

# Cost to raise old tuna boat in Ilwaco: \$188,000

## 'Vessels of Concern' pose headaches

By NATALIE ST. JOHN  
Chinook Observer

ILWACO, Wash. — It won't be cheap or easy, but Port of Ilwaco officials are getting closer to removing the Lihue II, a derelict boat that sank in the port last November.

Port officials recently approved a contract with Global Diving & Salvage to remove the boat, according to Port Manager Guy Glenn Jr. The company estimates removing and disposing of the wood-hulled 1939 tuna troller will cost about \$188,000.

Coast Guard records say the Lihue is registered in Warrenton and belongs to Stuart R. Arnold. However, Glenn said a lack of clarity about who actually owned the boat was one of the complicating factors in this case.



Guy Glenn Jr.

The Port of Ilwaco hopes to soon be rid of Lihue II, an aged tuna boat that sank after being pulled into a slip last November.

"There were two different people. So we went through the whole process and sent documentation to both potential owners," Glenn said. He has been working with the state Department of Natural Resources to gain legal custody of the boat and find the money to get it out of the water.

The state derelict vessel program has a fund that helps ports deal with boats like the Lihue. Glenn plans to apply

to the program for 90 percent of the removal and disposal costs. The port will be responsible for paying 10 percent of the cost, or about \$18,800 — "a significant amount" for the port to come up with, according to Glenn.

There could be additional costs for abatement or special waste handling, Glenn said. The amount would depend on the condition of the boat, and what types of materials were used to make it. For example,

**'We want it out of here sooner rather than later. It's taking up two slips.'**

Port Manager  
Guy Glenn

he said, some boats are covered in lead-based paints, and must be sent to special hazardous waste dumps at great expense.

According to the Department of Natural Resources website, the derelict vessel program has removed almost 600 neglected or abandoned vessels since 2002. In recent years, that has included several larger vessels that threatened the environment, or posed a navigation hazard.

Derelict vessels continue to be a persistent problem in Washington state. Sinking or sunken boats can create health, safety and environmental hazards. They also cut into the revenue of small ports by taking up slips that could be rented to paying customers.

Since Dec. 13, 2017, the program has listed 20 notices for pending custody actions. Boats stay on the list for 30 days. If the owners take no action during that period, the petitioner gains custody of the boat, and the right to use or dispose of it. The waiting period for the Lihue recently ended. No one got in touch, Glenn said.

With so many neglected and abandoned boats around the state, the derelict vessel program rarely has enough funding to meet demand. The program received about \$2.5 million for the 2017 to 2019 funding period. More than \$1.9 million will go toward boat removal, and the remainder will go toward enhancement of aquatic lands. As of

early January, the program had spent about \$175,000 and committed to spending an additional \$804,000. That leaves a little under \$1 million to last through 2019.

As of early January, "Vessels of Concern" — a list of boats that have already sunk or are expected to — included 148 boats. Four, including the Hero in Bay Center, are considered "Priority One Emergencies" because they pose immediate safety, health or environmental threats. The Lihue is considered a "Priority Five" vessel, meaning that it meets the definition of an abandoned or neglected vessel, but doesn't pose any obvious threat and isn't causing a significant economic impact.

Glenn said a lot of details are still up in the air, but Global Diving & Salvage will most likely use a crane barge to lift the boat and haul it away. He hopes it will be gone by the end of April.

"We want it out of here sooner rather than later" Glenn said. "It's taking up two slips."

# Young man sues Dick's, Walmart over new restrictions on gun sales

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A 20-year-old man from Oregon has filed lawsuits against Dick's Sporting Goods and Walmart, alleging the two retailers discriminated against him when they refused to sell him a rifle because of his age.

Dick's and Walmart restricted gun sales to people 21 and older in the wake of the Florida high school massacre. The 19-year-old accused in the school slaying legally bought the AR-15 used in the attack.

The lawsuits, obtained by The Associated Press, are believed to be the first filed over the new gun policies.

Oregon law allows residents to buy shotguns or rifles starting at 18.

Tyler Watson's lawsuits, which were filed against the retailers in Jackson and Josephine counties, both ask a judge to put a stop to the retailers' new gun sale policies and award punitive damages because of the "willful nature of the discrimination."

On Tuesday, the state Bureau of Labor and Industries said in a letter to state legislative leaders that the bureau would accept complaints from Oregonians who feel they have been discriminated against by the policies.

Without commenting on the merits of Watson's lawsuits, Commissioner Brad Avakian said state law currently only allows for age-related exemptions for alcohol and marijuana sales.

The bureau will present a bill to add a similar age

restriction for gun sales to the legislature next year for consideration, he said, adding that the policies seemed "appropriate" because they attempted to make public spaces safer.

Avakian also urged lawmakers to pass a ban on assault rifles and high-capacity magazines, among other things.

Legal papers filed Monday say a store owned by Dick's Sporting Goods in Medford refused to sell Watson a .22-caliber Ruger rifle on or around Feb. 24. The other suit says a Walmart in Grants Pass refused to sell him an unspecified type of rifle on Saturday.

Watson did not know about the restrictions when he tried to buy a rifle, his attorney Max Whittington, told The Oregonian, which first reported the lawsuits Monday. Whittington did not immediately return a call from the AP on Tuesday.

"He was really just trying to buy a rifle," Whittington told the newspaper.

Watson, of Gold Hill, could

not be reached for comment.

Walmart spokesman Randy Hargrove said the retailer plans to defend the new policy.

"We stand behind our decision and plan to defend it," he said. "While we haven't seen the complaint, we will respond as appropriate with the court."

A representative of Dick's didn't immediately return a call on Tuesday.

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## Washington is latest in handful of states to ban bump stocks

By RACHEL LA CORTE  
Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Spurred by last year's mass shooting in Las Vegas, Washington on Tuesday became the latest in a handful of states to ban trigger devices that allow semi-automatic rifles to fire more rapidly.

Gov. Jay Inslee signed the ban on bump stocks, calling it a "commonsense piece of legislation."

"It will help save lives from mass gun violence," he said, surrounded by lawmakers and gun control advocates.

Washington is one of more than 20 states to introduce legislation seeking to ban the devices after the Oct. 1 attack in Nevada — the deadliest in modern U.S. history.

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