



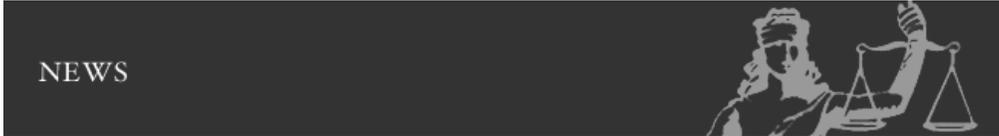
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Vero Beach Resident Charged With Importing Illegal Catch From The Bahamas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2013

Wifredo A. Ferrer, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Otha Easley, Acting Special Agent in Charge, NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, Southeast Division, and Major Camille Soverel, Regional Commander, South A Region, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), announce the filing of an information against **Toby Lamm**, 46, of Vero Beach. The information charges that Lamm imported and attempted to import into the United States fish and wildlife possessed and transported in violation of the laws of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the State of Florida, in violation of the Lacey Act, Title 16, United States Code, Sections 3371(a)(2)(A) and 3373(d)(1)(A). The information also seeks the forfeiture of the illegal catch: approximately, 338 queen conch, 11 spiny lobster tails, 31 stone crab claws, and 140 pounds of Snapper and Grouper fillets.

According to the information, on or about June 23, 2013, in St. Lucie County, Lamm attempted to import queen conch (*Strombus gigus*), spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), stone crab (*Menippe mercenaria*) claws and demersal (fin fish) namely: Snapper (*Lutjanus*) and Grouper (*Serranidae*), in violation of the possession limits for each of the species as set forth in the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, specifically, the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction & Conservation) Regulations, Part X, Sections 47(1)(a), (b) and 48(1)(f) and the laws and regulations of the State of Florida, specifically 68B-16.003(1), 68B-24.003(4), and 68B-13.005(2).

The case has been assigned to U.S. District Court Judge Jose E. Martinez. If convicted, Lamm faces a possible sentence of up to one year in prison, the forfeiture of the illegal catch, and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Mr. Ferrer commended the investigative efforts NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, FWC, and Customs and Border Protection. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Norman O. Hemming, III and Antonia Barnes.

An information is only an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.

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