

**Smith Mountain Lake
Vessel Pump Out and Education Program
2016 Final Report**



**A cooperative program provided by:
Smith Mountain Lake Association
Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Virginia Department of Health**

Final Report Prepared by: Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission

Introduction

In late 2015, the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC) was asked by the Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to once again partner with their organizations for the administration and operation of a sewage pump out program on Smith Mountain Lake in 2016. The proposed program would continue to rely on the use of two trucks to handle the vessel pump outs. TLAC accepted this invitation to partner with the two agencies to handle the administration and personnel portions of the program for the 2016 boating season. TLAC subsequently entered into an agreement with the SMLA and a separate agreement with the VDH for the management of this program.

Overview

This program operated from May 12, 2016 through September 14, 2016. TLAC hired five seasonal staff members, including one supervisor, to man the equipment and provide the pump out services. These employees worked each Saturday and Sunday, in addition to three-day weekends for Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day weekend.

The program operations were regularly reviewed by the TLAC Vessel Pump Out Committee. The Committee was made up of two SMLA representatives and two TLAC office staff members. The administration, oversight, and recordkeeping for the program were handled by the TLAC office staff. The weekend oversight of the pump out operations was handled by SMLA representatives on the Pump Out Vessel Committee.

Financial

In December of 2015, TLAC submitted a grant proposal to the VDH to secure funding for the 2016 pump out program. This proposal was approved and provided 75 per cent of the funding required. Grant reimbursement requests were submitted by TLAC to VDH on a regular basis throughout the program.

In addition to program operations, VDH's grant included a 75 per cent share of costs for the administration of the program. TLAC contributed the local match of 25 per cent for administration from its operational personnel budget. Office staff tracked all hours utilized for the program.

VDH directly handled certain equipment maintenance costs for the program. Details of those expenditures are not available for this report. The cost incurred by TLAC for Bedford County's handling of the payroll and accounts payable are not available. Also not included in the program costs is the value of the volunteer hours by the SMLA volunteers who assisted with the program.

The SMLA contributed the local match of 25 per cent required for the program operations. The initial contribution of \$3,984.37 was provided to TLAC in May 2016. The remainder will be provided following the conclusion of the program.

The total known expenditures for this year's Pump Out Program are \$ 36,258.88. VDH's 75 per cent of the approved grant costs was \$ 27,194.16. SMLA's 25 per cent of the approved grant program operation costs was \$ 7,059.58. TLAC's 25 per cent of administration costs were \$2,005.14.

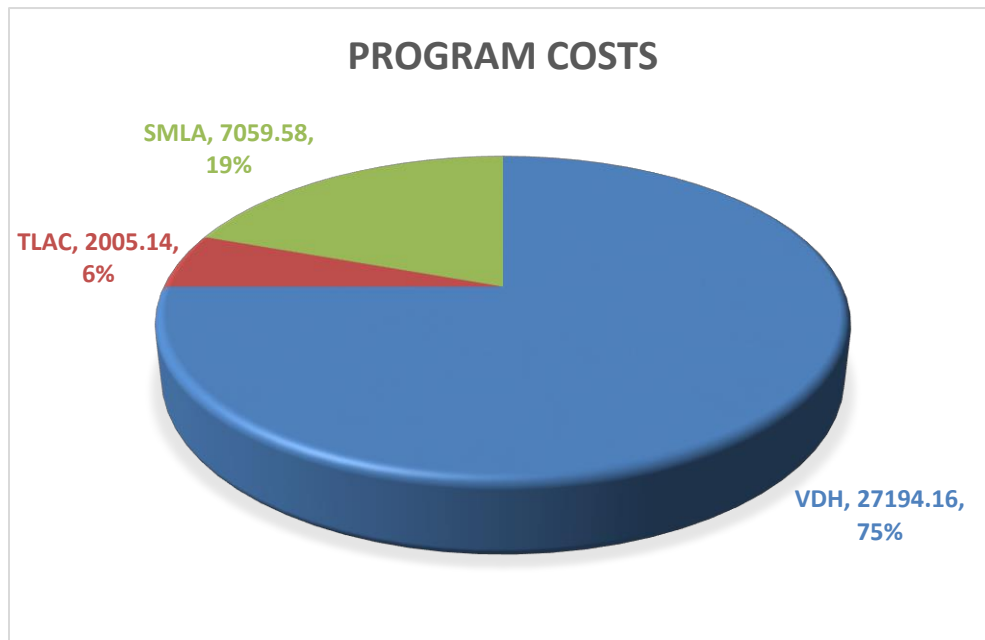


Chart 1: Program Costs - Percentages by Organization

Equipment and Operations

The equipment utilized for the program included two F-150 Ford pickups equipped with 125-gallon storage tanks plus three 25-gallon manual sewage pumps on dollies. If the number or locations of requested pump outs did not require the use of one of the trucks, or if there was a staff shortage, then it remained unused on any given day.

Five TLAC employees travelled to Bayside Marina at Smith Mountain Lake to board the trucks and visit marinas each workday. The locations where the trucks visited were determined by telephone calls received on a pump out program cellular telephone and appointments made by TLAC office staff if the calls were received Monday through Thursday. Other appointments were scheduled by the pump out crew supervisor through the use of the same cellular telephone during each weekend. Additionally, the employees offered the pump out services to other boaters at the marinas where they were already providing pump outs.

Education

One of the program goals was to have the pump out staff members visit with boaters and distribute program information, giveaways, and pump out service schedules. During the program, 717 people were recorded as being present on the boats at the time pump outs took place. This number is not indicative of the actual number of people educated about this program because many of those individuals were present at more than one pump out, and thus were counted on numerous occasions.

TLAC staff prepared literature and purchased tokens to be distributed to those utilizing the vessel pump out services. The literature prepared include a 2016 SML Pump out Guide, a handout describing the pump out program's contact information and schedule as well as informational brochures about no discharge zones and boat head basics.

Program Totals

The program operated 18 weeks during the 2016 boating season for a total of 39 days. During the boating season 6,292 gallons of sewage was pumped out through this program, with an average of 16.30 gallons per pump out. Chart 2 indicates the gallons of effluent that were pumped out each week of the program.

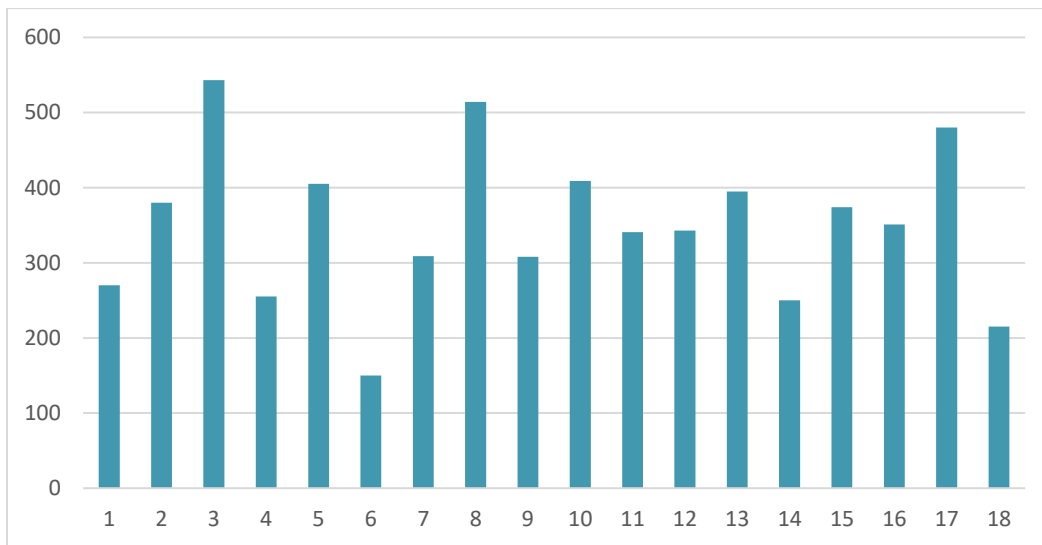


Chart 2: Gallons of Effluent Pumped By Week

One hundred three (103) different boats were pumped out this season, with a total of 386 pump outs being performed. Thirty-nine (39) boats were pumped out between 4 and 20 times each.

The highest number of boats pumped out in one weekend were recorded on two 3 day weekends, Independence Day and Labor Day weekends (weeks 8 and 17) with 40 boats being pumped out each of these weekends. Thirty-six boats were pumped out the weekend following Independence Day weekend (week 9), and 32 boats were pumped out during the three-day Memorial Day weekend. Chart 3 indicates the number of boats that were pumped out each week of the program.

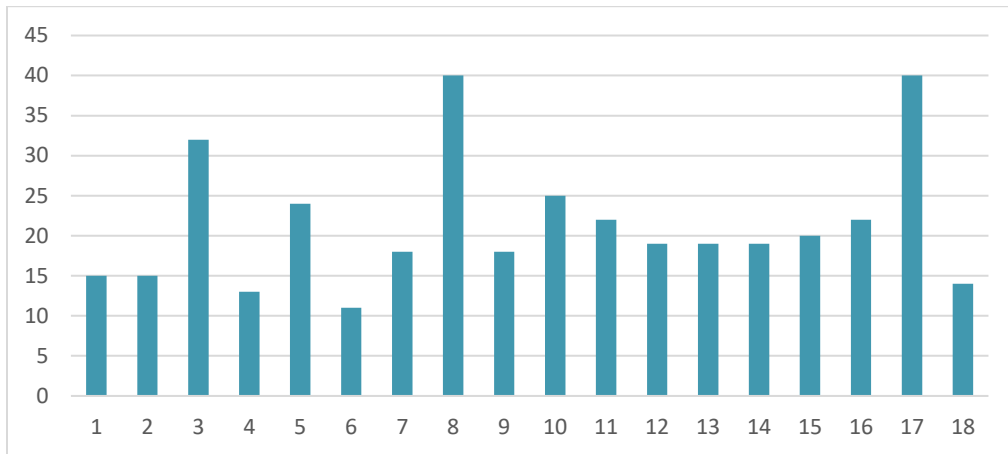


Chart 3: Number of Boats Pumped Out By Week

Pump outs took place throughout the lake at the following marinas: Parkway, Virginia Dare, Bayside, Halesford Harbour, Crazy Horse, Bay Roc, Lakeside, and Virginia Inland Sailing Association.

The largest number of pump outs took place at the Virginia Dare Marina with 120 pump outs. The second largest number of pump outs took place at Halesford Harbour with 64 pump outs. The least number of pump outs took place at Virginia Inland Sailing Association with only three (3) pump outs this program season. Chart 4 indicates the number of pump outs that took place at each of the marinas.

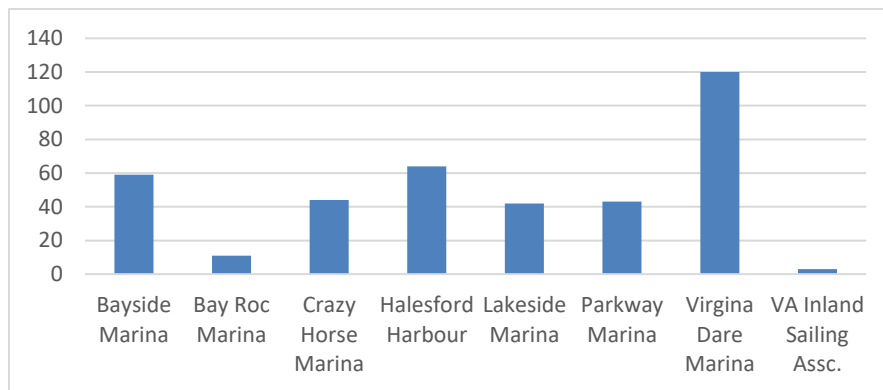


Chart 4: Pump Outs at Each Marina

Pump Out Stations at SML

In addition to this vessel pump out program, there are 18 pump out stations that can be utilized by boaters. These pump out stations, identified on Chart 5, are located at marinas on Smith Mountain Lake which are available for public use.

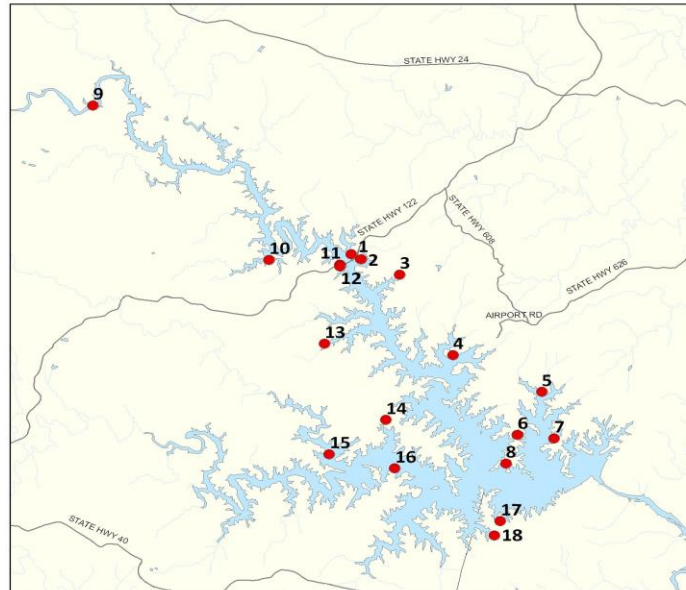


Chart 5: Locations of Pump Out Stations at Smith Mountain Lake

Sewage Offload Summary

There are ten sewage offload (dump) stations around the lake. Five of those offload stations were utilized for this season's pump out program: Bay Roc Marina, Halesford Harbour Marina, SML State Park, Virginia Dare Marina and Bayside Marina.

The Halesford Harbour Marina station was used the most often at 32 times and Bay Roc Marina's station was used the least often at 4 times. The most sewage was dumped at the Halesford Harbour site (46%), and the least sewage was dumped at the Bayside Marina site (2%). Chart 6 indicates the gallons of sewage offloaded (dumped) at each location during this summer's program.

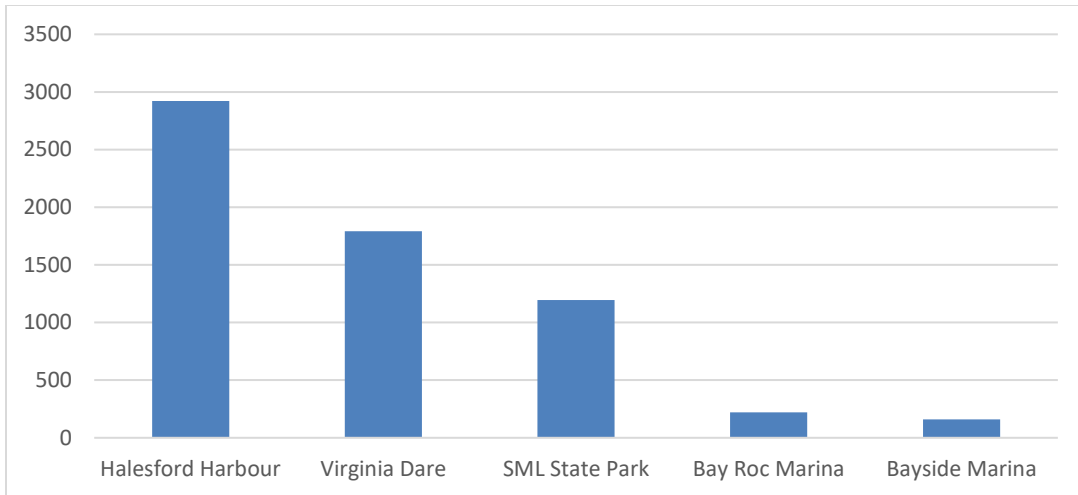


Chart 6: Gallons of Sewage Offloaded By Location

Summary

The 2016 Pump Out Program, with the partnership between the three agencies, TLAC, VDH and SMLA, worked well. Extending the program two additional weeks at the beginning and one additional week at the end was welcomed by the community and was well utilized. With the additional weeks, the gallons of sewage pumped from the boats exceeded last year’s numbers. TLAC continued to collect data this season that had not been gathered in the years prior to TLAC’s involvement to assist the organizations with determining the viability and necessity of the program for future years.