



Memorandum 21-024

TO: HOMER CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR CASTNER
THRU: ROB DUMOUCHEL, CITY MANAGER
FROM: BRYAN HAWKINS, HARBORMASTER
DATE: JANUARY 28 2021
SUBJECT: ORD 21-07 DERELICT VESSEL NORTH PACIFIC- HAUL OUT AND DISPOSAL

The vessel North Pacific has been in the Homer Harbor for the past several years. In 2016 it was issued a Nuisance letter by the City and began the derelict vessel process. The owners abandoned the vessel in 2018 and ceased paying their moorage. On April 11 2020 the structural integrity of the hull failed and the vessel began taking on water in the engine room. There was a release that occurred during the de-watering process, inside the containment boom that encircled the boat, and a pollution incident that I reported to NRC documented as case # 1275399. Luckily, with a quick response we were able mitigate the damage to the public waterway by installing a pressure patch inside the vessel's engine room that stopped the flooding. However, because of the very poor hull condition, the North Pacific will, if left to its own devices, eventually end up at the bottom of the harbor.



Since April 11th we have been working in partnership with the US Coast Guard (USCG) to find a permanent solution to the environmental threat and minimize economic loss that the derelict vessel North Pacific presents to this community. The City reached out to the USCG with a plan to share the burden of disposal for this derelict vessel (See Attachment) that asked the Coast Guard to help with the removal and cleaning

of the environmental hazards and help with legally pursuing the negligent owner, while the City in turn shouldered the removal and scrapping of the vessel from the Homer Harbor which is a cost not covered under the available relief funds managed by the Coast Guard.

The USCG went through processes to officially recognize the North Pacific as an environmental hazard threat to public waterways which allowed them to use the Federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) to remove all the hydrocarbons from the vessel. The Coast Guard legal unit is also currently pursuing legal action against the owner of the vessel North Pacific for abandonment and reimbursement of the cost for hazardous material disposal.

With the vessel now declared clean, for our part of the deal we've reached out to get quotes for the removal and disposal of the vessel. Logistically this will have to happen in 3 phases:

Phase 1 – Prep.

Scope of Work: This includes an inspection of the vessel at the steel grid to make sure that the integrity of the hull is strong enough to endure the stresses involved in hauling the boat out and onto the uplands area of the Marine Haul Out facility for scrapping, as well as cutting and removing by crane lift any deck gear and dredging equipment from the top sections of the boat prior to dragging it out onto the beach.

Price: We received two quotes, both from highly qualified local firms that have history working within the Harbor. We propose the lower priced quote from C&C Diving and Salvage of \$15,000.

Timeline: February - Taking advantage of the high tide cycles

Phase 2 –Haul Out

Scope of Work: Haul Out of the vessel from the tidal flats to the uplands utilizing an airbag system.

Price: This was a sole source bid, there was only one contractor in the area with the correct equipment and willingness to take on this vessel. Fortune Sea Marine Services for \$20,000.

Timeline: March

Phase 3 – Scrapping and Disposal

Scope of Work: Demolish and dispose of all metals, insulation, garbage, etc., related to the Vessel North Pacific from the uplands lot next to Outer Dock Road

Price: This was a sole source bid, there is only one recycling scrap company with the proper equipment and disposal avenues on the peninsula that is available for the job. Alaska Scrap and Recycling for \$63,700. Alaska Scrap and Recycling is willing to accept a credit of their bid amount toward future lease, wharfage, and dockage fee's associated with the Port of Homer in exchange for the demolition and removal of the North Pacific.

Timeline: July

Recommendation

Approval and adoption of ordinance 21-07

Attached

2020 05 12 Letter to USCG Re Vessel North Pacific Environmental Hazard Threat