



**LOLO M. MOLIGA**  
GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**  
Telephone: (684)633-4116 Fax: (684)633-2269

**LEMANU P. MAUGA**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 7, 2016

Serial No.: 091

Ms. Eileen Sobeck  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Attention: Brian Fredieu

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

It is with great pleasure that I submit qualified nominees for American Samoa's obligatory seat and at-large seats for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. These individuals are listed by seat and order of priority, which I hope will be taken into consideration during the selection process. Their general background and experience are as follows:

Obligatory Seat

1. Dr. Claire Poumele: Dr. Poumele has served as a voting member on the Council for 3 years. That experience has given her intimate knowledge about the management of fishery resources. She is also the Director of Port in American Samoa. As Director, she is in constant contact with fisherman and is aware of their needs and circumstances. Furthermore, she is a member of the American Samoa Fishery Task Force. This task force was created to stay current with issues in our fisheries and tasked to find creative ways for the American Samoa Government to support the local fishery.
2. Archie Soliai: Mr. Soliai has been a recreational fisherman for 20 years. Currently, he works for the local Starkist cannery as the Human Resource and Government Relations Manager. In addition to his work at the cannery, he is also a member of the American Samoa Fishery Task Force.
3. Joseph Anthony Langkilde Jr.: Mr. Langkilde has 36 years of fishery experience as a part of both the private and public sector. In 1981, he formed a commercial fishing fleet

company to help build up the local fishing industry, which consisted of three fishing vessels, three cold storage rooms, and three processing rooms. Mr. Langkilde has served on the Council as a member and was a part of an advisory committee for over 30 years. Currently he works as the Fisheries Development Coordinator for the American Samoa Department of Commerce.

#### Vacant At-Large Seat

1. **Keniseli Lafaele:** As the Director of Commerce for the American Samoa Government, Mr. Lafaele is deeply involved with the economic development and use of fisheries in our Territory. His department is responsible for programs that increase local fishery participation. He has also served as a representative for the American Samoa Government at international treaty negotiations including the South Pacific Tuna Treaty and the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission. Currently, he also serves as a member of the American Samoa Fishery Task Force.
2. **Henry Seseparasara:** Mr. Seseparasara has been fishing in our waters his entire life. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology. He has served as the Assistant Fishery Biologist for our local Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources ("DMWR"), after which he became the Director of DMWR for nine years. Mr. Seseparasara, has extensive experience with the Council as he has previously served three full terms. Recently, he served as president of the Pago Alia Fishing Association and currently he is a member of the American Samoa Fishery Task Force.
3. **Christinna Lutu-Sanchez:** Ms. Lutu-Sanchez grew up as a child cleaning and selling fish and eventually managing her father's growing fleet of alia (double hull) fishing boats. Currently, Lutu-Sanchez and her husband own and operate a fleet of long-line fishing vessels out of the Port of Pago Pago. She previously worked for the Caribbean Fishing Company, Inc., a subsidiary of Starkist Seafoods and currently is the President of Tautai o Samoa Fishing Association. She serves as the Chair for the American Samoa Advisory Panel for the Council and she is a member of the permanent Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commissioners for the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission.

#### Vacant At-Large Seat

1. **Gordon S. Yamasaki:** Mr. Yamasaki is a fisherman, a biologist, and a recent retiree from NOAA after 40 years of service. Mr. Yamasaki worked as a fisheries biologist for NOAA and most of his work took place in American Samoa. In addition to his extensive scientific work in the American Samoa fishery, Mr. Yamasaki has been a recreational fisherman for 50 years.

The foregoing list of nominees was compiled by my office after consultation with Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, Director of DMWR. Dr. Matagi-Tofiga worked with Governor's Deputy Legal Counsel Alema Leota to identify qualified nominees. My Deputy Legal Counsel also spoke with Mr. Solip Hong, chairman of the American Samoa Fishery Taskforce; Mr. Joe Hamby; Chief of

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Operating Officer of Trimarine International; Mr. Henry Seseapasara; and Dr. Claire Poumele, to identify qualified individuals that would be an asset to the Council.

Every year, in compiling this list, my office is committed to soliciting applications from those who are qualified and come from diverse backgrounds and experience. Currently, two of the three seats on the Council, which are filled by American Samoans, are women. My office continues to solicit applications from those who are qualified, both men and women.

I trust that from the foregoing nominees you will find persons qualified to fill the existing and pending vacancies on the WPFMC. Each nominee is committed to the responsible management of our precious resources and has expressed a strong desire to serve on the council. I look forward to the announcement from the Secretary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lolo M. Moliga". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lolo M. Moliga  
Governor

Enclosures