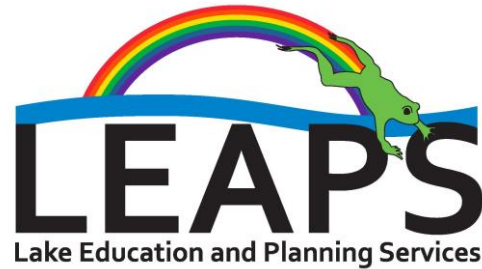


Lake Education and Planning Services, LLC  
PO Box 26  
Cameron, WI 54822

August 12, 2021

2021 Social Survey Questionnaire



Dear Trade Lakes Property Owner,

The Round Trade Lake Improvement Association (RTLIA) is working to improve their understanding of what lakeshore owners on the Round Trade Lakes care about and would like to see improve. Your responses to the questions in this survey will be used to inform the RTLIA on what about your lake matters most to you and how the RTLIA can help you improve it. This survey asks questions that will help evaluate the current level of engagement of property owners in lake improvement activities, as well as questions on how to increase participation in additional lake improvement projects.

The RTLIA wishes to gather background information on how you like to enjoy your lake so that they can work with you to improve those aspects of the lake. The survey also asks a series of questions to gather background information on your knowledge about water quality, aquatic invasive species, fishing, boating, shoreline improvement opportunities so that they can implement educational events and projects designed around your specific input. Your responses are greatly appreciated and a valuable part of the lake improvement planning process.

This survey has been mailed to every property owner on the Round Trade Lakes. The completed survey should be returned to LEAPS in the envelope provided. Survey responses are considered anonymous, so honest and complete responses to the questions are important. Please complete the survey and send it back by September 11, 2021.

The survey is also available online for download (until September 18<sup>th</sup> when it will be removed) if you would prefer to download the survey and mail it back on your own.

Results will be tallied by LEAPS and incorporated into RTLIA lake management projects and decisions. A summary presentation will be given in 2022. Thank you for your time and interest in this survey.

Sincerely,

Dave Blumer, Lake Educator  
715-642-0635  
[dblumerleaps@gmail.com](mailto:dblumerleaps@gmail.com)

Megan Mader, Aquatic Biologist  
715-661-8131  
[mmaderleaps@gmail.com](mailto:mmaderleaps@gmail.com)

# Trade Lakes Social Survey

## Background Information

1. What lake on the Trade River chain of lakes do you own property on? X all that apply.
  - Long Trade
  - Little Trade
  - Big Trade
  - Round Trade
2. Approximately how many feet of shoreline do you have?
  - less than 50
  - 50-99
  - 100-149
  - 150-200
  - over 200
3. Please select your age (average with spouse if applicable).
  - 18-25
  - 26-35
  - 36-45
  - 45-55
  - 56-65
  - 66-75
  - 76-85
  - 86+
4. How many years have you owned property on the Trade River Chain of Lakes? (If you have owned the property for less than 1 year please write '1' in the space provided. If you own multiple properties, please respond based on the one you have owned for the longest period of time.) \_\_\_\_\_
5. How much time out of the year do you typically spend at your lake property?
  - Full time resident
  - 9-11 months
  - 4-8 months
  - 3-5 months
  - Less than 2 months
6. Approximately how many people, including yourself, regularly use (more than 3 weekends per year) your lakeshore property? Please indicate an approximate number on the line that applies.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 86 or older
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 76-85
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 66-75
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 56-65
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 36-45
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 26-35
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 18-25
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Children age 0-17
7. Do you rent out your lakeshore property? If no, please X "I do not rent my property".
  - Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ # Times
  - Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ days per year
  - I do not rent my property

8. What types of recreational activities do you participate in on your lake and lakeshore? X all that apply.

- |                                          |                                           |                                                  |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Camping            | <input type="radio"/> Jet Skiing          | <input type="radio"/> Swimming                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Canoeing/Kayaking  | <input type="radio"/> Nature Appreciation | <input type="radio"/> Trapping                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing from shore | <input type="radio"/> Power Boating       | <input type="radio"/> Wind Surfing               |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing from boat  | <input type="radio"/> Sailing             | <input type="radio"/> Water Skiing/Wake Boarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Ice Fishing        | <input type="radio"/> Scuba Diving        | <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify):    |
| <input type="radio"/> Ice Skating        | <input type="radio"/> Snowmobiling        |                                                  |

9. Please rate the importance of the following elements on your personal enjoyment of your lake. Please X only one value for each element.

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Not Sure
Clean Water						
Undeveloped Shorelines						
Scenery/View						
Wildlife Viewing						
Dark Skies (no light pollution)						
Tranquility/Quiet						
Fishing						
Ice Fishing						
Hunting						
Swimming						
Power Boating						
Non-Power Boating						
Personal Watercraft/Jet Skiing						
Water Skiing/Tubing						
Wakeboarding						
Time with Friends and Family						

## Water Quality

10. How would you rate the water in your lake in an average summer (June-September)?

- |                                 |                            |                                 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Excellent | <input type="radio"/> Fair | <input type="radio"/> Very Poor |
| <input type="radio"/> Good      | <input type="radio"/> Poor | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure  |

11. In your opinion, how has the water quality changed in your lake since you have owned property on the lake?

- |                                      |                                    |                                     |                                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Hasn't changed | <input type="radio"/> Gotten worse | <input type="radio"/> Gotten better | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

12. What are your concerns with respect to your lake's water quality? X all that apply.
- Bacteria
  - Smell
  - Algae/green water
  - Presence of aquatic vegetation
  - Other (please specify):
  - Water clarity
  - Chemical contamination
  - None of these

### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

13. How confident do you feel in telling native plants and animals apart from invasive plants and animals?
- Very confident
  - Confident
  - Not very confident
  - Not at all confident
  - Not sure
14. Are you aware of any AIS (plants and/or animals) that may be present in the lake you live on?
- Yes > proceed to Q15
  - No > skip ahead to Q17
  - Not sure > skip ahead to Q17
15. If you answered 'Yes' to Question 14, has the presence of AIS in the lake impacted or changed how you use your lake?
- Yes
  - No
  - Not sure
16. In your opinion, how have AIS in the lake you live on changed since you have owned property on the lake?
- Have not changed
  - Gotten worse
  - Gotten better
  - Not sure

### Fishing

17. In your opinion, what is the quality of fishing in the lake you live on:
- Excellent
  - Good
  - Fair
  - Poor
  - Very Poor
  - Not Sure
18. In your opinion, how has the quality of fishing changed in the lake you live on since you have owned property on the lake?
- Hasn't changed
  - Gotten worse
  - Gotten better
  - Not sure

### Boating

19. In your opinion, what is the current quality of boating on your lake:
- Excellent
  - Good
  - Fair
  - Poor
  - Very Poor
  - Not Sure
20. In your opinion, how has the quality of boating changed on your lake since you have owned your property?
- Hasn't changed
  - Gotten worse
  - Gotten better
  - Not sure

21. What concerns about boating on your lake do you have? X all that apply.
- Large-wake producing boats
  - Too many boating restrictions
  - Not enough slow-no-wake zones
  - Too many slow-no-wake zones
  - Other (please specify):
  - Too many aquatic plants/weeds to boat through
  - Reckless driving
  - I do not have any concerns
22. Does powerboating interfere with your ability to do non-motorized boating activities like kayaking, paddle boarding, canoeing, etc.?
- Yes
  - No
  - I do not participate in non-motorized boating activities

## Shoreline

23. What are your concerns with respect to your lake's shoreline? X all that apply.
- Erosion
  - Too much rip rap
  - Invasive species
  - Removal of habitat (fallen trees, shoreline plants, aquatic plants, etc.)
  - Wakes from boats
  - Large lawns
  - Development too close to the shoreline
  - None of these
  - Other (please specify):
24. How would you rate the current quality of the shoreline (entire shoreline of the lake, not just your property) on your lake?
- Excellent
  - Good
  - Fair
  - Poor
  - Very Poor
  - Not Sure
25. In your opinion, how has the shoreline (entire shoreline of the lake, not just your property) changed on your lake since you have owned property on the lake?
- Hasn't changed
  - Gotten worse
  - Gotten better
  - Not sure
26. The following are landscaping practices used to protect and improve the shoreline. Which ones have you heard of? X all that apply.
- Rain gardens
  - Shoreline buffers
  - Native flower/tree planting
  - Natural shoreline restoration
  - Other (please describe):
  - Runoff reduction practices
  - No mow areas
  - I have not heard of any of these water quality/landscaping practices

27. Which, if any, of the following might influence you to implement a landscaping for water quality practice on your property? X all that apply.
- More information about landscaping for water quality practices
  - Training to learn how to install a landscaping for water quality practice
  - Increasing the natural beauty of your property
  - Improving the water quality of the lakes
  - Improving the water quality around your property's shoreline
  - Providing better habitat for fish
  - Providing better habitat for birds and wildlife
  - Setting an example for other lake residents
  - Less lawn mowing time
  - A property tax rebate
  - Financial assistance that pays a portion of the cost of installation
  - No cost technical assistance that would identify appropriate practices to install
  - Other (please describe):
  - I have no interest in implementing a landscaping for water quality practice on my property

## Lake Stewardship

28. Which, if any, of the following activities would you, as part of the lake community, **be willing to participate in** to help improve your lake? X all that apply. (This is not a formal commitment.)
- Participate in riparian improvement activities (no-mow areas, native planting, rain gardens)
  - Operating your boat at no-wake speeds in designated areas
  - Looking for AIS around your shoreline
  - Removing AIS by hand around your shoreline
  - Helping others on your lake look for and/or remove AIS
  - Boat inspections at landings
  - Avoid sensitive area for fish and wildlife
  - Catch and release fishing
  - None of the above
  - Other (please specify):
29. What has deterred or prevented you from participating in more lake improvement? X all that apply.
- Cost
  - Lack of time
  - Lack of information
  - Lack of interest
  - Physical ability
  - I'm not aware of improvement projects I could participate in
30. Which, if any, of the following initiatives would you, as part of the lake community, **support** to help improve conditions in your lake? X all that apply. (This is not a formal commitment.)
- Agricultural incentives to change farming practices that negatively affect the lake
  - Engage in a septic re-inspection program
  - The creation of slow-no-wake zones in shallow areas
  - Stabilization/protection of the shoreline to prevent erosion
  - Riparian (near the water) improvement actions (no-mow areas, native plantings, rain gardens)

- Projects that increase woody habitat/trees in the water
- Financial and other incentives to encourage shoreline improvement projects
- Activities to control AIS
- Boat inspections at landings
- Fish stocking. Please indicate species:
- Catch and release fishing
- Implementing quiet hours that limit personal watercraft/water sport activity
- Discussing a restriction on wake boat usage
- Public access on Little Trade Lake
- Improving boat landings
- Improve communication between property owners and Round Trade Lakes Improvement Association
- None of the above
- Other (please specify):

31. One option for care and improvement of the Round Trade Lakes is the creation of a lake district. The purpose of a lake district is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of a lake and its watershed for the mutual good of the members and the environment. Lake districts are funded from taxes and have the ability to form ordinances. Within a lake district, all property owners share in the cost of management activities undertaken by the district. To what extent would you support or oppose creating a lake district for the Round Trade Lakes?

- |                                        |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly Support | <input type="radio"/> Somewhat Oppose |
| <input type="radio"/> Somewhat Support | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Oppose |
| <input type="radio"/> Neutral          | <input type="radio"/> Need More Info  |

Using the space below, please describe why you support or oppose a lake district or what information you would like to know.

### **Round Trade Lake Improvement Association (RTLIA) Involvement**

32. Prior to receiving this survey, did you know that there was a Round Trade Lakes Improvement Association (RTLIA)?

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|

33. Have you ever attended an RTLIA meeting?

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|

34. The RTLIA is interested in hosting educational events for lake residents. Would you be interested in an educational event on any of the following topics to improve your understanding of the conditions in your lake?

EDUCATIONAL TOPIC:	Yes, I'm interested.	No, I'm not interested.
Water quality		
Aquatic plants and invasive species		
Fish		
Shoreline improvement		
General lake rules and regulations		
Formation of a lake district		

Other topic? (please specify):

If you would like to be contacted in the future about education events, please leave your information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

35. What would it take for you to be more involved in the lake association? Please respond in the space below.

### Final Comments

36. If there are any additional issues you would like the RTLIA to address, or comments you would like to make, please use the space below.



# RTLIA Survey Summary

# Surveys sent out – 341

# Returned – 115

# Responses Recorded – 111

% Return Rate = 33.7%

Note: This PowerPoint is color coded by lake

Big – Blue

Little – Green

Long – Orange

Round – Purple

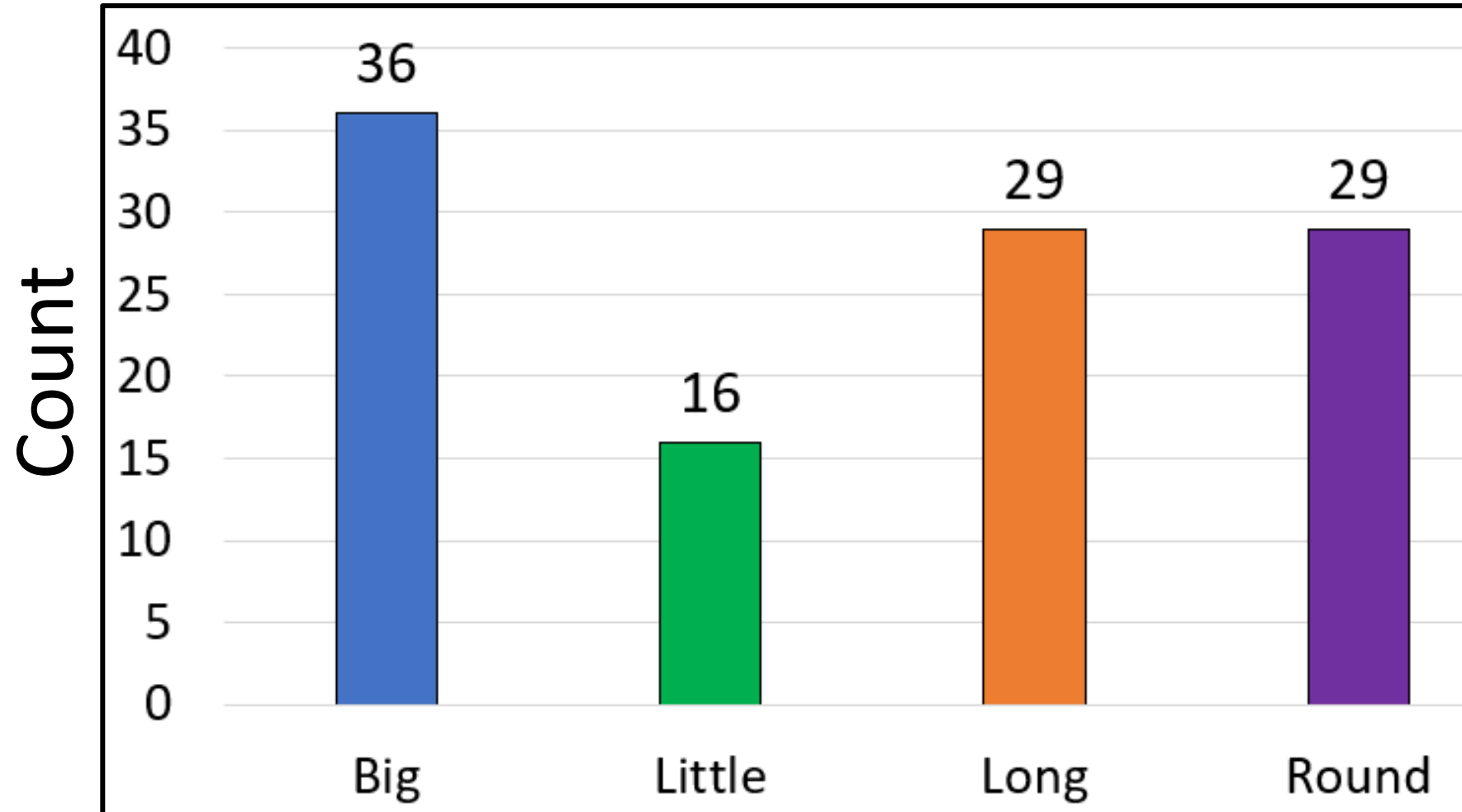
So look for your lake's color on each slide

\*The lakes will always be in this same order for the color blind folks

Survey Responses = 111 Total

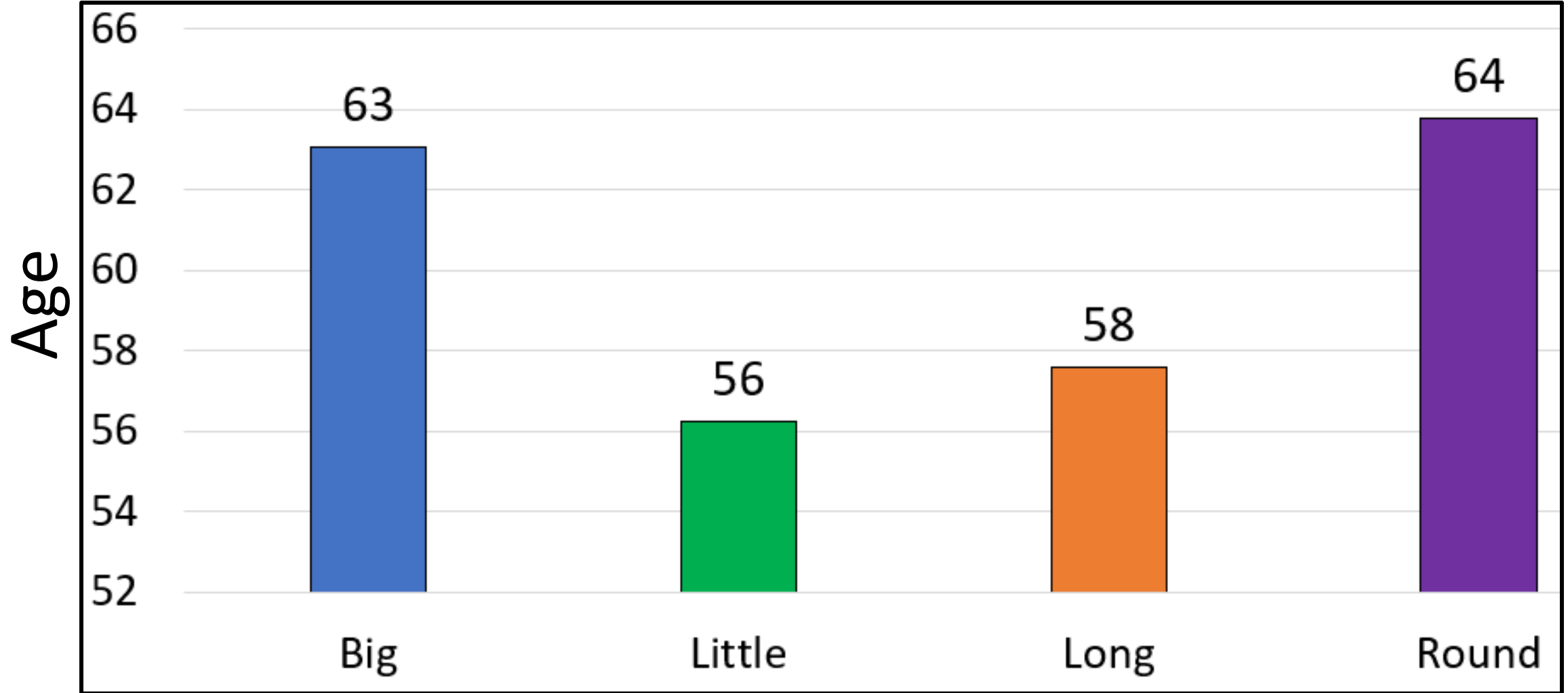
110 Responses to this question

## Per Lake

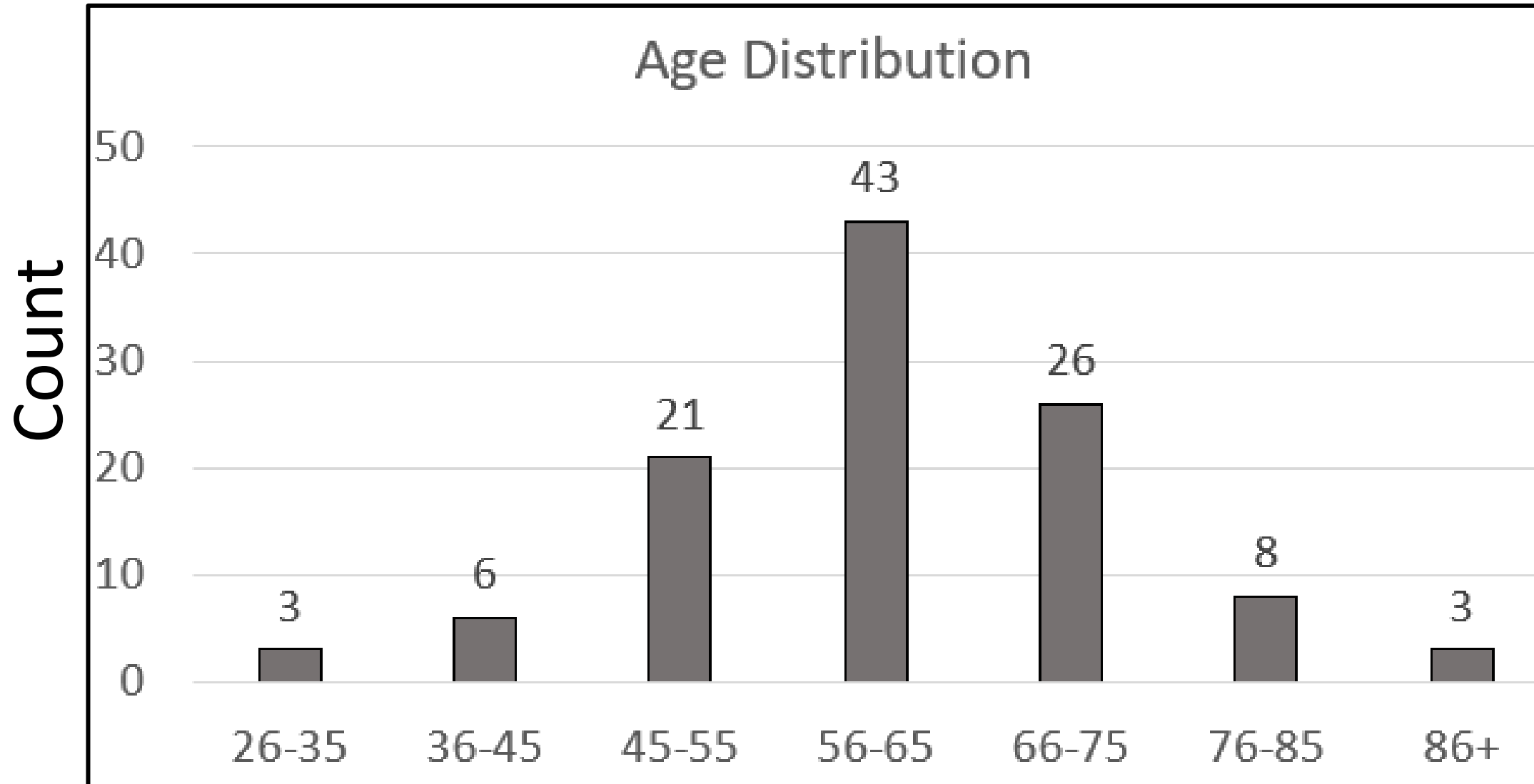


# Average Age of Responders

## Per Lake

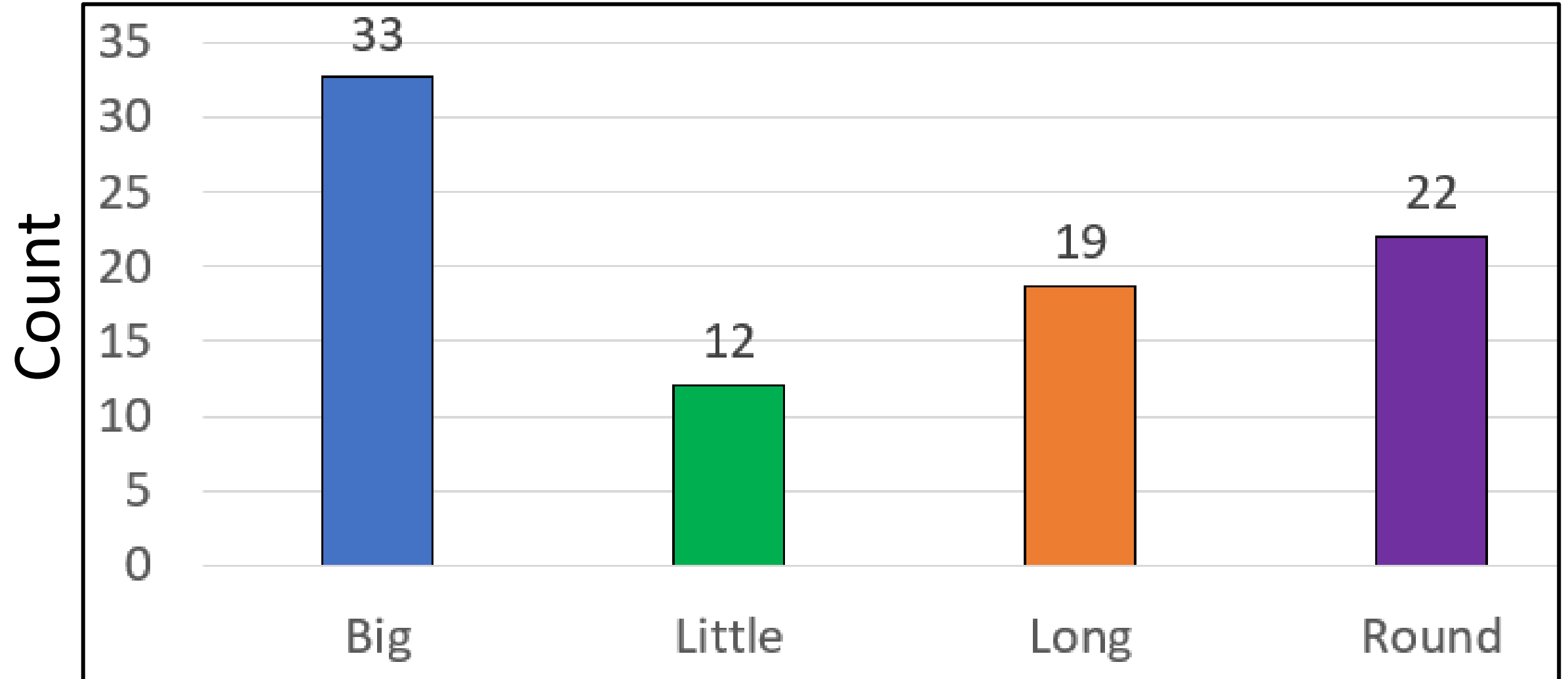


# Average Age of Responders ~ 61 years old

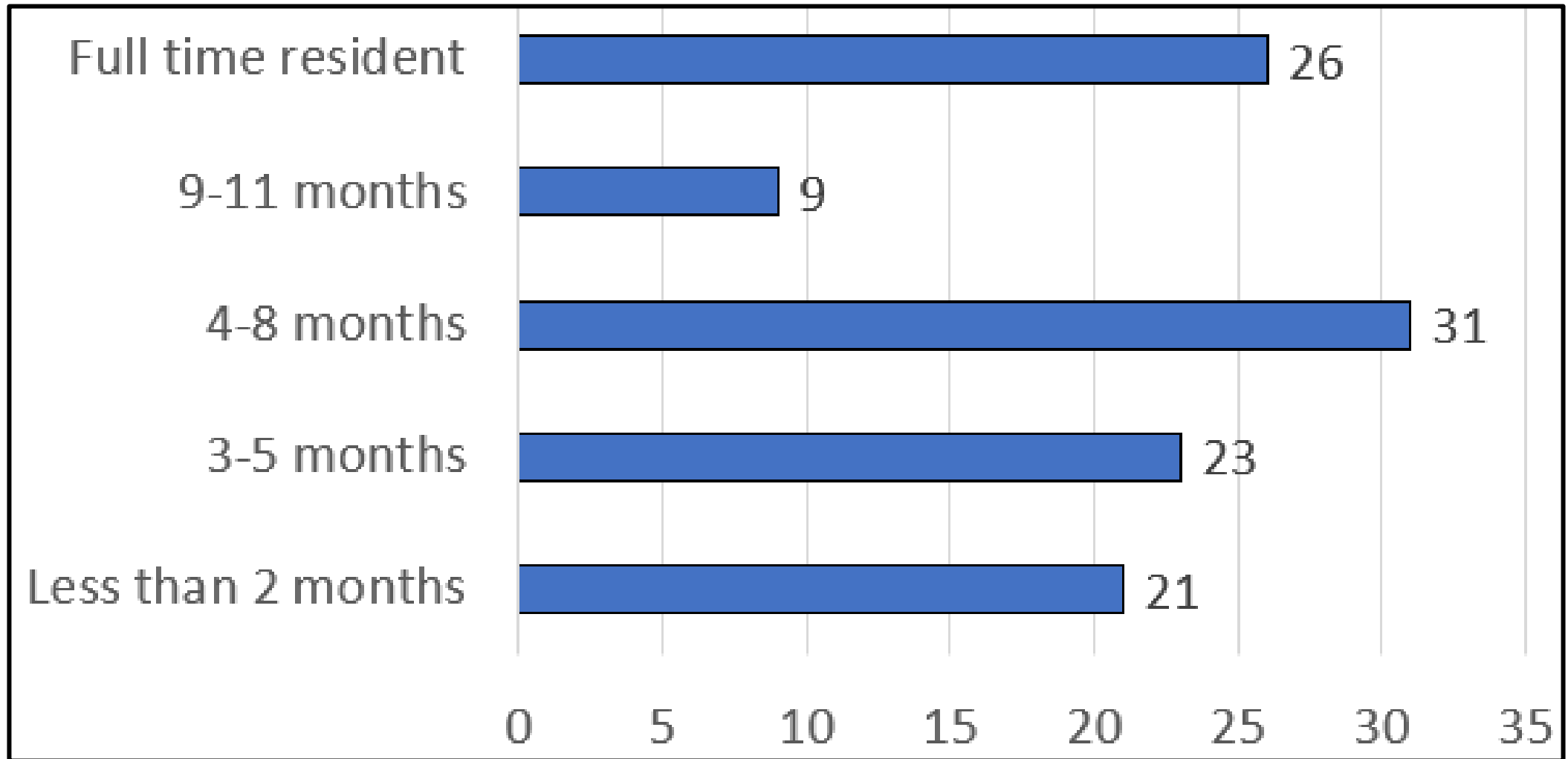


Average age in the US is 38 years old, so people on the Trades are 23 years older than the national average age

# Average Length of Ownership Per Lake



# Residency



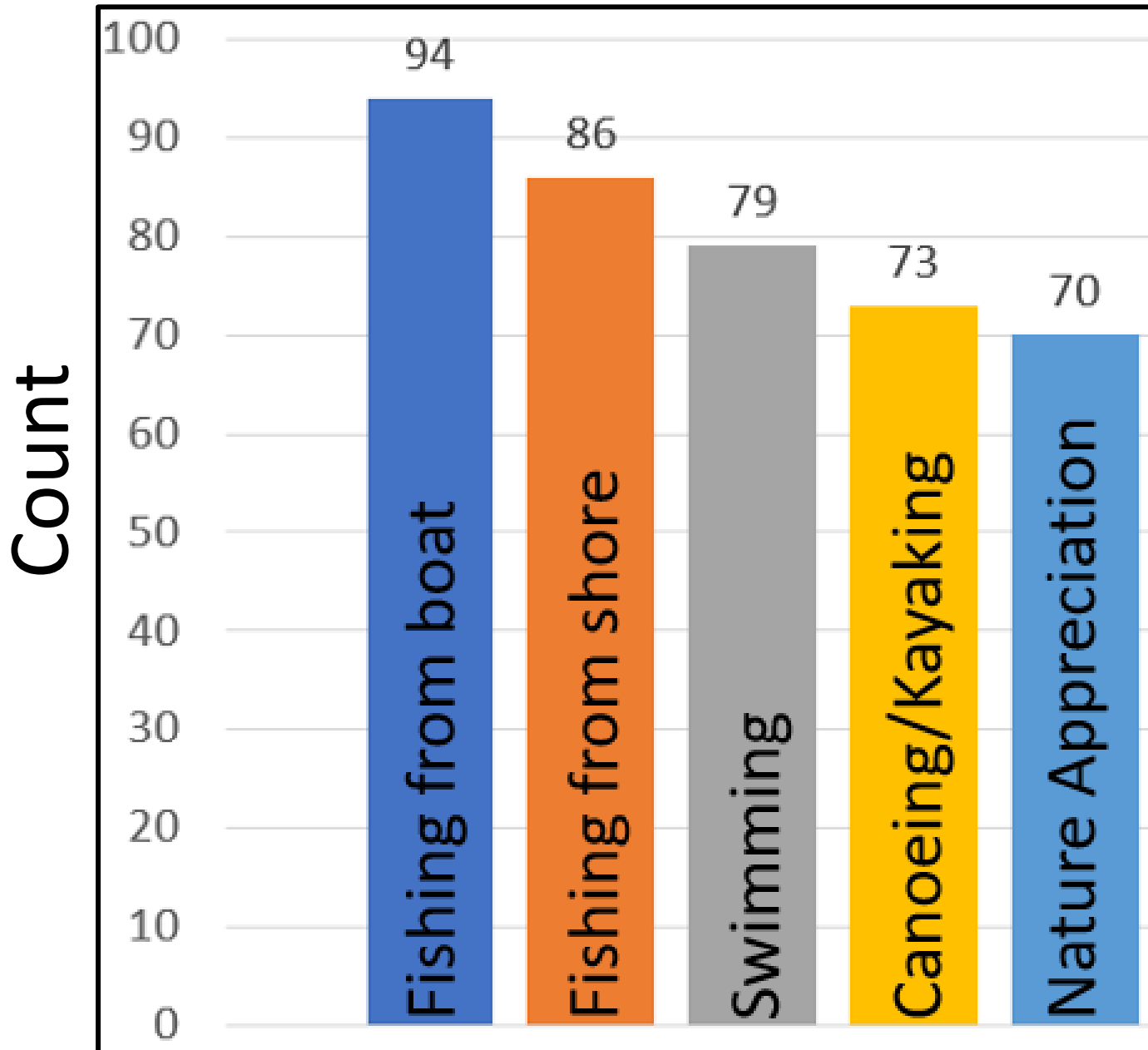
Count



# Rentals

Of the 114 returned surveys, 2 responded  
that they rent their property  
**= 1.8% of properties**

# Top 5 Lake Activities



## Other Activities:

Ice Fishing – 55

Power Boating – 49

Water Skiing/Wake Boarding – 29

Ice Skating – 22

Snowmobiling – 19

Jet Skiing – 19

Camping – 12

Other – 10

Sailing – 2

Wind Surfing – 0

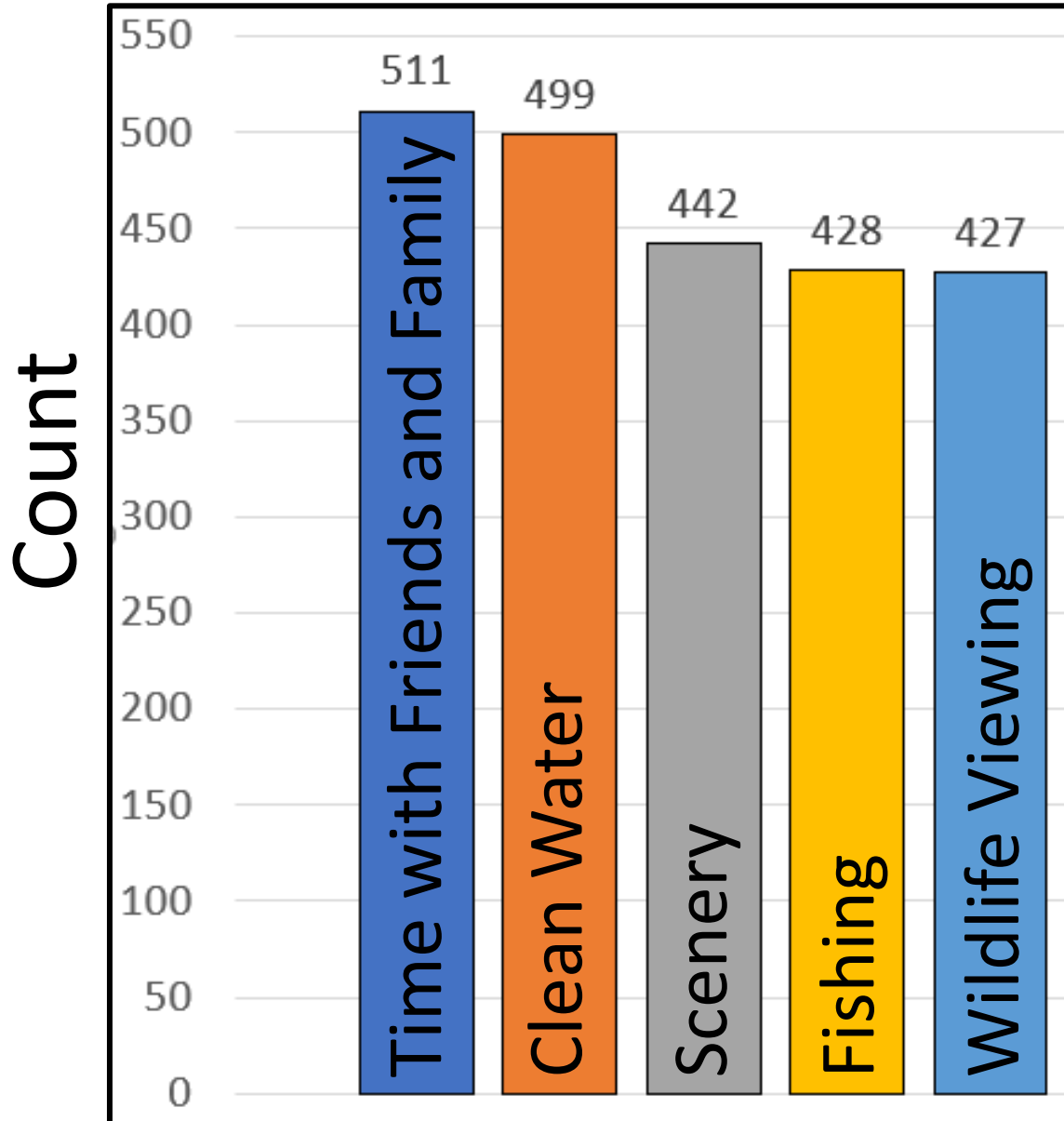
Trapping – 0

Scuba Diving – 0

Fishing and swimming rank very high, so you would expect to see water quality and fishing as top concerns as well, which they do tend to be. Power boating activities rank fairly low, but many people are concerned about them

# Importance of Lake Aspects

550 = Best Possible Score



## Other Topics:

Tranquility – 405

Swimming – 391

Dark Skies – 354

Non-Power Boating – 351

Undeveloped Shorelines – 343

Power Boating – 330

Ice Fishing – 317

Water Skiing/Tubing – 274

Jet Skiing – 199

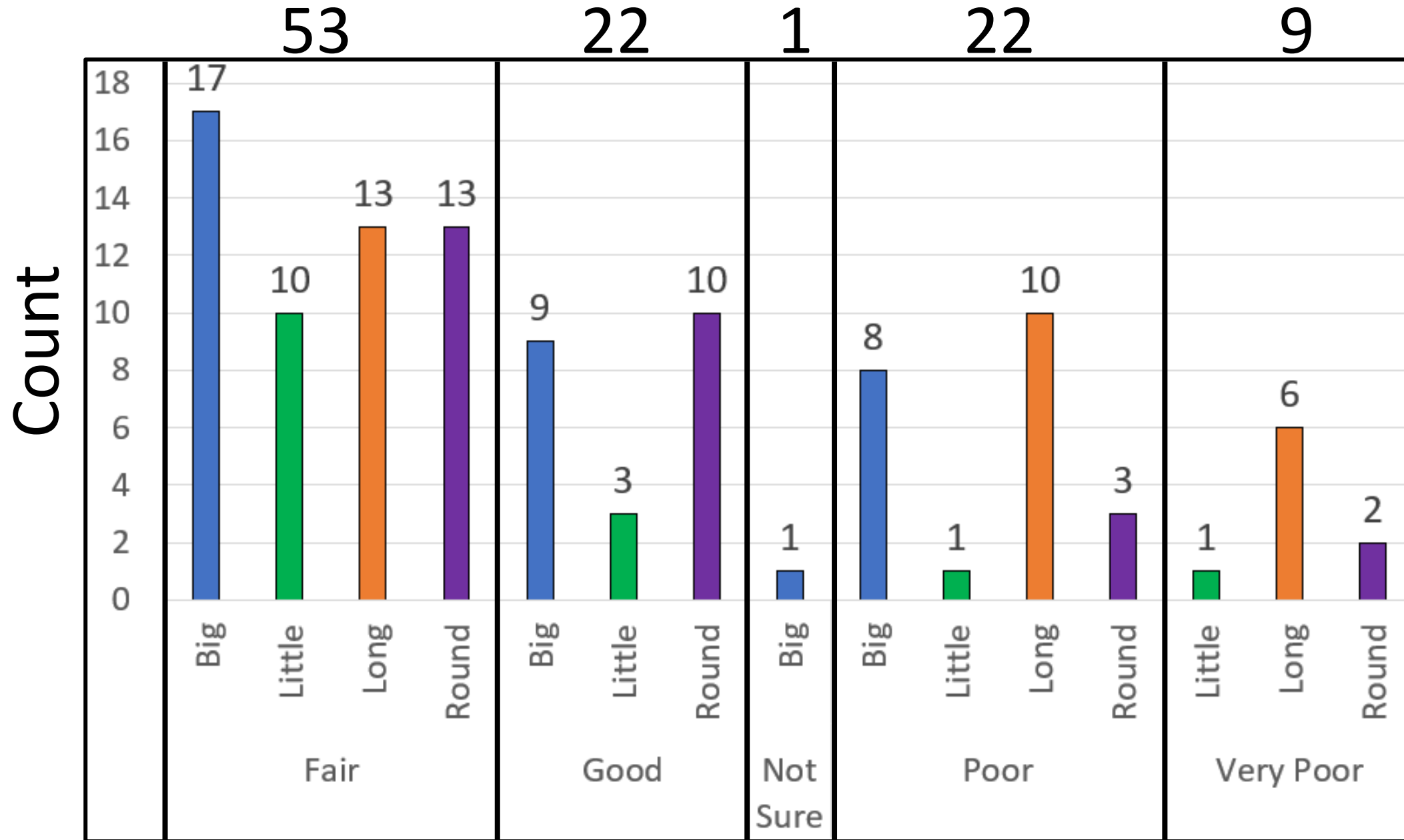
Hunting – 199

Wakeboarding – 166

People do value the natural state of the lakes, as well as the social aspect of having lake property. These should be a focus of the RTLIA.

# Water Quality - Rating

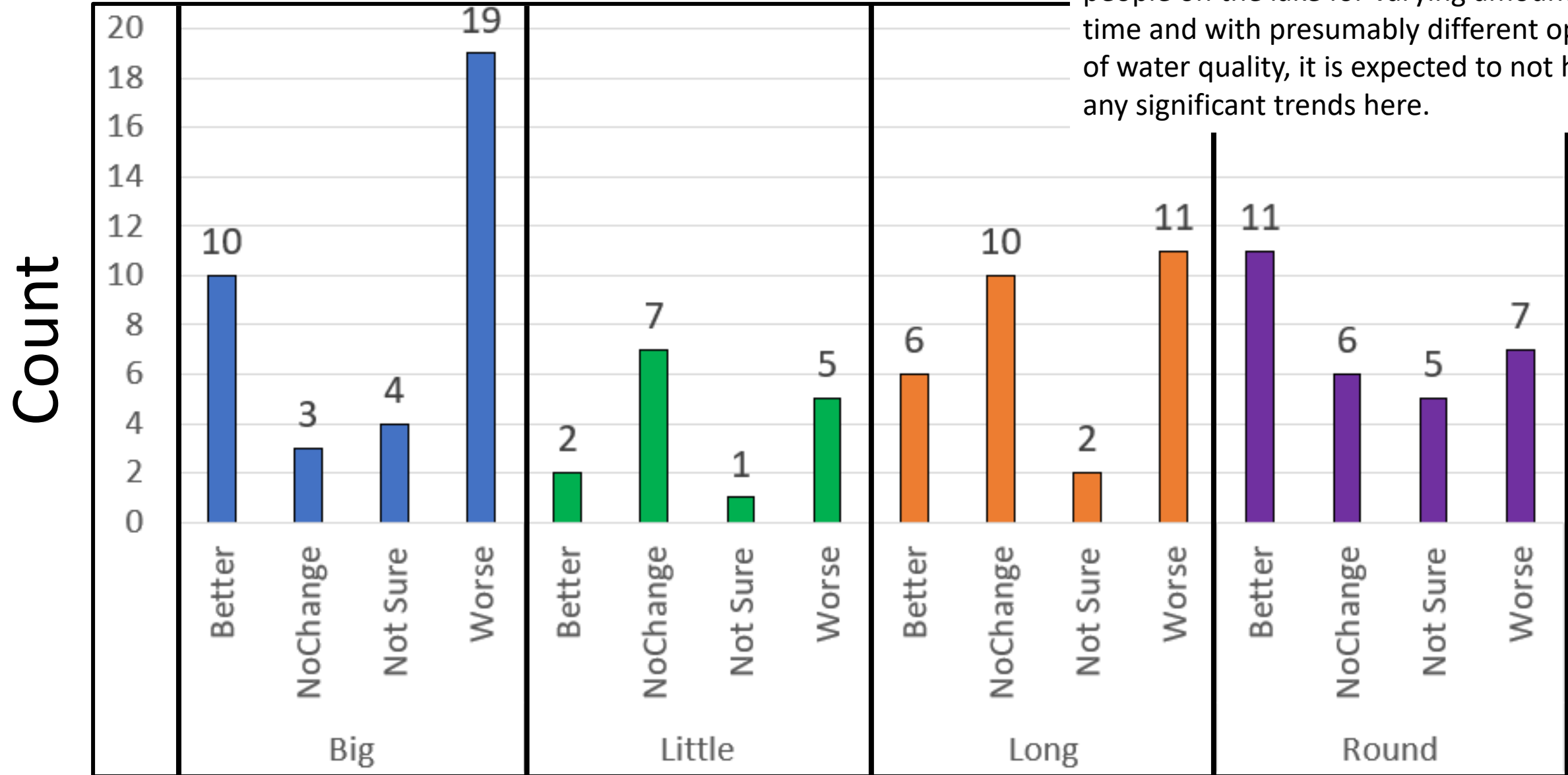
No significant trends  
Note: No Excellent scores



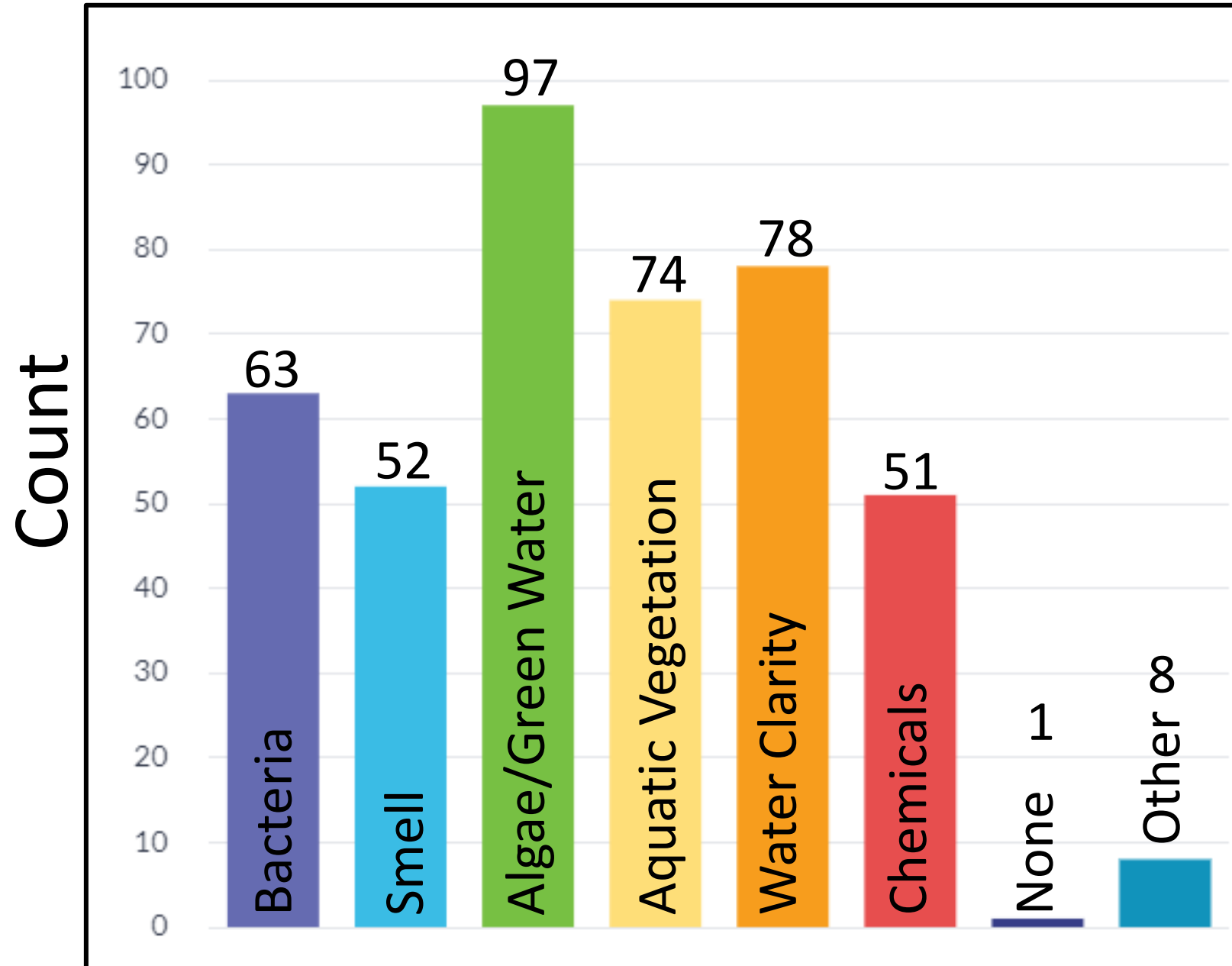
# Water Quality – Change Over Time

## Per Lake

No significant trends, and no significant trends with length of time on the lake and if WQ has gotten better or worse/lake. With people on the lake for varying amounts of time and with presumably different opinions of water quality, it is expected to not have any significant trends here.



# Water Quality - Concerns

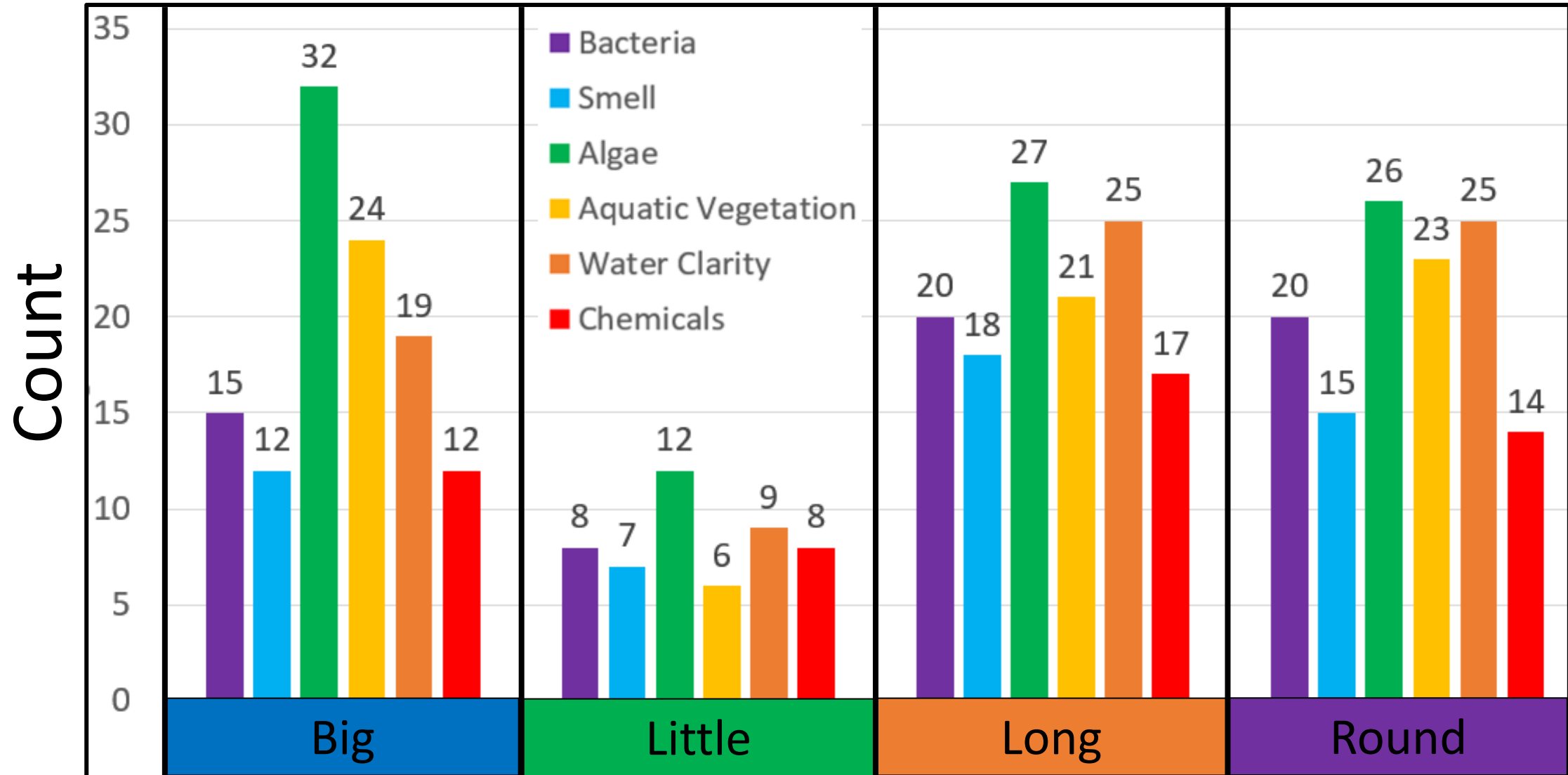


Algae, Vegetation, and Water Clarity are all related, so addressing these top concerns should be a priority of the RTLIA

# Water Quality - Concerns

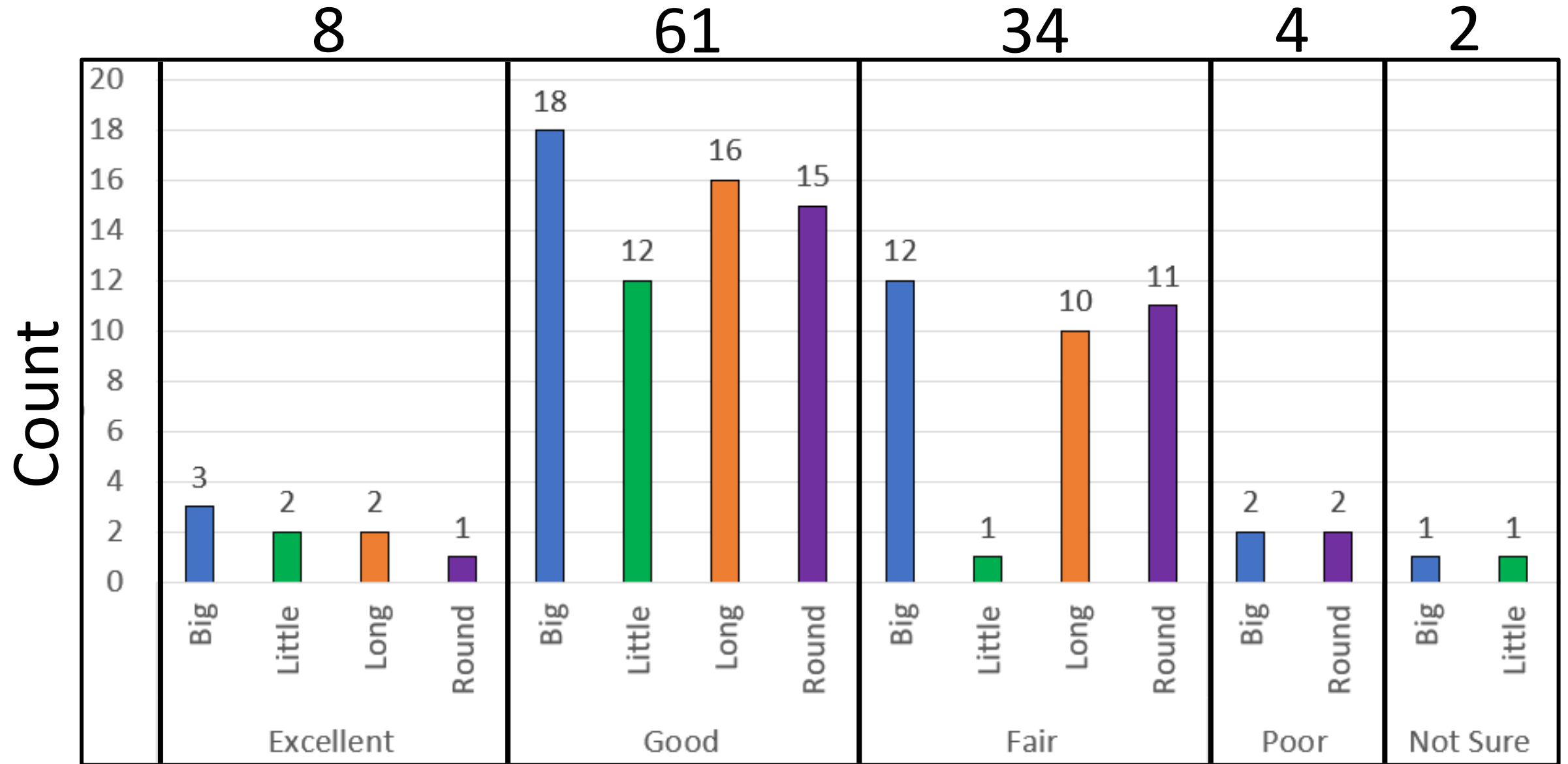
## Per Lake

Top concern for every lake is algae, water clarity and vegetation are also right up there again.



# Quality of Fishing – Rating

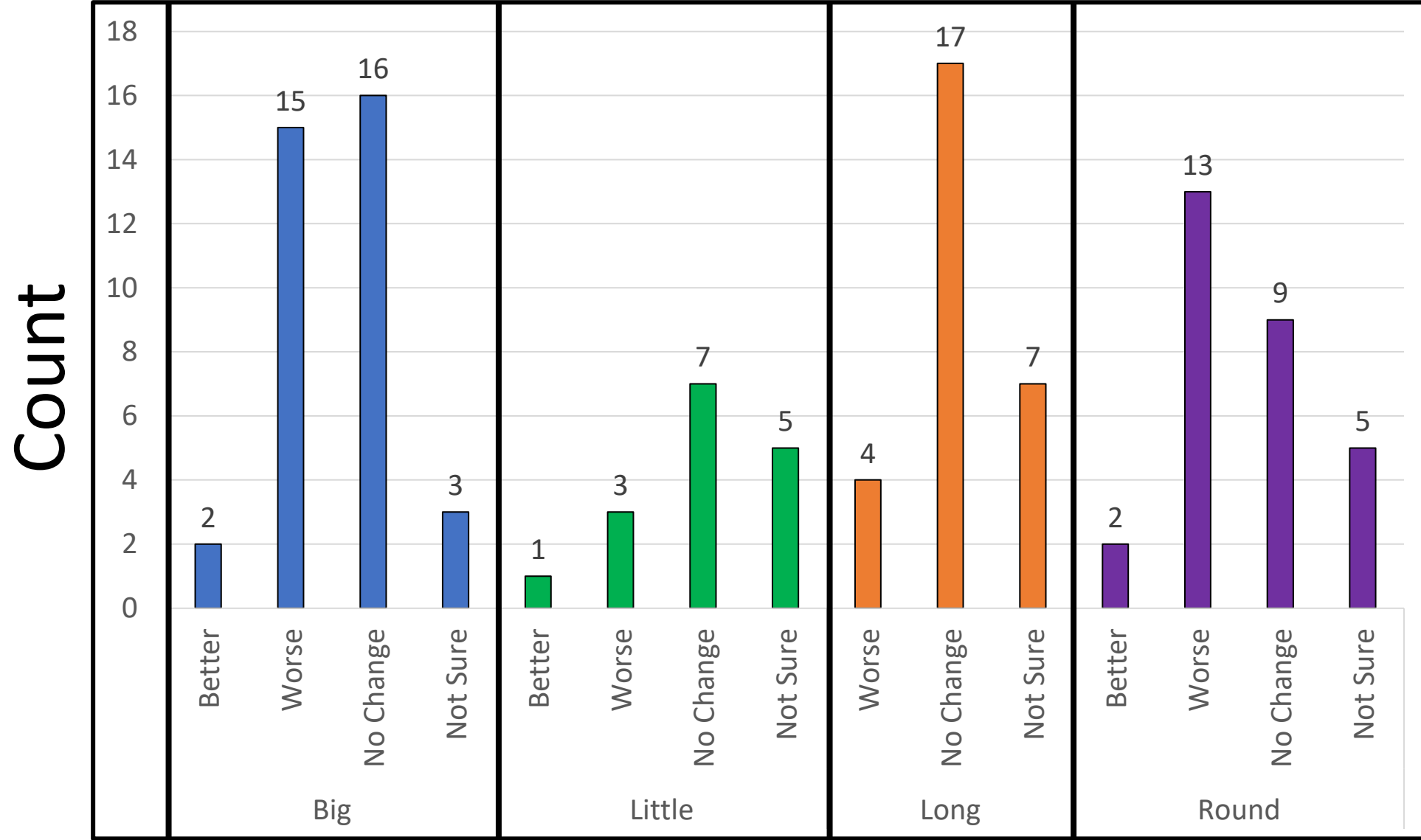
Good ranks significantly ( $p < 0.05$ )  
higher than the other rankings.





# Quality of Fishing – Change Over Time Per Lake

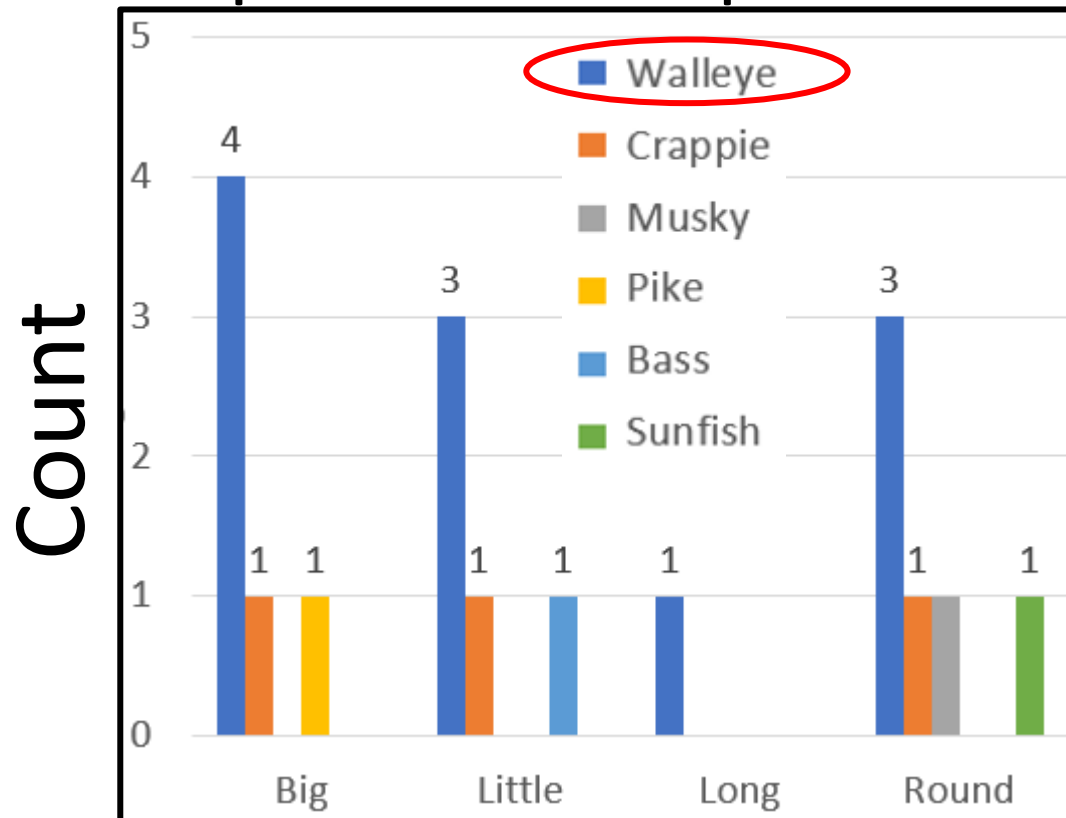
No significant trends – again, people just aren't sure what change looks like, but something to note is that very few people said the fishing got better.



# Quality of Fishing – Other Info

31.5% of responders  
SUPPORT stocking

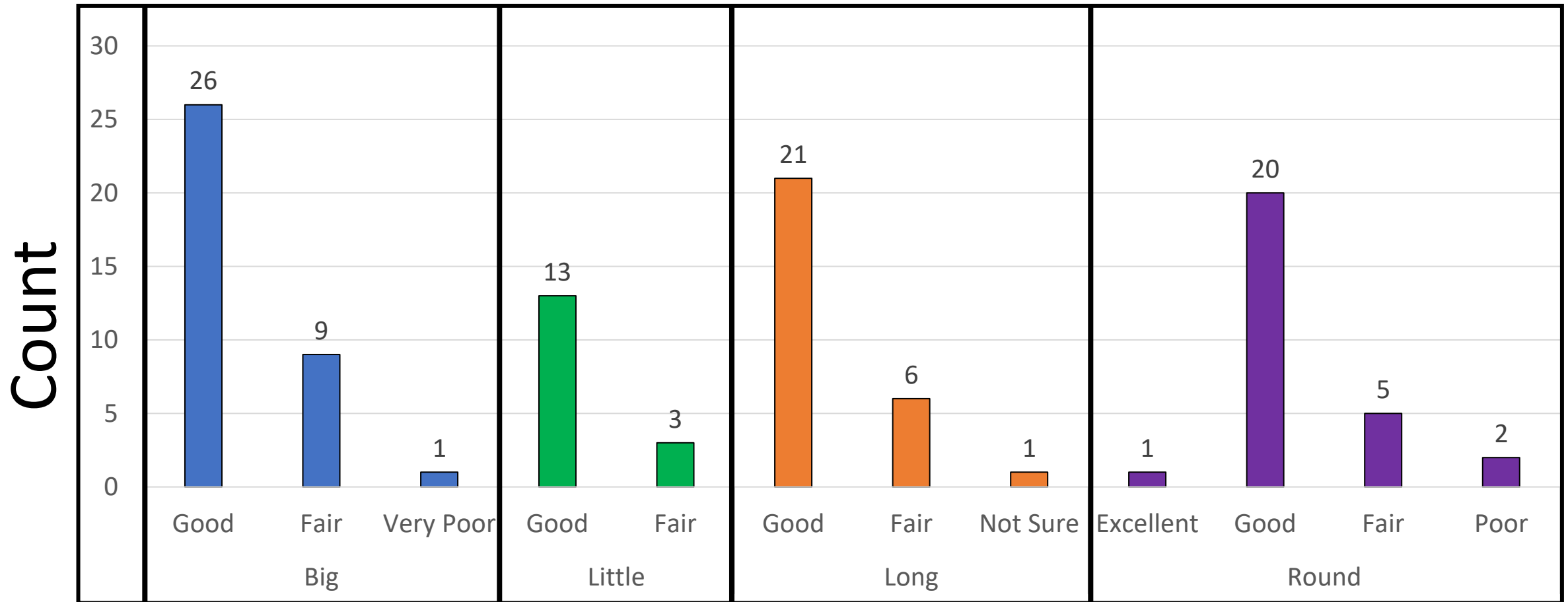
## Species Requested



52.3% of responders would participate in Catch and Release fishing

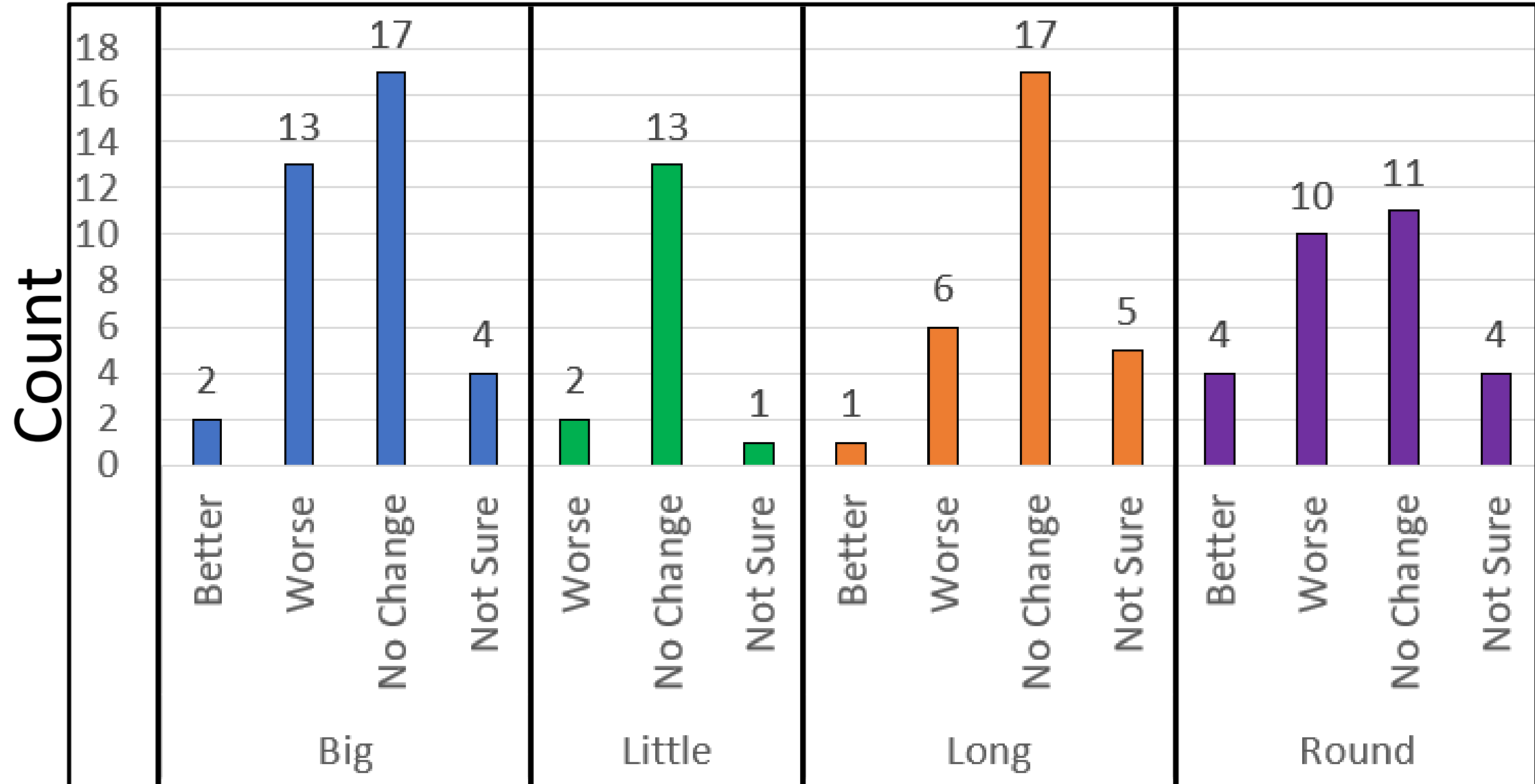
# Quality of Boating – Rating

## Per Lake



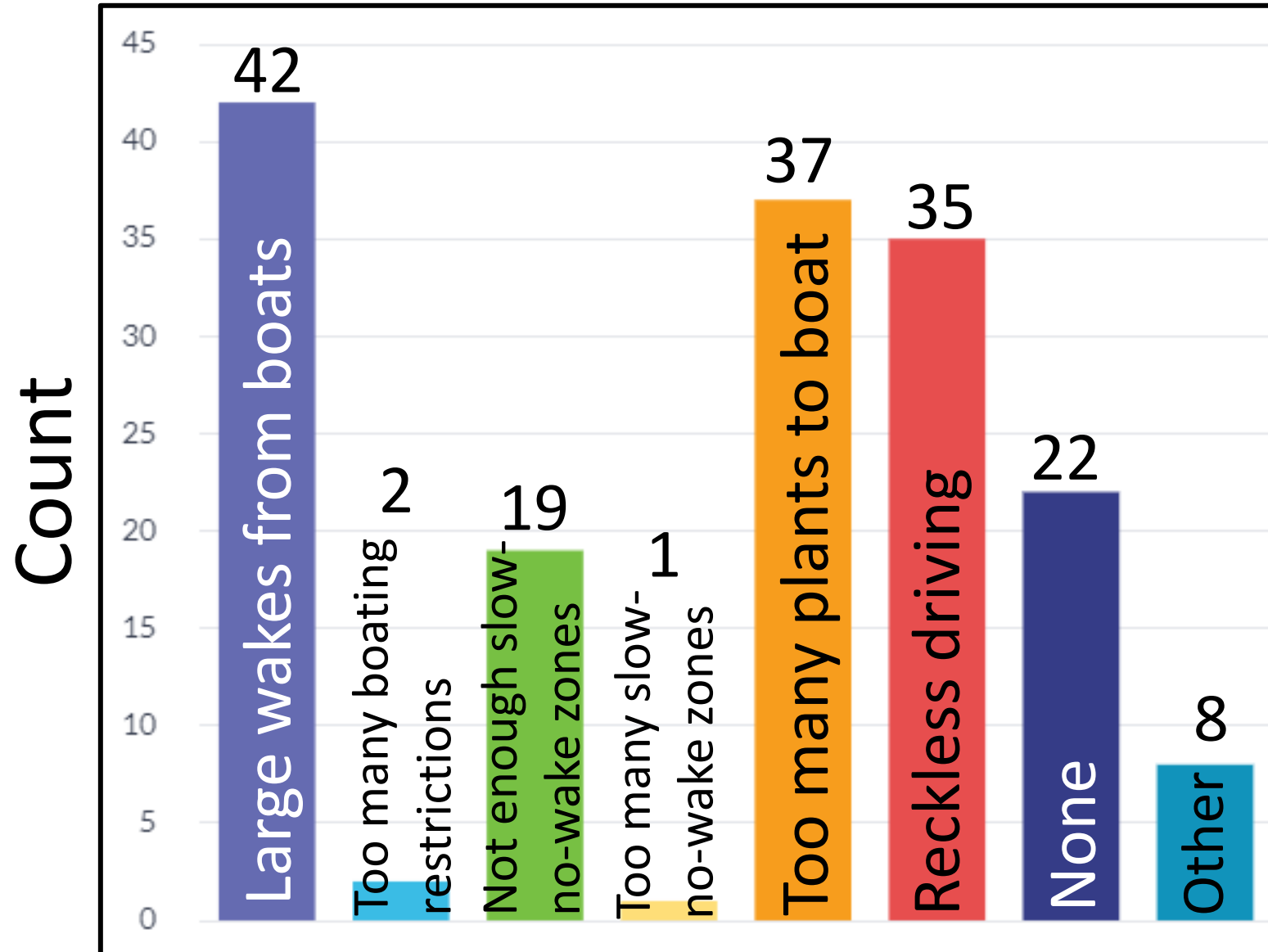
Good ranks significantly higher than the other rankings ( $p < 0.05$ )

# Quality of Boating – Change Over Time Per Lake



People lean towards worse or no change for boating, but there are no significant trends

# Quality of Boating – Concerns



## Top 3 Boating Concerns:

Large wakes from boats

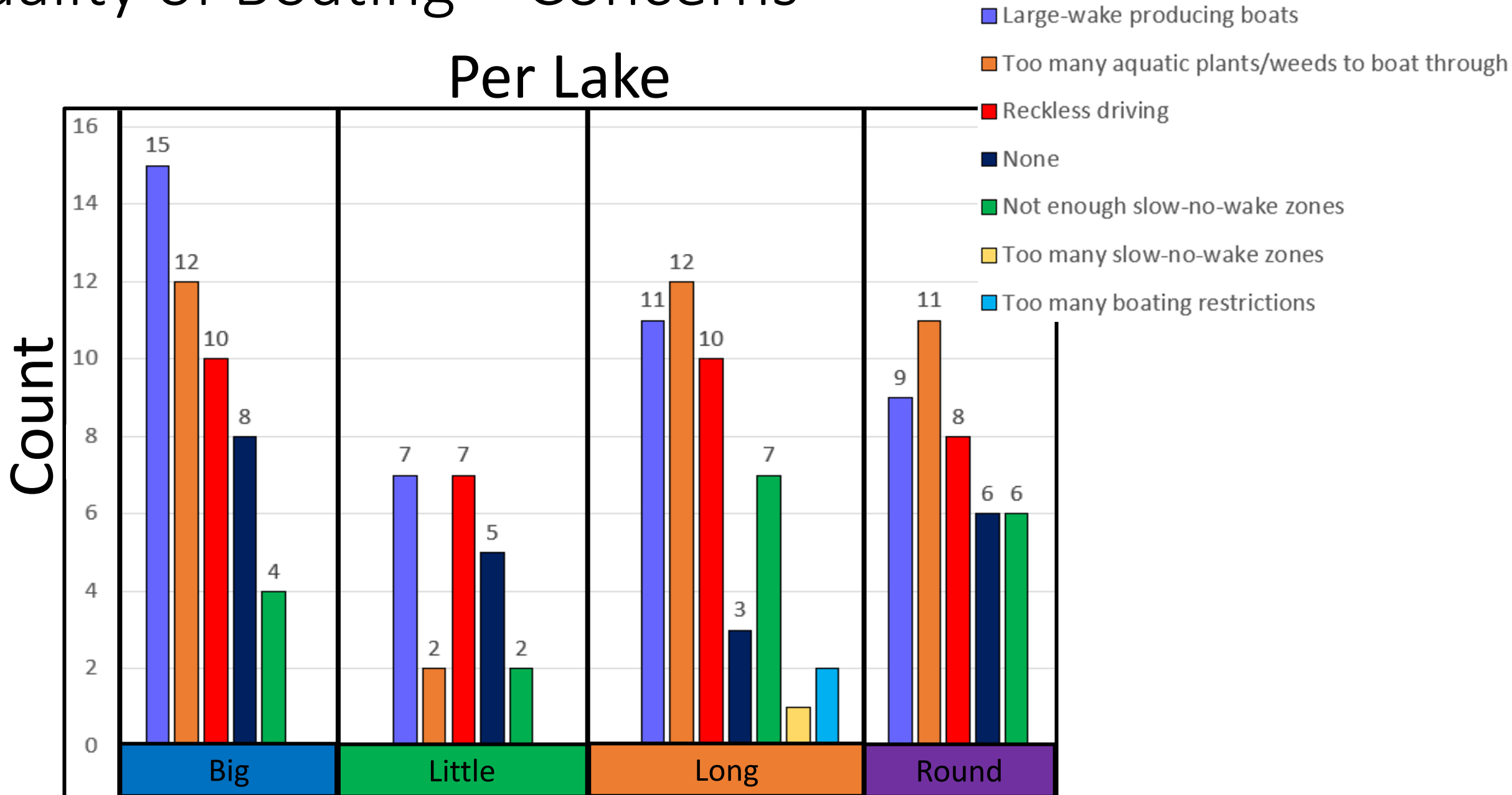
Too many plants to boat through

Reckless driving

People would generally like to see less large wakes, less reckless driving, and less plants in the lake. To accomplish this, slow no wake zones could be re-established (although this sounds quite contentious), restrictions on wake boats could be discussed, and AIS should be managed in high traffic areas.

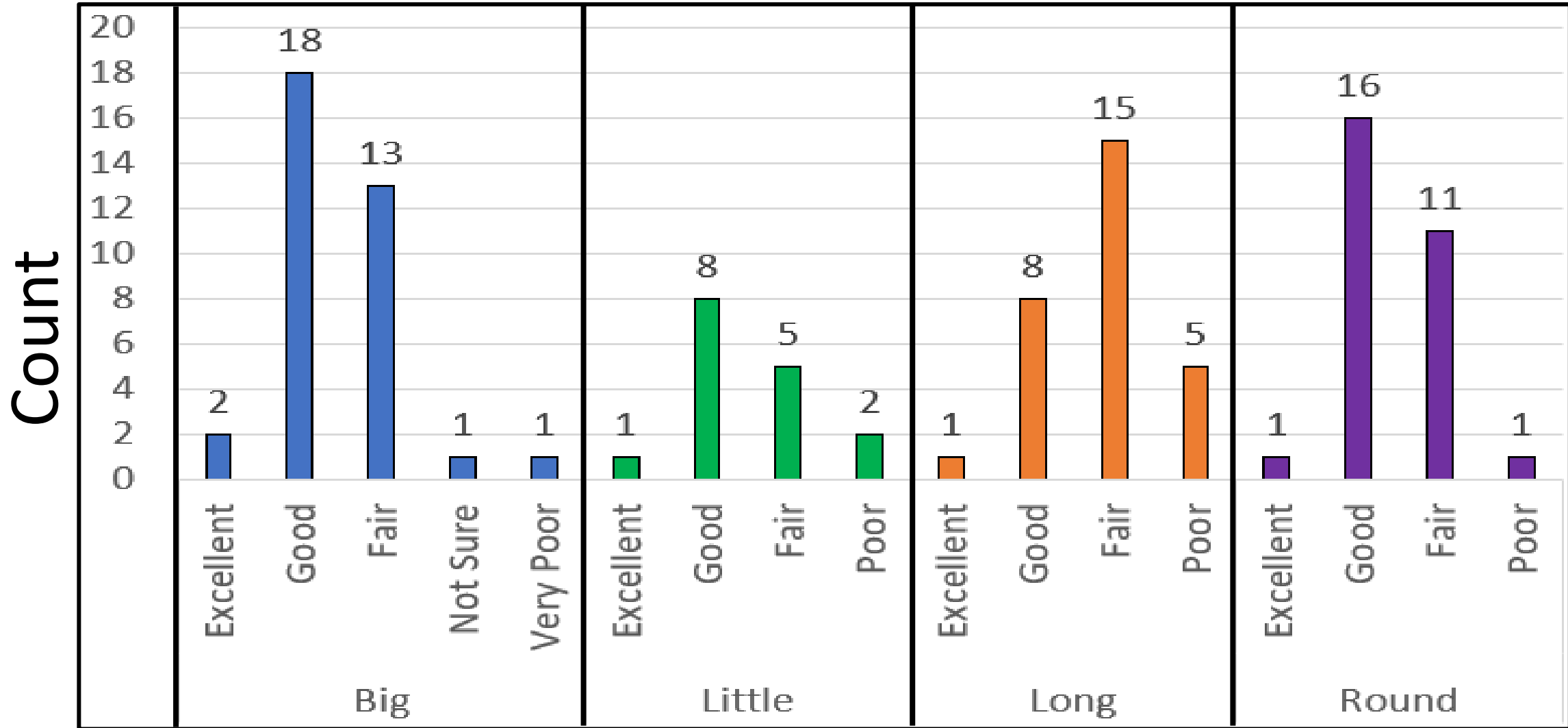
# Quality of Boating – Concerns

## Per Lake



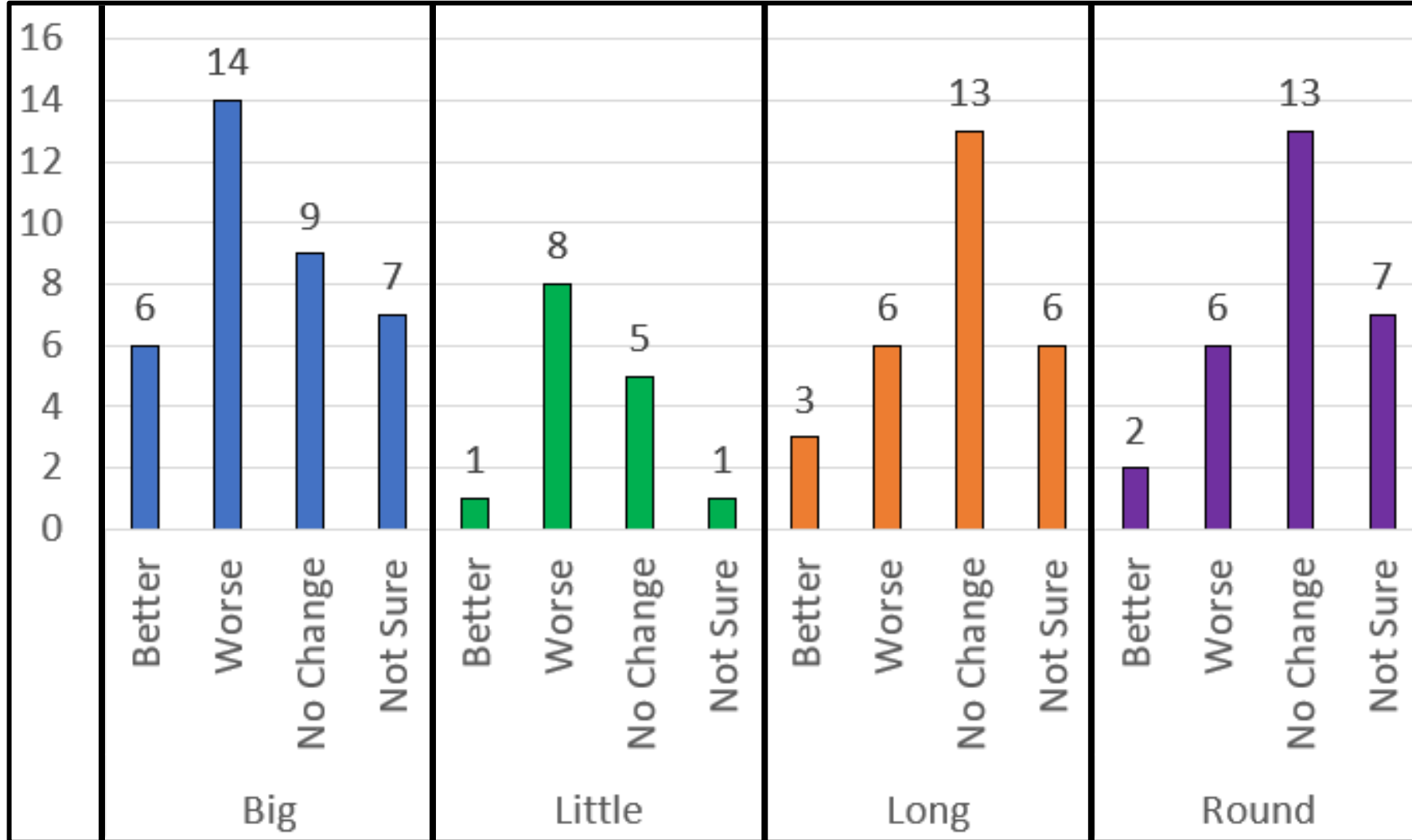
# Quality of Shoreline – Rating

## Per Lake



Shoreline – few excellent ratings again. Good and fair are average

# Quality of Shoreline – Change Over Time Per Lake

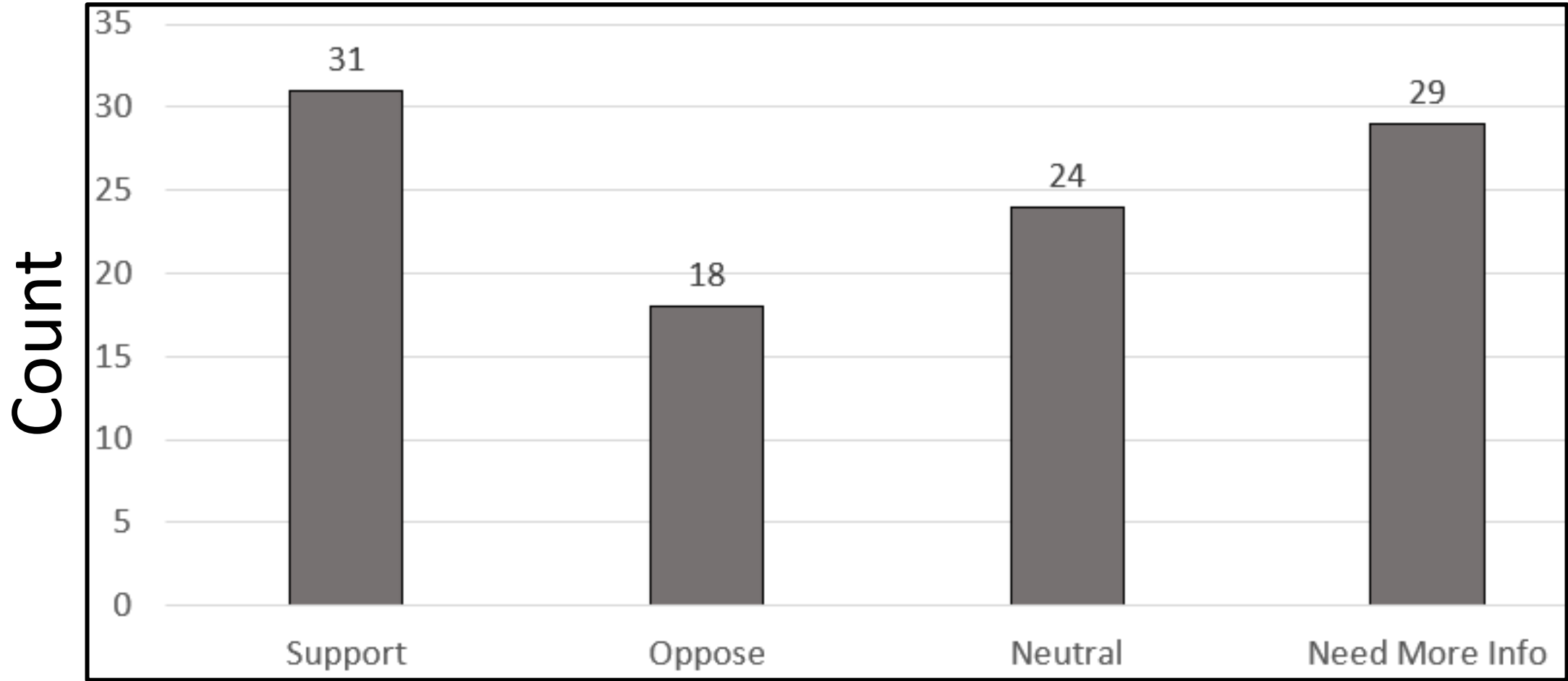


No major consensus over time. Education events on what a quality shoreline looks like and how to achieve that should be a focus of the RTLIA, and people responded that they would be interested in this type of event.



# Lake District

102 Responses

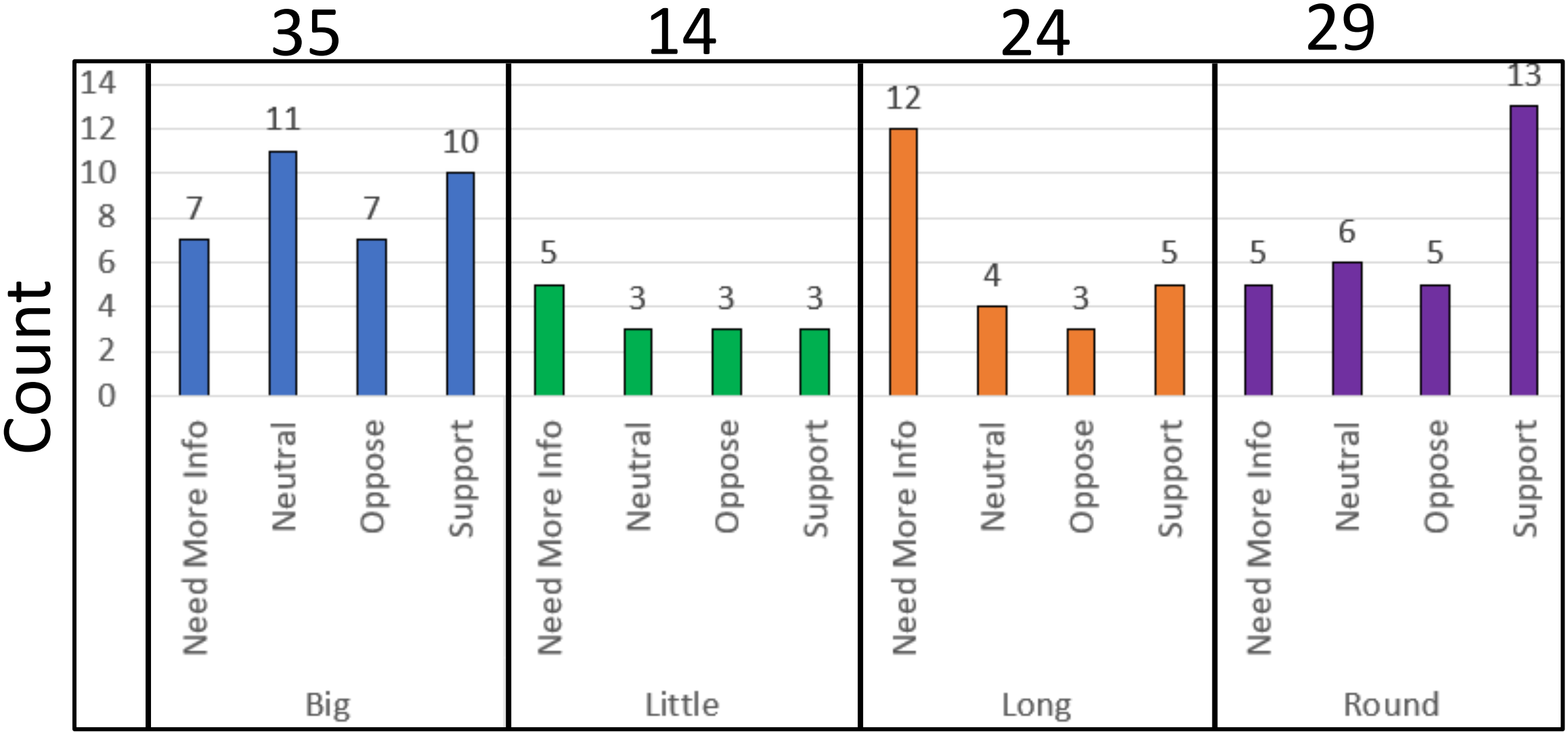


People generally need more information on what a district is and what it entails, but few people responded that they would attend this kind of educational event, so handouts, flyers, brochures, postcards, etc. that deliver the facts on what a district is and what it entails could be beneficial for the RTLIA

# Lake District

102 Responses

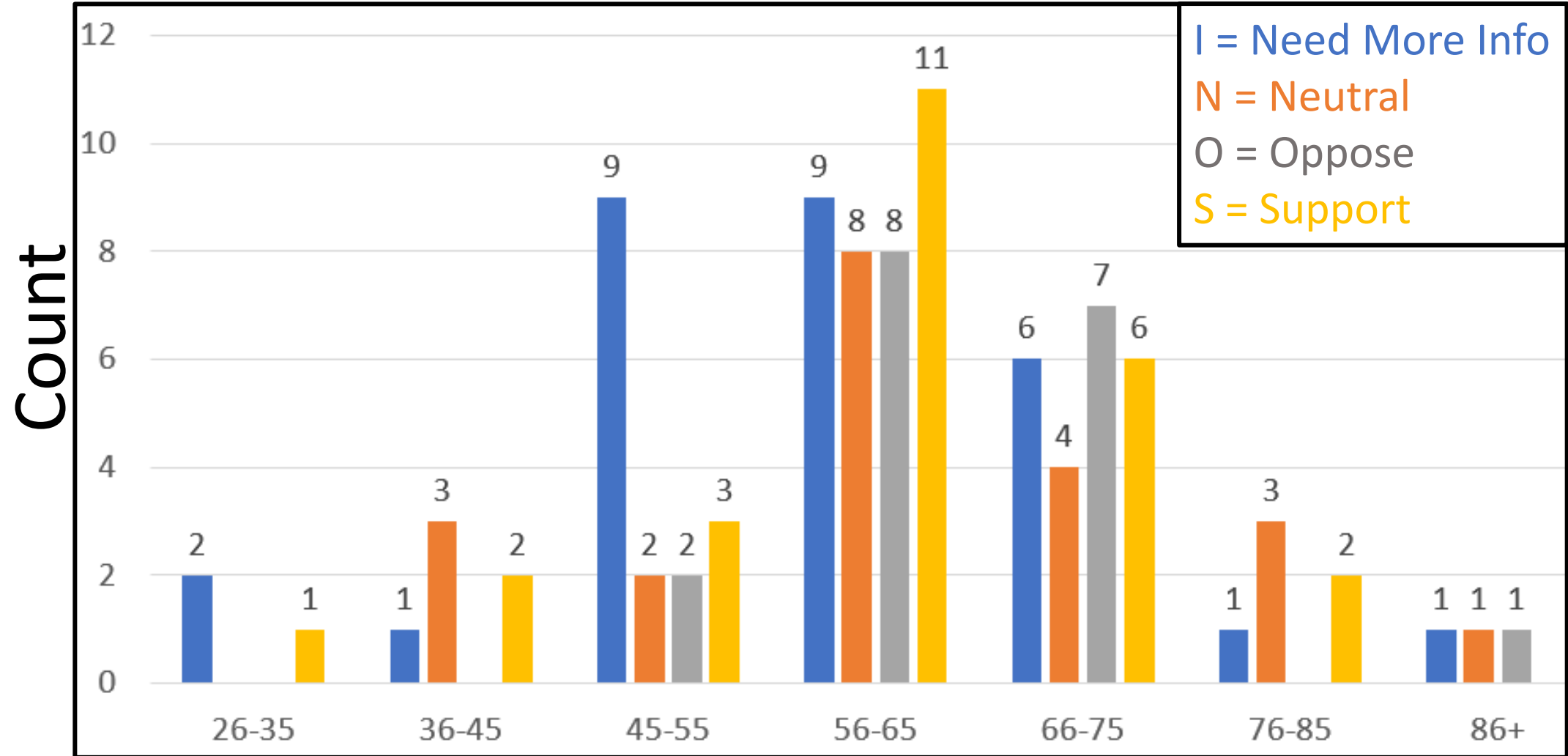
## Per Lake



Round Lake supports a district more than the other lakes, Long and Little need more info, Big is a wash – needs more info

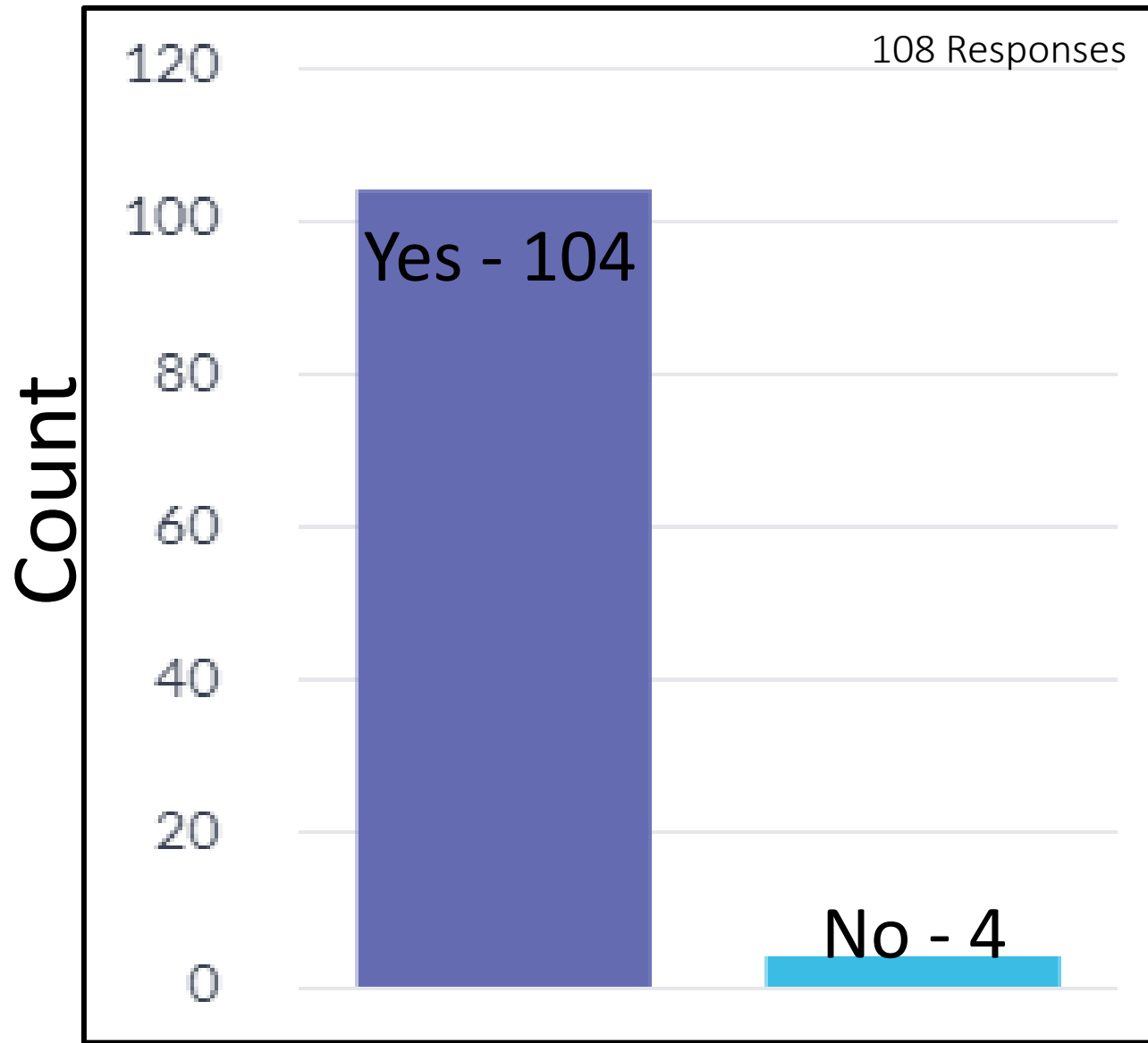
# Lake District

105 Responses

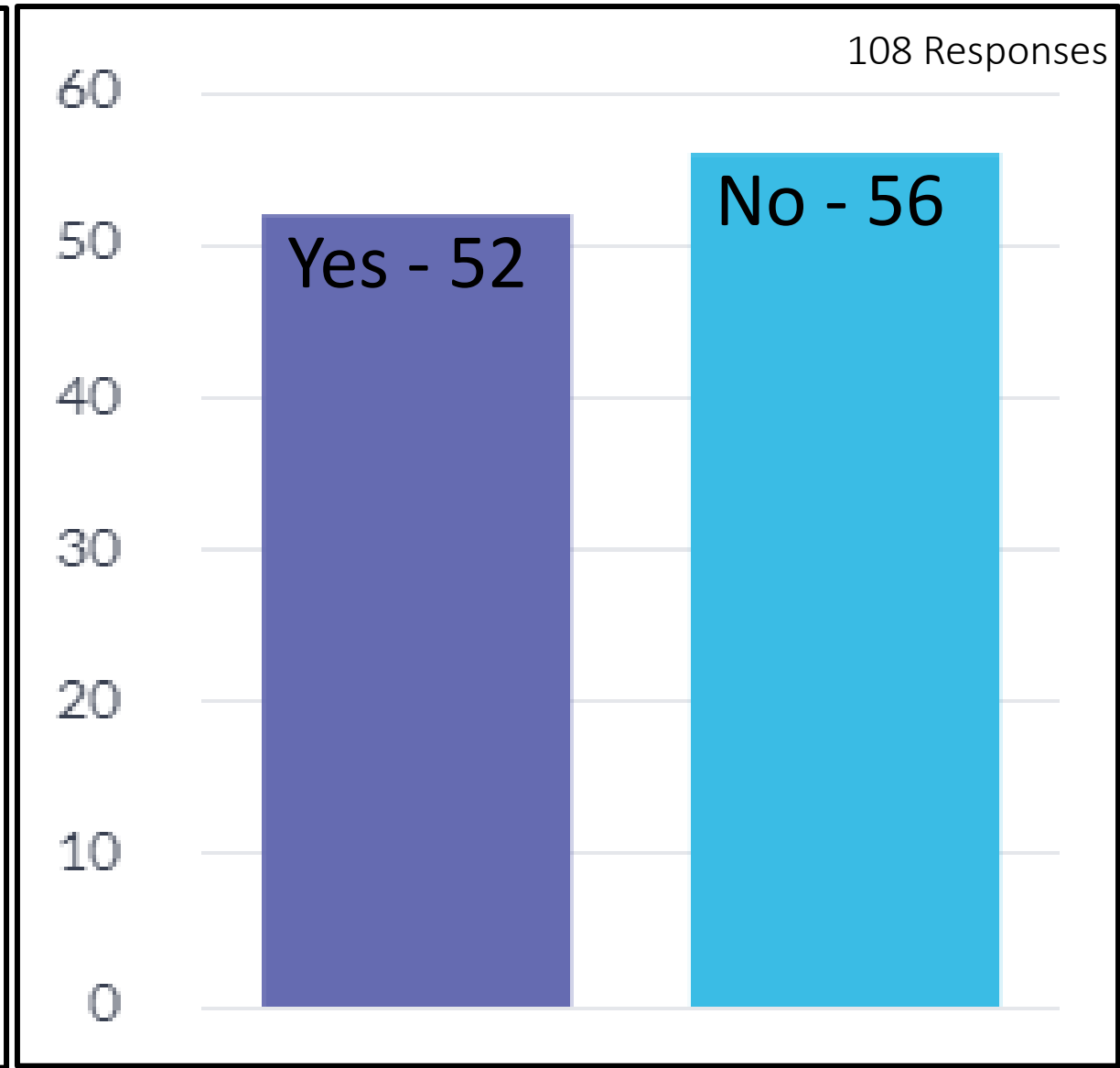


No significant trends per age because this follows the same trend as the age trend (normal distribution); 45-55 year olds need more info, but that is not significant

# Were you aware of the RTLIA?

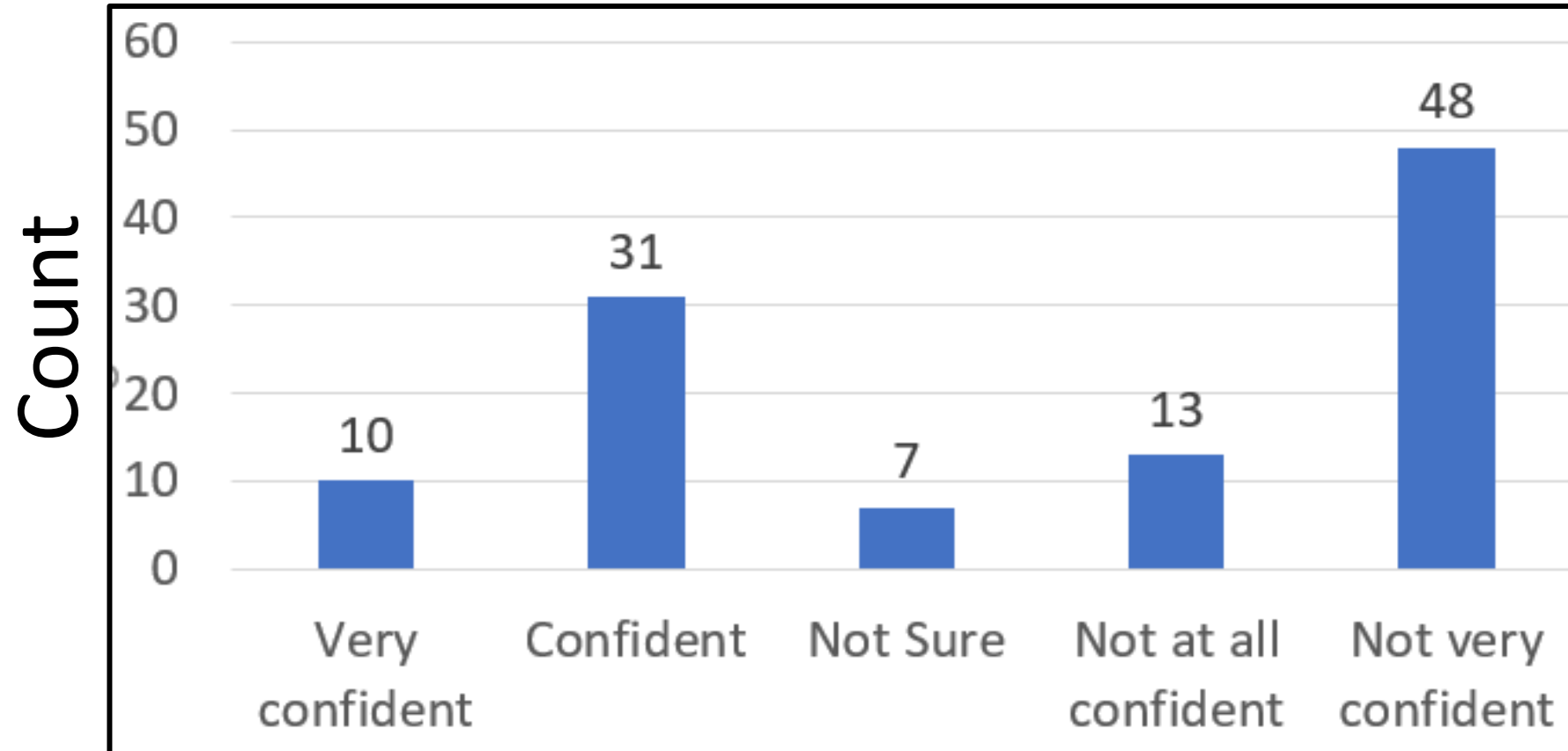


# Have you been to a meeting?



Significantly more people ( $p < 0.05$ ) are aware of the RTLIA than not, but whether they've been to a meeting is not statistically different, so the RTLIA should focus on how to get people to attend meetings – advance notice and talking about issues people care about (water quality, wake boats, district, AIS, stocking walleye, etc.)

# Confidence in Identifying AIS

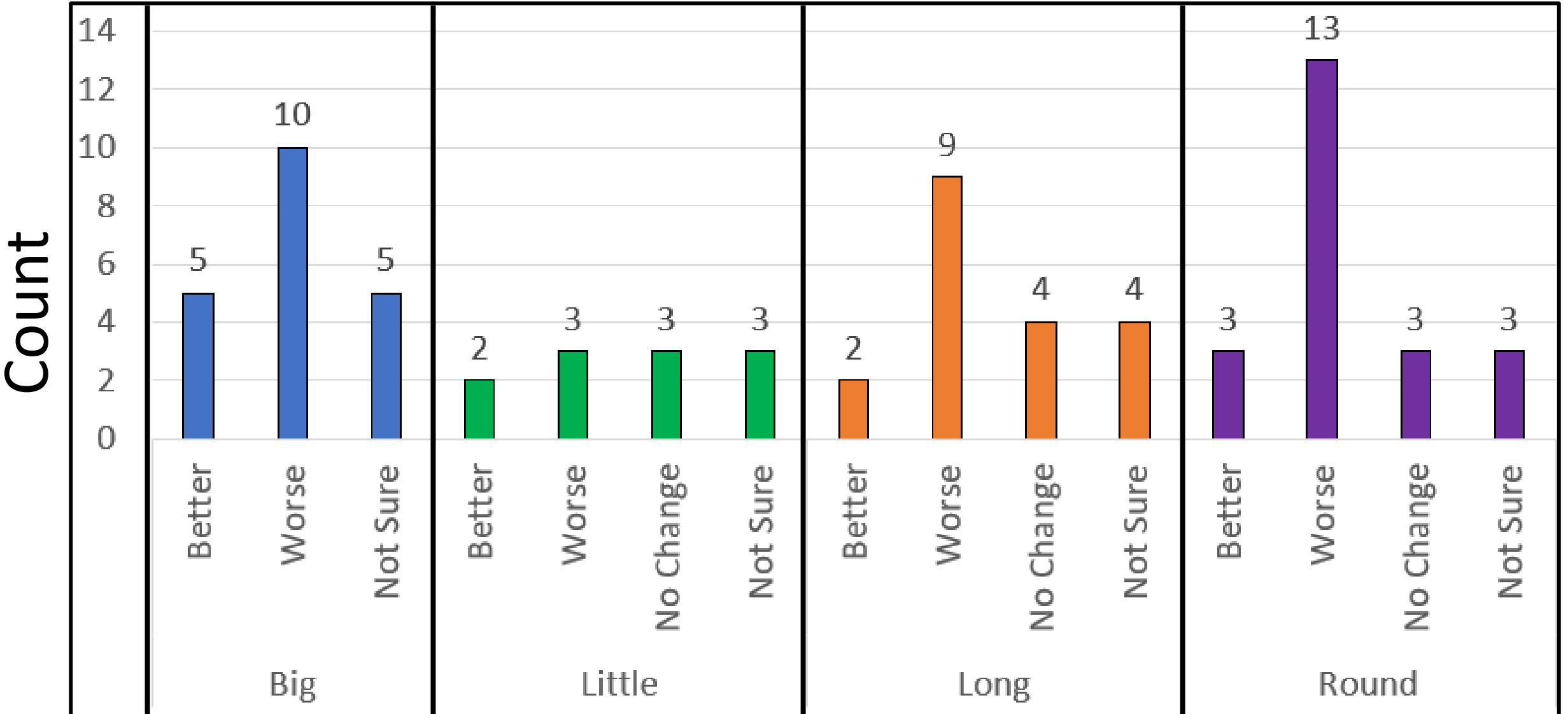


No trends per lake, people need more AIS education, and it is a top topic for interest as an educational event

# AIS – Change Over Time

73 Responses

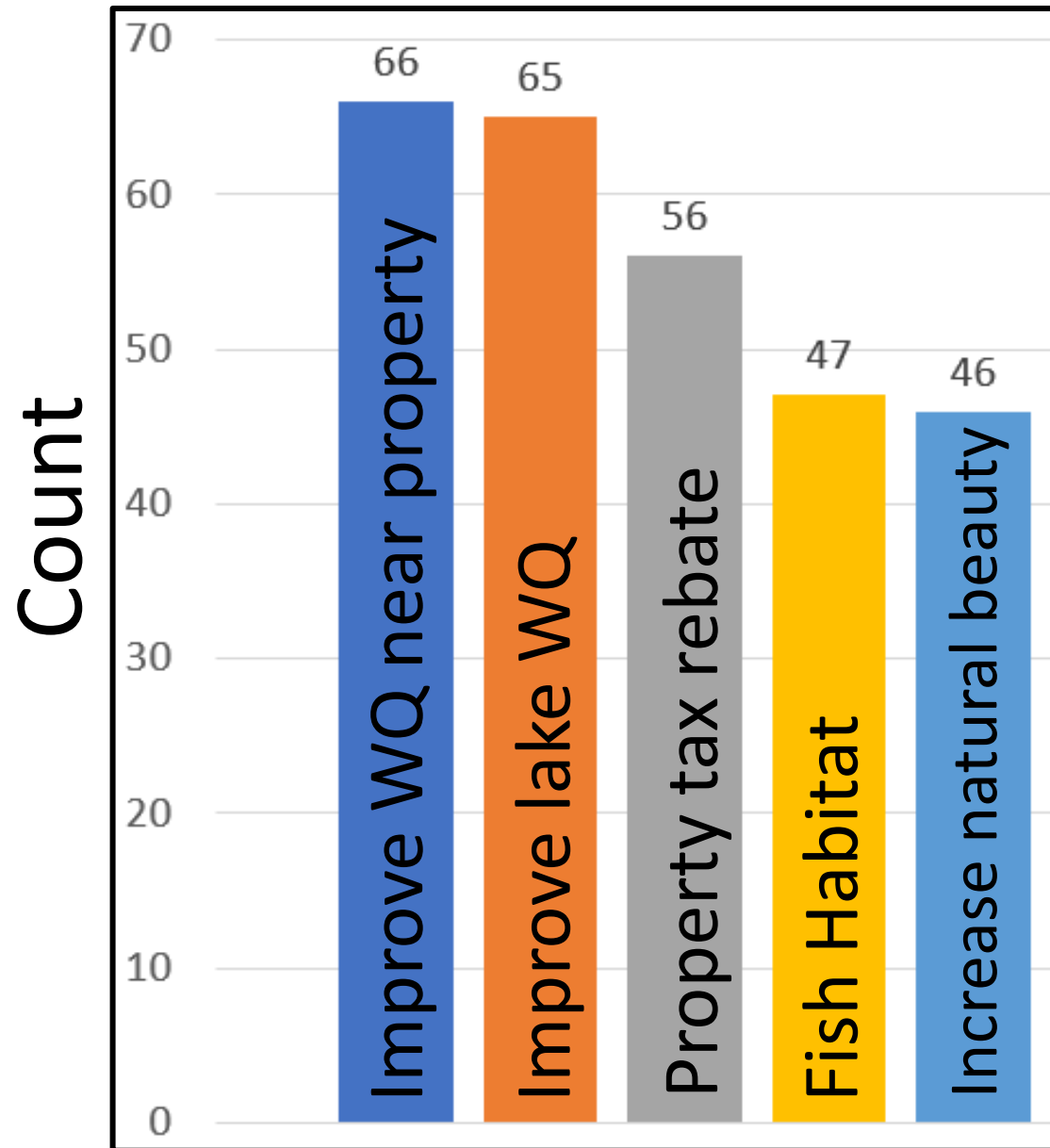
## Per Lake



AIS have been perceived to have gotten worse ( $p < 0.05$ ) across all lakes

# Top Incentives for Water Quality Projects

103 Responses

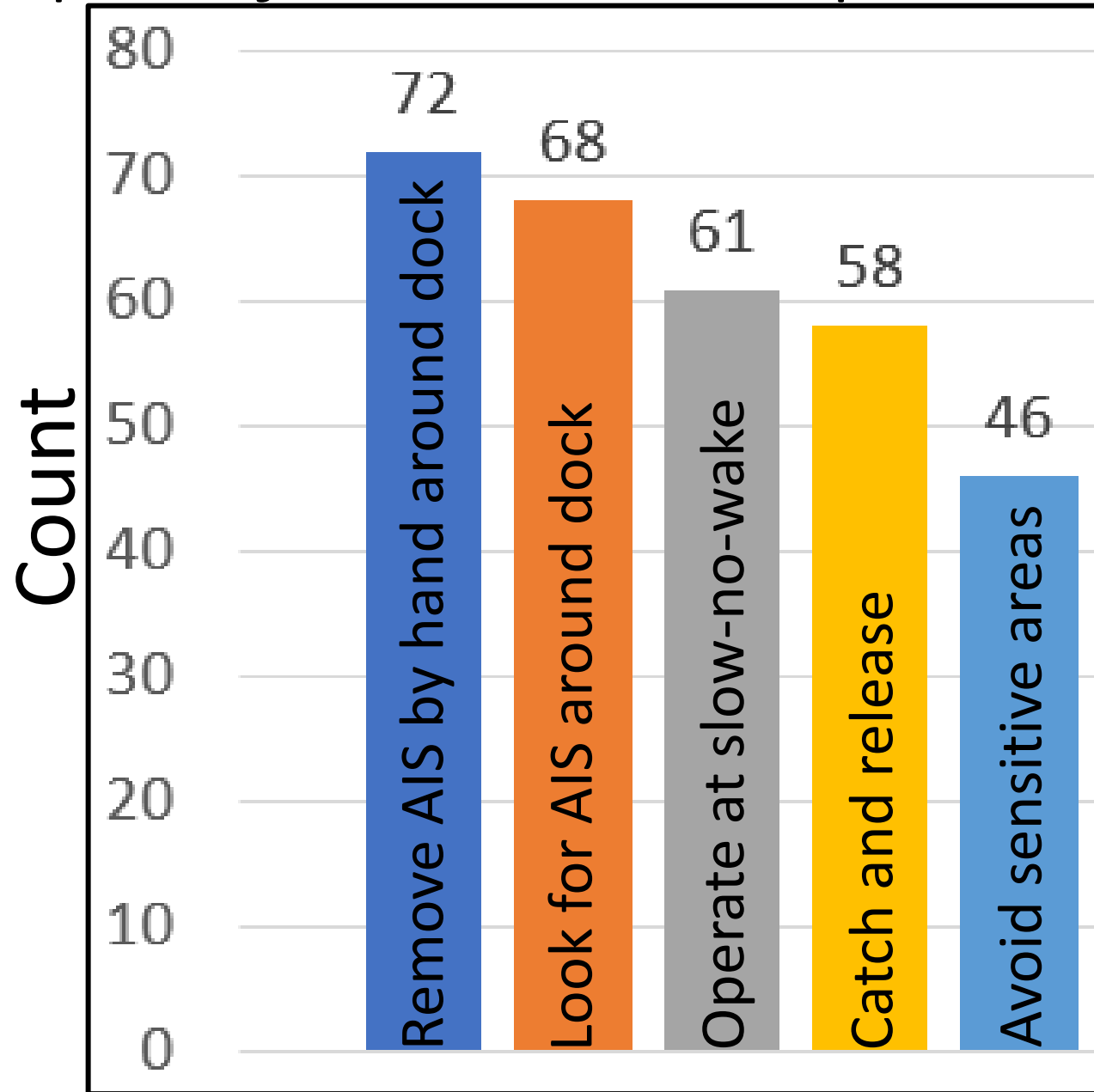


<b>Other Incentives:</b>	
Habitat for birds and wildlife	44
More information	40
Free technical assistance	39
Financial assistance	37
Setting an example	37
Training	22
Less lawn mowing	14
No interest in a project	11
Other	5

People are largely interested in improving water quality, which makes sense because it was a top concern for most people. Also, fishing and scenic view were high up there as well.

# Top Projects to Participate In

106 Responses



## Other Projects:

Participate in riparian improvement projects – 42

Help others look for/remove AIS – 25

Boat inspections at landings – 24

None – 4

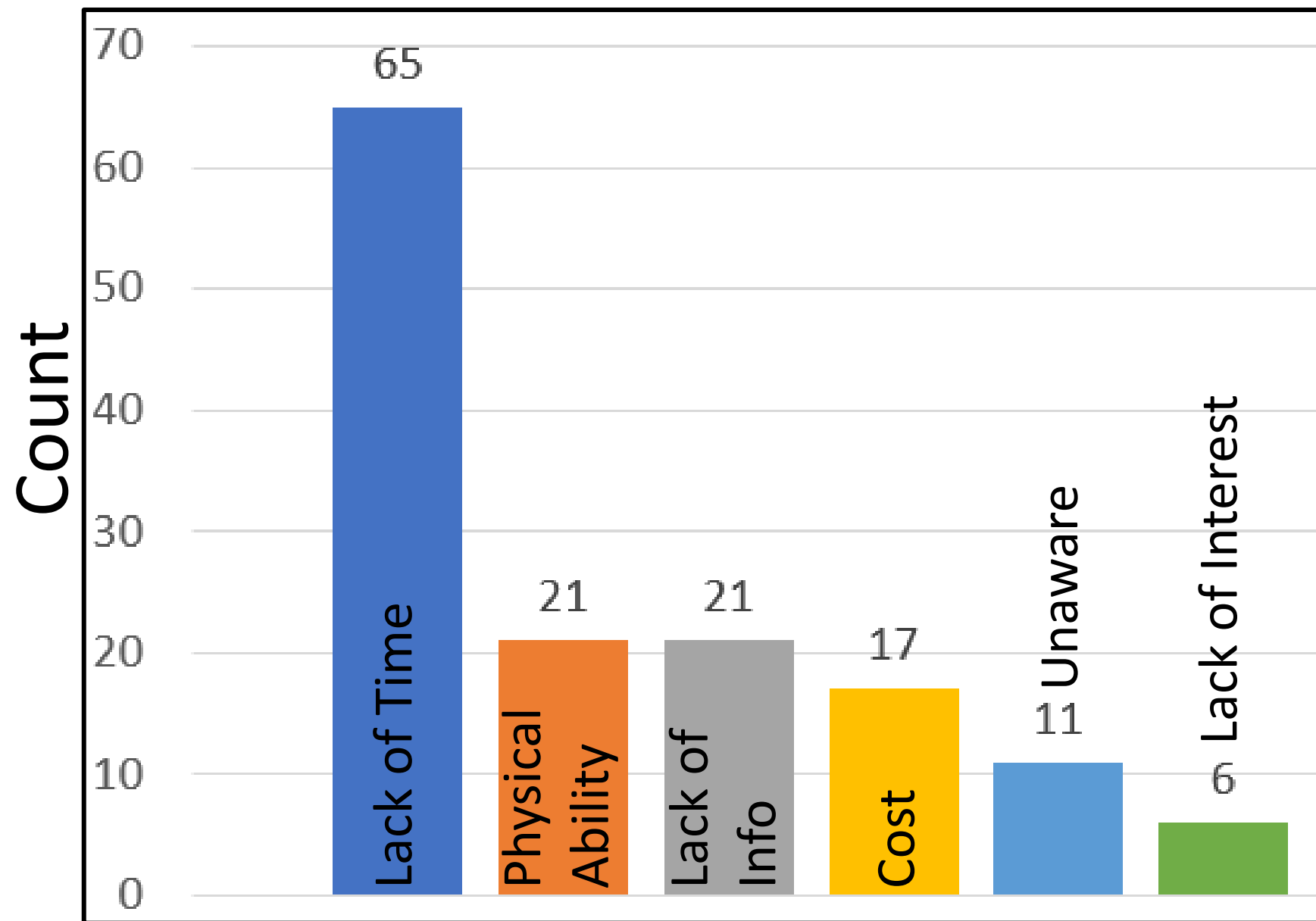
Other – 2

Easy to do AIS projects seem like they would attract people, as long as they have the education to back it up. People say they would also operate at slow no wake speeds in designated areas



# Barriers to Participation

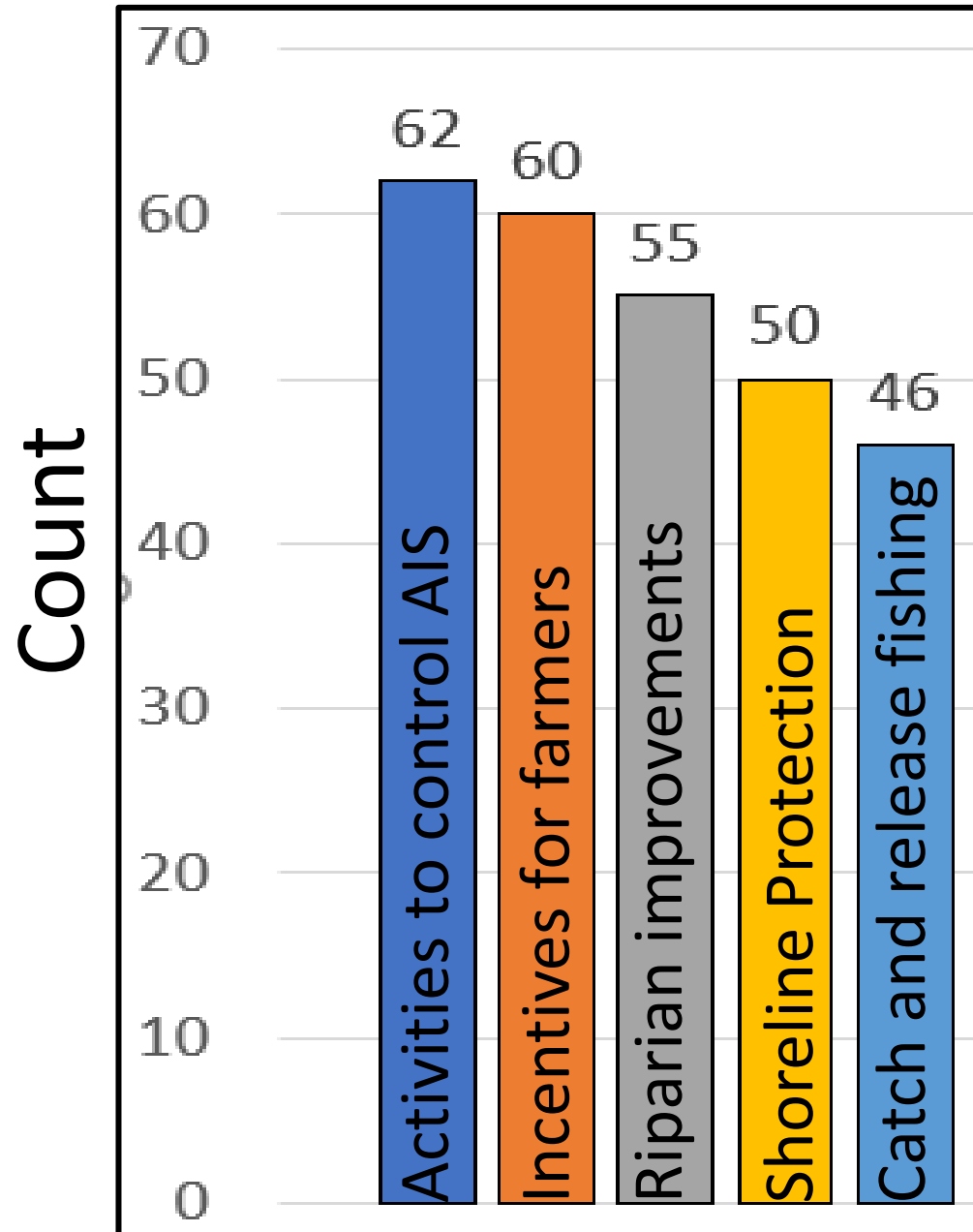
94 Responses



Time is significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) – finding ways to make projects easy and fast and potentially without the landowner present would be beneficial  
No significant patterns based on age or lake

# Top Supported Improvement Initiatives

104 Responses



## Other Initiatives:

Slow-no-wake zones in shallow areas – 44

Shoreline improvement incentives – 42

Fish stocking – 35

Septic re-inspection – 34

Improve boat landings – 31

Boat inspections for AIS at landings – 31

Discussing wake boat restrictions – 30

Improve RTLIA communication – 27

Implementing quiet hours – 27

Increase woody habitat in water – 23

Little Trade public access – 19

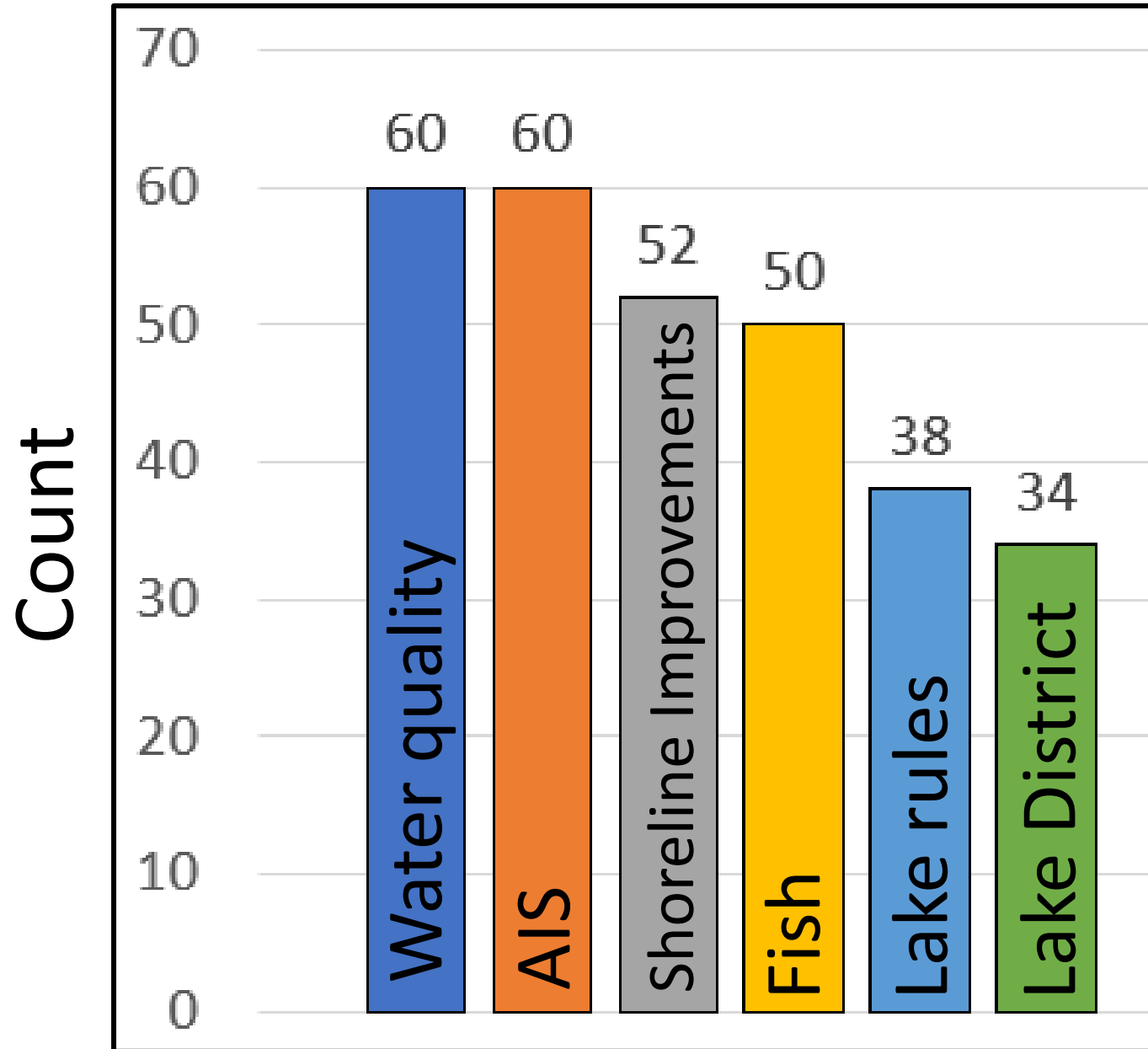
Other – 18

None – 4

Again, AIS ranks pretty high, and people say they would do things by hand, but the past has shown otherwise. People are also concerned that they never know when RTLIA meetings are, but improving RTLIA communication ranks fairly low

# Education Events

84 Responses



No patterns by lake or age.

Water quality and AIS are high ranking, and shoreline and fish events would also attract people and give people the information they need to improve their shoreline.

People largely need more info on a district but are not willing to attend an educational event about it – brochures/mail hand outs with a bit of information could be a good way to get people interested and help get the facts out there, and then people may be more willing to attend meetings/educational events about a district

Time, education, and better notice of meetings and events came up the most

Addressing wakes, jet skis, and reckless driving

Concerns about shoreline erosion

Improving boat landings

Slow no wake zones

Address rental properties

Not using RTLIA as a political platform