

# B

## APPENDIX B

---

### Stakeholder Survey Response Charts and Comments



**Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes - Anonymous Stakeholder Survey**

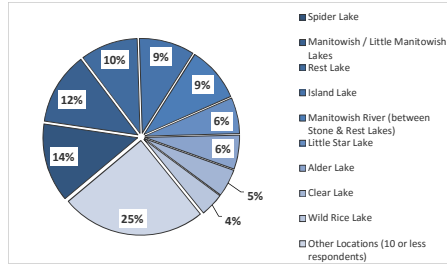
Surveys Distributed: 1381  
Surveys Returned: 276  
Response Rate: 20%

*Because of the low response rate, these results should not be interpreted as being statistically representative of all Manitowish Waters Chain stakeholders. They may indicate possible trends about stakeholder perceptions, but that cannot be stated with any statistical confidence.*

**Manitowish Waters Chain Property**

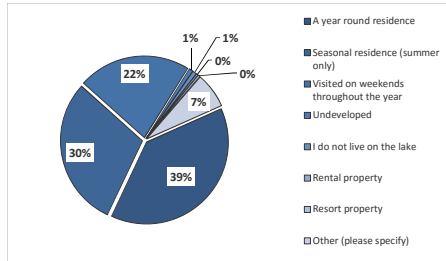
**1. On which lake is your Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes property located?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Spider Lake	13.5%	37
Manitowish / Little Manitowish Lakes	12.4%	34
Rest Lake	9.8%	27
Island Lake	9.5%	26
Manitowish / Rice Creek	9.5%	26
Little Star Lake	6.2%	17
Alder Lake	5.8%	16
Clear Lake	4.7%	13
Wild Rice Lake	4.0%	11
Trout River (between Wild Rice & Alder Lakes)	3.6%	10
Trout River (between Alder & Manitowish Lakes)	2.5%	7
Stone Lake	2.5%	7
Fawn Lake	1.8%	5
Stone - Spider Lake Channel	1.1%	3
Papoose Creek / Papoose Bay	1.1%	3
Island - Spider Lake Channel	0.7%	2
Benson Lake	0.7%	2
Manitowish River (between Vance, Sturgeon and Ben	0.4%	1
Rice Creek	0.0%	0
Vance Lake	0.0%	0
Sturgeon Lake	0.0%	0
I do not live on any of these waterbodies	10.2%	28
<b>answered question</b>		<b>275</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>



**2. What type of property do you own or rent on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
A year round residence	38.7%	94
Seasonal residence (summer only)	29.6%	72
Visited on weekends throughout the year	22.2%	54
Undeveloped	0.8%	2
I do not live on the lake	0.8%	2
Rental property	0.4%	1
Resort property	0.4%	1
Other (please specify)	7.0%	17
<b>answered question</b>		<b>243</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>33</b>



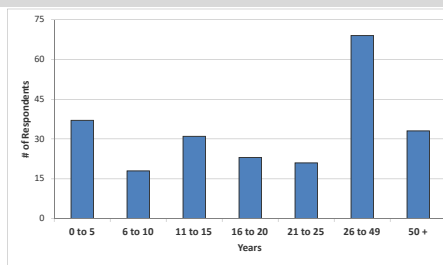
**Number Other (please specify)**

- 1 Visit often throuout the year.
- 2 April through November
- 3 we spend approx 1/3 of the year at this property, mainly warmer months but throughtout the year
- 4 Seasonal Residence (7 months)
- 5 own property - visit in all seasons
- 6 We also visit on other weekends and at Christmas.
- 7 It is a year round home but we mainly use it in the summer
- 8 66
- 9 Summer and Winter Residence
- 10 Seasonal (all summer & throughtout the rest of the year
- 11 year round property but not occupied each day
- 12 open for the season but occupied at intervals
- 13 year round residence, visit for weeks at a time throughtout the year
- 14 Spend half the summer and at least 6-7 weeks during non-summer months
- 15 Summer and weekends
- 16 Mid May to Mid October, plus 10 days over Christmas holidays
- 17 We spend 40% of our time in residence thru the year

**3. How long have you owned or rented (# years) your property on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

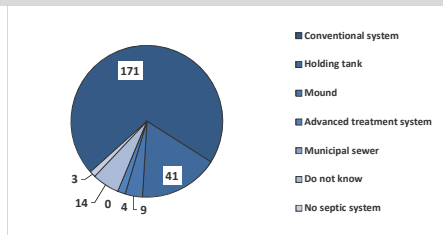
Answer Options	Response Count
	238
<i>answered question</i>	<b>238</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>38</b>

Category (# of years)	Responses	Response Count	Response Percent
0 to 5		37	16%
6 to 10		18	8%
11 to 15		31	13%
16 to 20		23	10%
21 to 25		21	9%
26 to 49		69	30%
50 +		33	14%



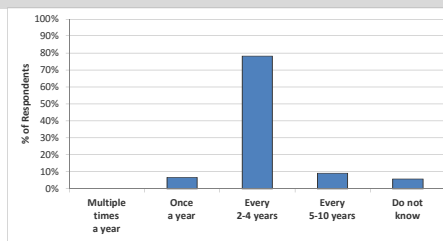
**4. What type of septic system does your property utilize?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Conventional system	70.7%	171
Holding tank	16.9%	41
Mound	3.7%	9
Advanced treatment system	1.7%	4
Municipal sewer	0.0%	0
Do not know	5.8%	14
No septic system	1.2%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>242</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>34</b>



**5. How often is the septic system on your property pumped?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Multiple times a year	0.0%	0
Once a year	6.7%	16
Every 2-4 years	78.2%	187
Every 5-10 years	9.2%	22
Do not know	5.9%	14
<i>answered question</i>		<b>239</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>37</b>

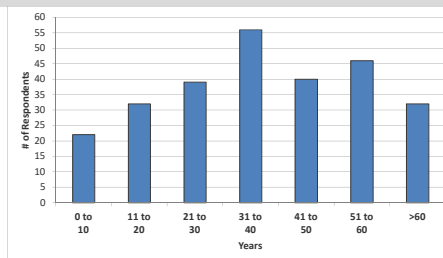


**Recreational Activity on the Manitowish Waters Chain Lakes**

**6. How many years ago did you first visit the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Response Count
	267
<i>answered question</i>	<b>267</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>9</b>

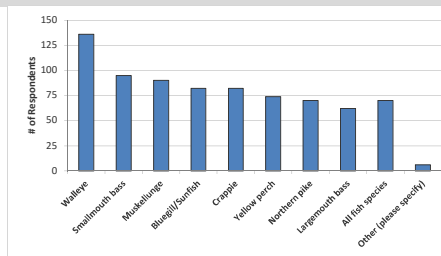
Category (# of years)	Responses	Response Count	Response Percent
0 to 10		22	8%
11 to 20		32	12%
21 to 30		39	15%
31 to 40		56	21%
41 to 50		40	15%
51 to 60		46	17%
>60		32	12%





**10. What species of fish do you like to catch on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

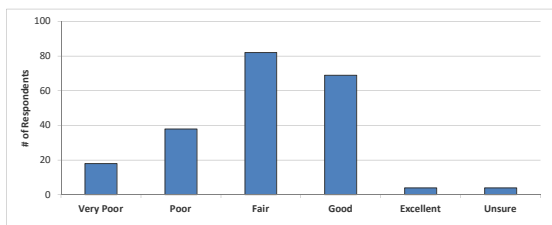
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Walleye	63.6%	136
Smallmouth bass	44.4%	95
Muskellunge	42.1%	90
Bluegill/Sunfish	38.3%	82
Crappie	38.3%	82
Yellow perch	34.6%	74
Northern pike	32.7%	70
Largemouth bass	29.0%	62
All fish species	32.7%	70
Other (please specify)	2.8%	6
<b>answered question</b>		<b>214</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>62</b>



Number	Other (please specify)
1	Walleye are favorite.
2	muskie's once in a while
3	Note: Catch and Release
4	Rock bass
5	anything we can catch
6	all types with kids, but I focus on walleye and musky

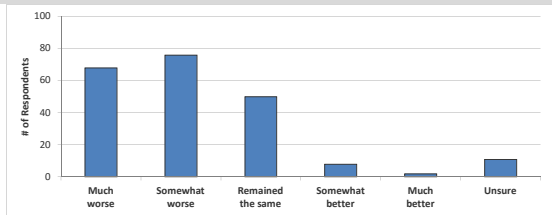
**11. How would you describe the current quality of fishing on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Unsure	Response Count
	18	38	82	69	4	4	215
<b>answered question</b>							<b>215</b>
<b>skipped question</b>							<b>61</b>



**12. How has the quality of fishing changed on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes since you have started fishing the chain?**

Answer Options	Much worse	Somewhat worse	Remained the same	Somewhat better	Much better	Unsure	Response Count
	68	76	50	8	2	11	215
<b>answered question</b>							<b>215</b>
<b>skipped question</b>							<b>61</b>



**13. What types of watercraft do you currently use on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Canoe / kayak	71.6%	194
Pontoon	50.6%	137
Boat with greater than 100 hp motor	43.2%	117
Boat with 26 - 100 hp motor	35.8%	97
Boat with 25 hp or less motor	28.4%	77
Rowboat	25.5%	69
Paddleboat	18.8%	51
Paddleboard	12.5%	34
Sailboat	10.3%	28
Jet ski (personal watercraft)	10.0%	27
Waterbike	0.7%	2
Do not use watercraft	1.1%	3
<b>answered question</b>		<b>271</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>5</b>

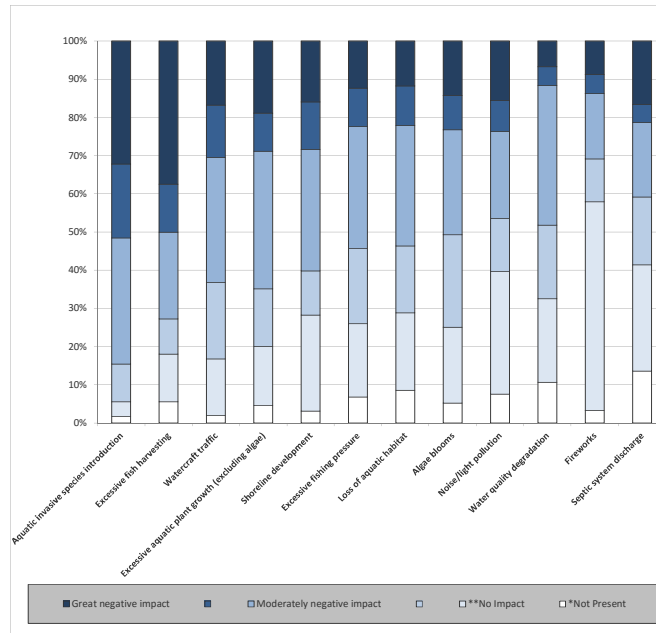
**Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes Current and Historic Condition, Health, and Management**

**14. To what level do you believe each of the following factors may currently be negatively impacting the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

\* Not Present means that you believe the issue does not exist on Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes.  
\*\* No Impact means that the issue may exist on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes but it is not negatively impacting the lake.

Answer Options	*Not Present	**No Impact	Moderately negative impact	Great negative impact	Unsure: Need more information	Rating Average	Response Count		
Aquatic invasive species introduction	4	9	23	77	45	75	25	4.70	258
Excessive fish harvesting	12	27	20	49	27	81	42	4.06	258
Watercraft traffic	5	37	50	82	34	42	5	3.87	255
Excessive aquatic plant growth (excluding algae)	11	37	36	86	24	45	18	3.60	257
Shoreline development	8	63	29	80	31	40	9	3.42	260
Excessive fishing pressure	15	42	43	70	22	27	35	2.78	254
Loss of aquatic habitat	19	45	39	70	23	26	36	2.76	258
Algae blooms	11	42	51	58	19	30	47	2.71	258
Noise/light pollution	18	76	33	54	19	37	19	2.70	256
Water quality degradation	24	49	43	82	11	15	37	2.33	261
Fireworks	8	131	27	41	12	21	17	1.81	257
Septic system discharge	23	47	30	33	8	28	89	1.76	258
Other (please specify)									44
							<b>answered question</b>	<b>264</b>	
							<b>skipped question</b>	<b>12</b>	

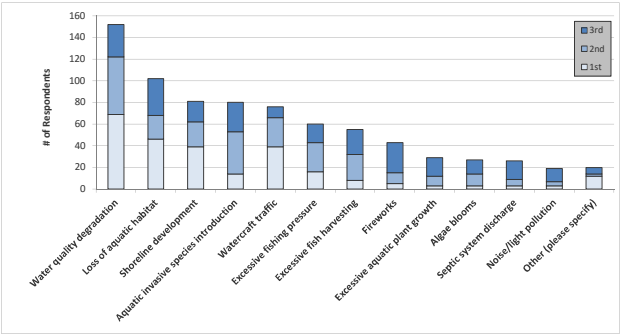
- Number**      **Other (please specify)**
- 1 Noise/light pollution had both 1 and U circled.
  - 2 Change in dam operations
  - 3 No crayfish anymore
  - 4 Depends on the type of algae!
  - 5 should be more stocking of small mouth bass & other species
  - 6 Chain getting very weedy with Bur-Reed, wild rice etc. Spearing is decimating the walleyes and in a few years will be same as Minocqua Chain. The DNR is doing a horrible job on the fishery as they did in Minocqua Chain.
  - 7 Boat music
  - 8 chemicals used to maintain lawns and used to kill invasive plants washing into lakes toxic to animals/wildlife
  - 9 Excessive lake level fall draw down planted wild rice by Ducks Unlimited
  - 10 between Alder and Wild Rice on river-great negative impact
  - 11 Wake boat usage is a huge negative
  - 12 run off from cranberry bogs  
Other= Noise- radios, jet skis, machines, barking dogs Note: Under watercraft traffic, wrote 'Jet Skis';
  - 13
  - 14 Wake boats (ranked 3)
  - 15 Large fast boats
  - 16 DNR insistence on near shore vegetation; water level controversy
  - 17 lowering the chain destroys habitats
  - 18 Spearing
  - 19 Note: under Excessive fish harvesting, wrote "Spearing"
  - 20 light pollution as opposed to noise
  - 21 Submergent/emergent algae growth: Ranked as a 5
  - 22 cranberry marsh discharge
  - 23 This issue is the new lawn based landscaping becoming more popular. The impacts from this are pending.
  - 24 Geese
  - 25 spearing by Native Americans
  - 26 Lawn fertilizer
  - 27 removal of the rusty crayfish
  - 28 Early Spring Native American Harversting
  - 29 inappropriate water levels
  - 30 Walleye spearing  
the fact that we are on a small bay, and when the DNR starts to mess with water levels, It removes my ability to bring a boat to my pier which then destroys my
  - 31 property value. Was told by DNR when I was buying the property that bay owners will always have access, they would not destroy that, but the threat exists and Im not happy with this threat.
  - 32 SPEARING FISH DURING THE SPAWNING PERIOD - nice of you to "conveniently" leave that off the list (if part of Excessive Fish Harvesting, change that answer to Great Impact)
  - 33 spearing walleyes & musky by indians-great negative impact + excessive engine hp on smaller lakes
  - 34 Algae on rocks
  - 35 Rise of water level on Clear Lake is undercutting our shore; Too many structures for boats
  - 36 Excessive harvesting of fish is a problem that impacted in the past, and from which the chain hasn't recovered.
  - 37 excessive breeding fish accumulation
  - 38 Excessive fish harvesting has had great negative impact, more than all other factors combined
  - 39 Have noticed more aquatic plant grown on our lake each year.
  - 40 boats not slowing in no wake areas
  - 41 fish stocking would be nice
  - 42 Spear Fishing Greatest Impact
  - 43 Is poisoning invasive Aquatic weeds killing the fish and native weeds? Noticed lot of dead cattails in a treated areas.
  - 44 Poor DNR walleye management



**15. From the list below, please rank your top three concerns regarding the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes, with 1 being your greatest concern.**

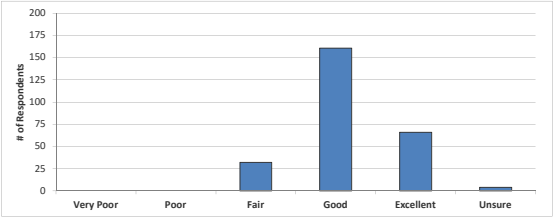
Answer Options	1st	2nd	3rd	Response Count
Aquatic invasive species introduction	69	53	30	152
Water quality degradation	46	22	34	102
Shoreline development	39	23	19	81
Excessive aquatic plant growth	14	39	27	80
Excessive fish harvesting	39	27	10	76
Watercraft traffic	16	27	17	60
Loss of aquatic habitat	8	24	23	55
Noise/light pollution	5	10	28	43
Septic system discharge	3	9	17	29
Excessive fishing pressure	3	11	13	27
Algae blooms	3	6	17	26
Fireworks	3	4	12	19
Other (please specify)	12	2	6	20
Please specify "Other" response here				40
<b>answered question</b>				<b>262</b>
<b>skipped question</b>				<b>14</b>

- Number "Other" responses**
- 1 change in dam operation
  - 2 Lack of walleye stocking
  - 3 Eliminate tribal harvest and
  - 4 Use of chemicals in lakes
  - 5 Very concerned about present
  - 6 Fertilizer on shoreline lawns washing
  - 7 DNR interference with Rest Lake Dam
  - 8 fishing is terrible we don't even bother
  - 9 Chain water level draw-down
  - 10 water levels controlled by the dam
  - 11 Noise!
  - 12 DNR interference re: water levels on
  - 13 primary concern regarding water level
  - 14 Note: Wrote 'Spearing big impact'
  - 15 Note: under Excessive fish harvesting
  - 16 #3 light pollution
  - 17 3rd was Noise/light pollution and Fireworks
  - 18 1st and 2nd are the same: Loss of aquatic habitat
  - 19 Under algae- crossed out bloom and specified algae "our bay growth" sic Papoose Bay
  - 20 too many big boats
  - 21 town being owned by one person who could care less about the environment
  - 22 Note: also had Noise/light pollution circled
  - 23 DNR desire to change current lowering of lake levels in fall
  - 24 spearing by Native Americans
  - 25 lawn fertilizer
  - 26 artificial water levels
  - 27 Walleye population decrease  
Bay owners should be able to clear out the bays, it's a catch basin for all of the harmful aquatic species, yet the DNR doesn't see it that way.
  - 28 They think its "natural" and should remain the same but it we were allowed to pull invasive weeds etc. it would greatly help the rest of the chain. Such very small minds are working at the Wisconsin DNR
  - 29 The Indian spearing harvest is completely out of control and decimating the population of breeding female walleyed and muskies.
  - 30 SPEARING - stop trying to ignore the fundamental problem!
  - 31 Many of the choices are related and are of concern
  - 32 excessive engine hp on smaller lakes-please put hp limits on
  - 33 4th excessive aquatic plant growth
  - 34 Change in lake level by the DNR  
To date, shoreline development has not been a problem. We're concerned about development with the new 100 foot shoreline minimums
  - 35
  - 36 water level/dam operation
  - 37 DNR and dam control
  - 38 tribal overharvesting
  - 39 Young of year class of walleyes dissapering; only 1.7 walleyes/mile found on this falls survey!
  - 40 Walleye management practices



**16. How would you describe the current water quality of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

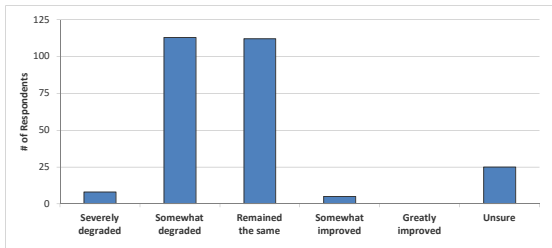
Answer Options	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Unsure	Response Count
	0	0	32	161	66	4	263
<b>answered question</b>							<b>263</b>
<b>skipped question</b>							<b>13</b>





**17. How has the current water quality changed in the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes since you first visited the chain?**

Answer Options	Severely degraded	Somewhat degraded	Remained the same	Somewhat improved	Greatly improved	Unsure	Response Count
	8	113	112	5	0	25	263
<b>answered question</b>							<b>263</b>
<b>skipped question</b>							<b>13</b>



**18. Before reading the statement above, had you ever heard of aquatic invasive species?**

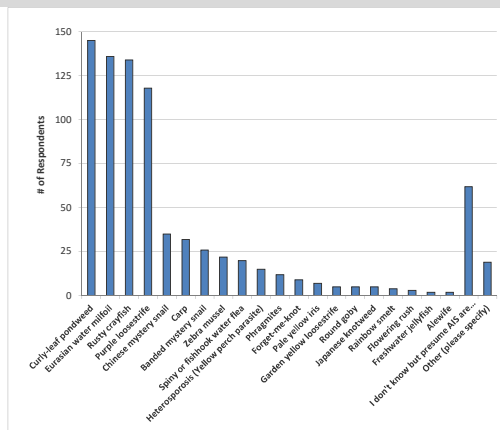
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	99.2%	261
No	0.8%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>263</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>13</b>

**19. Do you believe aquatic invasive species are present within the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.3%	245
No	4.7%	12
<b>answered question</b>		<b>257</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>19</b>

**20. Which aquatic invasive species do you believe are in the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Curly-leaf pondweed	58.2%	145
Eurasian water milfoil	54.6%	136
Rusty crayfish	53.8%	134
Purple loosestrife	47.4%	118
Chinese mystery snail	14.1%	35
Carp	12.9%	32
Banded mystery snail	10.4%	26
Zebra mussel	8.8%	22
Spiny or fishhook water flea	8.0%	20
Heterosporosis (Yellow perch parasite)	6.0%	15
Phragmites	4.8%	12
Forget-me-knot	3.6%	9
Pale yellow iris	2.8%	7
Garden yellow loosestrife	2.0%	5
Round goby	2.0%	5
Japanese knotweed	2.0%	5
Rainbow smelt	1.6%	4
Flowering rush	1.2%	3
Freshwater jellyfish	0.8%	2
Alewife	0.8%	2
I don't know but presume AIS are present	24.9%	62
Other (please specify)	7.6%	19
<b>answered question</b>		<b>249</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>27</b>

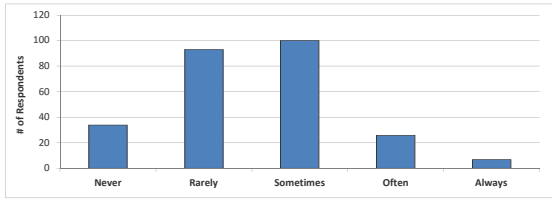


**Number "Other" responses**

- 1 have seen more black spots on fish lately
- 2 Bur-Reed and Wild Rice
- 3 I don't know the name of the water plants
- 4 not sure  
Note: Underlined 'Spiny Water Flea'; Under carp, wrote: "I see them swimming by my dock"; Wrote: "Not sure about the rest of these for I am ignorant of how to recognize these invasive species."
- 5 Only looking at Little Star
- 6 Note: Wrote "Don't know them well enough to identify"
- 7 I believe I have seen these species
- 8 Note: Rest? doesn't know
- 9 have seen most of these in the small bays, especially pondweed
- 10 we call them "redhorse"
- 11 others are present I just don't know what they are
- 12 Saw signs for aquaneat herbicide used in treating cop, seen ewm before worked as ais tech and keep sharp eye out for AIS
- 13 suckers
- 14 There are others, I know, but I am less familiar with them specifically.
- 15 I see them but dont know by name
- 16 A snail of some type, but I don't know the name
- 17 I'm not sure which type of snail we have in Island Lake, but they have significantly increased in the last 3-5 years
- 18 Rainbow Smelt are in Little Trout and may be in chain

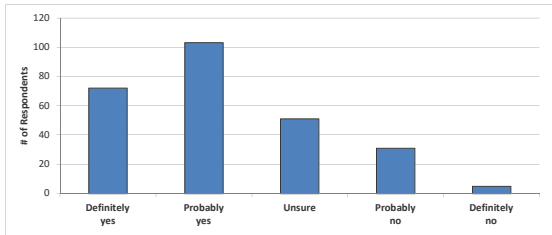
**21. During open water season how often does aquatic plant growth, including algae, negatively impact your enjoyment of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Response Count
	34	93	100	26	7	260
	<b>answered question</b>					<b>260</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>					<b>16</b>



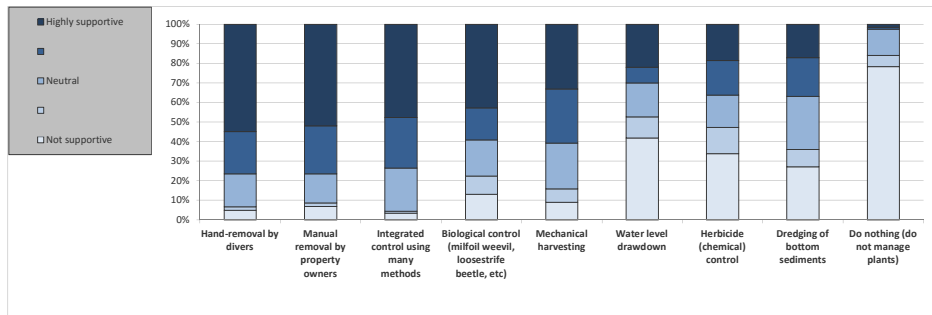
**22. Considering your answer to the question above, do you believe aquatic plant control is needed on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Unsure	Probably no	Definitely no	Response Count
	72	103	51	31	5	262
	<b>answered question</b>					<b>262</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>					<b>14</b>



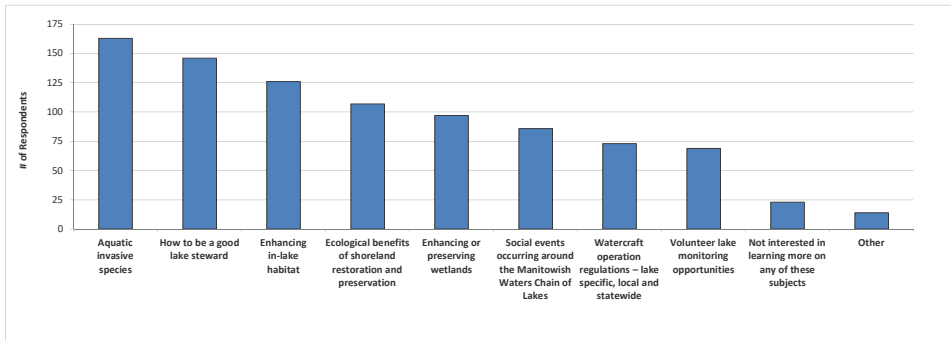
**23. Aquatic plants can be managed using many techniques. What is your level of support for the responsible use of the following techniques on the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes?**

Answer Options	Not supportive	Neutral	Highly supportive	Unsure: Need more info	Rating Average	Response Count
Hand-removal by divers	11	4	38	49	5.26	249
Manual removal by property owners	16	4	35	58	5.51	249
Integrated control using many methods	7	2	45	53	4.38	256
Biological control (milfoil weevil, loosestrife beetle, etc)	26	19	37	33	3.94	249
Mechanical harvesting	18	14	47	56	3.94	248
Water level drawdown	89	23	37	17	3.02	250
Herbicide (chemical) control	71	28	35	37	3.04	258
Dredging of bottom sediments	52	17	52	38	2.68	246
Do nothing (do not manage plants)	152	11	26	2	1.78	218
	<b>answered question</b>					<b>263</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>					<b>13</b>



**24. Stakeholder education is an important component of every lake management planning effort. Which of these subjects would you like to learn more about? Please select all that apply.**

Answer Options	Response	Response
	Percent	Count
Aquatic invasive species impacts, means of transport, identification, control options, etc.	63.2%	163
How to be a good lake steward	56.6%	146
Enhancing in-lake habitat (not shoreland or adjacent wetlands) for aquatic species	48.8%	126
Ecological benefits of shoreland restoration and preservation	41.5%	107
Enhancing or preserving wetlands	37.6%	97
Social events occurring around the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes	33.3%	86
Watercraft operation regulations – lake specific, local and statewide	28.3%	73
Volunteer lake monitoring opportunities	26.7%	69
Not interested in learning more on any of these subjects	8.9%	23
Other (please specify)	5.4%	14
<b>answered question</b>		<b>258</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>18</b>



Number	Other (please specify)
1	not sure
2	Stocking of fish as fishing is declining rapidly
3	My neighbor uses fireworks for months. Limit the use to one week
4	fish stocking and habitat
5	Water Quality = Big Deal!
6	I am not in favor of "fish Sticks" for improvement of fish habitat. I am concerned about the potential of injury to boats or people.
7	Any and all potential changes to anything relating to the chain and any possible deviations from current operations (i.e. dam, new boat ramps, condo piers, whatever)
8	how new shoreland zoning rules will ruin our shorelines
9	Geese control
10	affects of methods on downstream
11	I would like to learn more of why we cannot manage our own water areas to control all of the weeds, to remove the wet leaves and "gunk" and get back to a sand bottom without the threat of the DNR taking us to court. Doing a dredge would only help the bays and increase the water flow, draw more animals and birds and fish to the bays.....it's impossible trying to work with the DNR and because of that, we are going to sell. My family has been here for over 85 years but we are done and fed up! I do not want to own on this chain anymore, we do not want all of the threats being hung over our heads. I don't think that we should live in "fear" of taking care of our own property. we should be able to enhance our shoreline with a beautiful riprap or something similar. The DNR averts their eyes when a very wealthy woman dumps millions putting in a beautiful shoreline for her properties, but when it comes to us, we will be hugely fined, and threatened to have irrevocable restrictions put on our property forever. We're done, disgusted, and done.
12	Algae Blooms, Cause of, Threat/reason to be concerned?
13	How to make my shore more friendly to fish and clean water
14	Managing walleye fisheries

**25. Through what medium do you prefer to learn about educational topics such as those presented in Question #24?**

Answer Options	Response	Response
	Percent	Count
E-mailed pamphlets / newsletters	51.5%	134
Mailed pamphlets / newsletters	33.1%	86
Presentations to the general public	20.0%	52
Classes made available to the general public	14.2%	37
No preference / Unsure	11.2%	29
Other (please specify)	5.8%	15
<b>answered question</b>		<b>260</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>16</b>

*Note: An error occurred during the early stages of the survey, resulting in several survey respondents having a single choice option for Question #25. The question format was changed soon into the process, allowing respondents to "select all that apply". It is assumed the first 56 respondents selected their top choice as they were not able to select more than one choice.*

Number	Other (please specify)
1	Wrote 'SHORT' next to mailed pamphlets/newsletters.
2	Lakeland Times Newspaper
3	Nibbles and Knowledge - Discovery center
4	Presentation need to be quick and basic to keep interest.
5	Discovery Center
6	Specified that presentations and classes should be 'summer'
7	FACEBOOK
8	doesn't allow for more than 1 selection. Approve of all educational efforts
9	question would not allow multiple answers
10	presentations, classes, emailed info (can't choose all three above as was indicated I could)
11	mailed pamphlets/newsletters; presentations to gen public; classes made available to gen public
12	It wouldn't let me select more than one. E-mail, presentations, classes.
13	all of above means of communication
14	Most of the above, mailings, presentations, and classes
15	won't let me select more than one

**North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC), Manitowish Waters Lakes Association (MWLA), and Town Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership (TAISP)**

**26. Before receiving this mailing, have you ever heard of the NLDC?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.3%	234
No	9.7%	25
<b>answered question</b>		<b>259</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>17</b>

**27. What is your membership status with the NLDC?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Current member	33.6%	78
Former member	13.4%	31
Never been a member	53.0%	123
<b>answered question</b>		<b>232</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>44</b>

**28. Before receiving this mailing, have you ever heard of the MWLA?**

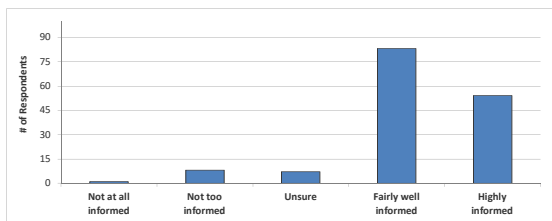
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.9%	238
No	8.1%	21
<b>answered question</b>		<b>259</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>17</b>

**29. What is your membership status with the MWLA?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Current member	63.2%	151
Former member	11.3%	27
Never been a member	25.5%	61
<b>answered question</b>		<b>239</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>37</b>

**30. How informed has the MWLA kept you regarding issues with your lake and its management?**

Answer Options	Not at all informed	Not too informed	Unsure	Fairly well informed	Highly informed	Response Count
	1	8	7	83	54	153
<b>answered question</b>						<b>153</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>123</b>

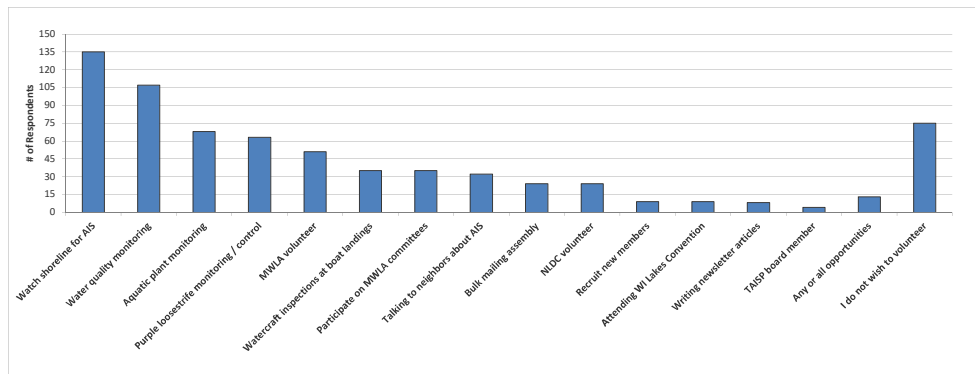


**31. Before receiving this mailing, have you ever heard of the TAISP?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.8%	54
No	79.2%	205
<b>answered question</b>		<b>259</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>17</b>

**32. The effective management of the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes will require the cooperative efforts of numerous volunteers. Please circle the activities you would be willing to participate in if the NLDC, MWLA or TAISP requires additional assistance.**

Answer Options	Response	Response
	Percent	Count
Watch shoreline for aquatic invasive species	52.5%	135
Water quality monitoring	41.6%	107
Aquatic plant monitoring through Lake Captain and Deckhand Program	26.5%	68
Purple loosestrife monitoring / control	24.5%	63
MWLA volunteer	19.8%	51
Watercraft inspections at boat landings	13.6%	35
Participate on MWLA committees	13.6%	35
Talking to neighbors about AIS	12.5%	32
Bulk mailing assembly	9.3%	24
NLDC volunteer	9.3%	24
Recruit new members	3.5%	9
Attending Wisconsin Lakes Convention	3.5%	9
Writing newsletter articles	3.1%	8
TAISP board member	1.6%	4
Any or all opportunities	5.1%	13
I do not wish to volunteer	29.2%	75
<b>answered question</b>		<b>257</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>19</b>



**33. Please feel free to provide written comments concerning the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes, their current and/or historic condition and management.**

Answer Options	Response
<b>answered question</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>184</b>

Number	Response Text
1	Thank you for doing this. I've just returned to the area and don't know much about the issues.
2	Employed by DNR- Fishery 30 yrs
3	To Whom It May Concern. This does not apply to me anymore. I do not live on any water, I live near it. I have not been on any of the lakes or rivers for a long time, (about 5 years), so I have no idea what they are like. I'm sorry I could not be of more help.
4	FIX THE REST LAKE BOAT LANDING. BACKUP TO LONG.
5	primary goal should be maintaining our wonderful lakes.
6	I worry with the latest bills about to be passed, tat our wetlands and water quality will be compromised. We love the area because it's not highly developed or polluted.
7	Concerned with no survey questions about dam drawdown water levels etc
8	could use more monitoring of no wake areas
9	WI DNR is doing a bad job on fish, wolves, spearing. We should put them in charge of ISIS so in a few years all the ISIS would be gone. Weeds and wild rice getting heavier all the time. Fishing is declining and will be like Minocqua chain in a few years. There are some clubs trying hard to do good but with the DNR doing bad the good can not keep up with the bad. I am on a few different organizations in this area so I do know what is going on. Not just the spearing but also over harvesting by fisherman also. Not hard to figure if you kill the females before they lay their eggs do not need to be a Road Scholar to see what happens. State need to trade spearing for gambling -- so simple !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Need to lower bag limits or no bag limits until population improves. Our resorts are mostly gone anyway.
10	less of a draw down in the fall, better monitoring of the cranberry bog run off, which relates to my concern of excessive weed development on the channel between wild rice and alder lake
11	Highly support the drawdown of MWC to stay the same as it has been. We do not want to remove piers. We need better coverage of the no wake zone. People leaving in those areas should be able to help the water patrol because this has totally gotten out of control. People are going full throttle in no wake areas. People are chasing wildlife. We need signage to stop cigarette butts from being thrown into the water at least at every boat landing. I would love to support these items as I am on the river and see people destroy my shores, docks, and pollute!! People are not taking the safety of novice canoer's into account. I see so many camps that send the children out and they should be safe in a no wake zone but I have to constantly remind boaters to be careful AND lower their wake. Also, the water patrol does not enforce this enough. Let' come up with a definition of no wake means and START enforcing it. People living on the river will help. Tired of the rude comments and getting the middle finger or people just turn their heads away from you and we are just simply say slow down please. Or "it's a no wake zone". I am not naive to this issue, I am sure some people do not say it nicely! Whatever - something needs to be done about this issue IMMEDIATELY. This problem has really escalated over the years. I enjoy the 4th of July fireworks on Rest Lake. I enjoy all the parks on Rest lake, would like to see more on other lakes in the chain. I would LOVE to see the bike trail extend from Grier's Pier to the park/library. We ride bikes all the time/walk those areas all the time and it always worries me until we get to location. That is part of Manitowish Waters too! I see large groups walking and worry for their safety on Hwy 50 with the way people text while they drive. That is an accident waiting to happen for families. I would love to see some treadmills for public use in community center. Would also love to see a hitting board at the tennis courts to hit against if you want to practice and have no partner. Thank you for your time.
12	Thanks for caring!
13	Extremely concerned and adverse to the shoreline next to Rest Lake Park being sold and developed.
14	hope special interests and well connected political donors don't degrade the aesthetics of the chain.
15	Spearing has hurt fishing. Everybody knows it, but few will say it.
16	Enjoy everything connected with the Manitowish Waters chain of Lakes.
17	I hope we can continue to have the lake drawdown because it will require much shoreline damage to have to pull boat lifts and piers out every year.
18	The chain has held up very well during the last 60 years in spite of all the new building around the lakes.
19	Keep ATV use away from our community especially on lake shore.
20	A life long treasure that needs nurturing and care. A resource for all.

21	I live on the Manitowish River between Boulder Lake and Island Lake. I boat the river each year several times so I consider myself to be a stakeholder. I support silent sports.
22	The wild rice spreading between Alder and Wild Rice that is out of control on the Trout river is a man-made problem created by Ducks Unlimited 20 years ago by artificial seeding. It has restricted boat traffic, water activities and reduced property values
23	I believe the water quality is about the same since I started fishing on the chain 15+ years ago. The fishing has been poor for the last 5 years and I believe it is a cyclical type thing. There are fish but not as many and not as big as they used to be.
24	I feel the biggest threat now might be the fear by walleye fisherman that bass are the reason for there low number. I know of no really study that supports these claims. I believe more likely is overharvesting of walleye as an issue.
25	I will volunteer when my schedule is more stable. I think the biggest threat to our chain of lakes is the unrestricted and unchecked impact from the cranberry bogs.
26	Note: Question #23- under option H wrote "What are they? All natural products that will not damage environment or water quality I hope" Biggest concerns for me are 1. consistent water levels of the chain all year round. Also (2) spiny water fleas- I have many red bumps on my skin from their bites. I want to know more about how to deal with spiny water fleas. 3. Regulations on jet skis- times they can run- how far from shore, etc. 4. Noise Pollution- radios, jet skis, barking dogs, various machines working noise. Thanks for asking.
27	Unbelievable quality of life. Nature at its best.
28	I am extremely worried about the potentially devastating impact of the DNR's ongoing agenda & bias toward the down river interests, and lack of concern for the economic impact on the MW Chain of Lakes if near shore vegetation is encouraged by their preferred water levels.
29	The Chain has been blessed by the enlightened leadership of the MWLA and its level of activity and involvement must be sustained and increased.
30	Continued lowering of the chain is destroying many natural habitats and should be stopped.
31	Alder Lake has become extremely weedy and fishing quality has declined significantly in last 5 years. Starting in July the southern (shallow) end is too weedy to fish with lures. We especially like to fish for crappies with minnows. We are not very sophisticated (or effective fishermen), however 5-10 years ago we would frequently catch Walleye and Smallmouth Bass while doing so. In the last few years, we have caught only 1 Walleye and 1 Smallmouth per season. It also used to be a common occurrence to have a Musky attack your Crappie or perch while reeling it in. That hasn't happened for several years now.
32	We have noted significantly more oil & floating debris within the lake's bay area in addition to more issues with swimmer's itch (attributing to snail populations?) over the past 4-5 years. We have significant concerns with a lowered water level which would significantly affect the shoreline/dock structure of our property and that of our neighbors. Unfortunately, as out-of-state property owners, our ability to assist with management and volunteer efforts is limited. However, as we have over 40 years of involvement & memories in the MW community and lake chain, we do have a vested interest in sustaining the lake quality and community experience.
33	Note: In #11 and #12, made a note that it was specifically the walleye fishery that they thought was very poor and much worse. I need to be more educated in regards to all of this. Would love to have more information to read. Keep me on mailing list for all information.
34	Does excellent work
35	I do not believe lowering the water level in the fall to such a degree is good for fishing- lower only 1 ft.
36	I am in favor of the winter drawdown to prevent some shoreline erosion. Light pollution is a significant issue and is particularly bad at some locations on the rivers. It makes water navigation at night hazardous and vastly degrades star watching. Noise is not a big issue on the chain. Boat wake on the rivers is a big problem especially if weather is threatening during Music in the Park. Lines of boats come past my No Wake property at full speed sometimes over 40MPH. I recognize some of the boats and for the most part they are lake residents. The bike path is wonderful and the town looks amazing with great choices for dining and entertainment. I have some issues with Liz's planning and funding (being offered the Rest Lake DNR property as a political donation favor), but for the most part she has been very generous and has contributed greatly to the health of the town, which seemed to be in a death spiral until she became involved. Smokey's, Dixies, The Lodge, Koller Park, Rest Lake Park, The Pavilion, and gifts to Camp Jom and The discovery Center and the town have improved it dramatically as has Parkside, The Village Market, The Pea Patch, and Dietz's. Special thanks to all the volunteers, especially Barry.
37	1. We enjoy current status of the Chain and AIS work being done. 2. Am not in favor of any mandatory buffer zones. 3. Two issues hinder any remaining resorts on the chain for a family fishing destination for walleyes: smallmouth (which eat rusty crayfish) and crappies, as well as us part-time fishermen, and the spring walleye spearing of pre-spawned females and the 40" minimal size for musky's. Any 40+ musky is at the top of the food chain and really has no predators- especially promoting catch and release. A fishing show in Minnesota showed guides catching large (16"-20") smallmouths and one was swallowed whole by a 53" musky that they landed. Other game fish fry are devoured by these big predators, thus reducing their survivability, no more musky stocking.
38	I appreciate every effort the MWLA and lake management have done to protect this beautiful chain! Thank you all!
39	my schedule at this time does not allow me to volunteer
40	I think all residents and seasonal residents need to be aware and educated. They get so caught up in their needs that they don't think about the needs of nature. We need to be reasonable but I think some more boat restrictions are needed. Also there needs to be more police patrols around the lakes especially in the busy areas of Spider Lake and Rest
41	In order to be TRUE stewards of the lakes and rivers (including downstream MW river) we should LEAVE the water in the chain during the winter months. If you can afford to live on this chain, you can afford an aerator for your boathouse, or you can afford to pay to take your dock out. Spring refill drowns countless nesting birds upstream of the dam and starves the river downstream of needed natural flooding in the spring affecting spawning fish. Unfortunately, MW is becoming a haven for the ultra rich who are climate warming deniers and have NO land ethic.
42	Too old to volunteer (80). Wild rice plantings were a huge mistake. Weeds take over Manitowish River and Rice Creek. I have lived on Manitowish River since 1962.
43	I am concerned about the negative effects of the pesticides used on cranberry bogs being discharged into the Chain.
44	I am concerned about the geese that fly over from Lake Nelson. People are feeding the geese and they are leaving a mess on our lake.
45	I feel that some very large oversized boats and jet ski's that are on the lake come to close to the shoreline and docks at quite high speed. This is not needed.
46	Great to hear that there is a concerted effort to keep the chain clean. I will volunteer more once I retire and can spend more time up there.
47	The proliferation of lawns at the lake shore and the fertilization of those lawns has had a negative impact on the water quality of the system.
48	Initial water rise after installation of the dam created lots of good fish cover. As time has passed the diminishing cover has affected fishing. Also rusty crayfish decimated walleye which have now been largely replaced by bass - less desirable.
49	Personally, I think it was a huge mistake to try to eliminate the rusty crayfish. I understand that it is an invasive species. Nonetheless, it has been present since I was a kid...40 plus years ago. Since the trapping, the chain now has an uncontrollable snail problem and the weeds have become more prevalent. It has gotten so bad that the family can no longer swim in front of our place due to the weeds and the swimmers itch that one gets from wading through the them. Bring back the rusty crayfish.
50	continue interest in water quality through the responsible operation of the dam to minimize high and low flows.
51	all is for naught unless we get the dam issue firmly and finally resolved
52	Please, let the water flow naturally, or at least more naturally.
53	Please provide high speed internet.
54	Bring back walleye fishery
55	Go back and look at the reason the chain was created as it has been for the last 80 years. There was a reason for the dam and it wasn't to maintain the sturgeon. We are just very sad that we have to worry about our shoreline and our hands are tied. There is nothing we can do but take the abuse. So as I said previously. We don't want to be owners because we can't do anything about saving our shore, and we don't have endless of millions of dollars to pay off the government and the DNR.
56	MWCL is doing a great job!
57	A few months ago I inherited my parent's property on the chain; unsure of what my involvement will be in the future, I or I will decide to sell the property or keep it. I have been visiting their place on the chain for many years but have not paid much attention to any of this in the past; did my best to answer the questions.
58	I greatly appreciate the efforts and activities of MWLA and the Discovery Center to maintain the quality of the lake system.
59	Although invasive species are indeed a potential threat to our waters, the single largest issue we are facing is the Native population and their seemingly unregulated spearing of cecetible spawning Walleye & Muskie.
60	Invasive species is now a visual problem, one of which we want to stop before swimming etc becomes unpleasant on the chain.
61	I would like to learn more about the erosion of shoreline protective laws recently passed and the specific Vilas county land that is for sale by the State
62	I didn't notice wild rice on the list (may have missed it). It has impacted navigation up stream for both Rice Creek and the Manitowish River from Island Lake. We have upgraded our septic and maintain it more often than required. Of course, the water quality is enormously important. If there is a problem, residents should know. That is one of my concerns of using herbicides and dredging techniques to solve the invasive plant issues. When I camped with Manitowish, we drank water treated with halozone out of the lake.

63	The MWLA, in partnership with NLDC and TAISP has been doing an outstanding job with education, prevention and control of AIS. The DNR grants have helped maintain and improve the overall health of the MW Chain.
64	Pre-spearing you could go out nearly anytime and catch walleyes (not necessarily keepers, but at least catch fish). You can now go days at a time without a walleye bite. Panfish populations seem to be low, but I don't often fish for them. When taking kids fishing, don't catch many though. If we have to continue to allow spawning fish to be killed, then an annual stocking program must be introduced to offset all the lost fish. Fishing this past season was the worst I can recall in over a quarter century of fishing the chain. Also, one very big, and dangerous, issue - water skiers are often coming extremely close to fisherman, far less than the state law allows. Yet the DNR does nothing about it. Start ticketing these idiots before they get someone killed.
65	Who wants to vacation to fish for one or two walleye. We need to plant fish, improve the habitat and restrict spearing in mating season and perhaps short term close or slot limit
66	I'm very educated about aquatic plants in Wisconsin waters and am in large support to manage invasive plants. I've personally done surveys and treatments and in my opinion, educating the public and getting as many eyes as possible on the water is the best and cheapest way to do this. Who should people contact should someone like myself find an invasive to help manage a found population?
67	We are fairly new to the area, but I am heartened by the presence of these concerned groups. Management is very definitely needed.
68	noticed a lot of grass around town. are chemicals being used on it? would like to see public areas keep more natural vegetation.
69	Thank you for your excellent work!
70	Currently the wild rice is overtaking some of the navigable channels and with the no wake in place the waters are becoming very choked out. They are no longer suitable for fishing, swimming or any other water activities. I also think that the quality of the water is being destroyed by the decaying and stagnant water that is trapped in the rice paddies. The fishing is no longer what it once was, but with the added amount of fishermen and of course spearing and over harvesting we will never have what was once a chain where you could actually catch panfish larger than 5 inches.
71	I think the MWTS associations should get together with the DNR and Indian Affairs and kill off the invasive species at the source, such as Rice Creek. It's a waste of money just to kill off the problem after it leaves the source like we are doing now. With the new idea of the DNR selling off green space for example on Rest Lake, a committee should be formed to stop this, otherwise the ambience of the Northwood will be gone through over development.
72	I was introduced to Benson lake 60 years ago but we have had a cabin on Stepping Stones for 59 years and we proudly bring visitors to our area for the natural values that we treasure. So we applaud the efforts to preserve and enhance these values and will support all our efforts. Thanks.
73	Thanks for your efforts to preserve and protect our chain Are algae blooms something to be concerned about? What causes them?
74	I would be very interested in learning more about our lake quality. I have read more about Minnesota lakes and that is very concerning- especially their studies showing many lakes are not recoverable from their current status.
75	Right or wrong, the chain is dominated by a high level of residential investment. While the value of that investment is dependent of the general water quality in the chain, the methods used and the extent to which they are used has to be tempered by the recreational use of the existing landowners. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
76	i responded to not volunteer , as at this time my time is too limited to do a fair job as a volunteer but in the future i may be able too, glad to see interest in keeping the quality of out lakes
77	Compared to the "old" days, July and August are a zoo on the lakes while may, June. September the lakes are a virtual ghost town. Fishing wise, it was much easier to catch walleyes in the old days, today it is much harder and there are too many largemouth in our lakes.
78	Overall the lakes are in wonderful condition and I'd like them to stay that way! I also want the dam to continue it's current operations.
79	Thank you to all who are striving to maintain and improve our lakes and property.
80	Increase the fish population, Miss catching bluegills!
81	Fishing results the past few years are alarming and not at all like that which we experienced forty years ago.
82	It is good to see things like this survey & the 3 groups that are trying to help with what are real issues
83	the whole rest lake dam controversy was due to stupid dnr personnel who are arrogant and ignorant. I trust nothing they say or do. They lie and cheat and will do it right to your face. What a waste of tax payer funds. Leave the dam alone- it has worked fine for all these years.
84	More stocking of wallies and working with the tribes to stop or limit spearing.
85	I believe that tribal overharvesting is why the fishing has gone down hill. The plant overgrowth started about 7yrs. ago. The year the DNR messed with the Rest lake dam and we had a drought summer the same year. That is when the weeds started to take over. I fish a lot and the routes I use to take before that year I could no longer use because the weeds choked out my motor.
86	Good you are doing this. Might draw more people in. I have been wanting to join discovery center for years but just didn't do it. Maybe I will now.
87	Not happy with the transformation from small town resort oriented way of life, into snob-infested, 6 week vacation destination for those with more money than brains!
88	Would like to see better enforcement of shore land development, (i.e. less shoreline habitat destruction by homeowners), ban on any and all fireworks in Manitowish township and surrounding townships. More stringent enforcement of high powered boats/boaters abusing the chain (i.e. in "no wake"/Loon zones, near piers, swimming areas, etc.)
89	All of this is tied directly to the dam operation and maintaining a quality water level.
90	As previously stated, I am concerned that chemical treatment for killing invasive weeds might be killing off other aquatic plants and affecting the fish population, (walleyes). Since they started treating for invasive weeds I have noticed a lot of dead cattails along shorelines near treated areas. Also, the recent shoreline survey of young of year walleyes on Rest Lake was at a record low with only 1.7 fish per mile of shoreline! Do we really know if these chemicals aren't doing more harm than good? Rest Lake was once one of the best walleye lakes in the county, but now it's very hard to find a walleye, and I don't believe it's due to over fishing or an overall change in water quality, (except possibly chemical treatment). I haven't really seen the overall water quality change in the past 15 years.
91	dropping the water level hurts the fishery and I lose 2-3 months of dock usage and it helps what?
92	Over the past 20 years walleye fishing has been steadily declining, until 5 years ago when the fishing basically went into a steep decline. A holistic review of the chain's management (including fishing) should be conducted scientifically to create a management plan. With the assault on DNR funding and staffing I fear scientific management of the MW chain will be replaced by economic interests.