

Coral Reef Grants Workshop, August 2005  
Clean Vessel Act Grant Program  
Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Region 4 Coordinator

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**Description:** Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act in 1992 (CVA) to help reduce pollution from vessel sewage discharges. The Act established a five-year federal grant program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and authorized \$40 million from the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund for use by the States. Federal funds can constitute up to 75% of all approved projects with the remaining funds provided by the States or marinas. Reauthorized in 1998, Congress extended the pumpout grant program through 2003, providing \$50 million to continue to provide alternatives to overboard disposal of recreational boater sewage.

The Act was created to provide a viable alternative to the overboard disposal of recreational boater sewage. The Act made grants available to the States on a competitive basis for the construction and/or renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and portable toilet dump stations. States may sub- grant to public and private marinas to install pumpouts. Since the Act's passage in 1992, grants have been awarded to install 2,200 pumpout stations and 1,400 dump stations. A maximum fee of \$5.00 may be charged for use of pumpout facilities constructed or maintained with grant funds.

**Who is eligible?:** Priorities for grants were for funding coastal States with an approved plan, States providing for public/private partnerships, providing for innovative ways to increase availability and use of pumpout stations, States that include an education component, proposals benefiting waters most likely affected by sewage discharge, and proposals in areas with high vessel/pumpout station ratios.

**What Projects are eligible?:** Eligible projects include: for coastal States, surveys and plans; and for all States, education and construction/renovation of pumpout and dump stations.