



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 4, 2012**

**No. 12-008**  
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## **Man Sentenced for PFD and Wildlife Violations**

**Juneau** - The Commissioner of Revenue announced today that on August 27, 2012, the Juneau Superior Court sentenced William F. Ristow, 71, for Permanent Fund Dividend fraud, a class C felony, and two Fish & Wildlife misdemeanors. The court sentenced Ristow to perform 720 hours of community work service in lieu of 90 days of jail time, and pay over \$8,000 in restitution and fines for illegally obtaining resident hunting tags and fraudulently obtaining a PFD. Additionally, Ristow has lost hunting and fishing privileges in Alaska for five years and is permanently disqualified from the Permanent Fund Dividend program.

Ristow pled guilty in June, 2012 to felony unsworn falsification, a class C felony, and two counts of failure to purchase a nonresident big game animal tag. If Ristow fails to complete the terms of his sentence or violates probation, he faces up to four years in jail and an additional \$9,000 in fines that were suspended.

In 2010, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers received information from an anonymous source that Ristow had been applying for and receiving Alaska resident hunting and fishing licenses, although he was a resident of another state. It was found that Ristow had residences in Arizona and Washington, and that the address used on Ristow's PFD applications was an undeveloped property in Fairbanks on which he parked a 5th wheel trailer in which he lived while in Alaska.

On his 2009 PFD application, Ristow disclosed that he had traveled to Alaska in April and departed again in November for "vacation." However, investigation revealed that Ristow had actually traveled to Alaska a full month later than he had reported, meaning he had been absent from the state for more than the 180 days allowed by the program. Additional evidence obtained in the course of the investigation revealed that Ristow had also claimed his Washington home as his primary residence during 2008.

Under the PFD program statutes and regulations, Alaska residents may travel outside the state and may have vacation homes in other states but they may not be absent for a total of more than 180 days, must maintain their principal home in Alaska, and may not make or maintain a claim of residency in any other state during the qualifying year. There are exceptions for certain types of extended absences, including military and students, but those claiming such exceptions are still required to actively maintain Alaska residency.

It is a class C felony to knowingly provide false information on a PFD application.

This conviction was the result of a joint investigation between the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Department of Revenue Criminal Investigations Unit.