

# Derelict Vessels Concerns and Ideas

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Islands Trust

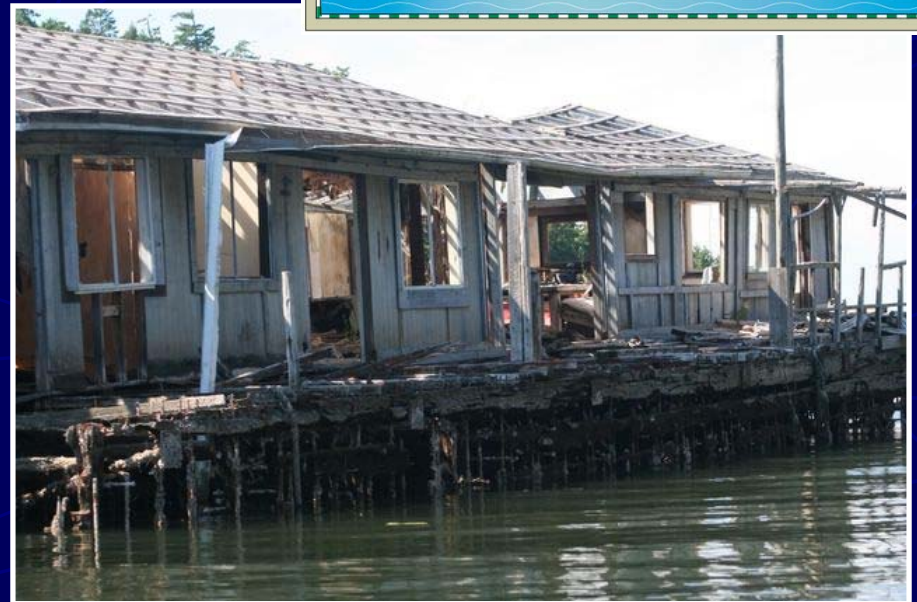
# Why the Islands Trust is concerned



- ▶ The Islands Trust is a federation of local governments with a provincial mandate to 'preserve and protect' the Islands Trust Area.
- ▶ Over 450 islands
- ▶ 1000s of kilometers of scenic and sensitive coastline,
- ▶ Within a short distance from major boating centres of Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and Seattle.

# An Example -- Parker Island

- ▶ 2 large barges from Granville Island were left in a small bay on Parker Island, off Galiano Island between 1983 and 1993.
- ▶ By 1997, both barges were completely abandoned by their owner.



# Parker Island continued...

## (a lengthy saga)

- ▶ For 10 years, islanders made many attempts to have the barges removed
- ▶ Agencies and others contacted:
  - Dept of Fisheries and Oceans
  - Minister of Environment
  - Coast Guard
  - Receiver of Wrecks
  - MPs and MLAs
  - The Islands Trust
- ▶ No government agency was able to help.
- ▶ Partial clean up by volunteers in 2006.
- ▶ Removed by BC Transmission Corporation in 2007.
  - part of a habitat compensation requirement recommended by the Islands Trust as part of a transmission line project
- ▶ \$150,000 cost.



# 4 Resolutions at AVICC 2010



## District of Sooke

- ▶ The 'Florence Filberg'.
- ▶ Sixty-five year old tugboat.
- ▶ Broke loose from moorings and abandoned by owners in Sooke Harbour in 2007.
- ▶ District of Sooke has requested assistance from senior levels of governments without success.
- ▶ Targeted by arsonists in 2009.
  - Air quality and environmental concerns.
  - Navigational hazard.
- ▶ Removal estimates: \$120,000.
- ▶ Over 20 other derelicts remain.

# More Concerned Communities

## North Saanich

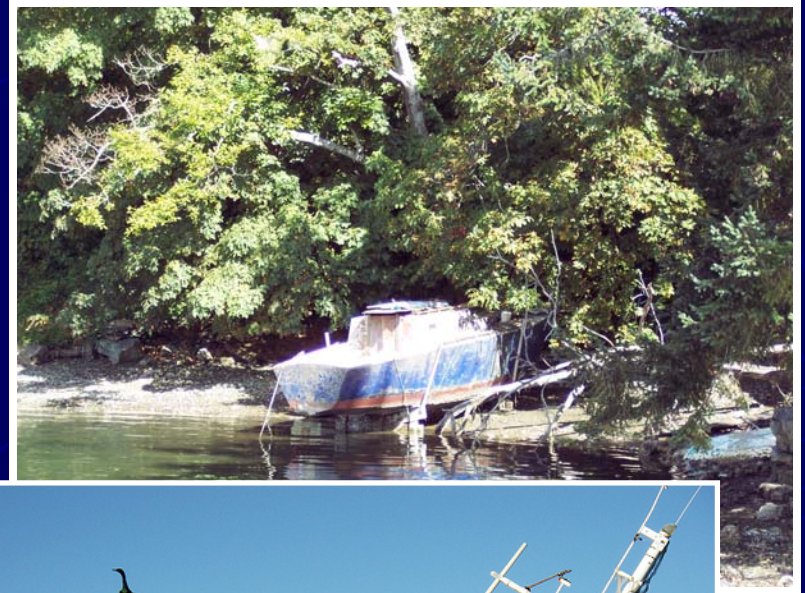
- ▶ Over 20 abandoned vessels occupy the environmentally sensitive Tod Inlet.
- ▶ Concerns about environmental contamination, visual pollution and navigational hazards.

## Sechelt Harbour

- ▶ On-going problems with derelict vessels left at anchor and at the public dock.
- ▶ Concerns about safety, costs to harbour authority and limits to other boaters' use of harbour infrastructure.



- ▶ Our scenic BC coast, an international tourist destination, is becoming littered with an increasing number of abandoned vessels, docks and floats.
- ▶ The problem is falling through the cracks of government jurisdiction.



# A strategic approach is needed

Some ideas:

- ▶ Senior government action is needed
- ▶ Focus on prevention
- ▶ Clarify jurisdiction
- ▶ Develop enforceable regulations
- ▶ Dedicate funding (possibly through a stewardship fund)
- ▶ Create affordable disposal options
- ▶ Educate the public





# Final Points

- ▶ Local governments are interested in helping.
- ▶ We do not have the resources or broad jurisdiction to solve this issue alone.
- ▶ To avoid simply relocating the problem, a comprehensive and unified approach is required that covers the entire coastline.
- ▶ We want to engage senior governments in a comprehensive and sustainable solution before the problem grows even larger.
- ▶ **UBCM resolution #B30** asks senior governments to begin working towards a solution.

# It's Time to Act

