

HOUSE BILL 143 SUPPORT

TO: House Environmental and Transportation Committee
FROM: Scott Allan

As a resident of the Annapolis area, and a marine professional with my job and recreational interests focused on the Chesapeake Bay, I support HB143 and SB219 to remedy the prior laws preventing the DNR from promptly removing a derelict and/or abandoned boat on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

In this case, the boat Crazy Girl, and one other were abandoned for two weeks off Tolly Point, in front of my home in the Bay Ridge community.

Knowing how the boats were anchored in a busy area, and a danger to boaters(they were not lighted at night), I called the Coast Guard and DNR multiple times over the two weeks from July 31 to August 11, without a response back from the DNR.

Over that time, various privately operated towing companies visited the site, but were prevented from towing the boat(s) away.

During that period the second boat broke away and drifted to the Greenbury Point area, leaving the Crazy Girl at the Tolly Point site. On August 8th and 10th, I called the DNR twice(no response), as the boat began to list(tilt) to the Starboard(Right) side, and my knowledge of boats indicated a high probability that the boat was near sinking.

On August 11, I called the Coast Guard three times as I knew it was about to sink. At 2 pm that day it sank.

For the next eighteen hours the boat was spewing fuel and oil, which was moved by the wind and tide, over a built up Oyster Bed created by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and over a State marked Crabbing area for watermen.

On the morning of August 12th, the DNR sent its recovery ship and divers, and raised and towed the boat away in about three hours, costing the State thousands of dollars in taxpayer's money. In fact, a Crabbing boat was picking up Crab traps 100 ft away while the boat was being salvaged.

This whole episode could have been easily prevented with someone towing the abandoned boat away while floating, early on, saving the environment, and the danger to the boaters on the bay, and to the local community.

I hope that you can give positive consideration to HB143, so this situation does not happen again.

Sincerely,



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