

## Survivor Champ Pulls Out of Plea Agreement

by Allen Kenney

**Survivor winner Richard Hatch has reneged on a plea agreement for allegedly failing to declare his \$1 million winnings from the inaugural season of CBS's hit reality television series, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Rhode Island said last week.**

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Could it be a ploy by *Survivor* winner Richard Hatch to outwit his new opponent, the IRS?

Hatch has reneged on a plea agreement for allegedly failing to declare his \$1 million winnings from the inaugural season of CBS's hit reality television series, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Rhode Island said last week.

According to a criminal information released by prosecutors in January, Hatch, of Newport, R.I., failed to report on his 2000 income tax return the \$1 million he received from the Survivor Entertainment Group in August 2000 for being the first *Survivor* champion, as well as \$10,000 he received for appearing on the first season's final episode. The information also charged that Hatch failed to report more than \$320,000 that he received for cohosting a Boston radio show in 2001.

It was thought that Hatch had agreed to plead guilty to filing false personal and corporate income tax returns for 2001 and for not reporting payments made to Hatch's corporation, Tri-Whale Enterprises, from the owner of the radio station on which he appeared. In exchange for the plea, prosecutors agreed to recommend imprisonment "at the lowest point of the range" of a reduced offense level under the federal sentencing guidelines.

But now that deal appears to be dead. Tax Analysts has learned that the government plans to present Hatch's case before a grand jury.

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