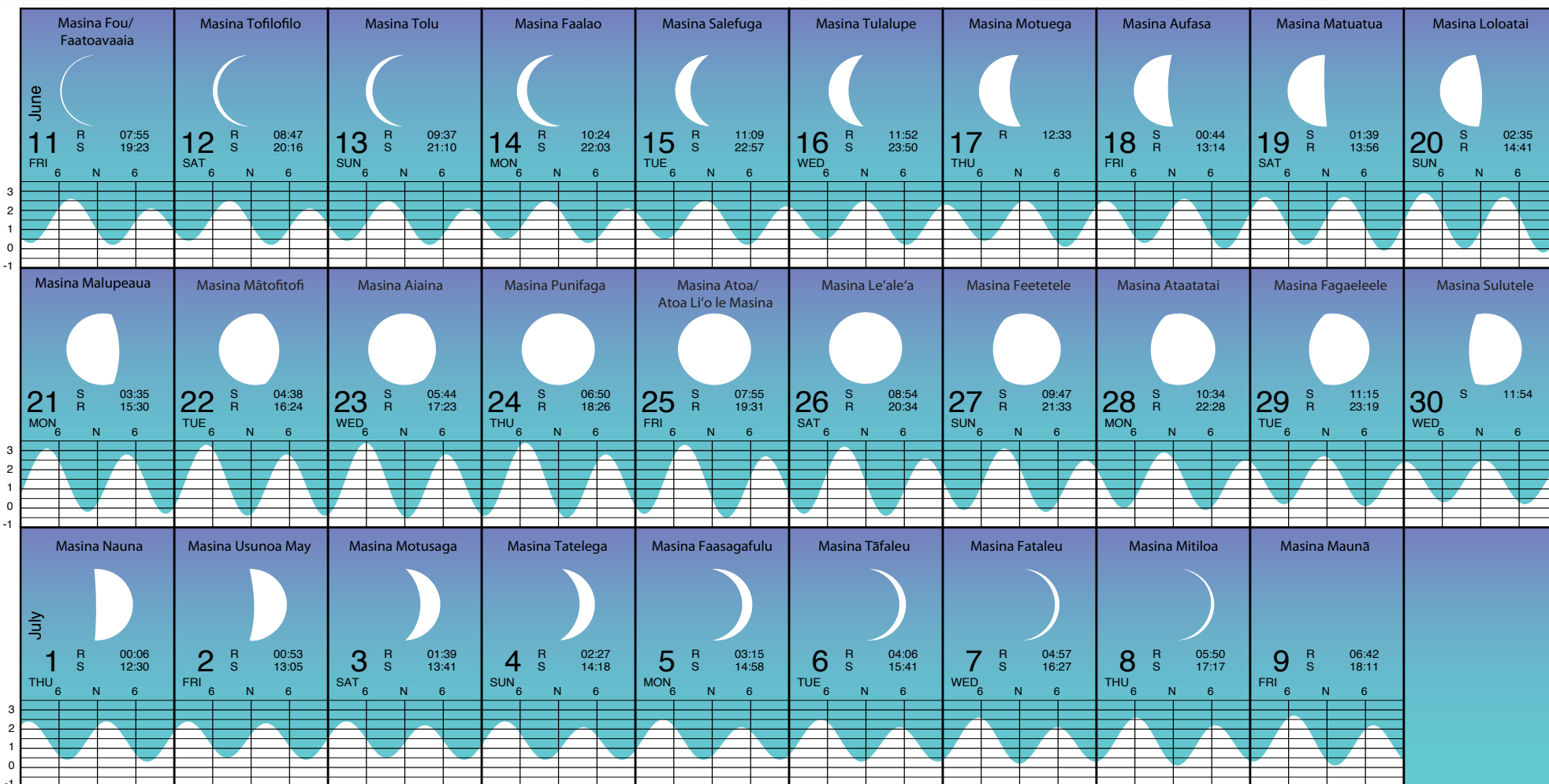
*Alia* (traditional double-hulled catamaran) fishermen targeting shallow bottomfish species such as *savane* (blue-striped snapper), *asoama* (jobfish) and *filoa* (emperor) frequently fish in the waters around Aunu'u Island, Taema Bank and Cape Taputapu, which form a necklace around much of Tutuila Island. The raised areas are part of a benthic formation that was once a group of barrier islands surrounding Tutuila and have now become submerged.

**Top right** - A pair of *alia* fishing boats docked at Aunu'u Island. *Photo: Nerelle Que.* **Bottom left** - A fisherman with his *gatala* (grouper) off of the south coast of Tutuila Island. *Photo: Nathan Sagapolutele.* **Bottom right** - A cooler full of nearshore bottomfish. *Photo: Nathan Sagapolutele.*



# Lotuaga

*Juni 11 - Iulai 9, 2021*



*Moon-Related Observations and Activities:*

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council

**Below** - Fishermen show off their catch from the south coast of Tutuila Island. *Photo: Timothy Teleso.* **Top right** - Poor conditions often result in a good catch for shore-based fishermen. *Photo: Timothy Teleso.* **Bottom right** - Bishop Penaia Faalii lands a *sopo'anae* at Matatula Rock Cliff on the eastern tip of Tutuila Island. *Photo: Rowena Mamea.*

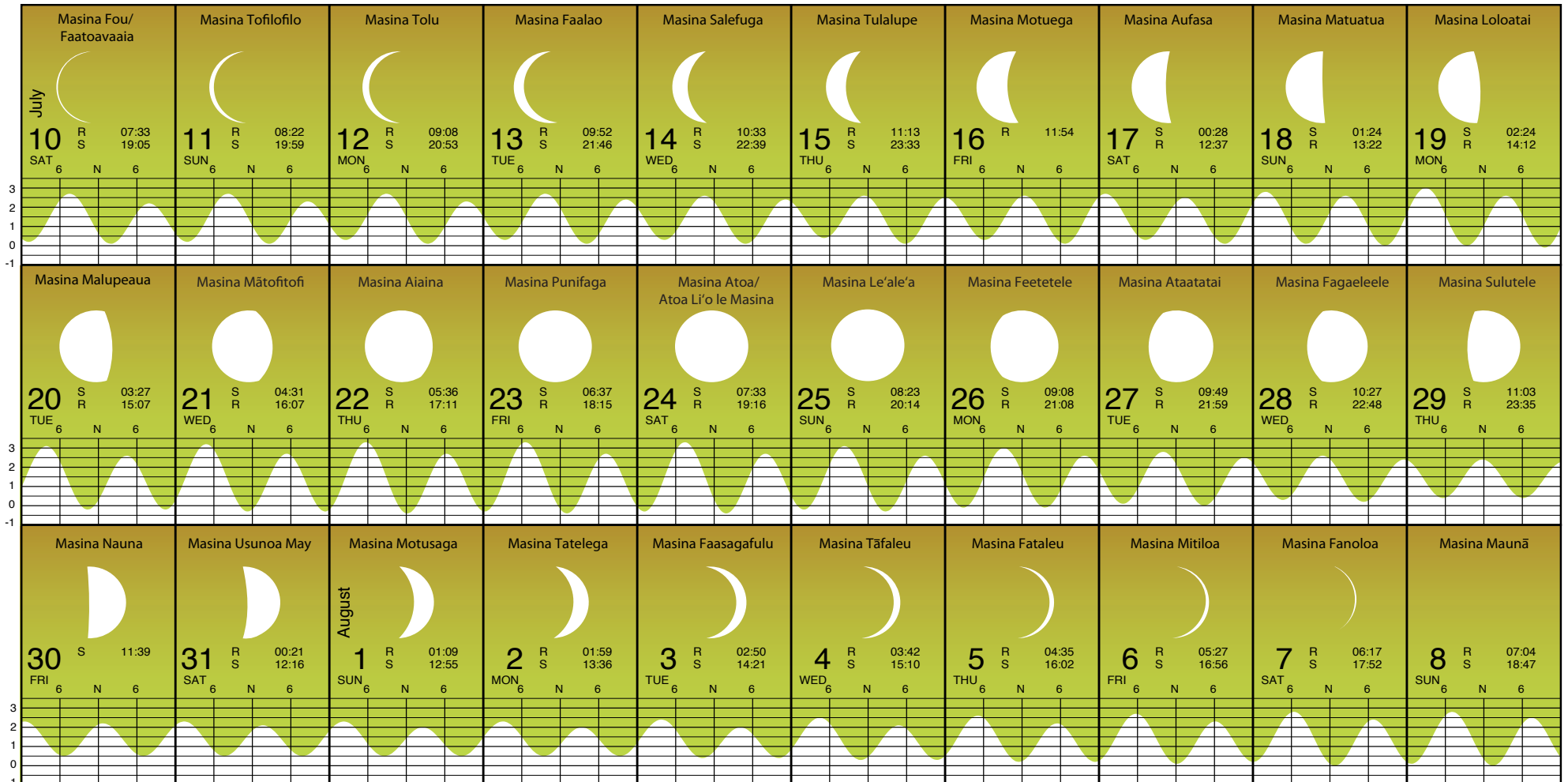


## Vaitogi Village

There is a growing number of fishermen using rod and reel to target species such as *sopo'anae* (giant trevally). Areas such as **Vaitogi** and **Tula Villages** have become popular spots where large species can be landed due to the steep drop-off close to the shore.

# Tu'iefu

Iulai 10 - Aukuso 8, 2021



Moon-Related Observations and Activities:

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



## Fatumafuti Village

Gleaning, or gathering food from reefs and tidepools during low tide, is one of the oldest methods of harvesting food from the sea in American Samoa. Traditionally carried out by the women in the village, gleaning is still practiced today. During low tide at villages such as **Fatumafuti**, harvesters can be seen inspecting crevices and looking in tide pools for *fe'e* (octopus), *alili* (turban snail), *faisua* (giant clam), *pusi* (eel) and other invertebrates and small fish.

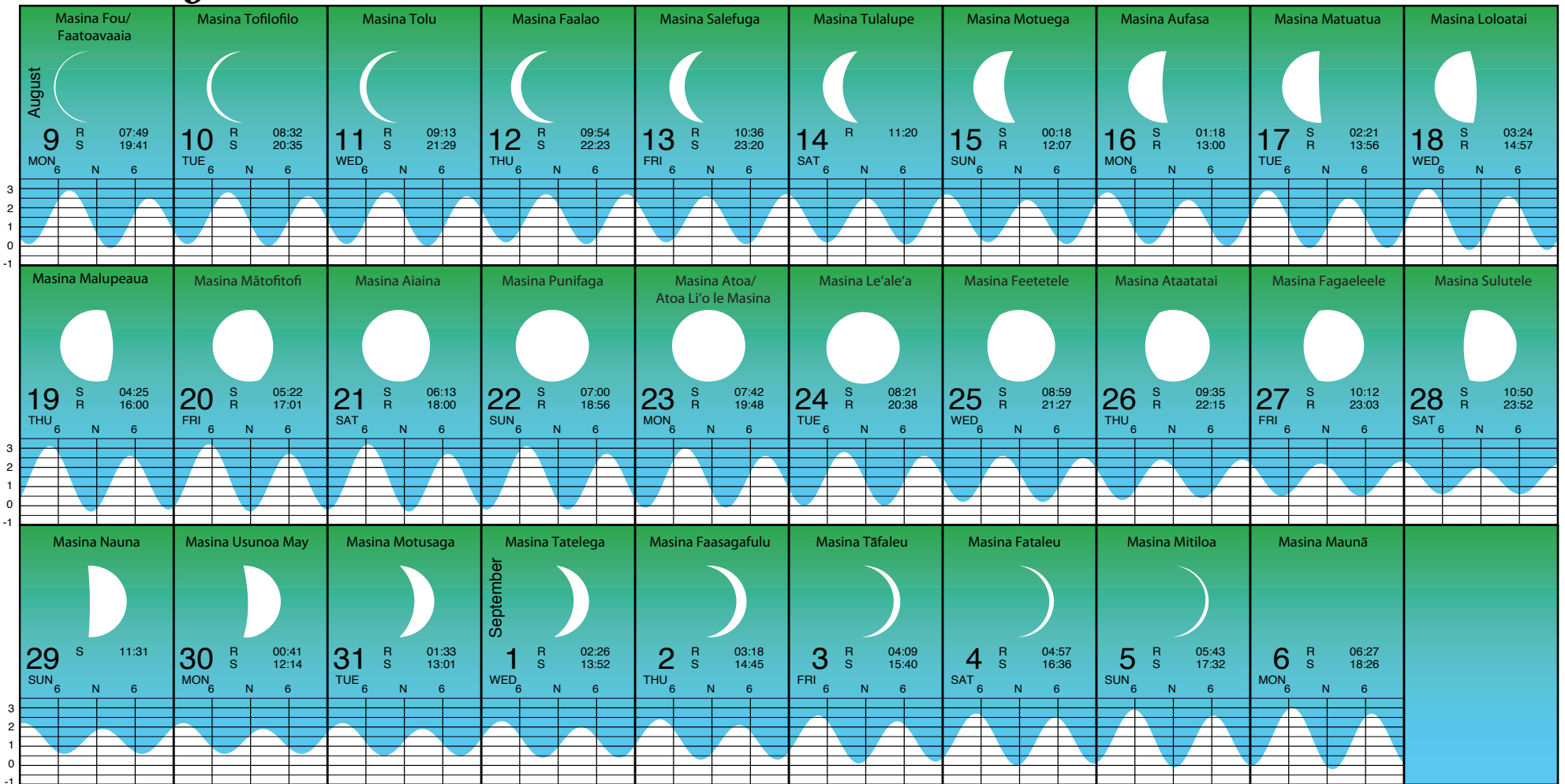
**Top left** - The colorful *faisua* filters zooplankton and also uses photosynthesis to produce food. **Photo: National Park of American Samoa.** **Top right and inset** - Corals in the shallow water around American Samoa host many marine species that the people of the territory harvest for food. **Top right photo: National Park of American Samoa, inset photo: American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources.**





# Mulifā

Aukuso 9 - Setema 6, 2021



*Moon-Related Observations and Activities:*

---



---



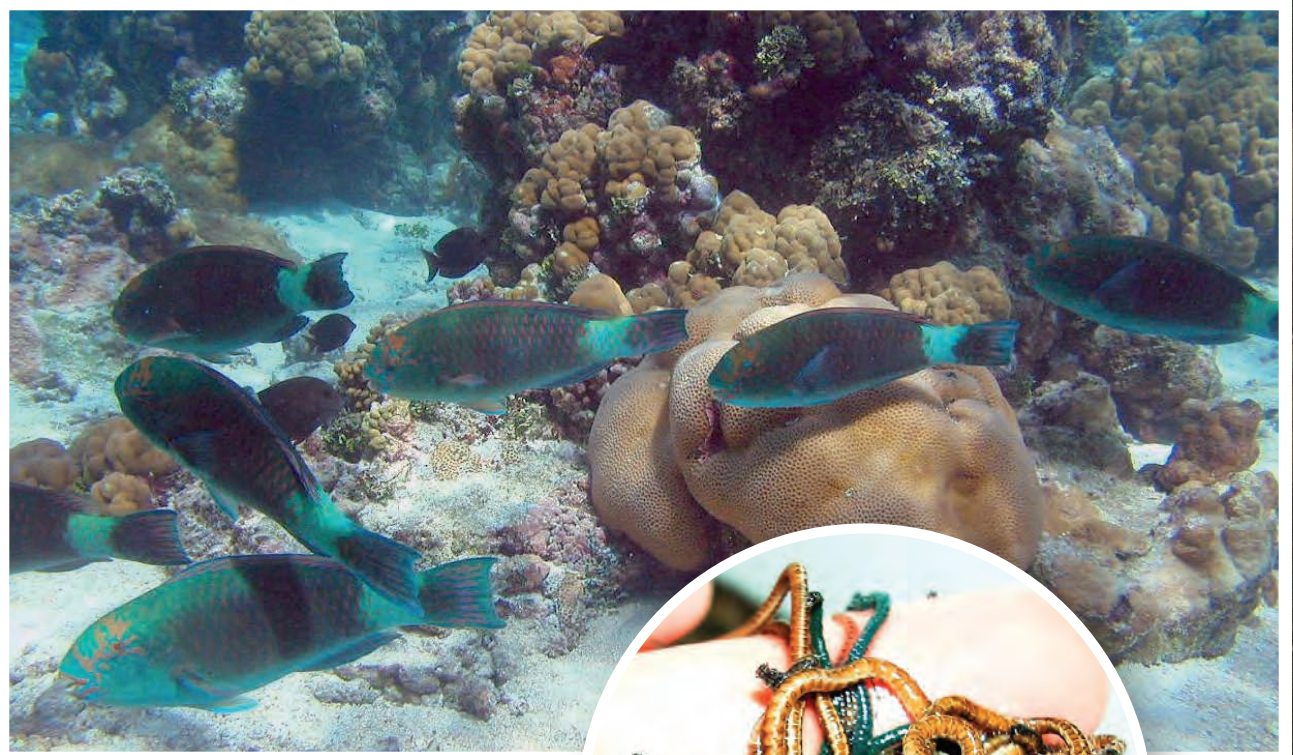
---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council

**Top right** - Corals are home to *palolo*, which spawn each fall. *Photo: National Park of American Samoa.*

**Bottom right** - Draining the ocean water from a catch of *palolo*. *Photo: Alvina Savali.* **Inset** - *Palolo* are a favorite treat in American Samoa. *Photo: National Park of American Samoa.*



## Runway Point

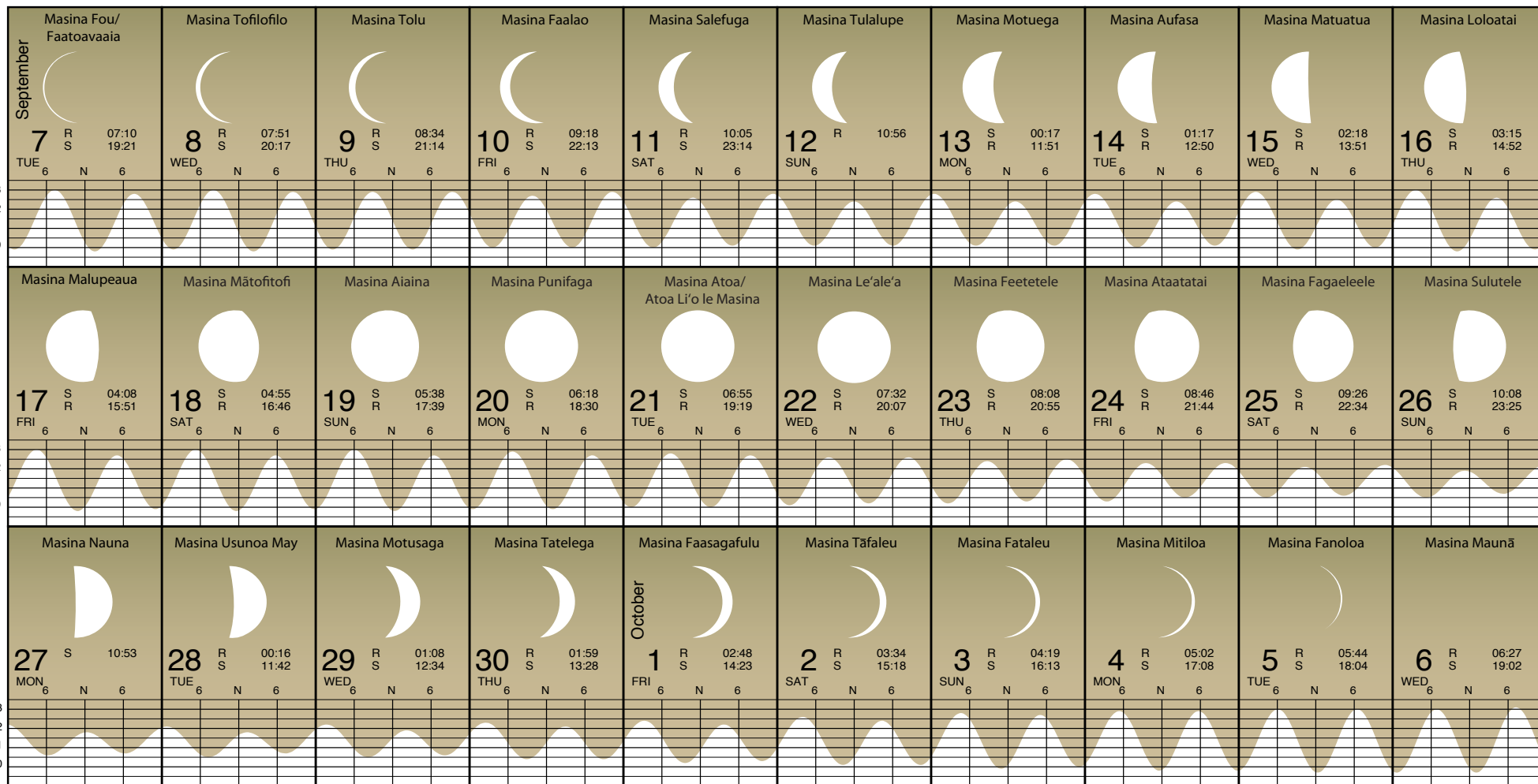
Pago Pago International Airport in Tafuna Village was built on the lagoon reef in the 1940s to facilitate increased air traffic during World War II. The waters off the airport point have become a favorite location for harvesting *palolo* (marine worms). *Palolo* harvesting is a cultural practice in the Samoan Islands that dates back thousands of years. Each year, thousands of people go to the shorelines with flashlights, buckets and nets, or load up their boats with large floodlights and scoop nets. The harvest takes place during three days of the third quarter moon (one week after the full moon) in the months of October and November each year. The worms appear at different times on different islands.

Some villagers believe that successful *palolo* spawns are connected to plants, depending on how many *moso'oi* (cananga tree flowers) bloom in the months of October and November. Others say the closing of the *paulu* (morning glory flower) can influence the success of a *palolo* spawn.



# Pālolo

Setema 7 - Oketopa 6, 2021



*Moon-Related Observations and Activities:*

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



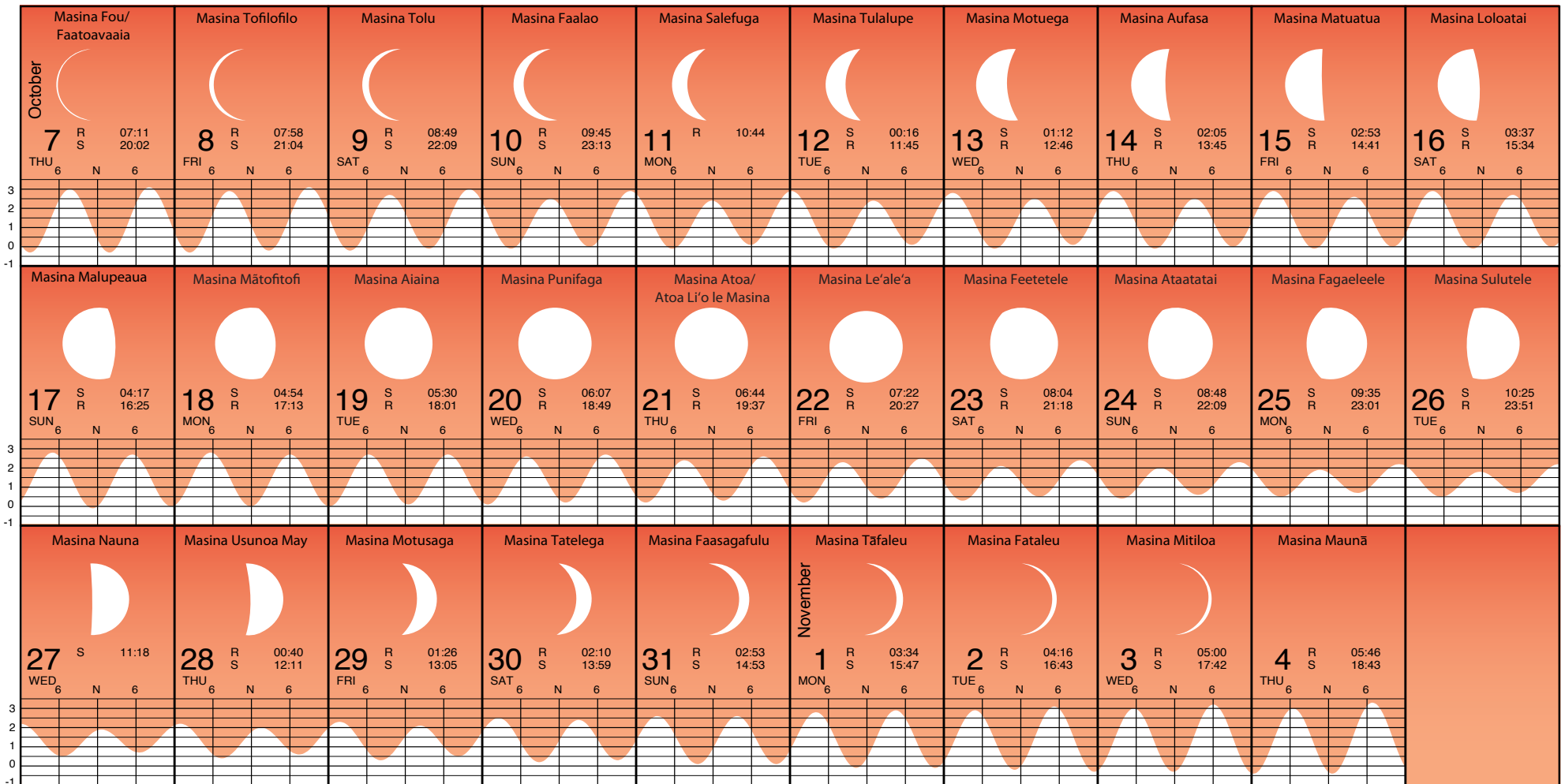
## Northern Waters near Swains Atoll

*Apakoa* (albacore tuna) is the primary target of the American Samoa longline fleet. The fishery utilizes deep-set hook lines to target *apakoa*, which it delivers to the StarKist cannery. The fishery is vital to the area as it is the only U.S. albacore fishery and allows StarKist to fulfill government contracts for U.S.-caught tuna with the U.S. military and school lunch programs.

**Top** - American Samoa's longline fishing vessels use deep sets to target *apakoa*. **Photo:** *Krista Corry*. **Inset** - The fish caught from these vessels are packaged into cans and pouches at the cannery. **Photo:** *Council staff*.

# Pālolo muli

Oketopa 7 - Novema 4, 2021



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



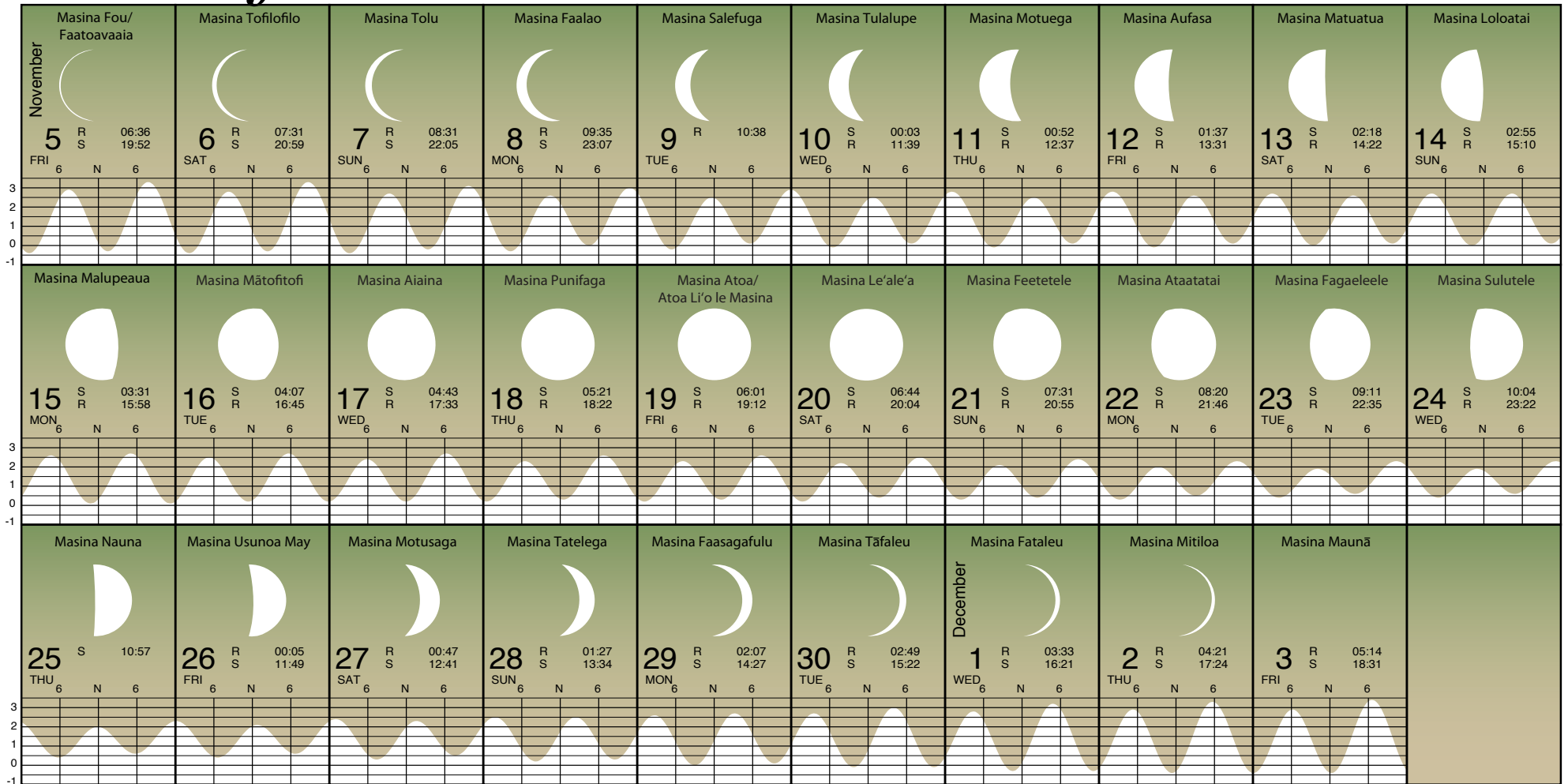
## Two Percent Bank (Tulaga-Malumu)

Closer to Tutuila Island than the larger South Bank, **Two Percent Bank** (also called Tulaga Seamount) is the shallow crest of a submerged ridge extending east from Tutuila. The bank is a favorite fishing location of the *alia* (traditional double-hulled catamaran) fishermen based in Pago Pago Harbor. While bottomfish can be caught at Two Percent Bank, it has a much smaller reef area than South Bank and is more popular for pelagic trolling.

**Top left** - *Alia* fishing boats at the floating dock in Fagatogo Village. *Photo: Council staff.* **Bottom left** - Fishermen, Nathan Sagapolutele and Sean Felise with a large *asi* (yellowfin tuna) south of Tutuila Island. **Center** - A blue marlin caught by fishermen Clayton Mahuka and Sagapolutele. **Top right** - A girl inspecting her father's catch. *Photos: Nathan Sagapolutele.* **Inset** - An *asi* loin at one of the local restaurants in American Samoa. *Photo: Council staff.*

# Taumafamua

Novema 5 - Tesema 3, 2021



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



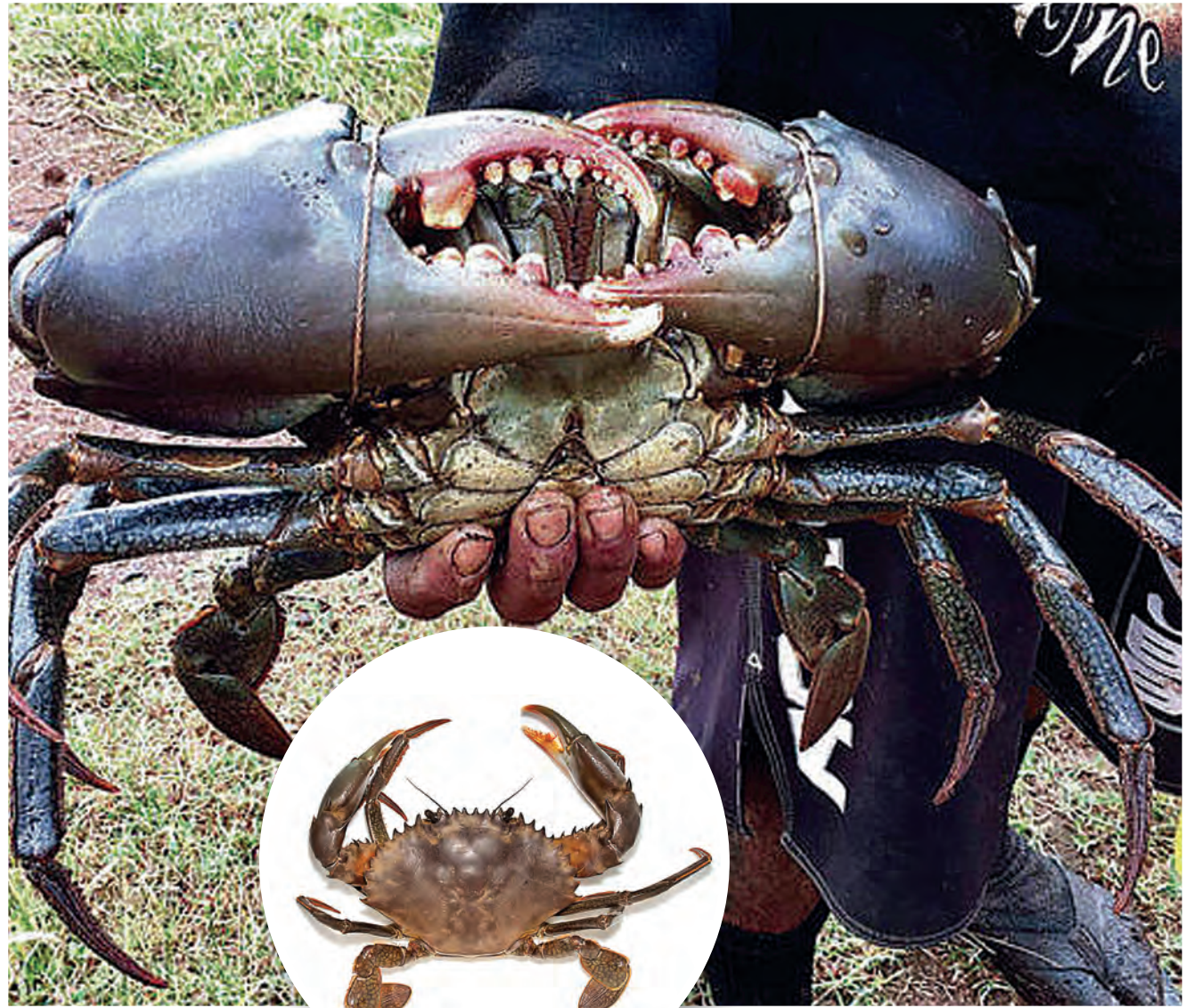
---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



## Nu'uuli Pala Lagoon

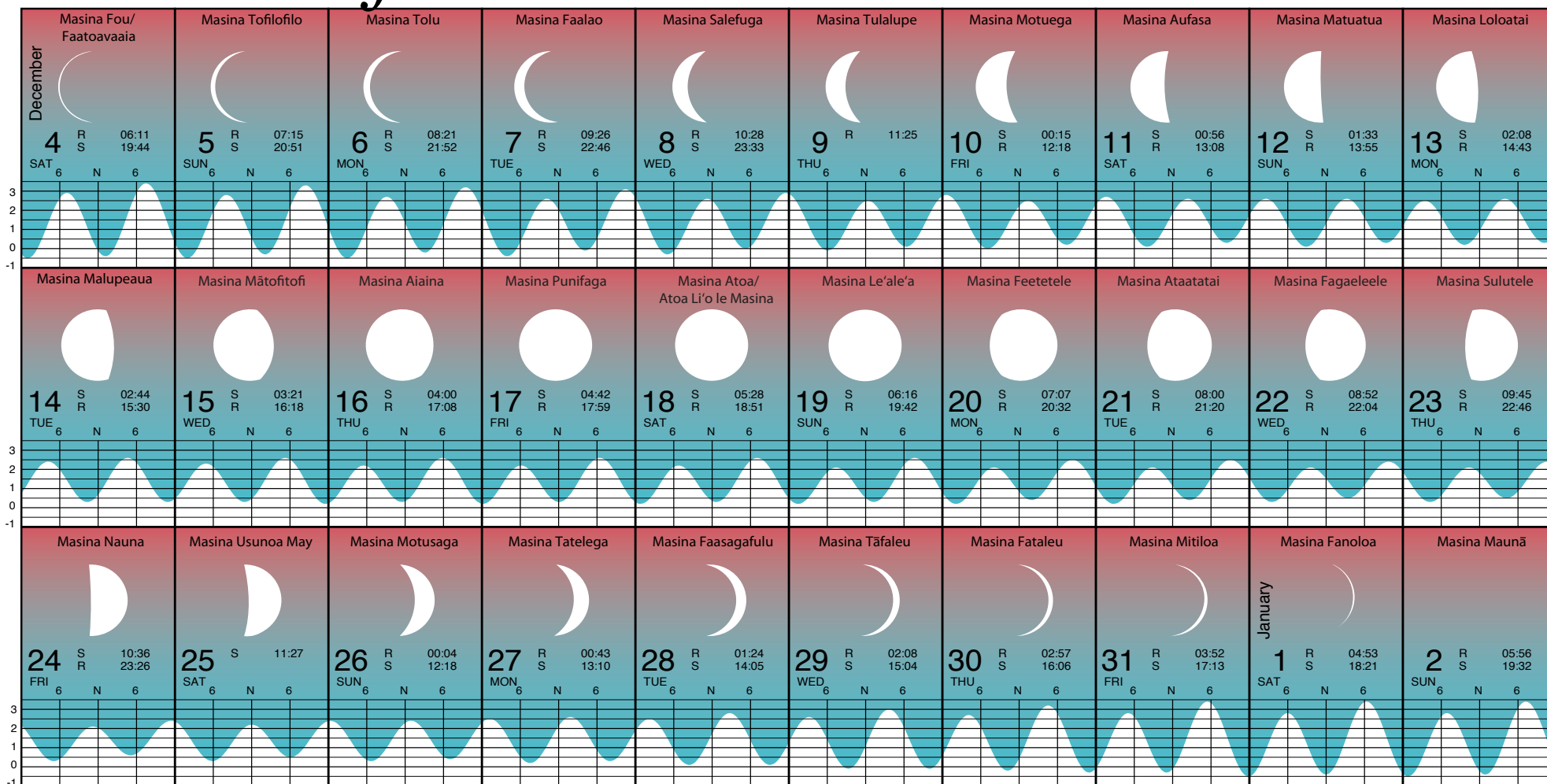
*Paalimago* (mangrove crab) is a favorite Samoan food. In muddy mangrove habitats such as the **Nu'uuli Pala Lagoon**, fishermen catch the crabs by setting net or wire traps baited with fish or chicken. The species was introduced to Hawai'i in the 1920s to begin a commercial fishery and is known there as Samoan crab.

**Left** - The Nu'uuli Pala Lagoon is one of the main habitats of *paalimago*. *Photo: Council staff.*  
**Right** - *Paalimago* have powerful claws and must be handled with care. Once a claw locks onto something, it will retain a vice-like grip, even after the claw is detached from the crab's body. *Photo: Gary Walden.* **Inset** - Top-down view of a *paalimago*. *Photo: Keoki Stender.*



# Toetaumafa

Tesema 4, 2021 - Ianuari 2, 2022



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



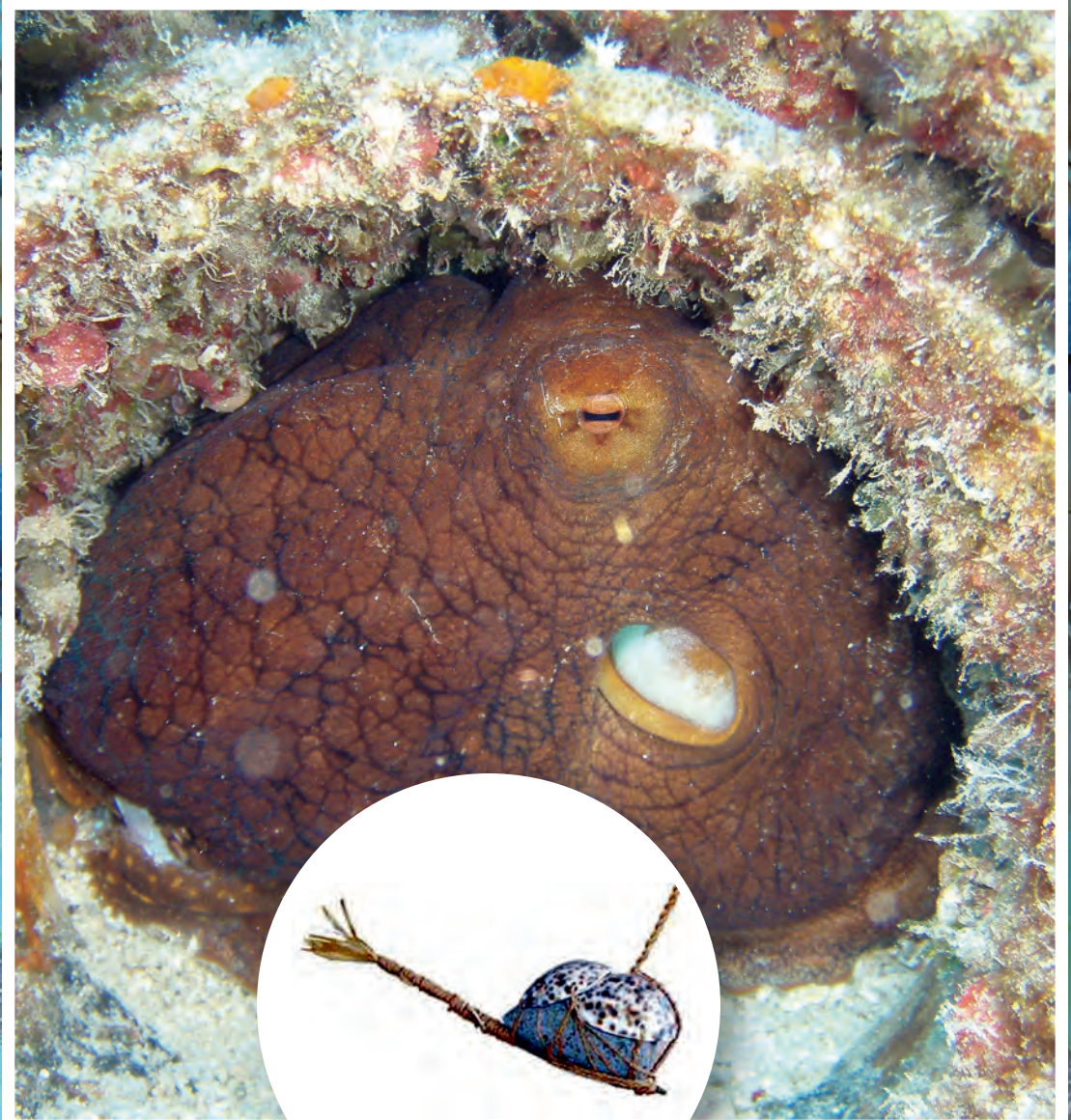
---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council



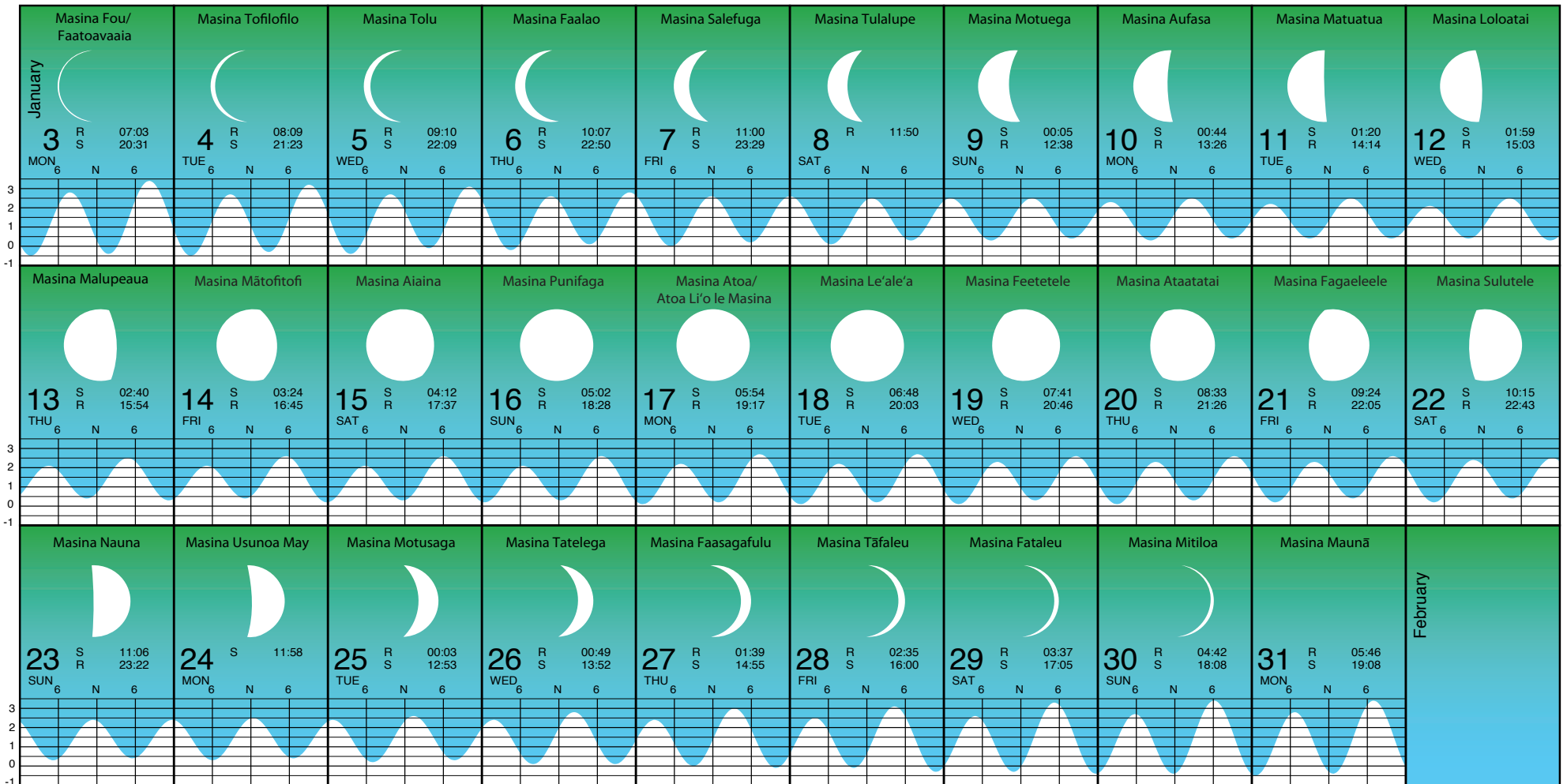
## Leone Bay

Whether by gleaning during low tide or snorkeling with a spear, harvesting *fe'e* (octopus) is a favorite pastime in American Samoa. One of the most important spirit gods of ancient Samoa, the *fe'e* was associated with war and power. Structures were built in its honor. Today, fishermen poke around the holes and crevices in the reefs of Sogi Village along the eastern edge of **Leone Bay** searching for this crafty predator. The *fe'e* makes up a significant portion of the marine invertebrates harvested locally.

**Left and right** - The elusive, but highly sought after, *fe'e*. **Left photo:** National Park of American Samoa, **right photo:** Pacific Islands Fisheries Group. **Inset** - A traditional Samoan *fe'e* lure made of a cowrie shell, stone, wood and coconut husk fibers.

# Utuvāmua

Ianuari 3 - Ianuari 31, 2022



**Moon-Related Observations and Activities:**

---



---



---



Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council

**Front cover** - Village members prepare *lau* (braided coconut fronds) and trap schools of fish near the shore where they are collected in nets and shared among the residents. *Photo: National Park of American Samoa.* **Back cover** - High school students fish in Fagatogo Village during the Council's fisheries summer course. *Photo: Joseph Fa'a'ita.*



## About This Calendar

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has produced traditional lunar calendars for American Samoa since 2007. These calendars follow the traditional Samoan calendar months and are designed to be a resource for the community to learn about the moon phases and their relationship with the tides. The calendar is also a tool for fishermen to plan fishing trips.

The 2021 Amerika Samoa Lunar Calendar highlights 13 fishing grounds and provides information on the various fisheries in the territory as well as the various gear types and targeted species. Special acknowledgement to the American Samoa Advisory Panel members who identified the locations and species.

The lunar months, moon phases and traditional calendar months are given in Samoan, the native language of the people of American Samoa. The moon phases in this calendar are for Pago Pago harbor as calculated by the HM Nautical Almanac ([astro.ukho.gov.uk/websurf](http://astro.ukho.gov.uk/websurf)). The tide charts with moon rise and set times were provided by OceanFun Publishing, NZ.

## About the Council

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council was established by Congress in 1976 to manage fisheries in the offshore waters surrounding Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Hawai'i and the U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas.

The fisheries in federal waters surrounding American Samoa are managed under the American Samoa Archipelago and Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plans. Traditional knowledge and wide community involvement are integral parts of the ecosystem-based approach to fishery management.



Published in the United States by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council under NOAA Award NA20NMF4410013.

© 2020, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
ISBN 978-1-944827-71-7

## American Samoa Contacts

**Council Chair Taotasi Archie Soliai**

Phone: (684) 644-2440

Email: [asoliai@hotmail.com](mailto:asoliai@hotmail.com)

**Council Vice Chair Howard Dunham**

Phone: (684) 258-0417

Email: [taloloahd@gmail.com](mailto:taloloahd@gmail.com)

**Council Member Va'amua Henry Sesepasara**

American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources

Phone: (684) 633-4456

Email: [hsesepasara@gmail.com](mailto:hsesepasara@gmail.com)

**American Samoa Coordinator Nate Ilaoa**

Phone: (684) 272-2630

Email: [nate.ilaoa@wpcouncil.org](mailto:nate.ilaoa@wpcouncil.org)

**Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council**

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-8220 | Fax: (808) 522-8226

Email: [info@wpcouncil.org](mailto:info@wpcouncil.org)

Web: [www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org)