

**MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**THE FLORIDA KEYS AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN**



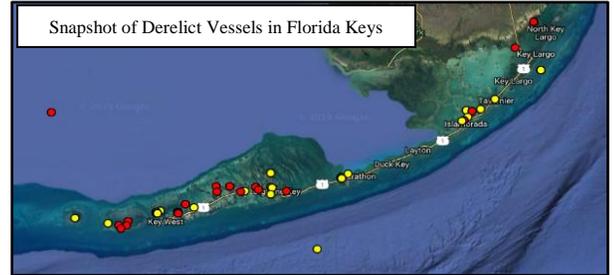
**VESSELS:**

**DERELICT VESSEL PREVENTION AND REMOVAL**  
**VESSEL PUMP OUT PROGRAM TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

**VESSEL DERELICTION PREVENTION AND REMOVAL**

**Derelict Vessel Reduction/Prevention:** Monroe County supports stronger statutory provisions to help reduce and prevent vessel dereliction including long-term vessel anchorage and pre-dereliction enforcement and incentives.

- ✓ Monroe County has the **highest number** of derelict vessels (DV) in the State.
- ✓ Derelict vessels pose **significant navigational safety and environmental impacts**.
- ✓ Monroe County removes approximately 60 vessels each year, at an average annual cost of \$240,000.



**Stored vessels** are a major contributor to DV problem:

- About half of the long-term anchored vessels in Keys' waters are stored vessels.
  - Stored vessels are anchored out for extended periods of time. They are often left unattended, improperly maintained, and are one of the greatest generators of abandoned and derelict vessels.
  - These vessel owners choose to store their vessel at anchor as an alternative to paying the high price of shore side dockage; or, they have the intent of abandonment to avoid costs associated with proper disposal.
- **SUPPORT** FWC legislation **HB 1065/SB 1432 (Vessel Anchoring)** that enables Monroe County to regulated the long-term anchoring of stored vessels to reduce and prevent derelict vessels. These bills will amend provisions in SB 1086 (2021) to lower the number of required new moorings to 100, delay the new anchoring limits on liveaboards until new moorings are implemented, and authorize enforcement of a 90-day anchoring limits for stored vessels immediately.

**VESSEL PUMP OUT PROGRAM**

Monroe County **implemented a large-scale mobile vessel pump out service in 2013** to discourage illegal sewage discharges and assist local and transient boaters in complying with the NDZ by providing free weekly pump outs at no charge.

To protect the coral reef, sea grasses, and pristine waters of the Florida Keys from the discharge of both treated and untreated vessel sewage, the entirety of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary was designated a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) in 2010.

In 2017 the State recognized the contribution to water quality of the County's pump out program and passed legislation allowing the County to require vessels throughout the entirety of Keys waters to **show proof of pump out**.



**Program achievements:**

- Performed over **7,000 pump outs** in 2021 (**171,000** since 2013).
- Serviced over **300 weekly customers** in 2021 (with **4,000 boaters** registered in the program since 2013).
- Diverted and properly disposed of **55,000 gallons** of vessel sewage (over **2.4M gallons** diverted since 2013).
- Operated the **largest program in the State serving high-demand anchorages in the Keys** on both the Gulf and Ocean sides.

**Local Commitment:** Monroe County uses its local Boating Improvement Funds to match State's legislative appropriation.

**State Assistance:** The State of Florida has always demonstrated strong commitment to protecting the quality of Florida Keys' waters, and for the past 8 years, the Legislature has appropriated funds to support this program.

- **SUPPORT** a legislative **appropriation of \$325,000** for Monroe County's vessel pump out program for 2022.

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