

# Exploring Perception Differences of Aquatic Invasive Species in NH Lakes Among Managers and Key Users of the Shared Natural Resource

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## Introduction:

- Aquatic invasive species not only pose a threat to the natural balance of ecosystems, but also impede recreational activities, and result in economic damage to individuals, towns, and states.
- Several studies have previously explored the impact aquatic invasive species can have on the natural environment; however, establishing perception differences between lake managers and general key waterbody users has yet to be found.

## Methods:

- 50+ semi-structured interviews were held on zoom with lake managers throughout the state of NH.
- The interviews were transcribed and coded by two members of the research team to come to concise conclusions of managers’ perception.
- To establish the perception of key users of the shared natural resources, surveys were randomly given out at restaurants and beaches at one large, one medium, and one small lake in New Hampshire.

## Discussion:

- Our results suggest that addressing the gaps in perception among conservation managers and waterbody users will help to influence the ultimate success of environmental management efforts.
- Results currently based on 301 survey responses.

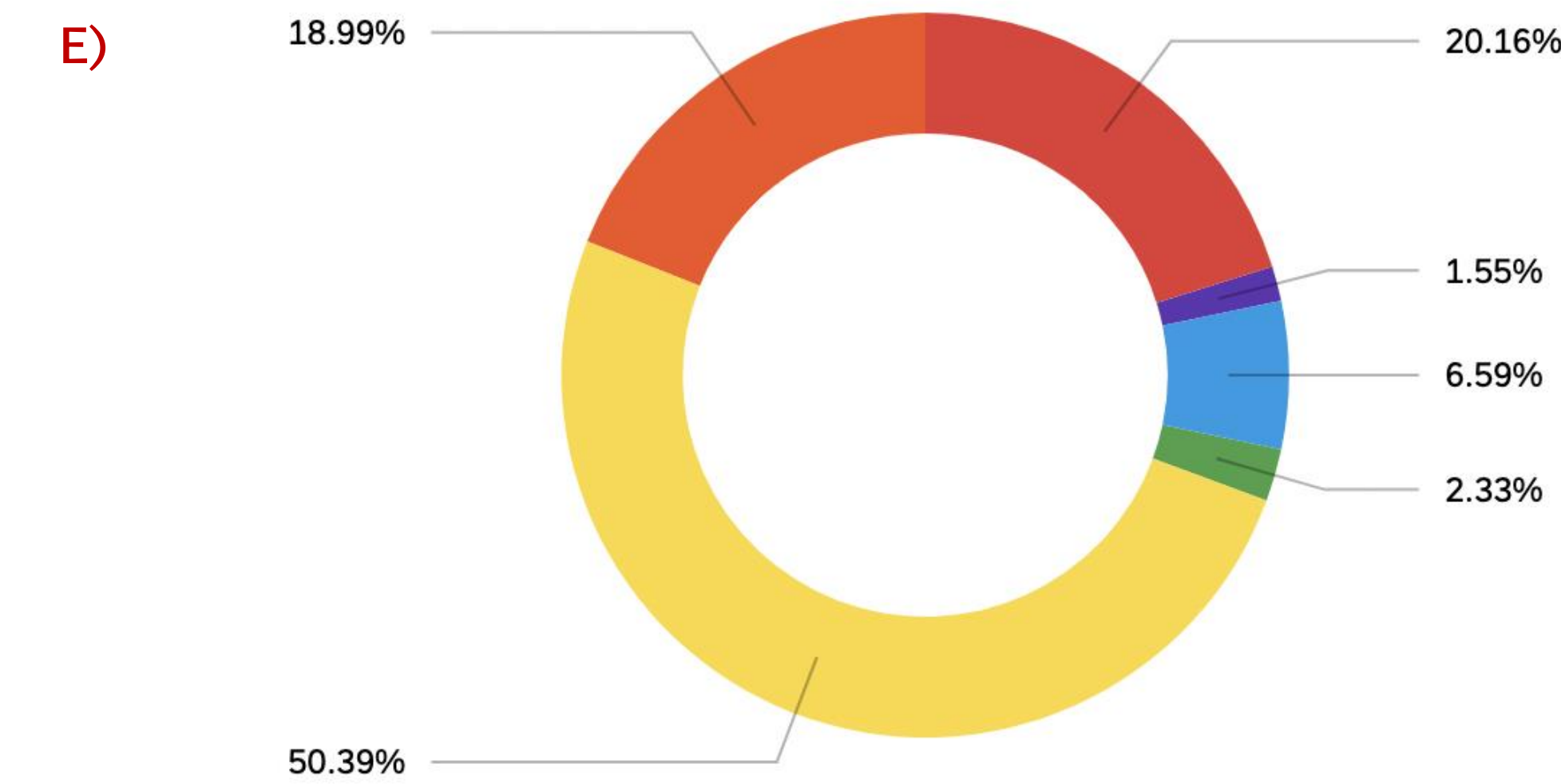
## Next Steps:

- Finishing coding and analyzing the semi-structured interviews.
- Finish collecting survey data from the general public.
- Aggregate and analyze the datasets to come to conclusions about the differences in perception among the varying levels of perception among NH lakes users.

## Discussion:

- Wesleyan QAC
- Helen Poulos
- Jordan Green
- NH DES
- GISOS Wesleyan

# EXPLORING GAPS IN PERCEPTION AMONG USERS AND MANAGERS ON LAKE HEALTH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Milfoil Asian Clams Zebra Snails Spiny Naiad Unsure All of the above







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## Key Quotes from Lake Managers

*"I don't see spraying chemicals into the lake going away anytime soon. It requires the least amount of work and is the cheapest method. There are more than enough lakes in the area with hands off management and they're just trying to put a band aid on a bullet hole after the weeds are let wild growing."*

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*"With Covid the lake was just so overused. Our lake is around 500 acres and people who live on it are still using chemicals and still using fertilizers. With people it's all about "me, me, me". I can't lose sleep on it anymore like I have in the past. I just try to maintain my lake. There's not much more I can do."*

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*"Retired people are spending more time at the lake and can think about this stuff because they have time. Younger people just use the lake as a place to party and have fun."*

A)



B)



A) Aquatic Invasive Plant

B) Aquatic Invasive Eradication Boat

C) Educational Signage

D) Rate your knowledge of aquatic invasive species

E) Which aquatic invasive species poses the biggest threat to NH lakes?

C)

