



**Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council**

November 9, 2009

RADM Manson K. Brown, District Commander
Fourteenth Coast Guard District
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 9-108
Honolulu, HI 96850-4982

Dear RADM Brown:

The Council, at its 146th Meeting in Honolulu on October 20-23, 2009, discussed the impacts to the communities of the American Samoa Archipelago resulting from the September 29, 2009 tsunami and the necessary disaster relief efforts. We are working with people in American Samoa to compile information on the losses incurred to facilitate a declaration of a fishery disaster such that the Government of American Samoa may request funding for fishery disaster relief. We have had reports of safety issues associated with debris not only on shore but also in the harbor which is affecting other types of survey and clean up activities and causing hazards to navigating within the harbor at Pago Pago.

We understand the US Coast Guard has a remediation company under contract (PENCO) and the Council requests that you require them to clean the entire harbor bottom to eliminate hazards to navigation to fishing boats, especially those utilizing the back of Pago harbor in areas of boat ramps and moorings.

We look forward to your response and assistance in helping American Samoa recover from the disaster. If you have questions regarding this request please feel to contact me at the Council office.

Sincerely,

Kitty M. Simonds
Executive Director