

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

STOLEN BOATS
SUBJECT

DATE: March 1, 2005

NO: U-2

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: Stolen Vessels
Boats, Stolen
Vessels Stolen

I. POLICY

All reports involving theft and recovery of vessels within the City of Stockton will be investigated by the Stockton Police Department.

II. LAW

The State Department of Boating and Waterways and the United States Coast Guard govern the operation of watercraft on the State's navigable rivers and streams. Officers should be familiar with Section 10551 CVC and 484 and 487 PC.

1. A vessel theft/storage form SVR-1b has been developed at the request of boating enforcement agencies and its design is compatible with the Automated Boat System (CLETS) format for reporting vessel thefts to the Department of Justice. The reverse side can be used for vessel storage purposes. Form SVR-1b will be used by the Stockton Police Department. (Copy Attached).
 - a. Descriptions of vessel storage purposes are included in additions to the Harbors and Navigation Code, Section 522, 675, 676, effective January 1, 1982.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Stolen vessels.

1. Telecommunications Center Duties.
 - a. Upon receiving a report of a stolen vessel, the Telecommunications Center personnel will:
 - (1) Query vessel number (CF number on bow) through Automated Boat System (CLETS) to determine status.
 - (2) Have Headquarters check the Vessel number or Boat Hull Number against the tow-away sheet and repossessions.
 - b. Assign the stolen vessel report.
 - (1) Reports of embezzled vessels will be referred to the Auto Theft Unit when possible.
 - c. Headquarters personnel will notify the California Highway Patrol, San Joaquin

County agencies and the Telecommunications Center for an all-car broadcast.

2. Investigating Officer Duties Report of Stolen Vessel.
 - a. Upon arriving at the call location, the investigating officer must determine that a vessel has been stolen and that it is not a civil matter.
 - b. If a vessel actually has been stolen, the investigating officer shall:
 - (1) Generate a report and complete SVR-1b Form as an attachment.
 - (2) No inquiry of the victim or victim's representative should be made concerning a specific tow for the vessel when recovered.
 - (3) After completing a SVR-1b Form and signed by the victim or the victim's representative, Headquarters will be advised so that the stolen vessel information can be sent to the Telecommunications Center for broadcasting.
 - (a) Advise via telephone, if possible, or Channel 5 should be used.
 - (4) Check immediate area for witnesses.
 - (5) Check area for the stolen vessel since it could be abandoned or misplaced.
 - (6) Complete an ARS Crime Report and list names of Headquarters personnel to whom information was relayed.
 - (a) Obtain a crime report number for the report.
 - (7) Instances in which a Stolen Vessel Report was determined to be unfounded and a report was completed, a subsequent report must be completed documenting why report was unfounded.
3. Headquarters Clerk Duties - Report of Stolen Vessel.
 - (a) Complete SPD-1b Form and make two copies.
 - (1) The original is retained by the Records Section.
 - (2) One copy is sent to the Telecommunications Center for immediate all-car broadcasting; Headquarters personnel will advise the Telecommunications Center via the telephone that the information is enroute by pneumatic tube.
 - (b) Place the crime report number on SPD-1b Form.
 - (c) Enter the stolen vessel information in the CLETS.
 - (1) The FCN (File Control Number from the CLETS) will be written in the space indicated on the form as well as forward to reporting officer for documenting in their report.
 - (d) Original copy of the teletype will become an attachment to the original Crime Report.
 - (e) This operation must occur as a quickly and efficiently as possible.

B. Recovered Stolen Vessel

1. Telecommunications Center Duties.

a. Upon receiving information that a stolen vessel has been located either by a citizen or an officer, the Telecommunications Center shall:

- (1) Verify that the vessel is, in fact stolen.
 - (a) If the vessel is from an outside agency and/or if there is any doubt, call the agency in question to verify.
- (2) Dispatch a unit to the scene for investigation if one is not already there.
- (3) Advise the unit at the scene of the stolen vessel to contact Headquarters.

2. Headquarters Clerk Duties-Recovered Stolen Vessel.

a. Upon receiving notification of a recovered stolen vessel, Headquarters personnel shall in cases where the vessel was recovered by an officer of the Stockton Police Department:

- (1) After the investigating officer advises that the vessel was towed, Headquarters personnel will log the information in the computer.
 - (a) Check the CLETS Teletype and SPD-1b Form to assure that proper cancellation was completed.
 - (b) Complete the SPD-1b Form by adding the FCN (File Control Number from CLETS).
 - (c) The original copy for the teletype cancellation will become an attachment to the recovery report.
 - (d) When receiving notification that a vessel reported stolen to the Stockton Police Department is now recovered by an outside agency, the Headquarters personnel shall in addition to other stolen vessel cancellations:
 - 1) Attempt to notify the owner/victim.
 - 2) Complete a subsequent report, indicating whether the owner/victim was notified.
 - 3) Send a locate message if the vehicle was reported stolen to another agency.

C. A Stockton Police Department Unit will not be dispatched to recover stolen vessels outside the City of Stockton unless exceptional circumstances are present.

1. Investigating Officer's Duties - Recovered Stolen Vessel.

a. The investigating officer must complete the following steps when recovering a stolen vessel:

- (1) Contact Headquarters for verification that the vessel is still stolen.

- (2) Determine the condition of the vessel and advise Headquarters.
 - (a) The Headquarters clerk will coordinate with the investigating officer to insure that the owner/victim is notified of the recovery.
- (3) If the owner can be located and comes to the scene to take possession of the vessel, it will be turned over to the owner and this fact noted on the Subsequent Report. If the boat is on the waterway, the preference is to have the owner or representative respond. If the owner can not be located and towing is needed or a emergency exists, the S.J.S.O. boat patrol or the Port Police can assist with towing and/or temporary docking. Officers must use extreme caution in moving the vessel not to damage it, or damage it further. (The vessel may have possible hidden damage and moving it may cause it to sink.) The officer should take every step possible to have the owner oversee the towing. This will reduce the city's liability in case of damage. If the boat can not be towed without sinking, it must be safeguarded at the scene and the victim notified. The officer will make all attempts to have the vessel released at the scene.
 - (a) The SVR-1b Form will be completed, and the owner must sign it before the vessel can be released to him.
 - (b) When a vessel is released to the owner, the investigating officer will advise Headquarters or the Telecommunications Center immediately of the cancellation.
- (4) If the owner cannot be located or refuses to come to the scene, the vessel will be towed.
- (5) The investigating officer will as soon as possible contact Headquarters by phone, if possible, or Channel 5 and supply the necessary information for the cancellation in the Automated Boat System (CLETS).
- (6) The investigating officer will complete a subsequent report for Stockton Police Department cases or an "Outside Stolen Vessel Recovery" Crime Report if the vessel was reported stolen by another agency.
 - (a) The report will contain complete information relating to the recovery, disposition of the vessel, and any items that had been stolen.
 - (b) The report must include the information stating whether the victim was notified of the recovery.
 - (c) If the report is an "Outside Stolen Vessel Recovery," the report must show, if it is known, the victim's name, originating agency, case number, and other essential information from the CLETS.
- (7) If an arrest is made, and it is feasible, the investigating officer will have color photos taken showing the vessel and the suspects.
- (8) When suspects are known, attempts to obtain latent prints will be made when practical.

D. Vessels Recovered Before Reported Stolen.

1. All stolen vessels must be entered into the CLETS even though the vessel has been recovered before the theft report was taken.
 - a. The stolen vessel entry will be immediately followed by the recovered vessel entry cancellation.

E. Auto Theft Unit.

1. They have the final responsibility for the investigation of all stolen and recovered vessels.
2. They will receive all vessel thefts and recoveries.
 - a. The Auto Theft Unit will notify all victims not contacted by the Headquarters Clerk.
3. Will complete all required forms and assure that the CLETS is current on all stolen vessels processed through the Stockton Police Department.
4. Will assure that the owner of the vessel has been notified of the recovery.

F. BEFORE YOU ENTER - SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. A boat entry must have either a REG group, BHN, or OAN, or any combination of these data fields.
2. A boat part entry must have a SER or OAN, or SER, and OAN.
3. Enter all available information from your master case record. If you have the information for an optional data field, use it.
4. Check the DMV Vessel Registration File to determine the accuracy of a BHN. If your master case record does not have a BHN, use the one in the Vessel Registration File. If there is no BHN in the DMV record, make your entry without the BHN.
5. You cannot use DMV boat codes in CLETS. Acceptable CLETS codes are in the CJIS Manual.
6. Boat records do not need a REG number to be entered.
7. If a BHN exceeds 20 characters, enter the last 20 characters of the BHN in the BHN field and enter the full BHN in the MIS field. (eg., BHN/xxx...).
8. The full name of the boat make or manufacturer must appear as the first item in the MIS field.