

****NEWS RELEASE****
**FISH RECEIVERS AGREE TO PAYMENT OF \$30,000 AND
PERMANENT INJUNCTION IN SETTLEMENT OF UNLAWFUL
BUSINESS PRACTICES CASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today on November 10 his office settled an unlawful business practices case against AA Sportfishing and Tour of Salinas and its owners Gerald and Katrina Wetle who have been doing business as fish receivers in Monterey County. A fish receiver purchases or receives fish for commercial purposes from a fisherman, and it required by law to complete and submit a landing receipt.

Among other things, the defendants failed to timely file landing receipts with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and also filed landing receipts which were incomplete and inaccurate. In addition, they failed to maintain complete and accurate records of all transactions as a fish receiver. Landing receipts are used to document important information about fish landed such as the species and weight, location of the catch, and type of gear used. Accurate and timely information is important for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to construct an accurate picture of the health of the fishery, prevent overfishing, and determine appropriate management strategies.

The defendants cooperated in resolving the case. As requested by the prosecutor, prior to settlement they paid the back landing taxes they owed to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. They also agreed to pay a total of \$30,000.00 in civil penalties and for the costs of investigation. The terms of the settlement provide for a permanent injunction.

The case was investigated by Warden Kevin Hare of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The District Attorney's Office brings actions such as these to ensure that businesses comply with their legal responsibilities to protect our fisheries.