

Vessel Turn-in Program Grants

A vessel turn-in program is a proactive alternative to seizing abandoned or derelict vessels where owners voluntarily surrender their at-risk vessels for disposal by a public agency. The incentive for the owner is the avoidance of possible criminal citations for abandoning a vessel and the financial responsibility for the vessel's removal. The benefits to the public agency and the state are reduced removal costs and reduced environmental impacts since the vessels are removed before they sink, pollute our waterways, and become a hazard to navigation.

Public agencies may apply for a grant from the Oregon State Marine Board to fund their own vessel turn-in program. Public agencies are encouraged to create a turn-in program that works for them, whether it is a one-time event, an on-going turn-in drop off site, or a case-by-case acceptance of at-risk vessels; however there are some basic requirements. Use of the grant funds are limited to removing recreational vessels (not commercial vessels), and the turn-in program must target vessels at-risk of becoming abandoned or derelict. Furthermore, the owners of the vessels must surrender the vessels by signing a release of interest and by providing the vessel title to the public agency. If the title is lost, the owners may sign an alternative release of interest document as approved by the Marine Board.

To apply for a grant, a public agency must submit a written proposal by mail, email, or fax that includes a description of:

1. How the turn-in program will be advertised or how boats will be identified for surrender;
2. The dates and times for any turn-in events;
3. The location of any turn-in events;
4. The criteria used by the public agency to determine if a vessel is in danger of being an abandoned vessel or a derelict vessel and is likely to cause damage to the environment or become a hazard to navigation;
5. A description of how surrendered boats will be removed and disposed of;
6. An estimate of the number of boats that will be surrendered;
7. An itemized list of expenses associated with the turn-in program;
8. The total amount of funds requested; and
9. Any cash or in-kind match to be provided by the public agency.

There is no deadline for grant proposals and the Marine Board will review the proposals as they are received. The decision to approve or deny funding will be based on the criteria outlined above and the amount of funds available in the Salvaged Vessel Subaccount. Each biennium, \$150,000 is set aside in the Salvaged Vessel Subaccount; however, only a portion of the subaccount will be allocated to vessel turn-in program grants. If the Board approves the vessel turn-in program grant proposal, the Board will prepare an Intergovernmental Project Agreement for signature by the parties prior to the grant award.

For more information or to submit a grant proposal, please contact the James Cogle at 503-378-2611 or at james.cogle@oregon.gov.

Rules for the Vessel Turn-in Program: OAR 250-026-0055

