

# MAIL-BACK BOATER SURVEY

(Mail Survey)

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# Mail-Back Boater Survey

Survey No. \_\_\_\_\_

We are conducting a mail-back survey of boaters to help the Corps of Engineers learn more about your boating experience on \_\_\_\_\_ Lake. Please take a few minutes of your time to answer the following questions with reference to the last day boated on the lake. This survey is voluntary and strictly confidential. When the survey is completed please return in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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1. Have you boated on this lake? • YES \_\_\_\_\_ • NO \_\_\_\_\_  
~~IF YES, How many years have you been boating on this lake? \_\_\_\_\_ (IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST YEAR, ANSWER "0")~~  
~~IF NO, GO TO QUESTION 17 and continue.~~
2. How many weekend and weekdays did you boat on this lake last 12 months?  
NUMBER OF WEEKEND DAYS \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF WEEKDAYS \_\_\_\_\_
3. ~~How many are in your party the last time you boated? \_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~How many of those were less than 18 years of age? \_\_\_\_\_~~
4. How many days did you visit the lake on your last visit while boating? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How much time did you spend on the water on the last day you boated? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What type of boat(s) did you use on the last day you boated?
  - Runabout/ Speedboat/ Ski Boat
  - Fishing Boat/ Bass boat
  - Pontoon Boat
  - Personal watercraft (Jet Ski)
  - High Performance Boat (cigarette boat)
  - Houseboat
  - Cabin Cruiser
  - Rowboat/ Canoe
  - Sailboat/ Sailboard
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the length of the primary boat you used on the last day you boated? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the horsepower of that boat? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Please estimate the amount of time that you spent on the last day you boated on the following activities.

<b>Fishing</b>	_____ %	<b>Swimming</b>	_____ %
<b>Cruising</b>	_____ %	<b>Relaxing</b>	_____ %
<b>Water-skiing</b>	_____ %	<b>Other activity</b>	_____ %
<b>Personal craft</b>	_____ %	<b>describe other activity</b>	_____

Now I would like to ask you some questions about where you go on the lake.  
PLEASE OPEN THE MAP OF THE LAKE AND ANSWER THE NEXT QUESTIONS.

(TOTAL SHOULD = 100%)

10. Do you have a **favorite** location to go to on this lake? • YES • NO
11. Why is that/ are those your favorite location(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please circle the above location on the map and mark as **F1**)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Be as specific as possible in your description)

Name of **second location**: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please circle the above location on the map and mark as **F2**)

**Reason:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Be as specific as possible in your description)*

12. Are there any locations on this lake that you deliberately **avoid**? • YES • NO

Why do you avoid that/ those location(s) of the lake?

Name of first **location to avoid**: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please circle the above location on the map and mark as A1)*

**Reason why:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Be as specific as possible in your description)*

Name of second **location to avoid**: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please circle the above location on the map and mark as A2)*

**Reason why:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Be as specific as possible in your description)*

13. Are there any locations on this lake where you feel **unsafe**? • YES • NO

Why do you feel unsafe at that/those location(s) on the lake?

Name of first **that is unsafe**: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please circle the above location on the map and mark as S1)*

**Reason that it is unsafe:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Be as specific as possible in your description)*

Name of second **location that is unsafe**: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please circle the above location on the map and mark as S2)*

**Reason that it is unsafe:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Be as specific as possible in your description)*

14. How **safe** did you feel on the last day you boated at the following locations?

Location	Not at all Safe	Somewhat Safe	Moderately Safe	Extremely Safe
At the boat ramp.	1	2	3	4
On the water.	1	2	3	4

15. Did you feel **crowded** by the number of boaters on the lake on the last day you boated at the following locations?

Location	Not at all Crowded	Somewhat Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded
At the boat ramp.	1	2	3	4
On the water.	1	2	3	4

16. Do you feel there are an adequate number of boat ramps, parking areas, and marinas on this lake?

- |                      | 1          | 2             | 3           |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| <u>Boat ramps</u>    | • Too many | • About right | • Need more |
| <u>Parking areas</u> | • Too many | • About right | • Need more |
| <u>Marinas</u>       | • Too many | • About right | • Need more |

17. Have you noticed any **positive or negative changes** at this lake in the last five years?

- YES • NO *(IF YES... can you describe those changes?)*

**Positive changes:** \_\_\_\_\_

Negative changes: \_\_\_\_\_

18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your experience the last day that you boated at the lake?

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I thoroughly enjoy my experience at _____ Lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I experience a sense of satisfaction after recreating on _____ Lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I am disappointed with my experience at _____ Lake.	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of my experience at _____ Lake has been positive.	1	2	3	4	5
The level of noise from motorized boating is acceptable to me at _____ Lake.	1	2	3	4	5
The quality of the water is acceptable to me at _____ Lake.	1	2	3	4	5
The traffic from motorized boating is acceptable to me at _____ Lake.	1	2	3	4	5
The number of boat docks along the shoreline is acceptable to me.	1	2	3	4	5
The degree of shoreline development is acceptable to me (i.e., docks, marinas, & improvements on public lands).	1	2	3	4	5
The degree of residential and commercial development adjacent to public lands on _____ Lake is acceptable to me (i.e., buildings/homes, construction on private property).	1	2	3	4	5
The size of the boats that I saw on the lake is acceptable in terms of my experience.	1	2	3	4	5
The size and total number of public commercial marinas is acceptable to me.	1	2	3	4	5

19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the last day you boated?

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I mainly come to this lake to enjoy the water.	1	2	3	4	5
I am here because of one favorite spot on this lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I get more satisfaction out of visiting this lake than any other lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I go to places on the lake during different times of the day than in the past to avoid things that could detract from my experience.	1	2	3	4	5
I no longer go to my favorite places on the lake because the experience has changed.	1	2	3	4	5

Things just aren't the same because of increased watercraft noise and/or excessive speed.	1	2	3	4	5
This lake is very special to me.	1	2	3	4	5
This lake brings back memories of time spent with friends.	1	2	3	4	5
This lake has spiritual meaning for me.	1	2	3	4	5
I know the lake like the back of my hand.	1	2	3	4	5
Most of the activities that I do here are related to the water.	1	2	3	4	5
I really like to spend time in one particular location on this lake.	1	2	3	4	5
Doing what I do at this lake is more important to me than doing it at any other lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I go to the same places on the lake during weekends as I did in the past because the experience is still the same.	1	2	3	4	5
Places on the lake are pretty much the same as when I first started coming here.	1	2	3	4	5
It is harder to do the activities that I regularly do because of changes in the presence and behavior of others.	1	2	3	4	5
I am very attached to this lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I associate special people in my life with this lake.	1	2	3	4	5
This lake conveys something meaningful about our past and present culture.	1	2	3	4	5
I could draw a map of the lake.	1	2	3	4	5
Being near the water is necessary for me to do the things that I enjoy at this lake.	1	2	3	4	5
Having a remote place on the lake is important to me.	1	2	3	4	5
I wouldn't substitute any other lake for doing the types of things that I do at this lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I go to more places on the lake during the off-season than I used to avoid things that could detract from my experience.	1	2	3	4	5
I wish the lake was like it was when I first started coming here.	1	2	3	4	5
The lake just doesn't look and feel the same as it once did when I first started coming here.	1	2	3	4	5
This lake means a lot to me.	1	2	3	4	5
My family regularly visited this lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I lose track of time while on this lake and enter a relaxed state of mind.	1	2	3	4	5

I have boated on the lake and I am quite familiar with it.	1	2	3	4	5
I depend on water to get away.	1	2	3	4	5
A specific location with unique landscape features near the lake is important to me.	1	2	3	4	5
The things I do here I would enjoy just as much at another lake.	1	2	3	4	5
Changes that have occurred on this lake over time make no difference in when I use the lake.	1	2	3	4	5
Changes that have occurred on this lake make no difference in where I go on the lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I can adapt to all of the changes that happen on the lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I feel that this lake is part of me.	1	2	3	4	5
I appreciate seeing others enjoy this lake.	1	2	3	4	5
The history of this lake tells a story for me.	1	2	3	4	5
There are few parts of the lake that I have not visited.	1	2	3	4	5

	Very Inaccurate	Inaccurate	Somewhat	Accurate	Very Accurate
I feel comfortable around other people when I spend time at places like this.	1	2	3	4	5
I make friends easily when I spend time near the water.	1	2	3	4	5
I am skilled in handling social situations when I visit a lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I am the life of the party when I am on the water.	1	2	3	4	5
I know how to captivate people while we spend time on a lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I often have little to say when I am at places like this.	1	2	3	4	5
I keep in the background when I am around others on the water.	1	2	3	4	5
I would describe my experiences as somewhat dull when I am recreating at a lake.	1	2	3	4	5
I don't like to draw attention to myself when I am recreating on the water.	1	2	3	4	5
I don't talk a lot when I visit places like this.	1	2	3	4	5

20. Please respond to the ten items below as to the degree that these statements represent an accurate description of yourself in relation to your experiences at this lake or other similar lakes.

21. Reflecting on your last experience at \_\_\_\_\_ Lake, how important were the following reasons for your enjoyment?

Statement	Not at All Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Extremely Important
To enjoy the lake itself.	1	2	3	4
To be with family and/or friends.	1	2	3	4
To do certain activities related to water.	1	2	3	4
To just think about my life.	1	2	3	4

22. Did you ever have an opportunity to experience solitude on \_\_\_\_\_ Lake during your last visit?  
(Please circle one)    Yes    /    No

23. If answered yes, please complete items following five items below. If you answered no, skip to #24 and continue.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The solitude I experienced on the lake revitalizes me physically or reduces my physical tensions.	1	2	3	4	5
The solitude I experienced on the lake gave me a sense of emotional strength and well-being.	1	2	3	4	5
My solitude experience gave me a sense of self-reliance, personal freedom or independence.	1	2	3	4	5
My solitude experience helped me to assimilate past experience or focus on matters of importance to me.	1	2	3	4	5
The solitude I experienced on the lake gave me a profound sense of "relatedness," serenity, or spiritual renewal.	1	2	3	4	5

24. Where do you live for most of the year? \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

25. Do you live on \_\_\_\_\_ Lake (i.e., in a home along the shoreline)?

- YES • NO

26. If yes, is this a year-round or part-time residence? • part-time • year-round

27. Do you have any additional comments? (*Write comments on back cover of survey*).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**