

Milfoil Watercraft GUIDELINES*

Sponsored by the Notre-Dame and Usher Lakes Association with the generous support of  La Pêche

Resident consultation survey on Eurasian water milfoil & ways to slow its spread

Conducted by Lac Notre-Dame and Usher Lake Association
with support from the La Pêche Green Fund



July 2025

Objectives

- Measure attitudes and impressions of lake residents about the presence of Eurasian water milfoil on Lac Notre-Dame and Usher Lake.
- Gather reaction and feedback to draft ***Watercraft Guidelines*** developed by the Lake Association to direct lake users away from areas infested with milfoil and toward open water.

Method

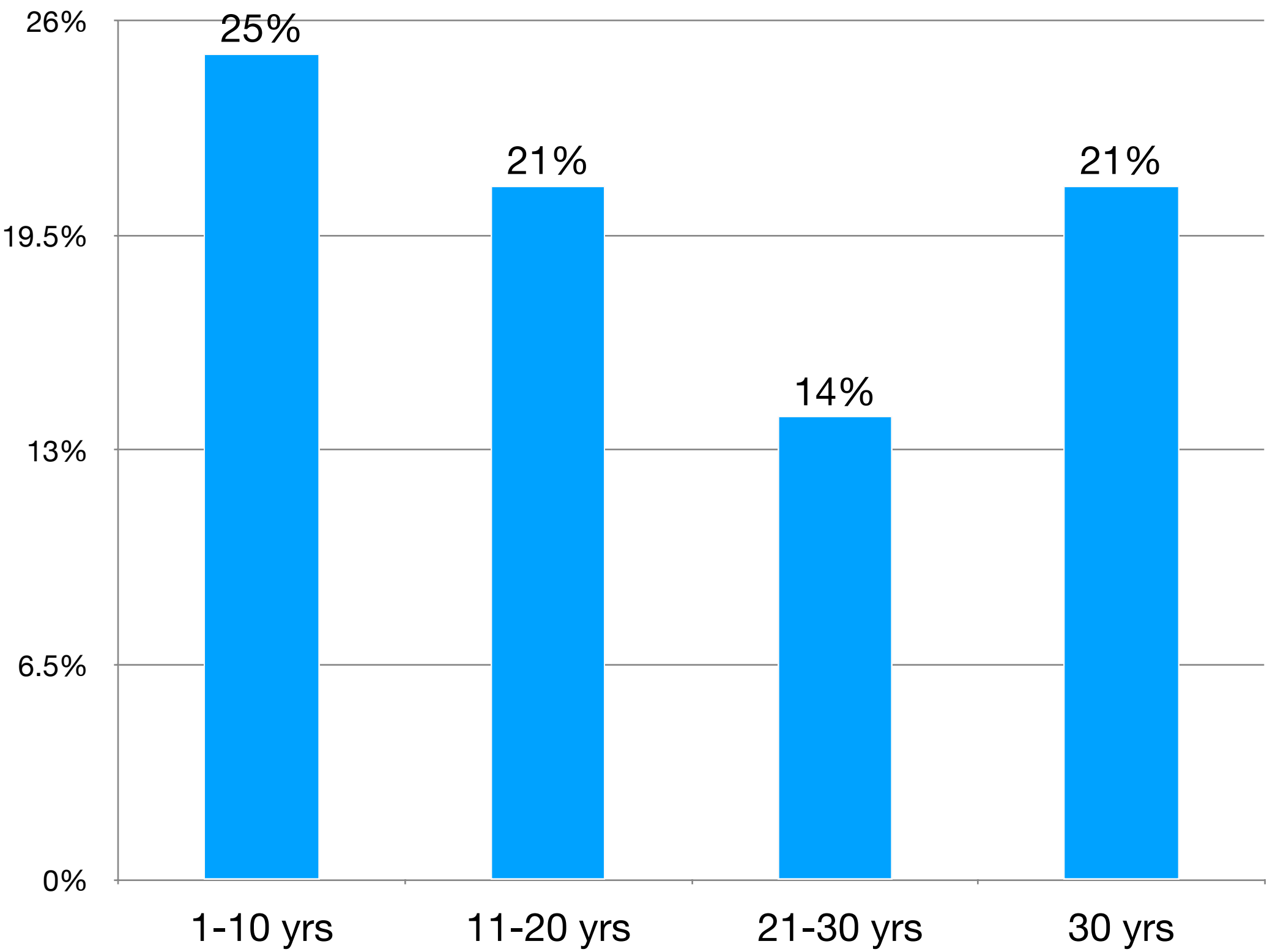
- All residents of Lac Notre Dame and Usher Lake who could be reached by email by the Lake Association received an invitation to complete the survey on June 18, 2025. A total of 111 people were sent a unique link to the survey that could not be shared. Two reminder emails were sent to the same list of residents. The survey closed on July 2nd. Responses were limited to one per residence.
- A total of 52 residences completed the survey. An additional 5 substantially completed responses are reported in the results. Overall, 51% of those who received the invitation participated in the study.
- Because Usher is a much smaller lake and the presence of milfoil is much more limited, respondents from Usher Lake are limited to those who use Lac Notre-Dame.
- The survey was conducted on the Qualtrics platform.
- Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding or in cases where respondents were invited to select more than one response.

Main Findings

- Responses from almost all areas of Lac Notre-Dame are reflected in the survey results.
- Swimming (91%) and paddling (85%) are the main activities enjoyed by respondents. Fishing (24%) and using motorized watercraft (35%) are also enjoyed by a significant segment of respondents.
- Respondents reported seeing milfoil in all areas of the lake, and areas 1, 13, 14, 16, and 17 were reported as containing milfoil most often (see map at p.11 of report).
- High levels of concern about the presence of milfoil on the lake are reported with 61% of respondents saying they were “very concerned” about milfoil.
- Top two reasons for their concerns were diminished ability to enjoy the lake (89%) and environmental concerns (85%).
- Six-in-ten (62%) think the consultation draft of the ***Watercraft Guidelines*** map accurately depicts milfoil conditions on the lake as they were during the summer of 2024.
- Vast majority (85%) see the ***Watercraft Guidelines*** as a good idea to slow the spread of milfoil. Almost all (98%) intend to follow the ***Guidelines***
- Confidence that others will do the same is not as high with a majority (56%) anticipating that others will follow the voluntary ***Guidelines***.

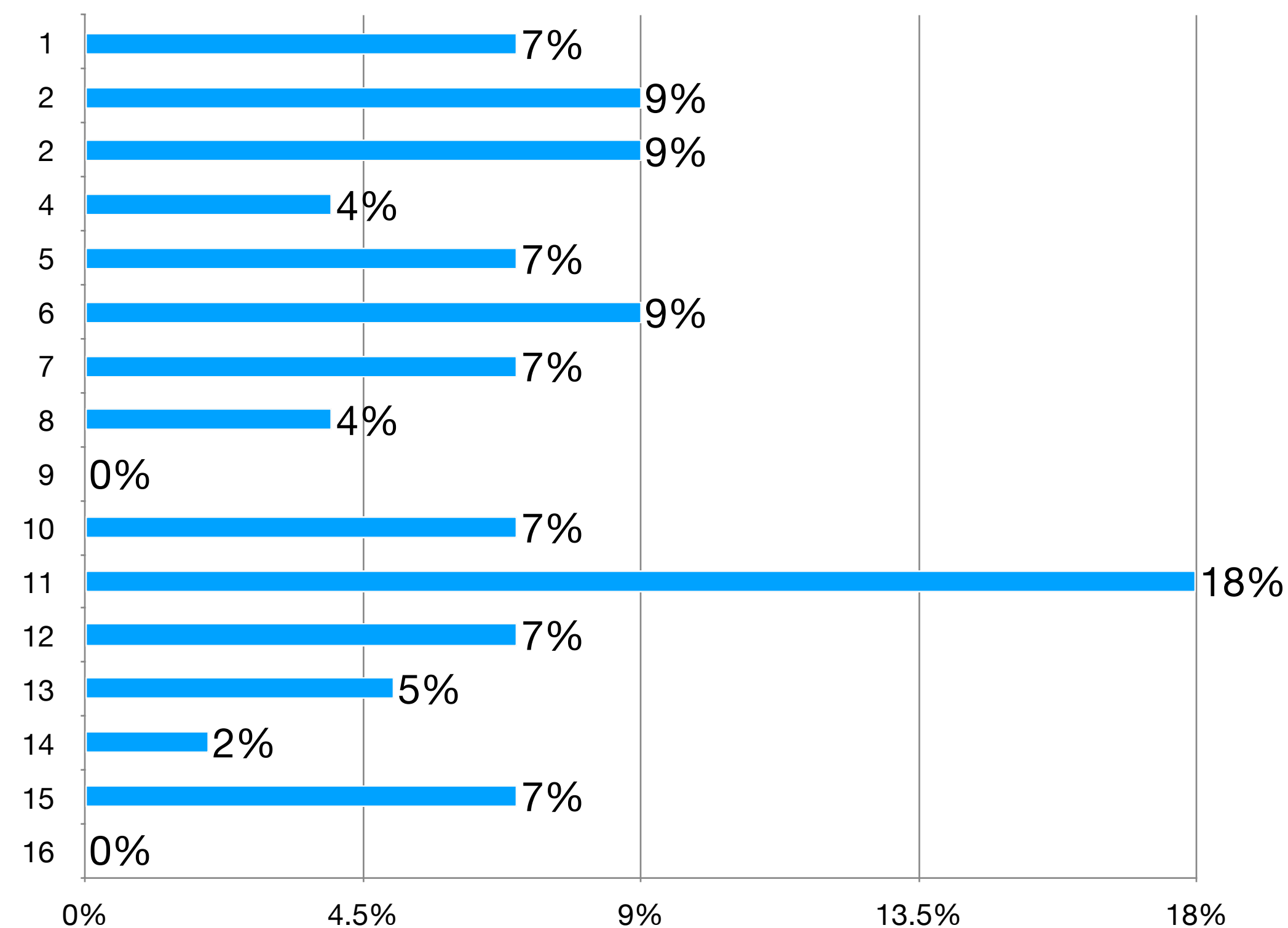
Detailed Results

Most residents have belonged to the lake communities for 11+ years



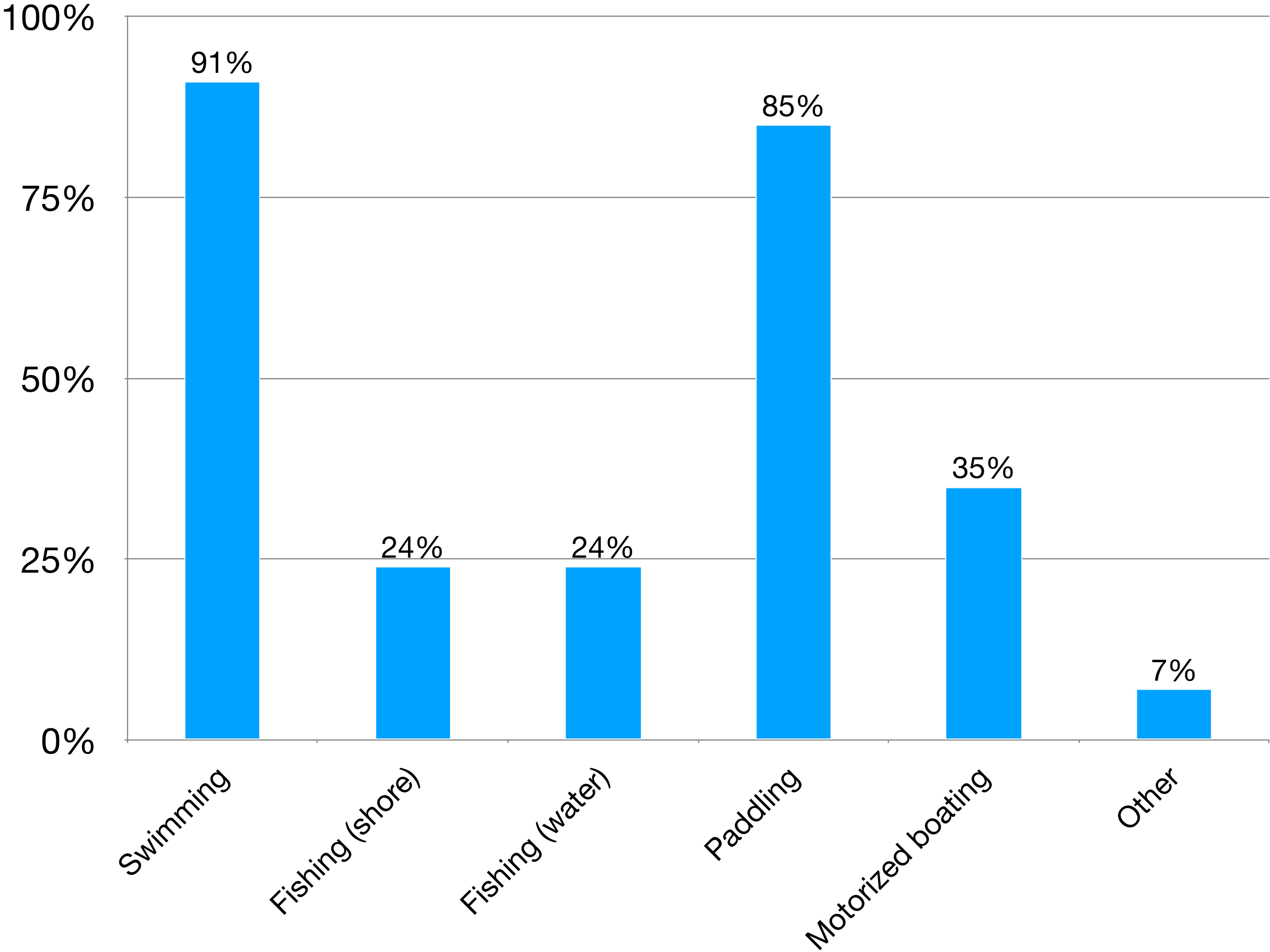
For approximately how many years have you been a resident of the Lac Notre-Dame and Lake Usher community?

Responses from all around the lake



Please select the number that best represents where your property is located on Lac Notre-Dame or Lake Usher. If your property is not on the waterfront, please select the number that best represents the area where you usually access Lac Notre-Dame.

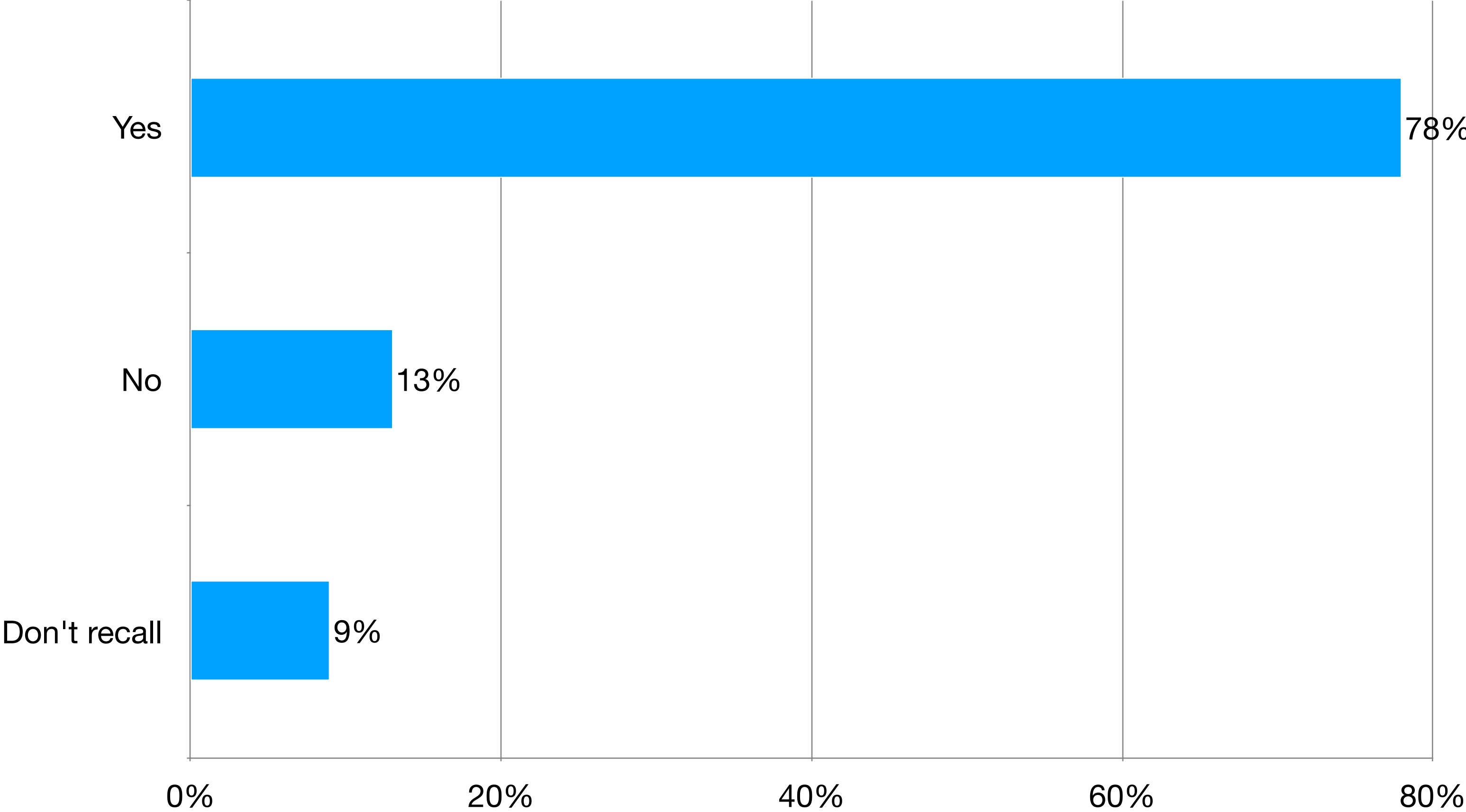
Swimming, paddling & motorized boating top activities



What are the main activities that you and other residents at your property enjoy on Lac Notre-Dame? Please choose all that apply:

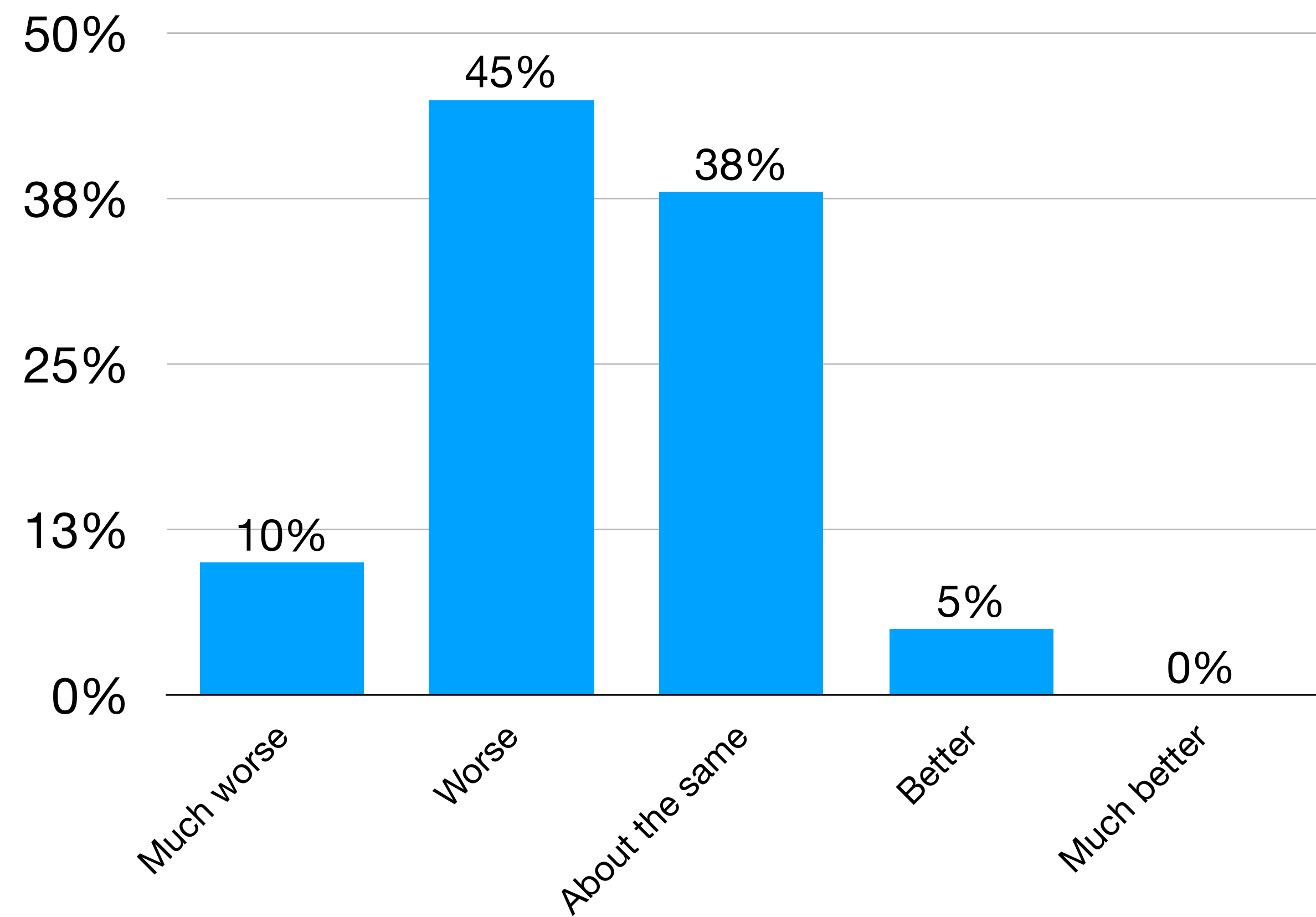
54 Responses

Milfoil infested most the shoreline for most in 2024



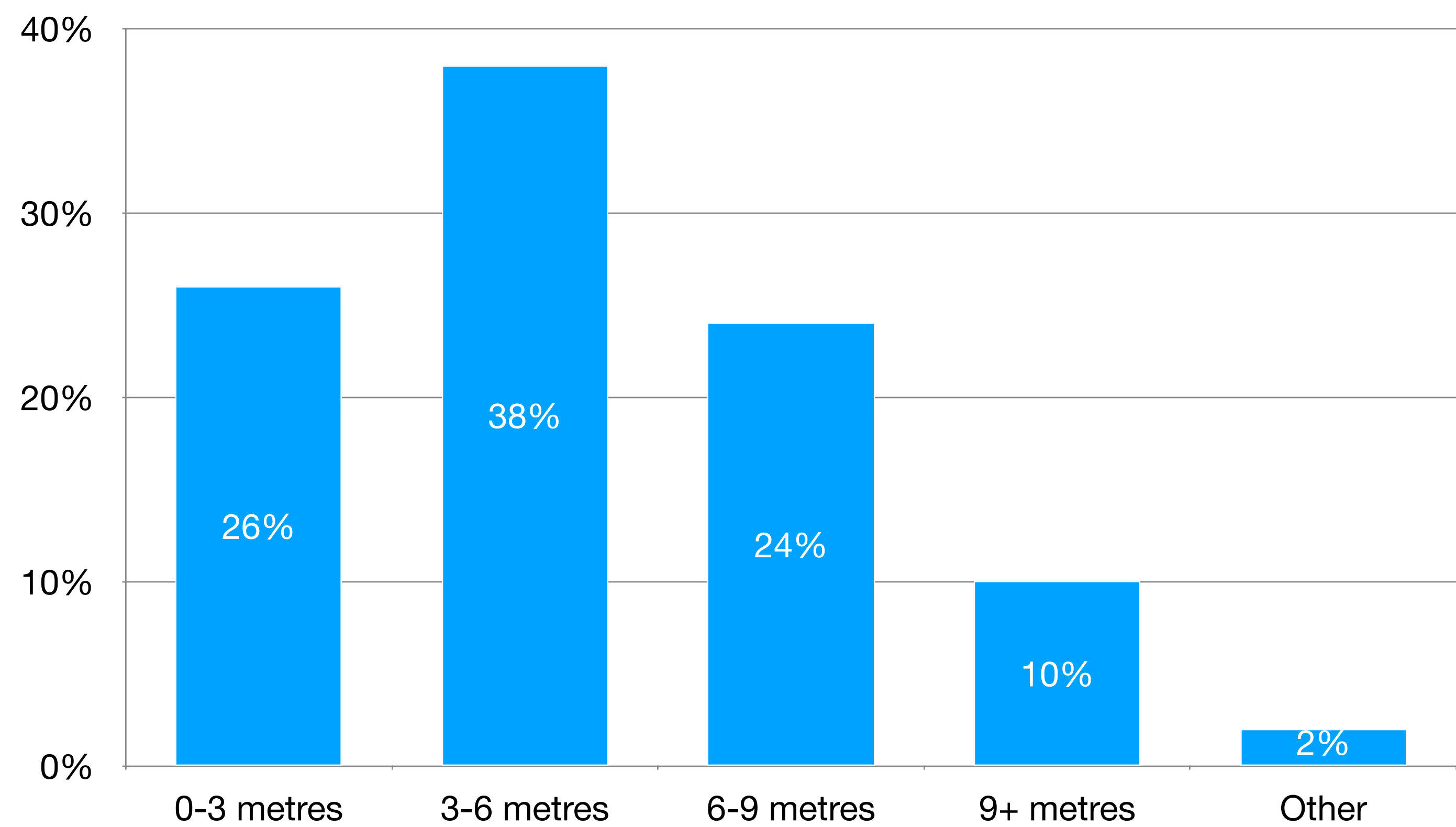
Based on your experience last summer (2024), did you have milfoil growing along your property’s shoreline? If you do not have a lakefront property, was there milfoil growing on the shoreline of the area where you usually access Lac Notre-Dame?

Respondents report last year's shoreline milfoil was worse or about the same compared to previous years



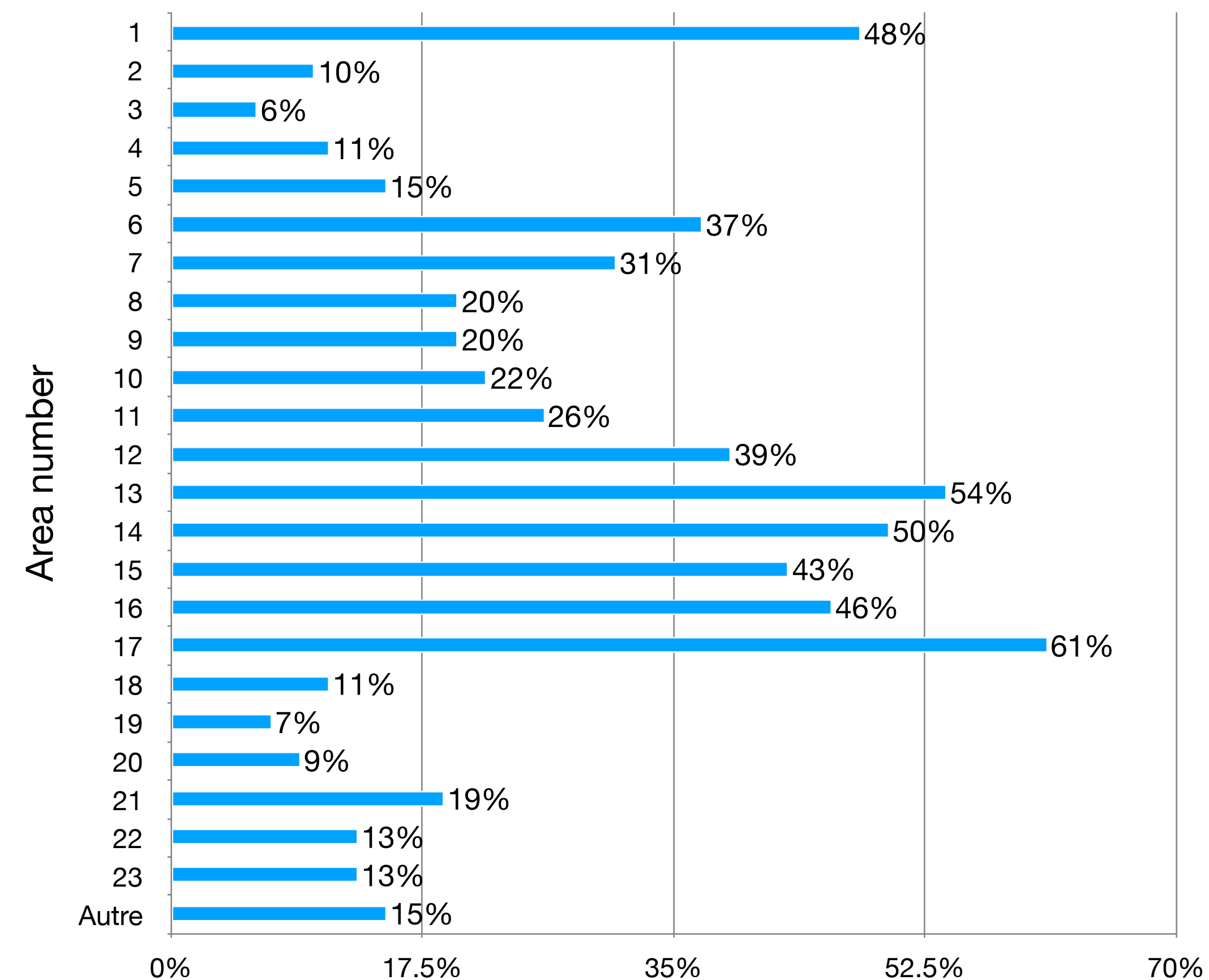
Compared to previous years, was the milfoil growing along your property's shoreline last summer:
42 responses

For most, milfoil was a significant barrier to the lake in 2024



From your observations last summer (2024), how far did the milfoil growing from your property’s shoreline (or your access point’s shoreline) extend into the lake? Please provide an approximation of the distance between where milfoil started growing by your shoreline and how far it extended into the lake:

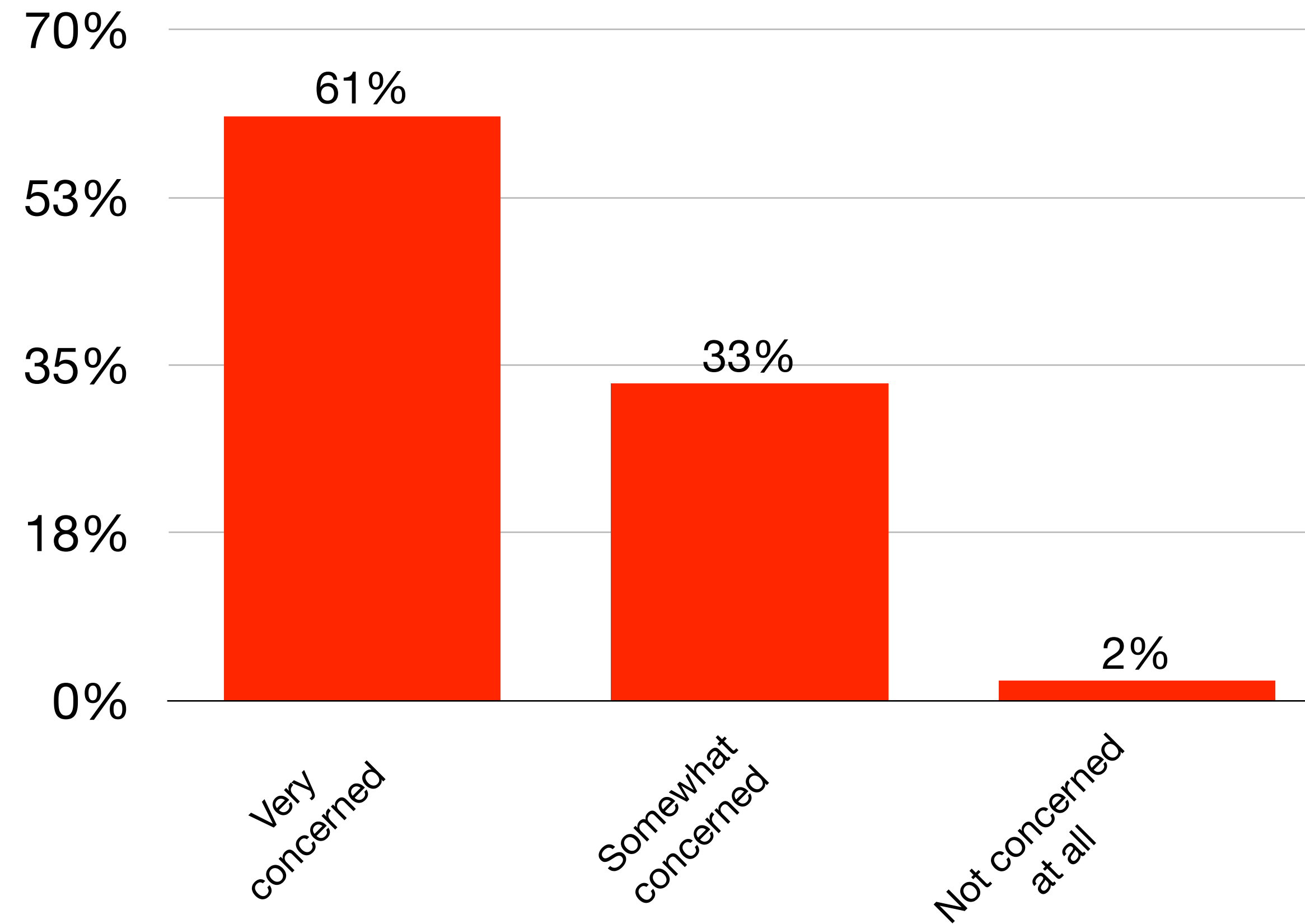
Milfoil presence was reported on most areas of the lake



Based on your experience last summer (2024), beyond your lakefront property or your main access point to the lake, were there other areas of Lac Notre-Dame where you noticed the presence of milfoil? Please select the number(s) that represent any area where you noticed milfoil last summer (2024): Select all that apply:

54 responses

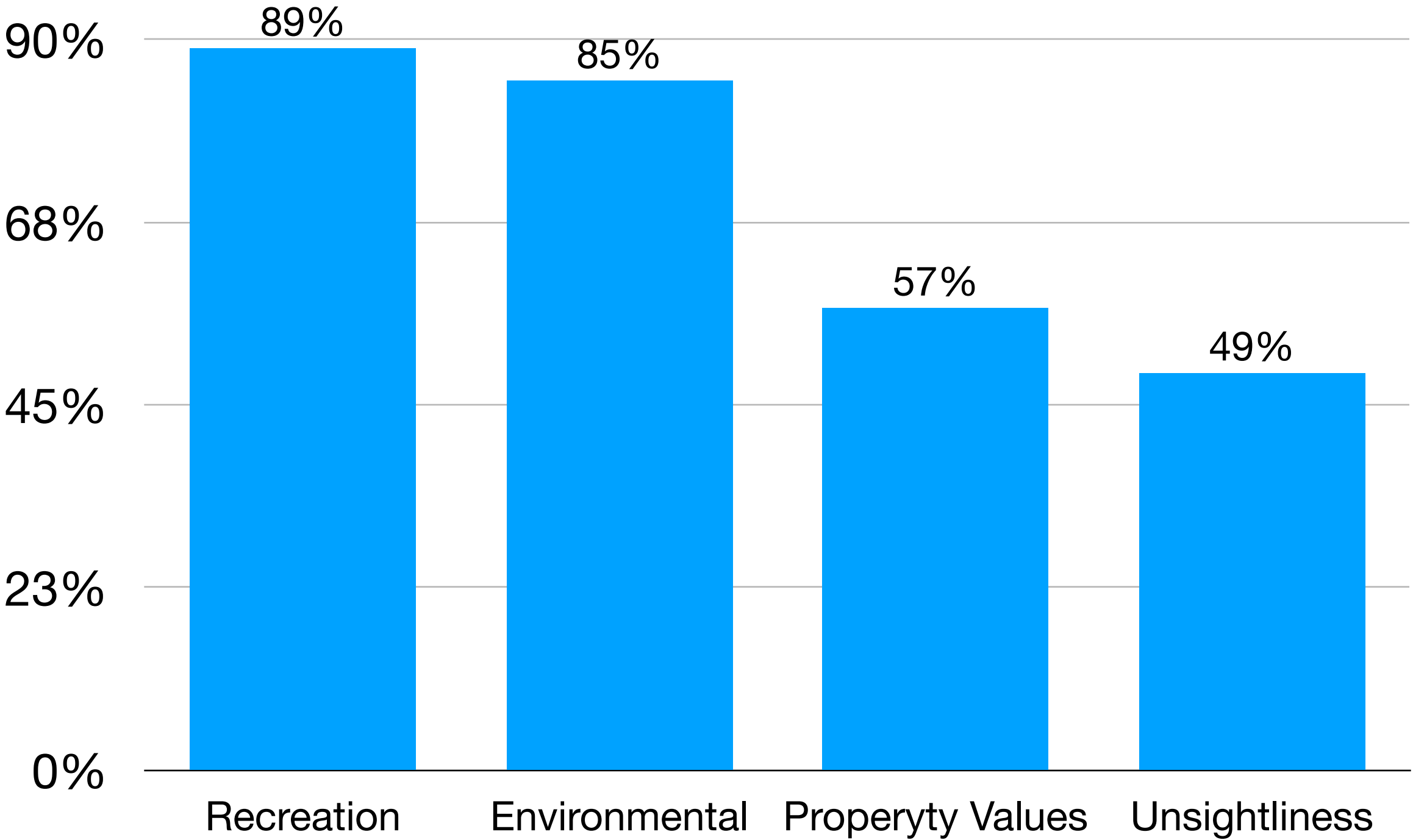
Most are concerned about the milfoil



Overall, how concerned are you about the presence of milfoil on Lac Notre?

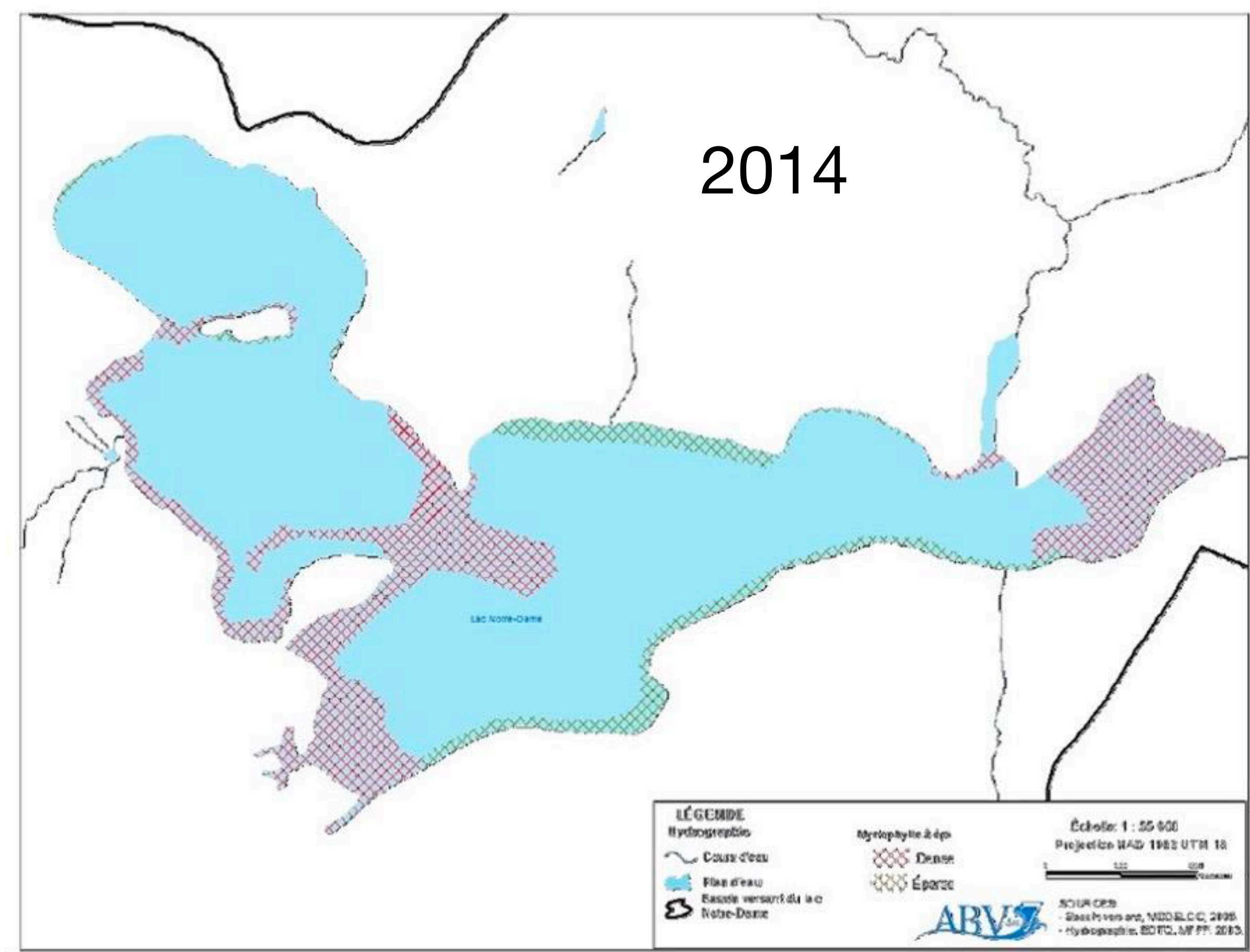
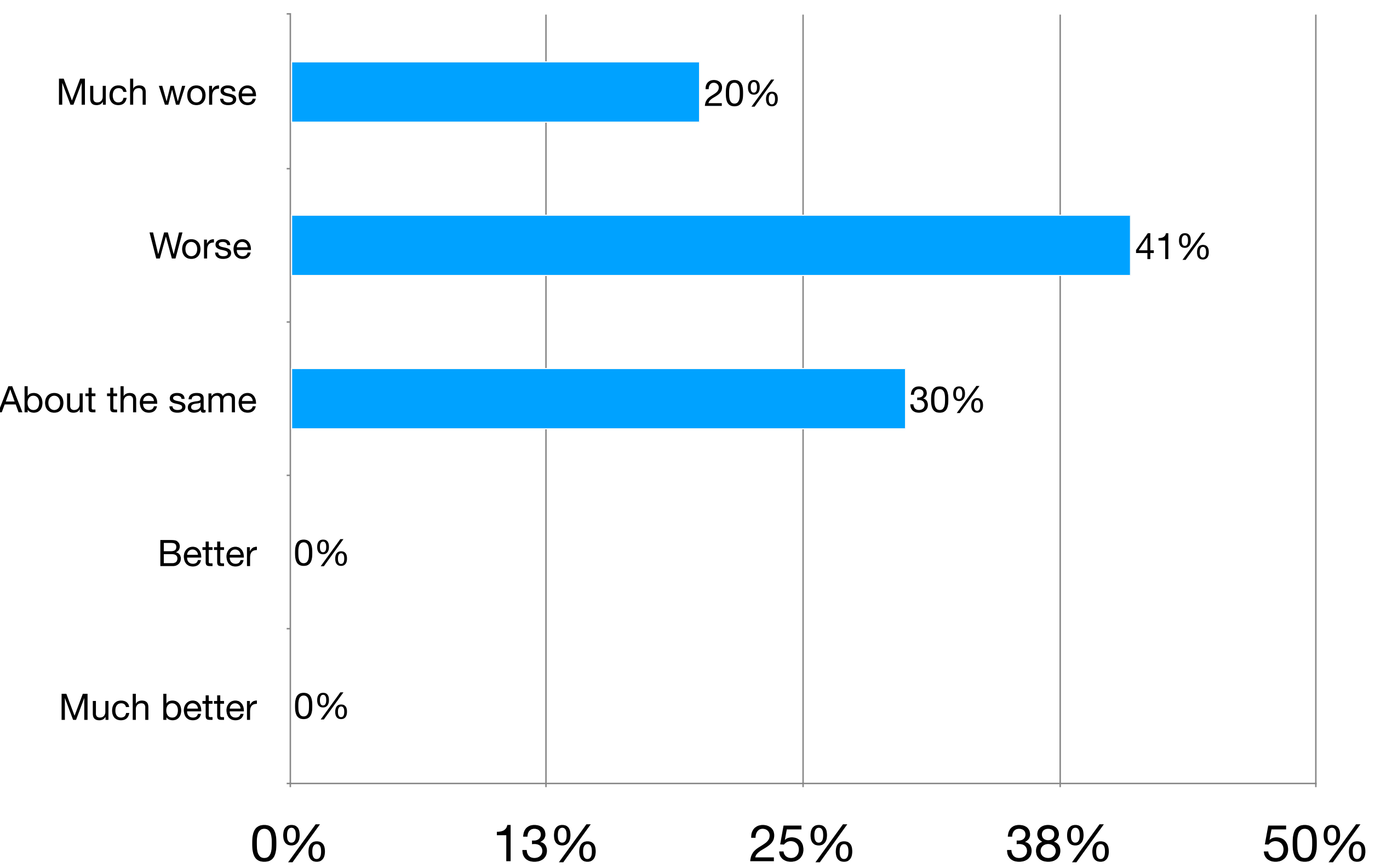
54 reponses

What are your concerns about the presence of milfoil on Lac Notre-Dame?



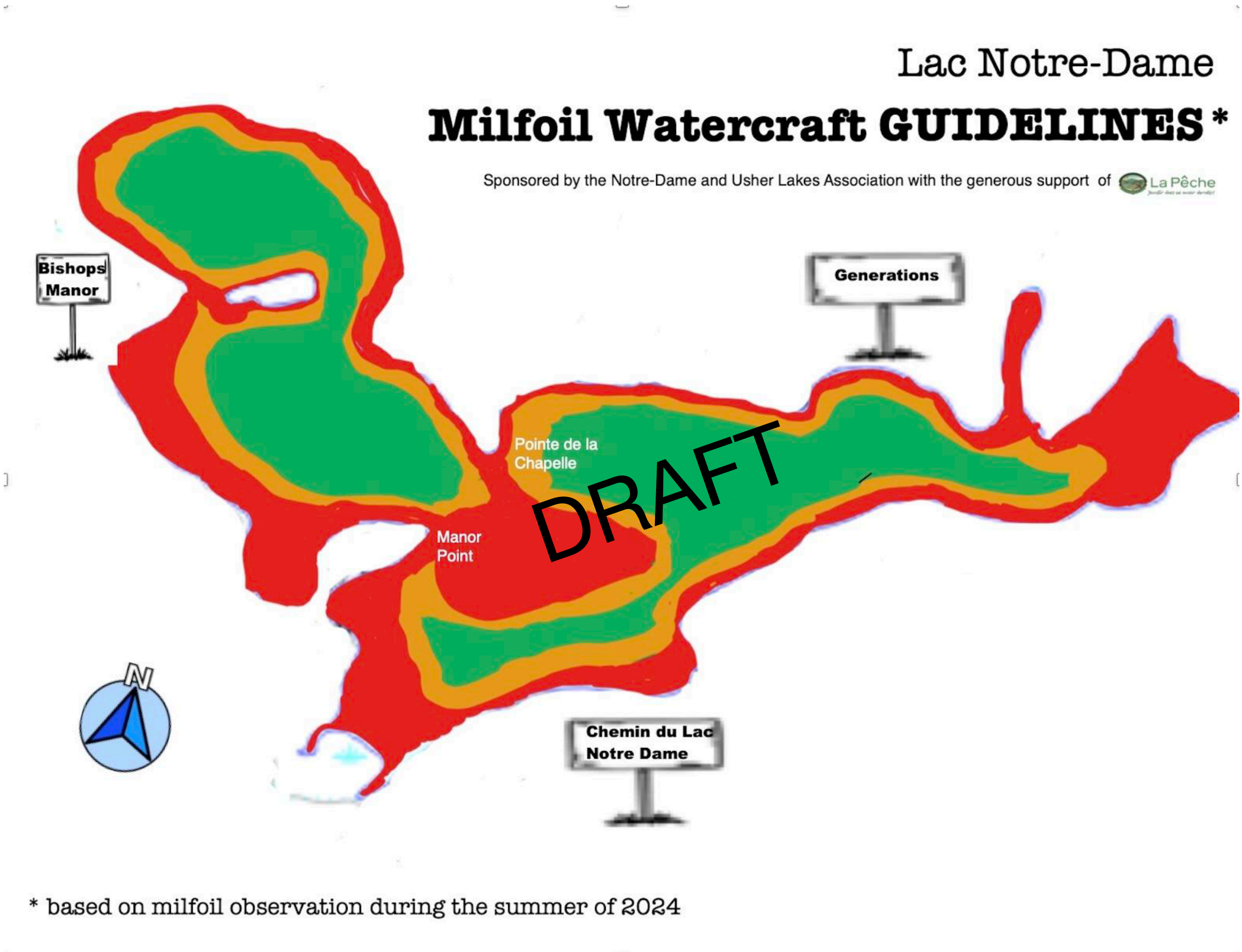
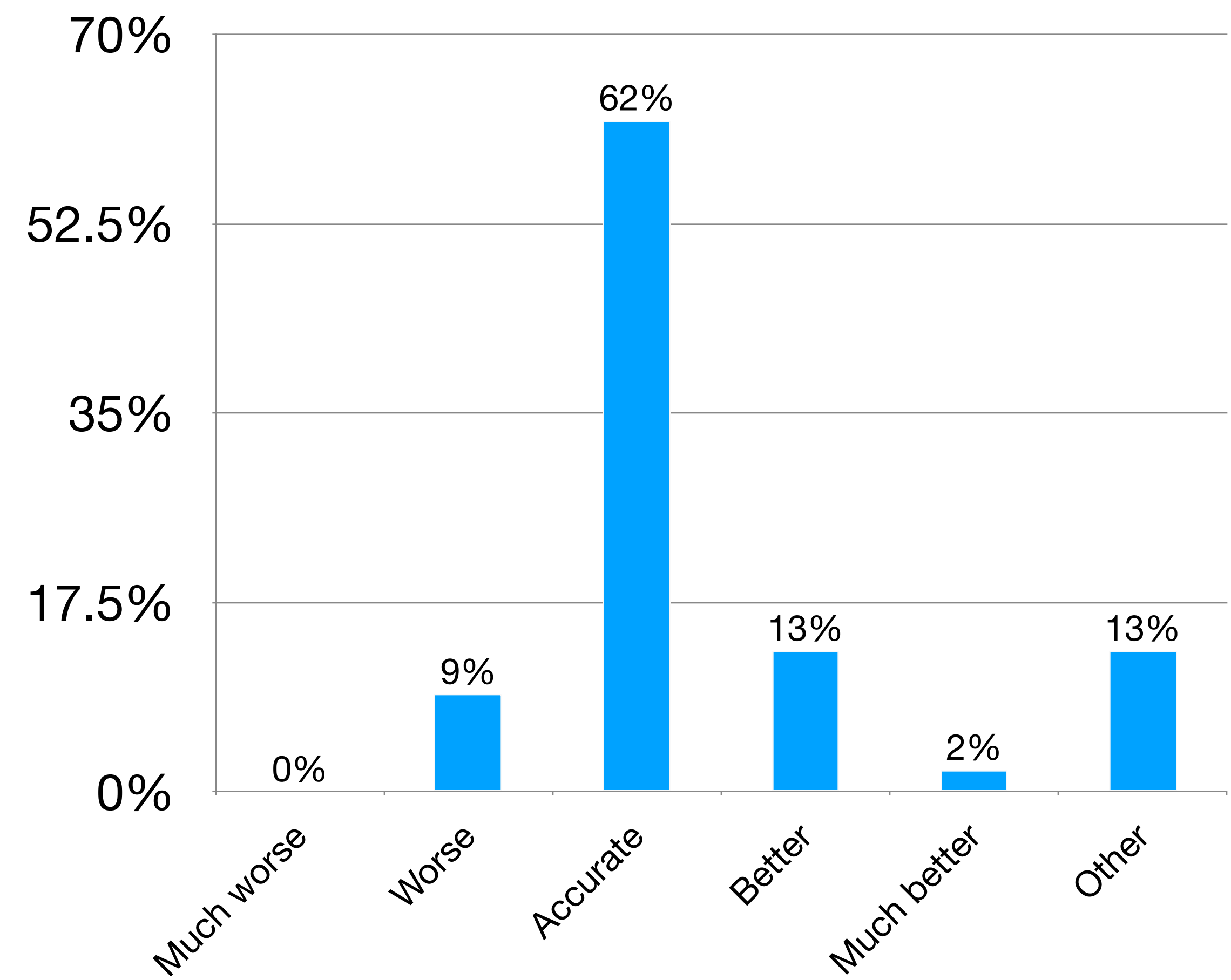
What are your concerns about the presence of milfoil on Lac Notre-Dame? Please choose all that apply:

Milfoil worse than 2014



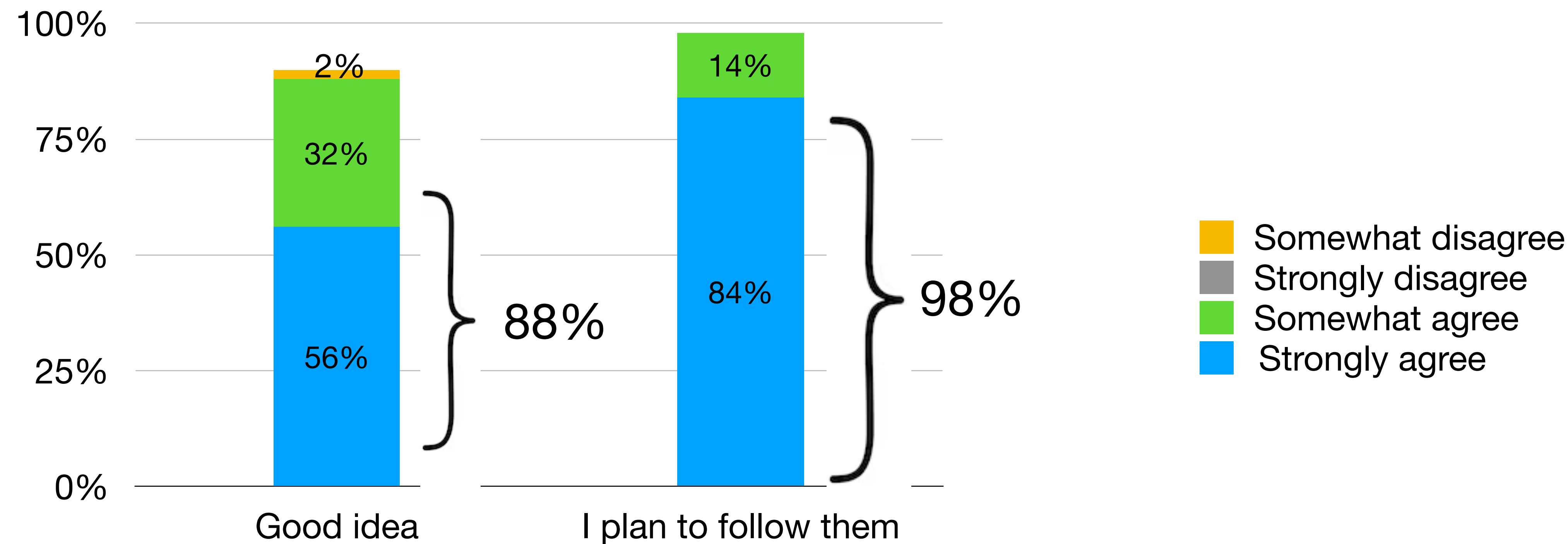
In 2014, the municipality of La Pêche commissioned the environmental consultancy group ABV 7 to conduct an assessment of Lac Notre-Dame’s shoreline and water quality, as well as to map the location and density of milfoil on the lake. Based on its findings about milfoil, ABV 7 produced the following map. The RED areas indicate where there were dense fields of milfoil in 2014. The GREEN areas indicate where there were thinner fields of milfoil in 2014. Based on your own experience on Lac Notre-Dame in the summer of 2024, was the milfoil... Please choose only one of the following:

Draft *Watercraft Guidelines* accurately depicts milfoil infestation in 2024 for most respondents



The draft map below was created to consult the Lac Notre-Dame and Lake Usher community. It represents the recollection of a group of residents about the scope of the milfoil problem on Lac Notre-Dame during the summer of 2024. The RED ZONES represent areas where a high concentration of milfoil was reported. The ORANGE and GREEN ZONES represent areas where little to no milfoil was reported. Your answers to the following question will help the Lake Action Committee modify the map, to represent the state of the milfoil infestation on Lac Notre-Dame as accurately as possible. Based on your own experience on Lac Notre-Dame in the summer of 2024, the milfoil was...

Watercraft Guidelines are a good idea the vast majority plan to follow

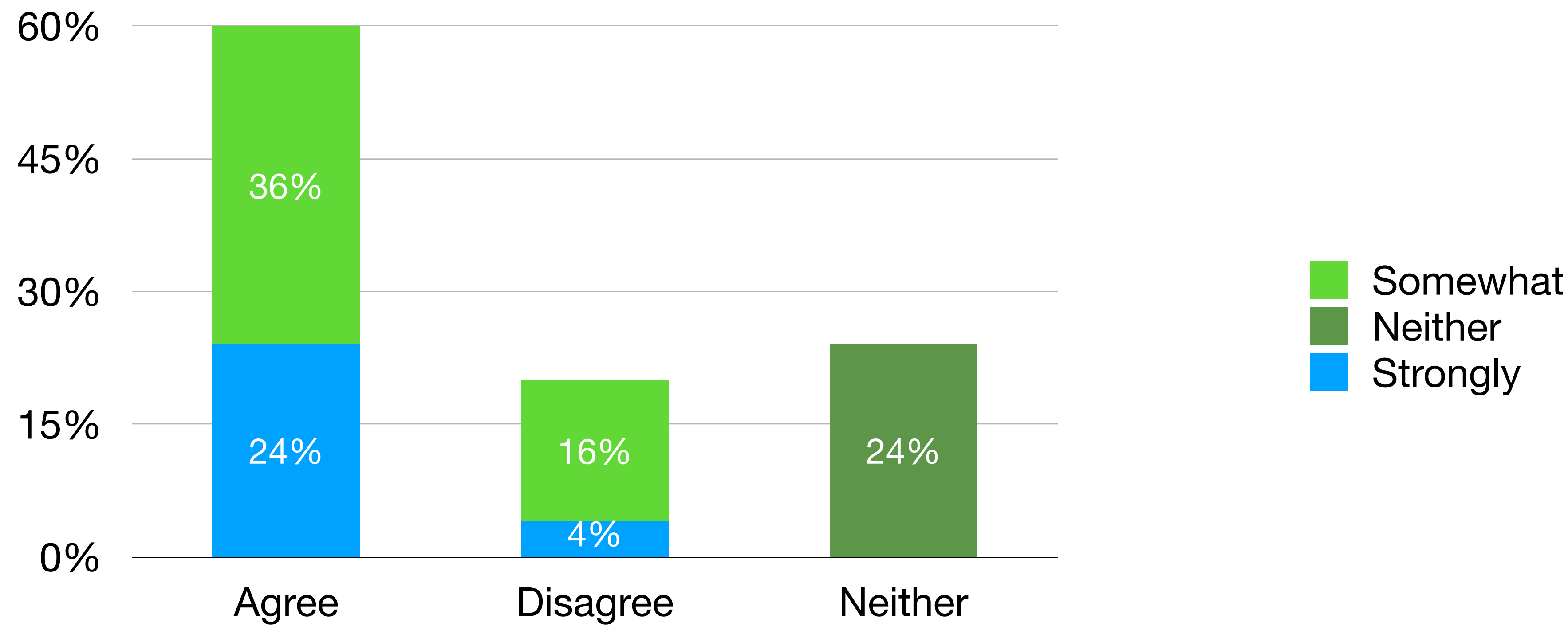


Do you agree / disagree with the following statements?:

- The voluntary Watercraft Guidelines are a good idea to slow the spread of milfoil on Lac Notre-Dame.
- Even though they are voluntary, I plan to follow the Watercraft Guidelines to the best of my ability.

50 responses

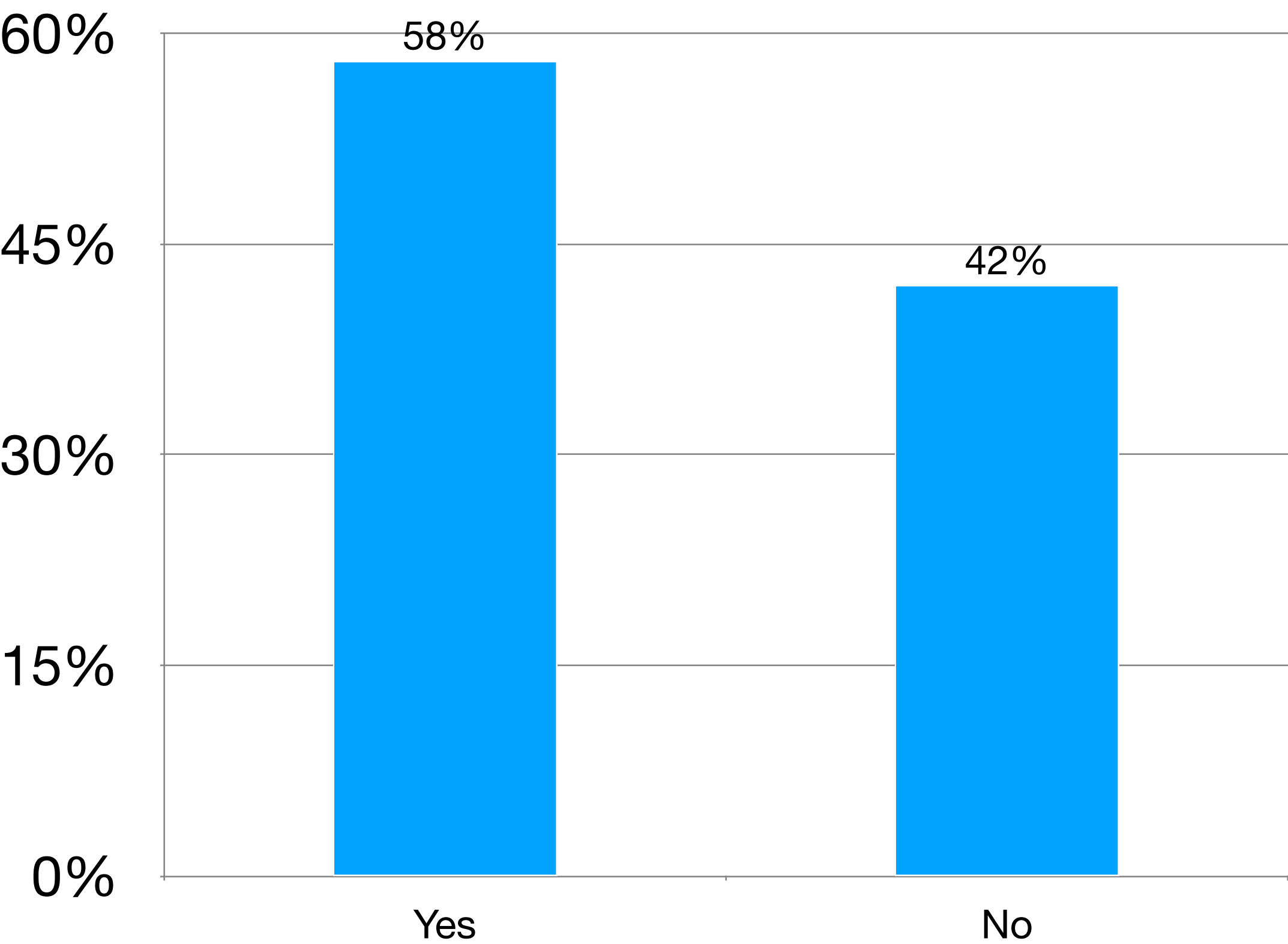
Respondents not as certain others will follow the *Guidelines*



Do you agree / disagree with the following statement?:

I anticipate that other community members will follow the voluntary Watercraft Guidelines to the best of their ability.

More than half of respondent members renewed by early July



In 2025, have you already joined or renewed your membership for the Lac Notre-Dame and Usher Lake Association?