Three Lakes Council PO Box 241 South Salem, NY 10590
2016 Survey Results for Lake Waccabuc

In the summer of 2016, we asked residents with lake rights about concerns and to help prioritize our actions. We have summarized the responses from 85 residents with primary access to Lake Waccabuc. The responses below are the percentages based on those 85 returned surveys. NR indicates no response to the question. Shading shows high % responses.

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, and the lake conditions for this activity.

Recreational use	We do this			Importance				Condition of the lake for this				
	yes	no	NR	low	med	high	NR	poor	fair	good	excl	NR
Gas motor boating – includes water skiing, tubing, patio boats	56%	36%	7%	20%	13%	45%	22%	1%	9%	32%	24%	34%
Electric motor boating	20%	55%	25%	15%	13%	15%	53%		5%	16%	11%	68%
Other boating – canoe, kayak, paddleboard, sailing, rowing,	94%	4%	2%	2%	12%	75%	11%		6%	38%	40%	15%
Fishing	56%	32%	11%	12%	22%	35%	31%		2%	32%	25%	41%
Swimming or wading	89%	4%	7%	2%	9%	75%	13%	7%	22%	33%	22%	15%
Scenic enjoyment – watching the water, wildlife, sunsets	94%	6%			14%	69%	16%			26%	61%	13%
Other (what?) **ice skating**	5%		95%		2%	2%	96%			2%	4%	94%

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

a. clarity of lake water	69%	b. quality of fishing	15%
c. swimming conditions	59%	g. Lake drinking water quality	14%
e. amount of lake "weeds"	52%	h. house value	11%
d. frequency of algae blooms	44%	i. other (what?)	
f. scenery and wildlife diversity	27%	Percent of responses including the criteria.	

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	No Response
Native aquatic weeds – lily pads & pondweeds	28%	42%	21%	8%
Invasive aquatic weeds – milfoil and other	6%	49%	36%	8%
Algae blooms – green water or scum	4%	47%	45%	5%
Harmful algal blooms – potential toxic algae	12%	39%	38%	12%
Swimmers itch or bacteria problems	39%	33%	14%	14%
Poor fishing	72%	8%	4%	16%
Inconsiderate boat operators	34%	38%	22%	6%
Presence of beaver	36%	33%	18%	13%
Geese and duck droppings	31%	52%	11%	7%
Debris, oils, and silt from storm drain runoff	35%	38%	18%	9%
Nutrients from inadequate septic systems	16%	38%	32%	14%
Chemicals from lawn herbicides/pesticides	21%	36%	26%	16%
Noise (what kind?)	52%	18%	5%	26%
Other? **Gas boats, lawn mowers, leaf blowers**		2%	2%	96%

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

Major themes: privacy, beauty, tranquility, recreation, escape, wildlife

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

Major themes: weeds, algae, motorboats, intruders

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

Actions	Take this action	Consider action	Don't take action	No Response
Weed control through hand harvesting or suction	40%	42%	7%	11%
Weed control through bottom barriers	12%	51%	18%	20%
Weed control through chemical treatment	7%	21%	54%	18%
Algae control through chemical treatments	7%	31%	44%	19%
Educate on boat operation and rules	49%	25%	14%	12%
Educate on lakeside buffer plantings	41%	35%	5%	19%
Goose egg oiling	51%	21%	8%	19%
Educate on alternate septic technologies	54%	26%	2%	18%
Urge reduction of catch basins that empty into lakes	49%	29%	2%	19%
Protect undeveloped lands on lake shore	71%	12%	4%	14%
Advocate for town noise ordinance	25%	18%	38%	20%
Other? **Motorboat rules / enforcement**	11%	1%		88%

7. What's the best way for 3LC to give you **information** about the lakes or lake stewardship?

Information options	Great way	OK	Not so good	No Response
Annual newsletter	81%	15%		4%
Postcards	28%	33%	18%	21%
Website www.threelakescouncil.org	52%	28%	11%	9%
Public meetings / annual meeting potluck	41%	34%	8%	16%
Email / Google group	80%	12%	4%	5%
Facebook	18%	14%	41%	27%
Other (what?) **signs**	2%	2%		96%

8. Have you changed your household practices or lake behavior based on 3LC information?
Yes **28%** No **9%** No, because I was already acting as recommended **58%** No Response 5%

Please provide us with some demographic background information:

How many people are in your household? 1 **11%**, 2 **49%**, 3 **9%**, 4 **19%**, 5 **7%**, >5 **2%**
Is your home lakefront? **53%** or off lake? **46%** No response **1%**
Is the 3 Lake residence your primary residence? Yes **75%** No **25%** Do you own? **67%** or rent? **2%** NR **31%**
Usual number of months in residence: 12 months **64%** just weekends **15%** just summers **9%** other **4%**
I've lived here: Less than 5 years **16%,** 5 – 10 years **14%,** over 10 years **68%** No response **1%**
I'm a member of the Three Lakes Council: yes **86%** no **9%** no response **5%**

Primary Lake Access: Waccabuc **100%** Oscaleta Rippowam No response
Primary Lake Used: Waccabuc **95%** Oscaleta Rippowam No response **5%**

Household water supply source:
Private well **79%** Twin Lakes Water Works Lake **16%** No response **4%** Use lake water to water lawn **6%**
Household water treated with: filter **48%** softener **32%** Other **12%** None **16%**
Household uses bottled water for drinking: yes **32%** no **44%** No response **25%**

Septic system:
Septic tank with fields **76%** Septic tank with leach pit **8%** Cesspool **2%** Holding tank **9%** Outhouse **5%**
I pump my septic system regularly every: 1 year **16%** 2 years **24%** 3 years **16%** 4 years **6%** 5 years **12%.**
I do not schedule regular pumping **2%** More often **5%** No response **19%**
I'm aware of the Town law requiring septic pumpouts every 5 years: yes **73%** no **6%** no response **21%**

Other comments? What should 3LC be doing that we are not? Or what should we stop doing?
Themes: motorboat regs, boat stickers, septic pumpout regs

Thank you! We'll share summary results. If you want to discuss lake conditions or to volunteer, please contact provide your name and phone number – otherwise this survey is anonymous.