



# LAUDERTRAC



## WATERWAY QUALITY UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

May 2021

### ELIMINATE MARINE POLLUTION

#### The Clean Marina Program in Fort Lauderdale



The Clean Vessel Act is a federal law that aims to reduce water pollution by providing pumpout and dumpout stations for boaters to properly dispose of waste as an alternative to illegally discharging waste into fresh or coastal waters. To help achieve this goal, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) administers a grant program that provides funding assistance for the purchase and installation of pumpout systems along the State's waterways. FDEP also sponsors the Clean Boater Program to educate boaters on environmentally friendly practices. Through its Clean Marina Program, FDEP provides participating marinas with assistance on implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs), mentoring support and connections with other Clean Marinas, and continuing education opportunities.

Twelve of the 27 marinas located in the City of Fort Lauderdale have been designated as clean marinas by FDEP. The City operates three marinas (New River Downtown Dock, Las Olas Marina, and Cooley's Landing) as part of the Florida Clean Marina Program that offer a total of 209 slips and four boat launch ramps. Each of the City's marinas offers free sewage pumpout services to marina patrons and the boating public. For the address and hours of operation of each marina, visit the City's website at: [www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/parks-recreation/marine-facilities](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/parks-recreation/marine-facilities)

In addition to these three marinas, the City also offers a boat ramp with access to a self-serve pumpout system at Cox's Landing located at 1784 SE 15 Street. In total, the City maintains and operates five pumpout systems at four different locations. There are also 5 privately owned marinas and shipyards that have operational pumpout systems within City limits. For more information, visit the City's website at: [gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/greener-government/natural-resources-preservation/clean-water/protecting-our-waterways/pump-out-stations](http://gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/greener-government/natural-resources-preservation/clean-water/protecting-our-waterways/pump-out-stations)

The City is currently researching the feasibility and cost effectiveness of expanding the use of mobile pumpout vessels within the City's waterways. The goal is to reduce potential sewage discharges by increasing convenient access to pumpout opportunities. Key areas that staff is looking into include the areas currently covered, the estimated annual number of gallons collected, and number of customers served.

In addition to the options available through the Clean Marina Program, there are mobile private sewage pumpout vendors within the City. These vendors can service vessels countywide which may be located in repair facilities, berthed in marinas, or at anchor in the area's waterways. For more information on the mobile private sewage pumpout vendors, please contact the City's Parks and Recreation Department Marine Facilities Division at 954-828-5423.

#### Canal Cleaning

Did you know the City has a contract to provide regular waterway cleaning services for navigable waterways?

From January to April 2021, the contractor has removed 17.5 tons of tree limbs, palm fronds, coconuts, and litter

such as discarded beverage containers. These materials enter our waterways naturally from trees located at the water's edge, by direct dumping, or through our stormwater conveyance system. Decaying vegetation from trimmed landscaping can be a source of bacterial pollution and can add nutrients creating conditions that may support algal blooms.

