



Monthly

# Bulletin

## Environmental Crimes Section

May 2018

### Inside this Issue:

<a href="#">Decisions</a>	4-5
<a href="#">Trials</a>	6-7
<a href="#">Indictments</a>	8-14
<a href="#">Guilty Pleas</a>	15-19
<a href="#">Sentencings</a>	20-30
<a href="#">Announcements</a>	31
<a href="#">ECS Contacts</a>	32

Send your federal case updates  
to: [REDACTED]



Please see *U.S. v. Nichols*, [inside](#), for details on this case involving Steller sea lions.

District/Circuit	Case Name	Case Type/Statutes
District of Alaska	<a href="#">United States v. Jon Nichols et al.</a>	Sea Lion Killing/Conspiracy, False Statement, MMPA, Obstruction
Western District of Arkansas	<a href="#">United States v. Shelly R. Winfrey</a>	Fire on Public Land/Timber Set Afire
Central District of California	<a href="#">United States v. Ernesto Alvarez, Jr.</a> <a href="#">United States v. Cory Pham</a>	Fireworks Transportation/HMTA Asian Arowana Smuggling/ESA
Eastern District of California	<a href="#">United States v. American Diesel Inc., et al.</a> <a href="#">United States v. Cristobal Chavez-Rocha</a>	Biodiesel Fuel Manufacturer/Conspiracy, CWA, False Statement, Witness Tampering Marijuana Grow/Drug, Depredation to Natural Resources
Northern District of California	<a href="#">United States v. Adam T. Lawrence</a>	Leopard Killing/Lacey Act, Smuggling
Southern District of California	<a href="#">United States v. Ramon Torres Mayorquin et al.</a>	Sea Cucumber Sales/Conspiracy, Lacey Act, Smuggling
District of Colorado	<a href="#">United States v. Paul R. Jackson</a>	African Elephant Killing/ESA
Southern District of Florida	<a href="#">In Re: Operation Ornerly Bird</a>	Migratory Bird Sales/Conspiracy, False Statement, MBTA, Smuggling
Western District of Louisiana	<a href="#">United States v. Patrick D. Drawl</a>	Rhino Horn Sale/Lacey Act
District of Maine	<a href="#">United States v. George Anestis et al.</a>	Eel Trafficking/Lacey Act

District/Circuit	Case Name	Case Type/Statutes
Western District of Michigan	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Charles Miller et al.</u></a>	Dog Fighting/ Animal Fighting Venture, Conspiracy
District of New Jersey	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Mario Atkinson</u></a>	Dog Fighting/ Animal Fighting Venture
Northern District of New York	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Robert J. Carville</u></a>	Tannery Waste/CERCLA, RCRA
Western District of New York	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Michael Yount</u></a>	Oil Spill Investigation/False Statement
District of Oregon	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Carl Zeiss Vision, Inc.</u></a>	Eyeglass Manufacturer/CWA
Middle District of Pennsylvania	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Susquehanna Supply Company, Inc.</u></a>	Worker Death/OSHA
District of South Dakota	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Armand J. Dornbusch</u></a> <a href="#"><u>United States v. Kevin J. Mast</u></a> <a href="#"><u>In Re: Project Dakota Flyer</u></a>	Bird Trapping/MBTA Wetlands Destruction/National Wildlife Refuge System Act Eagle Parts Trafficking/BGEPA, MBTA
Eastern District of Texas	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Montaro A. Williams et al.</u></a>	Alligator Snapping Turtle Trafficking/Lacey Act
Eastern District of Virginia	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Rodriguez Rodney Lomax Norman et al.</u></a>	Dog Fighting/ Animal Fighting Venture, Conspiracy, Fraud
District of Virgin Islands	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Jose Rivera</u></a>	Pesticide Application/FIFRA
Eastern District of Washington	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Jin Chul Cha</u></a>	Biodiesel Fraud/Conspiracy, Wire Fraud
Western District of Washington	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Randall Fox et al.</u></a> <a href="#"><u>United States v. Hoon Namkoong</u></a>	Vessel/APPS Sea Cucumber Sales/Conspiracy, Lacey Act
Southern District of West Virginia	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Michael Blankenship</u></a>	Sewage Disposal/CWA
Eastern District of Wisconsin	<a href="#"><u>United States v. Chao Thao</u></a>	Rhino Horn/Lacey Act

[illegible]

Decisions

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Trials

### ***United States v. Michael Blankenship*, No. 5:17-CR-00200 (S.D.W.V.), AUSA Erik Goes and SAUSA Perry McDaniel.**

On April 18, 2018, Michael Blankenship was convicted by a jury of two felony Clean Water Act violations for dumping sewage into a waterway (33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1319(c)(2)(A)). Sentencing is scheduled for August 1, 2018.

Blankenship, d/b/a/ Hanover Contracting Company, LLC, was in the business of cleaning portable toilets, hauling domestic sewage, and disposing of the sewage. On September 29, 2015, one of his trucks was seen dumping untreated sewage into Little Huff Creek, a



*Trucks dumping sewage into Little Huff Creek*

tributary of the Guyandotte River. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (W.V. DEP) inspectors subsequently observed a truck with a hose placed in the creek, as well as sewage on the ground and in the water. Water samples confirmed the presence of fecal coliform. After questioning by authorities, Blankenship admitted he was the owner of the truck, and that he had dumped sewage into the creek on other occasions. Evidence presented at trial included photographs from neighbors showing Blankenship's trucks dumping sewage and porta-john waste into the creek on various dates in 2015 and 2016.

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division and the W. V. DEP, with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the West Virginia State Police.

## Trials

***United States v. Randall Fox et al.***, No. 2:16-CR-00100 (W.D. Wash.), ECS Senior Trial Attorney Todd Gleason, ECS Trial Attorney Stephen DaPonte, and ECS Law Clerk Christopher Kopf.

On April 5, 2018, Randall Fox, a captain of the fishing vessel *Native Sun*, was found guilty of discharging oily waste directly into the sea, a felony violation of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. § 1908(a)).

Between 2011 and 2013, Randall Fox discharged bilge slops from the *Native Sun* directly overboard into the ocean using unapproved pumps and hoses. One of these discharges was video-recorded by a crewmember, who reported the crime to authorities. Other evidence at trial established that the vessel had repeatedly pumped its bilges in the same manner depicted in the video on other occasions. Bingham Fox, the defendant's father and the owner of the *Native Sun*, was convicted at trial of related crimes in 2017.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard.



*F/V Native Sun*



## Indictments/Informations

***United States v. Jon Nichols et al.*, No. 3:18-CR-00050 (D. Alaska), AUSA Aunnie Steward, with assistance from ECS Senior Counsel for Wildlife Elinor Colbourn and AUSA Kathleen O'Leary.**

On April 19, 2018, Jon Nichols, captain of the *F/V Iron Hide*, and deckhand Theodore Turgeon were indicted in relation to the deaths of 15 Steller sea lions, an endangered species, during the opening of the 2015 Copper River salmon season. The two men were charged with harassing and killing Steller sea lions with shotguns and then making false statements and obstructing the government's investigation. The charges include conspiracy, violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, obstruction of a Marine Mammal Protection Act investigation, false statements, and obstruction (18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1001(a)(2), 1503(a), (b)(3); 16 U.S.C. §§ 1372(a)(2)(A), 1373, 1375 (b), 1538(a)(1)(G), 1540(b)). Trial is scheduled to begin on July 2, 2018.

According to the indictment, during the first few weeks of the May 2015 salmon gillnet season, 15 Steller sea lions were found dead along the sand bars at the mouth of Copper River fishing district. On various occasions between May and June 2015, Nichols allegedly directed his crew on a regular basis, including Turgeon, to shoot at Steller sea lions using a shotgun kept aboard the vessel. At times, Nichols also shot at the animals himself. Nichols allegedly directed the vessel toward the sea lions so that Turgeon could get a better shot.

Regarding the obstruction charges, Nichols and Turgeon are accused of removing the shotgun from the vessel and working with other crew members to get their stories straight. Turgeon is charged with making false statements to a NOAA law enforcement agent, and Nichols is charged with obstructing and attempting to obstruct a grand jury investigation.

This case was investigated by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement.

***United States v. Charles Miller et al.*, No. 1:18-CR-00041 (W.D. Mich.), ECS Senior Trial Attorney Jennifer Blackwell, AUSAs Kate Zell and Hagen Frank, and ECS Paralegal Amanda Backer.**

On April 18, 2018, the government filed a superseding indictment adding three defendants to a dog fighting conspiracy case already brought against Charles Miller and Kian Miller in February 2018. The indictment includes substantive charges for possession of animals for the purpose of illegal animal fighting ventures. The new defendants are Damiane Buehrer, Charles Davis, and Jarvis Askew. They are charged with possession of multiple pit bull-type dogs for the purpose of participating in animal fighting ventures (18 U.S.C. §§ 49(a), 371; 7 U.S.C. § 2156(a)(1),(b),(g)(1)).

In July 2017, state law enforcement assisted with the search of Charles Miller's residence pursuant to a state-issued warrant for dog fighting evidence. In addition to dogs and extensive dog fighting paraphernalia, officers recovered crack cocaine and firearms.

*(Continued on page 9)*



This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, the Ingham County Animal Control, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Michigan State Police.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Indictments/Informations

### In Re: OPERATION ORNERY BIRD—Southern District of Florida

On April 12, 2018, prosecutors announced the filing of charges against six defendants for their involvement with the trafficking of more than 400 migratory birds.

The defendants used sophisticated methods to traffic protected wildlife, specifically migratory birds. The methods included bird traps augmented by electronic birdcall broadcast systems powered with solar panels and rechargeable batteries; baited bird traps spread throughout the region as collection points; mist nets at one end of a field during migration season and the operation of a truck from the other end of the field to flush hundreds of birds into the nets; the strategic deployment of specially formulated adhesives to glue migratory birds to tree limbs and sticks; and the hunting of migratory birds, in particular, the illegal hunting of raptors with rifles. Other smuggling methods included the shipment of migratory birds to buyers across the country in boxes with hidden compartments; the use of a false names and addresses on airmail shipments; false statements on customs declarations; and the concealment of the protected wildlife in hair curlers taped to a defendant's body.



In some instances, the wildlife trafficking involved severe animal cruelty and resulted in injury to the birds. Some of the birds showed signs of having sustained injuries while attempting to flee captivity. Some of the hawks were dead at the time of sale and other birds died shortly after purchase. One defendant left the captured birds entangled in netting, where they were preyed upon by wild dogs and cats. Another defendant maimed some of the migratory birds by ripping out their tail feathers. A third, believing that a Loggerhead Shrike was a threat to his inventory of migratory birds for sale, threw the bird against a wall and affixed it to a wooden cross. The defendant filmed this activity and uploaded the images onto a private internet chat group that he used to advertise migratory birds for sale.

During the course of these investigations, undercover agents purchased and/or seized migratory birds from all six defendants. After a determination that it was safe to do so, hundreds of these birds were [returned to the wild in the Everglades](#) (UTube video showing release). The following six individuals were separately charged with trafficking more than 400 migratory birds:

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Indictments/Informations

*(Operation Ornery Bird continued from page 10)*

***United States v. Alberto Corbo Martinez*, No. 17-CR-20596 (S.D. Fla.), AUSA Tom Watts-FitzGerald.**

On April 27, 2018, Alberto Iran Corbo Martinez was arraigned on a three-count indictment returned in August 2017, for smuggling goods into the United States and using a false document (18 U.S.C. §§ 545, 1001(a)(3)).

According to the indictment, Corbo Martinez imported Cuban Bullfinches and a Yellow-faced Grassquit from Cuba. He concealed the birds in hair curlers taped to his legs, beneath baggy pants, and did not declare the wildlife on customs forms.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

***United States v. Hovary Muniz*, No. 18-CR-20335 (S.D. Fla.), AUSAs Jaime Raich and Tom Watts-FitzGerald.**

On April 24, 2018, Hovary Muniz was charged in a five-count indictment with knowingly selling and offering migratory birds for sale (16 U.S.C. §§ 703(a), 707(b)(2)).

According to the indictment, Muniz pleaded guilty and was sentenced in 2016 for smuggling migratory birds from Cuba into the United States in a fanny pack. In 2017 and 2018, while on probation for the wildlife trafficking offense, Muniz offered Yellow-faced Grassquits, a Lazuli Bunting, and other migratory birds for sale.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

***United States v. Carlos Hernandez*, No. 17-CR-20759 (S.D. Fla.), AUSA Jaime Raich.**

On April 12, 2018, Carlos Hernandez was arraigned on a six-count indictment returned in October 2017, for trapping, selling, and offering to sell migratory birds (16 U.S.C. §§ 703(a), 707(b)(2)).

According to the indictment, beginning in January 2016 and ending in April 2017, Hernandez trapped and trafficked in migratory birds, including Blue Grosbeaks.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

***United States v. Miguel Loureiro*, No. 18-CR-20164 (S.D. Fla.), AUSA Jaime Raich.**

On March 8, 2018, Miguel Loureiro was charged in a 36-count indictment for participating in a conspiracy to take migratory birds for commercial purposes, selling and offering migratory birds for sale, and taking migratory birds (18 U.S.C. § 371; 16 U.S.C. 703, 707(b)(2)).

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Indictments/Informations

*(Operation Ornery Bird continued from page 11)*

According to the allegations, beginning in January 2016 through December 2017, Loureiro, and a co-conspirator trafficked in migratory birds, including Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Painted Buntings, White-crowned Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the National Park Service.

### ***United States v. Juan Carlos Rodriguez, No. 18-CR-20141 (S.D. Fla.), AUSA Jaime Raiche.***

On March 1, 2018, Juan Carlos Rodriguez was charged in an 18-count indictment with selling, offering for sale, bartering, and offering to barter migratory birds. Rodriguez pleaded guilty on May 11 to three Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations (16 U.S.C. §§ 703, 707(B)(2)). Sentencing is scheduled for July 19, 2018.

According to the indictment, between May 2014 and November 2016, Rodriguez trafficked in migratory birds, including Puerto Rican Spindalises, Northern Cardinals, Puerto Rican Bullfinches, Yellow-faced Grassquits, Blue Grosbeaks, Cooper's Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Gray Catbirds, Painted Buntings, Summer Tanagers Screech-Owls, and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

### ***United States v. Reynaldo Mederos, No. 18-CR-20140 (S.D. Fla.), AUSA Jaime Raich.***

On March 1, 2018, Reynaldo Mederos was charged in a seven-count indictment with selling and offering to sell migratory birds (16 U.S.C. §§ 703, 707(b)(2)).

According to the indictment, between July 2016 and November 2017, Mederos trafficked in migratory birds, including Indigo Buntings, Painted Buntings, and Blue Grosbeaks.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Indictments/Informations

***United States v. Jose Rivera*, No. 3:18-CR-00011 (D.V.I.), ECS Senior Litigation Counsel Howard Stewart, AUSA Kim L. Chisholm, and ECS Paralegal Ashley Patterson-Chandler.**

On April 12, 2018, prosecutors charged Jose Rivera in a 14-count indictment with violating the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. §§ 136j(a)(2)(G), 136l(b)(1)(B)). Rivera is the Terminix employee who applied methyl bromide in March 2015 beneath the condominium unit occupied by a family of four who were poisoned allegedly as a result of his actions.

Terminix International Company LP (Terminix LP) and Terminix International USVI LLC (Terminix USVI) were sentenced in November 2017 to pay more than \$10 million in fines, community service, and restitution payments. Terminix USVI will pay a \$4.6 million fine and approximately \$1.2 million in restitution to the EPA for response and clean-up costs at the St. John resort. Terminix LP will pay a fine of \$4.6 million and will perform community service related to training commercial pesticide applicators in fumigation practices and a separate health services training program.

The companies previously pleaded guilty to violating FIFRA for illegally applying fumigants containing methyl bromide in multiple residential locations in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The EPA banned the indoor use of methyl bromide products in 1984. The few remaining uses are severely restricted due to their acute toxicity, and the products must be applied only by a certified applicator. After the government began its investigation, Terminix LP voluntarily ceased its use of methyl bromide in the U.S. and in U.S. territories.

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division.

***United States v. Robert J. Carville*, No. 1:18-CR-00081 (N.D.N.Y.), AUSA Michael F. Perry.**

On April 10, 2018, Robert J. Carville was arrested on charges that he violated the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for illegally storing and abandoning hazardous waste (49 U.S.C. § 6928(d)(2)(A)). Trial is scheduled to begin on August 13, 2018.

Carville was the owner and operator of a tannery known as Carville National Leather. The indictment alleges that Carville knowingly stored hundreds of gallons of hazardous waste, including chromium, lead, and both ignitable and corrosive chemicals, without a permit from approximately between April 2014 and April 2016. He is also charged with violating the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act for failing to notify the appropriate governmental agencies about these wastes (42 U.S.C. § 9603(b)).

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division.

## Indictments/Informations

***United States v. American Biodiesel Inc., et al.*** No. 2:18-CR-00068 (E.D. Calif.), AUSA Sam Wong.

On April 5, 2018, prosecutors filed a 17-count indictment against American Biodiesel Inc., and two of its employees charging them with conspiracy, witness tampering, making false statements, and violating the Clean Water Act (18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1001(a)(2), 1512(b)(3); 33 U.S.C. §§ 1317(d), 1319 (c)(2)(A), (c)(4)).

American Biodiesel Inc., d/b/a/Community Fuels, is a biodiesel fuel manufacturing plant. Between March 2009 and December 2016, Christopher Young was the plant's director of operations. As alleged in the indictment, Young directed employees to tamper with pH and other monitoring devices enabling the facility to violate its permit by discharging hundreds of thousands of gallons of untreated wastewater into the local sewer system. Between 2014 and 2016, assistant operator Jeremiah Young (Christopher's brother) also allegedly participated in the scheme.

Community Fuels was only authorized to discharge wastewater meeting certain parameters (including pH and methanol concentration total flow levels) to the local publically owned treatment works (POTW). Any wastewater not meeting its permitted requirements was prohibited from being discharged. The company informed local authorities that it was transferring unpermitted wastewater off-site to an appropriate wastewater disposal facility. The indictment states, however, that the defendants illegally discharged wastewater by applying it to the facility grounds using landscaping sprinklers, as well as discharging it to the POTW, after tampering with various monitoring devices.

Christopher Young and Community Fuels are additionally charged with making false statements to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about these practices. Christopher Young also attempted to persuade a witness to lie when the employee was to be interviewed by the EPA.

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division, the City of Stockton Municipal Utilities Department, the San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department, the Port of Stockton, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

[illegible]



## Guilty Pleas

### ***United States v. Michael Yount, No. 1:18-CR-00188 (W.D.N.Y.), AUSA Aaron Mango.***

On April 18, 2018, Michael Yount pleaded guilty to making a false statement in connection with an oil spill investigation (18 U.S.C. § 1001). Sentencing is scheduled for August 23, 2018.

On July 18, 2016, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation responded to an oil spill in Cayuga Creek in Niagara Falls, New York. A significant amount of suspected waste oil was found in the creek and in a large storm sewer water pipe along Niagara Falls Boulevard.

Investigators began looking for the potential source of an estimated 300 - 500 gallon oil spill. Yount is the environmental compliance officer for Delta Sonic Car Wash Systems, Inc., which has a location approximately a half a mile from the creek. During a meeting at the Delta Sonic location, the investigator learned that employees were renovating the oil change and lube shop garage, which involved the removal of concrete floors. At that time, Yount stated that there had not been any problems except for a minor two-gallon oil spill that was immediately cleaned up.

The investigator returned to the facility the following day and observed an absorbent boom with oil on it in a storm sewer in the parking lot. Yount claimed that booms were often left in the sewers over an extended period. Another employee had previously informed authorities that oily wastewater was being pumped in to the creek at the time of the renovation.

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Niagara Falls Police Department.



*Oil – soaked booms inside catch basin*

## Guilty Pleas

### ***United States v. Hoon Namkoong*, No. 18-CR-00081 (W.D. Wash.), AUSAs Matthew Diggs and Seth Wilkinson.**

On April 16, 2018, Hoon Namkoong pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the Lacey Act for his role in a scheme to under-report, falsely label, transport and sell sea cucumbers purchased from state and tribal fishers in Washington State (18 U.S.C. § 371; 16 U.S.C. § 3372(a), (d)). Sentencing is scheduled for August 24, 2018.

Between August 2014, and November 2016, Namkoong, the owner of Orient Seafood Products, conspired with others to underreport the amount of sea cucumbers he purchased for processing by approximately 250,000 pounds. Namkoong purchased sea cucumbers from both tribal and non-tribal fishers in the Puget Sound region. Sea cucumbers are classified as shellfish, and the harvests are regulated by both state and tribal authorities. To protect the resource, the harvests are to be tracked by fish tickets signed by both the fisher and the purchaser. Namkoong admitted that he falsified the fish tickets, failed to prepare them or retain confirmation of a fish ticket submitted by a third party, and frequently paid fishers in cash. His company processed the illegally harvested, transported and sold sea cucumbers to wholesale seafood buyers in both the U.S. and in Asia, for a profit of nearly \$1.5 million.

The case was investigated by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Law Enforcement.

### ***United States v. Ramon Torres Mayorquin et al.*, No. 1:17-CR-01254 (S.D. Calif.), AUSA Melanie Pierson.**

On April 11, 2018, a father and son pleaded guilty to charges related to their smuggling illegally harvested sea cucumbers worth more than \$17 million into the United States and selling the Chinese delicacy on Asian markets. Ramon Torres Mayorquin pleaded guilty to Importation Contrary to Law and his son, David Mayorquin, pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. Their company, Blessing Seafood, Inc. of Tucson, pleaded guilty to conspiring to export merchandise contrary to law (18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 545; 16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(a)(2)(A) and 3373(d)(2)). Sentencing is scheduled for July 16, 2018.

David Mayorquin, on behalf of Blessings, contacted suppliers of sea cucumbers in Mexico and agreed to purchase approximately \$13 million worth, knowing they had been illegally harvested (either in excess of permit limits, without a proper permit, or out of season).

Ramon Mayorquin received the shipments from poachers off the Yucatan Peninsula and created invoices to be submitted to U.S. Customs officials, which falsely stated the

*(Continued on page 18)*



*Sea Cucumber*

## Guilty Pleas

(Continued from page 17)

value of the product. The company then illegally exported the product from the U.S. without filing the proper export declaration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As part of the scheme, they made payments to bank accounts held under false names to conceal the illegal sales, and they also made payments to Mexican officials to insure that they did not interfere.

The sausage-shaped marine animals are prized by some Asian communities as a culinary delicacy and folk-medicine ingredient. Depending on the species, sea cucumbers can sell for as much as \$300 a pound in China and Hong Kong.

This case was investigated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Law Enforcement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, and Homeland Security Investigations.

### ***United States v. Adam T. Lawrence*, No. 4:18-CR-00014 (N.D. Calif.), AUSA Katherine Lloyd-Lovett.**

On April 8, 2018, Adam T. Lawrence pleaded guilty to smuggling and violating the Lacey Act for illegally killing a leopard, a CITES-protected species (18 U.S.C. § 545; 16 U.S.C. §§ 3372 (d)(1), 3373 (d)(3)(A)). Sentencing is scheduled for June 25, 2018.

Lawrence traveled to South Africa in August 2011, where he hunted and killed a leopard. Lawrence did not have the proper permits to kill the leopard or to bring it back into the United States. In May 2012, Lawrence secretly transported the animal's skin and skull into Mozambique and claimed that he had legally killed the animal there. Lawrence then applied for permits from Mozambique, South Africa, and the United States in order to import the leopard skin and skull into this country. Each document falsely stated that the leopard was killed in Mozambique. Using this falsified paperwork Lawrence imported the leopard parts into the United States in April 2013.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[illegible]



## Sentencings

### ***United States v. Chao Thao*, No. 2:17-CR-00036 (E.D. Wis.), AUSA Benjamin Proctor.**

On April 26, 2018, Chao Thao was sentenced to pay a \$4,000 fine and complete a one-year term of probation. Thao previously pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act for falsely labeling illegal wildlife parts that he imported from the United Kingdom (16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(d)(1), 3373(d)(3)(A)(i)).

In April 2015, Thao imported three taxidermized feet of black rhinoceros into the United States. He arranged with the shipper to falsely label the package as containing “antique ornaments” in an effort to avoid detection by U.S. authorities.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



*Black rhino feet*

### ***United States v. Paul R. Jackson*, No. 18-po-07002 (D. Colo.), AUSAs Bryan D. Fields and Suneeta Hazra.**

On April 24, 2018, Paul R. Jackson was sentenced to pay a \$25,000 fine for violating the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1538(a)(1)(G); 1540 (b)(1)).

During the spring of 2015, Jackson illegally shot and killed an African Elephant inside Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. Working with a South Africa-based professional hunter, a New York - based export facilitator, and several Zimbabwe-based hunting businesses, Jackson gave instructions to have the elephant exported to South Africa, where he hoped to sell the ivory tusks. As Jackson was not a resident of South Africa, however, the Zimbabwean government initially denied him a permit to export the tusks. Jackson then agreed with others to submit a document to the Zimbabwean authorities that would falsely state he had a South African residence. Ultimately, before Jackson and the others submitted the document, the Zimbabwean authorities reversed their position and issued an export permit.

As part of the sentencing, Jackson agreed to a four-year worldwide hunting ban that prohibits the hunting of any species designated as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He also will forfeit the tusks to the government of Zimbabwe.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



*Jackson and others after killing African Elephant*

## Sentencings

### ***United States v. Armand J. Dornbusch*, No. 4:18-CR-40002 (D.S.D.), AUSA Jeff Clapper.**

On April 23, 2018, Armand J. Dornbusch was sentenced to pay \$13,662 in restitution after pleading guilty to violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 703, 707(a)). As part of his sentence, Dornbusch is barred from hunting for three years and ordered to forfeit traps seized from his property. The restitution is to be divided as follows: \$10,650 to the National Fish and Wildlife Fund and \$3,012 to the Great Plains Zoo.

In August 2017, a local sheriff's office received a report about metal traps on wooden fence posts. Officers found 21 steel-jawed leg hold traps containing four live birds and eight that had been killed, including four hawks and one great-horned owl. Three of the live birds were raptors and underwent surgery at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls to amputate severely damaged digits on their feet. The treatment was successful and they were eventually released back into the wild.

This case was investigated by the Miner County Sheriff's Department; the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



*Hawk caught in leg trap*

### ***United States v. Carl Zeiss Vision, Inc.*, No. 3:17-CR-00548 (D. Ore.), AUSA Ryan W. Bounds and SAUSA Karla Gebel Perrin.**

On April 23, 2018, Carl Zeiss Vision, Inc. (Zeiss) was ordered to pay a \$750,000 fine for violating a condition of an approved pretreatment program (33 U.S.C. § 1319(c)(1)(A)).

As part of its regular operations, Zeiss routinely discharged industrial wastewater having both exceedingly high and exceedingly low pH levels from its eyeglass manufacturing facility in Clackamas, Oregon, to the Kellogg Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. These substances required neutralization through pretreatment before being discharged. Zeiss never notified the county of such discharges, and in fact claimed to only be discharging 200 gallons per day of "green lens cleaner," which did not require pretreatment.

In March and June 2015, the EPA installed pH probes in the sewer line coming from the facility, confirming that Zeiss had been regularly discharging a cadmium-and-lead alloy as well as a lens polish with a pH between 3.0 and 4.2 (and thus too acidic to be discharged without pretreatment). The company did not obtain a waste discharge permit

*(Continued on page 22)*

## Sentencings

*(Continued from page 21)*

until after agents executed a search warrant at the facility in September 2015. By failing to disclose its discharges to Clackamas County, the company operated completely outside pretreatment regulations for years.

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division.

***United States v. Jin Chul Cha*, No. 4:17-CR-06046 (E.D. Wash.), ECS Trial Attorney Thomas Franzinger, AUSA Scott Jones, SAUSA/EPA RCEC Karla Perrin, and ECS Paralegal Diana Choe.**

On April 20, 2018, Jin Chul Cha was sentenced to 51 months' incarceration, followed by three years' supervised release. Restitution is to be determined at a later date. Cha previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to defraud the government for his involvement in a multi-state scheme to defraud biodiesel buyers and U.S. taxpayers by fraudulently selling biodiesel credits and claiming alternative fuel tax credits (18 U.S.C. §§ 286, 1349).

Cha worked with Gen-X Energy Group, a now-defunct biofuel company in Pasco, Washington, and other co-conspirators (primarily with Scott Johnson, the former founder and CEO of Gen-X) to carry out these crimes. Cha used several corporations he controlled to facilitate a scheme to repeatedly cycle batches of renewable biofuels among various companies. With each cycle of the old product, Gen-X falsely claimed it had generated new biofuel, thereby generating fraudulent RINs and improperly receiving new alternative fuel tax credits from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Afterwards, Cha and others used false paperwork to represent the "fuel" as "feedstock."

From October 2012 until March 2015, the conspirators generated at least 9.4 million fraudulent Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) that were based on fuel that was either never produced or was merely re-processed at the Gen-X facilities. They received at least \$3.5 million from the sale of these fraudulent RINs to third parties. In addition, the defendants fraudulently received approximately \$2.5 million in tax credits for this fuel.

Johnson pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to defraud the government by making fraudulent claims for tax credits. He was sentenced to 97 months' incarceration, followed by three years' supervised release. He was held jointly and severally responsible for \$15,693,341 in restitution to the IRS.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division, and IRS Criminal Investigations.



## Sentencings

***United States v. George Anestis et al.*, Nos. 2:16-CR-00124, 125, 127, 129 (D. Maine), ECS Trial Attorneys Cassie Barnum and Shane Waller, and ECS Paralegal Ashley Patterson-Chandler.**

On April 19, 2018, George Anestis, Mark Green, and Charles Good were sentenced for their roles in the trafficking of juvenile American eels, also known as “elvers” in violation of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(a)(2)(A), 3373(d)(1)(B)). Anestis will pay a \$5,000 fine, \$33,800 in restitution (to be divided between the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts), and complete a two-year term of probation. Green will pay \$10,000 in restitution to the state of New Jersey and complete a one-year term of probation. Good will pay a \$7,000 fine and complete a three-year term of probation.

Anestis and Green, along with Yarann Im, Thomas Choi, Michael Bryant, and Mark Reno, illegally harvested, sold, transported, or exported elvers, knowing they had been harvested in violation of New Jersey, Massachusetts and other states’ laws. Good conspired with Timothy Lewis to illegally harvest, transport, and sell elvers. Further, as a means of concealing their illegal sale and export, they used Maine or Florida eel harvest licenses (theirs or others) to claim that they were obtained legally from Maine or Florida waters. Elver export declaration packages submitted to authorities included this false documentation used to disguise the illegal origins of the elvers.

This case is a result of “Operation Broken Glass,” a multi-jurisdiction U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigation into the illegal trafficking of American eels.

***United States v. Mario Atkinson*, No. 3:17-CR-00222 (D.N.J.), ECS Trial Attorney Ethan Eddy, AUSA Kathleen O’ Leary and ECS Law Clerk John Jones.**

On April 18, 2018, Mario Atkinson was sentenced to 24 months’ incarceration, followed by three years’ supervised release, and a \$1,000 fine. Atkinson previously pleaded guilty to one felony count of sponsoring and exhibiting a dog in a dog fight, and one felony count of unlawful possession of a dog intended to be used for the purpose of dog fighting (7 U.S.C. §§ 2156(a)(1), (b)).

On April 3, 2016, Atkinson fought his dog in a fight against a resident from another state. He later confessed to agents that his dog died in Atkinson’s car following the dog fight, and that he had thrown the dog’s body into a dumpster at a highway rest stop. On June 1, 2016, agents seized 18 pit bull-type dogs from Atkinson. These dogs had scarring and injuries consistent with fighting and were found near dog fighting equipment. He is the fifth person to be sentenced in this multi-state dog fighting case.

This case is part of Operation Grand Champion, an ongoing multi-jurisdictional dog fighting investigation.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the McNeese State University Campus Police.

[illegible]

## Sentencings

***United States v. Susquehanna Supply Company, Inc., No. 4:18-CR-00084 (M.D. Penn.), AUSA Carlo D. Marchioli.***

On April 10, 2018, Susquehanna Supply Company, Inc. (Susquehanna) was sentenced to pay a \$250,000 fine for causing the death of an employee, in violation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) (29 U.S.C. § 666(e)).

Susquehanna's primary business is bridge rehabilitation. In December 2014, the company contracted with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to rehabilitate a bridge near Evers Grove in Columbia County.

The project, which began in June 2015, involved digging large trenches at each end of the bridge. OSHA requires that an employee working in a trench must be protected from cave-ins by an adequate protective system, such as sloped walls. Cave-ins represent the greatest danger during a trenching operation and are more likely than other trenching-related accidents to result in worker fatalities.

On July 7, 2015, a company employee entered a trench at one end of the bridge to remove additional soil. The trench was approximately twelve-feet deep. Although Susquehanna was aware of the applicable OSHA regulations, the company had not implemented a protective system in the trench. While the employee was working, one of the trench's vertical dirt walls collapsed, burying the employee up to his chest and crushing him against the bridge's concrete abutment. The collapse caused massive trauma to the employee's upper body and killed him almost instantly.

This case was investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

***United States v. Cristobal Chavez-Rocha, No. 1:17-CR-00141 (E.D. Calif.), AUSA Brian K. Delaney.***

On April 9, 2018, Cristobal Chavez-Rocha was sentenced to 26 months' incarceration and ordered to pay \$32,712 in restitution to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for damage to public land and natural resources. Chavez-Rocha previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture marijuana (21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 846)

Agents executed a search warrant in May 2017 on a grow site located on BLM land in the Sierra Mountains. Chavez-Rocha admitted that he had been hired to tend approximately 5,000 plants. The marijuana cultivation operation caused extensive damage to the land and natural resources. Toxic pesticides and fertilizers, miles of plastic irrigation lines, and large amounts of trash were found, and native vegetation was removed to make room for the plants.

This case was investigated by the U.S. BLM, the California Army National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Park Police Marijuana Interdiction Group, and the Southern Tri-County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force.

## Sentencings

***United States v. Kevin J. Mast, No. 4:17-CR-40078 (D.S.D), AUSA Jeff Clapper.***

On April 9, 2018, Kevin J. Mast was sentenced after being convicted by a jury of violating the National Wildlife Refuge System Act for disturbing protected wetlands (16 U.S.C. § 668dd(c), dd (f)). The court sentenced him to complete a one-year term of probation, pay a \$100 fine, and restore the wetlands on his property.

In 1973, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased an easement for waterfowl management rights. The easement prohibited the drainage of any wetland areas on the property. In 2010, agents notified Mast that his plan to install drain tile on his crop land conflicted with the protected wetlands and would not be permitted. Despite the warning, Mast installed the drain tile in the fall of 2013. Mast must restore all six wetland areas on his property by August 1, 2018.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

***United States v. Ernesto Alvarez, Jr., No. 2:16-CR-00818 (C.D. Calif.), AUSA Heather Gorman.***

On April 9, Ernesto Alvarez, Jr., was sentenced to one year and one day of incarceration, followed by three years' supervised release, for transporting hazardous materials (specifically consumer-grade fireworks) without proper placarding. The execution of a search warrant in May 2016 revealed approximately 200,000 pounds of illegal fireworks stored, in four semitrailers, a moving truck, and a warehouse. In addition to the commercial fireworks, remnants of fireworks manufacturing materials were present in the warehouse, including explosive flash powder. All of the fireworks in the rental truck belonged to Alvarez and were transported to California from Nevada. Alvarez was later arrested for possession of a destructive device, and pleaded guilty to violating the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. § 5124).

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; The Los Angeles County Fire Department Arson Investigation Unit; the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Arson Explosive Detail; the South Gate Police Department; and the El Monte Police Department.

## Sentencings

***United States v. Rodriguez Rodney Lomax Norman et al.***, Nos. 1:17-CR-00254,00312 (E.D. Va.), AUSAs Maya D. Song, Whitney Russell, and Katherine Rumbaugh, with assistance from AUSA Gordon D. Kromberg and former SAUSA Evan N. Turgeon.

On April 6, 2018, Rodriguez Rodney Lomax Norman was sentenced to ten years' incarceration for his role in a conspiracy to engage in dog fighting, as well as acting as a ringleader in a credit card fraud and identity theft scheme (18 U.S.C. §§ 371; 1028(a), 1349).

Norman was fully immersed in the world of dog fighting in the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area. He and his associates bred, trained, and exhibited dogs in organized fights where animals suffered severe bites, gashes, and other injuries. When law enforcement searched Norman's Maryland and D.C. properties in August 2017, they found more than a dozen dogs, an animal treadmill, heavy dog chains, shock collars, lunge whips, performance-enhancing animal pharmaceuticals, and medical supplies like syringes and skin staplers. Norman had continued to fight his dogs years after law enforcement officials made him aware that this was illegal.

In separate criminal activity, over close to a three-year period, Norman helped organize and lead a conspiracy where members purchased thousands of stolen credit and debit card numbers, encoded those numbers onto fraudulent credit cards, and used the cards to buy merchandise including gift cards and cartons of cigarettes. During the conspiracy, the group made hundreds of thousands of dollars from selling cigarettes to buyers from New York City.

Norman was sentenced to 108 months for his role as a ringleader in the credit card fraud and identity theft scheme, and a consecutive 12 months for dog fighting. He also was ordered to forfeit a total of \$143,605. Norman is one of 12 defendants who were prosecuted in the credit card fraud and identity theft case, and the only defendant charged with dog fighting.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the Manassas Park Police, the Fairfax County Police, and Arlington County Police.



*Rescued Dog*



## Sentencings

***United States v. Montaro A. Williams et al.***, Nos. 1:17-CR-00040, 00041 (E.D. Tex.), ECS Senior Trial Attorney David Kehoe and AUSA Joe Batte.

On April 5, 2018, Montaro A. Williams was sentenced to complete a three-year term of probation and is banned from hunting and fishing during that time. Williams previously pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act for knowingly attempting to transport two alligator snapping turtles (which he illegally caught in Texas) to Louisiana in August 2013 ((16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(a)(2)(A), 3372(a)(4), 3373(d)(2)). In a related case, Travis Leger, and his half-brother Jason Leckelt, were sentenced in December 2017 to 21 months and 15 months in prison, respectively, for conspiring to violate the Lacey Act by illegally trafficking more than 60 large alligator snapping turtles in the spring and summer of 2016 (18 U.S.C. § 371). Co-defendant Ricky Simon was sentenced to complete a three-year term of probation. Leger, Leckelt and Simon are jointly and severally liable for \$22,431 restitution to the Texas Parks and Wildlife.

These cases were investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

### *\*\*A positive postscript\*\**

At the conclusion of this case, approximately 37 alligator snapping turtles were rescued from ponds located on the defendants' property. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Fish Hatchery in Natchitoches, Louisiana, reports that 149 alligator snapping turtle eggs have been collected to date. Last year, the turtles did not lay any eggs, likely due to the stress the turtles went through in moving locations. They are now brood stock for a new breeding program.

Once the eggs are located, they are dug up and placed in an incubator. This gives them a better chance of hatching free from predators such as raccoons and natural disasters like floods. The hatchlings then arrive in 90 days and are kept in captivity for four years to increase their chances for survival, before being released into the wild.



*Eggs in holding container*

## Sentencings

### ***United States v. Shelly R. Winfrey*, No. 2:17-CR-20014 (W.D. Ark.), AUSA Claude Hawkins.**

On April 4, 2018, Shelly R. Winfrey was sentenced to 130 days' incarceration (with credit for time-served), followed by three years' supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution for setting fires in the Ozark National Forest (18 U.S.C. § 1855).

On April 9, 2017, an off-duty deputy sheriff and a friend were driving up a dirt road north of Mulberry, Arkansas, when they saw a woman get out of her vehicle, bend over, and then get back in her vehicle and drive off at a high rate of speed. As she left, they saw she had ignited a dead pine tree. The men attempted to extinguish the fire and called the Sheriff's Office so that the fire department could be dispatched. The deputy also provided a description of the vehicle and the woman, later identified as Winfrey.



*Burned forest after fire was extinguished*

After the fire was extinguished, the deputy and friend came upon another fire burning about a mile from the first one. They reported that fire and left the area to avoid being trapped by the fire. Fire department personnel extinguished the second fire as well as a third one found in the vicinity. They saw a vehicle matching the description provided by the deputy. When law enforcement officials attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver began throwing ignited currency out of the window. Winfrey was subsequently taken into custody.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Forest Service and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

### ***United States v. Cory Pham*, No. 2:17-CR-00700 (C.D. Calif.), AUSA Amanda Bettinelli.**

On March 26, 2018, Cory Pham was sentenced to complete a one-year term of probation and perform 80 hours' community service. Pham previously pleaded guilty to violating the Endangered Species Act for engaging in the unlawful trade of arowana fish (16 U.S.C. §§ 1538(c), 1540(b)(1)).

In October 2017, Pham brought five arowanas on a flight from Vietnam to Los Angeles International Airport. The fish were concealed in bags that were hidden in a plastic container placed in his luggage. Pham neither declared the arowanas to customs officials, nor had any permits that would allow him to legally bring the fish into the United States.

This case is a result of Operation Jungle Book, a law enforcement initiative led by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service targeting wildlife smuggling.



## Sentencings

### ***In Re: PROJECT DAKOTA FLYER—District of South Dakota***

In April 2017, Randolph J. Seiler, the U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota, announced the indictment of 15 individuals for the illegal trafficking of eagles and other migratory birds. The indictments were a result of a two-year undercover operation, dubbed *Project Dakota Flyer*. The operation exposed the existence of a significant black market where eagle feathers and other bird parts were being sold for profit. In September 2017, an additional 16 defendants were charged, including a few pawn shops. These cases are being prosecuted by AUSAs Meghan N. Dilges and Eric Kelderman.

Below is a list of the defendants who have recently been sentenced:

- U.S. v. Chet Christensen, d/b/a Chet's Place, No. 3:17-CR-30052. Defendant pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Christensen was sentenced on March 28, 2018 to pay a \$3,000 fine and \$3,500 in restitution.
- U.S. v. Wanda Dupris, No. 3:17-CR-30119. Defendant pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the BGEPA. She was sentenced on April 24, 2017 to pay a \$1,000 fine.
- U.S. v. Jeff Jensen, d/b/a Jerry's Pawn Shop, No. 3:17-CR-30123. Defendant pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Jensen was sentenced on April 11, 2018 to pay a \$3,000 fine and \$1,750 in restitution (jointly and severally with co-defendant Amanda Silbernagel.)
- U.S. v. Amanda Silbernagel, d/b/a Jerry's Pawn shop, No. 3:17-CR-30123. Defendant pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the MBTA. Silbernagel was sentenced on April 11, 2018 to pay a \$1,000 fine and is jointly responsible for \$1,750 in restitution.
- U.S. v. Manuel Lieras, No. 3:17-CR-10032. Defendant pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the MBTA. Lieras was sentenced on March 29, 2018 to pay a \$5,000 fine and \$900 in restitution.
- U.S. v. Steven Marin d/b/a Mobridge Pawn, 3:17-CR-30124. Defendant pleaded guilty to misdemeanor violation of the MBTA. Marin was sentenced on March 28, 2018 to pay a \$3,000 fine.
- U.S. v. Chris Pomani, No. 3:17-CR-30118. Defendant pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the BGEPA. Pomani was sentenced on March 23, 2018 to pay a \$500 fine and complete a two-year term of probation.
- U.S. v. Elray Rosaaen, d/b/a Buffalo Gap Trading Post, No. 3:17-CR-50137. Defendant pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the MBTA. Rosaaen was sentenced on March 26, 2018 to pay a \$3,000 fine.
- U.S. v. Sheldon Tree Top, No. 3:17-CR-30116. Defendant pleaded guilty to misdemeanor and felony violations of the BGEPA. Tree Top was sentenced on March 22, 2018 to six months' incarceration, followed by one year of supervised release, and to pay \$5,000 in restitution.

All the restitution payments will go to the National Wildlife Foundation. These cases were investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Announcements

News from state, local, and Canadian cases is posted on the Regional Environmental Enforcement Associations [website](#) .

Please send [REDACTED] any pleadings you believe would be useful for posting in the [Brief Bank](#). Older materials are still available on the [Document Bank Archives](#) page.

If you are in need of sentencing data for your wildlife or pollution cases, please contact [REDACTED] with your search requests.

Please notify ECS of any appeals taken in your cases, as per [Section 5-11.118](#) of the U.S. Attorneys' Manual.

A public version of the [Bulletin](#) is available for non-law enforcement readers

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Chief	Deborah Harris	████████
Deputy Chief	Joseph Poux	████████
Assistant Chief	Thomas Ballantine	████████
Assistant Chief	Wayne Hettenbach	████████
Assistant Chief	Lana Pettus	████████
Assistant Chief	Jennifer Whitfield	████████
Senior Litigation Counsel	Howard P. Stewart	████████
Senior Litigation Counsel	Richard Udell	████████
Senior Counsel for Wildlife	Elinor Colbourn	████████
Senior Counsel	Kris Dighe	████████
Senior Trial Attorney	Jennifer Blackwell	████████
Senior Trial Attorney	Georgiann Cerese	████████
Senior Trial Attorney	Daniel Dooher	████████
Senior Trial Attorney	Todd Gleason	████████
Senior Trial Attorney	David Kehoe	████████
Senior Trial Attorney	Jeremy Korzenik	████████
Senior Trial Attorney	Ken Nelson	████████
Trial Attorney	John Arbab	████████
Trial Attorney	Cassandra Barnum	████████
Trial Attorney	Mary Dee Carraway	████████
Trial Attorney	John Cashman (USCG)	████████
Trial Attorney	Ryan Connors	████████
Trial Attorney	Adam Cullman	████████
Trial Attorney	Stephen DaPonte	████████
Trial Attorney	Gary Donner	████████
Trial Attorney	Patrick Duggan	████████
Trial Attorney	Ethan Eddy	████████
Trial Attorney	Matthew Evans	████████
Trial Attorney	Stephen Foster	████████
Trial Attorney	Thomas Franzinger	████████
Trial Attorney	Christopher Hale	████████
Trial Attorney	Joel LaBissonniere	████████
Trial Attorney	Samuel (Charlie) Lord	████████
Trial Attorney	Shennie Patel	████████
Trial Attorney	Erica Pencak	████████
Trial Attorney	Richard Powers	████████
Trial Attorney	Lauren Steele	████████