

Past UBCM resolutions regarding derelict vessels

2012 B78 regulation of abandoned boats & derelict structures along public waterways

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments be requested to implement regulatory changes that will provide municipal authority to enforce the removal of abandoned, derelict or hazardous structures along public waterways, and to enforce the eviction of illegal float home and house boat squatters.

2012 B23 removal of derelict & abandoned vessels from coastal waters

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the federal and provincial governments to implement a Derelict Vessel Removal Program modelled after the Washington State program, and to designate the Canadian Coast Guard as the receiver of wreck in the case of every abandoned or derelict vessel in the waters of coastal British Columbia.

2010 B30 derelict & abandoned vessels, barges & docks

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to develop a coordinated approach to the timely and adequate removal of all types of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks in all situations and consider the following strategies:

- funding mechanisms such as a fee on vessel registrations or a surcharge on marine fuel to fund the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks;
- designated disposal areas where owners can take their unwanted boats and structures to provide an alternative to abandonment on public property; and
- education and vessel product stewardship programs, for example fibreglass boat recycling centres.

2005 B112 Harbour Protection - Derelict Vessels

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM strongly recommend to the Province, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard that immediate action be taken by them to remove any derelict vessels that have been unoccupied for a period of six months or longer from the harbours of any communities requesting such action.

Past Provincial responses

2012

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province shares many of the concerns expressed by coastal communities with respect to derelict and abandoned vessels in coastal waters. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) is actively exploring long-term solutions within available resources during a period of fiscal constraint.

FLNR is participating in the development of a guidance paper to clarify roles and responsibilities for each organization with a mandate to address derelict vessels. The paper is being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. The estimated time for completion of the review and posting of the paper on the FLNRO internet site is February 14, 2013. FLNR communicates regularly with Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard and works with the federal agencies to find collaborative solutions for addressing concerns associated with derelict and abandoned vessels.

In 2011/12, FLNR worked with local governments and individuals wishing to accept responsibility for vessel cleanup by contributing some operational funding to cover partial equipment costs associated with the removal of vessels. Staff from regional - federal agencies are working with their counterparts in Ottawa to seek funding and to develop a permanent solution for the Pacific coast.

2010

RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

The Province of BC has been engaged in regular, collaborative discussions with the agencies mandated to address derelict and abandoned vessels since 2009. The Ministry recognizes that the multi-jurisdictional nature of managing abandoned vessels is a key challenge when resolving these issues. The Minister communicated with former Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, John Baird, former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Jim Prentice, and former Minister of Environment Canada, Gail Shea, seeking support to establish a senior-level working group to address the very concerns raised by the AVICC and UBCM.

At a regional level, the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (MNRO) is working with the Navigable Waters Protection Division (Transportation and Infrastructure Canada), Environment Canada and the Harbour Authority Association of British Columbia to explore options to efficiently manage concerns raised by abandoned vessels. There exists a cooperative spirit in the work done at the regional level, and suggestions to resource the removal of abandoned vessels is a primary topic of discussion.

The BC Ministry of Environment has investigated the potential to include fibreglass boats in a recycle scheme known as Extended Producer Responsibility (e.g., surcharges to recycle batteries and tires). It was determined that the volume of material to be included and the lack of potential for marketing the recycled product makes this option cost prohibitive. Currently, vessel owners are able to dispose of derelicts at a private operation in Richmond and at landfill sites subject to the terms and conditions imposed by local governments.

In January 2011, a Joint Working Group for the Removal of Derelict Vessels (JWG) was established to explore options and address this issue. NRO, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), Transport Canada's Navigable Waters Protection Division (NWPD) and Islands Trust are represented on the JWG. The JWG has met in January and March of this year to discuss possible short- and long-term solutions and explore options to defray costs associated with disposing of vessels abandoned on public land. MNRO staff are preparing a submission to ELUC for the creation of an interim derelict vessel fund in partnership with the Ministry of Finance.

Transport Canada has the authority to dispose of derelict and abandoned vessels considered to be a hazard to navigation or a source of pollution. Transport Canada assesses each incident and has a record of taking action on priority cases. The NWPD has the authority to intervene when a derelict or abandoned vessel poses an impediment to navigation. NWPD assesses each incident and also has a record of taking action on priority cases.

2005

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED – Solely a Federal Government issue