



# Department of Justice

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## **CRUISE SHIP ENGINEERS INDICTED TODAY FOR MAKING FALSE LOG BOOKS TO CONCEAL THE DUMPING OF WASTE OIL**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Tom Sansonetti, Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division and Marcos Daniel Jiménez, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, today announced that three senior cruise ship engineers were indicted today by a federal grand jury in Miami, Florida, for their role in concealing the overboard dumping of waste oil from the *SS Norway* cruise ship in false log books designed to deceive the United States Coast Guard. The defendants, Chief Engineers Knut Sorboe and Peter Solemdal, Senior First Engineer Aage Lokkebraten are Norwegian nationals who were employed by Norwegian Cruise Line Limited (NCL) at the time of the offenses.

NCL, one of the world's largest cruise lines, previously pled guilty and paid a \$1 million criminal fine and \$500,000 in community service in connection with the case. The government's investigation began when a former NCL engineer made allegations to the Criminal Investigation Division of the Environmental Protection Agency. NCL learned of the tip and discovered environmental violations during an internal audit. The cruise line's outside auditor actually witnessed NCL engineers aboard the *SS Norway* in the act of circumventing the ship's Oil Water Separator, a required pollution prevention device. The engineers deliberately used fresh water to trick a machine's oil sensor designed to detect and limit the overboard discharges. NCL reported the criminal conduct to the government, which was already investigating the whistle-blower's tip, and has cooperated in the government's investigation.

"Today's charges are necessary to show both companies and individuals operating and managing ships that they may not pollute our oceans and lie to our government," said Tom Sansonetti, Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

"Corporations do not act alone but through the acts of individuals and they must also be held accountable. This prosecution demonstrates the continuing commitment of the United States Attorney's Office to aggressively prosecute environmental crimes," said Marcos Daniel Jiménez, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida

Prosecutors announced today that U.S. District Court Judge Joan A. Lenard awarded the whistle-blower \$250,000 under a bounty provision established by Congress in the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships which allows for a reward of up to one-half of the criminal fine for those providing information leading to conviction.

The indictment alleges that the defendants engaged in a conspiracy to use false Oil Record Books in order to conceal overboard discharges from the *SS Norway* without the use of a properly functioning Oil Water Separator and in order to obstruct Coast Guard inspections. The Oil Record Book is a required pollution record that is regularly inspected and relied upon by the Coast Guard.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division; Coast Guard Investigative Service; United States Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Miami-Dade Police Department Environmental Investigations Unit; and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Law Enforcement. The case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida and the Environmental Crimes Section of the U.S. Department of Justice with the assistance of the EPA Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel.

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