

Bellwether Research & Consulting

FINAL Topline Results

N=303 Wisconsin hunters and anglers

-157 respondents from the hunting license list

-146 respondents from the angler license list

Field Dates: June 10-June 20, 2004

A. Respondent Profile

52% Hunting license list

48% Angler license list

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

70% Very important ...or

30% Somewhat important
...part of your lifestyle?

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

17% A hunter

13% An angler ...or

70% Both

3. Are you currently registered to vote in Wisconsin?

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?

24% Improved

46% Stayed the same

26% Gotten worse

4% 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
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>% 9-10</u>									
5.	6.72	33%	Mercury levels in fish								
6.	6.98	31%	Fish and wildlife diseases								
7.	7.12	36%	Pollution								
8.	6.53	32%	Access to hunting and fishing on public lands								
9.	5.82	24%	Access to hunting and fishing on private lands								
10.	6.33	29%	Loss of wildlife habitat in your area [1/2 sample]								
11.	7.11	33%	Loss of wildlife habitat across the country [1/2 sample]								
12.	5.64	23%	Loss of streams and wetlands in your area [1/2 sample]								
13.	7.09	33%	Loss of streams and wetlands across the country [1/2 sample]								
14.	7.62	50%	Limits on gun rights								
15.	5.32	22%	Oil and gas drilling within wildlife areas								

And thinking about some state issues...

16. Wisconsin hunting and fishing license revenues are used to help pay for state wildlife, fisheries, and law enforcement conservation programs.

Would you favor or oppose an increase in hunting and fishing license fees, if the additional revenues would be dedicated to protecting these state programs from budget cutbacks?

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

24%	Strongly favor	
33%	Somewhat favor	57% Favor – 41% Oppose
19%	Somewhat oppose	
22%	Strongly oppose	
2%	Don't know/Refuse	

17. Prior to 1995, the Department of Natural Resources Secretary was appointed by a seven-citizen Natural Resources Board. Since 1995, however, the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources has been appointed directly by the Governor.

Do you support having the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources appointed by **(Rotate)**

13%	The Governor
79%	The Natural Resources Board
8%	(Do not read) Don't know/Refuse

18. The Wisconsin Stewardship Fund was created in 1989 to acquire state fishery and wildlife areas, state parks and forests, and to conserve state natural areas.

This year, the legislature proposed cutting the Stewardship Fund by 75% as part of their plan to reduce the state budget deficit.

Do you favor or oppose this proposed cut in the Stewardship Fund?

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

9%	Strongly favor	
14%	Somewhat favor	23% Favor – 71% Oppose
28%	Somewhat oppose	
43%	Strongly oppose	
6%	Don't know/Refuse	

19. Wisconsin law now requires all anglers to decide AT THE TIME of catch whether to keep the catch or to return the catch. Now, supporters of some fishing tournaments have asked the Legislature to allow exceptions for anglers in those tournaments to wait until AFTER THE TIME of catch to decide which catch to keep and which to return.

Do you favor or oppose allowing exceptions for anglers in some fishing tournaments to wait to decide which catch to keep and which to return?

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

18%	Strongly favor	
15%	Somewhat favor	33% Favor – 61% Oppose
16%	Somewhat oppose	
45%	Strongly oppose	
7%	Don't know/Refuse	

20. 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.
- 22% A. Can be filled or drained
73% B. Should not be filled or drained
5% Don't Know

Switching topics...

21. 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.
- 72% 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
22. Which of the following do you think is the best way to address America's energy needs? **(Randomize 1-3, ask 4 last)**
- 18% 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.
- 25% Conserve more, waste less, and develop more fuel-efficient cars so we use less oil and gas.
- 45% Rely less on oil and gas and expand development of renewable forms of energy like wind, solar, and ethanol.
- 11% 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)
If (favor/oppose) ask: Strongly (favor/oppose) or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) this?

23. 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?

9% Favor - strong
 16% Favor- somewhat **25% Favor – 67% Oppose**
 43% Oppose- strong
 24% Oppose - somewhat
 8% Don't Know

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?

11% Favor - strong
 19% Favor- somewhat **30% Favor – 64% Oppose**
 44% Oppose- strong
 20% Oppose - somewhat
 7% 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?

43% Favor - strong
 32% Favor- somewhat **75% Favor – 19% Oppose**
 11% Oppose- strong
 8% Oppose - somewhat
 6% 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?

31% Favor - strong
 34% Favor- somewhat **65% Favor – 27% Oppose**
 12% Oppose- strong
 15% Oppose - somewhat
 8% 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?

14%	Favor - strong	
16%	Favor- somewhat	30% Favor – 65% Oppose
40%	Oppose- strong	
25%	Oppose - somewhat	
4%	Don't Know	

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?

45%	Favor - strong	
36%	Favor- somewhat	81% Favor – 16% Oppose
8%	Oppose- strong	
8%	Oppose - somewhat	
3%	Don't Know	

Now thinking ahead to November...

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

4%	Not important at all	
13%	Not too important	
53%	Somewhat important	
30%	Very important	83% Very/Somewhat Important

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

30. What is your age please? Mean 51 years

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

38%	Yes, under 18 at home
34%	Yes, all older than 18
28%	No

32. 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?

35% Republican
 20% Democrat
 27% Independent (no party preference)
 7% Independent, lean Republican
 9% Independent, lean Democrat
 3% Refused

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

15% Very Conservative
 57% Somewhat Conservative
 7% **(Volunteered)** Moderate **72% Conserv. – 26% Mod./Lib.**
 18% Somewhat Liberal
 1% Very Liberal
 2% (Do not read) Don't Know

34. Are you a member of the NRA, the National Rifle Association?

22% Yes
 78% No

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

5% Under \$20,000
 9% \$20,000 to just under \$30,000
 14% \$30,000 to just under \$40,000
 16% \$40,000 to just under \$50,000
 9% \$50,000 to just under \$60,000
 14% \$60,000 to just under \$70,000
 21% \$70,000 or higher
 3% (Do not read) Don't Know
 11% Refused

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

59% George W. Bush
 26% Al Gore
 2% Ralph Nader
 1% (Volunteered) Other
 8% (Volunteered) Don't Know/Refused
 4% (Volunteered) Did not vote

37. Gender (By Observation)

94% Male
6% Female

38. County

39. State