



## **U.S government proposes expanding American Samoa's national marine sanctuary**

By Online Editor

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The U.S federal government is proposing adding five new reef and offshore areas to the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary in American Samoa.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released a draft management plan and environmental study for the proposal on Friday.

The sanctuary currently includes a coral reef ecosystem in an eroded volcanic crater in Fagatele Bay on Tutuila Island.

NOAA is proposing adding Larsen Bay, waters around Swains Island and Muliaya, also known as Rose Atoll, and some of the waters around Aunu'u and Tau islands.

The protected area would be renamed American Samoa National Marine Sanctuary.

NOAA plans to hold public meetings in American Samoa next month to hear feedback. It's accepting public comment online and by mail through 06 January.

SOURCE: AP/PACNEWS