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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fishing Lodges Guilty of Illegal Garbage Dumping



On May 1, 2012, 50 year old David Wilson, pled guilty on behalf of Lake Marie Lodge, LLC and To-Toy-Lon River Lodge, LLC, for improperly disposing of waste, a violation of Alaska's environmental laws. Palmer District Court William Estelle presided over the hearing.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers Matthew Hightower and Sergeant Mark Agnew investigated the lodges after a complaint was received that To-Toy-Lon River Lodge falsely claimed that a public runway was private and prevented fishermen and other recreationalists from landing on the runway. During the investigation of the allegation, Troopers flew to To-Toy-Lon River Lodge and Lake Marie Lodge to speak to David Wilson, the sole proprietor and corporate officer for the two corporations.

The Troopers noticed sizeable garbage dumps at each lodge. The dumps contained food, batteries, and four-wheelers and could be viewed from the air at both locations. The To-Toy-Lon River Lodge dump was located on state lands while the Lake Marie Lodge dump was on private lands. Wilson did not obtain the required Department of Environmental Conservation permit. The Troopers observed bear scat near the dumps, which indicated that the dumps attracted bears to the lodges.

Judge Estelle sentenced each corporation to pay a \$15,000 fine, for a total of \$30,000. He suspended the payment of a portion of the fine and placed the corporations on probation for three years. One of the conditions of probation requires the corporations

to clean up both dumps to the specifications of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Conservation. The clean-up that was started last summer expects to be completed this year.