



**Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

MyFWC.com

**Division of Law
Enforcement**

**Boating and
Waterways
Section**

**FWC Vessel Turn-In
Program (VTIP)**

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FWC

Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) Guidelines

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SECTION I: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

1.1 Purpose

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), in accordance with subsection 327.4107(7), Florida Statutes, hereby establishes the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) to allow owners of vessels determined by law enforcement to be at risk of becoming derelict to surrender their vessels to FWC to be destroyed without penalty or cost.

1.2 Funding

In the event monies are appropriated by the Legislature, and if funding is available for the Vessel Turn-In Program for a given fiscal year, FWC will announce the availability of funding in the Florida Administrative Register and on the web at MyFWC.com/VTIP.

The VTIP program will operate until available funding has been exhausted. If funding is exhausted, FWC will publish notice in the Florida Administrative Register and on the web at MyFWC.com /VTIP.

SECTION II: PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Eligible Participants

Eligible participants shall include titled owners of vessels who have been cited by or received written warning from law enforcement at least once for a violation of section 327.4107, F.S. The vessel for which a participant applies for removal under the VTIP program may not have any lienholders on file with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The Applicant owner must have a government issued photo ID which can be used to verify identity. The Applicant will be required to complete and submit the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) Application (form FWCDLE_192), and provide all documents listed in section 4.1. For vessels with multiple titled owners, all such owners must sign the Application and submit a signed Vessel Turn-In Program Waiver and Release (form FWCDLE_193) together with a government issued photo ID.

2.2 Eligible Vessels

To be eligible for the VTIP Program, a vessel for which application is being made must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Have a title showing the Applicant is a titled owner of the vessel for which application is being made.
2. Have a current or expired registration number or federal documentation number or a Hull Identification Number.
3. Be floating.
4. Be located upon the waters of this State.
5. Have been the subject of a citation or a written warning from law enforcement for a violation of section 327.4107, F.S.
6. Not be in a derelict condition or be the subject of an active derelict vessel investigation by law enforcement.
7. If local, State, or Federal regulations require mitigation efforts to remove or dispose of contaminants or materials onboard the vessel other than those ordinarily aboard a vessel, the vessel will become ineligible.

A vessel will become ineligible for participation in the program if at any time prior to removal and destruction of the vessel, the vessel fails to meet any of the above eligibility criteria.

SECTION III: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR VESSEL TURN-IN APPLICATIONS

3.1 Submission Address

Completed Applications and required documents listed in section 4.1 may be submitted by email to:

VTIP@MyFWC.com

Or by mail to:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement
Boating and Waterways Section
Attn: Vessel Turn-In Program
620 South Meridian Street, Room 235
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

3.2 Valid and Complete Applications

Applicants must submit a Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) Application (form FWCDLE_192). The Application form may be obtained from FWC's website at MyFWC.com/VTIP.

The Application must be submitted with all required documents listed in section 4.1 for the Application to be considered complete.

3.3 Authorization to Apply

The Applicant signing the Application must be a titled owner of the vessel for which application is being made and must also have the consent of all other titled owners to apply.

3.4 Incomplete Applications and Applications from Ineligible Participants or for Ineligible Vessels

If an Application received by Vessel Turn-In Program staff is incomplete, the Applicant will be contacted by a program staff member to discuss additional information needed to complete the Application in accordance with these Guidelines. If the Applicant does not provide the additional required information, the vessel will be ineligible for program funding.

If an Application is received from an ineligible participant or the vessel that is the subject of the Application is ineligible, the Applicant will be notified in writing that the Application is being denied due to ineligibility.

3.5 Program Award Process

Once a completed Application has been submitted and the Applicant and the vessel have met the program eligibility requirements, program staff will notify the Applicant by mail providing the Applicant with a ~~blank~~ Notice of Pre-Eligibility for VTIP Program and Instructions for Delivery of Junked Title (form FWCDLE_194), which provides title junking instructions, together with a self-addressed stamped envelope so the Applicant can submit the vessel's junked title to program staff in accordance with these Guidelines. Once the junked title has been received by program staff, the removal project for the vessel will be awarded and the Applicant will be notified of receipt of the junked title. The removal of the vessel from waters of this State, its destruction, and its disposal may then proceed at any time thereafter.

3.6 Payment for the Removal from Waters of this State, Destruction, and Disposal of Vessels Whose Owners Have Been Awarded by the VTIP Program

The costs of removal from waters of this State, destruction, and disposal of eligible vessels awarded VTIP funding in accordance with these Guidelines will be funded entirely by the VTIP program. There will be no cost to the owner(s) for the removal, destruction, and disposal of these vessels.

SECTION IV GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR VESSEL TURN-IN APPLICATIONS

4.1 Documents Required to be Submitted with the Application

The Applicant is required to include each of the following documents when submitting his or her completed and signed Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) Application (form FWCDLE_192) to FWC.

- Proof of Vessel Ownership:
 1. A legible copy of the vessel's title, showing that the Applicant is an owner of the vessel and has the authority to dispose of it. For vessels with multiple titled owners, **all owners** must sign the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) Application (form FWCDLE_192) for the vessel to be eligible for the VTIP program.
 2. Copy of all owners' government issued photo IDs: This gives VTIP Program staff the proof needed to verify vessel ownership and authorize the vessel surrendered for disposal and destruction.
- Photographs of the vessel for which application is being made:

The Applicant shall provide physical or digital photographs of the vessel, to include:

 - at least one image of the bow (front) of the exterior of the vessel;
 - at least one image of the stern (rear) of the exterior of the vessel;
 - at least one image of the starboard (right) side of the exterior of the vessel;
 - at least one image of the port (left) side of the exterior of the vessel;
 - at least one image of the inside of the vessel;
 - at least one image of the entire vessel taken from a distance; and
 - at least one image showing the vessel's registration number, federal documentation number and/or Hull Identification Number, if applicable
- Completed, signed, and notarized Vessel Turn-In Program Waiver and Release (form FWCDLE_193). For vessels with multiple titled owners, all owners must submit a completed, signed, and notarized Vessel Turn-In Program Waiver and Release (form FWCDLE_193) for the vessel to be eligible for the VTIP program.
- Copies of all citations or written warnings received by the Applicant for violations of section 327.4107, Florida Statutes, related to the vessel for which application is being sought.

SECTION V: PRE-ELIGIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

5.1 Pre-Eligibility Confirmation Provided to Applicant

Once VTIP program staff have reviewed the Application and other required documents listed in section 4.1, and determined the vessel is pre-eligible (meaning the vessel is eligible assuming the owner completes the additional requirements provided herein) for removal by the program, staff will notify the Applicant by mail, providing the Applicant with the Notice of Pre-Eligibility for VTIP Program and Instructions for Delivery of Junked Title (form FWCDLE_194) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Applicant's address listed on the Application.

5.2 Owner Returns Junked Title to VTIP Program Staff

For a pre-eligible vessel to become fully eligible, the vessel owner must:

1. Write "**JUNKED**" across the face of the vessel's original state-issued title, in large, legible letters.
2. Sign and date the original, state-issued title above the word "**JUNKED**;" and
3. Mail the original, state-issued, junked title back to VTIP program staff in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided. A copy of the title will not be accepted.

5.3 Completion of Eligibility

Once VTIP program staff has received the junked title from the vessel owner, the vessel will be authorized by program staff for removal from the waters of this State, and for destruction and disposal. The owner will be notified that the vessel is eligible for removal, destruction, and disposal under the VTIP program, and that such removal, destruction, and disposal can occur anytime thereafter. The owners shall not move or alter the vessel in any way following this communication.

5.4 Rejection from Vessel Turn-In Program

At-Risk (VTIP) vessels that sink prior to the FWC contractor arriving to remove, destroy and dispose of the vessel, will be REJECTED BY THE PROGRAM, and the owner may be subject to derelict vessel charges under s.823.11, F.S. including criminal penalties and the responsibility to repay removal, destruction and disposal costs. The owner of the approved VTIP vessel is required to keep the vessel floating until the FWC hired contractor arrives to remove the vessel. Should the vessel in question sink, the approved VTIP application and removal will be DENIED, and the owner will retain title to the sunken vessel. Said vessel remains in the ownership of the applicant until the vessel is removed by the contractor. In all cases, the state never takes title to the vessel.