



**USCG Sector Southeast Alaska (SEAK)
Mission Management System (MMS)
Work Instruction (WI)**



Category	Inspections Division				
Title	Requirements for Intentional Beaching of Small Passenger Vessels				
Serial	SEAK-INSP-08 (v1)	Orig. Date	6 FEB 26	Rev. Date	N/A
Disclaimer	<i>This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any part. It represents the Southeast Alaska Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection's (OCMI's) current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, and the public, as well as other federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach (you are not required to do so), you may contact the Sector SEAK Prevention Department, who is responsible for implementing this guidance. (See "questions," below, for contact information.)</i>				
References	(a) Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 115.600 (b) Title 46 CFR 176.600				
Change Summary	N/A				

- 1) Purpose. This instruction clarifies measures to ensure the safety of small passenger vessels ('t-boats' and 'k-boats') that elect to intentionally beach during normal operations in Southeast Alaska.
- 2) Distribution. This instruction may be publicly distributed.
- 3) Background. Sector Southeast Alaska's Chief of Prevention reviewed the enclosed 2019 policy letter as part of a periodic revalidation of Sector directives and determined that it is still relevant.
- 4) Direction. SECJUN Policy Letter 06-2019 *Requirements for Intentional Beaching of Small Passenger Vessels* remains in effect.
- 5) Questions. You may direct any questions or concerns related to this instruction to Sector Prevention Department staff at SectorSEAKPrevention@uscg.mil or via the Command Center at 907-463-2980 or 206-815-6563.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S.R. White".

From: S. R. WHITE, CAPT
CG SECTOR Juneau (s)

Subj: REQUIREMENTS FOR INTENTIONAL BEACHING OF SMALL PASSENGER
VESSELS

Ref: (a) Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 176.600 (d)
(b) Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 115.600 (d)

1. Purpose: This policy letter provides additional requirements for Small Passenger Vessel (SPV) owners/operators that intentionally beach their vessels in the course of routine operations in the Southeast Alaska (SEAK) Officer in Charge, Marine Inspections (OCMI) zone.
2. Directives Affected: This policy supersedes and cancels SECJUNPOLLTR 01-2008 of December 11, 2008.
3. Action: Sector Juneau Marine Inspectors will adhere to this policy when inspecting SPVs that intentionally beach in the course of routine operations. The owner/operator of a vessel that permitted to intentionally beach in the SEAK OCMI zone shall adhere to the requirements outlined in this policy.
4. Background: References (a) and (b) give the OCMI authority to require additional hull examinations and Internal Structural Examinations whenever damage or deterioration of hull plating or structural members are discovered or suspected of affecting the vessel's seaworthiness. Additionally, the OCMI may increase the examination intervals to monitor the vessel's structural condition.
5. Discussion: Sector Juneau recognizes that several tour and sightseeing companies are able to offer their customers unique outdoors experiences by beaching their vessels in undeveloped areas for the debarkation/embarkation of passengers and equipment (kayaks, hiking/trekking supplies, etc.). Sector Juneau's monitoring of this practice has identified two major safety concerns:
 - a. Hull damage has been discovered in some vessels, and;
 - b. Passenger injuries have occurred during the debarkation/embarkation process.

Therefore, additional requirements have been established to reduce the risk of damage to the vessel and injury to its passengers.

6. Implementation: Owners/operators who intentionally beach their vessels in the course of routine operations in the SEAK OCMI zone shall receive authorization from OCMI SEAK.
- a. Owners/operators shall submit, in writing, to OCMI SEAK a request for authorization that includes:
 - (1) Specific location(s) of intended beaching(s) (*Chart locations and photos*);
 - (2) Frequency (*times per day or week*) of planned beaching(s);
 - (3) Tidal considerations;
 - (4) Beach composition;
 - (5) Specific operation of vessel (*deploying kayakers, etc.*);
 - (6) Consideration of weather and sea conditions, as well as wakes resulting from passing traffic should be addressed;
 - (7) Arrangements for safe loading/off-loading of passengers to shore, and;
 - (8) Location of the vessel's fuel tanks (*integral or independent*).
 - b. Each request will be reviewed and granted authorization on a case-by-case basis. Among the considerations taken into account are the suitability of the vessel's hull for this type of activity, the suitability of the area the vessel will be beached, and the safety of the vessel's debarkation/embarkation procedure. Owners/operators must submit the written package at least one month prior to each vessel's next annual inspection. If authorized, the endorsement, "*Vessel may be beached only on sites deemed safe by the master,*" will be added to the vessel's Certificate of Inspection.
 - c. Vessels requesting authorization should be designed for routine beaching. At a minimum vessels should be reinforced or heavily scantled in the areas of contact. Vessels may be modified with strengthened bow areas for this purpose. To ensure that the vessel is structurally suited for intentional grounding, the vessel will be put on a 12-month credit hull examination cycle. On a case-by-case basis vessels may be allowed to remain on a 2-year cycle if the vessel can prove it has safely performed this operation in the past without suffering damage. Periodic gauging of the area of hull affected by beaching may also be performed at the discretion of the attending Marine Inspector.
 - d. Vessel's that demonstrate five years of performance, within this policy's inspection requirements without structural damage from beaching, may be permitted to put on a 24-month credit hull examination cycle at the SEAK OCMI's discretion. The SEAK OCMI may reinstate the 12-month hull examination cycle at any time if hull damage from

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beaching has been identified or if operational changes require a new evaluation period to begin.

- e. SPV operators that have previously been authorized to conduct intentional beaching in SEAK OCMI zone need not re-submit a written request, but shall comply with their existing OCMI SEAK authorization.

7. Disclaimer. While the guidance contained in this document may assist the industry, public, Coast Guard, and other Federal and State regulators in applying statutory and regulatory requirements, the guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements nor is it a regulation itself. Where federal statutes, regulations, or the Marine Safety Manual have left discretion to the OCMI and Captain of the Port, this policy clarifies and sets local requirements for the Southeast Alaska maritime industry.

8. Changes. Changes to this policy will be issued as necessary. Suggestions for improvements of this policy should be submitted in writing to the contact information listed below.

9. Contact. If you have further questions or concerns regarding this policy letter, please contact Sector Juneau Inspections at (907) 463-2477 or D17-SG-M-Jun-Sector-Inspections@uscg.mil.