

American Samoa Public Comment:

1. Visit the Federal Register link:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/16/2025-10955/commercial-leasing-for-or-outer-continental-shelf-minerals-offshore-american-samoa-request-for#open-comment>

The screenshot shows the 'regulations.gov' comment form. At the top, it says 'FEDERAL REGISTER The Daily Journal of the United States Government'. Below that, the title of the rule is 'Commercial Leasing for Outer Continental Shelf Minerals Offshore American Samoa-Request for Information and Interest'. A notice from the Ocean Energy Management Bureau on 06/16/2025 is displayed. The form instructions state that comments are due on 07/16/2025 at 11:59 pm EST. The form includes a large text area for the comment, an 'Add a file' button, an email field, and a section to select the commenter type: 'Individual', 'An Organization', or 'Anonymous'. The 'Individual' option is crossed out with a red 'X', and the 'Anonymous' option is circled in green. Other green circles highlight the comment text area, the 'Add a file' button, and the email field.

2. Scroll down and click "Submit a Formal Comment"
3. When prompted, select either:
 - **"Individual"** — if commenting personally. You can remain anonymous, but a U.S. or U.S. territory address is required.
 - **"Organization"** — if commenting on behalf of a company, nonprofit, or group (recommended if you're outside the U.S. or want to speak collectively).

Note: Comments submitted without a U.S. address may not be counted toward the official record. Selecting "Individual" or "Organization" ensures your voice is included.

Optional Sample Message Version 1

I strongly oppose any commercial leasing or exploration for seabed mining in U.S. waters, including the ecologically and culturally significant areas surrounding American Samoa. Deep-sea mining poses irreversible threats to marine biodiversity, Indigenous ocean stewardship, and local fisheries. These ecosystems are poorly understood and extremely vulnerable, and there is currently no regulatory framework in place to assess, prevent, or repair the damage. I urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to halt this process and implement a moratorium until comprehensive environmental protections and community consultations are established.

Version 2: Longer public Comment example :

I, *Yehuda Ben-Hamo, Executive Director of The CORE Project—an ocean safety and coastal advocacy organization (replace this section with your info)*—strongly oppose any commercial leasing, exploration, or permitting for seabed mining within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), particularly in the ecologically and culturally significant waters surrounding American Samoa.

Seabed mining poses irreversible risks to deep-sea ecosystems, many of which remain largely unexplored and scientifically undocumented. These ecosystems host unique biodiversity, including fragile benthic habitats on seamounts and abyssal plains that are exceptionally slow to recover from disturbance. The impacts of sediment plumes, toxic metal discharge, acoustic pollution, and habitat destruction from mining operations are not fully understood and have not been adequately assessed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Water Act, or other federal frameworks.

American Samoa's marine environment supports vital fisheries, local food sovereignty, and cultural ocean stewardship that would be compromised by extractive industrial development. Local communities, including Indigenous stewards, have not been meaningfully consulted on the long-term implications of seabed mining for their livelihoods and marine heritage.

Given the lack of baseline scientific data, ecological impact assessments, regulatory oversight, and restoration solutions, I urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Department of the Interior to exercise precaution and establish a moratorium on seabed mining. No commercial leasing or permitting should move forward until a comprehensive, science-based regulatory framework is in place that fully integrates Indigenous knowledge, cumulative impact assessments, and transparent stakeholder engagement.

The U.S. should prioritize marine protection, not exploitation, and demonstrate leadership in safeguarding ocean health for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,
Your name

Organization Type
Organization Name