



November 29, 2011
DPS PR# 11-71

AWT Case Concluded with a 729 Day Jail Sentence for Dillingham Man

(DILLINGHAM, Alaska) – Yesterday, November 28, 2011, Dillingham resident Richard Sylvester received a 729 day sentence from Superior Court Judge Fred Torrisi to 729 days in jail for evidence tampering (Class C Felony Offense) and outfitting a big game hunt without a license (class A Misdemeanor). The sentence stems from a hunt that occurred in September of 2008. This was Sylvester's third felony conviction. As a part of Sylvester's sentence, Judge Torrisi prohibited Sylvester from guiding or transporting big game hunters for a period of ten years, suspended his hunting privileges for a period of five years and forfeited the boat and motor used during the 2008 hunt to the State of Alaska.

Alaska Wildlife Trooper investigation revealed that Sylvester, who was not a licensed big game guide or outfitter, received approximately \$26,000 from a group of hunters in Wisconsin, of which Sylvester was related to one of the hunters. Sylvester classified the hunt as a self-guided hunt in which he provided all of the equipment and camp facilities in the field. Receipts collected via search warrants established that Sylvester incurred approximately \$18,000 in expenses. Sylvester kept the additional money, Approximately \$8,000, as compensation for the hunt.

During the hunt, trooper investigation further revealed, a non-resident hunter killed a brown bear before the season opened, did not possess a brown bear tag and was not accompanied by a licensed big game guide. This bear was subsequently tagged by Alvin Colpitts. Three moose were also killed on the hunt. One moose was killed in a resident only corridor by a non-resident Wisconsin hunter. At Sylvester's suggestion, the moose carcass was moved to another location that was legal for non-resident hunters to take moose. The second moose was killed by Dan Kemp. Sylvester suggested that Colpitts tag the moose in order to allow Kemp to keep his moose tag. A third moose was killed by a non-resident Wisconsin hunter in the resident only corridor. Again at Sylvester's suggestion, this moose was tagged by Kemp.

The case was investigated by Alaska Wildlife Troopers with assistance from AWT Wildlife Investigations Unit, US fish and Wildlife Service Alaska region, Wisconsin DNR, Michigan DNR and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and prosecuted by Andrew Peterson with the office of Special Prosecutions. Media inquiries should be directed to Andrew Peterson at 907-269-7948.