

# 2007 Northwest Paddler Survey



[http://www.wta.org/about\\_us/2007\\_NW\\_Paddler\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.wta.org/about_us/2007_NW_Paddler_Survey.pdf)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **Page**

<b>3</b>	<b>Background, Purpose, Confidence, and Acknowledgements</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>General Demographic Results</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Overall Opinion Results</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Comparison of Results Between 2002 WWTA Survey and 2007 WWTA Survey</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>New Survey Questions for WWTA Members</b>
<b>53</b>	<b>Comparison of This Survey Data with 3 Other Surveys</b>
<b>57</b>	<b>Mandatory Boater Education; a More Detailed Look</b>
<b>61</b>	<b>Mandatory Wearing of a PFD; a More Detailed Look</b>
<b>65</b>	<b>Mandatory Registration of Paddle craft; a More Detailed Look</b>
<b>68</b>	<b>Appendix</b>

## Background, Purpose, Confidence, and Acknowledgements

This survey was conducted from April 10 to June 9, 2007 using the professional edition of SurveyMonkey online. It brought together several interests of Gerry Hodge, a numbers guy and data analyst who was working through the University of Washington Program Evaluation Certificate Program. Gerry chose Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA) as the non-profit organization to donate his efforts toward to complete his obligations to the Program Evaluation course. Gerry was already familiar with the WWTA, being a member for a few years, a site steward, and the WWTA representative to the Washington State Parks Boating Safety Advisory Council.

The survey was designed to serve several masters:

- A previous survey done for WWTA in 2002 by Iris Mondri-Kish needed a follow-up
- WWTA needed additional evaluation and marketing information
- Baseline opinions were needed by those representing paddlers in the political arena
- A Washington State Boaters Survey was done early in 2007 which excluded paddlers
- Legislation passed in the 06-07 session mandated a survey be done to assess boater needs and this survey could be a vehicle for increased exposure on that survey

Based upon a sample size of 534 in a population estimated at 5000, the sampling error for this survey is approximately 4.01% at a 95% confidence interval (that's good!). The population polled is not just paddlers, but involved paddlers (see the list of solicited groups on page 69). In addition, the respondents are self-selected and may represent a subset of involved paddlers with more informed opinions. With those limitations, you can understand the opinions expressed on this survey cannot be attributed or transferred to the casual boater who happens to use a paddle.

Acknowledgement needs to be given to Dr. Bill Leon of the University of Washington, Reed Waite and Sarah Krueger of the Washington Water Trails Association, and the members of the South Sound Area Kayakers whose valuable piloting of the survey cemented its validity.

## Summary

The first section of this survey (p.6) deals with general demographics. There are no appreciable differences between paddlers in the Northwest and the paddlers in other parts of the country. There is a stronger tendency toward a higher education level and household income level than other segments of the population. The respondents to this survey also represented a well-rounded image of the paddling community.

The second section of this survey (p.15) compiles paddler's opinions on several subjects. Respondents want more public access and more public facilities. Conflict with other recreational users and within the paddling community itself is delineated (p.28). The value of law enforcement in the eyes of paddlers (p.30) is actually quite low, only 24% feel more is needed. Environmental issues all ranked high on paddler's lists of concerns (p.31). Litter and waste disposal were the most concerning, but the question didn't allow for identifying the litterbugs as paddlers or other recreational users. Permits and fees were less of a factor in deterring paddling activity than other reasons (p.26).

The knowledge level of the Leave No Trace (LNT) program (p.31) was divided between WWTA members (190) and non-members (344). There was a clear difference in results reflecting the positive efforts of WWTA in promoting LNT. Amazingly, every one of the 190 WWTA respondents had some familiarity with Leave No Trace.

Of the 344 non-WWTA members, 51% said they knew very little about WWTA (p.32). The other half not only knew about WWTA, but also had a good grasp on what WWTA does.

One of the reasons for doing this survey was to compare new information to that which was gathered in a 2002 WWTA survey. The sample size for the 2002 survey was 122 and for this 2007 survey is 190 WWTA members. In general, the 2007 results showed paddling activity is less narrowly defined and spans more 'lifestyle' activity choices (Individual, Group/Club, Family, p.40). In addition, paddlers in 2007 are spending many more days on the water (p.40) and are much more likely to belong to other outdoor organizations (p.42).

The reasons given for joining WWTa have also shifted (p.42). Since the Washington State Parks Cascadia Marine Trail Pass no longer exists, there is also a drop in importance in the Cascadia Marine Trail and Access to Water Trails as a reason for joining WWTa. The 2007 reasons showing significant gains are: Advocacy, Information, and Volunteer opportunities. Surprisingly, the importance of the Cascadia Marine Trail Guidebook has dropped as a reason for joining WWTa. Word-of-mouth among the paddling community is the most mentioned way of learning about the Washington Water Trails Association (p.46).

On the subject of where members feel the WWTa budget should be spent (p.44), there are no surprises. Three new questions (advocacy, water trail maps and new sites on existing trails) were added to the survey that were not on the 2002 survey. These additions were probably the reason trail maintenance dropped in importance as members now know WWTa does much more than it used to. In addition, the website gained more favor, possibly as a result of the Internet's increased cultural importance over the last few years.

Clearly, taking the two subjects of "Why did you join?" and "Where should the money go?" members consider WWTa as having a wider influence in the paddling community.

The next section of this survey (p.45) is comprised of new questions concerning WWTa. The results of these will be of interest to WWTa policy-makers, but otherwise are mostly baseline questions for future comparison.

The section beginning on p.53 compares the results of this survey to other recently completed surveys. The 2007 survey of Washington State Registered Boaters shows that paddlers generally rate the value of law enforcement on the water about 22 percentage points lower than registered boaters (p.54). The demographics of the respondents on this survey were a very high match with the Minnesota Seakayaker survey done in 2000. Education, income and gender were almost exact matches. Paddlers have Doctorate and Masters Degrees 4 times higher than the national average and Bachelors Degrees at twice the national

rate. Family incomes over \$100,000 occur at double the state and national rate of average income levels.

Wholehearted support of mandatory boater education for paddlers was less than 15% (p.32). Less experienced paddlers, those who feel more law enforcement is needed on the water, and women are the most tolerant of this concept. Younger people, whitewater paddlers, and those who do not see the need for more law enforcement on the water are most opposed. There is probably a disconnect between paddlers and regulators as to what "education" means. Paddlers immediately think skills-based education while regulators think paper/pencil knowledge-based education on this issue.

Mandatory PFD usage was supported by 83.2% of the respondents (p.32). Canoeists were the least supportive on this issue and since their sample size in this survey was small, no real observations can be made until that sample size is increased.

Mandatory registration of paddle craft is wholeheartedly supported by only 3% of the survey respondents (p.32). Overall, 77% opposed registration. Over 90% of whitewater paddlers were opposed and even 60% of those who feel we need more law enforcement on the water oppose registration of paddle craft.

The appendix of this report (p.68) contains the survey questions and results, with suggestions on how the survey might be changed for the better, if administered in the future. It also contains the names of the organizations contacted to participate in the survey. The process for awarding prizes for responding to the survey is also contained in this section.

Throughout this report are 60 evaluation charts and the individual listings of responses where "other" was a survey choice.

A copy of the Summary alone is available at [http://www.wwta.org/about\\_us/2007\\_NW\\_Paddler\\_Survey\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.wwta.org/about_us/2007_NW_Paddler_Survey_Summary.pdf)

# General Demographics

*Who responded to the survey?*

*Age*

*Paddling experience*

*Gender*

*Education*

*Income*

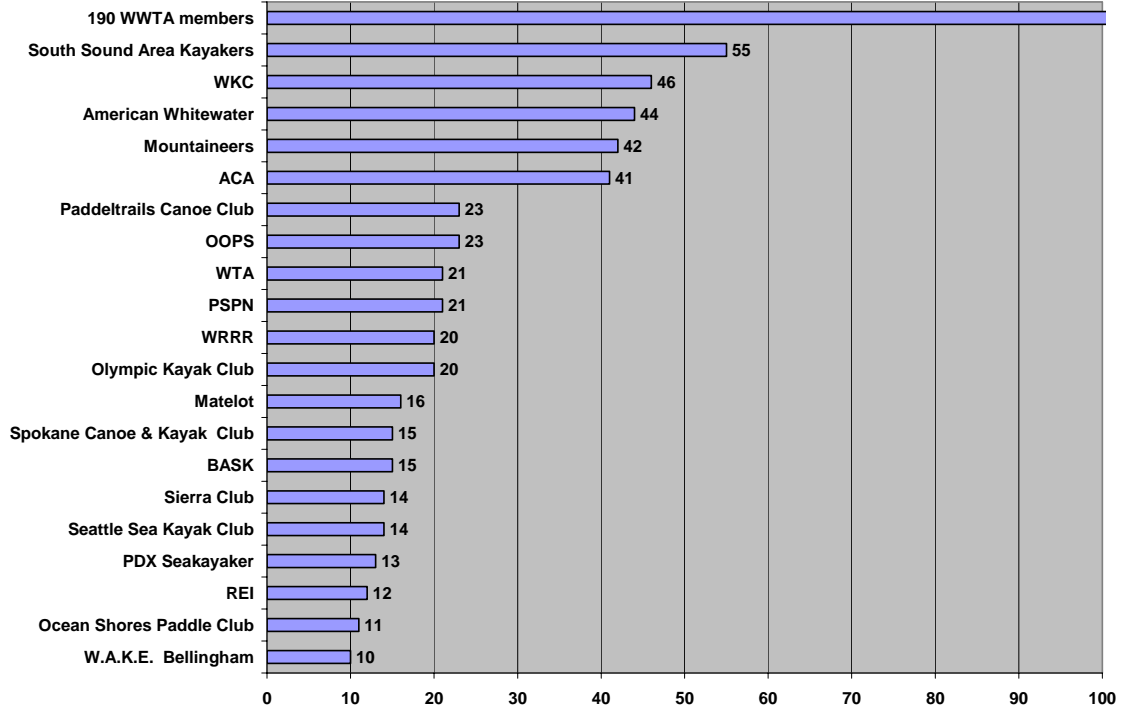
*Residence*

*Places paddled over 200 miles from residence*

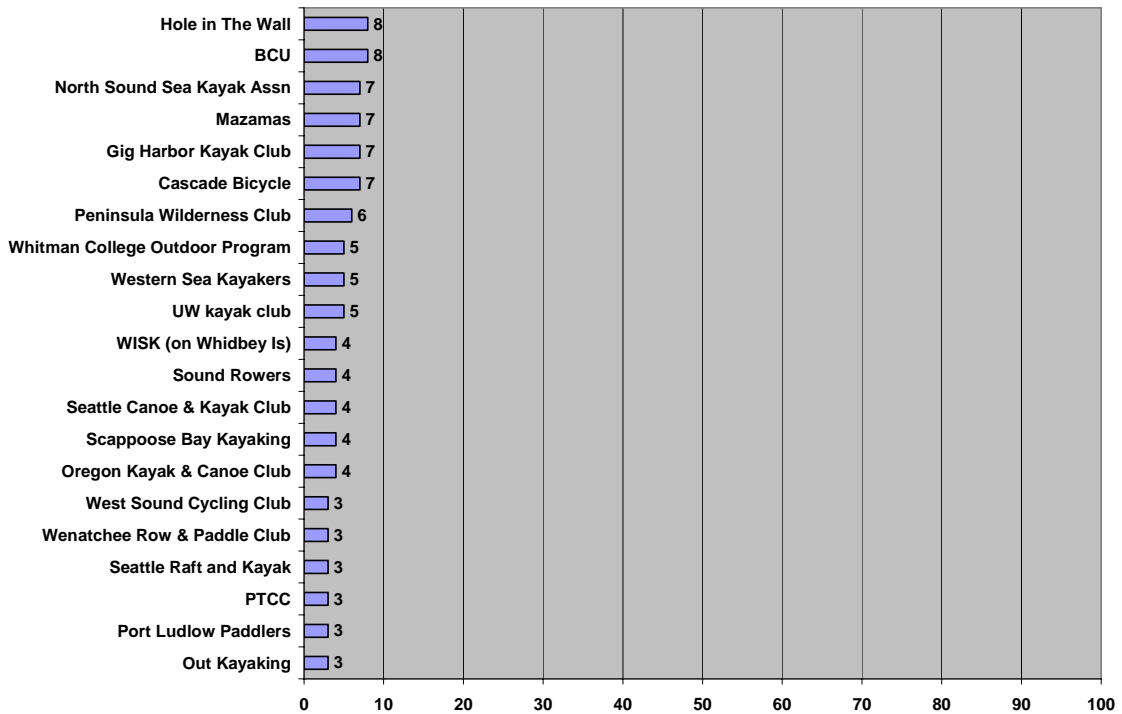
*Ownership of paddle craft*

*Type of paddle craft used*

### Who responded to the survey?

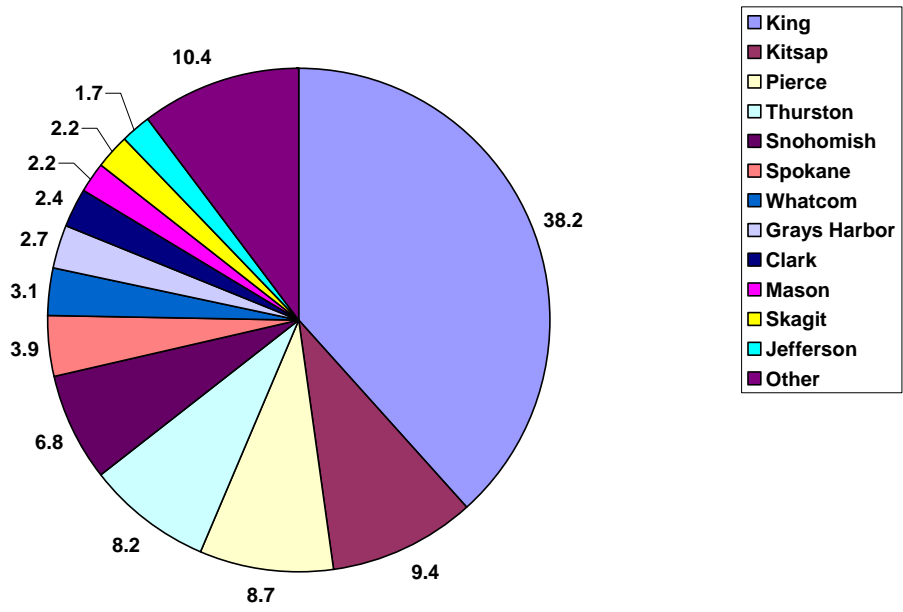


### Who responded to the survey?

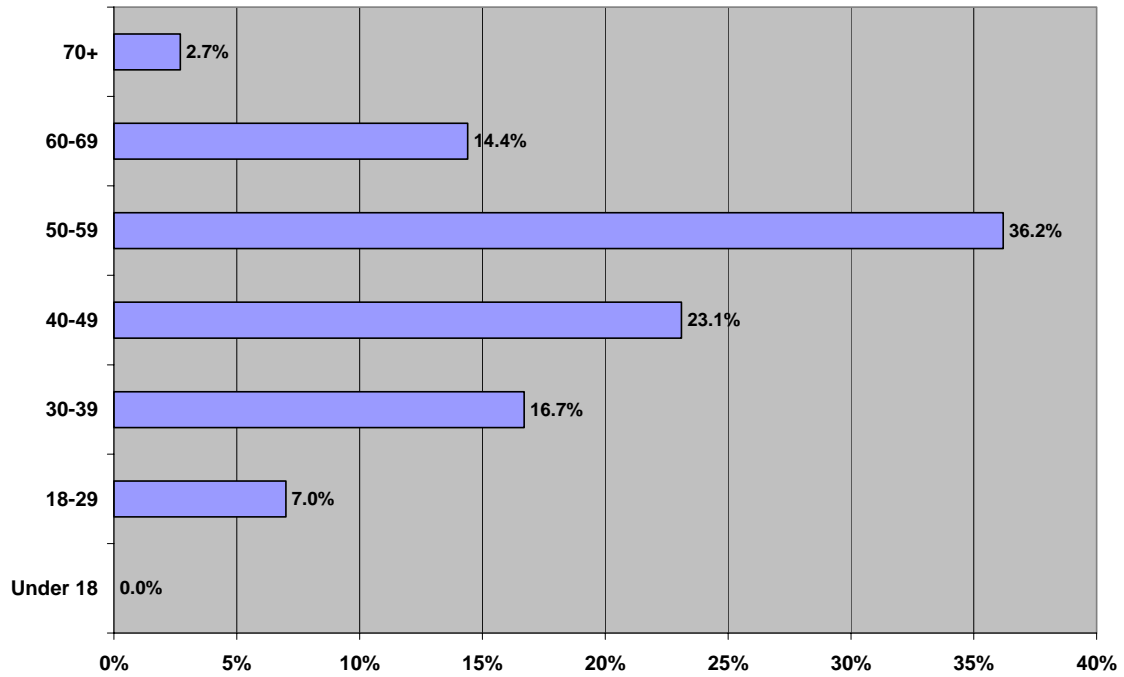




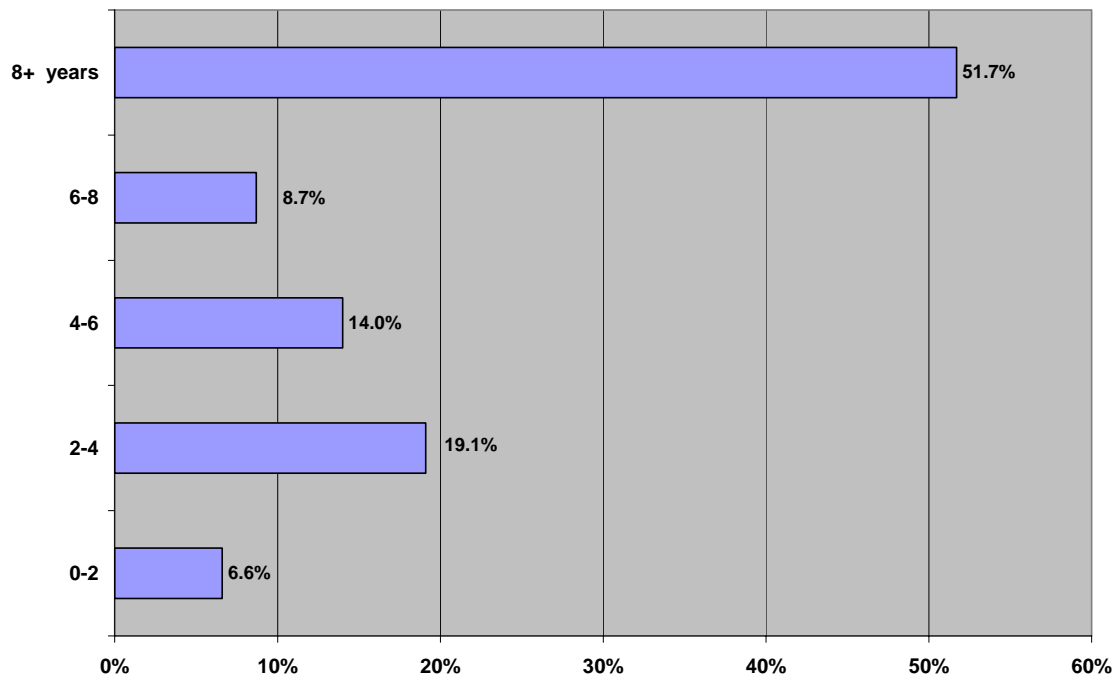
### Percent of 414 Washington Survey Respondents by County



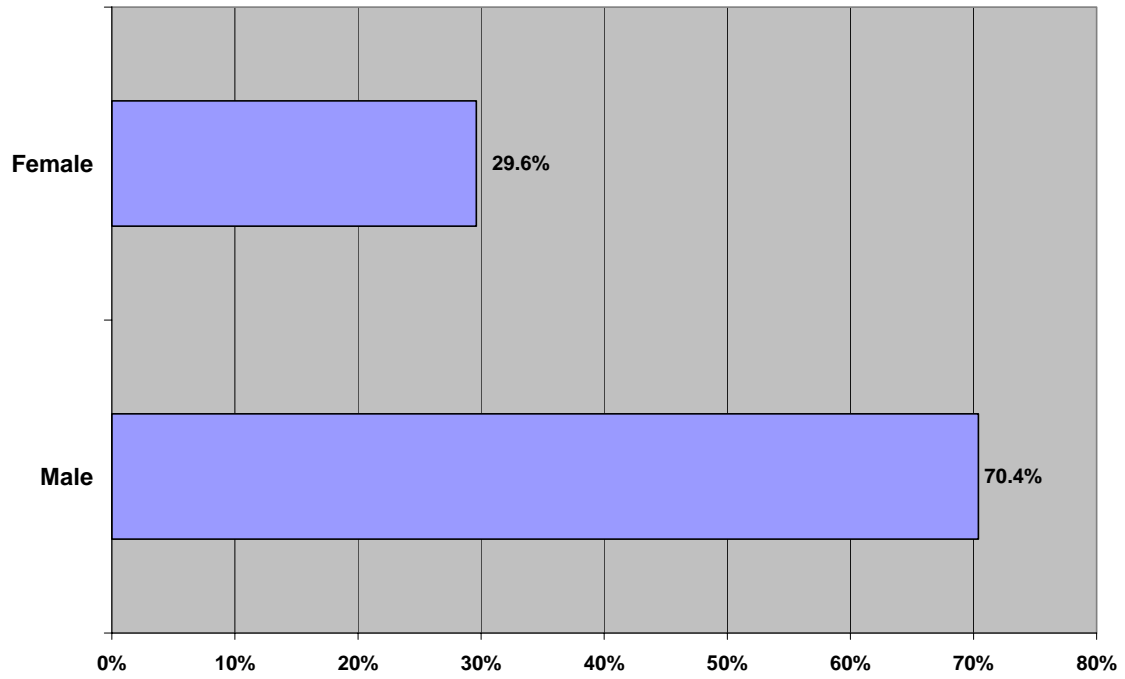
### Age of Respondents



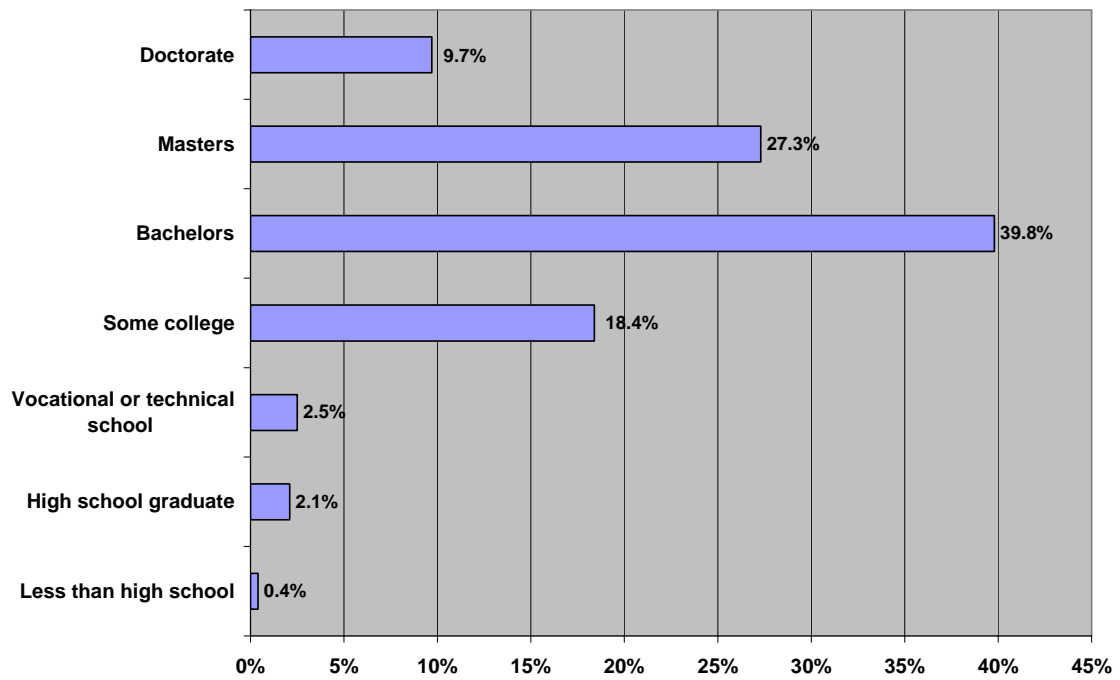
### How many years have you been paddling?



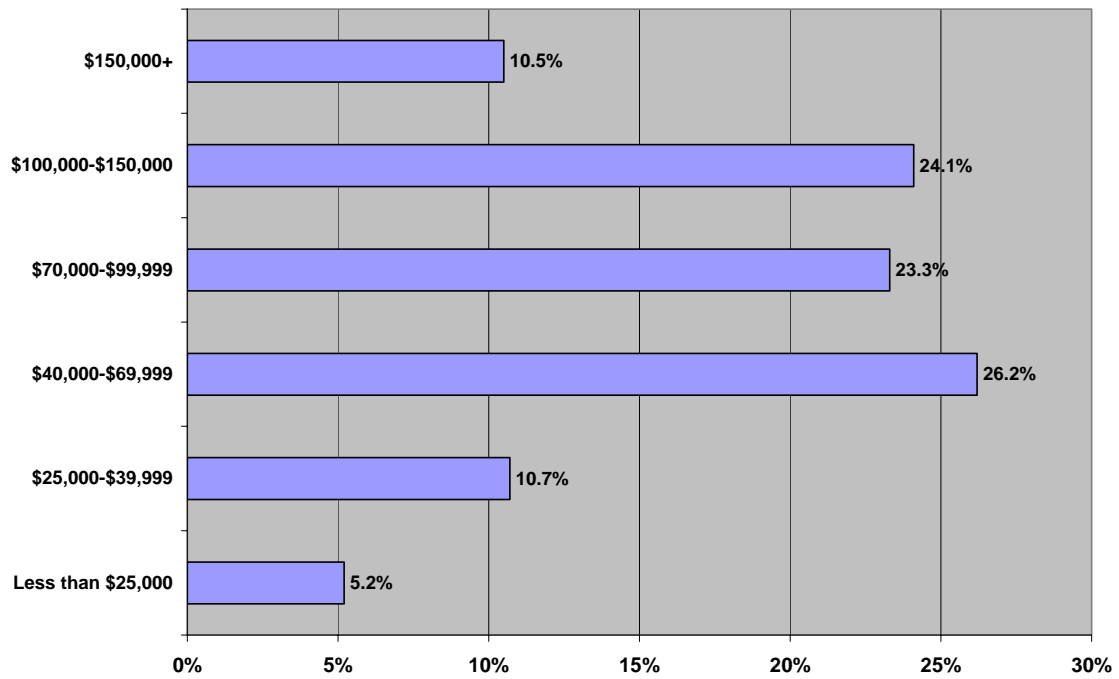
### Gender



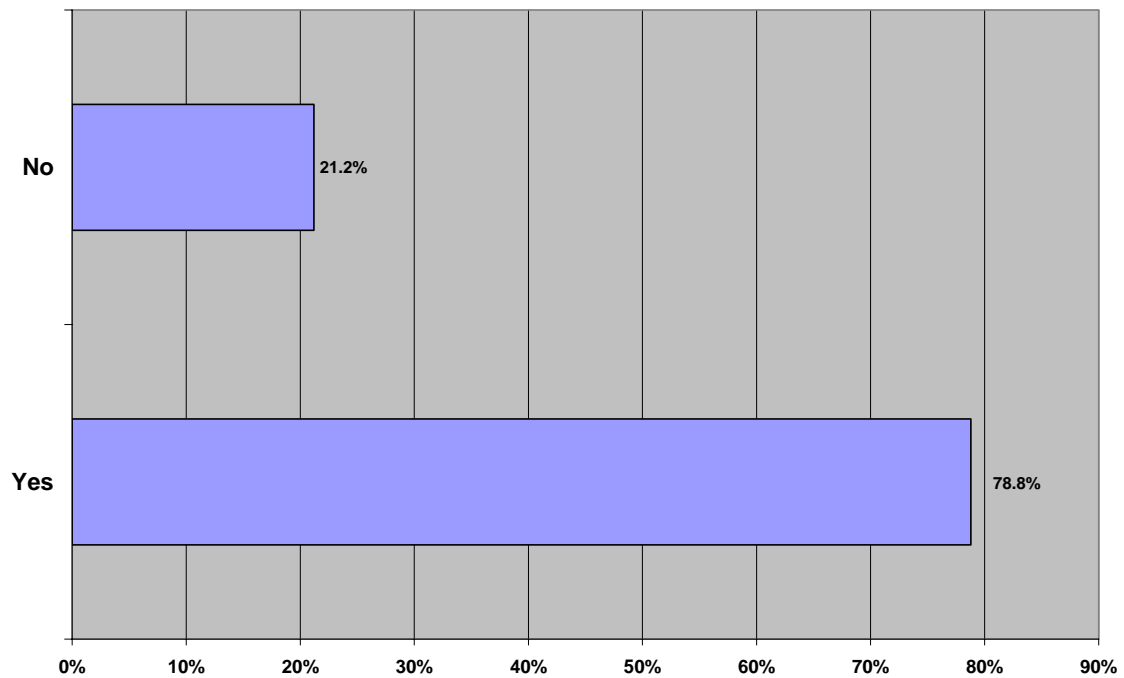
### Education Level of Respondents



### Income Level of Respondents



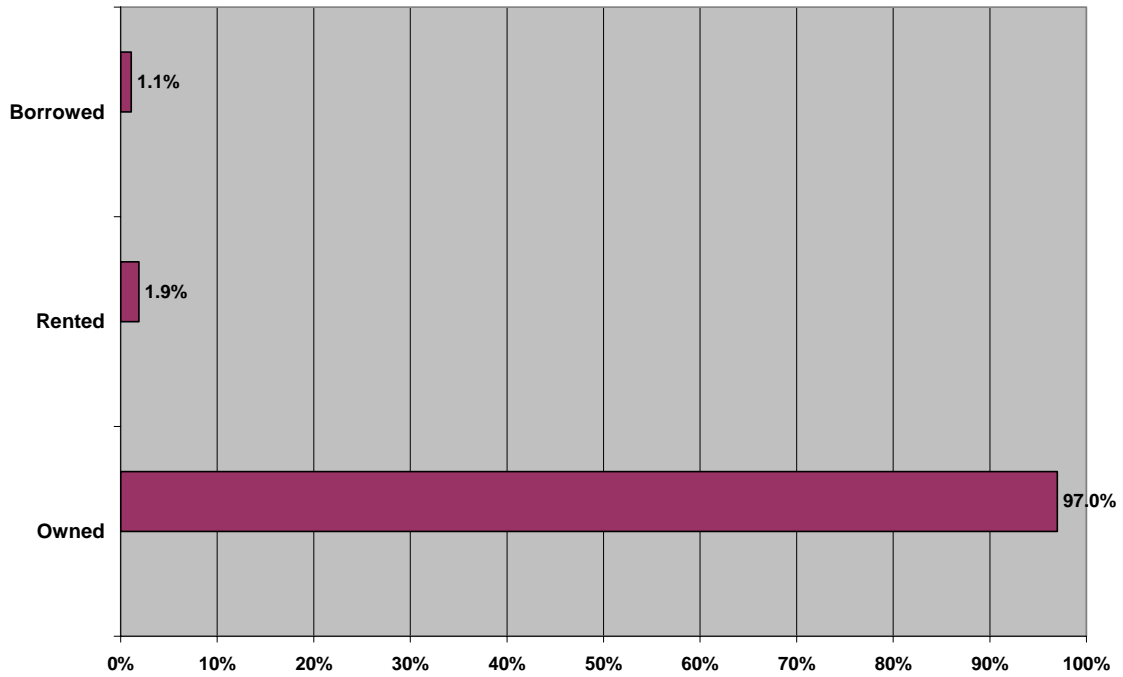
### Do You Live in the State of Washington?



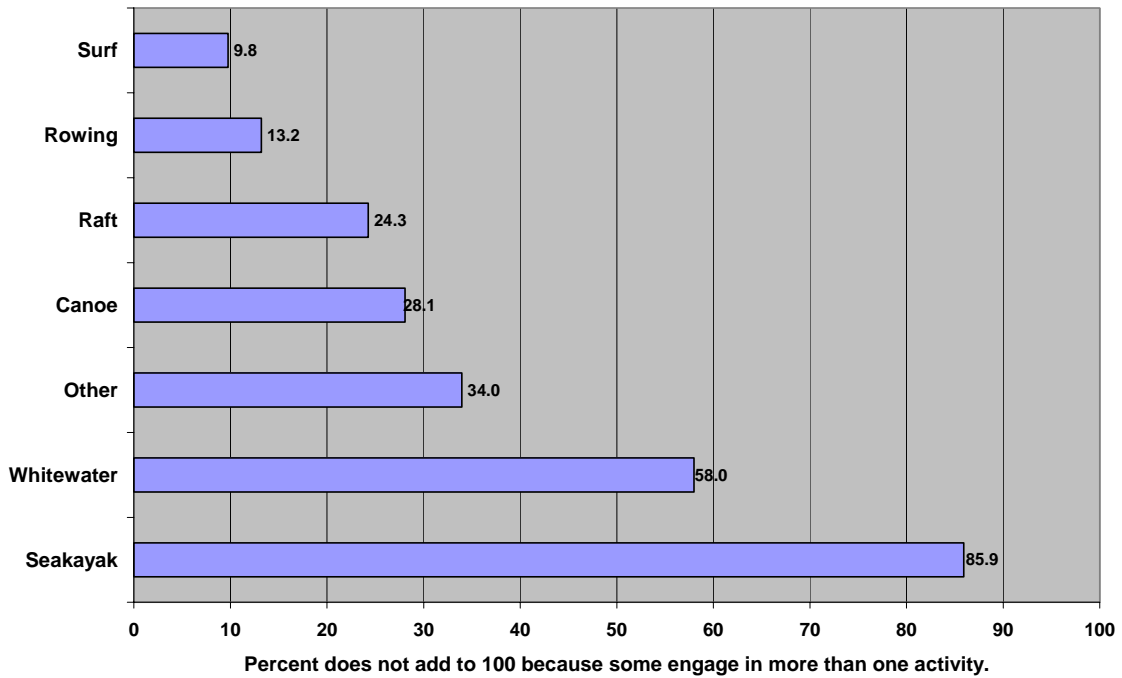
## Places paddled that were over 200 miles from home

<b><i>Sorted by frequency</i></b>		<b><i>Sorted alphabetically</i></b>	
British Columbia (total)	180	Alaska	24
Washington (total)	109	Arizona	6
Vancouver Island	83	Asia	5
Idaho (total)	75	B.C. (between Vancouver Is and mainland)	52
Oregon (total)	61	British Columbia	35
B.C. (between Vancouver Is and mainland)	52	British Columbia (total)	180
Washington, Eastern	41	California	32
Salmon River	39	Canada (other than BC)	20
Idaho	36	Caribbean	4
British Columbia	35	Central America	14
Mexico	34	Colorado	29
California	32	Europe	10
Washington, Western	32	Florida	6
San Juan Islands	31	Hawaii	6
Colorado	29	Idaho	36
Utah	28	Idaho (total)	75
Alaska	24	Mexico	34
U.S. States (other than listed)	24	Montana	17
Oregon	22	North Carolina	5
Canada (other than BC)	20	Oceania	8
Oregon, Central	19	Oregon	22
Montana	17	Oregon (total)	61
Rogue River	15	Oregon, Central	19
Central America	14	Queen Charlotte Islands	10
Queen Charlotte Islands	10	Rogue River	15
Washington and Oregon Coast	10	Salmon River	39
Europe	10	San Juan Islands	31
Oceania	8	South America	6
West Virginia	7	U.S. States (other than listed)	24
Wyoming	7	Utah	28
Arizona	6	Vancouver Island	83
Florida	6	Washington (total)	109
Hawaii	6	Washington and Oregon Coast	10
South America	6	Washington, Eastern	41
Asia	5	Washington, Western	32
North Carolina	5	West Virginia	7
Caribbean	4	Wyoming	7

### Is Your Water Activity Equipment Owned, Rented or Borrowed?



### Water Activity Vessels Used by Respondents



# Overall Opinion Results

*How do you view paddling?*

*How do you get your paddling news?*

*Do you plan to make major paddling purchases?*

*What do you want more of?*

*How do time, access, fees, and information affect my paddling?*

*How has the frequency of my paddling changed?*

*How has the length of my paddling trips changed?*

*How has the distance from home of my paddling trips changed?*

*Conflicts with other recreational users*

*Fellow paddlers presenting conflicts to others*

*Need for more law enforcement on the water*

*Value of law enforcement on the water*

*Importance of four environmental issues*

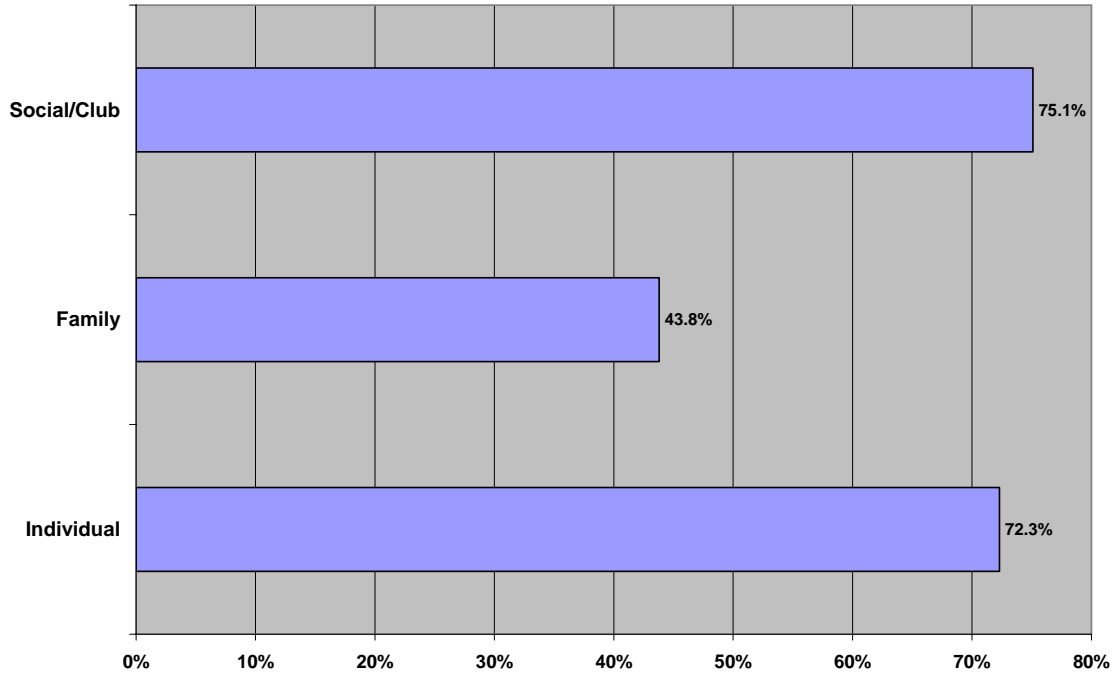
*Knowledge of Leave No Trace*

*Mandatory PFD, mandatory boater education and boat registration*

*Perceptions of non-WWTA members about WWTA*

*Open comments*

### How Do You View Paddling Activity?



### How do you view paddling activity?

#### Other (please specify)

(How do I "view" it? That's an odd question) Exercise, Recreation

A team sport. Every run with the normal crew is an adventure, and we all rely on each other to get down a section of river.

a wonderful way to view the world

adventure, exercise

all of the above

All of the above.

birding; exercise

Boy Scouts

business

close friends, which happen to be boaters - not into the club thing though

commercial guiding

commercial guiding

Deep emotional need

Depends on the river. On some (generally easier) rivers I consider paddling to be an individual pursuit. But, as the difficulty ratchets up paddling necessarily becomes a team effort in terms of safety, logistics, and on water support.

ecological activism



## How do you view paddling activity?

Exercise; solitude

EXERCISE

Exercise

Exercise

exercise

exercise, 65 yr old, fear hypothermia if alone

Exercise, escape, recreation

exercise/fitness spiritual

Family (couple) except 1x individual in 2006

Fishing from canoe on rivers

Fishing.

Fitness

Fitness?

Friends.

Fundraising / activism

Get out in nature; relaxation.

Get together with a group of friends for an overnight!

Go with club members

Groups of friends

Guiding

hate the gym would rather paddle several days a week for exercise

hunt&fish

I am the founder for a gay and lesbian kayaking group in Portland [www.outkayaking.org](http://www.outkayaking.org) and a guide.

I have been a whitewater guide in WA for ten years.

Most of the time it is just my wife and I. However, this year we have joined a couple of clubs and plan to paddle with groups.

My girlfriend and I use it as a stress relief and activity that we do together.

My sport of choice and passion

My spouse and myself, but not our children.

natural exercise with others

Nature viewing/photography

Occasionally I hunt ducks from my kayak.

Passive enjoyment of (hopefully) wilderness/relatively unspoiled nature, wildlife viewing, somewhat social, but not a club thing.

Personal time relaxing and as an adjunct to my marine/kayak business

Photography

profession

professional - as a kayak guide

Professional kayak instructor

Racing and race training

racing with Sound Rowers & others from time to time

racing/competition

Recreation with friends

safety requires at least three boats

skill building

Skills development, nature experiences, adrenaline rushes (surfing, current play), safety practice, coaching opportunities

Social with friends - not a club

Some of the best of times in God's creation.  
Sometimes with a group or a friend, never alone.

Spiritual  
SPORT

Teaching  
teaching

teaching or learning

Team

The meaning of life!!

Vocation/relaxation

Volunteer projects WWTA, outreach events WWTA, with expeditionary through scientific research.

We have a double, so it is really a partnered activity.

Whitewater, usually with friend and a one month paddling trip abroad each year.

Wilderness tripping

With 1 or 2 friends

with a friend

With family or friends, no clubs, no social. Mostly two of us or four.

with the crew

With wife and occasionally with friends.

work

work

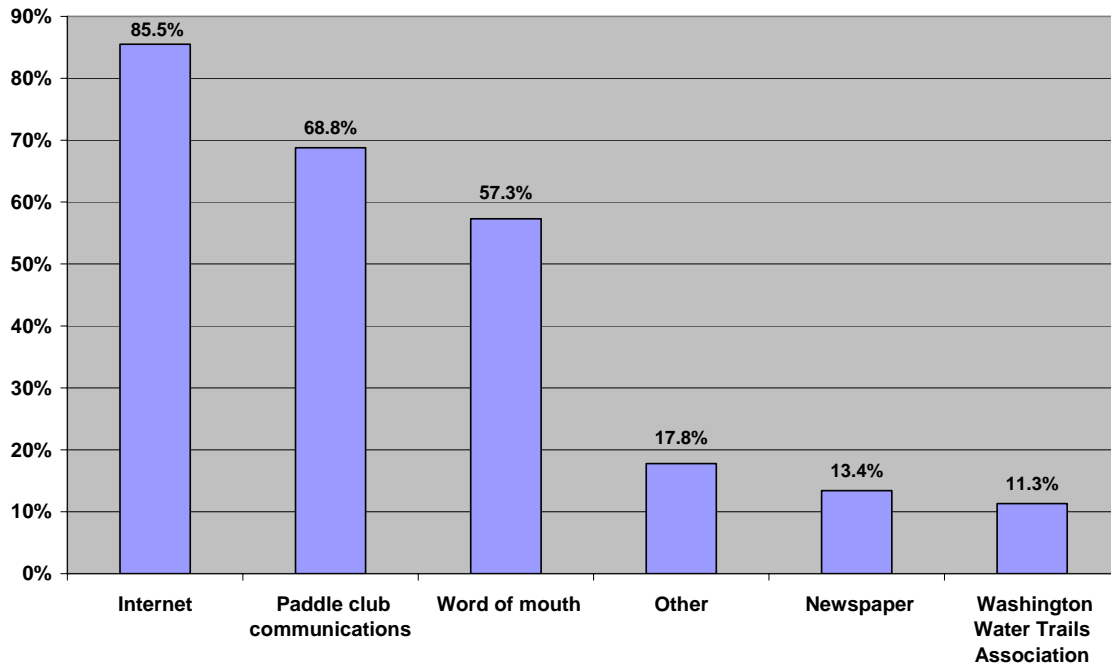
work also

workout

Workout

workout

**How do you get your paddling news? (non WWTA members)**



**How do you get your paddling news? (non-WWTA members)**

**Other (please specify)**

Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe staff

American Whitewater (7 responses)

Books (Philip Jones etc.)

Canoe & Kayak magazine

email group/chain

Friends

friends

Guide Books (3 responses)

How do I find WWTA??

I know South Sound very well.

Magazines (20 responses)

maps, books, explore

Northwest Whitewater Association Paper Newsletter and website. Word of mouth at retail store- Mountain Gear

## How do you get your paddling news? (non-WWTA members)

Outfitters and Retail Stores

paddle guidebooks

Paddler Magazine

Paddler Magazine

Paddler magazine

paddling.net

pdxseekayaker@yahoo; wkcc (Corvallis, OR)

Professorpaddle.com

REI

Sea Kayaker Magazine (6 responses)

throw a stick in the water

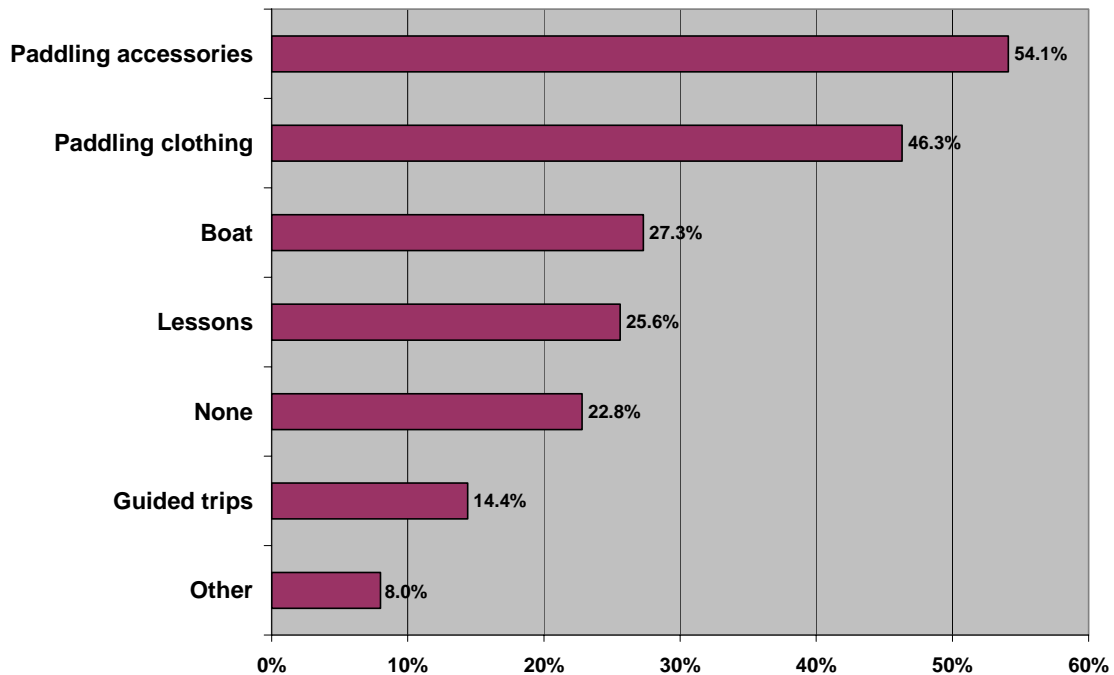
TV - it never lies

Web Based Communities

WRR, OWA

Yahoo group PDXSeakayaker

### Plans For Major Paddling Purchases



## Do you plan to make any major paddling purchases in the next year?

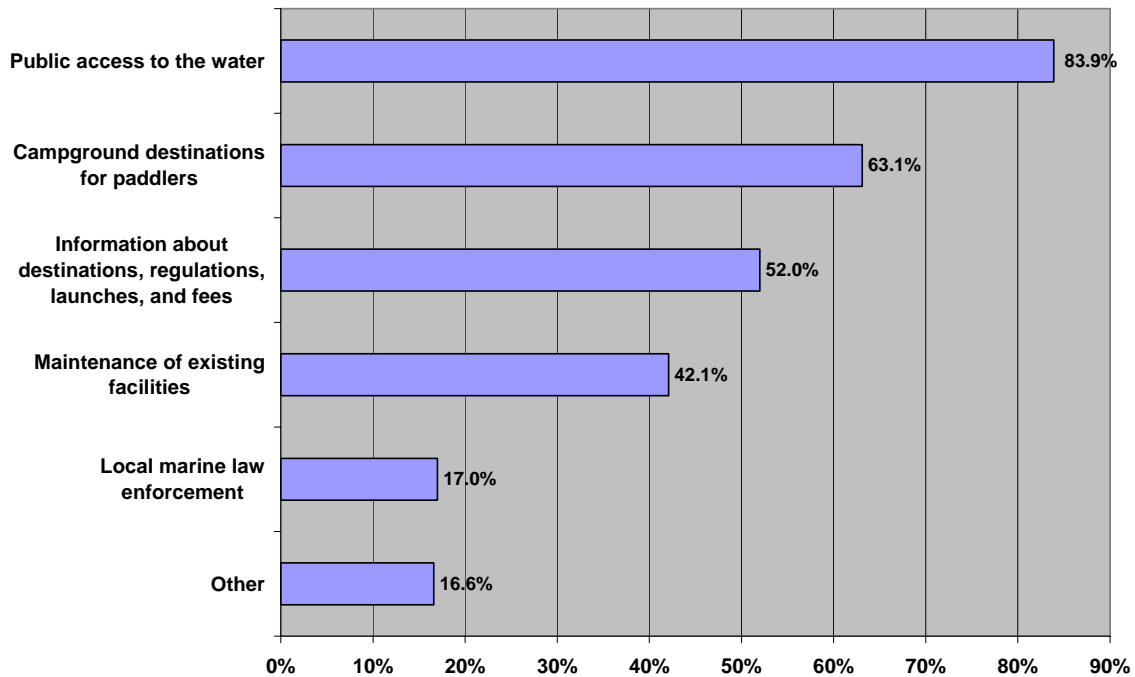
### Other (please specify)

- Maybe a lighter weight boat.
- A self-guided expedition out of Placentia, Belize
- Additional sea kayak
- Am already lgst dealer in Pug Sd region so am lucky to own at least one of everything.
- Better boat wheels!
- Boat- But purchased as supplies for building another strip built kayak. Cedar, epoxy, fiberglass, etc.
- Books on canoe only lakes.
- Communication equipment: New radio, flares
- don't know
- extended tri gear
- extended trip gear and supplies
- fixes to the gear i have
- Gasoline to get me to BC launch sites!
- grand canyon, rental gear
- I build my own boats from scratch (except my canoe)
- I don' plan on buying anything but probably will.
- I have everything I need and more. But, of course, there will always be some new toy that must be acquired.
- I spent several thousand last year on launching accessories (trailer and Yak-A-Launcher) and clothing, and I've spent much more in previous years for my large fleet of rowing and pedal craft.
- insurance van trailer more boats

## Do you plan to make any major paddling purchases in the next year?

just bought a new (used) tandem kayak and gear for about \$5k total  
life insurance  
Lightweight tent for camping. Maybe kayak camp for my kids, if affordable.  
New Helmet  
New kayak  
No. My partner has two canoes and full equipment - I use his.  
Not sure  
Overnight group trips to WA and BC.  
paddle  
possible boat  
Possibly a dry suit  
Putting together camping equipment for our first overnight paddle -to Hope Island here in the South Sound.  
Rack augmentation for guest boat  
rack for kayak  
River camp gear  
Sculling camp  
self guided trips  
Self-guided raft trips w/ boat rentals  
Travel for races and race entry fees.  
unguided trips  
weather radio  
Would like to learn to sail. would trade equipment for foot driven system would like outrigger (i.e. "training wheels")

### What Do You Want More Of?



### As a paddler, what do you want more of?

#### Other (please specify)

**A networking association for finding other kayakers. A pacific northwest forum**

A whitewater park

Access to groups or individuals. NEVER PADDLE ALONE

Access to water that is without barriers - when paddling alone (majority of time) use wheels to pull boat to water. Cannot lift along. Many public access areas have rocks or other obstructions that need to be climbed over preventing me from launching.

Always more take in/out info and water condition info is wanted!

An area in public boat launches protected from the vehicle launched boats.

As a kayaker - more respect from power boaters.

Availability of drinking water Availability of land line telephone  
bathrooms

Better behavior by power boats!

Better protection of waterways motor restricted lakes select motor-free lakes!!  
better water trail charts

Camping and parking regulations are confusing in this state.

Classes on navigation, tides, currents

Clean water to paddle in. Keep the sound clean and pollution free  
clean waters, protected ecosystems

cleaner and healthier marine environment

cooperation with dam operators and regulators on controlled river levels and timing

current posting of local conditions at put in.

destinations and water conditions

## As a paddler, what do you want more of?

Easier access to launch sites from Washington State Ferry terminals, particularly in the San Juan Islands.

easier more accessible storage at an affordable cost  
education on stewardship of our natural resource areas, especially rivers  
environment protection

Equitable launch and user fees - if any. I mentioned above "they don't keep me from paddling". True, but at the same time, I'm not a fan of paying the same launch fee as a powerboat.

Fee-free access to the water, reciprocating courtesy inter-paddling club trip access on space-available basis

Free access to all navigable waterways without permits, fees or other restrictions  
Freedom, get rid of all the governmental interferences.

I think WWTA should sell trail info packets. They would have to keep prices at costs but they could cover costs and not risk their 501(c)3 status.

I'd like to see more of a true environmental attitude among boaters like carpooling to the river more instead of everyone driving a bazillion SUVs to the same spot. Or, maybe some enterprising person set up a business doing shuttle from city to river where you can meet and through your boat and gear on a bus and ride to the river early in the day then meet at the take out to get a ride back home.

Improved access/parking

Improved environment, less pollution. Maybe a 1-800 number I can call if I see something unusual.  
improvements in kayaking and camping equipment

Information on best practices for environmentally sustainable recreation and on local river conservation.  
kayak group for seniors

knowing where to find other paddlers to learn from on the water trails

Launches without dogs-- I used to think power boaters were the biggest problem for hand-launch boats because they bully us off the launches. But now that I've found a few hand-launch sites, my biggest problem is people bathing their dogs where I want to launch. Wet dogs run wild through my equipment. Also, hand launch doesn't necessarily mean no trailer. Some of us with disabilities need a trailer for our kayaks and canoes.

Leave No Trace info

less people and trash (garbage that is) on the river  
Limit Power boats in some areas

Local environmental enforcement. The completion of the Northwest Discovery Water trail system.  
Creation of a Pacific Coast Water Trail.

More cooperation from private landowners...especially timber companies for access to rivers.

More freedom; fewer restrictions, regulations

More human powered only campsites set aside, and make them the better choices, at watercraft only accessible camping areas. At some places these campsites are set as the ones closest to the water, but are not very nice, when campsites not very far from the water are much nicer, but are open to all. Being right on the water can sometimes mean being in a noisier area if boats moor right off shore, or other camper's party on the shore nearby.

More opportunities for wilderness paddling

more patrolling of takeouts/put-ins to deter break-ins and theft

More people to switch from motorboats to canoes, kayaks, or sailboats.

More public awareness re: waste water pollution and cleaning up "their" beaches and water front properties.

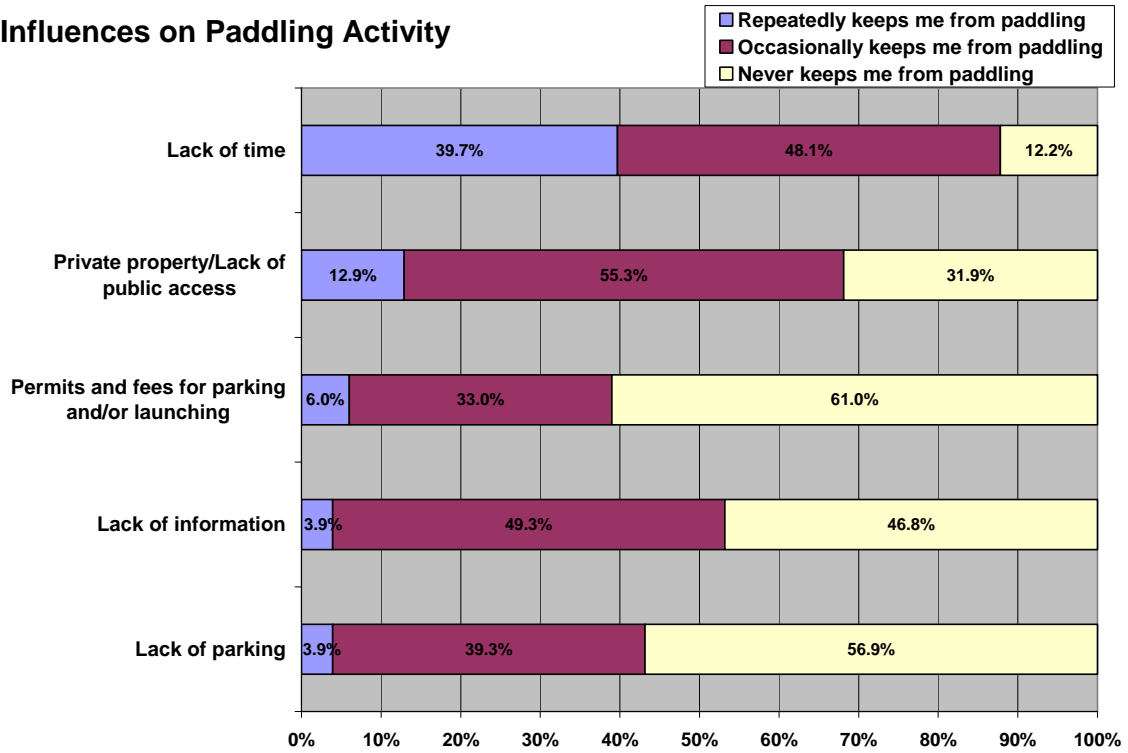
More restrooms



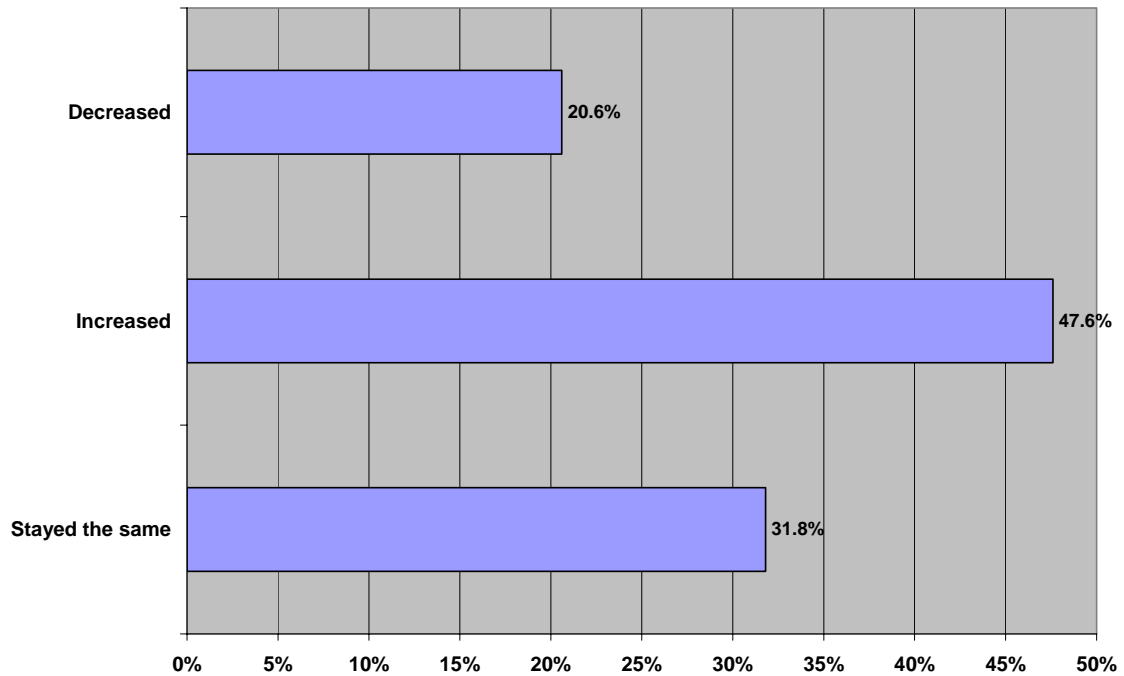
## As a paddler, what do you want more of?

More shore access along route  
More signage that states clearly that canoers are welcome. More factual/Less sensational news reports when someone is hurt on a river.  
more water free of motorized boats  
More waves  
More wild, free flowing, untouched rivers with fewer dams and diversions  
Most of my paddling experience is in British Columbia (whitewater river canoeing and sea canoeing). I have also spent a total of 7 days canoeing in the San Juan Islands. Therefore, my Washington State experience is limited. I think the services that exist are wonderful. However, more public access and campsites at key spots are always welcome  
Need better law enforcement protecting parked cars  
Need to work towards setting min. rec flows where possible. In most of east WA, Idaho, BC, and MT, access is relatively good. Need to maintain existing access points.  
No fees for parking  
none  
Number 1 is public access to water.  
on water signage  
Others with whom to paddle. I'm new; it's not a sport for a solo novice.  
Paddlers only campsites.  
Personal Watercraft Restrictions on public waterways  
Play Park  
Preservation of our river systems  
Product Reviews  
public access to water (5X)  
Public shoreline for environmental protection  
Rude PWC operators with bad attitudes and no sense of boating safety or navigation rules  
safe overnight parking (at an affordable cost) convenient to launch sites for solo multiday trips  
safe parking, and overnight parking at put-ins  
safe put ins  
security for belongings at the launch site  
SF Bay Water Trail with put in facilities  
Simply the ability to share equal water rights with other water users. As a whitewater canoeist, I don't really need much in the way of facilities--just a path to the put in and a path to the take out.  
Small launches and no motor use areas.  
Small-boat storage  
The gov. agencies to release water from the dams to allow for raftable river levels.  
The info available is great. Resources should go towards maintaining health of Puget Sound and accessible waterfront w/bathrooms.  
time  
To keep the state government's big nose and taxing eyes out of our sport.  
Too few pullout areas for rest or camping in San Juan or open ocean areas that is still undeveloped.  
Washington State parking or lunching permits are a real pain in the butt. I avoid such sites completely.  
water on controlled rivers like the Green River Gorge  
Whitewater parks in, or close to, urban areas  
wilder rivers & primitive camping (no rv's, or expensive campgrounds)

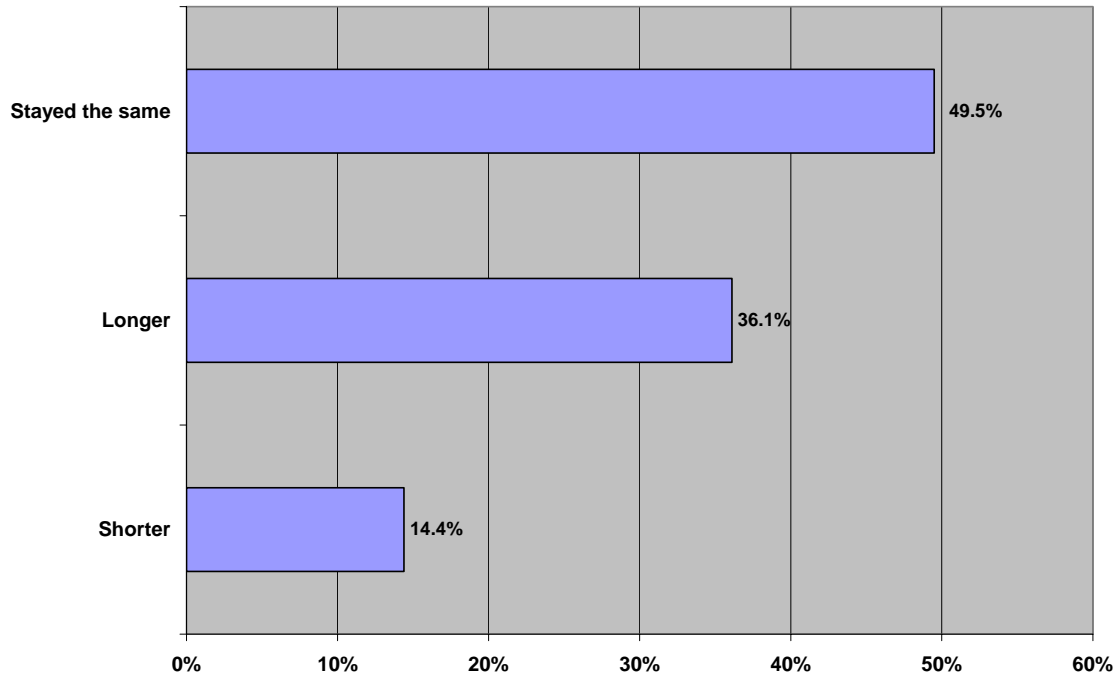
## Influences on Paddling Activity



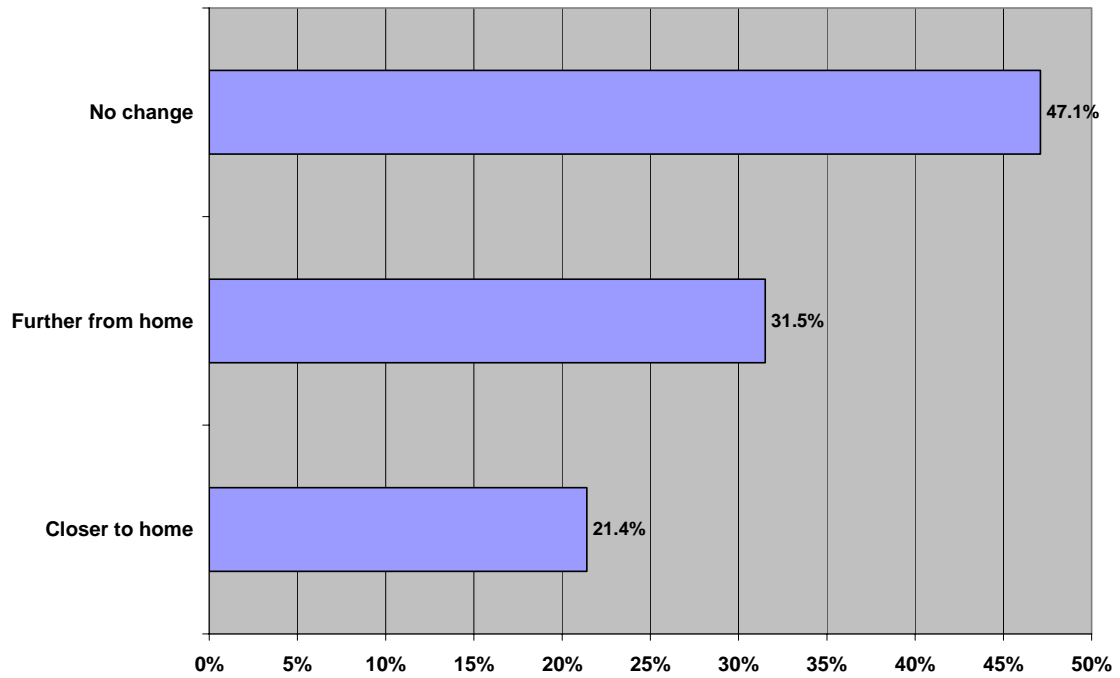
## In the last 4 years, has the frequency of your paddling:



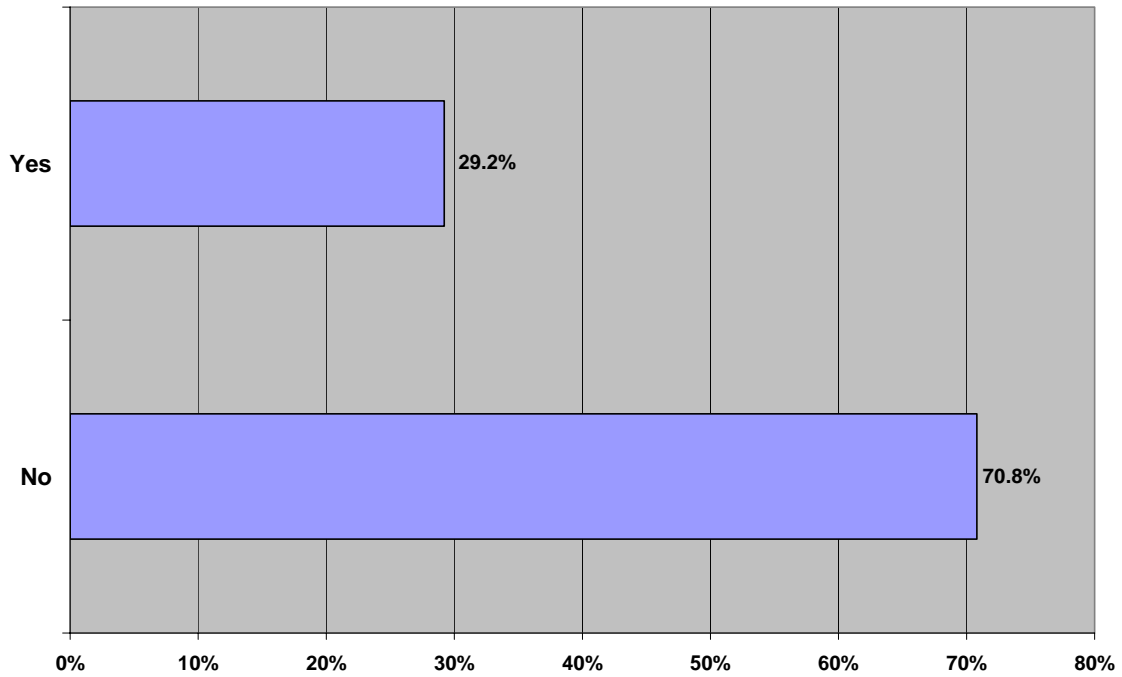
**In the last 4 years, has the length of your paddling trips become:**



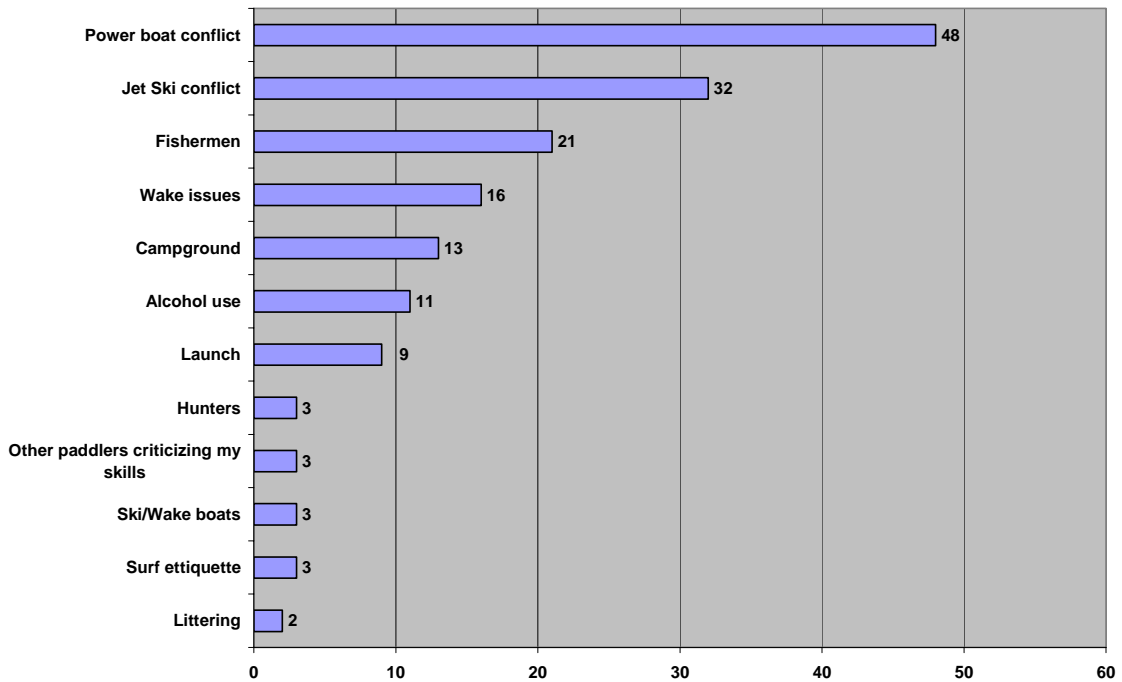
**In the last 4 years, are you paddling:**



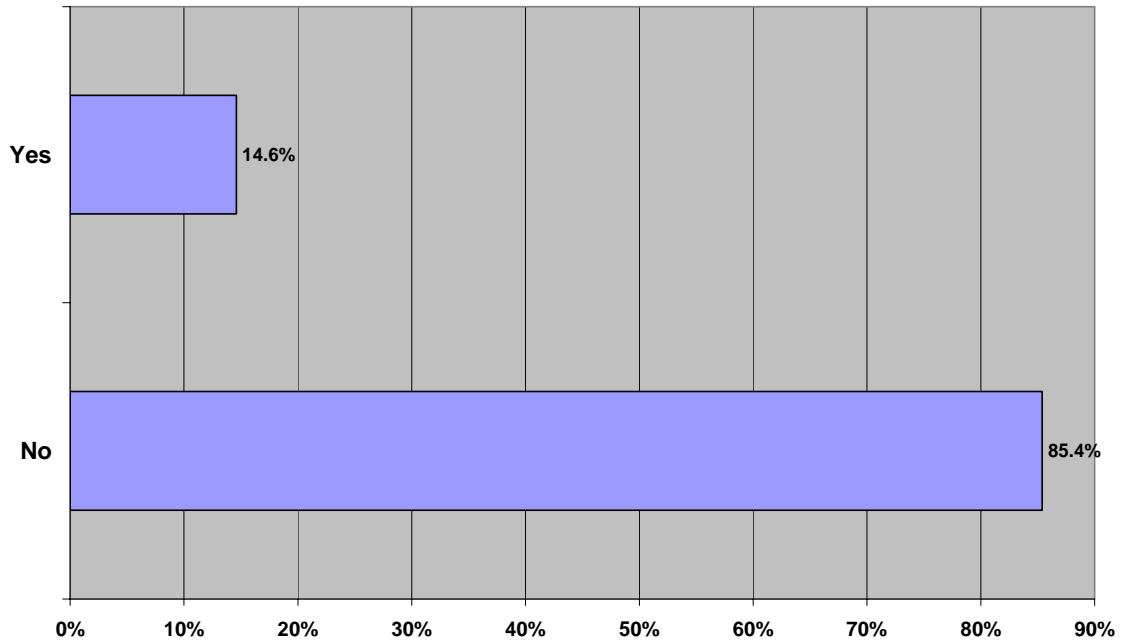
### Have you had conflicts with other recreational users while paddling?



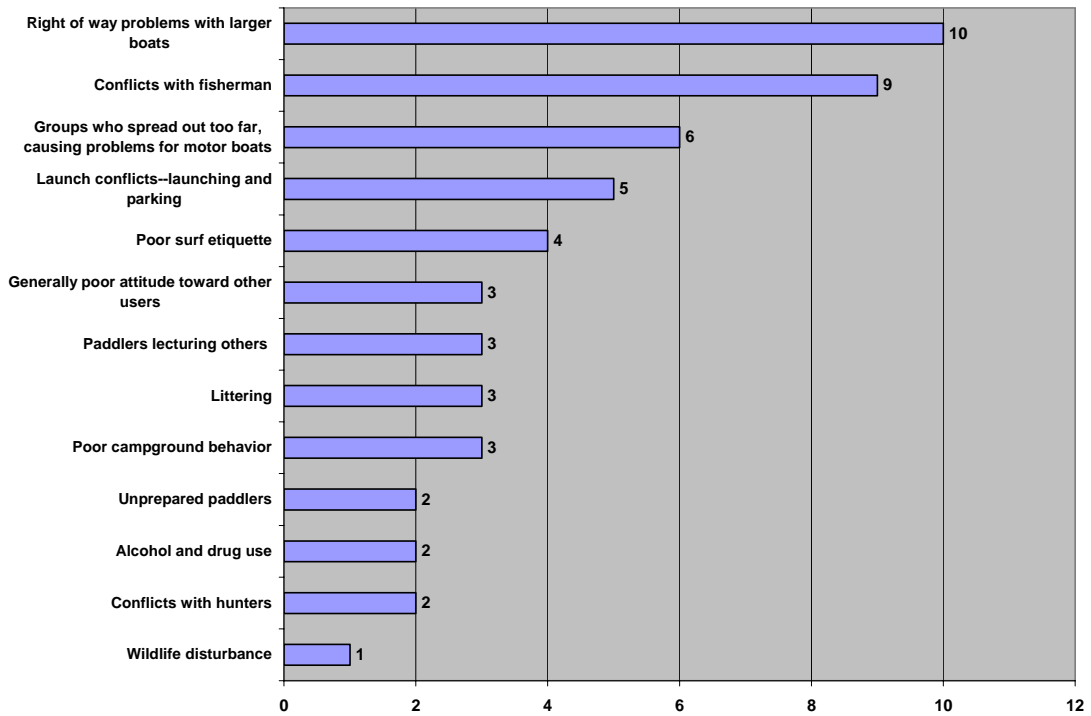
### Conflicts initiated by other recreation users



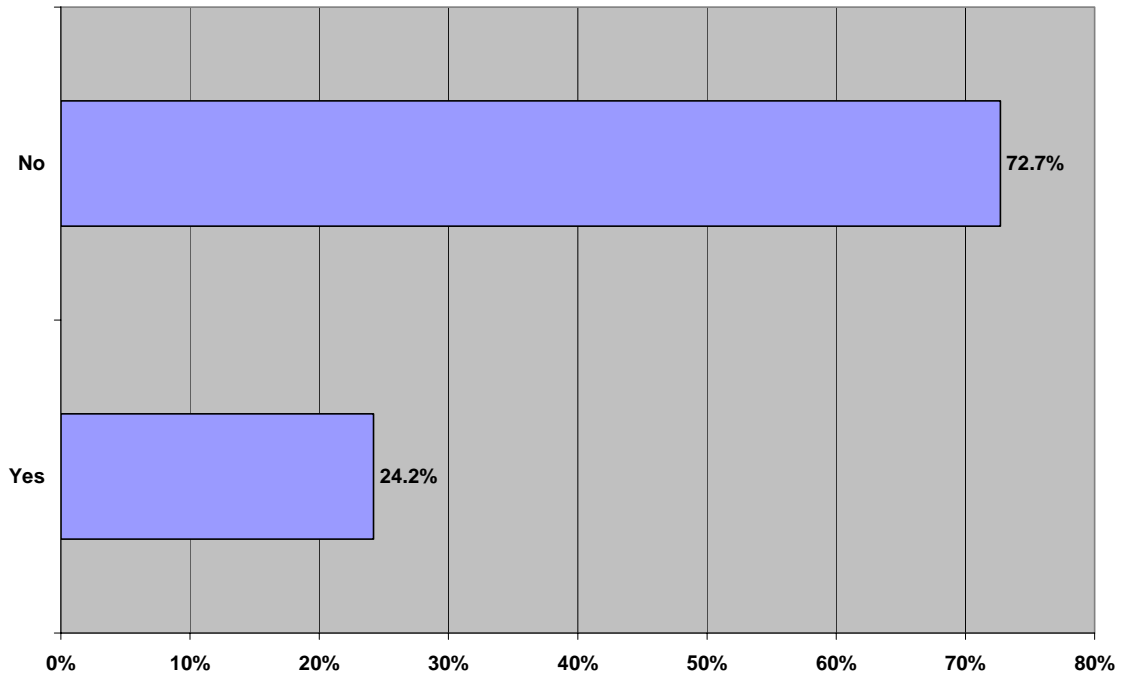
**Have you observed fellow paddlers present a conflict to other recreational users?**



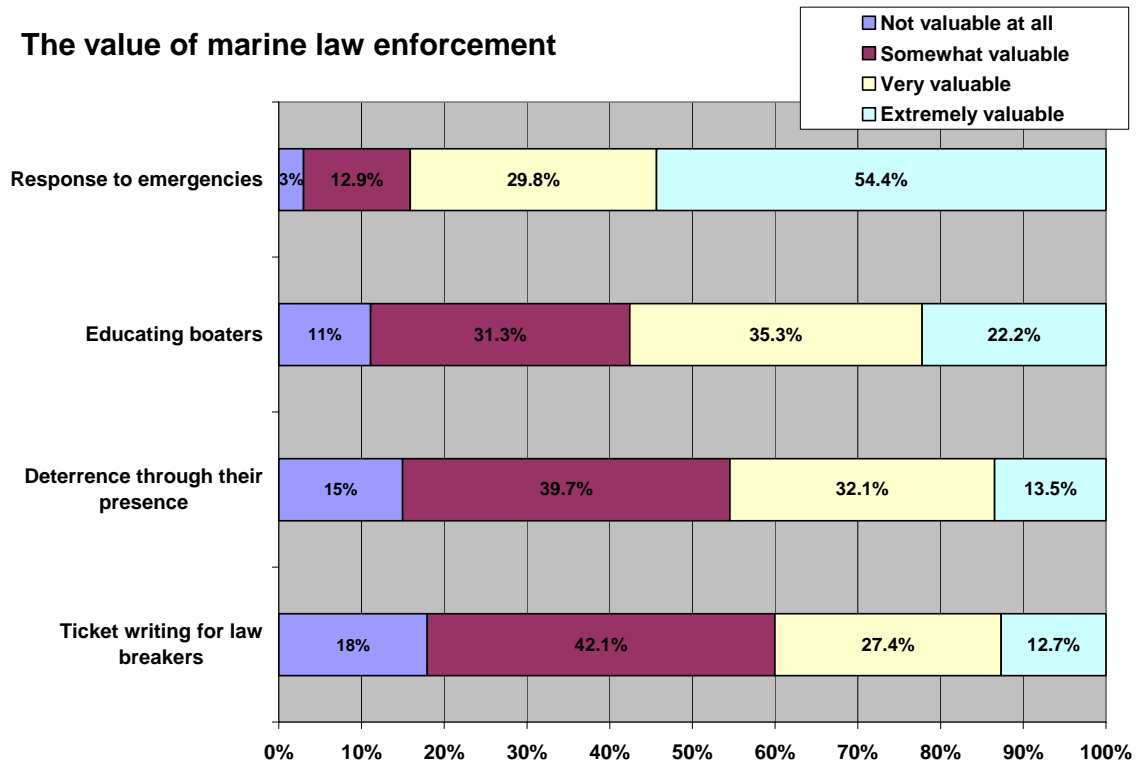
**Paddlers observations of other paddlers causing conflict with other recreational users**



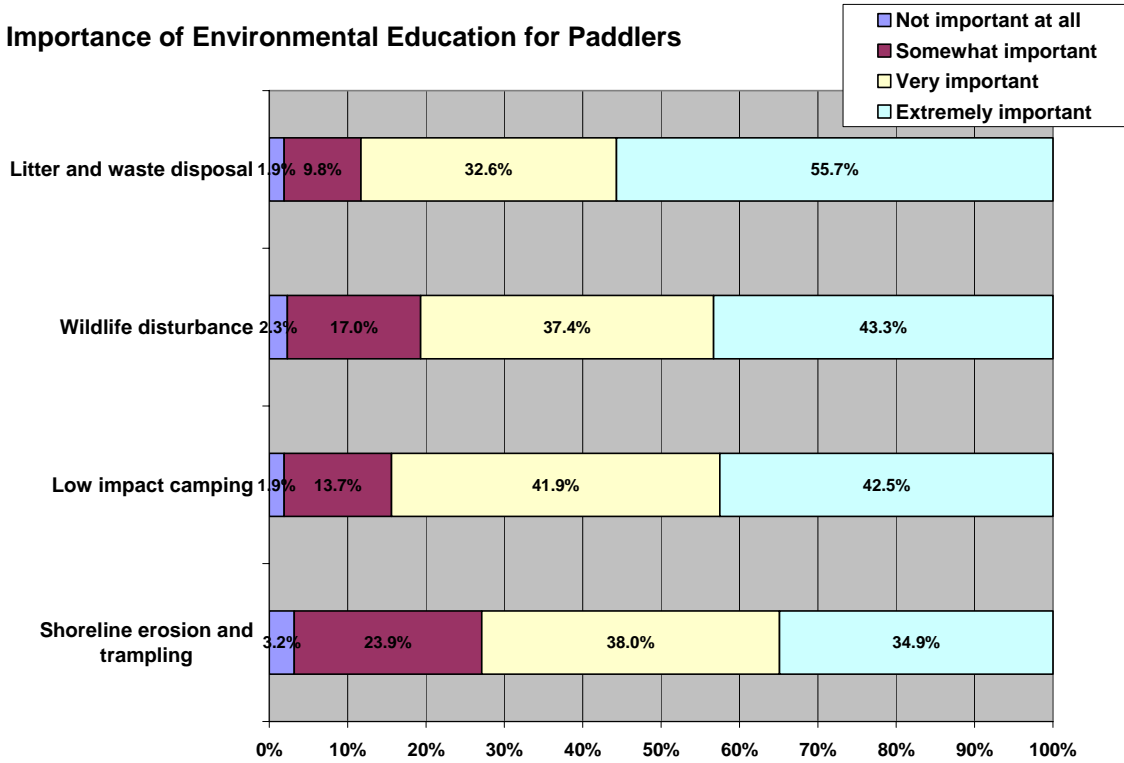
**Is there is a need for more law enforcement presence on the water?**



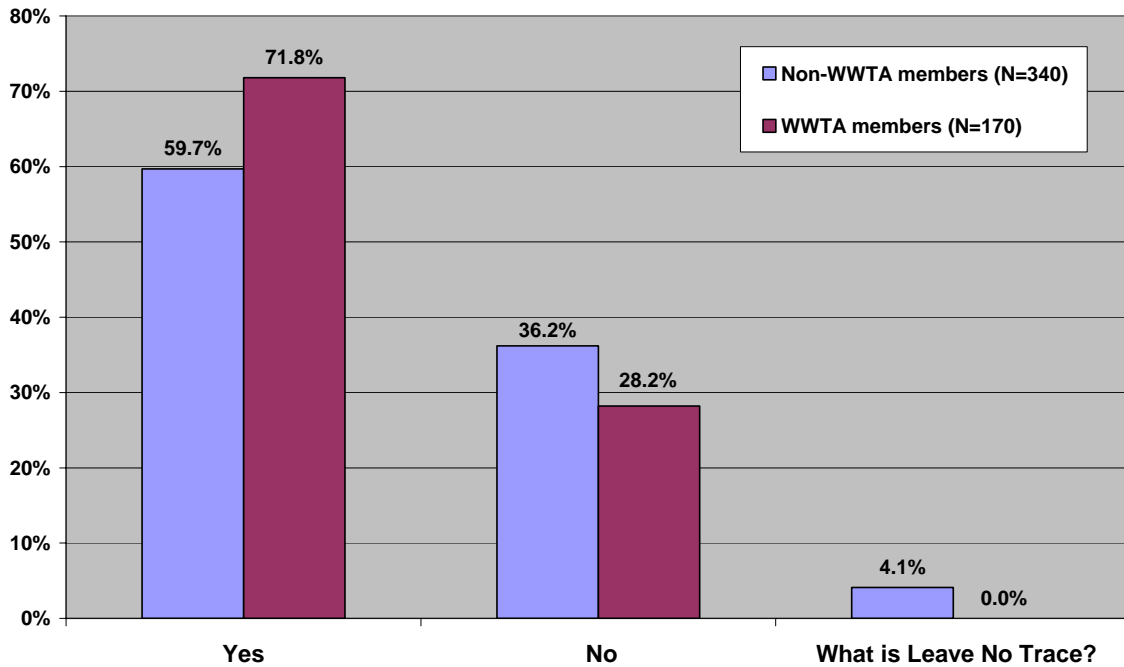
**The value of marine law enforcement**



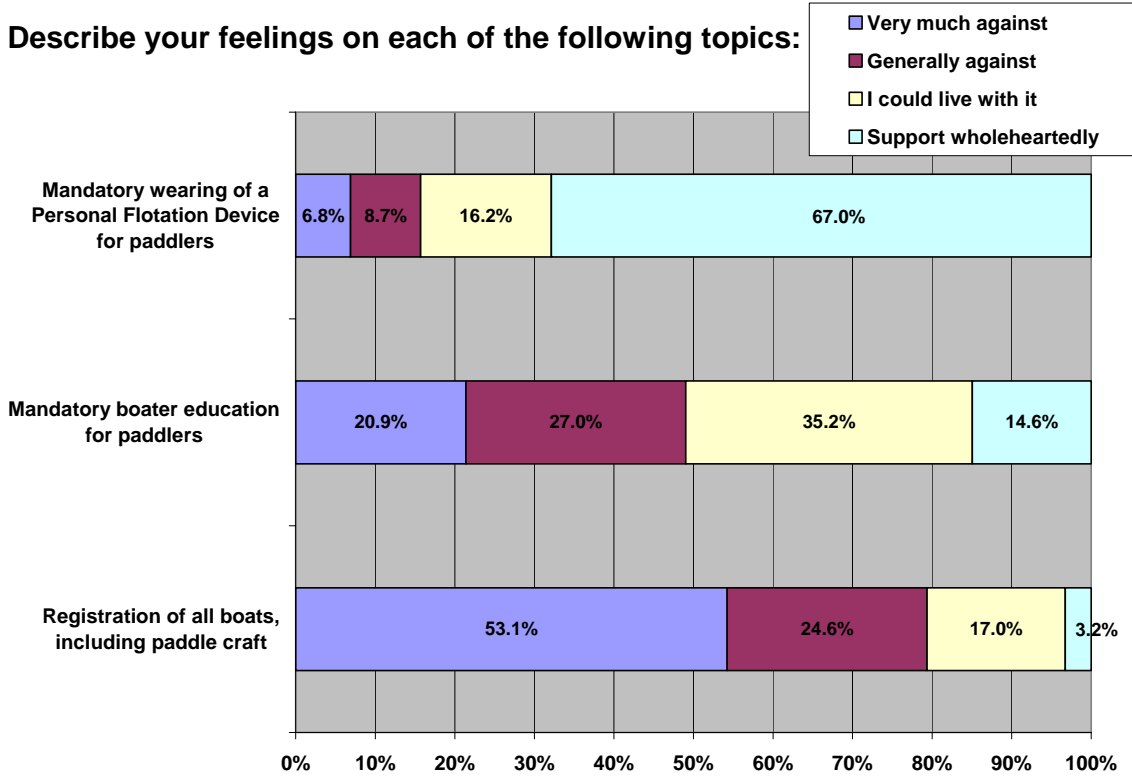
### Importance of Environmental Education for Paddlers



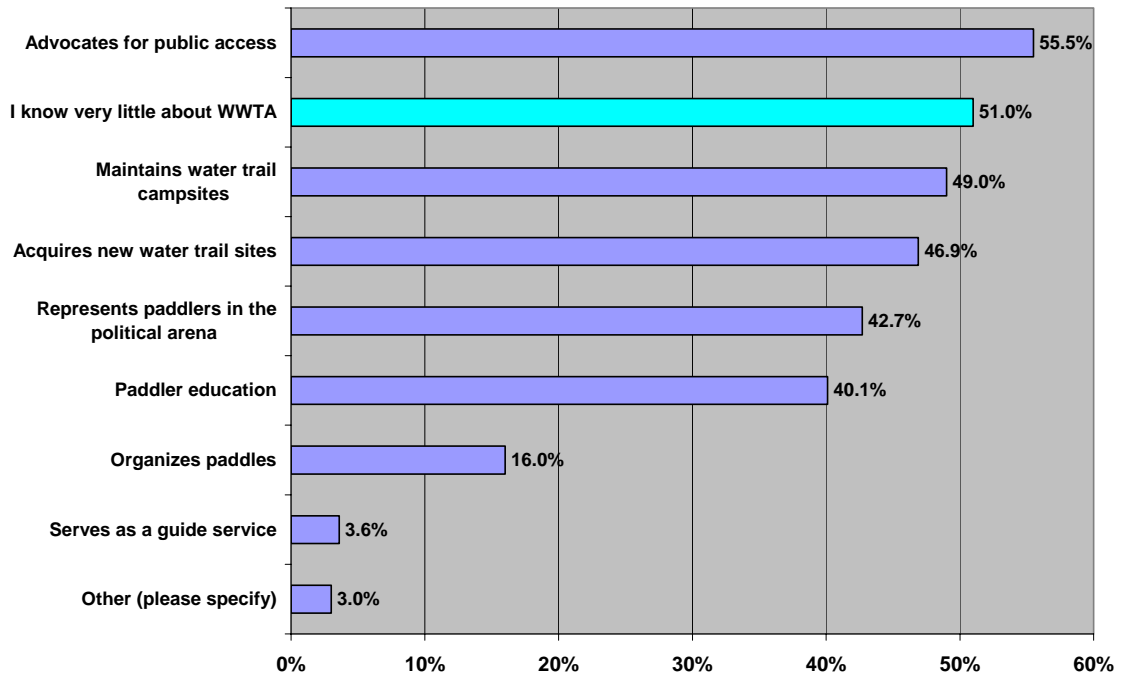
### Has your knowledge of Leave No Trace increased in the last 5 years?



**Describe your feelings on each of the following topics:**



**Perceptions and beliefs of non-WWTA members about WWTA**





## **Please leave any other comments you would like to make.**

### **Open-Ended Response**

% of time: ww, rafting, rowing all could be the same thing...or not - how do you answer if you spend a lot of time in ww kayaking, ww canoeing, ww rafting, and ww rowing?

40% of my Kayaking is with flat water kayaks and it wasn't an option when asked type of boat used. Need to add these type of watercraft to you list. Also many of the paddlers use Surf Skis (kayaks) for flat water kayaking and also Outrigger Canoes are becoming more popular. Neither was on the list of boats and they don't fall under Sea Kayaks. All my trips are with open canoes.

Any launch/parking area which needs to charge a fee should make paying that fee convenient, such as a local machine or at a local business. Launch fees for paddle-craft should be less than motorized-craft due to a simpler facility being required. Usually only a sand or gravel beach is necessary, not a concrete ramp.

Apparently the organization is run by a group of insiders who are not particularly interested in the participation of others. Were I not deeply interested in camping facilities for kayakers; I would probably drop my membership.

Been paddling for 25 years. Paddled from Browns Point in Tacoma to Canadian border one summer. Anacortes to Namimo next. All around South Sound. Finding place to camp sometimes was hard. I think the trail system is a great idea, and I really hope to take advantage of it at some time.

Boaters pay the highest user fees of any recreation group. The forest service blm and the others use us as a cash cow. No fee demo.

Cascadia Marine Trail is wonderful!

Congrats to WWTA for this survey. Keep up the good work. Low impact, environmentally sensitive, sustainable recreation is the way of the future for Washington State and the State should give you all the funding that you ever need!

Glad to see this!

GOOD JOB!!!

Government should be toward promoting paddling and opening access to all navigable waterways. It should in no way limit access through fees, permits or other restrictions.

Great job....keep up the good work!

great organization that needs more recognition

Homeland Security people scare me with their machine guns and methods. No way to know in advance what the Homeland Security people are guarding and if/when one gets to close the kayaks are slow moving easy targets for them. Also busy ferry terminals need spotters on the water when moving boats from one gate to another.

I am a river guide in the state of Utah and do most of my paddling there.

I believe paddlers should be educated enough to be able to handle themselves while on the water and a basic course in paddling and wet exits should be required. It would be nice to have marked areas along rivers for camping (as is done on the Columbia River Trail).

I have done very little kayaking since moving to Portland because I'm just not sure where to go.

I have kayak toured along some of the water trails--lovely. Campsites were a bit crowded at times, but groups worked things out quite nicely and even socialized a bit. Thanks you for the survey! BJ

I intend on increasing the number of kayaking trips I go on soon due to retirement. I have been very inactive for the last year due to lots of overtime.

I intend to join and participate in the WWTA in the near future

I love getting together with other paddlers and cleaning up the trail and campsite areas.

I love Skagit Island and camp there 2 or 3 times a year as well as day trips. It's has been a destination for many years as a young child and again now as an adult. I paddle there and now find a new restroom and high impact on the land installing it. I now have to pay a fee to camp. It's for non-power boats but is usually used by power boaters and often no camping room left. I don't know if I would tell a family or drunken boaters that it's reserved to non-power craft. I can't remember if I was a member or just bought the book for water trail information but the newsletter was so oriented to the Seattle area it didn't do much for me up in the Anacortes area. I had asked you folks to speak at our club and was a little disappointed as it focused so much on involvement and low impact and not enough about the trails and campsites. You have to get them excited by that before you hit them with involvement and low impact.

I see more law enforcement on the water as misguided, there just isn't a problem currently and the boat checks border on harassment. Most kayakers are pretty environmentally aware so while they are generally receptive to ideas like Leave No Trace they really aren't the group of users that will benefit much from it. Paddlers normally don't leave messes at the campgrounds. For me, WWTA is about access, both launching and campsites. Wish they'd work out something with the Ferry system in the San Juans so we could launch nearby!

I strongly disagree with having to pay fees and register non-motorized watercraft such as whitewater kayaks. The only time I would feel good about doing so is if the money went specifically to paddler related causes such as access sites, parking spaces, and river clean up, or site maintenance. I feel that if this action ever came to pass, the monies would be spent on things that are not often used by whitewater paddlers, such as maintenance of motorized boat launches. Additionally, I feel that river permits on popular, crowded rivers would provide funding for maintenance of these heavily used areas; and help to keep these areas beautiful for years to come so that all may enjoy them. Also, wild and scenic rivers that frequently require overnight trips should require knowledge of LNT principles, and should be required training in order to purchase the wild and scenic river permit.

I support WWTA financially because I think the organization deserves it.

I think it's great that water trails are being developed in this area. I think the increase in awareness of our waterways is very beneficial to not just the current generation but for the future generations also. I am happy to know there are other people out there who care about the environment.

I think paddlers are, as a whole, very respectful, polite, aware travelers. I don't know if the mandatory (OR) training for powerboat operators includes info on rights of non-motorized vehicles (I am also a sailor). If it does not, it should!

I think PFD's should be mandatory in most situations; however I would like the option of not wearing one in some situations. I own a Greenland kayak and sometimes want to match what the original Greenlander's did. Normally I wear a PDF and recommend them to anyone around deep water.

I think there needs to be a lot more education for casual paddlers on dressing for immersion (being ready to end up in the water at any time).

I think to many laws are already on the books we don't need more big brother telling us what to do every minute of our waking hours.

I think you guys do great work, and I'm proud to be a member.

I used to be a member of the WA Water Trails and enjoyed it very much. When I moved to Ocean Shores I lost my connection with them. I would be very much interested in joining again if they are in this area now.

I volunteer with Bay Access, an offshoot of Bay Area Sea Kayakers. Recently Bay Access has created the San Francisco Area Water Trail. We look to the work that WWTA, and other established water trails, as a guide to our goals and plans. Thank you.

I want the A 4 DVD set of University of Sea Kayaking instructional videos and The book Kayak Routes, by Peter McGee share with my kayaking club!...LOL. Thank you for making this survey and demonstrating your concern and interest for kayaking!!! Cheers. Kyle

I was a member of several kayak clubs. I use to advocate for WWTA & once was a member. I have been discouraged by WWTA interaction with me as a member, with state organizations. They seem to be influenced by who gives the most \$\$\$\$. I would like to see a more active caring for what we have. I have seen a decrease of access in WA ferry off load sites; lack of influence in commercial kayaking; specific lack of communication with DNR Cypress Is. The general purpose of WWTA sounds good but how it has manifested during the past several years has not made me be a part of it. Last year I took the LNT course & found that even those principles can be bent to justify actions. I read the online newsletter to keep informed as to what they are up to & they do put out some good information but I see that there is a lot more good they can do without sacrificing.

I was amazed at how limited access to the water is in Washington State compared to California, but impressed with what you are doing.

I work with a group of youth who are willing to work on clearing up the water trails/ camp areas, etc in the North Puget Sound!

I would like more info on how this survey will be used & results please. Is it funded by the Boating Safety Council? I am always in favor of boating surveys but a little heads up info on how this survey will be used build be appreciated.

I would like to receive a copy of the results of this survey, if possible. It would be interesting I wrote Northwest Flatwater Paddling and would be happy to donate a book as a prize in the future for anything you are doing

If the idea here is to gauge the need for law enforcement, my biggest complaint is against bank fishermen who litter like the dickens. Access to rivers should probably be better around bridges. I'm a recent newcomer to kayaking, having started just this year. It's the result of the realization of a dream and I love it.

I'm just moving to the tri-cities area in the summer, so I'm a FUTURE WA state paddler (although I've paddled the NF and main-stem Skykomish on vacations). Can't wait to get out more! See you on the river!

Interesting survey. Is Washington thinking about forcing all registration of water vessels, including kayaks? I know this is been an ongoing debate in Idaho and it keeps getting turned down.

I've enjoyed the San Juan area camps greatly and look forward to more of it. Thanks to all WWTA volunteers and organizers. I live in Portland and cannot easily volunteer, but try to sell the organization to the paddlers I meet.

Jet skis must be banned on lakes and minimum distances from shore in saltwater must be more strictly enforced. This is a public health and safety issue, not just an environmental one.

Just because I said I don't see a need for marine law enforcement -- it's probably because I don't go to very populated places. But I can imagine that it's vital in the more crowded places.

Keep up the good work!

Last year was my lightest year. This year I expect to be on the water a couple times per week.

Law enforcement on a WW river generally leads to problems. Most do not have the experience or skills necessary for WW rescue. Lifejackets and helmets should be worn on WW and it should be OK to have them present on flatwater segments. Moderation in applying the rules is needed. The current issues, boat (not boaters) registration, mandatory lifejacket use, and increased law enforcement needs to be balanced against the need. After 20 years of boating, I recall very few instances where increased regulation would have been helpful. thanks

Main drawback, paddling alone, high cost and low availability of dry suit, \$1000+ with custom fit, ( 42" waist does NOT imply 6'6") Ideal craft: Design cockpit for easy access, design electric boost/emergency power pod. 1/10 - 1/2 hp trolling motor in outrigger. Design water tight, above skirt, forward compartment for phone, water, snacks etc. view under water via scope or window Design for lowest drag, low energy human power recreation. Kayak design was based on technology available to ancients. Modern hydro design should be applied, example underwater bulbous nose, hydroskin drag reduction, possible hydrofoil lift to reduce hull drag. Land wheel attachment built in.

Make non-paddlers more aware of the WWTA.

Most kayakers seem to be a courteous and environmentally conscious group. It's been my observation that the educational and environmental focus needs to be directed towards the recreational/outfitter powerboat operators and bank fishermen.

Most of the above would apply to my wife as well - she is not, however, interested in taking the survey.

My answers to these questions should be viewed with the knowledge that I am a new paddler. I took a lesson last fall and in the last 30 days joined WWTA, NSSKA, attended the three day symposium in Port Angeles, bought two kayaks, dry suits and the rest of the gear. I have been out twice in the last three days and intend to be on the water locally for exercise, conditioning and building skills at least three times a week.

My family of 6 (my wife and I and our four kids) has an annual income of less than \$10,000. Access fees are a huge hurdle for us.

My two biggest issues are 1) finding places to safely leave my car overnight for several days when I am out on overnight trips, and 2) getting launch access on the east side of Puget Sound during the summer weekends. Most launch sites are overwhelmed with picnickers and other recreational users.

Need law enforcement at the launches to ticket dog owners and powerboat bullies. Hand launchers don't need education--they wrote the books on "leave no trace" and water safety. More regulation of us is simply harassment. Launch sites need to be thoughtfully developed for the hand-launcher. Unlike the power-boater who throws all the gear in the boat, the hand-launcher is usually alone and must carry gear by hand back and forth from the vehicle to the boat, often leaving it out in the open, vulnerable to thieves and uncontrolled animals and children.

Number of paddles last year was low due to shoulder surgery in the Spring.

Out reach to members out of state... including getting us up there to help in projects. It's an amazing organization

Paddling is one of the first and most historic transportation methods in the USA. It is extremely low impact. It must remain free and minimally regulated.

PFD is a tough one. For sit-on-tops in calm water, I wouldn't worry about it. I always wear one.

PFD's should not be mandatory for all people in all conditions. However, as a water rescue member in the fire service, nearly all drownings that I have been involved in could have been prevented had one been worn. When I paddle, it's often with a drysuit in cold water and in a SOT boat that is easy to remount. In slow moving waters near shore I see no reason to have one on, but carry mine on the deck behind me. In surf, a helmet is more important, but I always wear My PFD, too. Education is important. I hate to see anything mandatory, but some sort of boater safety education may meet the bar for what deserves some basic level of knowledge.

Please don't sell my address or information to other marketers, etc.

Profile: long time WW and touring paddler (30+ years), now mainly paddle with family and kayak surf a little. Former club member (WW and sea kayak), former club director and president (sea kayak). I support licensing paddlers, not unpowered boats (I currently have 9 boats, down a few).

Question #7 is poorly worded. It mixes type of water paddled (whitewater) with craft (canoe, raft). I row a raft on 60% of my trips and paddle a canoe on 40% of my trips, but about 80% of my trips are on whitewater rivers. As you can see, I was unable to answer Question #7 accurately.

Question 7 implies that canoes and whitewater are separate pursuits.

Question 7 is poorly framed because "whitewater canoeing" is not an option. Presumably your "whitewater" response assumes kayaking. Law enforcement "on the water" seems biased to ocean- or lake-based recreation areas, not whitewater rivers or wilderness areas.

Question 7 isn't clear: I paddle a whitewater canoe 100% of the time, but about 80% of the time I'm in whitewater. Are you assuming that if I put 100% Canoe that I'm not paddling whitewater?

Really just joined WWTA, and just started sea kayaking.

Registering every kayak/canoe would be quite a burden for those who have multiple boats. And that includes a lot of people. Would be better to have each paddler have a user permit or have a family registration for any number of boats.

Requiring boat licenses or fees for paddle craft is a bad idea. It discourages low impact water recreation. Its makes much more sense to require fees from motor craft that require more facilities (such as boat ramps) and pollute the water. What's more, many paddle craft owners have multiple boats to handle various water conditions. If you want to raise money from boaters, it makes much more sense to have a river access fee system for paddle boats like the Forest Service's Trail pass system or snow park permits. Have us pay \$25 a year or something and put a sticker on our car.

Safety is very important, especially for all the new paddlers  
so you are primarily kayakers

Some of these questions need to be more specific as to what you want to know as there were many answers that I could change based on the terminology used to compose them.

Thank You for supporting our sport. We in Ocean Shores Washington are lucky to have 26mi of inland waterways in addition to many miles of Ocean Beaches. Our club would like to see a water trail from Puget Sound to the mouth of the Copalis River, (Around the Horn. so to speak) Robert , President, Ocean Shores Paddle Club

thank you for the opportunity to share

Thank you for water trails information.

Thank you for your work in paddling recreation. I've been in Washington waters for over 40 years, first while teaching at WSU (whitewater), then at WWU (whitewater/sea kayak), SPU (both), and now as a retiree. I often find myself paddling alone now. I love the water. Thanks again for your help!

Thank you WWTA for providing places for paddlers to enjoy the water! I stayed on Jones Island two years ago and we had the best site thanks to the paddler organizer being a WWTA member.

thanks

Thanks for the opportunity to speak out again about paddling activities.

Thanks for the work you do!

Thanks for your commitment

Thanks to all of you, you're doing a great job.

The biggest problem I find is trying to find a site to put in for a day paddle. Boat ramps are closed in winter, or no access (Henderson). I would like to see just simple drag in spots for kayakers/canoes and rafts (small boats easily launched. I do realize the major problem is this area is maintenance of the spot and litter from those that are nonboaters.

The question about what kind of paddling we do was hard to answer. We do 100% whitewater, as I said, but we do it from kayak, canoes, and rafts.

The stats on the question about Leave No Trace should be taken with a grain of salt because no where in this survey do you ask how much a person knows about the Leave No Trace principles and practices.

The subject of mandatory boat registration would be very painful to paddlers with multiple boats (common) and would not deliver anything substantive to the paddling community. We can launch from shore from any park and not require a ramp or facilities. Already the multiple agency shoreline access is a major PITA from the feds to the state. These backward schemes do prevent people from getting to the water as they don't want a fat ticket on their window left by the revenue generators. A lot of us spend an enormous amount of time educating fellow paddlers on safe boating practice, and usually for free. The WTA is a good organization.

The use section which I put as 60% canoe 40% raft is also 90% whitewater 10% flatwater  
This survey is not indicative of who is sponsoring The research, or what it is used for.

This survey was very difficult to access; first there was no such address at survey monkey, then there was a survey monkey server busy error, then none of the choice boxes appeared on my Macintosh / Safari (even with the latest upgrades), then when I was finally able to access it on another computer, the Next page response was slow. I called the office and reported these problems.

Two issues are most important to me at this time. One is to regulate/remove personal watercraft from many of the locations they currently have access to. They are dangerous (see statistics on percentage of water injuries), they are destructive to the environment, and they are obnoxious. The second is to keep paddled craft free of registration. We don't need another government agency involved in our recreation.

Water is the blood of god.

We are setting up a Water Trail in San Francisco Bay and would love to learn more about your stewardship program.

WWTA, thanks for all you do to make paddling in the state more enjoyable, whether it be by establishing new trails, advocating for paddlers around the state, or encouraging responsible paddle practices. You are appreciated.

# Comparison of results between 2002 WWTA survey and 2007 WWTA survey

*How do you view water trail activity?*

*Days spent on the water*

*Respondent's years of membership*

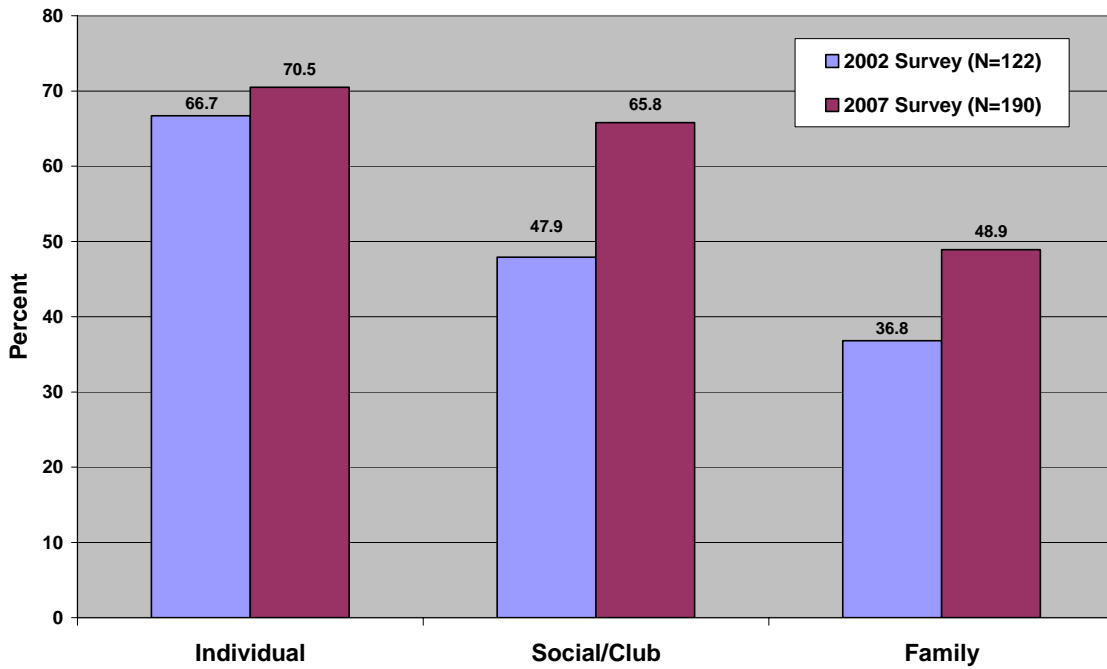
*Type of vessel used*

*Membership in other organizations*

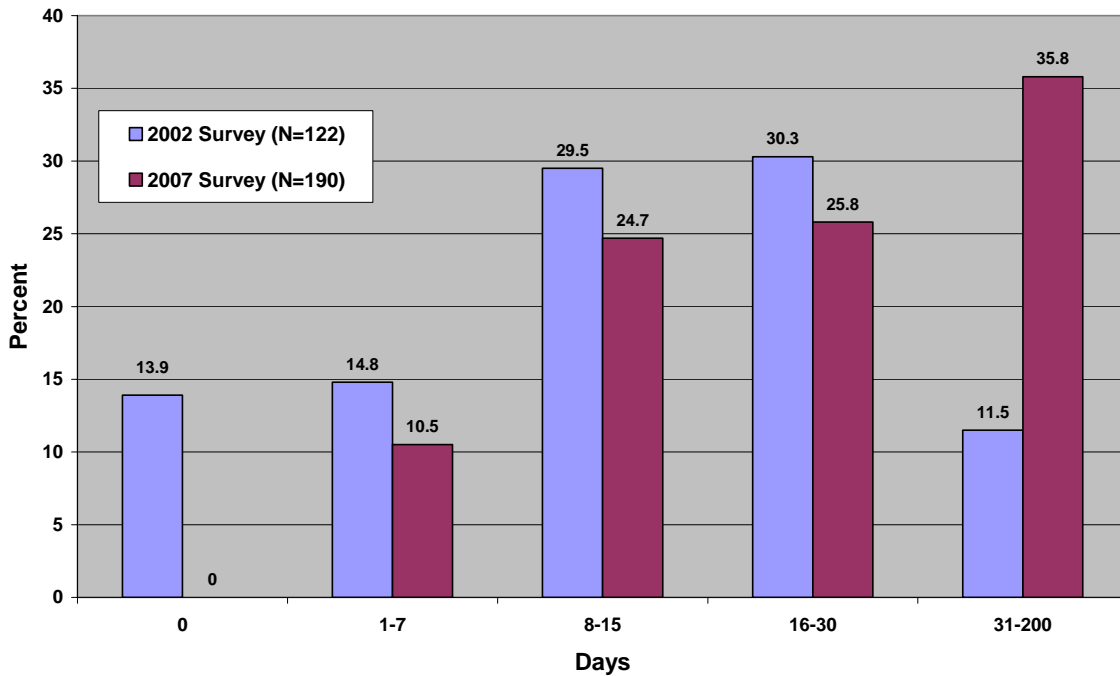
*Reasons for joining WWTA*

*Where WWTA money should be spent*

### How WWTA Members View Water Trail Activity

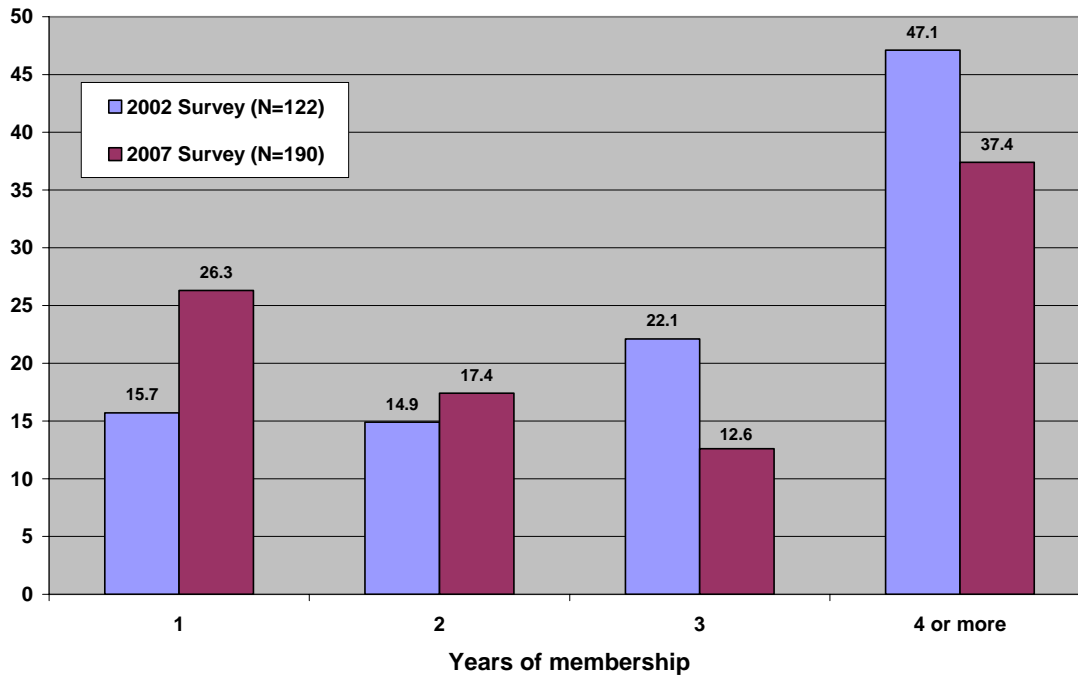


### Days spent on the water by WWTA survey respondents

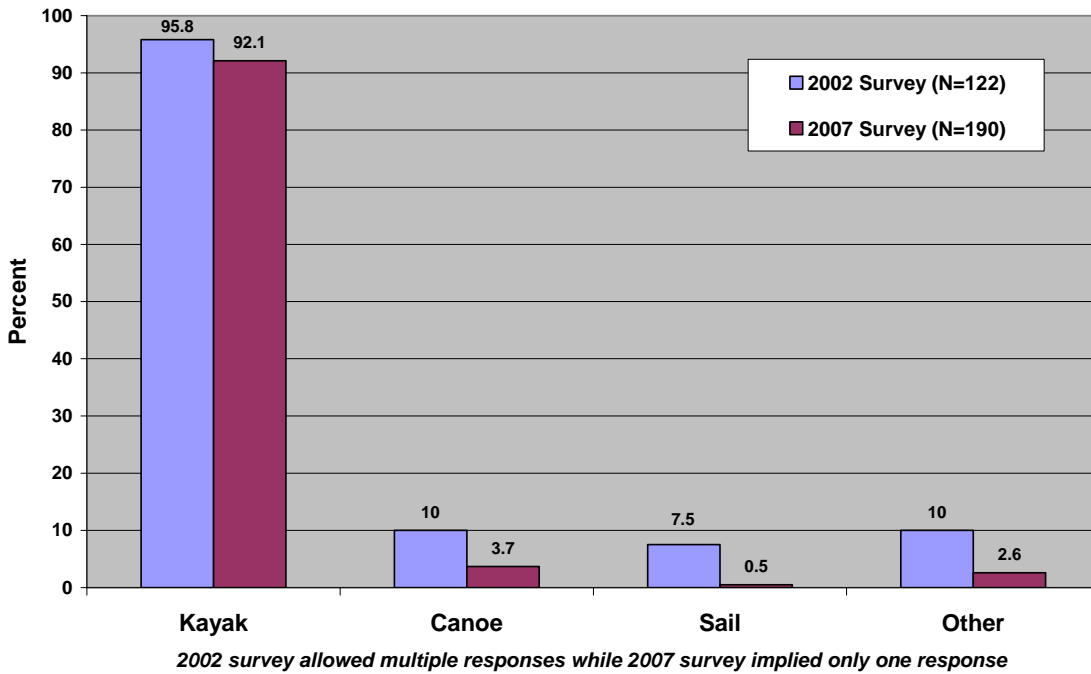




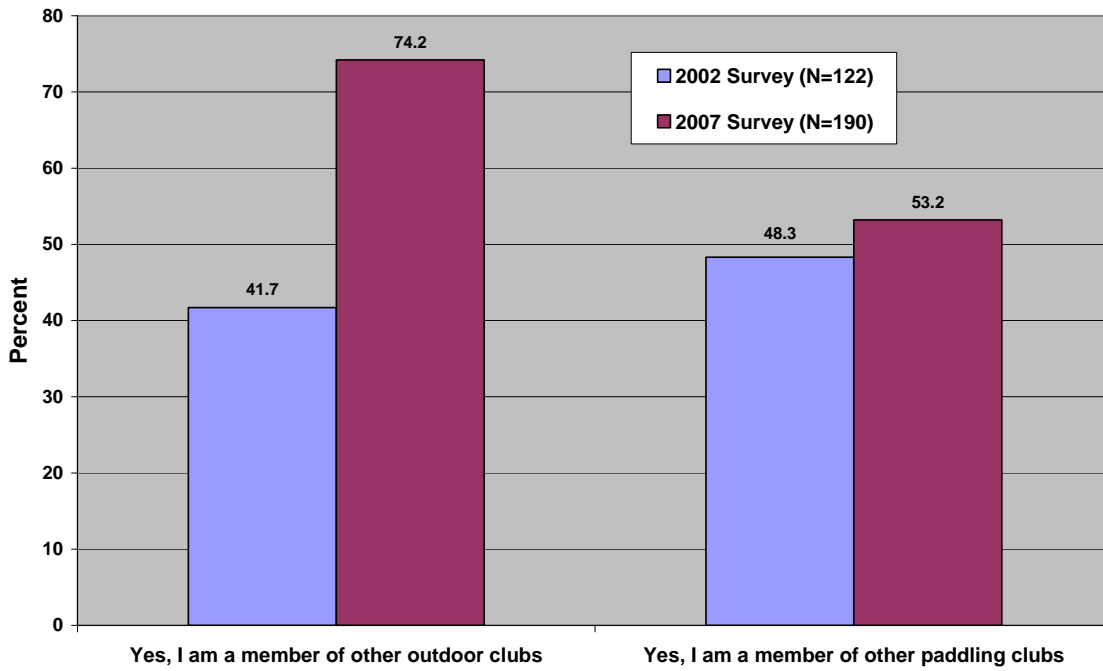
**Percent of WWTa survey respondents by years of membership**



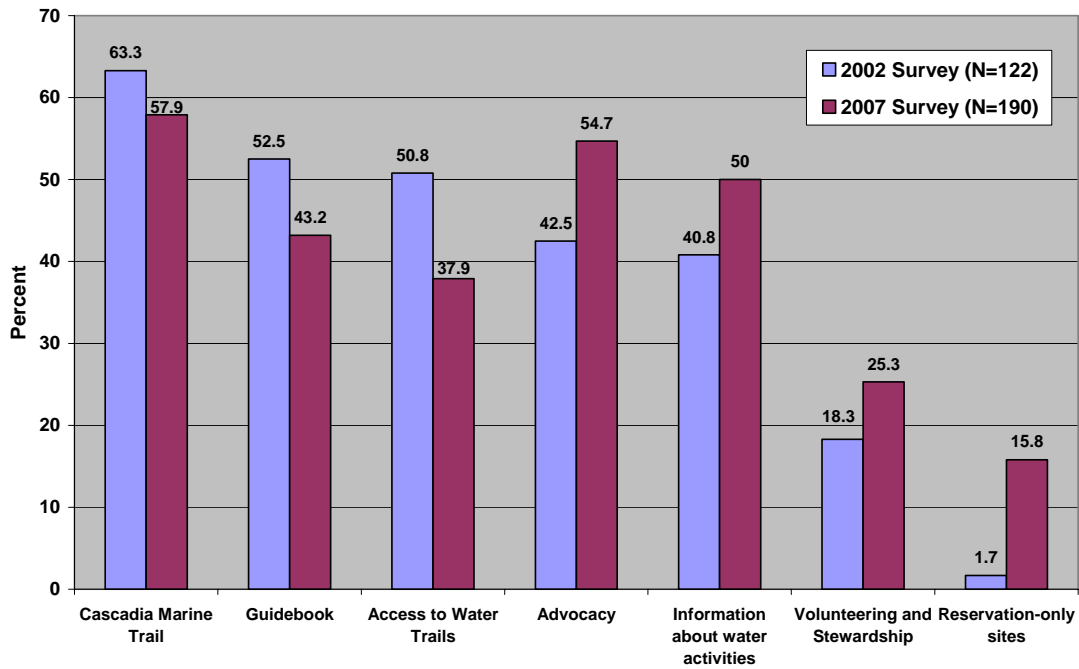
**Type of Vessel used for Water Activity**



### Membership in Other Organizations



### Reasons given for joining WWTa

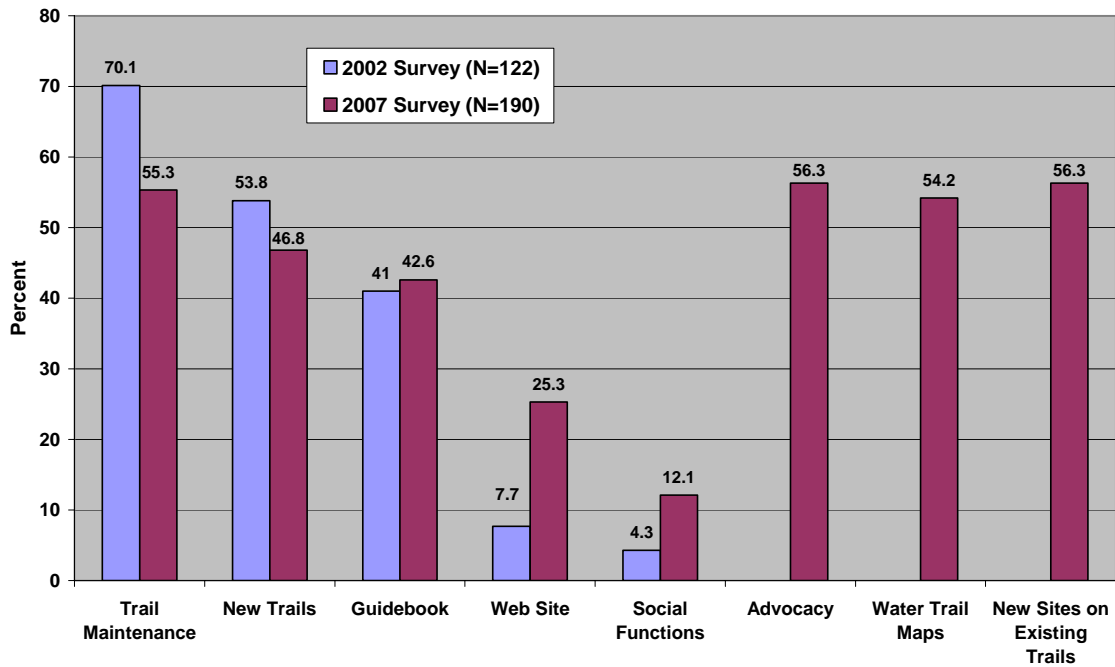


## What were 3 reasons you joined WWTA?

### Other (please specify)

- 10% discount from Kayak Academy
- 10% discount on equipment purchases
- Access to pool sessions
- donate money to a good cause
- financially supporting something I believe in
- great people and rendezvous and clean up opportunities
- information
- learning more about what trails are available
- meet other paddlers
- meeting like minded people
- Meeting like-minded/active folks
- Networking to write a guidebook to the Inside Passage
- support a good organization
- Support a great organization
- support efforts
- supporting agencies supporting outdoor activities
- they work to keep up the campsites and get more of them, and that should be supported
- they work to provide/protect sea kayaking destinations in WA
- To support an effective voice for paddlers
- to support the org
- UKC is member
- Wanted guidebook access but as yet have not figured out how to get it.
- WWTA overall efforts on behalf of paddlers

**Where WWTA members think money should be spent**



**Where would you like to see WWTA membership efforts directed?**

**Other (please specify)**

Access from Ferries to launch spots

All of the above are important

Environmental restoration

Help in regulating guided overnight groups

legislation to open private beaches to necessary stops

look at shorediving.com - something like that

paddling events not always on weekends

Public access at all state ferry docks

Routinely updated information about typical water conditions in specific locations.

Skills newsletter

speaking at paddling clubs

they are doing a great job at all these

# New Survey Questions for WWTA Members

*How did you learn about WWTA?*

*How do you get your paddling news?*

*Knowledge level of Leave No Trace*

*How do you get your WWTA news?*

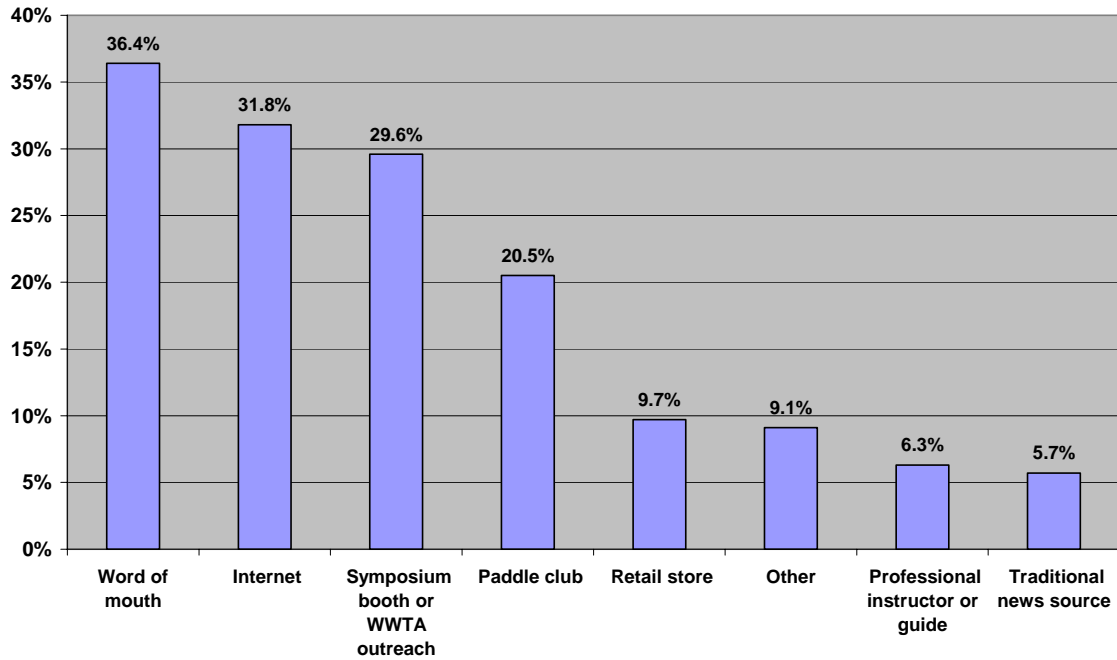
*How many people read your issue of Easy Currents News?*

*Easy Currents News ratings and suggestions*

*Perceptions of non-WWTA members about WWTA*

*What does WWTA do well or could do better?*

## How did you learn about WWTA?



## How did you learn about WWTA?

### Other (please specify)

Contacted me since I work in paddle manufacturing company

don't remember

Don't remember

guide book to paddling NW

i can't remember

I went on part of the the 10 days 100 miles kayak trip

Internet

I've forgotten

Magazine

magazine article years ago

met members at a work site

talked to a staff member at a campground

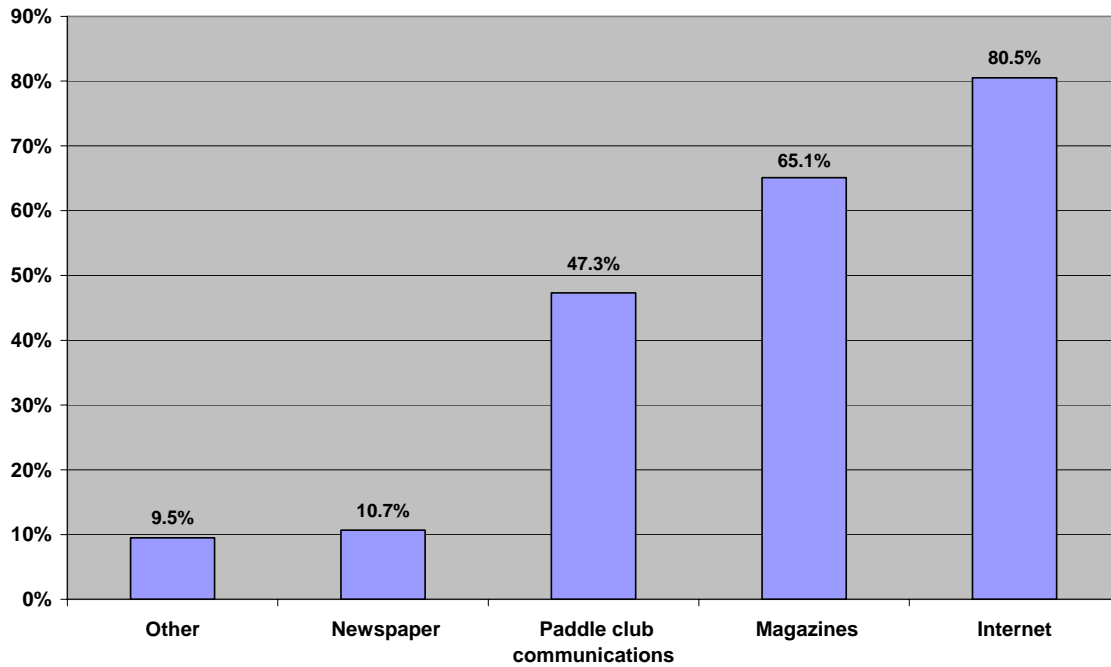
Through Employer

Tom Deschmer!

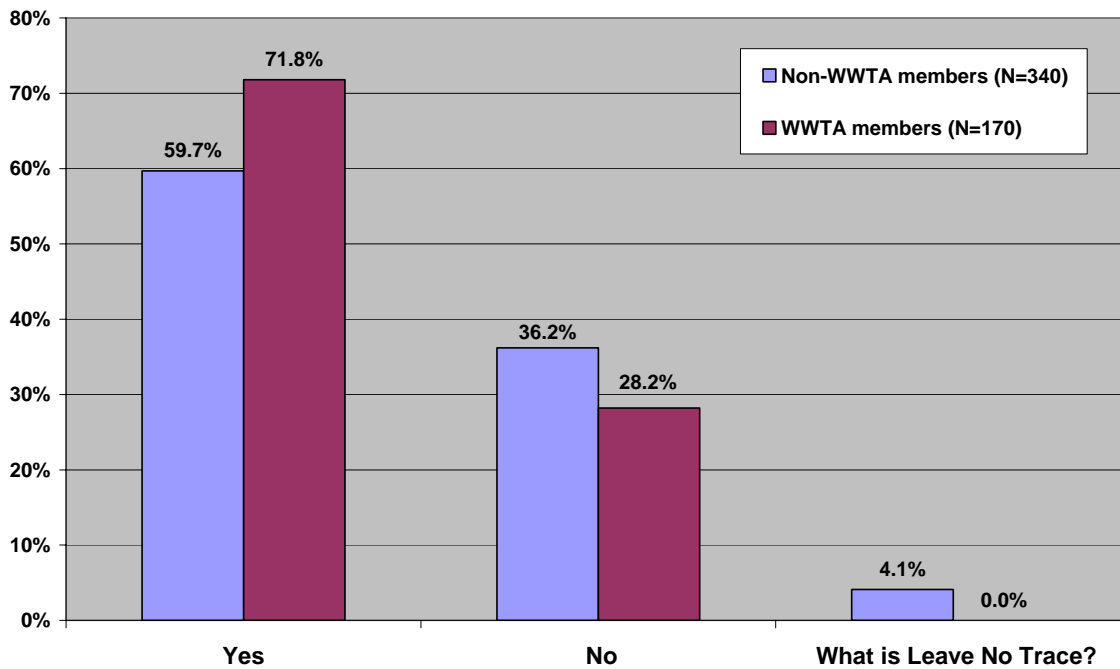
visited State Park with Cascadia site

Water Trails Book

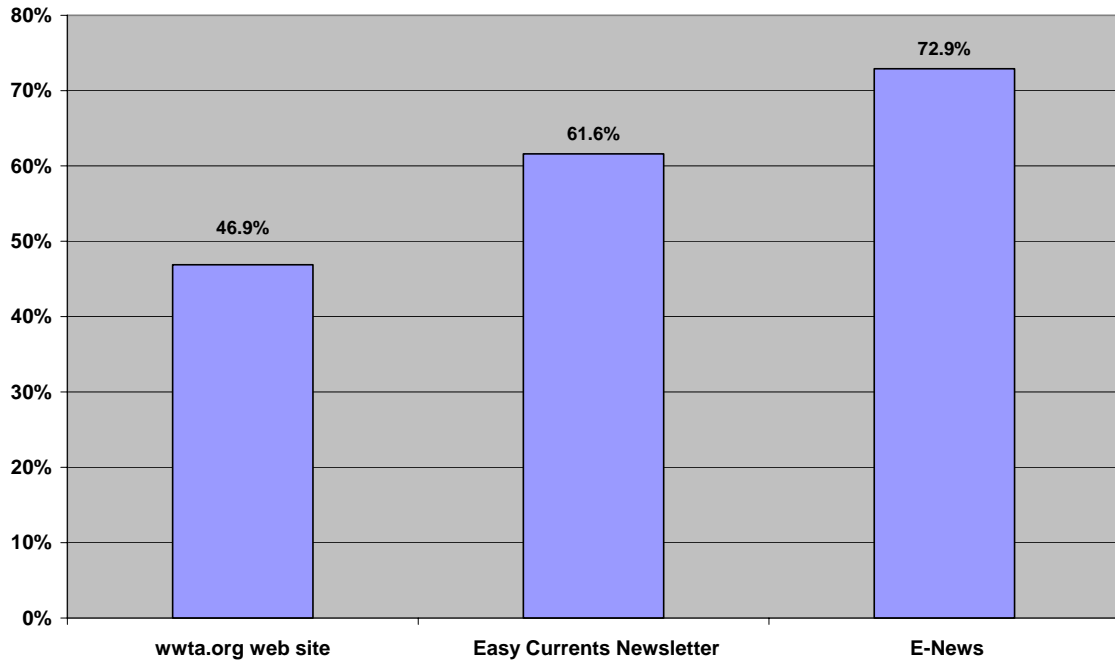
**How do WWTA members get paddling news (other than from WWTA).**



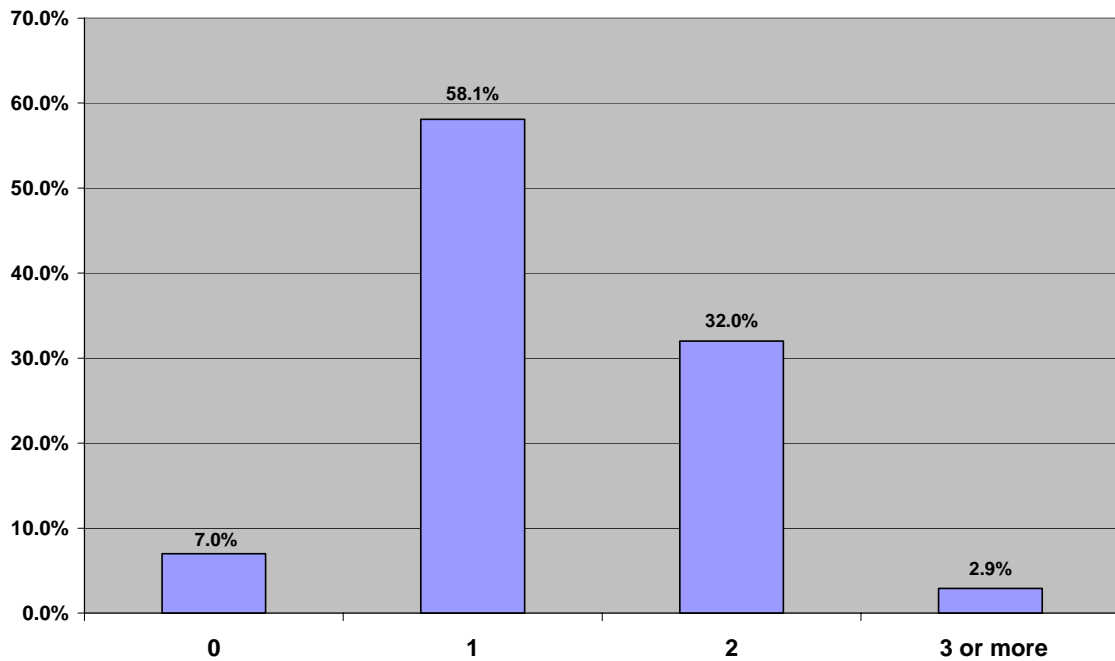
**Has your knowledge of Leave No Trace increased in the last 5 years?**



### How do you get your WWTA news?

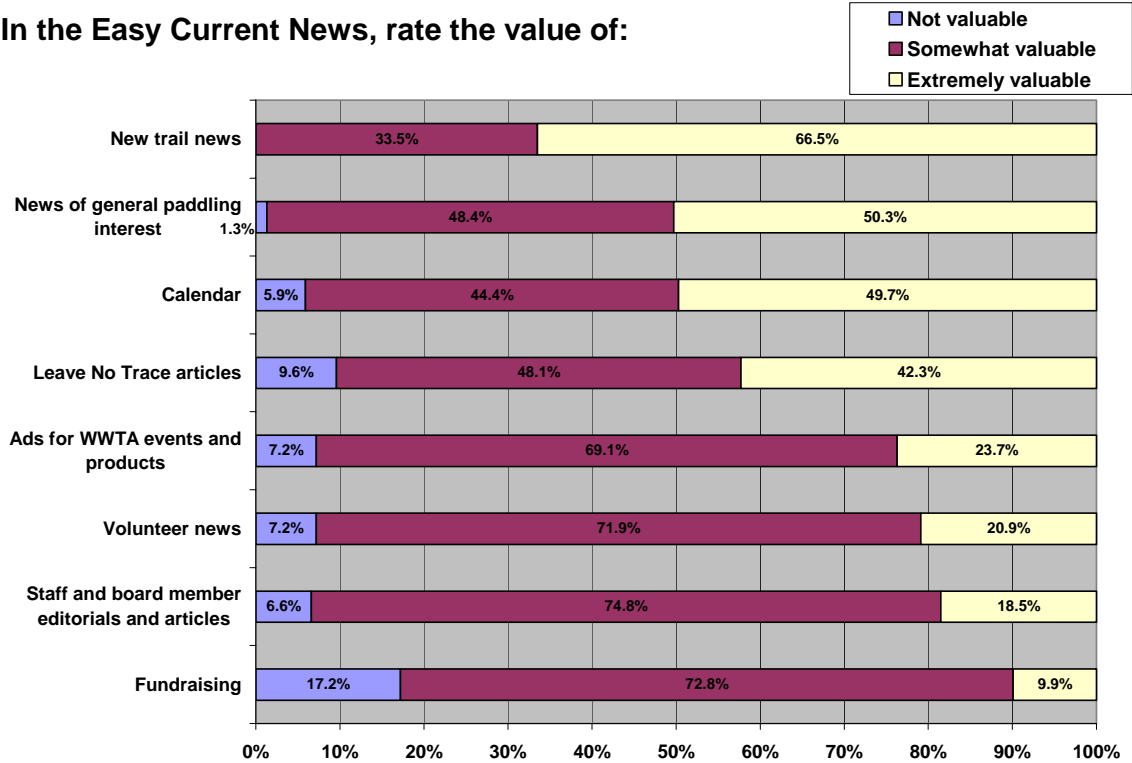


### How many read your issue of Easy Current News?





**In the Easy Current News, rate the value of:**



**What would you like to see more of in the WWTA Easy Current News?**

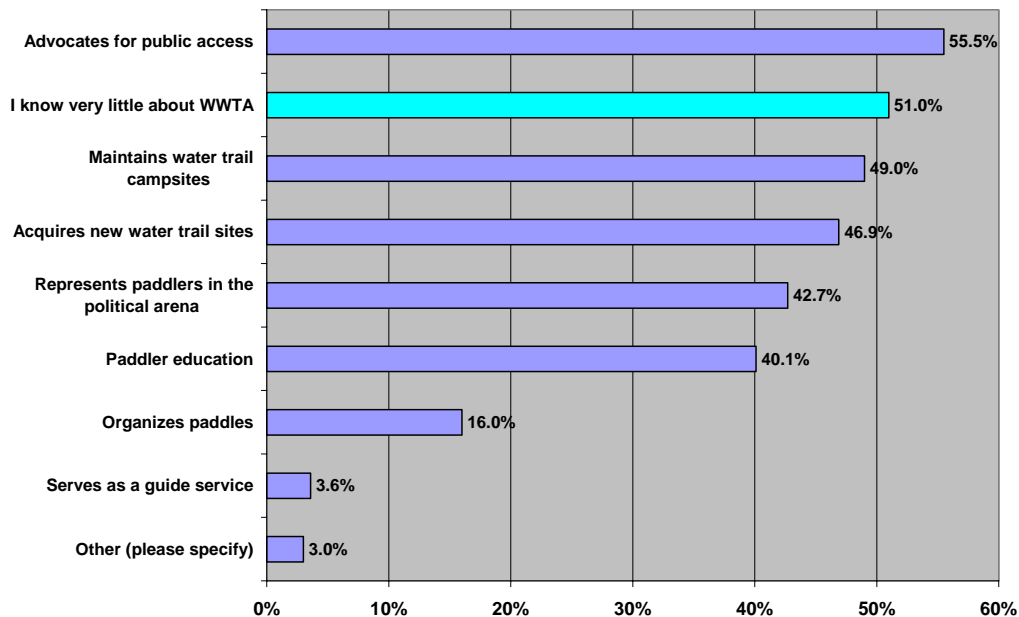
**Open-Ended Response**

- Ads for used gear.
- Advocacy issues
- Any news on current conditions and political changes that effect access and paddler's access rights.
- Articles from site stewards about their site.
- Articles on access issues
- bimonthly April-October instead of quarterly
- Club member profiles. The big regional & national picture on public access and water trail info
- Feature a campsite each issue with photo, useful map, specifics (water, outhouse, picnic table, how many tents it can hold, charge). I just stumbled on one site on Jones Island that I did not know existed so I had already encamped at one of the other site
- Feature a different good local (i.e. within state) paddle trip and its facilities (if any) each month.
- Gear reviews
- Group Paddles
- How about a "spotlight" on a specific water trail site?
- I enjoy personal stories of the volunteers and stories about the sites where they work.
- Info about CMT sites.
- Information about sites and trails - area history, geology, botany, etc.
- Leave no Trace- details. Maybe some safely info too. (When you need what lights, when you need a wetsuit kayaking, those things you can put on your boat that make it get picked up by radar on other boats, etc.)
- Links to sites offering Puget Sound and other area's environmental problems/activities

# What would you like to see more of in the WWTA Easy Current News?

- Lists of other links to paddle information.
- More details of campsites, personal stories kind of things
- More info about water-related environmental issues
- More information on camping sites and water conditions experienced.
- More on equipment
- Paddle stories about campouts on the trails.
- paddlers experiences and insights
- paddling tips
- travel deals specifically for paddlers (i.e. discounts at waterfront hotels and B&Bs)
- legislative news pertinent to our waterways
- Perfect as is. Question 26 They are covering all valuable matters splendidly.
- perhaps use as an avenue to connect paddlers for social trips
- Personal descriptions of paddle trips in Washington and British Columbia.
- Photos of people at WWTA sites, events, and paddling WWTA Paddling Trails.
- Pictures
- skills training, map tidal current reading, etc
- Stories about the actual paddling members are doing. Currents that effect what they are doing. I paddle primarily the south Sound so that is where my interests lie. I also paddle the lakes and dams of the area.
- Technique (paddling and camping), safety
- Trail and site reports and info.
- Trip descriptions...
- trip notes from readers - similar to what pack & paddle used to do
- Trip reports
- trips and costs involved
- We have only seen one WWTA News because we are new members...so no comment

## Perceptions and beliefs of non-WWTA members about WWTA



## What is one thing WWTA does well?

access	2
Advocacy	24
advocacy- consistent message	
Advocates for paddles in state, counties	
builds trail partnerships	
Campsites	8
Cascadia Marine Trail	
Communication	18
Conservation	
coordinates campsites	
coordination with agencies and organizations for trail development and maintenance	4
create paddling sites	
Creation of the marine trails!	
creates and maintains access to water for paddlers	
develop trails	
educating paddlers	
efficiency toward goals	
Ensures public access through CMT	
establish camp sites	
Establish trails	
Establish trails, Deal with Public	
ESTABLISHING NEW CAMP SITES	
establishment of non-motorized camp sites	
gets people organized	
getting people together	
Great website information.	
Guide book to water trails.	2
Help create water trail sites	
Leave No Trace education	4
Maintains sites	6
Maintenance and publicizing water trail sites	
make paddling destinations	
New site acquisitions	
new trails	
Out reach program	

## What is one thing WWTA could do better?

Increase access on Hood Canal.
Expand to California!
More advocacy
Web site expanded
thank donors
Get more water access sites
more perks for buying membership
not get overextended
Spend more time on the water with members
get more money to support programs
more campsites
Maintain Camp Sites
Communicate about trips
co operative relationships with conservation organizations for public access - opening up new sites on private property
Equipment news
branch out so I wouldn't have to travel so far to be more involved
You really mess up in restroom installation bad I mean very bad see Skagit Island for example. Overkill on the restroom and high impact in the land during installation.
become more visible to the public and legislature
more exposure/marketing
Utilize the volunteers better
provide a member forum for more group events
Advocate more paddler only campsites
WATER ACCESS FORUM
establishment of kayak-friendly launch sites
get more people organized
Get the guidebook out!
Improving information about water conditions.
access to water
Grow membership.
Good map of launch sites
Selling the use of the water tail sites. As a member of many years, I do not even have a map of the sites much less a description of any of them.
membership records
expand trip info
offer midweek trips and cleanups
Provide clickable trailhead information

**What is one thing WWTA does well?**

- Promotes and advocates for marine trails
- Promotes nonmotorized water access
  - Promotes paddling in general
  - Promotes trail & site creation
- Provide and maintain water trails and public access to the water
  - Public Access
  - selflessness
  - Spend money wisely
  - stays active
  - Sticks to mission!
  - The last auction was awesome
  - Trail advocacy
- trail and site info (online, guidebooks, etc)
- Trail development
- Trail publicity
- Trails
  - up to date activities available
- Voice or the paddling community to government
- Volunteer activities 7
- Water Trails
- Water trails advocacy and maintenance
- Web access to trails guide book
- welcome new members 3

**What is one thing WWTA could do better?**

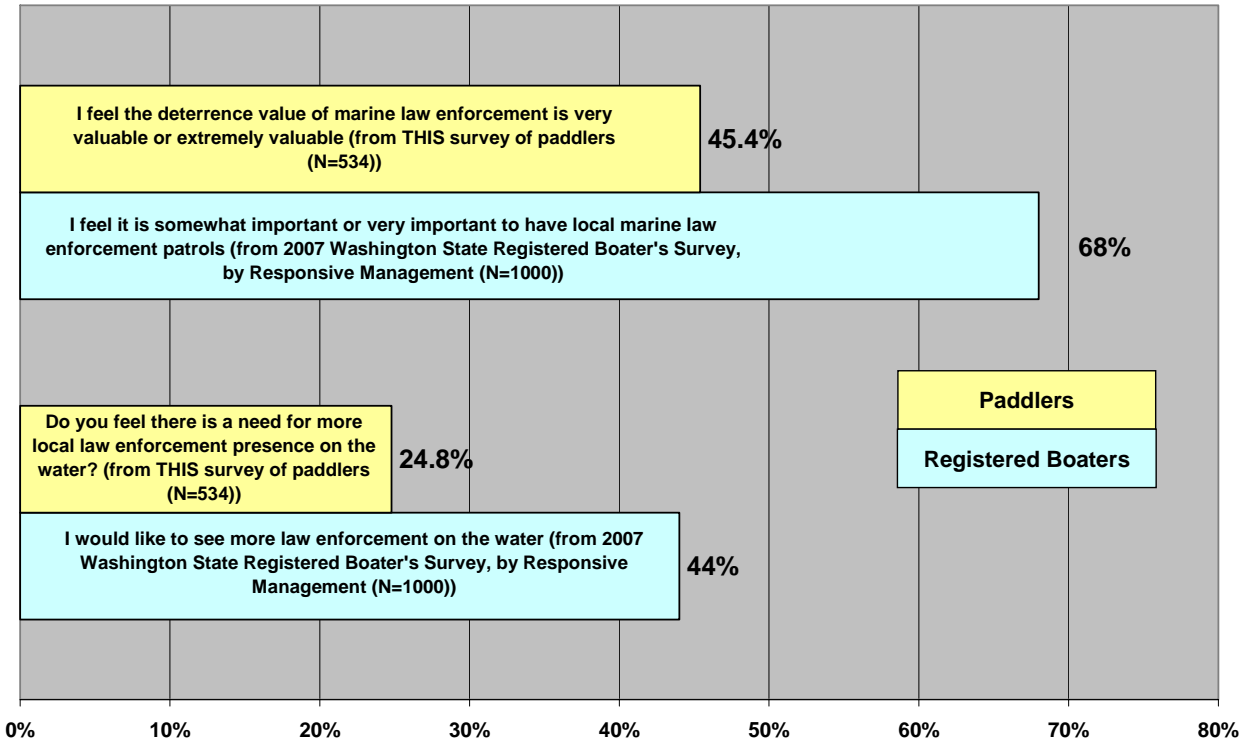
- outreach
- more activities
- Regulate use of sites by guided groups
- More sites
- Advocacy for more public access
- awareness to paddling
- Get their message out there in a BIGGER way.
- campsite maintenance
- increase the number of members
- fix their X%)#\* phones
- Advocacy
- open more in Hoods Canal
- Keep website current and expanding in content
- Hiring practices don't appear to be fair, communications with other paddling clubs/groups non-existent (OK - that's two things)
- Promote paddling activities
- If we could and would actually Leave No Trace or abuse the privilege of others' private property, unlock access to all shoreline
- more info, more often
- Environmental Work
- advertise existence
- Put more trip planning info on the web site
- Up to date info about camp sites on web site
- Fundraisers besides the annual auction
- More public visibility
- Advocacy (like this survey)
- Expand beyond Washington
- Less focus on WWTA personalities (this is an "in-crowd" thing)
- Sponsor kayaking/canoeing/rowing training classes
- Actually mail the guide book
- working with Ferry system

# Comparison of This Survey Data With 3 Other Surveys

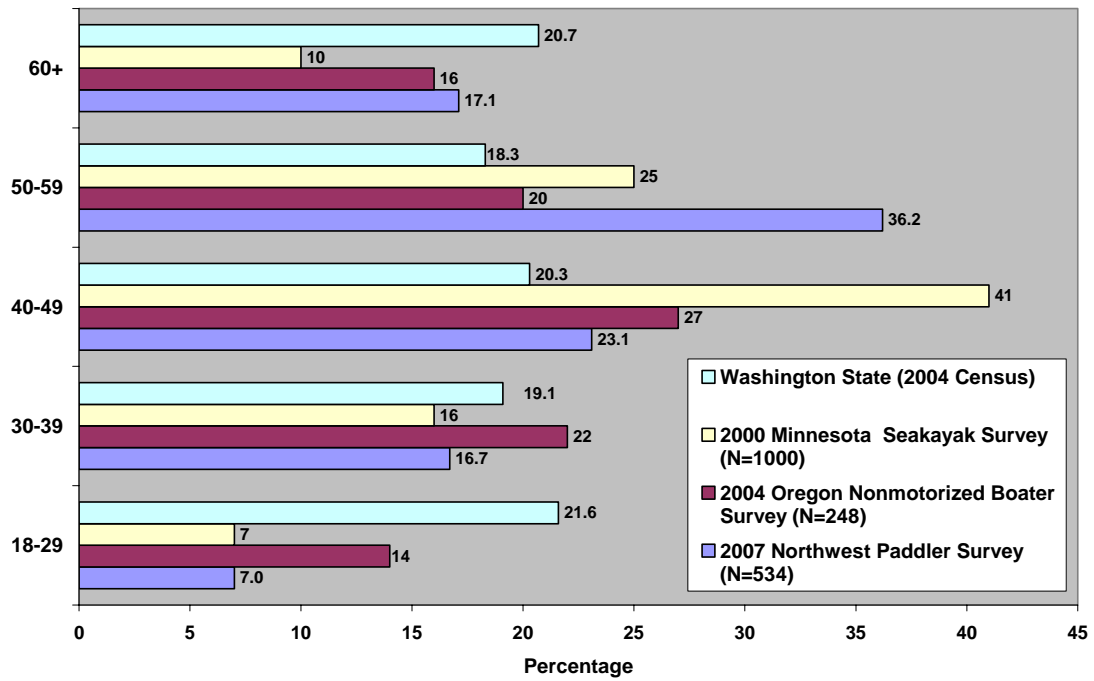
*Different views about the value of marine law enforcement: A comparison of data between this survey and the 2007 Washington State Boaters Survey Regarding Safety, Education, and Law Enforcement conducted for Washington State Parks.*

*Demographic comparisons between this survey and the 2004 Oregon No- Motorized Boating Survey and the 2000 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Registered Seakayak Survey.*

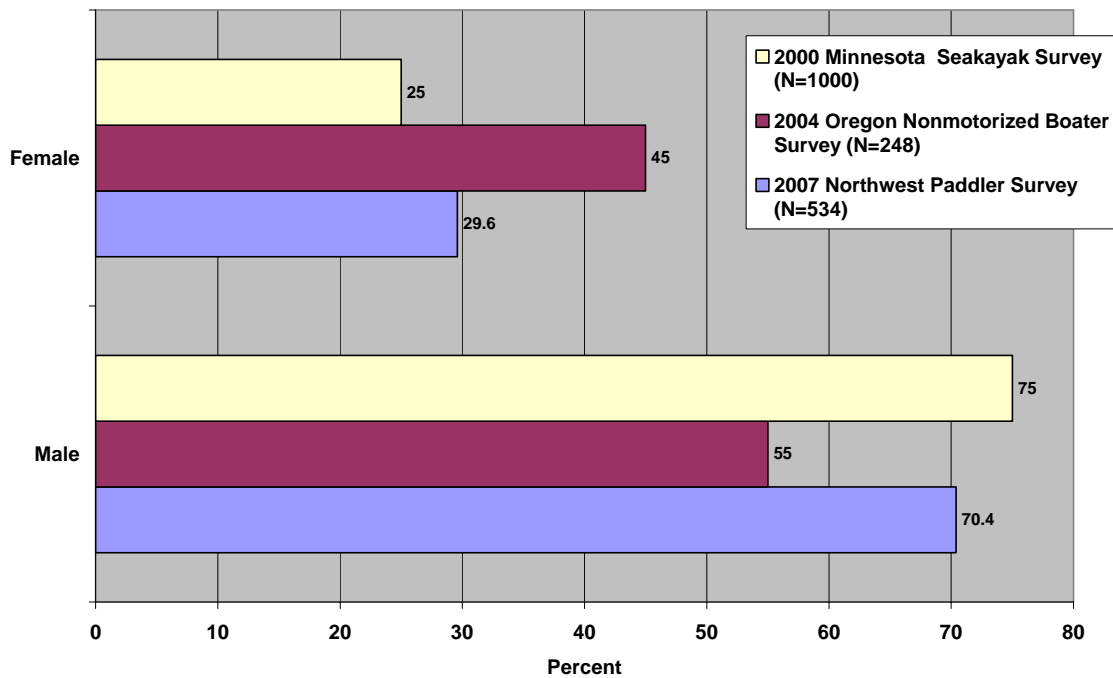
### Different views about the value of marine law enforcement between paddlers and registered boaters



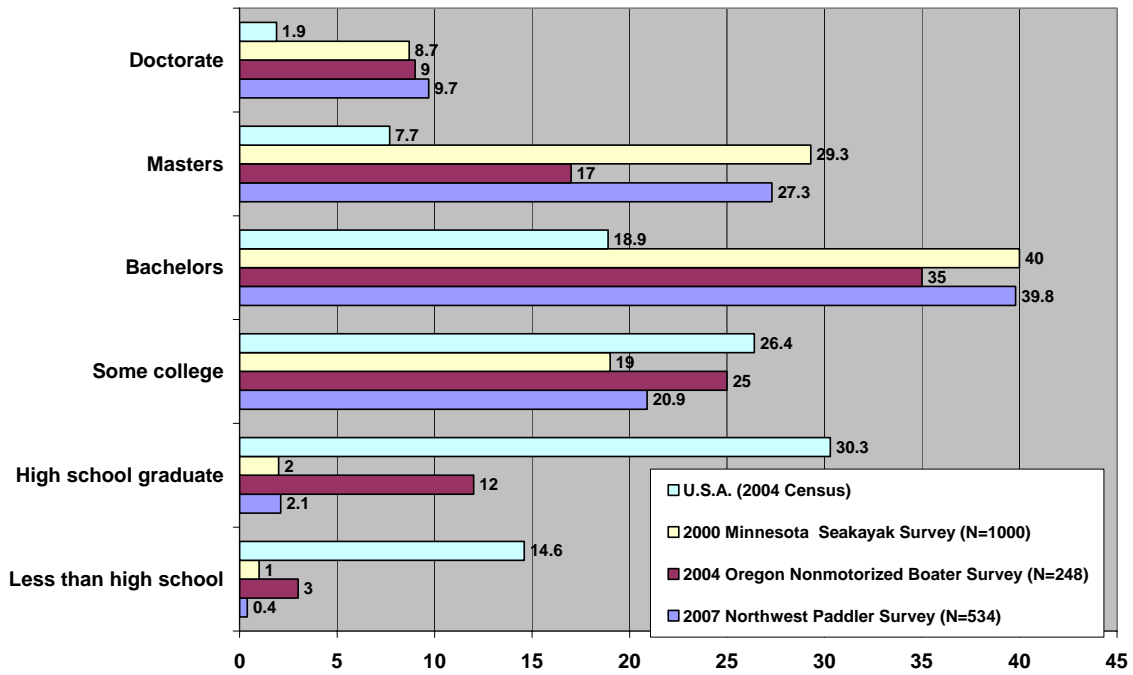
### Age of respondents on 3 surveys and the general population



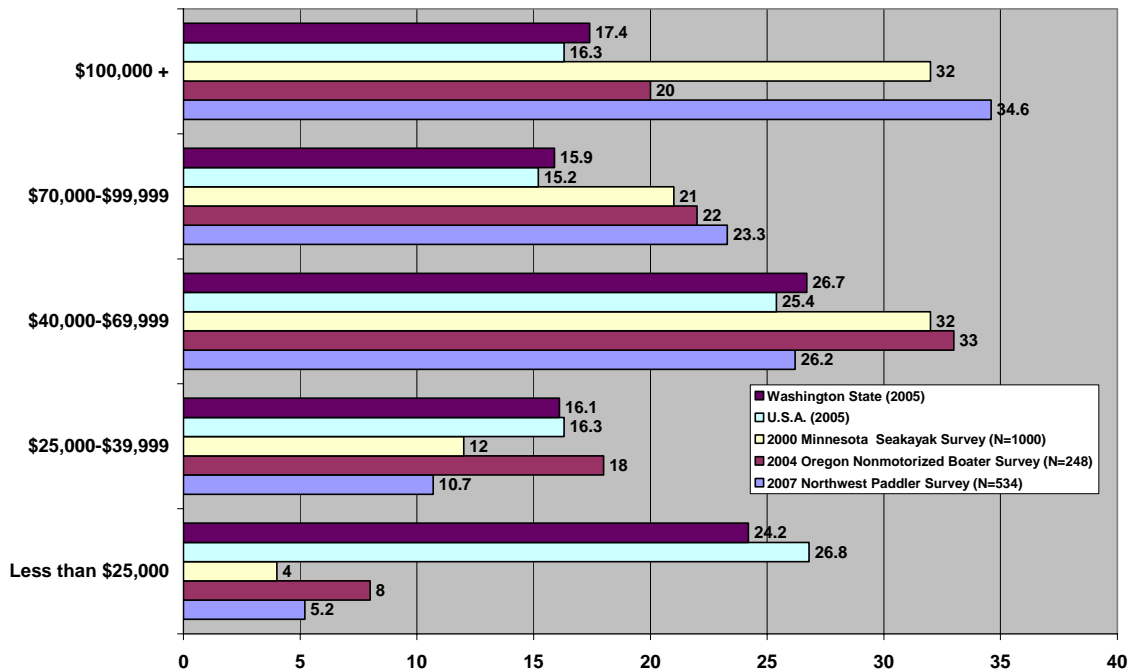
### Gender comparisons from 3 surveys



### Education level of respondents on 3 surveys



### Income level of respondents on 3 surveys



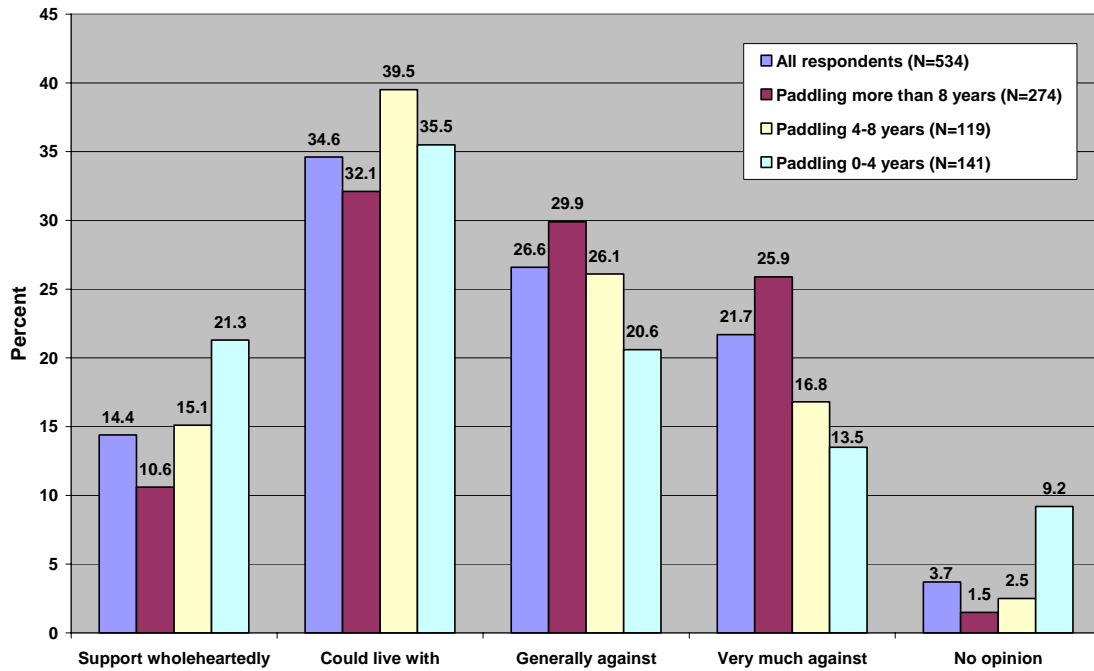


# **Mandatory Boater Education; a more detailed look**

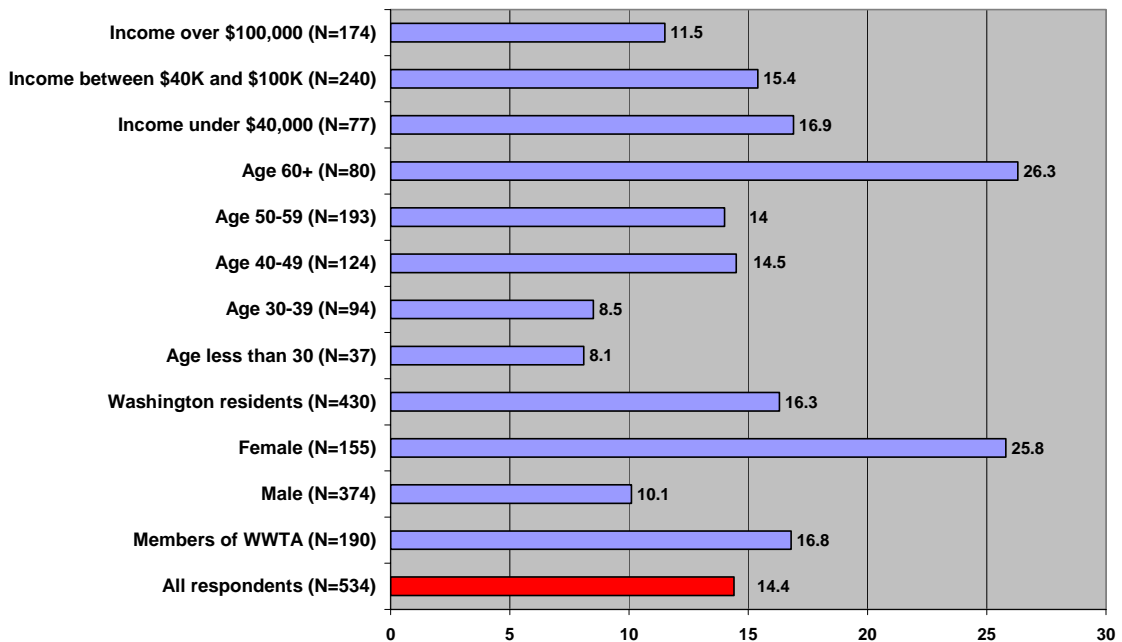
*By level of paddling experience for four different opinion levels*

*By 19 other paddling segments broken down to either  
wholeheartedly support on one set of charts and those who  
oppose mandatory education on another set of charts.*

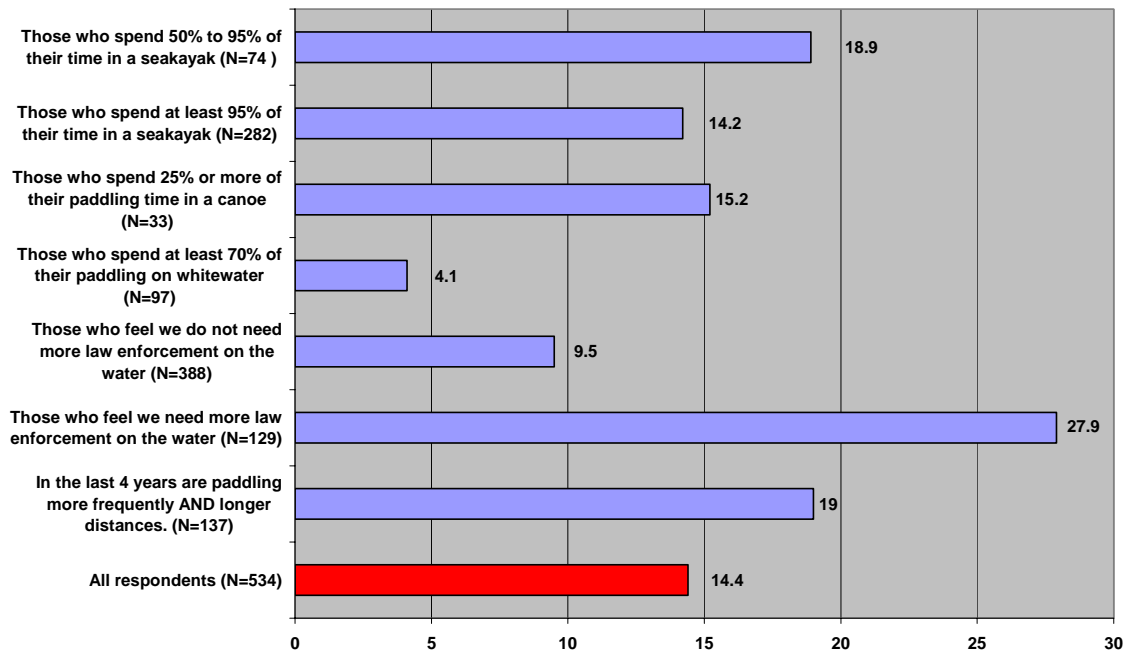
### Support for mandatory boater education by experience level



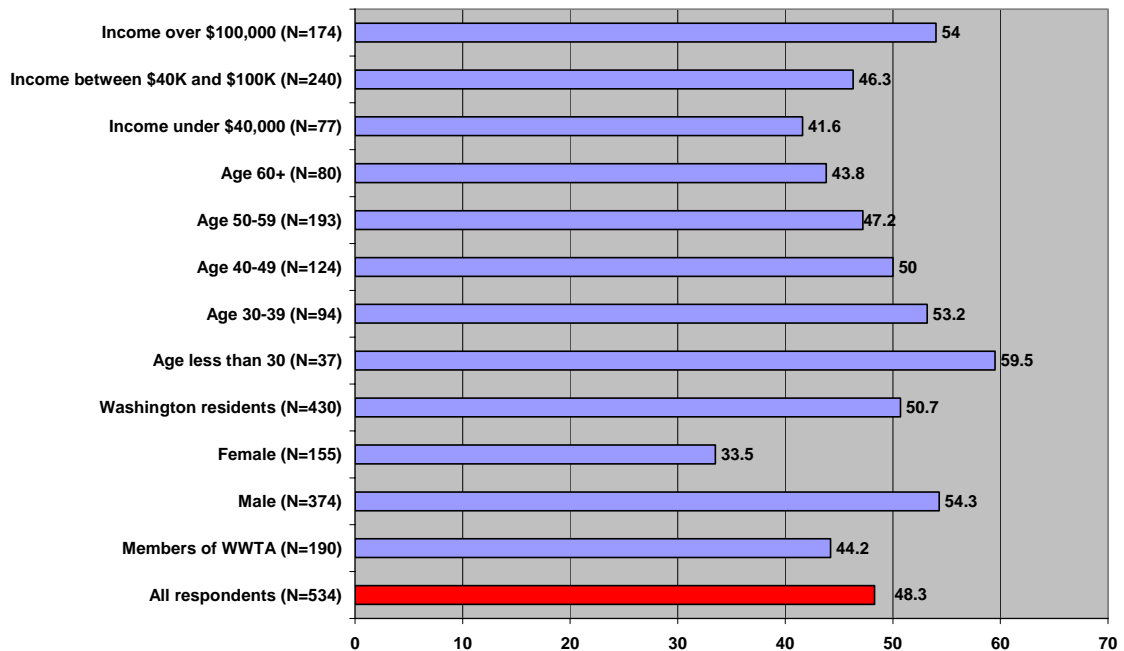
### Mandatory Boater Education for Paddlers: Percent who wholeheartedly support.



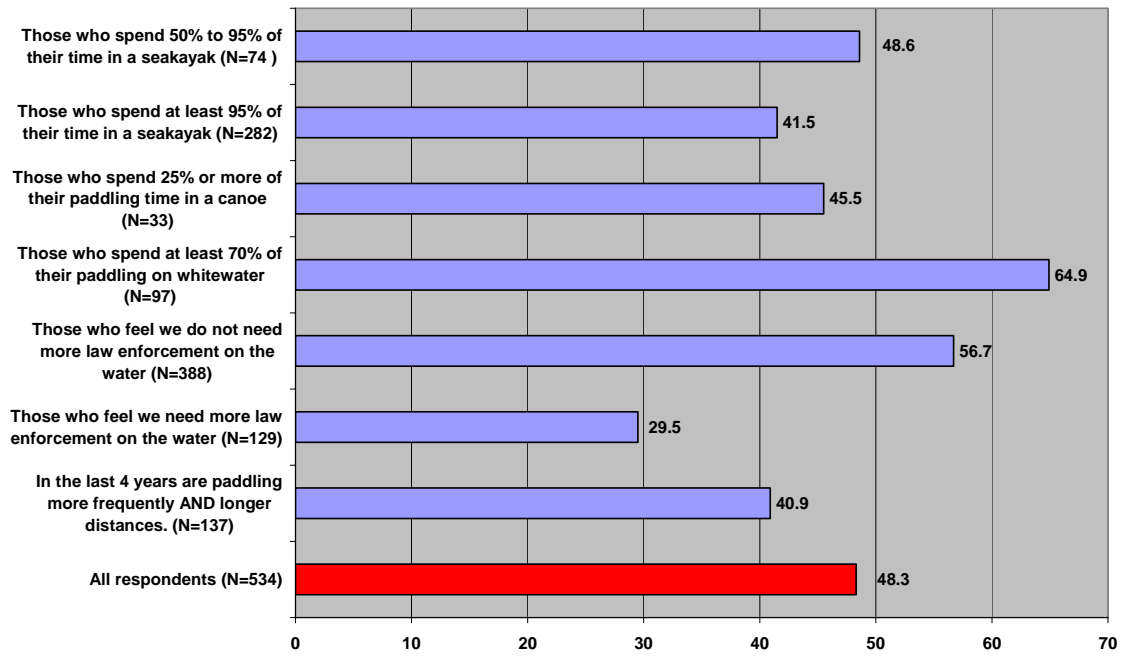
**Mandatory Boater Education for Paddlers: Percent who wholeheartedly support.**



**Mandatory Boater Education for Paddlers: Percent who are generally against and very much against**



**Mandatory Boater Education for Paddlers: Percent who are generally against and very much against.**

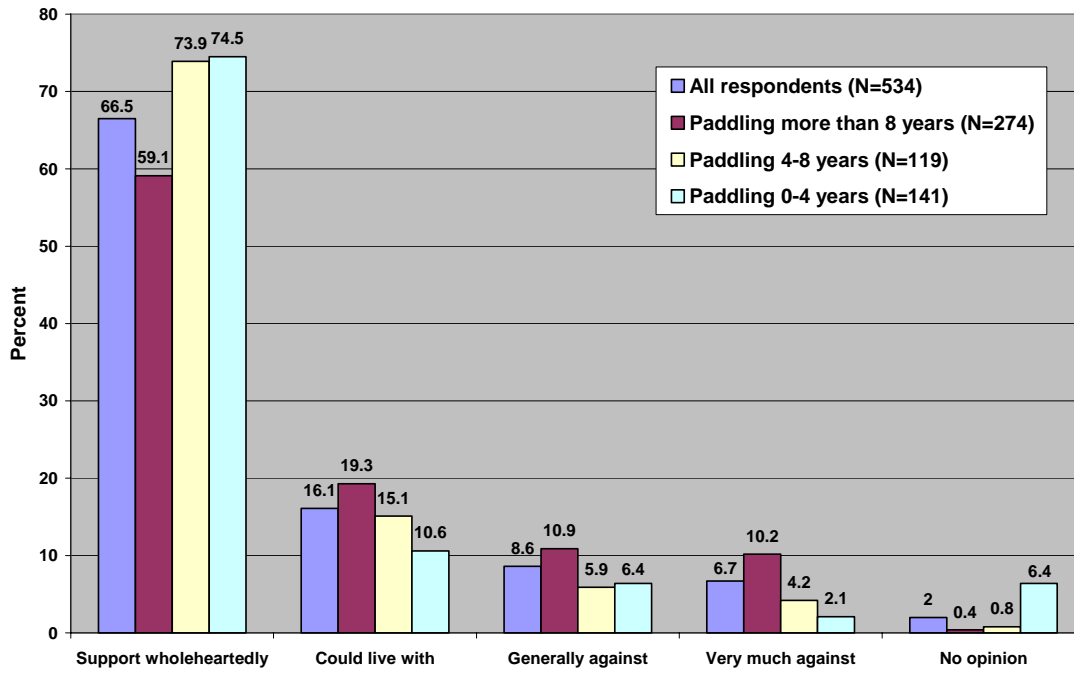


# **Mandatory Wearing of a PFD; a more detailed look**

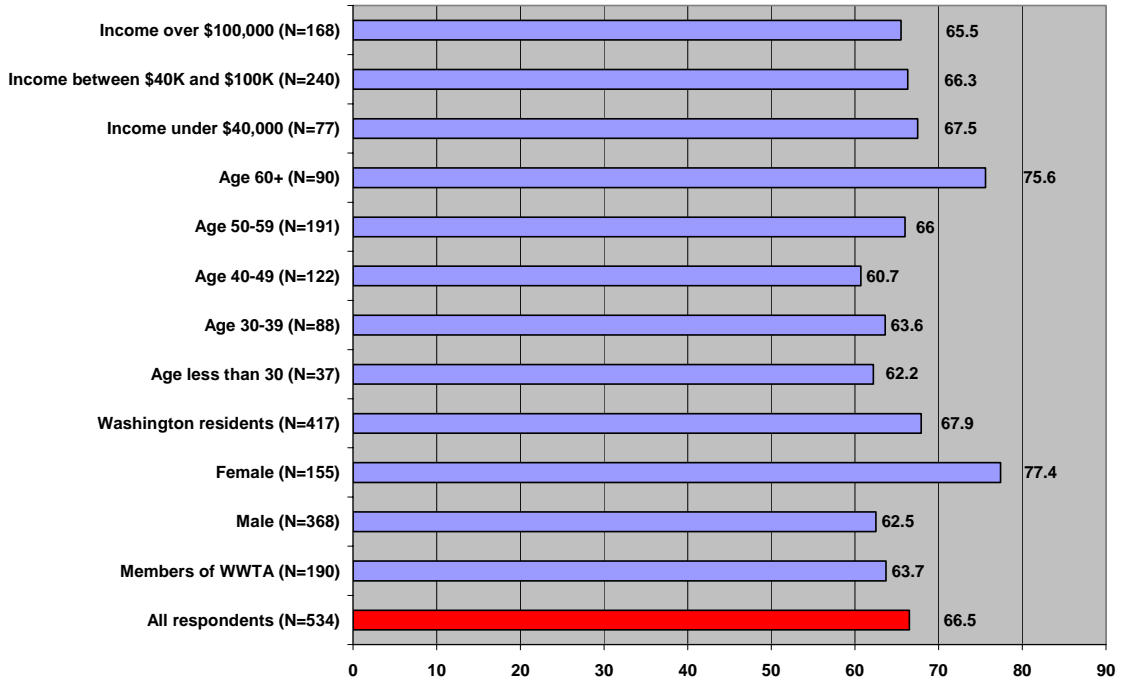
*By level of paddling experience for four different opinion levels*

*By 19 other paddling segments broken down to either wholeheartedly support on one set of charts and those who oppose mandatory PFD use on another set of charts.*

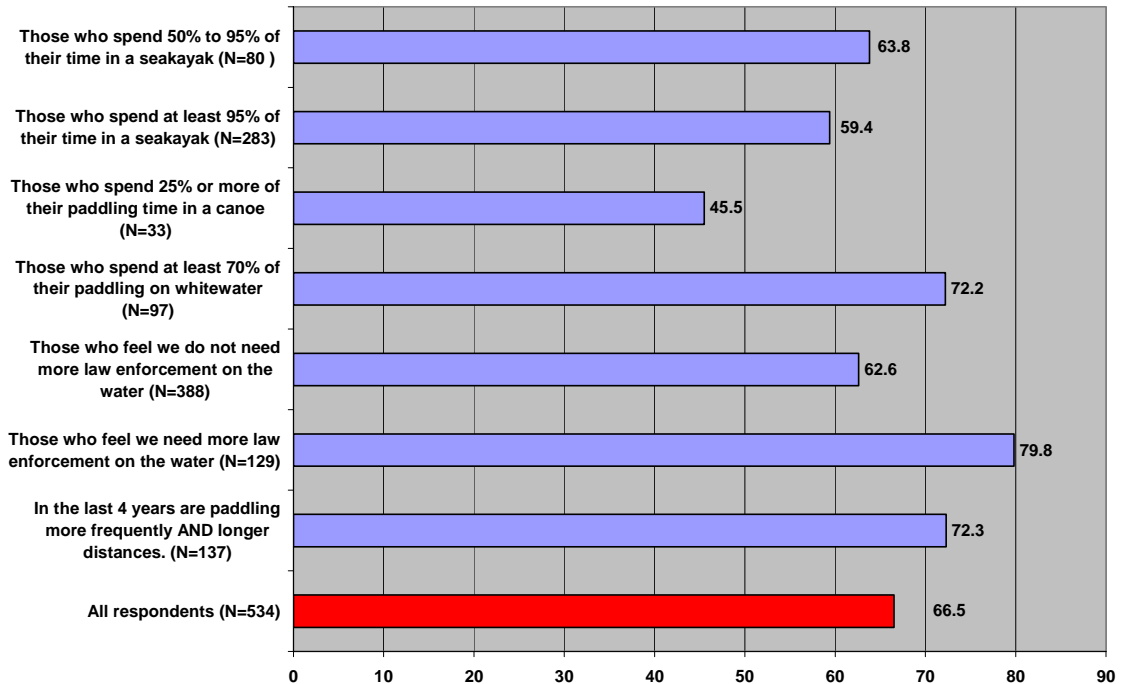
### Support for mandatory use of PFD's by experience level



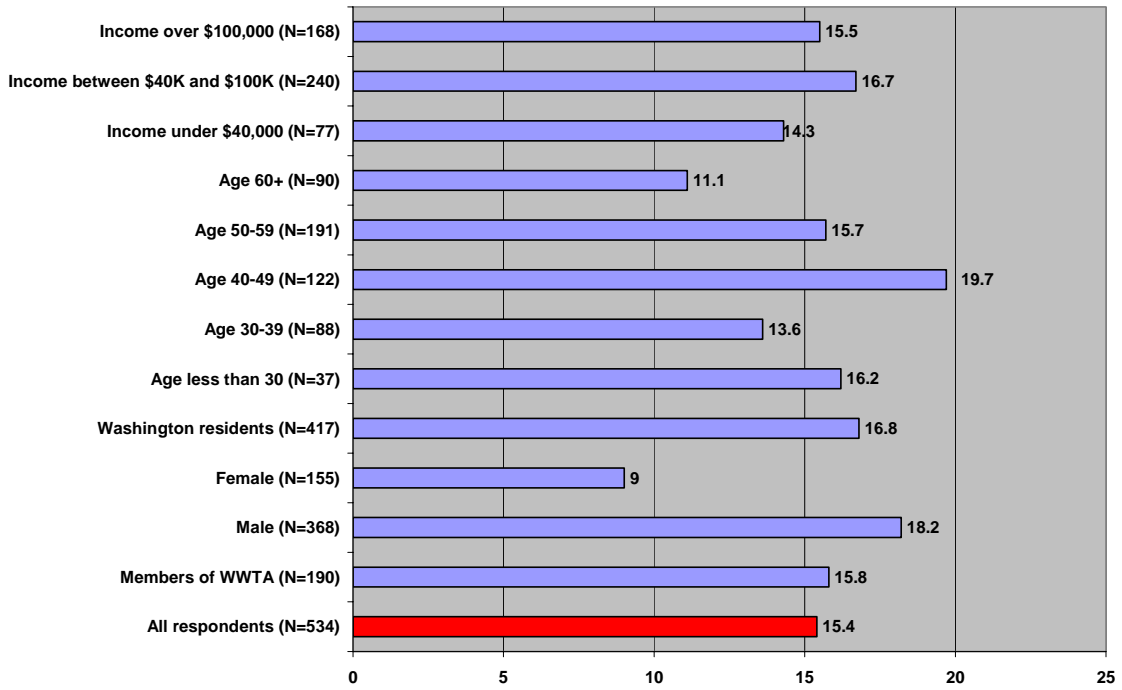
**Mandatory PFD Usage: Percent who wholeheartedly support.**



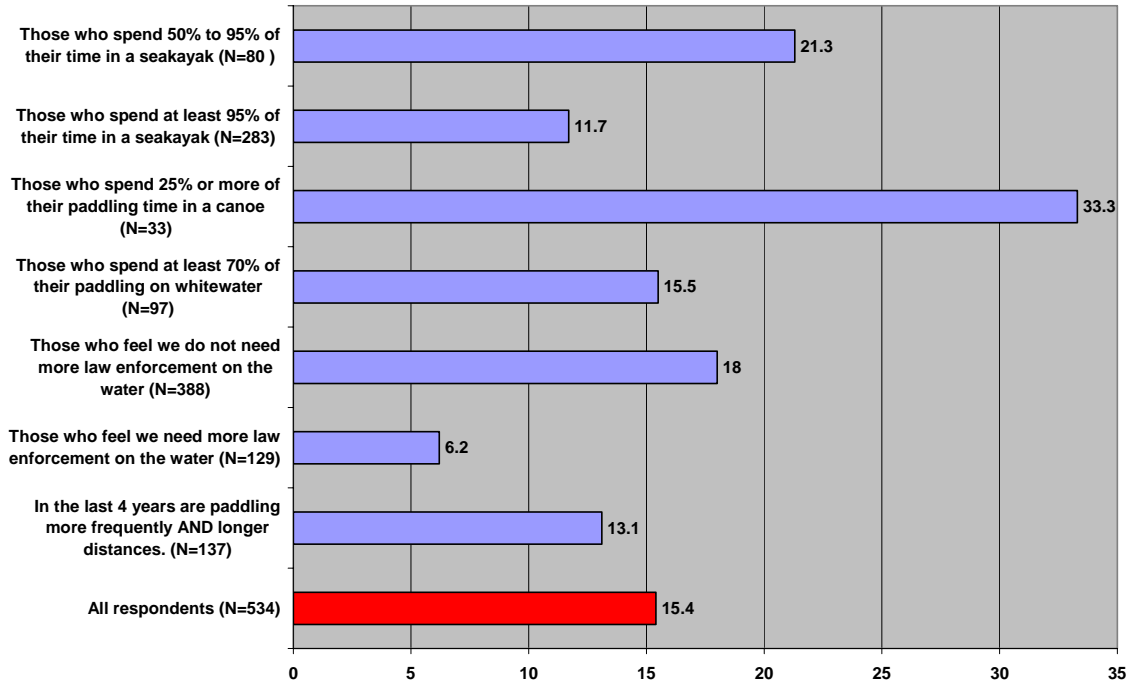
**Mandatory PFD Usage: Percent who wholeheartedly support.**



**Mandatory PFD Usage: Percent who are generally against and very much against.**



**Mandatory PFD Usage: Percent who are generally against and very much against**

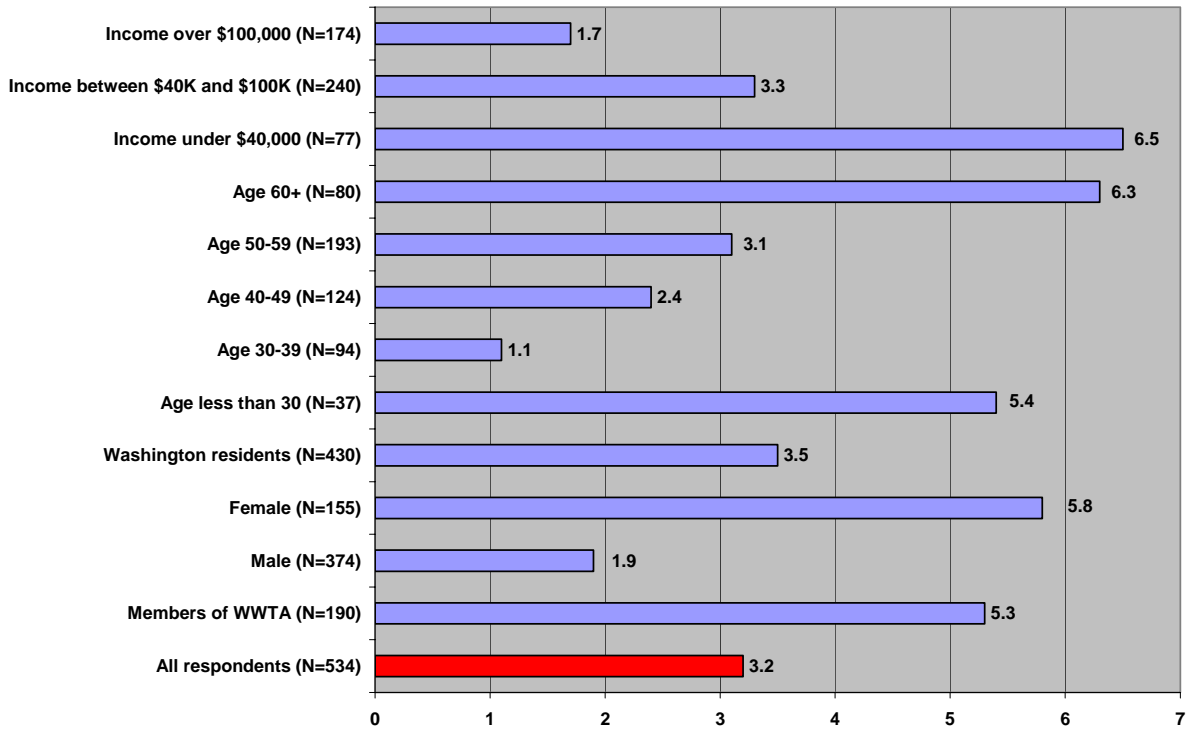




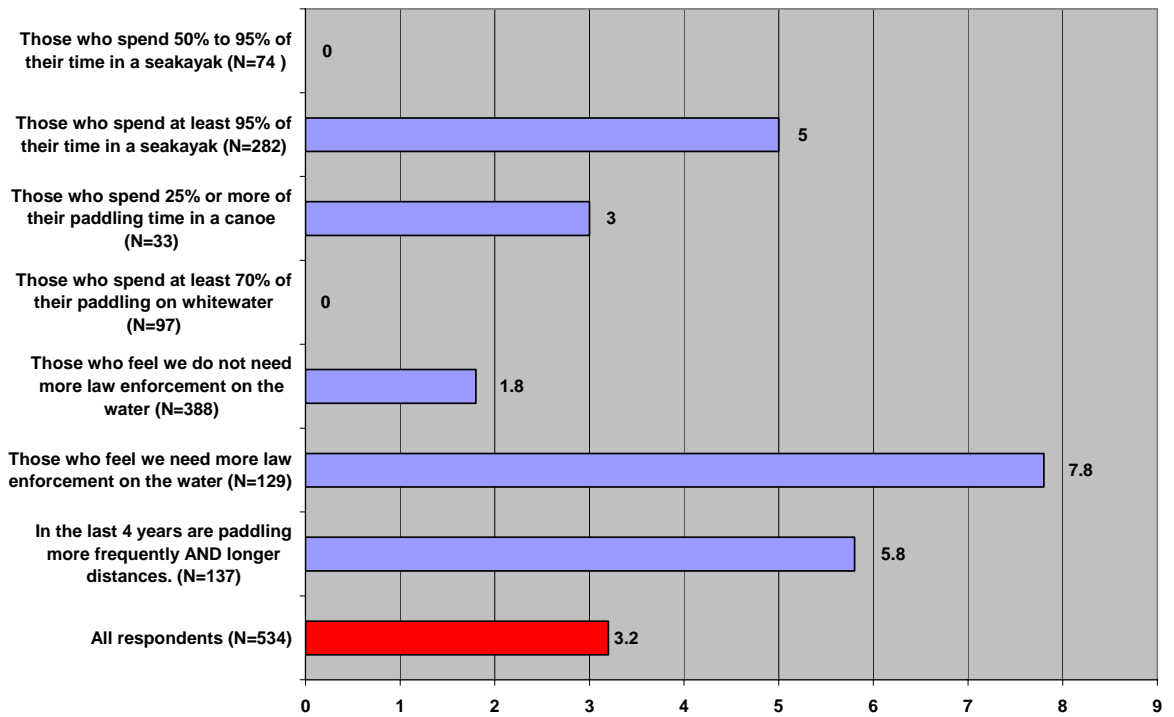
# Mandatory Registration of Paddle craft; a more detailed look

*By 19 paddling segments broken down to either wholeheartedly support on one set of charts and those who oppose mandatory PFD use on another set of charts.*

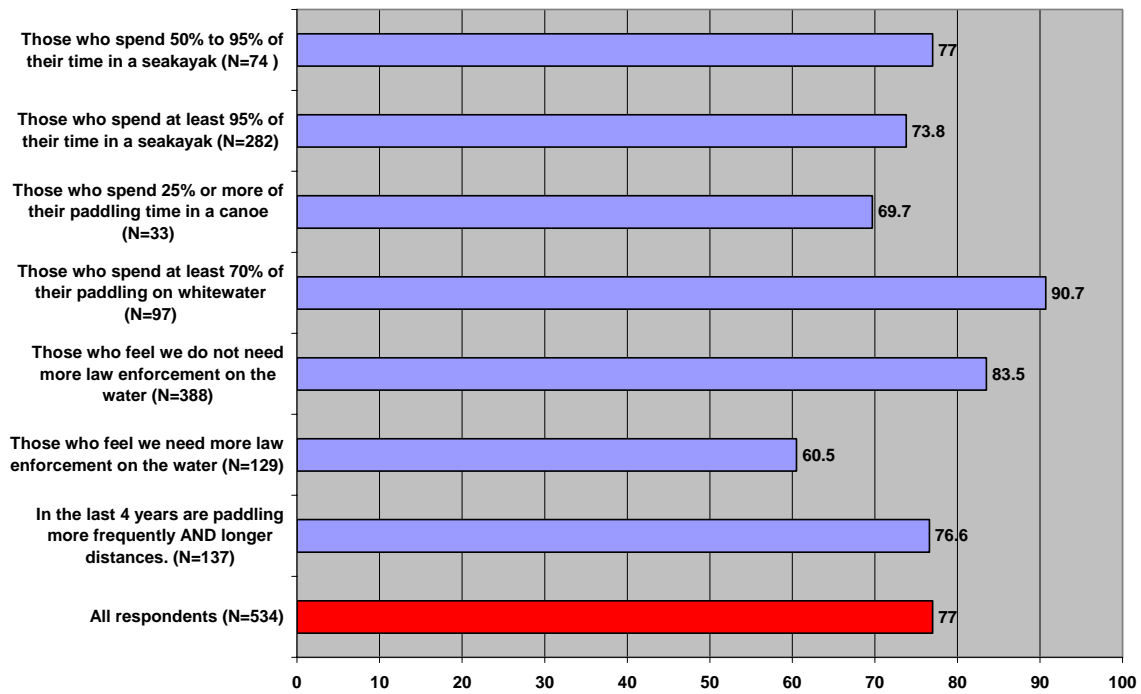
**Mandatory Registration of Paddlecraft: Percent who wholeheartedly support it.**



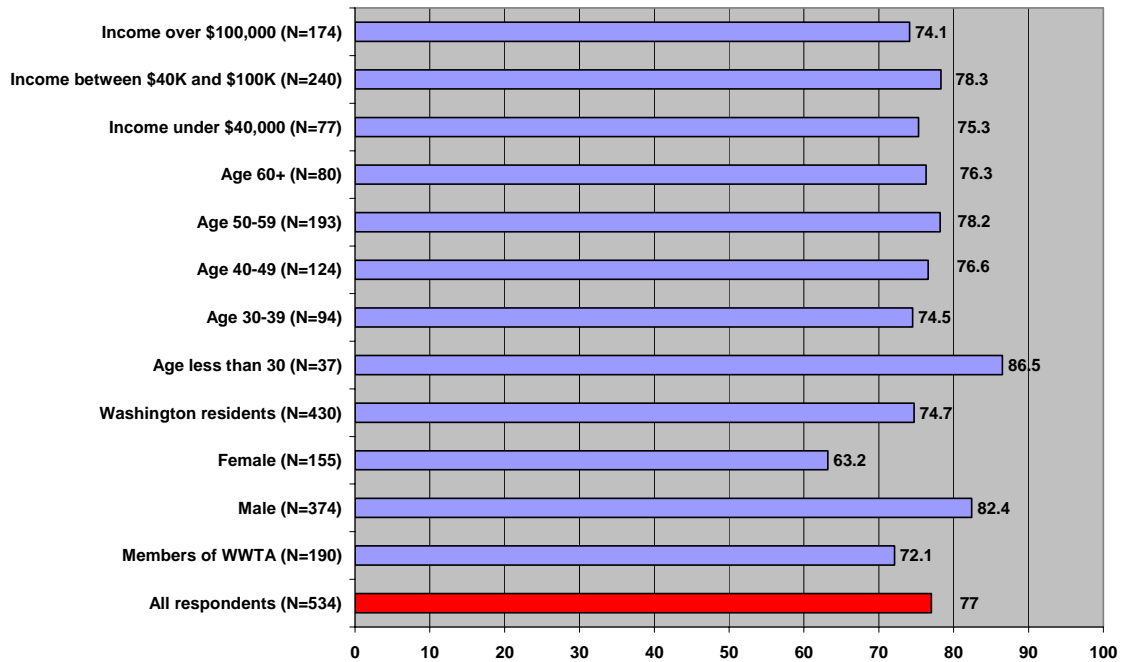
**Mandatory Registration of Paddlecraft: Percent who wholeheartedly support it.**



**Mandatory Registration of Paddlecraft: Percent who are generally against and very much against**



**Mandatory Registration of Paddlecraft: Percent who are generally against and very much against.**



# Appendix

*Listing of Organizations Solicited for this Survey*

*Procedure for Prize Distribution for Completing Survey*

*Survey Questions and **Recommendations for Improvement***

**Organizations Solicited to Participate in the  
2007 Northwest Paddler's Survey. Contact  
emails are available online through each organization's  
website.**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Estimated population</b>
Boeing Sea Kayak	30
Canoe representative to Wa St Boating Safety Advisory Council	20
Desert Kayak and Canoe Club	30
Everett Mountaineers	50
Gig Harbor Kayak Club	20
Hole In The Wall	50
Kitsap Mountaineers	30
League of NW Whitewater Racers	60
Lower Columbia Canoe Club	50
Matelot	80
North Sound Sea Kayakers	30
Ocean Shores Paddle Club	40
Olympia Mountaineers	30
Olympic Kayak Club	50
Olympic Peninsula Paddlers	80
Oregon Offshore Paddling Society	50
Outkayaking	30
Paddle Trails Canoe Club	100
Paddlesports professionals	50
PDX	300
Puget Sound Paddler's Network	300
Seattle Mountaineers	80
Seattle Sea Kayak Club	100
Sound Rowers	100
South Sound Area Kayakers	120
Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club	50
SW Washington Canoe Club	50
Tacoma Mountaineers	50
University of Washington Kayak Club	100
Washington Association of Kayak Enthusiasts	100
Washington Kayak Club	1000
Washington Recreational River Runners	200
Washington Water Trails Association	1400
Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club	60
Whitewater representative to Wa St Boating Safety Advisory Council	50
Yakima Kayak Club	60
<b>Total estimated population</b>	<b>5000</b>

# **Procedure for Prize Distribution for Completing Survey**

**Three prizes were awarded to respondents of this survey. 403 individuals entered by providing their email contact information. The 403 emails were immediately detached from the body of the survey to protect the anonymity of their responses. These 403 email addresses were then put in a numbered list. An Internet random number generator was then used to generate the numbers of the winners. This process was witnessed by an impartial outside observer.**

**The first randomly generated number was matched with the corresponding number on the entrant list, and so on. Winners were contacted and asked to supply their name and mailing address so the appropriate prize could be mailed. If anyone contacted did not respond within one week, the next random number on the list was substituted and a new person was contacted to receive that prize until all prizes had been awarded.**

**All email lists (printed and electronic) were then destroyed and as of 7/3/07 no longer exist.**

**The prizes were:**

- A 4 DVD set of University of Sea Kayaking instructional videos.**
- An autographed copy of WaterTrail by Joel Rogers**
- The book Kayak Routes, by Peter McGee**

## Survey questions and recommendations for any follow-up survey.

How do you view paddling activity? (Choose all that apply)

Individual	72.3%
Family	43.8%
Social/Club	75.1%

**Add “Profession” and “Exercise” and “Other”** *(Recommendation for Improvement)*

What primary vessel do you use for your water activity?

Kayak	85.5%
Canoe	6.2%
Sailboat	0.4%
Other (please specify)	7.9%

**Drop this question (later question is much better)** *(Recommendation for Improvement)*

Is the majority of your water activity equipment?

Owned	97.0%
Rented	1.9%
Borrowed	1.1%

**Drop this question** *(Recommendation for Improvement)*

What percent of your time is spent in each of the following paddling activities? (These should add up to 100%)

Whitewater	58.01
Seakayak	85.94
Canoe	28.07
Rowing	13.20
Surf	9.75
Raft	24.26
Other	33.96

**Make provision for naming ‘other’** *(Recommendation for Improvement)*

Do you live in the State of Washington?

Yes	78.8%
No	21.2%

What is your gender?

Male	70.4%
Female	29.6%

What is your age?

Under 18	0.0%
18-29	7.0%
30-39	16.7%
40-49	23.1%
50-59	36.2%
60-69	14.4%
70+	2.7%

What is your education?

Less than high school	0.4%
High school graduate	2.1%
Vocational or technical school	2.5%
Some college	18.4%
Bachelors	39.8%
Masters	27.3%
Doctorate	9.7%

What is your yearly household income level?

Less than \$25,000	5.2%
\$25,000-\$39,999	10.7%
\$40,000-\$69,999	26.2%
\$70,000-\$99,999	23.3%
\$100,000-\$150,000	24.1%
\$150,000+	10.5%



Describe how each of these topics influence your paddling activity:

	Repeatedly keeps me from paddling	Occasionally keeps me from paddling	Never keeps me from paddling	Rating	Average Response	Count
Private property/Lack of public access	12.9% (67)	55.3% (288)	31.9% (166)	2.19		521
Lack of parking	3.9% (20)	39.3% (203)	56.9% (294)	2.53		517
Lack of information	3.9% (20)	49.3% (254)	46.8% (241)	2.43		515
Permits and fees for parking and/or launching	6.0% (31)	33.0% (172)	61.0% (318)	2.55		521
Lack of time	39.7% (209)	48.1% (253)	12.2% (64)	1.72		526

As a paddler, what do you want more of? (choose all that apply)

Public access to the water	83.9%	439
Local marine law enforcement	17.0%	89
Campground destinations for paddlers	63.1%	330
Maintenance of existing facilities	42.1%	220
Information about destinations, regulations, launches, and fees	52.0%	272
Other (please specify)	16.6%	87

Do you plan to make any major paddling purchases in the next year? (choose all that apply)

Boat	27.3%	144
Paddling accessories	54.1%	285
Paddling clothing	46.3%	244
Lessons	25.6%	135
Guided trips	14.4%	76
None	22.8%	120
Other (please specify)	8.0%	42

Have you had conflicts with other recreational users while paddling?

No	70.8%	374
Yes	2.1%	11
If yes, please describe	27.1%	143

Have you observed fellow paddlers present a conflict to other recreational users?

No	85.4%	451
Yes	2.7%	14
If yes, please describe	11.9%	63

Environmental education for paddlers should focus on:

	Not important at all	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Rating Average	Response Count
Wildlife disturbance	2.3% (12)	17.0% (89)	37.4% (196)	43.3% (227)	3.22	524
Shoreline erosion and trampling	3.2% (17)	23.9% (125)	38.0% (199)	34.9% (183)	3.05	524
Litter and waste disposal	1.9% (10)	9.8% (51)	32.6% (170)	55.7% (291)	3.42	522
Low impact camping	1.9% (10)	13.7% (72)	41.9% (220)	42.5% (223)	3.25	525

***Litter and Waste Disposal by Paddlers (Recommendation for Improvement)***

How many years have you been paddling?

0-2	6.6%	35
2-4	19.1%	101
4-6	14.0%	74
6-8	8.7%	46
More than 8 years	51.7%	274

***Add, “more than 15 years” or something similar (Recommendation for Improvement)***

In the last 4 years, has the frequency of your paddling:

Stayed the same	31.8%	167
Increased	47.6%	250
Decreased	20.6%	108

In the last 4 years, are you paddling?

Closer to home	21.4%	112
Further from home	31.5%	165
No change	47.1%	247

In the last 4 years, has the length of your paddling trips become:

Shorter	14.4%	76
Longer	36.1%	190
Stayed the same	49.5%	261

Do you feel there is a need for more local (city and county) law enforcement presence on the water?

Yes	25.0%	129
No	75.1%	388

Rate the value of the role of local marine law enforcement on the water:

	Not valuable at all Rating Average	Somewhat valuable Response Count	Very valuable Response Count	Extremely valuable Response Count	Rating Average	Count
Educating boaters	11.1% (56)	31.3% (158)	35.3% (178)	22.2% (112)	2.69	504
Ticket writing for law breakers	17.7% (89)	42.1% (212)	27.4% (138)	12.7% (64)	2.35	503
Response to emergencies	3.0% (15)	12.9% (65)	29.8% (150)	54.4% (274)	3.36	504
Deterrence through their presence	14.7% (74)	39.7% (200)	32.1% (162)	13.5% (68)	2.44	504

Describe your feelings on each of the following topics:

	Very much against Rating Average	Generally against Response Count	I could live with it Response Count	Support wholeheartedly Response Count	No opinion Response Count
Mandatory boater education for paddlers	14.6% (77)	2.3% (12)	2.50 526	20.9% (110)	27.0% (142)
Mandatory wearing of a Personal Flotation Device for paddler	67.0% (355)	1.3% (7)	3.47 530	6.8% (36)	8.7% (46)
Registration of all boats, including paddle craft	3.2% (17)	2.1% (11)	1.77 529	53.1% (281)	24.6% (130)
				17.0% (90)	

How did you learn about WWTA? (choose all that apply)

Word of mouth	36.4%	64
Symposium booth or WWTA outreach	29.6%	52
Traditional news source	5.7%	10
Internet	31.8%	56
Paddle club	20.5%	36
Retail store	9.7%	17
Professional instructor or guide	6.3%	11
Other (please specify)	9.1%	16

How do you get your WWTA news? (choose all that apply)

wwta.org web site	46.9%	83
Easy Currents Newsletter	61.6%	109
E-News	72.9%	129

How do you get your other paddling news? (choose all that apply)

Internet	80.5%	136
Paddle club communications	47.3%	80
Magazines	65.1%	110
Newspaper	10.7%	18
Other (please specify)	9.5%	16

How many people read your issue of Easy Current News?

0	7.0%	12
1	58.1%	100
2	32.0%	55
3 or more	2.9%	5

In the Easy Current News, rate the value of:

	Not valuable	Somewhat valuable	Extremely valuable	Rating Average	Response	Count
Calendar	5.9% (9)	44.4% (68)	49.7% (76)	2.44	153	
Volunteer news	7.2% (11)	71.9% (110)	20.9% (32)	2.14	153	
Staff and board member editorials and articles	6.6% (10)	74.8% (113)	18.5% (28)	2.12	151	
New trail news	0.0% (0)	33.5% (52)	66.5% (103)	2.66	155	
News of general paddling interest	1.3% (2)	48.4% (77)	50.3% (80)	2.49	159	
Fundraising	17.2% (26)	72.8% (110)	9.9% (15)	1.93	151	
Ads for WWTA events and products	7.2% (11)	69.1% (105)	23.7% (36)	2.16	152	
Leave No Trace articles	9.6% (15)	48.1% (75)	42.3% (66)	2.33	156	

Has WWTA expanded your knowledge of Leave No Trace?

Yes	71.8%	122
No	28.2%	48
What is Leave No Trace?	0.0%	0

Page: **Non-WWTA page**: How do you get your paddling news? (choose all that apply)

Internet	85.5%	288
Paddle club communications	68.8%	232
Washington Water Trails Association	11.3%	38
Word of mouth	57.3%	193
Newspaper	13.4%	45
Other (please specify)	17.8%	60

**Add Magazines** (*Recommendation for Improvement*)

Has your knowledge of Leave No Trace increased in the last 5 years?

Yes	59.7%	203
No	36.2%	123
What is Leave No Trace?	4.1%	14

What do you think Washington Water Trails does (choose all that apply)?

I know very little about WWTA	51.0%	172
Advocates for public access	55.5%	187
Maintains water trail campsites	49.0%	165
Organizes paddles	16.0%	54
Paddler education	40.1%	135
Serves as a guide service	3.6%	12
Acquires new water trail sites	46.9%	158
Represents paddlers in the political arena	42.7%	144
Other (please specify)	3.0%	10