



## **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**DATE:** September 19, 2016  
**AUTHOR:** Lori Wiedeman, Chief Administrative Officer  
Shelley Termuende, Local Government Management Intern  
**SUBJECT:** Boat Launch Survey Report

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That Council seek grant funding to develop a design for a floating breakwater structure to block wave action from the SW and W.
2. That Council move forward with Phase 3 of the Boat Launch Upgrade project and include:
  - A floating dock system attached to the breakwater by rails
  - Tide markers to the end of the breakwater to indicate safe launching levels
  - Reflectors to the end of the breakwater to assist with navigation

### **BACKGROUND:**

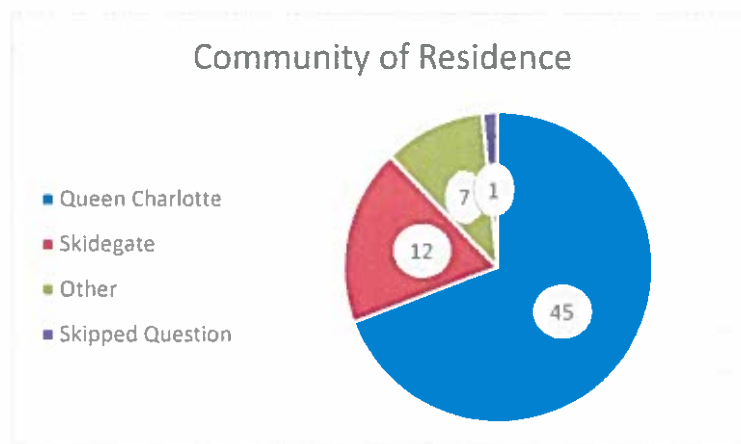
At the August 15, 2016 Council Meeting, council approved conducting a public survey on the completed and future phases of the Boat Launch project. The intention of the survey was to help guide what will be included in the next phase of the project. The full survey results can be found in Appendixes A and B.

Residents were polled on their use of the facility, how they rate the main elements of the project so far (i.e. pre-cast concrete surface, steeper grade and breakwater), potential safety improvements that could be included in Phase 3 and how ongoing operations and maintenance should be funded.

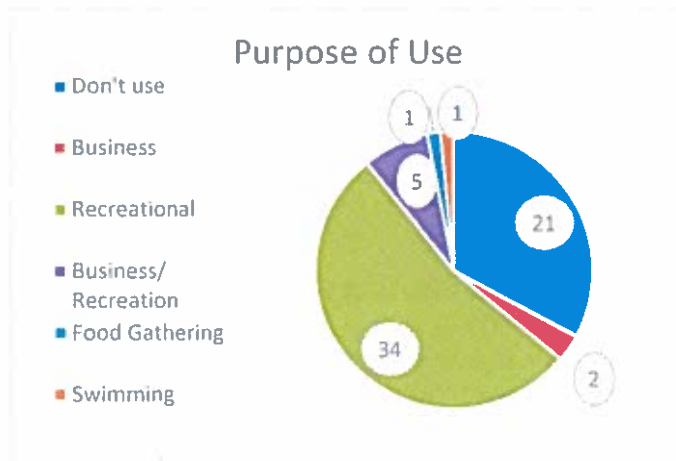
The survey was open for three weeks and Village staff collected responses between August 19, 2016 and September 3, 2016, on Fridays at City Centre and Saturdays at the Boat Launch facility. The survey received a total of 65 responses, and there were a number of people who declined to participate.

### **SURVEY RESULTS:**

Of the 65 responses represented in this pie chart, the Queen Charlotte Residents represent about 0.05% of the overall local population, while the Skidegate Residents represent about 0.02% of the Skidegate local population.

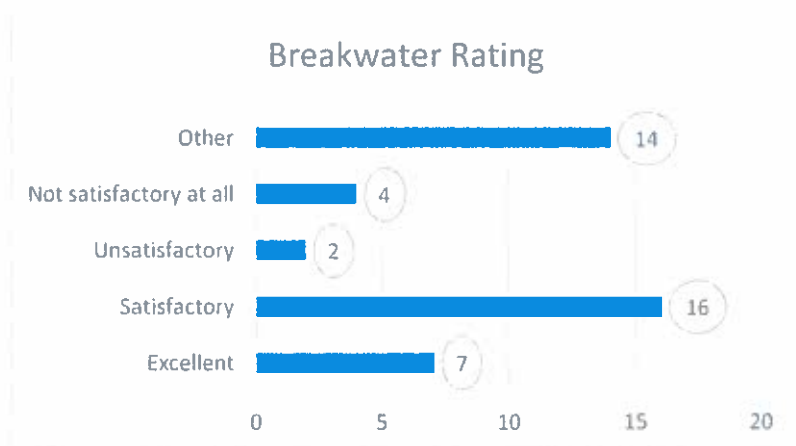


34 of the respondents indicated that their primary uses of the facility were recreational, with 21 indicating they don't use the facility at all, 8 using it for business or combined business/recreational/swimming purposes, and 1 indicating they use it for food gathering.



90% rated the pre-cast concrete ramp surface as Excellent (21) to Satisfactory (15) with only 10% (4) rating it as unsatisfactory or not satisfactory at all. Similarly with the steeper grade, 92.5% of the ratings were Excellent (21) to Satisfactory (16) with 9.75% (4) rating it not satisfactory at all.

For the Breakwater, the story is a little different with 53.49% rating it Excellent/Satisfactory and 13.95% rating it unsatisfactory/not satisfactory at all, and 32.56% providing other comments.



Comments included under "Other" included:

- 5 comments relating to needing protection from SW and W winds
- 2 comments relating to a negative perspective on the appearance
- 2 comments expressing concerns about safety
- 2 comments expressing overall opposition to the project
- 1 comment related to the project being over budget and
- 1 comment related to the individual being uncertain about the project

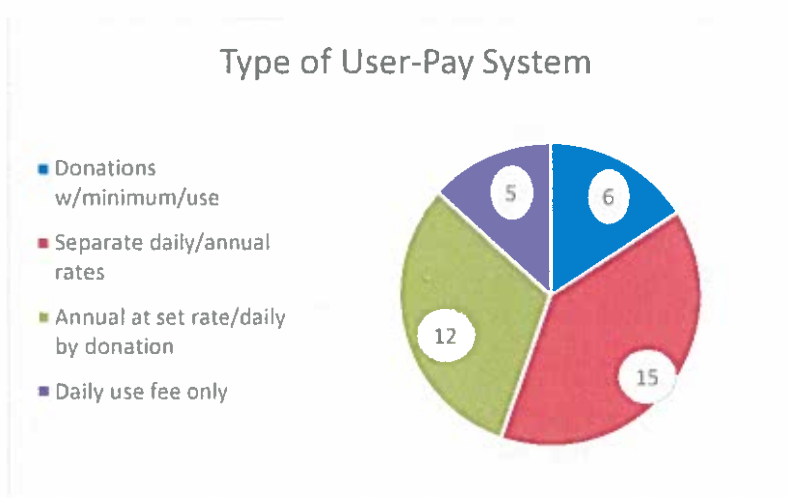
For safety improvements, respondents were asked to rate them in order of importance with the following results:

1. Tied for first:
  - Adding a floating dock system attached to the breakwater by rails
  - Adding a floating breakwater structure to block wave action from the SW and W
2. Adding a floating breakwater structure to block wave action from the W
3. Adding tide markers to the end of the breakwater to indicate safe launching levels
4. Tied for fourth:
  - Adding reflectors to the end of the breakwater to assist with navigation
  - Adding lighting to the end of the breakwater to assist with navigation

Comments relating to the safety improvements included:

- 2 comments expressing overall opposition to the project
- 1 comment relating to a negative perspective on the appearance
- 1 comment relating to needing protection from SW and W winds
- 1 comment expressing concerns about safety
- 1 comment related to the project being over budget
- 1 comment that a floating dock is needed and
- 1 comment related to preventing offal dumping

When asked about what type of user-pay system the respondents would support,



When asked what would be a reasonable fee for an annual pass:

- 32 (53.33%) respondents would be willing to pay a fee
- 23 (38.33%) would not be willing to pay a fee at all
- 5 (8.33%) provided other responses:
  - The full cost to the taxpayer: around \$10,000 per year
  - I would only support a strictly enforced fee system
  - Only the new steeper ramp was needed
  - No fee ... taxes ... and welcome people to use it
  - Its always been free and should remain so if your going to charge you should of left it alone

**CONCLUSION:**

Only 0.05% of the population of Queen Charlotte, and 0.02% of the population of Skidegate participated in the survey.

The first two phases of the project focused on the engineering, construction materials and construction of the breakwater and pre-cast concrete ramp surface. These elements received an overall rating of over 90% and 92.5% Excellent/Satisfactory respectively for the concrete ramp/steeper grade, and 53.49% for the breakwater.

The safety improvements that Council may wish to consider for the next phase of the project were ranked by respondents in the following order:

1. Tied for first:
  - Adding a floating dock system attached to the breakwater by rails
  - Adding a floating breakwater structure to block wave action from the SW and W
2. Adding a floating breakwater structure to block wave action from the W
3. Adding tide markers to the end of the breakwater to indicate safe launching levels
4. Tied for fourth:
  - Adding reflectors to the end of the breakwater to assist with navigation
  - Adding lighting to the end of the breakwater to assist with navigation

This ranking provides an order of priority for Council to consider when seeking additional grant funding for the next phase of this project.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Although 65 responses constitutes a small portion of the overall population of Queen Charlotte and Skidegate, the results do show the opinions of both those that do not use the facility and those that do.

When considering the elements that could be included in the next phase of the Boat Launch Upgrade Project, both options for adding a floating breakwater structure were rated highly, as was adding a floating dock structure. Adding tide markers would provide key information for the boating public, and between the options of adding lighting to the end of the breakwater or adding reflectors, reflectors clearly have a lower cost.

There were 11 comments directly related to the challenges that have become apparent as a result of the interaction of SW and W winds with the new breakwater structure. Due to these concerns, Council may decide to make the floating breakwater structure a priority. However, to ensure that this element is costed correctly, we first need to find funding to have a design developed. In the meantime, if Council would like to see the floating dock structure constructed and installed in 2017, we can proceed to seek grant funding.

Therefore, Council should consider the following recommendations:

1. That Council seek grant funding to develop a design for a floating breakwater structure to block wave action from the SW and W.
2. That Council move forward with Phase 3 of the Boat Launch Upgrade project and include:
  - A floating dock system attached to the breakwater by rails
  - Tide markers to the end of the breakwater to indicate safe launching levels
  - Reflectors to the end of the breakwater to assist with navigation

**BUDGETARY IMPACT (if applicable):**

The design project would not qualify for Gas Tax Funding and there are not many grant opportunities for developing engineered designs, so Council may want to consider utilizing the Gwaii Trust Vibrant Haida Gwaii Communities funding for the floating breakwater design.

The current estimate for the floating dock structure is \$258,723. We will need to seek estimates for the tide markers and reflectors to develop a budget for Phase 3 of the project should Council decide to move forward.


The Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) Economic Diversification Infrastructure grant deadline is November 18, 2016. As we have previously received \$250,000 for the Boat Launch Upgrade project the most we could receive would be \$125,000 if we meet the requirements for job creation and revenue generation. If we cannot meet those requirements the most we could receive is \$30,000.

Council could also consider applying to the Canada 150 program through the federal government or utilizing Gwaii Trust Vibrant Haida Gwaii Communities funding, applying for a Gwaii Trust Major Contributions Grant or using Gas Tax funding.

**Budgeted Amount:** N/A

**Unbudgeted Amount:** TBD

**SIGNATURES:**



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Shelley Termuende, Local Government Management Intern



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Lori Wiedeman, Chief Administrative Officer





## APPENDIX B

### Boat Launch Survey 2016 Themed Comments

The following summarizes the open ended comments received, by Question, from the Boat Launch Survey 2016. The themes that received the most comments are listed first.

#### Q5: How would you rate the new breakwater?

Theme	Comments
SW Wind Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On wrong side</li> <li>• Seems like it is on the wrong side, boats are pushed in to the breakwater</li> <li>• Need a breakwater on the west side of the ramp</li> <li>• Seems to be on the wrong side of ramp for protection from usual SW wind</li> <li>• The wind waves and surf make it very hard to hold the boat</li> <li>• It's on the wrong side of the ramp</li> </ul>
Opposition to Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shits</li> <li>• Complete waste of money</li> <li>• Absurdly overbuilt</li> </ul>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dangerous</li> <li>• Appears to be sinking at far end</li> </ul>
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eyesore</li> <li>• Not very attractive</li> </ul>
Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not sure</li> </ul>

#### Q6: Do you have any additional comments about the facility?

Theme	Comments
Appreciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glad it was done &amp; hope to see it completed.</li> <li>• Very Nice, Thank you.</li> <li>• It is good the way it is.</li> <li>• We are very lucky to have it</li> <li>• Very Nice, Thank you.</li> <li>• Thanks!??</li> <li>• It's about time??</li> </ul>
SW Wind Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The breakwater should be on the other side</li> <li>• The launch is good, however the prevailing waves from the SW make launching difficult and even dangerous if there is any West or SW wind</li> <li>• Would like to see another breakwater on the Charlotte side of the ramp</li> <li>• The ramp and breakwater would be perfect if there was another ramp on the other side of the breakwater so you could launch and load on either side depending on which way the wind is blowing to ensure you don't hit the breakwater with your boat</li> <li>• You need to put something on the other side</li> </ul>



## APPENDIX B

### Boat Launch Survey 2016 Themed Comments

**Q6: Do you have any additional comments about the facility?**

Theme	Comments
Opposition to Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ugly and useless, backwards, breakwater on wrong side and over budget</li> <li>• Stop spending money on more</li> <li>• What "qualified" individual oversaw this monstrosity?</li> <li>• A complete waste of money</li> <li>• Queen Charlotte has raw sewage flowing in to the ocean, the town should get their priorities right</li> </ul>
Floating Dock Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a floating dock a top priority; ie: more important than paving the parking lot</li> <li>• New ramp is nice, needs lines and a ladder for boat tying</li> <li>• Really needs a floating dock system</li> <li>• NEED an area to hold the boat while somebody gets the truck</li> </ul>
Floatplane Access Gone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disappointed that it can no longer accommodate float planes</li> <li>• Can amphibious vehicles (float planes and coast guard) still use the facility?</li> </ul>
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil along the top surface allowing indigenous plants to populate it may improve the look</li> <li>• Haida Gwaii is a beautiful place and the breakwater is an eye sore</li> </ul>
Safety Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The gigantic fortress built at a huge expense is total folly. A ramp constructed like a city street, with curbs about three feet higher than the ramp surface descending at the same slope would have fortified ample protection and a way to offload a vehicle. The giant breakwater on the SE side would only be useful in a SE storm when nobody would launch anyway. Now it provides a surface for the westerlies to reflect wind and waves off of, creating a brutally hazardous situation. The suggestion that some of the barely adequate ramp will be lost to a float is insane design 2.0.</li> <li>• The break water is dangerous (no rail). It's barely any better than it was before</li> </ul>
Payment Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual passes should only be for HG residents, visitors should buy day passes</li> </ul>
Overbudget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looks expensive, good, but expensive</li> </ul>

**Q8: Other safety improvements (please specify):**

Theme	Comments
Floating Dock Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tie off attached to the breakwater so can launch boat alone without help</li> <li>• Bumpers along the breakwater for the heavy winds need to be installed</li> </ul>





## APPENDIX B

### Boat Launch Survey 2016 Themed Comments

**Q8: Other safety improvements (please specify):**

Theme	Comments
Opposition to Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop</li> <li>• Tear it down and sell for parts</li> </ul>
Overbudget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See how it does for a couple of years and then revisit options, save your money for then...you will need it. Parking is more key than above options</li> </ul>
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't like the ramp. Couldn't believe how ugly it looks from the road coming and going. How many people really use it? One of those projects we had no say in. Skip Q #7 (safety improvements) entirely</li> </ul>
Offal Dumping Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get people to stop dumping stuff that attracts birds to the helicopter pad and stinks up the boat launch</li> </ul>
Safety Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no railing, I worry about kids falling off. It should have been done on each side. It's still not great</li> </ul>
Uncategorized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is "1" or "6" most importance?</li> </ul>

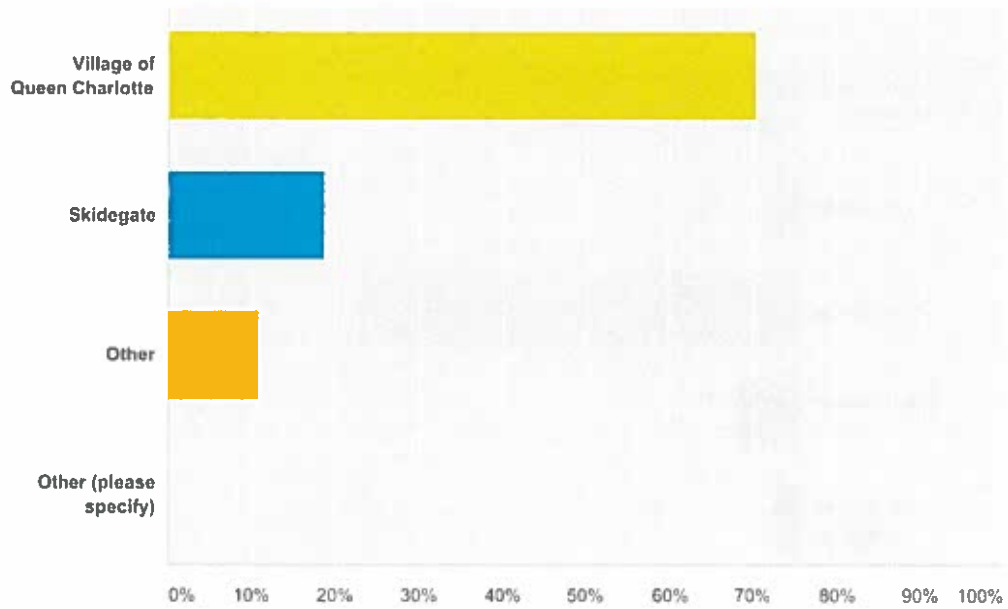
**Q10: What do you think would be a reasonable fee for an annual pass?**

Theme	Comment
Opposition to Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only the new steeper ramp was needed</li> <li>• no fee ... taxes ... and welcome people to use it</li> <li>• It's always been free and should remain so if you're going to charge you should of left it alone</li> </ul>
Overbudget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The full cost to the tax payer: around \$10,000 per year</li> </ul>
Payment Enforcement Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would only support a strictly enforced fee system</li> </ul>



### Q1 What community to you reside in?

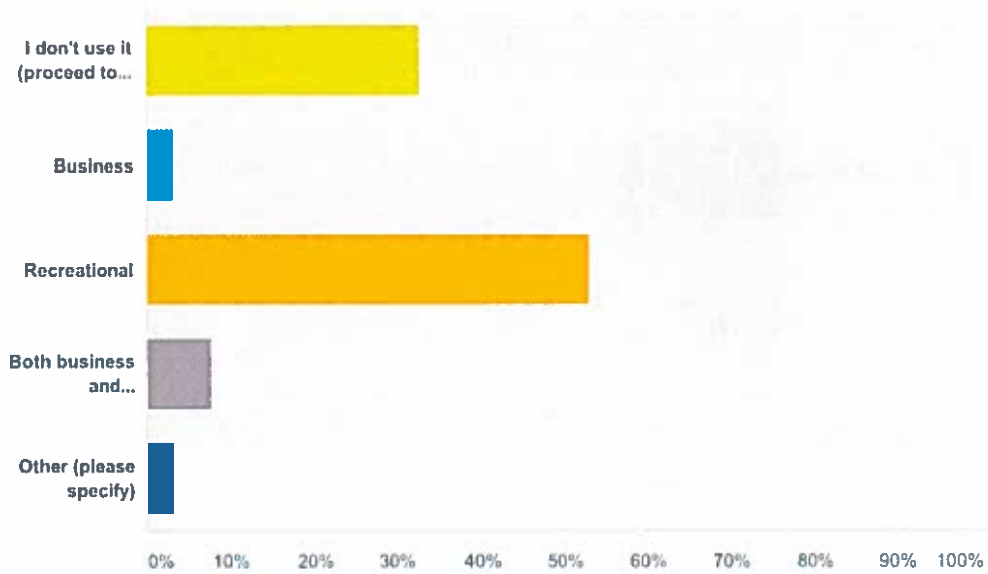
Answered: 64 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Village of Queen Charlotte	70.31%	45
Skidegate	18.75%	12
Other	10.94%	7
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>64</b>

## Q2 For what purpose do you use the Queen Charlotte Boat Launch?

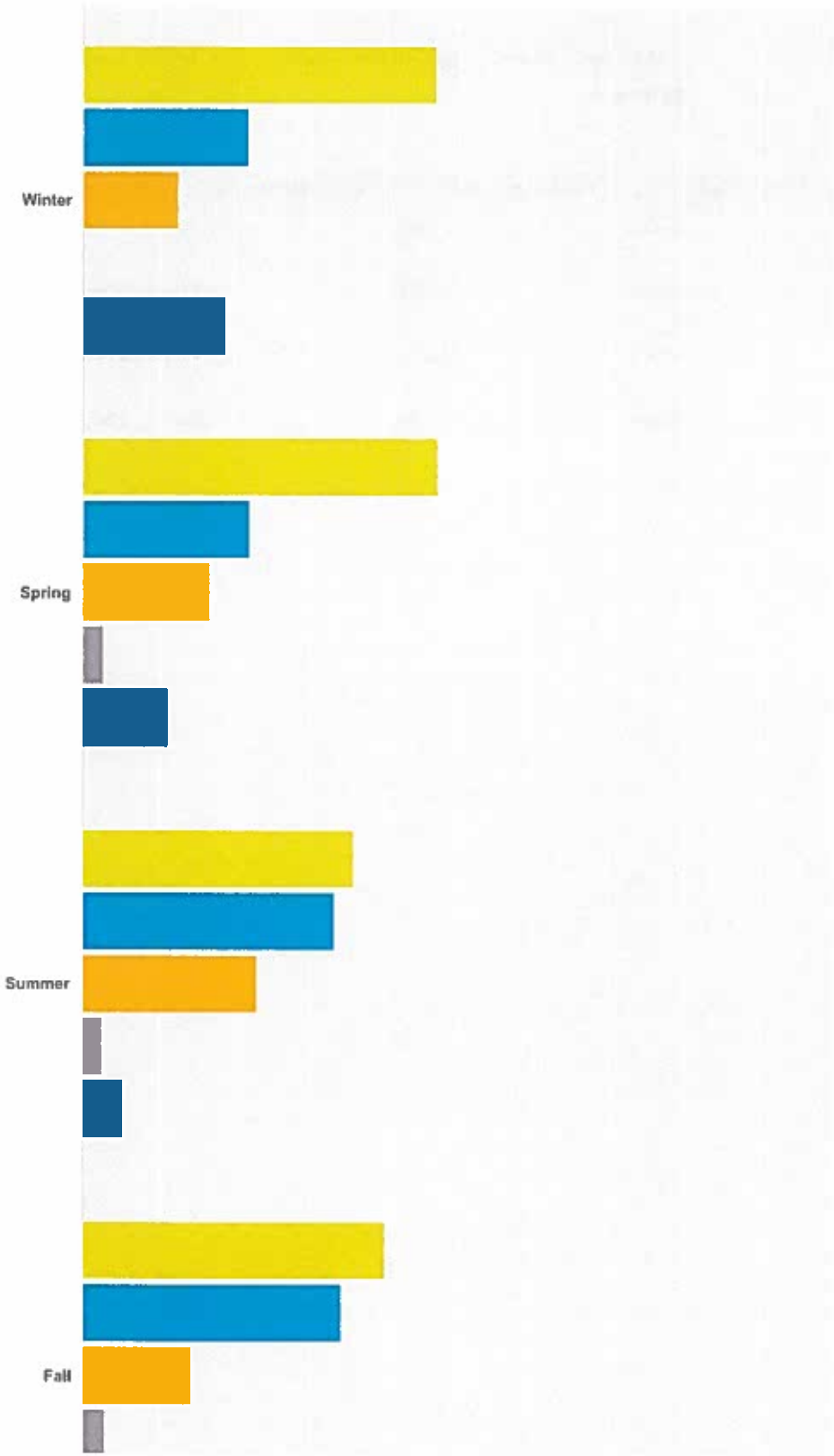
Answered: 64 Skipped: 1

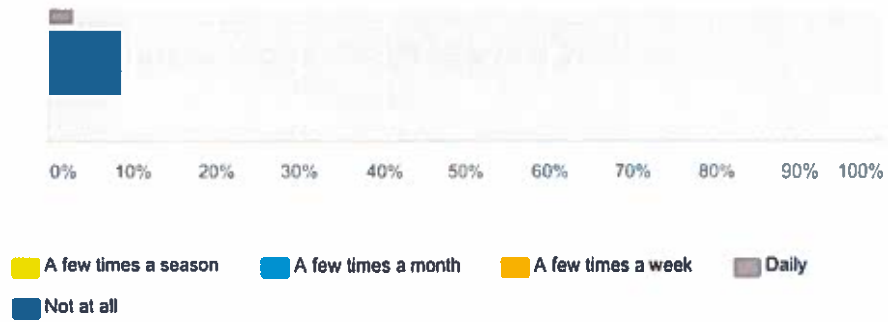


Answer Choices	Responses	
I don't use it (proceed to Question 7)	32.81%	21
Business	3.13%	2
Recreational	53.13%	34
Both business and recreational	7.81%	5
Other (please specify)	3.13%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>64</b>

### Q3 How frequently do you use the Boat Launch?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 24

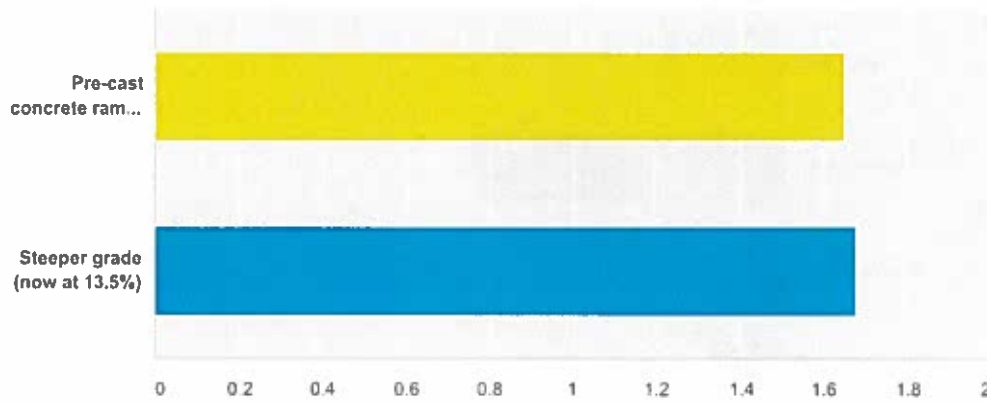




	A few times a season	A few times a month	A few times a week	Daily	Not at all	Total Respondents
Winter	46.88% 15	21.88% 7	12.50% 4	0.00% 0	18.75% 6	32
Spring	47.22% 17	22.22% 8	16.67% 6	2.78% 1	11.11% 4	36
Summer	35.90% 14	33.33% 13	23.08% 9	2.56% 1	5.13% 2	39
Fall	40.00% 14	34.29% 12	14.29% 5	2.86% 1	8.57% 3	35

### Q4 How would you rate the following elements of the new ramp?

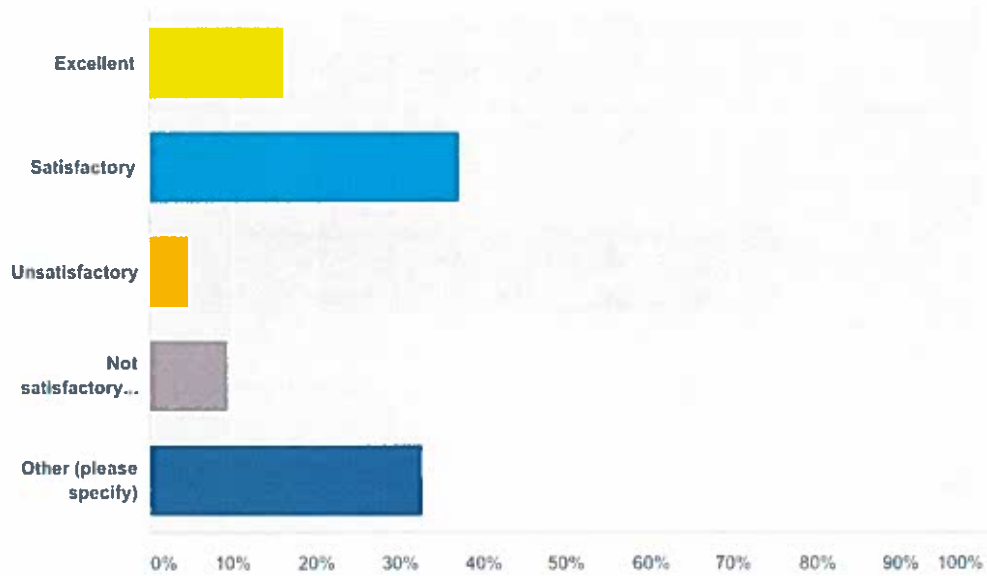
Answered: 41 Skipped: 24



	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Not satisfactory at all	Total	Weighted Average
Pre-cast concrete ramp surface	52.50% 21	37.50% 15	2.50% 1	7.50% 3	40	1.65
Steeper grade (now at 13.5%)	51.22% 21	39.02% 16	0.00% 0	9.76% 4	41	1.68

### Q5 How would you rate the new breakwater?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 22



Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	16.28%	7
Satisfactory	37.21%	16
Unsatisfactory	4.65%	2
Not satisfactory at all	9.30%	4
Other (please specify)	32.56%	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>43</b>



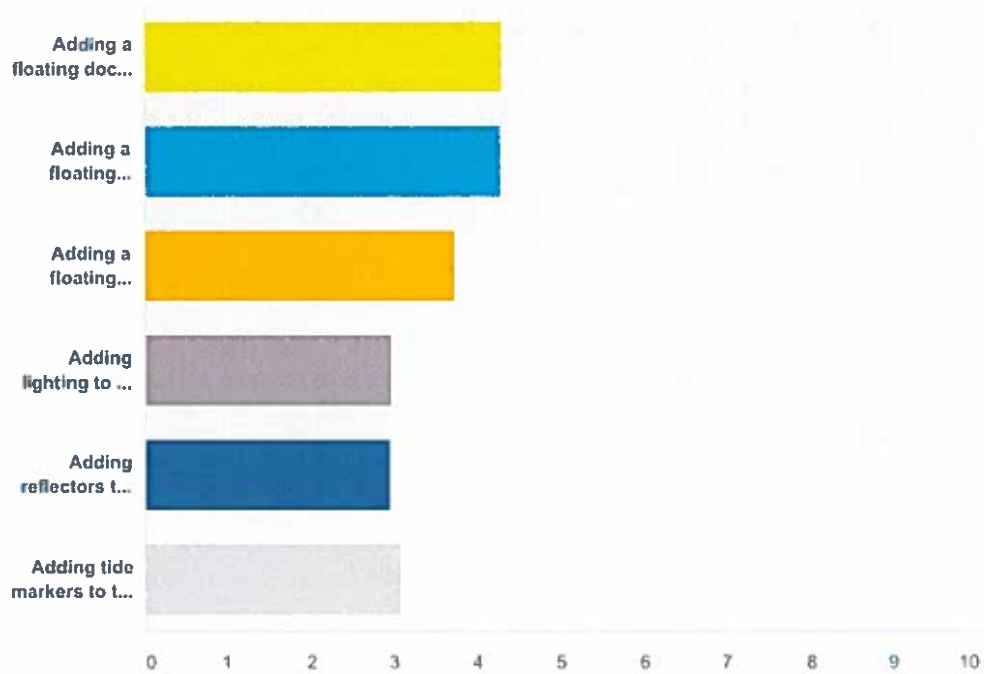
**Q6 Do you have any additional comments about the facility?**

Answered: 29 Skipped: 36

See summary of Themed Comments - APPENDIX B

### Q7 Please rank the following potential safety improvements in order of importance:

Answered 52 Skipped 13



	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Score
Adding a floating dock system attached to the breakwater by rails	40.82% 20	10.20% 5	16.33% 8	16.33% 8	4.08% 2	12.24% 6	49	4.31
Adding a floating breakwater structure to block wave action from the SW and W	34.78% 16	23.91% 11	6.52% 3	10.87% 5	17.39% 8	6.52% 3	46	4.28
Adding a floating breakwater structure to block wave action from the W	4.44% 2	24.44% 11	37.78% 17	13.33% 6	13.33% 6	6.67% 3	45	3.73
Adding lighting to the end of the breakwater to assist with navigation	10.42% 5	6.25% 3	12.50% 6	31.25% 15	18.75% 9	20.83% 10	48	2.96
Adding reflectors to the end of the breakwater to assist with navigation	6.25% 3	18.75% 9	10.42% 5	12.50% 6	31.25% 15	20.83% 10	48	2.94
Adding tide markers to the end of the breakwater to indicate safe launching levels	10.42% 5	16.67% 8	18.75% 9	10.42% 5	10.42% 5	33.33% 16	48	3.06

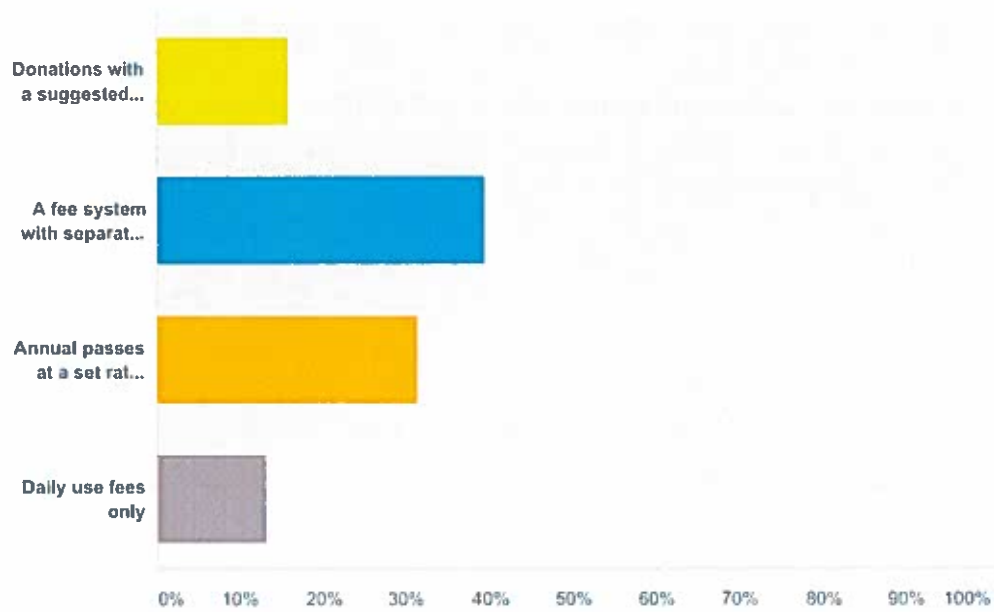
**Q8 Other safety improvements (please specify):**

Answered: 9 Skipped: 56

See summary of Themed Comments - APPENDIX B

### Q9 What type of user-pay system would you support?

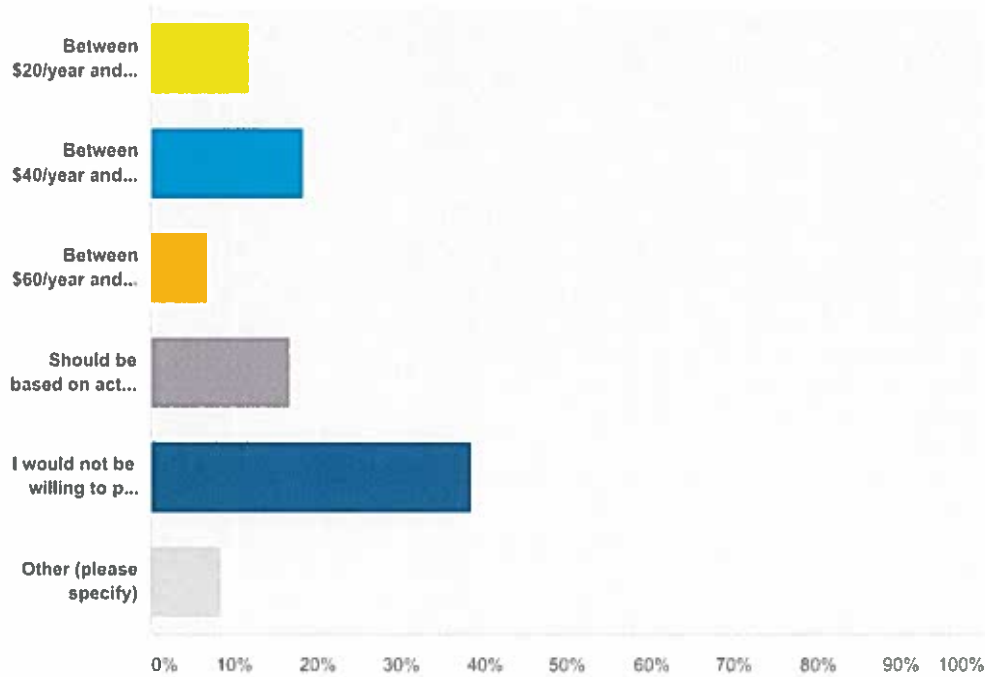
Answered: 38 Skipped: 27



Answer Choices	Responses
Donations with a suggested minimum per use	15.79% 6
A fee system with separate rates for daily use and annual passes	39.47% 15
Annual passes at a set rate, donations for daily use	31.58% 12
Daily use fees only	13.16% 5
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

### Q10 What do you think would be a reasonable fee for an annual pass?

Answered 60 Skipped 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Between \$20/year and \$40/year	11.67% 7
Between \$40/year and \$60/year	18.33% 11
Between \$60/year and \$100/year	6.67% 4
Should be based on actual costs to maintain and operate the facility	16.67% 10
I would not be willing to pay a fee	38.33% 23
Other (please specify)	8.33% 5
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

