

American Samoa



Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) Legislative and Administrative Review - 2015

NOAA Marine Debris Region:
Pacific Islands



Definition of a Vessel

American Samoa law provides a definition for “vessel” under Title 20, Harbors and Navigation (A.S.C.A § 20.0202(b)).

Vessel: includes every description of watercraft (except longboats and paopaos) used or intended to be used as a means of transporting passengers or freight for profit.

They also provide a definition for “vessel” under A.S.C.A § 20.0302(o).

Vessel: means every description of watercraft other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, but does not include Samoan fishing canoes or rowboats propelled by hand.

Definition of an Abandoned and/or Derelict Vessel

The statutes of American Samoa do not provide a definition for “abandoned” or “derelict” vessels.

Formal State Program for Abandoned Vessels

American Samoa does not currently have any laws that contain provisions addressing abandoned or derelict vessels, and there is not a dedicated program in the territory that is focused on the removal and disposal of ADV.

Designation of Abandoned and/or Derelict Vessels

There are not any provisions under the territory’s laws that outline the process for designating a vessel as abandoned or derelict.

Responsibility for Removal of Abandoned or Derelict Vessels

American Samoa does not assign responsibility for abandoned or derelict vessels found within the territory. There are laws under Title 15, Parks and Recreation, which address unauthorized vehicles and equipment on park lands. Under A.S.C.A § 15.0309(b), the Department of Parks and Recreation can remove any unauthorized boat or vehicle from park property at the owner’s expense. No boats may be in any park for longer than an 8-hour period unless authorized by the department and endorsed on a permit (A.S.C.A § 15.0310(b))

Removal and Disposal Requirements/Guidelines

American Samoa does not have any removal or disposal requirements for dealing with abandoned or derelict vessels.

Differences between Commercial and Recreational Vessel Treatment

There is no distinction between commercial and recreational vessels in relation to abandoned or derelict vessels.



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Vessel Size Requirements or Limits

American Samoa does not set any size requirements or limits for ADV designation, removal or disposal.

Funding Sources

There is not a dedicated funding source for dealing with abandoned or derelict vessels in American Samoa.

Lead State Agency

American Samoa does not have laws that specifically address abandoned or derelict vessels, but the Coastal Management Program manages the territory's natural & cultural resources.

Email: through website

Phone: 684-633-5155

Website: <http://doc.as.gov/resource-management/ascmp/>

Insurance Requirements for Vessels

American Samoa does not require vessel insurance.

Specific Location Factors, Limitations and Additional Information

The statutes of American Samoa do not outline any specific locations factors or limitations relating to abandoned or derelict vessels.

Prioritization Scheme

American Samoa does not have a prioritization scheme for removing and disposing of ADV.

Legislation and Administrative Codes

The laws and administrative codes referenced in this document can be accessed from:

American Samoa Code Annotated:

http://www.asbar.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=113&Itemid=172

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