

# ADV in Alaska

Products  
available on our  
website:

- Alaska ADV Case Studies
- Vessel Impoundment Municipal Templates
- Vessel of Concern Reporting Form
- Video overview of ADV in Steamboat Slough
- Past Meeting Summaries

Please see page 4 for information on how to contact the Task Force. Facilitated by Cook Inletkeeper and Alaska Clean Harbors.



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## ADV Task Force Update

Since February of 2014, the ad-hoc Abandoned & Derelict Vessel Task Force has met in person nine times in Anchorage (a list of participating entities is included on page 2). As facilitator for this group, I will say that I have never worked with a more pro-active and convivial group of people, especially on such a complex and thorny issue. I believe this is born from a real understanding from all participants that the increasing number of derelicts throughout our coast and rivers poses a substantial threat to Alaska's environment, navigation, public safety and economy. Countless hours are being spent by agency staff and municipal employees on tracking down vessel owners, trying to prevent vessel abandonment, and mitigating damage as much as possible when owners can't or won't take responsibility. Recently one of our Task Force members found a copy of a resolution from our 16<sup>th</sup> Legislature in 1990 declaring the risk abandoned vessels pose to the state and the need to systematically address the issue (see pg. 4). Finally, almost twenty years later, Alaska

Clean Harbors (through the support of Cook Inletkeeper) is facilitating that effort with all of the major players at the table. The Task Force is working hard to put together a suite of recommendations for the legislature to take up in Ju-



neau during the next session, with the ultimate goal of preventing future derelict vessels, reducing the overall burden on our state and municipal entities, and mitigating the negative impacts derelict vessels have on the general public throughout the state. Our next update will be in the fall, prior to the start of the legislative session. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or feedback!

## Thanks to Wyn

Earlier this year, Wyn Menefee moved to a new position at ADNR and left the ADV Task Force. This summer we will present Wyn with a letter of commendation, thanking him for the huge amount of knowledge and expertise he brought to the table to help craft potential solutions to the growing challenge of ADV throughout Alaska. Thank you, Wyn, and best of luck in your new endeavors!



## ad-hoc ADV Task Force Members

State, federal, municipal and private partners are working together to develop tools and identify needs to more effectively deal with ADV in Alaska.

*State, federal and municipal partners are working together to develop tools and identify needs to more effectively deal with ADV in Alaska. For contact information of participants, please see meeting summaries or contact Rachel at [rachel@inletkeeper.org](mailto:rachel@inletkeeper.org).*

The following agencies and stakeholders have representatives who have participated in the ad-hoc ADV Task Force to-date:

**Alaska Department of Natural Resources**, Division of Mining, Land and Water

**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**, Spill Prevention & Response

**Alaska Department of Transportation**, Port & Harbors

**Alaska Department of Fish & Game**, Habitat

**Alaska Legislature**, Rep. Paul Seaton, Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

**Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators**, Representatives from Homer, Bethel, Sitka

**Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski**

**United States Coast Guard**, Sector Anchorage, Division of Waterways Management

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**, Marine Debris Program, Restoration Center

**Environmental Protection Agency**, Response, Alaska Region 10

**Orutsararmiut Native Council**

**Alaska Marine Response**

**Birch Horton Bittner and Cherot**, pro-bono legal assistance for Cook Inletkeeper

**Cook Inletkeeper/Alaska Clean Harbors**, Facilitator

*The United States Army Corps of Engineers has been made aware of this effort, and a representative is included in all email correspondence.*

## Pondering a State ADV Program

Last spring, representatives from ADNRR and ADEC attended a three-day national workshop on ADV held by the NOAA Marine Debris Program. One of the big take-home messages they brought back was the high return on investment for having a dedicated person at the state level who consolidates efforts on derelict vessels. Currently in Alaska, nobody in the state is tasked with addressing derelict vessels. When a vessel is abandoned, the effort to track down its owner, push for removal, outreach about options, and coordinate with other state, federal, local and tribal entities on options, funding and other concerns is stacked on top of multiple staff members at several different agencies.

Building on resources provided from other states (specifically our nearest neighbors in Washington), we envision an ADV Program for the State of Alaska that would allow for streamlined assessment and management of derelict vessels. There would be increased and institutionalized communication and processes between agencies and federal, local and tribal entities on derelict vessel identification, management and removal. This would lead to reduced bureaucracy and increased efficiency, with a goal of timely management of derelict vessels. Without this



level of coordination, often times the state agencies are unable to move quickly on new cases, and lose opportunities to save money by “piggybacking” on clean-up efforts from the US Coast Guard and ADEC, where funding exists to mitigate pollution damage.

Within the suggested revisions to the state derelict vessel chapter 30.30, this fall the Task Force will be presenting an opportunity for the formation of an ADV Program and the consolidation of personnel resources to streamline derelict vessel management for the state of Alaska. Please see page 4 for contact details to provide feedback or suggestions.

## Alaska ADV Database Update

How many derelict vessels are littering Alaska’s coast and rivers? This is an important question to answer, but it’s no easy task! For the past year, ADNRR has been working with the Task Force on developing a statewide database that shows each vessel on a map, along with data and photos where available. Agency and municipal staff can enter data on new derelicts, and can update existing records, in the field and on their smartphones or tablets. Vessel of Concern (VOC) reporting forms (found on the ADV webpage, and soon on agency websites) can be filled out and submitted to ADNRR for eventual inclusion to the database. It’s important to note that

even with this fantastic new tool, the state does not have a point person for derelict vessels. As such, VOC reporting forms and other field assessments of new derelict vessels will have to wait to be vetted before being added to the master database. We believe that having the base map, and the ability to at least compile consistent data on additional vessels, will be a huge improvement in our long-term ability to track, manage and prevent derelict vessels and their associated environmental/navigational/safety hazards and negative economic impacts.

For more information or to get involved, please contact:

Rachel Lord, facilitator

(907) 235-4068 x29  
rachel@inletkeeper.org

<http://alaskacleanharbors.org/resources/harbor-management/derelict-vessels/>



Cook Inletkeeper and Alaska Clean Harbors are supporting the facilitation of this effort. To learn more about Cook Inletkeeper—a community-based organization dedicated to protecting clean water and healthy salmon in Alaska's Cook Inlet, please visit [www.inletkeeper.org](http://www.inletkeeper.org).



Alaska Clean Harbors is a voluntary, non-regulatory program that works with harbormasters and boaters around the state to reduce pollution in the marine environment through common-sense waste management solutions and education—including implementation of best practices for dealing with Abandoned and Derelict Vessels.

## 1990 Alaska Joint Resolution

*Relating to abandoned vessels on the beaches of Alaska.*

WHEREAS many abandoned vessels, including merchant vessels, fishing vessels, and other vessels, are grounded on the coast of Alaska; and

WHEREAS abandoned vessels are an environmental hazard and are aesthetically unpleasing; and

WHEREAS the state does not have the resources to salvage or dispose of abandoned vessels; and

WHEREAS the state does not currently have statutory authority to impose liability on the owners of abandoned vessels for the cost of salvaging or demolishing abandoned vessels; and

WHEREAS communities are not compensated for the aesthetic and physical trespass resulting from abandoned vessels;

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the governor is respectfully requested to study the problems posed by abandoned vessels and to make appropriate recommendations to the First Session of the Seventeenth Alaska State Legislature for legislation necessary to remedy existing problems and prevent future problems.

