

service to commercial businesses and individuals, which is made more efficient by the designation of Houston. According to the wildlife inspector, Houston had been popping up on the radar to be designated for quite some time, as it maintained a high volume of seizures and overall traffic.

When asked, the wildlife inspector said the benefit to the government in designating Houston was that it cut down on customer complaints and enabled FWS to more efficiently oversee the import of wildlife trophies. He stated the only loss to the government was that the Houston port was no longer collecting money from fees, but, in his opinion, Houston's designation was justified.

When interviewed, another supervisory FWS law enforcement official stated that his introduction to the taxidermist came when he found a yellow "Post-It note" in his office to call someone at a brokerage firm that represented the taxidermist. The FWS law enforcement official stated that he did not know who placed the note in his office. The FWS law enforcement official said he contacted the brokerage firm and then contacted the taxidermist directly. The official advised that the taxidermist had some concerns about port policies, although he could not recall anything specific about the conversation. He told the taxidermist they would be leaving for Houston the following day and would meet with him while there. The FWS law enforcement official advised that he had already planned to be in Houston for that week because he was new to the region and wanted to visit the RAC office and the port. According to him, the object of the meeting with the taxidermist, which included two FWS law enforcement officials, was to discuss recent changes in port policies. He could not recall the October 1, 2003 conference call until agents reminded him of it. He maintained he vaguely remembered the taxidermist's name coming up but could not remember if it had been the FWS supervisory law enforcement official or Kevin Adams who had brought him up.

The FWS supervisory law enforcement official was interviewed and asked if he could remember the October 1, 2003 conference call. He replied by saying that he wishes he could say yes, but he could not. In reference to him being prompted to meet with the taxidermist, he added that if the "Chief," referring to Adams, says to do something, "you do it." The FWS supervisory law enforcement official was asked if he found it unusual that Adams directed him to set up the taxidermist meeting. He did not answer the question specifically; instead, he replied that he was sure that Adams told him but he cannot recall.

The FWS supervisory law enforcement official further expounded that "if we had a conference call, it is quite possible" that it was suggested that "we get over there." He also said it is possible that the taxidermist meeting was planned before the decision was made to visit the Houston RAC Office. He said the only way a meeting with the taxidermist would have precipitated would have been in response to a phone call or a letter.

The FWS supervisory law enforcement official recounted the October 9, 2003 meeting with the taxidermist as talking to him about changes in the port permit policy and taking a tour of the taxidermy facility. The FWS supervisory law enforcement official also recalled a discussion about why the policy was changing. He further added that to the best of his recollection, the trip was to talk about policy changes. He added that although he did not recall specifically that the port designation was discussed, it was quite possible that it was. The FWS supervisory law enforcement official said he did not think the meeting with the taxidermist was unusual, as he planned to visit Houston anyway.

The FWS supervisory law enforcement official explained that neither he nor another FWS law enforcement official had visited the Houston office, and it was his goal to do so. He was asked if there