

A Summary of Public Input  
Related to Trout and Salmon Fishing in Connecticut  
October 2019 – December 2019



## Table of Contents

| Topic   | Page      |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Executive Summary</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Introduction</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Summary of Responses to Four Key Discussion Questions</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| • What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?                            | <b>7</b>  |
| • What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)? | <b>8</b>  |
| • Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?   | <b>9</b>  |
| • What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?                          | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Summary of Responses to the Preference Questionnaire</b>   | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Summary and Conclusion</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Appendix A: Individual Responses to each of the Four Key Discussion Questions</b>                      |           |
| • What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?                            | <b>13</b> |
| • What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)? | <b>17</b> |
| • Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?   | <b>22</b> |
| • What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?                          | <b>28</b> |
| <b>Appendix B: Trout and Salmon Fishing Preference Questionnaire</b>                                      |           |
| <b>Appendix C: Results from the Trout and Salmon Fishing Preference Questionnaire</b>                     |           |

Cover: Catching a first trout together is a great memory. Photo courtesy of Justin Atkins

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) if you: have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

## Executive Summary:

The Fisheries Division implemented three different methods to obtain angler feedback on preferences and desires related to trout and salmon fishing in Connecticut from October to December 2019. Four hundred ninety-two (492) people engaged with the Fisheries Division through face-to-face discussions, the webinar, or electronic surveys. One hundred seventy-one (171) of these people provided detailed feedback relating to four key questions asked by the Fisheries Division. The intent of this exercise was to engage with and obtain information from trout and salmon anglers to help guide and inform the development of a statewide trout and salmon action plan. Some of the key themes coming from these discussions included; stocking practices (bigger fish, more fish, spread fish out) communication and the sharing of information (about stocking and access for fishing, enforcement (lots of illegal activity is observed), habitat for wild trout populations, catch and release regulations, and reaching more youth and families. This document serves to summarize the information provided to the Fisheries Division through the various engagement methods held from October to December 2019.

## Introduction:

Connecticut has a long history of managing trout and salmon, which dates to the establishment of the State Fish Commission in 1866. The Initial charge of the Connecticut Fish Commission was to restore runs of Atlantic salmon, manage American Shad, and to restore game fish to inland waters. Early efforts were almost exclusively based upon “planting” newly hatched fry. Connecticut’s first state-owned trout hatchery opened in 1899 in Windsor Locks. At this facility, trout were held and grown from fry to a larger size prior to stocking. This capability changed trout stocking and created the capacity for the state to stock trout that could be immediately harvested (put and take fishing). Currently the State of Connecticut operates three hatcheries, which produce all of the trout and salmon stocked by the Fisheries Division. Since 1999, the Fisheries Division has been operating under the “Statewide Trout Management Plan for Rivers and Streams,” which greatly expanded trout fishing opportunities in CT. To best



manage trout and salmon, for the resource and anglers, the Division is developing a new five year action plan.

The Fisheries Division used three different engagement methods in order to acquire input from as many people as possible. 1) a series of face-to-face discussions, 2) a webinar, and 3) electronic surveys.

**1. Face-to-face discussions:** Six two-hour events were held at various locations around the state. The events were advertised from several weeks prior to the first date until the day of the event. Details about each event were distributed multiple times via the Weekly Fishing Report (N = 6,500), the *CT Fishin' Tips* newsletter (N = 9,500), the Connecticut Fish and Wildlife Facebook page (N = 30,000), and to all trout and salmon stamp holders in year 2018 or 2019 (N = 43,000) who provided an email address as part of their license profile. (Note that "N" in the preceding categories are not unique individuals, meaning the same person may have seen advertisement of the meetings via one or more of the distribution methods). Attendee registration was managed using *Eventbrite* software.

Each face-to-face discussion had two sections. The event began with a *PowerPoint* presentation covering fisheries funding (busting popular myths about how revenue from license fees are allocated), license holder trends, and a synopsis of past and present trout and salmon management in Connecticut. The event then transitioned to an interactive discussion led by the Fisheries Division that focused on four key discussion questions (notes taken on flip chart paper).

- What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?
- What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?
- Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?
- What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?

Attendees also completed a preference questionnaire, which was then entered into *Survey Monkey* by Fisheries Division staff.

## Funding Fisheries

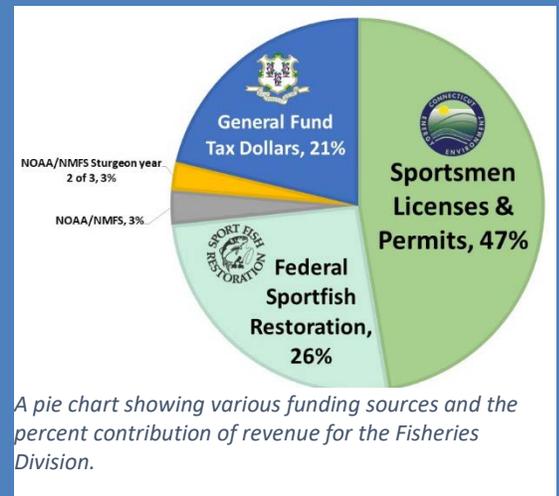
A very popular question often asked of the Fisheries Division is – “How much of our license fees does the Fisheries Division get?”

The answer is 100%! Per state law (CGS 26-15) all of the revenue to the state from fishing licenses fees must be allocated to the Bureau of Natural Resources.

The Fisheries Division has three major sources of funding –

1. License Fees (47%)
2. Federal Sportfish Restoration Funds (26%)
3. Tax Dollars (21%)

Numbers 1 and 2 are directly related to people participating in the sport of fishing. Your investment in the sport (licenses, tackle, equipment, motor fuel) provide about 73% of the revenue to support fisheries programs. Only 21% of fisheries related expenditures are funded from taxpayer dollars.



- 2. Webinar:** A webinar was hosted on Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm using *Zoom* conferencing software. The webinar invitation was posted multiple times on *Facebook* (N = 30,000) and to all trout and salmon stamp holders in year 2018 or 2019 (N = 43,000) who provided an email address as part of their license profile.

The webinar followed the same format as the face-to-face discussions. Participants were able to “chat” during the online presentation. To capture participant input, links (*Survey Monkey*) were provided to complete the preference questionnaire and answer each of the four key discussion questions.

- 3. Electronic Survey:** Beginning on December 1, 2019 the Fisheries Division solicited input from trout and salmon anglers who had not been able to participate in either the face-to-face discussions or the webinar. Participants could provide input using a link (*Survey Monkey*) to complete the preference questionnaire and a different link to provide their input to each of the four key discussion questions. Links to the electronic survey were provided via the *CT Fishin’ Tips* newsletter (N = 9,500) and *Facebook* (N = 30,000).



**How Many People Provided Input?** One hundred thirteen (113) people attended one of the face-to-face discussions and forty-five (45) attended the webinar (Table 1). One hundred seventy-one (171) people provided input to the four key discussion questions (Appendix A) with four hundred ninety-two (492) people answering the trout and salmon questionnaire (Appendix B and Appendix C).

Table 1. The number of people who attended and preregistered for the face-to-face discussions or participated in the webinar.

| Date/Location   | Attendees | Preregistered |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| <b>Face-to-Face Discussions</b>   |           |               |
| 10/5/2019 (Saturday) Quinebaug Hatchery from 3-5 pm with hatchery tour at 1:30 pm | 22        | 38            |
| 10/7/2019 (Monday) Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area from 7-9 pm            | 40        | 56            |
| 10/10/2019 (Thursday) Connecticut Forest and Park Association from 7-9 pm         | 12        | 27            |
| 10/18/2019 (Friday) Quinebaug Hatchery from 7-9 pm                                | 6         | 10            |
| 10/21/2019 (Monday) Kellogg Environmental Center from 7-9 pm                      | 26        | 40            |
| 10/22/2019 (Tuesday) Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area from 7-9 pm          | 7         | 7             |
| <b>Webinar</b>  |           |               |
| 11/21/2019 (Thursday) Webinar from 6 pm to 8:30 pm                                | 45        | 101           |

## Reponses to the Four Key Discussion Questions.

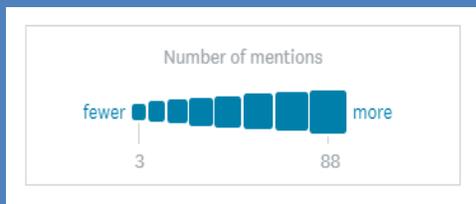
One hundred seventy-one (171) people provided their input to the four key discussion questions. All of the responses were evaluated in order to identify prominent themes. A word cloud was generated for each question to help quantify the number of times important words occurred across responses (see what is a word cloud below).

The four key discussion questions were:

- What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?
- What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?
- Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?
- What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?

### What is a “word cloud”?

### How do I interpret the graphic?



jogging walking playing soccer boating bike riding  
bird watching swimming frisbee hiking running  
snowboarding rock climbing sunbathing

A word cloud shows common important words and phrases survey-takers write in open-ended responses. Each phrase in a word cloud can be between 1-5 words.

The word cloud can identify singular and plural words, tense variation, and other similar words and phrases, then groups them together to display as a single word. For example, if the words "read," "reads," and "reading" appear in your responses, the word cloud might group them together to display as "read".

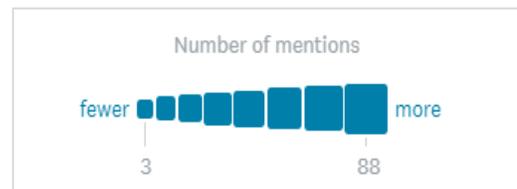
The word cloud also excludes some common words to highlight the important words in your responses. For example, if 100 people responded "I like dogs," we'll identify "dogs" as the important word.

## Question 1: What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?

The responses were predominantly (and almost universally) along the lines of “just being out fishing in a nice, clean, area on a beautiful day.” A close second was the inclusion of “catching some big beautiful looking fish.” These as well as several of the more common themes were:

- Just being out fishing in a quiet, clean, peaceful, secluded, location.
- Catching a fish, especially a big fish
- Not crowded – plenty of space
- Knowing that there are fish available to catch
- Being with friends and family
- Catching a wild fish

A “Word Cloud” for question one. The size of the word indicates the number of times that the word was mentioned across all of the 171 respondent answers. A smaller word does not imply any negative connotation. Individual responses are listed in Appendix A.

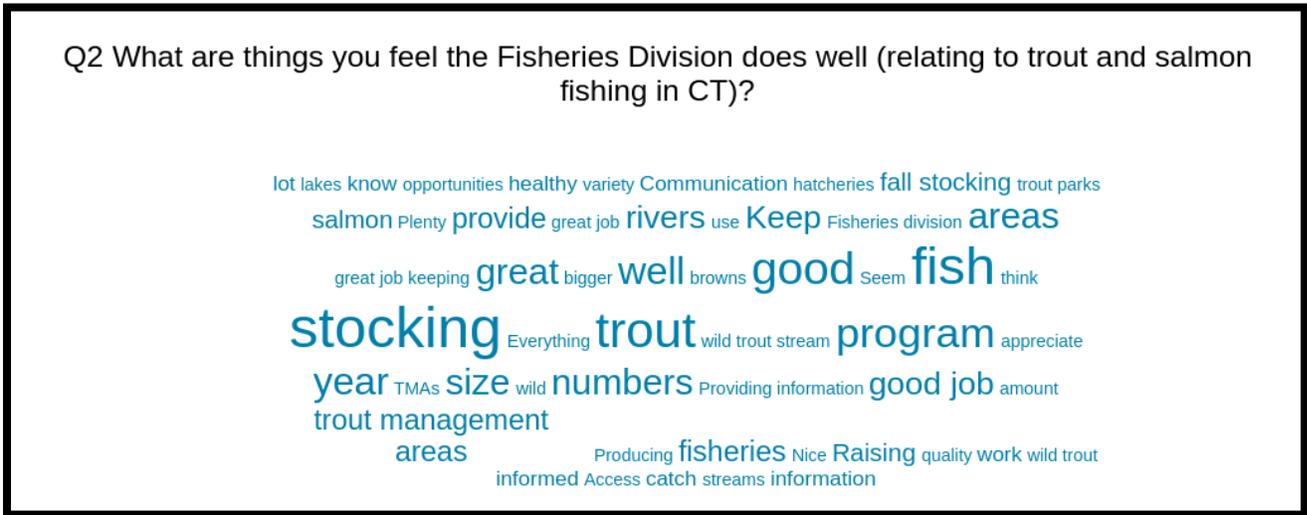
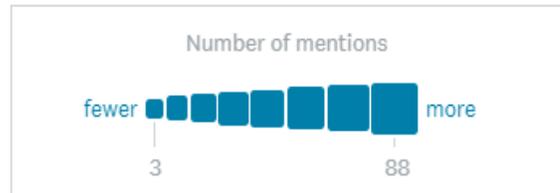


## Question 2: What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?

Responses tended to be along the lines of stocking lots of fish, providing anglers with timely and useful information, and having a dedicated staff who are able to provide quality fishing with the resources allocated to them. Common themes were:

- Stocking a variety of locations, sizes, and types
- Stocking frequently
- Hatchery program (raising quality fish)
- Communicating stocking and fishing location information
- Listening to anglers
- Resourceful at doing a lot with limited budget/staffing
- Survivor program on the Farmington River
- Trout Management – providing diversity of options

A “Word Cloud” for question two. The size of the word indicates the number of times that the word was mentioned across all of the 171 respondent answers. A smaller word does not imply any negative connotation. Individual responses are listed in Appendix A.

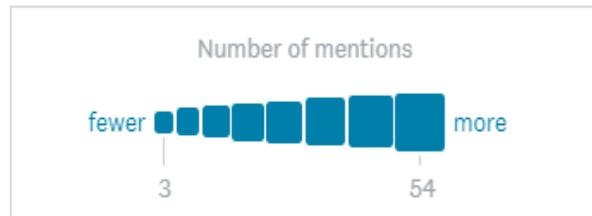


### Question 3: “Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?

The responses were diverse and varied with less agreement among participants within a meeting. Despite the diversity of comments, the most common answer by far suggested during the face-to-face discussions, was “enforcement of fishing regulations.” Other popular responses included:

- Stock more fish
- Stock bigger fish
- Stock more frequently
- Spreading stocked fish out along rivers and around lakes (use live carts or boats to stock)
- Protect and enhance populations of wild fish
- Improve/protect habitat for wild fish

A “Word Cloud” for question three. The size of the word indicates the number of times that the word was mentioned across all of the 171 respondent answers. A smaller word does not imply any negative connotation. Individual responses are listed in Appendix A.



Q3 Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?

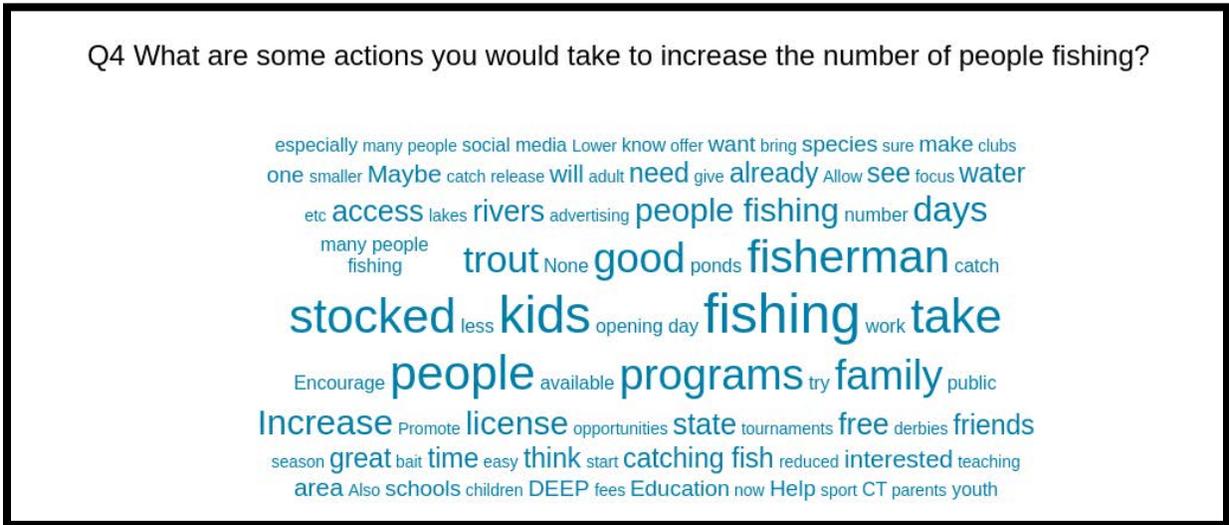
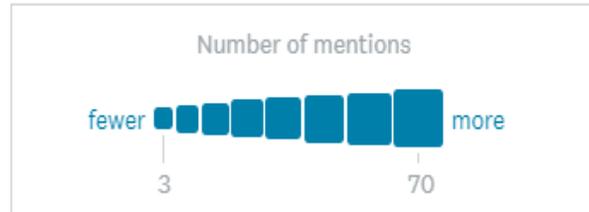
gone help certain always many things eliminate really usually larger trout season different Stop  
 produce Also popular wild trout possible CT emphasis open post Maybe improvement  
 fishermen large enforcement easier opening day trophy fall frequent Increase  
 couple see trout parks time license better brook trout salmon  
 Larger fish rivers number fish spread stocking  
 Farmington River trout sure areas allow catch removing  
 streams improved day great fish stocked spots think one  
 catch release kids less places lakes rainbow provide fly fishing fishery shetucket put  
 smaller program Naugatuck know waters Salmon river broodstock keep population people  
 species use focus access much reduce nice

## Question 4: What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?

Responses were split as many people felt that there are enough and even too many people fishing now. Addition of more anglers would make the current crowding problem even worse. Of those who felt increasing the number of anglers is important, responses largely focused on youth, education, and marketing.

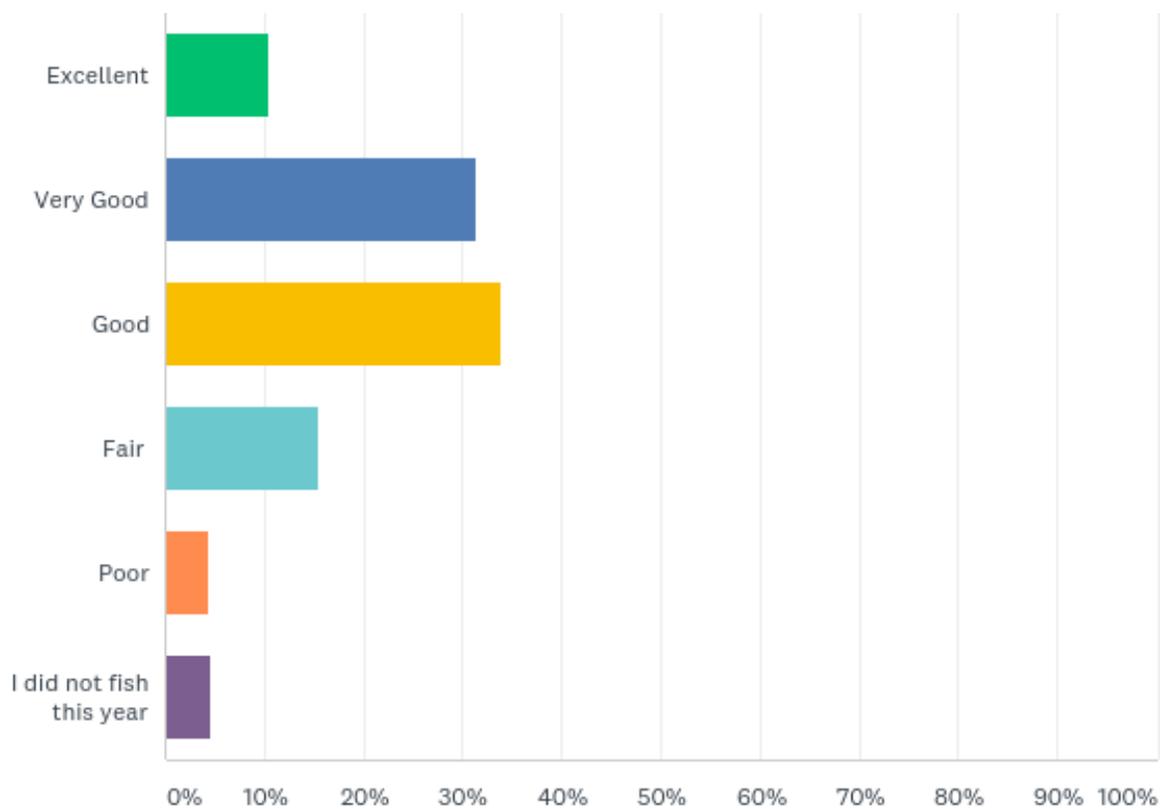
- None – there are too many and it is too crowded as it is
- Increase awareness of the quality and diversity of fishing opportunity
- Increase (or improve) access for fishing
- Engage and educate youth and families
- Facilitate contests and derbies
- More presence on social media and diversify platforms
- Create more opportunity in urban landscapes
- License Changes including lower fees, add a fee for those who are 65 and older (and currently get a free annual license), make non-resident fee same as resident, have license valid for 1 year from date of purchase, auto-renewal.
- Simplify regulations and rules

A “Word Cloud” for question four. The size of the word indicates the number of times that the word was mentioned across all of the 171 respondent answers. A smaller word does not imply any negative connotation. Individual responses are listed in Appendix A.



## Responses to the Questionnaire

Approximately four hundred ninety-two (492) people offered information about themselves and their trout and salmon fishing preferences through a thirty-five (35) question survey (Appendix B). The results (Appendix C) indicated most people are currently fishing 10-100 times per year, prefer to release their catch of trout or salmon, mostly fly fish, prefer to fish in Trout Management Areas, and would like to see the Fisheries Division maintain a balance of stocking large fish with the overall total number of fish. Based upon the Fisheries Division's angler surveys over the years, we know that people who fish for trout and salmon come from diverse backgrounds and have a wide variety of fishing preferences and desires. The responses acquired through this process were heavily skewed as most indicated they were white, male, over the age of 50.



*An example of the output from responses to the trout and salmon fishing preference questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of 35 questions seeking to obtain what respondents prefer and thought about trout and salmon fishing. The data above was in response to the question, "How was your fishing this year?" For a summary of all of the responses please see Appendix C.*

## Summary and Conclusion



The Fisheries Division appreciates the feedback provided by those who engaged with us. That said, the responses were primarily from a homogenous group of highly passionate, well-organized, and devoted trout and salmon anglers (i.e. those who prefer to release their catch, fish with fly equipment, and are white males age 50 and older). Through our on the ground angler surveys, the Fisheries Division recognizes there are many other trout and salmon anglers who have different preferences and desires. The Fisheries Division continues to seek ways to effectively reach, engage, and communicate with these other audiences.

Most people communicated that a “good day of fishing” involved being out on a nice day, surrounded by clean and high quality conditions. Catching was also important, however, not a deal breaker for having a good day of fishing (beats a bad day of work – right?). When catching was part of the criteria, large, beautiful looking fish, either hold-over or stocked were desired and many

suggested they would prefer catching a wild fish.

Most communicated that the Fisheries Division has done very well at providing a diversity of opportunities to trout and salmon anglers. They feel the fish are getting a bit larger and the quality is increasing. This despite their indication that the Fisheries Division does not have adequate resources. They were pleased with the level of effort put forth by the Fisheries Division, especially with stocking, communication of information, presence on social media, and continually seeking input from anglers.

Areas where the Fisheries Division could improve included: spreading the fish out more, enforcement of the rules and regulations, doing more to preserve and conserve wild populations, changing regulations to have year-round fishing, and increasing the amount of area covered by catch and release rules.

Finally, many felt increasing effort to engage with youth and families through a variety of efforts is critical to encouraging the next generation of anglers. However, a fair number of people indicated that there are too many anglers currently and attempts to create more would only further exacerbate the crowding issue.

The feedback obtained is very helpful as the Fisheries Division plans actions related to Trout and Salmon fishing over the next 5-10 years. We will continue to engage with our anglers to ensure our decisions and policies are relevant for as many as possible.

**Appendix A: Responses to each of the four key discussion questions provided by 171 people who were either at the face to face event or via the online survey (not edited except for minor typos).**

| <b>Question 1: What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?</b>  |
|--|
| having a chance to catch a few fish, and to release them back healthy  |
| Being able to catch some   |
| Catching fish and avoiding crowds  |
| Safe and easy access to Ct streams   |
| Catching fish and good friends/family  |
| Catching trout or a salmon on a fishing trip.  |
| Catching fish  |
| Being alone. The beautiful simplicity of just being out on a river by yourself is my favorite part   |
| If I see fish I had a good time. I don't need to catch them to have a good time.   |
| a nice drive, easy access to the water, and some action - i don't need to catch everything, but as long as i'm getting bites and the occasional fish, i'm happy to sit there for hours.  |
| The time to do it without worrying that you have to be someplace else or have something else you should be doing. Above freezing is nice, but otherwise the weather really isn't a factor. Personally I love the solitude, being where others are not (for the most part), or at least not congregated. Catching a few fish is nice, and a nice beefy one once or twice per year can make the day. Trout populations in a couple of places I fish are at least partly native and I enjoy that very much. Nearly all of the fish I catch are released unharmed. |
| A day outdoors with nature   |
| Access to high quality waters.   |
| Obviously any time fishing is a good trip. Catching 2 nice trout 14+ inches makes for a great trip.  |
| catching fish  |
| catching lots of fish  |
| Fishing in streams with a lot of trout.  |
| Well stocked   |
| Knowing that the fish are there and not wasting my time at a depleted fishing hole.  |
| Ability to catch lot's of fish, big ones are great, but more action is better than less  |
| Catching fish with family and friends  |
| Good access, lack of crowds.   |
| It's always great to catch a few fish, but for me a good trip is more about getting out on the water and enjoying a pristine setting away from noise. I don't mind sharing the water, but I do get annoyed when I see trash.   |
| I like being outside. Exploring new places. It's nice to catch something but I don't need to be reeling in fish after fish.  |
| Just getting out, not being crowded, catching some fish - but lots is not necessary  |
| As someone who grew up in the Midwest, I enjoy fishing in the streams of CT mainly for the view. Catching a few fish of a variety of species each time makes it a spot I'll go back to, but it's more about being out than catching the fish.  |
| A good trip consists of the following; a. Good weather b. good knowledge of where to know where the fish are c. open water w/ minimal people d. good water conditions, not too high/low, good temp e. friend to fish with (if possible)  |
| a beautiful stream and environment to fish   |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Question 1: What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?</b>   |
| The opportunity to be outdoors and have numerous locations to fish that are stocked by the state  |
| Good weather and quality fish caught.   |
| Catching wild fish in an environment that has been altered by people as little as possible.   |
| Quality fish  |
| A chance to be on the water and also to spend time with people who enjoy the outdoors make a trip great   |
| Fishing in a clean, well stocked and maintained river with well maintained roads and access. And seeing a conservation officer once in a blue moon enforcing regulations.   |
| Availability of accessible water and decent amount of fish  |
| That areas are accessible with reasonable habitat which would sustain/harbor fish. Of course chances of a hook up or two.   |
| A couple of quality 18" plus trout to c/r   |
| Number of fish caught, size of fish caught, potential to catch desirable species (more brook and rainbow, fewer browns), quality of habitat/watershed/environment where fish are available, access, minimized contact/competition with other anglers, ease of license purchase. |
| Fish to catch in the water one is fishing. Fish that have learned how to be a fish in a natural environment. Fish that cannot tell where your fly was made.   |
| Catching a bunch of fish. Scenic locations. Good weather.   |
| Quality of fish caught.   |
| No crowds and a few fish  |
| Non crowded waters  |
| a nice time on the water with minimal interference with other fisherman and a fair amount of action   |
| Finding An abundance of wild fish without having to work through stocked fish.  |
| Access to rivers, reasonable flow rates   |
| A bunch of fish caught in as little time as possible. Maybe a big one mixed in.   |
| good water levels, good weather, and fishing action some missed strikes and some fish caught & released   |
| Catch a few fish, relax, and spend time with family and friends. Keep a fish once and a while.  |
| Catching fish.  |
| Catching enough to make it challenging yet interesting  |
| Nice weather, good company, some fish to eat.   |
| Reasonable access to streams. Healthy Fish.   |
| Catching big fish   |
| Catching a big fish.  |
| The chance to find and catch a big one.   |
| Catch and release 2-3 fish and/or 1 trophy  |
| Catching large fish in a scenic area  |
| Catching a fish! Also I find it extremely difficult in the trout managed areas and I am constantly disappointed by the amount of tourist fisherman that take up the entire river!! They are rude and I feel that there should be somewhere locals can go as well!               |
| catching fish lol   |
| Catching a large amount of fish   |
| The opportunity to potentially catch fish in areas that are enjoyable to fish in.   |

**Question 1: What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

The season being open. Good quantities and density of fish. Trout management areas to allow fish to live on and be caught by others.

Catching at least one good fish

At least getting bites! Even better - a catching a variety of trout like at Wintergreen Lake or West Hill Pond.

We all go out there to catch. Size isn't all that important to me. Just being out on the rivers and landing fish is good enough for me catching a fish

Solid catches, and an array of species

Catching at least a few trout.

Variety

A nice catch

Obviously catching fish

Nice weather, chance of catching fish or at least seeing signs that fish are present. Lack of trash on the banks. Being able to find an area away from the crowds

Good weather and catching fish.

Both the opportunity to fish for trout and salmon as well as the potential to catch some fish

catching fish and no fishing pressure

Catching a fish

Harvest. Solitude.

being able to fool an animal in its own habitat and release it unharmed while enjoying nature at the same time

Fishing

Obviously, catching fish is a good trip. I release most, and in as less damaging as possible. IE) don't handle, just grab lure and dislodge hook. Like to spend two to three hours on water and at least catch a couple fish. Westhill Pond and Crystal Lake (Ellington) are favorites.

Just getting out fishing. Love places for me to go alone or with friends. Love places where I can take my kids and know they'll catch fish.

Having success with your children at a fishing spot

Fish opportunities and friends

Weather and friends

Fishing with my wife and catching g fish

Being out with friends

Just enjoying the outdoors with my kids or friends

Quality of fish and the quality of human beings that share our waters(i.e. not leaving garbage and treating the fish and surroundings with respect)

Finding fish without crowding from other fishermen

Areas which enforce the laws in regards to fly fishing only areas. Nothing angers me and my colleagues more than coming upon someone fishing with spinning gear or live bait in fly fishing only restricted areas.

No one at any of my spots

Not too busy at the river I fish in. I catch trout, more than 1....

It's the whole experience. Having the fish available to catch and having the shoreline access to get to the fisheries

| <b>Question 1: What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?</b>  |
|--|
| Good weather and legitimate opportunities to catching a decent fish. Good company and good location  |
| Nice weather, good stream conditions and a few bites.  |
| having an area that is clean, quiet and has trout  |
| Moderate warmth, low boat traffic, and a good number of biting fish with a real chance at large fish.  |
| Trout fishing on the Farmington river in the spring is a blast. Guarantee to catch decent size trout with a chance of a big one.   |
| Clear skies, sunshine, a good fly rod and fish in the water  |
| Decent weather and a quiet stream  |
| A clean river, a chance at wild fish and respectful fisherpersons and land users.  |
| Clean river banks and natural environment. Healthy fish over number of fish  |
| Just being out in nature, and having the fishing experience  |
| Good weather and a couple of nice fish to catch and release.   |
| Nice weather, being outdoors, seeing some fish caught  |
| Just being able to get out on the water.   |
| Scenic views and some fish.  |
| a large wild brown trout   |
| A good cup of coffee   |
| Great brood stock, great access, great parks!  |
| Fishing for trout is fun, catching them is even more fun.  |
| It's nice being out on the water. Knowing that there's fish around to catch always helps but I just like getting out fishing.  |
| Enjoyment of natural environment with opportunity to attempt to catch fish with flies in relative solitude   |
| Any time on the water enjoying the outdoors is good. Having a better than average chance of catching fish is a better day. Catching a large fish makes it a Great and Memorable day. |
| Abundant wild (or at least hold-over) trout.   |
| Catching wild trout, not seeing many other anglers.  |
| Being outdoors, without being overrun by people  |
| Seclusion, cold and clean water, wild trout, protected land.   |
| Catching wild brook trout.   |
| Landing a large rainbow trout.   |
| catching Decent (larger sized fish)  |
| Some nice stocked 12 to 16 trout catch and release at a trout park   |
| Catching a nice fish   |
| Catching fish  |
| Catching fish  |
| Catching fish  |
| Good weather, water conditions and catchable trout   |
| Being able to relax and catch fish   |
| Lots of good size fish   |
| Catching trout and salmon  |
| Being able to get out and try my luck  |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Question 1: What makes a good fishing trip (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?</b>            |
| Family and friends and hopefully limiting if conditions aren't crappy.                                     |
| beautiful time outdoors alone or with wife or a friend - a shot at some fish - I fished well               |
| Friends, good fishing conditions   |
| Family   |
| Stream is not too crowded, fish provide a challenge to catch   |
| Enjoying the peace and solitude of post-opening day fishing and perhaps seeing rising fish or hooking one. |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Question 2: What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?</b>  |
| try to cover a lot of different water options, skill levels   |
| Access areas  |
| Provide a variety of fishing opportunities for all levels. The trout management areas are also welcomed and ensure some wild fish remain in CT watersheds   |
| Selection of breeding stock   |
| Do a good job managing the hatcheries   |
| Raising trout and salmon for Connecticut anglers to catch.  |
| Trout raising   |
| Producing trout   |
| Raising our own fish makes for more and better fish.  |
| hatchery program, trout management areas/parks, stocking  |
| I think the number and quality of the fish being produced is pretty good. I think the species ratio is also pretty good for the most part. I look forward to having more time to take advantage of fall stockings in the Natchaug and the broodstock salmon in the Shetucket, but hunting season and other commitments have largely kept me from that. The wild trout stream designations and efforts are worthwhile. |
| Keeping up with the demand and health of the fish   |
| Outreach, youth education.  |
| I like all the FB stuff. Entertaining fisheries staff! Nice to know when streams are stocked. I take advantage of it. Thank you! I like all the big brook trout that are being stocked. Beautiful fish!!! That never happened in the past. Kudos  |
| keeping us informed on Facebook and the great job they do stocking  |
| stocking notifications trout management   |
| Providing info  |
| Trout stocking info online  |
| Posting where and when they stock on the interactive map.   |
| I think the stocking maps are great, and I think they do a great job of keeping the Housatonic and Farmington River in great fishing condition  |
| Providing information   |
| Providing information on the fishery and the survivor strain program.   |

**Question 2: What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|   |
|---|
| I think y'all do a good job of posting information to keep us updated.  |
| Good information and resources.   |
| provides adequate number of fish, stocks trout frequently enough, provides information when/where stocked   |
| Communication is good about where fish are stocked, both with signage at locations and online at the DEEP website.  |
| Provides good information of stocking schedule, good social media presence, great stocking techniques   |
| keeping the public informed   |
| Raising and stocking the fish during the year and keeping fishermen updated on things that are happening  |
| Informing the public of stockings, regulations, and places to fish.   |
| Communication is really good. It's gotten better in the past few years too.   |
| Listening to what fishermen have to say   |
| I feel the fisheries does a good job of listening to fishermen in the state.  |
| I like the effort that is being taken through these surveys. I just hope that action will be taken with data collected and applied.   |
| Appreciate the TMA 's. Especially in fall and early spring  |
| I have been fishing in the state for over forty years. Development of fly fishing and catch and release areas were a very important step to creating quality opportunities to catch trout. Subsequent programs have been positive.                                    |
| Trout parks,  |
| Strong anadromous fish habitat program, dispersal of effort through use of trout parks, strong commitment to traditional CT fishing values (opening day, good access, commitment of resources to coldwater managers), extremely visible conservation law enforcement. |
| Keeps the fishing opportunities diffused through the state  |
| Population control, stocking, and resources.  |
| Creating trout management areas.  |
| Everything  |
| TMA's   |
| I believe that there is a fair amount of opportunity  |
| Securing TMA's and WTMA's, providing protective regulations. Survivor Strain Program  |
| You have done a great job. I grew up in CT and moved to NH 30 years ago but now that I fish with my friend back in CT I have seen GREAT improvement in conditions and results.  |
| They work very hard to get all those fish stocked.  |
| works well with a poor budget   |
| I think the division does a good job protecting these species   |
| They do the best they can.  |
| They seem to show good sense in balancing our needs versus budget constraints   |
| Overall, they meet the requirements of a fisheries division commensurate with the funding they receive.   |
| Stocking.   |
| Stocking  |
| Spreading out the locations of stocked fisheries  |
| stocking large Atlantic salmon  |
| Their main river stockings are great.   |

**Question 2: What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|  |
|--|
| Early season stocking.   |
| Fall stocking, broodstock stockings, community fishing waters, wild trout management areas   |
| Stocks.  |
| stock sizes are excellent the catch and release policy means I almost every time (almost) always catch on good sized trout 16-20 inches  |
| Well stocked and areas are well kept.  |
| The stockings this year have been great and the Fall stockings were far better than in previous years. It was great to see and a great year overall! Great work DEEP. I appreciate all of the hard work.   |
| Outreach, stocking, management of TMAs   |
| This year great stocking. Good communication of when rivers were stocked   |
| Stocking both legal & seeders.   |
| The stocking program seems to be doing well. The fish look healthy. Usually with some stockies they can look beat up and dull, this hasn't been the case this year. Keep it up.  |
| stocking areas of rivers are accessible  |
| Stocking seems to go very well   |
| Everything they do is great, except the timing of the fall stocking.   |
| Nice fish  |
| Stocking and listing access points   |
| Stocking fishing ponds   |
| Well stocked with a variety of fish on a regular basis   |
| Stocked fish seem fairly distributed to various locations.   |
| You stock plenty of fish and keep the public abreast of where the fish are stocked as well as how they get there (through Facebook videos, for example)  |
| Fisheries division is doing a good job stocking and communicating when stocking occurs   |
| Stocking regularly, holding interactive discussions  |
| Stocking trout.  |
| stock healthy fish and try to manage a tough challenge to preserve a vital part of our ecosystem   |
| Stocking.  |
| Trout fishing has been good for several years. West Hill trout are nicely sized. Catch lots of 13 to 14 inch fish.   |
| Balance of fish quality and numbers.   |
| the event I attended last year where you get to help stock was great for the kids.   |
| Much improved stocking, especially fall.   |
| Opportunities to catch fish, meaning that there are fish present in the river/stream you are fishing. Aside from stocking fish, spreading the fish out within the river/stream system as much as possible would improve opportunities. Fewer people on the water is a plus, but I understand that is counter to CT DEEP objectives 😊 |
| Stocking amounts   |
| Stock a lot of fish  |
| Stocking fish, with a good chance of catching a trout in the management areas  |
| They do a great job of keeping or lakes rivers streams and ponds stocked for us  |

**Question 2: What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|   |
|---|
| The amount of fish and areas stocked is impressive  |
| Multiple stocking in the season. Had fall stocking for the first time and got my 2 and 4 year old grandchildren out catching rainbows on a spinner retrieving themselves.   |
| Continuing their support for stocking programs. Findings and securing adequate funding to maintain these programs adequately.   |
| Consistent stocking   |
| Seem to do stocking program well.   |
| Plenty of trout early season  |
| I believe they do a good job of stocking trout  |
| Stocking and communicating.   |
| I fish a lot of other states and Connecticut by far has some of the best looking stocked trout. The wild trout management program is also top notch   |
| Keep stocking areas heavily where kids can have a very good chance at success.  |
| Fisheries division does an excellent job of keeping anyone from a first time fisherman to an expert happy fishing CT trout. Tons of options from ponds lakes streams and rivers to best fit what you like and enjoy doing. Boat wade and land fisherman all have many options to choose from in CT to trout fish. |
| stocks healthy fish, provides info about the fish and where they are at   |
| Stocking fish   |
| Stocking, access, TMAs, trying to help wild fish hold over, protecting fish during hot/low water.   |
| They provide good fishing in a lot of specific areas.   |
| Stocking, maintenance   |
| Stock fish.   |
| Stocking program seems to work. Seem big fish pulled out of Mt. Tom.  |
| Everything from raising the fish to stocking and marking sure our rivers and streams support both stocked and wild fish.  |
| Stocks the main streams and management areas.   |
| Stocking  |
| Stocking fish   |
| Create great rivers Farmington and Housatonic etc. Great job, great camping opportunities!  |
| I think you folks have done an amazing job with the Farmington River. I would like to see more thought given to the Housatonic recognizing with problem with warm water on that fishery.  |
| Farmington has been really healthy. Big browns and a healthy population of smaller fish. I enjoy the salmon fishing (rivers) in the fall to early spring, this has been a lot of fun.   |
| I fish the Housatonic. I feel that I have a good chance to find healthy trout and "match the hatch"   |
| Grow and stock trout for the Housatonic and Farmington rivers to make them well know trout areas. The stocking of trout and management of trophy trout lakes.   |
| Well manages the Farmington and Housatonic Rivers.  |
| Salmon programs (both Atlantic and kokanee) Survivor strain trout Class 1 WTMA's  |
| Wild trout streams  |
| I appreciate the class 1 wild trout streams   |

**Question 2: What are things you feel the Fisheries Division does well (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|   |
|---|
| I like that there is interest and investment in having some water at least left alone for wild brook trout. I wish there was more and that the stocking of waters connected to wild brook trout streams would not be with browns or rainbows that over time decrease the brook trout populations. |
| Wasting money on trucks that do not carry many fish.  |
| No comment  |
| Don't know  |
| I don't know enough to say  |
| Not sure but do what we used to do  |
| Taxation on a license I'm already paying for  |
| I Don't trout fish and don't stock the lakes like they use to do  |
| Not much  |
| Taking our money  |
| N/A I come for opening day with family. I'm a Tennessee resident  |
| I am not super knowledgeable about what the fisheries division does   |
| Very little   |
| no opinion  |
| Stocking frequency (spring AND fall). Health of the fish Size of fish is reasonable.  |
| Keeping rivers and streams stocked for good fishing all year long not just in the spring.   |
| stocking reports are excellent.   |
| keeping up the hatcheries   |
| Plenty of fish in the spring.   |
| Stocking a lot of fish and wide variety   |
| Special trout management areas (stocked with adults) provide good to excellent fishing.   |
| informing anglers of stockings and increasing species available   |
| They do the best they can.  |
| Trout stocking is well done.  |
| More information than ever  |
| Not sure  |
| Trout in the classroom program  |
| It has done a excellent job with the Farmington River trout fishery. Nice size survivors, holdovers and wild trout. Since the salmon program has not come to fruition, it should be abandoned for now and funds spent on better trout fishing.  |
| Stocking  |
| Has some of the small streams well stocked. Still decent access to many of them. Stock fish look healthy.   |
| Multiple stocking days throughout the year and spreading the fish around. Announcing stocking times is nice too.  |
| Trout stocking numbers have increased and the fish sizes are also bigger  |
| Great variety, good numbers of fish, good communication.  |
| Stocking more places for handicapped people   |
| Good job in trout parks and management areas  |
| Number and size of fish   |

**Question 3: Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|  |
|--|
| create more catch and release areas, no bait areas   |
| Providing information related to fishing in fall   |
| Establish more wild trout with an emphasis on brook trout, not non-native browns. PROVIDE MORE ENFORCEMENT!!!!   |
| Have more webinars podcasts YouTube social media exposure. Sponsor a CT fishing video game / app   |
| Stock more in the quiet corner of the state. From Canterbury through Thompson. Just not enough fish for the number of fishermen  |
| Raise more 15" tiger trout. The cross breed, brookie and brown trout. They fight like a 15" Atlantic salmon.   |
| Get more fish in the lakes, less in the trout parks the fish will die anyway during the summer months.   |
| NO OPENING DAY. SPIN FISHERMEN TAKING TOO MANY FISH OR UNDER LIMIT TROUT. If there would be no opening day this would reduce the amount of jerks who only go fishing on stocking days to take fish. Very unfair to fishermen like me who are out fishing everyday grinding and working for our fish. Too many times I see spin fishers leaving with a bucket full or stringer with 5+ trout. DO NOT REVEAL AN EXACT DATE WHEN YOU WILL BE STOCKING. Very frustrating for a dedicated fisherman   |
| Improve/provide more trophy fish.  |
| easier access, or at least more signage on areas that lead to potential fishing areas.   |
| The one big thing that I would love to see happen is the return of float stocking into more remote areas. There are sections of rivers and streams here in my area and certainly throughout the state that are beautiful, magnificent areas for trout fishing that stocking trucks simply cannot access. Decades ago I would hike in and fish these areas and bump into good numbers of fish over the course of a mile or more and burn up the better part of a day doing it. Then it became a long hike for fallfish, a smallmouth or two, and rarely a native trout. It was still fun, but not nearly as much fun. This is the most important potential improvement for the CT trout fishery that I can come up with and I really hope that the concept was discussed at one or more of the meetings that were held. As it turns out, it looks as if I will be retiring rather soon. If the Fisheries Division were to consider re-instituting the concept of float stocking, I would volunteer some time to help facilitate that. There will always be a place for bridge fishing, whether it be the instant gratification for those that go fishing a few times in the spring, or those with access issues which we all will have some day, and such. But I feel that there are large concentrations of fish being stocked in certain spots and they don't last very long. There's plenty of places to spread them out. Other than that, just a few more larger fish would be nice; not a lot more, but some more. Even the Natchaug as a 'Trophy Trout Stream' doesn't really seem to have too many fish that are any bigger than any place else. |
| I really don't know  |
| Out reach to school districts to make them understand the importance of timing spring vacations during the opening week. Our district blindly does it based on Easter and other convenience timing.  |
| Creel limit is confusing. I have to consult the regs periodically for this. Change the creel limit to 3 trout for all waters. Stock fewer trout but larger sizes. 13+ inches. Catching 11 inch stocked trout are lame. I know. I know. Kids just want to catch something. I'm not a kid. Lol. Hey, thanks for all you do. Keep up the hard work!   |
| opening day at the trout parks there should be more fish stocked than the 500 usually they put in its usually fished out by Sunday   |
| training/educating how to properly "catch and release" trout. increase trout hatchery capacity   |
| Stocking areas that are in Salmon river fly fishing only area  |
| Stock some larger trout  |
| Get rid of all of the catch and release fishing spots. Dishonest people take advantage of the situation and keep the fish anyway. Also get rid of any areas that have a reduced creel limit. For the same reason.  |
| Managing Candlewood Lake - Connecticut's largest lake - trout are near impossible to find their now. Also looking into other areas to test stocking - i.e. Lake Lillinonah above lovers leap but below Housatonic dam in New Milford - water is high in dissolved oxygen, and summer temperatures typically don't exceed 75/80 degrees. Both the Still River and Housatonic enter Lillinonah there, so already there are some trout, but that could be a great fishery for trout.  |
| Improving habitat and mandating more catch and release only areas  |

**Question 3: Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|  |
|--|
| Avoid making wild trout in the Farmington compete with hatchery fish. Defeats the purpose of the Survivor Strain program.  |
| n/a  |
| I'd like to see more emphasis on fostering wild populations. Stocked trout are nice but I really like catching trout that weren't stocked in streams no one else is fishing.   |
| Delay by 1-2 days announcements of when fish are stocked and posting publicly. Too many people are catching newly stocked trout. Let the fish acclimate a bit - they should last longer. I would not apply this to Trout Parks - catch and keep quickly is what these are designed for, especially kids.   |
| I would like to see more streams opened up for fish migration, with dams either being removed or with fish ladders installed to allow migration.   |
| Not sure where they could improve? Maybe stock more larger fish?   |
| improve and restore the wild trout population  |
| From what I have seen in the past years things have been improving and I can't think of anything   |
| Quantity and size of fish stocked could be increased.  |
| N/A  |
| Larger fish  |
| I would like to see improved emphasis on wild fish and improving habitat in order to improve overall fishing. Conservation THROUGH sporting!   |
| Stocking when conditions are best relating to river flows. And evenly dispersing stocks to a wider range of waters. And timing stockings so that the fish have time to acclimate and disperse. Not dumping fish a few days before opening day. Also not a big fan of DEEP posting when and where stockings were done on social media. I'm old school, and believe in actually going to the river and fishing to find out if the waters were stocked.   |
| I think they do a good job now but I guess more fish being stocked would be an improvement   |
| I believe year round season with no opening day and specified zones with longer period catch and release before allowing anglers to keep one or two fish per day.  |
| More enforcement, larger trout, more salmon, more trophy trout   |
| These are relatively minor suggestions; overall I think CT DEEP staff are amazing people doing and amazing job. Suggestions: Increase participation in Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (increase learning and strategic planning with other partners; access to additional funding for habitat restoration). Increase integration and leveraging of habitat programs to focus effort on resilient, high quality coldwater habitats (e.g., Partners for Fish and Wildlife, NRCS, NFWF Bring Back the Natives program, increase partnerships with USGS and USFWS). Minimize or eliminate use of brown trout. Increase research for management of coldwater fisheries management (see above: this can be done by leveraging state resources with existing federal resources: USGS Coop Unit at UMass, USGS anadromous fish lab). Advocate for increased technical assistance from USFWS (can contact USFWS Regional Director about expanding or refocusing their Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program's activity into CT -- currently limited to Mass. and other northern New England states -- CT is missing out). Seek new opportunities to expand hatchery capacity (seek reimbursable agreement with USFWS for use of their hatcheries for production of RBT, explore opportunities to purchase from private vendors). Increase assessment / optimization of hatchery products. Increase reliance on existing fisheries expertise within CT DEEP while minimizing use of opinions from armchair know-it-alls like me. Improve quality of web page (current page would look great ... if this was 1993). Increase visibility and support to CARE (this program is the model aquatic ed program for the rest of the US). Increase ability of and encourage state biologists to interact with fisheries professionals from outside of CT (info sharing costs little and is always a good thing; provide them ability to travel to national meetings, i.e., Annual AFS meeting, not just SNEC meeting). Put vision and strategic plan on the web site (might already be there, I just don't see it). |
| A few more in total number and a few more stocked in the fall as soon as water temps allow. This fall stocking could be spread out with 2 stockings over 4-6 weeks.  |
| More salmon habitats and stocking. More enforcement of laws and regulations.   |

**Question 3: Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|   |
|---|
| We need more strict year round catch and release regulations.   |
| Don't know  |
| Do away with \$5 trout stamp and raise all fishing licenses by the \$5  |
| definitely stocking the entire fly fishing area of the Salmon river equally   |
| Push to promote wild trout fisheries like the Farmington River TMA, stop stocking rainbow trout in these areas when they provide competition to brown trout when most rainbows are not reproducing or lasting longer than a season. Promote/push the reintroduction of native brook trout.  |
| You're doing a good job!  |
| Get back to loading up rivers and lakes so people catch stringers and stringers of fish.  |
| matching up trout species that do better in certain rivers  |
| I think that the fisheries division could be more prominent with social media, showing interesting conservation efforts, events, show what you guys do on a day to day basis.   |
| Better enforcement of regulations.  |
| More frequent stockings (not necessarily more fish)   |
| Seminars on best practices for catching trout and salmon in CT.   |
| Provide support to habitat improvements that encourage holdover trout and more enforcement of regulations worth added conservation officers.  |
| Arresting poachers  |
| Bring more salmon into CT   |
| Stock larger trout in lakes.  |
| The smaller brooks and streams could use a little more love.  |
| Stock more locations. Set lower cull limits. Create a self-sustaining population. Stock less numbers more often.  |
| Simplifying regulations and management types  |
| Be more present! Especially in Riverton!  |
| Lower the license fees for out of state over 65 or out of state veterans We drive over and fish usually during the week when locals residents are working and being retired usually spend more money for gas, food, fishing stuff and lodging etc. than a state resident  |
| More areas, some areas get very over populated with fishermen.  |
| Poaching has become a huge problem in many areas. It seems to be on the rise with the publication of the Stocking Reports on Facebook. As a fly angler, and a catch and release only fishermen; we have a very short spring season to catch any fish. We got fish on the Saug in late Feb last year which was great, but those fish were gone in 2 weeks. They had been pulled out by night time poaching. Enforcement remains a big issue. When the DEEP is called, they often respond but often don't return to same location for days or weeks. I would love to see the officers more consistently. One thing that may help is having an officer patrol the recently stocked areas for a week or so after the fish are put in. That will potentially discourage egregious poaching. A few hours each day for a week after stocking would do wonders. The fly anglers that are all catch and release have a short Spring season for most TMAs already. It would be great if enforcement could correspond with stocking efforts to keep poaching to a minimum. |
| Eliminate the fixed season. Have fishing open year round. Eliminate the "great trout slaughter" via opening day where people literally clean out and kill stocked fish in certain areas. Kent falls is a prime example. As is Macedonia. Spend money on educating the masses on catch and release and how fish are proven to live on and allow other fisherman to catch them. Reduce or eliminate the creel limit and require catch and release. Manage the CT waters like they so successfully do in Montana and Colorado which enrich the state with money, the fisheries dept. with money, and draw people from all over the country. Pie in the sky: convert the Housatonic dam to bottom Fed and allow the Housatonic to achieve its true potential with stable water temps and thriving fish.   |

**Question 3: Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|   |
|---|
| I think more salmon in rivers and release them a bit earlier (Shetucket).   |
| Opening day should be different days for trout/salmon vs. bass. CT could open trout/salmon on April 1 & bass on June 15. Then both species spawn times are protected.   |
| I would really like to see more fingerling releases along with the normal stocking program going on. Gives fish the chance to grow up in the river and settle into a better "native" setting. I would really like to see a better DEEP game warden presence checking license and such.  |
| more fish, more enforcement   |
| More species of fish in more lakes and ponds.   |
| Stock lakes earlier in the fall - mid to late September.  |
| Bigger Kokanee in East twin   |
| Add additional fly fishing only zones   |
| Habitat and stream enhancements projects.   |
| The daily stocking updates hurt smaller rivers, a couple anglers can show up after seeing fish are stocked and clean out a pool. Waiting a couple days to publish stocking will give the fish some time to spread out and maybe survive the first group of anglers that show  |
| Produce more stocked fish.  |
| nothing   |
| More game wardens catching poachers enforce regulations Increase fee for out of state licenses  |
| More monitoring of vital fisheries (More Econ officers on Naugatuck river)  |
| More salmon. More sea-run fish. More wild fish.   |
| do something in the eastern part of the state. All your attention is around the Farmington, Housatonic and Conn. rivers. Not everybody lives there  |
| Increase the walleye stocking for different lakes. Zoar and Lilly, is a waste of time, due to consumption advisory.   |
| Kokanee Salmon fishing has disappeared from Westhill. Can still go to East Twin and catch a decent amount of salmon, but the travel time is extensive. I had an email conversation with Ed Machowski in 2018 and last march 2019. I have put in extensive time at Westhill with no results. Ed stated that there is a history of swings in Kokanee abundance. It has been since 2014 where I've seen the dramatic reduction. This year the same. So wondering if more research into the heart of this matter is needed. |
| More areas, though tough if capacity cant also increase. Also, places that are more kid only. In PA where I grew up, there were small but highly accessible areas for just kids to fish that were stocked a lot. I know CT has less access areas than PA, but I had a lot if great memories of those trout spots.   |
| i think you should stock bigger fish are more places, i think you are to limited where you stock the big fish. more stockings of less numbers of fish. don't stock so many fish on the first stocking. space it out.  |
| More enforcement of trout stamp requirement especially in TM areas of Farmington River during fall.   |
| More information marketing  |
| Stock more frequently   |
| Stock some of the smaller less popular areas.   |
| Not sure...   |
| The inclusion of Fly fishing only spots in the Farmington River similar to what has been done on the Housatonic   |
| More frequent stocking  |
| Increasing broodstock stocking numbers. Increasing the frequency of stocking in the Shetucket   |
| Loosen up restrictions on salmon fishing  |

**Question 3: Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

Doing good job now.

Access to the fisheries. There is often a lot of debris in the water or river that causes overcrowding at the areas that are open. More Tiger trout would also be nice

stock more fish in the fall to give ice fisherman more opportunities. There needs to be much more focus on catching illegal/unlicensed fisherman

More fish stocking.

The one thing I would like to see is the spring stocking spread out a bit more.

Increase staff so you are better able to catch and prosecute violators of fishing regulations.

Personally would like to see less fish and bigger fish. No need to catch 50-100 trout every time would much rather catch 1-10 big fish 3 pounds and up. Also personally think the salmon fishery should be stopped and money used for the trout. My couple experience with the salmon fishing was watching people stalk and try to snag salmon. Maybe I am missing out on something good but have not been impressed with what I seen the couple times I have tried.

Increase output of fish if possible. Keep streams healthy

Farmington River

Enforcement, both on the water and along the rivers. I had a nice day in October on the Naugatuck in Campville, except for the six dirt bikers who ran back-and-forth along the same three-quarter mile trail the entire time I was fishing. They were even running off of the rail trail through the fishermen's paths along the river. The smell of two-stroke exhaust really cast a pall on the day.

Better policing of regulations and improvements to habitat. Healthier fish by spreading them out a bit more

no need to improve

Stock more fish. Police game hogs.

no comment, not knowledgeable

I can't think of anything at this time.

Put a salmon hatchery right on the salmon River and start stocking the backwaters.

More salmon

Stock more salmon at Shetucket

Good job

As mentioned above, please focus more on the challenges of the Housatonic River. Fishing pressure there is light compared to the Farmington.

I think dumping the Atlantic salmon in the lakes is a waste of time. Throw them in the Shetucket and Naugatuck. There's enough fishing pressure already on the small number of salmon that are put in each fall in these rivers. I also think the catch and release season is too short for the atlantics. The rivers are usually stocked by mid-October giving only two months (8 weeks, or 16 weekend days) to fish for these fish before the guys come in and clean them out. That doesn't include the guys that don't care and poach the salmon before December...Kokanee seem like a waste too. From what I hear, guys snag them to fill the coolers. If there were a river you could throw the Kokanee in then I think you would get more guys fishing for them.

Based upon my limited experience (Housatonic) I think you are doing well and god knows it ain't easy

Education. I see many bass that I catch in a Trout Lake (Highland Lake, West Hill Pond, Twin Lakes) have their jaws busted. This is a bad habit of old time trout fishermen. I also think that making it easier to know for certain where you can fish in streams and rivers. I wanted to fish the Housatonic River one warm summer day and the rules in the Fishing Guide were terrible. I decided not to drive out and try fishing as I did not want to be in the wrong area.

**Question 3: Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|  |
|--|
| Do NOT stock waters that have a strong native trout population, which might dissuade anglers from fishing such waters and removing the trout from same.  |
| Less stocking, more preservation of wild fish.   |
| Stock trout along entire rivers as opposed to only off the bridge or heavily in trout parks full of people.  |
| Protect land surrounding the best quality streams.   |
| I think they could put more effort into stopping the spread of introduced trout species (browns and rainbows) into surviving wild populations of brook trout.  |
| Stocking large rainbow trout all year and not lying about not doing it.  |
| Resume boat-in season stocking   |
| Take care of the Quinebaug hatchery there the only hatchery that can produce fish  |
| Don't know   |
| Increase # of stocked fish. Stop towns from removing fallen trees from the water that create habitat (I see it a LOT in Fairfield/Mill River along Brookside)  |
| More salmon and stockings program back with the #s of fry and the size of the fry  |
| Remove the fee   |
| Stock evenly based on population throughout the state  |
| Again more salmons in the lake and early as possible   |
| Put some large fish in the trophy areas. You limit the catch to 2 and put in a meager amount of large ones. Especially at the camp grounds in the east   |
| Stocking fish  |
| No opinion, I'm a Tennessee resident   |
| better enforcement against poachers  |
| Stocking the whole stream and river not just at the bridges  |
| More fish for stocking in November and December  |
| More frequent postings around how the different fisheries programs are progressing. I used to look forward to the Quarterly Inland Fisheries reports which provided a more in depth view of how sea-run fishery programs were developing (or not), habitat improvements, etc. I remember the excitement around receiving the sea-run trout eggs from Europe a few years back, then stocking them in the Eight Mile River. Then crickets..... Only because someone brought it up during a fisheries presentation at a recent FRAA meeting did I hear that the program did not provide the return numbers one had hoped. I'd love to know more about this. |
| Spread the fish out as much as possible. Be more open to utilizing outside organizations to help with stocking. I understand that you may not always be able to rely on the help, but if it's offered why not plan for it but have a Plan B in place. I have participated in float stocking the Willimantic the past couple of years and it was a success for everyone. DEEP quickly deposited the fish in the float baskets and off they went. I think this is a GREAT option, and if there are not enough people to do it then the DEEP can just dump the fish as they usually do; not a great loss of time.   |
| They can improve on family fishing at rivers and streams not just ponds.   |
| I do not know  |
| stock bigger trout in class 3 wild trout streams limit to 1 over 16 inches   |
| Less or later drawdowns to facilitate launching for those with larger boats. More fish stocked in the fall and perhaps stocking done earlier.  |
| Stocking bigger fish. I would pay more for trout stamps if they stocked bigger fish. It gets a little boring catching 12 inch trout all day.   |
| Review stocking areas to eliminate or reduce stocking where parking is not present or difficult. More stocking emphasis on good streams and perhaps less on marginal ones. Continue stocking in good areas away from bridges to allow some remote fishing  |

**Question 3: Where do you think the Fisheries Division could improve (relating to trout and salmon fishing in CT)?**

|  |
|--|
| experiences. Determine if trout in Community Ponds are being utilized before the heat of summer sets in. Reconsider removing Wild Trout regs. on some of the larger more accessible streams, if they are not being adequately utilized. Maybe it would be better to eliminate the salmon program to produce more trout. Is the broodstock program still as popular as before? Some anglers on the Naugatuck seem to prefer to fish for large trout rather than salmon. |
| Steelhead in the Naugatuck river   |
| I do not understand the level of regulations on Class 3 WTMA's (i.e. Fenton River).  |
| Spacing stocking times so not only opening day fishermen could have a better chance of catching fish later in the season.  |
| Larger Fish  |
| remove the stamp tax   |
| Stocking - bodies of water are always being eliminated. Town Forest Park pond in Simsbury, needs to be stocked for opening day.  |
| Stocking distribution on the Salmon River and Yantic River hasn't been like it used to be...especially the Yantic. I would happily pay more on the trout stamp if it went to raising more and larger trout. I don't fish for brood Atlantic salmon, it feel like it's too niche maintain. Rather have funds invested in better trout stocking & sustainable trout fishing.   |
| I don't think you should make the put and take circumstances worse. I don't believe you should post stocking on line. Let some stocking be unannounced. I don't approve of put and take.   |
| Stop stock salmon parr....they have ruined fly fishing on some of the better small streams that have good access. Its a waste of money and wont work. Keep access open to small streams in northwestern CT. Don't like the trout stamp....not sure what that helps vs more money on top of the normal license.   |
| I would like to see more streams with year-round catch and release-only areas.   |
| Additional stockings of streams.trout Parks in the Fall  |
| I have no suggestions except enforcement which is outside of your jurisdiction   |
| More places for handicapped people for fish streams and rivers   |

**Question 4: What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?**

|   |
|---|
| I prefer to have fewer people fishing   |
| Sometimes there are too many people fishing.  |
| None.   |
| Encourage more youth to participate   |
| None there are already a great number of people who fish in my area   |
| Free trout fishing day first sat in May. Can keep one trout. No license day. Friends and family.  |
| Fish quality and quantity new species more walleyes, maybe a landlock program   |
| Nothing, I wish less people would to be honest due to the amount of disrespectful people I encounter. (Litterers, people not meeting regulations) |
| Hold more fishing days for kids.  |

**Question 4: What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?**

i have friends that want to go out a 2-3 times a year, but don't want to go through the hassle of getting a license or temp permit. It's not a great excuse, but it is valid. Can we get some sort of limited number of day passes with our licenses that we can give our friends/family? 3-5 passes a year, tied to a specific licensed angler where that angler needs to be present with the person using the temp permit? lock it on specific dates if need be, or have us register the dates, whatever it takes.

Obviously we need to reach the children, we all know that. I think the DEEP has programs in place to try to do that. Maybe we should double down on those efforts. Perhaps more specific age categories for those programs; the very young, the young, the young adult (and the adult). It seems doubtful that there's any way to get into the classrooms to showcase the pastime of fishing, or offer a field trip for interested children, because God forbid if we offend anyone. And if kids were not exposed to fishing by family or friends, getting them away from their cell phones for any amount of time for that will be a challenge. I wish I had the answers here, for hunting too. Thank you again for reaching out and I regret being unable to attend a meeting. I hope you can take a minute to read this as it took me longer than that to write it. And remember, if the Fisheries Division needs a little volunteer help with the 2020 float stocking program, let me know.

Get family and friends involved if possible

See above.

More promotion from Mike on FB!!! Take it to the next level!

reduce price of fishing licenses

I know some people that fish without license Kids will fish when they catch fish

Non opinion

You could tag some fish with a reward to catch. This could draw some new interest

Sponsor in fund fishing clubs at public schools.

- Stock more fish, specifically in the lake that MOST people boat on in Connecticut = Candlewood Lake. Also, more fish in easily accessible lakes like Candlewood and Lillinonah

Holding kids fishing and family fishing tournaments trails where points are earned per fish or per tournament attended. Prizes and pictures in the CT DEEP fishing guide.

Personally, I'd prefer less people fishing!

I think some fishing workshops would be fun--how to fly fish, how to choose a fly, how to make your own flies, knowing about baits, etc. That could be fun for adults and kids alike.

Mentors - especially for kids

I'm actually very happy with the number of people I see fishing--I have a good balance of people to network with but also no problem getting a good spot along the streams I frequent. What I would like though is to increase the awareness of responsible fishing--how to you get those who are fishing to be better stewards of both the fish species but also the watershed as a whole. I pick up way too much garbage left carelessly behind!

Maybe expand the number of species to target?

improve programs to introduce children to fishing

Talking to and showing people, especially parents, how fishing is a great sport and a great way to enjoy the outdoors

Lower the price of licenses and offer personal lessons to people who want guidance with fishing in addition to the C.A.R.E. program. Basically offer free guidance by a C.A.R.E. instructor.

Being people

Lower fees open more waters like lake quassapaug

I would like to see increased outreach to Universities and younger people such as reduced student license costs, high school programs and treating out of state students as in state residents to reduce license costs. There is incredible untapped interest with people who have never directly been exposed to actives today that ties people to communities in unique ways that resonate with people.

**Question 4: What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?**

Educate and share techniques. Mix the idea of fishing with taking in nature and observing and respecting the land and waters.

Maybe DEEP could have some type of mentoring program for people interested in fishing and matching them with older experienced fishermen who would like to teach and pass along their knowledge.

Allow "parents" ( adult mentor without fishing equipment ) take kids fishing without having to get a license. I realize regulations need to be followed. Perhaps a requirement of the parent is to carry a set of regs either on an electronic device or paper copy that can be shown to conservation officers. This way parents can explain to the child a fisherman's responsibility. Kids are the next generation to take on new recreational pursuits

Stock urban ponds with warm water species, more catfish

Minimize barriers to purchasing fishing license. Increase quality of licensing system (OK as is, could be better). Reconsider value of having a separate trout stamp (seems like nickle-and-diming the sportsman -- I'd just as soon see that cost rolled into an inland fishing license). Increase investment in CARE program and name a lake after Tom Bourret (has anyone ever done more for angler recruitment in CT? I think not). Seek out partnerships with Bass Pro -- increase visibility of CT DEEP within store. Seek out opportunities to expand advertising of CT fishing opportunities, quality of fishing, etc. (e.g., Opening Day build-up on local television and radio). Seek out and celebrate fishing successes through media (catches of record fish, opening of new fishways, establishment of new fishing accesses, etc.).

Would not promote more fisherman. Selfish I guess but alone on the water is great and catching fish is icing on the cake.

Local advertisements. Map of fishing areas. Stocking map posters.

I wouldn't. The current pressure on the trout/salmon habitat is too much. People destroy breeding redds and don't practice good catch and release treatment so that the trout ultimately die after they are out of sight.

???

I want fewer people fishing

That's tough our younger generations are addicted to electronic lazy and don't want to get dirty

Education in schools, clubs, after school programs, etc. Make it more available to kids who wouldn't be introduced otherwise.

Public awareness

Zero. Who wants more people out there fishing? I want to pull up to a spot and see no one fishing there.

marketing better on the benefits of getting outdoors and relaxing with nature

more promotion on social media.

None. There are too many people out there already.

Tell others of the benefits of fishing (other than catching fish) such as mental and physical health, and appreciation of nature

Encourage family events that include children getting to fish overstocked areas to guarantee catching something they can eat.

Help fishing organizations by providing care participants names of these to get involved with. Also, aim more programs at teens, women and girls and young adults.

Stock more and bigger fish

More family friendly "tournaments"

Have a mix of lakes with fewer but large trout stocked and some lakes with more but smaller trout.

I would stock smaller streams and brooks so, people won't feel like they're fighting crowds.

More fish will bring more fishermen. Longer catch and release periods will get people coming out all year not just when freshly stocked.

Simplify regulations and management types, discounted first-time buyer license

Around here I do not think that is an issue people flock here from all over and sadly there is never a place for myself and my children to fish no matter how early or late we go! These sports fisherman are rude!

**Question 4: What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?**

Again, over 65 and out state (or a veteran) a lower license fee. I have a few retired friends that would love to fish CT on occasions that do not want to spend the money for a full year license but do not think a few days license a few times a year is cost effective.

Increase public knowledge of fishing and also how to protect fish species.

State/local business sponsored fishing classes, a kids fishing derby at a trout pond, classroom outreach focused on fishing and hunting opportunities across the state. Information posted in state parks highlighting the angling opportunities in the area (not just regulations). Social media outreach showcasing some of the great fishing we have across the state. Encouraging papers and other media outlets to focus more on the resources available to CT residents. Fathers Day free fishing day w/ location recommendations. Videos on fishing in CT with tips and tricks posted on social media.

Outreach. Education. Bring in notables and publicize the heck out of it. For example: George Daniels, Lance Egan, Devin Olson. Start each large even by speaking to the masses. Encourage sustainable practices. Coordinate a well planned media campaign through print, internet, TV to reach CT anglers. Espouse the actions you are taking to make fishing amazing, the value you are bringing to CT fisheries and how every fisherman can help make it amazing by participating in growth and sustainability. Eliminate "fish in a barrel" trout parks and the patterns this sets of slaughtering trout. Instead have representatives there and teach catch and release. Eliminate the season which focuses far too many people on opening day and the typical taking of tons of fish.

Better marketing bigger fish. Awards for tagged fish maybe

Word of mouth! Social media.

The rivers can get crowded enough on the stocked rivers.

mentor programs for new fisherman to pair them with experienced anglers

Some sort of reward for biggest submissions in a set span of time. Maybe increase the creek limit from 5 to 6

Just what DEEP is doing.

Lower license fees

Open the CT River back up to bowfishing. Cut the elitist sounding "trophy fishing waters" Reduce license costs

Encourage catch and release early in the season so areas are not cleaned out within a few days of stocking

Increase the education opportunities to local scouting organizations and local schools.

Make more fish available

I'd rather have fewer people on the rivers

More social media targeted for youth

While well-intentioned, the licenses and regulations may be onerous for some... Conservation license->inland license->trout and salmon stamp->water body permit. What happens if I do not have the correct permit for this area and time of year? Am I allowed to park my vehicle here? Does this stretch of river have the same season, method of take and creel limit as a nearby body of water? What exactly constitutes a "free-swinging hook"? If I am approached by a conservation officer, is their presumption that I am in violation of the regulations? Is it their goal to issue a citation? Will a citation result in loss of fishing rights? Will it incur a financial burden? What should be a recreational experience becomes an intimidating undertaking.

fishing seminars and classes, especially for kids.

Better access to some lakes.

Fishing is a personal thing. Talking about fishing and maybe attracting a friend to the hobby would work. More so, I think taking children fishing and ensuring that they have a good time can turn them into lifetime fishermen. My grandchildren love fishing now. Hopefully forever.

Dunno. CARE program is great. I'm an instructor. Maybe more partnerships with schools, getting them blanket licenses for teachers to teach kids to fish and hope those students become fisherman/women.

|  |
|--|
| <b>Question 4: What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?</b>  |
| get involved in schools somehow. get kids more interested in it. set up field trips of some sort getting kids interested in it.  |
| A daily or three day license to allow newbies to try it out without full commitment. Similar to WY.  |
| Hire instructors to teach people interested in fishing.  |
| Have more family days  |
| Don't do anything, some of the areas like the Farmington river are too crowded and that is one of the reason I don't fish as much as I would like. Too many people.  |
| Bring my friends with me and my kids friends with me.  |
| Not a concern of mine  |
| I am teaching my grandchildren and will help any kid out there catch some fish.  |
| I am not sure. It is easy for me to take out grandkids since i am retired now. I can see how it difficult for thos families that have parents working more than one job to support their families leaving little or no time to expose their children yo this gteat sport. Possibly more funding from the state to provide more programs and youth tournaments  |
| None, too many people on the river already   |
| Not sure   |
| Education on my side but we need to see results from your side. Its important that when you take someone fishing that the fish are available to catch. Its hard to keep someone interested if they never catch any fish.   |
| I would not-- I think too many people are fishing already  |
| Take kids fishing.   |
| Not sure how much more I can push fishing. I work at a fly shop, guide and do presentations all trying to get more people on the water   |
| Possibly increase free fishing days to 4 (spread throughout warm weather) and heavily stock a lake or pond with good public access in each corner of the state.  |
| Keep advertising and showing how quality the trout fishing really is in CT. Use social media to show the quality of the trout and how good the fishing really is. Advertise more out of state all I see in the spring on the Farmington river is mass. And NY plates.not exactly what I want to see as a CT resident nothing worse than pulling up and having someone from another state in your spot but defiantly affective as far as getting more people fishing CT. Also I go to upstate NY fishing for steelhead and big big trout during the winter many times if the Farmington river was able to have big big trout consistently I would spend all my time and money right in my home state. |
| put fishing courses in school and provide frequent information about the benefits of fishing to health, family and state and local economies   |
| Enforce licensing  |
| Educational programs, and enforcement to minimize poaching and bad actors like dirt bikers on public lands.  |
| Work with free programs to advertise the education and access to fishing   |
| no suggestions   |
| None, plenty of fisherman already.   |
| More access to streams and rivers through private property. Fished the housy with a guide and was amazed how limited access was (water was high).  |
| Stocks more fish.  |
| more fishing derbies   |
| Contest  |

**Question 4: What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?**

|  |
|--|
| Teach people how to properly catch and release fish! Teach people how to care for the environment.   |
| Promote the catch and release philosophy. Youngsters don't care about catching trout they care about catching fish. Promote the kids pond at Quinebaug. I've taken a couple of kids there, now they're hooked. (No pun intended.)  |
| More salmon in the Naugatuck and shetucket rivers, less salmon in the lakes. Find a river to throw the Kokanee in and guys will fish for them. Extend the catch and release seasons to ensure that the waters we do fish have fish in them. Take actions against poaching. Continue managing our great trout streams like the Farmington, salmon and Housatonic rivers. Extend sea run programs to offer fisherman the chance of a catch of a lifetime. If there are healthy runs of big fish, people will fish for them. The reason why our rivers empty out of fisherman is not from a lack of interest but a lack of fish. If we manage the waters appropriately (conservative catch and release seasons being one example) then you will increase the number of fisherman. No one wants to go out and fish dead water because they know that all of the fish there have been harvested and picked clean. |
| I am not in favor of more people fishing unless there is no crowding and a certain level of ethos is maintained. I am aware however of the political component   |
| We have started High School Bass Fishing clubs. We are running into issues as we have grown the amount of participants to a level where the Boating Division will not allow us to host these events due to the number of parking spaces. These are not dozens of events these are fewer than 10 with very few during the July and August boating time. The DEEP needs to work collectively to address many issues that hamper fishing as a whole.  |
| No comment.  |
| Stronger advocacy for fishing for species other than trout. Many people only fish the trout opening day and not much else. Try to get people excited about other kinds of fish, and not just from a perspective of edibility.  |
| Unsure   |
| Not sure why we need to increase the number of people fishing?   |
| Have Deep do their job which they have not been doing. The lady in charge showed up to one PR event in 2019 in waterbury a area with few fishermen in it. Have deep really stock large rainbow and golden trout.   |
| A few larger fish in the trout parks they get the most exposure fishing wise   |
| Increase access, extend the season   |
| Wish I knew. It's a shame more families don't fish or hunt.  |
| More fish  |
| Reduce fees  |
| Stock evenly throughout the state not concentrating on trout parks.  |
| that depends what there fishing for. some of boat ramps could use some improvement for example. especially on the CT   |
| Too many already. Need less bait fisherman just killing fish   |
| More accessible fishing areas  |
| Invite a friend  |
| I am not in accord with the premise of this question :-)   |
| Better parks, open up tent sites for families to spend the night before opening day, put the opening day back 1-2 weeks so the weather is warmer   |
| Clearly marked and accessible fishing access points  |
| I would not like to see more people fishing! Current number of people is good.   |
| Increase shore fishing access, for streams, rivers, lakes and ponds.   |
| More free fishing days   |
| Too many people fishing as is  |

**Question 4: What are some actions you would take to increase the number of people fishing?**

Answered in my previous survey response

Introduce people to fishing (doesn't have to be fly fishing), take time to show them how to be a more skilled fisherperson, introduce them to the connection with the environment.

Promote smaller rivers or streams that are stocked and stock them well. I fish the pequabuck river in Bristol this fall and have yet to see another fisherman. Fishing is great there thank you

drop the cost of a license

bring the information to the schools post it what ever it takes to get them outside and off their phones get the kids interested

Introduce your children and grandchildren to the pleasures of catching fish. Help others improve their fishing by sharing what your using for bait, how your using it, and where the fish are located.

Taking a kid fishing.

Try to show the importance of good fishing ethics and personal behavior. Yahoos can scare families away. It might help parents to have their kids start fishing if environmental learning can be brought in. Show that fishing as a healthy outdoor experience can help parents yank cellphones away from their kids. --Also fishing as a self-learning, planning experience away from organized sports in which kids are told their schedule and what to do.

Steelhead and pacific salmon stocking programs

There are too many people "out there" already and far too many blatantly flaunt the regs.

Don't need any more fishermen.

Increase budget to produce larger fish

None

Return opening day to the 3rd Saturday in April. Stock easy to access locations...locations that were once very good and loaded with people are getting dropped yearly. The Town Forest Park pond was always loaded shoulder to shoulder opening day...over the past 10-15 years as stocking has decreased or been eliminated, so have the fishermen, kids, and families.

Get local club's involved and co-sponsor trout derbies at ponds and rivers for kids under 16. Reserve certain areas on special days for kids under 16 during school vacation and ask TU and local clubs to help out the kids.

I don't want the number increased. Let the sport take its own course. I do think events for the kids are good, teaching techniques and good stream etiquette.

Take away their phones and tell them they can only get them back after spending 2 weekends fishing.

Designate sections of rivers and streams as no-kill, catch and release year-round. Thanks, you guys are doing great work!

Reduce the license fee especially as the individuals age. Don't wait until 65 to give a discount. Maybe start at age 50 and go in 5-year increments.

Get the kids out. It's a tough situation to fix. Maybe the raising of the minimum wage will give people more time/resources to get out.

## Trout and Salmon Forum Survey

**Thank you for your feedback and opinion about Connecticut's trout and salmon programs and fisheries. Please feel free to contact us anytime by phone at 860.424.FISH, by email at [deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov), or to get more information visit our web site at [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing)**

1. How would you rate your fishing skills?

- Expert
- Intermediate
- Novice

2. How was your fishing this year?

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- I did not fish this year

3. What is your ethnicity?

- White
- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Other (please specify)

4. Which gender do you identify as?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to answer
- Not listed, please specify

5. What is your age bracket?

- Under 16
- 16-17
- 18-29
- 30-40
- 41-50
- 51-64
- 65+

6. What is your home zip code?

7. I primarily fish

- Lakes and Ponds
- Rivers and Streams

8. I fish

- Mostly from a boat
- Mostly from shore
- Mostly while wading
- Mostly On the ice

9. I prefer to fish

- Alone
- With a friend
- With family
- In a large group

10. Please select all that apply

- I am a member of a national fishing organization (like Trout Unlimited)
- I am a member of a local fishing organization (like Farmington River Anglers Assoc., CT Fly Fisherman Assoc., etc)
- I am a member of a private fish and game club
- I am a fishing guide registered with the State of Ct
- None of these
- Other (please specify)

11. I would prefer the Fisheries Division share information with me via

- Email
- Text Message
- Regular mail
- Social media

12. On average about how many times do you go fishing for **trout** each year?

- Over 100
- 50-100
- 25-49
- 10-24
- 1-9
- I do not fish specifically for trout

13. How often do you keep the trout you catch?

- Always
- Over half of the time
- Less than half of the time
- Only if it was injured while being caught
- Never

14. On average about how many times do you go fishing for **Atlantic salmon** each year?

- Over 100
- 50-100
- 25-49
- 10-24
- 1-9
- I do not specifically fish for Atlantic salmon

15. How often do you keep the Atlantic salmon you catch?

- Always
- Over half of the time
- Less than half of the time
- Only if it was injured while being caught
- Never

16. What is your opinion regarding the Fisheries Division's decision to move the date for harvest of Atlantic salmon to December 15th (previously it was December 1).

- I support the decision
- I am dissatisfied with the decision
- I do not have an opinion regarding the decision
- Please comment if desired

17. On average about how many times do you go fishing for **Kokanee Salmon** each year?

- Over 100
- 50-100
- 25-49
- 10-24
- 1-9
- I do not specifically fish for Kokanee Salmon

18. How often do you keep the Kokanee salmon you catch?

- Always
- Over half of the time
- Less than half of the time
- Only if it was injured while being caught
- Never

19. How often do you fish in the following ?

|  | Exclusively           | Majority of the time  | Several times per year | Once or twice per year | I do not fish this type of area |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Trout Parks  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Trout Management Areas   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Trophy Trout Areas   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Wild Trout Management Area Class 1 (not stocked)                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Wild Trout Management Area Class 2 or Class 3 (stocked with fry and/or adult fish) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Streams that are not stocked with trout  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Trout Management Lakes   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Community Fishing Water  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Stocked Lakes with no special trout rules or regulations                           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Stocked rivers/streams with no special trout rules or regulations                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Atlantic Salmon Management Area (River)  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Atlantic Salmon Lakes  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Kokanee Lakes  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Sea Run Trout Stream   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Fish and Game Club Waters  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| Waters on Private Land (not associated with any club, group, town, etc.)           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>           |

20. How has the fishing for trout and salmon been over the past 5 years?

|                 | Greatly improved      | Slightly improved     | Remained constant     | Slightly declined     | Greatly declined      | N/A                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Trout           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Atlantic salmon | <input type="radio"/> |
| Kokanee salmon  | <input type="radio"/> |

Comment

21. When I go fishing, it is most important that I have the opportunity to:

- Catch a lot of fish
- Catch big fish
- Catch fish that I can take home to eat
- Catch a wild fish (not stocked)
- Just be out fishing

22. To what extent do you support the following trout and salmon management programs?

|  | Strongly Support      | Support               | Neutral               | Oppose                | Strongly Oppose       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Trout Parks  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Trout Management Areas   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Trophy Trout Areas   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Wild Trout Management Area Class 1 (not stocked)                                   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Wild Trout Management Area Class 2 or Class 3 (stocked with fry and/or adult fish) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Trout Management Lakes   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Community Fishing Water  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lakes with no special trout rules or regulations                                   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Rivers/streams with no special trout rules or regulations                          | <input type="radio"/> |
| Atlantic salmon (Naugatuck River)  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Atlantic salmon (Shetucket River)  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Atlantic salmon lakes  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Kokanee lakes  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sea Run Trout Streams  | <input type="radio"/> |

23. How often do you fish with the gear listed below?

|                       | Always                | Frequently            | Occasionally          | Rarely                | Never                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A Spinning Rod        | <input type="radio"/> |
| A Fly Rod             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ice fishing equipment | <input type="radio"/> |
| Trolling equipment    | <input type="radio"/> |

24. How often do you use

|  | Always                | Occasionally          | Rarely                | Never                 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Live Bait (Minnows, worms, mealworms, etc) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Soft Plastic Baits                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Artificial Baits (PowerBait, Bollies, etc) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lures                                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Flies                                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Corn                                       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

25. Which of the following are preventing you from fishing more often (check all that apply)

- N/A as I fish as much as I want now
- I do not have enough free time
- There is not enough access to get to the water
- I am not sure where to fish
- I feel I am not good at fishing
- There are not enough fish to catch
- I am concerned the fish are not safe to eat
- I have nobody to go fishing with
- I am physically unable to fish
- It is too costly

Other (please specify)

26. Where do you routinely get information about fishing in Connecticut? (check all that apply)

- CT Fishing Guide
- DEEP web page
- Friends and family
- Weekly fishing reports
- CT Fishin' Tips E-newsletter
- DEEP Fish and Wildlife Facebook Page
- Newspaper or magazine
- Online chat groups
- Other (please specify)

27. What are significant impediments to ice fishing for trout or salmon (check all that apply)

- N/A I do not like to ice fish for trout
- Reliability of safe ice
- Not enough trout/salmon to catch
- Weather conditions
- Knowledge of good places to fish
- Do not have adequate gear or knowledge
- I do not live in CT during the winter
- Other (please specify)

28. Currently the majority of the trout we produce are stocked in advance of Opening Day and the weeks following Opening Day with much fewer fish stocked in the fall. What are some impediments to you fishing in the fall? (select all that apply)

- Not enough fish to catch
- Conditions are not favorable for trout fishing (too many weeds, too warm, too low)
- There are not adequate opportunities to harvest stocked trout from streams
- I have less time to fish in the fall due to work and home obligations
- I prefer to spend my time hunting in the fall vs fishing
- Other (please specify)

29. What is your opinion about the timing of Opening Day?

- It is good as it currently is - on the Second Saturday of April
- I would eliminate Opening Day
- I would move Opening Day later in the year
- I would move Opening Day earlier in the year
- I do not have an opinion

30. Have you participated in any electronic surveys from the Fisheries Division?

- Yes
- No
- I have not been aware of any electronic surveys from the Fisheries Division

31. Have you made use of the interactive trout stocking map?

- Yes
- No
- I am not aware of this resource

32. Do you follow us on Facebook?

- Yes
- No
- I do not use Facebook

33. If you utilize social media, which platforms would you like to see the Fisheries Division to have a presence? (select all that apply)

- I do not use social media
- Instagram
- Pintrest
- FishBrain
- SnapChat
- YouTube
- Twitter
- Other (please specify)

34. Our state fish hatcheries can produce a fixed total weight of fish each year. Our biologists currently work to balance the total number of standard size fish (range 9-11 inches) we can stock against growing as many larger fish (greater than 12 inches average size) possible. Knowing this, how would you prefer to see the Fisheries Division allocate the space at the hatchery?

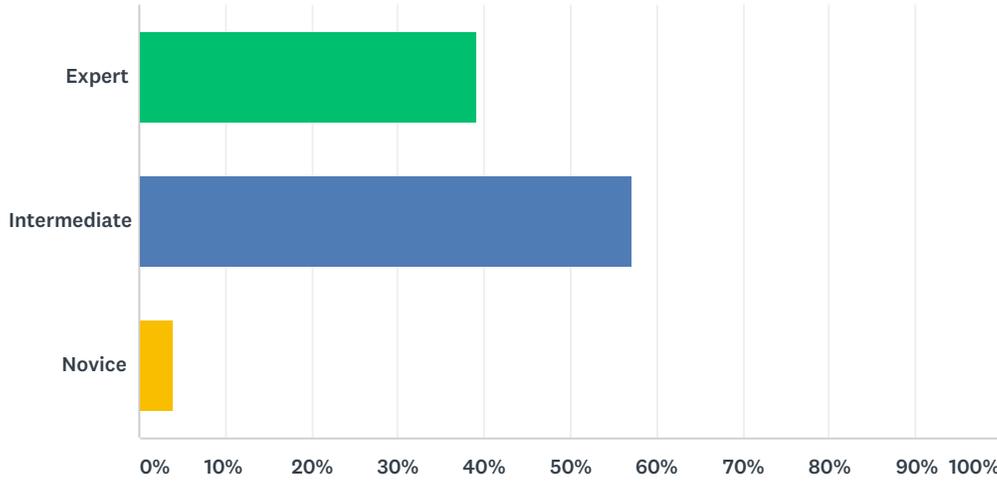
- I would like to see the hatchery make the the greatest number of standard size fish possible (meaning the total number of fish could be greater, but they would all be of the standard size).
- I would like to see the hatchery grow the greatest number of largest fish possible (means potentially much fewer total number of fish available, but those stocked are much larger than the standard size)
- Continue to balance the total number of fish while also making as many larger size fish as possible (meaning we would continue to produce the majority of fish in the standard size while having some larger fish available).
- Other (please specify)

35. Please indicate your preference to catch the following

|                  | High                  | Medium                | Low                   | I do not target this species |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Brown Trout      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |
| Brook Trout      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |
| Rainbow Trout    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |
| Tiger Trout      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |
| Kokanee Salmon   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |
| Atlantic salmon  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |
| Wild Brook Trout | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |
| Wild Brown Trout | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |
| Sea-Run Trout    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>        |

# Q1 How would you rate your fishing skills?

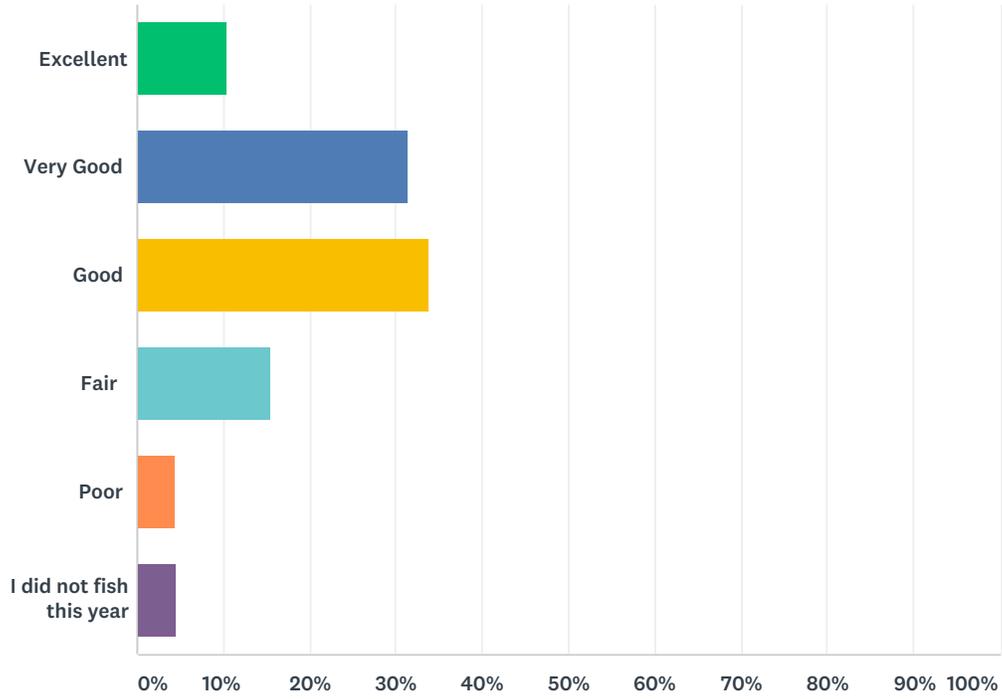
Answered: 489 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES  |
|----------------|------------|
| Expert         | 39.06% 191 |
| Intermediate   | 57.06% 279 |
| Novice         | 3.89% 19   |
| TOTAL          | 489        |

## Q2 How was your fishing this year?

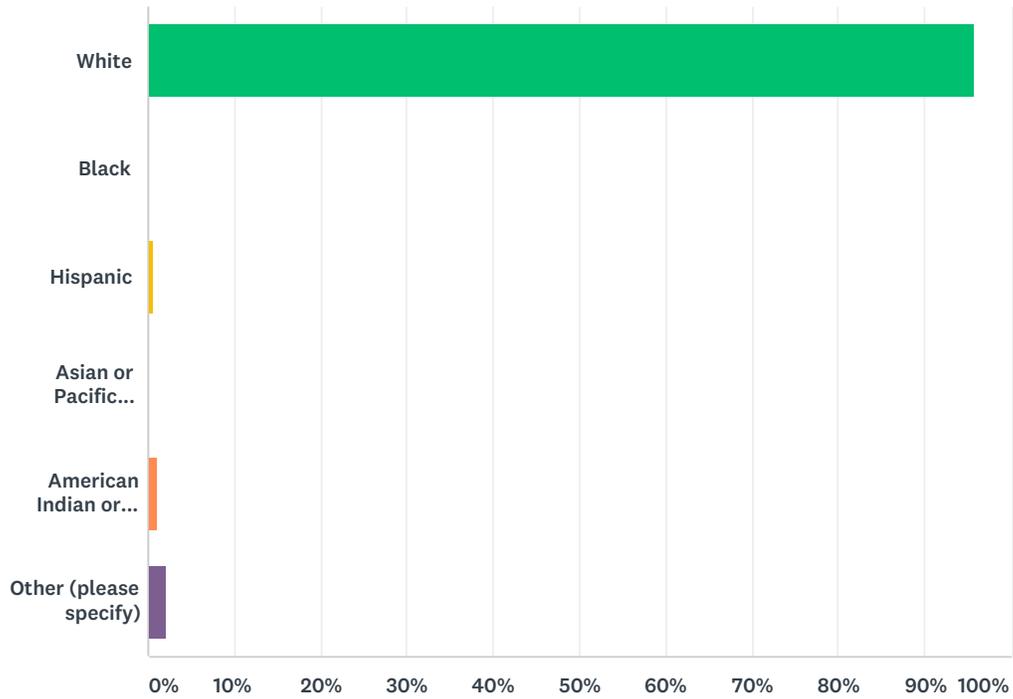
Answered: 489 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES           | RESPONSES |            |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Excellent                | 10.43%    | 51         |
| Very Good                | 31.29%    | 153        |
| Good                     | 33.95%    | 166        |
| Fair                     | 15.54%    | 76         |
| Poor                     | 4.29%     | 21         |
| I did not fish this year | 4.50%     | 22         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             |           | <b>489</b> |

### Q3 What is your ethnicity?

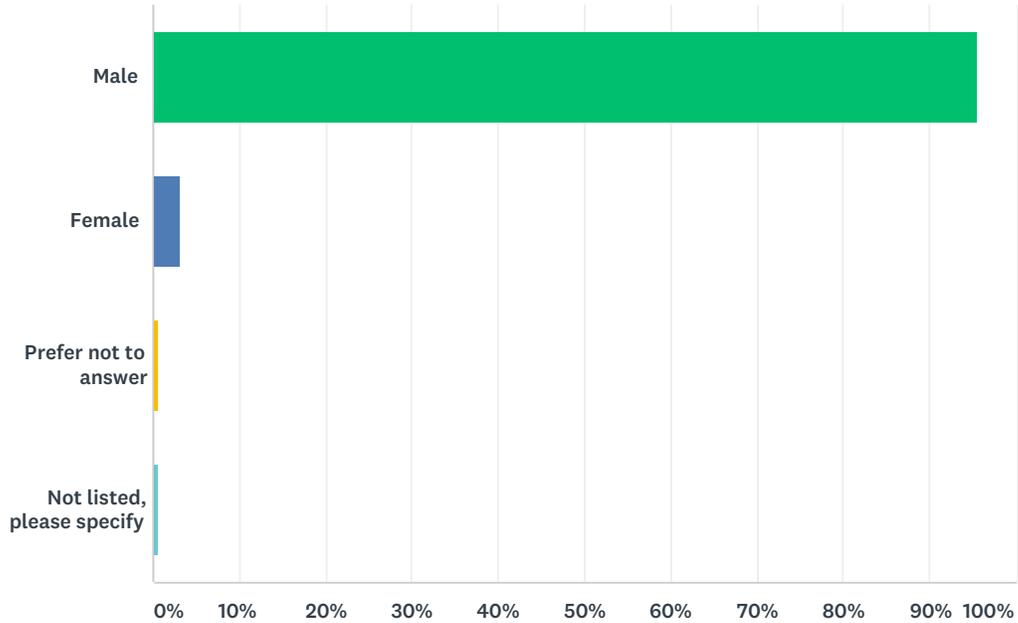
Answered: 484 Skipped: 8



| ANSWER CHOICES                   | RESPONSES |            |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| White                            | 95.87%    | 464        |
| Black                            | 0.21%     | 1          |
| Hispanic                         | 0.62%     | 3          |
| Asian or Pacific Islander        | 0.21%     | 1          |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 1.03%     | 5          |
| Other (please specify)           | 2.07%     | 10         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     |           | <b>484</b> |

### Q4 Which gender do you identify as?

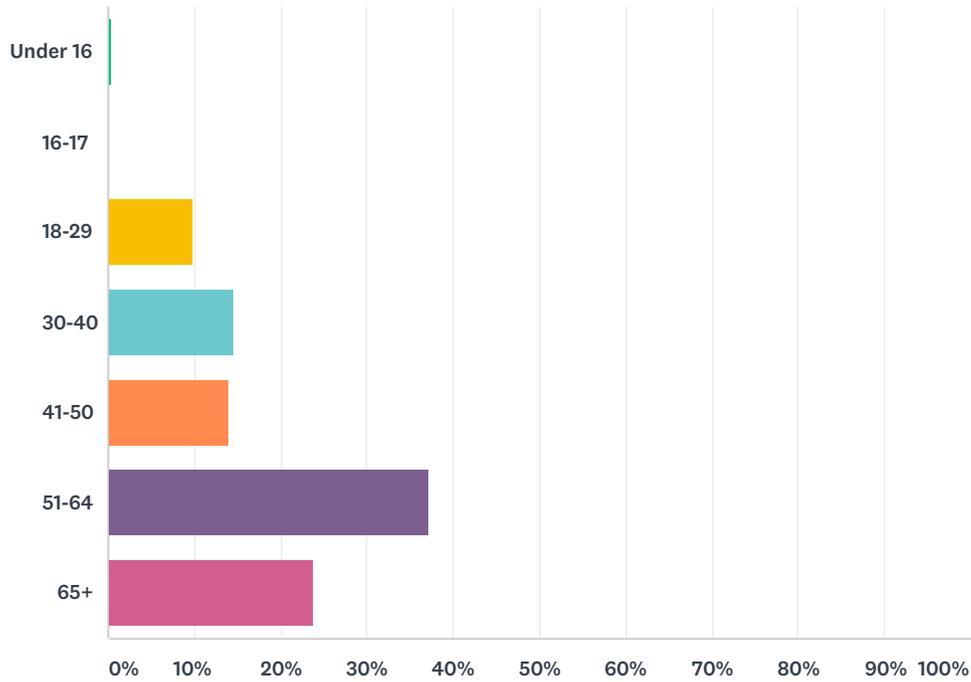
Answered: 486 Skipped: 6



| ANSWER CHOICES             | RESPONSES  |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Male                       | 95.68% 465 |
| Female                     | 3.09% 15   |
| Prefer not to answer       | 0.62% 3    |
| Not listed, please specify | 0.62% 3    |
| TOTAL                      | 486        |

### Q5 What is your age bracket?

Answered: 488 Skipped: 4



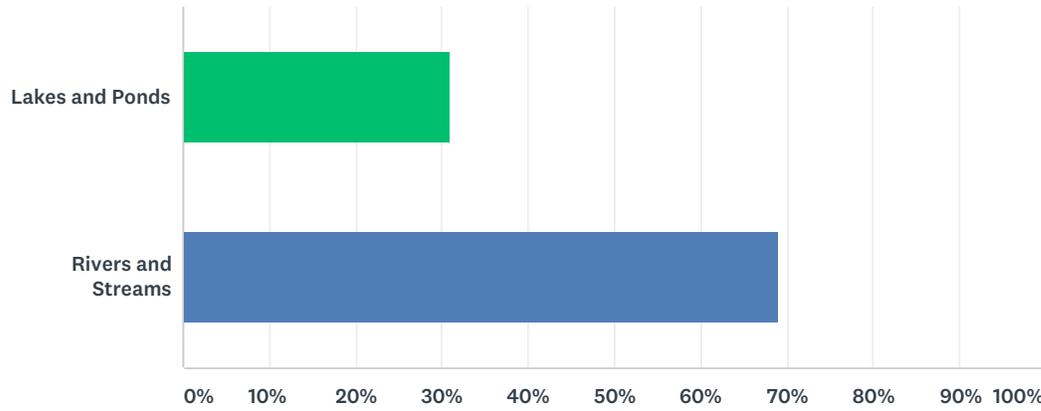
| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Under 16       | 0.41%     | 2          |
| 16-17          | 0.20%     | 1          |
| 18-29          | 9.84%     | 48         |
| 30-40          | 14.55%    | 71         |
| 41-50          | 13.93%    | 68         |
| 51-64          | 37.30%    | 182        |
| 65+            | 23.77%    | 116        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>488</b> |

## Q6 What is your home zip code?

Answered: 460 Skipped: 32

### Q7 I primarily fish

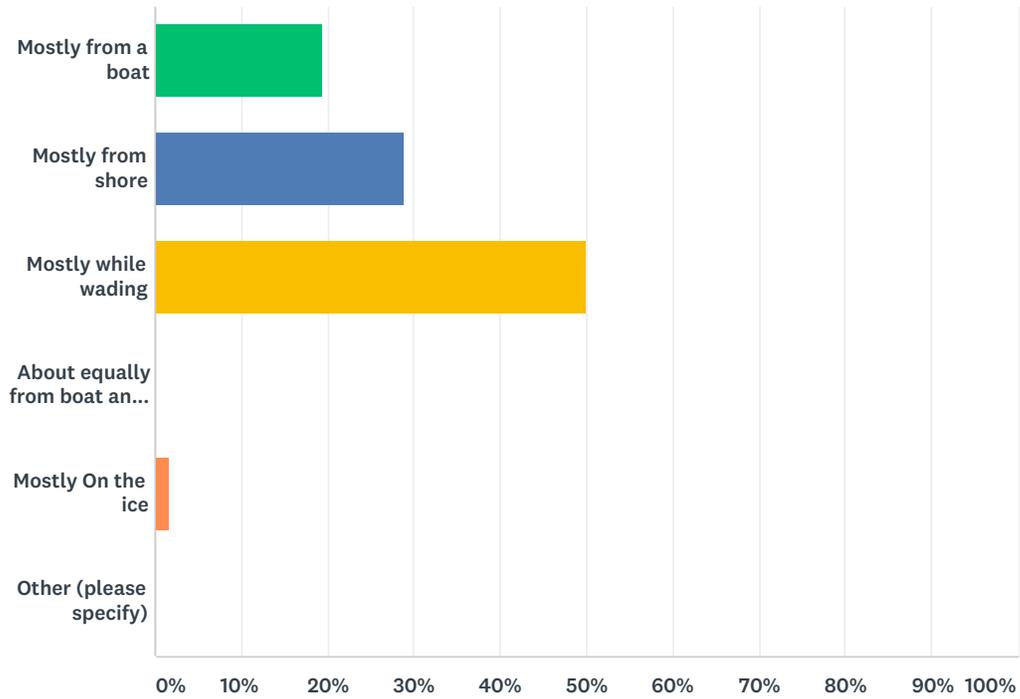
Answered: 490 Skipped: 2



| ANSWER CHOICES     | RESPONSES |     |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|
| Lakes and Ponds    | 31.02%    | 152 |
| Rivers and Streams | 68.98%    | 338 |
| TOTAL              |           | 490 |

### Q8 I fish

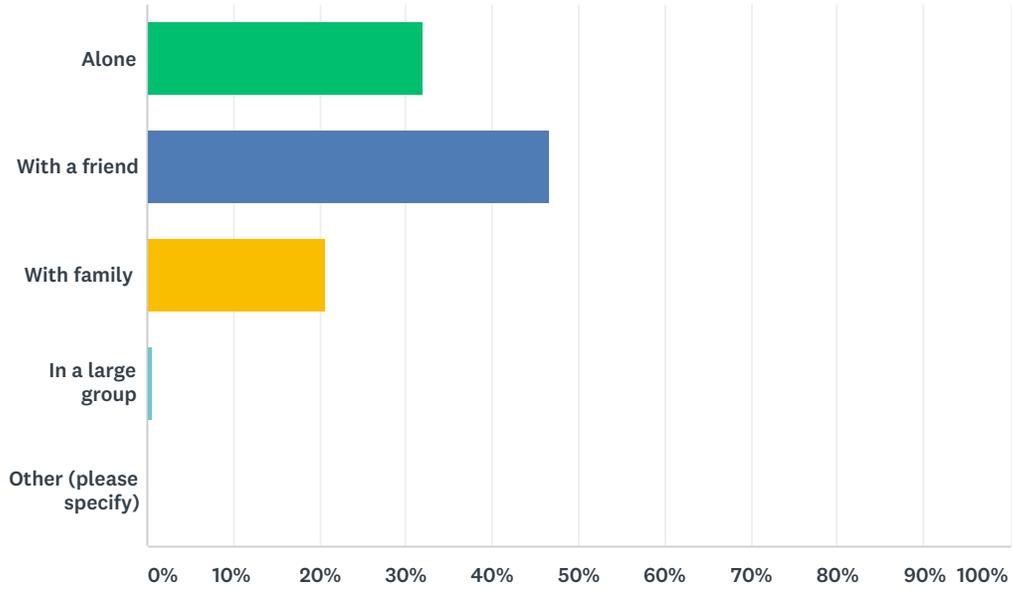
Answered: 489 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES                    | RESPONSES |            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Mostly from a boat                | 19.43%    | 95         |
| Mostly from shore                 | 28.83%    | 141        |
| Mostly while wading               | 50.10%    | 245        |
| About equally from boat and shore | 0.00%     | 0          |
| Mostly On the ice                 | 1.64%     | 8          |
| Other (please specify)            | 0.00%     | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      |           | <b>489</b> |

### Q9 I prefer to fish

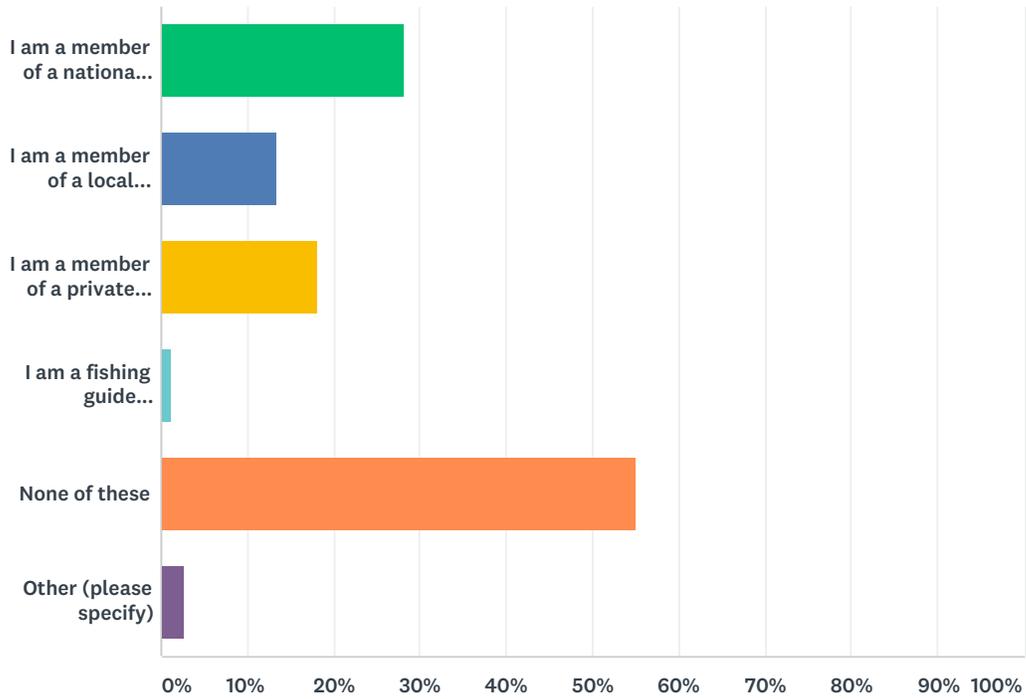
Answered: 488 Skipped: 4



| ANSWER CHOICES         | RESPONSES |            |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Alone                  | 31.97%    | 156        |
| With a friend          | 46.72%    | 228        |
| With family            | 20.70%    | 101        |
| In a large group       | 0.61%     | 3          |
| Other (please specify) | 0.00%     | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           |           | <b>488</b> |

### Q10 Please select all that apply

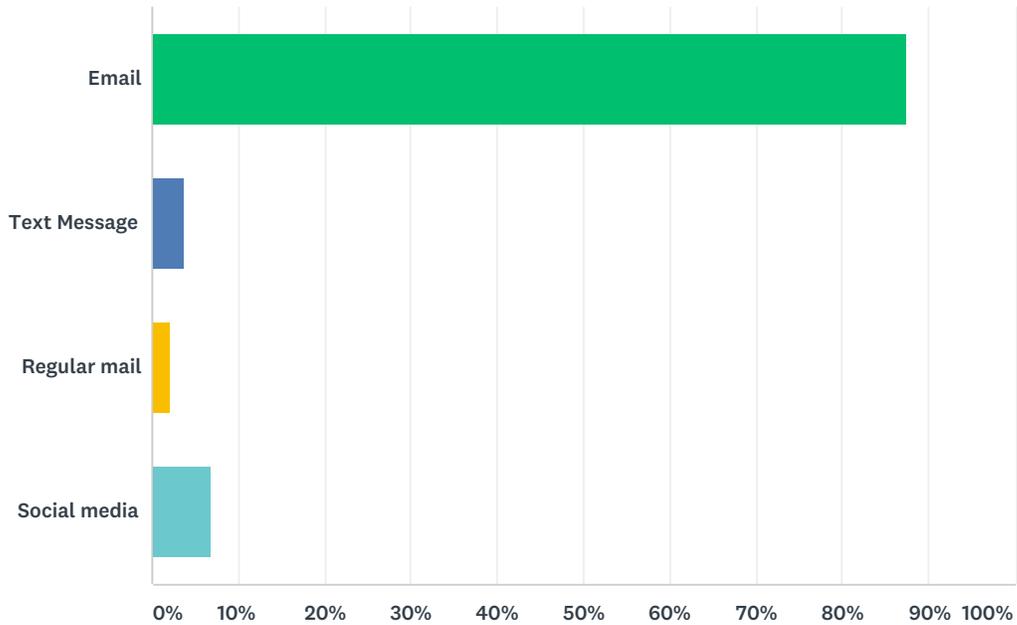
Answered: 488 Skipped: 4



| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES |     |
|--|-----------|-----|
| I am a member of a national fishing organization (like Trout Unlimited)  | 28.28%    | 138 |
| I am a member of a local fishing organization (like Farmington River Anglers Assoc., CT Fly Fisherman Assoc., etc) | 13.32%    | 65  |
| I am a member of a private fish and game club  | 18.24%    | 89  |
| I am a fishing guide registered with the State of Ct   | 1.23%     | 6   |
| None of these  | 55.12%    | 269 |
| Other (please specify)   | 2.66%     | 13  |
| Total Respondents: 488   |           |     |

### Q11 I would prefer the Fisheries Division share information with me via

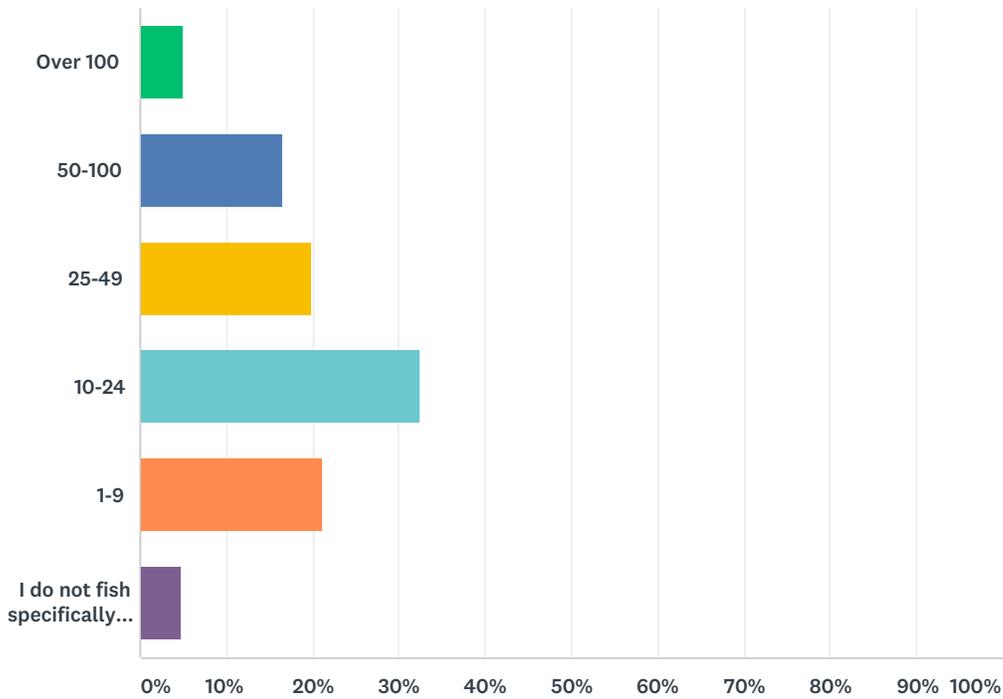
Answered: 483 Skipped: 9



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Email          | 87.37%    | 422 |
| Text Message   | 3.73%     | 18  |
| Regular mail   | 2.07%     | 10  |
| Social media   | 6.83%     | 33  |
| TOTAL          |           | 483 |

# Q12 On average about how many times do you go fishing for trout each year?

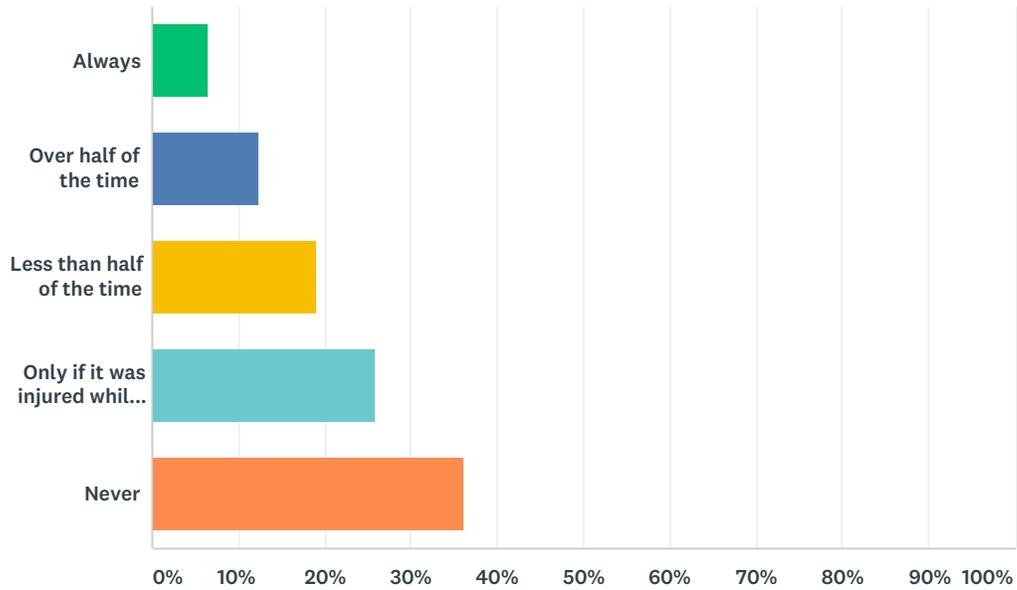
Answered: 489 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES                       | RESPONSES |            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Over 100                             | 5.11%     | 25         |
| 50-100                               | 16.56%    | 81         |
| 25-49                                | 19.84%    | 97         |
| 10-24                                | 32.52%    | 159        |
| 1-9                                  | 21.06%    | 103        |
| I do not fish specifically for trout | 4.91%     | 24         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         |           | <b>489</b> |

### Q13 How often do you keep the trout you catch?

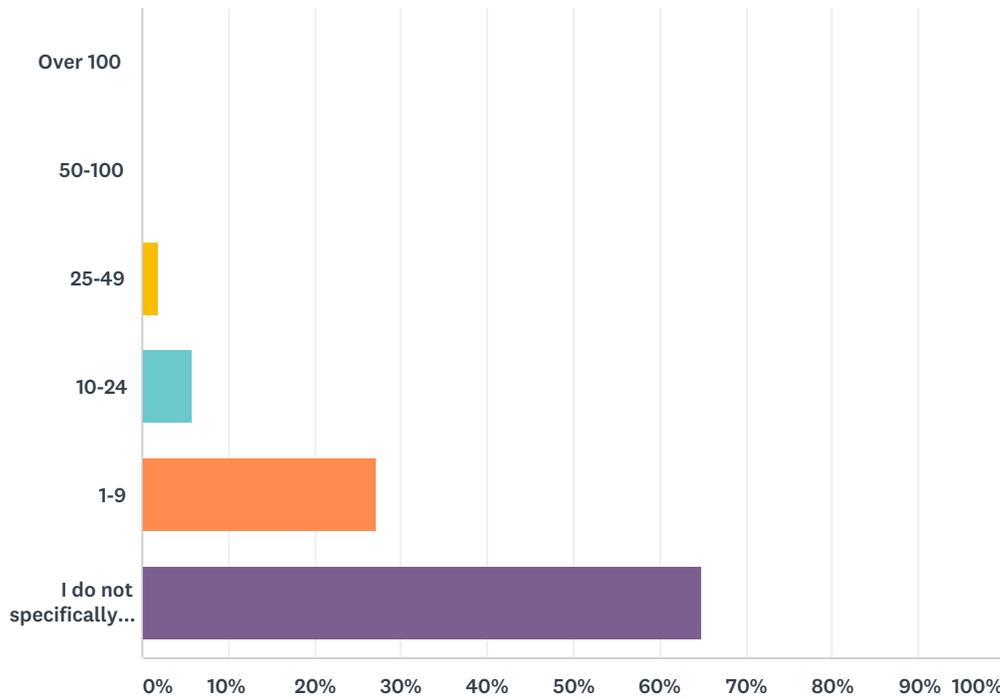
Answered: 489 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES                            | RESPONSES |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Always                                    | 6.54%     | 32         |
| Over half of the time                     | 12.27%    | 60         |
| Less than half of the time                | 19.02%    | 93         |
| Only if it was injured while being caught | 25.97%    | 127        |
| Never                                     | 36.20%    | 177        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              |           | <b>489</b> |

### Q14 On average about how many times do you go fishing for Atlantic salmon each year?

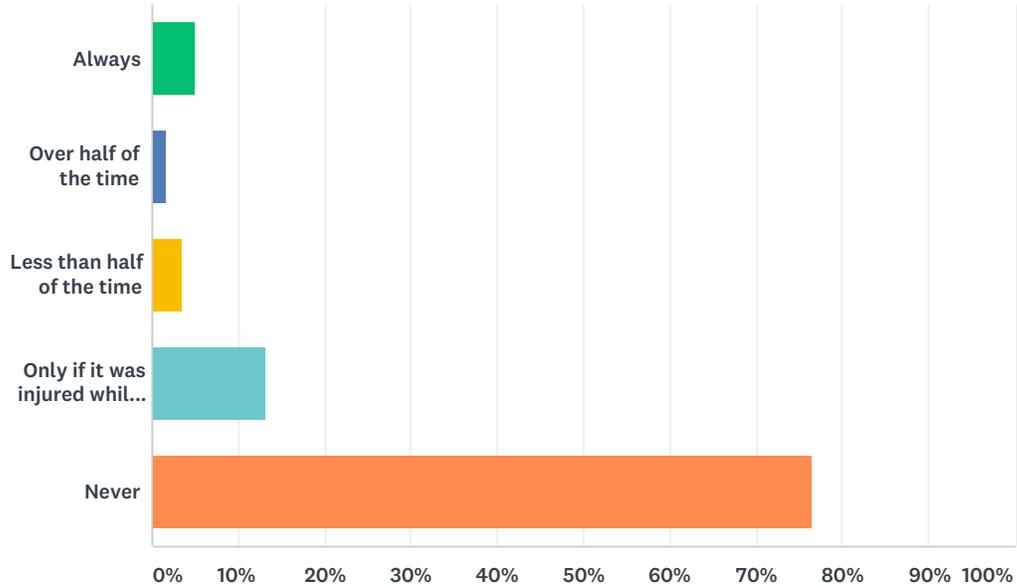
Answered: 488 Skipped: 4



| ANSWER CHOICES                                 | RESPONSES |            |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Over 100                                       | 0.00%     | 0          |
| 50-100   | 0.20%     | 1          |
| 25-49  | 1.84%     | 9          |
| 10-24  | 5.94%     | 29         |
| 1-9  | 27.25%    | 133        |
| I do not specifically fish for Atlantic salmon | 64.75%    | 316        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                   |           | <b>488</b> |

### Q15 How often do you keep the Atlantic salmon you catch?

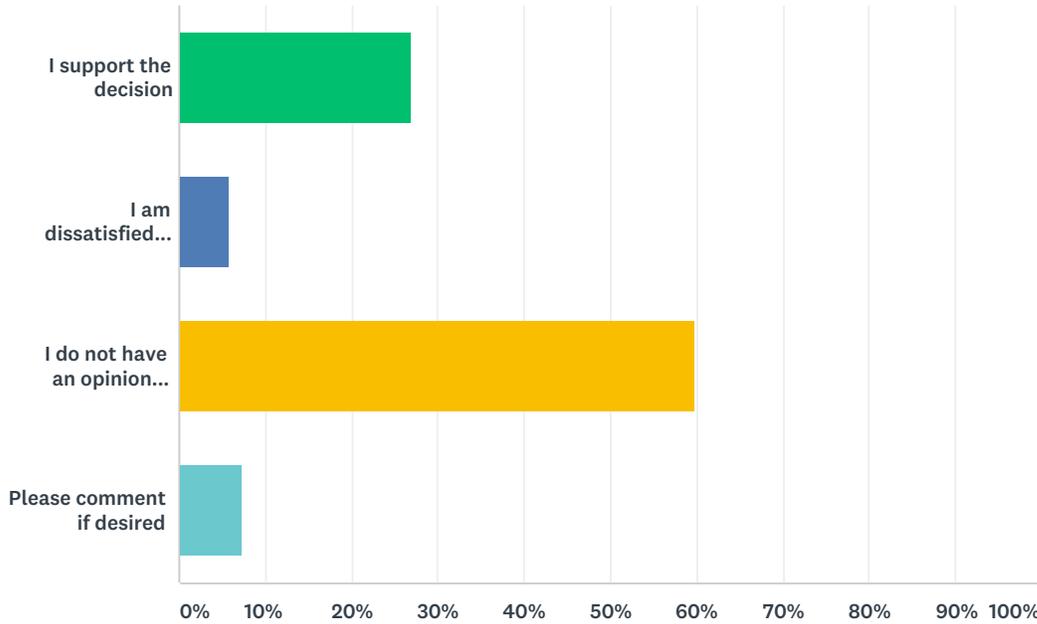
Answered: 431 Skipped: 61



| ANSWER CHOICES                            | RESPONSES |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Always                                    | 5.10%     | 22         |
| Over half of the time                     | 1.62%     | 7          |
| Less than half of the time                | 3.48%     | 15         |
| Only if it was injured while being caught | 13.23%    | 57         |
| Never                                     | 76.57%    | 330        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              |           | <b>431</b> |

### Q16 What is your opinion regarding the Fisheries Division's decision to move the date for harvest of Atlantic salmon to December 15th (previously it was December 1).

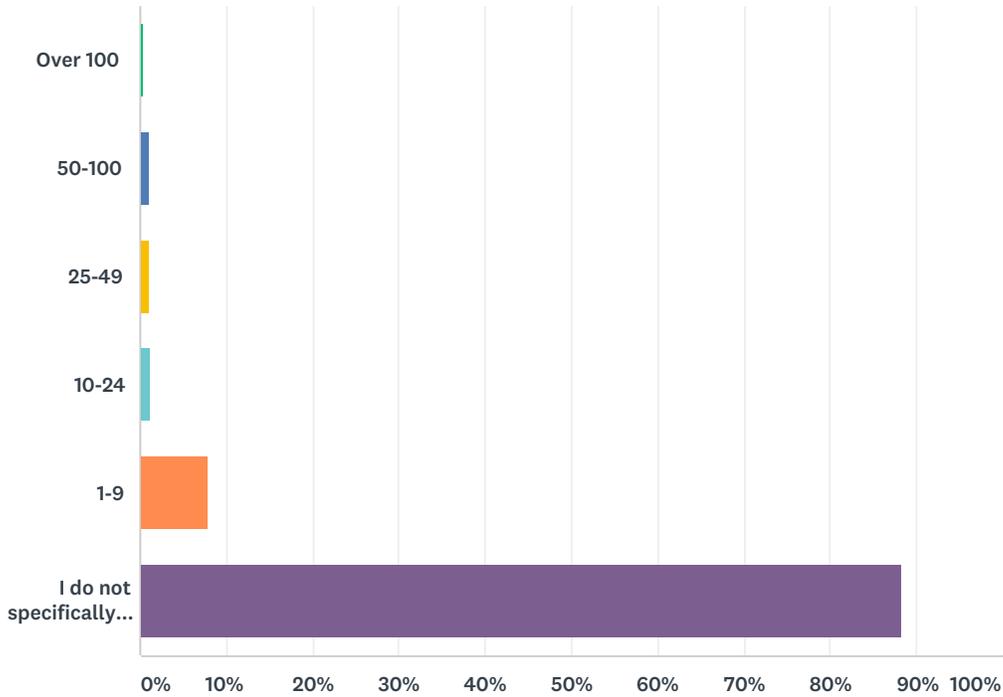
Answered: 485 Skipped: 7



| ANSWER CHOICES                                  | RESPONSES |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| I support the decision                          | 27.01%    | 131 |
| I am dissatisfied with the decision             | 5.77%     | 28  |
| I do not have an opinion regarding the decision | 59.79%    | 290 |
| Please comment if desired                       | 7.42%     | 36  |
| TOTAL   |           | 485 |

# Q17 On average about how many times do you go fishing for Kokanee Salmon each year?

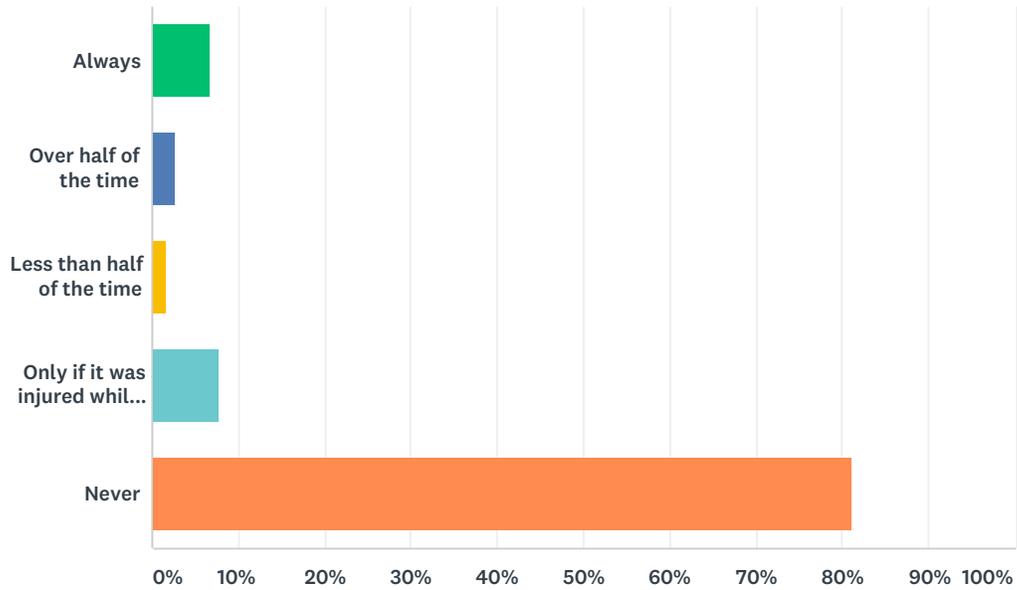
Answered: 488 Skipped: 4



| ANSWER CHOICES                                | RESPONSES |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Over 100                                      | 0.41%     | 2          |
| 50-100  | 1.02%     | 5          |
| 25-49   | 1.02%     | 5          |
| 10-24   | 1.23%     | 6          |
| 1-9   | 7.99%     | 39         |
| I do not specifically fish for Kokanee Salmon | 88.32%    | 431        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  |           | <b>488</b> |

### Q18 How often do you keep the Kokanee salmon you catch?

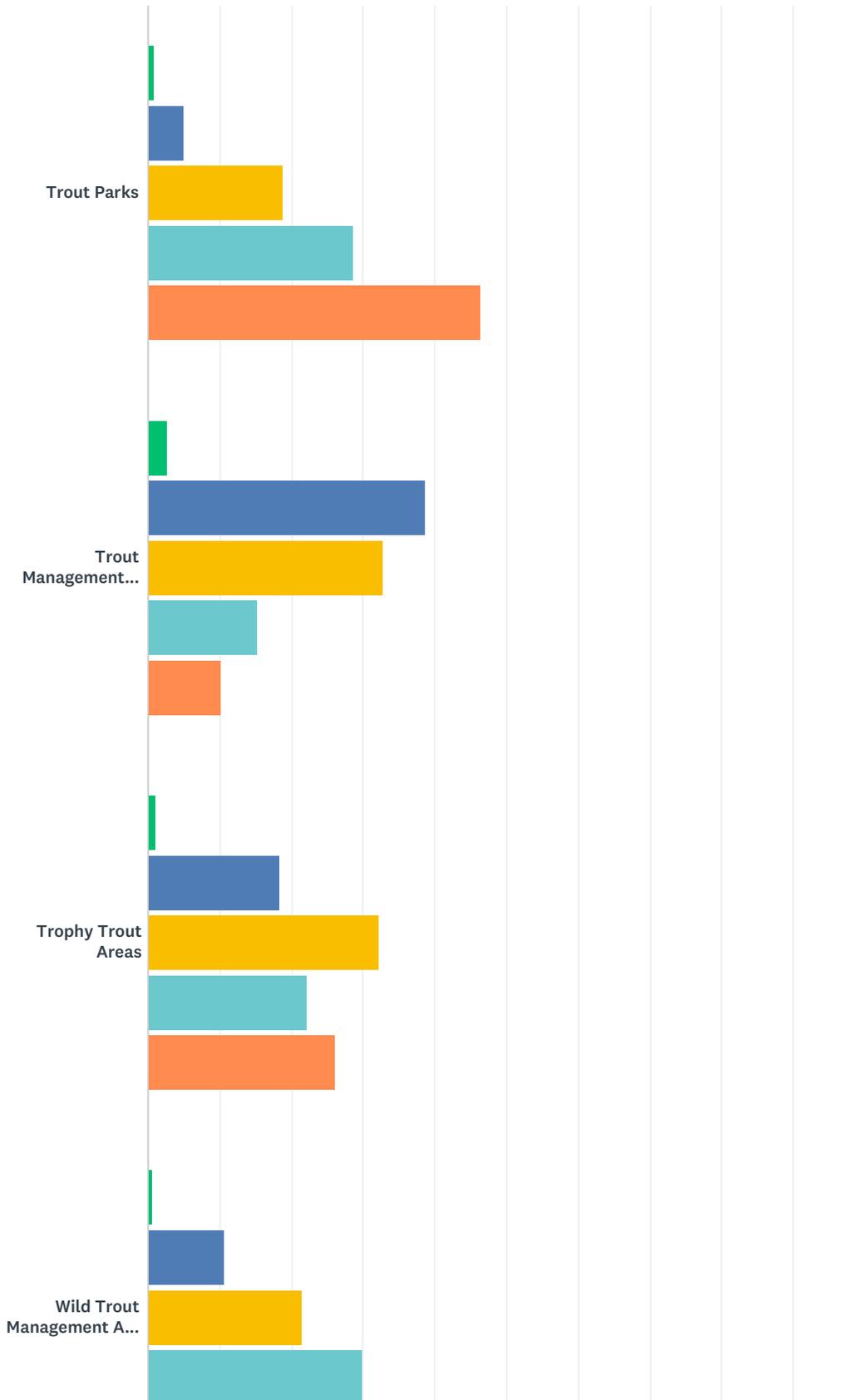
Answered: 409 Skipped: 83

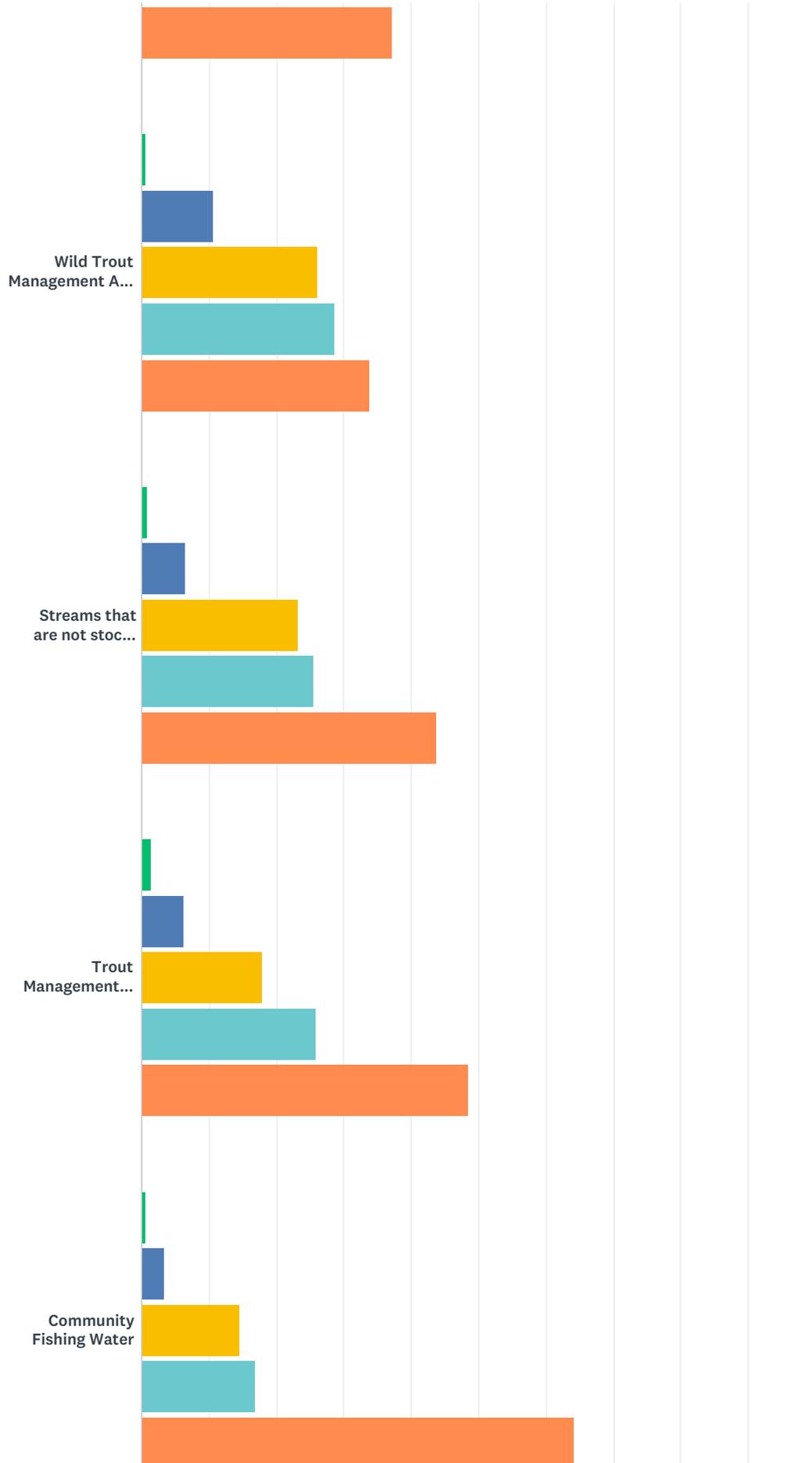


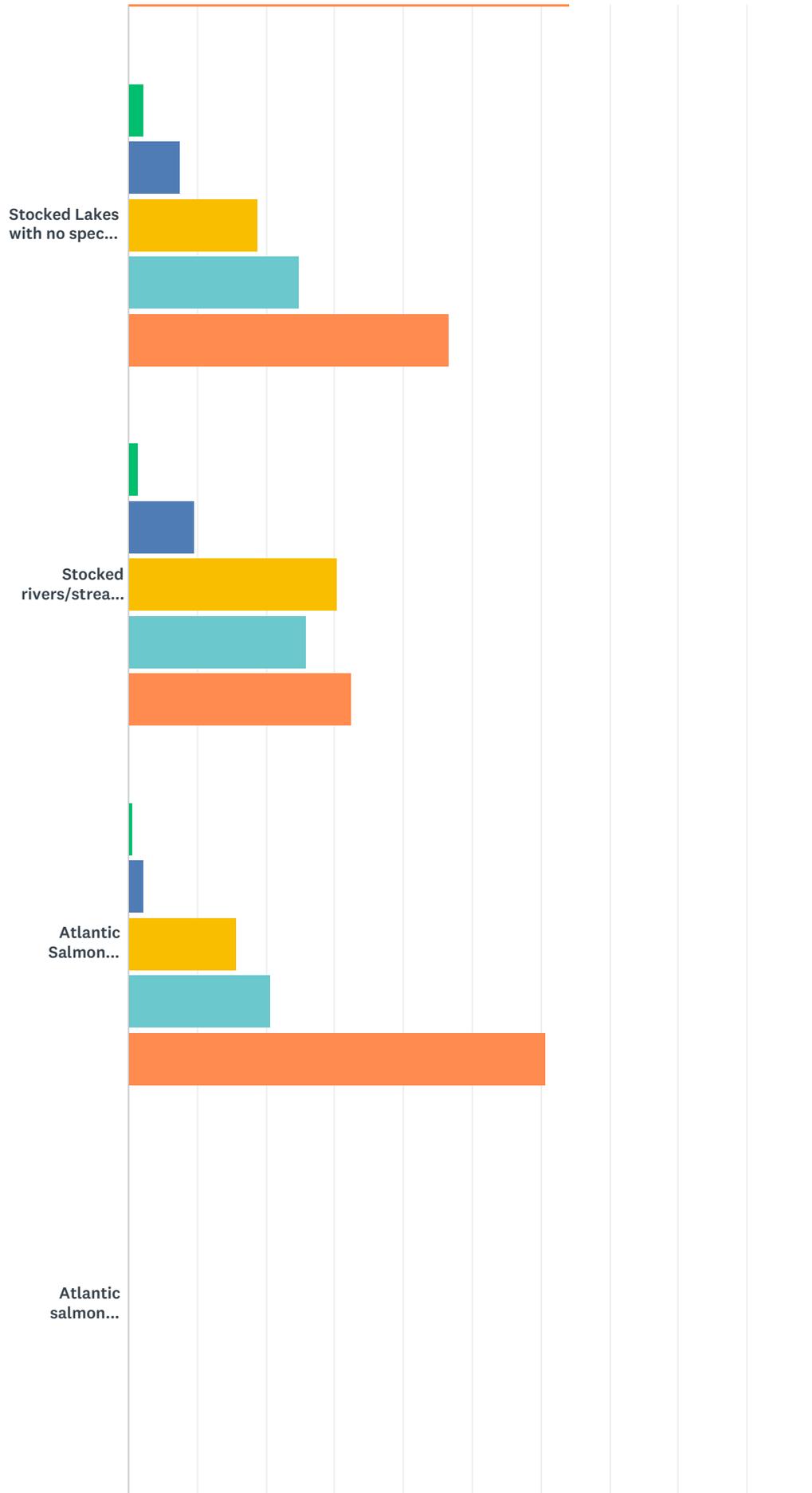
| ANSWER CHOICES                            | RESPONSES  |
|---|------------|
| Always                                    | 6.60% 27   |
| Over half of the time                     | 2.69% 11   |
| Less than half of the time                | 1.71% 7    |
| Only if it was injured while being caught | 7.82% 32   |
| Never                                     | 81.17% 332 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>409</b> |

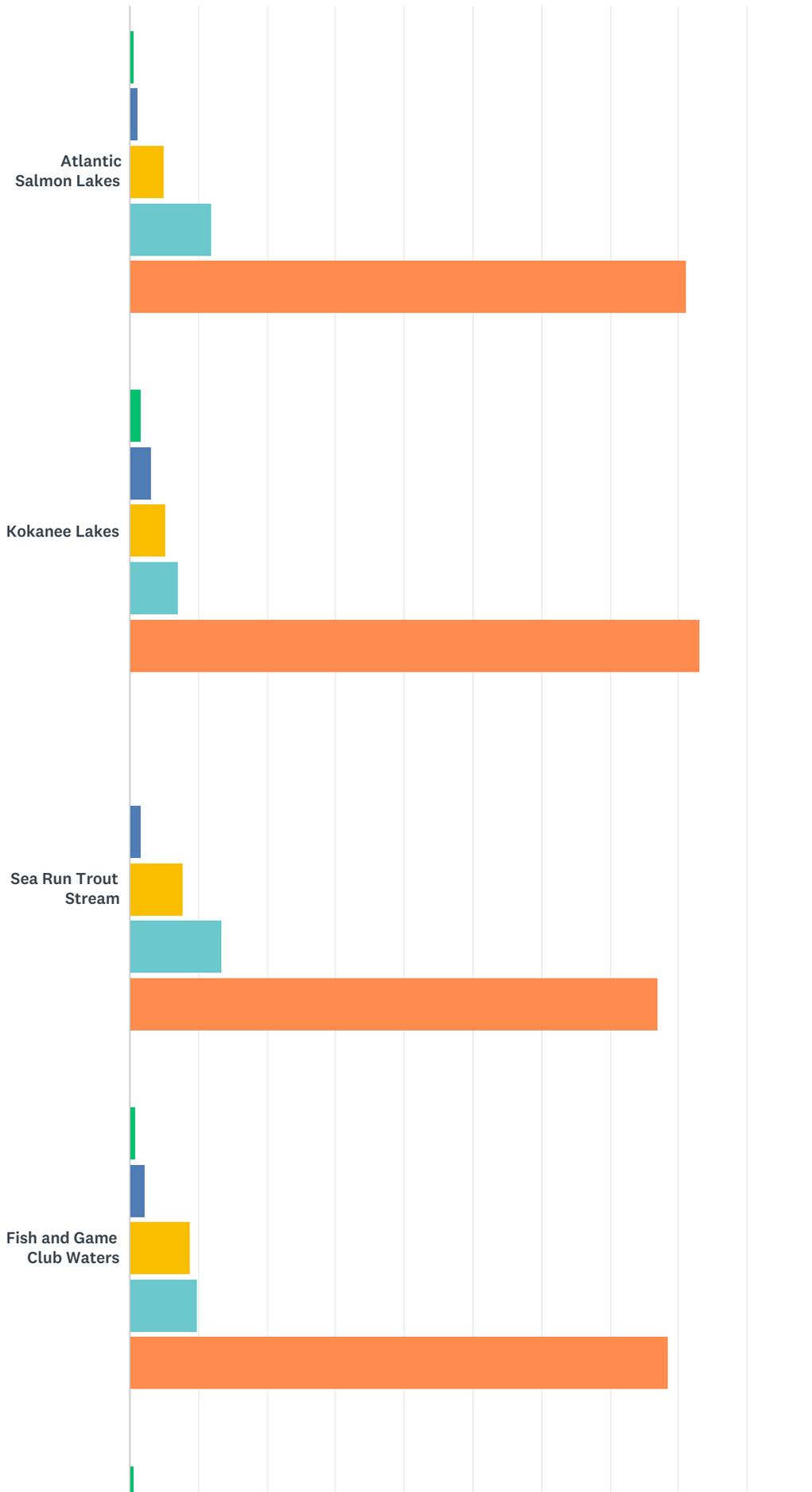
# Q19 How often do you fish in the following ?

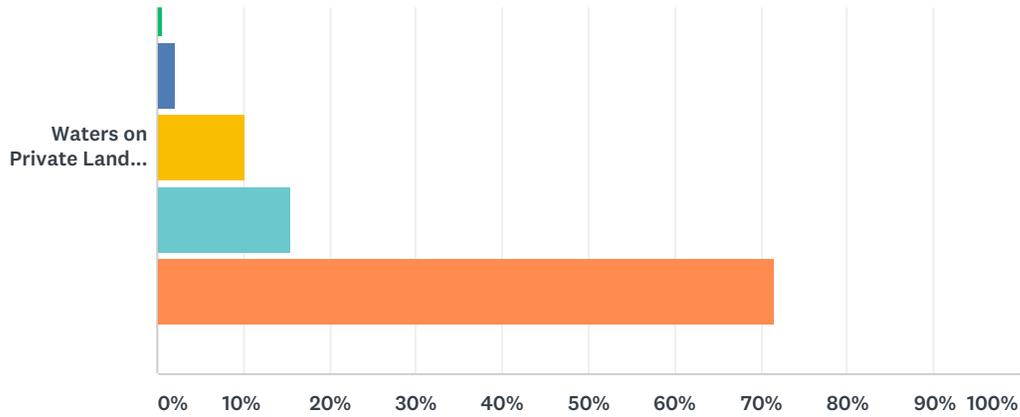
Answered: 488 Skipped: 4











■ Exclusively   
 ■ Majority of the time   
 ■ Several times per year  
■ Once or twice per year   
 ■ I do not fish this type of area

|  | EXCLUSIVELY | MAJORITY OF THE TIME | SEVERAL TIMES PER YEAR | ONCE OR TWICE PER YEAR | I DO NOT FISH THIS TYPE OF AREA | TOTAL |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Trout Parks  | 0.90%<br>4  | 4.94%<br>22          | 18.88%<br>84           | 28.76%<br>128          | 46.52%<br>207                   | 445   |
| Trout Management Areas   | 2.80%<br>13 | 38.79%<br>180        | 32.76%<br>152          | 15.30%<br>71           | 10.34%<br>48                    | 464   |
| Trophy Trout Areas   | 1.13%<br>5  | 18.33%<br>81         | 32.13%<br>142          | 22.17%<br>98           | 26.24%<br>116                   | 442   |
| Wild Trout Management Area Class 1 (not stocked)                                   | 0.66%<br>3  | 10.77%<br>49         | 21.54%<br>98           | 29.89%<br>136          | 37.14%<br>169                   | 455   |
| Wild Trout Management Area Class 2 or Class 3 (stocked with fry and/or adult fish) | 0.66%<br>3  | 10.62%<br>48         | 26.11%<br>118          | 28.76%<br>130          | 33.85%<br>153                   | 452   |
| Streams that are not stocked with trout  | 0.88%<br>4  | 6.56%<br>30          | 23.19%<br>106          | 25.60%<br>117          | 43.76%<br>200                   | 457   |
| Trout Management Lakes   | 1.55%<br>7  | 6.19%<br>28          | 17.92%<br>81           | 25.88%<br>117          | 48.45%<br>219                   | 452   |
| Community Fishing Water  | 0.69%<br>3  | 3.45%<br>15          | 14.71%<br>64           | 17.01%<br>74           | 64.14%<br>279                   | 435   |
| Stocked Lakes with no special trout rules or regulations                           | 2.22%<br>10 | 7.54%<br>34          | 18.85%<br>85           | 24.83%<br>112          | 46.56%<br>210                   | 451   |
| Stocked rivers/streams with no special trout rules or regulations                  | 1.54%<br>7  | 9.69%<br>44          | 30.40%<br>138          | 25.99%<br>118          | 32.38%<br>147                   | 454   |
| Atlantic Salmon Management Area (River)  | 0.67%<br>3  | 2.24%<br>10          | 15.66%<br>70           | 20.81%<br>93           | 60.63%<br>271                   | 447   |
| Atlantic salmon (Shetucket River)  | 0.00%<br>0  | 0.00%<br>0           | 0.00%<br>0             | 0.00%<br>0             | 0.00%<br>0                      | 0     |
| Atlantic Salmon Lakes  | 0.68%<br>3  | 1.35%<br>6           | 4.95%<br>22            | 11.94%<br>53           | 81.08%<br>360                   | 444   |
| Kokanee Lakes  | 1.58%<br>7  | 3.17%<br>14          | 5.20%<br>23            | 7.01%<br>31            | 83.03%<br>367                   | 442   |
| Sea Run Trout Stream   | 0.23%<br>1  | 1.59%<br>7           | 7.73%<br>34            | 13.41%<br>59           | 77.05%<br>339                   | 440   |

# Trout and Salmon Forum Survey

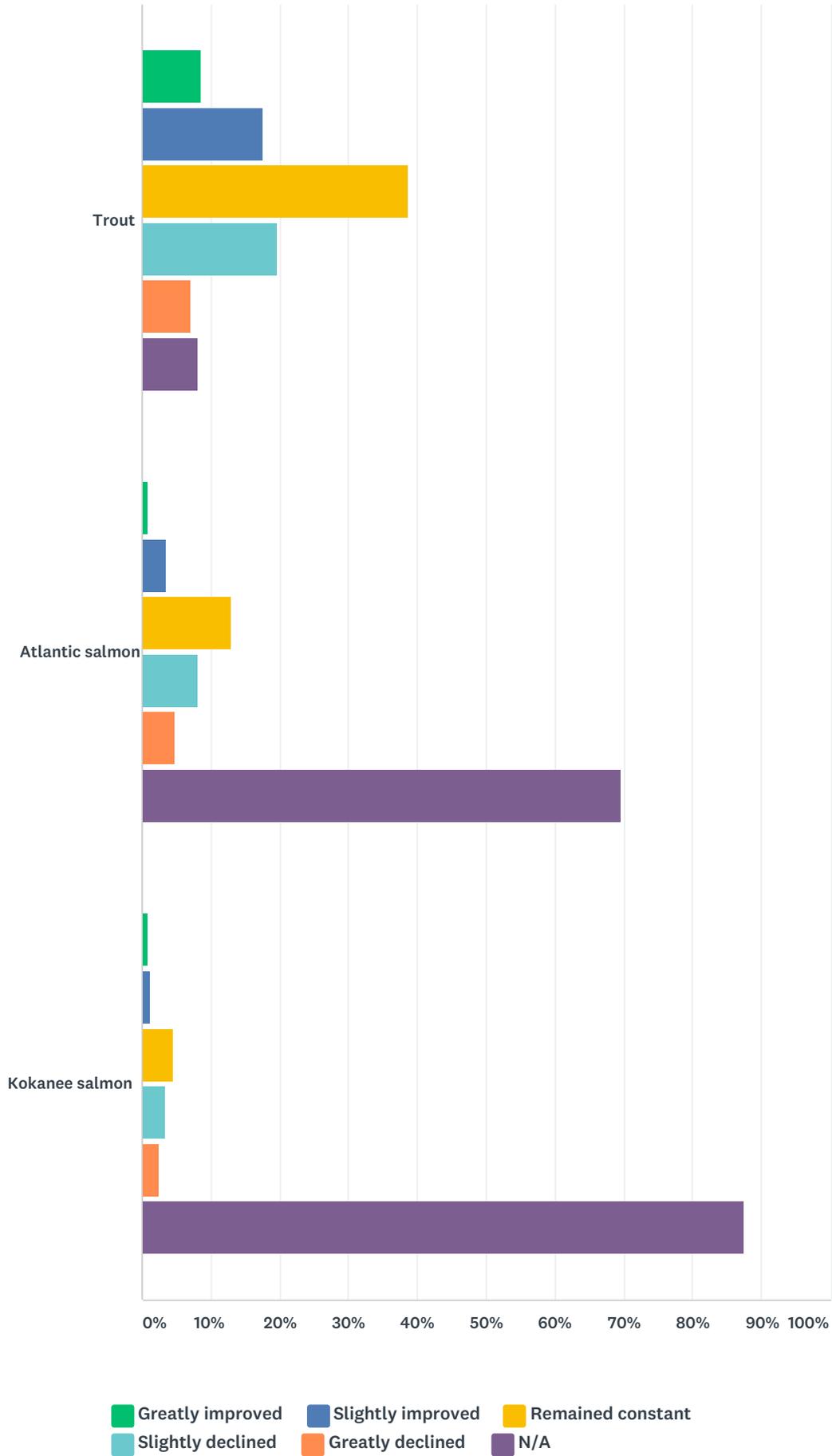
SurveyMonkey

---

|  |       |       |        |        |        |     |
|--|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| Fish and Game Club Waters  | 0.89% | 2.23% | 8.69%  | 9.80%  | 78.40% |     |
|  | 4     | 10    | 39     | 44     | 352    | 449 |
| <hr/>  |       |       |        |        |        |     |
| Waters on Private Land (not associated with any club, group, town, etc.) | 0.67% | 2.02% | 10.31% | 15.47% | 71.52% |     |
|  | 3     | 9     | 46     | 69     | 319    | 446 |

## Q20 How has the fishing for trout and salmon been over the past 5 years?

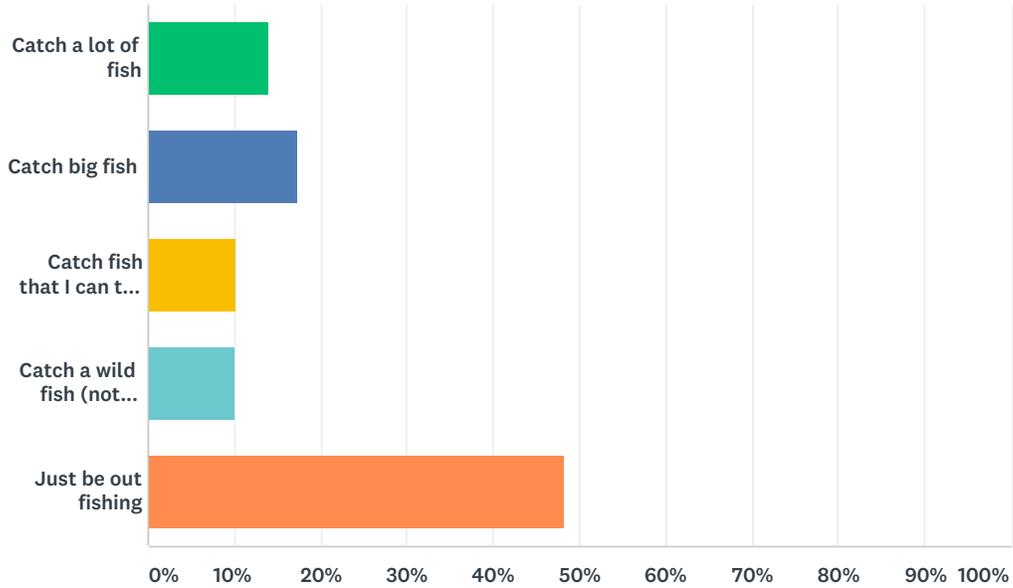
Answered: 482 Skipped: 10



|                 | GREATLY IMPROVED | SLIGHTLY IMPROVED | REMAINED CONSTANT | SLIGHTLY DECLINED | GREATLY DECLINED | N/A           | TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-------|
| Trout           | 8.60%<br>41      | 17.61%<br>84      | 38.78%<br>185     | 19.71%<br>94      | 7.13%<br>34      | 8.18%<br>39   | 477   |
| Atlantic salmon | 0.90%<br>4       | 3.62%<br>16       | 12.90%<br>57      | 8.14%<br>36       | 4.75%<br>21      | 69.68%<br>308 | 442   |
| Kokanee salmon  | 0.90%<br>4       | 1.35%<br>6        | 4.51%<br>20       | 3.39%<br>15       | 2.48%<br>11      | 87.36%<br>387 | 443   |

## Q21 When I go fishing, it is most important that I have the opportunity to:

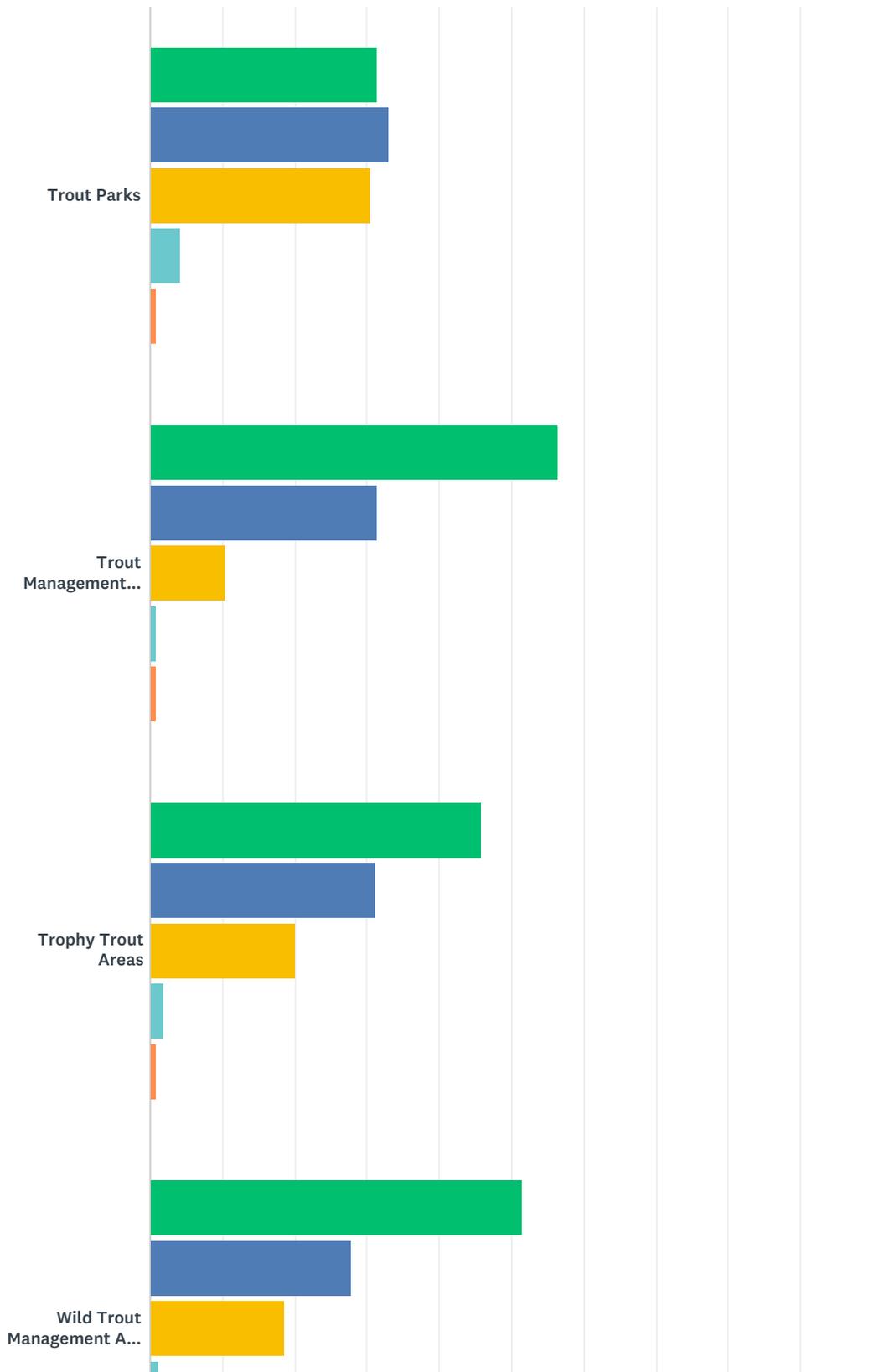
Answered: 483 Skipped: 9

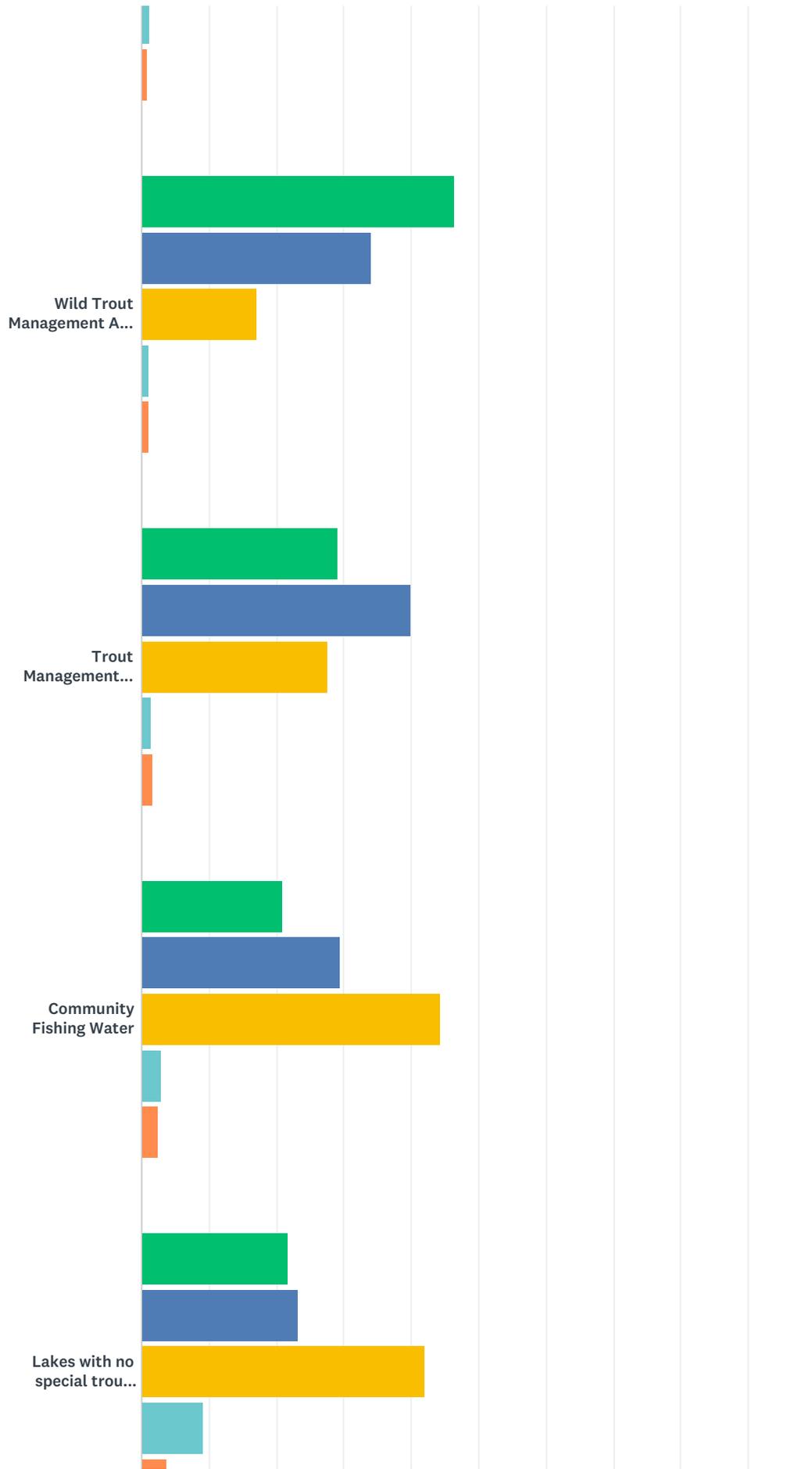


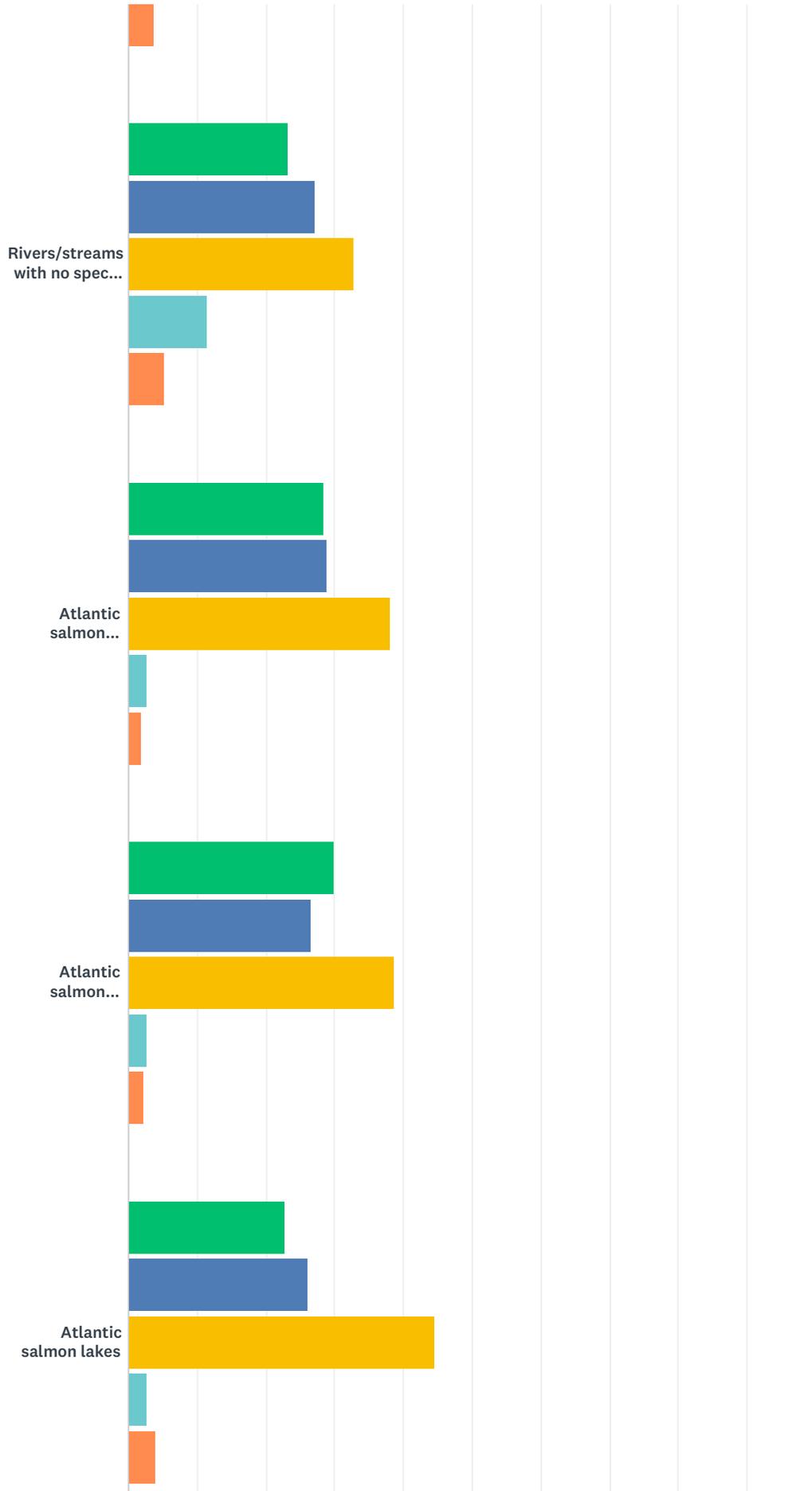
| ANSWER CHOICES                         | RESPONSES |            |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Catch a lot of fish                    | 14.08%    | 68         |
| Catch big fish                         | 17.39%    | 84         |
| Catch fish that I can take home to eat | 10.35%    | 50         |
| Catch a wild fish (not stocked)        | 9.94%     | 48         |
| Just be out fishing                    | 48.24%    | 233        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           |           | <b>483</b> |

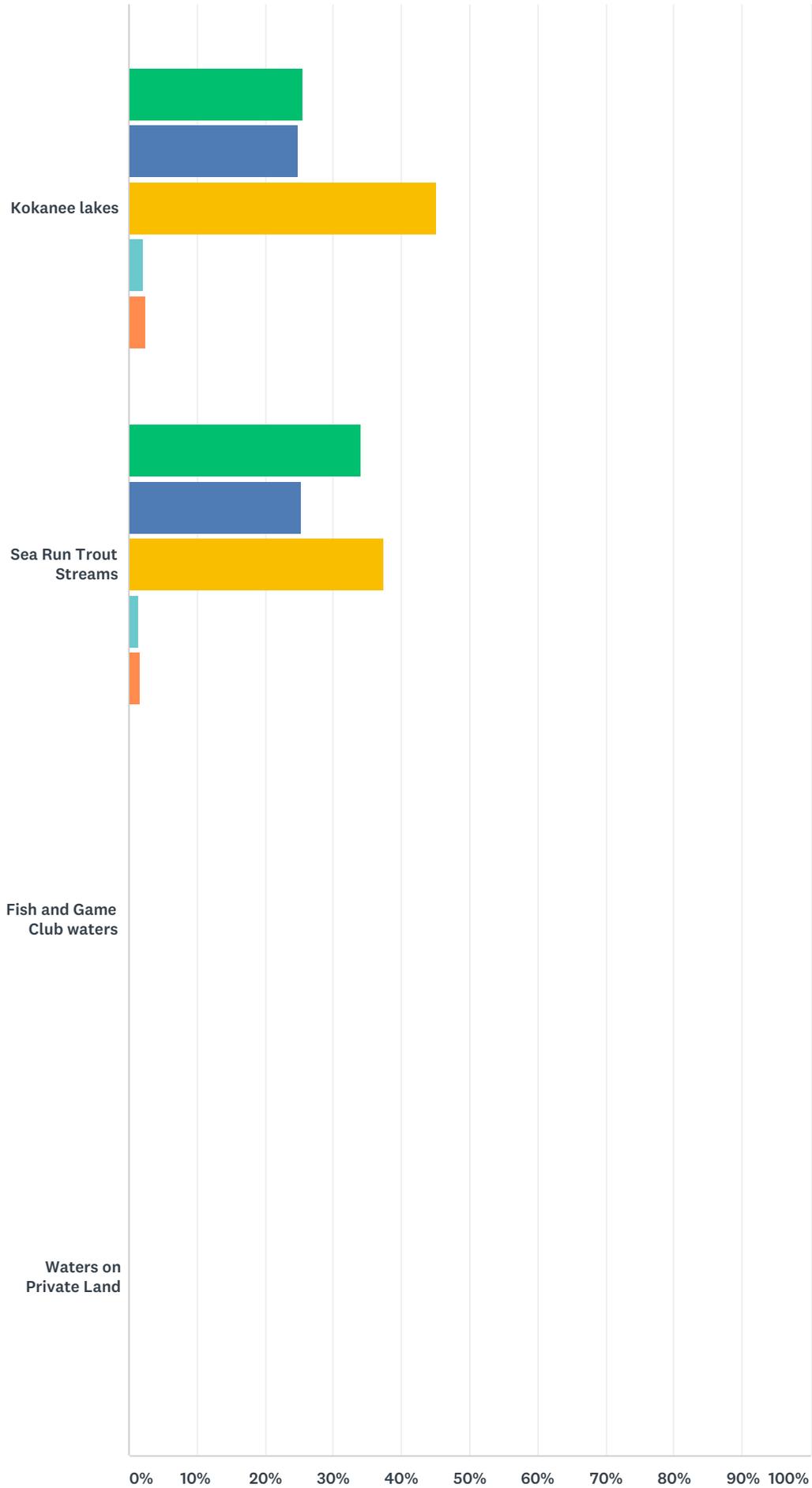
# Q22 To what extent do you support the following trout and salmon management programs?

Answered: 475 Skipped: 17







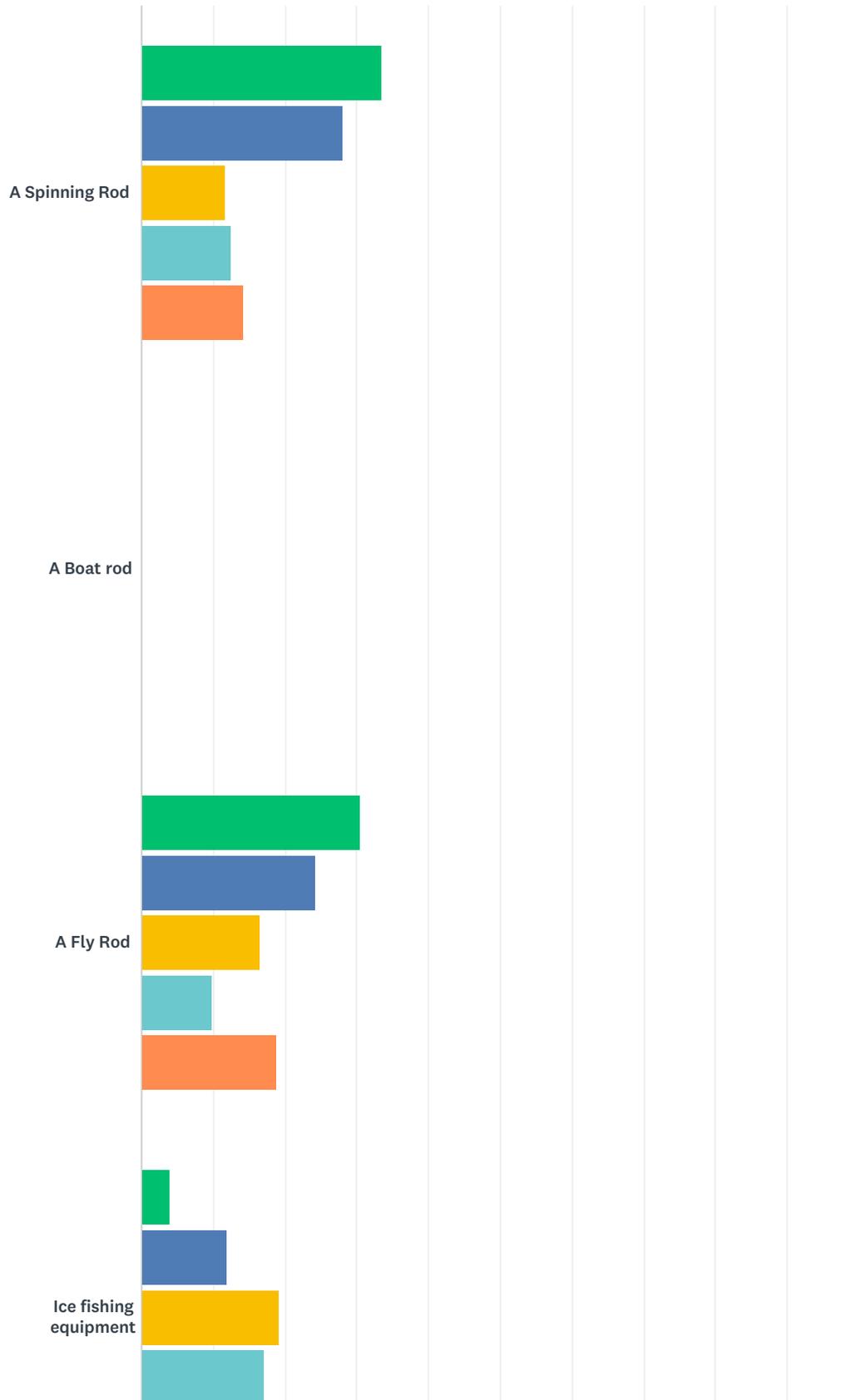


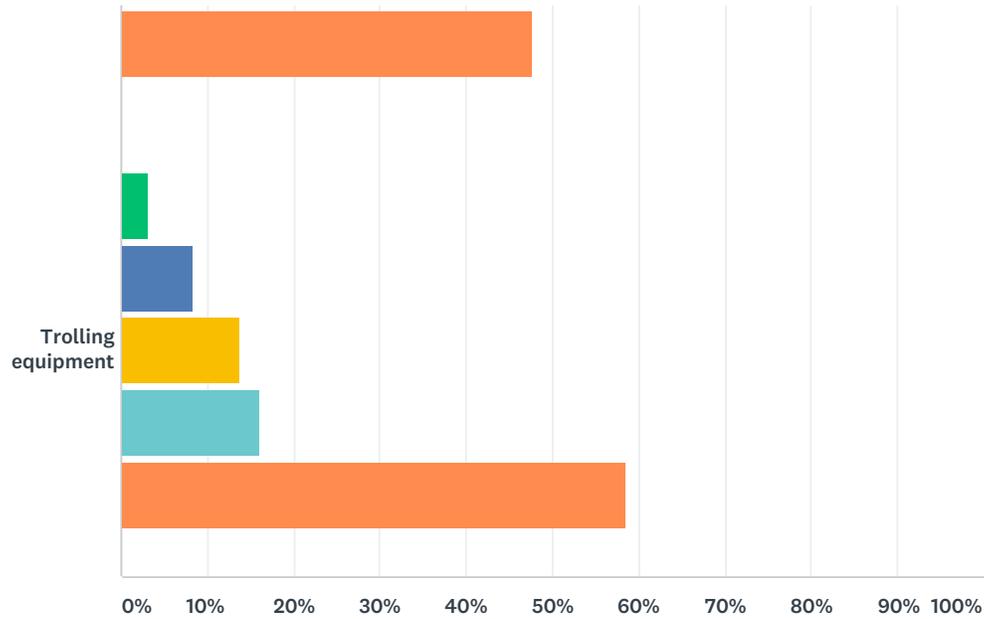


|  | STRONGLY SUPPORT | SUPPORT       | NEUTRAL       | OPPOSE       | STRONGLY OPPOSE | TOTAL |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| Trout Parks  | 31.37%<br>144    | 33.12%<br>152 | 30.50%<br>140 | 4.14%<br>19  | 0.87%<br>4      | 459   |
| Trout Management Areas   | 56.48%<br>266    | 31.42%<br>148 | 10.40%<br>49  | 0.85%<br>4   | 0.85%<br>4      | 471   |
| Trophy Trout Areas   | 45.77%<br>211    | 31.24%<br>144 | 20.17%<br>93  | 1.95%<br>9   | 0.87%<br>4      | 461   |
| Wild Trout Management Area Class 1 (not stocked)                                   | 51.40%<br>238    | 27.86%<br>129 | 18.57%<br>86  | 1.30%<br>6   | 0.86%<br>4      | 463   |
| Wild Trout Management Area Class 2 or Class 3 (stocked with fry and/or adult fish) | 46.54%<br>215    | 34.20%<br>158 | 17.10%<br>79  | 1.08%<br>5   | 1.08%<br>5      | 462   |
| Trout Management Lakes   | 29.01%<br>132    | 40.00%<br>182 | 27.69%<br>126 | 1.54%<br>7   | 1.76%<br>8      | 455   |
| Community Fishing Water  | 21.02%<br>95     | 29.42%<br>133 | 44.25%<br>200 | 2.88%<br>13  | 2.43%<br>11     | 452   |
| Lakes with no special trout rules or regulations                                   | 21.76%<br>99     | 23.30%<br>106 | 41.98%<br>191 | 9.23%<br>42  | 3.74%<br>17     | 455   |
| Rivers/streams with no special trout rules or regulations                          | 23.19%<br>106    | 27.13%<br>124 | 32.82%<br>150 | 11.60%<br>53 | 5.25%<br>24     | 457   |
| Atlantic salmon (Naugatuck River)  | 28.51%<br>128    | 28.95%<br>130 | 38.08%<br>171 | 2.67%<br>12  | 1.78%<br>8      | 449   |
| Atlantic salmon (Shetucket River)  | 29.87%<br>135    | 26.55%<br>120 | 38.72%<br>175 | 2.65%<br>12  | 2.21%<br>10     | 452   |
| Atlantic salmon lakes  | 22.74%<br>103    | 26.05%<br>118 | 44.59%<br>202 | 2.65%<br>12  | 3.97%<br>18     | 453   |
| Kokanee lakes  | 25.45%<br>114    | 25.00%<br>112 | 45.09%<br>202 | 2.01%<br>9   | 2.46%<br>11     | 448   |
| Sea Run Trout Streams  | 34.07%<br>154    | 25.22%<br>114 | 37.39%<br>169 | 1.55%<br>7   | 1.77%<br>8      | 452   |
| Fish and Game Club waters  | 0.00%<br>0       | 0.00%<br>0    | 0.00%<br>0    | 0.00%<br>0   | 0.00%<br>0      | 0     |
| Waters on Private Land   | 0.00%<br>0       | 0.00%<br>0    | 0.00%<br>0    | 0.00%<br>0   | 0.00%<br>0      | 0     |

### Q23 How often do you fish with the gear listed below?

Answered: 478 Skipped: 14



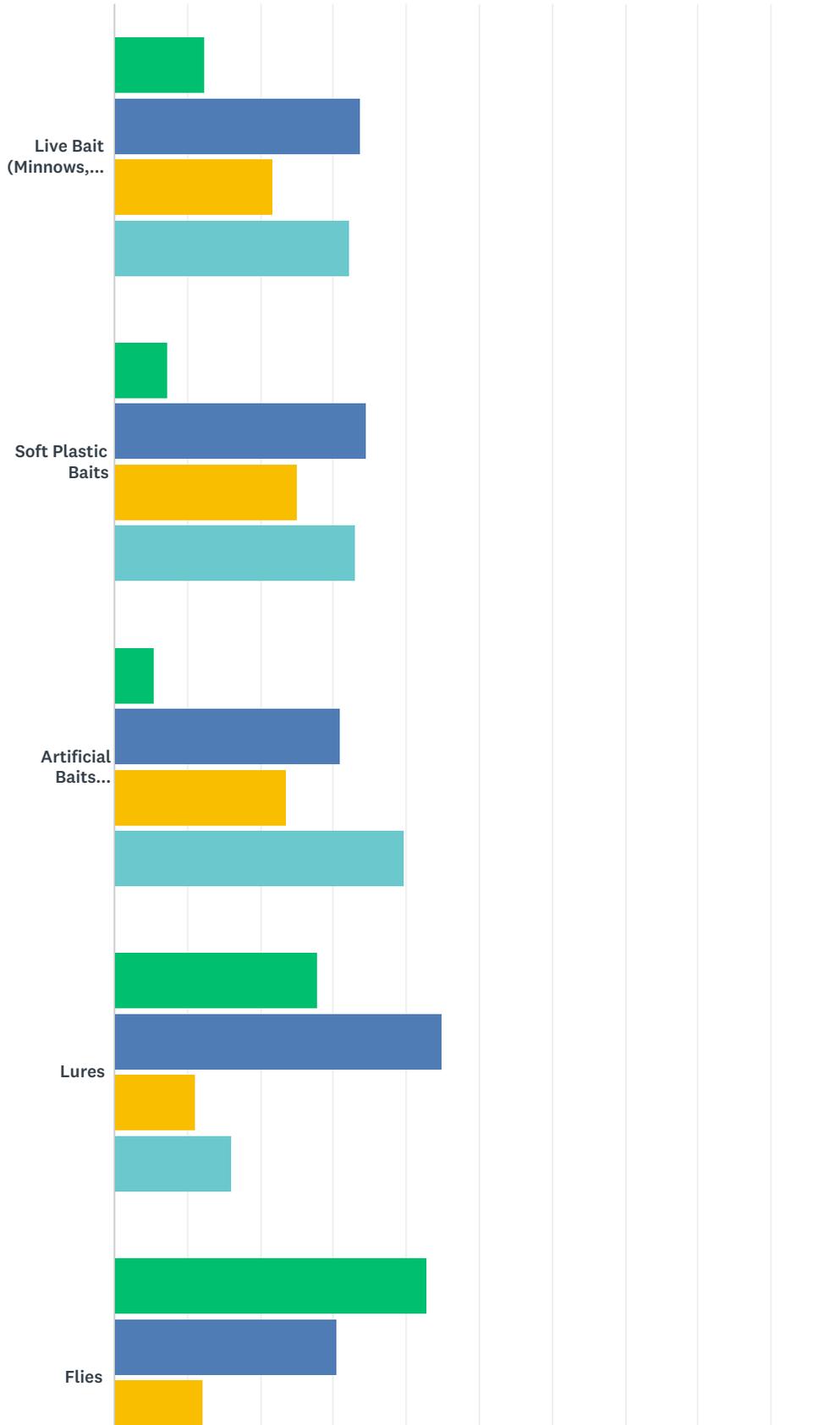


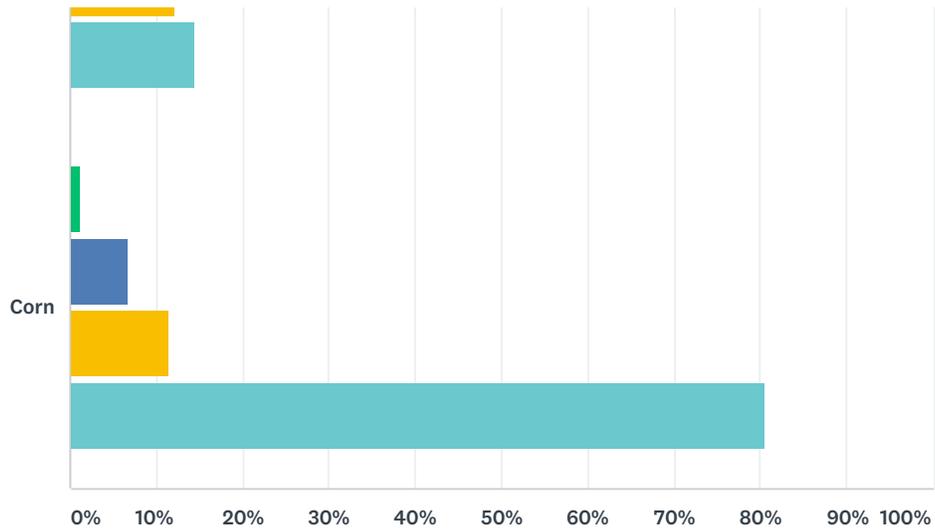
■ Always   
 ■ Frequently   
 ■ Occasionally   
 ■ Rarely   
 ■ Never

|                       | ALWAYS        | FREQUENTLY    | OCCASIONALLY | RARELY       | NEVER         | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| A Spinning Rod        | 33.41%<br>154 | 27.98%<br>129 | 11.71%<br>54 | 12.58%<br>58 | 14.32%<br>66  | 461   |
| A Boat rod            | 0.00%<br>0    | 0.00%<br>0    | 0.00%<br>0   | 0.00%<br>0   | 0.00%<br>0    | 0     |
| A Fly Rod             | 30.57%<br>140 | 24.24%<br>111 | 16.59%<br>76 | 9.83%<br>45  | 18.78%<br>86  | 458   |
| Ice fishing equipment | 4.04%<br>18   | 11.91%<br>53  | 19.33%<br>86 | 17.08%<br>76 | 47.64%<br>212 | 445   |
| Trolling equipment    | 3.17%<br>14   | 8.39%<br>37   | 13.83%<br>61 | 16.10%<br>71 | 58.50%<br>258 | 441   |

# Q24 How often do you use

Answered: 481 Skipped: 11



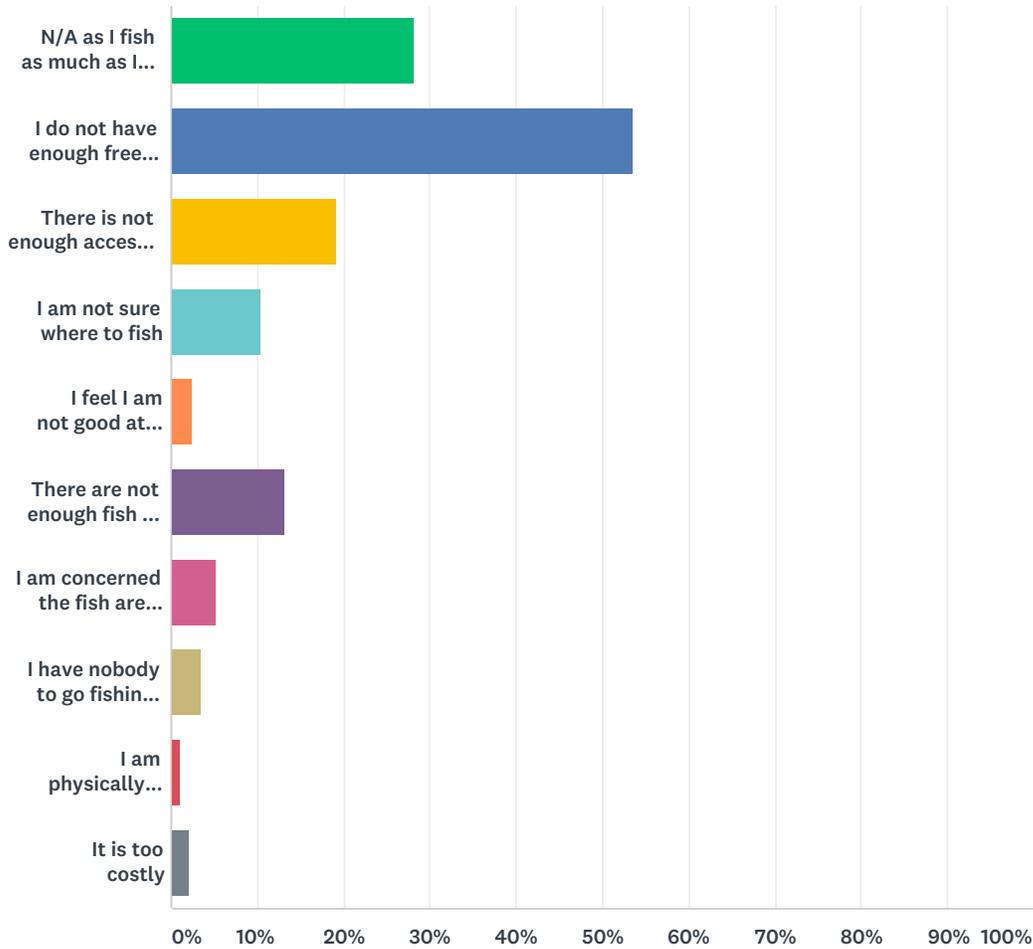


■ Always   
 ■ Occassionally   
 ■ Rarely   
 ■ Never

|  | ALWAYS        | OCCASSIONALLY | RARELY        | NEVER         | TOTAL |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Live Bait (Minnows, worms, mealworms, etc) | 12.42%<br>58  | 33.62%<br>157 | 21.84%<br>102 | 32.12%<br>150 | 467   |
| Soft Plastic Baits                         | 7.28%<br>33   | 34.44%<br>156 | 25.17%<br>114 | 33.11%<br>150 | 453   |
| Artificial Baits (PowerBait, Bollies, etc) | 5.54%<br>25   | 31.04%<br>140 | 23.73%<br>107 | 39.69%<br>179 | 451   |
| Lures                                      | 27.74%<br>129 | 44.95%<br>209 | 11.18%<br>52  | 16.13%<br>75  | 465   |
| Flies                                      | 42.83%<br>200 | 30.62%<br>143 | 12.21%<br>57  | 14.35%<br>67  | 467   |
| Corn                                       | 1.33%<br>6    | 6.64%<br>30   | 11.50%<br>52  | 80.53%<br>364 | 452   |

## Q25 Which of the following are preventing you from fishing more often (check all that apply)

Answered: 478 Skipped: 14

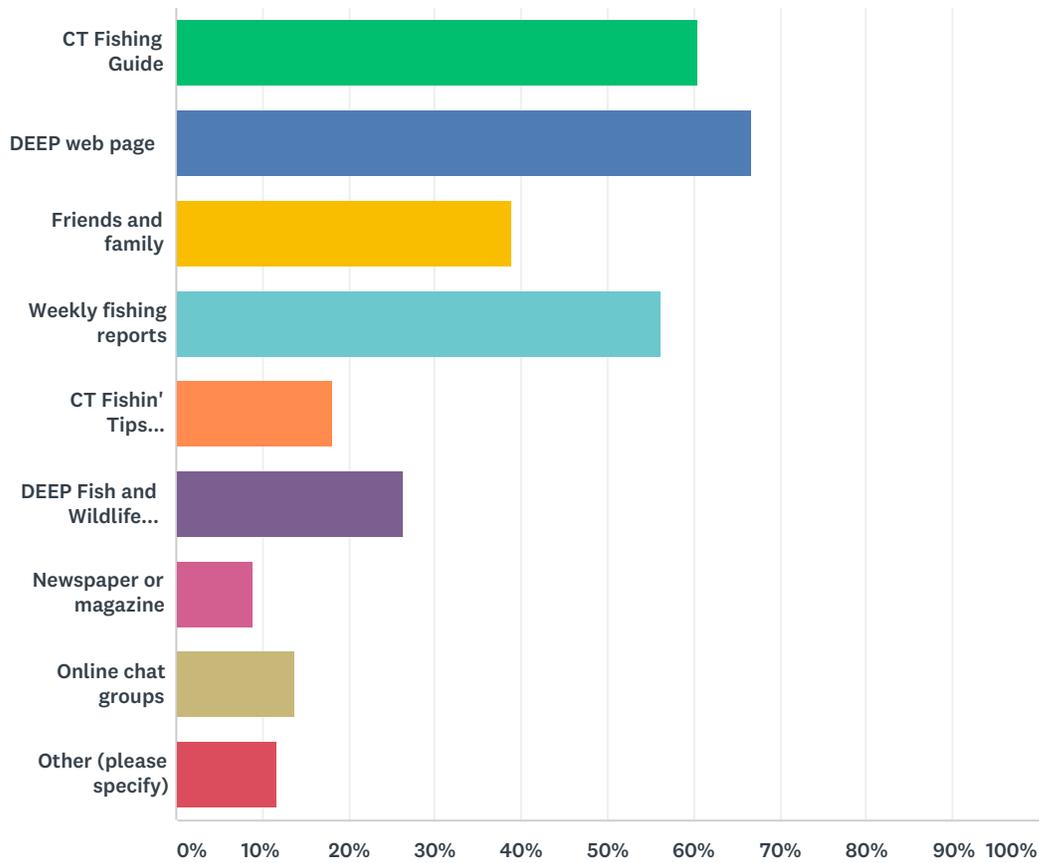


| ANSWER CHOICES                                 | RESPONSES |     |
|--|-----------|-----|
| N/A as I fish as much as I want now            | 28.24%    | 135 |
| I do not have enough free time                 | 53.56%    | 256 |
| There is not enough access to get to the water | 19.25%    | 92  |
| I am not sure where to fish                    | 10.46%    | 50  |
| I feel I am not good at fishing                | 2.51%     | 12  |
| There are not enough fish to catch             | 13.18%    | 63  |
| I am concerned the fish are not safe to eat    | 5.23%     | 25  |
| I have nobody to go fishing with               | 3.56%     | 17  |
| I am physically unable to fish                 | 1.05%     | 5   |
| It is too costly                               | 2.09%     | 10  |

Total Respondents: 478

## Q26 Where do you routinely get information about fishing in Connecticut? (check all that apply)

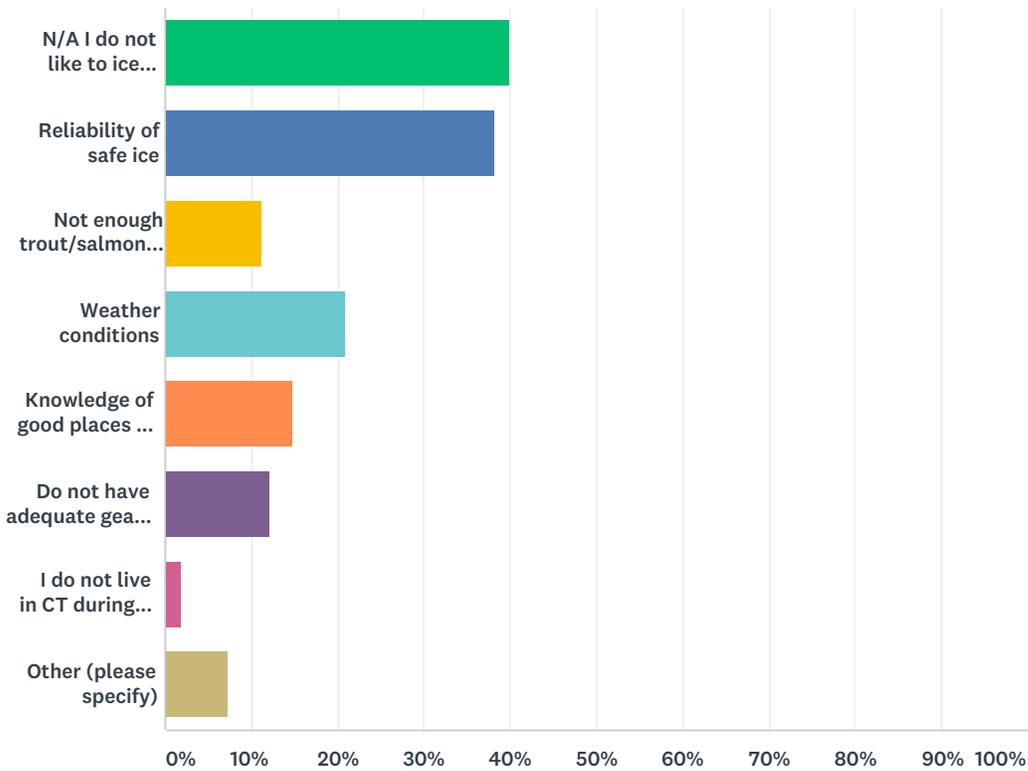
Answered: 474 Skipped: 18



| ANSWER CHOICES                       | RESPONSES |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| CT Fishing Guide                     | 60.55%    | 287 |
| DEEP web page                        | 66.67%    | 316 |
| Friends and family                   | 38.82%    | 184 |
| Weekly fishing reports               | 56.33%    | 267 |
| CT Fishin' Tips E-newsletter         | 18.14%    | 86  |
| DEEP Fish and Wildlife Facebook Page | 26.37%    | 125 |
| Newspaper or magazine                | 9.07%     | 43  |
| Online chat groups                   | 13.71%    | 65  |
| Other (please specify)               | 11.81%    | 56  |
| Total Respondents: 474               |           |     |

## Q27 What are significant impediments to ice fishing for trout or salmon (check all that apply)

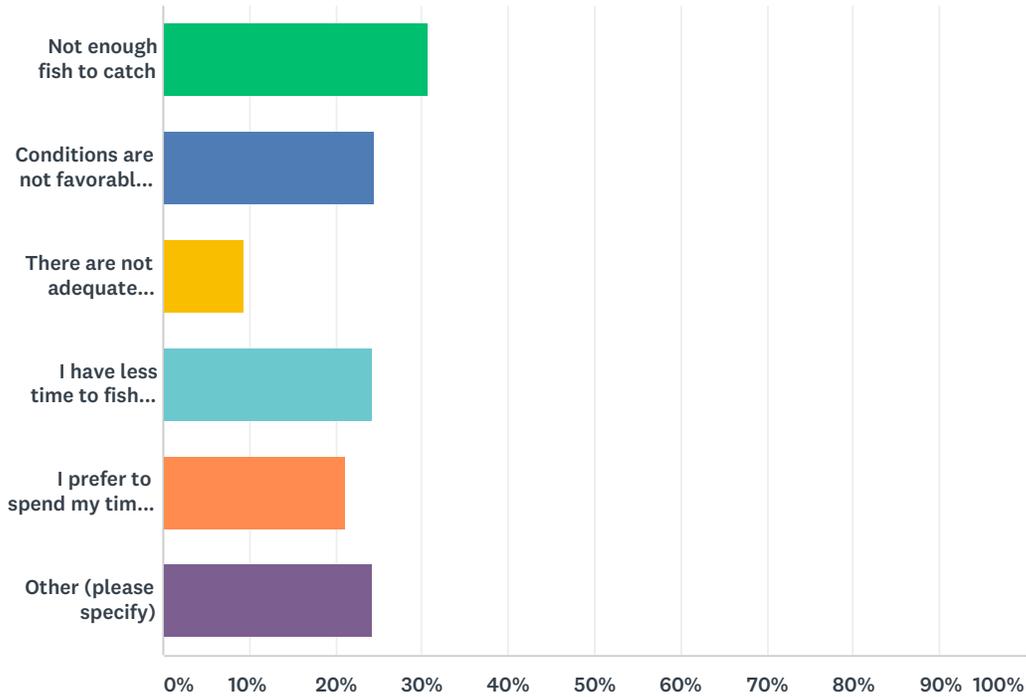
Answered: 468 Skipped: 24



| ANSWER CHOICES                          | RESPONSES |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| N/A I do not like to ice fish for trout | 39.96%    | 187 |
| Reliability of safe ice                 | 38.25%    | 179 |
| Not enough trout/salmon to catch        | 11.32%    | 53  |
| Weather conditions                      | 20.94%    | 98  |
| Knowledge of good places to fish        | 14.96%    | 70  |
| Do not have adequate gear or knowledge  | 12.18%    | 57  |
| I do not live in CT during the winter   | 1.92%     | 9   |
| Other (please specify)                  | 7.26%     | 34  |
| Total Respondents: 468                  |           |     |

**Q28 Currently the majority of the trout we produce are stocked in advance of Opening Day and the weeks following Opening Day with much fewer fish stocked in the fall. What are some impediments to you fishing in the fall? (select all that apply)**

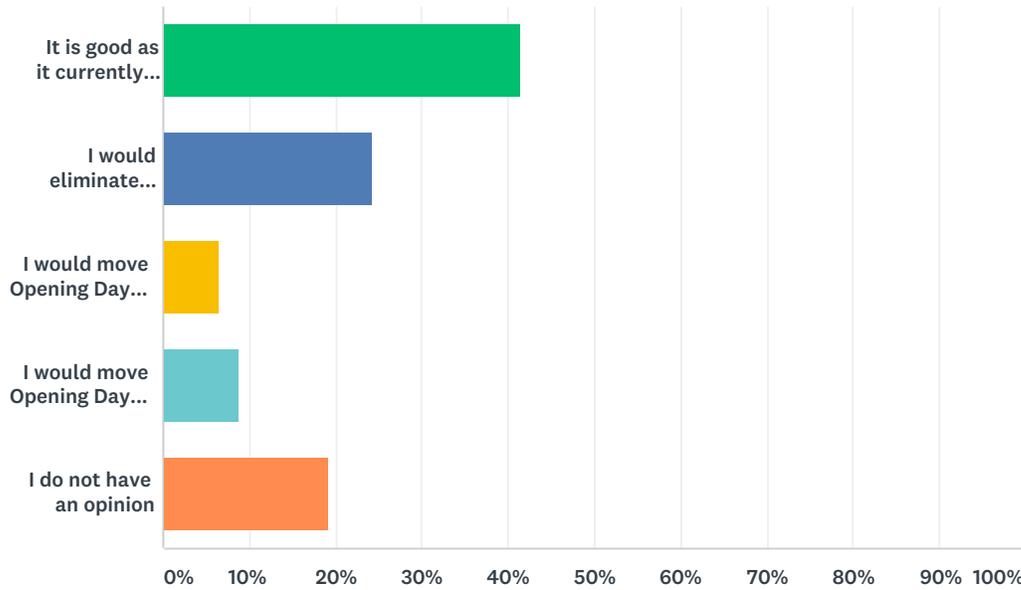
Answered: 458 Skipped: 34



| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES |     |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Not enough fish to catch   | 30.79%    | 141 |
| Conditions are not favorable for trout fishing (too many weeds, too warm, too low) | 24.45%    | 112 |
| There are not adequate opportunities to harvest stocked trout from streams         | 9.39%     | 43  |
| I have less time to fish in the fall due to work and home obligations              | 24.24%    | 111 |
| I prefer to spend my time hunting in the fall vs fishing                           | 21.18%    | 97  |
| Other (please specify)   | 24.24%    | 111 |
| Total Respondents: 458   |           |     |

## Q29 What is your opinion about the timing of Opening Day?

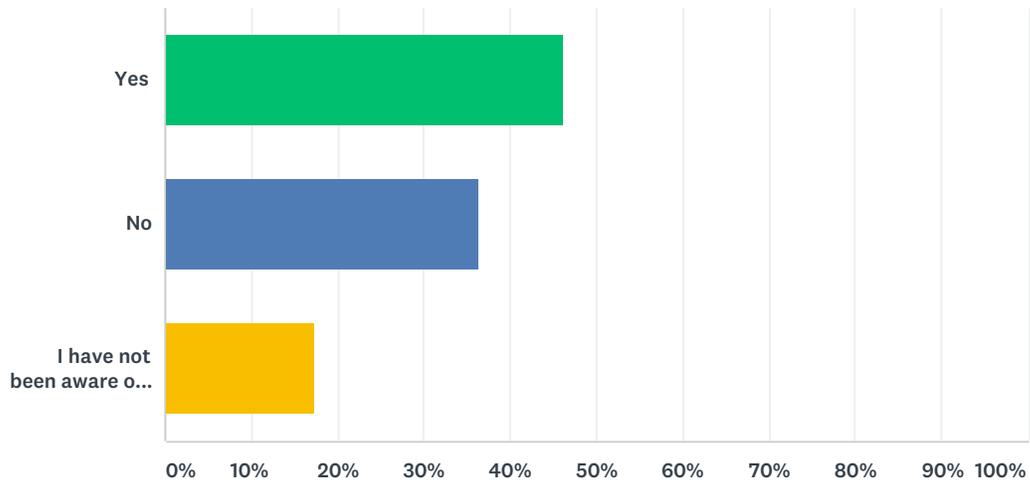
Answered: 470 Skipped: 22



| ANSWER CHOICES  | RESPONSES |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| It is good as it currently is - on the Second Saturday of April | 41.49%    | 195        |
| I would eliminate Opening Day                                   | 24.26%    | 114        |
| I would move Opening Day later in the year                      | 6.38%     | 30         |
| I would move Opening Day earlier in the year                    | 8.72%     | 41         |
| I do not have an opinion  | 19.15%    | 90         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |           | <b>470</b> |

### Q30 Have you participated in any electronic surveys from the Fisheries Division?

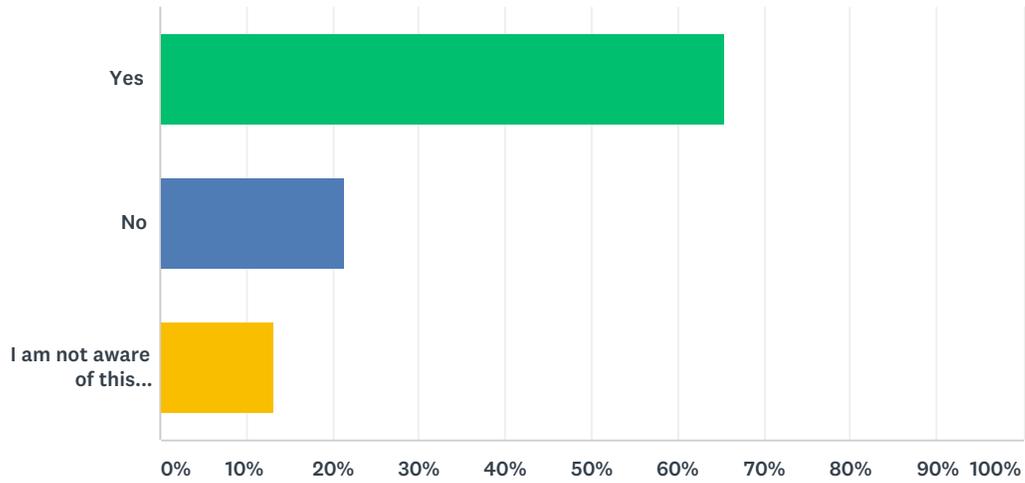
Answered: 471 Skipped: 21



| ANSWER CHOICES  | RESPONSES |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Yes   | 46.28%    | 218        |
| No  | 36.31%    | 171        |
| I have not been aware of any electronic surveys from the Fisheries Division | 17.41%    | 82         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |           | <b>471</b> |

### Q31 Have you made use of the interactive trout stocking map?

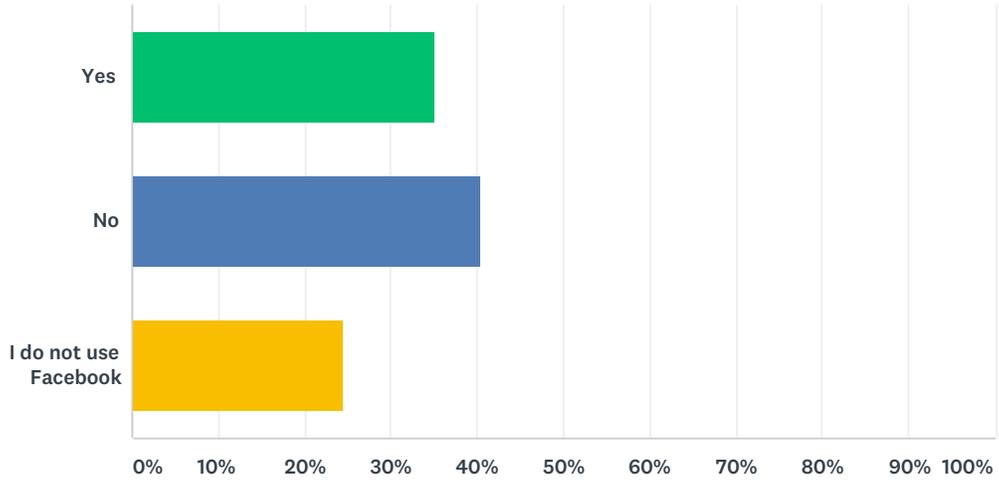
Answered: 473 Skipped: 19



| ANSWER CHOICES                  | RESPONSES |     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes                             | 65.54%    | 310 |
| No                              | 21.35%    | 101 |
| I am not aware of this resource | 13.11%    | 62  |
| TOTAL                           |           | 473 |

### Q32 Do you follow us on Facebook?

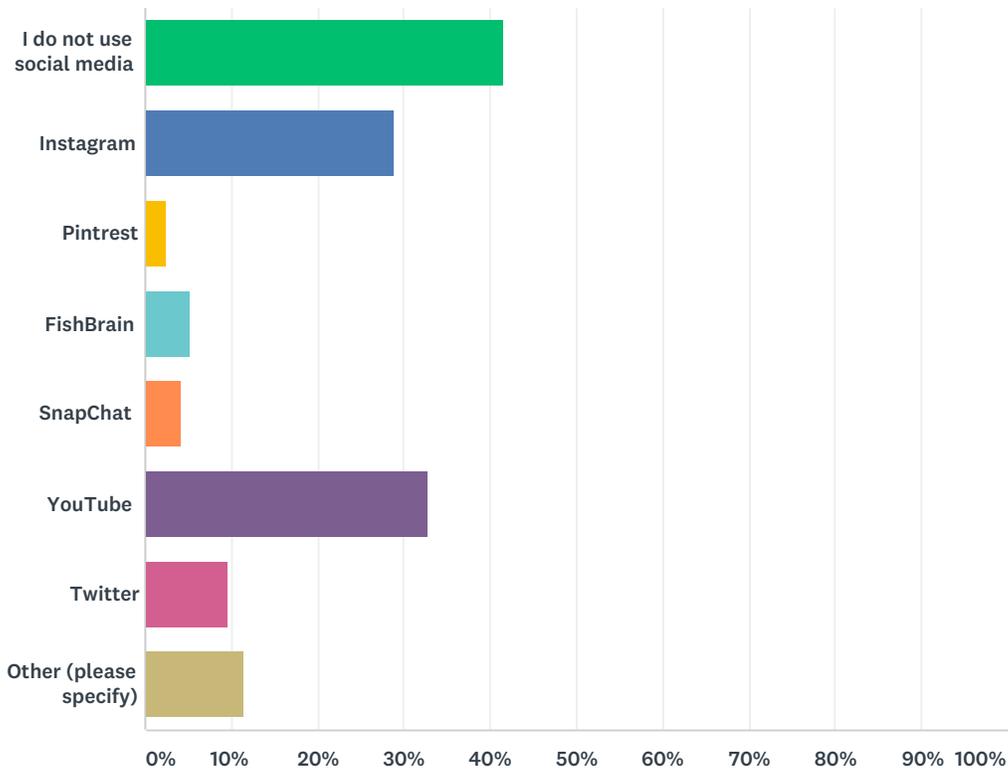
Answered: 474 Skipped: 18



| ANSWER CHOICES        | RESPONSES |     |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes                   | 35.23%    | 167 |
| No                    | 40.30%    | 191 |
| I do not use Facebook | 24.47%    | 116 |
| TOTAL                 |           | 474 |

### Q33 If you utilize social media, which platforms would you like to see the Fisheries Division to have a presence? (select all that apply)

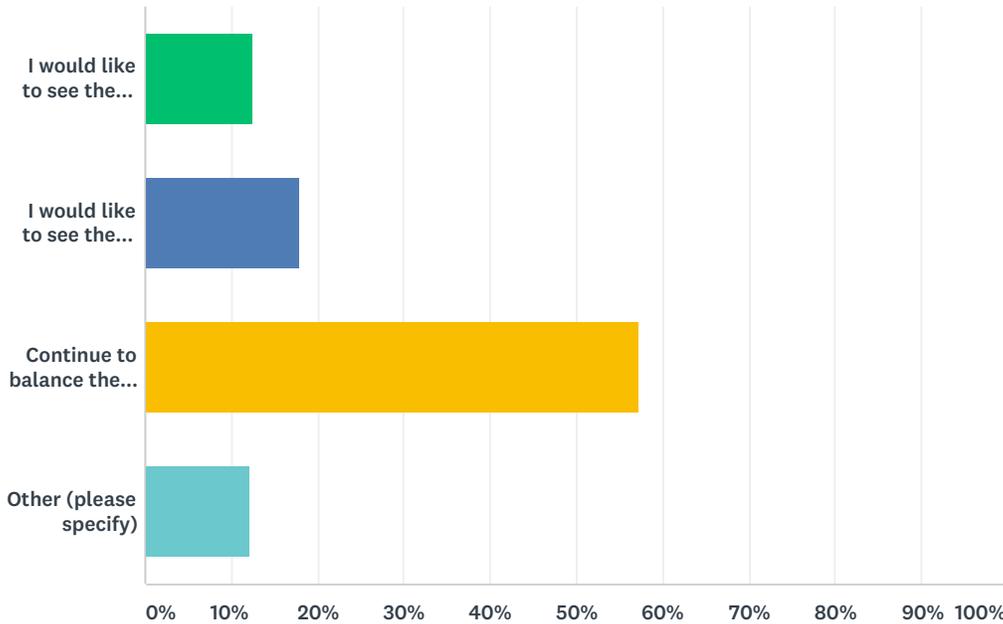
Answered: 433 Skipped: 59



| ANSWER CHOICES            | RESPONSES |     |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----|
| I do not use social media | 41.57%    | 180 |
| Instagram                 | 28.87%    | 125 |
| Pinterest                 | 2.54%     | 11  |
| FishBrain                 | 5.31%     | 23  |
| SnapChat                  | 4.16%     | 18  |
| YouTube                   | 32.79%    | 142 |
| Twitter                   | 9.70%     | 42  |
| Other (please specify)    | 11.55%    | 50  |
| Total Respondents: 433    |           |     |

Q34 Our state fish hatcheries can produce a fixed total weight of fish each year. Our biologists currently work to balance the total number of standard size fish (range 9-11 inches) we can stock against growing as many larger fish (greater than 12 inches average size) possible. Knowing this, how would you prefer to see the Fisheries Division allocate the space at the hatchery?

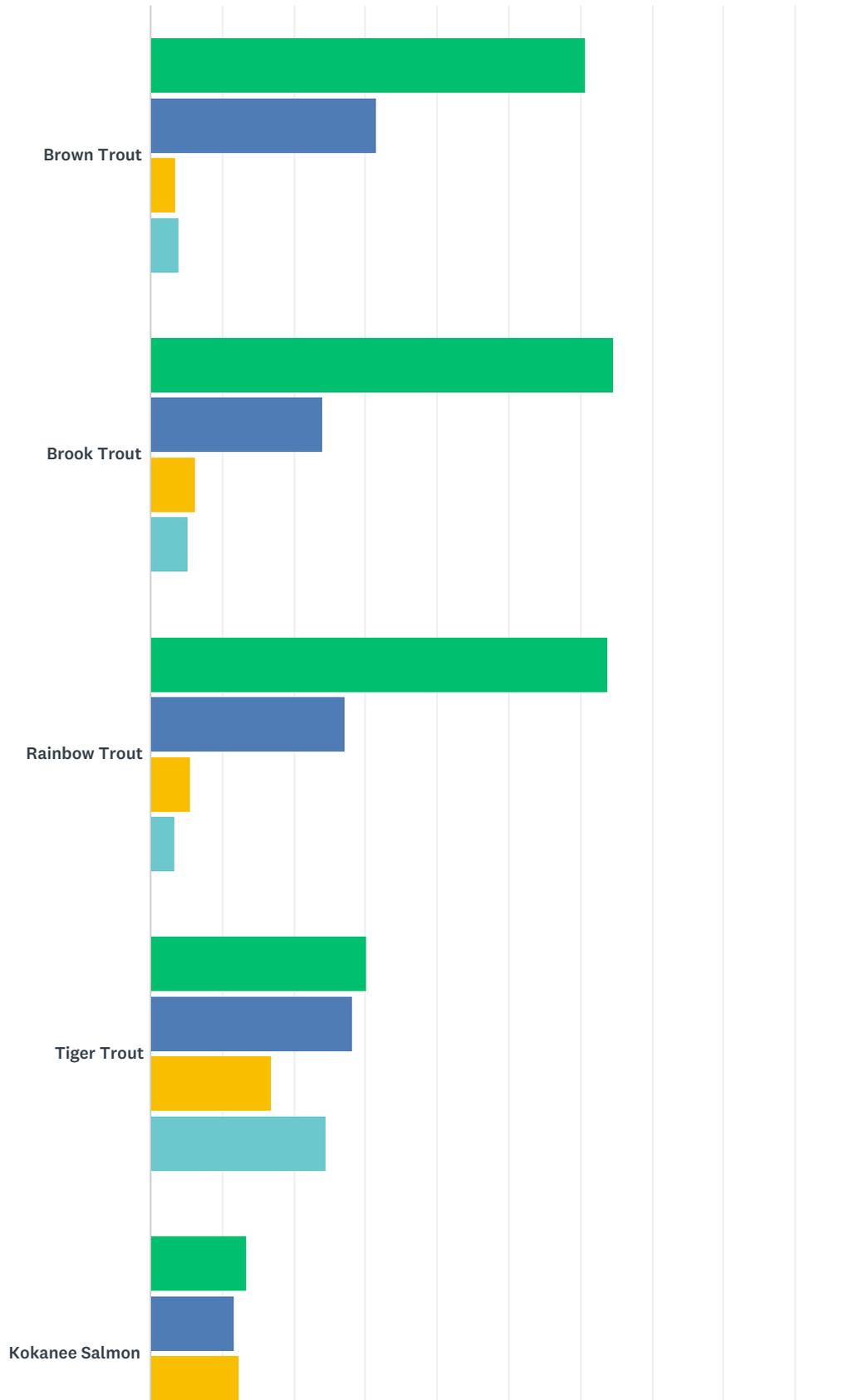
Answered: 469 Skipped: 23

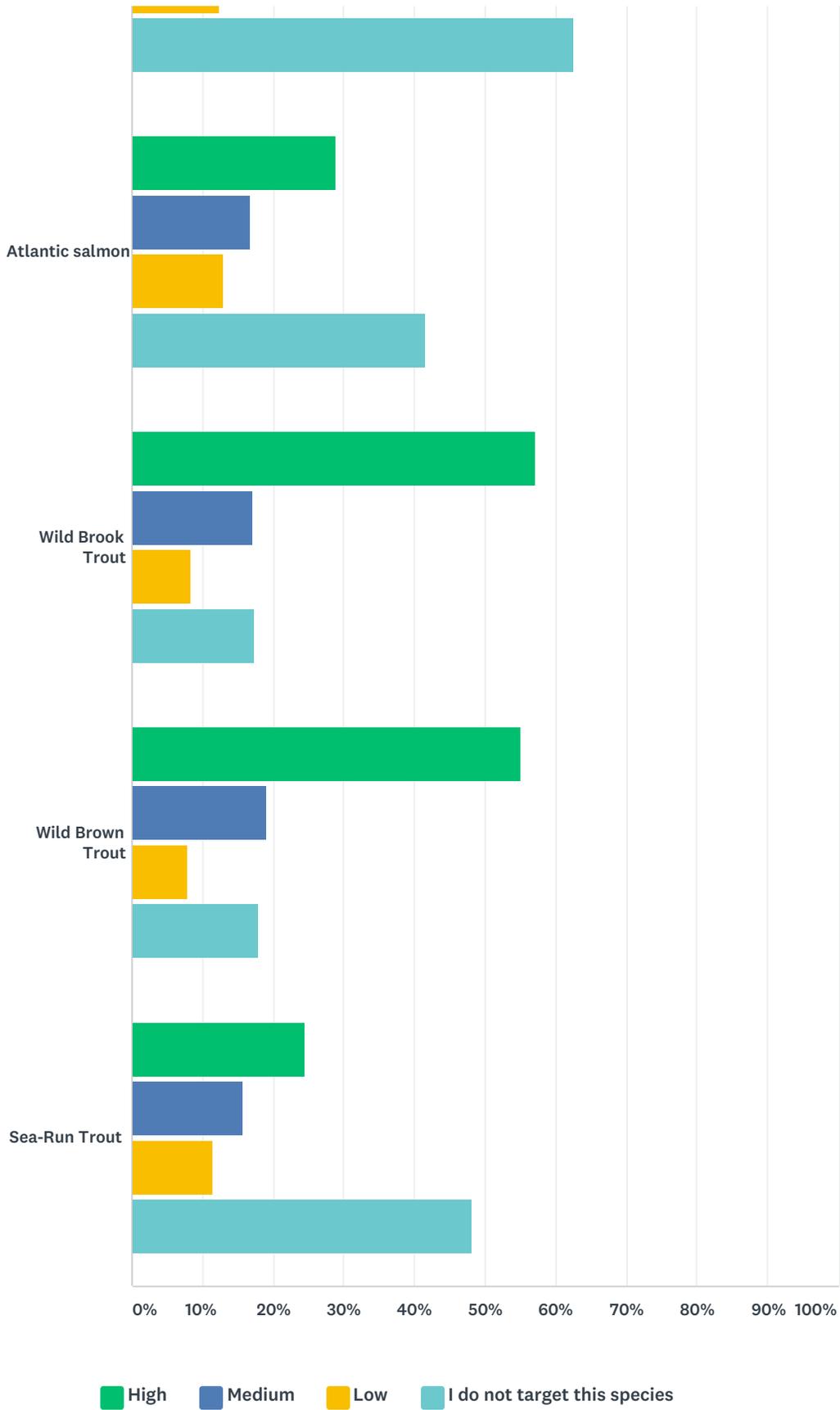


| ANSWER CHOICES  | RESPONSES |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| I would like to see the hatchery make the the greatest number of standard size fish possible (meaning the total number of fish could be greater, but they would all be of the standard size).                                 | 12.58%    | 59         |
| I would like to see the hatchery grow the greatest number of largest fish possible (means potentially much fewer total number of fish available, but those stocked are much larger than the standard size)                    | 17.91%    | 84         |
| Continue to balance the total number of fish while also making as many larger size fish as possible (meaning we would continue to produce the majority of fish in the standard size while having some larger fish available). | 57.36%    | 269        |
| Other (please specify)  | 12.15%    | 57         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |           | <b>469</b> |

### Q35 Please indicate your preference to catch the following

Answered: 476 Skipped: 16





|             | HIGH          | MEDIUM        | LOW         | I DO NOT TARGET THIS SPECIES | TOTAL |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Brown Trout | 60.60%<br>283 | 31.69%<br>148 | 3.64%<br>17 | 4.07%<br>19                  | 467   |

# Trout and Salmon Forum Survey

SurveyMonkey

|                  |               |               |              |               |     |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----|
| Brook Trout      | 64.58%<br>299 | 23.97%<br>111 | 6.26%<br>29  | 5.18%<br>24   | 463 |
| Rainbow Trout    | 63.77%<br>301 | 27.12%<br>128 | 5.72%<br>27  | 3.39%<br>16   | 472 |
| Tiger Trout      | 30.16%<br>133 | 28.34%<br>125 | 17.01%<br>75 | 24.49%<br>108 | 441 |
| Kokanee Salmon   | 13.47%<br>59  | 11.64%<br>51  | 12.33%<br>54 | 62.56%<br>274 | 438 |
| Atlantic salmon  | 28.89%<br>128 | 16.70%<br>74  | 12.87%<br>57 | 41.53%<br>184 | 443 |
| Wild Brook Trout | 57.14%<br>260 | 17.14%<br>78  | 8.35%<br>38  | 17.36%<br>79  | 455 |
| Wild Brown Trout | 55.03%<br>246 | 19.02%<br>85  | 8.05%<br>36  | 17.90%<br>80  | 447 |
| Sea-Run Trout    | 24.55%<br>108 | 15.68%<br>69  | 11.59%<br>51 | 48.18%<br>212 | 440 |