

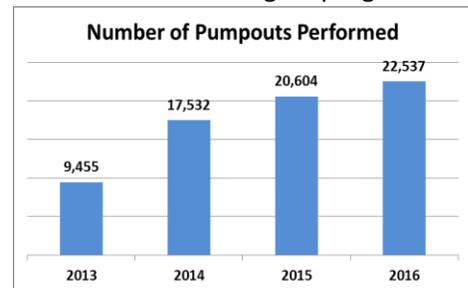
MONROE COUNTY PUMPOUT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS



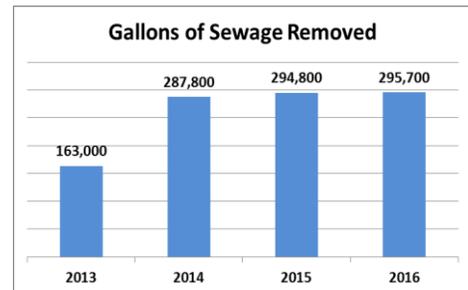
- ✓ **Protection of Florida Keys waters:** The Florida Keys was designated as an Area of Critical State Concern in 1979 and the waters surrounding the Keys were designated as Outstanding Florida Waters in 1985. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1990 to further protect the waters of the Keys from environmental impacts, including the illegal discharge of sewage from vessels. The Environmental Protection Agency in 2002 established a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) for state waters surrounding the Keys to address the issue of discharge of both treated and untreated vessel sewage, and in 2010 the Sanctuary expanded the NDZ 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 for free weekly pump outs.

- ✓ **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 the past year total pumpout numbers increased 10% over 2015, and is now providing over **22,000 pump outs annually**. And in Dec. 2016 the program achieved its **1 millionth gallon pumped out**.



- ✓ **Numbers of Vessels Served:** The service is available to over 800 hundred transient and liveaboard boaters that are anchored in over twenty anchorages around the Keys, many of which do not have convenient access to shoreside pump out facilities. The customer base has more than doubled in the past three years due to an aggressive educational/outreach campaign, with over 2,300 boaters registered in the pumpout program since inception.



- ✓ **Sewage Diverted:** In 2016 alone the pump out service removed and properly disposed of nearly **300,000 gallons of vessel sewage**, which may otherwise have entered the Keys' water column.
- ✓ **100% compliance with NDZ regulations has been achieved:** Of particular importance to the service has been the Monroe County Anchoring & Mooring Ordinance, authorized through the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Pilot Program. The ordinance established Managed Anchoring Zones in previously unmanaged anchorages, within which occupied vessels are required to provide 'proof of pump out.' The ordinance, in concert with the free pumpout service, has helped ensure near **100% compliance with NDZ regulations** within the applicable zones.
- ✓ **Reduced Actual Cost per Pump out:** Due to larger service numbers and associated efficiencies, we have successfully reduced the actual cost of each pump out each year.
- ✓ **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 **\$379,000 in funding from its Boating Improvement Funds**.

Last year, the County secured \$500,000 from the Florida Legislature for the Monroe County pump out program, which allows for continuation of the service, further expansion and utilization of the service (serving several hundred additional vessels per month equating to thousands of additional gallons of sewage properly disposed of), and helps keep the waters of the Florida Keys clean from vessel sewage and protects our coral reef ecosystem.

Continued funding assistance from the State is critical in ensuring the continued success of the pump out service and compliance with sewage discharge regulations.