

NOAA Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Case Study

S/V HA9100G

Contributor: Clifford Inn, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources



Vessel Overview

Name: HA 9100G

Incident: Vessel grounding

Date reported: 9/23/2013

Vessel type: Sailing vessel (w/ auxillary power)

Vessel ID#: PEA48747M751

Hull material: Fiberglass and plastic

Length: 29 feet 10 inches

Beam: Unknown

Vessel Location

Location: Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Site Name(s): Marine Life Conservation District (Waikiki) in Kapiolani, Hawaii

General description of location: Nearshore reef and sand beach on the south shore of Oahu

Average Site Depth: <3 feet, vessel was brought onto the beach prior to removal.

Habitat/Substrate Type Impacted: Nearshore coral reefs and sandy beach

Jurisdictions: The State of Hawaii

Incident Narrative

History: Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) was notified on September 22, 2013, by the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement that there was a sailing vessel (HA 9100 G) that went aground in the Marine Life Conservation District off of Kapiolani Park on Friday night, the 20th of September. The owner of the vessel, who was issued a temporary mooring permit by the state, took his vessel out of the mooring area to watch the Friday night races and the fireworks show that took place after. While in transport the owner turned on his autopilot and went below deck, and apparently, less than 5 minutes later, the vessel ended up grounding on the reef. The owner believes that something malfunctioned with his autopilot, causing the vessel to go off course.

The DLNR contacted the owner and gave notice that the vessel had to be removed within 24 hours. At the time of the grounding the rudder was ripped off the vessel, and the owner reported that it had approximately 5 gallons of fuel on board. After receiving the removal notice the owner attempted to remove his sailboat, which still had the keel attached, but was unable to do so. After notifying the DLNR that he was unable to remove the vessel on his own he relinquished ownership and turned the vessel over to the state for removal. Once DLNR took over responsibility for the vessel they contacted two marine salvage companies in order to get bids for the removal and disposal of the vessel. One contractor was unable to do the work due to prior commitments, while the other contractor submitted a bid for \$25,000; which was accepted by the State.

On September 22nd, the contractor removed the mast and some rigging from the vessel and then had to get a right of entry from the City to remove the vessel from the beach area. For public safety the vessel was removed after 11pm the next night from Kuhio Beach via land, and was placed in a dirt lot at Keehi where the contractor later disposed of it.

Lead agency or organization: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation.



Other collaborators/stakeholders involved: State of Hawaii, DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources
Funding source(s): State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation Special Fund.

Threats from ADV

Environmental: The spread of marine debris, pollution from any remaining fuel and oil, and physical damage to the coral reefs in the area were all considered possible threats.

Critical habitats involved: The Marine Life Conservation District, where the vessel grounded, contains near-shore coral colonies that were at risk.

Public safety and health: Thousands of residents and visitors utilize these waters on a daily basis for recreation and the vessel was a potential safety hazard.

Aesthetic: The vessel grounded offshore of Waikiki Beach, which is one of Hawaii's most popular tourist beaches.

Vessel Removal Actions

Start date: September 23, 2013

End date: September 24, 2013

Authorities used to take Possession of Vessel: The vessel was taken pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S § 200-41), which addresses vessels abandoned on public and private property.

Removal options considered: Because of where the vessel was located the only option considered was to remove it from the land by towing it across the beach.

Environmental Considerations: Protecting the live corals that were present under and around the grounding area from any further damage.

Permits Required: A right of entry was needed from the City and County of Honolulu before the salvage company was allowed to cross their property and remove/dispose of the vessel.

Removal Methods: The vessel was dismantled and floated to shore, then towed across the beach into a parking lot for disposal.

Salvage Contractor(s): Parker Marine

Contractor Selection Process: The contractor with the lowest bid is usually selected; however, only one of the contractors that received the proposal was available on short notice to remove the vessel.

Vessel Disposal Process/Issues: The vessel was removed and disposed of without any major issues.

Approximate removal costs: \$25,000

Vessel removal summary: The vessel was removed within two days from the time the Department of Land and Natural Resources received notice from the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement that the vessel was on the reef. The contractor removed the rigging and partially dismantled the vessel prior to floating it and moving it onto the beach, where it was towed to an adjacent parking lot and disposed of. The removal operations were completed in about 24 hours and no issues were encountered during the removal and disposal operations.



Project Challenges

No major challenges were faced during the removal of this sailboat. Its proximity to the beach provided made the vessel accessible.

Lessons Learned

Because of the high costs associated with removing abandoned and derelict vessels, even when they are close to shore and accessible, highlights the need for requiring vessel owners to carry appropriate insurance coverage. Hawaii DLNR currently requires all vessels housed in its facilities to be covered by a \$500,000 insurance policy; however, boats trailered in and visiting vessels are not yet required to carry insurance.

Contact Information

Clifford Inn
Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
333 Queen Street, Room 300
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone: 808-587-1966
Clifford.G.Inn@hawaii.gov