

2002 CLARK LAKE SURVEY RESULTS AND ACTION PLAN

First and foremost, **thanks** to all 175 of you who completed and returned the questionnaire. That represents better than a 60% response rate, which is great. All 159 surveys returned by the June 14 deadline are summarized as follows. Time did not allow the 16 late surveys to be included at this time – however, review of the surveys shows similar responses to all the questions.

The survey was organized into two parts, the first (questions 1 – 5) generally focusing on environmental protection related issues, with the second (questions 6 – 12) generally focusing on lake use and local government related issues. Your Clark Lake board has reviewed the responses to each question and has discussed actions we recommend to address your issues and concerns. The following provides an overview of the responses to each question along with recommended actions.

QUESTION 1). Based on your perception of the natural quality of Clark Lake, please rank the following questions as having high, medium or low priority for action. The responses to this question are:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Votes for priority for action</u>			
	<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>No Vote</u>
Water Quality	130	28	4	4
Water Clarity	105	51	3	7
Water level mgt.	101	43	11	4
Shoreline Protection	101	39	12	7
Fertilizer/Insecticides	100	39	11	9
Boat impact on bottom	99	47	9	4
Loss of bulrush	97	51	13	5
Loss of shoreline habitat	97	44	15	4
Fish population/fishing	90	49	12	8
Watershed runoff	66	71	14	8

Other areas suggested for action included controls on jet skis and time limits (8 votes).

**ACTION PLAN:**

- On water quality and clarity, continue the education program of slow-no wake operation in shallow waters, improve watershed runoff through Logan Creek protection (discussed later).
- On water level management and shoreline protection, improve operation of dam to ensure compliance with DNR order and minimize ice damage (discussed later)
- On boat impact on bottom, loss of bulrush and loss of shoreline habitat, maintain current program of voluntary slow-no wake operation in shallow water and improve resident and visitor awareness of program. Monitor effectiveness of voluntary program.

- On fish population and fishing success, continue yellow perch stocking program for another two years (2002 & 2003).

QUESTION 2). Do you support monitoring of:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Votes for priority for action</u>			
	<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>No Vote</u>
Water clarity & quality	122	26	3	8
Fish stocking/success studies	99	39	10	11
Loss of bulrush	97	44	9	9

Other areas suggested included monitoring of jet skis and water level/dam regulation.

ACTION PLAN:

- Maintain existing volunteer water clarity and quality monitoring and request DNR re-establish Clark Lake under state funded long term water quality monitoring program.
- Request DNR conduct fish surveys to identify stocking success and overall fishery. Coordinate efforts with Kangaroo Lake and offer use of lake volunteers to help in surveys.
- Continue monitoring of lake level and operation of dam by directors and meet with Sevastopol board to review recent mis-operation.
- Share results of bulrush surveys conducted by lake directors with DNR and request recommendations on repopulation and/or protection of remaining stands.

QUESTION 3). How do you rate the overall quality of fishing?

<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No Vote</u>
8	78	52	21

ACTION PLAN: See action plan for questions 1 & 2.

QUESTION 4). What lake area (east bay, north end, south end, other) do you believe should be protected from damage from boats/jet skis?

<u>Area</u>	<u>Number of yes votes</u>
All	39
North End	36
East Bay	30
South End	18
Shallow/Edge	17

Comments on this question included 3 votes suggesting there is no damage and/or no lake area needs protection, and existing regulations are adequate. Other comments suggested protection of Muellers bay and west shore.

**ACTION PLAN:** Your board recommends: maintain the existing voluntary no-wake zone around the edge of the lake; improve effort to educate lake residents and visitors on program; install two buoys (one at each boat ramp) at 200 feet from shore showing the set back from shore for low, no wake speed operation under existing state water regulations.

QUESTION 5). Do you support protection of the Clark Lake watershed (Logan Creek)?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>No Vote</u>	<u>No</u>
114	34	9	2

**ACTION PLAN:** Your directors voted to join an effort organized by the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department to work with farmers in the watershed to improve vegetated buffers along Logan Creek and its tributaries. We will be contributing \$2000 from the Mrs. Wanie fund towards this effort and several of your directors have volunteered to walk the water shed and meet with local farmers.

QUESTION 6). The following questions are meant to identify your uses of the lake. Please rank these lake use issues as having high, medium or low priority for action.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Votes for priority for action</u>			
	<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>No Vote</u>
Jet Ski Speed	124	24	18	3
Jet Ski Noise	96	39	21	3
Level of jet ski traffic	88	46	19	6
Boat Speed	76	41	35	7
Boat Noise	38	63	51	7
Level of boat traffic	31	70	47	11

Comments on this question reflected the majority of votes towards problems with jet ski speed, noise and level of jet ski traffic. At least 11 comments addressed establishing limits on jet ski time use and keeping such craft out of shallow water.

**ACTION PLAN:** Your board recommends establishing ordinances with both townships to establish slow-no-wake operation limits on jet skis and related equipment after either 5 or 6 pm and before either 9 or 10 am. Enforcement of the ordinance would be by DNR. This recommendation will be voted on tonight.

QUESTION 7). Please identify the type of boats and lake use you and your family enjoy. This is an informational question only, no action is required.

<u>BOAT TYPE:</u>	<u>Positive Response</u>
All Other motor boats (fishing, pontoon)	112
Canoe	107
Sailboat	60
High Power (>75 HP) outboard boats	40
Inboard/IO Boat	29
Jet Ski	19
Jet Boat	9

<u>LAKE USE:</u>	<u>Positive Response</u>
Boating	130
Swimming	114
Fishing	106
Water Ski	75
Scenic	50

QUESTION 8). Do you believe we have appropriate safety measures in place to protect swimmers from boats at the swimming beach?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Vote</u>
73	49	35	2

ACTION PLAN: Maintain existing buoys at beach and continue program to educate residents and visitors on water regulations in swim areas. Monitor effectiveness of keeping boats under power out of swim area.

QUESTION 9). Do you believe we have appropriate law enforcement on Clark Lake in the form of DNR wardens?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>No Vote</u>
59	50	46	4

ACTION PLAN: Share results of survey with local DNR office and area wardens. Request enhanced patrols during peak summer periods.

QUESTION 10). Do you believe we have appropriate law enforcement around Clark Lake in the form of county and township officers?

<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Vote</u>
67	46	44	2

ACTION PLAN: Share results of survey with local law enforcement agencies. Request enhanced patrols of area.

QUESTION 11). Do you believe we have appropriate fire protection around Clark Lake?

<u>Township</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>No Vote</u>
Not Sure	6	4	30	119
Jacksonport	35	3	33	88
Sevastopol	15	7	22	115

ACTION PLAN: Share results with both townships.

QUESTION 12). Would you support or be interested in having a voluntary lake patrol person to advise boaters on where to operate their water craft on the Lake?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>No</u>
82	38	33

Eight of the 17 comments on this question voiced concerns that the lake patrol person needed to have law enforcement powers (Ex. DNR warden) to be effective. Several other comments questioned who would pay for this service, and concern that the person has a high degree of professionalism.

ACTION PLAN: Your board is reviewing this survey question and responses and will discuss this issue with DNR and other law enforcement agencies. We are also working towards improving the signs at both boat ramps and swim beach to provide more information on proper water craft use on Clark Lake.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

We received a total of 61 individual comments at the space provided at the end of the survey. Time does not allow reviewing each comment, but general trends focused on:

Jet ski control (20 comments)

Hour of use limits (14 comments)

“Thank you” messages for the survey (9 comments)