

**Smith Mountain Lake  
Vessel Pump Out and Education Program  
2015 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 early 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 2015. 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 2015 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 23, 2015 through September 7, 2015. 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 and Independence Day and a four-day Labor Day weekend.

The program operations were regularly reviewed by the TLAC Vessel Pump Out Committee. The Committee was made up of three 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**

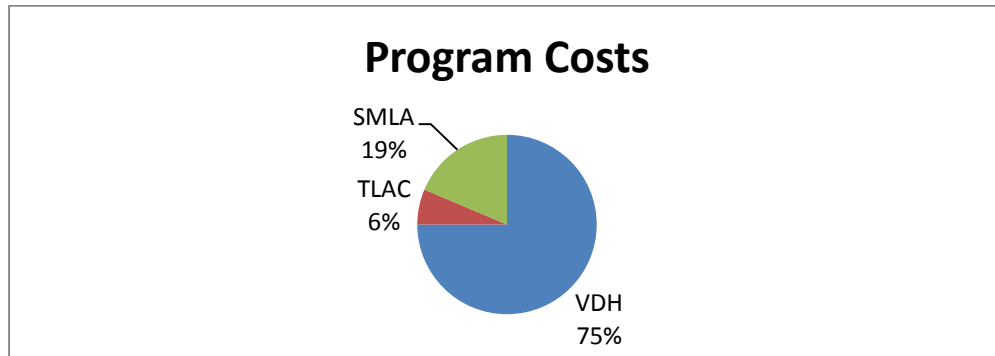
In February of 2015, TLAC submitted a grant proposal to the VDH to secure funding for the 2015 pump out program. This proposal was approved and provided 75 per cent of the funding required. Grant reimbursement requests were submitted by TLAC to VDH on a regular basis throughout the program.

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 \$3,709.53 was provided to TLAC in June of 2015. The remainder will be provided following the conclusion of the program.

The total known expenditures for this year's Pump Out Program are \$ 28,676.45 VDH's 75 per cent of the approved grant costs was \$21,507.34. SMLA's 25 per cent of the approved grant program operation costs was \$ 5,343.32. TLAC's 25 per cent of administration costs were \$ 1,826.02. The percentage of the total program costs for each organization are indicated in Chart 1.



**Chart 1: Program Cost 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.

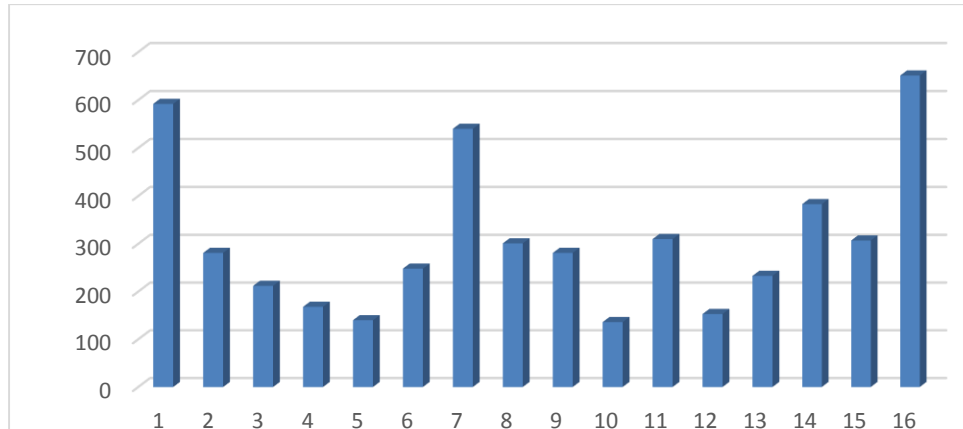
### **Education**

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, 632 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 more than once.

TLAC staff prepared literature and purchased tokens to be distributed to those utilizing the vessel pump out services. The literature prepared include a 2015 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

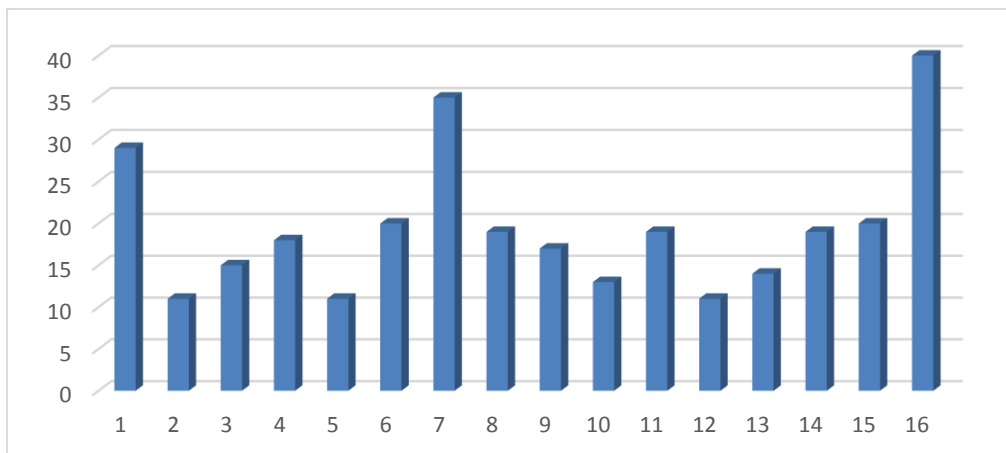
The program operated 16 weeks during the 2015 boating season for a total of 33 days. During the boating season 4,936 gallons of sewage was pumped out through this program, with an average of 15.87 gallons per pump out. Chart 2 indicates the gallons of effluent that were pumped out each week of the program.



**Chart 2: Gallons of Effluent Pumped By Week**

One hundred twenty-three (123) different boats were pumped this season, with a total of 311 pump outs being performed. Sixty of the boats were pumped out two or more times. Nineteen boats were pumped out between five and fourteen times each.

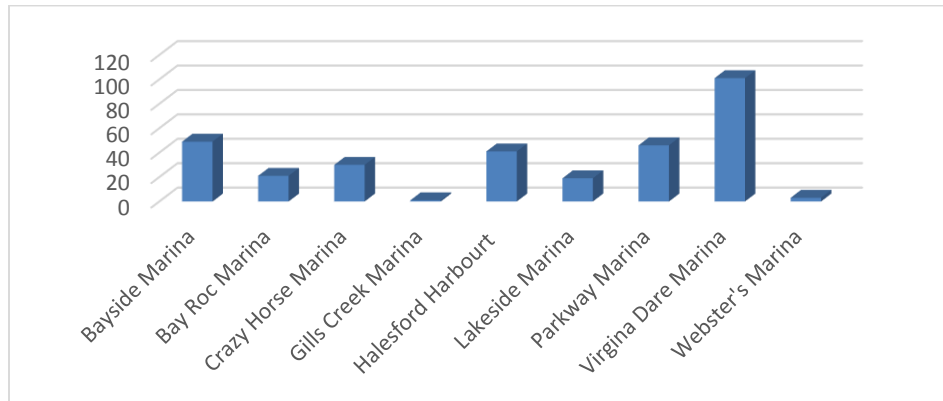
The highest number of boats pumped out in one weekend was recorded on the four-day Labor Day weekend (week 16) with 40 boats being pumped out. Thirty-five boats were pumped out during the three-day Independence Day weekend (week 7), and 29 boats were pumped out during the three-day Memorial Day weekend (week 1). 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, Webster's Marine and Gills Creek Marina.

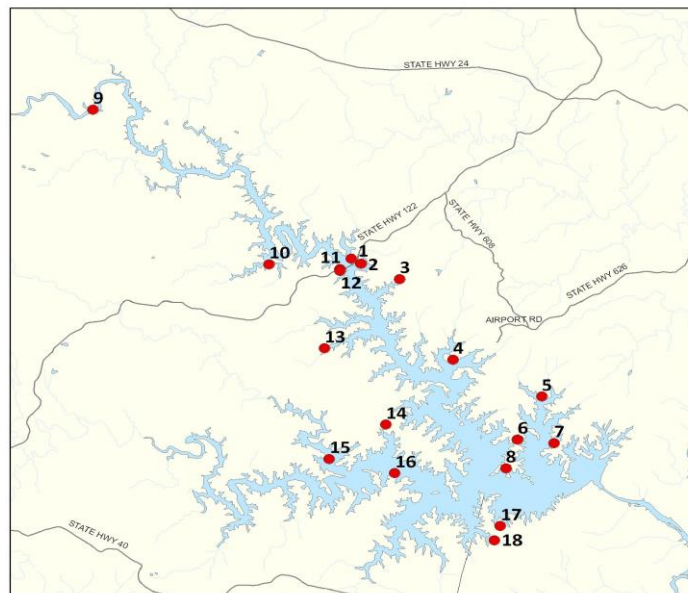
The largest number of pump outs took place at the Virginia Dare Marina with 101 pump outs. The second largest number of pump outs took place at Bayside Marina with 49 pump outs. The least number of pump outs took place at Gills Creek Marina with only one pump out this program season. Chart 4 indicates 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.

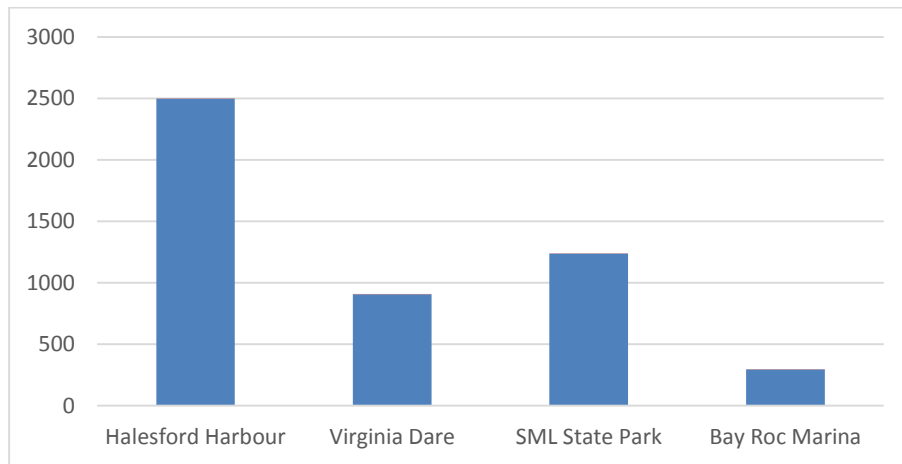


**Chart 5: Locations of Pump Out Stations at Smith Mountain Lake**

## Sewage Offload Summary

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

The Halesford Harbour Marina station was used the most often at nineteen times and Bay Roc Marina's station was used the least often. The most sewage was dumped at the Halesford Harbour site (51%), and the least sewage was dumped at the Bay Roc Marina site (6%). 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 2015 Pump Out Program, with the partnership between the three agencies, TLAC, VDH and SMLA, worked well. The gallons of sewage pumped from the boats were comparable with 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.