

# USVI-ESF10

## Common Questions & Answers

1. If I sign over ownership of my vessel to DPNR will I be billed for the cost of salvage?

**If you do not have insurance and waive rights to your vessel and thereby transfer ownership to DPNR, you will not be charged for the cost of salvage.**

2. What are all of my options for recovering my boat?

**There are four options available:**

- 1. Initiate/proceed with an insurance claim to salvage the vessel**
- 2. Salvage/remove your vessel or contract a company to salvage/remove your vessel and any pollutants from the marine environment**
- 3. Request special consideration to DPNR to determine if you are eligible for federal assistance at no cost to owner.**
- 4. Waive your rights to the vessel and transfer ownership to DPNR**

3. If I sign over ownership of my vessel to DPNR will I be allowed to get my personal belongings off of it?

**Owners need to contact us as soon as possible at [USVIDPNR@gmail.com](mailto:USVIDPNR@gmail.com) or call (340) 423-6353 to discuss their intent for their vessel and the options available. Owners who have unique circumstances can request special consideration to DPNR to determine eligibility for federal assistance at no cost to owner. We will attempt to make arrangements for the owner to retrieve personal belongings.**

4. Will DPNR and/or Coast Guard help me salvage my vessel?

**Owners need to contact us as soon as possible at [USVIDPNR@gmail.com](mailto:USVIDPNR@gmail.com) or call (340) 423-6353 to discuss their intent for their vessel and the options available. For unique circumstances request special consideration to DPNR to determine eligibility for federal assistance at no cost to owner.**

**Q** If my vessel was used as my home, how do I retrieve my property if I sign it over to DPNR?

**There is no distinction between houseboats, recreational boats or commercial boats. If ownership is relinquished, arrangements can be made through DPNR to retrieve your personal belongings. There may also be federal assistance available from FEMA for vessels that are someone's primary domicile.**

**Q** I do not live in USVI, can the CG go aboard and retrieve my documents for me?

**Please contact us at the above email or phone number to discuss your intent for your vessel. If retrieving your belongings is safe, we recommend you have a family member or other designated representative to retrieve them, otherwise you can request assistance to DPNR to determine eligibility for federal assistance at no cost to owner.**

**Q** What does the sticker on my vessel mean?

**As part of our assessment process the stickers were strictly used to notify owners that their vessels were displaced and need to be removed. It is our hope that all owners who intend to salvage their vessels contact us through the above email and/or phone number to avoid having your vessel declared debris and removed by DPNR.**

**Q** I plan on salvaging my vessel myself, what do I need to do?

**Owners need to contact us as soon as possible at [USVIDPNR@gmail.com](mailto:USVIDPNR@gmail.com) or call (340) 423-6353 to discuss their intent for their vessel and the options available. Owners who have unique circumstances can request special consideration from DPNR to determine eligibility for federal assistance at no cost to owner.**

**Q** I want to keep my vessel but I am currently not in the Virgin Islands, what do I need to do?

**You have until December 1, 2017 to contact us at [USVIDPNR@gmail.com](mailto:USVIDPNR@gmail.com) or call (340) 423-6353 to discuss their intent for their vessel and the options available or risk. Owners who have unique circumstances can request special consideration to DPNR to determine eligibility for federal assistance at no cost to owner.**

**Q** How long do I have to salvage my vessel?

**DPNR has set a deadline of December 1, 2017 for owners to notify us, otherwise they risk DPNR taking possession of the vessel and the options for disposition. Salvage does not have to be complete by Dec 1, but DPNR will track owner intentions closely.**

**Q** My insurance company has declared my vessel a complete loss, am I still responsible for salvage or can I sign over my vessel to DPNR for salvage?

**Owners of insured vessels are responsible for the removal of the vessel and all pollutants in the maritime environment.**

**Q** I plan on hiring (have hired) a salvage company to salvage my vessel, what do I need to do now?

**Contact us at the above email or phone number, so that we know your intent and can close your file. Also, owners are encouraged to hire a professional contractor to recover their property so it is done in the safest method possible for the vessel and the environment.**