

Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Technical Advisory Group meeting

September 10, 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

- Caleb Reese
- Kathy Garcia
- Jason Hedstrom
- Tami Griffey
- Ellen Ross-Cardoso
- James Strode
- Hillary Eichler
- Bob Ballard
- Rashni Ballard
- James Weaver
- Trey Holden
- Caitlin Newman
- Dave Housberg
- Michael Moore
- Evan Dabrowski
- Robyn Dally
- Troy Wood
- Jonathan Raine
- Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech
- Daria Etchings
- Brittany Gordon

Vessel updates

- Cairdeas,
 - o Vessel sunk in Sinclair Inlet on Sunday 9/7/2025. Cause is unknown.
 - o Leaking stopped after divers plugged vents and caps, but still leaking residual oil
 - o Ecology has measurement of leak
 - o Federalized by US Coast Guard. Up to \$800k mobilized by federal government
 - o Plan is to float, remove, and dispose- still being evaluated by salvage crew

- WDFW assessing damage to environment
 - Salmon runs, surf smelt, shellfish. Olympia Oyster beds.
- Cause is unknown. Focus right now is on response and abatement.
- Vessel owner has several vessels in Kitsap County, many of which have been seized and released
- 110 ft vessel; this will be the fifth vessel by this owner taken custody by DNR
- Vessel was in Dyes Inlet prior to Sinclair; KSO was in process of posting the vessel. Vessel has been posted five times before dating back to 2018, owner moves vessel five miles to come back into compliance.
- Oil liability trust fund being used for removing hazmat
- Cost to DNR ~ \$200K to remove and dispose; federal agencies made \$800K available to take care of removal and disposal
- Timeline of removal and disposal – depends on divers' assessment. Need approval from WDFW
- Port of Bremerton – offer port access if needed
- Vessel owner's stated intent is to renovate vessels and sell them as live-aboards
- Brownsville vessel reports
 - 5 vessels were originally in Poulsbo and moved due to City law enforcement
 - Sherriff's office contacted all vessel owners
 - 3 more vessels have since arrived at Brownsville
 - One boat- the Nora- is owned by same owner as Cairdeas
- Port of Bremerton
 - Recently removed/destroyed two derelict vessels and went out to bid for two more
- DNR Program updates
 - Submitted draft RCW update to executives for review
 - Once executives approve, will go to the AG's office for review
 - AG may also look into additional changes in RCW to ADV code
 - New biennium started, already spent \$2M and bookmarked \$4.5M; grant total available is \$21.5 million
 - Removed 11 vessels so far
 - Working on 35 vessels right now
 - Starting operations in Tacoma to deconstruct the Pacific Producer; \$2.5million spent on vessel to date, \$2.5 million additional to dispose
 - Legislation for tax exemption on vessel removal has expired and no longer active
- Public and Partner Resources

- DOL vessel registration outreach
 - Purpose – outreach to encourage vessel owners to register their vessels. Would help law enforcement contact vessel owners in the case of safety or threat to vessels, helps sellers not be liable for derelict/abandoned vessel costs.
- Pamphlets and Brochures
 - Kitsap County ADV removal program
 - How to be a responsible boater
 - Include section about documented vessels; all vessels must register in Washington state
 - TAC asked to review by end of September so staff can distribute resources in October
- ADV Process tool via Survey 123
 - Proposal to put a link in See Click Fix portal
 - Add process for private owner to gain custody for vessels on private tidelands (junk vehicle affidavit form – filled out by code enforcement or law enforcement; typically used in VTIP program; can be used for derelict and abandoned vessels on private tidelands for private property owners to use to gain custody and turn in to VTIP)
 - Recommendation – produce a decision tree for service providers to use to explain process
 - For SOAL, include update that APE has authority to remove vessel
 - For transient vessels, include note that after taking custody, owner has 30 days to appeal
 - Action item – meet with Troy to review details and provide edits before sharing with the group
- VTIP event
 - Port of Bremerton - Offered to use airport property for staging, but would require an ILA between County and Port of Bremerton
 - Budget can be up to \$500,000 but most events in Puget Sound have not reached this amount.
- Legislative, Policy, and Enforcement
 - Brittany provided update on proposed legislative change (see powerpoint).
 - Feedback sought from TAC by end of September.
 - Action item- send out proposal
- Vessel Tracking Database
 - Review list of information collected in database to ensure alignment with DNR tool

- Map will be shared with APEs, internal only, not viewable by the public
- **Action** –
 - **Include** function to duplicate vessel report to track vessels that move around between jurisdictions
 - **Include** – vessel make (sailboat, trawler, speedboat, etc. – check DNR drop down menu)
 - **Include** – instructions for different fields
 - **Tentatively include** – vessels of concern should be tracked using the tracking database; color coded for vessels that have been tagged as ADV in the past;
 - **Produce report from tracking database to show all vessels of concern in Kitsap County**
 - **Determine** guide for when to remove vessels from database
- MyCoast – Available to the public, being used by Boat US Foundation for nationwide tracking. NOAA wants to know of all vessel reports
- Kitsap ADV tracking database – used internally only; would be password protected.

3 PM- Adjourned