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**PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**

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February 21, 2023

Taotasi Archie Soliai, Director  
Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources  
American Samoa Government  
P.O. Box 3730  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Director Soliai,

I am providing you an update on the processing of CARES Act round two funding for American Samoa. We recognize the importance of these funds, especially to the U.S. territories. We are working expeditiously to process CARES Act funding in the order in which we receive final applications and as we are able to verify and review for quality-control of submissions. We are still in the process of reviewing and distributing funds for Alaska, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon and Washington. We estimate that payments for American Samoa could be distributed in late April or early May 2023.

We understand the frustration with the timeliness of the funding and are doing everything we can to issue payments as quickly as possible. We will keep American Samoa a high priority given the impacts that are still ongoing.

Sincerely,

Barry Thom  
Executive Director

cc: Selaina Vaitautolu-Tuimavave, Deputy Director