



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

July 16, 2025

8710-ENF

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-1279
(503) 986-5200
FAX (503) 378-4844
www.oregon.gov/dsl
State Land Board

Tina Kotek
Governor

Tobias Read
Secretary of State

Elizabeth Steiner
State Treasurer

STATE OF OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

In the Matter of a Derelict Vessel (ORS 830.908) belonging to:

Samuel Richard Lewis
401 Fir Street
Brookings, OR 97415

File No: ENF-8710

Notice of Proposed Action
(Post-seizure Notice)

And Opportunity for a Hearing

Pursuant to the Abandoned or Derelict vessel statutes in ORS 830.908 to 830.948 and 274.366, the Department of State Lands (hereinafter the Department) has seized the abandoned or derelict vessel referenced in this notice, based on violation of the applicable provisions of OAR 141-082-0255 and 141-082-0260 and ORS 830.908 through 830.948 as more particularly set forth below. In support of the proposed action, the Department asserts as follows:

I. AUTHORITIES

The State is the owner of certain submerged and submersible lands in this state, including those in the Chetco River in Curry County (Oregon Admission Act, 11 Stat. 383 (1859); ORS 274.025; and ORS 274.710). The State delegated authority to the Department for the management of these submerged and submersible State lands (ORS 274.040 and ORS 274.710).

The Department rules provide that no person shall place a vessel on or make use of state-owned submerged and/ or submersible land without the required authorization described OAR 141-082-0265 and defined in OAR 141-082-0255 unless the use is exempt from such authorization by law or these rules (ORS 274.040, OAR 141-082-0265, and OAR 141-082-0260(4)).

Unauthorized use of state-owned land constitutes a trespass (OAR 141-082-0315(1)). The Director of the Department is required to investigate and prosecute all trespasses on state lands (ORS 273.185).

The Legislature has authorized enforcement agencies to investigate and seize vessels that are abandoned or derelict (ORS 830.908 to 830.948). The Department is an enforcement agency authorized to enforce the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel laws (ORS 830.908(4) and 274.366), including seizing abandoned or derelict vessels. The Department's address and telephone number are:

Department of State Lands
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301
(503)986-5200
dsl.waterways@dsl.oregon.gov

An enforcement agency may seize a vessel if the agency has probable cause to believe that the vessel is abandoned or derelict, and the owner fails to correct the issues identified in the agency's notice (ORS 830.911). In some situations, an enforcement agency may immediately seize the vessel, board the vessel, or take other actions as authorized by ORS 830.911.

At any time before the date specified in this Notice, the owner may immediately reclaim a seized vessel by (a) Paying all costs incurred by the enforcement agency in salvaging, towing and storing the vessel; and (b) Establishing to the satisfaction of the enforcement agency that the owner is able to move the vessel to a place where the vessel can be lawfully kept (ORS 830.933).

If a vessel is seized and not reclaimed in the manner provided by this Notice, title to the vessel and all personal property found in the vessel vests in the enforcement agency, and the enforcement agency may sell or otherwise dispose of the vessel and the property (ORS 830.933(2)).

The owner has a right to a hearing. If a hearing is requested, the hearing must be held within seven business days of the request. Statute sets out further requirements for the hearing (ORS 830.936).

A request for a hearing after a seizure must be in writing and submitted to the enforcement agency no more than 10 business days after the notice is given. The request must include a statement of the specific grounds on which the seizure is challenged, and whether the owner challenges the reasonableness of any salvage, towing or storage costs incurred by the enforcement agency (ORS 830.931(4)). If the owner requests a pre-seizure hearing under ORS 830.918(5), the owner may request a post-seizure hearing only for the purpose of challenging the reasonableness of any salvage, towing or storage costs incurred by the enforcement agency (ORS 830.931(5)).

If the owner requests a hearing but fails to appear at the hearing, the enforcement agency will proceed with the proposed action and the owner may be precluded from any further hearings on the matter (ORS 830.936).

Not less than 30 days after seizing a vessel, the enforcement agency may sell or destroy the vessel. The owner of a vessel shall be responsible for all costs arising out of salvage, towing, storage, and disposal of the seized vessel (ORS 830.938).

A vessel owner who fails to comply with a notice issued under ORS 830.918 or an order issued under ORS 830.936 may be found guilty of the offense of failure to remove an abandoned vessel or possession of a derelict vessel, both Class A violations (ORS 830.944 and ORS 830.990(9)).

II. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Vessel CF 6541 KY ("Vessel") is a 35' homebuilt trimaran sailing vessel.
2. Samuel Richard Lewis is the owner of the Vessel as evidenced by moorage records at the Port of Brookings Harbor, verbal acknowledgement via telephone conversations, and testimony given by Mr. Lewis at a hearing held on June 26, 2025.
3. The Vessel was reported in distress to the USCG Station Chetco on Friday May 23, 2025. At that time it was sunk on the east side of the river almost directly under the Chetco River Bridge. It was photographed in this location by a USCG member.
4. The Vessel was photographed by a Port of Brookings Harbor official on Tuesday May 27, 2025 in the same location described above, almost directly under the Chetco River Bridge, mostly submerged with an aft portion of the portside hull separated from the Vessel.
5. On May 29, 2025 it was photographed by a Port of Brookings Harbor official approximately 600' downriver, on the east side of the river, hard aground on the jetty boulders.
6. The Vessel is a Derelict Vessel as defined in ORS 830.908 due to being sunk or in imminent danger of sinking.
7. Pre-seizure notice was given to Samuel Richard Lewis on June 3, 2025. The pre-seizure notice gave a deadline of June 17, 2025 to cure the derelict status of the vessel or request a hearing.
8. The Department received a timely request for a hearing from Samuel Lewis on June 17, 2025.
9. A hearing took place on June 26, 2025.
8. A Final Order was issued by DSL interim director Bill Ryan on July 10th affirming DSL's authority to seize the vessel and stating that the department should proceed with seizure.
9. DSL seized the vessel on July 15th, 2025.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing and pursuant to the authority cited above, the Department was authorized to seize the Vessel as abandoned and derelict, pursuant to ORS 830.911. Title and ownership of Vessel and all personal property found on Vessel shall be vested with the Department on **August 15, 2025 at 5:00PM**. After this date, the Department is authorized to sell or otherwise dispose of the Vessel and the property pursuant to ORS 830.933(2).

Samuel Richard Lewis is the owner of Vessel as defined in ORS 830.908 and therefore shall be liable to the Department for costs arising out of salvage, towing, storage, and disposal of Vessel, pursuant to ORS 830.938. The costs which have accrued so far amount to approximately **\$12,000.00**. Costs will continue to accrue and we estimate the final cost could approach **\$22,000.00**. If the Department's costs exceed this amount, the Department shall provide the owner with an updated notice of the Department's costs.

IV. RIGHT TO RECLAIM VESSEL

An owner may reclaim the Vessel by: (a) paying all costs incurred by the Department in salvaging, towing, and storing the Vessel, and (b) establishing to the satisfaction of the Department that the owner is able to move the Vessel to a place where it can be lawfully kept. An owner may reclaim the Vessel by completing the above-described steps and moving the Vessel to a location where it can be lawfully kept by **August 15, 2025 at 5:00PM at 5:00PM**.

If an owner does not reclaim the Vessel as provided above and move it to a location where it can be lawfully kept, the title and ownership of Vessel and all personal property found on the Vessel will be vested with the Department of State Lands. The Department may then sell or otherwise dispose of the Vessel and property pursuant to ORS 830.933(2). The Department may also pursue cost recovery efforts against the owner for the Department's costs to salvage, tow, store and dispose of the Vessel.

V. RIGHT TO HEARING

An owner who is provided post-seizure notice has a right to a hearing on the post-seizure notice. A request for a hearing must be in writing and submitted to the Department no more than 10 business days after the post-seizure notice is given. A request for a hearing must be submitted before **July 29, 2025 at 5:00PM**. An owner may mail a request for a hearing to:

Department of State Lands
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-5200
dsl.waterways@dsl.oregon.gov

The request must include a statement of the specific grounds on which the seizure is challenged, and whether the owner challenges the reasonableness of any salvage, towing, or storage costs incurred by the Department (ORS 830.931(4)). **If an owner requested a pre-seizure hearing under ORS 830.918(5), that owner**

may request a post-seizure hearing only for the purpose of challenging the reasonableness of any salvage, towing or storage costs incurred by the Department (ORS 830.931(5)).

If an owner submits a timely request for a hearing, the Department must set a time for the hearing that is no more than seven business days after receiving the hearing request. The Department will notify the owner of the time and the place of the hearing. The owner will also be given information on the procedures, right of representation, and other rights of parties relating to the conduct of the hearing before commencement of the hearing. If the owner's request for a hearing is not received by the Department within 10 business days or if the request otherwise fails to comply with the requirements of ORS 830.936, ORS 830.918, and ORS 830.931, then the owner's right to a hearing shall be considered waived.

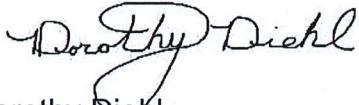
VI. FINAL ORDER BY DEFAULT

If a request for a hearing is not submitted within 10 business days of the notice, or if an owner requests a hearing and then either withdraws the hearing request or fails to appear at a scheduled hearing, and does not otherwise reclaim and move the Vessel, this Notice becomes a final order by default, and the title to the Vessel and personal property will vest in the Department. The owner of the Vessel will be responsible for all costs arising out of salvage, towing, storage, and disposal of the Vessel. If this Notice becomes a final order by default, the Department designates its file on this matter, including any materials submitted by an owner that relate to this matter, as the record for purposes of proving a *prima facie* case.

VII. FEDERAL SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

Active duty servicemembers have a right to stay certain proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. See generally 50 USC 3901 et seq. For more information, contact the Oregon State Bar (800-452-8260), the Oregon Military Department (503-584-3571), or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office (<http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>). The Oregon Military Department does not have a toll-free telephone number.

DATED on this 16TH DAY OF July, 2025.



Dorothy Diehl
Project Manager, Waterways Stewardship Program
Aquatic Resource Management Division
Oregon Department of State Lands

CERTIFICATE OF FILING/SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 16th day of July, 2025, I posted the substance of this notice on a website maintained by the Department of State Lands.

I further certify that on the 16th day of July 2025, I served the within Post Seizure Notice on Samuel Richard Lewis by certified and first-class mail to the addresses listed below:

401 Fir Street
Brookings, OR 97415

DATED this 16 day of July 2025.


Print name: Heather Klets

Position: Support Services

ATTACHMENT A:
Photos of vessel contents on July 15, 2025

At the time of the seizure, the vessel appear in the condition depicted in the photos below, with no items of apparent utility or value remaining on the vessel.

