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# Recreation Management Issues on Claytor Lake, Virginia

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# Claytor Lake, Virginia

- ▶ SW VA – between Blue Ridge & Alleghany Mountains
- ▶ 4,500 surface acres
- ▶ 21 miles long
- ▶ New River impoundment – Dam construction 1937 – 1940
- ▶ Hydro-electric power – Appalachian Power Company
- ▶ 1946 – Claytor Lake State Park
  - ▶ 450 acres
  - ▶ Water access & recreation (launch, trails, marina, waterside facilities, camping)
- ▶ 3 main public launch sites



# Claytor Lake Recreation

- ▶ Fishing
  - ▶ Tournaments | Year Round | Striper | Large & Small Mouth
- ▶ Boating
  - ▶ Non-motorized: SUP, Canoe, Kayak
  - ▶ Sailing
  - ▶ Fishing
  - ▶ Ski
  - ▶ Pontoon/Deck
  - ▶ PWC
  - ▶ Wake Surf
- ▶ Recreational use increase – low gas prices, COVID, popularity of area



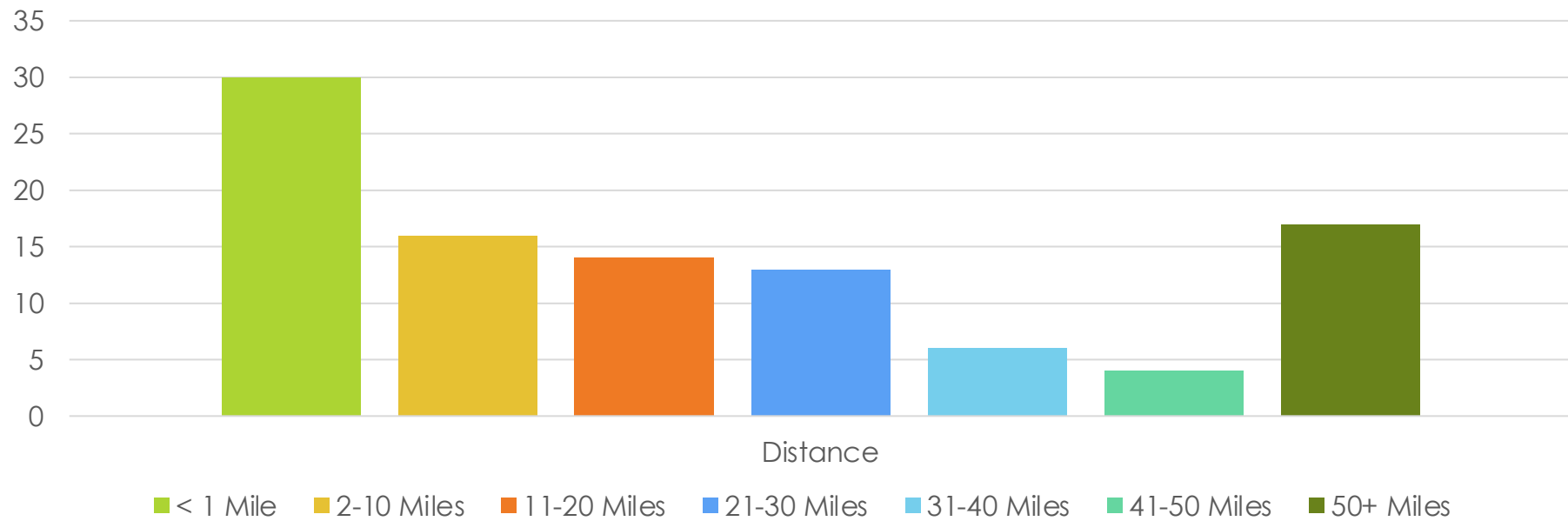
# Recreationist Perceptions

- ▶ Fall 2020 administered electronic survey
  - ▶ FOCL, CLSA, CLHO, RCL
  - ▶ CLWS, CLFG
  - ▶ General use | Perceptions Experience
  - ▶ Safety | Issues | Crowding | Boat Types |
- ▶ Open for ~ 3 weeks
  - ▶ 2 follow up reminders
- ▶ Respondents = 190



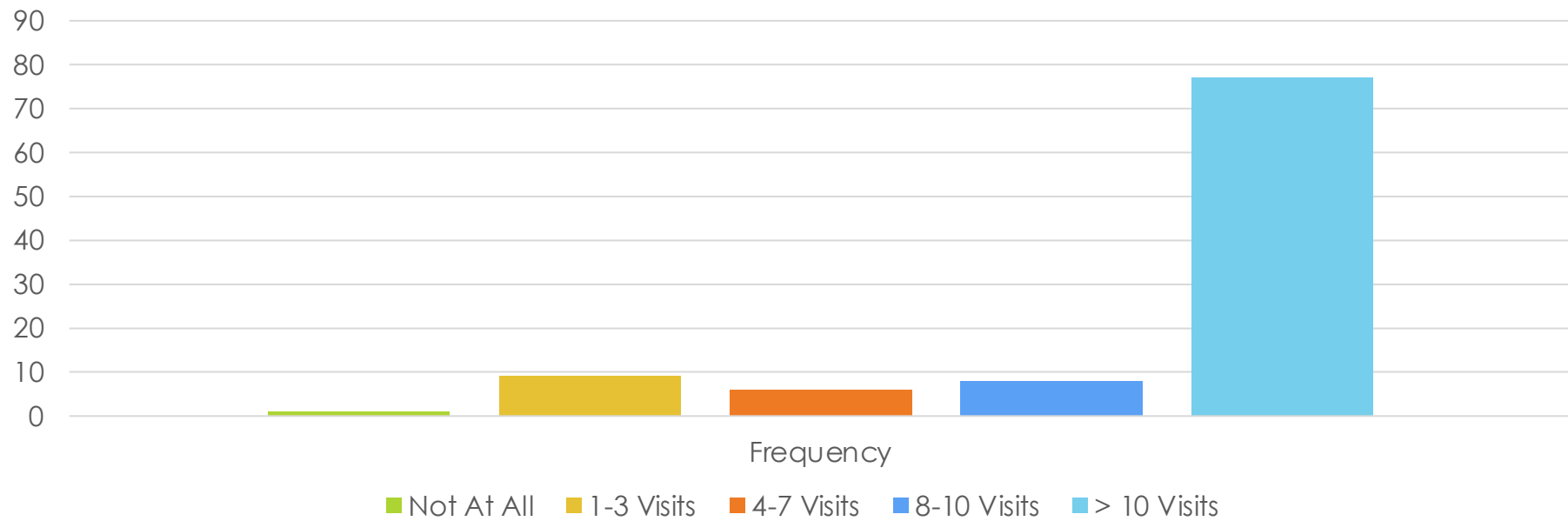
# Distance Travelled

Distance Travelled (%)

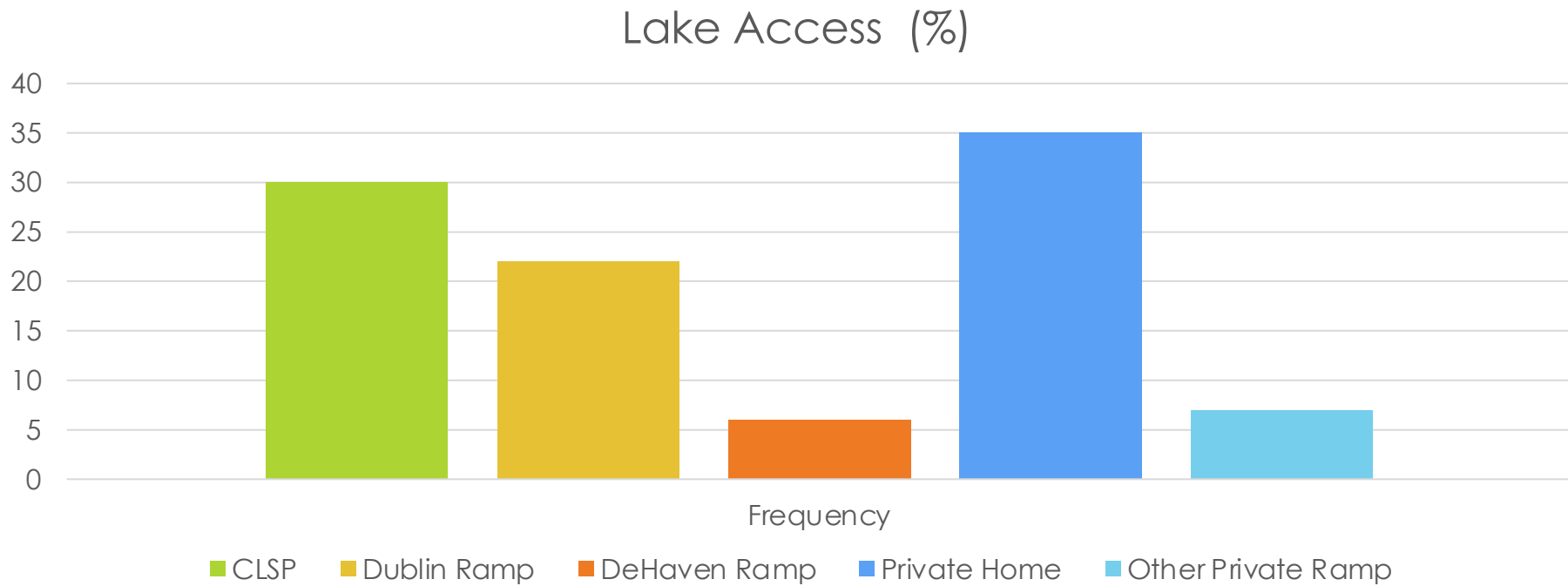


# Frequency of Visits

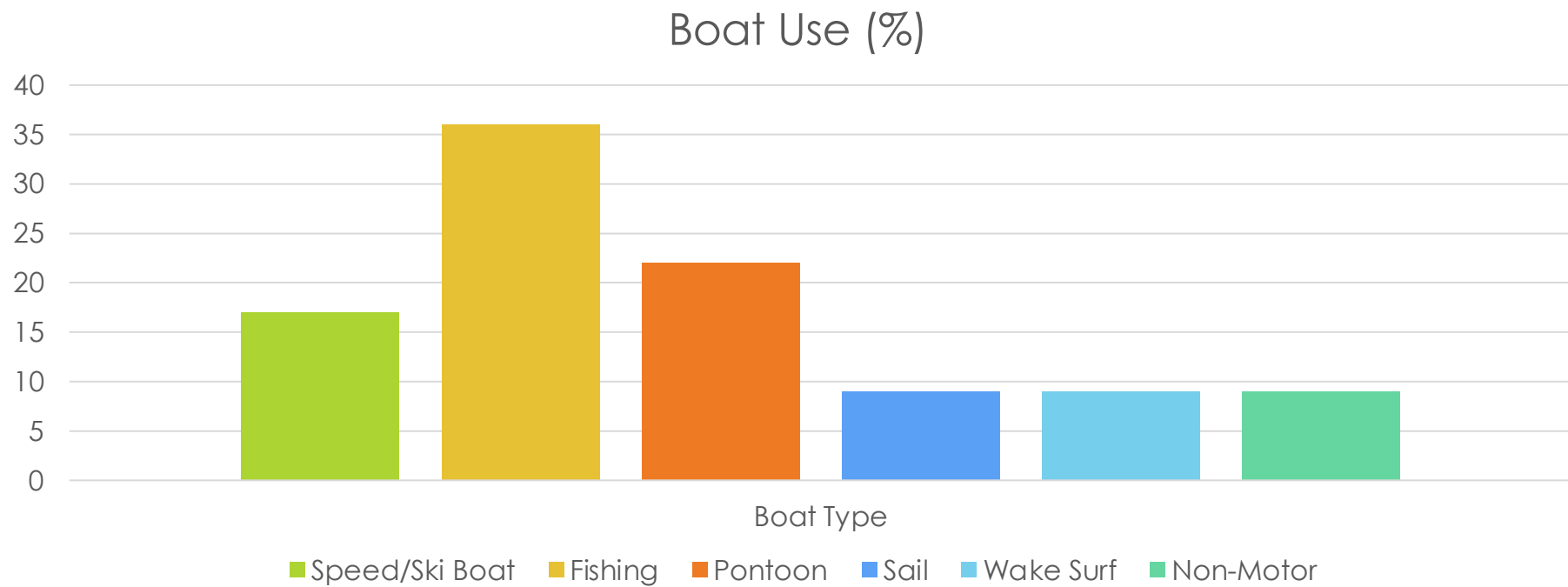
Frequency of Visits (%)



# Lake Access Points

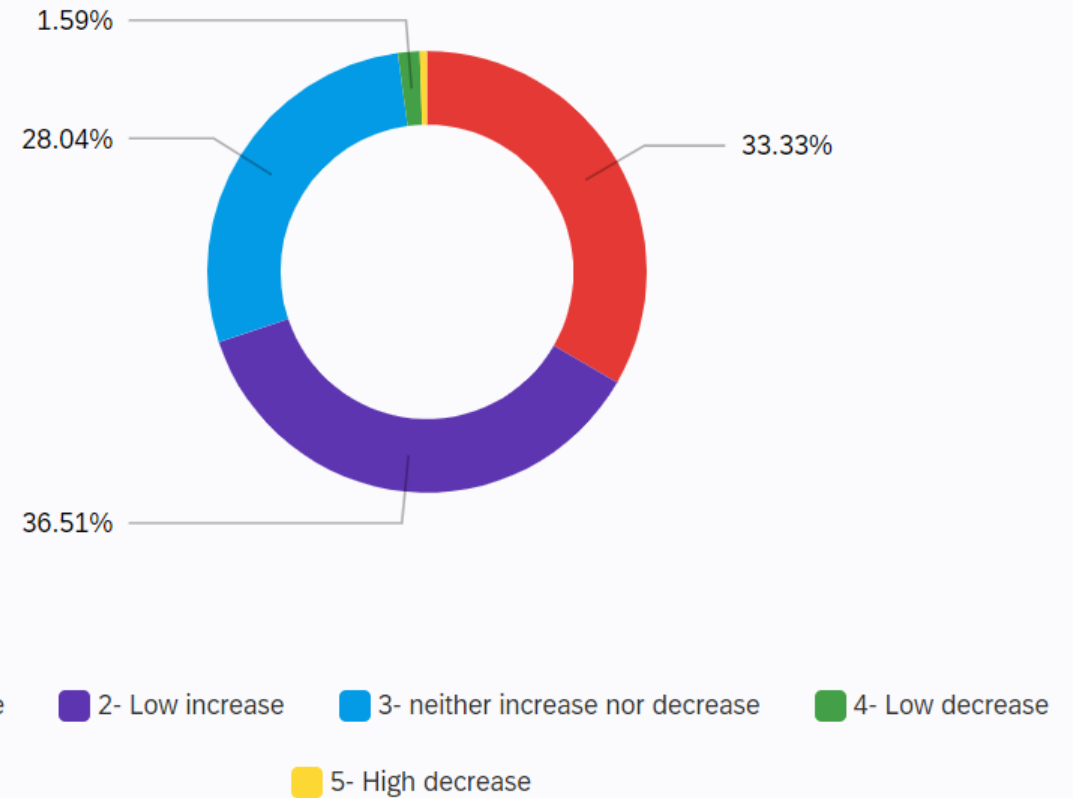


# Type of Boat Use

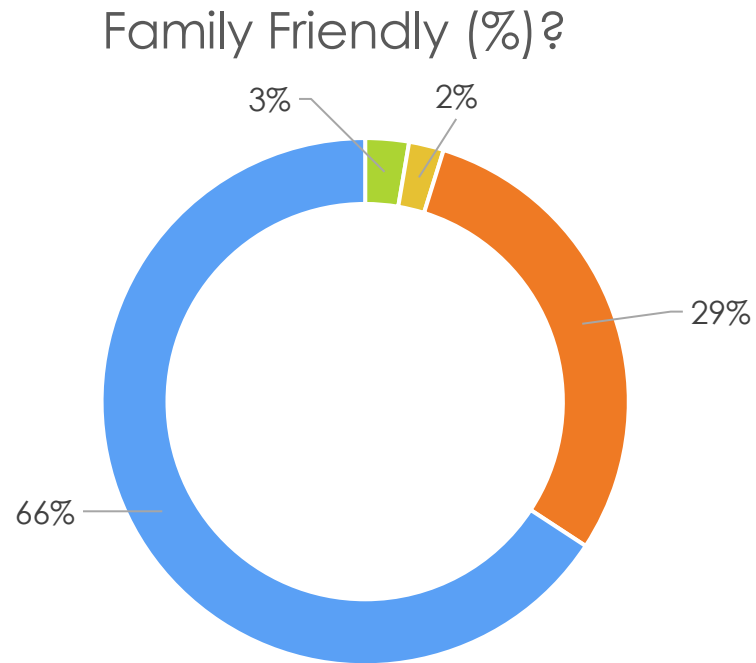


# Recreation increase (%)?

- ▶ Have you noticed an increase in recreational use on Claytor Lake in past couple years?

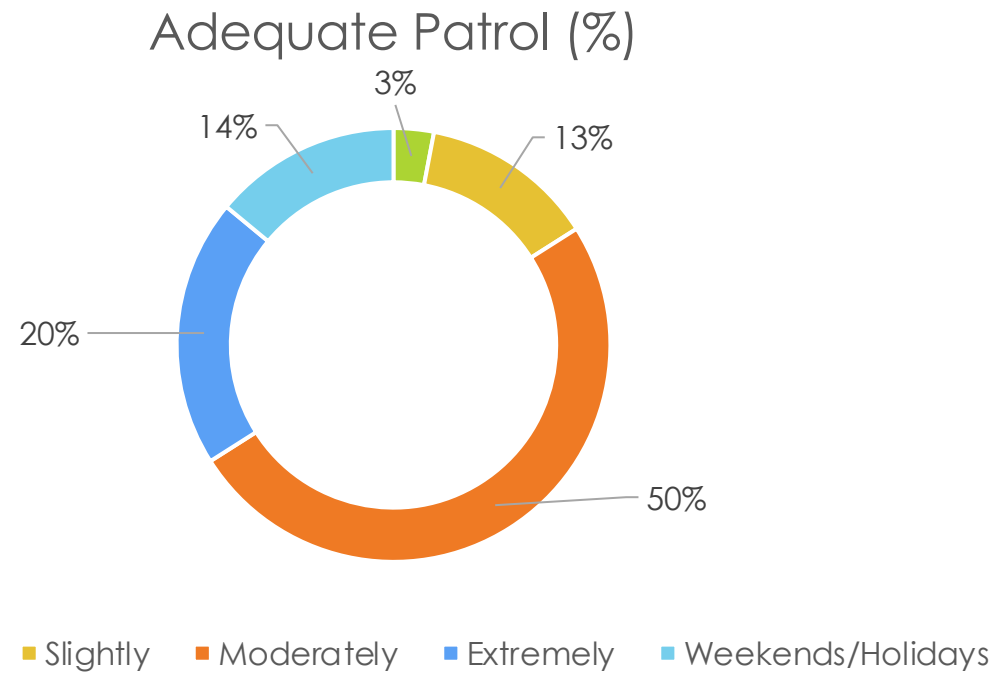


# Claytor Lake Family Friendly?



■ Not at All ■ Slightly ■ Moderately ■ Extremely

# Adequately Patrolled?



# Issues with other User Types (%)

Boat Type	Not all negative	Slightly negative	Moderately negative	Very negative	Extremely negative
Non-motorized	85	9	3	1	1
Sailboat	92	6	2	0	1
Fishing	52	26	15	4	3
Cruiser or ski	48	25	17	3	7
Pontoon	63	23	9	3	2
Wake Surf	41	16	15	11	18
Jet ski or PWC	32	24	22	9	13

# Negative Issues by Boat Type

Boat Type	Negative Issues	Ski	Fishing	Pontoon	Sail	Wake Surf	Non-Motor
<b>Non-Motor</b>	None	97	70	95	88	87	94
	Slight/Moderate	3	27	2	13	14	0
	Very/ Extreme	0	3	2	0	0	6
<b>Sail</b>	None	97	84	98	100	87	100
	Slight/Moderate	3	16	2	0	7	0
	Very/ Extreme	0	0	0	0	7	0
<b>Fishing</b>	None	50	44	62	71	33	63
	Slight/Moderate	46	54	29	24	46	19
	Very/ Extreme	3	2	9	6	20	19

# Negative Issues by Boat Type (2)

Boat Type	Negative Issues	Ski	Fishing	Pontoon	Sail	Wake Surf	Non-Motor
<b>Ski</b>	<b>None</b>	55	29	68	50	53	56
	Slight/Moderate	44	48	32	38	47	32
	Very/ Extreme	0	24	0	12	0	6
<b>Pontoon</b>	None	62	46	85	71	53	81
	Slight/Moderate	28	48	12	24	33	12
	Very/ Extreme	10	6	2	6	14	6
<b>Wake</b>	None	33	22	59	41	67	63
	Slight/Moderate	47	32	27	24	26	19
	Very/ Extreme	20	46	15	36	7	19
<b>PWC</b>	None	33	22	43	29	33	47
	Slight/Moderate	56	41	43	41	60	36
	Very/ Extreme	10	37	15	30	7	18

# Safety by Boat Type

- ▶ 1- Not at all safe
- ▶ 2- Slightly safe
- ▶ 3- Moderately safe
- ▶ 4- Safe
- ▶ 5- Extremely safe

Type of Boat					
Speed or Ski boat (%)	Fishing boat (%)	Pontoon boat (%)	Sail boat (%)	Wake Surf boat (%)	Non-Motor (%)
0	7	0	0	0	12
0	18	2	6	6	6
19	31	26	53	12	18
61	39	57	23	50	47
19	4	14	18	31	17

# Crowding

- ▶ 1- Extremely crowded
- ▶ 2- Very crowded
- ▶ 3- Moderately crowded
- ▶ 4- Slightly crowded
- ▶ 5- Not at all crowded

Type of Boat						
	Speed or Ski boat (%)	Fishing boat (%)	Pontoon boat (%)	Sail boat (%)	Wake Surf boat (%)	Non-Motor (%)
	3	15	0	0	0	6
	0	16	2	0	0	6
	26	34	17	12	25	35
	23	16	38	53	31	23
	48	18	43	35	44	29

# Conclusions

- ▶ Claytor Lake recreationists seem to be local, frequent visitors
  - ▶ Though 17% still travel >50 miles
- ▶ Fishing boats have presence, though mixed use
  - ▶ Non-motorized < 10%
- ▶ ~70% saw recreational increase
  - ▶ Family friendly & adequately patrolled
- ▶ Wake surf felt 'most safe' | Non-motorized 'least safe'
- ▶ Fishing boats 'most crowded' | Sailboats 'least crowded'
- ▶ Sensitive Users: Wake Surf & PWC
- ▶ Respondents had most issues with Wake surf & PWC users

# Negative Issues by Boat Type

- ▶ **Non-motorized:** Fishing
- ▶ **Sail:** Fishing, Wake Surf
- ▶ **Fishing:** Wake Surf, Fishing
- ▶ **Ski:** Fishing, Sail
- ▶ **Pontoon:** Wake Surf, Fishing
- ▶ **Wake Surf:** Fishing, Ski, Sail
- ▶ **PWC:** Fishing, Sail, Wake Surf, Ski, Pontoon

# Implications

- ▶ Managing water recreation, especially during busy times challenging
- ▶ Can't be all things at once
- ▶ Protecting attributes for well-rounded experiences important
  - ▶ Physical, Social, Managerial (e.g., WALROS)
- ▶ Claytor in good position
  - ▶ Remote
  - ▶ Perceptions favorable
  - ▶ Future increase?
- ▶ Monitor PWC & Wake Surf (speed, shoreline erosion, large wakes)

# Thank You!

- ▶ Questions?

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