

Long-Term Black Bass Management Plan



Results from Preliminary Public Surveys

Preliminary Surveys

Two preliminary surveys have been conducted by the FWC, since announcement of our intent to work with the public to create an action-based plan to establish Florida as the undisputed “Bass Fishing Capital of World”

- Group 1. 773 responses solicited via news releases, our website, posters, bass club presentations, BassPro Shops Classics, Florida Sportsmen fishing/boating shows, etc.
- Group 2. 4,085 responses solicited via e-mail from Florida licensed freshwater anglers and tournament sponsors.

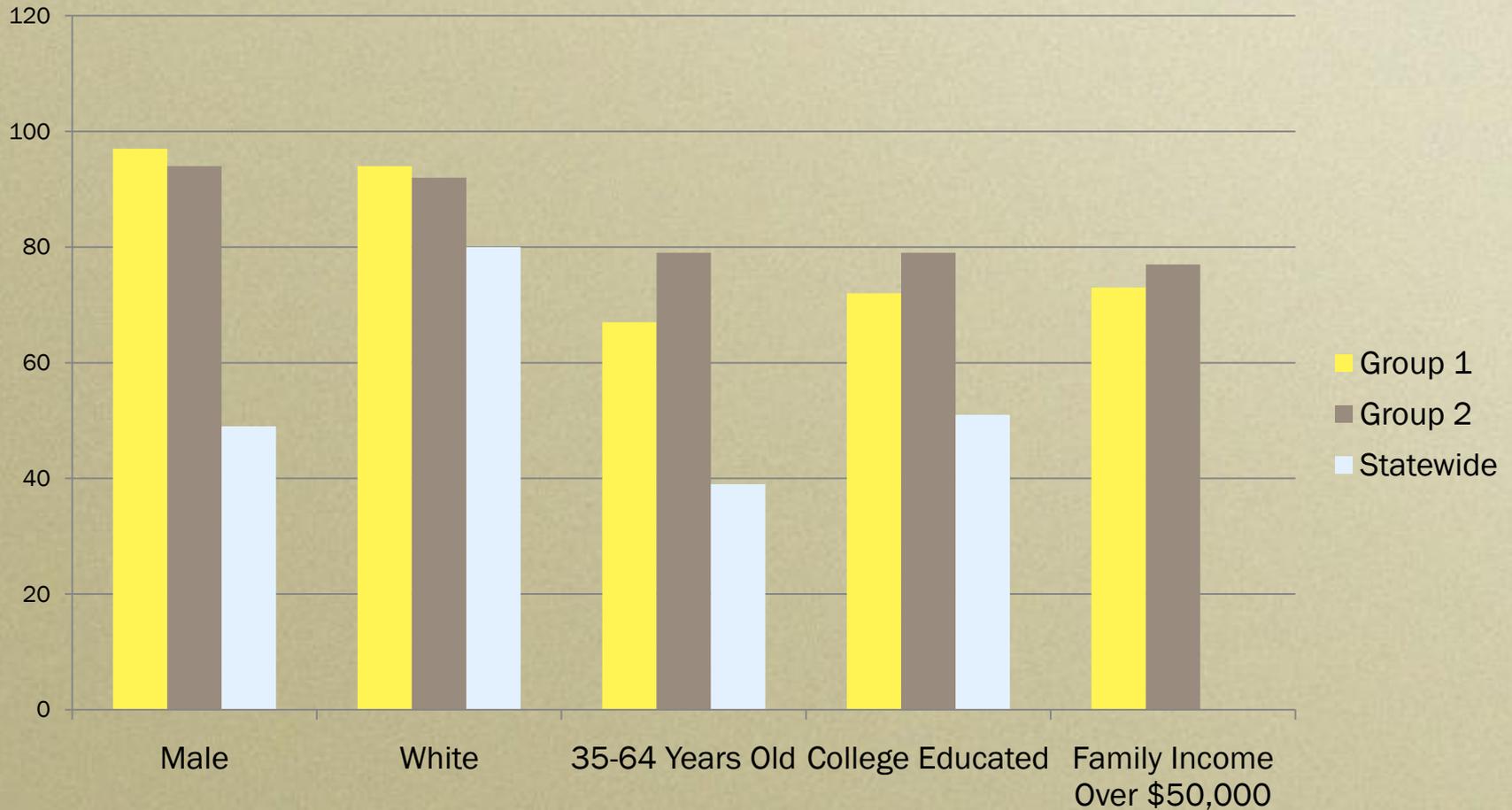


Purpose of Surveys

- Opportunity to get widespread public input from a variety of interested individuals.
- This is NOT a scientific survey, with a random design and confidence intervals that represents any specific segment of the public.
- It is most similar to a town hall meeting where outspoken individuals show up to express their concerns, but often they do not represent the silent majority.
- This is the first phase of such public input. The Citizen's TAG and FWC biologists will use this information to create a first draft of a long-term Black Bass Management Plan that will then be further reviewed by the public, through additional surveys.



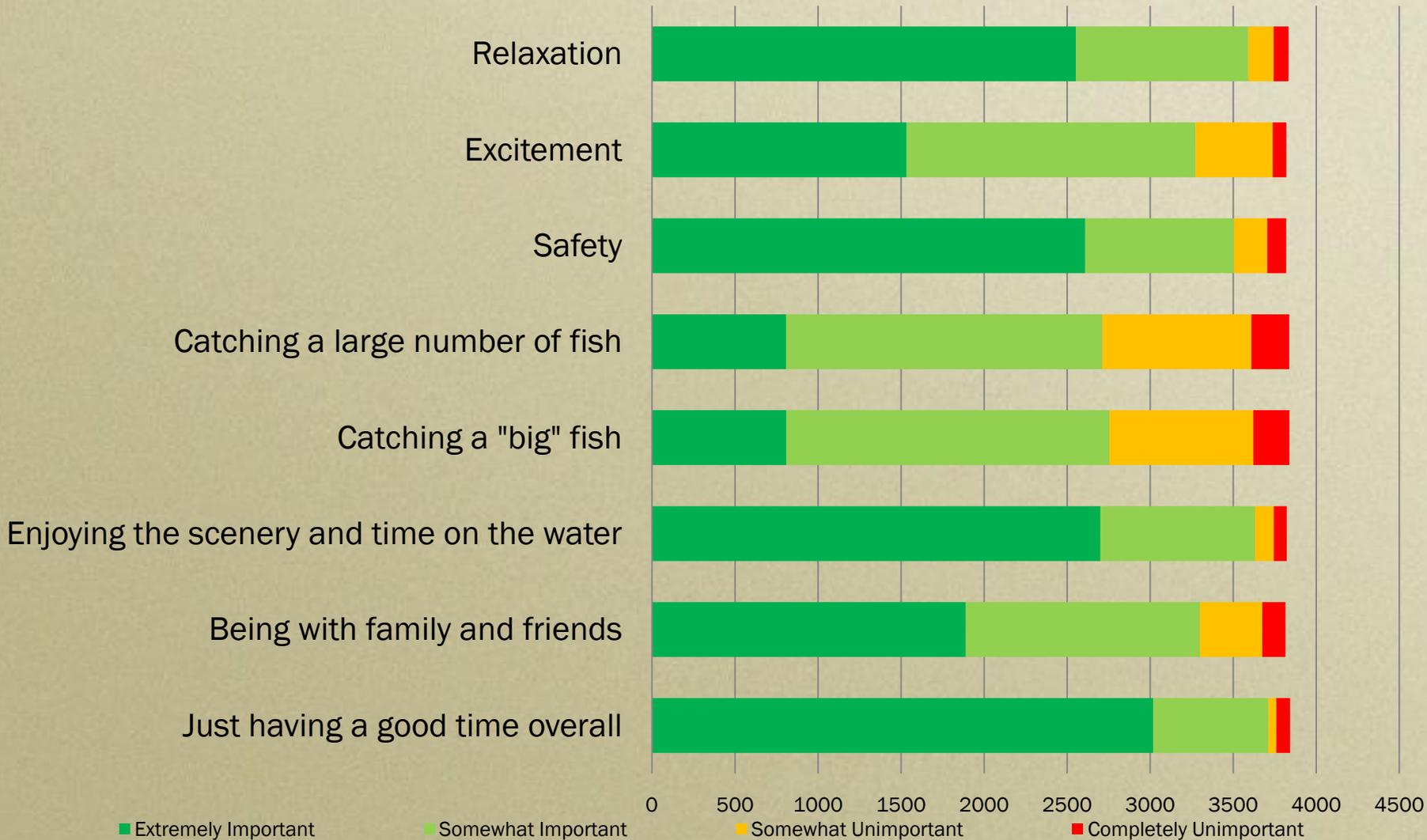
Description of Respondents



The Point: These are not representative of the general public.



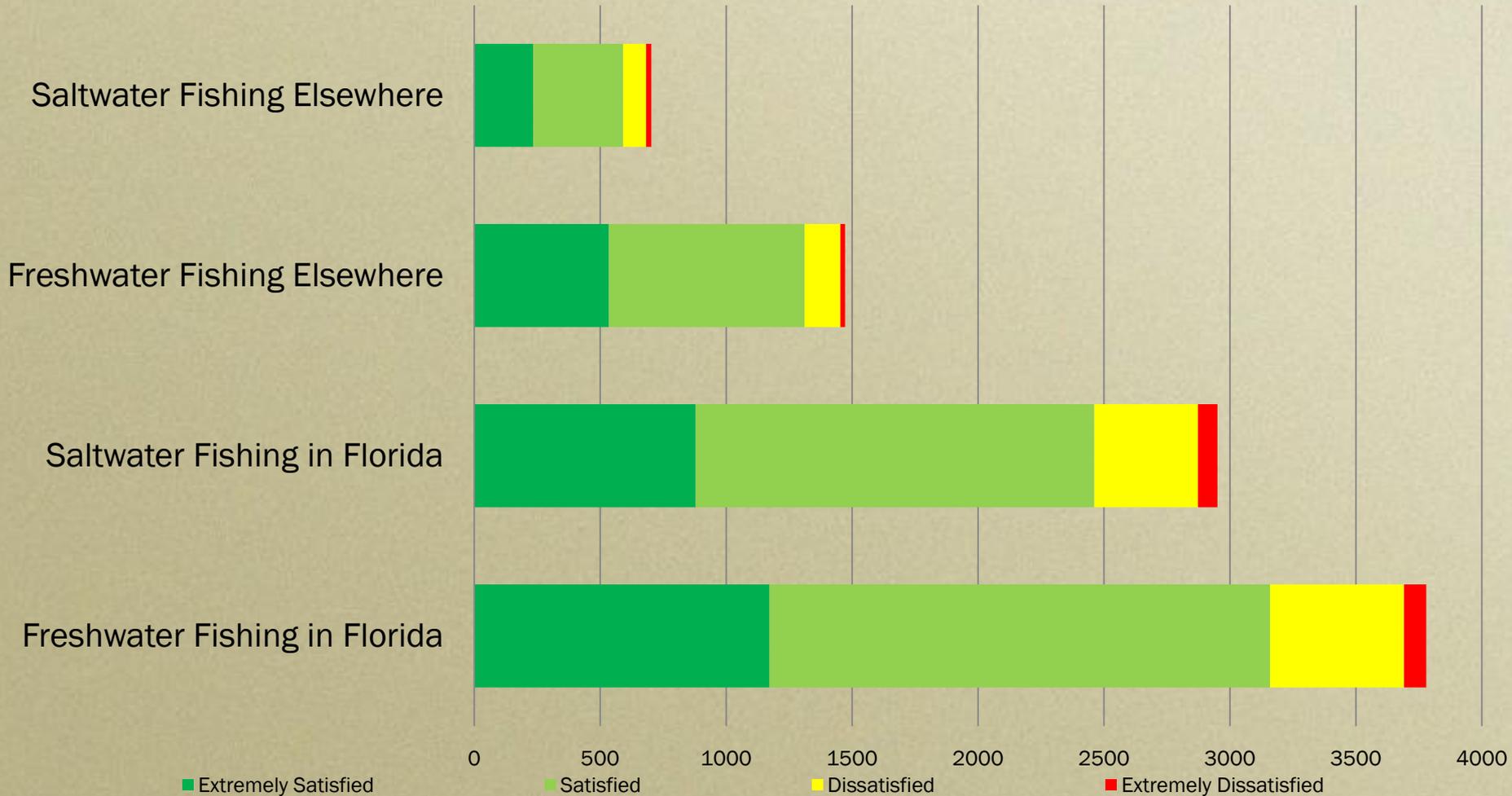
How Important are the following when you go Fishing?



The Point: Fishing experiences other than size and number of fish dictate satisfaction.



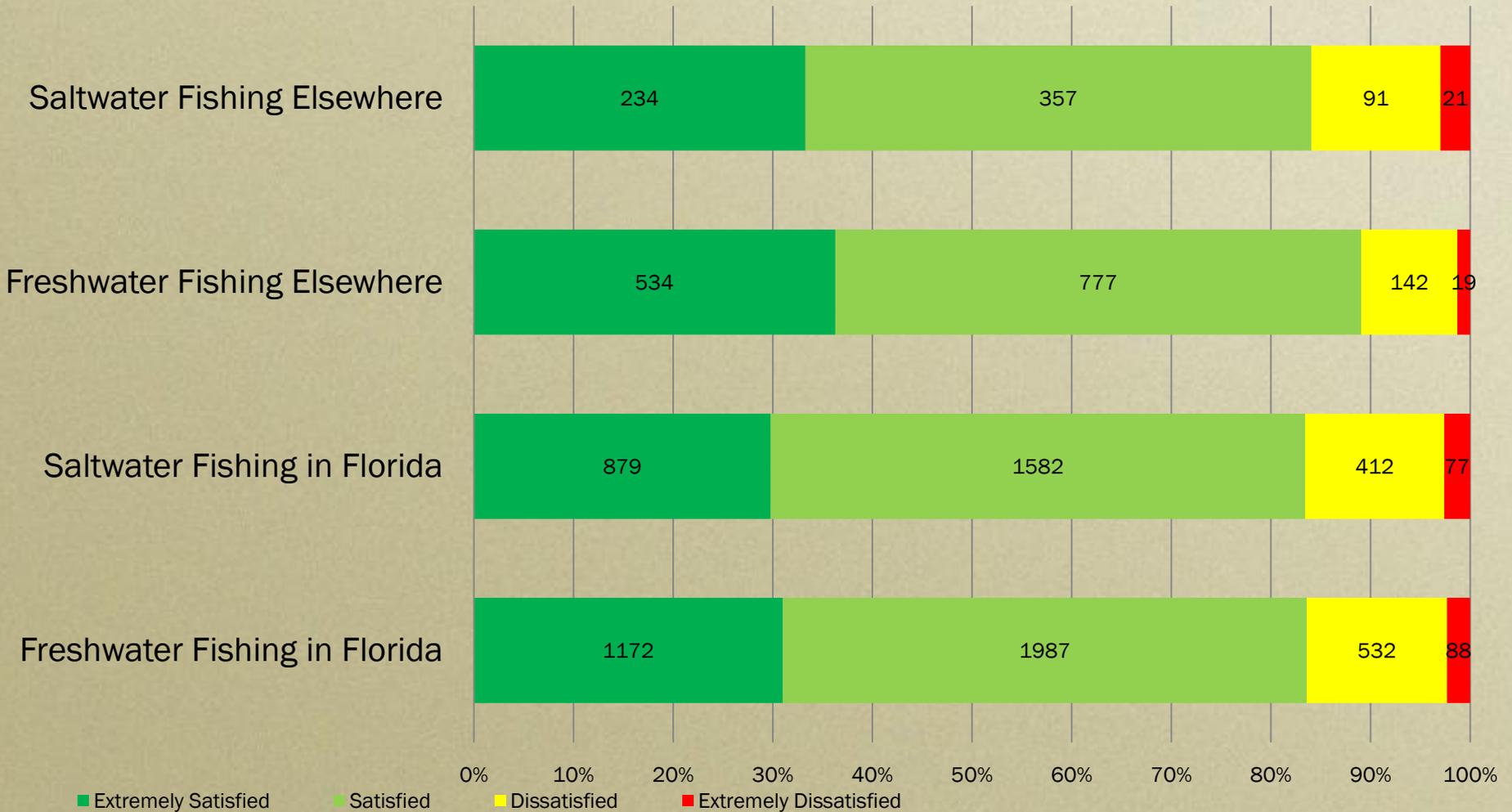
With regard to your last fishing trip and keeping in mind your previous response, let us know how satisfied you are with each of the following.



The Point: Based on their definition of fishing satisfaction, we have room to improve.



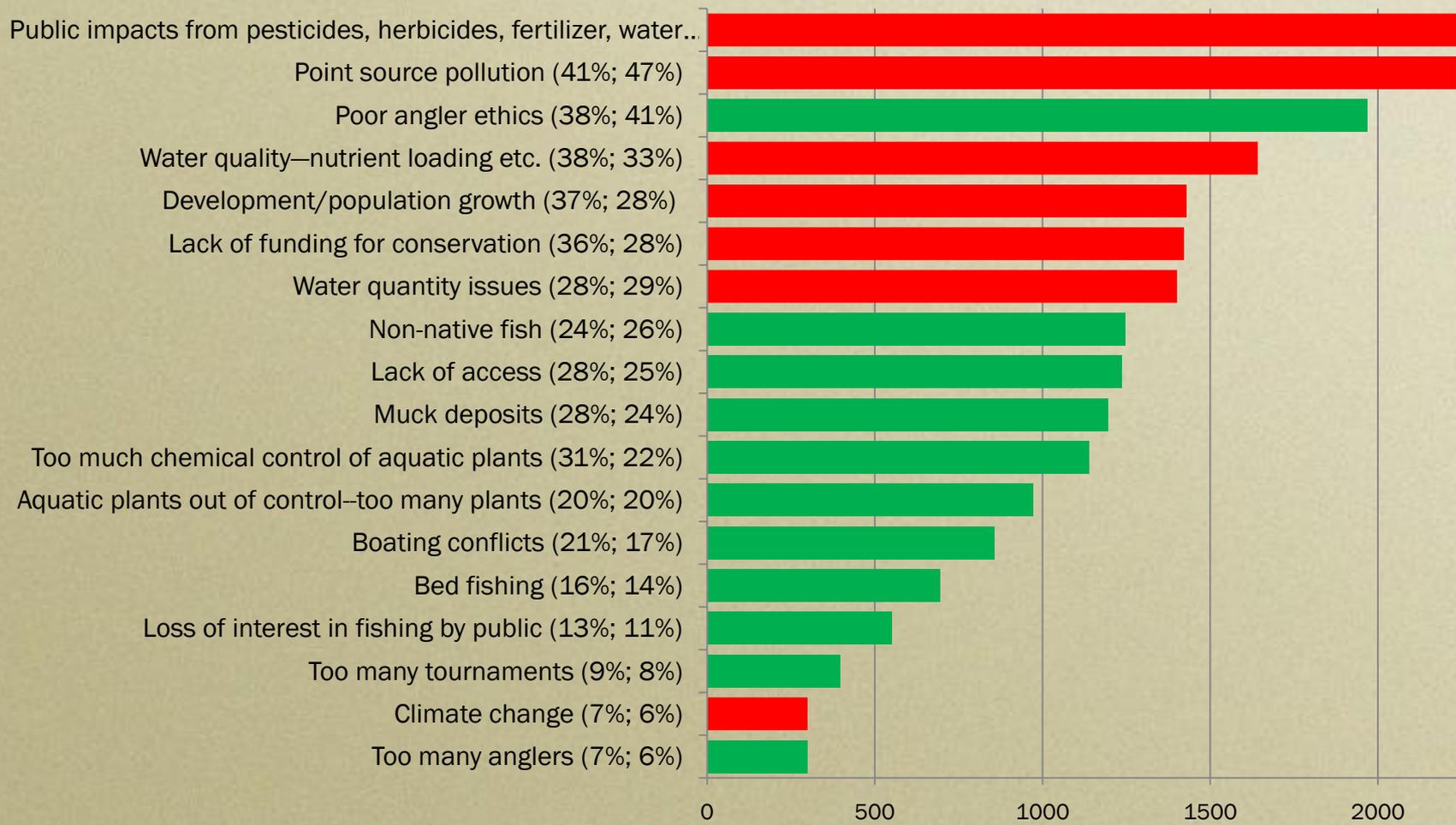
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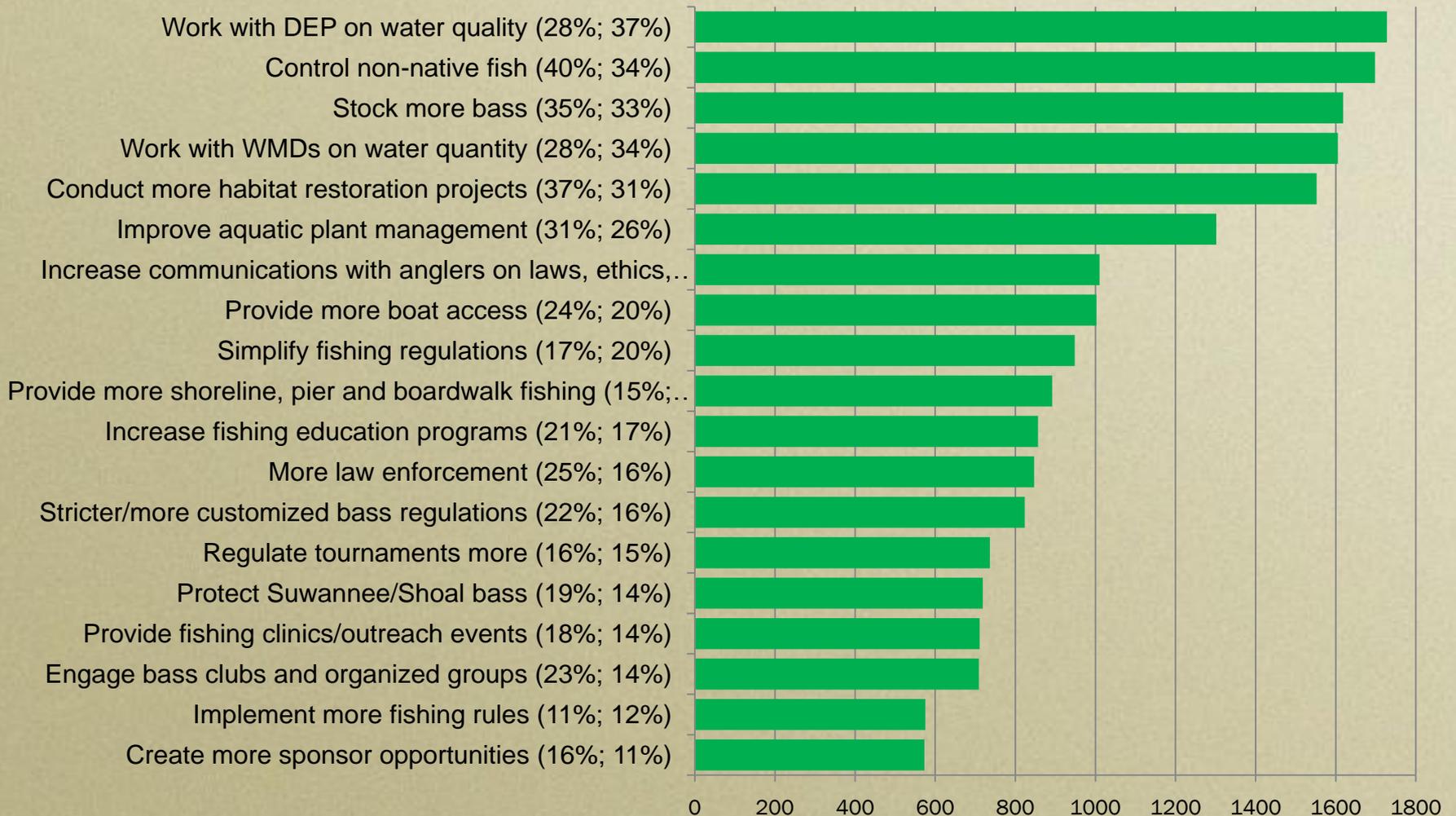
Critically important issues, based on combined data.



The Point: A variety of issues affect fishing, many are not directly under FWC control.



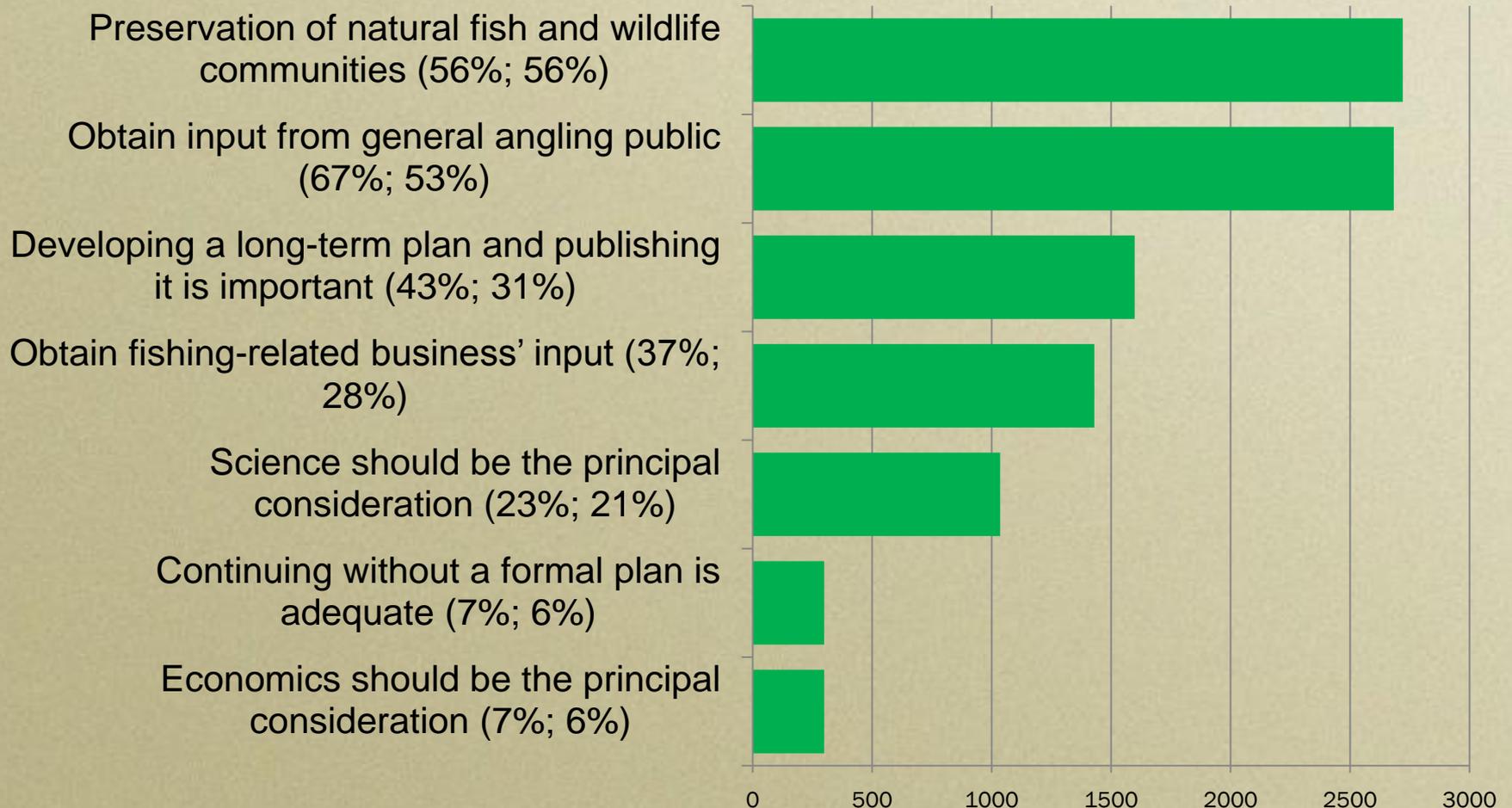
Solutions to address in the Management Plan.



The Point: There are many ways FWC can address the issues to improve bass fishing.



How to create the Management Plan.



The Point: FWC wants and needs public input to supplement science.

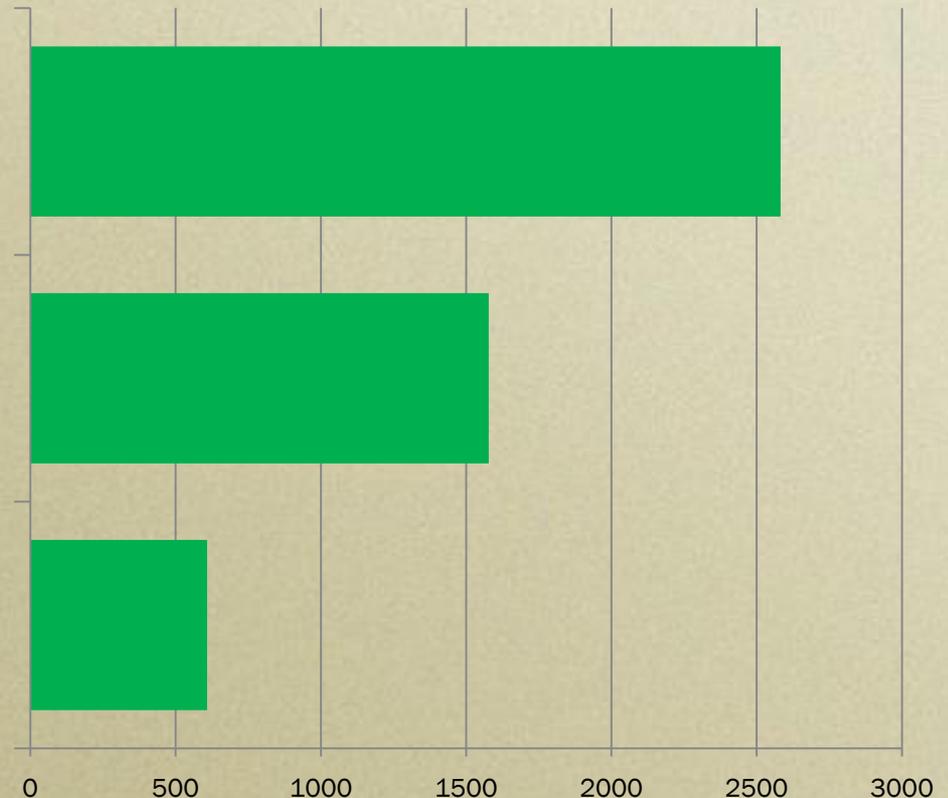


Bass Angler Preferences

I'd prefer to be able to catch and release three 3-pound bass (quality emphasis) 53.6% (53.1%)

I'd prefer to catch and release one bass over 10 pounds (trophy emphasis) 34.9% (31.9%)

I'd prefer to be able to catch and harvest five 1-pound bass (harvest emphasis) 10.2% (13.4%)



The Point: Respondents preferred a quality approach to trophy or harvest oriented fisheries—but all are important.



Conclusion

Surveys provide one tool for obtaining input from the public and allowing them to engage with the agency.

Public meetings provide additional insight.

The Technical Advisory Group plays a vital role in helping interpret the input and examine possible scientific solutions and trade offs.

