



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Croix Man Indicted under Endangered Species Act

St. Croix, USVI - A federal grand jury on St. Croix returned a two-count indictment today charging a St. Croix man for his role in removing sea turtle eggs from their nest, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today.

The indictment charges Juan Oscar Garcia with Taking Endangered Species and Possessing Illegally Taken Endangered Species, which carry a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$50,000 fine. According to the indictment, on June 6, 2009, Garcia removed hawksbill sea turtle eggs from a nest in Frederiksted, St. Croix.

Garcia was arrested and advised of his rights on August 20, 2010. He was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond.

This case is the result of a joint investigation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

An indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.