

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Sector Columbia River

2185 S. E. 12th Place
Warrenton, Oregon 97145
Phone: (503) 861-6206
FAX: (503) 861-6355

16670
02 May 2012

Director, Metro Parks and Environmental Services
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97232-2736

RE: Derelict Vessel at M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp

Dear Mr. Slyman:

Thank for your letter of April 26, 2012, regarding the emergency action taken on 22 March, 2012 to secure the unmanned housing structure, previously known as the Vancouver Yacht Club, which was adrift on the Columbia River on a collision course with the I-5 bridge. When the structure drifted within three miles of the bridge, shortly after midnight, a joint discussion was held between the Coast Guard, Multnomah County Sheriff's Department, and the Tidewater Tugs vessel Sundial on scene, in an effort to prevent a serious marine incident and threat to navigation and the environment of the Columbia River, Washington, and Oregon. This resulted in an emergency determination, approved by me, to moor the structure to the M. James Gleason boat dock. There was no other safe option; the structure could not safely be moved upriver to its original location, and no other safe mooring was found in the immediate area.

Shortly thereafter, the Coast Guard examined the vessel and found no environmental or navigational risks that required additional emergency action. I identified the registered owner as Mr. Richard G. Dulas, and was told that he had been involved in court action with Clark Co., WA regarding illegal mooring of his vessel in that jurisdiction. I issued him a Captain of the Port Order directing him to remove the floating home from its current location, and to provide me a tow plan for the removal. To date, Mr. Dulas has not taken action on this order and has stated he is financially incapable of compliance.

Multiple conference calls have been convened with your organization and members of the Derelict Vessel Task Force (DVTF); these calls were not a convening of the Task Force itself, which is a workgroup with no authority to take action on or direct resolution of ongoing operations. These phone calls were intended to provide your organization insight into various options for assistance from local and state authorities.

The derelict structure poses no immediate threat to navigation or the environment in its current location. Accordingly, the Coast Guard has no authority to move it. I encourage you to engage the appropriate agencies in the States of Washington and Oregon, which may include those offices that permit and manage floating structures, the removal of derelict vessels, and oversee state lands, as well as local agencies which may have an interest in the former Vancouver Yacht Club, to determine the most appropriate means to mitigate this issue. I look forward to working with Metro and those state and local agencies as you work to resolve this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. C. Jones".

B. C. JONES
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Sector Commander
Captain of the Port