
Sanctuary Advisory Council

Friday, October 28, 2016
National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa
Rotunda Room, Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center
1:30-3:30PM

Phone Number: 866-813-9056
Passcode: 1392550#

Purpose: To provide updates on sanctuary activities, grounded fishing vessel removal, climate change project, draft science plan review process, and council member officer elections.

I. **Welcome, Dean Hudson, Council Chair**

A. Roll Call

Council members and others in attendance introduced themselves

SAC Members (in attendance)

Dean Hudson, Ocean Recreation/Ocean Centered Ecotourism
Togiola Tulafono, Community-at-Large – East Tutuila
Fa'amao Asalele, AS-EPA
Fonoti Simanu, Community-at-Large – Aunu'u Island
Genevieve Gregg, Tourism
Kelley Anderson Tagarino, ASCC / Sea Grant
Valory Gregg, Community-at-Large – West Tutuila
Peter Crispin, Diving
Sepp Steffany, Fishing (called in)

SAC Members (excused)

John Raynar, Business/Industry
Peter Houk, Research
David Jennings, Community-at-Large: Swains Island
Togotogo Sotoa, Community-at-Large: Manu'a Islands
Ameko Pato, AS-EPA
Dr. Ruth Matagi, AS-DMWR
Murray Bauer, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
Allen Tom, ONMS Pacific Islands Regional Director
Scott Burch, NPSA
Eric Roberts, USCG
Fatima Sauafea-Leau, NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office
Tiara Drabble, Youth Member

SAC Members (absent)

Keniseli Lafaele, AS-DOC

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

Gene Brighthouse, Superintendent

Apulu Veronika Molio'o Mata'utia Mortenson, Communications & Community Coordinator
Tanimalie Letuli, Volunteer and Visitor Coordinator
Joseph Paulin, Conservation Ecology and Policy Specialist

Others in Attendance:

Sean Felise, DMWR

B. Swearing-In of New Members

Gene Brighthouse welcomed and swore in new members Genevieve Gregg and Valory Gregg.

C. Review and Approval of September 4, 2015 Meeting Notes

D. Approval of Agenda

E. Council Member Officer Nominations and Elections – Dean Hudson and Joseph Paulin

- Joseph Paulin explained the process of the elections and requested that the council take this opportunity to nominate and vote for the officers.
- Council members made nominations for chair, vice-chair and secretary and then voted via written ballot.
- Ballots were tallied and new officers were to be announced at the end of the meeting.

II. Updates:

A. Draft Science Plan and Review – Peter Houk

- Council Discussion of Science Working Group Recommendations (Action Item)
 - Peter Houk was unable to connect to the meeting via telephone due to technical difficulties so Joe Paulin presented the recommendations.
- Gene Brighthouse provided insight on the benefits of the plan.
- Joe Paulin reiterated the benefits of the plan and how researchers that are interested in projects that can help to inform management can use the plan as a guide.
- Kelley Tagarino applauded the efforts and noted that the completion of the draft was timely.

III. Public Comment

No comments or questions from members of the public

IV. Updates Continued:

Science Plan Recommendations

- Dean Hudson asked for a motion to support the science working group recommendations and forward to sanctuary management.
 - Togiola Tulafono motioned to support the science working group recommendations and forward to sanctuary management.
 - Dean Hudson seconded the motion.
 - Council voted unanimously in support.

B. Sanctuary and Council 2016 Climate Change Project – Kelley Tagarino

- In an effort to address climate change impacts, NMSAS with members of the sanctuary advisory council and EcoAdapt, led a two part workshop series focused on finding solutions to these impacts.
- The effort is closely linked to the Territorial Climate Change Adaptation Taskforce efforts, and the workshops focused on Territory-wide issues to ensure the recommendations are widely applicable, rather than restricted to sanctuary sites.
- The first workshop, held in July, focused on assessing marine resources that are vulnerable to climate change. [Sanctuary Advisory Council members, ASCC](#) and local resource management staff from [NPSA, AS-EPA, CRAG, DMWR, USFWS, NOAA CRCP and NOAA Fisheries](#) contributed to this process, ensuring a comprehensive review.
- After a careful review, those resources were distilled to **10** focal resources.
- Vulnerabilities and current management actions for each of those **10** resources were summarized, enabling the second workshop to focus on determining adaptation strategies for these resources.
- The second workshop, held in September, again brought a wide range of local resource managers together to outline ongoing adaptation efforts, and areas where additional strategies are needed.
- Participants included [Sanctuary Advisory Council members, Community Representatives \(Aunu'u, Futiga, Vaitogi and Leone\), AS-EPA, USFWS, ASPA, CRAG, DMWR, NPSA, NOAA PIRO, Boys and Girls Clubs of American Samoa, DOE Office of Curriculum Instruction and ASCC.](#)
- Summary reports for these findings are being synthesized by EcoAdapt and NMSAS and will be available for review in early 2017.
- Presentations from those workshops can be found on EcoAdapt's website at <http://ecoadapt.org/workshops/NMSAS-VA-workshop> and <http://ecoadapt.org/workshops/NMSAS-AS-workshop>

C. Removal of Grounded Fishing Vessel from the Aunu'u Multipurpose Area – Joseph Paulin

- At approximately 8:00 am local time on Friday, 19 August, 2016, the grounded fishing vessel No. 1 Ji Hyun was removed from the reef offshore of Aunu'u Island.
- This followed several previous attempts to remove the vessel by the NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and U.S. Coast Guard, working with local federal and American Samoa government agencies, and private contractors.
- The key to this successful removal was a tandem pull by both of the harbor's tug boats.
- The No. 1 Ji Hyun lost propulsion and stranded on the evening of April 14, 2016 and has been grounded on the southwest side of Aunu'u since that time.
- The vessel was towed into Pago Harbor by one of the harbor tugs.

- Efforts to remove the vessel began with U.S. Coast Guard coordinating the initial response and fuel and hazardous material removal.
- After the pollution threat was removed, NMSAS took the lead on removal efforts while U.S. Coast Guard continued to provide technical expertise.
- Aunu'u village leaders continued to provide critical support as well.
- Efforts were led by Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and United States Coast Guard in coordination with Aunu'u village leaders, National Park Service of American Samoa, Lt. Governor's Office, Port Administration, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Department of Public Safety Marine Patrol, Lyndon B Johnson Tropical Medical Center-EMS, AS-EPA, AS-Power Authority, NOAA-Office of Law Enforcement, American Samoa Surf Adventures, Solar Inc., and Atlantic Pacific Marine Inc.
- A video of the successful removal was also shown.

V. **Public Comment**

No comments or questions from members of the public

VI. **New Business**

- 2017 Council Meeting Schedule – Dean Hudson
 - Proposed dates were submitted to council members to review. Members are to respond via email/phone to Joe Paulin with availability.
- Fishing Tournament – Tanimalie Letuli
 - Buds & Suds Open Fishing Tournament: November 18 and 19, 2016
 - Registration is currently open and closes Thursday, November 10th.
- Dean Hudson informed the council John Armor was selected as Director of ONMS.
- Gene Brighthouse announced the recent release of 5 new Jean Michel Cousteau and Jim Knowlton - Ocean Future films on American Samoa. The films have been nominated in Broadcast Series category and will be featured at the Blue Ocean Film Festival November 10-13, 2016. These films are available online to share with family, friends, and to promote American Samoa as a destination.
- Gene Brighthouse mentioned the Okeanos Explorer will visit American Samoa in 2017. This will be the first time the Okeanos Explorer will visit the territory. An advance team will arrive in American Samoa February 2017 with the vessel to follow shortly after. Once schedules have been finalized the sanctuary will be sure to inform the council of the public briefing. We are very fortunate that American Samoa was added because of limited resources. Links will be sent out shortly. NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer, America's Ship for Ocean Exploration," is the only federally funded U.S. ship assigned to systematically explore our largely unknown ocean for the purpose of discovery and the advancement of knowledge. Telepresence, using real-time broadband satellite communications, connects the ship and its discoveries live with audiences ashore."
 - Kelley Tagarino mentioned that the public can propose topics for the science team to study while they are in American Samoa.
 - Togiola Tulafono would like to have more geological information/mapping available to understand volcanic activity.
 - Sepp Steffany would like more information on Vailulu'u Seamount.

- Gene Brighthouse and council members thanked Dean Hudson for his service as council chair.
- Dean Hudson thanked the sanctuary and council as it was his honor and privilege to have served in that capacity.
- Announce New Officers – duties will begin at the next council meeting
 - Dean Hudson announced results of the council officer elections:
 - President: Kelley Anderson Tagarino
 - Vice President: Togiola Tulafono
 - Secretary: Genevieve Gregg
- Joe Paulin informed the council that the sanctuary will be recruiting the following seats:
 - Fishing
 - Education
 - Youth Member

VII. **Concluding Remarks**, *Dean Hudson*

- Dean Hudson requested if there was a motion to adjourn the council meeting
 - Peter Crispin motioned to adjourn
 - Genevieve Gregg second the motion
 - Meeting adjourned