



CALLAHAN AND MUD LAKE

2020 SURVEY RESULTS

LEAPS, LLC

Dave Blumer, Lake Educator
Lake Education and Planning Services, LLC
302 21 ¼ Street
Chetek, WI 54728

Denny Toll, President
Callahan (and Mud) Lake Protective Assn.
11046W South Shore Rd
Hayward, WI 54843



RE: 2020 Lake User Survey

June 22, 2020

Dear Callahan and Mud Lake Property Owner/User,

The Callahan Lake Protective Association (CLPA) is currently updating an existing Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan for Callahan and Mud lakes. An update of this plan is necessary to continue and improve management of a non-native, invasive aquatic plant called Eurasian watermilfoil or EWM. An APM Plan evaluates the current conditions of the lakes, assesses management alternatives, seeks public input, and then makes management recommendations to be implemented over the next five years.

As a part of the update, the CLPA wishes to get input from lake property owners and lake users about their use of the lakes and feelings and opinions related to issues that may be affecting the lakes. This Lake User Survey gives you the opportunity to voice your opinions and concerns regarding the lakes. Survey results will be used to help reevaluate aquatic plant and lake management recommendations in the existing plan, and make new recommendations if necessary. Results will also help focus education and information efforts on the part of the CLPA to better serve its membership. In addition, it may open doors for grant money to help complete future management actions. Your responses are greatly appreciated and an important and valuable part of the lake management process.

This survey has been mailed to every property owner on the lakes and is being made available to others who might wish to complete it. The completed survey should be returned to LEAPS in the envelope provided. Honest and complete responses to the survey questions are important. If you choose to remain anonymous in your responses, you may do so. Please complete the survey and send it back by July 27, 2020.

A copy of the survey will be available on-line at <https://leapsllc.com/index.php/callahan-lake-protective-association-callahan-mud-lakes/>. Results will be tallied by LEAPS and shared with the CLPA. Results will also be posted on the same webpage. A summary presentation will be given later this fall or early next spring. Thank You for your time and interest in this survey.

Sincerely,

Dave Blumer, Lake Educator
715-642-0635
dblumerleaps@gmail.com

SECTION 1 – Residency

These first few questions will help us understand the nature of your lake property.

1. Do you own or rent property on Callahan or Mud Lake? (*please select one*)

I own property

I rent property

I own & rent property

I do not own or rent property (*skip to Section 2*)

2. What type of property do you have on Callahan and/or Mud Lakes? If you have more than one type of property, please report on only the property you have owned or rented the longest. (*please select one*)

permanent residence

seasonal residence

less than seasonal dwelling

undeveloped land

business

second home

other (please specify) _____

3. Please indicate which lake the property indicated in Question 2 is on (see Figure 1).

Callahan Lake

Mud Lake



Figure 1: Callahan and Mud Lakes

SECTION 2 – Lake Use & Lake Issues

This section of the survey seeks to determine how you use the lakes and what concerns you have related to the lakes.

1. From the list below, check all activities on Callahan and/or Mud Lakes that you, your family, or guests participate in. (*check all that apply*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. canoe/kayak/paddle boat | <input type="checkbox"/> I. rest/relaxation/ entertaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. fishing from a boat | <input type="checkbox"/> J. sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. fishing from the shore | <input type="checkbox"/> K. speed boating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. ice fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> L. swimming/ wading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. jet skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> M. water skiing/tubing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. nature/wildlife viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> N. other (please list) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. pontoon boating | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> H. I don't participate in activities on the lake (<i>skip to Question 3</i>) | |

2. Which 3 activities from the above list do you or members of your family participate in most often? (*write the letters of the corresponding activities in the spaces below*)

I (We) participate in _____ most often, _____ second most often, and _____ third most often.

3. In your opinion, the water quality in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes is:

- excellent good fair poor very poor unsure

4. In the time that you have owned or rented property on Callahan and/or Mud Lake, would you say lake water quality (nice & clear vs. icky & green) has:

- gotten better gotten worse remained the same I don't know

SECTION 3 – Aquatic Plant Growth

Aquatic plants (rooted and floating) are an important part of any healthy lake system. However, excessive aquatic plant growth can sometimes interfere with or prevent certain lake activities and even impact water quality. This section of the survey evaluates how lake users feel about the aquatic plant growth in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes.

1. In the time that you have owned or rented property on Callahan and/or Mud Lakes, would you say the amount of aquatic plant growth in the lake has:

- Increased decreased stayed the same unsure

2. Thinking about aquatic plant growth in Callahan and Mud Lakes, would you say there is too little, too much, or about the right amount of aquatic plant growth? (**Check one**)

- definitely too little just the right amount probably too much
 probably too little unsure definitely too much

3. Have you personally made any attempts to remove or control aquatic plants in the lake by your lake shore property? (**check one**)

- yes, I did some myself yes, I hired someone
 yes, I did some myself and I hired someone no, I have made no attempts
 no, I pay dues and expect the Lake Association to do this

4. Who do you feel should be responsible for managing aquatic plant growth in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes? (**check all that apply**)

- the property owner Callahan Lake Protective Association
 Wisconsin DNR Mother Nature (i.e. no management)
 I don't know other (please specify) _____

5. Since you have owned or rented your property on Callahan and/or Mud Lakes, would you say the amount of algae growth (both the small green particles suspended in the water and the longer, green slimy stuff attached to rocks, docks, and other plants) has:

- increased stayed the same decreased I don't know

SECTION 4 – Aquatic Invasive Species in Callahan and Mud Lakes

This section of the survey seeks to determine how much lake users know about aquatic invasive species. Aquatic invasive species are plants and animals that are foreign to Callahan and Mud Lakes and do not belong there.

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Eurasian milfoil/EWM*)

EWM is present in both Callahan and Mud Lakes. In some lakes EWM becomes just another “weed”. In other lakes it can form dense beds of vegetation present all season that can interfere with many lakes uses.

1. Did you know EWM was present in Callahan and Mud Lakes before reading the intro to this section of the survey?

yes no I have heard about it, but did not know for sure

2. How much do you know about EWM and the problems it can cause in a lake?

a lot some very little just what I have read here

3. Do you think you would recognize EWM in the lake if you saw it?

definitely yes probably yes unsure probably not definitely not

4. How much of a problem, if at all, do you consider EWM growth in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes to be?

large problem moderate problem unsure small problem no problem

Other Aquatic Invasive Species

None of the following aquatic invasive species are known to be in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes. However, at some point any of them could be accidentally introduced into the lake, or may be there already but not formally identified.

5. Which of the following aquatic invasive species have you heard of before? (***Check all that apply***)

zebra mussels rusty crayfish spiny waterflea
Chinese mystery snail banded mystery snail curly-leaf pondweed
New Zealand mudsnail freshwater jellyfish purple loosestrife

6. Would you be willing to take part in a two hour, hands-on workshop to help you identify aquatic invasive species in the lake (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)?

definitely yes probably yes unsure probably not definitely not

SECTION 5 – Eurasian watermilfoil Management

Aquatic invasive plants like EWM can be managed in many different ways. In most cases management is ongoing and long-term. The Callahan Lake Protective Association has completed some plant management.

1. Do you feel that some form of aquatic plant management is necessary to control EWM in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes?

definitely yes probably yes unsure probably not definitely not

Common Aquatic Plant Management Methods

Below are several common aquatic plant management methods that either alone or in combination may be viable options to control EWM Callahan and/or Mud Lakes.

2. Please select the two methods you would find most acceptable for aquatic plant control in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes. Place a 1 and a 2 in order of your preference by those two methods. If you are unsure about these management methods, or would not accept any of them, please check the appropriate blank.

no management

continued or increased hand-pulling and raking in shallow waters

removal by scuba divers or snorkelers

small-scale (<10 acres) chemical treatment to reduce EWM abundance

large-scale (>10 acres) early season chemical treatment to reduce EWM abundance

whole lake chemical treatment to reduce EWM abundance

biological control (using one live species to control another)

other (please specify) _____

I would not accept any of these management alternatives

I am unsure and need additional information to make a decision

Aquatic Plant Management Results

Below are several possible results for aquatic plant management of EWM in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes. Total removal or eradication of EWM is not possible due to the nature of these plants.

3. Please select the two methods you would find most acceptable for aquatic plant control outcomes in Callahan and/or Mud Lakes. Place a 1 and a 2 in your order of preference by those two methods. If you are unsure about these management results, or would not accept any of them, please check the appropriate blank.

___no management, EWM is left to run its natural course in the lake

___EWM growth is reduced seasonally in the entire lake

___EWM growth is reduced seasonally only in designated areas of the lake

___I would not accept any of these management results

___I am unsure or need additional information to make a decision

SECTION 6 –Lake Association Satisfaction

1. The Callahan Lake Protective Association (CLPA) is the sponsor of this project. Membership in the CLPA is voluntary, but to be a member requires the payment of dues. Are you or anyone else in your household a member of the CLPA? (*check one*)

___yes

___no

___unsure

___I didn't know about the CLPA (*skip to Question 6*)

2. How satisfied are you with the CLPA activities to date? (*check one*)

___completely satisfied

___unsure

___somewhat unsatisfied

___somewhat satisfied

___completely unsatisfied

3. Have you attended meetings of the CLPA?

___yes

___no

If you answered No, please indicate why you have not attended a CLPA meeting_____

4. What would increase your attendance at CLPA meetings? (*check all that apply*)

- weekend morning meetings weekend evening meetings
- weekday morning meetings weekday evening meetings
- lower CLPA dues
- relevant/ interesting meeting topics (please provide examples) _____
- I'm not interested in CLPA meetings

5. Financial support for current and future management activities is important. Please indicate in what ways, if any, you would be willing to provide financial support. (*check all that apply*)

- cash donations
- increased annual Lake Association dues
- fundraising efforts (raffles, bake sales, etc) as an organizer
- fundraising efforts (raffles, bake sales, etc) as a participant
- I do not wish to provide any additional financial support other than what I already contribute
- other (please specify) _____

6. A Lake District is a special purpose governmental body with authority to levy a tax and impose special assessments to those living within the District. A Lake District may be in a better position to deal with other units of government and has some powers that a Lake Association may not. Would you support the formation of a Lake District or 'taxing authority' for Callahan and Mud Lakes?

- definitely yes probably yes unsure probably not definitely not

Congratulations! You have successfully completed this survey. Thank You. Providing your contact information is optional, but if you wish to, please do!

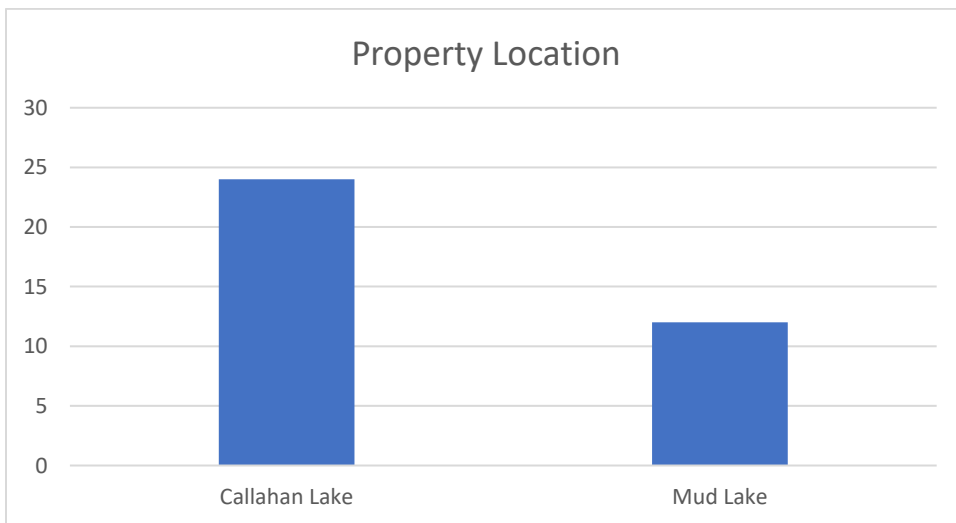
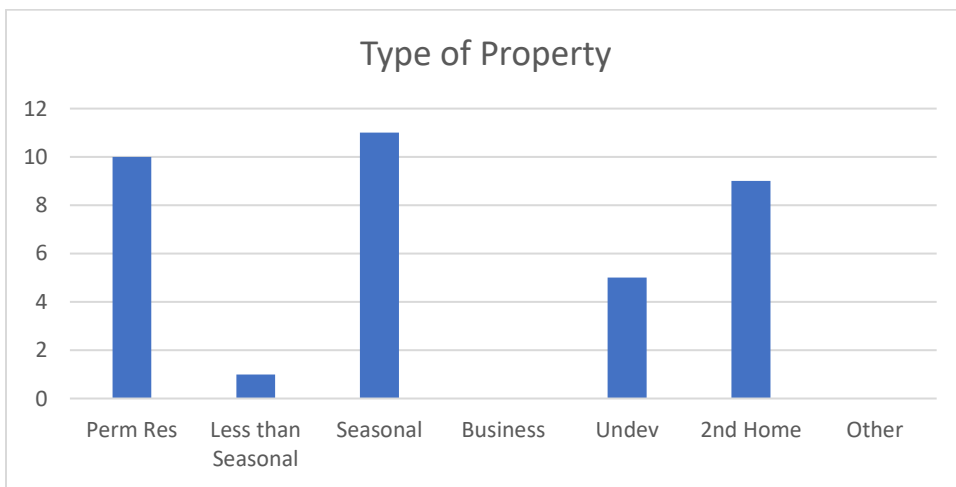
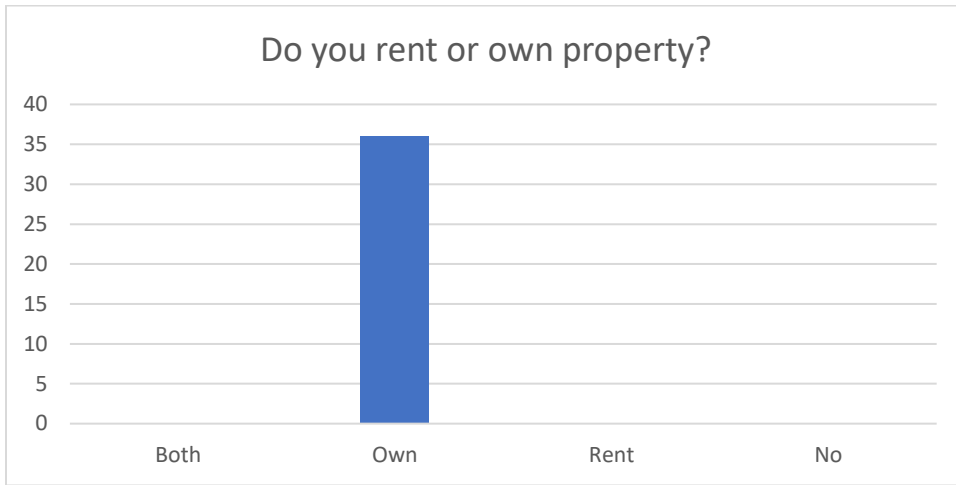
Name: _____

Address: _____

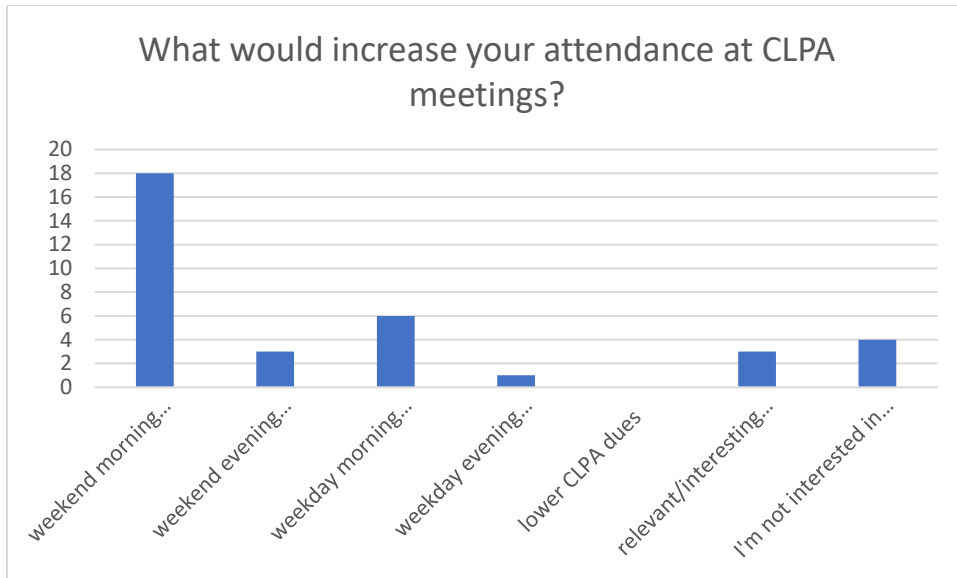
City, State, & zip code: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address _____

Residency:



Notes: 1 resident on Chief River, north part of Mud Lake – included in Mud Lake count



Notes:

Advanced notification needed

If it wasn't so far to go

I attend all meetings

Virtual/telephone conference call meetings

I would love to come in a year or two when our house is built

Have the meetings be both in person and on Zoom

Actually get invited

Better management/leadership

Better Communication

More collaboration

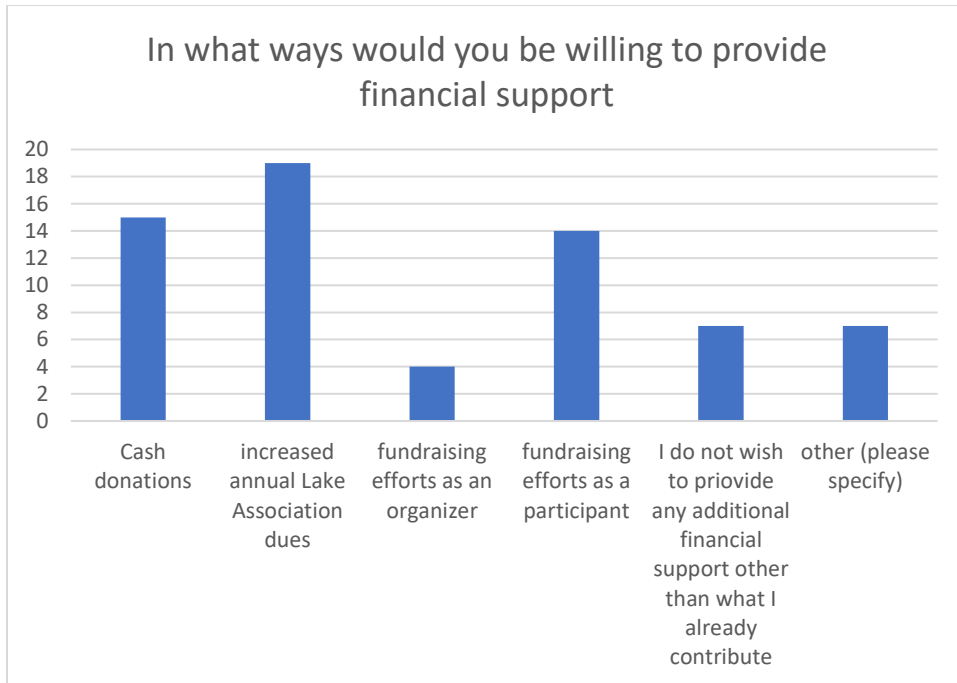
Clear published agenda

Not on a holiday weekend and allow people to attend via Zoom

Zoom meetings

Include topics on plant/aquatic life management

I don't feel the members have a say in how the dues are spent/allocated. Stuff happens randomly and commitments are made without buy-in. I do not wish to contribute to an org that doesn't serve the needs of the members.



Notes:

State fees & Boat Registration Lake Pass like snowmobiles have and add to fishing license. Fees should go to fight invasive on all lakes in the state.

If membership increases, our financial support will increase

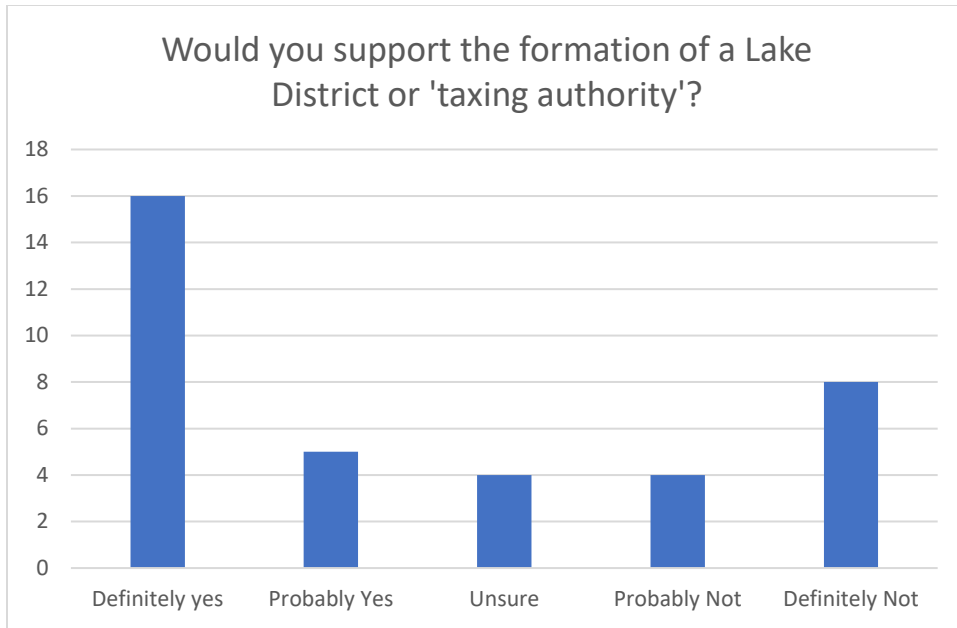
Don't know enough to answer this

Lake usage charge

Taxed Lake Association/Property Owner

Are government grants a possibility?

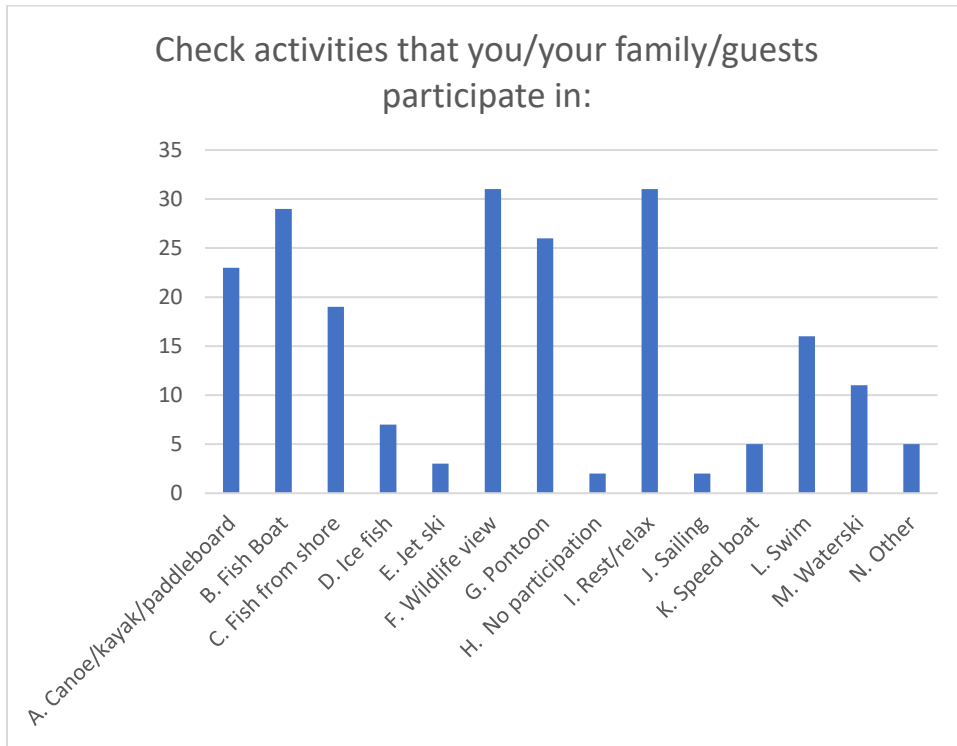
Get them to be part of our taxes



Notes:

The attempt last time was contrary to WI law and done in a very unprofessional manner by Mr.Zitlow and company.

Lake Use and Issues:



Notes:

Snowmobiling

Photography

Night-Time Star Gazing

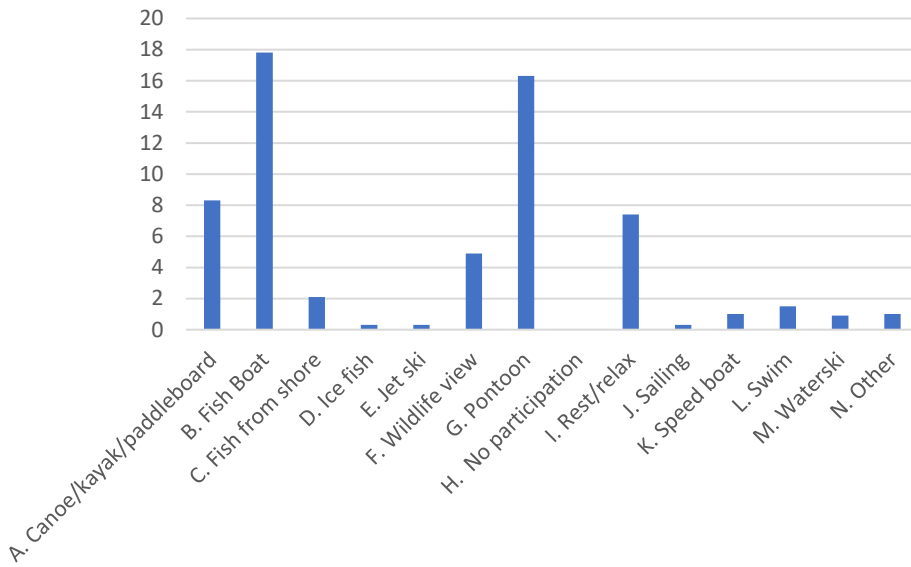
Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling

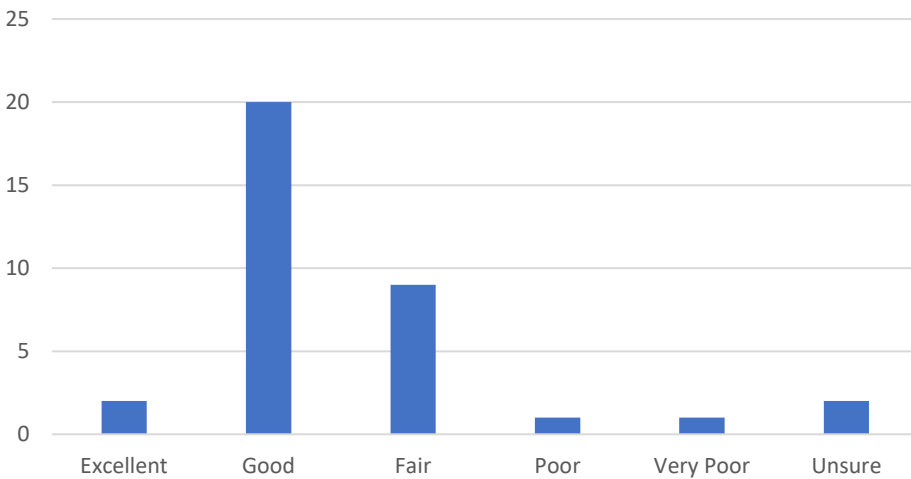
Duck Hunting

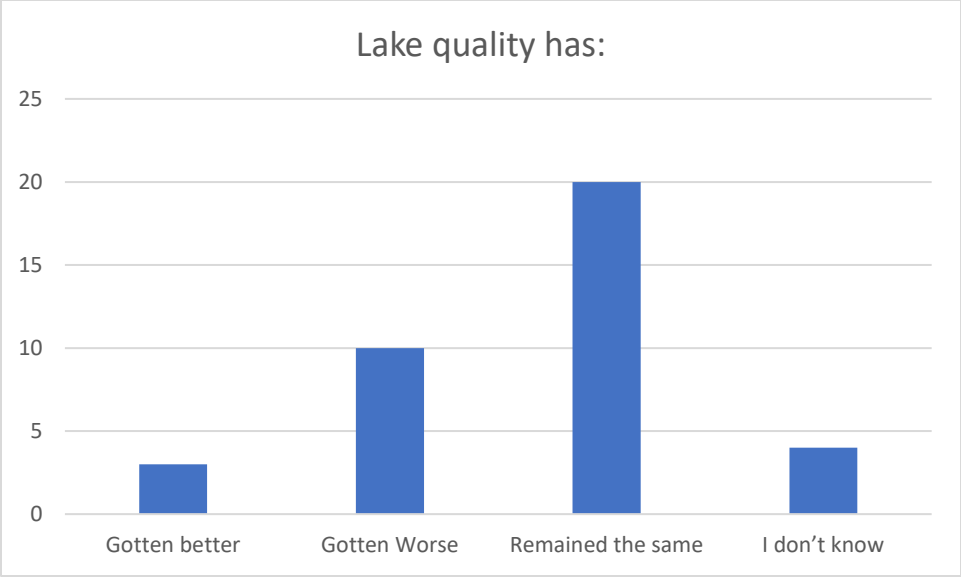
Waterfowl Hunting

Choose the activities that your family participates in most:



The water quality is:

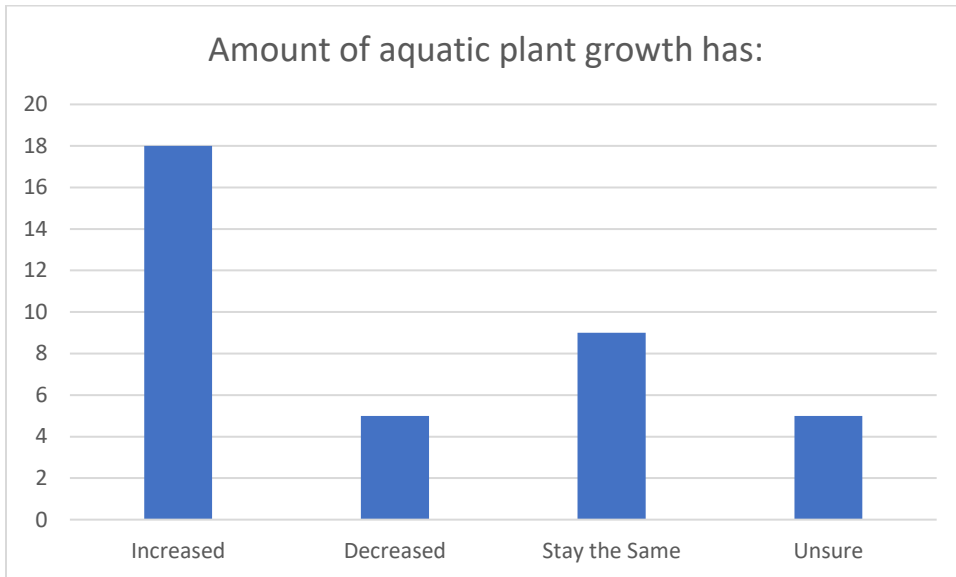




Notes:

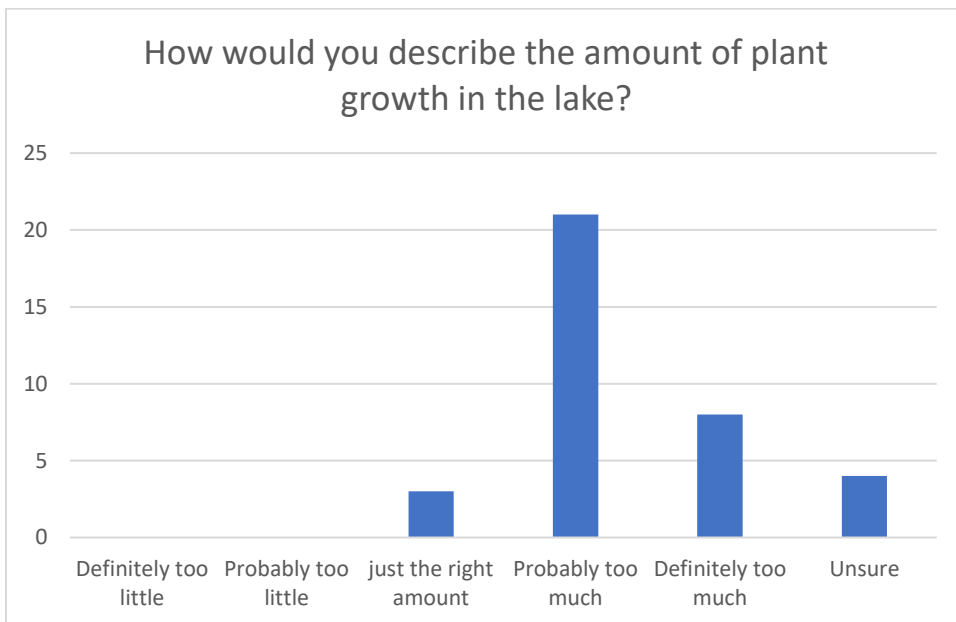
One reply selected "remained the same" but made the comment that his year the quality has gotten better but "not sure if anomaly"

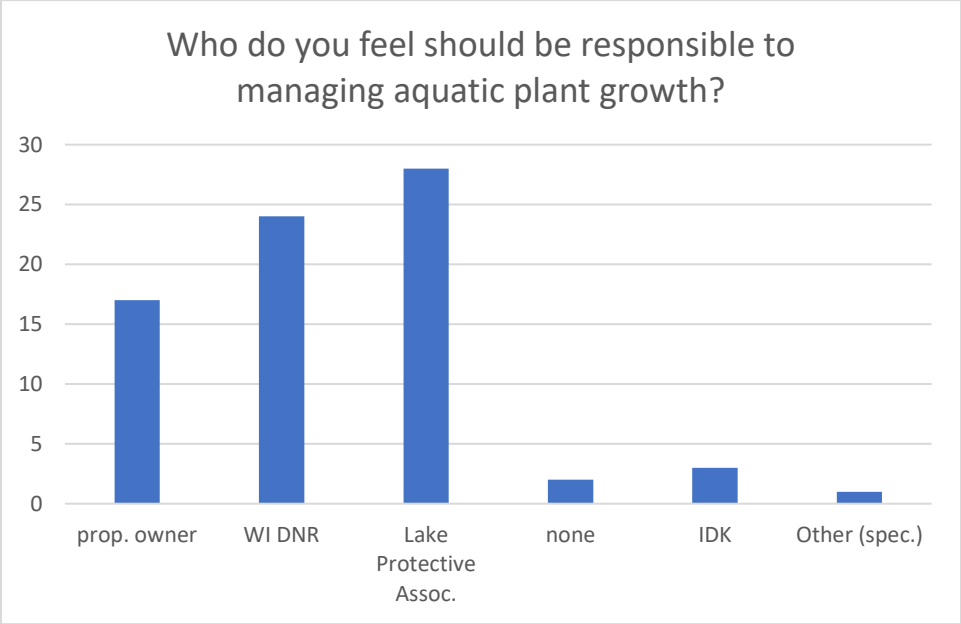
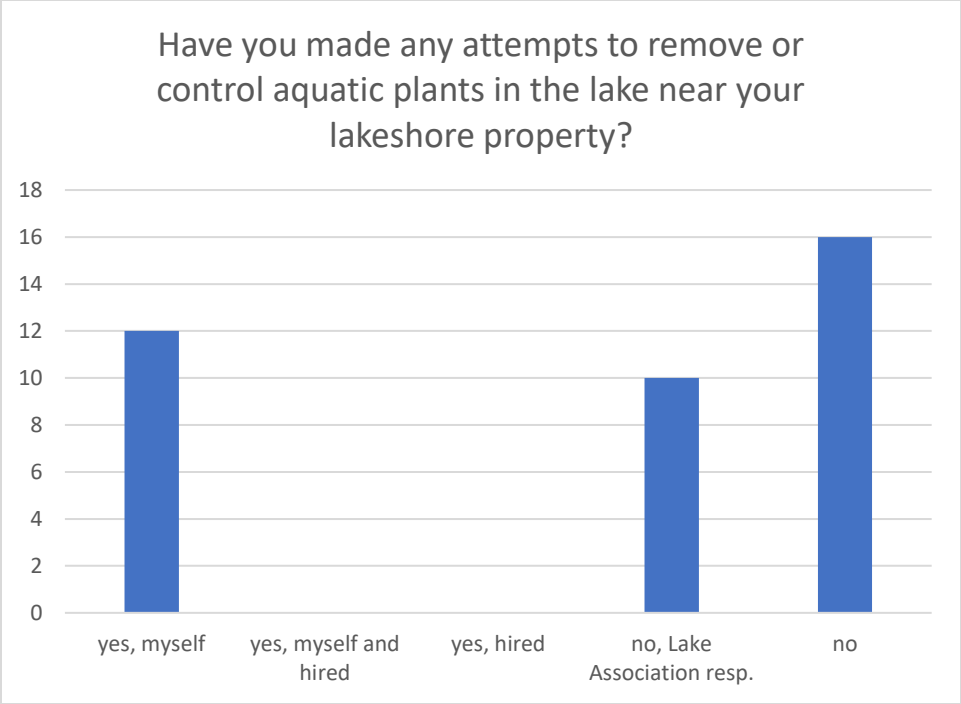
Aquatic Plant Growth:



Notes:

Increased with some, decreased with other

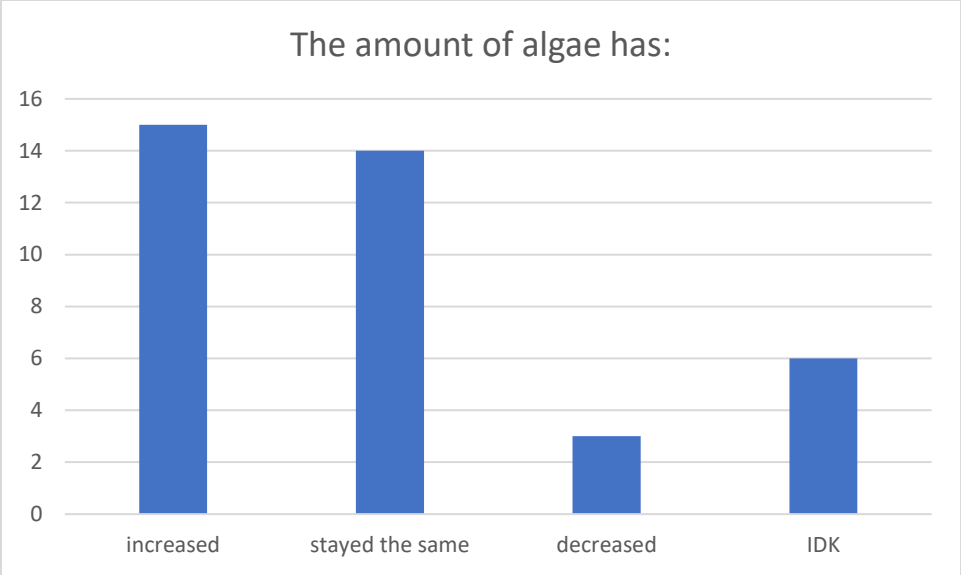




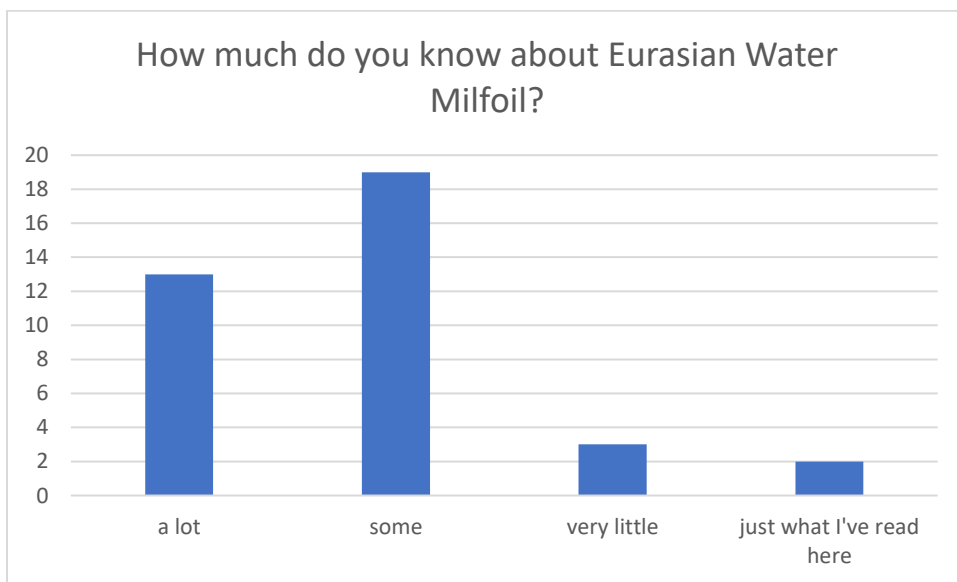
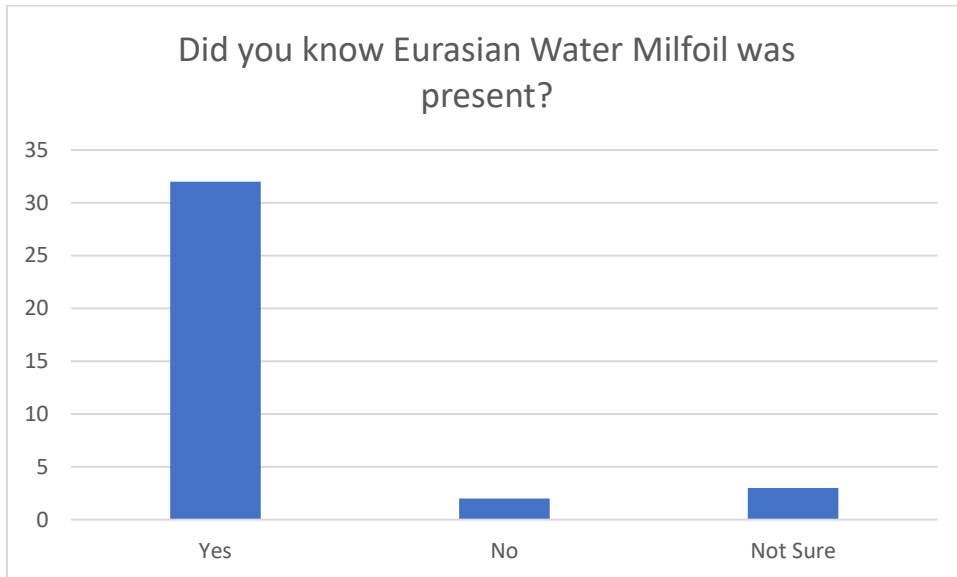
Notes:

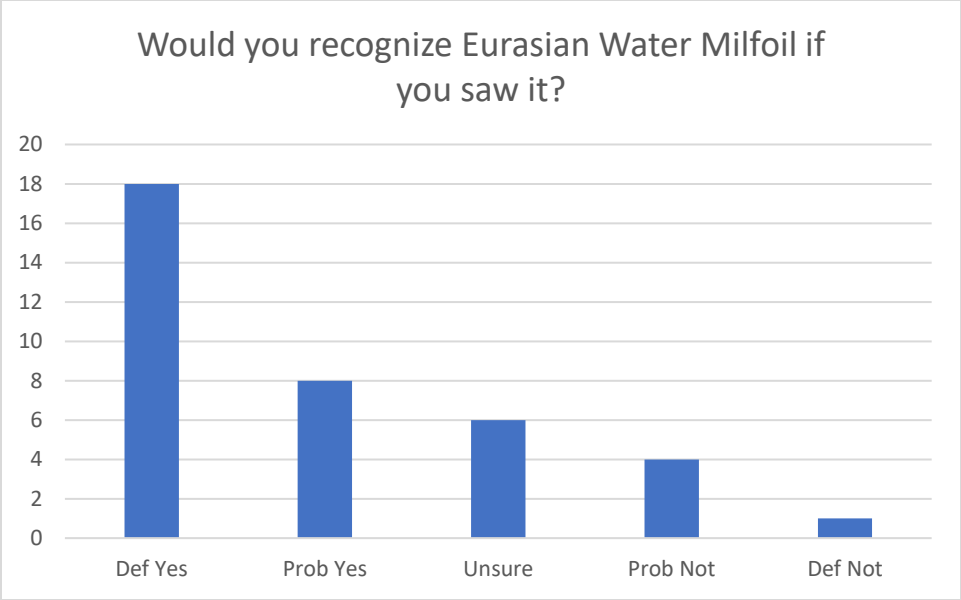
Depends on what you mean by “responsible” and “manage”

Users of all lakes in the state – not just Callahan/Mud



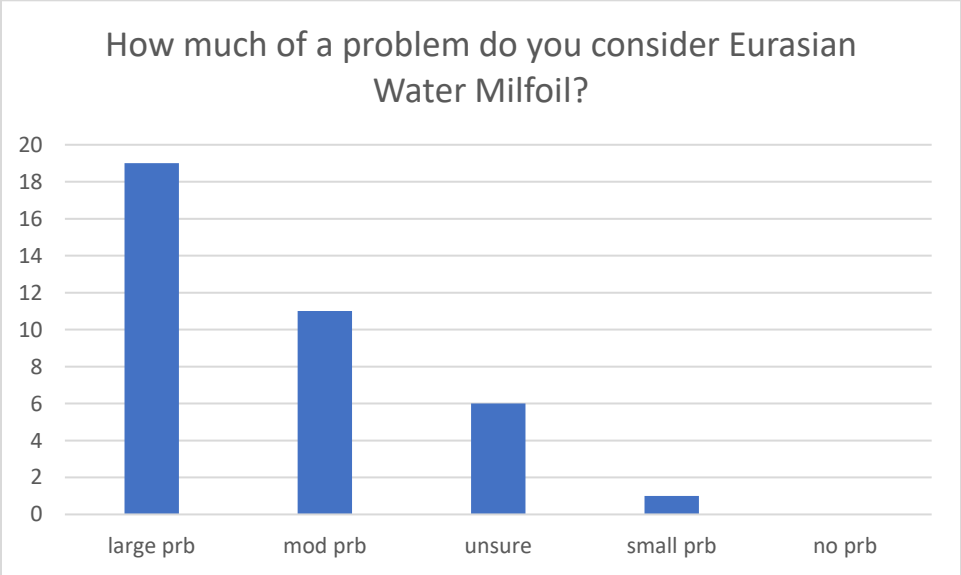
Aquatic Invasive Species:

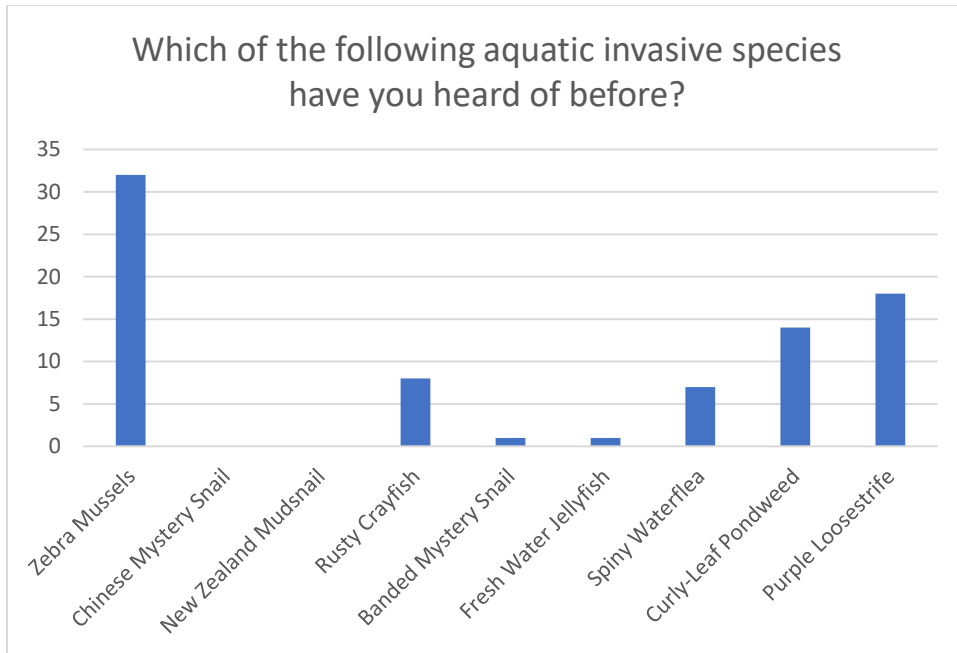




Notes:

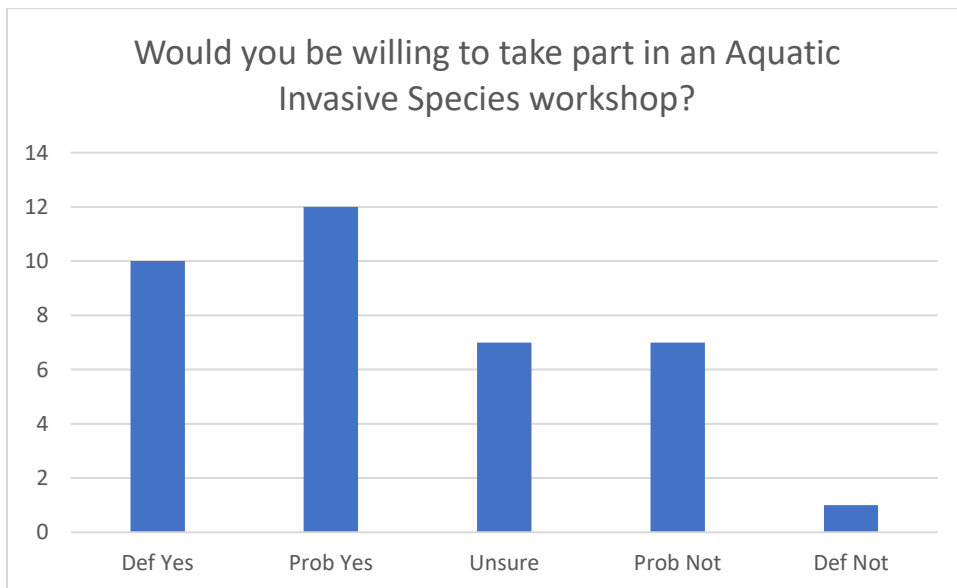
One reply selected “probably yes” but made the note that knowing the difference between Eurasian and native would not be easy





Notes:

“!?” to fresh water jellyfish



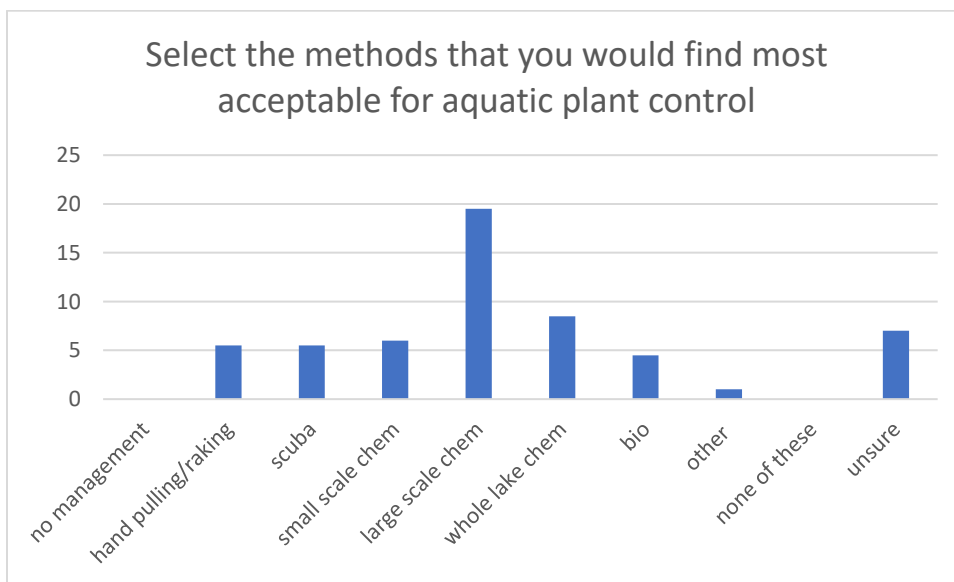
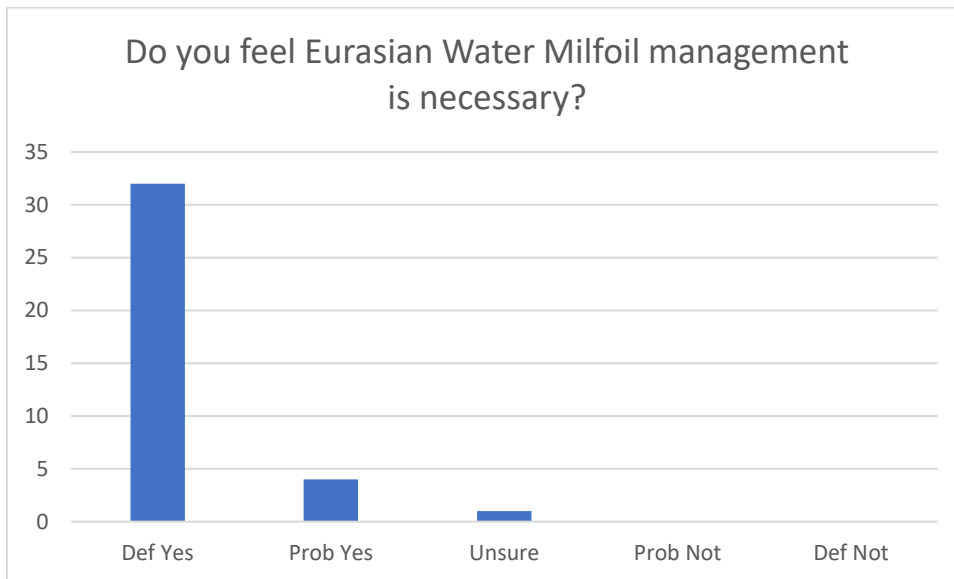
Notes:

One reply – definitely yes but virtually

One reply – definitely yes if I lived up there. No house yet.

One reply – unsure – would depend on when but very interested

Eurasian Water Milfoil Management:



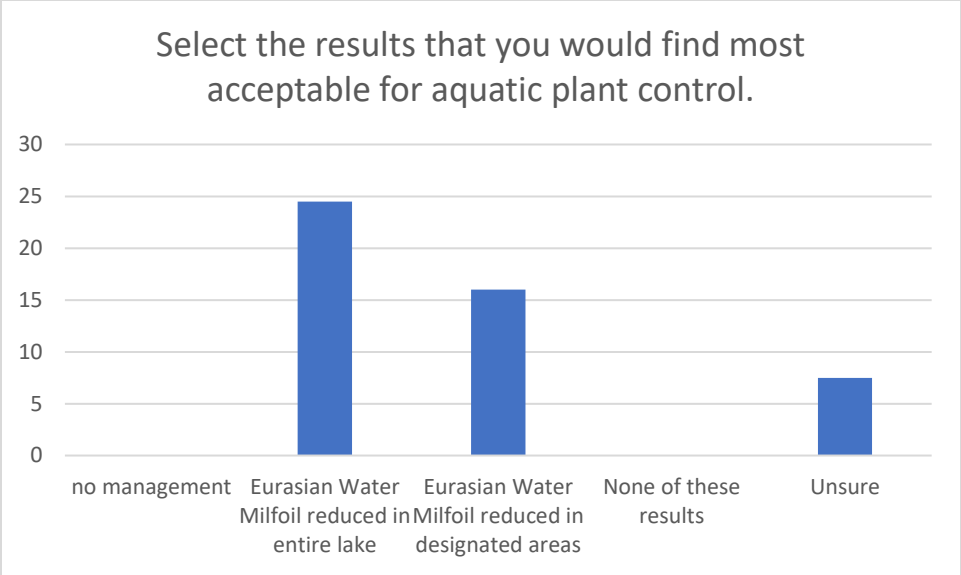
Notes:

“No” noted next to whole lake chemical treatment

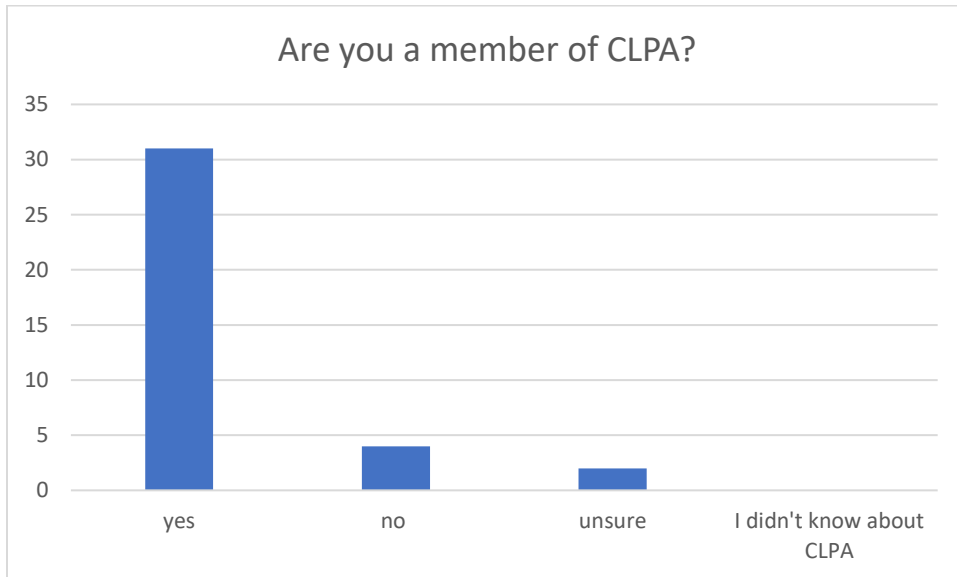
“Likely to cause some other problem” noted next to biological control

“Getting cutter like on Lost Land Lake or see if could use theirs by renting. I don’t believe in chemicals” noted next to other

“I am concerned about what exactly these chemicals are” noted next to unsure

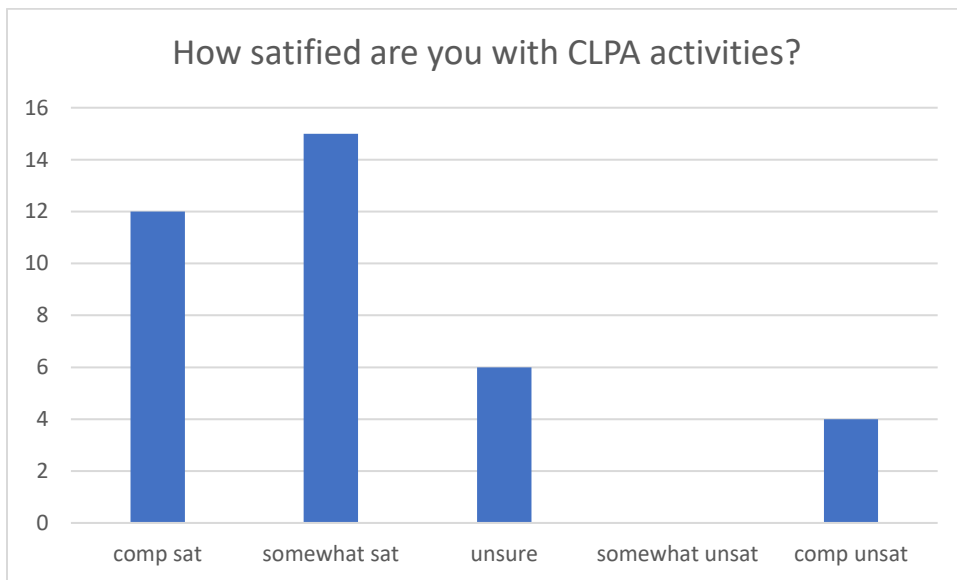


Lake Association Satisfaction:



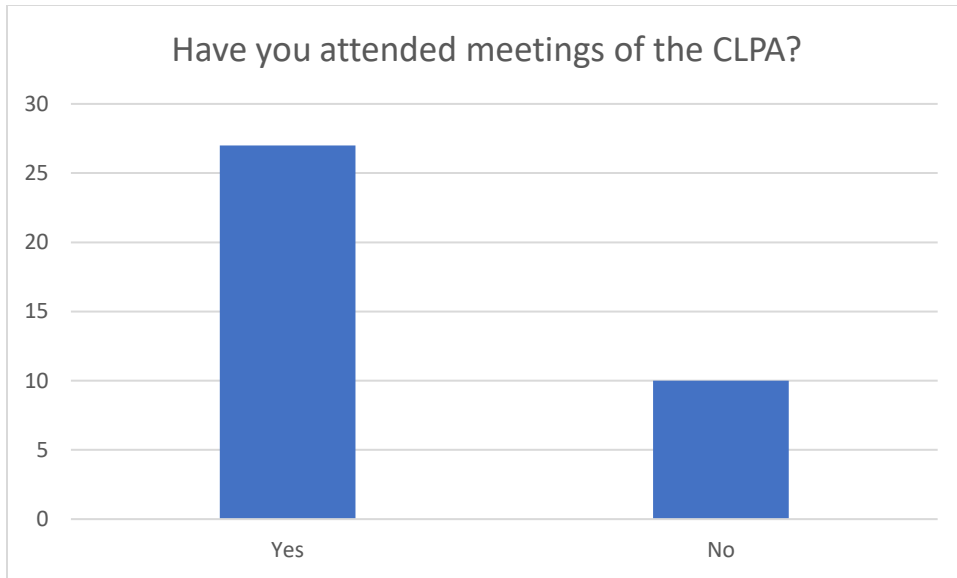
Notes:

After marking "unsure" for answer – due to spotty outreach, some years we pay, some we forget and no one reminds us. Regular mailings may increase membership.



Notes:

After marking "completely satisfied" comment was made "need more members"



Notes:

After marking “Yes” – comments:

Once when we happened to be in touch

I think we need to stock the lake with panfish to increase the interest in water quality. More treatments in the river would help.

Notes after “Why not?”:

I currently do not live “up north” nor do I have a residence where I could stay. Hopefully down the road that will change and I will be able to attend.

As we are at the lake mostly on weekends, our arrival time is after the meeting time. Thank you for all the work you do.

Belonged to the CLPA when it started. Quit when they used it to try to get speed limit on lake. Not what it was intended to do when formed. Was thinking about joining but then they started to was tax district which I am totally against, like many other residents and property owners. They have plenty of money in account and would have more if no talk of tax district.

Too far to go

We are unable to attend meetings because we arent at the cabin that often.

Just joined

Must be virtual meetings

I’m not usually there when they have a meeting

Though not attended in recent years – I will try to coordinate out time at the cottage with the meetings.

Very clique/not open to contrasting-differing opinions. Donated above and beyond in past years. Never received a thank you. Poor leadership. Happy to see this survey, however.

Live in Milwaukee

