

33. Marine mammal & reptile checklist for American Samoa

Common and Samoan names	Scientific name
MARINE MAMMALS	
Whales	
Humpback whale (<i>tafolā, ia maanu</i>) ^{1,2}	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
Sperm whale ²	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>
Short-finned pilot whale ²	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>
False killer whale ²	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>
Dwarf sperm whale ²	<i>Kogia simus</i>
Minke whale ³	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>
Killer whale ³	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
Cuvier's beaked whale ⁴	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>
Dolphins (<i>mumua</i>)	
Spinner dolphin ^{2,5}	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>
Rough-toothed dolphin ^{2,5}	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>
Bottlenose dolphin ²	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Pantropical spotted dolphin ²	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>
Striped dolphin ⁶	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>
Potentially present	
Bryde's whale ⁷	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>
Pygmy sperm whale ⁷	<i>Kogia breviceps</i>
Melon-headed whale ⁷	<i>Peponocephala electra</i>
Risso's dolphin ⁷	<i>Grampus griseus</i>
Fraser's dolphin ⁷	<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>
MARINE REPTILES	
Sea turtles	
Hawksbill sea turtle (<i>laumei uga</i>)	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>
Green sea turtle (<i>laumei ena'ena, fonu</i>)	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
Olive ridley sea turtle ⁸	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>
Leatherback sea turtle ⁹	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
Sea snakes	
Banded sea snake ¹⁰	<i>Laticauda</i> sp.

¹Seasonally present (primarily Aug-Oct).

²Identifications by D. Mattila, D. Johnston, J. Naughton (NOAA), and/or J. Robbins (Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies) and/or Johnston et al. 2008. J.Cetacean Res. Manage. 10:59-66. Also identified from several skulls of pilot whales that washed ashore (Sita Bay, 1993) and one sperm whale skull (Maloata, 1994).

³Reeves et al. 1999. Marine mammals in the area served by South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. SPREP (Samoa).

⁴Stranded on Auto reef in 2008 (DMWR); also a visitor to Pago Pago Harbor in 2002 (identified from photograph by J. Mead (Smithsonian Museum Natural History) and W. Perrin (NOAA)).

⁵Present year-round.

⁶Stranding (DMWR).

⁷Probably present in region but not yet confirmed in American Samoa (Reeves et al. 1999 – see reference above).

⁸Rare: only three recorded occurrences (DMWR).

⁹Rare: a single juvenile was caught on longline gear near Swains in 1993 (DMWR).

¹⁰Rare: one verified occurrence in 2000 approx. 12 inches long (NPS).



Dolphins (*mumua*)

34. Land mammal, reptile & amphibian checklist for A. Samoa

Common and Samoan names	Scientific name	Origin ¹
LAND MAMMALS		
Bats		
Samoa fruit bat ² (<i>pe'a vao</i>)	<i>Pteropus samoensis</i>	N
White-naped fruit bat ^{2,3} (<i>pe'a fanua</i>)	<i>Pteropus tonganus</i>	N
Sheath-tailed bat ⁴ (<i>pe'ape'avai</i>)	<i>Emballonura semicaudata</i>	N
Rodents (<i>isumu</i>)		
Polynesian rat	<i>Rattus exulans</i>	PI
Roof rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	MI
Norway rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	MI
House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	MI
Others		
Pig (<i>pua'a</i>)	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	PI
Dogs (<i>maile</i>)	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	PI
Cats (<i>pusi</i>)	<i>Felis domesticus</i>	MI
LAND REPTILES		
Geckos (<i>pilimo'o</i>)		
Pacific slender-toed gecko	<i>Nactus pelagicus</i>	PI
Oceanic gecko	<i>Gehyra oceanica</i>	N
Mourning gecko	<i>Lepidodactylus lugubris</i>	PI
Stump-toed gecko	<i>Gehyra mutilatus</i>	MI
House gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	MI
Skinks (<i>pili</i>)		
Pacific snake-eyed skink	<i>Cryptoblepharus poecilopleurus</i>	N
Micronesian skink	<i>Emoia adspersa</i>	N
White-bellied or brown-tailed striped skink	<i>Emoia cyanura</i>	PI
Dark-bellied or blue-tailed striped skink	<i>Emoia impar</i>	PI
Lawes skink (<i>pilioua</i>)	<i>Emoia lawesii</i>	N
Pacific black skink (<i>piliuli</i>)	<i>Emoia nigra</i>	PI
Samoa skink (<i>pililape</i>)	<i>Emoia samoensis</i>	PI
Moth skink	<i>Lipinia noctua</i>	PI
Snakes		
Pacific boa ⁵ (<i>gata</i>)	<i>Candoia bibroni</i>	PI
Australoasian blindsnake ⁶	<i>Ramphotyphlops braminus</i>	MI
AMPHIBIANS		
Cane or marine toad ⁶ (<i>lage</i>)	<i>Rhinella marinus</i>	MI

¹ N = native, PI = Polynesian introduction, MI = modern introduction.

² Also known as flying foxes.

³ Also known as white-necked, Tongan or insular fruit bat.

⁴ Few found after cyclones in 1990 and 1991; perhaps locally extinct.

⁵ Ta'u Island; formerly present on Ofu Is. (Tito Malae, pers. com.) and Tutuila Is. (Steadman & Pregill. 2004. Prehistoric vertebrates from Tutuila Island. Pacific Science 58:615-624).

⁶ Tutuila Island.

Sources: Dr. George Zug, Smithsonian Institute, Wash. DC (pers. com., 2008) for reptiles; Amerson et al. 1982. Wildlife and wildlife habitat of A.Samoa. Vol.1. Environment and ecology. US Fish & Wildlife Service (Wash. DC). 119p.