

1 same manner as the fee and deposited into the Marine Resources
 2 Conservation Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife
 3 Conservation Commission for the purpose of funding the
 4 derelict vessel grant program established under s. 376.15(2).
 5 From these funds the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 6 may retain up to 10 percent to cover the administrative costs
 7 of the grant program.

8 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 376.15, Florida
 9 Statutes, is amended to read:

10 376.15 Derelict vessels; removal from public waters.--

11 (2)(a) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 12 and its officers and all law enforcement officers as specified
 13 in s. 327.70 are authorized and empowered to remove any
 14 derelict vessel as defined in s. 823.11(1) from public waters.
 15 All costs incurred by the commission or other law enforcement
 16 agency in the removal of any abandoned or derelict vessel
 17 shall be recoverable against the owner of the vessel. The
 18 Department of Legal Affairs shall represent the commission in
 19 such actions.

20 (b) The commission may establish a program to provide
 21 grants to local governments for the removal of derelict
 22 vessels from the public waters of the state. The program shall
 23 be funded from the Florida Coastal Protection Trust Fund and
 24 the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. Notwithstanding
 25 ~~the provisions in s. 216.181(11)~~, funds available for grants
 26 may only be authorized by appropriations acts of the
 27 Legislature.

28 (c) The commission shall adopt by rule procedures for
 29 submitting a grant application and criteria for allocating
 30 available funds. Such criteria shall include, but not be
 31 limited to, the following:

1 1. The number of derelict vessels within the
2 jurisdiction of the applicant.
3 2. The threat posed by such vessels to public health
4 or safety, the environment, navigation, or the aesthetic
5 condition of the general vicinity.
6 3. The degree of commitment of the local government to
7 maintain waters free of abandoned and derelict vessels and to
8 seek legal action against those who abandon vessels in the
9 waters of the state.
10 (d) This section shall constitute the authority for
11 such removal but is not intended to be in contravention of any
12 applicable federal act.
13 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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