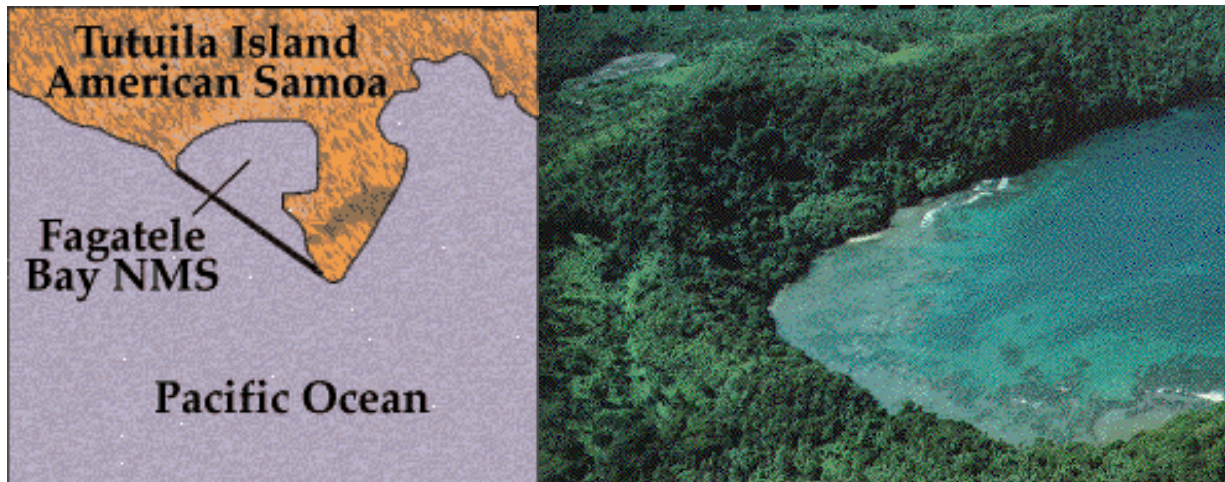


## **Fagatele Bay**

(American Samoa)



### **Description:**

Fagatele Bay comprises a fringing coral reef ecosystem nestled within an eroded volcanic crater on the island of Tutuila. Nearly 200 species of coral are recovering from a devastating crown-of-thorns starfish attack in the late 1970s, which destroyed over 90% of the corals. Since then, new growth has been compromised by two hurricanes, several tropical storms, and coral bleaching. This cycle of growth and destructing is typical of tropical marine ecosystems.

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### **Habitats and Key Species**

#### **Habitats**

Tropical coral reef

#### **Key Species**

Crown-of-thorns starfish

Blacktip reef shark

Surgeon fish

Hawksbill turtle

Parrotfish

Giant clam

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### **Specifications**

**Location:** The southwest shore of Tutuila Island, American Samoa, 14 degrees south of the equator

**Protected Area:** 0.25-square miles

**Designation:** April 1986

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### **Education Activities**

Summer camp programs for students

ReefWeeks, a fourth-grade program

Poster, brochures, turtle coloring book

School and village outreach programs

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### **Research Activities**

Coral reef habitat survey

Temperature monitoring program

Water quality monitoring program

Long-term resource recovery survey

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### **Administration and Support**

The sanctuary coordinator and education coordinator are employed by the American Samoa (A.S.) Economic Development Planning Office under a cooperative agreement with NOAA.

Sanctuary staff coordinate programs with the A.S. Department of Education, A.S. Coastal Management Program, the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, the A.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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