



September 28, 2011

DPS PR# 11-054

Man to Spend Nearly a Year in Jail Following a Wildlife Crime Conviction and Probation Revocation

(PALMER, Alaska) – On Monday, September 26, 2011, Michael Anthony “Tony” Roberts was sentenced for a conviction regarding the illegal possession and transportation of a moose. The incident occurred in November of 2010. After reviewing Roberts’ history of hunting and criminal violations, Judge Eric Smith found that both Roberts and his co-defendant in the Cordova case, Theodore Williams, intended to take the moose the same day airborne and that they then tried to hide their actions. Smith further decided that Roberts has a long history of disregard for the court orders issued to him and does not abide by rules regarding licensing. Additionally, Judge Smith found that Roberts has been driving and flying without a license for many years. Consequently Judge Smith sentenced Roberts to 360 days in jail with 180 suspended. Judge Smith also revoked his hunting privileges, gave him informal probation for a period of 10 years with the conditions: obey all laws, not buy a hunting license and not fly an airplane unless validly licensed. Furthermore, the judge forfeited to the state the airplane flown by Roberts in the commission of the crime.

Three days prior to the sentencing for the hunting violation, Roberts was sentenced in Palmer by Judge Paul Olson following a petition to revoke probation filed by the state. Roberts was on probation for Driving with license suspended or Revoked and Theft in the 4th degree. The state alleged that Roberts was on probation when he performed four probation violations in November of 2010: Driving Without a License, Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance in the 5th Degree, Flying Without a License and Illegal Possession and Transportation of a moose. The violations occurred outside of Palmer. Roberts was convicted in Palmer. The Judge at the revocation hearing imposed all 140 days of suspended jail time.

Roberts is scheduled to be remanded and begin serving a total of 320 days in prison November 11, 2011.

For more details on the case, court documents can be obtained through the Cordova and Palmer Courts. AWT Lieutenant Bernard Chastain and AWT Sergeant Katrina Malm are available upon request for an interview. Please contact Megan Peters in the Public Information Office at 269-5413 to set-up an interview or to contact the Lieutenant or Sergeant.