Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Who do you think is in the wrong?
Re: Who do you think is in the wrong?
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2013/4/29 19:43:39
URL:

Jack has been very reasonable in this thread, I too will defend him. I agree with him.

The OP's friend broke the law by the letter of the law. It's rather poorly written as it pertains to this particular situation, and I read it fully after my initial post. I too would be confused and could view it in the same way. That's not a defense exactly, if I was in that situation and unsure, the right thing to do is contact someone and find out.

So yes, the friend was in the wrong. He probably can't fight it. It's best if he just pays the fine and everyone goes on with their lives. But I'm certainly not going to demonize him personally for honestly misinterpreting a poorly written law. I won't demonize the WCO, either. I think perhaps he should have used a little more "prosecutional discretion" than he did. But in the end, he did his job.

There are a lot of these situations. Ignorance is no excuse to get out of a fine, but it can make it a little more socially understandable in that the person was not knowingly and willfully doing anything wrong.

I myself had one at a local gun range a few years back, and posted about it here. Paid my fine and went on. My boss's daughter had one recently. She doesn't fish or know anything about it, nor does anyone in the family. Her and a few friends decided to go out on the first day, thought it'd be fun. They went to Dick's and bought licenses for the first time, along with rods, line, and the works. Nobody mentioned "trout stamp", they didn't know such a thing existed. They all got busted. My boss asked me about it and I shrugged. Yeah, they were wrong, the WCO was right. But what a way to encourage youngsters to get into the sport! Thought you did everything right and bam, you all have hefty fines.