



Chief Rebecca Mertzig

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Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: (360) 778-8800

www.cob.org/police

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBTAIN CUSTODY

VESSEL with Washington Registration 33622400 and HIN WNZ44121G373

The Bellingham Police Department has declared the vessel with Washington Registration #33622400 and HIN WNZ44121G373, as abandoned. The vessel is a 1973 Chris Craft 25' Yacht tied off at the Taylor Transit Dock located in the inner harbor of Bellingham Bay near Fairhaven, WA.

The Bellingham Police Department, acting as an authorized public entity with the authority granted in RCW 79.100, intends to take custody of the vessel on **August 31, 2024**. After taking custody of the vessel, the Bellingham Police Department may use or dispose of it without further notice to the owner.

In order to keep the vessel, before the Custody Date, the owner must:

- Get authorization to moor or anchor the vessel in its current location, **or**
- Move it to an anchorage area, moorage facility, or storage location that authorizes the vessel.
- Remove the vessel from the water.

If the owner wants to reclaim the vessel after the Bellingham Police Department has custody or wants to challenge the Bellingham Police Department's decision to take custody, the owner must file a written appeal with the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) and serve a copy on the Bellingham Police Department. Addresses are in the boxes below:

Pollution Control Hearings Board (send one original and one copy) Physical address: 1111 Israel Road, Ste. 301 Tumwater, WA 98501 Mailing address: PO Box 40903 Olympia, WA 98504-0903 Phone: 360-664-9160	Bellingham Police Department Street Address 505 Grand Ave Bellingham, WA 98225
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The appeal must include the following information:

- A copy of this notice or a copy of the notification letter to the owner.
- Your name and address (mailing and legal, if different) and, if applicable, the name and address of your representative.
- A daytime phone number.
- A brief statement why you are appealing.
- A statement of what you want the Pollution Control Hearings Board to do.
- Your signature or that of your representative. This signature certifies that the content of the appeal is true.

See <https://eluhwa.gov/> or call the PCHB at the number above with appeal questions.

The owner may submit the appeal immediately, but the PCHB must receive it no later than **September 30, 2024**. **The owner waives the right to a hearing if the PCHB does not receive an appeal on or before the Appeal Date. The owner is then liable for any costs incurred by the Bellingham Police Department in responding to the vessel.**

These costs may include all administrative costs incurred by the Bellingham Police Department, removal and disposal costs, and costs associated with environmental damages directly or indirectly caused by the vessel. If there is a lawsuit, the successful party may receive reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

The Bellingham Police Department also may pursue any other remedies available under law. For example, the Bellingham Police Department may take temporary possession of the vessel under the circumstances described in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79.100.040(3). You can find a copy of this law online at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=79.100> .

For more information, contact Zachary Miles at the Bellingham Police Department at 360-778-8702 or email zmiles@cob.org.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Mertzig
Chief of Police

Zachary M. Miles
Code Enforcement Officer
360-778-8702
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