

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018**

SUBJECT **Abandoned Boats and Marine Debris – Disposal Strategy**

ISSUE

To provide an update to the Environmental Services Committee with regard to the management of abandoned and derelict boats, and marine debris tipping fees.

BACKGROUND

At its July 12, 2017 meeting, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board directed staff to pursue federal (Transport Canada) funding for (a) education and awareness outreach and (b) assessment and disposal of abandoned and derelict boats in the region. Appendix A provides an update on that process.

Subsequent to this initiative, the Board (November 8, 2017) also approved additional funds (\$100,000) from the Environmental Resource Management (ERM) Sustainability Reserve to cover tipping fee charges for marine debris associated with these abandoned and derelict boats that is non-eligible under the federal Abandoned Boats Program (ABP).

Staff have confirmed with legal counsel that the CRD does not have the power under the *Local Government Act* to waive tipping fees for the disposal of derelict boats and boating-related marine debris.

In lieu of an outright waiver, dedicated accounts will be established at the landfill against which derelict boats and marine debris disposal fees can be charged; this will avoid the hauler having to pay the tipping fees and/or allow tipping fees to be tracked for different categories of boat waste and boating-related marine debris. The tipping fee payments will form part of the CRD's financial contribution to the federal ABP program and create a trail of invoices as evidence of that contribution.

Staff will establish a process associated with bona fide derelict and abandoned boats, and boating-related marine debris, disposed of at Hartland landfill and inform municipalities, Islands Trust, First Nations and other stakeholders of these requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On July 12, 2017, the CRD Board approved funding from the ERM Sustainability Reserve of:

- a) \$50,000 to complete federal ABP grant applications, including the development of an inventory of eligible abandoned boats, and
- b) \$16,667 towards a total grant request of \$50,000 for education and awareness outreach; and
- c) \$333,333 towards a total grant request of \$1,000,000 for assessment and disposal of abandoned and derelict boats.

On November 8, 2017, the Board then approved additional funding from the ERM Sustainability Reserve of:

- d) \$100,000 to be made available on a first-come, first-serve basis to pay the tipping fee costs for regional, boating-related marine debris that is not covered by the CRD's funding application.

The program will be reviewed for the 2019 budget cycle, including ongoing funding options. Transport Canada recommends that tipping fees not be waived, as these fees will be eligible expenses under the ABP funding. The CRD and other applicants will be able to recover tipping fee costs; however, some other applicants to the ABP (e.g., Dead Boat Society, Central Saanich) may wish to show the CRD-paid tipping fees as part of the 25% grant contribution in their removal funding applications.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Some components of boat and marine debris may contain asbestos and other hazardous materials. Due to the potential health and environmental risks associated with derelict boats and other boating-related marine debris, both wastes will need to be managed through the CRD's controlled waste permit process. Under this process, pre-testing of some materials will be required prior to the arrival of waste at the landfill, to provide proof of concentration of hazardous materials. This ensures that the waste is appropriately disposed of and safeguards landfill staff who may be required to handle these materials. Any costs associated with required pre-testing will be borne by applicant.

CONCLUSION

Marine-related debris is not covered by the federal Abandoned Boats Program. The CRD has approved funding to cover disposal costs associated with these wastes. The CRD will provide funds to cover the tipping fees for marine-related debris and bona fide abandoned boats, and make those funds available to municipalities, Electoral Areas, Islands Trust, First Nations and other groups working to remove abandoned boats and other debris. This will help ensure that the region's waterways are further restored toward their natural state.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Services Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That this staff report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

GH/RS/JW:cam

Attachment: Appendix A – Abandoned Boats Update – January 2018