

Acknowledgements

In addition to the authors of the *Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Report for American Samoa: 2002–2006*, we would like to thank and credit each of the Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED) staff members who supported the Report by helping to cover ongoing workloads, staff cruises, process data, provide administrative and management support, and most importantly, by helping to maintain high morale during the long days and nights of writing.

Stephane Charette
Edmund Coccagna
Susan Cooper Alletto
Bonnie DeJoseph
Matthew Dunlap
Alice Fongtran
Amy Hall
Vikram Khurana

Kyle Koyanagi
Frances Lichowski
Kevin Lino
Daniel Merritt
Megan Moews
Michael Parke
Noah Pomeroy
Luis Salinas

Darryl Tagami
Rossyn Tasaka
Haiying Wang
Jonathan Weiss
Juliana Wong
Kevin Wong
Charles Young
Brian Zgliczynski

CRED also thanks the former staff members and numerous partners who planned and participated in the American Samoa Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program cruises. Without their assistance, the cruises and this Report's creation would not have been possible.

Paula Ayotte
Sun He Bak
Tony Beeching
Gene Brighthouse
Holly Bolick
Jim Bostick
Jeff Burgett
Joseph Chojnacki
Andrew Cornish
Peter Craig
Meghan Dailer
Nancy Daschbach
Ed DeMartini
Eva DiDonato
Guy DiDonato
Eric Dobbs
Terry Donaldson

Siaifoi Fa'aumu
Katie Fagan
Doug Fenner
Beth Flint
Scott Godwin
Lara Hansen
Kyle Hogrefe
Stephani Holzwarth
Jeremy Jones
Elizabeth Keenan
Bill Kiene
Christy Kistner
Joseph Laughlin
Frances Le'iato
Tanya Maiava-Ochoa
James Maragos
Ramzi Mirshak

Bruce Mundy
Craig Musburger
Marcia Oshiro
Kimberly Page
Penetekoso Peau
Linda Preskitt
Francesca Riolo
Fatima Sauafea
Joshua Seamon
Jamie Smith
Meredith Speicher
Wallace Thompson
Della Tuamoheloa
Aline Tribollet
Todd Wass
Douglas Wilson

CRED has been fortunate to work with many wonderful partners in American Samoa at various institutions and agencies. While this list is by no means comprehensive, we do want to sincerely thank the individuals who have helped us along the way.

Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono, who took time out of his busy schedule to meet with us and learn about our research efforts; Lelei Peau, the American Samoa Point of Contact for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and strong conservation advocate, who has maintained his support since the beginning; Andy Cornish, whose expertise helped start the monitoring effort in American Samoa; and Christopher Hawkins and Meredith Speicher, who have provided us with on the ground coordination and support.

At the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Director Ray Tulafono, who has remained supportive and interested in our efforts through the years, and helped provide staff and resources for American Samoa Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (ASRAMP) research cruises; Doug Fenner, who participated in the 2006 cruise and has provided extensive knowledge and feedback integral to improving our research; and Tony Beeching, who provided extensive advice, coordination, and logistical support to implement the first ASRAMP cruise in 2002.

At the National Park of American Samoa, Peter Craig, who has provided and continues to provide invaluable insights and support as we continue to evolve our research program; Eva DiDonato, for her assistance and logistical support during the early years, particularly in supporting replacement of sea surface temperature buoys.

At the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Nancy Daschbach for sharing her wealth of knowledge and for continually supporting our research; Bill Kiene for his feedback on the Report and continual support and encouragement; and Gene Brighthouse for her coordination and support. At NOAA Fisheries, Fatima Sauafea for her coordination and especially her help in our mapping efforts. At the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency, Guy DiDonato for his watershed advice.

We thank the many officers and crews of the NOAA Ships *Townsend Cromwell*, *Oscar Elton Sette*, and *Hi`ialakai*, who have worked incredibly hard over the years to safely support the challenging and demanding around-the-clock operations of Pacific RAMP.

The staff of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided valuable advice and assistance in planning and prosecuting the ASRAMP cruises. Jim Maragos participated in all three ASRAMP cruises and Beth Flint was part of the terrestrial team in 2002. Don Palawski provided guidance on management concerns at the Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Dominique Horvath was endlessly patient and helpful in providing assistance with logistics support and special use permit applications. Our work at Rose Atoll NWR was conducted under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Permits 12521-02009, 12521-02010, 12521-04001, 12521-06006, 12521-06007, 12521-06008, 12521-06009, 12521-06010 and 12521-06011.

When ashore we've relied on the warm hospitality of Tisa and Candyman who always welcomed all of us on the beautiful beach at Alega, Tutuila. On Ofu, Marge and Tito Malae were always gracious and patient hosts at Vaoto Lodge.

Finally, we would like to give a very special thanks to the many important but often unrecognized folks who made the Pacific RAMP possible. In the early years, Tom Hourigan and the late Dail Brown of NOAA Fisheries played a leading role in the creation of CRED; their vision and steadfast support resulted in the first Pacific long-term, integrated ecosystem-based monitoring program. We hope our efforts make them proud. David Kennedy and his team at the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, including Roger Griffis and Kara Meckley, have continually provided valuable advice and financial support, and we are lucky and grateful to be working with them. At the Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research, many thanks to Kevin Higaki and his wonderful team for keeping CRED afloat.

This Report is dedicated to Governor Tauese P. F. Sunia, who passed away in 2003 but had never missed a U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting during his lifetime. He was instrumental in moving marine resource conservation forward, and will always be remembered for his staunch commitment to protecting coral reef ecosystems. We appreciate his gracious hospitality in hosting and honoring the participants of ASRAMP 2002. Finally, we will always remember his kind and thoughtful ways and his enthusiasm for life, as evidenced by his beautiful songs and the twinkle in his eyes.

