

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA


RESOLUTION NO. 2018-03

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 92: AN ACT RELATING TO
ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS**

- WHEREAS,** hundreds of derelict vessels currently litter Alaska's coastline and harbors and these numbers will increase every year unless action is taken to address aging fleets and changing commercial fisheries; and
- WHEREAS,** in the past two years alone there have been numerous derelict vessel situations that have cost the state, municipalities, and the federal government considerable expense, including two ex-Navy tugs in Adak, abandoned barges in Steamboat Slough near Bethel, and the tug Challenger that sunk off Juneau; and
- WHEREAS,** the City and Borough of Sitka recognizes the widespread costs and then environmental and navigational risks for both municipalities and the state associated with derelict vessels; and
- WHEREAS,** neighboring states have dramatically strengthened their derelict vessel prevention laws in the past five years to better prevent, track and manage derelict vessels, including raising fees to support state management of derelict vessels; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1990 the Alaska State Legislature passed a resolution acknowledging the need to better understand and address the existing and growing problem of derelict vessels around the state; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska has outdated statutes regarding derelict vessels which lack the ability to track vessel owners, agency enforcement authority, or statewide coordination of response; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2013 the AAHPA supported the creation of the ad-hoc derelict vessel task force which includes representatives from state and federal agencies as well as the AAHPA, regional tribal representatives, federal and state legislative offices, and private industry; and
- WHEREAS,** over nine full-day meetings, the task force developed thoughtful, robust and meaningful proposed changes that will help all stakeholders around the state, including harbor facilities, better address and prevent derelict vessels; and
- WHEREAS,** this will help our members protect harbor infrastructure, keep valuable moorage space in our harbors available, and will prevent unsustainable economic, environmental and navigational hazards; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed changes will improve communication and coordination between Alaska's harbors and state and federal agencies, directly leading to decreased costs associated with managing derelict vessels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka fully supports the passage by the Alaska State Legislature of Senate Bill 92.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 27th day of February, 2018.



Matthew Hunter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading 2/27/18