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Passage of Abandoned Vessels Act An Important Step in Addressing Issue of Derelict Boats

Vancouver BC – The passage of federal legislation on the issue of abandoned boats underlines the need for boaters to take proactive measures and appropriately manage their vessels through to their end of life, says the Boating BC Association.

Bill C-64 increases owner responsibility and liability for vessels – and not complying with the Act can now result in penalties of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for companies or corporations.

“We believe the passage of this federal legislation will serve as both a reminder and incentive for boaters to take action,” says Association President, Don Prittie. “We know the vast majority of boaters are responsible, and step-one is educating owners and ensuring they know how and where they can dispose of their vessels.”

Boating BC received a grant under Transport Canada’s Abandoned Boats Program to support a public relations campaign that will be leveraged through municipal and industry gatherings and promoted by Association members throughout the province. An important aspect of the campaign is the creation of a data base that includes boat disposal options: www.boatingbc.ca/boatdisposal.

Derelict and abandoned vessels are an eyesore - but more significantly, they pose navigational, environmental and safety risks. Abandoned or derelict boats may wash ashore or sink, releasing fuel or toxins which put marine life and habitat at risk. These vessels also pose a danger to the boating public and beachgoers and are a hindrance to waterfront businesses and local economies.

More information about Bill C-64 is available at: <https://bit.ly/2NAnVVa>

Boating BC Association represents the recreational boating industry across British Columbia and is comprised of more than 300-member businesses. The Association offers counsel on business and governance issues, as well as representing and advocating on behalf of the boating industry to all levels of government.

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