



DERELICT VESSEL
INVESTIGATIONS STANDARD
OPERATING PROCEDURES



April 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE THAT INVESTIGATING SWORN MEMBERS OF THE DIVISION SHALL FOLLOW WHEN CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO A DERELICT VESSEL.

If a vessel is determined to be derelict and:

- **The owner or responsible party is present at the time of the derelict determination, the investigating member shall be required to complete steps 1-10 and all necessary steps following the 21-day count to removal authorization.**
- **The owner or responsible party is not present at the time of the derelict determination but can later be identified and the investigating member can meet with the owner or responsible party in person, the investigating member shall be required to complete steps 1-3; 11-15; and 4-10 and all necessary steps following the 21-day count to removal authorization.**
- **The owner or responsible party is not present at the time of the derelict determination but can later be identified, but the investigating member is unable to meet with the owner or responsible party in person, the member shall be required to complete steps 1-3; and 11-22 and all necessary steps following the 21-day count to removal authorization.**
- **The owner or responsible party cannot be located or identified at any time throughout the derelict vessel investigation, the investigating member shall be required to complete steps 1-3; 11-15; and 23-26 and all necessary steps following the 21-day count to removal authorization.**

DERELICT VESSEL INVESTIGATION PROCEDURAL STEPS

1. The investigating member either observes a vessel that may be derelict and self-dispatches or is dispatched to respond to a report of a possible derelict vessel.

REMEMBER: Officers are required to proactively seek out and investigate vessels which may be derelict within their area of responsibility!

2. The investigating member shall conduct an assessment to determine the vessel's status. The vessel may be:
 - a. Derelict =====> member shall initiate a derelict vessel investigation
 - b. At risk =====> member issues a citation or warning under s. 327.4107, F.S.
 - c. Neither derelict nor at risk =====> member closes the inquiry as unfounded
3. If the vessel is derelict, the investigating member shall take pictures of the vessel that show, in detail, the issues that make the vessel derelict. **He or she shall NOT post the vessel with a Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) at this time!** He or she shall properly identify the accurate location of the derelict vessel and record the location in the DV database.

- **Under no circumstances shall the investigating member inform the vessel owner or responsible party that they have a grace period for removal; all vessel owners or responsible parties shall be informed that they are required to immediately remove the vessel from the public waters of the state or otherwise bring the vessel into compliance.**
- Once a determination is made that a vessel is derelict, the investigating member shall notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in writing that a certificate of title may not be issued to any applicant for the vessel. The investigating member shall then enter a new narrative into the DV database indicating that the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has been so notified.

VESSEL IS DETERMINED DERELICT; OWNER OR RESPONSIBLE PARTY IS PRESENT

***The investigating member shall take the following steps if the owner or responsible party of the derelict vessel is present at the time of the derelict vessel determination.**

4. The investigating member shall issue the owner or responsible party a citation for a violation of section 376.15(2), F.S. or section 823.11(2), F.S.
 - If the investigating member feels that the specific circumstances do not warrant the immediate issuance of a citation, he or she is not required to issue a citation at the time but shall consult with his/her Lieutenant at a later time and request permission to discuss the matter/direct file with the Assistant State Attorney (ASA). Unless the Lieutenant gives the investigating member such permission, a citation shall be issued following the Lieutenant's denial, and the member shall provide the citation to the derelict vessel owner or responsible party. If the investigating member receives permission from the Lieutenant to direct file, the member shall discuss with the ASA the circumstances of the case, and the ASA shall make the charging decision.
 - If the case is direct filed with the ASA, the investigating member shall document in a new narrative in the DV database the date of the discussion with the ASA, the specific ASA who was consulted, and the ASA's decision regarding charging the derelict vessel owner or responsible party, as well as any other pertinent facts.
5. The investigating member shall, regardless of the issuance of a citation, prepare a Derelict Vessel Notification Letter to be issued to the present owner or responsible party along with the DV Notification of Rights Packet. Unless a citation was issued, the investigating member shall require that the owner or responsible party sign the signature

page of the DV Notification of Rights Packet and shall keep the signature page and upload it into the DV database together with a copy of the completed Derelict Vessel Notification Letter given to the owner or responsible party. If the owner or responsible party refuses to sign the signature page of the DV Notification of Rights Packet, the investigating member shall indicate such on that page and shall keep it and upload it into the DV database together with a copy of the completed Derelict Vessel Notification Letter given to the owner or responsible party. The original of the completed Derelict Vessel Notification Letter and the remaining pages of the completed DV Notification of Rights Packet shall be given to the owner or responsible party.

6. The investigating member shall complete the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073). Only after providing the owner or responsible party with the citation (if applicable), the completed Derelict Vessel Notification Letter, and the DV Notification of Rights Packet, the investigating member shall post the completed Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) on the derelict vessel.
7. The investigating member shall take pictures of the posted Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) to include a close-up posted on the vessel such that the text is legible and a second photo clearly showing the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) posted on the vessel such that the entirety of the vessel with the posted sticker is contained in one photograph. The investigating member shall upload these photographs to the DV database.
8. The investigating member shall attach/enter one representative photo, and as many supporting photos as are necessary to document the reasons for the derelict determination into the DV database.
9. The investigating member shall create a new narrative in the DV database that details the following:
 - All specific, objective factors which were observed that provided the basis for determining the vessel to be derelict. These facts must be specific and clear and should match the details provided to the owner or responsible party in the Derelict Vessel Notification Letter. It is critical to be as clear and thorough in this explanation as possible.
 - That the DV Notification of Rights Packet was provided to the vessel owner or responsible party. The investigating member shall upload a copy of the signature page of the Packet.
 - That the owner or responsible party either was cited or that the owner or responsible party was not cited and the investigating member will seek approval from his/her Lieutenant to direct file. If the investigating member notes that he or she will be seeking permission from his/her Lieutenant to direct file, he or she

shall note in a new narrative the reasons for the decision to not cite the owner or responsible party at that time.

- That the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) was posted on the vessel after providing the owner or responsible party with the citation (if applicable), the completed Derelict Vessel Notification Letter, and the DV Notification of Rights Packet.
- That the required photographs were taken. He/she shall add them to the DV database.

10. **The investigating member shall begin the 21-day count to removal authorization (see below) on the same day and shall document the date the 21 days will expire in a new narrative in the DV database.**

*** If the vessel is derelict but the owner or responsible party is not present at the time of the determination, the investigation member shall continue with the following steps:**

11. The investigating member shall search the vessel thoroughly for registration, documentation, hull identification and engine serial numbers if visible and any identifying markings that may help to identify the vessel's owner or responsible party. **The investigating member shall not, without a warrant, open any closed or locked compartments or containers.**
12. The investigating member shall create a new narrative within the DV database that contains all specific, objective factors which were observed that provided the basis for determining the vessel to be derelict. It is critical to be as clear and thorough in this explanation as possible.
13. The investigating member shall attach/enter one representative photo, and as many supporting photos as are necessary to document all specific, objective factors which were observed that provided the basis for determining the vessel to be derelict.
14. The investigating member shall take steps to try to ascertain the owner or responsible party of the vessel. The member shall, at a minimum, conduct a thorough canvassing of the area, check with local police departments and Sheriff's offices, and thoroughly search for title and registration on any identified registration, documentation, hull identification or engine serial numbers.

Resources the investigating member may use to further seek the responsible party include, but are not limited to:

- FCIC and NCIC
- National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB.org)

- Google searches
 - 411.com
 - Checks with local police departments and Sheriff's offices
 - LInX, ArrestNet, and other similar databases
 - Physically going to and checking addresses
 - Speaking with nearby boaters and members of the maritime community
 - Calling associated phone numbers
 - Checking with the U.S. Coast Guard regarding documented vessels
 - Request that the Investigations Section conduct a CLEAR inquiry
15. The investigating member shall create a new narrative in the DV database case file that describes in detail all efforts taken to locate the vessel owner or responsible party. This narrative should include the dates each action was taken as well as whether an owner or responsible party was located.

**OWNER OR RESPONSIBLE PARTY IDENTIFIED
AFTER SEARCH AND INQUIRY**

* If an owner or responsible party is identified, and the investigating member is able to meet with the owner or responsible party in person, the investigating member shall complete all of steps 4-10 that have not previously been completed. If the investigating member is unable to meet with the owner or responsible party in person, the member shall complete the following steps:

16. The investigating member shall direct file with the Assistant State Attorney for a violation of section 376.15(2), F.S. or section 823.11(2), F.S.
17. The investigating member shall prepare a Derelict Vessel Notification Letter and a DV Notification of Rights Packet to be issued to the owner or responsible party. The facts used to document the reasons the vessel was determined to be derelict must include all specific, objective factors which were observed that provided the basis for determining the vessel to be derelict. It is critical to be as clear and thorough in this explanation as possible. The investigating member shall remove the signature page of the Derelict Vessel Notification Packet and note on it that the owner or responsible party was not present.
18. The investigating member shall mail the Derelict Vessel Notification Letter and the DV Notification of Rights Packet to the identified owner or responsible party via certified mail with restricted delivery (to the identified owner or responsible party only) with signature confirmation. The member shall note on the signature page of the Derelict Vessel Rights Notification Packet the date the documents were mailed to the owner or responsible party. The member shall keep and upload this page into the DV database together with a copy of the completed Derelict Vessel Notification Letter mailed to the owner or responsible party.

19. Only after mailing the owner or responsible party the Derelict Vessel Notification Letter and the DV Notification of Rights Packet, the investigating member shall post the completed Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) on the derelict vessel.
20. The investigating member shall take pictures of the posted Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) to include a close-up posted on the vessel such that the text is legible and a second photo clearly showing the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) posted on the vessel such that the entirety of the vessel with the posted sticker is contained in one photograph. The investigating member shall upload these photographs to the DV database.
21. The investigating member shall create a new narrative in the DV database that details the following:
 - All specific, objective factors which were observed that provided the basis for determining the vessel to be derelict. These facts must be specific and clear and should match the details provided to the owner or responsible party in the Derelict Vessel Notification Letter. It is critical to be as clear and thorough in this explanation as possible.
 - That the Derelict Vessel Notification Letter and the DV Notification of Rights Packet were provided to the vessel owner or responsible party by mail as required. The investigating member shall upload a copy of the top page of the Packet together with a copy of the completed Derelict Vessel Notification Letter mailed to the owner or responsible party.
 - That the investigating member direct filed with the Assistant State Attorney for a violation of section 376.15(2), F.S. or section 823.11(2), F.S. The investigating member shall document in a new narrative in the DV database the date of the discussion with the ASA, the specific ASA who was consulted, and the ASA's decision regarding charging the derelict vessel owner or responsible party, as well as any other pertinent facts.
 - That the photographs required above were taken. He/she shall add them to the DV database.
22. **The investigating member shall begin the 21-day count to removal authorization (see below) on the day that the certified mail is delivered or the day the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) is posted on the vessel, whichever occurs later.**
 - The member shall upload the proof of delivery of certified mail to the DV database. If delivery has not been accomplished within 20 days after mailing the documents via certified mail as required, the investigating member shall begin the

21-day count to removal authorization after the 20 days, provided the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) has been posted on the vessel. The member shall document the date the 21 days will expire in a new narrative in the DV database. Certified mail that is returned undeliverable or when delivery is refused shall be deemed as delivered for purposes of this paragraph and will begin the 21-day count to removal authorization if the vessel has been posted with the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073).

**NO OWNER OR RESPONSIBLE PARTY IDENTIFIED
DESPITE SEARCH AND INQUIRY**

23. If after a diligent search and inquiry, an owner or responsible party cannot be identified or contacted, the investigating member shall complete and post the completed Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) on the derelict vessel. The member shall document in a new narrative in the DV database all efforts that were taken to identify an owner or responsible party.
24. The investigating member shall take pictures of the posted Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) to include a close-up posted on the vessel such that the text is legible and a second photo clearly showing the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) posted on the vessel such that the entirety of the vessel with the posted sticker is contained in one photograph. The investigating member shall upload these photographs to the DV database.
25. The investigating member shall create a new narrative in the DV database that details that a copy of the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) was posted on the vessel.
26. **The investigating member shall begin the 21-day count to removal authorization (see below) on the day that the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) was posted on the vessel. The investigating member shall document the date the 21 days will expire in a new narrative in the DV database.**

21-DAY COUNT TO REMOVAL AUTHORIZATION

***** Investigating members shall have 90 days to complete all the preceding steps necessary in the investigation. In the event an investigating member is unable to complete this portion of the derelict vessel investigation within 90 days, he or she may request an additional 90-day extension from the supervising Lieutenant for good cause shown.**

At any point once the 21-day count to removal authorization has begun an owner or responsible party may request an administrative hearing from the General Counsel's office. All members shall be responsible for completing step #27.

27. At the end of the 21-day count to removal authorization, the investigating member shall check the DV database to determine whether an administrative hearing was requested by the owner or responsible party of the derelict vessel. If a hearing has been requested by the owner or responsible party, the Division attorney will have made a new narrative entry into the DV database that says, "Administrative Hearing Requested."

If a derelict vessel owner or responsible party did not request an administrative hearing (the DV database does not contain an entry from the Division attorney that states "Administrative Hearing Requested") the investigating member shall proceed to step number 30 and shall complete the remaining steps:

If a derelict vessel owner or responsible party requested an administrative hearing (the DV database contains an entry from the Division attorney that states "Administrative Hearing Requested) the investigating member shall complete steps 28 and 29.

28. If the DV database contains an entry that says "Administrative Hearing Requested" the Division attorney will update the investigating member, as well as his/her Lieutenant and Captain of the date, time, and location of the scheduled hearing once it is scheduled via email, and will enter this information into the DV database as an entry that says "Adm. Hearing Scheduled: Date, Time, and Location of Hearing." The investigating member shall participate fully in the administrative hearing and in all preparation necessary as requested by the Division attorney.
29. Following the conclusion of the administrative hearing, the Division attorney will provide the investigating member with a copy of the hearing officer's findings and will upload a copy of the findings to the DV database. If the hearing officer finds that the vessel is not derelict, the investigating member shall send a request to his/her Lieutenant that the case be closed without the derelict vessel's removal. The Lieutenant shall close out the case without removal within 7 days. If any material facts regarding the vessel's derelict condition change, any sworn member may initiate a new derelict vessel investigation.
- Once the determination is made that a vessel is not derelict, the investigating member shall notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in writing that any prior suspensions on the issuance of a title for the vessel may be lifted.

If the hearing officer found the vessel to be derelict, the investigating member shall proceed with the following steps.

30. If no administrative hearing is requested, or the hearing officer determines that the vessel in question is derelict, the investigating member shall notate such in a new narrative in the DV database and shall send the completed DV database case file to his/her Lieutenant to request final approval for removal of the derelict vessel.

- The Lieutenant shall review the derelict vessel report within 7 days.
 - The Lieutenant shall be responsible for ensuring
 - i. Sufficient narrative and photographic evidence exist to prove the vessel is derelict. He/she shall specifically ensure that one representative photo is present as well as all supporting photos as may be necessary to thoroughly document the derelict nature of the vessel and that the required photos of the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) are included in the DV database case file;
 - ii. All of the following documents, as necessary, have been properly documented and utilized: the Derelict Vessel Notification Letter; the DV Notification of Rights Packet, proof of certified mail with restricted delivery (to the identified owner or responsible party only) with signature confirmation, the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073), the final disposition of the administrative hearing (if any), and the criminal citation, unless this requirement was waived, in which case a narrative explaining the decision by the ASA must be included.
 - iii. That the investigating member has validated the location of the vessel on the Derelict Vessel Map within the DV database.
 - If the Lieutenant is satisfied that the case file in the DV database is complete and thorough, he shall forward the request for the removal of the derelict vessel to the supervising Captain. If he is not satisfied that the case file is complete and thorough, he shall return the case file to the investigating member so that the case can be more thoroughly documented and/or investigated.
 - The Captain shall be responsible in all cases for approving the removal of a derelict vessel. He/she shall review all cases provided by a Lieutenant within 7 days of receipt. If he/she is satisfied that the case file is complete and thorough, and that removal is appropriate and lawful, he/she shall approve removal. If he/she is not satisfied that the case file is complete or thorough he/she shall return the case file to the investigating member to be more thoroughly documented or investigated. If he/she is not satisfied that removal is appropriate or lawful, he shall deny removal.
31. If a Captain or a Lieutenant returns a case file to an investigating member to be more thoroughly documented or investigated, the member shall take steps to update the case file within 14 days, or as directed, and shall resubmit the case file to his/her Lieutenant. If a Captain approves final removal, the investigating member shall proceed with the following steps.

32. If a Captain approves final removal of a derelict vessel, the investigating member shall complete and send the completed Derelict Vessel Removal Authorization Letter to the appropriate county and/or municipality authority in whose waters the derelict vessel is located.
33. The Division Boating and Waterways Section will advise the investigating member if the county or municipality requests funding to remove the derelict vessel from the public waters of the State. In the event the derelict vessel is scheduled to be removed from the waters of the State, the investigating member shall work with the county/municipality and the contractor performing the removal to ensure the vessel is removed in its entirety. The investigating member, or another sworn member assigned by the supervising Lieutenant, shall visually verify the complete removal of the vessel. The investigating member shall enter a new narrative into the DV database within 7 days of the derelict vessel removal stating that the entirety of the vessel was removed, who made the visual verification, and on what date the verification was made. The investigating member shall complete the Removal Process Page of the DV Database.
- Following visual verification of the removal of the derelict vessel, the investigating member shall notify the Boating and Waterways Section that the title and registration for the vessel may be cancelled.
34. Following the removal of a derelict vessel from the public waters of the State by a governmental agency or their contractor, the investigating member shall complete and send the Derelict Vessel Repayment Demand Letter to the owner or responsible party. He/she shall upload a copy of this letter to the case file in the DV database and provide a new narrative that explains that the demand was sent.
35. No sooner than thirty days after the Derelict Vessel Repayment Demand Letter is sent, if repayment is not made, the investigating member shall create a new narrative in the DV database that the owner or responsible party has not repaid the cost of removal and shall notify the Division Boating and Waterways Section. The Boating and Waterways Section shall notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to suspend all future registrations of vessels or vehicles by the owner or responsible party.
- If at any time the investigating member becomes aware that the owner or responsible party has made repayment of the derelict vessel removal costs, he or she shall enter a new narrative indicating that repayment was made. If the DV database case file was closed, the member shall reopen the case file and add the new narrative. The member shall then contact the Boating and Waterways Section to request that the suspension of the owner or responsible party's registrations be lifted by the Department of Highway Safety and motor Vehicles.

36. After removing the derelict vessel, sending the Derelict Vessel Repayment Demand Letter and notifying the Boating and Waterways Section of either repayment or failure to repay by the owner or responsible party, the investigating member shall request his/her supervising Lieutenant close the DV database case file. The Lieutenant shall review the request to close the DV database case file within 7 days of receipt from the investigating member. The Lieutenant shall review the case file to ensure all necessary documentation (as detailed in this Standard Operating Procedure) is provided in the case file and shall close the DV database case file as requested by the investigating member.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- DV database case files shall remain open until:
 - (1) they are closed without removal by the supervising Lieutenant;
 - (2) the owner or responsible party has brought the vessel into compliance and the vessel is no longer derelict; or
 - (2) all the following have occurred:
 - the derelict vessel is removed from the waters of the State;
 - the repayment demand letter has been sent (if not removed by the owner or responsible party),
 - if necessary, repayment has either been made or the Boating and Waterways Section has notified the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to suspend all future vehicle and vessel registrations; and
 - all criminal charges have been prosecuted or otherwise disposed of and all appeals have been exhausted.

Once the necessary steps above have been completed and documented in the DV database, the investigating member may request, and the supervising Lieutenant shall close the case file.

- All DV database case files must remain current regardless of the status of the investigation. If final removal of a derelict vessel has been approved, but the vessel has not yet been removed, the investigating member shall continue to update the file with a new narrative no less than every 120 days with, at a minimum, the current accurate location of the vessel. A current representative photograph is also required if the vessel condition or location has changed. If a new narrative is not provided in the DV database case file at least once every 120 days, the case file will become delinquent, and the investigating member may be subject to disciplinary action.
- Each new narrative entry into the DV database case file must be entered as a new narrative and shall not be included as a continuing entry added to previous narratives. Continuing within an already existing narrative will not update the case file.

- Supervising Lieutenants shall be responsible for transferring any open derelict vessel case files in the DV database to a new sworn member when the investigating member is no longer assigned to the area. The Lieutenant shall accomplish the transfer by contacting the Division's Boating and Waterways Section. The newly assigned member shall be responsible for all investigating member requirements of the derelict vessel investigation following the transfer.
- In investigations where a derelict vessel owner or responsible party cannot be located despite a diligent search and inquiry and for which it is impossible to post the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073), the investigating member may request approval from the supervising Lieutenant and Captain for removal of the vessel without further delay. The Lieutenant shall ensure that diligent efforts were taken to identify a lawful owner or responsible party and that these efforts were thoroughly documented before forwarding the removal request to the Captain.
- Throughout a derelict vessel investigation, the investigating member shall thoroughly document each derelict vessel with a series of evidentiary photographs. These photographs shall include:
 - (a) A close-up of the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) posted on the vessel such that the text is legible;
 - (b) A photo clearly showing the Derelict Vessel Notice Sticker (FWC/DLE-073) posted on the vessel such that the entirety of the vessel with the posted sticker is contained in one photograph;
 - (c) One representative photo, and as many supporting photos as are necessary to document the reasons for the derelict determination. This documentation shall include exterior and/or interior photos which demonstrate that the boat is wrecked, junked or substantially dismantled;
 - (d) General photos of the vessel and surroundings to document the vessel's location; and
 - (e) If accessible, photos of identifying markings such as registration, documentation, hull identification and engine serial numbers and any other identifying markings that may help to identify the vessel's owner or responsible party.

The investigating member shall not, without a warrant, open any closed or locked compartments or containers.

The investigating member shall upload all photographs into the DV database as .jpeg image files prior to the end of the shift in which they were taken unless he or she receives approval to upload the photographs at another time by his or her supervising Lieutenant.

- If at any time Division legal staff notifies the investigating member via the DV database or otherwise that an administrative hearing has been requested by the derelict vessel owner or responsible party, the investigating member shall take no steps to remove the derelict vessel or to document that the vessel is ready for removal.
- At any point throughout a derelict vessel investigation, if the vessel is deemed to be a hazard to navigation or threatens to be an environmental hazard, the investigating member shall notify, either directly or through the Regional Communications Center, the U.S. Coast Guard / National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 or online at www.nrc.uscg.mil.
- The investigating member shall report, either directly or through the Regional Communications Center, all fuel discharges to the U.S. Coast Guard / National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 or online at www.nrc.uscg.mil. The investigating officer shall document the confirmation number provided by the National Response Center in the DV database with a new narrative.
- Where a vessel is deemed to constitute a navigational hazard or a hazard to public safety or is determined to interfere with another vessel or where a derelict vessel obstructs or threatens to obstruct navigation or in any way constitutes a danger to the environment, property, or persons, the Division may immediately remove or relocate but not destroy the vessel, or may authorize the immediate removal or relocation, but not destruction of the vessel, pursuant to sections 327.44, 327.70, 376.15, and 823.11, Florida Statutes. Any decision to remove or relocate a vessel under these circumstances shall be done in strict compliance with these statutes, and only with the Area Captain's approval.
- If at any point during a derelict vessel investigation the vessel is brought into compliance or is otherwise determined to not be derelict, the investigating member shall notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in writing that any prior suspensions on the issuance of a title for the vessel may be lifted.