

2021 Michigan Inland Guide Survey Results

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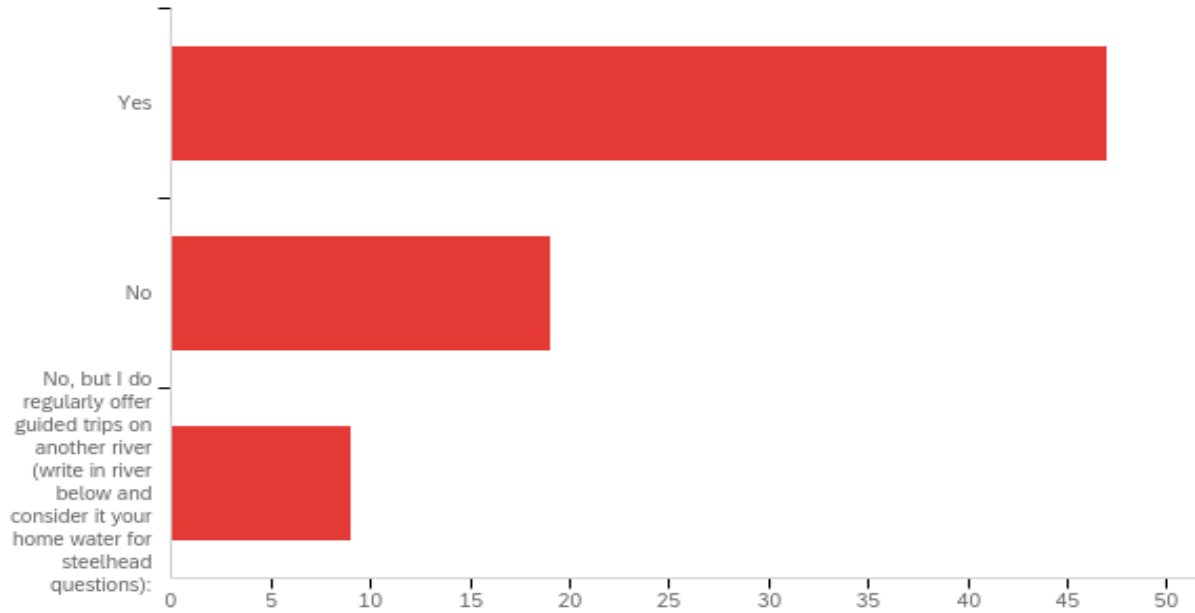
September 16, 2021

An electronic survey was sent to 136 Michigan fishing guides on July 12, 2021, to assess opinions on proposed legislation, steelhead regulations, and the impact of the pandemic. Guides were identified through search engines and links posted on tackle shop websites and online forums. The survey was closed on July 21 after three reminder emails, by which time 76 guides had responded. This would equate to a 59% response rate if only 136 fishing guides were invited to participate, but to increase the reach of the survey we encouraged guides on our mailing list to forward the survey invitation to other guides. Responses from duplicate IP addresses were removed, but this only occurred for three surveys that were apparently completed by the same respondent multiple times (all appeared to be accidental and related to partial completion of the survey on one occasion, as opposed to deliberate ballot box stuffing). Questions were developed by Sea Grant, with input from MUCC, MDNR, and a fishing guide. Names of guides and businesses have been redacted from comments along with vulgar language. Additional results will be included in a future report on pandemic impacts on Michigan charter fishing and inland guide industries.

Q1 - What is the name of the river (or inland lake) where you took the most guided trips in over the past year? This is your "home water" that will be referenced in later questions. This survey covers only to guided fishing trips taken in inland waters of Michigan. Do not list a Great Lakes port as your home water and do not answer questions based on charter fishing experiences on Great Lakes and connecting waters.

AuSable River	5
Betsie River	4
Boyne River	1
Carp River	1
Detroit River	1
Dowagiac River	2
Escanaba River	2
Grand River	3
Hodenpyl Pond	1
Jordan River	5
Kalamazoo River	2
Lake St. Clair	1
Lake Superior Tributaries	1
Manistee River	16
Mullet Lake	1
Muskegon River	9
Paint River	1
Pere Marquette River	10
Pigeon River	2
St. Joseph River	2
St. Mary's River	1
Ontonagon River	1
Torch Lake	1

Q2 - Do you regularly target steelhead while guiding on your home water?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	62.67%	47
2	No	25.33%	19
3	No, but I do regularly offer guided trips on another river (write in river below and consider it your home water for steelhead questions):	12.00%	9
	Total	100%	75

Q3_TEXT - No, but I do regularly offer guided trips on another river (write in river...

Ford river

Muskegon River also

Betsie

Non home water

Boyne River

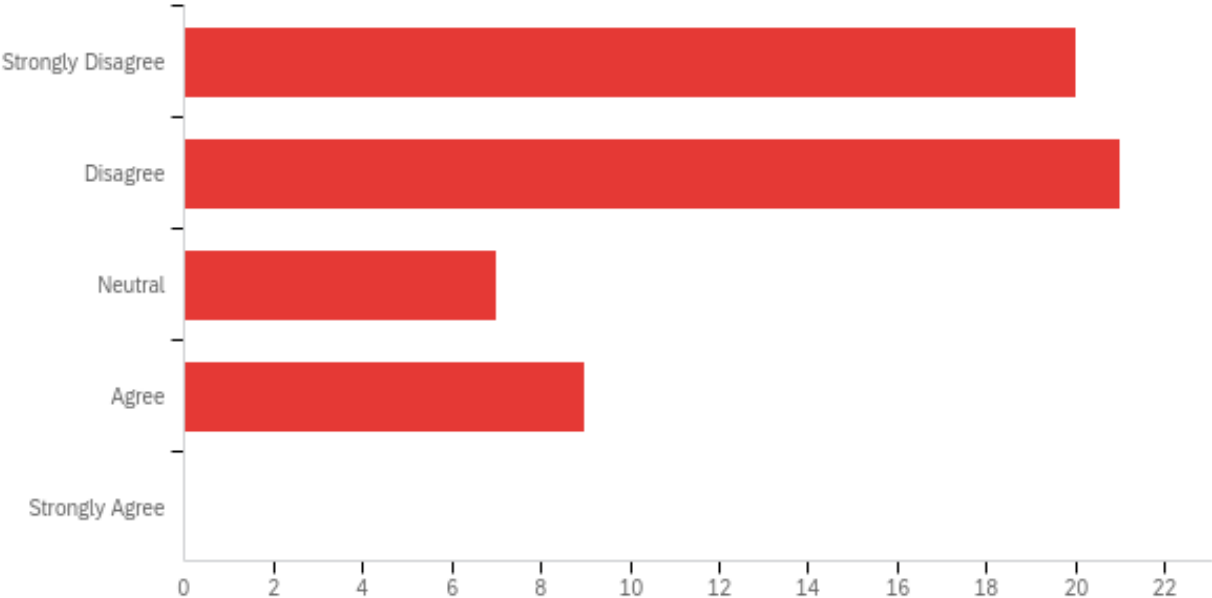
Pigeon River

Manistee

Jordan River; Pigeon River; Sturgeon River

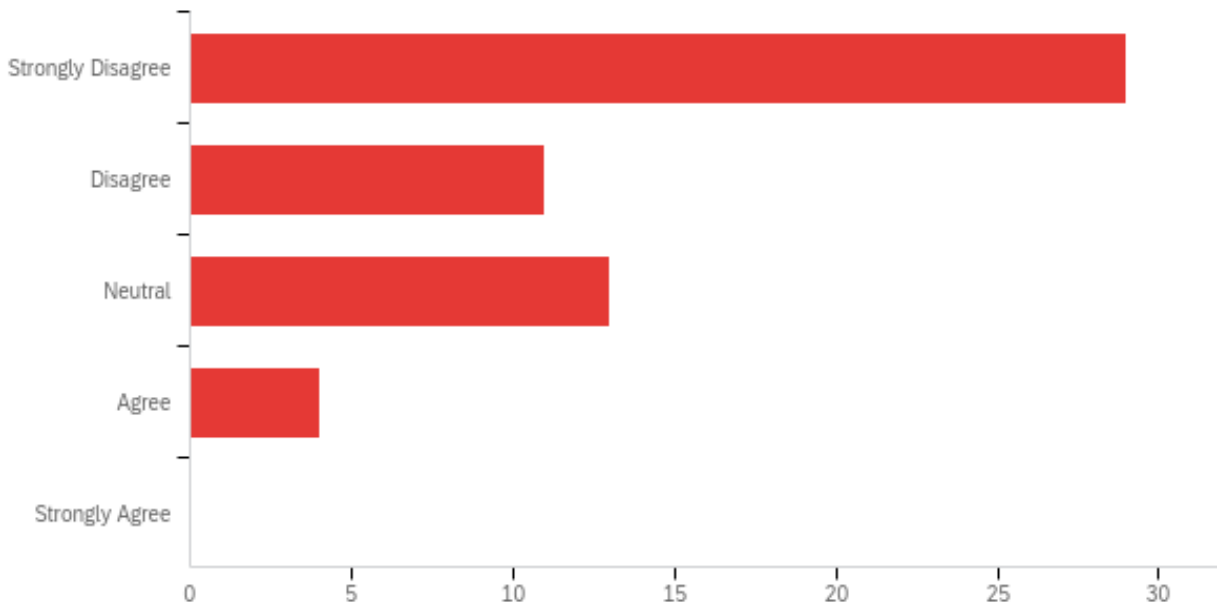
Jordan River

Q4 - I was satisfied with my steelhead catch rate on my home water during the past season.



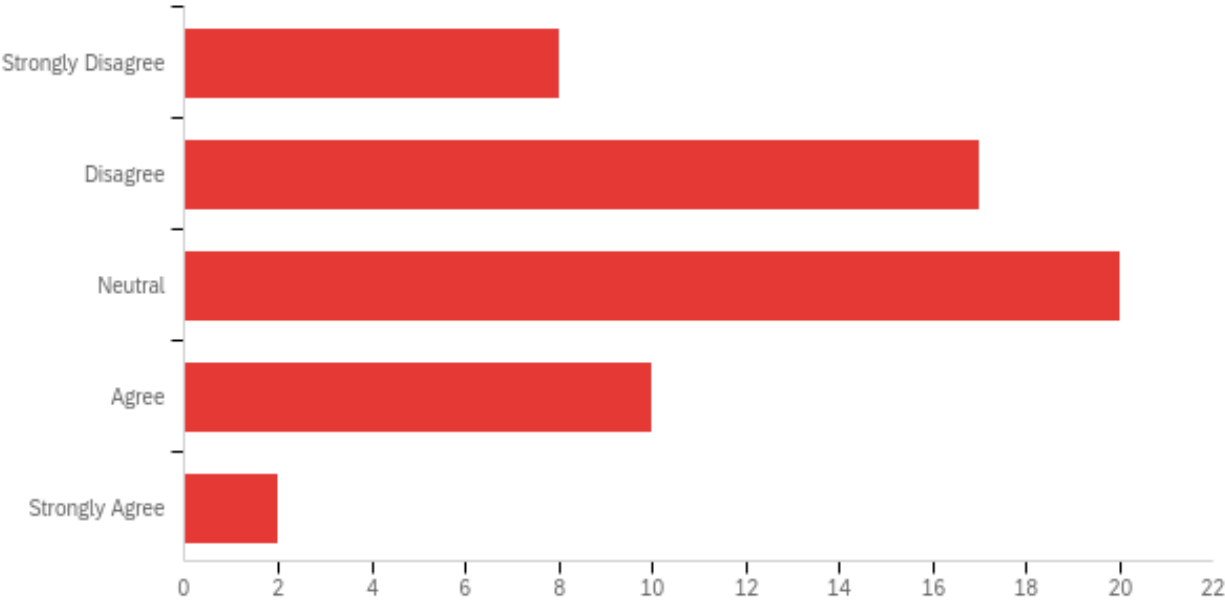
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	35.09%	20
2	Disagree	36.84%	21
3	Neutral	12.28%	7
4	Agree	15.79%	9
5	Strongly Agree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	57

Q6 - Steelhead fishing was good this year relative to the past five years on my home water.



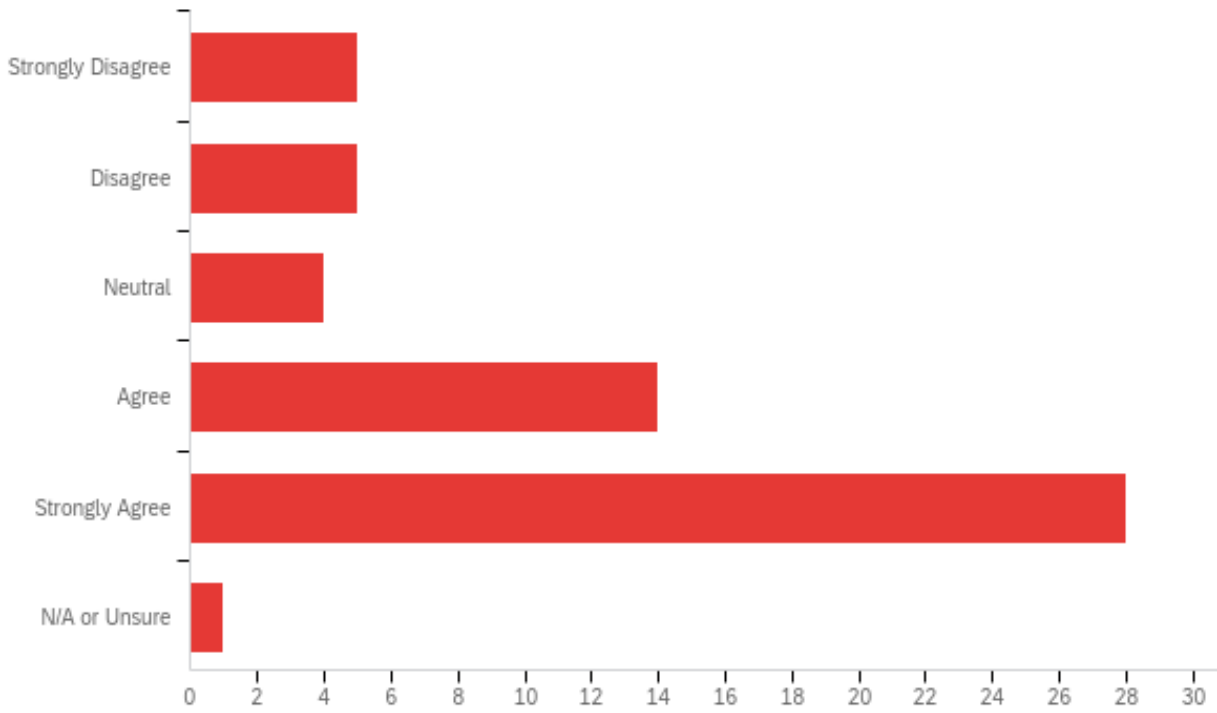
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	50.88%	29
2	Disagree	19.30%	11
3	Neutral	22.81%	13
4	Agree	7.02%	4
5	Strongly Agree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	57

Q5 - I was satisfied with my fishing experiences overall.



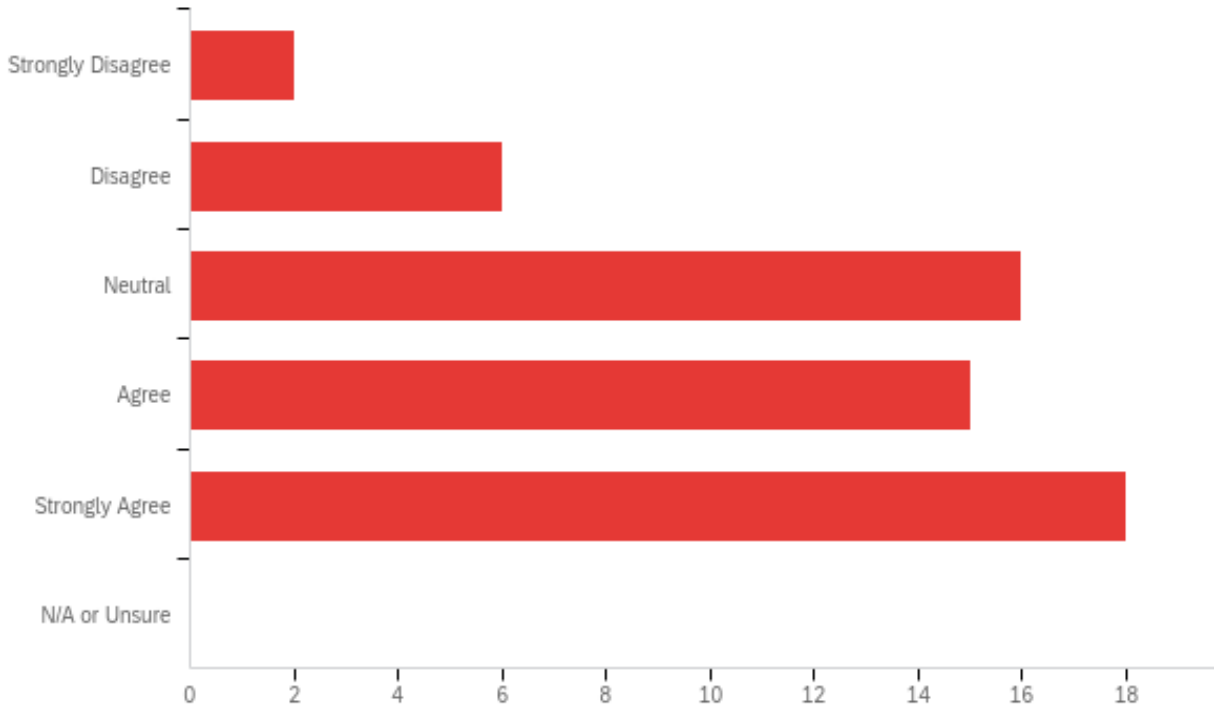
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	14.04%	8
2	Disagree	29.82%	17
3	Neutral	35.09%	20
4	Agree	17.54%	10
5	Strongly Agree	3.51%	2
	Total	100%	57

Q11 - My home water would benefit from additional stocking of steelhead.



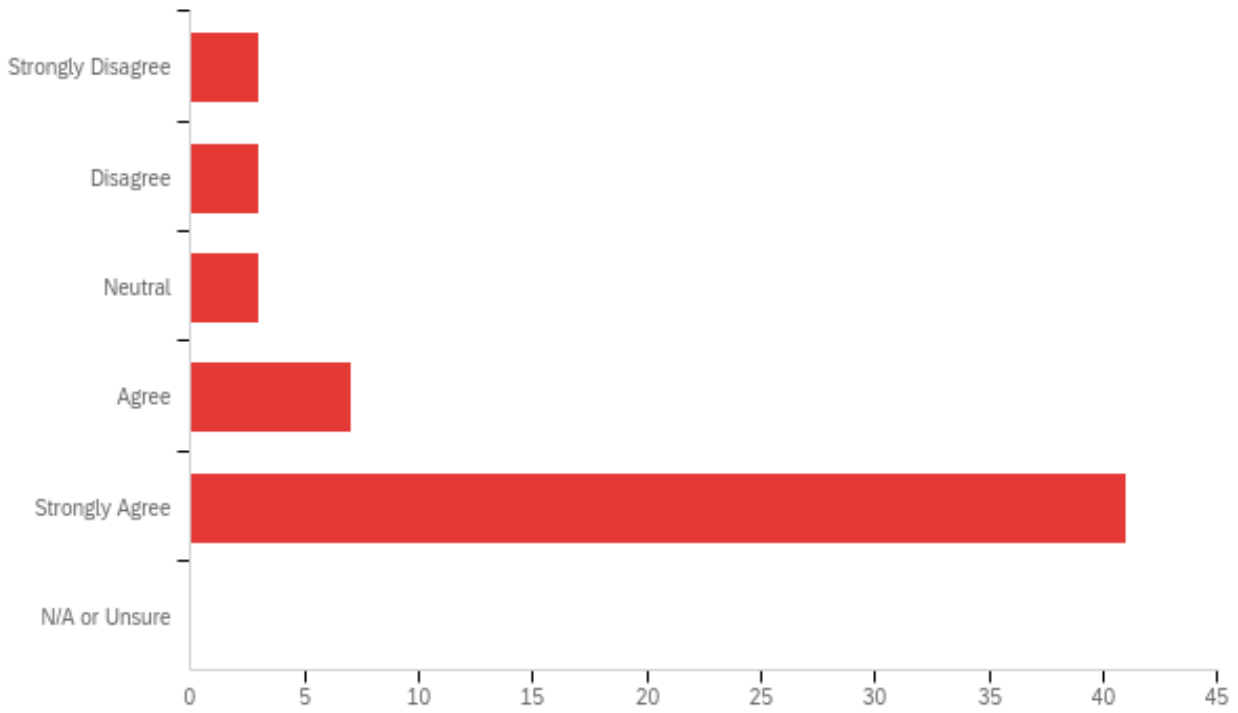
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	8.77%	5
2	Disagree	8.77%	5
3	Neutral	7.02%	4
4	Agree	24.56%	14
5	Strongly Agree	49.12%	28
6	N/A or Unsure	1.75%	1
	Total	100%	57

Q12 - My home water would benefit from habitat restoration.



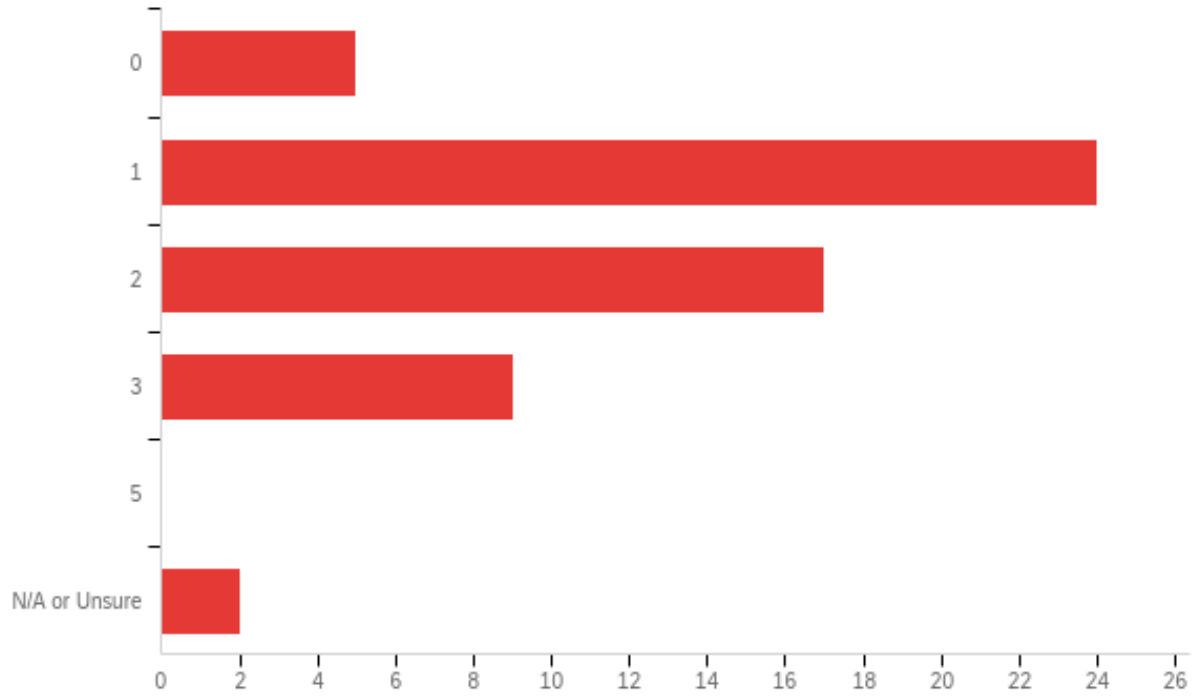
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	3.51%	2
2	Disagree	10.53%	6
3	Neutral	28.07%	16
4	Agree	26.32%	15
5	Strongly Agree	31.58%	18
6	N/A or Unsure	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	57

Q13 - My home water would benefit from reducing the steelhead bag limit.



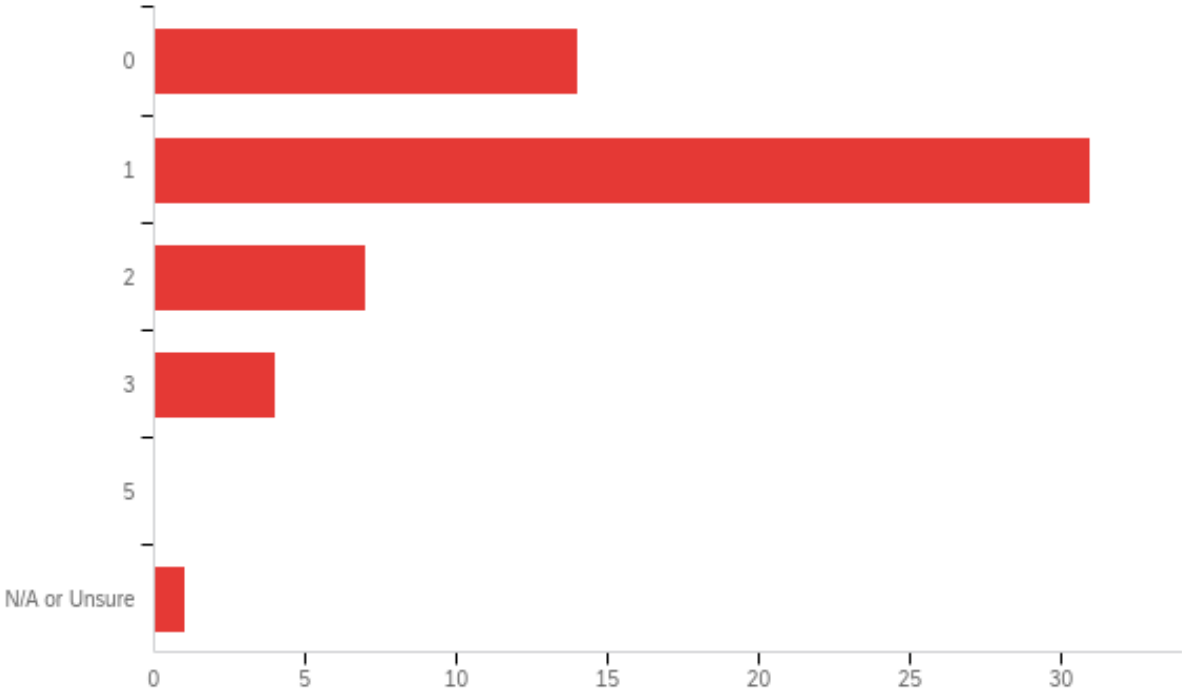
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	5.26%	3
2	Disagree	5.26%	3
3	Neutral	5.26%	3
4	Agree	12.28%	7
5	Strongly Agree	71.93%	41
6	N/A or Unsure	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	57

Q15 - My preferred steelhead harvest limit for Great Lakes waters in Michigan is:



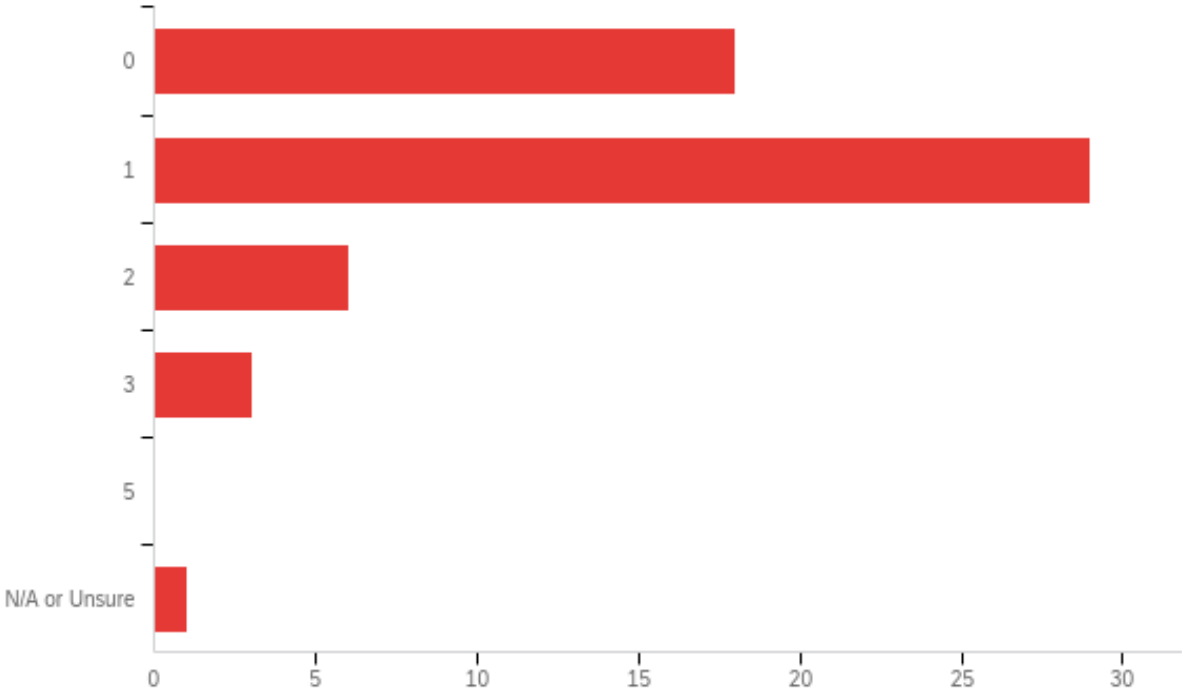
#	Answer	%	Count
1	0	8.77%	5
2	1	42.11%	24
3	2	29.82%	17
4	3	15.79%	9
5	5	0.00%	0
6	N/A or Unsure	3.51%	2
	Total	100%	57

Q16 - My preferred steelhead harvest limit for most streams in Michigan is:



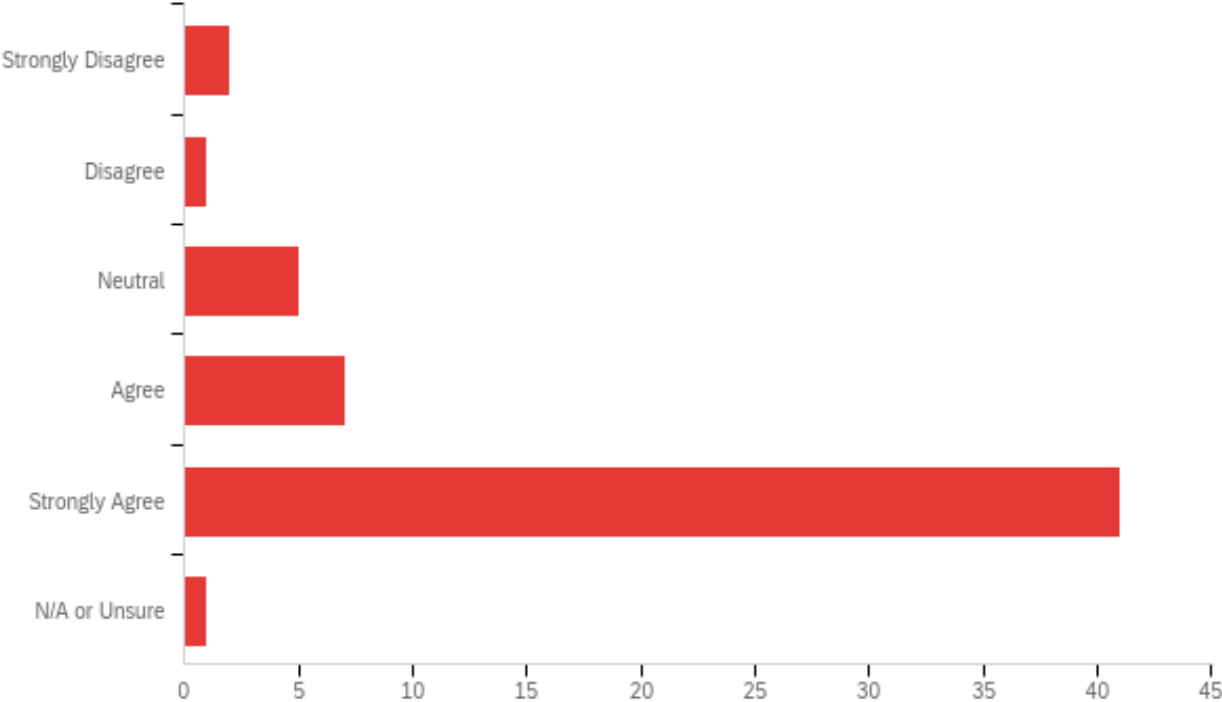
#	Answer	%	Count
1	0	24.56%	14
2	1	54.39%	31
3	2	12.28%	7
4	3	7.02%	4
5	5	0.00%	0
6	N/A or Unsure	1.75%	1
	Total	100%	57

Q17 - My preferred steelhead harvest limit for my home water is:



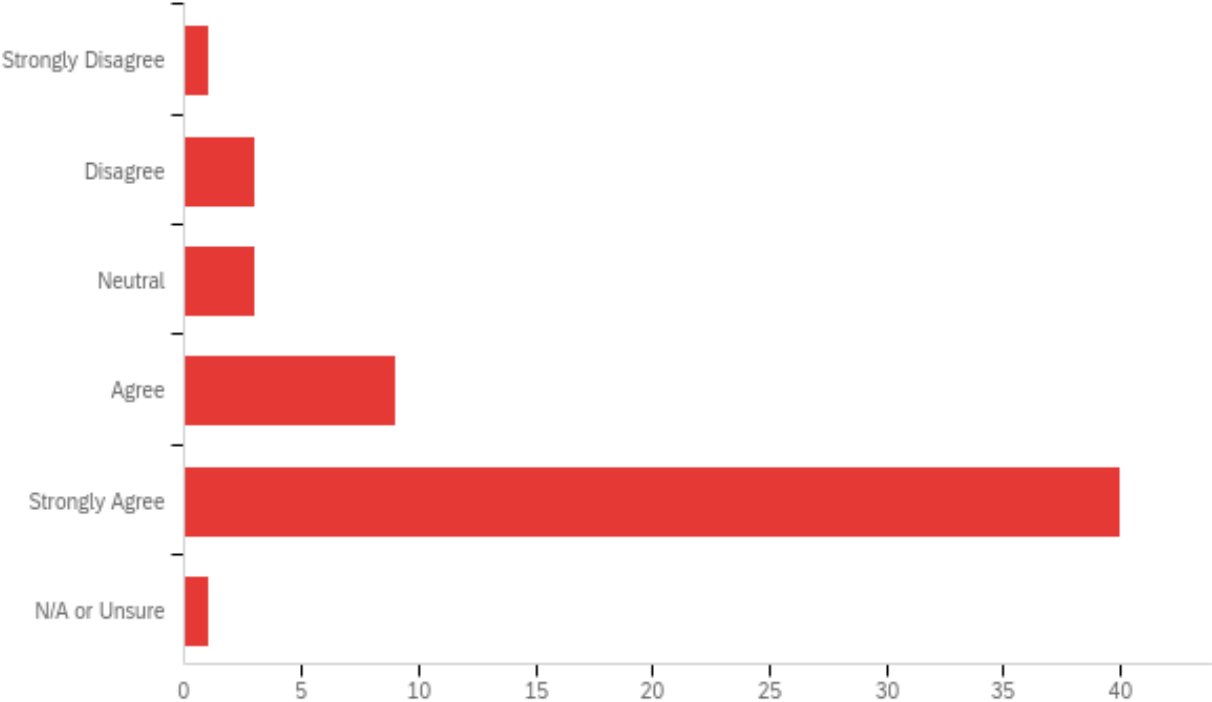
#	Answer	%	Count
1	0	31.58%	18
2	1	50.88%	29
3	2	10.53%	6
4	3	5.26%	3
5	5	0.00%	0
6	N/A or Unsure	1.75%	1
	Total	100%	57

Q18 - A harvest limit reduction would help to ensure the long-term viability of steelhead populations in Michigan.



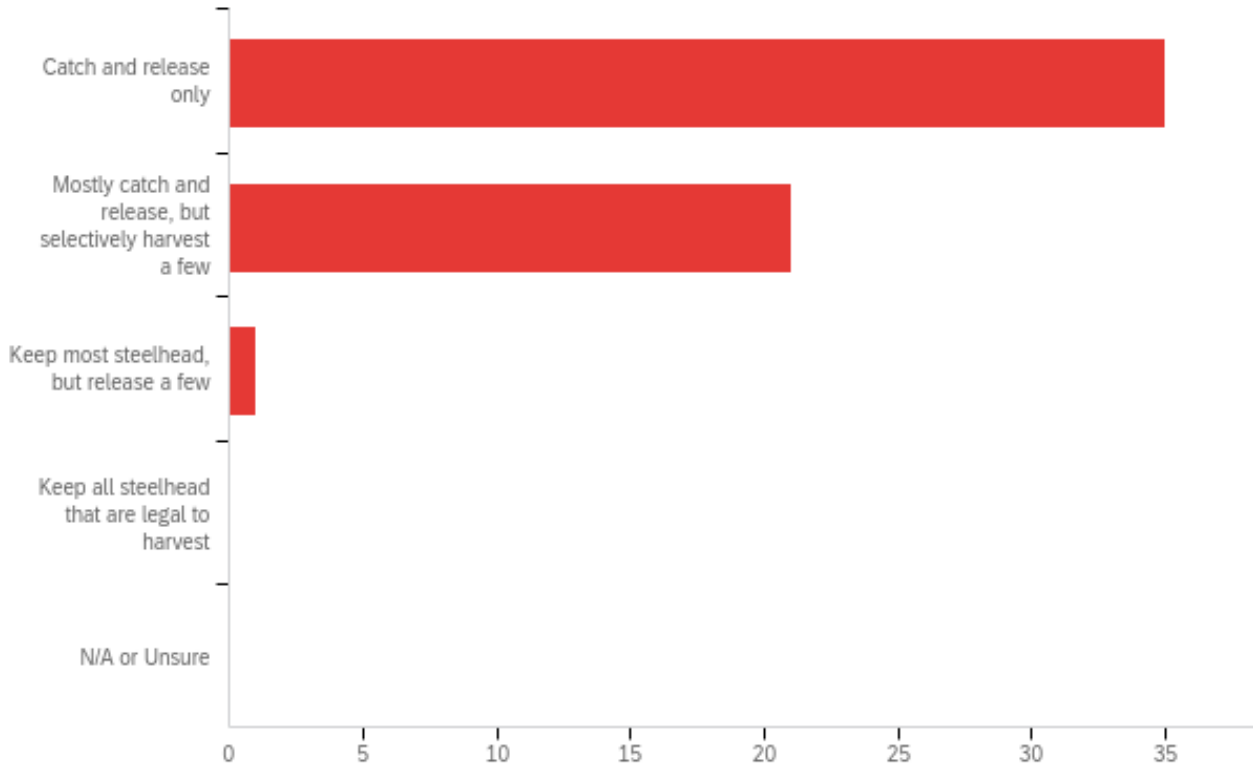
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	3.51%	2
2	Disagree	1.75%	1
3	Neutral	8.77%	5
4	Agree	12.28%	7
5	Strongly Agree	71.93%	41
6	N/A or Unsure	1.75%	1
	Total	100%	57

Q19 - A harvest limit reduction would help to boost catch rates in rivers because released fish can be caught multiple times.



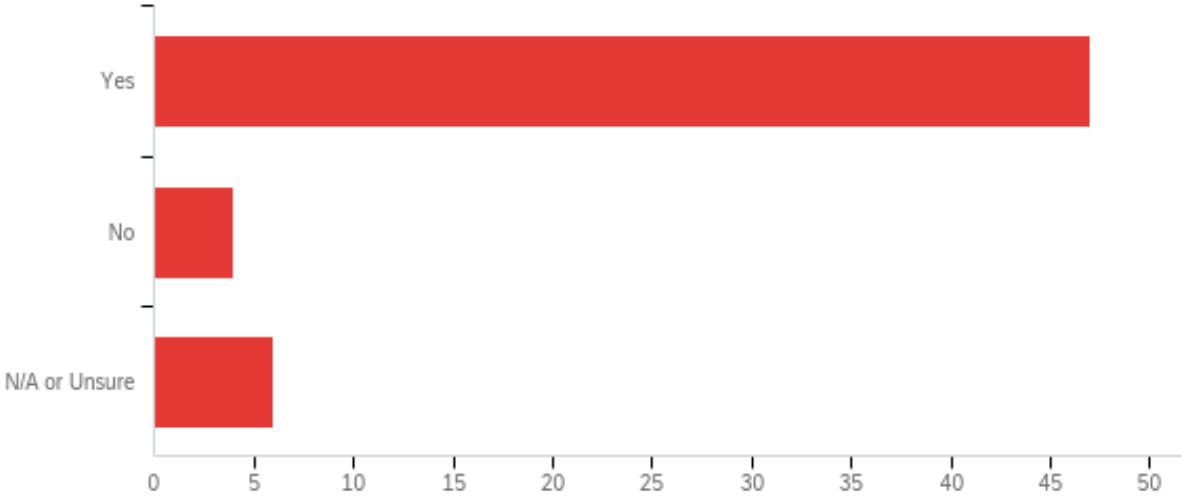
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	1.75%	1
2	Disagree	5.26%	3
3	Neutral	5.26%	3
4	Agree	15.79%	9
5	Strongly Agree	70.18%	40
6	N/A or Unsure	1.75%	1
	Total	100%	57

Q20 - Which best describes your personal approach to steelhead harvest?



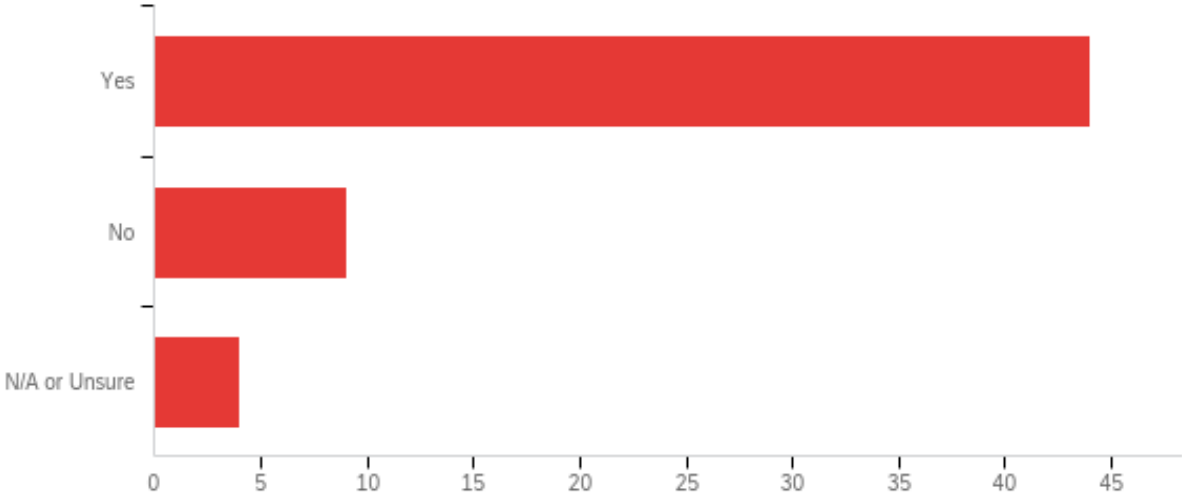
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Catch and release only	61.40%	35
2	Mostly catch and release, but selectively harvest a few	36.84%	21
3	Keep most steelhead, but release a few	1.75%	1
4	Keep all steelhead that are legal to harvest	0.00%	0
5	N/A or Unsure	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	57

Q21 - Do you believe that releasing wild (unclipped) steelhead as opposed to stocked (generally clipped) steelhead will lead to increased fitness and improved steelhead populations?



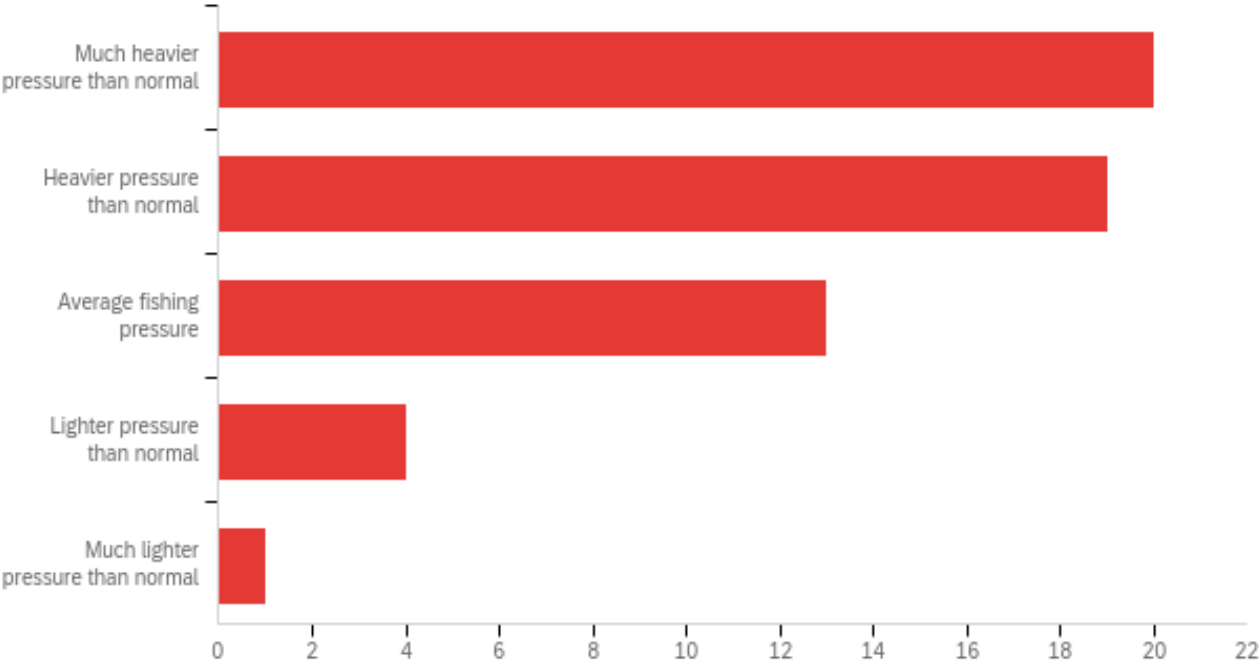
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	82.46%	47
2	No	7.02%	4
3	N/A or Unsure	10.53%	6
	Total	100%	57

Q22 - Would you support a lower harvest limit for wild (unclipped) steelhead than for stocked (generally clipped) steelhead?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	77.19%	44
2	No	15.79%	9
3	N/A or Unsure	7.02%	4
	Total	100%	57

Q10 - How would you describe steelhead fishing pressure on your home water over the past season (October 2020 through May 2021)?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Much heavier pressure than normal	35.09%	20
2	Heavier pressure than normal	33.33%	19
3	Average fishing pressure	22.81%	13
4	Lighter pressure than normal	7.02%	4
5	Much lighter pressure than normal	1.75%	1
	Total	100%	57

Q32 - Approximately what percentage of your guided trips targeted the following types of fish over the past five years? NOTE: Answers must sum to 100.

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Steelhead	0.00	100.00	30.29	26.66	710.66	75
2	Salmon	0.00	100.00	15.78	22.67	513.99	75
3	Stream Trout	0.00	100.00	35.04	35.28	1244.48	75
4	Bass	0.00	100.00	10.68	20.93	437.95	75
5	Panfish	0.00	10.00	0.39	1.84	3.38	75
6	Catfish	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.11	0.01	75
7	Pike/Musky	0.00	30.00	2.19	5.70	32.50	75
8	Walleye	0.00	99.00	3.01	15.33	235.00	75
9	Carp	0.00	100.00	1.48	11.48	131.82	75
10	Other	0.00	70.00	1.13	8.10	65.56	75

Q32_11_TEXT - Other

Other - Text

Smallmouth

Lake trout

Lake Trout, Cisco

Rock bass

Q33 - Approximately what percentage of your guided trips utilized each fishing method over the past five years? NOTE: Answers must sum to 100.

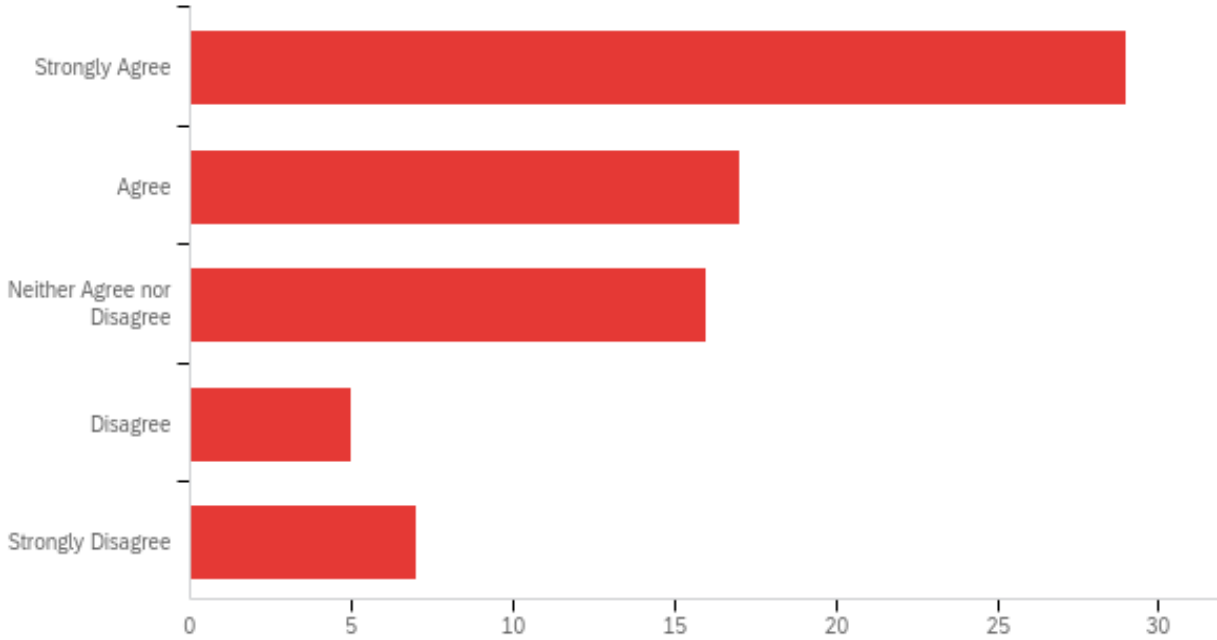
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Drift fishing	0.00	80.00	6.77	14.20	201.64	75
2	Float fishing	0.00	100.00	14.16	22.80	519.76	75
3	Fly fishing	0.00	100.00	61.81	40.86	1669.46	75
4	Plug pulling	0.00	50.00	2.73	8.81	77.53	75
5	Casting lures	0.00	100.00	8.85	19.76	390.61	75
6	Trolling	0.00	80.00	3.07	11.94	142.60	75
7	Still Fishing	0.00	20.00	0.27	2.29	5.26	75
8	Ice fishing	0.00	50.00	0.87	5.85	34.25	75
9	Bow fishing	0.00	100.00	1.33	11.47	131.56	75
10	Other	0.00	10.00	0.13	1.15	1.32	75

Q33_11_TEXT - Other

Other - Text

Jigging

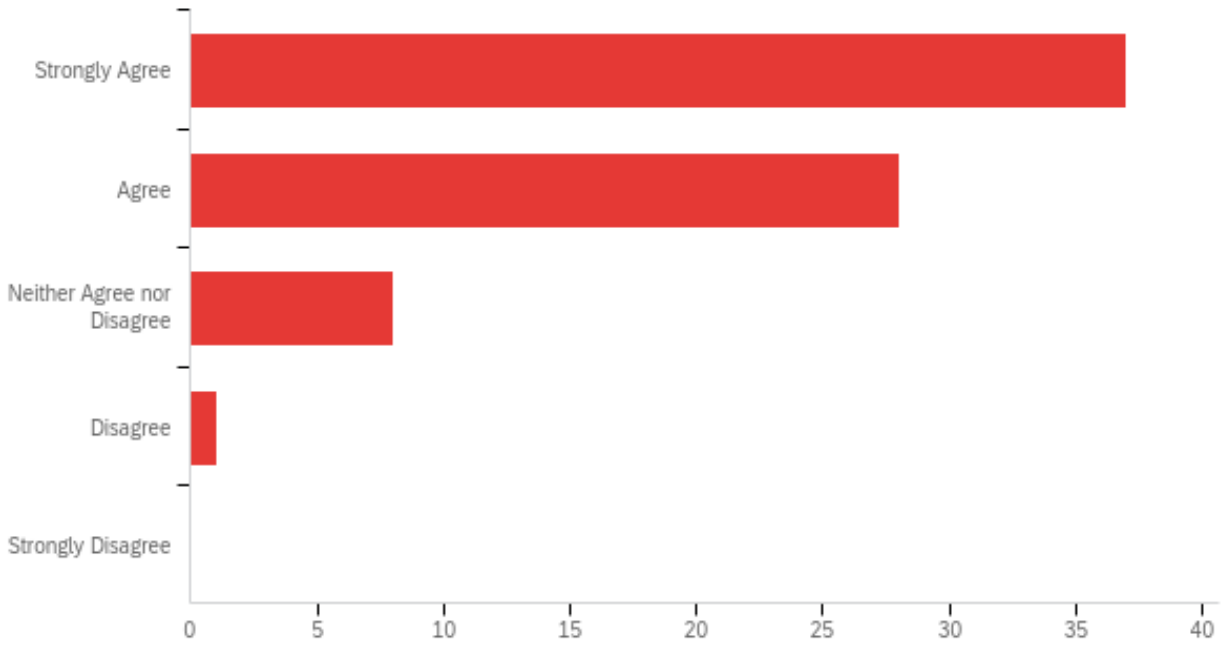
Q34 - Michigan does not currently require fees, licensing, training, or reporting for inland fishing guides, with the exception of a \$30 Inland Pilot License. The following questions are based on provisions in legislative bills that were introduced in 2020. Do you agree that inland fishing guides should be required to receive CPR and first aid training?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Michigan does not currently require fees, licensing, training, or reporting for inland fishing guides, with the exception of a \$30 Inland Pilot License. The following questions are based on provisions in legislative bills that were introduced in 2020. Do you agree that inland fishing guides should be required to receive CPR and first aid training?	1.00	5.00	2.24	1.29	1.67	74

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	39.19%	29
2	Agree	22.97%	17
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	21.62%	16
4	Disagree	6.76%	5
5	Strongly Disagree	9.46%	7
	Total	100%	74

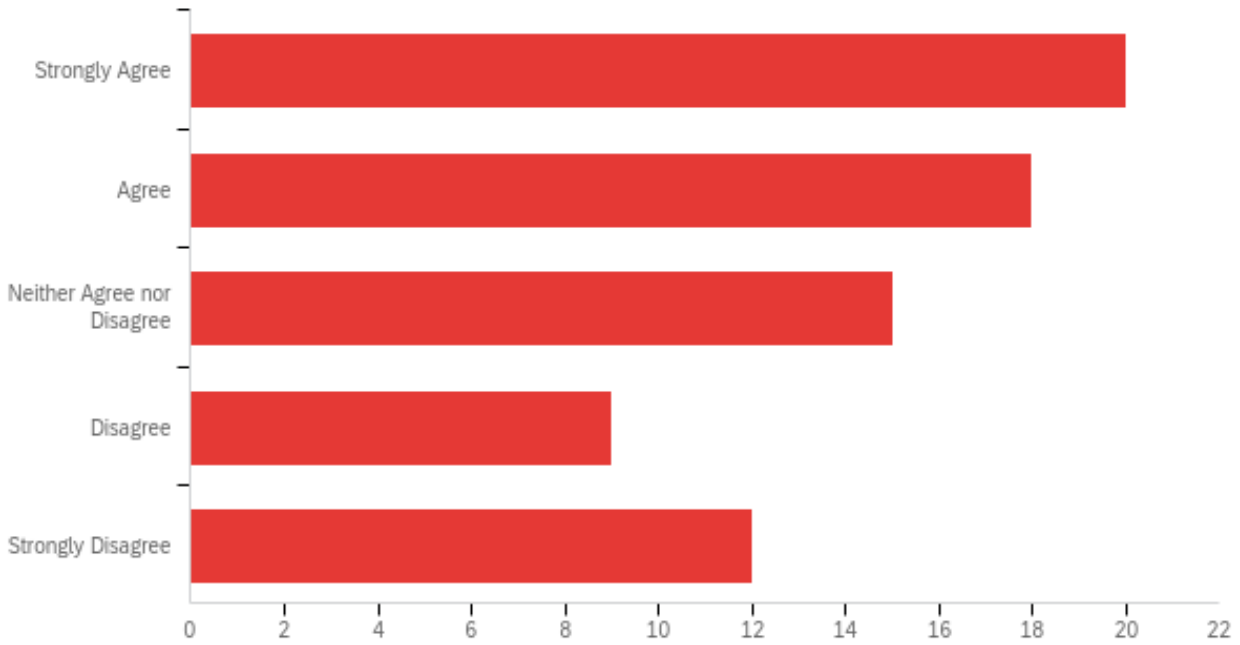
Q35 - Do you agree that inland fishing guides should be required to carry first aid kits onboard?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you agree that inland fishing guides should be required to carry first aid kits onboard?	1.00	4.00	1.64	0.73	0.53	74

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	50.00%	37
2	Agree	37.84%	28
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	10.81%	8
4	Disagree	1.35%	1
5	Strongly Disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	74

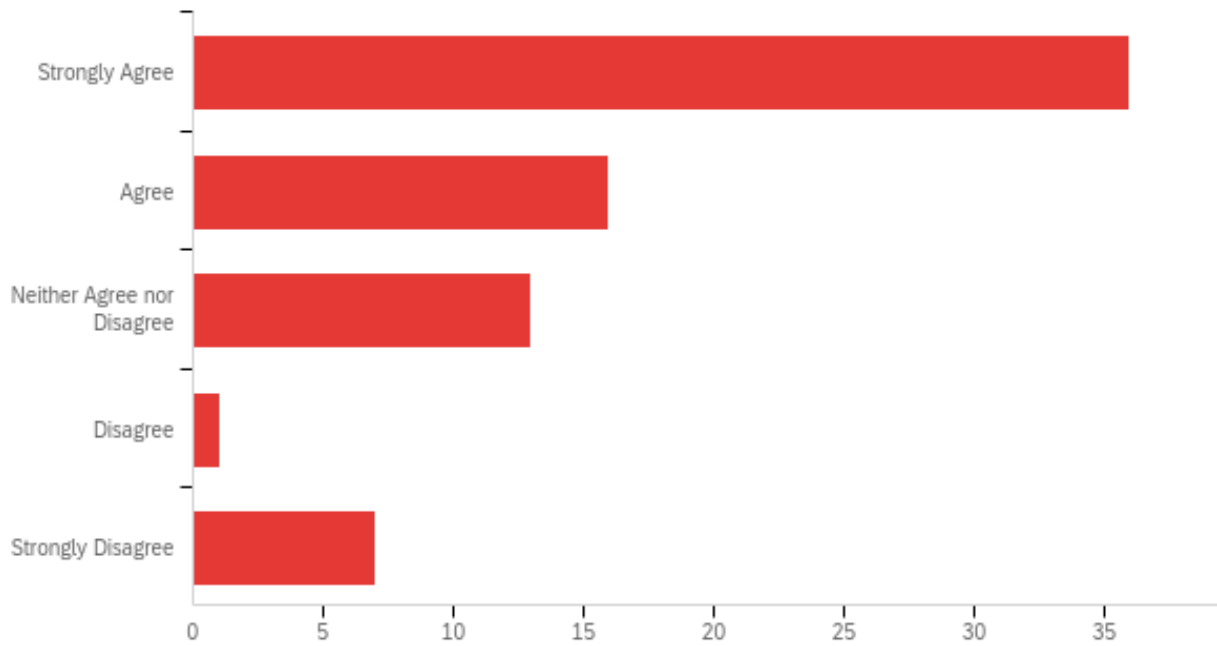
Q36 - Do you agree that inland fishing guides should be required to report effort and catch information to Michigan DNR?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you agree that inland fishing guides should be required to report effort and catch information to Michigan DNR?	1.00	5.00	2.66	1.41	1.98	74

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	27.03%	20
2	Agree	24.32%	18
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	20.27%	15
4	Disagree	12.16%	9
5	Strongly Disagree	16.22%	12
	Total	100%	74

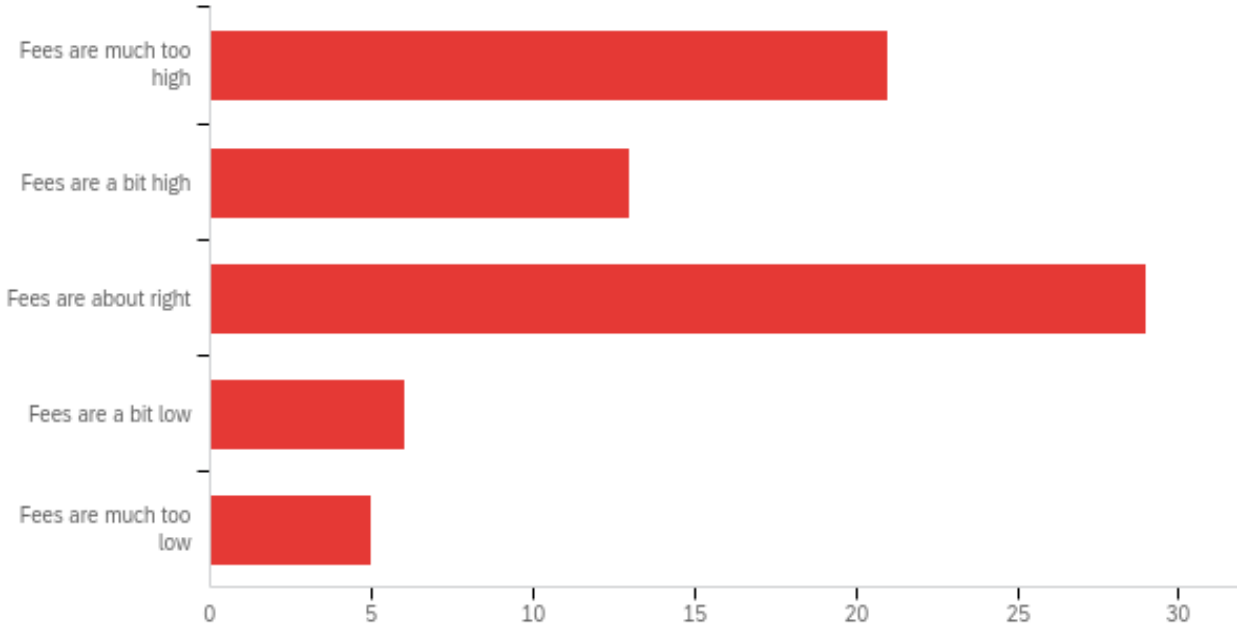
Q37 - Do you agree that inland fishing guides should not be allowed to operate if they have had a felony conviction or serious fish and game violation within the past three years?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you agree that inland fishing guides should not be allowed to operate if they have had a felony conviction or serious fish and game violation within the past three years?	1.00	5.00	2.00	1.26	1.59	73

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	49.32%	36
2	Agree	21.92%	16
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	17.81%	13
4	Disagree	1.37%	1
5	Strongly Disagree	9.59%	7
	Total	100%	73

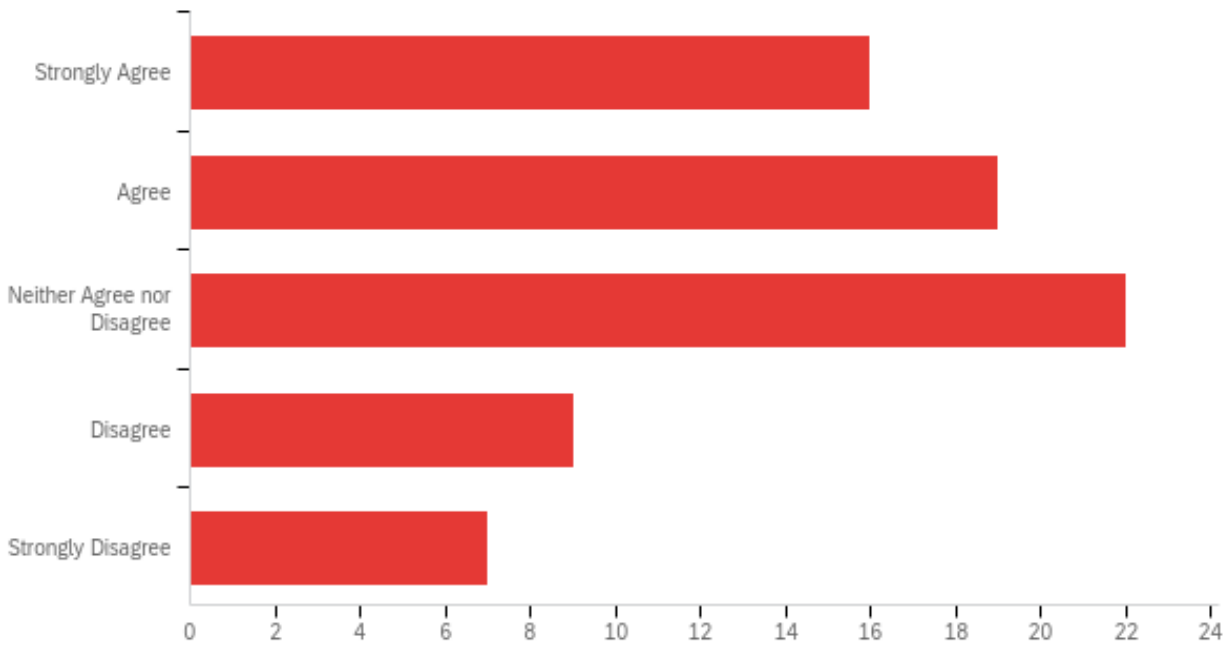
Q38 - The bill proposal included a \$150 fee for Michigan residents, \$300 fee for non-residents, and \$300 additional fee for use of state-owned launch facilities. The license would be valid for a period of three years. Do you agree that proposed fees for an inland fishing guide license are reasonable?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you agree that proposed fees for an inland fishing guide license are reasonable?	1.00	5.00	2.47	1.18	1.38	74

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Fees are much too high	28.38%	21
2	Fees are a bit high	17.57%	13
3	Fees are about right	39.19%	29
4	Fees are a bit low	8.11%	6
5	Fees are much too low	6.76%	5
	Total	100%	74

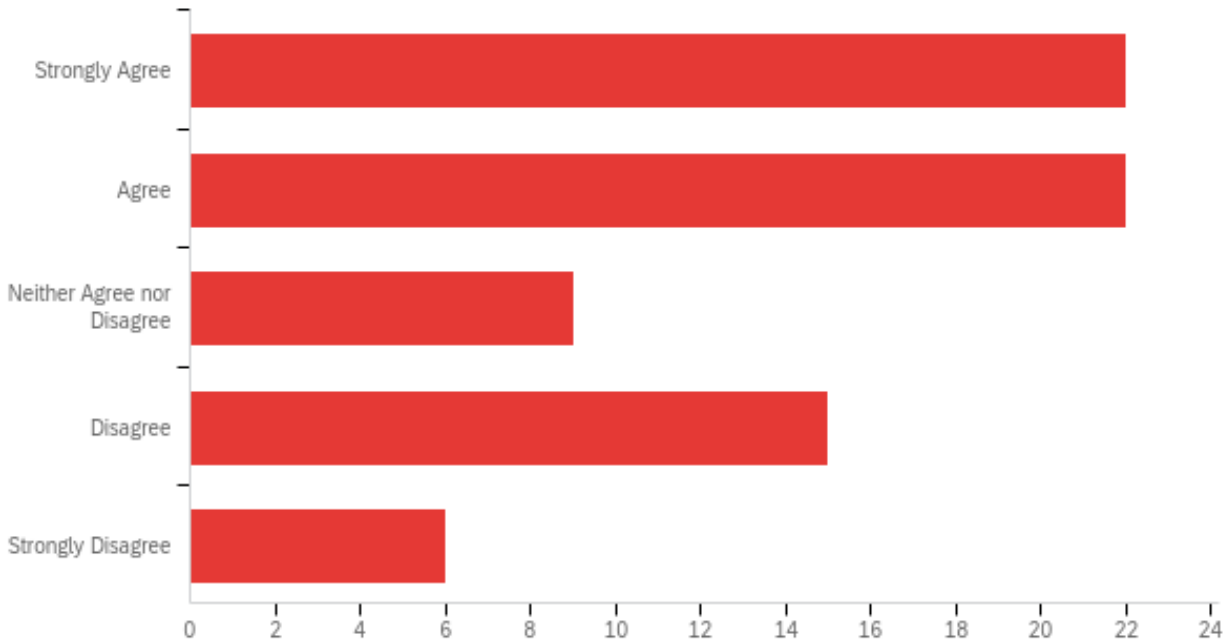
Q39 - Do you think that bill provisions (from Q34-38) would benefit the guiding industry by increasing safety for customers?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you think that bill provisions (from Q34-38) would benefit the guiding industry by increasing safety for customers?	1.00	5.00	2.62	1.22	1.50	73

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	21.92%	16
2	Agree	26.03%	19
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	30.14%	22
4	Disagree	12.33%	9
5	Strongly Disagree	9.59%	7
	Total	100%	73

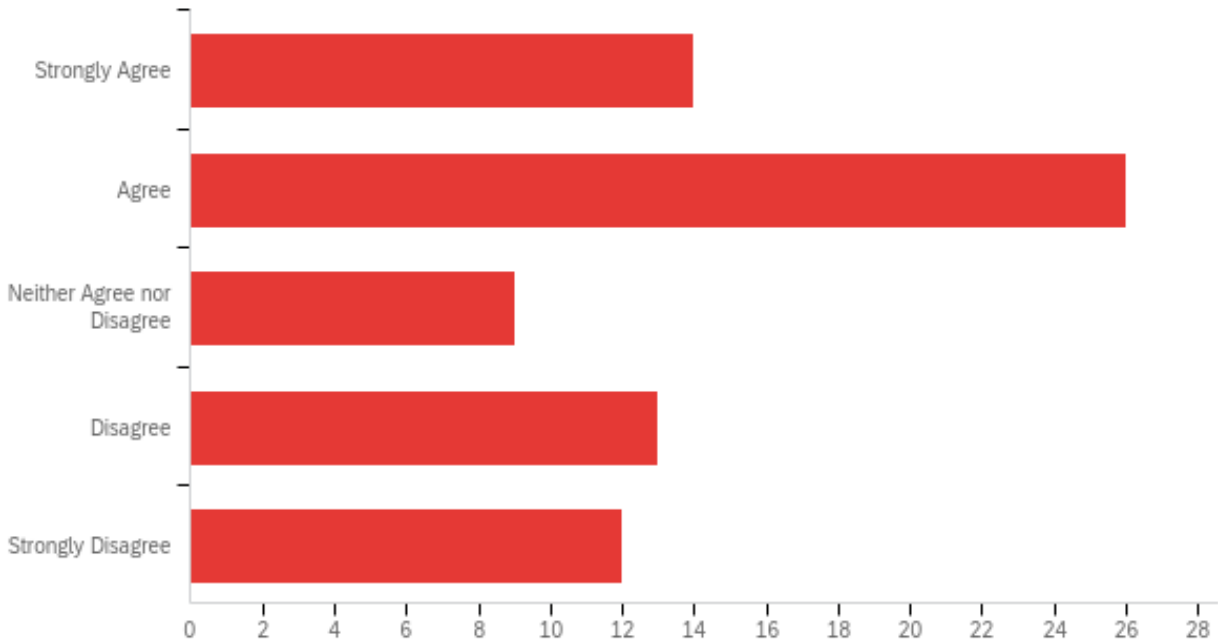
Q40 - Do you think that bill provisions (from Q34-38) would benefit the guiding industry by improving professionalism?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you think that bill provisions (from Q34-38) would benefit the guiding industry by improving professionalism?	1.00	5.00	2.47	1.32	1.74	74

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	29.73%	22
2	Agree	29.73%	22
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	12.16%	9
4	Disagree	20.27%	15
5	Strongly Disagree	8.11%	6
	Total	100%	74

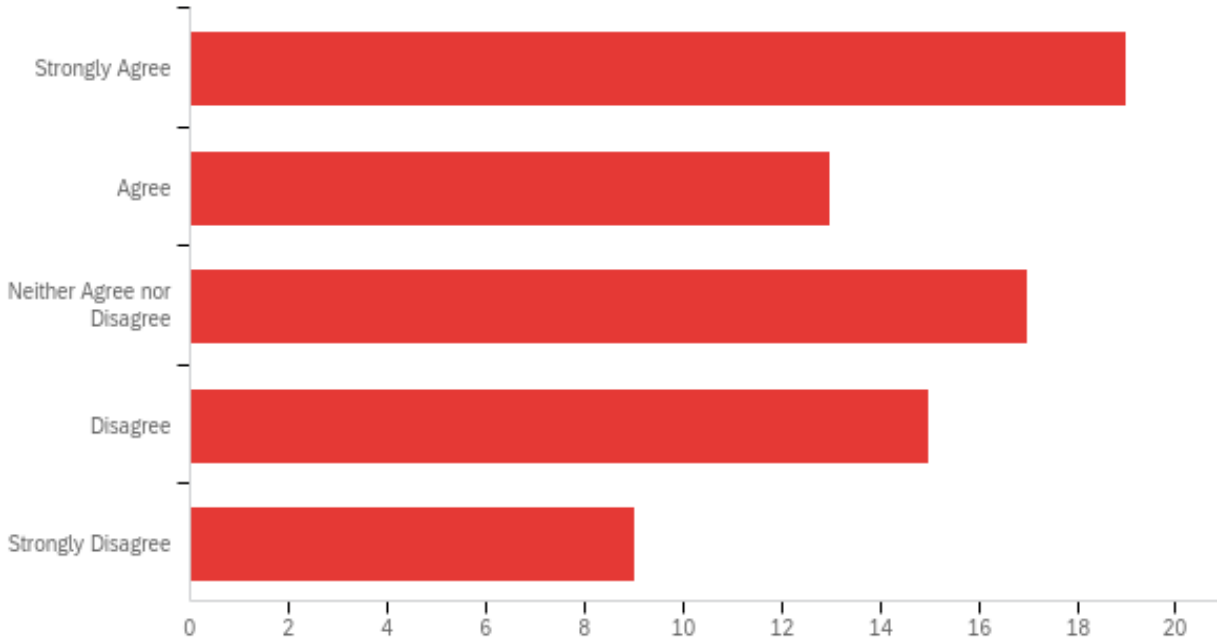
Q41 - Do you think that bill provisions (from Q34-38) would benefit the guiding industry by enhancing the ability of DNR to manage inland fish populations?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you think that bill provisions (from Q34-38) would benefit the guiding industry by enhancing the ability of DNR to manage inland fish populations?	1.00	5.00	2.77	1.37	1.88	74

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	18.92%	14
2	Agree	35.14%	26
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	12.16%	9
4	Disagree	17.57%	13
5	Strongly Disagree	16.22%	12
	Total	100%	74

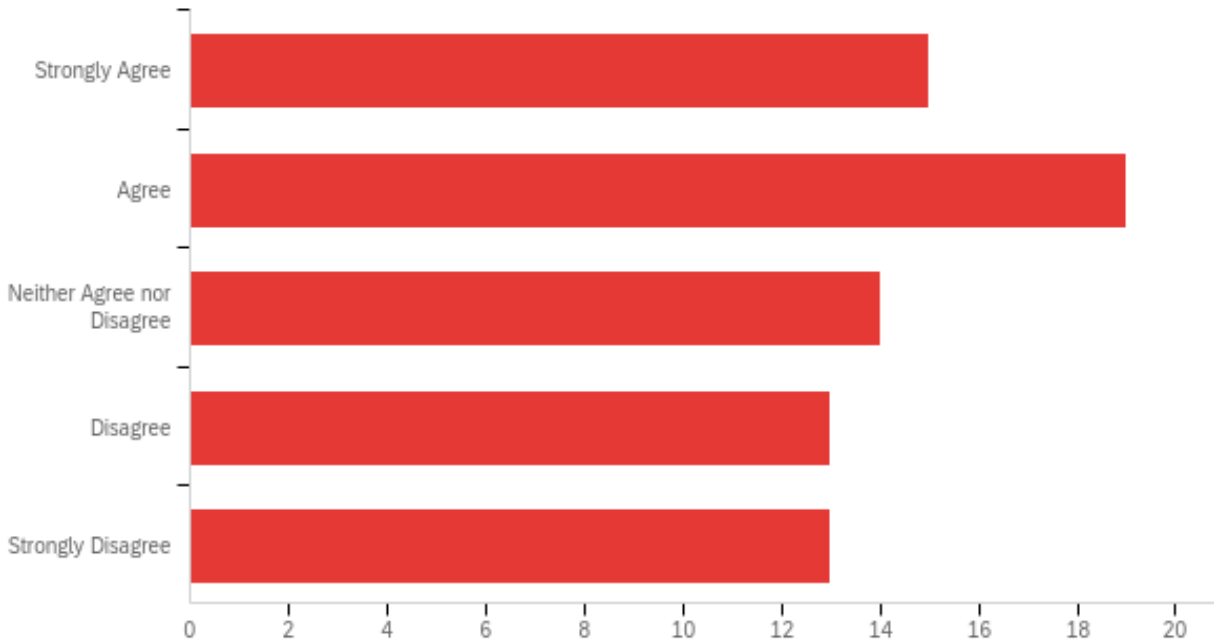
Q42 - Do you agree that reporting catch and effort to DNR on a monthly basis would take too much of your time?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you agree that reporting catch and effort to DNR on a monthly basis would take too much of your time?	1.00	5.00	2.75	1.36	1.86	73

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	26.03%	19
2	Agree	17.81%	13
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	23.29%	17
4	Disagree	20.55%	15
5	Strongly Disagree	12.33%	9
	Total	100%	73

Q43 - Do you think that a bill including the provisions above should be drafted and passed by state legislators in 2021?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you think that a bill including the provisions above should be drafted and passed by state legislators in 2021?	1.00	5.00	2.86	1.39	1.93	74

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	20.27%	15
2	Agree	25.68%	19
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	18.92%	14
4	Disagree	17.57%	13
5	Strongly Disagree	17.57%	13
	Total	100%	74

44 - Let us know if you have specific concerns with proposed provisions or suggestions for additional components of Michigan inland fishing guide legislation.

I think professionalism and safety should always be a priority but giving an avenue for more regulation and higher fees seems like another way to squeeze money out pockets and harass guides more. Just one more thing for CO's to police. If someone wants to guide and has a past I don't see why they should be excluded from the industry - working seems to be a problem these days. I think sharing of information is a great way to communicate with local fisheries staff but requiring reporting - I don't think so. Most fisheries are catch and release of mortality is the concern. Otherwise let the surveys determine populations etc. We (anglers and guides) already pay the lion share to fund and keep our resources functioning.

The State Of Michigan should make guides with only an inland guides license have to get random drug tests just like licensed captains.

For the safety and well being of customers, fishing guides need random drug testing, same as the USCG. Fish and game violations have nothing to do with customer safety. If you want to protect the customers, random drug testing needs to happen!! Much more drug use and drinking of the past few years. Drugs are rampant with the Pere Marquette River guides from [REDACTED]. These guides need to be tested through the State and the USFS. Copy everything the USCG uses for random drug testing, that doesn't cost the state anything. 2) Charging guides for the Land Lease and using boat launches is ridiculous. We already pay huge amounts of taxes on everything in America. Our fishing licenses help with the boat launches. The Land Lease is a giant waste of money, and a [REDACTED]. It needs to be removed. It was a giant hassle that never worked. 3) They need to bring chumming back. Michigan Guides lost most of our Winter Steelhead Fishing clients because chumming is not legal anymore. Newaygo, Lake, and Manistee County need every penny of winter revenue. Chumming spreads out the steelhead season so that all the trips aren't all packed into the spring months. Chumming allows us a solid income during the winter months. This is gone now. 4) Liability insurance needs to be increased for fishing guides. and DNR needs to do random checks for this. Many guides get insurance, submit the forms, then cancel it. It's an extreme risk to clients. Guides need random drug testing, same as USCG. 5) Lake Trout plants need to be extremely reduced. None of the clients like them, and guides consider them trash fish. Please plant more King, and Coho Salmon. Salmon bring money and tourism to the areas. Customers do not like Lake Trout.

I would appreciate landings that do not damage my riverboat putting it in or talking it out. Fees for what. Do something positive for inland guides and perhaps there would be more support for your ideas.

With social media among other components, we just have too many people targeting steelhead. The learning curve is much shorter and 'everyone' is out there whether guiding or fishing on their own. Too many people going after the same amount of fish over the past 10 years.

We don't have the boots on the ground for Patrol like it should be as it is. Now you want to add new rules that they can't enforce on a regular basis. Let's use the tools we have now in the way they're supposed to be used before we start adding new ones.

I'd like to see the limit of salmon be reduced to 2 fish per person. Steelhead reduced to 1 fish per day. Also it would be great to be able to throw fish carcasses back in river after fish has been fillet. There is no harmful effects to this to the water ways. Also I think that dumping lampricide to eradicate the lamprey can be done differently so it does not kill all cold water fish that utilize the rivers during the year. Lastly if dams were to discharge water from bottom rather than top would certainly help the fishery by having a more regulated water temperature

Why should river use for an individual guide be more than what a canoe livery who can put 100 boats on the river in a day and have drunken people leaving the river full of lost and discarded items, trespass on private property and ruin the fishing during the day for people who pay more? It's absurd and makes no sense whatsoever, then fisherman and their groups are the ones doing all the restoration and cleanup at these state launches.

Some of my specific concerns - The most pressing of all issues is STATE guides in comparison with OUT-OF-STATE guides. There should be no out-of-state guides being allowed to fish in Michigan. We have enough guides here and the money that comes in goes to our local economies - we don't need or want additional pressure from out of state. Please work language into the bill that drastically increases the fee for an out of state guide. I live in the Upper Peninsula and it's very close to Wisconsin. If this bill passes we will have a tremendous amount of pressure

from our of state guides when the local economies in Michigan should be getting that revenue and not Wisconsin guides. That is my biggest concern. Also, there should be fines for unlicensed guiding. Currently it's a slap on the wrist if you are caught guiding illegally and that needs to change. There should be significant penalties for illegally guiding - a small fine does not deter people. For instance, illegally guiding should be an automatic loss of your fishing license for a 1-3 year period. That is a significant reason to be legal.

The state focuses on making money and license sales and is ONLY interested in working on fish habitat and fish quality when tons of people complain. Quality and C&R are never the forefront of the MDNR. As a guide I have tried to propose C & R and harvest restrictions and all I got was resistance. When hillbilly groups wanna kill fish or ruin a fishery, they will listen and move forward.

the whole thing is a crock of [REDACTED]. the state never enforced the old law and all this proposed bill does is add unneeded cost to my operation and no one ever reached out to me until this survey so this all must have been done in a vacuum. if the state wanted to they could have just copied the federal program, which is just a tax by another color (3% of gross) but there are still unlicensed guides working in federal lands and water. so i pay my fee and pay my taxes and follow the rules and now they want more, double, triple dip whatever all bullshit.

On the Pere Marquette a fall/winter run steelhead has little chance of making it to the spawn without being harvested, too much time in a system with too much pressure. Harvest of all fish should close with the trout season, even if half the river made this change it would be significant. I've paid well over \$10,000 in guide fees to the state in the past many years. Out of state guides should pay \$1500 per year, like Louisiana. The most recent state guide fee program was a mess and still is. Hassling and feeing the good guides and doing absolutely nothing to guides that didn't bother to sign up or were fully illegal. An absolutely backward approach and for over 10 years nobody in the DNR cared to change it.

Enforcement issues need to be addressed. Laws don't matter if they can't be enforced. Monthly reporting requires too much time and won't be accurate. Anecdotal information shouldn't be used for decisions by the DNR.

I would recommend a fee structure similar to the US Fish and Wildlife Service launch permits where the fee that you are charged is relative to the trips you run and the cost of those trips.

I do not think that Michigan residents who pay taxes, along with license fees, to the state for the up keep and usage of state launches should have to pay a cent more to use them regardless of use. I do not think that heavier regulations on guiding in the form of required communication with the state or first aid will increase professionalism. In fact I feel that truly professional guides are able to stand above the muck because these actions are already taken of their own accord. The largest challenge to guiding today is angling pressure. You cannot regulate away bad stream ethics and disrespectful anglers. That falls on the angling community itself. Decreased harvest of all trout and salmon species would have exponential effect, along with specific and purposeful protection of wild stream trout, salmon, and steelhead.

Why won't the Michigan DNR consider using some kind legislation to combat the snagging of wild salmon and steelhead in our great state. We are the laughing stock of the wild fisheries world here. Myself... I've lost faith in any real conservation efforts by our MDNR. Every time the conversation comes up they, they just seem to pass the buck. Biggest eye sore we have on our rivers is all the snagging. Even in the blue ribbon waters they are allowed to dress up in fly gear and go snag fish and lie to the clients about the happening. Our DNR would just assume trash every fishery and attempt to plant more because they have no wild fisheries in mind. With a failing lake ecosystem, our only motivation should be conservation and regulations to curb the ever growing army of anglers engaging our finite cold waters... this instead of the current mentality of put and take and everyone that buys a license is allowed to harvest maximum rates. Again, not holding my breathe... but during the months of September October March and April I choose not to guide any migratory streams because it's so embarrassing as a guide to let actual anglers see the tragedy unfold under the blessing of the DNR and whatever license sales some with it. [REDACTED] are the two entities in my locale still push the lie for sales and guide trips... when has lying to general public about the actual type of fishing they are doing... when has encouraging poor ethics lined up with being a mi fishing guide. This while u ask if we should be receiving more planted stoker trash versions of the wild fish being [REDACTED] every spring and fall so those types of guides are allowed to continue the tragedy with the added cushion of planted fish. We need to start thinking of New York and Montana as examples of how to conserve for better fisheries. Or not.... Again, no longer holding my breathe.

I am totally NOT in favor for this Bill Proposal, as written. I'm a Fly Fishing Guide and I'm fortunate to have a decent Pension. I Guide more because I enjoy it, rather than for the financial gain. I'm not against any of the safety measures in this proposed Bill, as long as the paperwork and implementation of the process is not convoluted. But for those that Guide for a living, this Bill would be a financial hardship for some of them. In my opinion, the fishery in Michigan is declining. I actually feel bad sometimes taking peoples money. If DNR adds these fees, Guides will end up raising Clients fees to offset these Proposed Bill fees. Quite frankly, with the current status of Michigan's Fishery, we ALL pay enough money already. If the DNR would actually improve on Michigan's Fishery, due to these financial provisions, I would be in favor of it. But, in My opinion, the Michigan DNR Office does not have a good track record on the fishery, nor the Deer hunting for that matter. I've been fly fishing for Trout in Michigan, for 40 years. The first 25 years I kept a very accurate log book. The Trout fishing today is no way as good as years ago, especially on the Ausable River. In my opinion, due in part from the mismanagement of Michigan's DNR. That being said, I'm a retired Lieutenant for a Michigan Sheriff's Office. I totally back the Men & Women DNR Officers. It's the DNR's Management of Michigan's fishery that I question. As far as questions 39 & 40. I think questions 34 & 35 would most likely improve on the safety of Customers and Professionalism of Guides. The other 3 would not. Unless Question 38 went to cover administrative costs for implementing 34 & 35 and improving Michigan's Fishery. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

You can pass all you want but until a closed season on all species while they are reproducing, nothing will change. Yes the increase of "guides" and boat traffic in general doesn't help the matter. Especially when 99% of them teach and are taught that fishing to fish in 6" of water while spawning is acceptable. Even a high percentage of the "fly guides" teach only a level line Chuck n Duck method to entice the "bite" out of any fish. Eliminate the bull shit, and new \$ will come to the State. A youthful, wealthy generation that will bring plenty of \$ to a healthy true fishing system. On all rivers.... Don't charge me more while I've been following the rules for too long now while the new kids skip around them all and most with no respect to the resource.

Need to do away with the 18' and over boat inspections that should only be used for great lakes boats. Also captains licenses should be required.

As a guide that carries all of the things that you already talked about for both safety and professionalism. I approve of this. Get the riff raft off the water who are operating with out license. I just hope the DNR will be helpful at getting information to people if they do to catch reports. It's is like trying to pull teeth to get any feedback or info from the department.

The boat ramps on the upper manistee are really difficult to launch and recover drift boats from when all the other rivers in the area have access sites you can back a trailer into. Specifically CCC bridge, hole in the wall, tree farm are absolutely ridiculous. Thank you for taking the time and energy to send out this survey. I hope that professional guides can partner with the DNR on steelhead limits and safety for all of those who enjoy the wonderful resources that Michigan has to offer.

The dnr doesn't seem to police unlicensed guides very well as it is. There are guides with the pilots license that operate on coast guard waters and they are rarely checked and dealt with.

There will need to be enforcement as many individuals "guide" without even the \$30 inland pilots license.

I Support a user fee for all kayaks and canoes

My time is too valuable to be now considering all these new requirements, and will be taking away from my experience and the clients' on the waters. There is too small of a penalty for guides operating without insurance and Illegally and they will continue to do so even if the legislature is passed. There is now more work on the guide who operates under the law, without any added benefits

Something has to give. The number of "guides" in the State of Michigan has essentially ruined the experience for countless non-guided AND guided anglers - not to mention the huge impact this overuse has had on stream ecology. It's completely out of control. As much as I hate to be regulated to death and spend yet more money on this business, unfortunately, one of the easiest ways to mitigate some of these issues is implement some new restrictions and guidelines. I hope it will anyway. Keep in mind, that conscientious guides are also watchdogs. We are river keepers in a lot of ways, so that is worth something to the state. And, as far as state boat ramp fees go I think it's also important that the state views this as a two way street. The ridiculous "lease" deal we had was criminal down where I guide in the Niles area. The ramp isn't even a ramp and barely accommodated a trailer. In

fact, I actually bent an axle pulling my boat out a couple years ago, which of course wiped a couple days worth of guide income, not to mention down time in logistical nightmare of borrowing boats etc. The state didn't even give us the time of day but insisted if we "fixed" the ramp we'd be prosecuted. Garbage everywhere...I put a can out and emptied it twice a week with contractor bags piled up next to my garage in LaPorte, Indiana because I emptied the garbage for the state of Michigan at an access that one property manager didn't even know the location of a few years ago. It's not cool at all. So yeah, charging for state access usage is fine as long as it's not a total scam. I also feel that the increase in recreational usage needs to be addressed. This isn't the time or place for that discussion but I truly feel that kayaks, canoes and tubes are one of the most unidentified issues when it comes to fisheries management. There is no question daily swarms of tubers etal have an impact on fisheries. In hot weather/water temps, stressing fish repeatedly and forcing them to evade people by finding escape cover or deep water probably overtaxes those stretches of water from a carrying capacity standpoint. I hate the idea of big government but maybe it's time to limit this on some streams or regulate it via permit. Again, it is also completely out of control. The garbage alone is horrific. DNR and local law enforcement marine divisions need more asset in this regard so they can patrol via kayak or drift boat. I only bring it up here because it seems insidious, yet largely unrecognized by fisheries personnel when it comes to factoring into overall management plans.

Who sets these prices? Seems very high for a resident guide

I would like to see more serious penalties for violations of Fish and Game regulations. I would like to see more attention put towards practicality and maintenance of DNR access points/boat launched on rivers and lakes. I would like to see more enforcement at public launches during times of the year where kayaking, tubing, and canoeing take place to better handle the issues of intoxication and littering.

Out of state Guides should pay more. We have seen a huge increase in the 'Non certified' guides on waters in the north/everyone is a guide. This reflects poorly to the professionalism of the majority of the industry. Some rivers and guides associated with those watersheds are commonly known by other guides and clients as drug users/felons and are avoided by many of my clients. Sad for those fisheries- but the regularly post great grip-n grins with big fish.

I think that the bill makes it easy for folks to pay the fine in the unlikely chance they get caught for cheaper than going through the motions to become a guide.

Inland fishing guides should be REQUIRED to be enrolled in a random drug testing MDOT type program. It is required by the coast guard to be a captain on lake Michigan. I am also a river guide and find it unbelievable that fishing guides smoke weed or whatever every time before they meet their clients, during the trip or after EVERY DAY. I have observed this for 26 years as a guide in Michigan. Some have been caught by the DNR doing it on trips and they still are working. Catch Reports are a great idea!!!!

Please implement this to keep professionalism in the guiding community! I guide in Colorado for 4 months of the year and this bill still doesn't even come close to the hoops you have to jump through there to be a guide

My only concern is regarding those guides who are not following the rules, such as when the State required insurance, I knew of too many guides who wouldn't get it. Or the Use Agreement with the State for the public launches. Unfortunately, I don't see legislation helping this, though it is a step in the right direction.

A few heavily stocked Trout fisheries below a several tailwaters put and take style like many other states have with a bottom draw !! A easy Trout fishing place. Help wild fish not wind up dead and help them get old and spawn many times by lowering limits and more catch and release !! Great lakes fish can't be caught and released but you could lower the limit to 2 fish might help. Protect the special regulation waters..In our Flies only No Kill it is POORLY PATROLED..Spawn bags, Beads, Lures all hanging from the trees and Trespassing is horrible too..Indian Bridge Snaggers Galore..Not nearly enough law enforcement on the Pere Marquette.

I have mixed feelings about questions 34-38. I feel that guides should definitely be held to a higher standard, and that those with prior convictions should not be guiding. However, I have been doing catch reporting associated with my USCG license. Due to the variety of tactics used, I think that the numbers reported won't really tell the story due to the wide array of fishing tactics and the way some guides are geared for high numbers methods, while others are geared toward a specific form of fishing. For example, if I run a swung fly steelhead trip, 1-3 steelhead is a good day, however, if someone is back bouncing, 1-3 steelhead would be a very poor day.

I just don't think catch reporting, as I have seen it, tells a complete story that would be useful for management. Furthermore, it would have to be absolutely private in how it is instituted.

I think this sounds great and I'm all for paying the DNR like we do already for a State Permit for Guiding the river. The issue I have is we pay for Insurance, Guide License's and Guide Permits through USFS and DNR and CPR so I'm legit and as Professional as they come. There however is no one ever enforcing all of these permits, license's and insurance that we need to have. Sometimes I wonder why do I pay into all this if nobody ever gets checked anyways. We need more Law Enforcement. I have been a full time fishing guide for 25 years now on the Pere Marquette River and have been checked for a fishing license 2 times. That's it 2 times !!!!! That's the same problem we will have for Steelhead catch limit if we make it 1 or 2 they will kill 2 or 3, no enforcement however if we make it no kill on a Wild Fishery like the PM then they have no excuse of getting away with it. Can't say didn't know if there are signs all over at the boat ramps. I really don't have a problem with Anglers keeping a fish every now then but to allow them to keep fish on a naturally wild reproduction river that doesn't get stocked I think is insane. River's that do get stocked still I believe clip fins and they can keep hatchery fish just like out West , no clip fin they need to let it go it's a Wild fish. Pretty simple. Wild rivers are no kill only just like in Oregon or Washington. Thanks for doing all this it's great to know there are other folks who care about this great resource and are willing to step up for it. Let me know if there's anything I can do I'm willing to help. [REDACTED]

The Jordan River is probably the states only trophy fishery created by a bunch of bad ideas and a perfect storm combined changing rules and regulations would do nothing more than hurt the fishery adding more regulations to me the guide it's going to force me out of the business already been forced out of two other business due to heavy regulation you people I hope you realize that you are the special interest groups they're constantly trying to change things To suit your needs not cool leave well enough alone

1. Reporting by guides is a bad idea, for one you are making an assumption that the information is truthful and straightforward. If people can game the system and report in ways to get what they want from the fishery, i.e. rule and harvest regulations changes, you should believe they will. I do not believe it is my responsibility to report every catch I make. The state would be better off bringing back an extensive creel creek program that captures the data they are searching for. The creel surveys will be more accurate, truthful and will allow for more extensive information to be gathered on game species. 2. If the main goal of the state is to promote a professional industry then you need to do away with the inland pilots license and require a Coast Guard approved licensing and restrictions. The inland test is too easy and there is no drug screening required for approval of the license. In my opinion it is too easy to get a license to guide in MI and there as been a significant increase in guide services that don't behave professionally and respect the resources of our state. The licensing is still too easy to obtain and no consequences for poor life choices.

Non resident licenses should be much more expensive. So should licenses for residents that routinely harvest fish. Inland and great lakes guides who harvest limits on a regular basis have a much greater impact on the resource than guides who practice catch and release.

Outfitters licensing would benefit the resource, the sport and the industry in regards to state and local operated launches. There's way too many part time free lancing guides who have no idea what they're doing operating in waters they're not familiar with in vessels they can't operate. Give the power to the bait and fly shops to hire legitimate guides. This type of model has been in operation in western states for quite some time and is successful. There's so much pressure on our resources and the pressure needs to be limited. It's hard and to limit the general public but limiting commercial traffic is more easily justified. At the least increase annual fees drastically to increase entry barriers. Make it 3k a year and then enforce it with high fees.

If passed, I would hope that there would be funding allocated for the enforcement of the new legislation.

I think that MUCC and other special interests groups should stay out of the guiding industry as they know nothing about it. It is a myth that guides are responsible for declining fish populations as guides are simply taking anglers out on that are required to purchase licenses in turn increasing DNR revenue! With that said having only charters/guides on inland waters report catches would give the DNR partial data which in my opinion equals poor data. Also with the stretched staff of the DNR, having another set of data to work with will make it so our biologist spend more time at their desk and less time in the field which in turn could make for poor laws like the Torch River closure that was imposed this spring for Musky spawning! I am a supporter of all anglers reporting

their catches with the DNR daily and MUCC should be trying to figure out how to increase DNR revenue so that our biologist are not stretched so thin!

The state should charge the "guiding fees" for commercial use on the state waterways (no matter where the boat is launched). This is a "loophole" that is already a problem. Out of state guide fees should be double or triple resident guides. CPR/First Aid is important, but on a non-motorized river timing is an issue if serious medical attention is needed.

Are margins are already way to small at the end of year. Putting higher fees on guides would just hurt us in the end. We all know your trying to nab [REDACTED]. Punish him, not us. Also make chumming legal again. It is much harder to get newbie clients into fish when we can't chum.

Mandatory Drug Screens every year with "surprise" drug screens should be added to the bill. Better enforcement of inland guides guiding in coast guard waters. Strict fines enforced. Fishermen guiding illegally, many on the Muskegon River. Spot check for proper licenses at launches etc. Spot check on rivers.

Comments fell into these categories:

Law Enforcement

- 9 calls for increased enforcement of existing laws
- 3 general support for increased enforcement and regulation
- 3 DNR should check for liability insurance

Safety and Professionalism

- 8 general support for increased professionalism
- 5 general support for safety including CPR, First Aid
- 5 support for mandatory drug testing

Fees, Penalties, and Land Lease

- 6 generally against increased fees
- 5 support much higher fees for out-of-state guides
- 5 criticism of existing land lease system at state launches
- 4 frustrations over poor maintenance at specific launches
- 2 generally against regulation
- 2 suggestion that state launch use should follow federal permit model
- 2 support for higher penalty for illegal guides, including fishing license suspension
- 2 require U.S. Coast Guard captain's license for all guides
- 1 general support for increased fees
- 1 support for higher fee for guides who keep fish versus catch-and-release
- 1 support for higher fees only if they go toward increased law enforcement

1 require use fee for canoes and kayaks

1 river use fee should not be the same for guides and liveries

1 support higher penalty for fish and game violations

Reporting

5 generally against required reporting

2 prefer increased DNR creel surveys to mandatory reporting

2 generally for required reporting

1 for required reporting, but only if guides can access data

1 note that anecdotal reports should not be used for management

Conservation

2 for protecting wild fish

2 for preventing snagging/lining

2 for decreasing harvest in general

2 for reducing steelhead limit

2 for reducing salmon limit

2 for more bottom-draw dam fisheries

2 generally pro catch-and-release

1 for throwing carcasses in the water

1 for changing lampricide treatment schedule to protect coldwater fish

1 for reducing lake trout stocking

1 concern for mortality of fish that are caught and released

Other

2 for allowing chumming

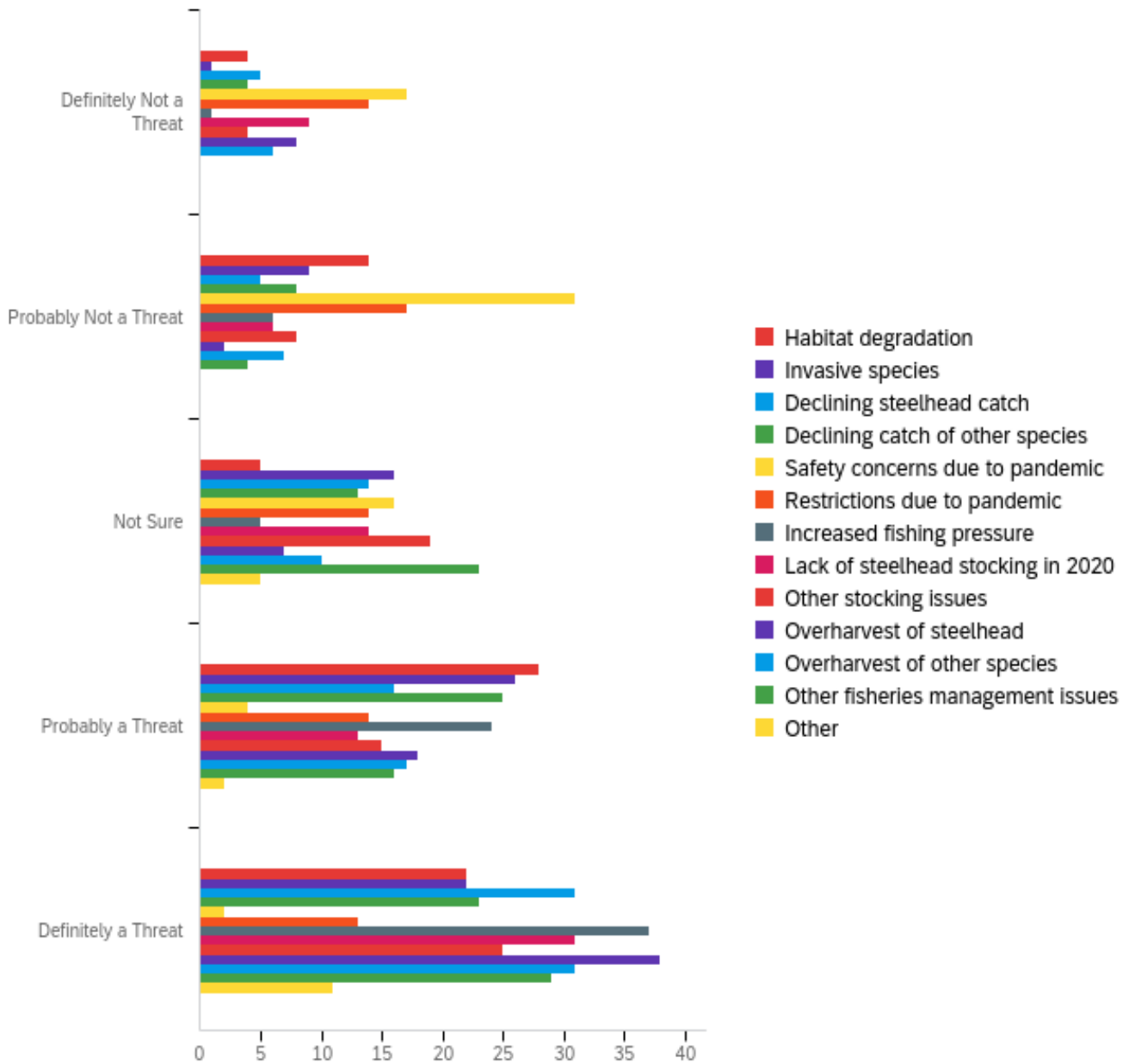
2 noting that you can't regulate ethics and calling for self-policing of fishing community

1 DNR only reacts to complaints

1 not wanting to exclude guides with a past

1 calling for end of state inspection of boats over 18 feet

Q45 - Which of the following poses a direct threat to your inland fish guiding business over the next two years?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Habitat degradation	1.00	5.00	3.68	1.24	1.53	73
2	Invasive species	1.00	5.00	3.80	1.04	1.08	74
3	Declining steelhead catch	1.00	5.00	3.89	1.24	1.54	71
4	Declining catch of other species	1.00	5.00	3.75	1.17	1.36	73

5	Safety concerns due to pandemic	1.00	5.00	2.19	0.96	0.92	70
6	Restrictions due to pandemic	1.00	5.00	2.93	1.39	1.93	72
7	Increased fishing pressure	1.00	5.00	4.23	0.99	0.97	73
8	Lack of steelhead stocking in 2020	1.00	5.00	3.70	1.40	1.96	73
9	Other stocking issues	1.00	5.00	3.69	1.22	1.48	71
10	Overharvest of steelhead	1.00	5.00	4.04	1.31	1.71	73
11	Overharvest of other species	1.00	5.00	3.85	1.31	1.71	71
12	Other fisheries management issues	2.00	5.00	3.97	0.97	0.94	72
13	Other	3.00	5.00	4.33	0.88	0.78	18

#	Question	Definitely Not a Threat		Probably Not a Threat		Not Sure		Probably a Threat		Definitely a Threat		Total
1	Habitat degradation	5.48%	4	19.18%	14	6.85%	5	38.36%	28	30.14%	22	73
2	Invasive species	1.35%	1	12.16%	9	21.62%	16	35.14%	26	29.73%	22	74
3	Declining steelhead catch	7.04%	5	7.04%	5	19.72%	14	22.54%	16	43.66%	31	71
4	Declining catch of other species	5.48%	4	10.96%	8	17.81%	13	34.25%	25	31.51%	23	73
5	Safety concerns due to pandemic	24.29%	17	44.29%	31	22.86%	16	5.71%	4	2.86%	2	70
6	Restrictions due to pandemic	19.44%	14	23.61%	17	19.44%	14	19.44%	14	18.06%	13	72
7	Increased fishing pressure	1.37%	1	8.22%	6	6.85%	5	32.88%	24	50.68%	37	73
8	Lack of steelhead stocking in 2020	12.33%	9	8.22%	6	19.18%	14	17.81%	13	42.47%	31	73
9	Other stocking issues	5.63%	4	11.27%	8	26.76%	19	21.13%	15	35.21%	25	71
10	Overharvest of steelhead	10.96%	8	2.74%	2	9.59%	7	24.66%	18	52.05%	38	73
11	Overharvest of other species	8.45%	6	9.86%	7	14.08%	10	23.94%	17	43.66%	31	71
12	Other fisheries management issues	0.00%	0	5.56%	4	31.94%	23	22.22%	16	40.28%	29	72
13	Other	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	27.78%	5	11.11%	2	61.11%	11	18

Q46 - Let us know if you have more to say regarding threats to the future of your business.

Lack of fish=Decreased catch rate=unhappy customers=People aren't booking trips=no money made

I'm worried about Asian Carp, habitat degradation, and Salmon Stocking. Salmon is the big money fish. Lake Trout stocks need to be reduced. King Salmon, Coho, and Steelhead need to improve. Nobody likes Lake Trout. Selective trout planting is needed. Genetics of Brooks could be strengthened. Miser boxes might be a good way to introduce healthier strains of Brooks without eliminating current species. Plant trout in areas needed.

Taxes, taxes and more taxes. An extra guide permit fee won't help!!! We already pay a usage fee to the DNR and USFS on the Pere Marquette. There is a launch in Custer, MI that is owned by the village of Custer in which all non permitted guides are allowed to launch and fish. It gets hit really hard from Muskegon River guides who never got permitted, to the point it's embarrassing when on the river and at the launch site. Again, we just have too many people that are now good fishermen that continuously show up, no matter which stretch of river we fish.

If we do not start to putting restrictions and seasons in place along with sections of river closed during spawning time we are going to lose our migratory fish runs within the next 10 years. Also Michigan has been a stocked fishery from day 1. Our main focus should be keeping this fishery alive.

The influx on new young guides who live with mom and dad with no experience getting a license and a stealthcraft boat and then posting on social media pages absurdly low rates for a "guided trip " who don't have the experience or knowledge to be a guide then out on the river doing all sorts of things considered unprofessional on the river .

Two things need to happen for guides to be onboard with these regulations. First, eliminate out of state guiding and eliminate illegal guiding and you will bring on guides to the ideas you are proposing.

Commercial fishing.

Use has declines on the Pere Marquette over the past 20 years. However, there is a huge increase of private watercraft use. Guides take children, old people and disabled people fishing, you cannot limit legal guides without limiting these groups that cannot enjoy the resource without their services. Limiting guide traffic but not private traffic makes no sense. Other than the loss of target fish, the next biggest threat is the endless push to close public areas and privatize the resource. [REDACTED]

Lack of understanding of regulations. I witness many anglers harvesting Brook trout under the size limit on tributary waters. C&R for tributary Brook trout should be implemented. We have plenty of other streams and rivers to keep Brook trout.

Increasing stocking of salmon, steelhead and trout is critical to supporting the guide business to counter natural loss as well as the loss from over harvesting.

The cost of my insurance is getting outrageous, and I have never had a claim. I almost gave up this year due to insurance cost.

The mass of internet inspired anglers practicing poor catch and release or subsistence style "kill em all" angling on small rivers and fragile ecosystems. There is very little stream trout or wild steelhead specific regulation. Without these regulations these species, pivotal to michigan guides, are fed to the wolves and treated like a "put and take" species introduced solely for food purposes. I have in the short 10 years I spent on the dowagiac watched the number of wild steelhead and trophy brown trout fishery dwindle because they are regulated just like another salmon or hatchery steelhead would be. Small rivers need these fishes and guides need these ecosystems.

Climate Change, Consumers Power and increased pressure without lowering bag limits are a threat for steelhead

Daily use permits on the off season from all the added boat pressures as a result of the manufacturing in Baldwin. Guides have been under permits each and every pass down the river for decades, while private boats have exponentially exploded into the same regulated waters. Up to 100 boats a day go through flies only section during spring and fall months... zero have any permits save the guides that pay daily to use the beats. We are trying to do our job but the boat count just keeps growing, and now we have Clients waiting upwards of two hours per trip just trying to put in and pull out because of the private boat traffic that is becoming congestive.

Myself... I'd be very encouraged to get behind some of MDNR conservancy strategies in any forum... this just following the DNR taking some stance against the snagging and the parties that still push the lie of those fish biting. License sales cannot justify poor ethics, dead birds in trees, a blue ribbon trout section that is avoided by trout anglers during tragedy months, and local shops that sell lies in the place of good form so they can keep their head above water from one season to the next. Time for Michigan to grow up and stop listening to the harvest monsters steering our fisheries. First and foremost this is a sport fishery... not a grocery store!

I feel that the stocking of Trout should be with larger size Fish. In My opinion, the stocking of fingerlings and smaller fish only ends up being fish food, for larger Trout and other Predators. I believe if Michigan stocked 12" and larger Trout, there would be a higher survival rate and make for a better fishery. For example, Pennsylvania has a great stocking program. I Have driven 6 hours, many times, to fish Pennsylvania. Instead of fishing in My own home state, just because the fishing is better. Again, due to their good stocking program. I have heard for years, Michigan Anglers, saying they want a natural reproduction fishery and don't like fishing stocked fish. I have seen, many times, some of those same Anglers fishing 6" stocked fish, when the fishing was too tough for them elsewhere. If we had a stocking program like that, I would be happy to spend more money to help pay for it. I know many others that agree with me.

Again read the prior

Need to have an open limit on walleye year round, with a lesser limit during the normal closed season. They are in the Muskegon in masses while the new trout, steelhead, salmon are planted. Too many blue herons.

Increased demand for cold, clean usable water will continue to grow. Irregularities in climate and weather may continue to become more and more volatile. I assume that water management and water regulations will become more important.

More stretches of river close to motor boats. Some stretches they have no business blasting around corners in those jet boats almost hitting other boats. Or HP motor restrictions like in the U.P on a few streams

The increased pressure on all rivers, lakes and creeks have definitely had an impact. I have been guiding for 25 years and the difference in the past 5 years especially is mind blowing to me. We need to stock the upper reaches of the Manistee with supplemental stocking and I feel it should be closed back down for the fall spawning season. The fact that Bear Creek is open for fishing over all the spawning gravel in the spring and winter is not a good practice for Wild steelhead reproduction. We should have fishing hours implemented on the Manistee River, Betsie River, PM and Bear Creek. Let the fish rest and spawn. March 1 to the opening of trout season should be limited to half hour before sunrise and half hour past sunset. Same with September 1 to November 15 to allow spawning for the salmon and steelhead.

The DNR seem to be running the fishery into the ground. Overstocking of lake trout and the abundance of cisco that eat huge amounts of alewife and baby salmon and steelhead are an issue. The low stocking of Chinook has been tough to explain to customers that were used to the old days, lots of those customers quit coming out shortly after the decrease in stocking. Lots of people I have for steelhead trips got used to the good fishing we had and have cut down the number of trips they do due to the declining numbers of fish. It seems that newer fishermen have no idea how good we had it because they did not get to experience it. The lack of Lake Run Brown Trout stocking on the southern rivers is disheartening as well.

Stream congestion and rogue "guides"

Reduce bag limits; increase size limits - across the board. Brook trout and brown trout minimum size limits should be equal for all stream regulation types - they currently offer competitive advantage to brown trout.

Too many users of the resource. Too many guides - many stoned out of their mind. WAYYYY too many boats. Too many kayaks, tubes...etc. After 25 years of guiding, the hits just keep coming. The saying "Fishing ain't what it used to be" is more true now than ever. Personally, I have not fished in over two months as angler. The irony is, there is probably more opportunity than ever. I believe Social Media bears much of the blame for the inordinate amount of pressure on our fishery etc. At some point, marketing the outdoors will overburden the outdoors to the point that it may not be marketable any longer.

Fishing pressure has easily quadrupled for Atlantic salmon in the St Mary's River and northern Lake Huron. Both catch and keep rates and stocking numbers should be adjusted please.

The Jordan River is my secondary river. it has been abused and neglected mostly by the FJR- and over use from anglers across the state. Nobody seems to be working to improve the habitat, remove fallen trees that are flattening the river channel, and improve boating access sites. We have a quality fishery that needs to be protected.

We need a mechanism to prevent users from loving a resource too much. Right now there's no way to prevent 200 boats from launching at the same access.

Pressure increases yearly and fish catch rates go down.

My guide service in Michigan is in september for migratory King Salmon. Due to reductions in King Salmon stocking fishing has been very tough the last few years, with an amazing amount of fishing pressure.

I am putting 'No Threat' for steelhead fishing, as I don't guide for steelhead. Though I do know of several guides who are concerned with the steelhead numbers.

The DNR needs to limit the amount of guides on the Pere Marquette River. Down at Custer and Scottville the boat launches are owned by the city/ village and allows non permitted PM guides for the lower PM. The parking lots are overflowing, killing all our wild Steelhead and Salmon fish. Just Savage.. Guides that have a Captains License are having a free for all coming from the Grand, Muskegon, Manistee mostly fish killers..Totally sad state of affairs.

I have been guiding on the Muskegon for 24 years and have seen the changes to the system. Use has gone up in subtle ways and I believe harvest is up for a variety of species. I think if we keep stocking fish in the way that we do, the fishery will decline in relation to any of those stocked species. Those stocked fish are precious and costly, and it seems stupid to stock them in front of boat launches where they are immediately preyed up by birds and fish. The plants should be spread out, with the help of guides if necessary. I would prefer plants either in the fall or earlier in the spring, when fewer predators are present. By mid April, when we currently do the plants, the Muskegon is full of hungry post spawn walleye and steelhead. Herons and ospreys have returned by this time and the net result is that we lost way too many fish in front of our boat launches.

Just need to start protecting the resource now and not wait until it's too late. Which I see happen so much with this State in terms of fishing or hunting. Wait until something really bad happens and then try to fix, lets fix it now before it takes that turn for the worse. Look at out West they did nothing and now there Steelhead runs are almost non-existent. These fish bring folks from all over the World here to Michigan to enjoy them. I guide people from the U.K. , Japan and even China bring a lot of revenue to these small towns and business's in the area. These are Anglers that just want to catch them and let them go. They , like me think there beautiful and just a awesome gamefish on a fly rod. If they wanted to eat fish they would of booked a guide for Walleye or Bluegill's. We can't afford to wait for this fishery to take a dive and what I see is it already is starting to in the last 4 years. We need to take action now. Thanks

Licensing and regulations and stream changes it all comes from special interest groups does nothing more than cause stress divide people and kills the fishery

Biggest threats will be loss of habitat and invasive species introductions. Zebra and Quagga mussels have changed the Great Lakes forever and we are just now starting to see how the impact has affected the fishery as well as the physical parameters of the lakes. The state needs to spend a lot of money on looking at specific "holes" in the data surrounding the collapse in pelagic fish species. It goes beyond diet and we need to begin to understand what other limiting factors are causing populations/plants to fail at present.

The memorial weekend opener for bass with the increased fishing pressure has definitely hurt the bass fishing in Northern Michigan. The increased pressure on te wild trout streams has also been detrimental to the experience and catch rates

Management of MI trout streams is pitiful, especially compared to other states.

To many people learning how to fish off the internet. You do not need to put in time to catch a ton of steelhead as long as you have the internet. 50% of fisherman are catching and killing 90% of the steelhead. This is killing our spring runs. Lower limits need to be put in place immediately. Same thing goes for river salmon. You also need to realize that people are drawn to popular places to fish due to internet/ social media where the run is happening at that moment. People drop everything to go. Therefor increasing harvest. We need lower limits now and promote

catch and release more. Either do this or plant more fish or we won't have a fishery soon. It's getting worse and worse by the year.

Illegal guides everywhere, all rivers. Also the "snagging show" that goes on during the Salmon season on the Pere Marquette river, fly section. What a shame that this activity has been going on for years. Should be a leader length limit and only 1 hook per line. look at New York regulation. We should follow.

These questions will be used to assess the impact of the pandemic and related restrictions on your business, so please answer as precisely and accurately as possible. This survey covers only to guided fishing trips taken in inland waters of Michigan. Do not include revenue or trips from charter fishing on Great Lakes and connecting waters. If you own a business with multiple boats and multiple guides, include ONLY trips and revenues that you personally guided for the following questions.

Q23 - How many guided fishing trips did you take during 2019?

Q24 - How many guided fishing trips did you take during 2020?

Q25 - How much revenue did you earn from guide fees in 2019? NOTE: Do not include tips.

Q26 - How much revenue did you earn from guide fees in 2020? NOTE: Do not include tips.

Q27 - How much revenue did you earn from tips in 2019?

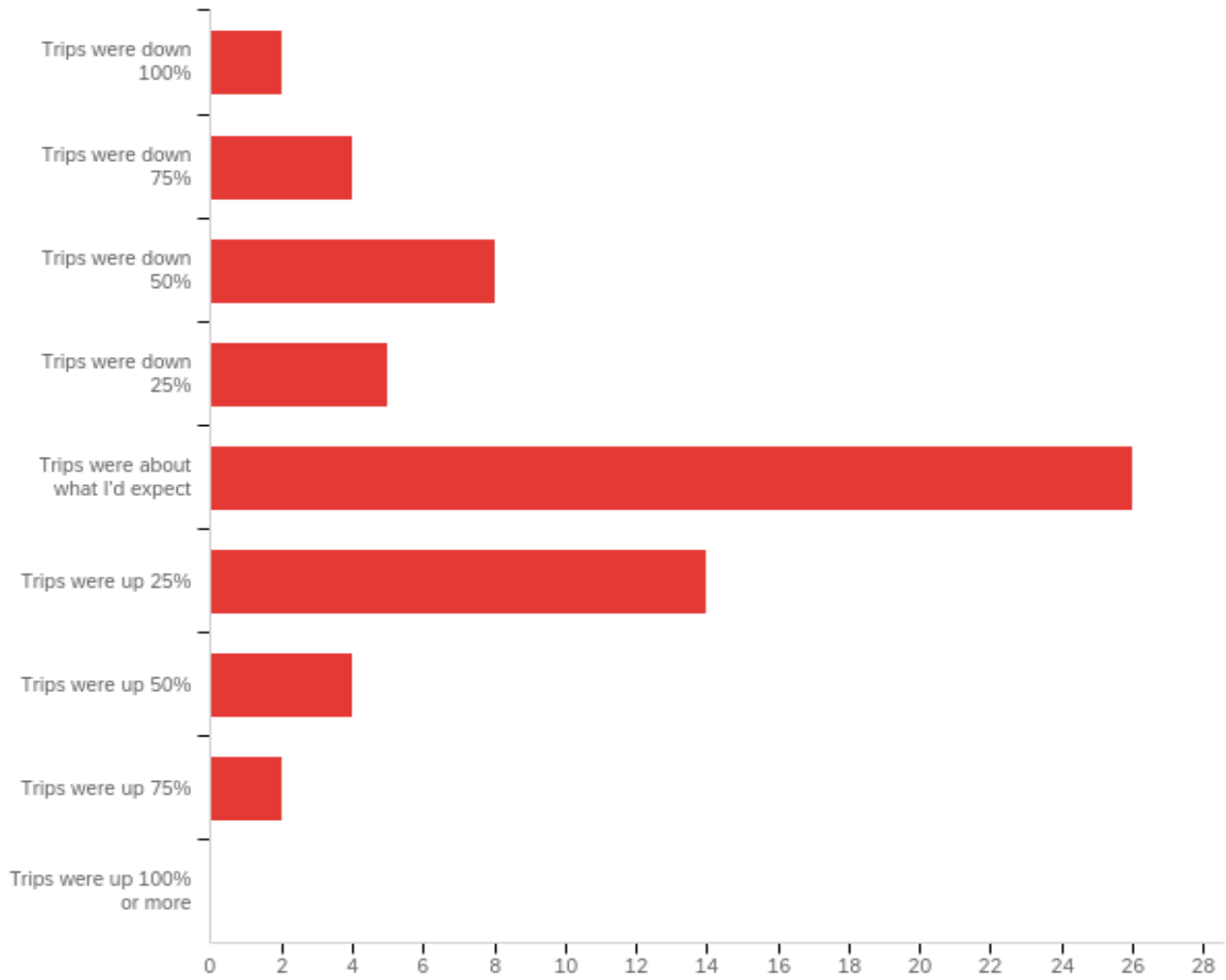
Q28 - How much revenue did you earn from tips in 2020?

Answers from Q23-28 were used to produce this table of average trips, fees, tips, and revenues.

	2019	2020	2020-2019
Trips	104	80	24
Fees	\$ 32,250	\$ 25,239	\$ 7,011
Tips	\$ 5,869	\$ 4,594	\$ 1,275
Total Revenue	\$ 38,119	\$ 29,833	\$ 8,286

Guides averaged a 22% loss of revenue from 2019 to 2020.

Q29 - How does the first half of your 2021 season (January-June) compare to a typical year?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Trips were down 100%	3.08%	2
2	Trips were down 75%	6.15%	4
3	Trips were down 50%	12.31%	8
4	Trips were down 25%	7.69%	5
5	Trips were about what I'd expect	40.00%	26
6	Trips were up 25%	21.54%	14
7	Trips were up 50%	6.15%	4
8	Trips were up 75%	3.08%	2
9	Trips were up 100% or more	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	65

Q30 - How many guided fishing trips did you take January through June 2021?

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	January-June Trips 2021	0.00	100.00	40.00	30.66	940.25	52

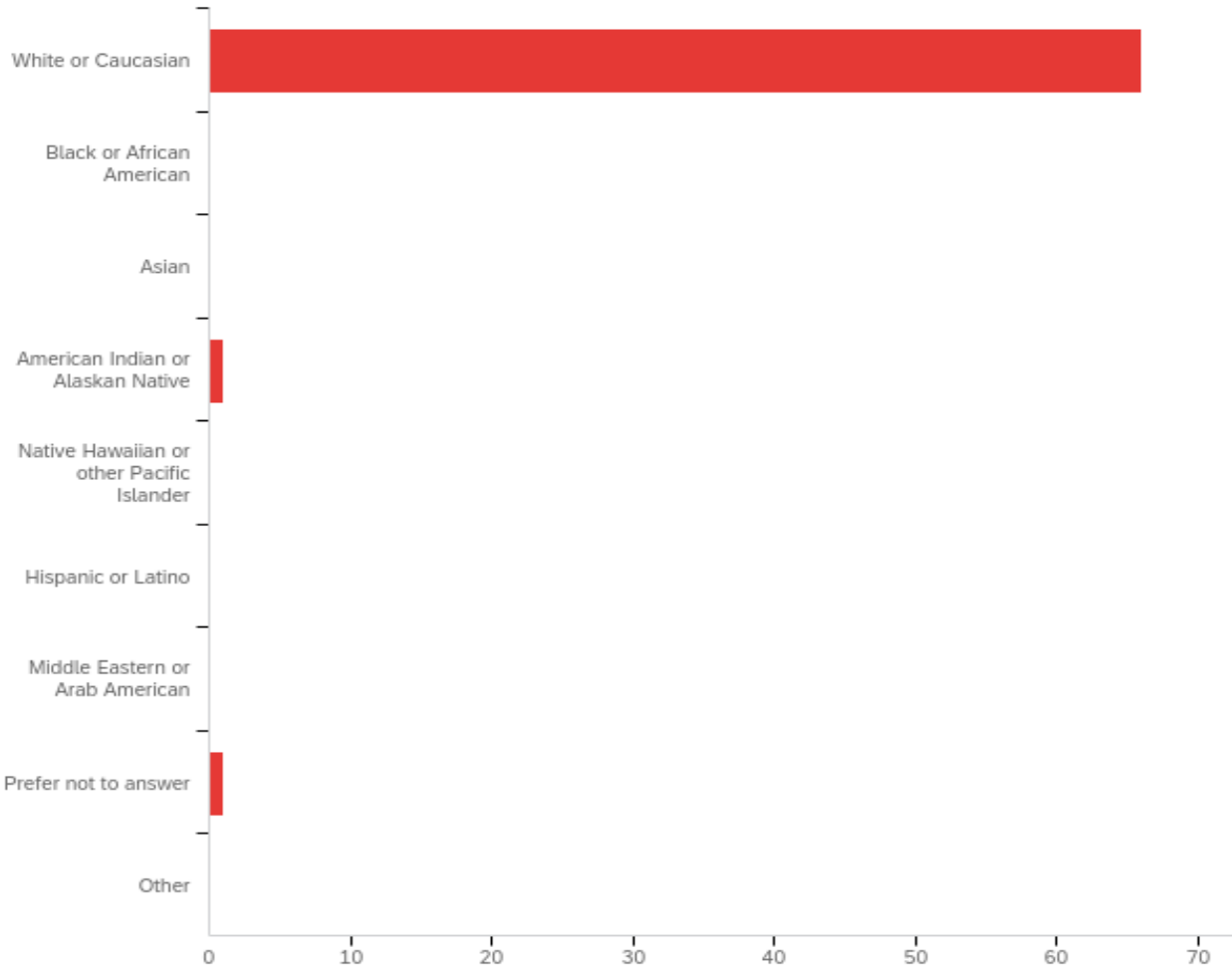
Q31 - How many guided fishing trips did you take January through June 2020?

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	January-June Trips 2020	0.00	80.00	21.00	21.99	483.54	52

Q32 - Enter the year in which you were born:

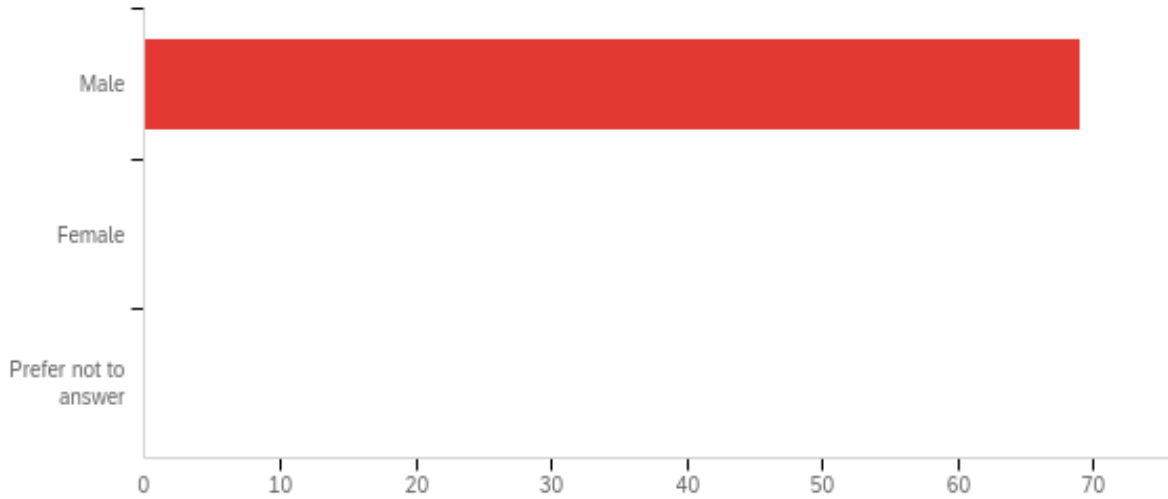
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Year of Birth	1948	2000	1976	11.19	125.27	66

Q33 - Which of the following best describes you? Check all that apply.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	White or Caucasian	97.06%	66
2	Black or African American	0.00%	0
3	Asian	0.00%	0
4	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.47%	1
5	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
6	Hispanic or Latino	0.00%	0
7	Middle Eastern or Arab American	0.00%	0
8	Prefer not to answer	1.47%	1
9	Other	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	68

Q34 - Which of the following best describes you?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Male	100.00%	69
2	Female	0.00%	0
3	Prefer not to answer	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	69

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This survey report was prepared by Michigan Sea Grant Extension Educator Daniel O’Keefe under award NA180AR4170102 and SUBK00013473 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce through the Regents of the University of Michigan. The statement, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Commerce, or the Regents of the University of Michigan.