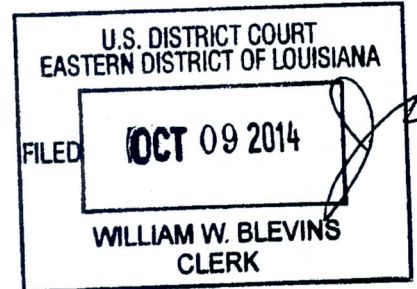


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA \* CRIMINAL NO: 14-187  
v. \* SECTION: "G"  
DARRELL MORRIS \*  
\* \* \*



FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter have gone to trial, the Government would have proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible, tangible exhibits, including the testimony of Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, Postal Inspectors of the United States Postal Inspection Service and employees of the Gulf Coast Claims Facility ("GCCF") and others, the following facts, to support the allegations charged in the Bill of Information now pending against the defendant, **DARRELL MORRIS** ("**MORRIS**").

On April 20, 2010, an explosion and fire occurred on the Deepwater Horizon, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico where British Petroleum ("BP") had been drilling a well. An employee of the GCCF would testify that between May 1, 2010 and August 23, 2010, BP administered and settled claims on its own as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Commencing on and after August 23, 2010, BP established the GCCF for the purposes of administering, mediating, and settling certain claims of individuals and businesses for losses incurred as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident. Specifically, the GCCF began receiving and processing any and all claims as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on and after August 23, 2010 and BP ceased receiving and processing said claims. The GCCF required any individual filing a claim

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on behalf of themselves, a business, or other individuals for a temporary or permanent loss or reduction in profits due to the oil spill to submit truthful and honest claim forms with truthful and honest documentation to prove that they or their business lost profits as a result of the oil spill. Emergency Advance Payments for damages resulting from the oil spill were available from August 23, 2010 through November 23, 2010.

**DARRELL MORRIS** agreed with another individual, L.A. to make a false BP claim for loss earnings. Pursuant to their agreement, **MORRIS** agreed to provide his personal information and to share part of any claim proceeds with L.A. and other co-conspirators. A representative of the GCCF would introduce a claim form in the name of **DARRELL MORRIS** which was submitted electronically from Louisiana to the GCCF in Ohio on or about October 1, 2010. The claim form states that the defendant worked as an oyster harvester/deckhand in Venice, Louisiana, when in fact he had not. Defendant's claim form requested emergency advance payment for six months of loss earnings or profits, as a result of the Deep Water Horizon oil spill on April 20, 2010.


GCCF records would demonstrate the GCCF received on **MORRIS'** behalf a fraudulent 2009 Schedule C, Form 1040 federal tax return, purportedly filed by defendant, showing that he operated a commercial fishing business in 2009 which was profitable. Additionally, the defendant caused to be submitted electronically other documentation indicating the defendant worked as a deckhand on a commercial oyster boat in Venice, Louisiana before the Deep Water Horizon oil spill.

As a result of the defendant's submission via the internet of an Emergency Payment Claim form and receipt of the documentation, the GCCF authorized an emergency payment to

**MORRIS**. This money was sent in the form of a GCCF check bearing number 58658 in the amount of \$50,000 dated October 4, 2010 and GCCF check bearing number 217377 in the amount of \$25,000 dated January 13, 2011, and these checks were mailed to **MORRIS**, in Slidell, Louisiana. Additionally, the Government would submit documentation from Whitney National Bank of New Orleans, Louisiana, demonstrating that the GCCF check #58658 was cashed by **MORRIS** on October 7, 2010, and the GCCF check #217377 was cashed by **MORRIS** on January 18, 2011.

On April 16, 2014, **MORRIS** told a U.S. Postal Inspector that he provided L.A. with \$25,000 in cash after receiving the \$50,000 check from the GCCF, and \$10,000 in cash after receiving the \$25,000 check from the GCCF. **MORRIS** stated that he is willing to pay the money back.

Both the Government and the defendant, **DARRELL MORRIS**, do hereby stipulate and agree that the above facts set forth a sufficient factual basis for the crime to which the defendant is pleading guilty and that the Government would have proven these facts beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JULIA K. EVANS                      10-9-14  
Assistant United States Attorney                      Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DARRELL MORRIS                      10-9-14  
Defendant                      Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
IVANA MARINE-LOMBARD                      10-9-14  
Counsel for Defendant                      Date