

AUG 30 2010



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

Ms. Kitty M. Simonds
Executive Director
Western Pacific Fishery
Management Council
1164 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Simonds:

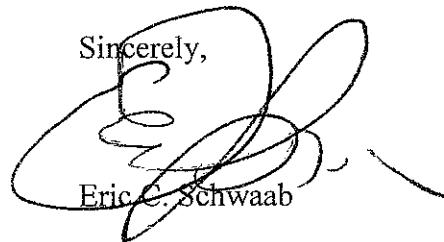
Thank you for your letter to Secretary Gary Locke regarding disaster assistance under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA) for American Samoa in response to the tsunami that struck the islands on September 29, 2009.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's assessment report on the impact of the tsunami on American Samoa's fishing community and fisheries will be helpful to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. I appreciate the Council's efforts to document and research the impacts of the tsunami on the people and businesses of American Samoa.

I understand Governor Tulafono plans to forward a request for disaster assistance to Secretary Locke soon. The process of determining whether a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster has occurred, as authorized under the MSA and IFA, will be initiated then.

If you have further questions, please contact Mike Tosatto, Acting Pacific Islands Regional Administrator, at (808) 944-2281.

Sincerely,



Eric C. Schwaab

