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Office of the Governor
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NOAA Officials Visits American Samoa to Discuss Fisheries Issues with Local Stakeholders

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, officials of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) met with the Honorable Talauega E. V. Ale, Marine and Wildlife Director Taotasi Archie Soliai, and Commerce Acting Director Mike McDonald to discuss fishery issues, and will continue to meet local stakeholders for the remainder of their visit.

Kelly Kryc, Ph.D., is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries at NOAA, and has extensive public sector, academic, non-profit, and legislative experience in energy and environment policy. Prior to joining NOAA in September 2021, she had most recently served as senior fellow for energy and environment at the Center for American Progress, and as director of ocean policy at the New England Aquarium in Boston.

Sarah Malloy is the Regional Administrator (Acting) for the Pacific Islands Regional Office. She oversees internal governance, with a focus on enhancing employee engagement and ensuring organizational excellence through staff development, strategic operations planning, and leadership improvement. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and Princeton University, where she studied economics and public policy.

Director Taotasi briefed NOAA officials on key fisheries issues such as a decline in U.S. flag purse seiners from 40 to 13 vessels. American Samoa needs approximately 70,000 of tuna caught by purse seiners. Acting Governor Talauega expressed his appreciation to Ms. Kelly and Ms. Sarah for supporting American Samoa and its efforts to preserve the American Samoa US Flag Purse Seinners fleet.

Ms. Kelly and Ms. Sarah arrived Monday evening, January 30th, and will depart Thursday evening, February 2nd.

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