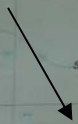


Fagasa
Sacred Bay




Fagasa



You are here





You can't understand
what we stand
to lose...

...until you understand
what we have.

Our identity...
the Fealofani Samoa II





(translation: working together)

...and the preservation of our traditional means of fishing for the akule.















What we believe in.

God...



family...



...and the land.



...our culture



...and our traditional beliefs.



Fagasa continues the traditional practice of blessing the rocks representing Sina and her father, Liava'a. The legendary belief is that they are responsible for the plentiful harvest of akule in the village.





The caretakers of the tradition and culture.

Threats to our marine resources



The tamarind tree, known locally as the tamaligi palagi, poses a serious threat to the native forest and marine life. Because of its shallow root system and aggressive behavior, it has been responsible for the destruction of native forest; landslides have had a devastating effect on marine life.

Combined efforts between the National Park of American Samoa and the village of Fagasa have resulted in the destruction of hundreds of the invasive tree.



Efforts being made by Fagasa to maintain the health of the marine environment for future generations:



- Limiting access to the bay; prior permission must be given to fish. During the time of the akule, no swimming or boating is allowed.
- Banning fishing nets, chemicals or other unsafe forms of fishing.
- Encouraging partnerships with agencies whose aims are to safeguard the environment.
- Passing down to the youth the legends and traditions of our ancestors.

Recommendations

- Assist village leaders in developing rules and safe practices that will serve to protect the environment, while at the same time, preserve traditional practices.
- Identify funding sources that will identify, protect and celebrate traditional sites.
- Involve traditional leaders in the development of restoration and conservation practices.
- Develop on-going, continuous educational programs that focus not only on awareness but include long term, follow-through activities.



Galulue fa'atasi - Fealofani Samoa...
the spirit of working together!





Fa'afetai tele mo le avanoa!

High Chief Lilio Aliitai, 1st Sergeant, USMC Ret.