

Name	Surveying Reefs for Resilience
Capability Area: Variability/Changes	- Understanding Climate Variability and Change - Observing Systems, Data Stewardship, Data Services
ECV	- Surface (e.g., SST, SSH, salinity, ocean color)
Timeframe	- Seasonal (outlook)
Status	- Ongoing
Focus Area	- Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems
Regions	- South Pacific - American Samoa
Description	Using various data collection tools, examining the impacts of various factors affecting the resistance and resilience of coral reefs to mass bleaching.
Objectives/Outcomes	The goals of this project are to: 1) Measure shading of reefs by nearby cliffs; 2) Record reef slope depth profiles for a sample of reefs; 3) Measure currents in backreef pools, on reef flats, and in avas where safe; 4) Examine the effect of solar heating on shallow water and the implication on coral bleaching; and 5) Understand the correlations and effect of temperature on coral reef bleaching. The information will be provided to the DMWR no-take MPA program, and will be included in their process of determining which areas are to be chosen as highest priorities for new no-take MPAs.
Lead Agencies	Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Contacts	Doug Fenner, douglasfennertassi@gmail.com
Partnering Agencies	Coral Reef Advisory Group (project coordination and interns), American Samoa Community College (coordination and interns), Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (research coordination and mentorship)
Required Resources	Technical and logistical: measuring supplies, transportation, and time to perform project.
Projected Timelines	First round of measurements performed in summer of 2012, project expected to continue in summer of 2013.