

Department of Justice

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HUNTING GUIDE SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Roy S. Larson, 63, of North Tonawanda, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott, to a charge of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Larson was sentenced to a three year revocation of his U.S. Coast Guard, Merchant Mariner Credential and a one year revocation of his New York State Department of Environmental Conservation hunting and fishing license. As part of the plea, the defendant also forfeited his 1998 19 foot Lund motorboat and his boat trailer, valued at approximately \$5,000, to the NYSDEC.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron J. Mango, who handled the case, stated that the defendant is a commercial waterfowl hunting guide on the Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

On December 31, 2010 and January 2, 2011, Larson allowed and encouraged clients to violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by shooting long-tailed ducks, a protected migratory bird, from a motorboat while the boat was operated under the power of its engine. Officers with the NYSDEC Police observed this activity and subsequently conducted interviews with the defendant's clients. Those individuals were separately cited by the NYSDEC for hunting violations and those matters have been resolved. In 2007, the defendant was issued violation notices by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for similar activity.

The plea and sentencing are the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the direction of Special Agent-In-Charge, Sal Amato, and Environmental Conservation Officers of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Police, under the direction of Captain David Bennett.