

Gentlepersons,

I am a member of CHMA and a local boat owner of some 45 years and a licensed captain with USCG. I have been in the marine business (salvage, underwater inspection, marine construction since 1970)

In regard to the above bill, while I realize the extensive problem of abandoned boats, the initial 24 hour period seems incredibly short (especially in regard to recent events).

Case in point, I was in Belize during Hurricane Sandy and did not return to CT until the following Saturday [4 days].

It was only then that I found my Stonington Pulling boat was missing (it had been stored upon saw horses on my waterfront property).

It was fully two days later that I noticed it nearly fully submerged, inside the culvert bridge [Route 1] next to my house [total of 6 days]. While I was able to salvage it the day I found it, if the boat had drifted further, others would have had the right to "salvage, removal etc" before I had been able to find the vessel. As it is a non-registered vessel, no motor etc., I doubt others would have been able to notify me of its "abandoned" location before I had found it.

I would recommend a longer period, say seven (7) days before a vessel would be counted abandoned. This longer period assumes that there is not an "emergency" associated with the abandoned vessel (potential or active fuel/oil spill, potential /ongoing property damage at the site etc.

My thoughts,

Thanks for your attention,

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