



Office of the Governor of Guam

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Felix Perez Camacho

Governor

Kaleo Scott Moylan

Lieutenant Governor

March 17, 2003

Mr. Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert Hoover Bldg. Room 5858
14th St. and Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Evans:

Super-Typhoon Pongsona recently devastated Guam, causing millions of dollars in damage to all sectors of the island, including fisheries. As an island community, our economic health is tied to the marine environment and our ability to utilize its resources. While the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration have provided excellent support to eligible persons and projects, these agencies have been unable to assist our domestic fishermen for a variety of reasons. Yet the fishermen have been among those most severely impacted by the super-typhoon. For this reason, I am formally requesting that disaster relief be urgently sought for our fishermen under the terms of Section 312 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other Acts of Congress, including the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

Although Guam is perhaps better known for the volume of foreign fish that is transshipped through Guam (over 11,000 metric tons during 2000), the island's domestic small-scale fishing community has been a vibrant and growing sector of our economy over the past decade. This community includes subsistence, recreational, and commercial participants, many of whom have come together to form a cooperative fishing association that provides both fishing supplies (fuel and ice) and a marketing outlet for fishery landings. In 2000, this sector reported landings of over 75,000 pounds of pelagic and bottomfish species, with total ex-vessel revenues of over \$700,000. The total impact of this fishery and its support industries on Guam's economy is unknown, but in addition to the estimated 656 fishery participants, there are known to be at least 50 fishing suppliers, charter vessel operations, fish markets, and other shoreside support industries located on Guam.

In addition to the damages and revenue losses suffered by fishery participants and support industries, the infrastructure on which these fishing activities depend was hit

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particularly severely. Guam's main commercial port and smaller marinas all suffered structural damage and must be made safe for community use.


Our domestic fishery sector is comprised of subsistence, commercial, and recreational participants, fish farms and those involved in shoreside fishery support industries. The estimated total losses of \$8,962,000 include \$6,513,000 in damages and losses to buildings, merchandise, equipment, and vessels, as well as an additional \$2,448,000 in estimated revenue losses for the period from December 8, 2002 to February 28, 2003.

These estimates are based on the average losses reported by more than 100 respondents to a Fisheries Sector Rapid Damage Assessment that was jointly conducted by the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (see attached).

Guam's fishing community is an important part of our economy and culture, as well as providing an important food source to community members who could not afford to buy the imported fish upon which we would have to rely if our fishery sector is unable to weather this latest setback.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss this urgent request.

Sincerely,



FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'láhen Guåhan
Governor of Guam

attachment

cc: President George W. Bush
Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator Daniel Akaka
Representative Neil Abercrombie
Representative Ed Case
Honorable Madeline Bordallo
Honorable Pedro Agulto Tenorio
Honorable E.F. Hunking Faleomavaega

Guam Fisheries Sector Disaster Damage Assessment
28-Feb-03

| Item | Building damage/loss | Merchandise damage/loss | Equipment damage/loss | Vessel damage/loss | Revenue loss to date | Total |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| INFRASTRUCTURE | | | | | | |
| Marina Infrastructure (6)* | 1,500,000 | - | - | - | - | 1,500,000 |
| TOTAL ESTIMATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES | \$1,500,000 | | | | | \$1,500,000 |
| SHORESIDE SUPPORT INDUSTRIES | | | | | | |
| Fishing support operations (11) | - | 12,375 | 31,488 | 4,125 | 726,825 | 774,813 |
| Aquaculture operations (30) | - | 70,500 | 724,500 | - | - | 795,000 |
| Charter fishing operations (18) | 14,400 | 28,800 | 62,352 | 153,000 | 414,000 | 672,552 |
| Fishing tackle and supply shops (3) | 42,500 | 188,125 | 20,000 | - | 93,750 | 344,375 |
| Fish markets (13) | 320,859 | 72,844 | 209,859 | - | 237,031 | 840,593 |
| Other businesses (9) | 101,250 | - | 1,125 | 45,000 | 123,750 | 271,125 |
| TOTAL ESTIMATED SHORESIDE SECTOR LOSSES | \$479,009 | \$372,644 | \$1,048,324 | \$202,125 | \$1,595,356 | \$3,698,458 |
| HARVEST SECTOR | | | | | | |
| Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association members (177) | 18,632 | - | 119,087 | 442,342 | 476,192 | 1,056,253 |
| Marianas Yacht Club members (60) | - | - | 1,714 | 394,286 | 154,286 | 550,286 |
| Other fishermen (419) | 162,194 | - | 567,877 | 1,204,152 | 223,016 | 2,157,039 |
| TOTAL ESTIMATED HARVEST SECTOR LOSSES | \$180,826 | \$0 | \$688,478 | \$2,040,780 | \$853,494 | \$ 3,763,578 |
| GRAND TOTAL GUAM FISHERY SECTOR LOSSES | \$2,159,835 | \$372,644 | \$1,737,802 | \$2,242,905 | \$2,448,850 | \$8,962,036 |

* NOTE: This does not include the damage assessment for the main port facility which was still in progress at the time of this report.