Three Lakes Council PO Box 241 South Salem, NY 10590

Survey Results for All Three Lakes

In Fall 2006, we sent out 295 surveys, and got back 154 responses. That's a response rate of 52%. We know some surveys were sent to and received from the same address. Taking out the known duplicates, our household response rate is 51%. All numbers are percentages based on the total 154 responses received.

1. **Recreational Use of the Lakes** Please indicate how your household uses the Three Lakes area. We want to know if you use the lakes this way, how important it is to you (high, medium, low importance), and the lake conditions for this activity (excellent, good, fair, poor) N/R=No Response

Recreational Use	**We do this**			**Importance**				**Condition** of the lake for activity				
	Yes	**No**	**N/R**	**High**	**Med**	**Low**	**N/R**	**Exc.**	**Good**	**Fair**	**Poor**	**N/R**
Gas motor boating – includes water skiing, tubing, patio boats	42%	54%	4%	23%	16%	33%	27%	12%	28%	12%	10%	38%
Electric motor boating	26%	66%	8%	14%	16%	30%	40%	14%	27%	5%	2%	53%
Other boating – canoe, kayak, sailing, rowing	91%	6%	3%	75%	14%	2%	9%	33%	41%	10%	3%	14%
Fishing	50%	45%	5%	29%	23%	20%	27%	16%	34%	8%	3%	39%
Swimming or wading	93%	5%	2%	84%	6%	2%	7%	15%	26%	28%	18%	13%
Scenic enjoyment – watching the water, wildlife, sunsets	97%	2%	1%	86%	6%	3%	5%	55%	29%	3%	2%	11%
Other	7%	0%	93%	6%	1%	0%	93%	3%	1%	2%	1%	94%

2. What is the most important criterion to you for judging the **quality of your lake**? (Rank top three, 1=top):

c. swimming conditions	69%
a. clarity of lake water	68%
e. amount of lake "weeds"	57%
d. frequency of algae blooms	29%
f. scenery and wildlife diversity	24%
g. house value	17%
b. quality of fishing	13%
h. other (what?)_____	3%

Percentage of responses that include each criteria and listed by most frequent choice

3. Do you feel the following **conditions** are a **problem** in your lake? (check one box for each):

Condition	**Not a problem**	**Some problem**	**Serious problem**	**Don't Know**	**No Response**
Native aquatic weeds – lily pads and pondweed	24%	47%	25%		5%
Invasive aquatic weeds – milfoil	5%	38%	53%		5%
Algae blooms – green water or scum	6%	48%	44%		3%
Swimmers itch or bacteria problems	47%	23%	19%		12%
Poor fishing	68%	12%	1%	1%	18%
Inconsiderate boat operators	34%	45%	15%	1%	5%
Loosestrife and phragmites on lake shores	21%	51%	15%	2%	11%
Phosphorous from lawn fertilizers	12%	40%	37%	3%	9%
Geese and duck droppings	9%	41%	47%		3%
Debris, oils, and silt from storm drain runoff	19%	40%	27%	1%	12%
Nutrients from inadequate septic systems	8%	39%	40%	2%	12%
Chemicals from lawn herbicides/pesticides	12%	39%	34%	3%	12%
Other?		1%	5%		94%

4. What do you like **best** about your lake?

   Top comments - Scenic beauty **38%;** Peacefulness **19%;** Swimming **17%;** Boating **9%**

5. What do you like the **least** about your lake?

   Top comments - Weeds **31%;** Algae **18%;** Motorboats **16%;** Geese **8%**

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6. Do you feel **action** should be taken on these conditions?

Possible actions	**Take this action**	**Consider action**	**Don't take action**	**Don't Know**	**No Response**
Weed control through hand harvesting	49%	33%	2%	1%	15%
Weed control through suction or bottom barriers	24%	49%	11%	2%	14%
Weed control through chemical treatment	8%	28%	48%	1%	14%
Alum treatment to improve water clarity	14%	48%	18%	3%	16%
Education on boat operation and rules	53%	25%	8%		14%
Ban phosphorous fertilizer	62%	23%	4%	1%	10%
Goose egg oiling / use dogs to chase geese away	30%	36%	17%	1%	16%
Mandate septic system pumping and inspection	53%	27%	10%	1%	10%
Improve the aerators to oxygenate the water	25%	41%	13%	3%	18%
Protect undeveloped lands on lake shore	53%	31%	4%		12%
Don't do anything	1%	3%	37%		59%
Other?	10%	1%	1%		88%

7. Assuming significant actions may cost two hundred thousand dollars or more, to **fund** these actions, how are you willing to participate? Rank 1 to 4 with best way = 1

	First	**Second**	**Third**	**Fourth**	**Other / No Resp.**
Voluntary contributions	51%	14%	13%	10%	13%
Establish lake district with taxing power	14%	17%	10%	31%	28%
Annual usage fees for boats, docks, floats	16%	22%	18%	16%	29%
Assessments by lake associations	7%	34%	22%	10%	27%

8. What's the best way for you to get **information** about the lakes or lake stewardship?

Information options	**Great way**	**OK**	**Not so good**	**No Response**
Annual newsletter	71%	24%	3%	2%
Postcards	37%	29%	19%	15%
Website www.threelakescouncil.org	50%	27%	9%	14%
Public meetings	34%	39%	12%	16%
Email	58%	19%	6%	16%
Other	3%	1%		97%

9. Have you changed your household practices or lake behavior based on this information?
Yes **23%** No **8%** No because I was already acting as recommended **66%** No Response **4%**

Please provide us with some demographic background information:

How many people are in your household? (1, 2, …)
1 **16%** 2 **34%** 3 **19%** 4 **18%** 5 **6%** 6 **3%** No Response **3%**

Lake residence is primary residence **73%** is not the primary residence **26%** No Response **1%**

Home is Owned **77%** Rented **2%** No Response **21%**

Number of months in residence on average: 12 **59%** Weekends **16%** Other **15%** No Response **10%**

I've lived here: Less than 5 years **18%** 5 – 10 years **14%** over 10 years **68%**

I'm a member of the Three Lakes Council: Yes **82%** No **14%** No Response **3%**

Primary Lake Access: Waccabuc **57%** Oscaleta **34%** Rippowam **9%** None

Primary Lake Used: Waccabuc **59%** Oscaleta **32%** Rippowam **9%** None

Household water supply source:
Private well **56%** Twin Lakes Water Works **32%** Lake **11%** Other **0%** No Response **1%**
Use lake water to water lawn **6%**

Septic system:
Septic w/ fields **80%** Septic w/ leach pit **7%** Cesspool **1%** Holding tank **6%** Outhouse **3%** No Response **3%**
I pump my septic system regularly every 1-2 years **59%** I do not schedule regular pumping **8%**
Other **15%** No Response **18%**