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'Big fish' drug lord gets 30 years in prison

A man described by the U.S. government as one of the world's biggest drug lords — Manuel Felipe Salazar-Espinosa — was sentenced to 30 years in prison for directing an organization that shipped tons of cocaine into the USA. Calling Salazar-Espinosa "a very big fish," federal Judge Lewis Kaplan said the defendant caused tons of cocaine to enter the USA and laundered tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars in drug proceeds. He was ordered to forfeit \$50 million.

Kaplan said Salazar-Espinosa, 58, could have faced life in prison, but U.S. prosecutors honored Colombia's request not to seek the maximum sentence.

Also ...

► RIVERHEAD, N.Y. — A man accused of hacking his

THE ABOVE ARTICLE WAS WITHIN THE FEBRUARY 06, 2008, USA TODAY, Page 3A.

The Honorable Judge Lewis Kaplan
U.S. District Court for the Southern District
of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007-1312