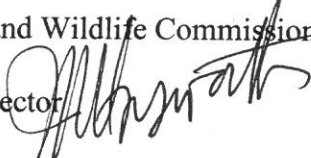




State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

January 14, 2016

To: Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
From: Jim Unsworth, Director 
Subject: Settlement of Tarabochia lawsuit

The Commission's June 2015 general delegation of authority directs me to advise you when I approve a litigation settlement valued at more than \$50,000. I am writing to let you know that I have approved an agreement between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Alex and Matthew Tarabochia to settle the Tarabochias' 2010 federal lawsuit against employees of the WDFW Enforcement Program for a payment of \$130,000.

The case focused on a traffic stop in March 2007 on a public highway near Skamakowa by WDFW officers, in order to inspect the Tarabochias' commercial catch and fishing records. The trial court dismissed the lawsuit in 2011, but the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated it in 2014.

In addition, under the terms of the settlement agreement, I state on behalf of WDFW: "The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that WDFW violated the constitutional rights of Alex and Matthew Tarabochia. We have settled with the Tarabochias, agreeing to pay them \$130,000."

We are pleased the suit has been resolved, and our Enforcement Program has revised its operations to ensure the issues raised in the case do not recur.