

Vessel recovery (sunken or abandoned)

Issued December 2010

EPA 938/10: This information sheet is part of a series on environmental management practices for vessel and facility management on marine and inland waters. The information is extracted from the code of practice published in 2008.

Introduction

Accidents do happen and pollutants can subsequently be released in to the environment. It is important under such circumstances to undertake whatever measures are reasonable and practicable to minimise environmental harm. This may mean notifying emergency response authorities immediately in order to ensure the best available equipment and expertise is used to clean up pollutants. Reporting incidents of serious or material environmental harm is a legislative requirement under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

Who this applies to

- vessel operators
- marina operators
- boat and yacht club operators
- port operators

Operators should (if it is safe)

- 1 contain the sunken vessel using a combination of booms, tarpaulins and/or other structures
- 2 empty the vessel's fuel tanks and reuse or dispose of fuel
- 3 empty the vessel's wastewater tanks (black and grey water)
- 4 remove and recycle the following vessel parts and fluid:
 - oil and oil filter
 - batteries
 - radiator coolant
 - engine (recycle as scrap metal)
 - any metal with reuse value, such as lead, zinc, aluminium, magnesium
 - all mercury containing devices (ie some electronic equipment, bilge switches, pumps, barometers)
 - vessel hull.

References

EPA, *Code of practice for vessel and facility management (marine and inland waters)*,
www.epa.sa.gov.au/xstd_files/Water/Code%20of%20practice/vessels.pdf.

Harbors and Navigation Act 2009, *Division 2—Clearance of Wrecks*,
www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/HARBORS%20AND%20NAVIGATION%20ACT%201993.aspx.

Useful websites

EPA Vessel and facility management pages, www.epa.sa.gov.au/vfm.

Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and does not necessarily provide adequate information in relation to every situation. This publication seeks to explain your possible obligations in a helpful and accessible way. In doing so, however, some detail may not be captured. It is important, therefore, that you seek information from the EPA itself regarding your possible obligations and, where appropriate, that you seek your own legal advice.

Further information

Legislation

Legislation may be viewed at: <www.legislation.sa.gov.au>

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Service SA Government Legislation Outlet
Adelaide Service SA Centre
108 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909
Website: <shop.service.sa.gov.au>

For general information please contact:

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Facsimile: (08) 8124 4670
Freecall (country): 1800 623 445
Website: <www.epa.sa.gov.au>
Email: <epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au>
