

SB92: Derelict Vessel Accountability Act



The Basics

Senator Peter Micciche has introduced a bill (SB92) that holds people accountable for abandoning boats on public waters and streamlines the state's ability to prevent and manage derelict vessels.

As a boat gets older, the costs to keep it running increase – sometimes dramatically. Too often, the easiest thing to do is to walk away and leave the problem in someone else's hands. There are hundreds of abandoned boats around Alaska. They are navigational, environmental, safety, and economic hazards. Under current law, the state and our local communities too often end up with the huge economic burden of these boats on the water, tied up at the dock, or abandoned along the shore. With aging boats, and increasingly tight laws in neighboring states, the number of derelict vessels in Alaska is going to increase dramatically in the coming years. Our current derelict vessel laws were written in the 1970s. They leave Alaskans at a huge disadvantage and leave the door open to becoming an even bigger dumping ground for old boats. The current law is unclear and incomplete, and makes it too easy for boat owners to deny responsibility when they abandon a boat – we now have an opportunity for commonsense protections in Alaska.



SB 92 Talking Points:

- SB92 comprehensively addresses the statewide and increasing problem of derelict and abandoned boats along our coast and rivers.
- SB92 uses commonsense and protects our state waters, our harbors, and responsible boat owners, and holds people accountable who try to walk away from old, risky boats.
- SB92 streamlines derelict vessel response and prevention, increasing efficiency and improving communication between local, state and federal partners.
- SB92 sets the stage for pro-active work to encourage hauling, scrap and salvage opportunities to address the real need to dispose of old boats when they are no longer economical to operate and before they are abandoned or sunk.
- SB92 protects Alaska. It provides greater security to boat owners, protects local communities and the state, and holds those who abandon their boats accountable.
- Support SB92 for commonsense protections to keep Alaska's coast and rivers from becoming the old boat dumping ground for the West Coast.



Please take a minute to send a letter of support for SB92 to Sen. Micciche (Senator.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov) and to Senate Resources Chair Sen. Cathy Giessel (Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov).