



PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA
GOVERNOR

PULUMATAALA AE AE JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.: 003 – 26

Reestablishing the American Samoa Fisheries Task Force

Section 1: Preamble

WHEREAS, American Samoa's marine resources are central to the Territory's economic stability, food supply, and long-term development; and

WHEREAS, fisheries in American Samoa operate within a dual management framework, with the American Samoa Government exercising authority within territorial waters and the United States exercising authority in the Exclusive Economic Zone; and

WHEREAS, a unified advisory body is necessary to provide structured, strategic recommendations to the Governor on fisheries development, regulatory coordination, and long-term resource sustainability;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA, Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of American Samoa, and consistent with the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated, do hereby order the following:

Section 1: Creation

The American Samoa Fisheries Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby re-established as an advisory body to the Governor of American Samoa.

Section 2. Authority

This Task Force is established pursuant to the Governor's executive authority under the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and applicable provisions of territorial law governing the administration and management of marine and wildlife resources.

The Task Force shall operate at all times in a manner consistent with applicable territorial and federal law governing fisheries management within territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Section 3. Purpose

The Task Force shall provide coordinated, strategic recommendations to the Governor on matters relating to:

- Fisheries development and economic sustainability;
- Regulatory coordination between territorial and federal authorities;

- Access to marine resources within applicable jurisdictions;
- Policy initiatives affecting commercial, small-scale, and subsistence fisheries;
- Long-term strategic planning for the fisheries sector;
- Issues that are up for discussion or matters that affect the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council;
- International tuna negotiations, regional fisheries management organizations, and related multilateral fisheries agreements affecting American Samoa; and
- Legislative or regulatory proposals affecting fisheries management.

The Task Force shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not exercise independent regulatory authority.

Section 4. Scope

The Task Force may review and make recommendations concerning:

- Fisheries activities within territorial waters (0–3 nautical miles);
- Fisheries matters within federal waters (3–200 nautical miles) as they affect American Samoa; and
- Regional and international fisheries matters that directly impact the Territory.

Section 5. Membership

A. The Task Force shall consist of:

- The Director of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), who shall serve as Chair;
- DMWR Chief Fisheries Biologist;
- Representative from the American Samoa longline sector;
- Representative from the US-flagged purse seine sector;
- Representative from the small-boat and alia fishing sector;
- A representative from the local fish processing sector; and
- Such additional members as the Governor may appoint.

B. Members shall be appointed by the Governor or serve by virtue of their office. The Governor may designate additional advisory participants as necessary.

Section 6. Officers

The Chair shall preside over meetings of the Task Force. The Task Force may elect a Vice Chair from among its members to preside in the absence of the Chair.

Section 7. Meetings

The Task Force shall meet at the call of the Chair, but no fewer than quarterly. A majority of appointed members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of official business.

Section 8. Decisions

The Task Force shall strive to operate by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, recommendations may be adopted by majority vote of members present, provided a quorum exists. Any dissenting views may be recorded in the official record.

Section 9. Committees and Working Groups

The Chair is authorized to establish standing committees, subcommittees or working groups to address specific subject areas, including but not limited to:

- Regulatory and Policy Coordination;
- Fisheries Development Strategy;
- Federal Engagement;
- Community and Industry Outreach;
- Economic and Market Analysis.

Subcommittees shall report findings and recommendations to the full Task Force.

Section 10. Reporting Requirements

The Task Force shall:

1. Submit an initial strategic framework to the Governor within ninety (90) days of its first convened meeting; and
2. Submit a written annual report to the Governor outlining:
 - Strategic priorities;
 - Policy recommendations;
 - Proposed legislative or regulatory actions; and
 - A summary of Task Force activities and findings.

The Governor may request additional reports as necessary.

Section 11. Administrative Support

The Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources shall provide administrative support to the Task Force, including:

- Scheduling meetings;
- Maintaining official records and minutes;
- Coordinating communications; and
- Assisting with preparation of reports.

All records shall be maintained in accordance with applicable laws and procedures.


Section 12. Coordination

Territorial departments, offices and agencies shall cooperate with the Task Force and provide information reasonably necessary to carry out its advisory functions.

Section 13. Effective Date

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall supersede any prior Executive Order establishing or governing the American Samoa Fisheries Task Force, unless otherwise specified.

Dated: 6/8/26


PULAALI' NIKOLAO PULA
Governor of American Samoa