

## **Results of a phone survey of licensed anglers regarding changes in Commercial Fishing Regulations on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes**

Recently, commercial fishers on Kentucky and Barkley lakes requested a change in current commercial fishing regulations to lengthen the gill netting season and allow them more flexibility in their methods. Because of potential effects on sport anglers, a survey of current fishing license holders in a five county area around the lakes was conducted.

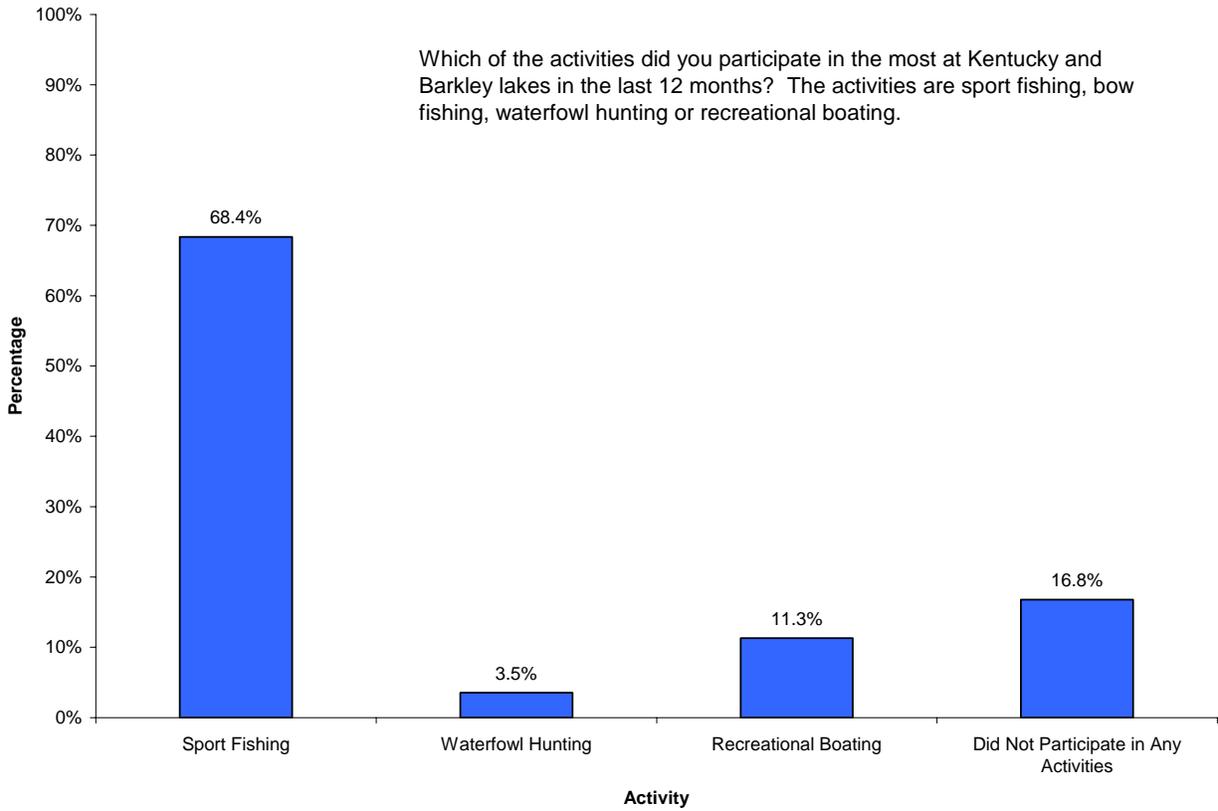
Based on the results of the survey, the KDFWR Fisheries Committee voted not to bring the request forward to the full Commission, and there will be no changes to the existing commercial fishing regulations on Kentucky and Barkley lakes.

The counties surveyed were Trigg, Lyon, Livingston, Marshall and Calloway. Anglers were called on 3 nights, June 30, July 1 and July 6. Department employees made 1,454 calls and interviewed 310 people in total with a contact rate for the three nights of 21.4%. The remainder of the calls were either no answer, refused or wrong numbers.

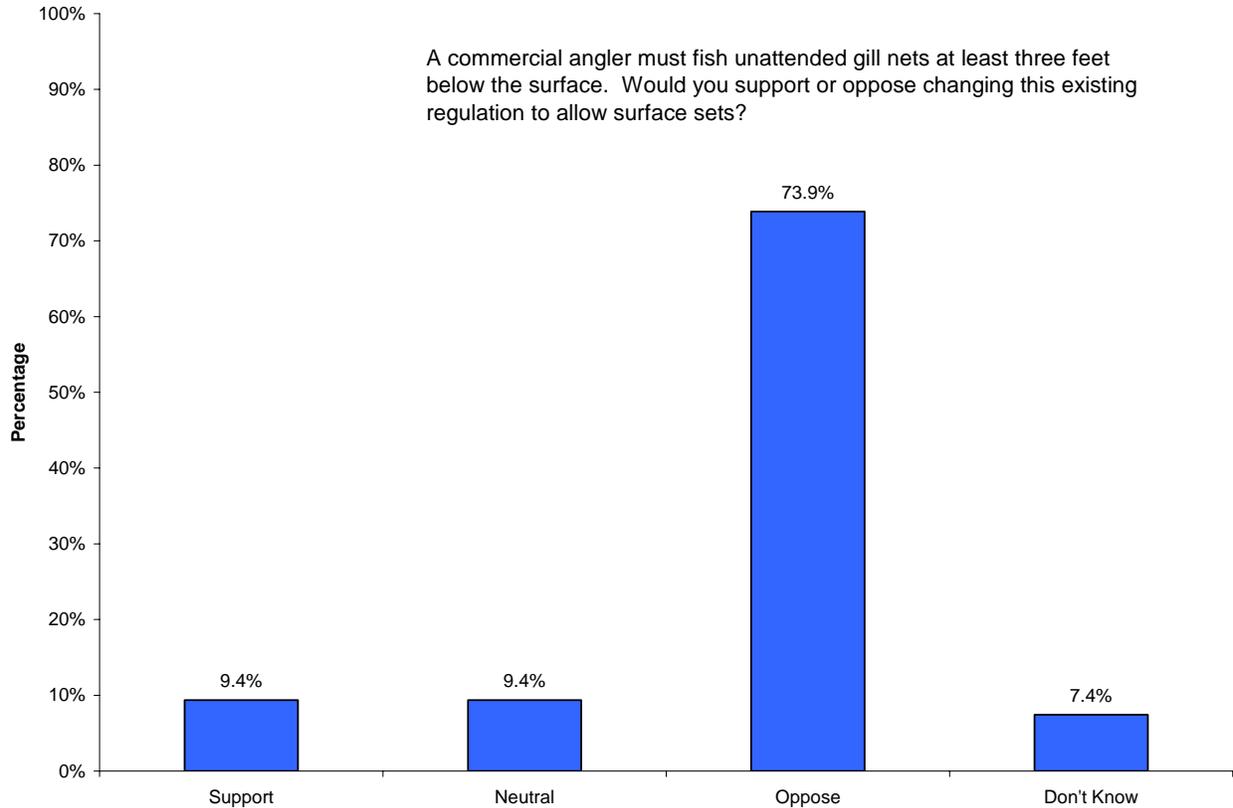
Recreational anglers were asked a variety of questions related to their use of the resource and their attitudes concerning possible changes in commercial fishing regulations.

The following graphs show responses of the 310 anglers to five primary questions.

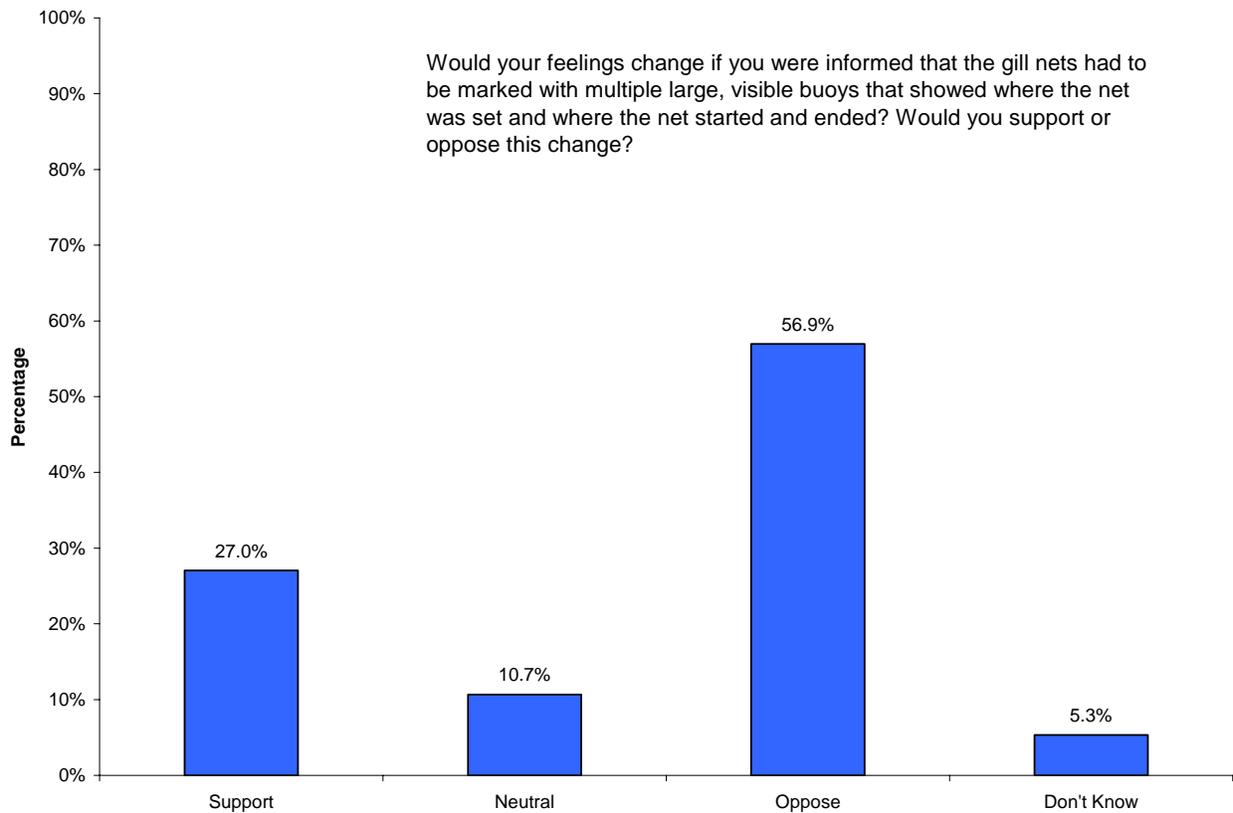
This first graph deals with recreational uses of the resource. The majority of respondents indicated that they used Kentucky and Barkley Lake most often for fishing. This is to be expected as the phone list was drawn from current licensed anglers. "Did not participate" was second and recreational boating was third.



The second graph shows the response to a change in regulations that would allow setting of unattended gill nets and trammel nets at the surface, instead of 3 feet below the surface as is now the case. Less than 10% of the anglers supported this change and less than 10% were neutral. Over 70% were opposed to changing the regulation.

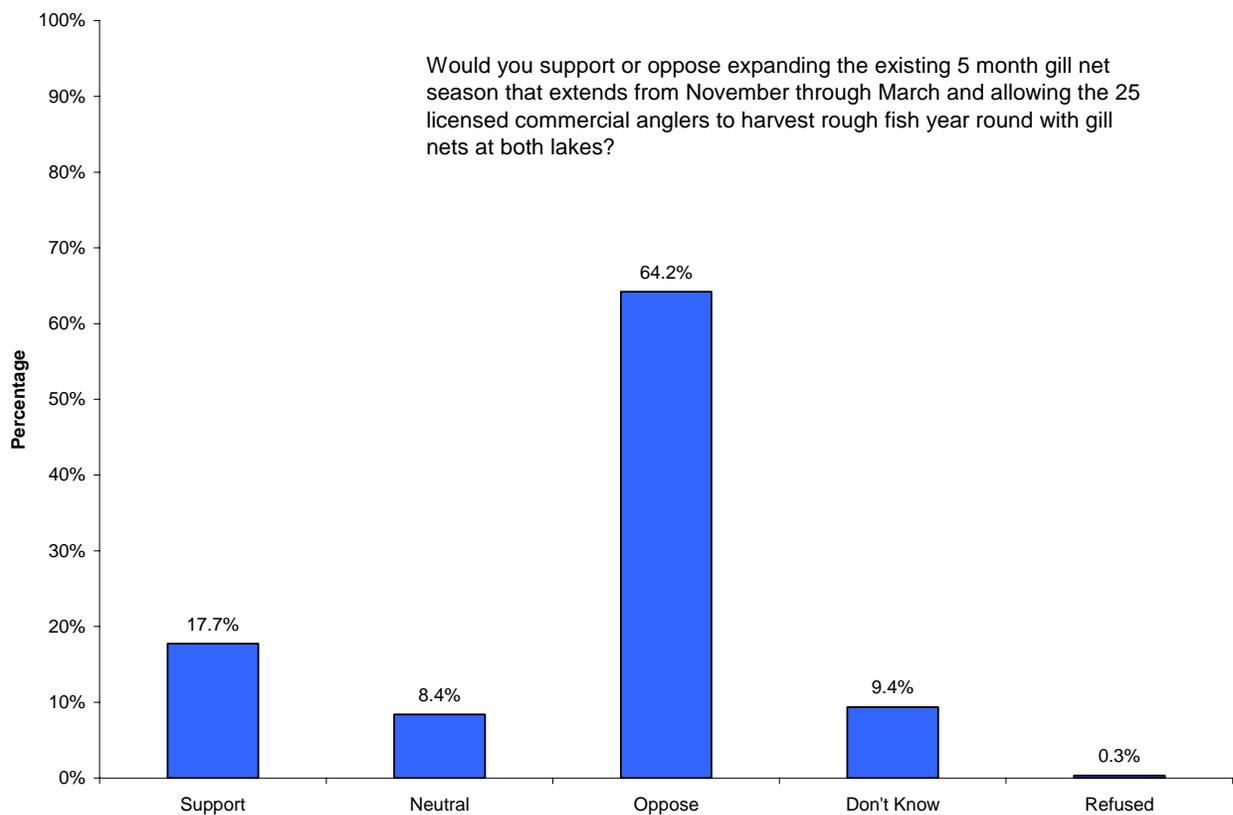


The third graph shows the response to a change in regulations allowing nets to be set at a depth less than 3 feet if the nets were clearly marked at both ends. This more than doubled the percentage of people that would support the regulation change, but the majority of those interviewed still opposed the regulation.

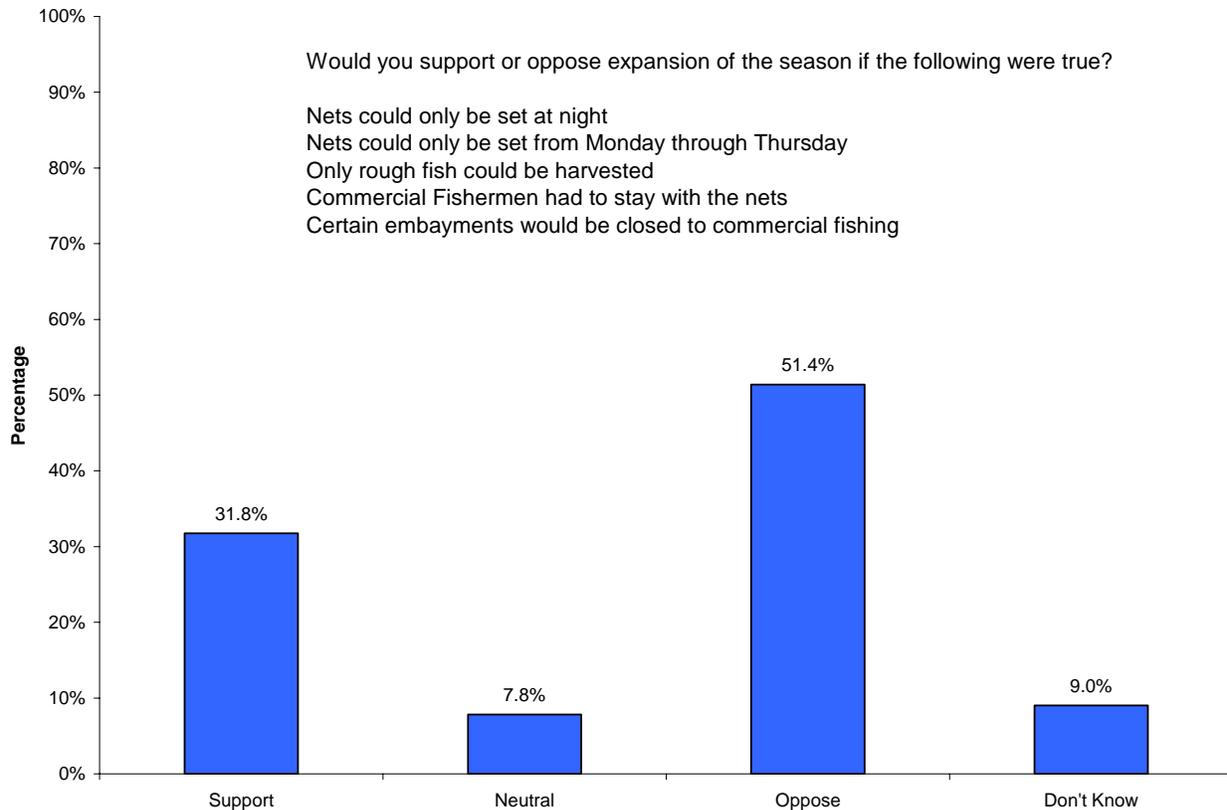


The next two graphs deal with expansion of the special net season on Kentucky and Barkley Lake. Currently, gill nets and trammel nets can only be used for commercial fishing from November 1 through March 30.

Anglers were first asked if they supported or opposed an expansion of the current season to year-round. Less than 20% supported this change and over 60% opposed expansion.



Anglers were then asked if they would support or oppose expansion of the season if additional conditions were put in place. With the additional restrictions, over 30% of the respondents supported expansion of the season. Slightly over 50% still opposed the expansion of the season.



In light of these results, the KDFWR Fisheries Committee voted not to present the request for change to the full Commission. At this time, no changes in commercial fishing regulations on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes are planned.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please call our Info Center at 1-800-858-1549 or E-mail us at [info.center@ky.gov](mailto:info.center@ky.gov).