In-Service Vessel Sustainment is the Coast Guard’s strategic class-by-class evaluation of its vessels to determine what major maintenance and upgrades are necessary for them to reach or extend their service lives.

As vessels age, systems become obsolete and the cost and time spent on maintenance becomes prohibitive. The Coast Guard has determined that strategic major maintenance and recapitalization can improve reliability of its vessels and help control maintenance costs as well as increasing time spent underway, conducting missions. If necessary, additional work can be completed to allow vessels to operate efficiently past their service life until replacements are procured.

Systematic evaluation of Coast Guard surface assets and creation of a recurring Acquisition Construction and Improvement funding stream through ISVS provides a cost-effective way to ensure the service has the surface assets necessary to complete its missions. A cutter capital asset management plan, which lays out a system of evaluative criteria, was developed to prioritize cutter classes to be included in the ISVS program.

The ISVS program consists of two kinds of projects:

- Service life extension project – Addresses specific systems and major maintenance to extend the service life of the vessel beyond the original design service life. The ISVS program is the successor of the Mission Effectiveness Project, which

For updates on ISVS, visit the program’s website at https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/In-Service-Vessel-Sustainment-Program/