

**New Abandoned Boat Legislation  
Concerning Abandoned Vessels at Marina's and Boat Yards**

**The following must be received by the Commonwealth when marinas or  
boatyards are applying for an Abandoned Boat title:**

1. A "Request for File Search" must be completed and sent into our office to research the last known owner on the abandoned boat. After it has been researched, the file search will be sent back to the Marina/Boat Yard to begin the abandoned boat process.  
*(Based on the findings, a boat inspection may be needed by the Environmental Police.)*
2. Certified mail notice sent to the identified owner and lien holders. Send to the last known address with the amount of the lien and the proposed disposition or sale of the vessel. We need proof of the signed certified notice sent. If the letter comes back "moved no forwarding address", submit the actual envelope unopened and any accompanying return receipts. *Note: If envelope is returned "unclaimed or refused", this would not meet the requirement. In the alternative, the claimant shall supply a detailed explanation of the unsuccessful steps taken to identify the owner and any lien holder and to secure the address of the owner of any lien holder, including any returned notices. (Please mail in Originals)*
3. A legal notice of the lien and proposed disposition must be posted for three (3) consecutive days in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town of any owner of record's last known address. The legal notice shall include, but not limited to, a description of the vessel, a description of where the vessel is located, name and address of last known owner and proposed disposition of sale. You do not have to publish the hull ID or lien holder information. (Please mail in the original newspaper from each day published)
4. Pencil rubbing or printed digital picture of the hull ID 12-character serial number.
5. A *notarized affidavit* by the marina stating that the property has been abandoned for at least ninety days (90) and that all notice requirements under the abandoned procedure have been satisfied.
6. Completed Registration & Titling Application.
7. Check for \$27.50 payable to: Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the title fee.

**\*The marina or boatyard may apply for a title in their name ninety (90) days after the last posting of the legal notice. Mail all required documents to:**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
75 Perseverance Way, Suite 207A  
Hyannis, MA 02601  
ATTN: Paula Gaston  
Phone 508-771-8382  
Fax 508-771-2334**

*Please note that is does not apply to boats found in someone's yard, driveway, woods, etc. This legislation only applies to vessels with or without liens from marinas or boatyards*