



# Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
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Intimate partnerships between very different inhabitants of Fagatele Bay's coral reefs, like that of the clownfish and the anemone, fuel the high diversity and productivity found in the sanctuary. These relationships also build resiliency to natural and human induced stresses to the ecosystem. Preserving this resiliency is an important part of managing the sanctuary.



## Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary

is the smallest and most remote of the Nation's National Marine Sanctuaries, but its coral reefs may have the highest marine-life diversity in the sanctuary system.

Formed by an extinct volcano, the bay's habitats are home to a bewildering variety of tropical fish, invertebrates and algae.

Designated in 1985, Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary is co-administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the American Samoa Department of Commerce.



The coral reefs of Fagatele Bay provide habitat for at least 271 species of fishes. Abundant groups include adult and juvenile damselfish, surgeonfish, wrasse, butterflyfish, and parrotfish.



Surveys have also identified 200 species of coral living on the reefs in the sanctuary. Corals play a particularly important role in coral reef ecosystems because they provide shelter and habitat for the abundant varieties of marine life that make coral reefs their home.



The Fagatele Bay sanctuary staff works closely with the American Samoa people and government to promote sound use, conservation and awareness of the sanctuary's marine environment.

The sanctuary staff will soon begin a review of the sanctuary's management. This opportunity will redefine the sanctuary's role and renew its place as a vital part of American Samoa's coastal and marine conservation efforts.

One of the most important aspects of the Fagatele Bay sanctuary is its location in American Samoa, where the Samoan people have a unique relationship to their land and sea through their cultural traditions. Fagatele Bay is part of this relationship by symbolizing the bond the Samoan people have to their marine resources.



