

Florida Black Bass Management Plan

APPENDIX I—Combined Survey Results

Two surveys were created to solicit and incorporate input from anglers and other stakeholders into a new long-term Black Bass Management Plan (2010-2030). The first survey, receiving 773 responses, was open on the www.myfwc.com website from December 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. The survey was advertised via the FWC website, news releases, posters, bass club meetings, BassPro Outdoor Shows, and Florida Sportmen's Fishing/Boating Shows by FWC personnel. The second survey, receiving 4,085 responses, was sent through email to those individuals who had bought a Florida freshwater fishing license that was still active or had lapsed within the previous six months and tournament sponsors. The second survey was open from May 1, 2010 to June 1, 2010. The questions were the same for both surveys. Results for both surveys were similar; therefore the results were combined. These surveys were not scientific surveys and therefore not representative of all demographics. A draft of the Black Bass Management Plan will be reviewed by the public through additional future surveys. Insights from public surveys, public meetings, and the Technical Advisory Group will be used in combination with scientific data in the creation of a Black Bass Management Plan.

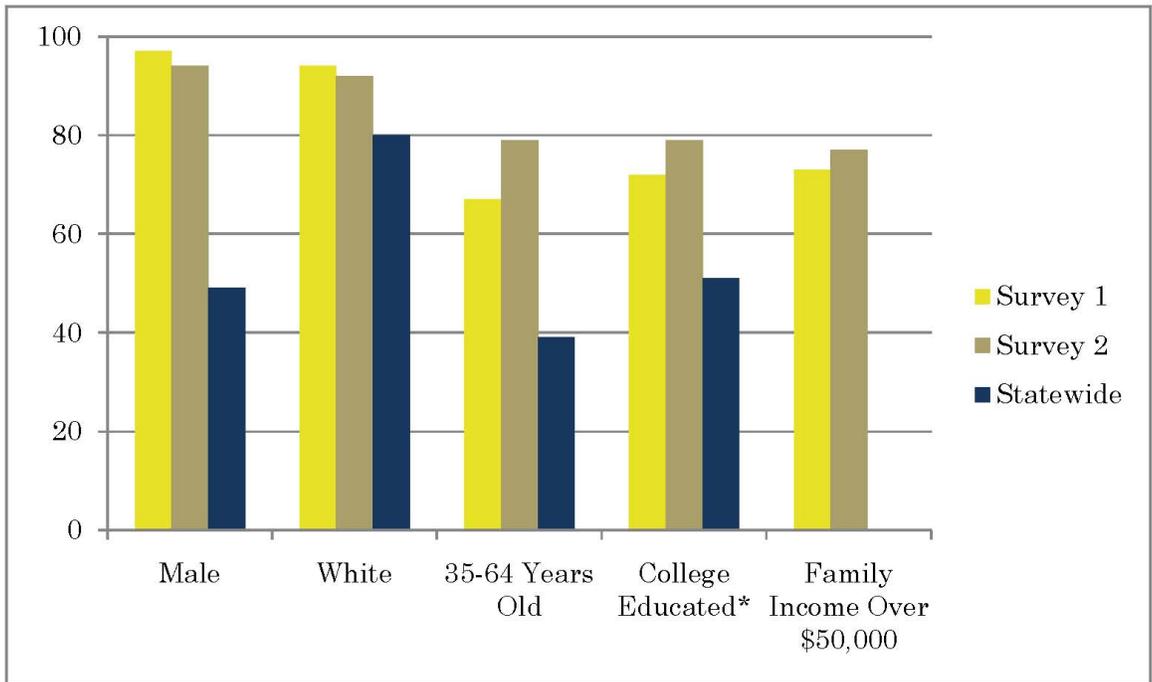


Figure A1-1. This is a description of the survey responders compared to the State of Florida population census data <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12000.html>. Those surveyed are not representative of the general public in Florida. *Persons with any education beyond a high school diploma or GED, including some college through advanced degrees.

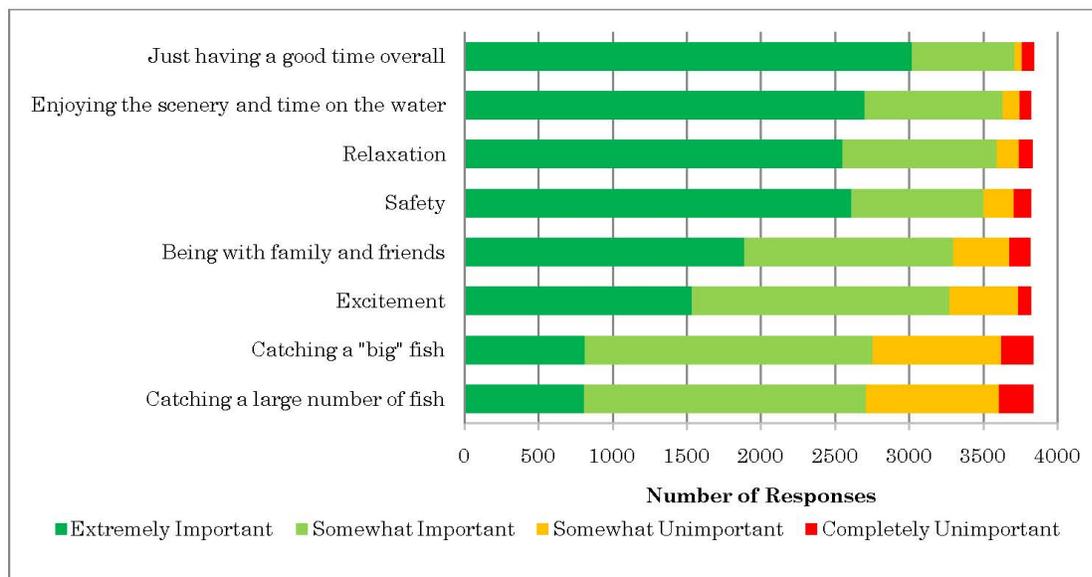


Figure A1-2. This chart shows the most important factors leading to a satisfactory fishing experience according to anglers. Having a good time, enjoying the water, and relaxation are more important to anglers than catching a “big fish” or catching a large number of fish.

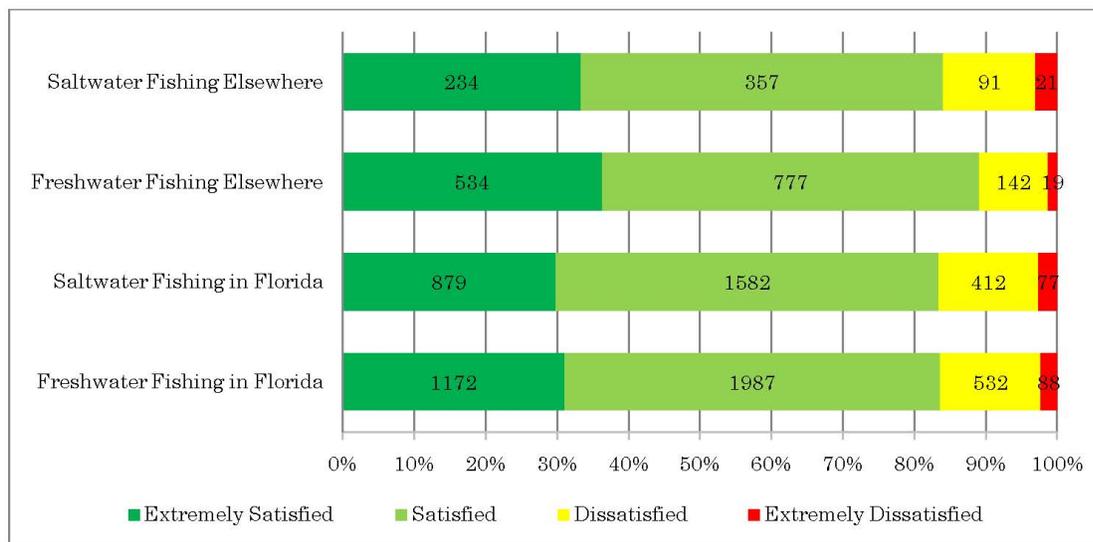


Figure A1-3. This is a representation of how satisfied anglers were with their last fishing experience. The numbers within the bars represent the number of survey responses. In general, anglers are satisfied with fishing in Florida but based on their definition of fishing satisfaction, there is room for improvement.

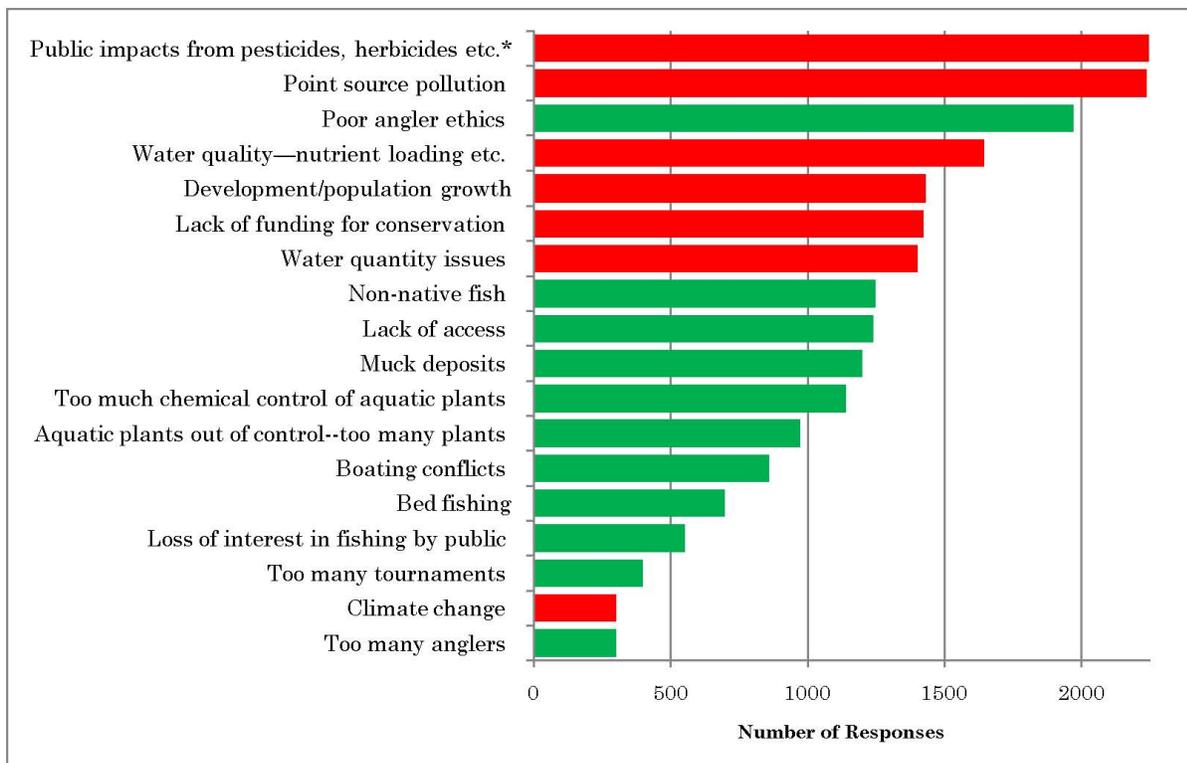


Figure A1-4. This chart ranks the critically important issues affecting fishing today, with the most important issues listed at the top and less important issues listed at the bottom. The red bars represent issues that are not directly under the control of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. While there are a number of issues the FWC cannot directly control, there are many we can improve by altering some of our management practices. Suggested solutions addressing both types of critical issues can be found in Figure A1-5. (*Other public impacts from fertilizers and water use.)

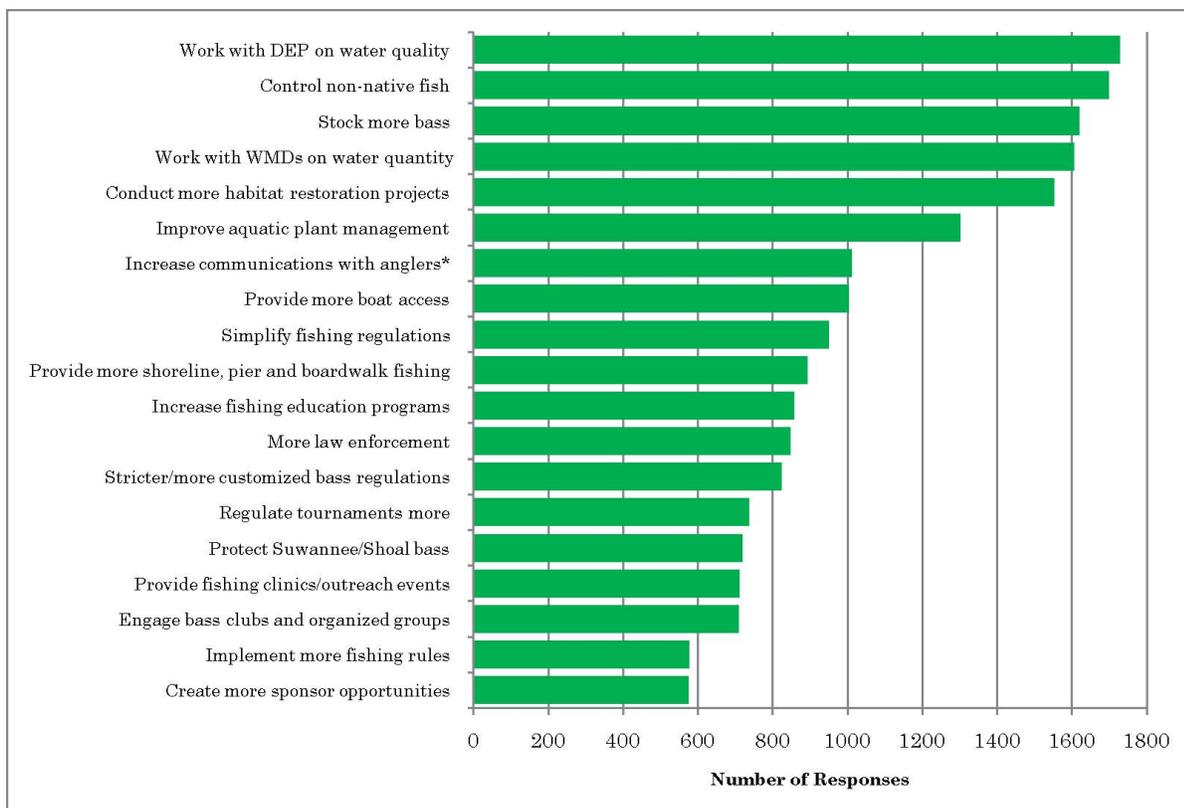


Figure A1-5. This chart displays solutions based on critically important issues presented in Figure A1-4 that anglers feel should be focused on while developing a long-term Black Bass Management Plan. A majority of responses suggest that FWC should mainly focus on improving water quality, stocking native fish, reducing non-native fish species, and restoring and managing habitat. There were less responses suggesting that FWC should focus on regulation development and enforcement or providing more fishing opportunities. (*Communication with anglers about laws, ethics and stewardship.)

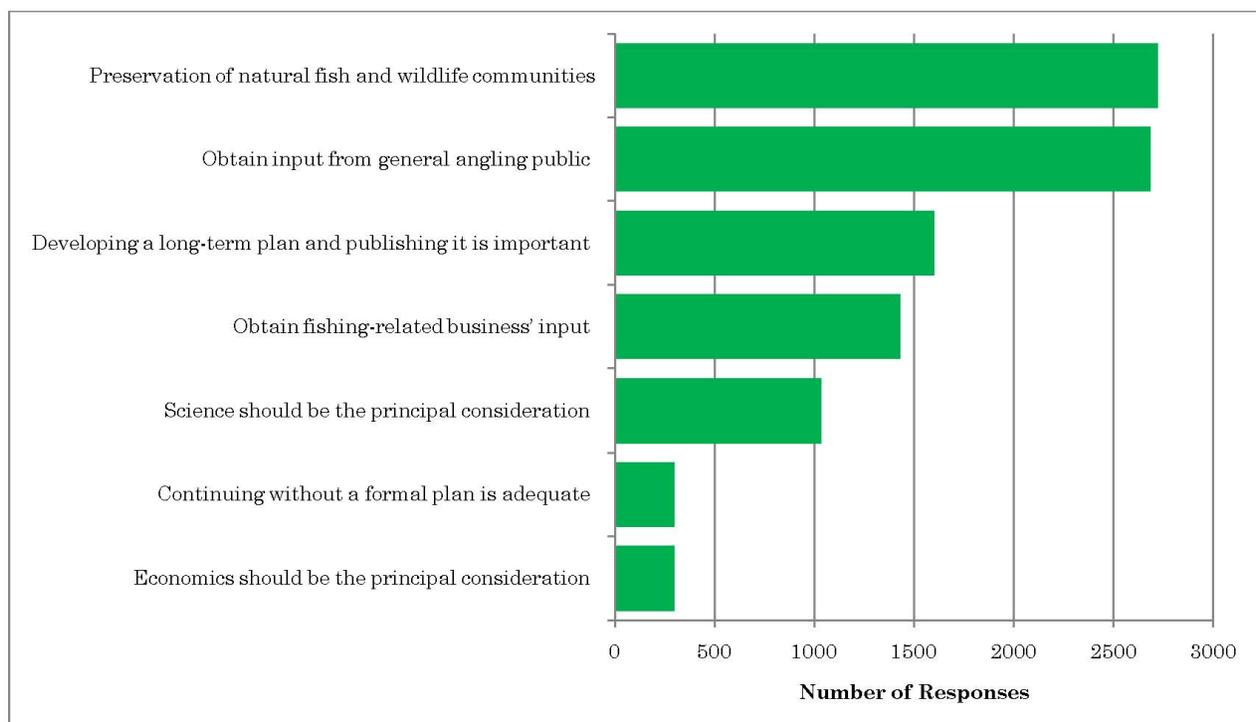


Figure A1-6. This graph displays the key factors needed to create a successful management plan. The angler input from the two surveys confirms that a new management plan is needed. The newly developed plan should focus on the preservation of natural communities and be rooted in science. The plan should be greatly influenced by the angling community and not by economics.

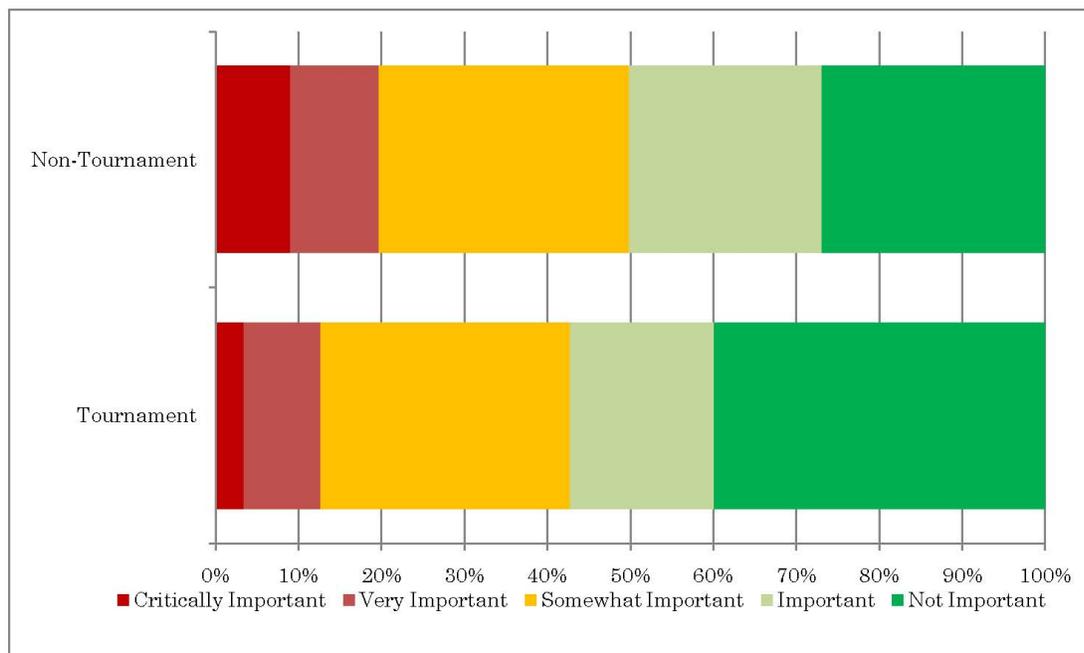


Figure A1-7. This chart illustrates how much of a concern fishing tournaments are to Florida fisheries. Opinions of anglers who have participated in a fishing tournament are compared to those anglers who have not participated in a tournament. The graph depicts that neither group of anglers think that too many tournaments is a critical issue facing Florida fisheries.

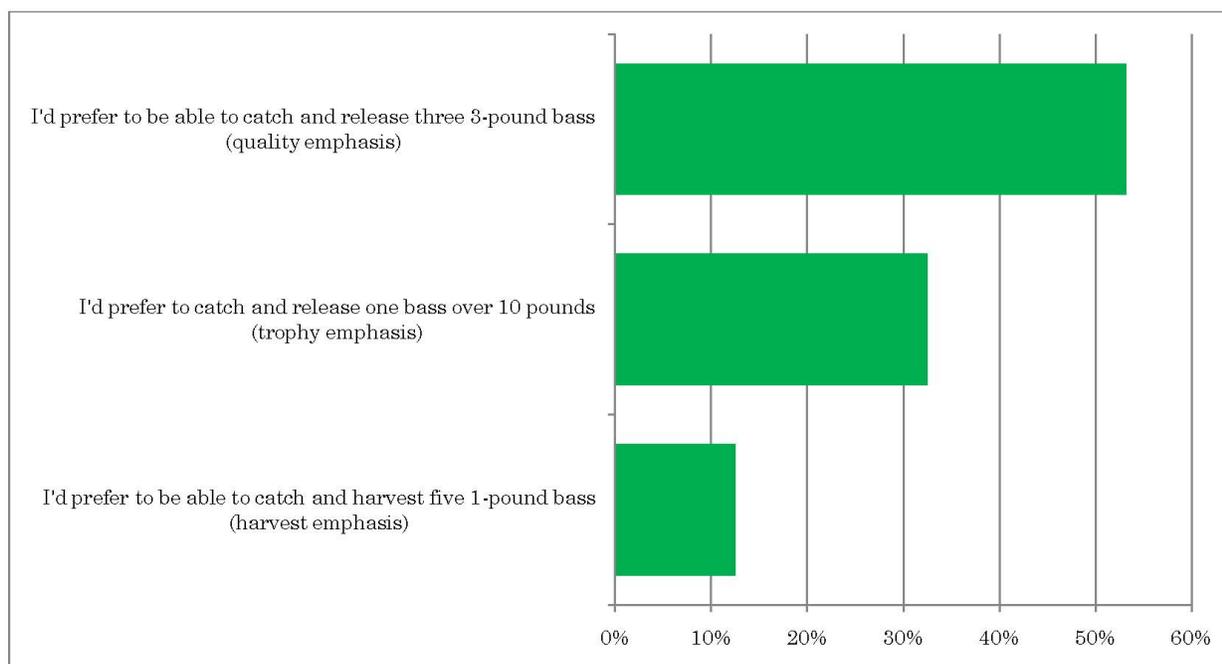


Figure A1-8. The graph below describes angler preference on the size and quantity of bass they catch. Surveyed anglers prefer a quality fishery over a trophy or harvest-oriented fishery.

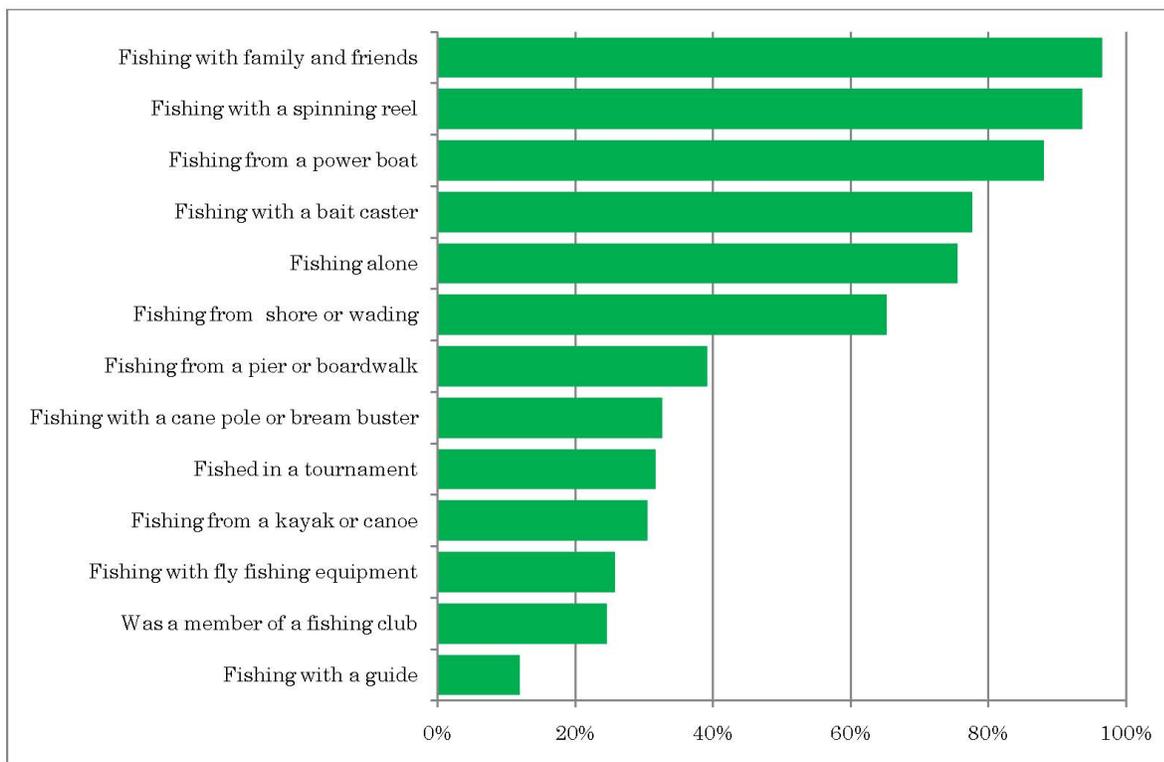


Figure A1-9. The following graph describes the percentages of freshwater fishing behaviors participated in by the surveyed anglers.

