



**WESTERN  
PACIFIC  
REGIONAL  
FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL**

MEMORANDUM

February 26, 2010

To: Honorable Togiola T.A. Tulafono, Governor of American Samoa

From:  Kitty Simonds, Executive Director

Subject: Revised Tsunami-related American Samoa Fishery Disaster Relief Request

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Attached is the revised package we have put together for you to use in transmitting a request for disaster relief funding from the Secretary of Commerce, pursuant to Sections 312 and 315 of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and Sections 308(b) and (d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA).

Included in the package is a new Attachment 1 and a revised Attachment List. The revised Attachment 1 is an evaluation which provides required information pursuant to NMFS Guidelines on Disaster Relief. It includes information on the damages incurred to the fishing community and infrastructure and shows impacts to fishery landings, based on a comparison of pre and post-tsunami bottomfish and reef fish landings. This new attachment can replace the former Attachment 1 and 6 (I would discard these). It also includes a list of proposals to repair and upgrade the fleet, replace damaged infrastructure and fishing gear, and to fund several projects which are intended to recover the fleet from damages incurred as a result of the tsunami-caused fishery disaster. This proposal amounts to ~\$5 million in funds. This is only the initial stage of the process to request that the Secretary declare a fishery disaster. After this occurs, there will be opportunity for you to request funding for other proposed projects or other recovery efforts, should you determine there to be a need, pursuant to the MSA or the IFA; or through FEMA.

We understand the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing funds to repair and replace the major docks which were damaged and therefore the estimate in this package does not contain any costs related to docks. The estimate provided here includes solely those fishery-related damages which are included in the MSA and IFA provisions and which are not covered under FEMA.

Please contact me or Kelly Finn of my staff (808-522-8220) should you need any additional information or assistance on this matter.