



Fagatele Bay



Habitat

Tropical Indo-Pacific coral reef

Key Species

Crown-of-thorns starfish

Blacktip reef shark

Surgeon fish

Hawksbill turtle

Parrotfish

Giant clam

Fagatele Bay National

Marine Sanctuary houses a fringing coral reef ecosystem contained 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 destruction is common in tropical marine ecosystems.

Research Activities

Coral reef habitat survey, temperature and water quality monitoring programs, and long-term resource recovery survey make up the bulk of the sanctuary's research efforts.

Education Activities

Throughout the year, Fagatele Bay Sanctuary works to involve the community in its many activities. Enviro-Discoveries camp for younger students and a school and village outreach program are a couple popular sanctuary endeavors. In addition to its educational programs, posters, brochures, and coloring books to celebrate the Year of the Turtle (1996) and the Year of the Coral Reef (1997) have also been created by the sanctuary.



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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Above: Aerial view of the sanctuary; left and right: views of the coral reef; center: school children

