

NOAA Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Case Study



Dead Horse Bay Vessel Removal (NY)

Contributor: Lisa Scheppeke, American Littoral Society

Vessel Overview

Name: N/A

Incident: Boat found on shoreline

Date reported: First recorded in March 2012

Vessel type: Sailboat

Vessel ID#: No visible ID numbers

Hull material: Fiberglass

Length: 18 ft.

Beam: 6 ft.

Tonnage: N/A



Vessel Location

Location: Brooklyn, NY

Site Name(s): Dead Horse Bay

General description of location: Shoreline across from a large marsh

Coordinates: 40 34.990 N, -73 53.792 W

Average Site Depth: N/A – found on shore

Habitat/Substrate Type Impacted: Sand beach

Jurisdictions: The boat was found on National Park Service land.

Incident Narrative

History: Boat was found washed up on the shoreline and the origin or owner is not known.

Lead agency or organization: The American Littoral Society

Other collaborators/stakeholders involved: Brooklyn College (monitoring)

Funding source(s): NOAA, Restore America's Estuaries

Threats from ADV

Environmental: The boat was on the shoreline across from a large marsh and could conceivably have been relocated into the marsh by a storm. Luckily the boat was removed before Superstorm Sandy hit.

Critical habitats involved: Marshland

Public safety and health: The boat was on a shoreline near a marina and the area gets a significant amount of visitors. It could have caused injuries to visitors, especially to curious children who may have climbed on it.

Navigation: The boat was not far from the intertidal zone and could have been washed into the water near the marina where it could easily have become a hazard to navigation.

Aesthetic: This boat was in an area where it was readily visible.

Vessel Removal Actions:

Start date: April 24, 2012

End date: April 26, 2012



Dead Horse Bay Vessel Removal

Authorities used to take Possession of Vessel: N/A

Removal options considered: Removal via water appeared to be the option that was safest and most economical.

Environmental Considerations: Removing the sailboat before it could cause damage.

Permits Required: We acquired permission from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service (property owner).

Removal Methods: The boat was patched and ultimately towed to a marina where it was removed from the water via a hydraulic lift.

Salvage Contractor(s): White Cap Marine Towing and Salvage Inc.

Contractor Selection Process: We obtained estimates from salvage contractors in the area. Whitecap's estimate was the lowest and the Littoral Society and the National Park Service had used them for similar work in the past.

Vessel Disposal Process/Issues: The initial patch job was not adequate and the boat began taking on water while being towed. It had to be brought back to the shoreline and re-patched before it could subsequently be removed.

Approximate removal costs: N/A

Additional types of debris removed: None

Vessel removal summary: The boat was patched and towed from the beach to the marina for disposal.

Project Challenges

Geographical: The contractor had to find a marina willing to allow removal operations. The nearest marinas often did not have the space or desire to allow removal operations on their property.

Weather/Seasonal: Removals via water could only be done when the water is relatively calm.

Funding: Marine contractors are expensive so obtaining adequate funding to remove all of the derelict boats in an area can be difficult.

Lessons Learned

If it is not possible to predict if a boat can be adequately patched to make it seaworthy, other removal options should be considered.

Contact Information:

Lisa Schepke
American Littoral Society
New York
lisa@littoralsociety.org



Dead Horse Bay Vessel Removal

Images:

