

## MARINE SEWAGE PUMPOUT AND DUMP STATION GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### General

The NC Marine Sewage Pumpout Grant Program is administered by the NC Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Coastal Management. The grant program is established under the federal 1992 Clean Vessel Act. The goal of the Clean Vessel Act and the North Carolina program is to make pumpout stations readily available and significantly more convenient for recreational boaters and marina operators. By readily available, it is meant that it should be as easy to receive pumpout station services, as it is to receive other common services, such as fuel. This grant program provides financial assistance in the form of matching grants for the installation and or renovation of marine sewage pumpout stations.

Local permit requirements for pumpout/dump stations and the specific local agencies that issue those permits vary from county to county. Exact permit requirements must be determined on a case-by-case basis by the local agencies that have authority to review and/or issue permits. The applicant is responsible for securing all necessary permits (health, building, electrical, or otherwise). A CAMA major permit will not generally be required for the installation of a pumpout station facility unless it is being requested in conjunction with other work that may require such authorization. In such cases, a CAMA Major Permit, or modification of an existing permit, may be required. A Coastal Management Field Representative will be able to address any questions concerning pumpouts and CAMA permits. Prior to receipt of reimbursement, all marine facilities are subject to an onsite visit from a Division representative to ensure the pumpout is installed, easily accessible and operable.

### Eligibility Requirements

Funding is available to marinas, (private, commercial, residential and municipal), gas/service docks, fish houses/seafood dealers, and other boat docking facilities in the 20 coastal counties and their incorporated municipalities. The 20 coastal counties are Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

### Eligible Activities

Eligible grant activities include the construction, renovation, planning and engineering for pumpout stations, including necessary piping to connect to the marina sewage system. Modification of existing on-site septic systems is allowed provided that such a modification is necessary to handle the additional flow generated by the pumpout stations. Repair and/or replacement of pumpout and dump stations damaged or destroyed during storms is also an eligible activity.

Restrictions

Funds will not be provided for the construction or renovation of upland restroom facilities, or the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of on-site sewage treatment such as package treatment plants and septic systems, and of municipal treatment plants for primary or secondary treatment. Repairs to failing systems are not an eligible activity.

Grant Amounts and Match Requirements

The NC Pumpout Station Grant program will provide financial assistance of up to \$20,000. Grant recipients must provide a minimum of 25% match (i.e. 25% of the total project cost). The match requirement may be met through a combination of cash, in-kind services, and permit and engineering fees. Non-cash match as well as all project costs must be fully documented.

Public Access to Facilities and Maintenance

All recreational vessels must have easy access to pumpout stations funded under this grant program. Pumpout facilities shall continue to be easily accessible to the public during reasonable business hours for the full period of their useful life (minimum of five years, ten years for pumpout vessel). Private marinas, fish houses and seafood dealers must ensure that recreational boats will have reasonable access to pumpout stations funded under this program.

Fee Charged for Use of Facilities

A maximum fee of \$5.00 per use may be charged for the use of pumpout stations constructed or renovated with grant funds. The maximum fee shall be evaluated for inflation, etc., each year.

Criteria and Selection Process (Priorities)

Based on assessments of existing marine sewage pumpout facilities, a distinct lack of waste reception facilities was observed in the northern coastal counties. The region of the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds has been designated as an estuary of national significance and is heavily impacted by non-point source pollution. Not only are there fewer facilities in the northern area, but also the distance between pumpout stations is also greater. The facilities existing in these counties may be inadequate to serve local boaters and pose a particular problem for transients. It is a general priority of the grant program to increase the number of pumpout and dump stations in the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

The NC Department of Environmental Quality, Divisions of Environmental Health, Water Quality, Marine Fisheries, and Coastal Management, have also identified specific areas of the coast that are a priority for the installation of pumpout:

Currituck County	Core Sound	Edenton area
Harkers Island area	Oriental area	Core Creek
Belhaven area	Bogue Sound	New River
Morehead City area	Swan Quarter/Rose Bay area	

Other factors that will be considered in the review of grant applications are that receive high transient use, have mooring fields for larger boats, are visited by large numbers of boats for refueling, and/or have large numbers of people sleeping overnight on their boats. Facilities offering pumpout services at no charge will also be given priority. In addition to the above types of boating moorages, priority will also be given to areas where boat use impacts poorly flushed bays, coves or sloughs, and environmentally sensitive areas such as:

**Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW)**

**Class SA Waters (Open for shellfishing and all other tidal saltwater uses)**

**Primary Nursery Areas (PNA)**

**Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW)**

**No Discharge Zones**

Types of Marine Sewage Pumpout Stations There are four basic types of pumpout stations on the market. Each type of system has its advantages and disadvantages. Since every marina is unique, there is no one solution that will work in all cases. Therefore, each marina should examine its own situation and choose the system that will work most efficiently. The Division does not promote the use of any particular brand or manufacturer.

**Stationary Pumpout Unit:** These units consist of a connector hose and pump, and are connected directly to a local or municipal sewage treatment facility. The unit usually is located at the end of a pier or floating dock, often near the fueling facilities. Vessels access the pumpout station by approaching and securing to the dock or pier. Advantages are convenience, efficiency and speed of use. The principal disadvantage is that the unit restricts pumpout service to a single area of the marina, which may cause congestion.

**Portable Pumpout Unit:** This unit typically is a wheeled device, consisting of a holding tank, hose and mechanical or hand pump, which is pushed along a dock to the vessel's location. When full, the unit is emptied to the marina sewage system, or the sewage is removed by a licensed septic hauler. The advantage is that the unit is brought to the boat rather than the boat to the station. However, when full of sewage, the unit can be heavy and cumbersome. Since it must be moved from boat to boat, the time required to complete the pumpout operation can be greater than that of fixed systems. Portable units require twice the effort in handling when compared to fixed units.

**Portable Pumpout Unit On Vessel:** This unit is a boat with a pumpout station on board; consisting of a pump and holding tank. The advantage is the convenience of having the pumpout come directly to the boat needing service. Disadvantages are similar to a conventional portable unit.

**Remote Operated Multi-Station System:** This system has a pump that transports wastes via a main sewer line to central collection and treatment. This unit can provide pumpout

capabilities at any number of locations throughout the marina. This system, which provides wastewater collection anytime, combines the convenience and efficiency of fixed units with the versatility of portables. The disadvantages are that the system must be specifically designed for the marina and is the costliest of the four.