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**BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO  
FELONY LACEY ACT VIOLATION**

**BRUNSWICK, GA - Lewis Jackson Sr.**, 58, a resident of Brunswick, Georgia, pled guilty yesterday before Chief United States District Judge Lisa Godbey Wood to acquiring loggerhead sea turtle eggs, in violation of the Lacey Act. Among other things, the Lacey Act makes it unlawful for any person to acquire, receive, and transport loggerhead sea turtle eggs, as loggerheads are endangered species under federal law.

According to evidence presented during the guilty plea hearing, in May, 2012, **Jackson** took over 150 loggerhead sea turtle eggs from nests on Sapelo Island, Georgia. When seized from **Jackson**, the loggerhead eggs were packaged in a manner indicating they would be sold to others. Loggerhead eggs fetch as much as \$15 per egg on the black market.

United States Attorney Edward Tarver said, "Loggerhead sea turtles are a national treasure that must be protected from plunder for our enjoyment and that of future generations."

"This case is an excellent example of the cooperative investigative efforts between the Georgia Department of Natural Resource Division of Law Enforcement, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, and each agencies commitment to investigate and interdict the commercialization of endangered and other protected wildlife species," said Edward Grace, Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement, Headquarters, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "We take very seriously our mission to support our state counterpart wildlife enforcement agencies and we will continue to concentrate on and aggressively pursue individuals who are involved in the illegal trade of protected species of wildlife."

**Jackson** faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, and a fine of up to \$250,000. The date for **Jackson's** sentencing hearing has not yet been scheduled. Assistant United States Attorneys E. Greg Gilluly, Jr. is prosecuting the case for the United States. For additional information, please contact First Assistant United States Attorney James D. Durham at (912) 201-2547.