

Senators Micciche, Giessel and Stedman,

I am e-mailing you to express the City of Thorne Bays support for the Derelict Vessel Accountability Bill – SB 92. Thorne Bay and the waters connecting Thorne Bay with Clarence Strait have several vessels ranging for skiffs to a barge that have been abandoned on the State tidelands, some with known owners such as the Sonny Martin Barge. The small skiffs are easy to clean up but the barge continues to rust away on the tidelands. Sonny Martin attempted to use the barge as a floating lodge but was denied permission by the city and the state would not issue a tideland lease. Sonny then towed the barge to a beach along the channel that access Thorne Bay. Tied it to trees on National Forest Lands and has refused to remove or have it salvaged.

I am sure there are hundreds of other cases just like this, that pollute the waters and distract from the natural beauty. The real issue is, just like vehicles and other scrap, the cheapest way to unload unwanted items is just abandoned them on state or federal lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

Thank You

Wayne Benner,  
City Administrator  
City of Thorne Bay  
PO Box 19110  
Thorne Bay, AK 99919