

NOAA Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Case Study



Floyd Bennet Field Vessel Removal (NY)

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Vessel Overview

Name: Unknown

Incident: Boat found on shoreline.

Date reported: First recorded in March 2012

Vessel type: Powerboat

Vessel ID#: No visible ID numbers

Hull material: Fiberglass

Length: 20 ft.

Beam: 7.75 ft.



Vessel Location

Location: Brooklyn, NY

Site Name(s): Floyd Bennet Field

General description of location: Shoreline adjacent to marsh area

Coordinates: 40 35.912, -73 52.913

Average Site Depth: Vessel was located on shore.

Habitat/Substrate Type Impacted: Marsh shoreline

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): The NOAA Restoration Center and the NOAA Marine Debris Program.

Threats from ADV

Environmental: The boat was on the shoreline adjacent to a marsh area 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 near a shoreline in an area frequently visited. 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 where it could easily have become a hazard to navigation.

Aesthetic: The boat was near a shoreline in an area frequented by fisherman and kayakers and other visitors.

Vessel Removal Actions:

Start date: April 22, 2012

End date: April 22, 2012

Authorities used to take Possession of Vessel: N/A

Removal options considered: Removal via crane barge would have been difficult because the water nearby was shallow. The boat was overturned and demolition contractors are reluctant to tackle overturned boats because they cannot easily determine if there is a superstructure, etc. buried underneath an overturned boat.



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Environmental Considerations: Removal via marine contractor would have damaged the marsh because the boat would have had to have been dragged through the marsh to get it into the water to be towed to a disposal site.

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 lifted by a group of energetic volunteers and carried to the parking lot and placed near a container which was ultimately filled with other boat fragments and assorted marine debris. The container, boat fragments, and other large debris were subsequently picked up and the contents were disposed of properly by sanitation.

Salvage Contractor(s): N/A

Vessel Disposal Process/Issues: None encountered

Approximate removal costs: N/A

Additional types of debris removed: other boat fragments, timbers, pieces of floating docks and other small marine debris

Vessel removal summary: After assessing several options, including towing the boat or using a crane, the vessel was eventually removed by volunteers who carried the boat from the marsh edge to a parking lot where it was disposed of.

Project Challenges

Environmental: Determining how to remove the boat without damaging the marsh was challenging.

Geographical: The area the boat was in would have made removal via water difficult if not possible and the boat was not in a position where it could be accessed via heavy machinery.

Weather/Seasonal: Rain occurring on the removal date complicated matters.

Funding: Marine contractors are expensive so obtaining adequate funding to remove all of the derelict boats in an area can be difficult since volunteers that will lift a boat onto their shoulders are not always available.

Lessons Learned:

Energetic and devoted volunteers who are willing to carry a boat on their shoulders are invaluable (and rare) and may sometimes offer the only solution.

New tools, techniques or developments:

Although not related to the removal of this particular boat, Wheelz Beach Carts with inflatable wheels have been a great aid in removing heavy boat fragments, timbers, etc. These carts do not sink in the sand, will roll over rocks and float in the water. They take much less strength to operate than wheelbarrows.

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Images:

