

Big Chetac Lakeshore Property Owner Survey Results Part 1

The Lake Association is in the process of updating its' lake management plan for Big Chetac. To do that, a DNR approved survey was mailed out to all Chetac lakeshore property owners on March 10th. The survey was administered by a survey company out of Minnesota. The results will be used to determine the activities that should be pursued moving forward to further improve the water quality of the lake. The survey has several parts: Demographics about the respondents; water quality concerns; satisfaction with the Association activities to date; water quality activities they want to pursue moving forward; how to fund these activities; and, local governmental concern and support.

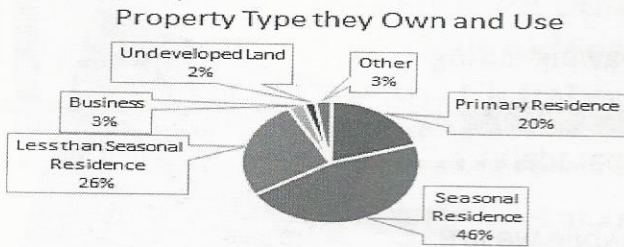
Over the next few months, we will highlight sections of the report in the Birchwood News. In this edition, you will learn about the respondents, what they think about water quality and the activities they want pursued to improve the water quality in Big Chetac.

Survey Facts:

- Survey mailed to all 390 property owners (list supplied by Sawyer County).
- 244 people returned completed surveys, representing a 62.5% response rate.
- As a result of the outstanding response rate, the findings are considered statistically representative of the whole group.

Part 1: Big Chetac Lakeshore Owner Demographics (what do we know about them?):

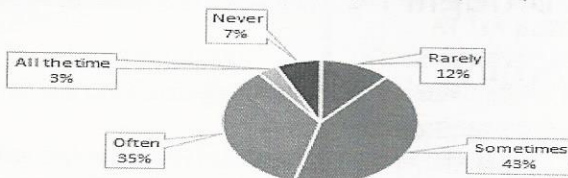
- Property Type they own and use:



- Length of Ownership: Average of 19.74 years, with 34.57% owning their property over 20 years.
- Days they use their property each year: 45.19% over 100 days; 46.44% from 26 to 100 days; and, 8.37% less than 26 days each year.
- Number of people using property when in use: 48.55% 2 or less; 35.68% 3 to 5; 12.03% 6 to 10; and, 3.73% over 10.
- What activities they participate in on Big Chetac: #1 Fishing from a boat (93%); #2 Fishing from shore (86%); #3 Rest/Relaxation (83%); and, #4 Pontoon Boating (70%).
- What activities they participate in most often: #1 Fishing from a boat (73%); #2 Pontoon boating (58%); #3 Fishing from Shore (41%); and, #4 Rest/Relaxation(37%).

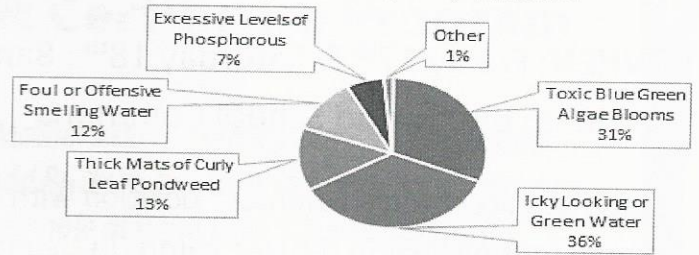
Part 2: What Big Chetac Lakeshore owners think about water quality on the lake:

- During open water season, how often does the water quality of the lake negatively impact their enjoyment of the lake?: Of 240 responses to this question, 92.5% indicated being impacted.



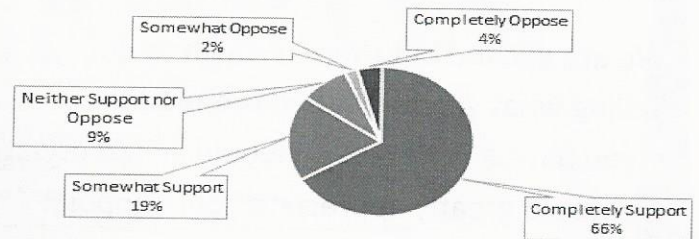
- How do they rate the water quality of Big Chetac: 77% consider the water quality of the lake to be fair to very poor, 22% considering it good and 1% as excellent.
- What indicator of poor water quality concerns them the most:

Top Water Quality Concern



What activities do Big Chetac lakeshore owners want the Lake Association to pursue in the future to improve water quality on Big Chetac?:

Average Level of Support for all 9 Proposed Activities



9 Specific Activities:

1. Any Activity recommended or approved by the DNR – Support 82.13%, Neutral 10.64%, Oppose 7.23%
2. Continued use of Aquatic Herbicide to control CLP – Support 83.76%, Neutral 7.27%, Oppose 8.97%
3. Develop and Implement whole lake plan to reduce CLP – Support 84.81%, Neutral 6.75%, Oppose 8.44%
4. Individual Property Herbicide Treatment Permits – Support 82.83%, Neutral 7.72%, Oppose 9.45%
5. Reducing phosphorous by controlling CLP – Support 85.53%, Neutral 7.23%, Oppose 7.24%
6. Reducing phosphorous with ALUM treatment – Support 80.42%, Neutral 11.06%, Oppose 8.52%
7. Continuation of Clean Boats Clean Waters Education – Support 89.66%, Neutral 6.90%, Oppose 3.44%
8. Continuation of Invasive Species Monitoring – Support 90.60%, Neutral 6.84%, Oppose 2.56%
9. Funding studies to improve water quality – Support 84.55%, Neutral 11.16%, Oppose 4.29%

The above indicates extremely significant support for all 9 of the proposed water quality activities, and very few individuals being opposed to the suggested activities. As such, you should expect to see all of them incorporated into the updated lake management plan. A link to the full report can be found on bottom left of our website home page at BCABLA.com.

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