Projects and ActivitiesThu Mar 28 09:47:40 HST 2024

Name	Monitoring Annual Summer Bleaching in Backreef Pools of Tutuila, American Samoa
Capability Area: Variability/Changes	- Understanding Climate Variability and Change - Observing Systems, Data Stewardship, Data Services - Research/Development
Timeframe	- Intra-annual to Decadal
Capability Area: Impacts/Adaptations	- Understanding Climate Impacts and Informing Adaptation - Climate Impacts - Observing Systems, Data Stewardship, Data Services - Research/Development
Sectors	- Ecosystems
Status	- Ongoing
Focus Area	- Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems
Regions	- South Pacific - American Samoa
Description	Annual coral bleaching is monitored in two backreef pools on Tutuila, at the airport and the village of Alofau. Bleaching typically happens each Austral summer. Bleaching prevalence is estimated every few weeks based on a one hour swim over a standard route.
Objectives/Outcomes	Plot of bleaching prevalence over each year. Eight years of data have been collected so far. One publication so far: Fenner, D., and S. Heron. 2009. Annual summer mass bleaching of a multi-species coral community in American Samoa. Proceedings of the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, Ft. Lauderdale. 1289-1293.
Lead Agencies	Territorial Coral Reef Monitoring Program, Dept. Marine & Wildlife Resources, American Samoa Government
Contacts	Douglas Fenner, douglasfennertassi@gmail.com
Partnering Agencies	NOAA/CRCP (coral reef monitoring grant)
Required Resources	The entire monitoring budget is about $140,000 per year, but includes all reef monitoring activities.
Projected Timelines	Began late 2003, ongoing indefinite.
Feedback/Evaluation	Peer review of papers.