

DNR employee receives Public Service Award from United States Coast Guard **Local News**

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OLYMPIA - Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manager of the Derelict Vessel Removal Program, Melissa Montgomery, today received a Meritorious Public Service Award from United States Coast Guard. Montgomery was recognized for continuously exhibiting outstanding commitment to keeping Washington's waters safe and clean. In highlighting Montgomery's leadership and exceptional support for the Coast Guard's environmental goals, officials noted multiple late-night calls and other incidents that went far above and beyond what was expected. "Melissa takes intent and turns it into action. Intent of partnership is inclusiveness. Intent of stewardship is action. She epitomizes both of those everyday," said Coast Guard Captain Suzanne Englebert as she presented Montgomery with an award and medal.

Over the past three years administering DNR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program, Montgomery has overseen the removal of more than 50 vessels that create navigation and pollution hazards in Puget Sound and on Washington's coast. "I am honored by the Coast Guard's recognition. I work very hard in my job to do the best that I can with the resources I have. Vessel removals are a team effort by multiple agencies," said Montgomery. Also present from DNR were Department Supervisor Lenny Young and Deputy Supervisor of Aquatics & Agency Resources Bridget Moran, showing their support for Montgomery's notable service. Montgomery's parents were also on hand to celebrate their daughter's achievements. "We are impressed with Melissa's commitment to her position. This is a prestigious award, which she has earned. We are very proud of both her and the progress of the program," said Moran. The Derelict Vessel Program is funded by boater registration fees through the general fund and was created in 2003 under the leadership of Sen. Rockefeller, D-Kitsap.