



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

*American Samoa*

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Via e-mail to [Council.Appointments@noaa.gov](mailto:Council.Appointments@noaa.gov) and via Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Attention: William Chappell

Dear Mr. Chappell:

By this letter I hereby submit three nominees to fill American Samoa's vacant obligatory seat on the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, and three nominees for an at-large seat on the Council.

The three nominees for the obligatory seat, in order of priority, and their general background and experience, are as follows:

1. Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Tuia Poumele: Dr. Poumele is the holder of a doctorate in education from Brigham Young University, and has spent most of her career in the field of education in American Samoa, working her way up from high school teacher to eventually Director of Education, a position she held from 2007 to 2011. Presently the Director of Port Administration, she is responsible for the shore side infrastructure supporting our distant and local waters fishing fleets, along with facilities relied upon by near-shore fishermen. She is a lifelong recreational shore casting fisherwoman, and has been a member of Save the Whales since the organization's inception in the 1970's.
2. Mr. Lua Saite Moliga: Born and raised in the Manu'a Islands where he was a sustenance fisherman throughout his youth, Mr. Moliga is now retired from a long career in law enforcement. He owns two "alia" fishing vessels operating out of the Port of Pago Pago. He is a reseller on the local market of the fish he catches who relies upon the sustainability of the resource as a means to support his family.
3. Ma'a Sausi: Mr. Sausi, born and raised in Pago Pago, has fished all his life, first learning from his father and grandfather who were traditional sustenance canoe fishermen. He worked part time in his youth on the cannery docks, unloading purse seiners and long

liners. After a stint in the U.S. Army, we worked for many years in the United States before retiring and returning home in 2005. He is now a sustenance fisherman who owns a single alia, and on a good day he is a reseller of fish on the local market. He is active in local fishing circles, has attended two WPRFC meetings, and relies upon the resources that are available as a means of feeding his extended family.

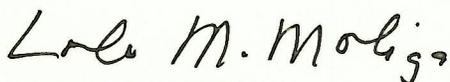
The three nominees for the at-large seat, in order of priority, and their general background and experience, are as follows:

1. William Sword: Mr. Sword is a current member of the Council holding an at-large seat, nearing the end of his second consecutive three year term. A professional engineer by trade and a recreational fisherman, Mr. Sword was a member of the Council's Fisheries Advisory Committees for eight years before becoming a Council member. He is the International Game Fishing Association representative for American Samoa and a member of the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association. He is also the Commander of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in American Samoa. Aside from recreational fishing Mr. Sword has particular interest in sustenance and cultural fishing practices.
2. Rasela Feliciano: Ms. Feliciano and her husband are owners of three long-line fishing vessels fishing out of the Port of Pago Pago. She has been engaged full-time in the business for the last eight years and is President of the Tautai o Samoa Fishing Association, and a member of the American Samoa Fishermen's Cooperative. Individually and on behalf of the Association she is deeply concerned about the sustainability of the resource.
3. Rodney Reid: Mr. Reid has been a recreational fisherman his entire life. He comes from a family of sport fishing boat owners and as a youth attended several Hawaii International Billfish Tournaments with his father (a tournament winner in the early 1990's). Mr. Reid is a regular participant in the annual game fishing tournaments held in Apia, Samoa, where his boat won last year's tournament, and in Pago Pago. Mr. Reid is a member of the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association.

The foregoing list of nominees was compiled by my office after consultation with Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, Director of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. Dr. Matagi-Tofiga worked with Governor's Legal Counsel Steve Watson to identify nominees in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In doing so they consulted with individual members of the Tautai o Samoa Fishing Association and the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association.

I trust that from the foregoing nominees you will find persons qualified to fill the existing and pending vacancies on the WPFMC. I look forward to the announcement from the Secretary.

Sincerely,

  
LOLO M. MOLIGA