## **CONNECTIONS BETWEEN**

# **CORAL REEFS & COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program monitors the biological, socioeconomic, and climate conditions of US coral reef areas and communities. This includes collection of socioeconomic variables including demographics, human use of coral reef resources, as well as knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of coral reefs and coral reef management through the use of surveys and existing data. The takeaways below are based on the survey results for American Samoa.



### **MANAGEMENT SUPPORT**

The majority of people support management strategies to improve protection.

Ban fishing "big fish"

Expansion of Fagatele NMS

Community-based Village MPAs

Permanent no-take MPAs

Temporary fishing closure areas

0 20 40 60 80 100

Percentage of respondents who agree

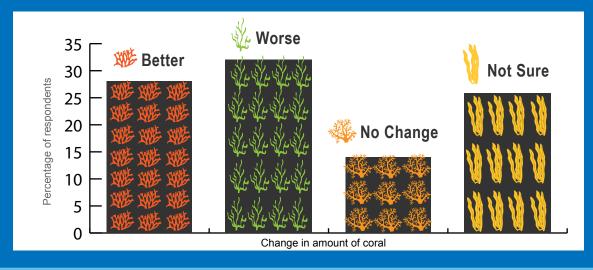
# Swimming Fishing Beach Recreation 52% Percentage of respondents participating

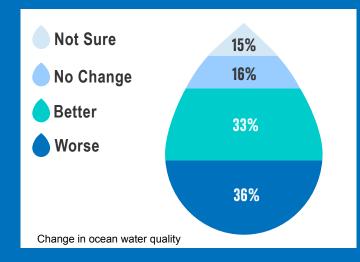
#### **TENURE & CONDITION**

Years of residence impacts perceptions of marine resource conditions. Lifelong residents of American Samoa are more likely to believe that the condition of marine resources will get worse over the next 10 years.

# **PERCEPTIONS**

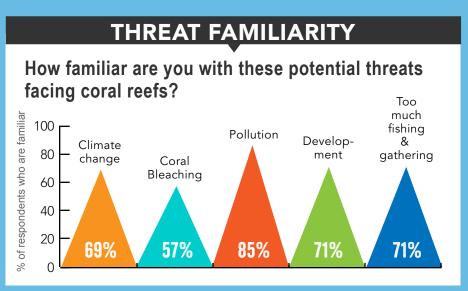
PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED HOW THE AMOUNT OF CORAL AND CONDITION OF OCEAN WATER QUALITY HAS CHANGED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS...





#### **VALUES & AWARENESS**

- 1. American Samoan residents who agreed that "coral reefs protect American Samoa from erosion and natural disasters" were more likely to be more familiar with the various threats posed to coral reefs.
- 2. American Samoan residents who agreed that "healthy coral reefs attract tourists to American Samoa" were more likely to perceive the threat level to coral reefs to be "large" or "extreme".



# CORAL REEF INFO SOURCES & DEGREE OF TRUST TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFO

