

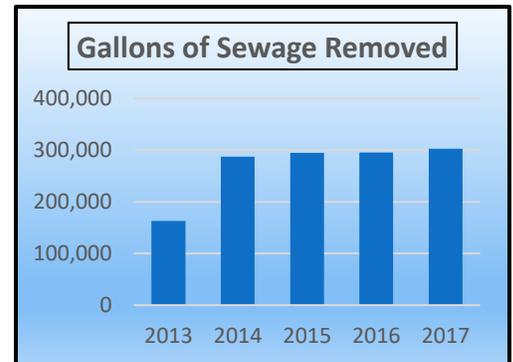
MONROE COUNTY

THE FLORIDA KEYS AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN (ASCS)



Monroe County's Vessel Pump Out Program 2017 Accomplishments

- ✓ **Need/Purpose:** The Environmental Protection Agency in 2002 established a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) for state waters surrounding the Keys to protect the coral reef, sea grasses, and pristine waters from the discharge of both treated and untreated vessel sewage. In 2010 the NDZ was expanded to encompass all waters within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. **In response, Monroe County implemented a large-scale mobile vessel pump out program in 2013 to assist boaters in complying with the NDZ by providing weekly pump outs at no charge for all recreational vessels. Every year since its inception, the program has grown.**
- ✓ **Largest Program in the State:** The Keys-wide service has been a huge success in ensuring compliance with NDZ regulations; protecting the fragile Keys environment, and keeping the waters safe and clean for swimmers, anglers and divers. In just four years, Monroe County's pump out program has become the largest program in the State of Florida and one of the largest programs in the country, covering an expansive area -- **100 miles of Keys, on both the Gulf and Ocean sides. In 2017, we performed 21,202 pump outs.**
- ✓ **2,708 Vessels Served this year:** The service is available to transient and live aboard boaters that are anchored in over twenty anchorages around the Keys, many of which do not have convenient access to shore side pump out facilities. The customer base has more than doubled in the past four years due to an aggressive educational campaign. In 2016, 2,300 boaters registered in the pump out program since inception. **In 2017, we had 2,708 registrants.**
- ✓ **1.3M Gallons of Sewage Diverted:** In 2017 **303,000 gallons of vessel sewage** which may otherwise have entered the Keys' water column, have been removed and properly disposed of; and **1,303,105 gallons in total** since 2013.
- ✓ **100% Compliance with NDZ regulations:** Of particular importance has been the adoption of a legislative regulation in 2017 requiring vessels throughout the Keys to show proof of pump out. This achievement was an expansion of a prior regulation requiring proof of pump out in a few small managed anchorage areas in the keys (i.e. the Pilot Program). This has resulted in near 100% compliance with NDZ regulations throughout Monroe County.
- ✓ **CVA and BIF Match Funding:** Recognizing that incentivizing boaters to pump out is paramount – providing the service as affordably and as conveniently as possible -- the pump out service is provided free of charge to boaters thanks to funding from the Dept. of Environmental Protection Clean Vessel Act Program. The County contributes annually from its local **Boating Improvement Funds (\$195,760 in 2017) and annually secures about \$180,000 in Clean Vessel Act grant funding to apply to the program.**
- ✓ **Importance of Legislative Appropriation:** Last year, the County secured \$500,000 from the Florida Legislature for the Monroe County pump out program. Without sufficient funding from the State, we cannot provide the same level of service and may compromise the purpose of the Keys-wide proof of pump out ordinance, which is authorized by State statute. The ordinance and the service are currently preventing over 300,000g of sewage a year from going into the Keys marine ecosystem.



The State of Florida has always demonstrated strong commitment to protecting the quality of Florida Keys' waters. Continued funding assistance from the State is critical for the continued success of the pump out service, compliance with sewage discharge regulations, and protection of one of the most fragile and valuable ecosystems in the State of Florida.

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