



# Washington Department of Natural Resources

**Derelict Vessel Removal  
Program (DVRP) &  
Vessel Turn In Program  
(VTIP)**

**WPPA Marina Committee  
Meeting**

**MAY 2026**







# Department of Natural Resources

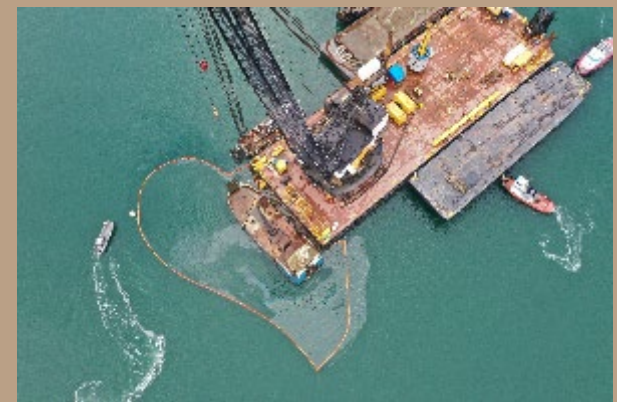
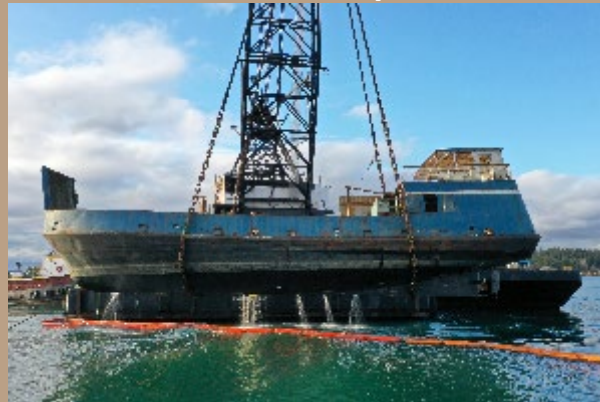
## Derelict Vessel Removal Program

- Created in 2002, Why?
- The Derelict Vessel Removal Act, gives DNR and Authorized Public Entities the option to remove derelict or abandoned vessels in accordance with RCW 79.100
  - Funding comes from DOL registration for recreational \$3 and DOR for commercial vessels \$1/foot
  - Water Excise Tax (WET)
- As of May 11, 2026 our Vessels of Concern list has 335 vessels



# Who Has Removal Authority?

- The primary responsibility for the vessel itself belongs to the vessel owner; however, the responsibility for removal belongs to the owner, operator or lessee of the moorage facility
- Authorized public entities (APEs) may remove a vessel and qualify for reimbursement (RCW 79.100.010(3))
- APEs are defined as: DNR; DFW; State Parks; a port; or any city, town, or county with ownership or jurisdiction over the aquatic lands where the vessel is located



# Current Priority Rating System

1	Emergency	Vessels sinking, dragging anchor, badly anchored/moored, beached and breaking up, sunk in a navigation channel, presenting environmental risk such as leaking fuel or other hazardous mats
2	Non-emergency threats	Vessels sunk near a boat launch, beached near a public access area, abandoned and unattended in an area of high current or vessel traffic, need to be pumped continuously to stay afloat and are not tied to shore power, sunk where they are a hazard to small vessel navigation
3	Vessels impacting habitat	Vessels that poses a direct threat to elements of the natural environment, federally listed, spawning areas, protected plant or animal species, aquaculture practices, marine protected areas
4	Minor navigation or economic impact	Vessels that pose an economic impact
5	Other	Meet the definition of abandoned or derelict, but do not satisfy any of the criteria listed above, may be sunk at depth, floating, and vessels in trespass
6	Abandoned in boatyards	Vessel seized under RCW 53.08.320 seeking reimbursement from DVRA when the vessel was abandoned in a boatyard



# What vessels can DNR remove?

1. Must meet definition of abandoned or derelict, or an emergency; RCW 79.100
2. Must be located on State Owned Aquatic Land (SOAL)
  - If it's not on SOAL, an Authorized Public Entity (APE), would have authority to act
3. If there is a Vessel of Concern reported, we add it to our database and create a case file with a DVRP# and assign it a priority number from a scale of 1 to 5
  - Exact location, description of vessel: type, make, material of boat, any ID or name, disposition, photos



# What is the Custody Process?

1. Post the vessel
2. Post to the DNR website “Notice of Intent to Gain Custody”
3. Send the last known owner a letter stating our intent to gain custody within 5 days
  - a. Owners are responsible for all costs incurred

Custody = 15 days

Appeals date = 30 days after the custody date



# How do we remove and dispose of the boats?

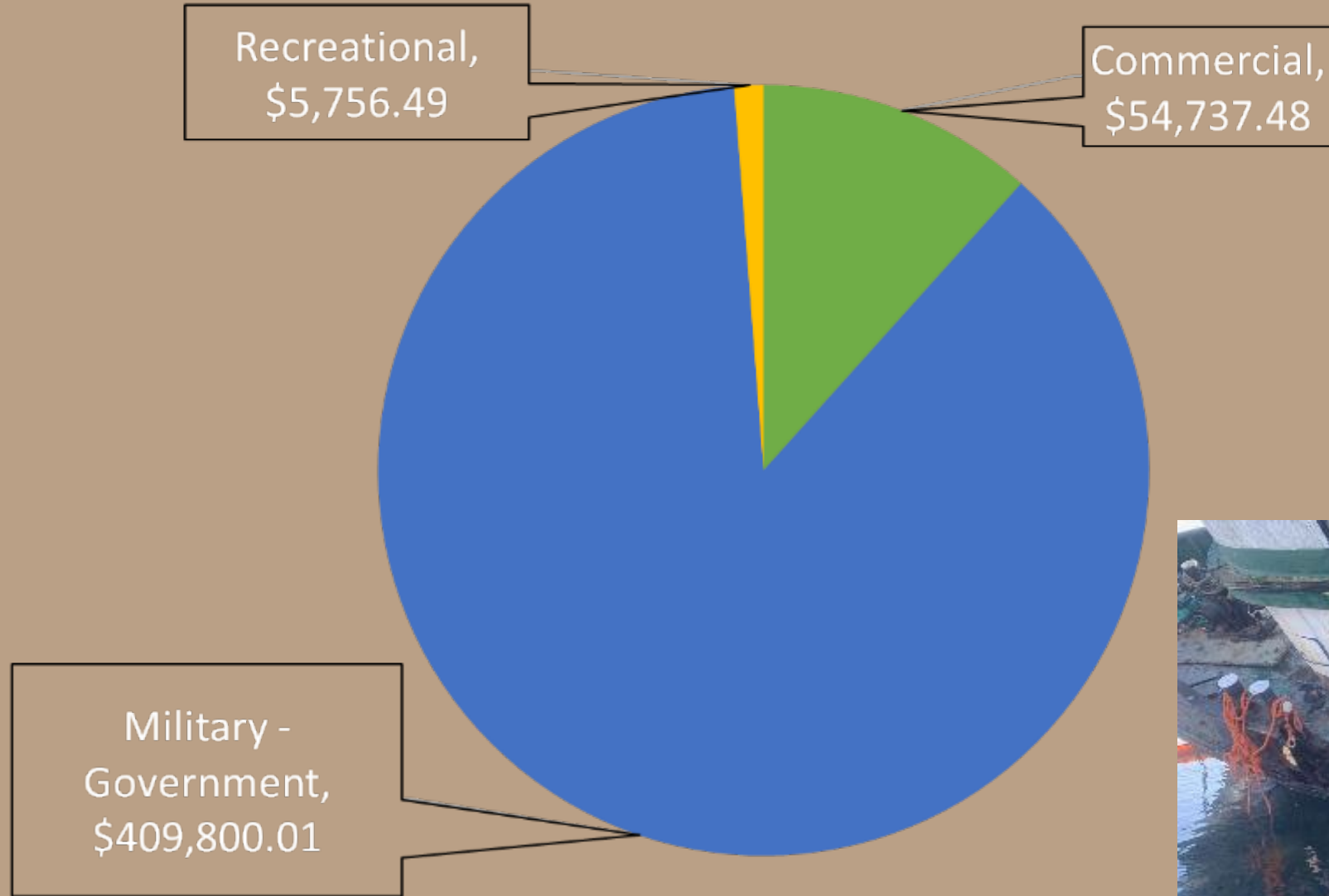
1. Use a vetted Contractor through DES Contract, Direct Buy, or Inter Agency Agreement
2. Contractors remove hazardous materials and do asbestos abatement as necessary.
  - We try to recycle as much of the vessel that we can, however; most still go to the landfill for disposal.
    - Some of our new Contractors specialize in repurposing and recycling



Photo courtesy of Patte Mulcahey



# Vessels Removed By Vessel Type



# DVRP Biennium removals to date

## Biennium removals:

Biennium	# vessels removed
03-05	23
05-07	37
07-09	49
09-11	43
11-13	96
13-15	91
15-17	112
17-19	98
19-21	123
21-23	319
23-25	378
25-27	206 to date



# DART

## (Derelict & Abandoned Reporting Tool)



DVRP has a vessel reporting tool on the DNR external website.

Highlights of DART:

- It can be used on any smart phone
- Upload geo-tagged photos
- A report will populate our database automatically
- The public can view a report for a short period after the initial report
- It will help prevent multiple reports on the same vessel

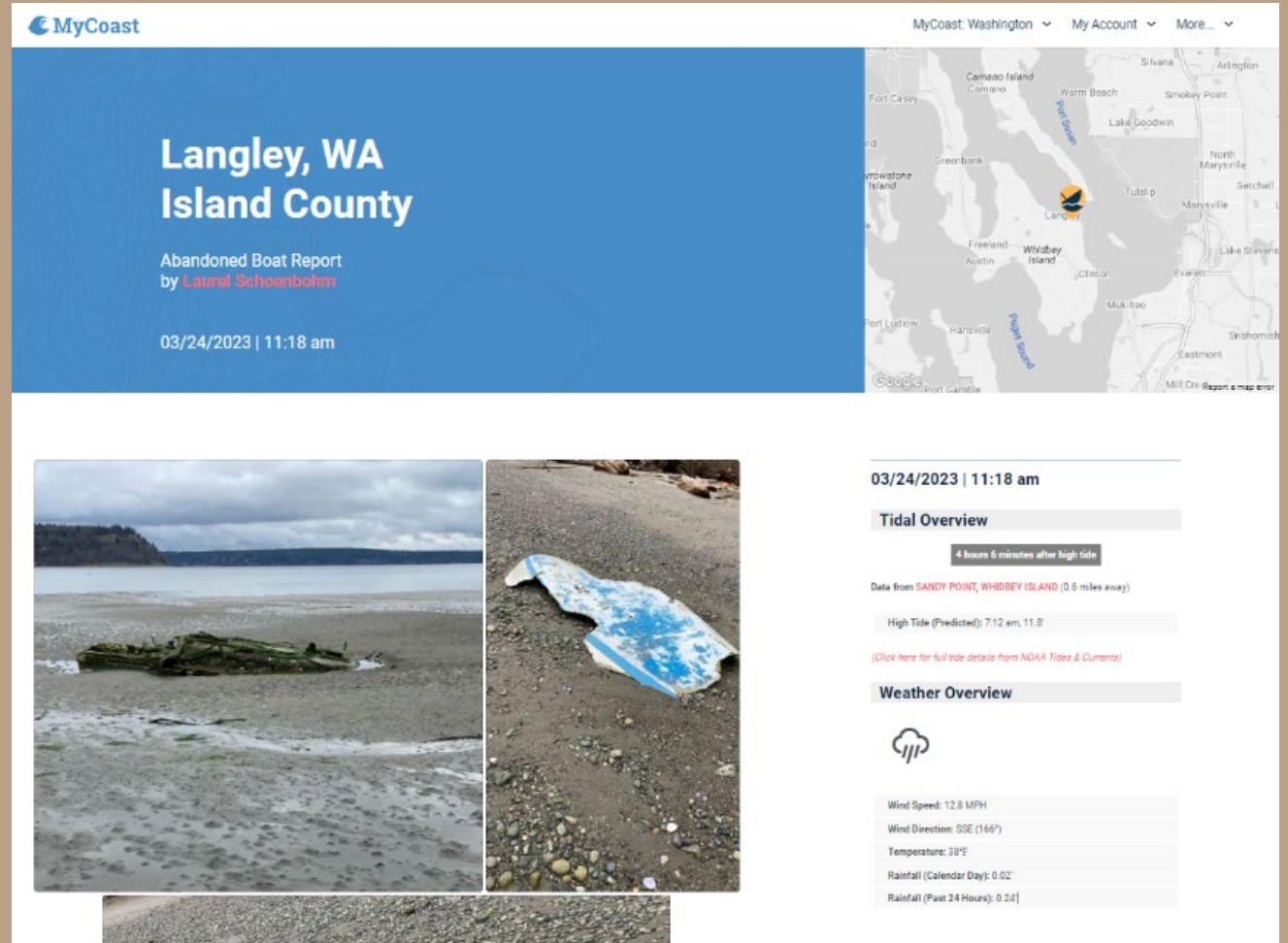
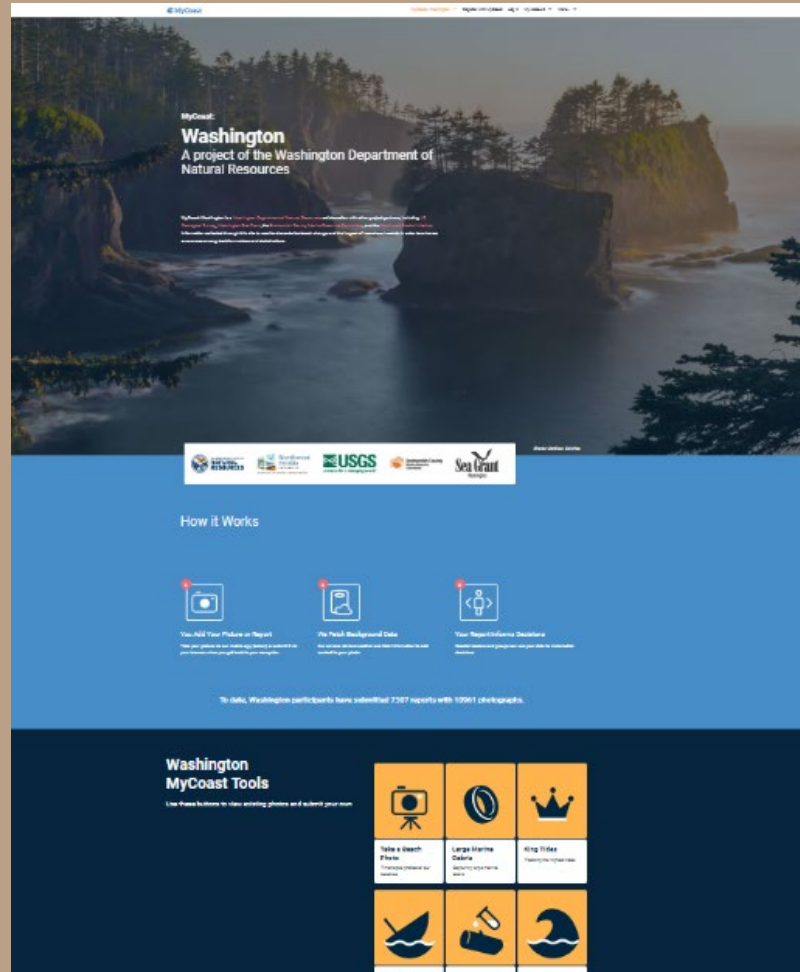
Here is the link to the new tool/website: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/vessel-reporting>



# MyCoast App

A great free App for if you are in the field: [MyCoast: Washington - MyCoast](#)

Can report: vessels, marine debris, king tides, creosote, storm surge, and beach photo time-lapse.





# Vessel Turn-in Program

360-902-BOAT (2628)

## Has your Dream Boat become a Nightmare?



- The Vessel Turn In Program (VTIP) is managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help prevent boats from becoming derelict or abandoned and to keep pollution out of our marine habitats.
- If you would like to dispose of your old boat legally but do not have the financial resources to do so, you can see if you qualify by reviewing the Eligibility Criteria, or go to our website to learn more:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/derelict-vessels/vessel-turn-program>



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

HILARY S. FRANZ | COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

## Vessel Turn In Program (VTIP) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### Are you eligible?

- Owner(s) must be a Washington State resident or business.
  - Owner(s) must provide proof of ownership with the application for vessel (i.e., a copy of current title, US Coast Guard documentation, Affidavit in Lieu of Title, Affidavit of Loss & Release of Interest, or Junk Vehicle Affidavit). Forms can be found at <http://www.dol.wa.gov>
    - If the vessel was inherited through a death, you will need to submit a copy of the Will and/or Death Certificate, and Affidavit of Inheritance, showing the title was legally passed down.
    - If you are acting on behalf of the vessel's owner, you will need to show you have Power of Attorney in order to sign for him/her.
    - Private Marinas who have seized a vessel will need to submit the proper documentation showing they followed [RCW 88.26.020](#), or a federal seizure process, in order to obtain legal title/ownership of the vessel.
    - Private Marinas will also be required to submit proof of Insurance as required by [RCW 88.26.030](#)
  - If over 45 ft., vessel will be assessed on a case by case basis and threat to the environment.
  - Vessel has minimal or no value and is in an advanced state of disrepair.
  - Owner(s) has insufficient resources or financial means to properly dispose of the vessel.
  - Vessel must be floating if it is on the water and can NOT be abandoned or derelict, as defined in [RCW 79.100.010](#)
  - Submit a completed application with the signed and notarized Affidavit of Insufficient Resources to the Vessel Turn-In Program.
  - Remove all trash and loose items. Vessel must be evaluated by DNR before it is approved.
  - PHOTOS REQUIRED:** Please provide a current photos of the inside and outside of the boat.
- If your vessel has been accepted...**
- DNR may require the owner to bring the vessel to a drop-off location.
  - Please give DNR staff 2-3 weeks to process and respond to your application. If there is an urgent need to remove the vessel quickly, please list that on your application and the reason why.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

[dnr.wa.gov](http://dnr.wa.gov)

# Why use the VTIP?

- It's FREE if you qualify.
- Prevents vessels from becoming derelict and/or abandoned.
- Keeps pollution out of our marine habitats.
- Removes navigation hazards.
- Frees up mooring slips in marinas occupied by boats that are no longer seaworthy.
- It is less expensive to remove and dispose of a vessel before they become an environmental threat.
- Saves the State time and money by raising public awareness and encouraging vessel owners to be more proactive and responsible for their vessels.
- The VTIP is voluntary and DNR does not need to wait to gain custody.



**THANK YOU!**

**Derelict Vessel Removal & Vessel Turn In Program**

**DVRP@dnr.wa.gov**

**360-902-BOAT**

**Questions?**



