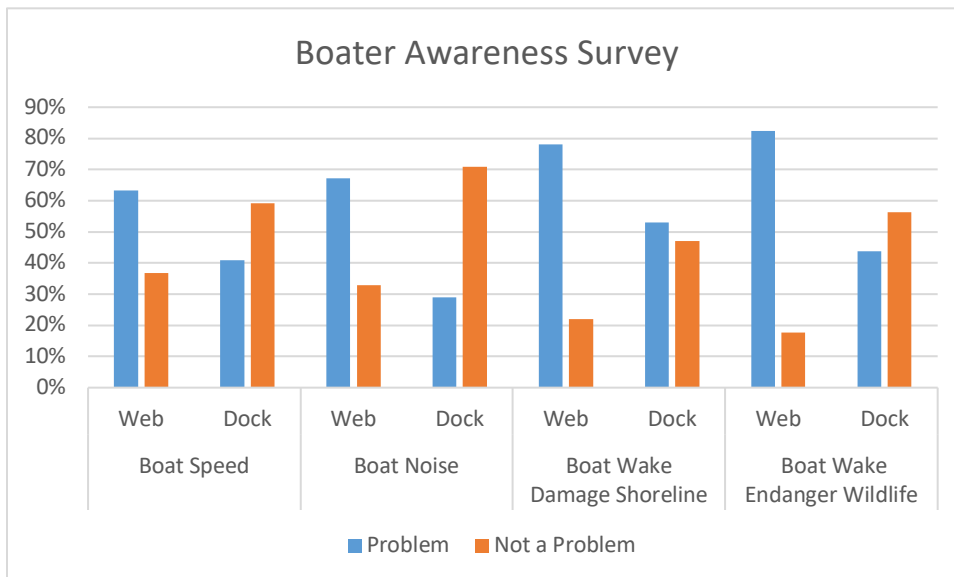


BOAT AWARENESS SURVEY RESULTS

In the summer of 2021, the Charleston Lake Association (CLA) launched a major new initiative aimed at reducing boat speed and noise and to promote safe boating etiquette. As part of this initiative, CLA conducted a Boater Awareness survey of which 294 people answered, 45% via the CLA website and 55% via in person interviews at the three boat launches on Charleston Lake. Below are the key findings from the survey.

- 1) **Survey Respondent Profile:** 82% of the Website respondents were lake residents (e.g. full time residents, seasonal residents, cottagers) whereas 55% of the dock respondents were day visitors (e.g. 40% visiting Anglers, 15% day users).
- 2) **Boat Usage:** The website respondents were slightly more frequent users of boats
- 3) **Boat Speed:** Significantly more Website respondents indicated that boat speed was a major / minor problem (63%) vs 40% for dock respondents. When asked what the legal speed limit within 30 meters of shore, over 75% of all respondents answered correctly.
- 4) **Boat Noise:** Over 80% of the respondents of both groups did not know the rules on boat noise.
- 5) **Boat Wake – Damage to shoreline, docks and other boats:** 47% of the dock respondents indicated that boat wake was not a problem to the shoreline, docks and other boats.
- 6) **Boat Wake – Endangers wildlife:** The website respondents were more sensitive to boat wake endangering wildlife (82%) vs 44% for dock respondents.



In the comment section of the survey, the key issues could be divided into 5 sections.

- 1) 28% wanted better education on safe boating.
- 2) 23% saw an opportunity to provide more speed limit signs around the lake, reduce speed limit around marinas, add more buoys / lighted buoys.
- 3) 15% asked for more policing for speed, noise, night time riding and drinking
- 4) 14% wanted to restrict / reduce the size of boats and type of boats on the lake and reduce the overall speed limit
- 5) 8% wanted more parking at the boat launches

The Charleston Lake Association has taken action on items 1 & 2 above to help educate boaters. Other key issues are beyond the Charleston Lake Association mandate and we will be working with the interested parties (e.g. OPP and Cataraqui Conservation) that can help make Charleston Lake safer for boating.

Overall, the people that answered the survey on the website indicated that boat speed, noise and wake caused significantly more problems than the Dock respondents. This leaves more opportunity to further educate on boating safety and etiquette with some emphasis on “day boaters”. As such, the Charleston Lake Association has implemented several initiatives.

- Improved signage at the boat ramps and marinas
- Traditional Media – Boat Safety pamphlet issued, regular items in the CLA Newsletter added
- Web-based Media - Enhanced the boating section of the Charleston Lake Association web site.
- Youth Programs - created boater awareness and safety module for CLA summer camps
- Collateral Material - Created a plasticized map highlighting “Slow Zones” and safe boating practices.