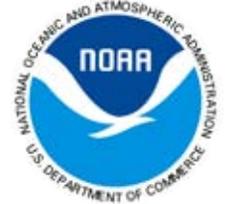


Marine Debris

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION • NOAA'S NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Components of a Comprehensive Abandoned & Derelict Vessel Program



Steps to build a comprehensive Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) program may include planning for program administration, enacting legislation, identifying funding sources, creating an ADV inventory, planning for the removal and disposal of ADVs, clarifying enforcement authority and abilities (directly or through other state agencies), developing prevention strategies, conducting outreach campaigns, and. It should be noted that successful ADV programs can exist without some, or even many, of these components. The following list is intended to serve as a guide for state managers developing an ADV program; it contains all of the components identified by the workshop participants.



Abandoned or derelict vessels can not only be a hazard to safe navigation, they can cause habitat damage and are an environmental eyesore.

Program Administration: Identify

the needed infrastructure for a successful program; develop a vision and strategy.

Outlining what the state's ADV program would look like from discovery to disposal is recommended, as is considering general program administration requirements.

Legislation: Know the relevant legislation; pursue appropriate state legislation to formalize an ADV program. *Know state statutes and key definitions (the Sea Grant Law Center State Abandoned Vessel Laws document is one tool) and investigate the state's political climate as it relates to addressing ADVs and developing a state program to conduct the work.*

Marine debris is any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes.

Funding: Understand applicable funding sources and the true cost of all components of a program; strive for self-sustaining funding. *Funding, along with removal and disposal, was identified as a critical component of any state ADV program and requires strategic consideration and incorporation.*



An abandoned or derelict vessel can be a hazard to the environment. Photo courtesy of Wolcott Henry, 2005 (Marine PhotoBank).

Inventory: Create an ADV inventory to capture and track key information. Knowing the magnitude of ADV challenges is critical to being able to propose appropriate solutions; an inventory need not be complicated or expensive. An inventory should include location, number, and accumulation rate of ADVs.

Removal: Weigh options for removal methods, which vary in cost, success, and ecological damage; understand those methods that will work best by vessel type and geographic location. Removal, along with funding and disposal, was

identified as a critical component of any state ADV program, and requires strategic consideration and incorporation.

Disposal: Proper disposal can be accomplished through several different means, each varying in cost and environmental impact. Disposal, along with funding and removal, was identified as a critical component of any state ADV program, and requires strategic consideration and incorporation.

Enforcement: Active enforcement programs may deter irresponsible vessel ownership. Cooperation is needed with enforcement officers to reduce existing numbers of ADVs, potentially recover costs for removal and disposal, and reduce the number of ADVs intentionally created.

Prevention: Avoiding, to the greatest extent possible, vessels becoming abandoned and derelict can save money and prevent the natural resource and navigation threats and should be the goal of any ADV program. Some ADVs are created intentionally and others are the result of storms or other indirect causes. Consider how laws, training, and outreach can be implemented to reach the most appropriate audiences and prevent ADV introduction.

Outreach: Engage necessary and interested constituents and partners to address ADVs. An effective outreach campaign need not be expensive or time-consuming, particularly with the explosion of social media outlets. Increasing awareness of the challenges may reveal unknown solutions. Develop, strengthen, or reinvigorate a working relationship with relevant Federal and state agencies. Determine what other state agencies have an interest, responsibility, or are impacted by ADVs. Explore partnerships with enforcement agencies targeted toward ADV issues.

For more information visit

www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/projects/