

Kitsap County Derelict & Abandoned Vessel Removal Program

Quarterly Meeting

Technical Advisory Committee

September 10, 2025



Facilitators

Brittany Gordon

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Housekeeping

- Zoom attendees
 - Mute microphone when not speaking to minimize noise
 - Send message to Daria if you have Zoom issues
 - Use raise hand function to speak
 - Turn on video when possible
- In-Person attendees
 - Turn name tag vertical to speak

Wi-Fi: Community Wi-Fi

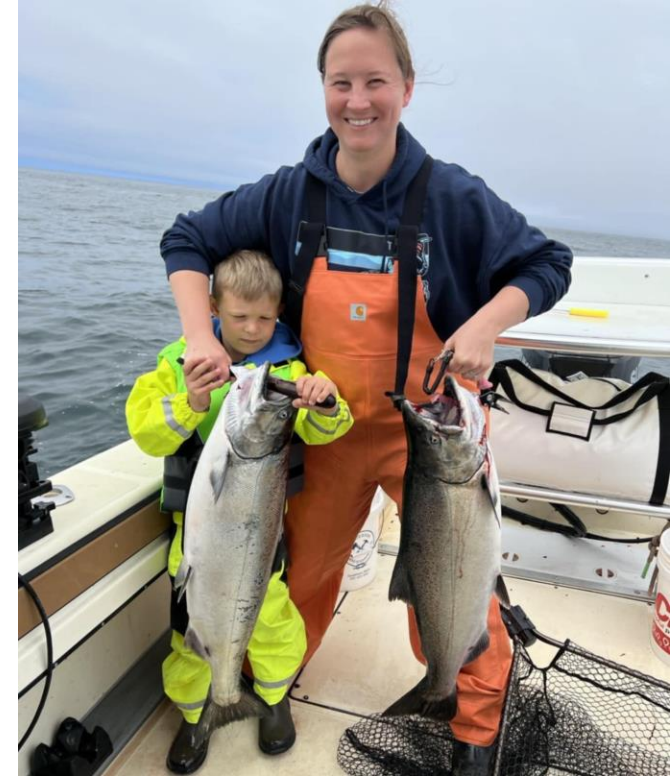
Password: Beaky.Buzzard.1942!

Review Agenda

1:00 PM	Introductions Round table updates Vessel updates	Brittany & All
1:30	DNR Program Updates	Troy
1:45 PM	Focus Group Updates:	
	Public & Partner Resources: Share ADV Process Tool & Flyers	Daria
	VTIP: Contracting Update	Kirvie
	Legislative & Policy: Share/discuss proposed legislative changes	Brittany
	Tracking Database: Share tracking database preview	Jonathan
2:45	Adjourn	

Round Table - Welcome and Introductions

- Name
- Agency
- Recent highlight or update on your work (optional)



Vessel Updates

- Cairdeas



Photo credit: James McKelvy via MyCoast



Photo credit: Jason Hedstrom, KSO



Vessel Updates

- Port Orchard Pass/ Brownsville
 - Simple Song sailing vessel
 - Jangle
 - Pelican
 - Wildthing Gibson House Boat
 - Blue-hulled Sailing Vessel from Hokukai, Hawaii



Photo credit: Robyn Dally, Port of Brownsville

Additional Vessel Updates

- Add notes here from discussion:
 - 3 more vessels at Brownsville
 - 1 additional boat owned by same owner as Cardeis (Nora- large vessel, smaller than Cardeis)
 - 1 fishing boat at Brownsville (periodically pays moorage; former tribal fishing vessel; not eligible for tribal agreements)
 - Port of Bremerton removed 2 derelict vessels and went out to bid for 2 more. Filled out report for another vessel of concern.



DNR Program Updates



Focus Group Updates

Public & Partner Resources
Vessel Turn-In Program Event
Legislative/Policy/Enforcement
Vessel Tracking Database

Public & Partner Resources

- Department of Licensing Vessel Registration Outreach
- Pamphlets & Brochures
- Program Webpage: [Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Program](#)
- [Kitsap County Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Process Tool](#)

Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) Event

- Finalizing inter-agency agreement with DNR
 - Disposal of up to 50 vessels
 - Vessels <35 feet
 - \$200,000 budget
- Next step: Develop RFP for boatyard contractors
- Start advertising/sign ups December-February
 - DNR Approval required
- Event in March-May (approximately)

Legislative, Policy, & Enforcement

- Draft legislative proposal- outreach initiated to:
 - WA Public Ports Association- Marinas Committee
 - Recreational Boaters Association of Washington
 - NW Indian Fisheries Commission
 - Kitsap County Commissioners
- Final call for TAC feedback

What is the problem?

1. Boats anchored on State-Owned Aquatic Lands that overstay, break anchor, and float away
2. Boats abandoned on private docks
3. Challenges determining vessel ownership& enforcing accountability

Abandoned & Derelict Vessels:

- Pose navigation hazards
- Impact public & private property
- Degrade water quality
- Impact aquatic habitats
- Impact fisheries
- Threaten public safety
- Result in costs to WA state taxpayers



Photo: WA Department of Natural Resources

Need identified by law enforcement focus group:

- The timeline to declare a vessel derelict is too long, allowing more time for vessels to break loose, become damaged, run aground, or sink
 - Once a vessel sinks, the cost of removal increases drastically

Currently...

Vessels with unknown or unlocatable owners must be declared “abandoned.”

(1) "Abandoned vessel" means a vessel that has been left, moored, or anchored in the same area without the express consent, or contrary to the rules of, the owner, manager, or lessee of the aquatic lands below or on which the vessel is located for either a period of more than thirty consecutive days or for more than a total of ninety days in any three hundred sixty-five-day period, and the vessel's owner is: (a) Not known or cannot be located; or (b) known and located but is unwilling to take control of the vessel. For the purposes of this subsection (1) only, "in the same area" means within a radius of five miles of any location where the vessel was previously moored or anchored on aquatic lands.

Under current statute, a vessel with an unknown or unlocatable owner cannot be declared abandoned until it has been observed for 30 days (within 1 anchorage, within 5 miles). Then, the custody process can begin.

However, if a vessel meets the definition of “derelict,” it can be declared derelict immediately if it meets the listed criteria. Then the custody process begins.

Custody process in 79.11.040 (no changes proposed to custody process)

Proposed Statute Change

Therefore, this proposed change revises the definition of “derelict” to allow more vessels to fit that definition and thus prevent costly sinking of vessels by allowing the custody process to begin sooner.

RCW 79.100.010

(5) "Derelict vessel" ~~means the vessel's owner is known and can be located, and exerts control of a vessel that~~ is a vessel that:

- (a) Has been moored, anchored, or otherwise left in the waters of the state or on public property contrary to RCW 79.02.300 or rules adopted by an authorized public entity; ~~or~~
- (b) Has been left on private property without authorization of the owner; or
- (c) Has not been registered for a period of at least two years; or
- ~~(d)~~ Has been left for a period of seven consecutive days, and:
 - (i) Is sunk or in danger of sinking;
 - (ii) Is obstructing a waterway; or
 - (iii) Is endangering life or property.

Vessel Tracking Database

- Added data fields based on TAC feedback
- Imported structure and data from DNR
- Still finalizing data sharing agreement with DNR
- Next steps: Test/pilot database

Wrap Up & Next Steps



Thank you!

Program Webpage:

<https://www.kitsap.gov/dcd/Pages/Derelict-Vessel-Removal-Program.aspx>

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