



NEWS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Pete Stoltz (206) 764-3000

Derelict vessel towed from Maury Island dock **Safety and environmental concerns cited**

SEATTLE – Because of safety and environmental concerns, a derelict vessel tied for the last five years to mooring dolphins at a Maury Island dock was towed today to safe moorage.

The 180-foot vessel illegally moored at the dock owned by Glacier Northwest, has been shading eel grass beds and was in danger of breaking loose during winter storms, either running aground on the island or drifting into the navigation channel.

“We’ve been trying to get this vessel moved for the last five years,” said Mark Leatham, vice president and general manager for Glacier Northwest’s Washington operations. “I want to thank U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Suzanne Englebert and her staff for being the catalyst that finally got things moving. Especially helpful in getting the vessel to safe moorage were Coast Guard Cdr. Michael Long, Lt. Cdr. Diana Wickman, Lt. Craig Peterson and Chief Paul Taylor.”



This vessel was illegally tied to mooring dolphins at Glacier Northwest’s Maury Island dock for five years.

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Glacier Northwest will pay for the derelict vessel to be towed by tug to a private dock. King County will be reimbursed for the cost of mooring the vessel by the State Derelict Vessel Program until funding can be found to have it dismantled.

There was a concern that pilings the vessel was tied to could give way during a storm, casting it adrift. The damaged dolphin has also caused the derelict vessel to move closer toward the shore where it was shading eel grass beds.

The state Department of Natural Resources and King County's Department of Development and Environmental Services have also worked with the Coast Guard on getting the vessel moved to safe moorage.

The owner of the derelict, which has no engines, towed it to Maury Island after it was posted and slated to be dismantled under the derelict vessel program in 2003. King County Sheriff's deputies posted the vessel with notices that the County would take custody of it. While the cost of towing derelict vessels would normally be paid by the state under a derelict vessel program overseen by the Department of Natural Resources, Glacier is paying to tow this vessel because of tight government budgets.

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