



Windjammer removal. Photo: Jason Thompson Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

“Derelict” frequently refers to vessels that are dilapidated with an identifiable owner, while “abandoned” vessels are those where the owner is unknown or has surrendered rights of ownership.

[noaa.gov/fact-sheets/abandoned-and-derelict-vessels](https://www.noaa.gov/fact-sheets/abandoned-and-derelict-vessels)

# Northwest Straits Derelict Vessel Removal and Prevention 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

Derelict and abandoned vessels can negatively impact many aspects of our marine environment and community. These vessels can create a navigational hazard and impact recreational and cultural access. Additionally, derelict vessels pose a threat to the marine environment by contributing marine debris and pollutants.

In January 2023, Senator Patty Murray prioritized funding for the Northwest Straits Commission. A portion of the funds were directed towards derelict vessel removals by Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) to benefit local and tribal marine conservation priorities. The Northwest Straits Commission formed a working group made up of MRC members and tribal partners to guide the collaborative project and identify vessels of concern.

The Northwest Straits Commission and workgroup members have partnered with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP) to target derelict vessels impacting the nearshore environment, cultural and treaty rights, and recreational resources.

### Next steps

We’re also exploring preventive measures, like testing co-hosted vessel turn-in recycling events with DNR and local partners. These events would provide vessel owners a designated time and location to recycle their old vessels, preventing them from becoming derelict. This partnership has the added benefit of advertising DNRs vessel turn in program and disposal opportunities.

“Tidelands free of marine debris, including abandoned vessels, are critical to preserving traditional practices and protecting the Treaty-reserved rights of the Swinomish people. Swinomish is thankful for the opportunity to partner with Northwest Straits Commission and the DNR to remove vessels from the tidelands and restore them to their historic condition.”

Steve Edwards  
Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community





# 2023 DERELICT VESSEL REMOVALS

## Northwest Straits Region



1

### WanderLust

Length: 40'  
Location: Bellingham Bay  
County: Whatcom  
Removed: Aug 23, 2023



2

### Dukek Barge

Length: 32'  
Location: Blind Bay  
County: San Juan  
Removed: April 27, 2023



3

### Windjammer

Length: 65'  
Location: Similk Bay  
County: Skagit  
Removed: July 26, 2023



4

### Symphony

Length: 22'  
Location: Utsalady boat launch  
County: Island  
Removed: October 5, 2023



5

### Unnamed

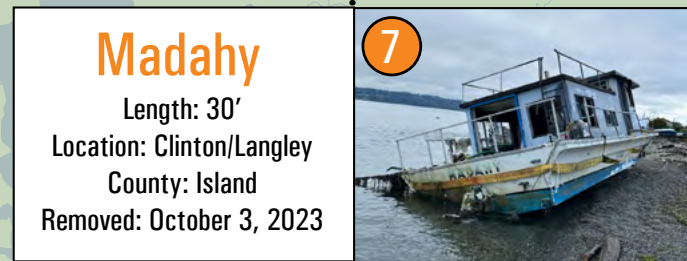
Length: 25'  
Location: Kala Point  
County: Jefferson  
Removed: June 5, 2023



6

### Unnamed

Length: 24'  
Location: Langley Boat Launch  
County: Island  
Removed: May 24, 2023



7

### Madahy

Length: 30'  
Location: Clinton/Langley  
County: Island  
Removed: October 3, 2023



8

### Unnamed

Length: 24'  
Location: Langley Boat Launch  
County: Island  
Removed: June 14, 2023

1

13

2

3

12

4

5

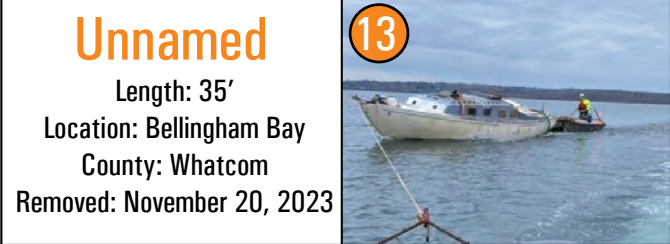
11

6

7

8

9/10



13

### Unnamed

Length: 35'  
Location: Bellingham Bay  
County: Whatcom  
Removed: November 20, 2023



12

### Fish Dock Boat

Length: Unknown  
Location: La Conner  
County: Skagit  
Removed: July 26, 2023



11

### Island Sprinter

Length: 26'  
Location: Foxspit Rd, Langley  
County: Island  
Removed: March 28, 2023



10

### Shilo

Length: Unknown  
Location: Steamboat Slough  
County: Snohomish  
Removed: May 10, 2023



9

### Elusive Dream

Length: 75'  
Location: Steamboat Slough  
County: Snohomish  
Removed: April 12, 2023

# THANK YOU!

The Northwest Straits Commission would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who played a pivotal role in the 13 successful derelict vessel removals in 2023! In particular, Senator Patty Murray for your support in funding and driving this initiative forward. The seven MRCs for leading the charge and engaging in the workgroup, demonstrating their commitment to our environment. We want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the leadership and teamwork of Troy Wood, Laurel Schoenbohm, and Jerry Farmer within the Derelict Vessel Removal Program have been instrumental. We are also grateful to the Tribal Nations, particularly Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (SITC), Makah Tribe, and Lummi Nation with a special thank you to the incredible coordination and support efforts of Catey Ritchie (SITC) and Carol Reamer (Makah) and all the other partners who have joined forces. The collaborative efforts of counties and ports have been indispensable in achieving our goals. **Your combined support, funding, and hard work have been the driving force behind our success. Thank you all for your commitment to the Northwest Straits waterways and environment.**

## ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE WORKGROUP

### CLALLAM MRC

Jesse Waknitz

### ISLAND MRC

Kelly Zupich, Kelly Webb

### JEFFERSON MRC

Sarah Fiskin

### MAKAH TRIBE

Carol Reamer

### NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Cecilia Gobin

### SAN JUAN MRC

Sam Whitridge, Adam Parrott, Phil Green

### SKAGIT MRC

Lynne Wenberg

### SNOHOMISH MRC

Elisa Dawson

### SWINOMISH INDIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITY

Catey Ritchie

### WHATCOM MRC

Bob Cecile, Austin Rose

## IN THE NEWS

- Derelict vessel recycling program kicks off in Port Townsend on Monday | Peninsula Daily News  
June 3, 2023 | <https://bit.ly/46nLrM5>
- Sailboat abandoned since 2009 removed from Similk Bay | Skagit Valley Herald  
July 26, 2023 | <https://bit.ly/46lwTrd>
- Tribe and agencies join to remove abandoned sailboat | La Conner Weekly News  
August 9, 2023 | <https://bit.ly/3Qz1v7v>
- County, state seek to remove abandoned boats | Whidbey News-Times  
August 18, 2023 | <https://bit.ly/4Ou7dfD>
- Ghost ship ends eerie journey on Clinton Beach | South Whidbey Record  
October 6, 2023 | <https://bit.ly/3u5dceJ>



Dana Oster

Northwest Straits Commission Marine Program Manager

[oster@nwstraits.org](mailto:oster@nwstraits.org) | 360-708-4146

[nwstraits.org/our-work/derelict-vessel-removal](https://nwstraits.org/our-work/derelict-vessel-removal)