

# Marine Debris

## PACIFIC

### Planning for Removal of Derelict Vessels and Vessel Debris in American Samoa

The wreckage of the F/V Jui Man #3 on Tutuila Island, and the F/V Young Kwan on Aunu'u Island in American Samoa are both local sources of marine debris. The F/V Young Kwan is broken apart into a large debris field, while the F/V Jui Man #3 is mostly intact but rapidly deteriorating. Both vessels were surveyed in 2005 as part of NOAA Coral Program funded Abandoned Vessel Project (AVP) to monitor the recovery of the wreck removal sites in Pago Pago harbor. The project will entail developing wreck removal plans for both vessels, using a combination of local expertise and off-island salvage experts. This will include funding for salvage experts to travel out to Samoa to:

- 1) meet with the potentially involved territorial agencies,
- 2) conduct a site assessment of the wrecks and mapping of the existing debris fields,
- 3) evaluate capacity of on-island salvage/construction firms, assets and logistics,
- 4) prepare a summary report and briefing of removal options and potential sources of funding, and
- 5) meet with the local communities, chiefs and other community supporters of the project.



Wreckage of the F/V Jui Man #3 on Tutuila Island. There is scattered debris along the shoreline near the wreck. *Photo courtesy of D. Helton, NOAA OR&R.*



Wreckage of the F/V Young Kwan is spread over several hundred meters of the shoreline and reef flats on Aunu'u Island. *Photo courtesy of D. Helton, NOAA OR&R.*

### WHAT IS MARINE DEBRIS?

*Marine debris is any manufactured or man-made solid material that enters the coastal or marine environment. It may enter directly when it is lost or dumped from a ship, or indirectly when debris washes out to sea via rivers, streams, and storm drains.*

### MARINE DEBRIS SOURCES

*Sources of marine debris include land-based sources, such as littering, dumping, and industrial losses. Ocean-based debris can come from fishing vessels, cargo ships, stationary platforms, and other vessels.*

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## MANDATES

Mandates supporting NOAA's marine debris efforts include the following:

- Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act of 2006, S.362
- U.S. Ocean Action Plan
- Coral Reef Conservation Act
- Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1901 et seq.
- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, (Title II) 33 U.S.C. §§ 1401 et seq.
- Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq.

## PARTNERS

- Meredith Speicher, American Samoa Coral Advisory Group, Pago Pago, American Samoa.
- Navy Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit, Honolulu, HI.
- Salvage Expert (TBD). Contract currently being competed
- Pulenu'u (Village Mayor), Villages of Amouli, and Aunu'u, American Samoa

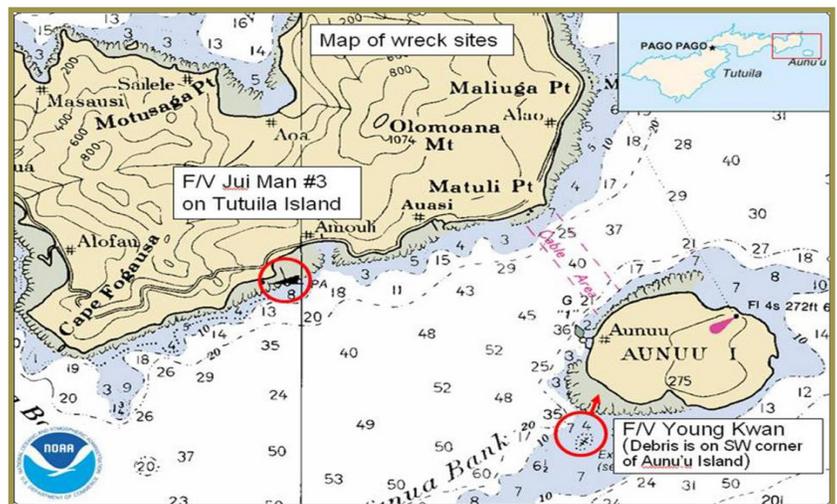
## BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- Development of a salvage and wreck removal plan that will facilitate future discussions with potential parties such as US Navy on vessel removal
- Identification of portions of the wreckage that may be safely addressed through community-based efforts
- Better understanding of local capacity in Samoa to address similar situations
- Enhanced in-house capability, expertise, and understanding of alternatives for removal of wreckage from environmentally sensitive locations
- Ultimately we hope this will lead to removal of the debris and reduction of coral injury

## CONTACTS

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Map of wreck sites -- NOAA Chart #83484.

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