

# National Wildlife Federation Nationwide Opinion Survey of Hunters and Anglers June/July 2004

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### **FINAL Topline Results**

N=752 Hunters and Anglers nationwide

--252 respondents from the hunting license list

--500 respondents from the angler license list

Field Dates: June 8 – June 20, 2004

Conducted on behalf of

The National Wildlife Federation

A. Respondent Profile

Total

34% Hunting license list

66% Angler license list

1. Do you consider hunting or fishing to be a...

<u>Total</u>

69% Very important ...or

31% Somewhat important

part of your lifestyle?

2. And, do you consider yourself....? (Read options)

<u>Total</u>

11% A hunter

28% An angler ...or

60% Both

1% (**Do not read**) Refused

3. Are you currently registered to vote in your state?

100% Yes (continue)

4. In your personal experience, would you say the quality of hunting and fishing habitats has improved, stayed about the same, or gotten worse within the past few years?

Total

30% Improved

36% Stayed the same

31% Gotten worse

3% Don't Know

Extremely

Now I'd like to ask you about some issues facing the country and please tell me how concerned you are about the issue on a scale from 0 to 10 in which 10 means you are extremely concerned, 5 means you are somewhat concerned and 0 means you are not concerned at all. You can choose any number between 0 and 10... (Read and Randomize)

Not Concerned				Somewhat Concerned					Extremely Concerned	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mean	<u>% 7-1</u>	<u>0</u>								
7.57	69%	Taxe	es							
7.53	70%	Wild	llife cor	nservatio	on					
7.93	76%	The	war in l	Iraq						
7.78	72%	Clean air and water								
7.50	69%	The	econon	ıy						
8.11	79%	Terr	orism	•						
7.99	78%	Educ	cation							
7.31	63%	Limi	its on g	un rights	S					

Next I'd like to ask you about some specific issues and, again, using a scale from 0 to 10 please tell me how concerned you are about the effect of each on hunting or fishing... (Read and Randomize)

	Conce	Concerned			Con	Concerned				Conc	Concerned	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Mean	<u>% 7-1</u>	0									
	6.81	58%	Mer	cury lev	els in f	ish						
	6.96	58%	Fish	Fish and wildlife diseases								
	7.50	69%	Polli	Pollution								
	7.03	60%	Acce	Access to hunting and fishing on public lands								
	6.18	47%	Acce	ess to h	unting a	ind fish	ing on p	orivate l	ands			
	7.03	63%	Loss	Loss of wildlife habitat in your area [1/2 sample]								
	7.58	71%	Loss of wildlife habitat across the country [1/2 sample]									
	6.65	57%	Loss of streams and wetlands in your area [1/2 sample]									
	7.58	70%	Loss	Loss of streams and wetlands across the country [1/2 sample]								
	7.51	67%	Lim	its on g	un right	S						
•	5.92	46%	Oil and gas drilling within wildlife areas									

Somewhat

Not

Thinking about wetlands now...

- 24. Which of the following two statements better reflects your opinion? (Rotate)
  - A. (Some/other) people say natural wetlands can be filled or drained as long as developers are required to create new wetlands to replace those that are destroyed.
  - B. (Other/some) people say that natural wetlands should not be filled or drained in most cases, even if developers replace them with manmade wetlands, because manmade wetlands do not replicate all the important functions of natural wetlands.

#### Total

30% A. Can be filled or drained

68% B. Should not be filled or drained

2% Don't Know

### Switching topics...

- 25. I'm going to read two perspectives on mercury, a known toxin responsible for fish consumption advisories in 43 states, and ask which one better reflects your opinion. (Rotate)
  - A. (Some/Other) people say that existing technologies could remove almost all of the mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants, and that they should be required to do so by the end of the decade because mercury poses a risk to people, particularly pregnant women and children, and to wildlife.
  - B. (Other/Some) people say that the technology to eliminate mercury pollution from coal fired power plants is not yet widely available, making it too expensive and causing higher energy costs for businesses and households, so industry should be given up to two decades to meet this pollution reduction target.

#### Total

- 71% A. Power plants should be required to remove mercury pollution in decade
- 22% B. Too expensive, so industry should be given up to two decades
- 6% Don't Know
- 1% Refused

26. Which of the following do you think is the best way to address America's energy needs? (Randomize 1-3, ask 4 last)

#### <u>Total</u>

- 20% Drill for more oil and gas in the U.S., including areas within wildlife refuges and other public lands, to increase our domestic energy supply.
- 31% Conserve more, waste less, and develop more fuel-efficient cars so we use less oil and gas.
- 42% Rely less on oil and gas and expand development of renewable forms of energy like wind, solar, and ethanol.
- 6% No Opinion
- 1% Refused

Thinking now about global warming...

27. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The U.S. should reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that contribute to global warming and threaten fish and wildlife habitat. (If agree/disagree) Do you Strongly (agree/disagree) or just Somewhat (agree/disagree)?

#### Total

- 40% Strongly agree
- 35% Somewhat agree

75% Agree – 21% Disagree

- 10% Somewhat disagree
- 11% Strongly disagree
- 4% Don't Know
- 28. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view... (Read and Rotate top to bottom, bottom to top)

#### Total

- 27% Global warming is already beginning to impact hunting and fishing conditions.
- 36% Global warming will impact hunting and fishing conditions in future generations.
- 34% Global warming will have little or no impact on hunting and fishing conditions and concern about it is overblown.
- 3% Don't Know

29. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:

Addressing global warming is a high priority. We can improve our environment and strengthen the economy by investing in clean, renewable energy technologies that create jobs while reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

(If agree/disagree) Do you Strongly (agree/disagree) or just Somewhat (agree/disagree)?

## <u>Total</u>

- 40% Strongly agree
- 34% Somewhat agree

74% Agree – 23% Disagree

- 12% Somewhat disagree
- 11% Strongly disagree
- 3% Don't Know

Moving along...

30. I'm going to read you a list of people or groups that may have a say on conservation or hunting and fishing issues. Please tell me whose opinion you think counts most with the Bush administration ...(Read and Randomize)

#### Total

- 7% Developers
- 8% Conservation groups
- 15% Hunters and anglers
- 8% Scientists
- 49% The oil and gas industry
- 11% (Do not read) Don't Know
- 1% Refused
- 31. And, thinking about the list I just read, whose opinion do you think SHOULD count most with the Bush administration on conservation or hunting and fishing issues? (Read and Randomize in same order as previous question)

#### <u>Total</u>

- 2% Developers
- 23% Conservation groups
- 38% Hunters and anglers
- 25% Scientists
- 4% The oil and gas industry
- 8% (Do not read) Don't Know
- 1% Refused

Now I am going to read you a series of statements about the Bush administration's conservation policies. Please tell me if you favor or oppose the policy that... (Randomize question order)

# If (favor/oppose) ask: Strongly (favor/oppose) or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) this?

Proposed giving coal-fired power plants flexibility to meet a national goal to reduce mercury pollution even though that may result in higher mercury pollution in many communities. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

Total

8% Favor - strong

17% Favor- somewhat

44% Oppose- strong

25% Favor - 69% Oppose

45% Oppose - somewhat

7% Don't Know

33. Issued new Clean Water Act guidelines that will, by the government's own estimates, eliminate protections for up to 20 million acres of wetlands. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

Total
19% Favor - strong
17% Favor- somewhat
36% Favor - 58% Oppose
38% Oppose - strong
20% Oppose - somewhat
6% Don't Know
1% Refused

34. More than doubled funding for the Forest Legacy Program, a partnership among the Forest Service, states, and land trusts that protects and ensures public access to forest areas threatened by development. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

Total
49% Favor - strong
29% Favor- somewhat
7% Oppose- strong
9% Oppose - somewhat
5% Don't Know

78% Favor - 16% Oppose
78% Favor - 16% Oppose

35. Provided full funding for Florida Everglades restoration, the largest conservation restoration effort in the nation's history. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

<u>Total</u>		
45%	Favor - strong	
30%	Favor- somewhat	75% Favor – 18% Oppose
8%	Oppose- strong	
10%	Oppose - somewhat	
7%	Don't Know	

36. Endorsed exemptions to the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act for the oil and gas industry in an effort to expedite oil and gas development on public lands, including prime wildlife, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation areas. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

Total
13% Favor - strong
22% Favor- somewhat
40% Oppose- strong
17% Oppose - somewhat
7% Don't Know
1% Refused
35% Favor - 57% Oppose

37. Expanded the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program that helps private landowners restore fish and wildlife habitat on their property. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

<u>Total</u>		
56%	Favor - strong	
31%	Favor- somewhat	87% Favor – 9% Oppose
5%	Oppose- strong	
4%	Oppose - somewhat	
3%	Don't Know	

Now thinking ahead to November...

38. How important are wildlife and conservation issues in deciding your vote for president? (Rotate top to bottom, bottom to top)

<u>Total</u>		
6%	Not important at all	
9%	Not too important	
50%	Somewhat important	
36%	Very important	86% Very/Somewhat Important

Now I have just a few questions for statistical purposes only...

#### Mean

- 39. What is your age please? 51 years
- 40. Do you have children? (**If yes**) Are there any under age 18 at home?

### <u>Total</u>

- 38% Yes, under 18 at home
- 36% Yes, all older than 18
- 25% No
- 41. Are you a military veteran or currently in the military? (If yes, clarify which veteran or in military)

#### Total

- 29% Yes, veteran
- 1% Yes, in military
- 69% No
- 42. In politics today, do you usually consider yourself to be a Republican, Democrat or an Independent? (**If independent**) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican party or the Democratic party?

#### Total

- 42% Republican
- 21% Democrat
- 19% Independent (no party preference)
- 9% Independent, lean Republican
- 7% Independent, lean Democrat
- 3% Refused
- When thinking about politics and government do you consider yourself to be...(Read and Rotate top to bottom, bottom to top)

#### Total

- 18% Very Conservative
- 48% Somewhat Conservative
- 10% (Volunteered) Moderate 66% Consv. 31% Mod./Lib.
- 19% Somewhat Liberal
- 2% Very Liberal
- 2% (Do not read) Don't Know
- 1% Refused
- 44. Are you a member of the NRA, the National Rifle Association?

#### **Total**

- 29% Yes
- 70% No
- 1% Refused

45. For classification purposes, please stop me when I read the category that reflects your annual household income before taxes? (**Read**)

#### Total 4% Under \$20,000 \$20,000 to just under \$30,000 8% 11% \$30,000 to just under \$40,000 14% \$40,000 to just under \$50,000 10% \$50,000 to just under \$60,000 8% \$60,000 to just under \$70,000 32% \$70,000 or higher 2% (Do not read) Don't Know 10% Refused

46. Thinking back to the 2000 election for President, for whom did you vote? (Read and Rotate Bush and Gore only; ask Nader last)

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Total
68% George W. Bush
21% Al Gore
2% Ralph Nader
1% (Volunteered) Other
5% (Volunteered) Don't Know/Refused
3% (Volunteered) Did not vote
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47. Gender (By Observation)

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Total
91% Male
9% Female
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48. State

<sup>\*\*</sup>State quotas were set in accordance to the 2001 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey of fishing, hunting and wildlife associated recreation, based on the percentage of hunters and anglers and the state's contribution to the national total.