



August 8, 2016

PumpOut USA  
Capt. Donnie Brown

Dear, Captain Brown,

As the Executive Director of the Mote Tropical Research Lab in the Florida Keys, I am pleased to be able to comment on the exceptional impact that PumpOut USA has had on the water quality of the Florida Keys. It has come to everyone's attention in the Florida Keys that our near shore water quality affects our quality of life and the condition of our corals reefs. All efforts to control storm water runoff, advanced wastewater treatment instead of septic systems have made a large improvement in our water quality conditions. But all local and regional stressors must be brought under control for us to continue to improve our tropical environment, coral reefs, seagrass beds and fisheries populations. With increasing human impacts, we must be more diligent in addressing our "no-discharge" regulations for our Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. To do this we must continue to provide an alternative to illegal discharging from marine vessels if there is no easy way for vessel to get wastes removed. This program proved the large volume of waste water that would have been illegally discharged under a "business as usual" program of previous years. This "no-charge" program is the only way this large volume of waste is going to get handled legally and removed as a threat to our delicate ecosystem.

I encourage this system to be continued as the only viable way to insure the wastes produced are not illegally discharged. The research is clear, from the sheer volumes of waste handled when pump outs are easy and free. I hope this very important solution is continued here and at other locations

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David E. Vaughan".

David E. Vaughan, PhD  
Executive Director,  
Mote Tropical Research Lab