

2023 Great Lakes Angler Diary Steelhead Survey

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September 25, 2023

On June 1, 2023 this electronic survey was sent to e-mail addresses associated with 693 volunteer numbers assigned to anglers registered for the Great Lakes Angler Diary online reporting system. Three reminders were also sent with the last one being delivered on June 11. Personal identifying information was redacted from results to ensure confidentiality and derogatory terms were also redacted.

Consent Letter:

Thank you for using the Great Lakes Angler Diary to record information about your fishing trips. Michigan State University and Michigan Sea Grant would like to access the information you recorded. This will allow us to analyze trends in catches from around the Great Lakes and share the information you collected with state and federal agencies.

If you do wish to share data from your fishing trips, I will download and save your trip and catch information from the Great Lakes Angler Diary. Note that your name and e-mail address will NOT be saved in the same file as your catch data. In this way, we strive to maintain the confidentiality of your data.

If you wish to proceed, please review your Great Lakes Angler Diary data entries to make certain they are complete and accurate before taking the electronic survey. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes.

Your survey answers and downloaded data will be stored in files that are stored separately on a password-protected Michigan State University computer to ensure confidentiality. Catch data files will include your Volunteer Number and no other identifying information.

Your results will be analyzed along with results from other volunteers. These aggregated results will be shared with management agencies including Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The aggregated results will not be linked to your personal identifying information.

The primary purpose of this program is to allow anglers to record and share their catch data with other anglers, biologists and managers in a way that is useful for answering questions related to the Great Lakes and stream fisheries. The benefits of this include better understanding of how stocked and wild-spawned fish contribute to fisheries over the course of the season, which may influence management decisions and contribute to the well-being of fisheries. However, there is no guarantee that your data will influence stocking decisions as biologists and managers rely on a variety of data sets when assessing fisheries.

Possible risks to you as a participant include any that might result from sharing your catch data. Reasonable precautions are being taken to prevent linking your catch data with your identity, but if your catch data includes evidence of any illegal activity or if you feel they could damage your reputation in any way you should consider these risks before proceeding.

If you have any questions regarding survey items, why this survey is being conducted, or how to complete the survey and submit data sheets do not hesitate to call me at (616) 994-4572. Questions regarding your rights as a participant in this survey can be directed to the Human Research Protection Program at (517) 355-2180.

Your participation in this survey is strictly voluntary, and you must be at least 18 years old to participate. You can refuse to complete any or all of the questions in this survey; you have the right to withdraw at any time. By continuing

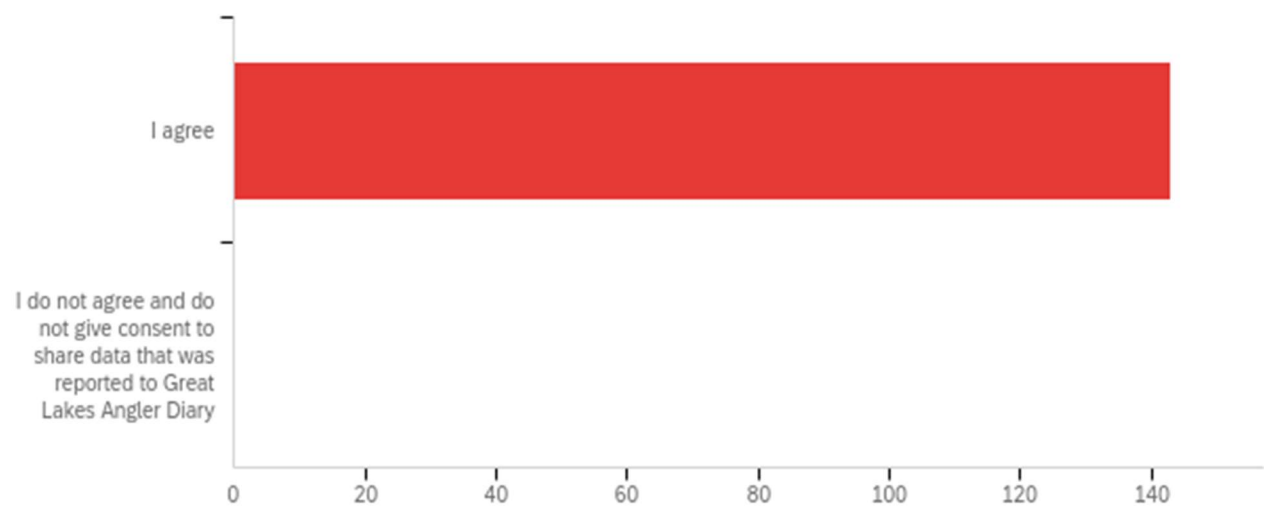
with this survey you acknowledge your informed consent to share information as described above.

Please note, if you have recorded at least 90% of steelhead catch and fishing effort data and submitted the survey you will be eligible to participate in a drawing if you are 18 or older and live in the state of Michigan.

There will be two drawings on June 5 at 2:00 pm EST, and two drawings on June 12 at 2:00 pm EST. Participants who reply to the survey before noon EST on June 5 will be included in the first drawing. They will be divided into two groups with each entrant receiving one chance at winning a \$50 gift card. Participants who reply to the survey between noon EST June 5 and noon EST on June 12 will be included in the second drawings and will also be divided into two groups with each entrant receiving one chance at winning a \$50 gift card. Two gift cards will be awarded on June 5, and two gift cards will be awarded on June 12.

Dan O'Keefe
Michigan Sea Grant
Michigan State University Extension

Q1 - Do you agree to the terms above?

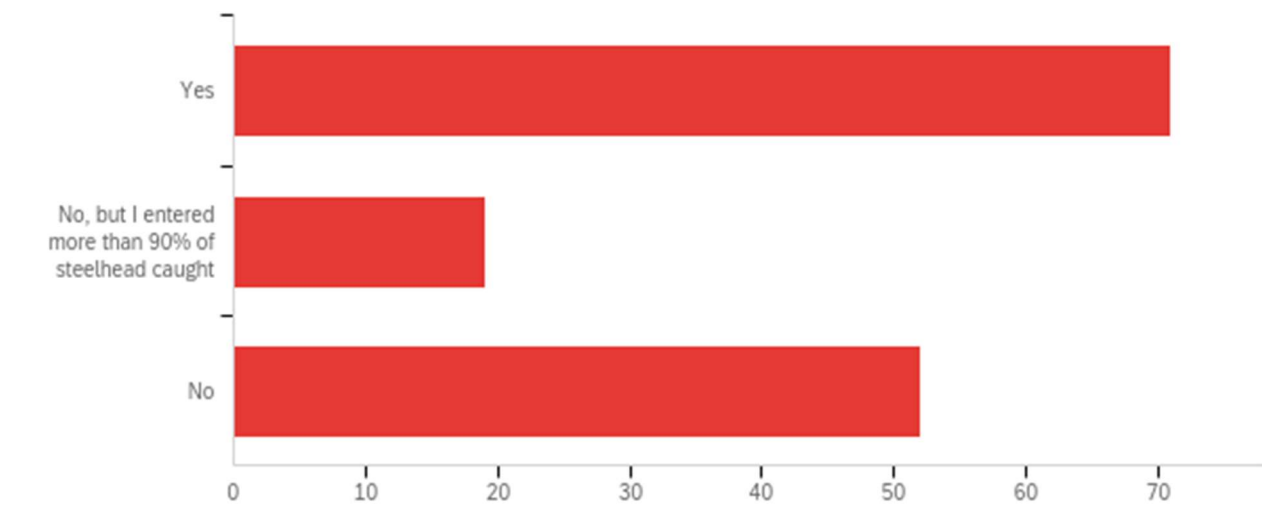


#	Answer	%	Count
1	I agree	100.00%	143
2	I do not agree and do not give consent to share data that was reported to Great Lakes Angler Diary	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	143

Q3 - What is the name of the river (or port) you fished most often during the 2022-2023 steelhead fishing season (June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023)? This is your "home water" that will be referenced in later questions.

Home Water	N
Erie/St.Clair Tributaries	18
Clinton	12
Huron	6
Lake Huron Tributaries	9
AuGres	2
AuSable	2
Rifle	1
Thunder Bay	4
Lake Michigan Tributaries	105
Betsie	6
Boardman	1
Boyne	1
Grand	21
Kalamazoo	4
Manistee	26
Muskegon	11
Pere Marquette	18
St. Joseph	8
White	9
Lake Superior Tributaries	2
Sucker	1
Various Watersheds	1
Big Lake - Lk. Michigan	5
Big Lake - Lk. Huron	2
Out of State Streams	2
Grand Total	143

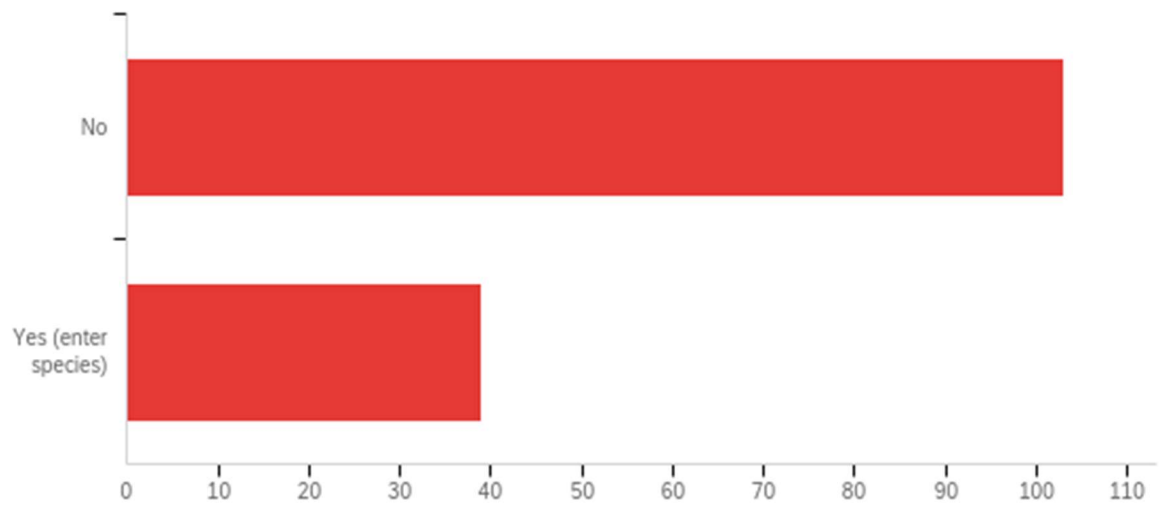
Q4 - Did you enter each and every Steelhead caught from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023 (or since the time you registered if you signed up after June 1)? NOTE: This applies only to steelhead that spent at least one summer in the big lake. You are not expected to enter data on each and every steelhead smolt, parr, or stream resident rainbow trout.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	50.00%	71
3	No, but I entered more than 90% of steelhead caught	13.38%	19
4	No	36.62%	52
	Total	100%	142

Although 71 respondents indicated complete steelhead data sets and 19 indicated at least 90% complete steelhead catch data, some of these respondents had not entered data in Great Lakes Angler Diary and others had caught no steelhead and taken no trips that specifically targeted steelhead. After removing those responses, 60 useable complete catch data sets and 15 data sets that were at least 90% complete were recorded in Year 3 (2022-2023).

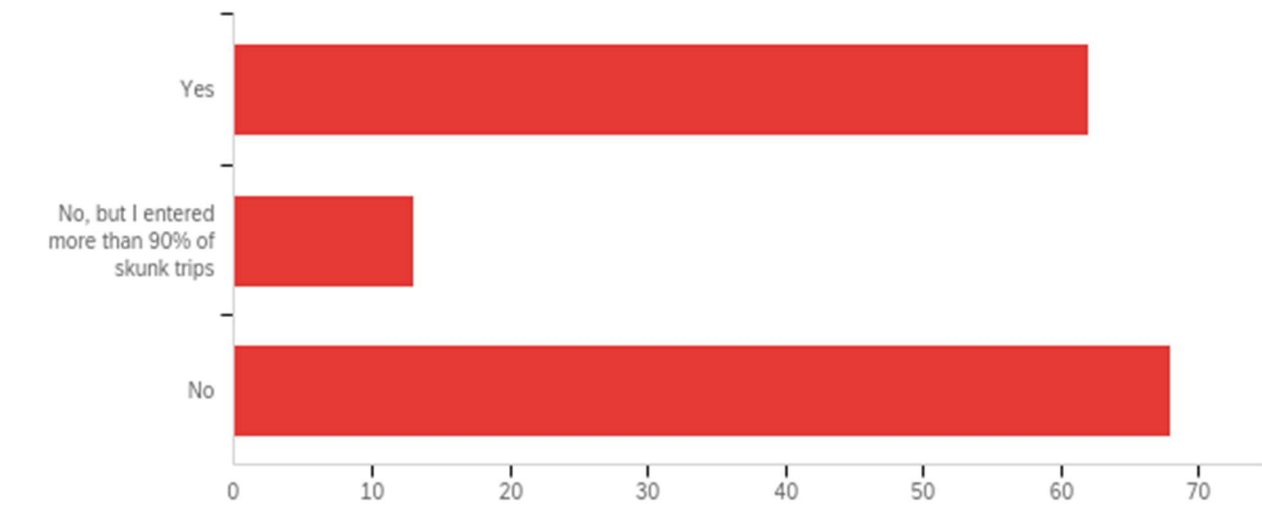
Q5 - Did you enter complete data on any other species during the 2022-2023 season (or since the time you registered if you signed up after June 1)?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	No	72.54%	103
4	Yes (enter species)	27.46%	39
	Total	100%	142

Complete data sets for other species included 12 Chinook salmon, 2 Atlantic salmon, 18 brown trout, 3 lake trout, and 10 coho salmon data sets during Year 2 (2022-2023).

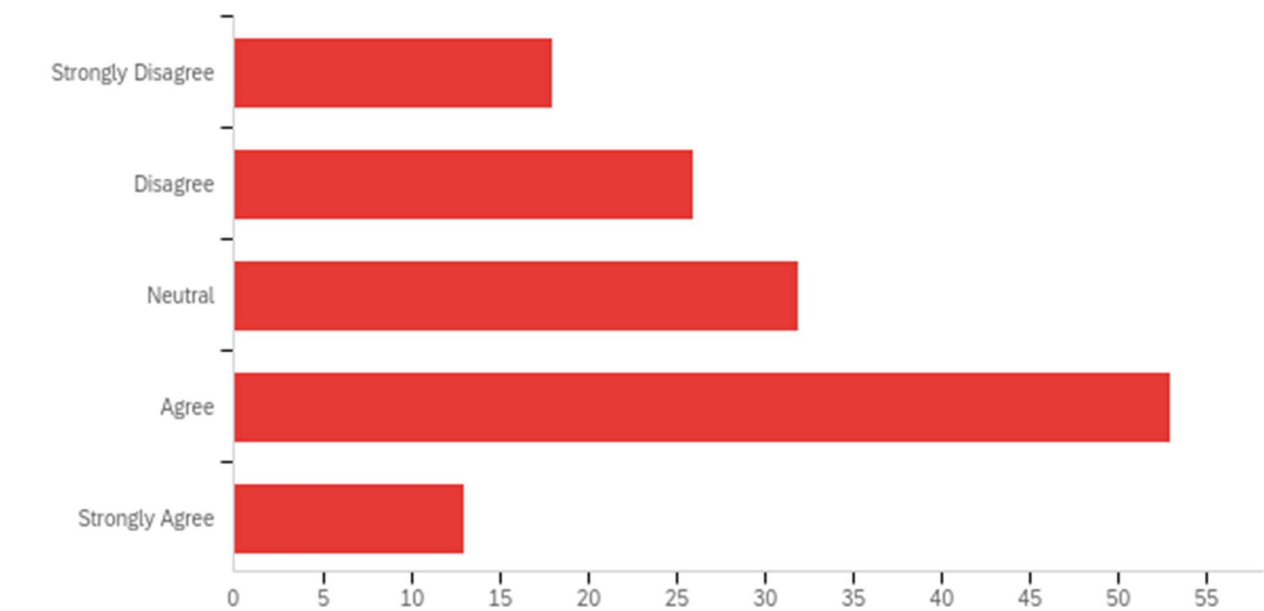
Q6 - Did you enter effort data for every skunk trip that targeted steelhead during 2022-2023 season (or since the time you registered if you signed up after June 1)? **NOTE:** Entering effort data (number of hours fished and number of anglers fishing) for skunk trips is very important since it ensures that our catch rate calculations are correct. If you did not enter complete effort data for skunk trips, we can still use your steelhead measurements and fin clip data but we cannot use your catch rate data. You should consider any trip that had a reasonable expectation of catching a steelhead as a trip that "targeted steelhead."



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	43.36%	62
2	No, but I entered more than 90% of skunk trips	9.09%	13
3	No	47.55%	68
	Total	100%	143

Although 62 respondents indicated complete steelhead data sets and 13 indicated at least 90% complete steelhead catch data, some of these respondents had not entered data in Great Lakes Angler Diary and others had caught no steelhead and taken no trips that specifically targeted steelhead. After removing those responses, 51 useable complete effort data sets and 9 data sets that were at least 90% complete were recorded in Year 3 (2022-2023).

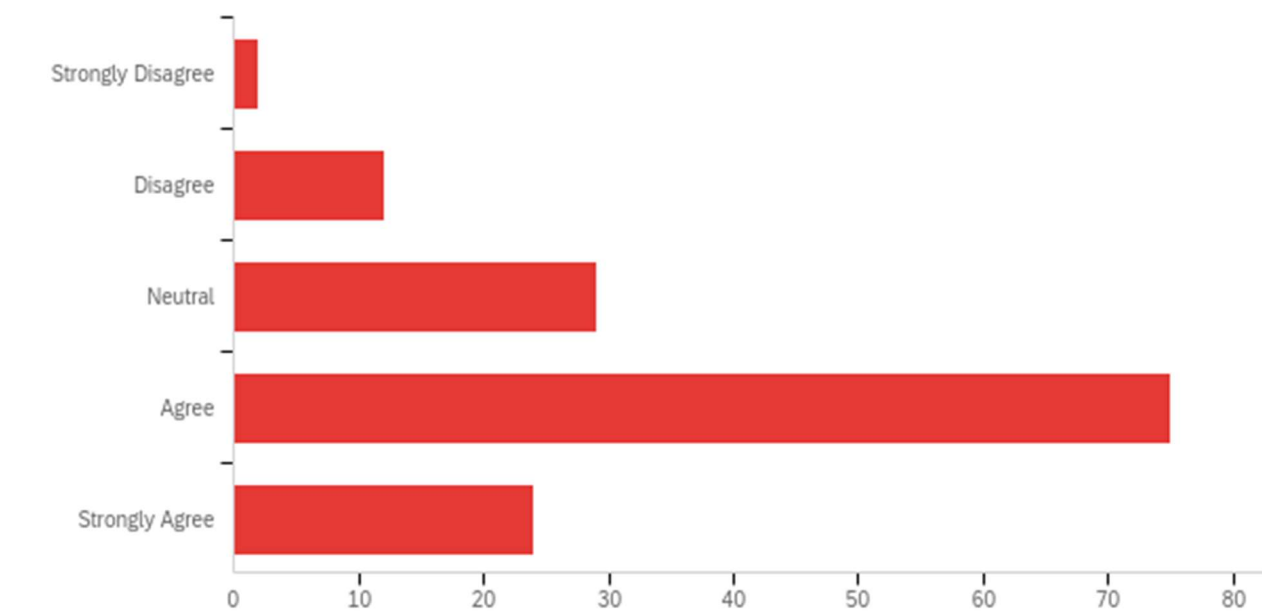
Q7 - I was satisfied with my steelhead catch rate on my home water during the past season.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	12.68%	18
2	Disagree	18.31%	26
3	Neutral	22.54%	32
4	Agree	37.32%	53
5	Strongly Agree	9.15%	13
	Total	100%	142

Average: 3.12

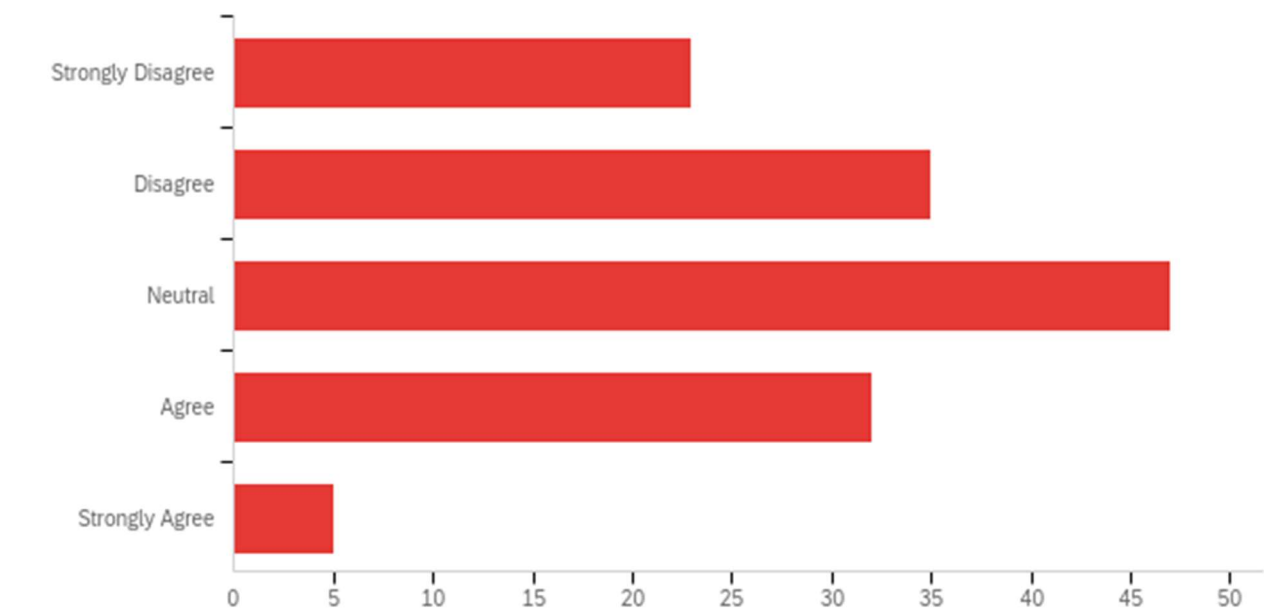
Q8 - I was satisfied with my fishing experiences overall.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	1.41%	2
2	Disagree	8.45%	12
3	Neutral	20.42%	29
4	Agree	52.82%	75
5	Strongly Agree	16.90%	24
	Total	100%	142

Average: 3.75

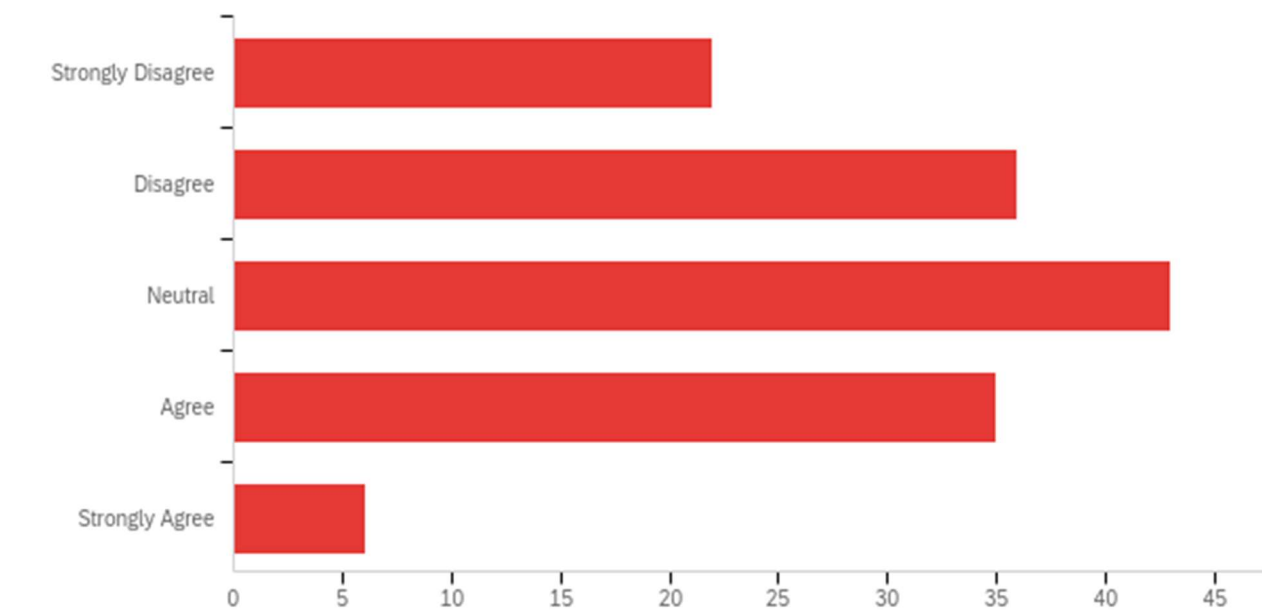
Q9 - Steelhead fishing was good this year relative to the past five years on my home water.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	16.20%	23
2	Disagree	24.65%	35
3	Neutral	33.10%	47
4	Agree	22.54%	32
5	Strongly Agree	3.52%	5
	Total	100%	142

Average: 2.73

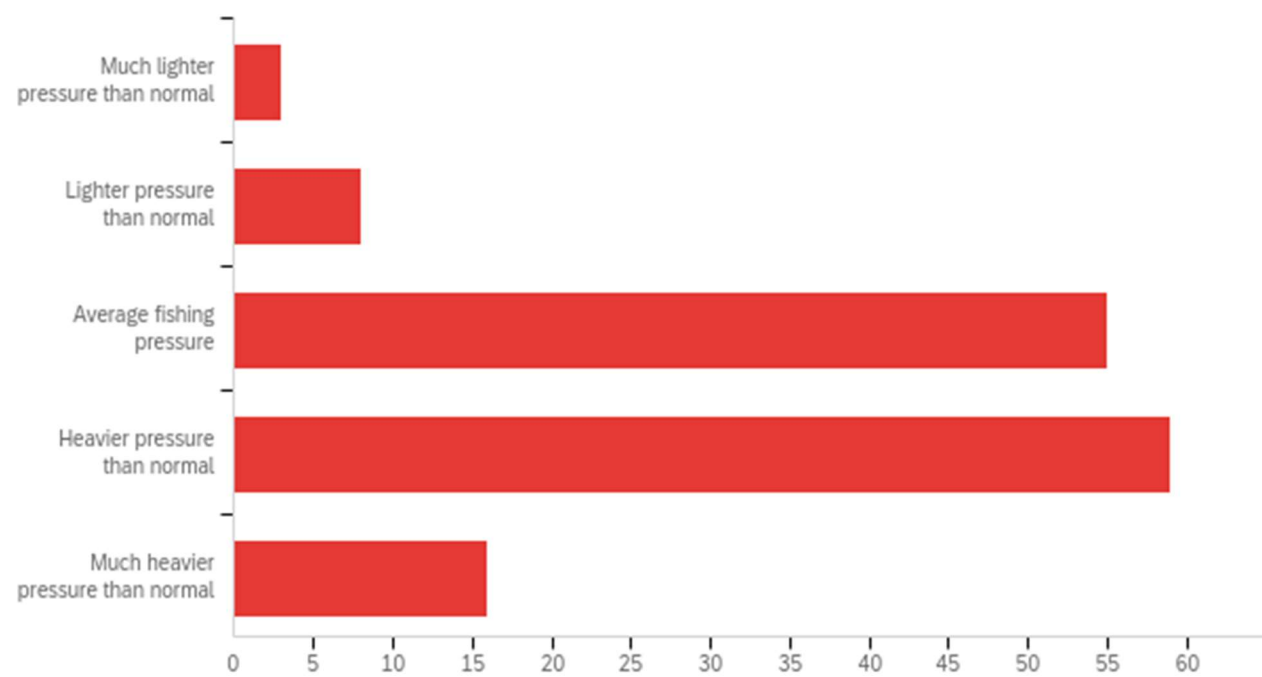
Q10 - Steelhead fishing was good this year relative to last year on my home water.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Disagree	15.49%	22
2	Disagree	25.35%	36
3	Neutral	30.28%	43
4	Agree	24.65%	35
5	Strongly Agree	4.23%	6
	Total	100%	142

Average: 2.77

Q11 - How would you describe steelhead fishing pressure on your home water over the past season (June 2022 - May 2023)?



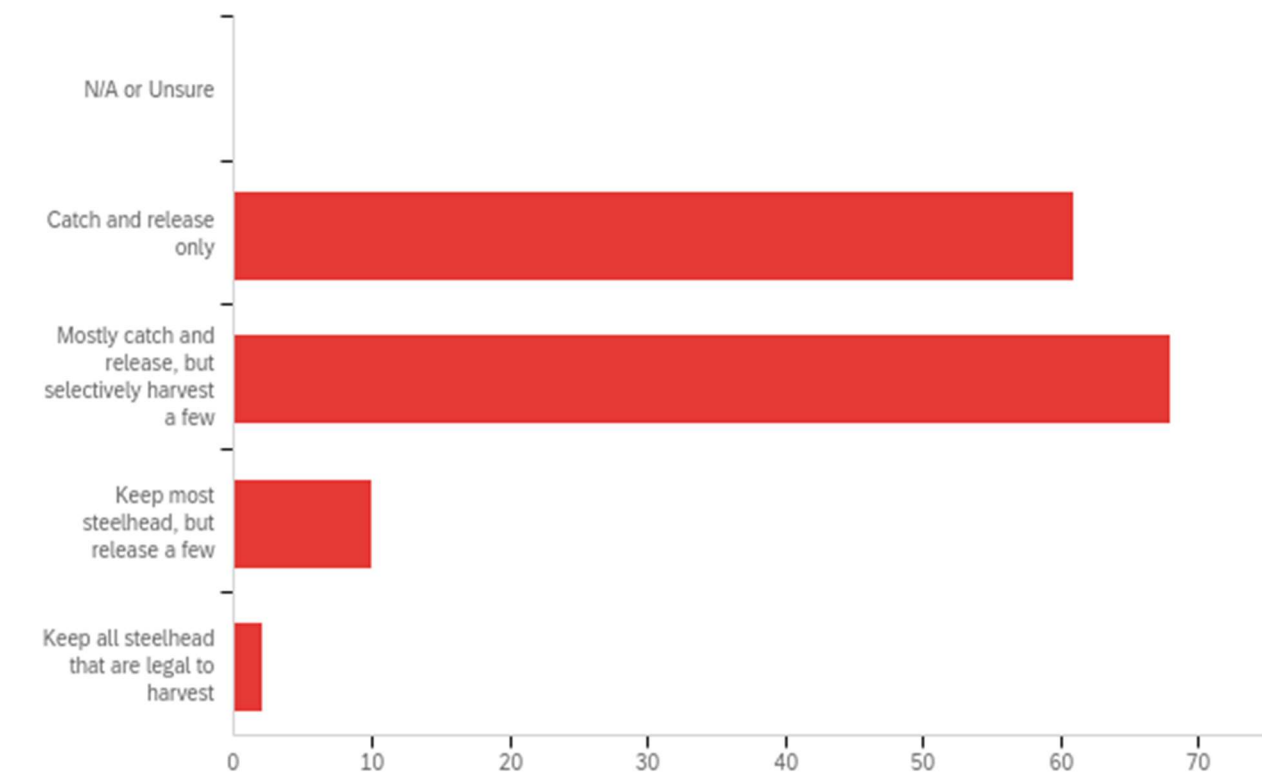
#	Answer	%	Count
5	Much lighter pressure than normal	2.13%	3
4	Lighter pressure than normal	5.67%	8
3	Average fishing pressure	39.01%	55
2	Heavier pressure than normal	41.84%	59
1	Much heavier pressure than normal	11.35%	16
	Total	100%	141

Average: 2.45

Answers to the past five questions are stratified by home water below. Average values for each question are listed in columns, along with the number of participants reporting for each home water (N), although each individual question was not answered by all survey participants. All questions were on a five-point scale; see details on answer options in individual questions above.

Home Water	N	Q7 - Satisfaction with catch rate on home water.	Q8 - Satisfaction with fishing experience overall.	Q9 - Steelhead fishing relative to past five years on home water.	Q10 - Steelhead fishing relative to last year on home water.	Q11 - Fishing pressure on home water last season.
Erie/St.Clair Tributaries	18	2.06	3.50	2.00	1.89	2.56
Clinton	12	2.17	3.75	1.92	1.92	2.50
Huron	6	1.83	3.00	2.17	1.83	2.67
Lake Huron Tributaries	9	3.44	4.22	2.56	2.78	2.44
AuGres	2	3.50	4.50	2.50	3.50	2.50
AuSable	2	2.50	3.50	2.00	1.50	3.00
Rifle	1	4.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	3.00
Thunder Bay	4	3.75	4.25	2.50	2.75	2.00
Lake Michigan Tributaries	105	3.31	3.75	2.90	2.92	2.43
Betsie	6	2.67	3.67	2.50	2.67	2.50
Boardman	1	1.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	2.00
Boyne	1	4.00	4.00	5.00	4.00	2.00
Grand	21	2.80	3.55	2.55	2.75	2.74
Kalamazoo	4	3.75	3.75	2.50	2.25	2.75
Manistee	26	3.38	3.62	2.96	3.00	2.19
Muskegon	11	3.36	3.73	3.18	3.45	2.00
Pere Marquette	18	3.89	4.17	3.17	3.00	2.33
St. Joseph	8	3.25	3.88	3.00	2.88	2.63
White	9	3.44	3.78	3.00	2.78	2.89
Lake Superior Tributaries	2	3.50	4.00	2.50	3.50	2.00
Sucker	1	4.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	3.00
Various Watersheds	1	3.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	1.00
Big Lake - Lk. Michigan	5	2.40	3.80	2.00	2.40	2.60
Big Lake - Lk. Huron	2	3.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	3.50
Out of State Streams	2	3.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	2.00
Grand Total	143	3.12	3.75	2.73	2.77	2.45

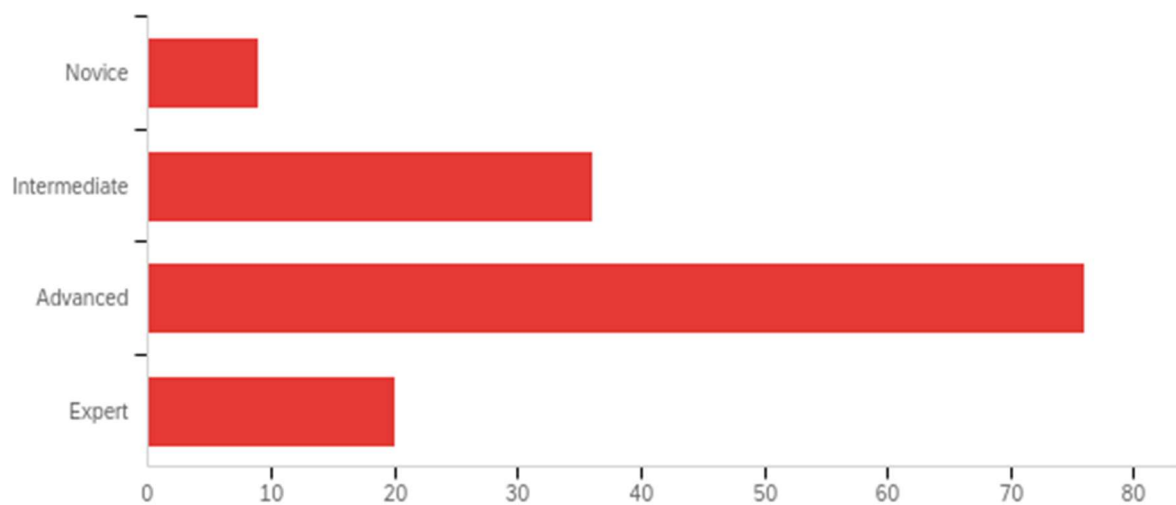
Q12 - Which best describes your personal approach to steelhead harvest?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Which best describes your personal approach to steelhead harvest?	1.00	4.00	1.67	0.67	0.45	141

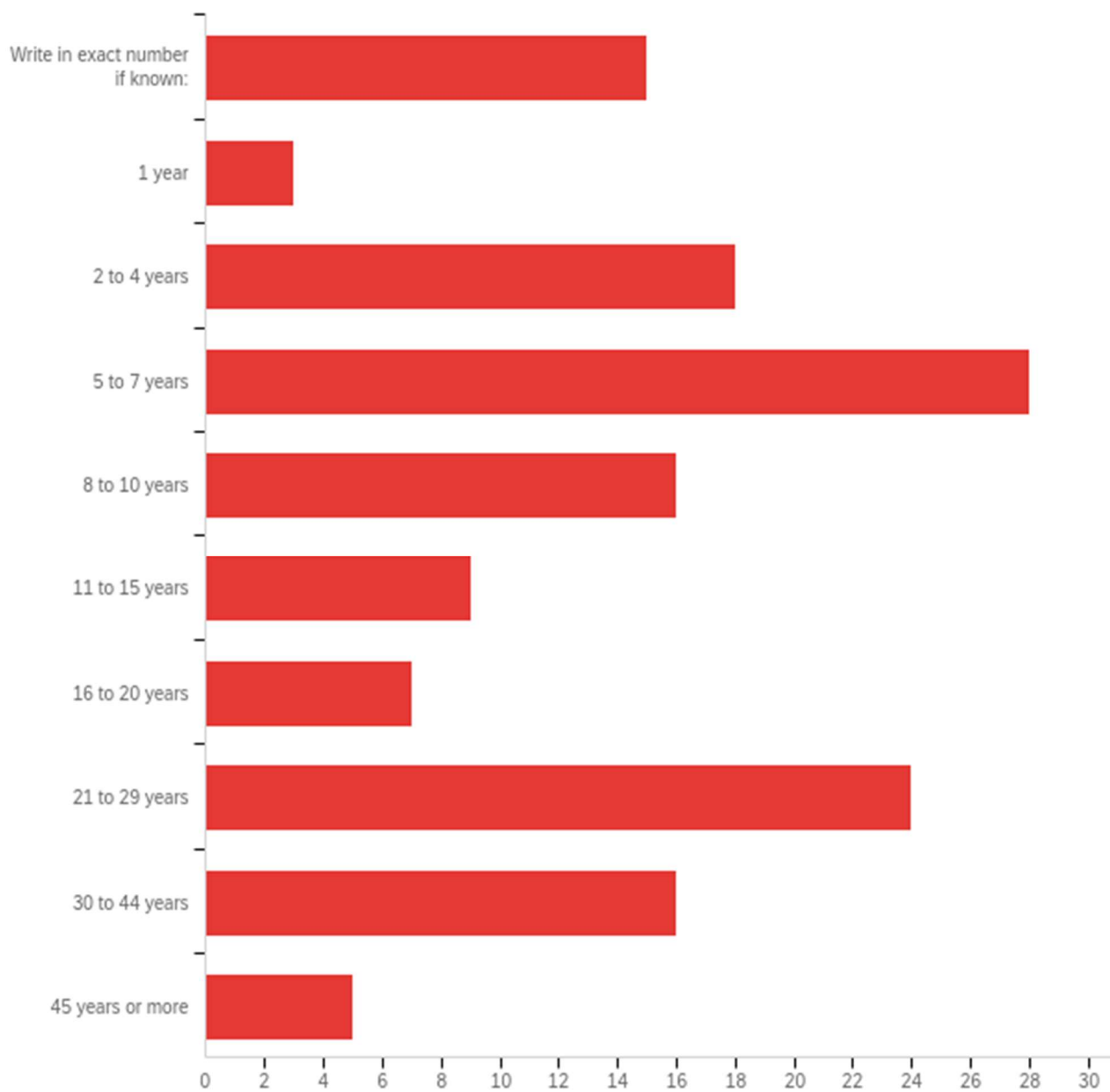
#	Answer	%	Count
0	N/A or Unsure	0.00%	0
1	Catch and release only	43.26%	61
2	Mostly catch and release, but selectively harvest a few	48.23%	68
3	Keep most steelhead, but release a few	7.09%	10
4	Keep all steelhead that are legal to harvest	1.42%	2
	Total	100%	141

Q13 - How would you classify yourself in terms of river steelhead fishing skill level?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Novice	6.38%	9
2	Intermediate	25.53%	36
3	Advanced	53.90%	76
4	Expert	14.18%	20
	Total	100%	141

Q14 - How many years of river steelhead fishing experience do you have?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How many years of river steelhead fishing experience do you have? - Selected Choice	0.00	50.00	14.57	13.51	182.56	141

#	Answer	%	Count
0	Write in exact number if known:	10.64%	15
1	1 year	2.13%	3
3	2 to 4 years	12.77%	18
6	5 to 7 years	19.86%	28
9	8 to 10 years	11.35%	16
13	11 to 15 years	6.38%	9
18	16 to 20 years	4.96%	7
25	21 to 29 years	17.02%	24
37	30 to 44 years	11.35%	16
50	45 years or more	3.55%	5
	Total	100%	141

Q14_6_TEXT - Write in exact number if known:

0

55

First steel was 42 years ago

7

14

28

58yr

0

58

21

15

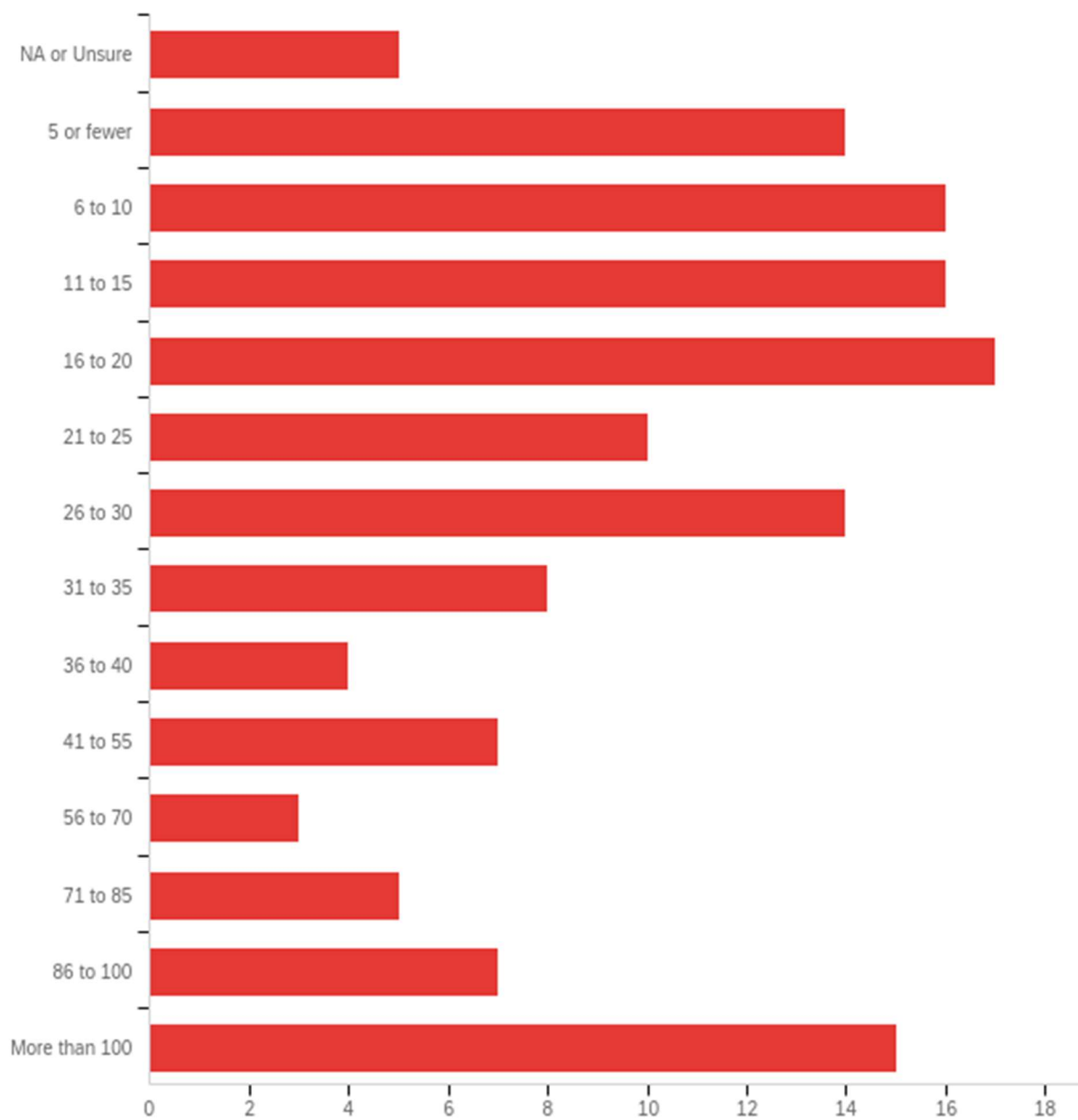
13

46

52

37

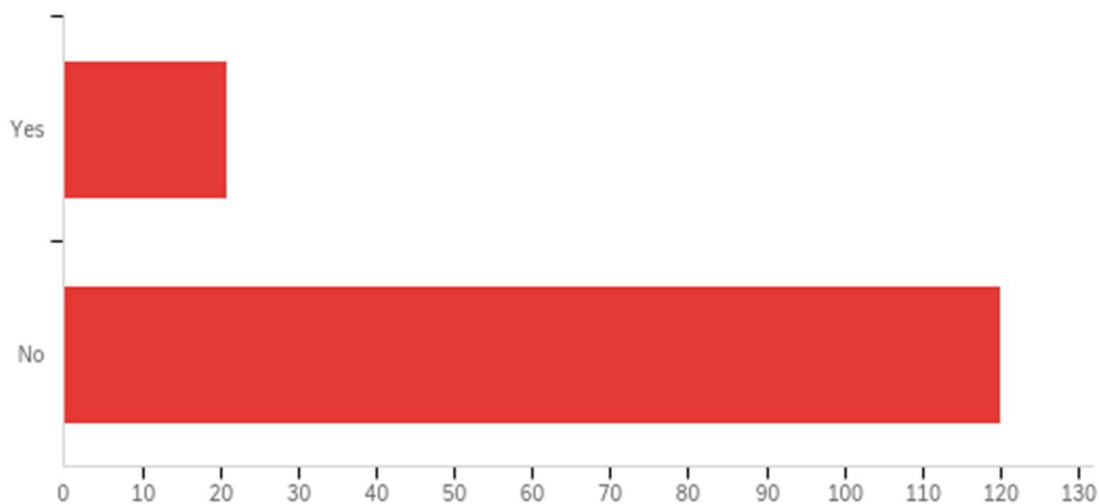
Q15 - In an average year, how many river steelhead fishing trips do you take?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	In an average year, how many river steelhead fishing trips do you take?	0.00	110.00	35.02	34.48	1189.21	141

#	Answer	%	Count
0	NA or Unsure	3.55%	5
3	5 or fewer	9.93%	14
8	6 to 10	11.35%	16
13	11 to 15	11.35%	16
18	16 to 20	12.06%	17
23	21 to 25	7.09%	10
28	26 to 30	9.93%	14
33	31 to 35	5.67%	8
38	36 to 40	2.84%	4
48	41 to 55	4.96%	7
63	56 to 70	2.13%	3
78	71 to 85	3.55%	5
93	86 to 100	4.96%	7
110	More than 100	10.64%	15
	Total	100%	141

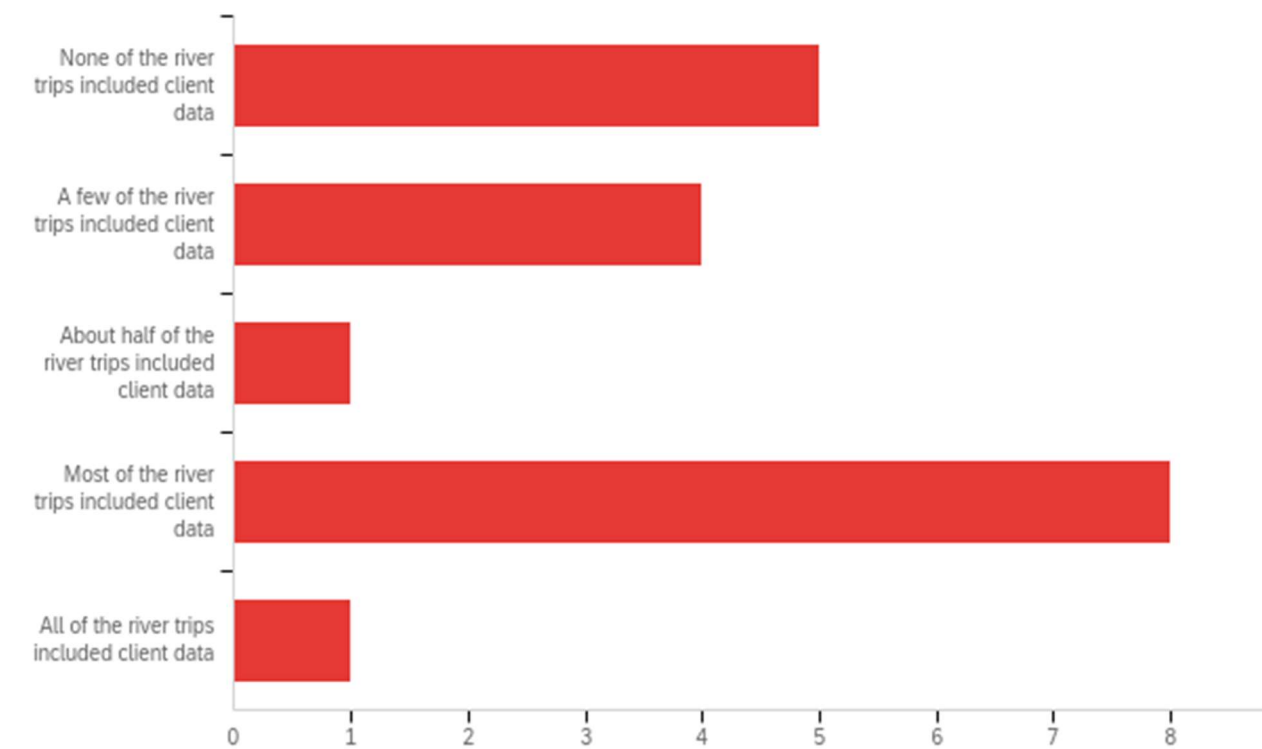
Q16 - Are you a professional steelhead fishing guide or charter captain? Answer yes if you took paying clients fishing at least once during the 2022-2023 season.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you a professional steelhead fishing guide or charter captain? Answer yes if you took paying clients fishing at least once during the 2022-2023 season.	1.00	2.00	1.85	0.36	0.13	141

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	14.89%	21
2	No	85.11%	120
	Total	100%	141

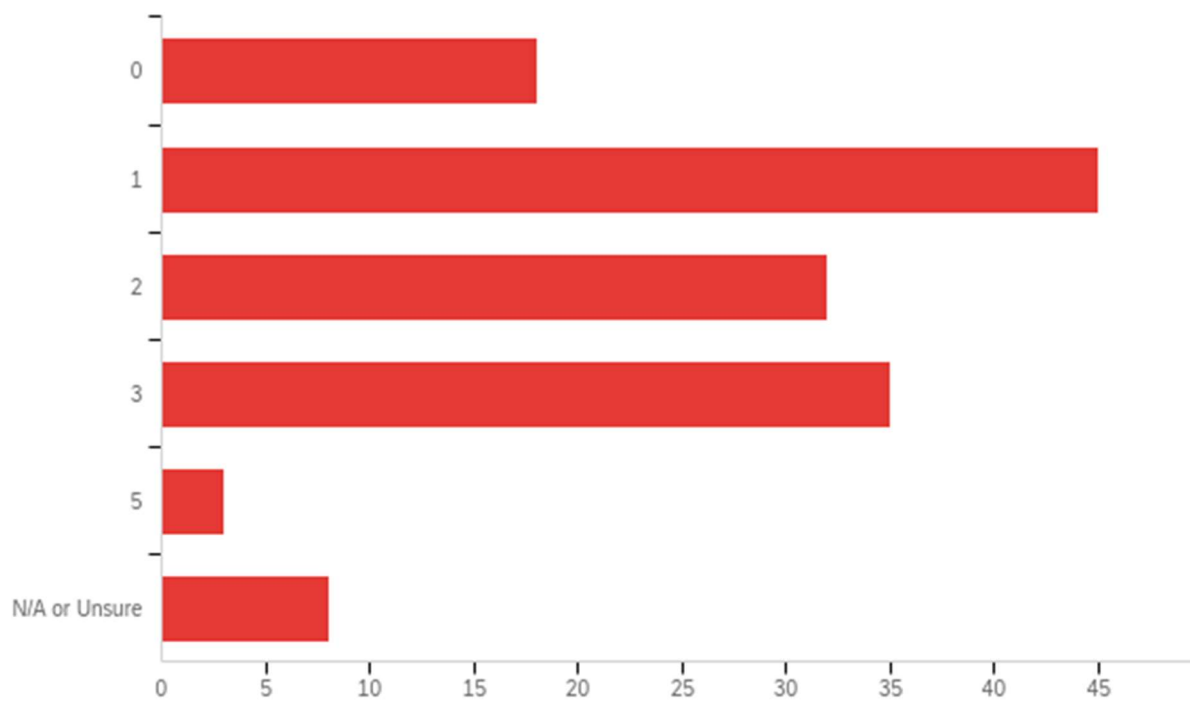
G1 - How many of the river steelhead trips you recorded in Great Lakes Angler Diary included steelhead catch and/or fishing effort data from clients?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How many of the river steelhead trips you recorded in Great Lakes Angler Diary included steelhead catch and/or fishing effort data from clients?	1.00	5.00	2.79	1.36	1.85	19

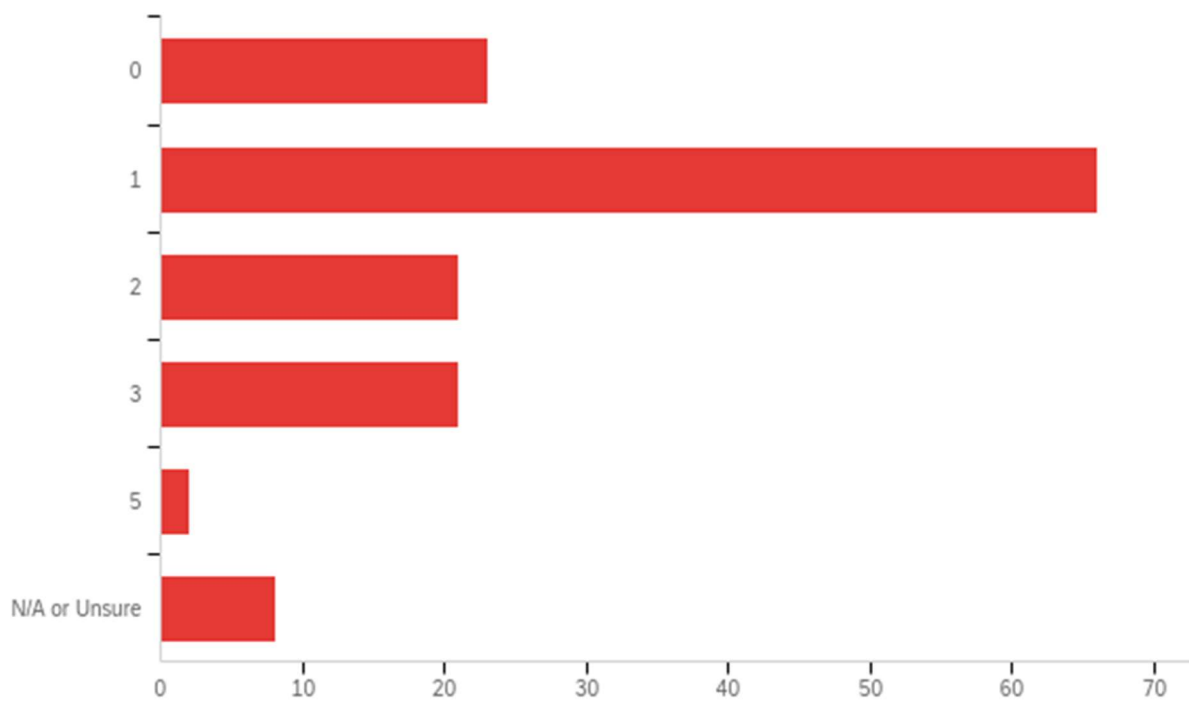
#	Answer	%	Count
1	None of the river trips included client data	26.32%	5
2	A few of the river trips included client data	21.05%	4
3	About half of the river trips included client data	5.26%	1
4	Most of the river trips included client data	42.11%	8
5	All of the river trips included client data	5.26%	1
	Total	100%	19

Q17 - My preferred steelhead harvest limit for Great Lakes waters in Michigan is:



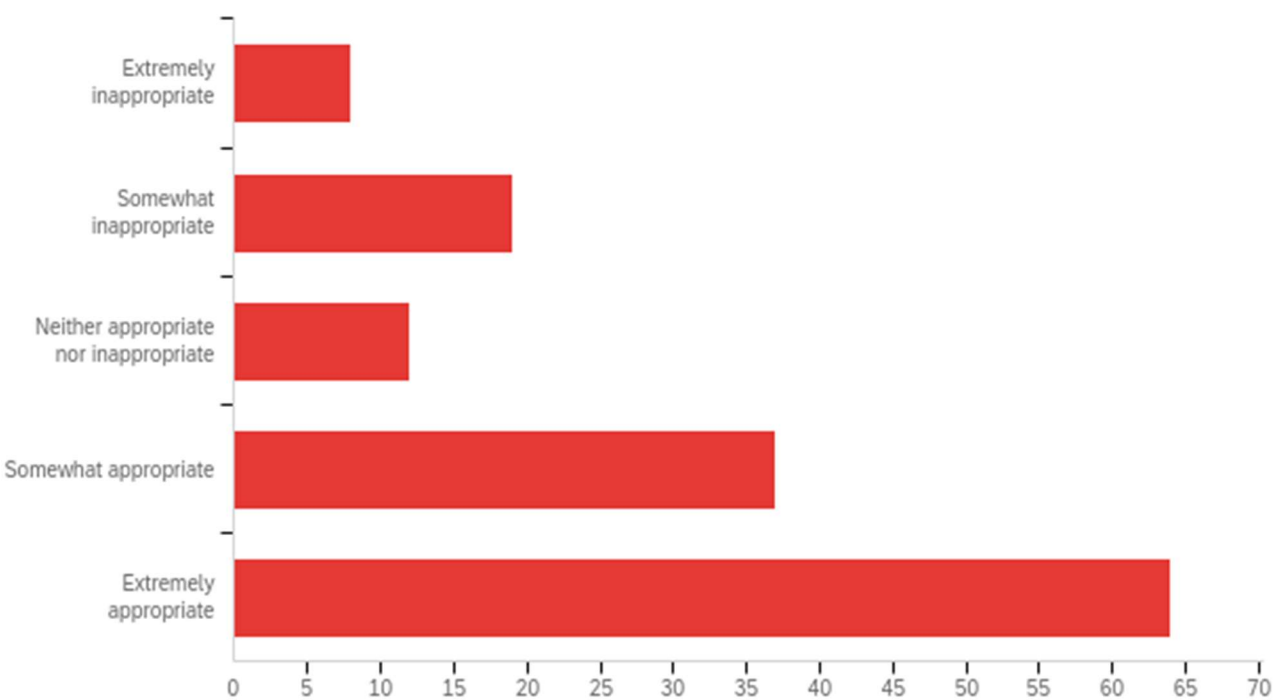
#	Answer	%	Count
0	0	12.77%	18
1	1	31.91%	45
2	2	22.70%	32
3	3	24.82%	35
5	5	2.13%	3
6	N/A or Unsure	5.67%	8
	Total	100%	141

Q18 - My preferred steelhead harvest limit for most streams in Michigan is:



#	Answer	%	Count
0	0	16.31%	23
1	1	46.81%	66
2	2	14.89%	21
3	3	14.89%	21
5	5	1.42%	2
6	N/A or Unsure	5.67%	8
	Total	100%	141

Q19 - The next four questions reference a recent reduction in the steelhead harvest limit from three to one fish per day on select waters March 15 - May 15 (click [here](#) for full details). Are the new steelhead harvest limit regulations appropriate?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely inappropriate	5.71%	8
2	Somewhat inappropriate	13.57%	19
3	Neither appropriate nor inappropriate	8.57%	12
4	Somewhat appropriate	26.43%	37
5	Extremely appropriate	45.71%	64
	Total	100%	140

Although 72% of respondents to this survey thought that the new steelhead regulations were somewhat or extremely appropriate, there were subgroups of anglers who were less supportive than others. The tables below show answers to Q18 and Q19 stratified by steelhead stream fishing expertise (Q13) and professional status (Q16) with agency personnel excluded (Q25). Note that “NA - Lake” is included for anglers whose home water (Q3) and patterns of data entry indicate experience primarily in Great Lakes fishing.

Expert and novice stream steelhead anglers tended to be more likely to think that new limits were “inappropriate” but for different reasons. Expert anglers overwhelmingly supported harvest limits below 3 steelhead for Michigan streams, while 67% of novice anglers preferred a limit of 3 or more. Low sample size for novice anglers continues to be a challenge despite focused efforts to recruit more novice anglers to participate in the Michigan River Steelhead Program.

Q18 – My preferred steelhead harvest limit for most streams in Michigan is...

Stream Expertise	N	Preferred Steelhead Limit in Most Michigan Streams					Average	% Preferring 3 or 5 Steelhead Limit
		0	1	2	3	5		
Expert	20	4	13	2	1		1.0	5%
Advanced	64	11	33	13	7		1.3	11%
Intermediate	32	8	14	4	6		1.3	19%
Novice	4		1		1	2	3.5	75%
NA - Lake	3		1		2		2.3	67%
Grand Total	123	23	62	19	17	2	1.3	15%

Q19 – Are the new steelhead limits appropriate?

Stream Expertise	N	Extremely Inappropriate	Somewhat Inappropriate	Neither	Somewhat Appropriate	Extremely Appropriate	Average	% Extremely or Somewhat Inappropriate
		1	2	3	4	5		
Expert	20	1	6		5	8	3.65	35%
Advanced	67	4	9	7	18	29	3.88	19%
Intermediate	33	1	2	3	9	18	4.24	9%
Novice	5	1	1		1	2	3.40	40%
NA - Lake	4				1	3	4.75	0%
Grand Total	129	7	18	10	34	60	3.95	19%

Q18 – My preferred steelhead harvest limit for most streams in Michigan is...

	N	Preferred Steelhead Limit in Most Michigan Streams					Average	% Preferring 3 or 5 Steelhead Limit
		0	1	2	3	5		
Active River Guide	21	4	16	1	0	0	0.9	0%
Recreational River Angler (Int, Adv, Exp)	95	19	44	18	14	0	1.3	15%
Recreational River Angler (Novice)	4	0	1	0	1	2	3.5	75%
NA - Lake	3	0	1	0	2	0	2.3	67%
Grand Total	120	23	61	19	15	2	1.3	14%

Q20 - Use the space below to let us know what you think about the March 15 to May 15 one-fish limit. Has it affected where and when you fish? Has it had any impact for better or worse?

I think the new limit of good , I think it should be year round , and tributaries to the big man should be closed to harvest

I think it is good to have special cases like this when wanting steelhead numbers to increase in the tribs. If someone really wants to harvest more than 1 they can drive the extra 30 minutes to a trib that allows it

the limit is fine. More concerned with increased chinook stocking lower alewife populations

None

I see more pressure on streams WITHOUT these special regs, consequently. Just make any stream with natural reproduction 1 fish and be done with it. If a guy can't live on a few steelhead a spring then he needs to get a better job.

Joke- need to be all year! Most of the killing and damage to the fishery is done on the the fall run when bait and gear guides harvest most of the year class

I think it is a good idea, between march 15 and may 15 steelhead are spawning so they should be left to spawn the next generation.

It hasn't affected me at all, however I love the new limit!

I whole heartedly agree with the one-fish limit. It has not affected where or when I fish. Not sure about impact but can't help but think a released fish creates an increase in the number of fish available to catch. i say implement the one fish limit year round and in the great lakes.

The new limit of one fish from March 15 to May 15 is great. This years spring returns would have been from the Covid 19 year class fish. We did not receive much planting that year so as a result we had much lower returns of spring fish this year. If we did not have the 1 fish limit the low numbers of spring fish would have been decimated very quickly. I personally catch and release all the steelhead I catch as do my clients. That being said I totally understand wanting to harvest a fish but I personally don't believe it is very sustainable if everyone harvests three per day.

I did not fish at ideal times or days to say one way or the other. I think its a good rule and we will see the effects either next year or the following.

It's only been a year since the law passed it seems... I don't think the harvest limit is going to see much change in until the next up coming years.

This has increased the amount of fish I was able to catch per trip by at-least one fish

Band aid on a bloody wound. So many people are fsihing these days and our DNR treats the fisheries as a super market more than a sport fishery. Snagging bedded steelhead that are wild is a [REDACTED] tragedy that seemingly never gets discussed and I'm disgusted with our states efforts, or lack thereof in wild fisheries that all but beg us for regulation and creek limits. The DNR can't get passed the idea of put and take Just sad and mad at the same time. Why do rivers like the little man and pm fall under same regs as all these rivers that constantly get planted while we boast great reproduction and should be left to the brood stock and then regulated for better fishing instead of more harvests then reasoning to plant more. We need to be able to elect the positions of people that seemingly get to talk for everyone in a more open forum as I've lost faith in the current management and biologists that are bias in most ways

Better. Let the fish reproduce naturally

It hasn't affected me much due to only fishing usually in the fall winter and spring months

It hasn't affected my fishing as I'm mostly catch and release. I think it makes things better as it gets people off the water faster.

It's good

I absolutely agree with that one is the most that should be taken. More needs to be done to protect the beds in the spring. I'm for shutting down sections of rivers to protect them. Every year the beds on the Rogue are constantly fished using harassing and in fair tactics causing stress and loss of natural reproduction.

Not affected my home waters.

I don't mind it. I only keep one or two steelhead a year anyways so it doesn't affect me.

Has not affected where I fish. Seems to limit some of the negative crowds at popular dams

This limit needs to be extended to a year round basis, statewide. The Big Manistee River has a tremendous fall run fishery when compared to our spring run. The majority of these fish are unclipped and also begin to spawn in February during most years. Our hatchery returns are dismal overall and these fish are Naturally reproducing in Bear Creek and Pine Creek and should be afforded more protections from over-harvest. Extending the time frame for the one fish limit will maximize Natural Reproduction on most of our Michigan Tributaries.

The 1 steelhead limit is ridiculous, the lost of revenue has been a big impact. The "special interest groups" that pushed for a 1 fish limit with little to no prior data. Could have put a slot limit in place and would have solved a lot of the issues that we see or what others see.

The new limit restrictions have not affected my choice as to when and where to fish. I practice catch and release.

No, I don't think it will impact my experience much either way.

It has no affect on where and when I fish. I don't know if it's a direct correlation but hookups/fish caught was up greatly from last year for me. Would like to see Michigan implement a "clipped only" fish harvest like Minnesota and not allow wild steelhead to be harvested.

Spousal health prevented my ability to fish this past season

For heavily fished rivers with a fair amount of natural reproduction, I believe the one fish limit makes sense. It has not affected me directly however as I do not fish the rivers with the enacted one fish regulation

This has severely effected the Betsie River in a negative way. The 1 fish limit has helped those rivers included, but has hurt the rivers that are still 3. Many of the harvesting focused anglers that used to spend a majority of their fishing on the Manistee at Tippy Dam, Bear Creek, Pere Marquette, and other rivers within an hour or so drive south of the Betsie started coming to fish the Betsie. It was noticeable at fishing locations and especially Homestead dam the increase in pressure after the rule change and I personally talked with anglers the specifically were not fishing Tippy dam as much because of the 1 fish limit. They wanted to kill as many as possible. Since the regulations kept the Betsie at a 3 fish limit, it spotlighted the river and attracted more fisherman that are focused on killing fish and the Betsie is not a good system for that since it's so shallow and gravel where 90% of harvest anglers fished (Homestead Dam). In the eyes of a non professional fisherman, a 3 fish limit on the Betsie compared to the 1 fish limit on the other main rivers means the Betsie must be fishing really good and it doesn't matter if you keep 3 a day. Below Homestead dam gets abused by fishermen, it honestly looks like a war scene down there with how many people are fishing, trash along the banks, and fishing gear is hanging in the trees. The river is very shallow below the dam in comparison to the rest of the system. It's primarily gravel with limited snags in the locations where fish sit and migrate in 2-4 ft of water. It's set up perfectly to the snaggers/flossing fisherman that primarily fish it. During peak season March 15 - April 15 it's a gauntlet of fishermen, most of which harvesting fish. I truly feel bad for any steelhead that has to swim throughout that section due to the amount of pressure and how exposed they are. Somedays it's like shooting fish in a barrel in that section and many fishermen are dragging out there 3 fish limit (sometimes more). Homestead attracts some of the most unethical fisherman compared to other rivers. Almost all of the spawning habitat on the Betsie is upstream from Homestead Dam so those fish must travel through that area. I wish Homestead Dam would be removed or have a easier fish ladder put in place so the fish can escape the pressure below the dam quicker. I would love to talk about this issue more and get THE 1 FISH LIMIT ENFORCED ON

THE BETSIE 90% of the steelhead we caught this season were unclipped.

I haven't seen any affect in my home waters but I agree with the limit.

I think it is a good and appropriate regulation.

No impact on my fishing plans.

I think its a great idea especially with so many new angler's targeting steelhead i realy think it needed to go to 1 fish

Doesn't impact me. I mostly fish St Joe

It has not impacted where or how I fish. I believe the most ethical thing one can do during that time frame is to release fish that are caught as they are staging up to spawn if not spawning already. The only reason I think you should keep them during that time is if a fish is hooked deep in the gills and bleeding badly.

I would like to say it has helped but I haven't seen the numbers or improved my catch rate but hopefully it brings a return of more natural reproduction and has aloud more fish to spawn rather than being harvested. Regardless of limit per day I think too many fish are miss handled after being caught or what they are caught with(oversized treble hooks on their spoons etc.)

Like it, no negative impact on my fishery. Would like to see it on all rivers excluding skamania season

Not sure

I think it is too soon to be able to gauge whether or not it will make a difference in the natural reproduction. You still have every [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ripping the fish off the reds. They just cant keep three anymore.

Q1-No effect. Q2-Im sure there is a measurable result on the type 3 and 4 streams listed in article. From my homewater perspective, a one fish limit per day would show a positive result.

I rarely fish those water but it would not influence my decision to fish there. I'm not in favor regulation changes that are not based on sound science.

It will not affect my fishing. I'm glad to see a greater protection for our steelhead fishery. I think, with growing numbers of people trying stream steelheading, Great Lakes fishing and now an undetermined [REDACTED] harvest we,ve got to limit the kill if we,re to have more natural reproduction and a sustained sport fishery.

I think it's a good start to more regulation. Steelhead fishing should be catch and release, barbless, no bait year-round in rivers.

I think it has effected it in a positive way I would love to see that limit year round!

I think this is a great idea but many people don't know about it. It should be on every river that doesn't have a no kill restriction.

I do not believe it has much impact what so ever on my home waters where majority of the fish that I caught this year were hatchery fish

I like it. no impact

It is not enforced. The professional guides game the system.

Better for the steelhead population strongly agree with this regulation

Absolutely no impact but confusing that it is partial season. Should be year round.

One fish seems low. Not much affects where I fish. Not sure on inpect.

I think it's good and will help the population but they should do it everywhere statewide not just certain streams

Non issue

It's okay. At least we can catch them

I am allergic to all trout and salmon so I very rarely keep any steelhead. The ruling does not affect me at all since I would fish even if it was catch/release only but I understand that some people don't get much time off work to go fishing, and they may want to keep a few fish the one day a year they can get out. A bigger issue in my opinion (I am in no way trained in anything related to fish biology) are the people that catch and release but injure the fish in the process (to get pictures or by beaching them). They release the fish but depending on the conditions those fish could die. I have no idea how you can prevent that.

No it has not affected my fishing since i never keep them

It has not affected where I fish, but I have seen it influence where those that like to harvest fish go. The Carp river in Marquette county has the new regulations and angler pressure has shifted to the Chocolay. I do not like to see that as the Chocolay fishery is wild and unstocked while the Carp is planted annually and must have a reduced carry capacity for smolts due to many factors. Water temperatures and lack of tributaries would be my guess at the top ones.

Protects the fish during the spawn when they are most vulnerable.

Haven't notice a difference yet

This will greatly reduce the number of fisherman out there.

I don't fish those rivers so no impact.

The one fish limit has not affected where I fish. I also do not know if it has an impact for better or worse..

I believe this new ruler is beneficial to natural steelhead productions

I feel like this needs to be in effect on other rivers, too.

It is not based on science and has had no impact. It is nothing more than a feel good regulation pushed for by professional fishing guides.

I have not fished often in areas with these new regulations but I am in full support of protecting spawning fish from harvest. I can only see this helping our steelhead fishery.

It is a great program. I see it greatly impacting the harvest rate on the muskegon and similar rivers. This is great because those rivers are heavily guided on. The negative impact was the rivers in which the new limit wasn't on. The rivers were flooded with guides and other anglers harvesting the limits you couldn't else where.

Has not affected me but I support it.

It should be catch and release only

Good idea. I believe it will take a few years to see if it is effective or not.

No affect on fishing effort. Seems like fewer steelhead are being harvested, that is an increase in steelhead catch and release.

I think it has kept some of the standard meat fisherman guys away but that's ok from my perspective

It does not impact me but I support limits that will help maintain a great fishery.

Hard to judge. With different limits on the big water shouldn't make that much of a difference. Maybe with fish that actually get a chance to spawn but if they don't naturally reproduce on a particular river shouldn't matter unless big water limits are the same

No impact on me

One fish limit is appropriate for this time of the year. Any attempt to raise that limit should be zero females.

I like the regulation but as wild fish spawn before March 15th the last few years especially this year think that date needs to be moved forward in the calendar

I haven't noticed any impact yet, but everything being the same, I expect to hook more fish next year.

should be extended to year-round

I would like to see harvest limits reduced to no more than one steelhead. I have not fished those rivers enough to have an opinion on the impact.

There are still dirtbags who don't know the 1 limit rule. It will improve things once everyone follows it.

It has not affected me, but I am in full support of this regulation change and would encourage it for other bodies of water as well.

I 100% support bag limit reduction to 1 per person across all seasons and watersheds for steelhead. Catch and release is effective, I've caught the same fish on multiple occasions. Although fishing is still good, numbers are down slightly and the steelhead fishery in west Michigan is world class so we need to protect it. Absolutely no one needs to keep three fish to enjoy steelheading. I keep none and it's my passion.

I think it's a good idea to ensure that more fish have the chance to spawn, and it will be interesting to see if future recruitment is higher

No effect on my fishing

If this protects spawning steelhead numbers I am all for it. I assume data would support this with improved numbers of natural fish.

Less fish harvested means better spawning and increase in future populations

Disagree

It has affected where I fish as I would prefer to target rivers where I have a higher chance of catching and releasing a fish. The 1 Fish limit has made those rivers have more fish to be recycled and to spawn.

Can't eat them out of the Huron anyway, so.....

I'm fully supportive of the 1 fish harvest limit and think it should be implemented on all SH waters in Michigan. Personally, I am strictly catch & release but I understand the desire of others to occasionally keep a fish for the dinner table.

It has not impacted me, but I think that for all of the work to get to the water and take time to fish, and only be allowed to keep one fish is out of line.

I am a huge fan of lowering limits to protect, the few special places, where steelhead successfully spawn. There needs to be more wide spread obvious and purposeful protection of michigans wild steelhead. Many of these streams have massive potential for very healthy wild fisheries. But they are not given the opportunity to establish as such. The only thing that could improve the "one fish" reg would be to bring it further south and enforce it on the rivers that need it so desperately

Doesn't affect my home river.

Not sure if it's any impact yet. Would love to see this across all rivers in Michigan and not just a select few.

I haven't really noticed a difference.

Make it statewide to avoid confusion.

It's a good thing to see conservation wise, but some old timers dislike it though I feel it is necessary to maintain a healthy fishery and ecosystem

It's very helpful to the population of steelhead in the river system it helps them have a chance to reproduce and flourish

All rivers should have a one fish limit. The betsie steelhead run has diminished substantially in the last 10 years in my opinion

No impact, I'm C&R only.

I agree with state wide, including Great Lakes for Michigan to 2 only for entire season.

No

Unfortunately the Betsie River, the primary system I fish and guide clients on, does not have a one-fish steelhead limit. Myself and every guide and angler in my circle of colleagues and friends would like to see a one-fish limit implemented for the Betsie river. Visual observations indicate over my extensive time on the river that an alarming number of steelhead are harvested from the Betsie, with many anglers harvesting 3 fish per day for many consecutive days in the water below Homestead dam.

I feel it has affected the rivers I fish positively. We didn't see the smaller age class of fish this year from lack of stocking in 2020, but the average size was much better than years before.

The bag limit should be applied all year. Only restricting fish harvest in the spring defies logic. If it's about protecting spawners keeping a prespawn winter fish still has the same impact, if it's about catch rate it is more important to protect fish during the fall and winter as these are the fish that spend the longest in the river system and are the most likely to be recycled via catch and release.

Better. I get the sense that it kept some people off the water which made fishing a little better as you didn't have to share the water with so many people (it was still busy most days). Further, I think when a fish is released you have a chance not only to catch them that season, but again later in following seasons. I'm not a scientist but I do know you can't catch a dead fish.

Correct me if I'm wrong: Once you have your limit, you must stop fishing, legally. If a person decides to keep the one steelhead they are allowed, they must call it a day on the select rivers with this rule. If the limit were two, you can keep a fish and continue to fish, knowing you have one to bring home as well as being able to legally fish all day (releasing the rest). I think with the changing times, (we all know many things are different than the past), a two fish limit across the board seems reasonable to all river and lake fisherman for any species of salmon/trout. Having fished in Wisconsin and Minnesota for many years as well, I feel a size limit may even be appropriate. It seems logical with relying more on natural reproduction that we protect the younger fish for a bit to allow them to pass on the "wild" gene before seeing a frying pan or grill. I have been an avid steelhead fisherman for over 4 decades now, fishing from mid December all the way into May and covering most all of Michigan as well as northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Our rivers in Michigan are much different than the ones in Wi & Mn & the fish behave differently as well, as you know. Therefore I'm hesitant to compare us to them directly but wanted to just throw my 2 cents worth on the table for ya.

I'm not clear about the goal of the special regulation.

do not river fish - no impact on me

I see that it has had no impact. The 1 fish limit should be implemented throughout the entire year

In rivers with documented reproduction there should be little or no harvest year round. It has not effected my river of choice fishing decisions. I think natural reproduction should be protected as much as possible.

As I am not focused on retaining a limit (and most days not a single fish) when I hit the water, it has not changed where/when I fish. I see no impact for better or worse to date from my perspective regarding the health of the fishery or my satisfaction with time on the water. However - DNR fisheries biologists and no one else should dictate biological needs to reduce (or increase) harvest limits based on predator/prey balance. The health of a given river(s) steelhead population should also be considered. What should not be considered in the slightest is total and complete social management of only a select few streams (which all happen to be "destination fisheries" opposed to a "dirty destination" stream such as the St Joe, or the Grand). Ironically (or not so much) the rivers where the reduced limits have been put in place are heavily guided, where said guides promote catch and release (or fully deny any client the ability to retain a fish if he/she even wanted to). Again, the St Joe in contrast, is a meat harvest for the guide community with a mentality akin to the big lake charter captains of "fill the box, and get home". It appears as though the guides are dictating the regulations in both southern and northern rivers, catering to the regional view of said guides, and the NRC is placing the stamp of approval on their desires/lobbying. If there was a true need for a limit reduction, where is the logic that 3 fish may be retained from the beach/pier during the reduced harvest period, but they suddenly become a "holier" fish once they cross the literal line in the sand into the rivers? If we are

going to do this 1 first limit without biological need, let's make it statewide, all streams, the great lakes, year round. The regional economic impact is something that should absolutely be considered. Are tackle shops/cabins/restaurants losing business because it isn't "worth it" for the out of state meat hunters to visit for 5 days, for the potential to harvest a total of 5 fish?

It has had no impact on me or my friends that accompanied me.

The one-fish limit is purely a social regulation that was not supported by the science, and was heavily backed by guides and outfitters whose trade seemingly improves when the law is changed to require more fish to be released. Because of the new spring limit, I'm somewhat inclined to keep more fall steelhead, particularly on rivers that get a healthy dose of hatchery support such as the Manistee River. This spring, the limit had little effect on the spring fishery since many of the fish seemed to run early and spawn before March 15.

Since I spend most of my time on The Betsie River, and the Betsie still has a 3 fish limit, I believe this may be partly responsible for the increased fishing pressure this year since nearby streams such as The Manistee River, have a 1 fish limit. I would like to see the 1 fish limit for all Michigan streams.

Good rule. Didn't help me much this year, lol. Maybe a better rule would be to not allow the keeping of fish which do not have a fin clip.

It has not affected where I fish. With that said, I would prefer a one fish limit on the Boyne river. It's a very small run of fish relative to some other streams. It's also a small stream, which makes it easy for anglers to snag/floss fish.

The limit should be 1 fish year round on rivers and streams. The March 15 to May 15 window is a good start, but protecting the fall and winter fish is more important. Those fish provide extended angling opportunities vs. spring fish that are in and out of the rivers quicker.

I did not know about it but since this is the spring spawning season I would tend to agree with this step as a means to produce more wild fish in the system. Again, I'm not qualified to say yay or nay but it seems appropriate.

Not sure about impact but missed stocked year class due to covid, limited hatchery capacity, increased angling pressure, and fewer chinook in the big lake all seem to be increasing pressure on steelhead. River runs seem much less consistent with far fewer fish on average compared to the last 20 years. Very noticeable increase in steelhead angling popularity in the last 10 years.

Does not impact my rivers I fish.

It's a great idea. I was unable to fish this spring as much as I'd like due to personal issues. Cannot wait to ramp back up this fall.

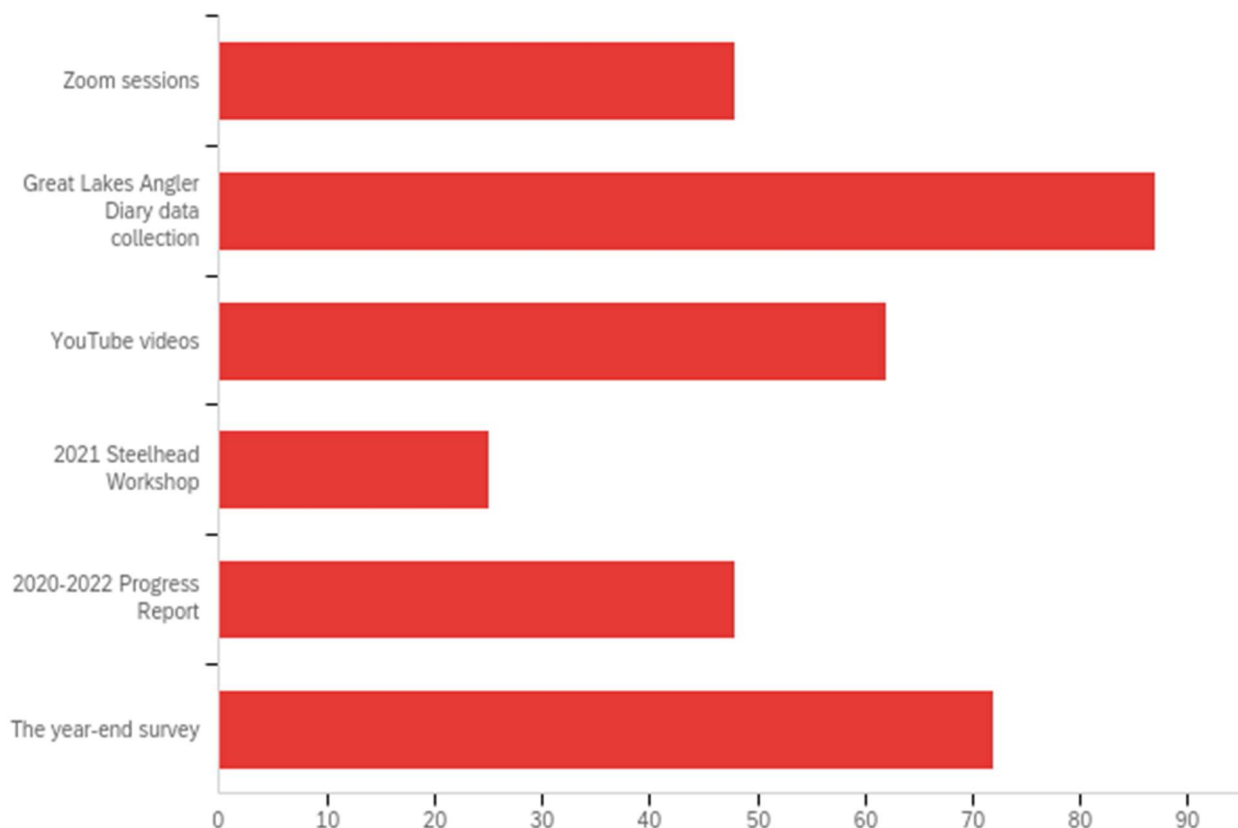
No affect on me because I am mostly catch and release but there are people out there that still need to supplement their diet with caught fish because of their financial situation.

The one fish steelhead limit should be year round in all rivers. The fall run in the manistee was good, but mostly wild fish, and those are getting harvested all fall, all winter and all early spring. The wild fish are the foundation we really need to protect because, they are apparently surviving very well. So, they have some superb genetic traits that allow them to survive here in the great lakes. It would be great to have more enforcement and I appreciate the creel clerks being there this past year. I'm interested to learn about their data collection results

Fishing does not seem to be affected much, maybe slightly better fishing.

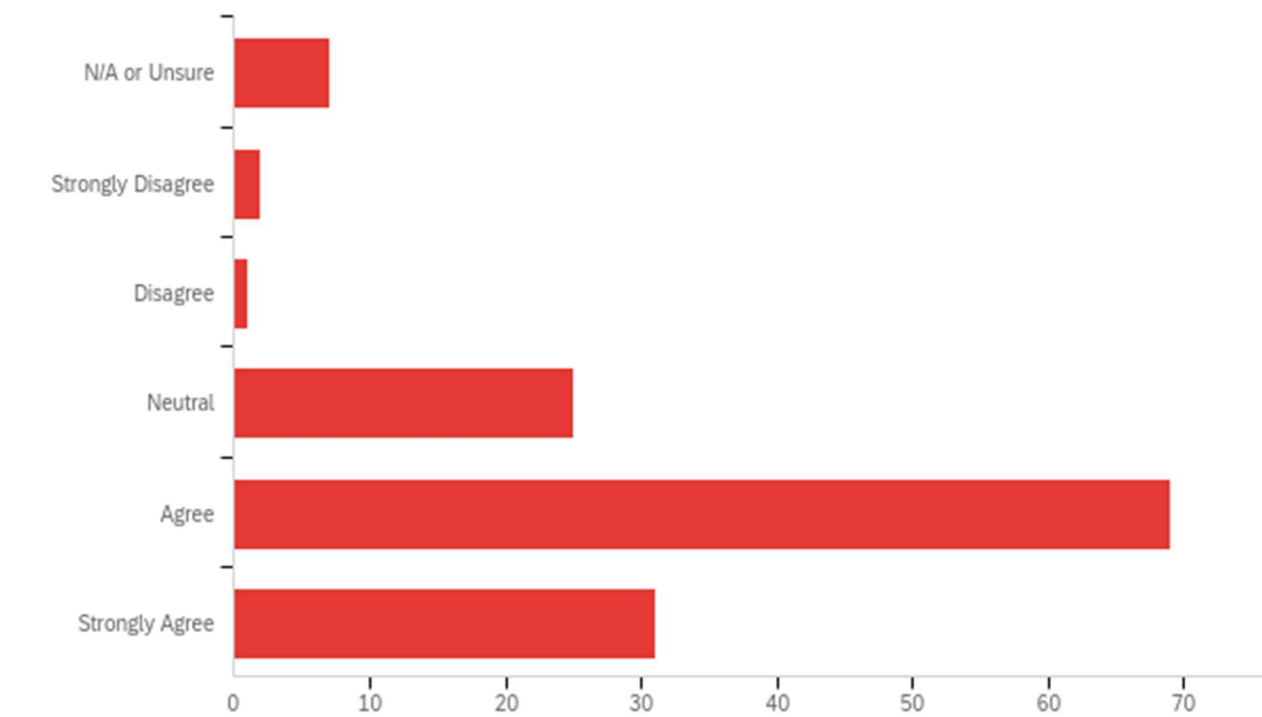
I would like to see a 1 fish limit year round.

Q21 - You were invited to take this survey because you registered to collect steelhead data using Great Lakes Angler Diary as part of the Michigan River Steelhead Program. The program also includes a web page with educational resources, Zoom sessions to share results and fishing reports, YouTube videos with results, a 2021 steelhead workshop with presentations on diet, strains, stocking, creel studies, and bag limits, and a new progress report that details findings from the first two years of the program. Which elements of the Michigan River Steelhead Program did you find informative? Check all that apply.



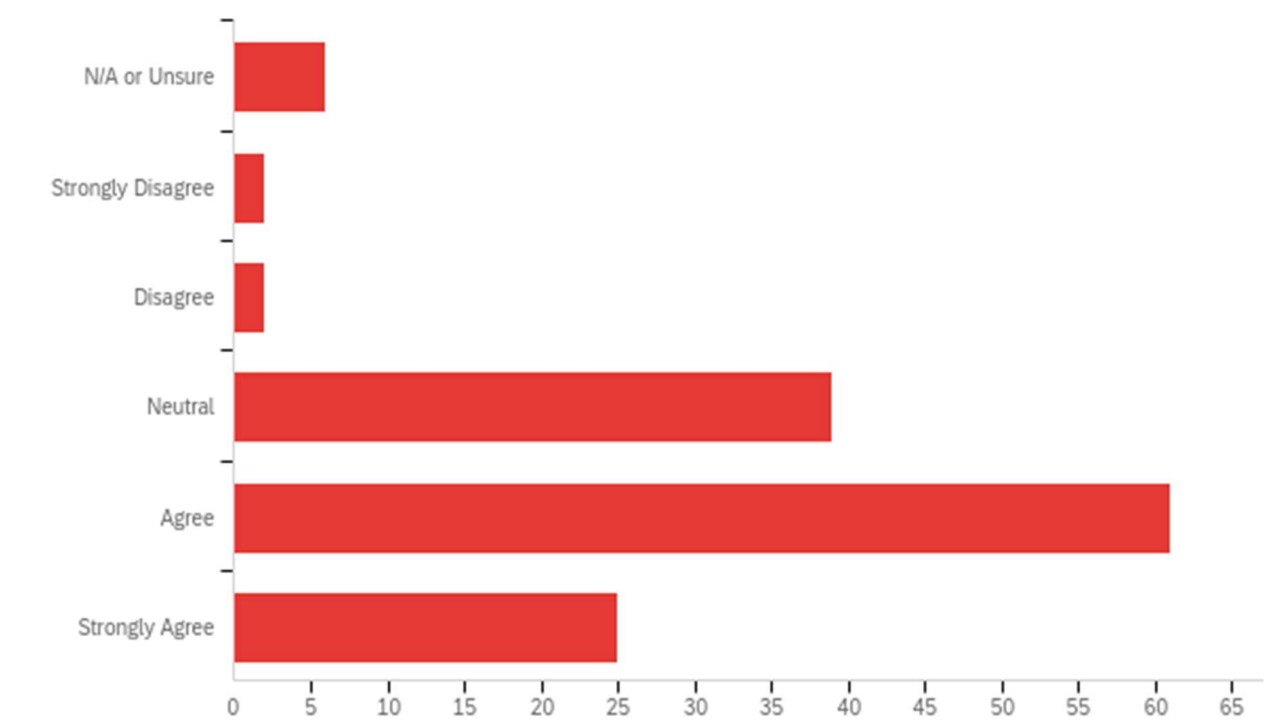
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Zoom sessions	14.04%	48
2	Great Lakes Angler Diary data collection	25.44%	87
3	YouTube videos	18.13%	62
4	2021 Steelhead Workshop	7.31%	25
5	2020-2022 Progress Report	14.04%	48
6	The year-end survey	21.05%	72
	Total	100%	342

Q22 - I have a better understanding of how stocked and wild steelhead contribute to fisheries as a result of participating in the Michigan River Steelhead Program.



#	Answer	%	Count
0	N/A or Unsure	5.19%	7
1	Strongly Disagree	1.48%	2
2	Disagree	0.74%	1
3	Neutral	18.52%	25
4	Agree	51.11%	69
5	Strongly Agree	22.96%	31
	Total	100%	135

Q23 - Through participating in this program, I gained a better understanding of fisheries management policies (for example, harvest limits, habitat restoration, or stocking programs).



#	Answer	%	Count
0	N/A or Unsure	4.44%	6
1	Strongly Disagree	1.48%	2
2	Disagree	1.48%	2
3	Neutral	28.89%	39
4	Agree	45.19%	61
5	Strongly Agree	18.52%	25
	Total	100%	135

Q24 - Let us know if you have any additional thoughts on steelhead fisheries, the Michigan River Steelhead Program, or the Great Lakes Angler Diary apps using the space below:

Increased chinook stocking is already showing what we all expected, lower chinook weight. With continued Lake Trout stocking per consent decree and the apparent favoring of large alewife predation by Lake Trout (Coho also seem to take larger alewife), I think the move to increased stocking of Chinook will put the alewife population at serious risk of collapse. The decision should have been around making sure we keep the fishery going, i.e. healthy population of alewife. I think we missed the mark on this.

My biggest concern at this point is habitat degradation (banks being tilled, road issues, digging in the watershed, boat/motor scarring on gravel, water quality etc) coupled with over harvest. Fishing pressure is also a HUGE factor and in particular "redd stomping". The public needs to be better educated on this matter. It's ridiculous. The average person thinks the eggs are in the depression (such a sunfish bed) and then STAND ON THE DOWNSTREAM INCUBATION HUMP! All of these things have a negative impact. I'm on the water most days and I have been for nearly 30 years. I have a bio degree (NMU), I took multiple fisheries classes and grad level Wildlife Management...I understand the concept of "social" management, ie. feelings. The fact of the matter is, sometimes the social implications on fisheries management may seem anecdotal and emotional, but given the vast knowledge base of conscientious anglers and guides at the DNR's fingertips, leaning on metrics that are derived on a given day or a couple of days at best, and letting the general public influence management matters, it's just not working. Sorry [REDACTED] :) It needs to be further refined. If a statewide 1 fish limit nat-repro streams were to become law, it would help. And, in those given systems a C&R rule on a given stretch with high-output would help. The MDNR may feel like the carrying capacity of a given stream has been reached but I can assure you the number of fish I see isn't even close to a decade or two ago. Yes, natural reproduction is doing well as kings and steelhead excavate new gravel beds and habitat management is refined (Dowagiac Dam removal is a great example). The majority of anglers I encounter are horrified by rope-fulls of steelhead dangling from a canoe or wader belt. Why let the minority of anglers dictate what the daily bag limit is? Sure, this is largely anecdotal but my opinion should hold more weight I would hope. Sadly, the metrics will never reflect this, or the opinion of many other guides/anglers who have an incredible handle on things. I've been told many times by DNR personnel "Everybody has the right to recreate". Just imagine if you turned the public loose. May as well rotenone the entire fishery and get it over with! To be clear, streams in this country are over-guided and I personally believe something needs to be done to curb that issue on many streams...the Madison in MT for example. But, in the meantime getting out in front of these issues and not reacting to them makes a helluva lot of sense. Per kings...they're doing pretty good down here. I saw hundreds of wild kings daily on the Dow last fall. The only clips I saw were on runt males (...or maybe they were precocial?). I wasn't able to collect any heads unfortunately. I even looked for dead ones to grab. But, the wilds were freaking giant. Tons of beds in the main flow of the STJR where I've never seen them, consisting of big/lush gravel. They just keep digging. The steelhead of course lay over the top of king redds typically.

I have been very supportive and respectful of the DNR- more so than a ton of naysayers- but I have a serious problem of their not pioneering contemporary management policies like the west coast has- I would be happy to give you a complete evaluation of the Michigan /and Great Lakes steelhead fishery (past-present and future) if you care for that information from a biological appreciation and management perspective (not just from an elitist's fly fishing perspective which the DNR continually labels catch and release fly fisherman -We have banned race and gender discrimination- but fly fisher discriminations still rages on!- since the steelhead fishery is managed for kill charter guides- After 35 years of guiding and fishing on all Great Lakes rivers and having written 5 books on steelhead I have a valuable perspective from all angles I can share with you and have no financial gain (like DNR and license sales to gain)- I am all about the fish! since I have plenty of clients and dont need anymore and have had hundreds of thousands read all of my writings and listen to the podcasts I host [REDACTED] Cheers!- thanks for all the work you guys do! [REDACTED]

I am in favor of reduced harvest limits year round both in the rivers and great lakes.

Myself and most of the guides I interact with feel there is a definite need to adjust the way we manage steelhead in the state as a whole. I run a catch and release guide service, however most of the other guides/fishermen I interact with on a regular basis harvest the occasional steelhead. Most of the fishermen/guides I talk to feel that there is a huge disconnect between the day to day fishing and how the steelhead are managed. The main concern is that the fishing pressure has increased drastically over the last few years. This means that the state is still managing steelhead for the number of fishermen 10 years ago. Not only has the number of steelhead fishermen increased, fishermen in general are much more effective at catching them. The number of steelhead planted hasn't increased (that I am aware of), but there are many more people fishing and harvesting them. The other concern is that for years the biologists and fisheries managers have been telling us there is little to no natural reproduction in the Muskegon. Since the DNR started clipping adipose fins we have been able to see that this is simply not true. Myself and most of the other guides I talk to have observed that 60-80% of the fish caught in the fall are wild fish. This means that if we only have the one fish limit in the spring, huge numbers of wild spawning age fish are being harvested in the fall. It seems like common sense that this is not good for the future of our wild fish. I have spoken to most of the professional guides on the Muskegon about this issue and everyone seems concerned. I don't see why there is any reason why we couldn't have a year round 3 fish limit, but only one of the fish could be a wild fish. In my mind this would be a happy medium between those who want a higher limit and those who care about the future of our wild steelhead.

N/A

Stop the snagging and start pushing better ethics amongst anglers and the so called guides that push that bullshit and lie to clients in the event. Michigan should be cradling these wild fisheries as they become more and more rare, but instead we through them under a bus for some out of state licenses and a bunch of [REDACTED] taking hero shots at the fisheries expense dressed up like it's Halloween in there fly fishing outfits. Yeah snagging is bad in the conventional world, but a couple local shops here in Baldwin are making us so trendy a trout fisherman can't even fish the pm when the migratory fish show up as the parade of rippers comes with it. We are choking out rivers, when do we let go?!??

Canadian anglers should have the same resources, this program is great

Steelhead populations are at alarming lows on the west coast. If managed correctly Michigan could have something special, and become a destination for trophy fish. For that to happen our DNR has to protect our steelhead resource.

From my personal experience the Clinton river steelhead population has significantly declined the past couple years.

We need to allocate an exorbitant amount of Money to River Restoration and Habitat Enhancement projects. Our streams are the lifeline of our Great Lakes Fisheries and we don't invest any effort or money into Habitat based programs. Quality Habitat = Quality Fisheries

Well there is this big push for a better steelhead run/#'s. No talk about the salmon fishery. With the exception to the 2022 salmon fishery. Years prior have been an disappointment. Why is the limit 5? Let's go back to 3. Another question that is brought up on the boat day after day is why fish carcasses can't go back in the water to. Everyone doesn't understand why. And anyone who is in charge of that has no reasons to why either

A personal interest is increased stocking of Atlantic salmon as opposed to chinook salmon. I'd rather see more rivers stocked as they seem to be more aggressive in the river and if they would naturalize, long term we could have less stocking and more focus on habitat improvements to manipulate the populations.

Sorry for incomplete data. Fishing simply was not an option for me this past season

For the Diary App, I think the measurement part is having a negative effect on the catch and release of the fish. The videos that have been filmed with [REDACTED] encourage throwing the fish on the bank while you take time to measure it. In addition to extra stress on the fish, now the ground is removing the protective slime potentially and adding time on to the process before the fish is released. People hold fish out of the water long enough already for pictures, and now they're throwing it on the bank to get a measurement that likely varies 1-3 inches. I think the measurements should be a range, 20-25 25-30 etc especially if the fish is going to be released. I only measured one of my fish this season that I entered in the dairy. Everything entered was a rough guess. It's also a pain entering the

sizing on the app. I wish there was an option, at least for us guides, to enter the entire days catch and specify how many were wild vs hatchery.

Close the season during the main spawning period.

I'd like to see different strains of steelhead stocked in the Huron river (skamania) along with some coho and kings.

Streams like St Joe river were strongly impacted last season by the moratorium on the egg take during COVID. My catch rate was way down. Less than half. Most all 75% or more of the steelhead on catch on the Joe are fin clipped Oct-Feb.

I would love to see the management practices move away from stocking over naturally reproducing fisheries and start using that money towards things like stream improvement projects that benefit all species in the river. I would also love to see more management for other anadromous species in Michigan such as Coaster Brook Trout and Lake Run Brown Trout. These are very cool and highly sought after fish that are, for the most part, an afterthought when it comes to our Great Lakes and river fisheries management.

What's the best lure for casting?

Limit the number of guides on all rivers and streams. There are waaaaaaay too many and a lot of them think the river is theirs. They pay almost nothing to use the bodies of water for personal gain. I would like to see a limit of guides on the big man for sure each day. Have them pull daily permits to operate and if they get caught guiding without, pull their licenses for 5 yrs.

Add the North and /or South of White River to future candidates for regulation changes. One fish limit or even a catch and release section would improve these rivers' future.

I,m not very up on tech communications but would like to get in on the other elements of the Mich. River Steelhead Program.

I think lower limits would have a profound Positive impact on our salmon and steelhead populations

I couldn't make my online account work so I didn't really participate. I would like to be part of this if I can get my account working.

Close the rivers during the spring spawning season. The fishermen and especially guides really beat up the spawning steelhead. The section between Pine Steet and Thornapple should be closed during the month of May.

Love steelhead fishing. Unfortunately my age is slowing me down.

I haven't used many of the resources available from this project but I plan to. I actually just learned about the videos from taking this survey and plan to read more about the current management strategies. I used to fish Ohio/Lake Erie tribs when I lived downstate and would catch many more fish per trip down there. I believe they plant more fish, but also have fewer rivers where those fish run so that probably helps increase concentration in any given river. Here in Michigan we have so many rivers it is impossible for me to fish them all!

I did not participate

I believe the one fish limit should be placed on the Grand River and its tributaries. I've seen multiple fishermen have three hen steelhead on the stringer. I have personally seen the numbers of steelhead decrease over the last 3 years on the creek. The number of spawning steelhead have decreased dramatically on the upper section of Prairie Creek. The spawning steelhead need to be protected because of the high success rate of those natural fish.

I really appreciate Dan and Sea Grant implementing the program!

Tight lines folks and I'm happy to be part of the data collection for my area of the state

I'm a 26 year old angler who has been chasing steelhead for 7-8 years. This year I've seen more boats & shore anglers harvesting steelhead then ever before. Being a father, I'm doing my part that our state continues to have the resources for my son to enjoy. Over harvesting and reduced stocking efforts can turn us into Washington and Oregon fast. If there's anything I can do to help educate and teach people about our great resources I'd. Love to help. I am great full for this program. Thank you.

Very concerned about the possible adverse effects of the proposed consent decree that will allow a huge increase in

commercial gill netting in the treaty waters of Lakes Michigan and Huron. Hoping the negative effects of the massive increase in invasive mussels on the food chain will lessen with time.

I appreciate the work you do.

I'd like to see more attention given to the clinton river. It is actually a dynamic system. It has gotten so much more pressure since I started out there. Southeast michigan sells alot of fishing licenses so alot of money coming from here should go into that fishery. Also I would like to be involved in the scale sampling on the clinton if there is intrest.

Steelhead seem to be doing well in Michigan, as do Atlantics. However, Chinook and Coho still seem to be struggling. should manage wild steelhead differently than hatchery steelhead. no-kill for wild steelhead; creel limit of one for hatchery steelhead. Stop planting hatchery fish in rivers that can support a wild fishery.

Several trips I was able to hook, fight and loose a steelhead. Is there any value in reporting hookups going forward in the future? Also I swung flies for most of my outings. Is there any value in reporting fishing tackle or methods? Conventional gear vs fly or spey?

I'm interested in the habitat restoration that GL Diary is doing?

Keep up the good work!

More regulations on streams to prevent snagging and illegal activities.

There should be more stocking of fish (steelhead and salmon) in more rivers and streams of Lake Michigan.

My catch rates on my home river were down by a considerable amount from last year. Unsure if it is true, but everyone I spoke to were speculating that the covid year we got no plant is the reason. We were missing our " cookie cutter " size in the low 20" range. Most were bigger than that year class and fewer skippers than usual. The ones I did see in the cookie cutter class, I seen more adipose than usual.

My focus is on the betsie river where i fish it at least once a week from november 1st thru may 1st. This past season was the worse I've experienced in the past 10 seasons. It has been going downhill every year since 2017. It is sad to see only a few females on the redds ready to spawn without a male in sight this past season. Only seen 3 females to be exact. I am worried about the future steelhead runs on the betsie.

Erie management unit fish should be coded wire tagged. The better part of unit has fish that enter Lake Huron and not Erie.

I operate my guide service nearly entirely on the Betsie river. My observations are reflections on 100+ days/year angling the river with clients. In my opinion, based on these observations, are that a one-fish limit is desperately needed on the Betsie river like other systems in Northwest Michigan. My estimates indicate 80-85% of my steelhead catch this season were wild fish, with no adipose clip. My entire client base also supports a one-fish limit, as does every guide in my circle of colleagues and friends. Many of my clients are Michigan State University fisheries biologists and professors, all of which have observed and experienced the Betsie river and it's angling pressure, and agree with this proposed restriction.

Would love to see the salmon limits drop down to 3/person. Steelhead year round 1/person.

Would be nice to expand the one fish steelhead limit on rivers to year round, not just the Spring. Also, a reduction in the Lake Michigan harvest numbers/creel limit.

Thanks to everyone who contributes to preserving this magnificent resource! One more idea: Regarding fish and game enforcement action. If you offer a monetary reward for reporting a violation that leads to a conviction, we wouldn't have to worry about more officers in the field, we would all have incentive to be officers of our resources. Maybe add \$100 to all fines for fish and game violations for the purpose of paying it to the person who initially reported the violation. (Maybe more \$\$ for big game violations etc.) Just a thought!

The Muskegon River needs regulations on the number of guides/charters. Too many guides on any section of river detracts from the quality fishing experience of Joe Public.

Port of Frankfort - off shore (15-25 miles) steelhead has been on the quiet side for the last 4-5 seasons. Empirically, 2022 we did not have one steelhead on the days we trolled in Lake Michigan which is not typical.

I think the state should designate a flies only section on the Manistee River. Said section should be a point above and below High Bridge boat ramp.

Appreciate and thank you for your efforts.

The NRC must take a step back, and evaluate how it came to be, and what their responsibility is to ALL of our state's anglers. Two regulations have been put in place in recent years purely due to obvious social management/lobbying, with zero biological reasoning. (Chumming ban, 1 fish limit, both pushed by the guide community) It is my hope that the DNR managers are not following suit with increased salmon stocking, after years of the charter boat captains/association begging for more salmon. The captains have argued for years that there is more bait than the DNR was seeing. It is my hope that the DNR happened to find this bait they couldn't find before, and that discovery is the BIOLOGICAL reason for the stocking increase? I do not want to see another Lake Huron event.

I've been retired from coaching 12 years now. I have loved my steelhead fishing days. I have taken 156 different people fishing with me in my Rivermaster flat bottom river boat. I have over 300 fishing videos on my you tube channel. If interested in amateur video search [REDACTED] while in YouTube.com. I've loved the experiences and at 79 hope to go fishing for many more years. Thank you to all DNR and MSU experts who contribute so much to make this fishery among the best anywhere!

So much of the discourse about limit reductions among guides and fly fishermen focuses on steelhead harvest in the rivers, yet the fishery on the Great Lakes would seemingly have the greater percentage of harvest and the least amount of catch and release per capita. What's more, the Great Lakes fishery is not as accessible as the rivers. Why then should river anglers be disproportionately affected by the scaled-back limits? When it comes to establishing regulations, I think we should follow what the science is telling us to do, not the whims of special interests (e.g., people who economically benefit from the fishery) and their like-minded NRC commissioners. We should trust our biologists to do the jobs that they've been hired to do.

I would like to see more habitat restoration projects.

I don't know why in the world the MDNR pays good money to teams of two DNR officers to take the same sort of survey at ramps on the river (as I saw many times on the Big M this year). Seems very inefficient and hit or miss compared to the data collected with the app. Will the results of both surveys be coordinated somehow?

I think our steelhead fishery is heading in the right direction. I caught a lot more hatchery fish this year than previous years, so it's great to see that smolts are surviving. I'd love to see increased plants or trying other species like Skamania but I know our steelhead hatcheries are at capacity.

Really hoping to see guide legislation pass to increase regulations and harvest reporting. Would also be great to see better access to drop off clipped fish heads around Grand Rapids. Environmental factors also seem to be putting pressure on salmon and steelhead stocks globally so data collection for fisheries management seems to be getting much more important as we adapt to more volatile conditions.

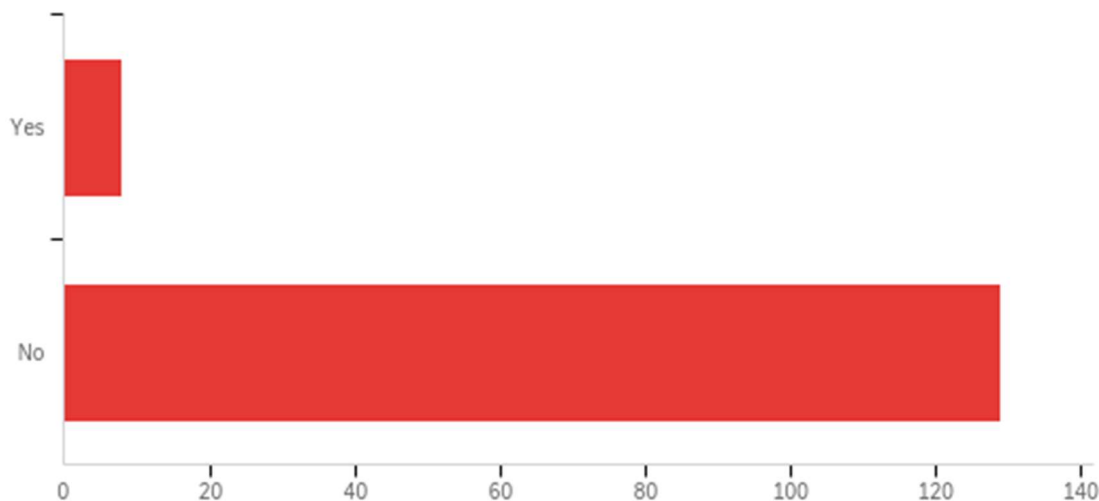
N/A

The harvest limits need to be uniform in Lake Michigan as one fish per angler with the captain and first mate not being able to add to the clients catch. All tributaries that are open should have a one steelhead limit per angler. The DNR should consider a seasonal harvest limit on fish. Something in the way of 10 per angler. Other states do this with success.

Interesting to see the balance between wild and stocked fish, along with the steady ratio of controlling the predator/prey relationships of the lakes that feed the rivers. I am very interested in hearing what the plans are for Lake Huron, particularly southern Lake Huron and the Saint Clair River.

I would like to see a greater emphasis on growing the wild fish population. This would mean decreasing the bag limit, and decreasing the stocking program. The wild fish in the PM and other rivers are more fun to catch, and have better survival rates from natural predators.

Q25 - Do you work for a natural resource agency (e.g., DNR, Sea Grant, etc.)?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	5.84%	8
2	No	94.16%	129
	Total	100%	137

Q26 - What year were you born?

The average birth year for respondents (N = 132) was 1979. Birth year was used to determine the demographic breakdown of participants by generation:

N	Percentage
5	Slient Generation 4%
27	Baby Boomer 20%
30	Gen X 23%
46	Millennial 35%
24	Gen Z 18%
132	Total

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