

Abandoned & Derelict Vessels (ADV) in South Carolina



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

Overview and History

ADV's pose a chronic problem in our coastal environment. They harm coastal waters and marsh habitat, detract from the safe recreational use of waterways, and create an eyesore on the landscape. Since 2003, SCDES's Bureau of Coastal Management (BCM) has worked with partners on abandoned vessel removal projects across the coast. Vessel removals are often costly, and despite such efforts, ADVs continue to be a problem in coastal SC.



PREVENTION STRATEGY 2024

VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM (VTIP) PILOT

- BCM led a program for responsible, no-cost disposal option for end-of-life vessels.
- Provides pathway for boat owners.
- Prevents ADVs from ending up in waterways and marsh, protecting natural resources.
- Collaborative partnership established with SC Department of Natural Resources.

VTIP BY THE NUMBERS (2024)

- **13 Boats and 3 Outboard Motors** Turned In
- **5,854 lbs** Metal Recycled
- **123 gallons** Fuel Safely Disposed
- **35,440 lbs** Material Safely Disposed

VTIP COSTS INCLUDE

- A laydown yard, vessel transport, containers, dismantling & material separation, landfill disposal of material, metal recycling.

Removal Costs

In 2019, two ADV removal projects in the Charleston Area averaged **~\$10,500-13,000/boat**

Prevention Costs

2024 BCM's VTIP Pilot Project averaged **~\$4,200/boat**

VTIP Pilot Project was **~60% lower cost** on average than ADV removal efforts

Removal costs increase significantly when a vessel sinks

NEEDS

The VTIP Pilot Project was federally funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). To ensure future success, long-term state support and funding are needed.

**Financial assistance provided by the NOAA, Office for Coastal Management through grant/cooperative agreement number NA22NOS4190110.*

FEEDBACK

"My experience with the SCDES vessel turn-in program was fantastic. This truly felt like a white glove service for a process that is typically burdensome." said boat owner Josh Labovitz.