

MN DNR Online Boat Owners' Survey Dec. '08 - Jan. '09 All Responses		Waterfront Owners	Waterfront Owners (%)	Non Waterfront Owners	Non-Waterfront Owners (%)	Waterfront Ownership Unknown	Waterfront Ownership Unknown (%)	Total Responses	Total Responses (%)
1. Which describes you best?(Own or lease lakeshore property in Minnesota OR Own or lease riverfront property in Minnesota OR Do not own or lease waterfront property in Minnesota)		4838	75%	1426	22%	227	3%	6491	100%
2. If you own or lease shoreline property, in which County is your property?	See Below								
3. How do you obtain watercraft access to public waters (lakes or rivers)? (check all boxes that apply)	private dock	281	6%	21	1%	7	3%	309	5%
	private shoreline or private boat ramp	156	3%	2	0%	3	1%	161	2%
	from a public access public shoreline (beach, dock or boat ramp)	378	8%	719	50%	6	3%	185	3%
	More than one method	3277	68%	1325	93%	25	11%	4627	71%
	No Response	9	0%	9	1%	191	84%	209	3%
4. How deep does the water need to be to float your watercraft and allow navigation on the lake or river? (less than 3 feet or 3-4 feet or 5-6 feet or 7-8 feet or more than 8 feet)	less than 3 feet	1424	29%	687	48%	12	5%	2123	33%
	3-4 feet	2493	52%	617	43%	18	8%	3128	48%
	5-6 feet	806	17%	105	7%	3	1%	914	14%
	7-8 feet	68	1%	5	0%	2	1%	75	1%
	more than 8 feet	32	1%	3	0%	0	0%	35	1%
	No Response	15	0%	9	1%	192	85%	216	3%
5. What depth of water do you prefer at the end of a dock?	less than 3 feet	87	2%	103	7%	1	0%	191	3%
	3-4 feet	1496	31%	587	41%	16	7%	2099	32%
	5-6 feet	2581	53%	599	42%	10	4%	3190	49%
	7-8 feet	481	10%	93	7%	4	2%	578	9%
	more than 8 feet	172	4%	22	2%	2	1%	196	3%
	No Response	21	0%	22	2%	194	85%	237	4%
6. How long should a dock be for a single shoreline lot?	25 feet	286	6%	322	23%	3	1%	611	9%
	50 feet	564	12%	209	15%	6	3%	779	12%
	75 feet	256	5%	41	3%	3	1%	300	5%
	more than 75 feet	114	2%	7	0%	1	0%	122	2%
	there should be no limit on dock length	700	14%	55	4%	3	1%	758	12%
	it should depend on the depth of water (e.g. long enough to reach 4 ft. of water)	2888	60%	775	54%	19	8%	3682	57%
	No Response	30	1%	17	1%	192	85%	239	4%

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7. How wide should a dock be for a single shoreline lot?	4 feet	2084	43%	679	48%	9	4%	2772	43%
	5-6 feet	1040	21%	464	33%	10	4%	1514	23%
	7-8 feet	398	8%	86	6%	4	2%	488	8%
	more than 8 feet	113	2%	17	1%	3	1%	133	2%
	there should be no limit on dock width	1175	24%	160	11%	8	4%	1343	21%
	No Response	28	1%	20	1%	193	85%	241	4%
8. How many traditional "boat lifts" (not including a jet-ski or "personal watercraft" lift) should be allowed for a single shoreline lot?	1	660	14%	498	35%	6	3%	1164	18%
	2	1562	32%	446	31%	15	7%	2023	31%
	3	392	8%	35	2%	1	0%	428	7%
	4	185	4%	32	2%	2	1%	219	3%
	more than 4	45	1%	3	0%	2	1%	50	1%
	there should be no limit on the number of boat lifts	1200	25%	156	11%	5	2%	1361	21%
	number should be based on length of shoreline owned (e.g. 1 per 100 feet, etc.)	757	16%	240	17%	4	2%	1001	15%
No Response	37	1%	16	1%	192	85%	245	4%	
9. How many "personal watercraft lifts" (e.g. jet-ski) should be allowed for a single shoreline lot?	1	995	21%	485	34%	9	4%	1489	23%
	2	1385	29%	435	31%	12	5%	1832	28%
	3	230	5%	41	3%	2	1%	273	4%
	more than 3	145	3%	21	1%	2	1%	168	3%
	there should be no limit on the number of personal watercraft lifts	1284	27%	168	12%	4	2%	1456	22%
	number should be based on length of shoreline owned (e.g. 1 per 100 feet, etc.)	727	15%	246	17%	6	3%	979	15%
	No Response	72	1%	30	2%	192	85%	294	5%

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10. Should boat lift canopies be subject to regulation?	Yes	1115	23%	696	49%	7	3%	1818	28%
	No	3611	75%	687	48%	27	12%	4325	67%
	No Response	112	2%	43	3%	193	85%	348	5%
11. If boat lift canopies are regulated, what type of covering materials should be allowed?	fabrics or rigid materials that would degrade if submerged, in "natural" colors only	1346	28%	556	39%	9	4%	1911	29%
	fabrics or rigid materials that would degrade if submerged, regardless of color	704	15%	344	24%	4	2%	1052	16%
	any material regardless of color or durability	2458	51%	403	28%	19	8%	2880	44%
	No Response	330	7%	123	9%	195	86%	648	10%
12. If allowed, how large should an attached "platform" be on a private dock?	should not be allowed	262	5%	274	19%	3	1%	539	8%
	64 square feet (8'x8')	1045	22%	397	28%	5	2%	1447	22%
	80 square feet (8'x10')	626	13%	252	18%	3	1%	881	14%
	100 square feet (10'x10')	485	10%	135	9%	4	2%	624	10%
	120 square feet (10'x12')	331	7%	55	4%	3	1%	389	6%
	144 square feet (12'x12')	523	11%	77	5%	6	3%	606	9%
	more than 144 square feet	286	6%	17	1%	2	1%	305	5%
	there should be no maximum size limit for a secondary platform)	1229	25%	193	14%	9	4%	1431	22%
	No Response	51	1%	26	2%	192	85%	269	4%
13. How many attached boat slips should be allowed on a private dock?	Only 1	541	11%	349	24%	4	2%	894	14%
	2	1086	22%	402	28%	11	5%	1499	23%
	3	623	13%	123	9%	5	2%	751	12%
	4	253	5%	52	4%	3	1%	308	5%
	5	64	1%	9	1%	0	0%	73	1%
	more than 5	60	1%	9	1%	1	0%	70	1%
	should be based on length of shoreline owned (e.g. 1 per 100 feet, etc.)	841	17%	257	18%	5	2%	1103	17%
	there should be no limit on the number of attached platforms or boat slips	1321	27%	199	14%	6	3%	1526	24%
	No Response	49	1%	26	2%	192	85%	267	4%

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14. How many private docks should a shoreland owner be allowed to place on their shoreline?	Only 1	1132	23%	693	49%	9	4%	1834	28%
	2	881	18%	167	12%	11	5%	1059	16%
	3	122	3%	8	1%	1	0%	131	2%
	4	48	1%	2	0%	2	1%	52	1%
	more than 4	35	1%	3	0%	1	0%	39	1%
	should be based on length of shoreline owned (e.g. 1 per 100 feet, etc.)	1447	30%	391	27%	5	2%	1843	28%
	there should be no limit on the number of docks a person can have	1124	23%	140	10%	7	3%	1271	20%
	No Response	49	1%	22	2%	191	84%	262	4%
15. In your opinion, what is a reasonable amount of shoreline a property owner should be able to occupy or disturb with private structures such as docks, boat lifts and canopies, swimming rafts, etc.?	up to 25 feet	1037	21%	615	43%	9	4%	1661	26%
	up to 50 feet	819	17%	279	20%	5	2%	1103	17%
	up to 75 feet	248	5%	52	4%	7	3%	307	5%
	up to 100 feet	282	6%	64	4%	2	1%	348	5%
	no limit	1500	31%	201	14%	8	4%	1709	26%
	1/2 the lot width, but not more than ____ feet (indicate below)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	No Response	57	1%	29	2%	192	85%	278	4%
	Response other than choices	895	18%	186	13%	4	2%	1085	17%
16. Minnesota's public waters (lakes, wetlands and rivers) belong to all of us and should be carefully managed, protected and regulated by the DNR.	strongly agree	1292	27%	864	61%	6	3%	2162	33%
	agree	1852	38%	381	27%	23	10%	2256	35%
	neutral	776	16%	87	6%	6	3%	869	13%
	disagree	501	10%	39	3%	1	0%	541	8%
	strongly disagree	343	7%	30	2%	2	1%	375	6%
	No Response	74	2%	25	2%	189	83%	288	4%
17. I am concerned about the number of docks, boat lifts and canopies, swimming rafts and other structures protruding into the lake or river where I use my watercraft.	strongly agree	669	14%	471	33%	5	2%	1145	18%
	agree	639	13%	338	24%	4	2%	981	15%
	neutral	838	17%	298	21%	12	5%	1148	18%
	disagree	505	10%	86	6%	4	2%	595	9%
	strongly disagree	2118	44%	206	14%	14	6%	2338	36%
	No Response	69	1%	27	2%	188	83%	284	4%

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18. Shoreline property owners do not have the right to obstruct the general public or other shoreline property owners from using the entire surface of the lake or river.	strongly agree	696	14%	688	48%	8	4%	1392	21%
	agree	949	20%	354	25%	7	3%	1310	20%
	neutral	518	11%	123	9%	2	1%	643	10%
	disagree	1233	25%	148	10%	11	5%	1392	21%
	strongly disagree	1372	28%	79	6%	11	5%	1462	23%
	No Response	70	1%	34	2%	188	83%	292	4%
19. Shoreline property owners have more rights to use a lake or river than the general public.	strongly agree	818	17%	53	4%	3	1%	874	13%
	agree	1109	23%	90	6%	7	3%	1206	19%
	neutral	849	18%	81	6%	8	4%	938	14%
	disagree	1253	26%	304	21%	8	4%	1565	24%
	strongly disagree	728	15%	857	60%	11	5%	1596	25%
	No Response	81	2%	41	3%	190	84%	312	5%
20. A shoreline property owner should be allowed to occupy as much of the water in front of their property with structures (e.g. docks, boat lifts and canopies, swimming rafts, etc.) as they want.	strongly agree	848	18%	70	5%	4	2%	922	14%
	agree	917	19%	112	8%	7	3%	1036	16%
	neutral	504	10%	98	7%	4	2%	606	9%
	disagree	1459	30%	368	26%	13	6%	1840	28%
	strongly disagree	1025	21%	744	52%	10	4%	1779	27%
	No Response	85	2%	34	2%	189	83%	308	5%
21. The owner of a residential shoreline lot should be allowed to provide continuous watercraft docking or mooring (either free or for rental) to people that do not own the shoreline (i.e. furnish access to non-waterfront property owners).	strongly agree	459	9%	113	8%	5	2%	577	9%
	agree	745	15%	322	23%	11	5%	1078	17%
	neutral	646	13%	308	22%	3	1%	957	15%
	disagree	1240	26%	303	21%	9	4%	1552	24%
	strongly disagree	1672	35%	346	24%	7	3%	2025	31%
	No Response	76	2%	34	2%	192	85%	302	5%

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22. There is adequate enforcement of rules affecting public waters and shorelands by state and local officials.	strongly agree	1113	23%	114	8%	11	5%	1238	19%
	agree	1684	35%	349	24%	17	7%	2050	32%
	neutral	705	15%	309	22%	4	2%	1018	16%
	disagree	696	14%	360	25%	3	1%	1059	16%
	strongly disagree	536	11%	257	18%	3	1%	796	12%
	No Response	104	2%	37	3%	189	83%	330	5%
23. The natural appearance and character of the lake or river, and its shoreline is an important part of my boating experience.	strongly agree	1207	25%	607	43%	11	5%	1825	28%
	agree	1648	34%	496	35%	12	5%	2156	33%
	neutral	1025	21%	185	13%	9	4%	1219	19%
	disagree	560	12%	64	4%	6	3%	630	10%
	strongly disagree	316	7%	35	2%	0	0%	351	5%
	No Response	82	2%	39	3%	189	83%	310	5%
24. The quality of fishing on the lake or river is an important part of my boating experience.	strongly agree	1878	39%	855	60%	19	8%	2752	42%
	agree	1887	39%	398	28%	11	5%	2296	35%
	neutral	580	12%	95	7%	5	2%	680	10%
	disagree	250	5%	24	2%	3	1%	277	4%
	strongly disagree	152	3%	18	1%	0	0%	170	3%
	No Response	91	2%	36	3%	189	83%	316	5%
25. The water quality of the lake or river is an important part of my boating experience.	strongly agree	2942	61%	1020	72%	20	9%	3982	61%
	agree	1640	34%	346	24%	17	7%	2003	31%
	neutral	125	3%	13	1%	0	0%	138	2%
	disagree	22	0%	7	0%	1	0%	30	0%
	strongly disagree	28	1%	6	0%	0	0%	34	1%
	No Response	81	2%	34	2%	189	83%	304	5%
26. Shoreline crowding by numbers and sizes of in-water structures (docks, boat lifts and canopies, swimming rafts, etc.) concerns me.	strongly agree	811	17%	512	36%	5	2%	1328	20%
	agree	1027	21%	460	32%	13	6%	1500	23%
	neutral	850	18%	216	15%	5	2%	1071	16%
	disagree	1133	23%	137	10%	11	5%	1281	20%
	strongly disagree	942	19%	73	5%	3	1%	1018	16%
	No Response	75	2%	28	2%	190	84%	293	5%



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Lake	32								
Lake of the Woods	13								
Lincoln	1								
McLeod	3								
Mahnomen	2								
Martin	7								
Meeker	44								
Mille Lacs	20								
Morrison	41								
Mower	2								
Murray	7								
Nicollet	3								
Nobles	2								
Olmsted	15								
Otter Tail	222								
Pennington	2								
Pine	53								
Pipestone	3								
Polk	6								
St. Louis	297								
Scott	92								
Sherburne	33								
Sibley	1								
Stevens	1								
Todd	52								
Traverse	2								
Wabasha	14								
Wadena	8								
Waseca	9								
Washington	88								
Wilkin	1								
Winona	3								
Wright	154								
Yellow Medicine	5								
No County Indicated	1712								
Notes:									
* This survey was available through the DNR website from early December 2008 to late January 2009, and was taken by almost 6500 Minnesota boat owners.									
* This survey was promoted through radio interviews, press releases, post cards, e-mails to lake associations, and newspaper articles to get as many responses as possible.									
* The information from this survey is intended to gain knowledge about what Minnesotan's think about certain topics and will be used to inform rule making decisions.									