

NOAA Fisheries 2026 American Samoa Research Initiatives



The NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center is excited to support sustainable fisheries and the protection of living marine resources in American Samoa through our 2026 scientific research initiatives.

National Coral Reef Monitoring and Assessment Program 2026 American Samoa Mission May–August 2026

NOAA Ship Oscar Elton Sette will be in American Samoa to monitor vital coral reef ecosystems. You may see a large white ship offshore and small orange boats with divers who are surveying the health of reefs. These scientists do not take any marine life; instead, they gather data to share with local agencies and communities. This partnership helps us all work together to better manage and protect our ocean resources



Questions?
pifsc.info@noaa.gov

Pacific Islands Region Ichthyoplankton Survey (PIRIS) May–August 2026

To better understand the early life stage of Pacific fish species, we will collect the free-floating larvae (ichthyoplankton) at night using a fine mesh net. Then, we will identify and count the larvae (fish babies) on the ship. This data can help communities by answering questions like where adult fish are laying their eggs and where fish babies travel after they hatch. This helps ensure we have healthy fish populations for the future.



American Samoa Bottomfish Life History Study June, 2026

The American Samoa bottomfish include snappers, groupers, and jacks that support important commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries. We work with local fishers and agency partners to survey six of the species of deeper snappers to learn more about catch rates and life history traits, such as growth, mortality, and reproductive maturity. To do this, we collect these fish and take samples. Afterwards, the fish will be frozen and donated to a local charity; so we can help make the most of these important fish. This collaborative effort will inform stock assessments and the management of these important fishery resources.



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