



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

Contact:

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Topline Results

N=284 Florida hunters and anglers

- 44 respondents from the hunting license list

- 240 respondents from the angler license list

Field Dates: June 10-June 20, 2004

A. Respondent Profile

15% Hunting license list

85% Angler license list

1. Do you consider hunting or fishing to be a...**(Read and Rotate top to bottom, bottom to top)**

62% Very important ...or

38% Somewhat important
...part of your lifestyle?

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

5%. A hunter

47%. An angler ...or

47% Both

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

3. Are you currently registered to vote in Florida?

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?

38% Improved

23% Stayed the same

34% Gotten worse

5% Don't Know

I'd like to ask you about some issues that may affect hunting or fishing and using a scale from 0 to 10 in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about it, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all, please tell me how concerned you are about the effect of each on hunting or fishing... **(Read and Randomize)**

Not Concerned				Somewhat Concerned				Extremely Concerned			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Mean

- | | | |
|-----|------|--|
| 5. | 5.33 | Global Warming |
| 6. | 7.40 | Mercury levels in fish |
| 7. | 6.93 | Fish and wildlife diseases |
| 8. | 8.05 | Pollution |
| 9. | 6.65 | Access to hunting and fishing on public lands |
| 10. | 5.12 | Access to hunting and fishing on private lands |

(11A and 11B asked of n=300 combined split sample – ½ the hunters and ½ the anglers for each)

- | | | |
|------|------|---|
| 11A. | 7.31 | Loss of wildlife habitat in your area |
| 11B. | 7.70 | Loss of wildlife habitat across the country |

(12A and 12B asked of n=300 combined split sample – ½ the hunters and ½ the anglers for each)

- | | | |
|------|------|---|
| 12A. | 7.14 | Loss of streams and wetlands in your area |
| 12B. | 7.80 | Loss of streams and wetlands across the country |
| 13. | 7.10 | Limits on gun rights |
| 14. | 5.83 | Oil and gas drilling within wildlife areas |

And thinking about some issues in Florida...

15. Do you favor or oppose purchasing sugar cane fields in the Everglades Agricultural Area so they can be restored to a natural state for habitat and increased hunting and fishing opportunities?

(If favor/oppose, ask) Do you Strongly (favor/oppose) this or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) it?

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 41% | Strongly favor | 69% Favor – 20% Oppose |
| 28% | Somewhat favor | |
| 10% | Somewhat oppose | |
| 10% | Strongly oppose | |
| 12% | Don't know/Refuse | |

As you may know...

16. Coal-burning power plants are the largest industrial source of mercury pollution, which is responsible for consumption advisories on all of Florida's lakes and rivers, as well as its entire coastline.

This summer the Florida Department of Health is planning to expand its mercury advisories to include snook, gag grouper, redfish, pompano and flounder. Do you favor or oppose requiring coal-burning power plants to reduce mercury pollution to the maximum extent possible with current technology?

(If favor/oppose, ask) Do you Strongly (favor/oppose) this or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) it?

66%	Strongly favor	
18%	Somewhat favor	84% Favor – 11% Oppose
5%	Somewhat oppose	
6%	Strongly oppose	
6%	Don't know/Refuse	

17. As Florida grows, new development requires additional water supply and disposal for stormwater, treated wastewater, and sewage sludge, all of which may adversely affect fish and wildlife habitat.

Do you favor or oppose conducting environmental studies to assess the impact that the new water supply and waste disposal will have on fish and wildlife habitat before allowing a permit for development?

(If favor/oppose, ask) Do you Strongly (favor/oppose) this or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) it?

64%	Strongly favor	
21%	Somewhat favor	85% Favor – 12% Oppose
6%	Somewhat oppose	
6%	Strongly oppose	
3%	Don't know/Refuse	

Moving on...

18. South Florida Water Managers keep extra water in Lake Okeechobee to irrigate sugarcane in cases of drought. Although the need for this much water is rare, the extra water frequently harms fish and wildlife habitat in the lake and adjoining estuaries.

Which of the following statements more accurately reflects your views (**Rotate**)

___ The sugar industry comes first. It's such an important part of the state's economy, that we need to keep the extra water in Lake Okeechobee, even if it harms fish and wildlife habitat.

— Fish and wildlife habitat should be protected and we **should not** store the extra water in Lake Okeechobee, even if, on rare occasions, the sugarcane crop faces drought conditions.

22% Sugar Industry comes first – keep the extra water
 66% Protect fish and wildlife habitat – not store the extra water
 12% (Do not read) Don't know/Refuse

19. Which of the following two statements better reflects your opinion? (**Rotate**)

(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.

(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.

20% Can be filled or drained
 72% Should not be filled or drained
 6% Don't Know
 1% Refused

Switching topics...

20. 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)**

(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.

(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.

72% Power plants should be required to remove mercury pollution in decade
 21% Too expensive, so industry should be given up to two decades
 6% Don't Know
 1% Refused

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

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.

39% Rely less on oil and gas and expand development of renewable forms of energy like wind, solar, and ethanol.

9% No Opinion

1% (Do not read) 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?

22. 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?

13% Favor - strong
 11% Favor- somewhat
 43% Oppose- strong
 21% Oppose - somewhat
 12% Don't Know
 1% Refused

23. Recommended that several Corps [core] of Engineer projects that would damage wetlands and other habitats important to fish and wildlife be eliminated. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

35% Favor - strong
 20% Favor- somewhat
 21% Oppose- strong
 13% Oppose - somewhat
 10% Don't Know
 1% Refused

24. 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?

20% Favor - strong
 16% Favor- somewhat
 37% Oppose- strong
 18% Oppose - somewhat
 8% Don't Know

25. 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?

50% Favor - strong
 26% Favor- somewhat
 8% Oppose- strong
 6% Oppose - somewhat
 9% Don't Know

26. Provided full funding for Florida Everglades restoration, the largest conservation restoration effort in the nation's history. Do you favor or oppose this policy?
- 55% Favor - strong
 - 29% Favor- somewhat
 - 4% Oppose- strong
 - 7% Oppose - somewhat
 - 5% Don't Know
27. 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?
- 22% Favor - strong
 - 16% Favor- somewhat
 - 37% Oppose- strong
 - 17% Oppose - somewhat
 - 7% Don't Know
 - 1% Refused
28. 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?
- 54% Favor - strong
 - 26% Favor- somewhat
 - 9% Oppose- strong
 - 8% Oppose - somewhat
 - 3% Don't Know
29. Rejected a proposal requiring power plants to reduce their global warming pollution and instead asked those companies to voluntarily reduce their emissions. Do you favor or oppose this policy?
- 32% Favor - strong
 - 22% Favor- somewhat
 - 29% Oppose- strong
 - 13% Oppose - somewhat
 - 4% Don't Know

Now thinking ahead to November...

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

6% Not important at all
 10% Not too important
 47% Somewhat important
 35% Very important

 1% Don't Know

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

31. What is your age please? Mean
 50

32. Do you have children? **(If yes)** Are there any under age 18 at home?

37% Yes, under 18 at home
 31% Yes, all older than 18
 31% No
 1% Refused

33. 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?

47% Republican
 23% Democrat
 12% Independent (no party preference)
 9% Independent, lean Republican
 7% Independent, lean Democrat
 3% Refused

34. When thinking about politics and government do you consider yourself to be...**(Read and Rotate top to bottom, bottom to top)**

22% Very Conservative
 43% Somewhat Conservative
 5% **(Volunteered – Do not read)** Moderate
 23% Somewhat Liberal
 3% Very Liberal
 4% (Do not read) Don't Know
 1% Refused

35. Are you a member of the NRA, the National Rifle Association?
- 25% Yes
 - 73% No
 - 2% Refused
36. For classification purposes, please stop me when I read the category that reflects your annual household income before taxes? **(Read)**
- 5% Under \$20,000
 - 5% \$20,000 to just under \$30,000
 - 12% \$30,000 to just under \$40,000
 - 7% \$40,000 to just under \$50,000
 - 15% \$50,000 to just under \$60,000
 - 8% \$60,000 to just under \$70,000
 - 30% \$70,000 or higher
 - 1% (Do not read) Don't Know
 - 16% Refused
37. Thinking back to the 2000 election for President, for whom did you vote? **(Read and Rotate Bush and Gore only; ask Nader last)**
- 64% George W. Bush
 - 20% Al Gore
 - 10% (Volunteered) Don't Know/Refused
 - 5% (Volunteered) Did not vote
38. Gender (By Observation)
- 87% Male
 - 13% Female
39. County
40. State