



National Weather Service Employees Organization

September 23, 2010

Charles R. Juliand -- In response to the OIG Report --

I wish to make the following comments in response to the OIG Report issued on September 23, 2010. I have been employed as an enforcement attorney by NOAA's Office of General Counsel in Gloucester, MA since December 28, 1982. During that time I have represented the agency's interests in enforcement proceedings involving commercial fishermen on hundreds of occasions.

I wish to state, unequivocally, that I have always based my charging, and settlement, decisions in individual cases on the strength of the evidence in the case file, the enforcement history of the accused party, the seriousness of the offense, and other relevant factors. I have never chosen a proposed penalty level based upon my personal feelings toward the accused or his lawyer. Any claims to the contrary are baseless and constitute an unwarranted attack on my character.

As a former scallop fisherman, myself, and the brother of two commercial fishermen (one now deceased) I have great respect for those who labor on the sea. I firmly believe that fishers who obey the rules governing their activity should not have to compete, at an unfair advantage, with those who break the law simply to maximize their profits. Protecting the health of the marine fisheries, and those who rely on it to make a living, is a job to which I have dedicated nearly 28 years of my life. I take it very seriously and am saddened that a few individuals have chosen to attack me and my fellow public servants - for lawfully performing our jobs - to further their selfish purposes.

Prior to the launching of the present smear campaign, in which false, unsubstantiated charges have been made to both the OIG and to some members of Congress, my professional activities had not been the subject of public criticism. I have adhered strictly to the statutes, regulations and agency policies governing the prosecution of marine resource violators. In all my years of service, I have never had a single negative review from the NOAA management attorneys for whom I work. Further, I have earned some of the highest honors bestowed upon people who prosecute federal fisheries cases. These include the NOAA Administrator's Award "for worldwide leadership in establishing the legal soundness of new satellite technology - vessel monitoring systems - in law enforcement actions against marine resource violators" and the Department of Commerce's Gold Medal Award "for distinguished achievement in the federal service".

It is a sad day, indeed, when dedicated public servants who have faithfully carried out the dictates of the law are allowed to be made scapegoats by a small group of lawbreakers and their minions.

Sincerely,
Charles R. Juliand
Enforcement Attorney, NOAA