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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2017 No. 1329**

**The Boston Barrier Order 2017**

**PART 5**

**OPERATION OF SCHEDULED WORKS**

*Obstruction etc.*

**Removal of vessels**

**47.**—(1) Whenever any vessel is sunk, stranded or abandoned in the river area, or without lawful authority left or moored in that part of the river, the Agency may, after giving (except in an emergency) not less than 21 days' written notice to the owner of the vessel, unless it is not practicable after reasonable inquiry to ascertain the name and address of the owner, raise, remove, store or otherwise dispose of the vessel.

(2) Subject to article 51 (emergency powers and consents), the power conferred by paragraph (1) is not exercisable by the Agency if—

- (a) it is within the powers of the Harbour Authority to deal with the vessel and the Harbour Authority decides to do so; and
- (b) if the Agency, having given not less than 14 days' notice to the Harbour Authority, is informed by the Harbour Authority within that time that the Harbour Authority intends to act and the Harbour Authority subsequently does act within 14 days of informing the Agency of its intention to do so.

(3) Where a vessel is left or moored adjoining riparian property the Agency must give not less than one month's notice to the owner or occupier of that property and such owner or occupier may make representations to the Agency as to the proposed raising, removal, storage, or disposal of the vessel.

(4) Any notice given by the Agency under paragraph (1) must—

- (a) identify the vessel in respect of which the notice is served and its approximate location;
- (b) state that if the owner fails to raise and remove the vessel before the expiry of the period specified in the notice, the Agency may raise and remove the vessel and recover all expenses reasonably incurred in doing so; and
- (c) indicate that there is a right to refer the matter to arbitration under article 48 (arbitration in respect of removal of vessels).

(5) The Agency may recover from the owner of any such vessel all expenses reasonably incurred by the Agency in respect of the raising, removal, storage or disposal of the vessel or in raising, removing, storing or disposing of any furniture, tackle and apparel of the vessel or any goods, chattels and effects raised or removed from the vessel.

(6) In any proceedings by the Agency against a person served with a notice under paragraph (1) for the recovery of any expenses which the Agency is entitled to recover from that person under

paragraph (5), it is not open to that person to raise any question which could have been raised on a referral to arbitration under article 48.

(7) Subject to paragraph (8), if any vessel to which paragraph (1) applies is not within 6 weeks of its removal by the Agency, proved to the Agency's satisfaction to belong to any claimant, the vessel (together with any such furniture, tackle and apparel) vests in the Agency.

(8) If within 12 months of its removal a claim is made to the vessel by a person who subsequently proves to the satisfaction of the Agency that that person was the owner of the vessel, or has become the owner since the vessel was sunk, stranded, abandoned, left or moored as mentioned in paragraph (1), then the Agency must—

- (a) if the vessel is unsold, permit that person to retake it with any furniture, tackle, apparel, goods, chattels and effects on the vessel upon payment of the expenses referred to in paragraph (5); or
- (b) if the vessel and the furniture, tackle and apparel on the vessel have been sold, pay to that person the amount of the proceeds of such sale after deducting those expenses, and in case such proceeds are insufficient to reimburse the Agency those expenses the deficiency may be recovered from that person by the Agency.

(9) In this article—

“owner”, in relation to any vessel sunk, stranded, abandoned, left or moored as mentioned in paragraph (1), means the owner of the vessel at the time of its sinking, stranding, abandonment, leaving or mooring;

“riparian property” means land (other than the river bed) immediately abutting the river such that the frontage of the land is in physical contact with the river on a daily basis; and

“vessel” includes any part of a vessel.

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**Commencement Information**

**II** Art. 47 in force at 2.1.2018, see [art. 1](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Boston Barrier Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Order excluded in part by [S.I. 2023/778 art. 41](#)