



December 13, 2013

The Honorable Kirk Pearson, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee
P.O. Box 40439
Olympia WA, 98504-0439

The Honorable Brian Blake, Chair
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Subject: Derelict Vessel Work Group

Dear Senator Pearson and Representative Blake,

Please accept the following letter as the progress report on the Derelict Vessel Work Group (Work Group) pursuant to section 45 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1245. ESHB 1245 charged the Work Group with evaluating potential changes to laws and rules related to derelict and abandoned vessels, and providing a summary of options to the legislature by December 15, 2013.

In coordination and consultation with numerous stakeholder groups and experts, the Work Group has identified several potential changes to state law that will be incorporated into legislation being developed by Representative Drew Hansen and Representative Norma Smith for consideration during the 2014 legislative session. The areas the Work Group has focused on, and will be addressed in proposed legislation, include transferability safeguards, vessel primary and secondary liability, additional funding mechanisms for derelict and abandoned vessel removal, addressing threats associated with high risk vessels, vessel removal barriers, and improving economics of vessel salvage.

The workgroup plans to release a draft bill to stakeholders on December 20th along with a date for a stakeholder meeting during the second week in January. At the meeting the Work Group will continue outreach to stakeholders, field concerns, and continue to refine the draft legislation before the start of the 2014 session.

I look forward to working with you closely during this upcoming legislative session to continue improving Washington State's response to derelict and abandoned vessels.

Sincerely,


Megan Duffy
Deputy Supervisor for Aquatics and Geology

c: The Honorable Drew Hansen, Representative
The Honorable Norma Smith, Representative
Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate
Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House