Washington State’s Derelict Vessel Removal Program

Steve Greaves
Recreational Boating Association of Washington
November 19, 2015
Agenda

- 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

VALUE
- High: Brand new vessel
- Low: Heavily insured professional mariners

RISK
- High

Complicating Factors
- No funds for clean up
- Arduous reimbursement process
- Different laws for Feds and each state
- No dedicated investigators
- Basel Convention
- Cost of Disposal
- Scrap Metal Prices
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
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
Vessels of Concern
Current Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cost by vessel type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>$2,718,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>$923,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational</td>
<td>$599,669</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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](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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Removed</th>
<th>Pending</th>
<th>Canceled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clallam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitsap</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierce</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skagit</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurston</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whatcom</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL VESSELS REMOVED BY COUNTY**

- Thurston, 5
- Clallam, 1
- Clark, 1
- Jefferson, 1
- King, 4
- Snohomish, 3
- Skagit, 2
- Kitsap, 3
- Mason, 1
- Pacific, 2
- Pierce, 2
- San Juan, 9
- Whatcom, 1
Vessel Turn-in Program

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

Photos By DNR – Tammy Robbins
For More Information:

Melissa Ferris
(360) 902-1574
Derelict Vessel Removal Program
Aquatic Resources Division
1111 Washington St SE, MS 47027
Olympia, WA 98504-7027
DVRP@dnr.wa.gov