

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Efforts to assist  
American Samoa in responding to the Tsunami**

- 1) NOAA completed an initial project in December 2009 to remove marine debris from Samoa's marine environment :
  - a) NOAA surveyed a total of approximately 56 kilometers of coastline, which constitutes 32% of Tutuila's coastline.
  - b) Using a combination of free divers and scuba divers, NOAA was able to remove approximately 8,850 pounds of debris from the reef slope.
  
- 2) NOAA is working with the Hawaii National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) and other regional entities to assist American Samoa build long term resilience to coastal hazards and climate change into their local planning and permitting; planned activities include:
  - a) Climate Change Adaptation Training April 19-26—training will be delivered by NOAA staff and will focus on developing an action plan for the territory to begin planning for climate adaptation.
  - b) UH Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center Tsunami Introduction Course. This is targeted for April 28-29.
  
- 3) To assist the American Samoa Coastal Zone Management Program in addressing short term permitting and GIS capacity issues, NOAA is providing travel funds for two staff members from the Maui County Planning Department to spend two weeks working with ASCMP's GIS division and Planning Division from Feb 28 to March 14.

For further information please contact Josh Lott at 301-563-1178,  
[Josh.Lott@noaa.gov](mailto:Josh.Lott@noaa.gov)