

## Western Oregon Boaters Survey Summary

The responses to the boating survey you participated in during 1977-78 have been tabulated, and I have compiled some information I thought may interest you.

First, the survey served two purposes. I wanted to obtain current information about the characteristics of western Oregon boaters, and boats. I also wanted to secure data I need to estimate the demand for recreational boat moorage and out-of-season storage facilities. The information I'm passing along to you now regards boat and boat owner characteristics.

From the 2,395 boaters who responded to the 6,668 surveys I mailed, I found that the typical western Oregon boater is about 50. The majority, about 25%, earn between \$15,000 and \$20,000 annually. Boat owners are predominately male (93%) and married (89%).

I made tables to analyze your responses to several questions. In reading the tables, combination boaters are those who boat in both fresh and saltwater.

If you have questions about these survey results, or wish to know more about responses to other questions I asked but did not discuss here, feel free to contact me, Charles Vars, at Sea Grant, Oregon State University, AdS A418, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Thank you for your participation

Characteristics of Boats	Percent, by Type of Boater			
	Salt Water	Fresh Water	Combination	All
<u>Length</u>				
Less than 12 ft.	1.0	2.8	1.3	2.4
12-15 ft.	19.4	49.5	23.1	42.0
16-19 ft.	40.3	37.4	47.9	39.3
20-23 ft.	19.4	5.1	16.7	9.0
24-40 ft.	18.9	4.9	8.4	6.9
41-60 ft.	--	0.2	0.7	0.3
61-98 ft.	0.5	0.1	--	0.1
Median Length	19.0	15.9	18.0	16.5
Average Length	18.4	15.3	17.6	16.0
(No. of responses)	(200)	(1,589)	(455)	(2,357)
<u>Power System</u>				
Motor propelled only:				
Outboard	49.8	71.8	55.2	66.8
Inboard/Outboard	30.8	14.9	31.2	19.0
Inboard	17.4	7.8	9.6	11.5
Sail:				
Sail with motor	1.0	2.4	3.3	2.6
Sail without motor	0.5	2.1	--	1.7
No motor or sail	--	0.2	--	0.2
(No. of responses)	(201)	(1,619)	(458)	(2,395)
<u>Horsepower</u>				
5 or less	1.7	12.5	3.1	10.4
6-10	6.9	23.1	10.6	19.6
11-24	6.9	9.5	8.9	9.4
25-49	19.0	12.8	13.4	13.3
50-74	11.2	12.7	14.0	12.5
75-99	3.4	5.3	6.8	5.9
100 or more	50.9	23.5	43.2	29.0

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Characteristics of Boats	Percent, by Type of Boater			
	Salt Water	Fresh Water	Combination	All
Median Horsepower	100.4	35.5	75.0	44.9
Average Horsepower	75.7	37.9	67.0	45.3
(No. of responses)	(116)	(1,037)	(292)	(1,516)
<u>Hull Material</u>				
Wood	30.5	12.0	13.2	14.1
Fiberglass	55.0	60.7	68.4	61.2
Metal	14.5	27.3	18.5	24.7
(No. of responses)	(200)	(1,592)	(453)	(2,360)

Saltwater boaters have longer boats (19 feet) than freshwater boaters (16 feet). The majority of boaters (67%) use outboard motors. Saltwater and combination boaters use larger engines than freshwater boaters. Fiberglass is the most popular hull material.

Household Income	Estimated Value of Boat and Gear	Number of Responses
	Typical	
Under \$3,000	\$ 678	29
3,000-5,999	750	92
6,000-7,999	870	96
8,000-9,999	1,104	95
10,000-14,999	1,346	301
15,000-19,999	1,709	484
20,000-24,999	2,134	389
25,000-34,999	3,000	312
35,000-49,999	3,615	134
50,000 or more	4,400	96
All respondents	2,000	2,028

Estimated Value of Boat and Gear  
January 1978,  
by Household Income

Boaters' estimates of what their boats and gear are worth at 1977 prices reveal that the value of their investments increase as household incomes increase.

Oregon boaters have substantial investments in boats and gear as reflected in the typical value of their investments. If this value is multiplied by the estimated number of boats in western Oregon in January 1978 (107,000), the current value of owner investments is \$214 million. Statewide, the value of recreational boats and gear is conservatively estimated at \$240-260 million.

Distance from Home to Usual Launching  
Location or Where Boat was Kept  
and Used by Type of Boater

	Percent, by Type of Boater			
	Salt Water	Fresh Water	Combination	All
<u>Distance from Home to Usual Launching Location</u>				
Less than 5 miles	22.6	13.2	15.0	14.1
5-9 miles	6.1	12.6	10.5	11.5
10-19 miles	7.8	15.1	11.5	13.6
20-39 miles	0.9	15.7	8.0	13.1
40-69 miles	13.0	15.7	15.5	15.6
70-99 miles	27.0	9.0	15.3	11.5
100-149 miles	17.4	3.5	15.5	10.4
150-199 miles	1.7	5.2	5.6	5.3
200-299 miles	1.7	3.9	2.4	3.4
500-998 miles	1.7	1.1	0.5	1.4
Median miles	69.0	32.0	50.5	38.1
Average miles	66.6	53.4	59.7	57.8
(No. of responses)	(115)	(1,268)	(373)	(1,803)

Distance from Home to Where Boat was Kept and Used

Less than 5 miles	23.5	37.4	24.0	31.7
5-9 miles	7.1	13.7	14.7	12.3
10-19 miles	1.2	20.5	9.3	15.1
20-39 miles	4.7	7.6	6.7	7.1
40-69 miles	9.4	7.6	6.7	7.5
70-99 miles	22.4	5.8	16.0	11.0
100-149 miles	24.7	5.4	22.7	12.1
150-199 miles	4.7	0.7	0	1.5
200-299 miles	1.2	0.4	0	0.9
500-998 miles	1.2	1.1	0	0.9
Median miles	75.5	10.7	27.0	14.3
Average miles	68.4	26.4	47.5	39.2
(No. of responses)	(86)	(278)	(75)	(464)

Saltwater boaters usually launch their boats farther from home. They also keep and use their boats farther from home than other types of boaters.

Average Days Per Year,  
by Type of Boater

Activity	Salt Water	Fresh Water	Combination	All
Fishing	28.8	16.3	25.7	18.9
Waterskiing	0.3	4.9	3.2	4.1
Day cruising or sailing	0.4	3.5	3.0	5.0
Cruising (away at least one night)	0.6	1.4	2.5	1.6
Other	1.4	1.9	2.0	1.8
(No. of responses)	(192)	(1,597)	(455)	(2,340)

Average Days Spent in Various Activities by Type of Boater

Extent of Boat Use, by Manner of Use

Days per Year	Percent, by Manner of Use		
	Keep Boat Where Used	Trailer and Launch	All
Less than 7 days	7.7	22.6	19.8
7-13 days	7.9	20.1	17.8
14-20 days	10.7	16.9	15.7
21-27 days	6.8	10.8	10.1
28-34 days	12.4	9.0	9.7
35-41 days	10.3	7.1	7.7
42-55 days	12.4	5.7	7.0
56 or more days	31.8	7.8	12.4
Median Days	37.5	16.5	19.1
Average days	51.2	23.0	28.4
(No. of responses)	(428)	(1,819)	(2,247)

By far, the most popular activity among boaters is fishing. On the average, a typical boater spends almost 19 days a year angling. Boaters who keep their boats where they use them spent 125% more time boating each year than those who transport their boats between uses.

Importance of Service Availability  
Where Boat is Used

	Percent of Respondents			
	Very Important	Important	Not Important	No Response
<u>All Boaters</u>				
Fuel and oil	30.5	22.2	34.5	12.6
Freshwater	17.7	17.2	47.6	17.5
Electricity	7.6	8.0	64.0	20.4
Ice	7.8	18.2	55.4	20.5
Restrooms	35.9	29.0	25.0	11.7
Marine supplies	9.9	23.5	48.4	18.1
Showers	4.1	9.2	65.5	20.9
Restaurant/coffee shop	6.7	16.6	58.2	18.4
24-hour security	24.6	16.2	40.8	18.1
Social activities	2.5	6.1	70.4	21.0
Holding-tank pump-out	6.4	8.5	64.0	20.9
Haul-out facilities	23.4	15.4	42.8	18.0
Equipment lockers	1.4	3.9	72.8	21.8
Camping facilities	29.7	20.6	34.0	14.9
Hotel/motel	2.9	7.0	68.6	21.4
Groceries and snacks	13.2	30.9	37.8	18.0

Degree of Satisfaction with Available Services

	Percent of Respondents				
	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Can't Get Service	Not Important	No Response
<u>All Boaters</u>					
Repairs to hulls	25.5	4.0	1.5	40.5	30.4
Repairs to engines	47.4	10.9	2.0	19.5	19.4
Brokerage	11.4	3.0	0.5	49.9	35.2
Charters-rentals	19.2	4.1	0.6	45.9	30.1
Insurance sales	38.0	7.4	1.1	28.1	25.0
Boat or motor sales	41.8	4.9	0.8	26.6	25.8
Moorage-dock facilities	36.0	18.0	2.1	21.8	21.8
Selling supplies	39.9	7.4	0.8	26.3	25.3
Storage facilities	16.5	9.5	1.5	43.0	29.4

The majority of boaters feel that restrooms, fuel and oil supplies, and camping facilities are very important services at a boating site. Haul-out facilities and 24-hour security are also very important.

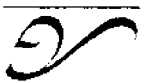
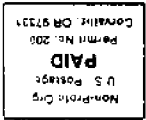
I asked boaters if they are satisfied with the services they receive for their boating activities. More than half say they are satisfied or that the services are not important to them.

Total Annual Boating Expenses for All Classes of Boaters,  
by Household Income and Estimated Value of Boat and Gear

	Typical Boater's Annual Expenses	Number of Responses
<u>Household Income</u>		
Under \$3,000	\$100	26
3,000-5,999	73	83
6,000-7,999	140	97
8,000-9,999	141	97
10,000-14,999	161	301
15,000-19,999	198	479
20,000-24,999	228	381
25,000-34,999	290	304
35,000-49,999	368	151
50,000 or more	593	91
		<u>1,990</u>
<u>Value of Boat and Gear</u>		
Under \$500	34	317
500-999	82	378
1,000-1,499	136	228
1,500-2,499	226	270
2,500-3,499	297	234
3,500-4,999	349	198
5,000-7,499	479	189
7,500-12,499	1,012	151
12,500-24,999	4,933	65
25,000 or more	6,583	44
		<u>2,058</u>

Boaters' expenditures increase as income and value of boats and gear increases. I estimate that in 1977, western Oregon boaters spent \$22 million boating.

# Boaters Survey Summary



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