

MARTIN COUNTY UTILITIES & SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

03/24/2026

M.S. POOP



MARTIN COUNTY
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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- ▶ Marine vessel providing mobile pump out service to all boaters in Martin County's waterways.
- ▶ FREE, convenient, safe, and responsible way to remove sewage from boats.
- ▶ Nickname for **M**artin **S**hip **P**ump **O**ut **O**peration **P**rogram managed by the Utilities & Solid Waste Department.
- ▶ Funded in part by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Clean Vessel Act through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.





M.S. POOP

Marine Pump Out Service

HISTORY

- ▶ Began in October 2000 as a part of the Clean River Initiative.
- ▶ FDEP grant absorbed 75% of the initial equipment purchase.
- ▶ The program has seen a continuous increase in the number of requests for pump-outs.



Martin County employee Darrell Schuler sits aboard the 26-foot "Ms. Poop."

VESSEL
■ CONTINUED FROM A1

Dumping sewage into state waters is illegal and boaters found to have a faulty sewage system can be fined up to \$250.

Although enforcement is tough, Martin County will attempt to bring together officers from the sheriff's office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to form a task force to inspect the sewage systems of boats on the river and tied up at county marinas.

In the future, the county hopes to negotiate an agreement with the state Department of Transportation to place the Manatee Pocket and the Indian River from the Martin County line to the Earnest Lyons Bridge under county jurisdiction.

Getting control of the waters will allow the county to toughen penalties for dumping sewage from boats.

"It is without a doubt a giant step," said Henry Caimotto, a vocal advocate of cleaning the river. "What's going to happen is, it is going to work slowly at first and then people are going to get accustomed to it."

To entice boaters to use the service, the county plans to offer it for free until May, when a \$5 charge will be added.

The county is using a \$25,000 grant from the department of environmental protection to begin the project and have picked a part-time employee who will be paid about \$11 an hour to pump the sewage.

The boat will operate from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, but the county hopes to extend its operation after the service becomes popular.

"We just want to make sure the people know the service is available," Schuler said. "Every little bit helps."

WHY HAVE THE M.S. POOP?

- ▶ Prevents untreated sewage discharge into the St. Lucie River & Indian River Lagoon.
- ▶ Reduces nutrients that fuel harmful algal blooms.
- ▶ Minimizes bacteria and pathogens in recreational waters.
- ▶ Supports safe boating, fishing, and waterfront activities.
- ▶ Collected sewage is sent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant for responsible treatment and disposal.



GALLONS & PUMP OUTS 2001-PRESENT

- ▶ 60,000 pump-outs between October 2001-December 23, 2025
- ▶ Removed 2.5 million gallons of untreated sewage



M.S. POOP SERVICE AREA

- ▶ Indian River Lagoon
- ▶ St. Lucie Estuary
- ▶ St. Lucie River
- ▶ Willoughby Creek
- ▶ Crooked Creek
- ▶ Manatee Pocket



QUESTIONS?

