

Washington State's Derelict Vessel Removal Program



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Recreational Boating
Association of Washington
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Agenda

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- How vessels become abandoned or derelict
- Various authorities
- Washington's Derelict Vessel Removal Program
- Results
- Revisions



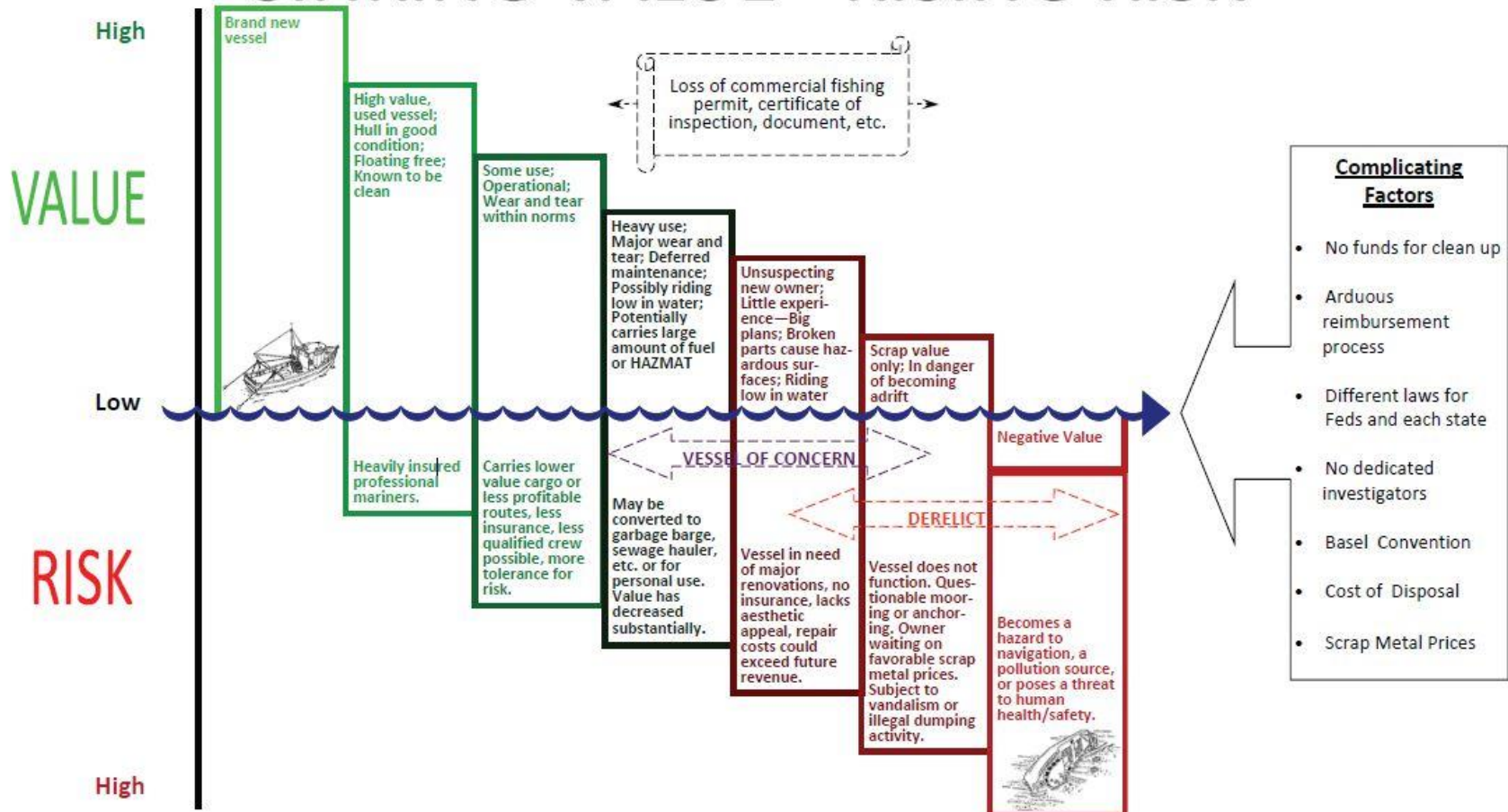
How do vessels become derelict?

- Confusion over ownership/bad sale
- Owner's intentional actions
- Owner negligence
- Uninsured accidents
- Bankruptcy
- Owner's death, old age, or mental illness
- Downward spiral of sales leading to above



Derelict Vessel Economics


SINKING VALUE - RISING RISK



Authorities

- Federal:
 - US Coast Guard
 - US Army Corps of Engineers
 - Environmental Protection Agency
- State:
 - Department of Ecology
 - Department of Natural Resources
- Local:
 - Cities and counties



A photograph of a white sailboat and a small yellow boat on a calm lake. The background is a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. The image is partially obscured by a blue gradient overlay on the right side.

Derelict Vessel Major Stakeholder Partners

- Department of Natural Resources
- Recreational Boating Association of Washington
- Northwest Marine Trade Association

2002 Legislation

- Stakeholders pass “Derelict Vessel Act”
- Gave Department of Natural Resources (DNR) authority to establish DVRP
- Funding from recreational boaters, \$2 per year (later \$3)
- Develop inventory
- Remove / dispose (or reimburse authorized public entities 75%, later 90%)
- Vessel owner liable for costs
- Offer assistance to public entities
- Not mandatory, a tool



Prioritization

- Priority 1: Emergencies
- Priority 2: Threats to health, safety, environment
- Priority 3: Impacting habitat
- Priority 4: Minor navigation / economic impact
- Priority 5: Other abandoned / derelict



A photograph of a white sailboat with a tall mast, docked on a calm lake. In the background, there is a dense forest of evergreen trees on a hillside. A small yellow kayak is visible in the water near the sailboat. The scene is set against a clear blue sky.

Vessels of Concern Current Inventory

Priority	Vessels
1	4
2	12
3	6
4	19
5	101
Total	139

A photograph of a white sailboat with a tall mast, docked on a calm lake. In the background, there is a dense forest of evergreen trees under a blue sky with some clouds. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue overlay on the right side where the text is located.

Derelict Vessel Removal Funding, 2015-2017

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (revenue from state-owned aquatic leases) --- \$529K
- Derelict Vessel Removal Account (vessel registration fees) --- \$1.93M
- Total: \$2.46M

Goal: To reduce the number of derelict and abandoned vessels in the waters of the state.



Success: 580 vessel removals completed by 50 different agencies since January 2003.

Some of the 580 Vessels Removed



But doesn't work
every time



Deep Sea



Davy Crockett

Revisions in 2006-2007

- Reduce “match” from 25% to 10%
- Add a \$1 surcharge thru 2013
- May take temporary possession when “a reasonably imminent threat”



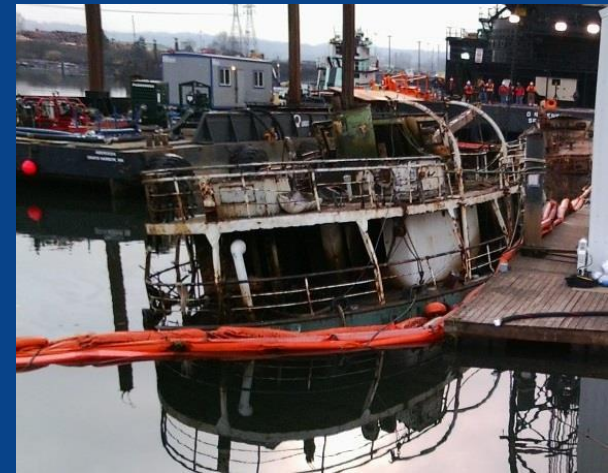
Revisions in 2011-13

- 2011: Agencies liability immunity
- 2012: one-time \$3M (for “Deep Sea” and “Cactus”)
- 2013: one-time \$4.5M for backlog
- 2013: make \$1 surcharge permanent

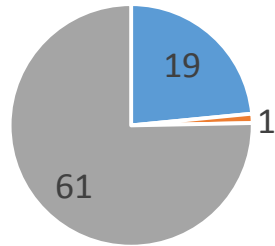


Revisions in 2014

- Vessel “Turn-in” pilot program
- Minimum boat insurance requirement
- Survey required for vessels over 40 years and over 65’ when sold
- Add revenue from commercial vessels to support DVRP



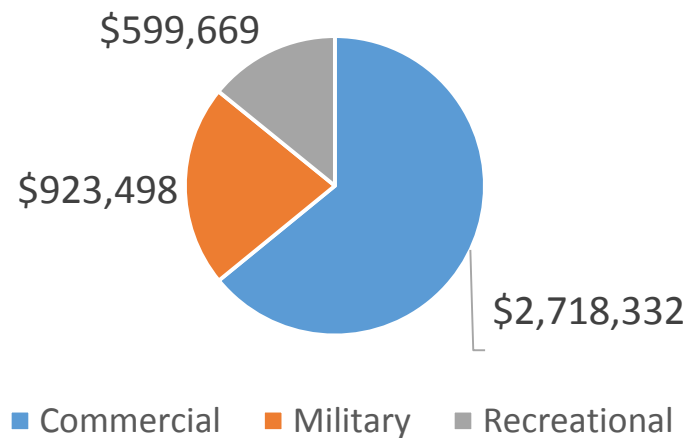
Number of Vessels Removed by Type



■ Commercial ■ Military ■ Recreational



Cost by vessel type



■ Commercial ■ Military ■ Recreational

Prosecutions & Judgments



Forus (Benton County)



Helena Star (Pierce County)



Deep Sea (Island County)

Total judgements: \$1,990,989



HAS YOUR DREAM BOAT BECOME A NIGHTMARE?

- ☐ Do you own a boat that is in poor condition or is no longer functional?
- ☐ Is your boat less than 45 ft. in length?
- ☐ Do you want to help keep Washington's waterways clean and free of hazardous waste?
- ☐ Are you a Washington resident?
- ☐ Did you know that abandoning a vessel carries a fine* of up to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail?

If you want to dispose of your boat safely and legally but don't have the resources, you may qualify for the **Vessel Turn-in Program**, managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

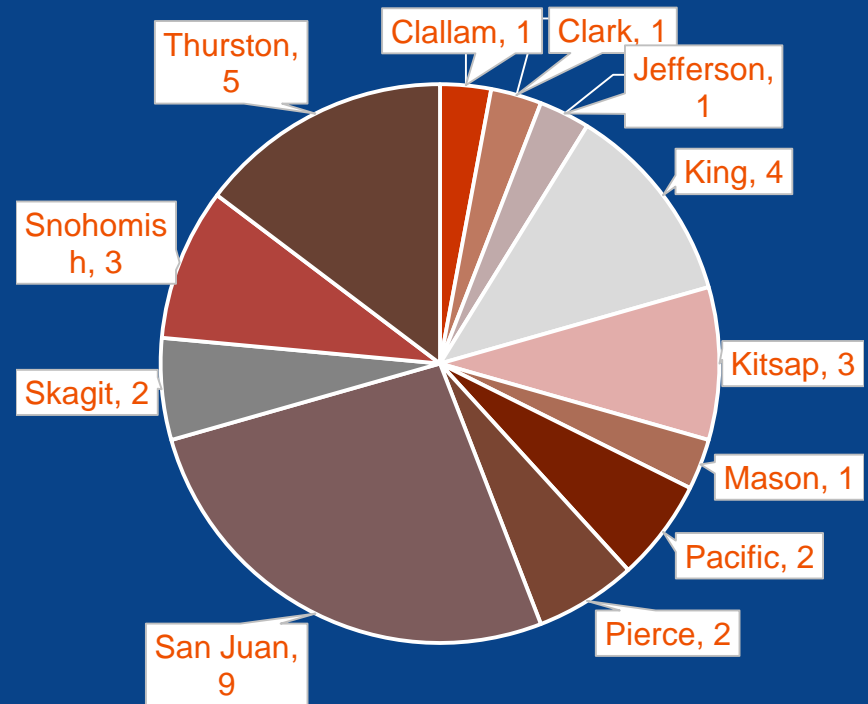
Learn more: <http://1.usa.gov/1o488ds> or call **360-902-BOAT** (2628)

*RCW 7.80.120 (Plus, owners who abandon vessels are responsible for all costs associated with removal and disposal.)

Vessel Turn-in Program

Applications Received as of 5/20/15				
County	Total	Removed	Pending	Canceled
	61	34	10	16
Benton	1	0	0	1
Clallam	1	1	0	0
Clark	1	1	0	0
Jefferson	2	1	1	0
King	7	4	2	1
Kitsap	4	3	0	1
Mason	1	1	0	0
Pacific	3	2	0	1
Pierce	4	2	0	2
San Juan	12	9	0	3
Skagit	8	2	3	3
Snohomish	8	3	2	3
Thurston	8	5	2	1
Whatcom	1	0	0	1

TOTAL VESSELS REMOVED BY COUNTY



Vessel Turn-in Program

Total Program Expenditure as of 5/20/15 \$ 96,548.13



Photos By DNR – Tammy Robbins



For More Information:

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**Derelict Vessel Removal
Program**

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