

(b) The Department may seize, remove, and take into custody any abandoned vessel. For this purpose, the Department may use its own personnel, equipment, and facilities or use other persons, equipment, and facilities for removing, preserving, or storing abandoned vessels. The Department may not be held liable for any damage to an abandoned vessel which may occur during removal, storage, or custody of the vessel.

(c) (1) NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS BEFORE AN ABANDONED VESSEL IS SEIZED, REMOVED, OR TAKEN INTO CUSTODY UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEND A NOTICE, BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, BEARING A POSTMARK FROM THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO THE LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER OF THE VESSEL, AS SHOWN ON THE RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) As soon as reasonably possible but not later than 15 days after the Department takes an abandoned vessel into custody, the Department shall send a notice, by certified mail, return receipt requested, bearing a postmark from the United States Postal Service to the last known registered owner of the vessel and to each secured party, as shown on the records of the Department.

(d) The ~~notice~~ NOTICES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION shall:

- (1) Describe the vessel;
- (2) Give the location where the vessel is being held;
- (3) Inform the owner and secured party of a right to reclaim the vessel within 3 weeks OF RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION upon payment to the Department of any expenses incurred during removal and custody of the vessel; and
- (4) State that failure to claim the vessel will constitute:
  - (i) A waiver of all right, title, and interest in the vessel; and
  - (ii) A consent to the Department's disposition of the vessel.

(e) If the Department is unable to determine the last registered owner or the identity of any secured party of the abandoned vessel, or if the certified mail notice required under subsection (c) of this section is returned as undeliverable, the Department shall give the required notice by publication in at least 1 newspaper of general circulation in the area where the abandoned vessel was found. The notice by publication shall contain the information required under subsection (d) of this section and shall be published within 30 days of the seizure of the abandoned vessel, or within 15 days of the return of the certified mail notice as undeliverable.

(f) If the owner or secured party fails to claim the abandoned vessel within 3 weeks after the certified mail notice or after the notice by publication is given, the Department may sell the vessel at public auction, proceed to receive title to the vessel pursuant to § 8-722 of this subtitle, or otherwise dispose of the vessel.