

has not affected the budget or the day-to-day operations of the port itself, as funds for all ports come from a single source where funds are routed to different ports when needed. Adams explained that individual ports do not maintain control over their own budgets.

Adams maintained that David Smith's involvement was limited to the signing off on the three ports, which was not out of his scope of authority. Adams said Smith had no further involvement and never pressured him, or anyone else, to his knowledge, to designate Houston. Adams advised that he knew Smith had an interest in SCI and that he occasionally went on hunts and to other engagements with its members, but Adams maintained that Smith did not have anything to do with Houston's designation. Adams said the only thing Smith ever mentioned to him was that Smith had been waiting on a trophy to come through the Houston port at one time and hoped it would go through prior to Houston's designation in order to avoid any look of impropriety. Adams said that, to the best of his knowledge, Smith's trophy indeed arrived prior to the port's designation.

Adams also stated that the taxidermist never pressured anyone in FWS to designate the Houston port. According to Adams, none of the hunting groups had ever called him.

However, in a subsequent interview with Adams, he was reminded of the October meeting between FWS law enforcement agents and the taxidermist, where Adams had allegedly directed these agents to meet directly with him. When asked why he omitted referring to the meeting with the taxidermist during his initial interview with OIG agents, particularly after being asked if the taxidermist had played any role in the designation of the Houston port, Adams said that if OIG agents wanted answers to specific questions, they should ask them.

According to Adams, the taxidermist had "probably" made a complaint directly to David Smith concerning the designation of the Houston port sometime in September 2003. Adams said he learned of his discontent from Smith, who told him to take care of the issue. Adams said he then held a teleconference call on October 1, 2003, with personnel from Region 2, including three FWS law enforcement officials and possibly a wildlife inspector from Arlington. Adams said he told two of the FWS law enforcement officials to go to Houston the next week and meet up with another FWS law enforcement official, and the three of them should then meet with the taxidermist. Adams advised that the two FWS law enforcement officials left for Houston the following week to meet with another FWS law enforcement official and the taxidermist. Adams said the supervisory FWS law enforcement official had phoned him from the road after the meeting with the taxidermist, and that was the last Adams heard about the issue.

When asked what the meeting with taxidermist had been about, Adams said he could not recall exactly, although he said it might have had something to do with a change in the ports' permits policy. When asked if he had received any paperwork or documentation from the supervisory FWS law enforcement official concerning the meeting with the taxidermist, Adams said he had not and reiterated that he could not recall the exact purpose of the meeting. Adams advised that it was not unusual to send agents to meet with private business owners or organizations and that people from FWS had met with Congressmen and large organizations in the past. Adams was asked if he thought the taxidermist's complaint was tantamount to a congressional request or complaints of a large firm or organization, and Adams admitted it was not. When asked if it was typical for FWS to receive one call from an individual and then dispatch three agents to meet with this individual, Adams conceded that it would be unusual. When asked what the difference was in this case, Adams explained it was because the phone call had come in at the "Assistant Secretary's level." When asked if this meant that he had