

# R.L Harris Adaptive Management

LWPOA  
Lake Wetlowee Property  
Owners Association



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Middle Tallapoosa River  
Conservation Association

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## R.L. Harris Adaptive Management Update May 26, 2009

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## Survey Results May 26, 2009



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- 3 Sets of Questions: River/Lake and All Other Stakeholders
  - 3 Lake Responses
  - 12 River Responses
  - 7 from all others
  - Not all questions answered
- Intent: Capture QUALITATIVE impressions for modeling

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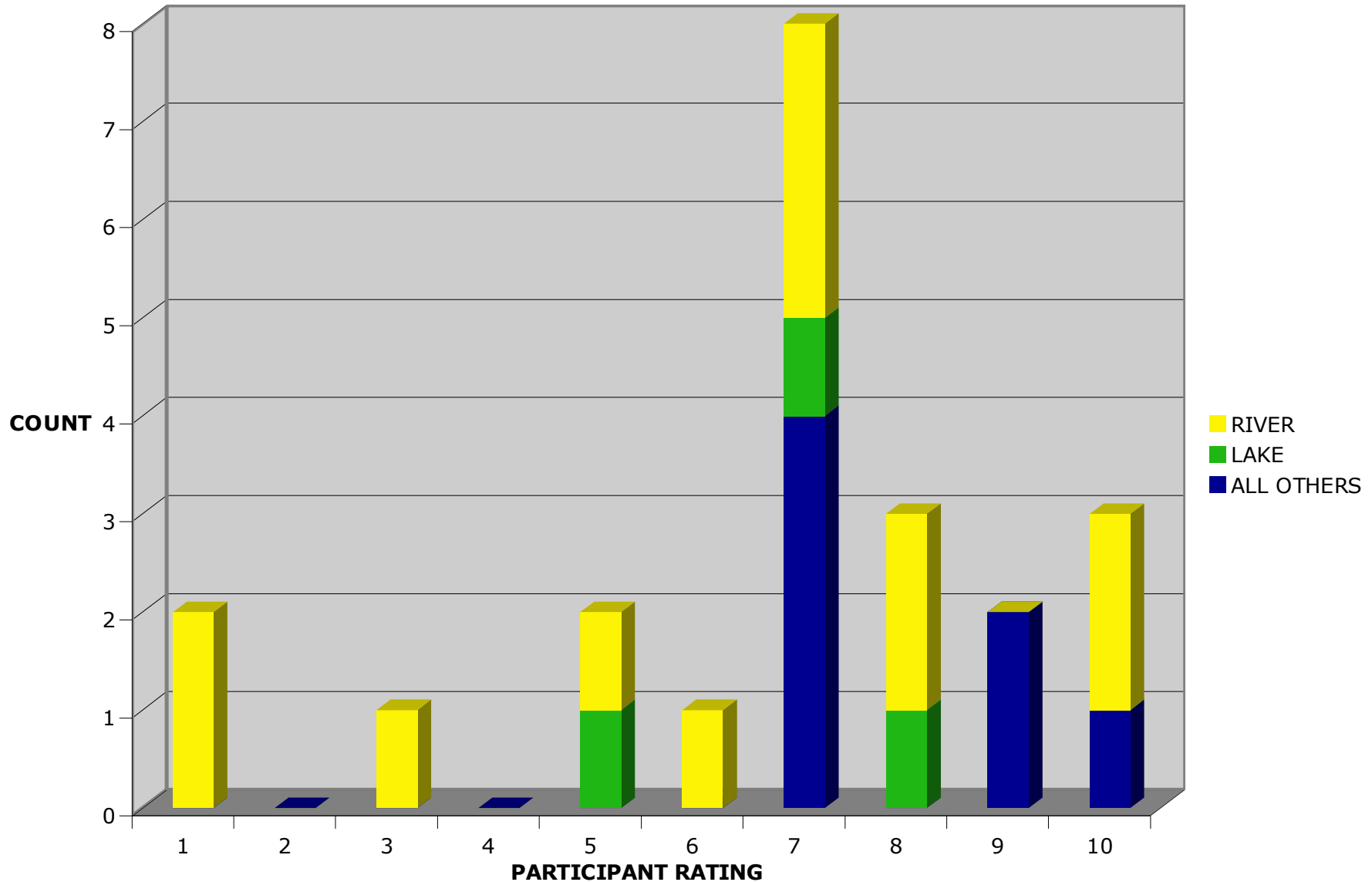


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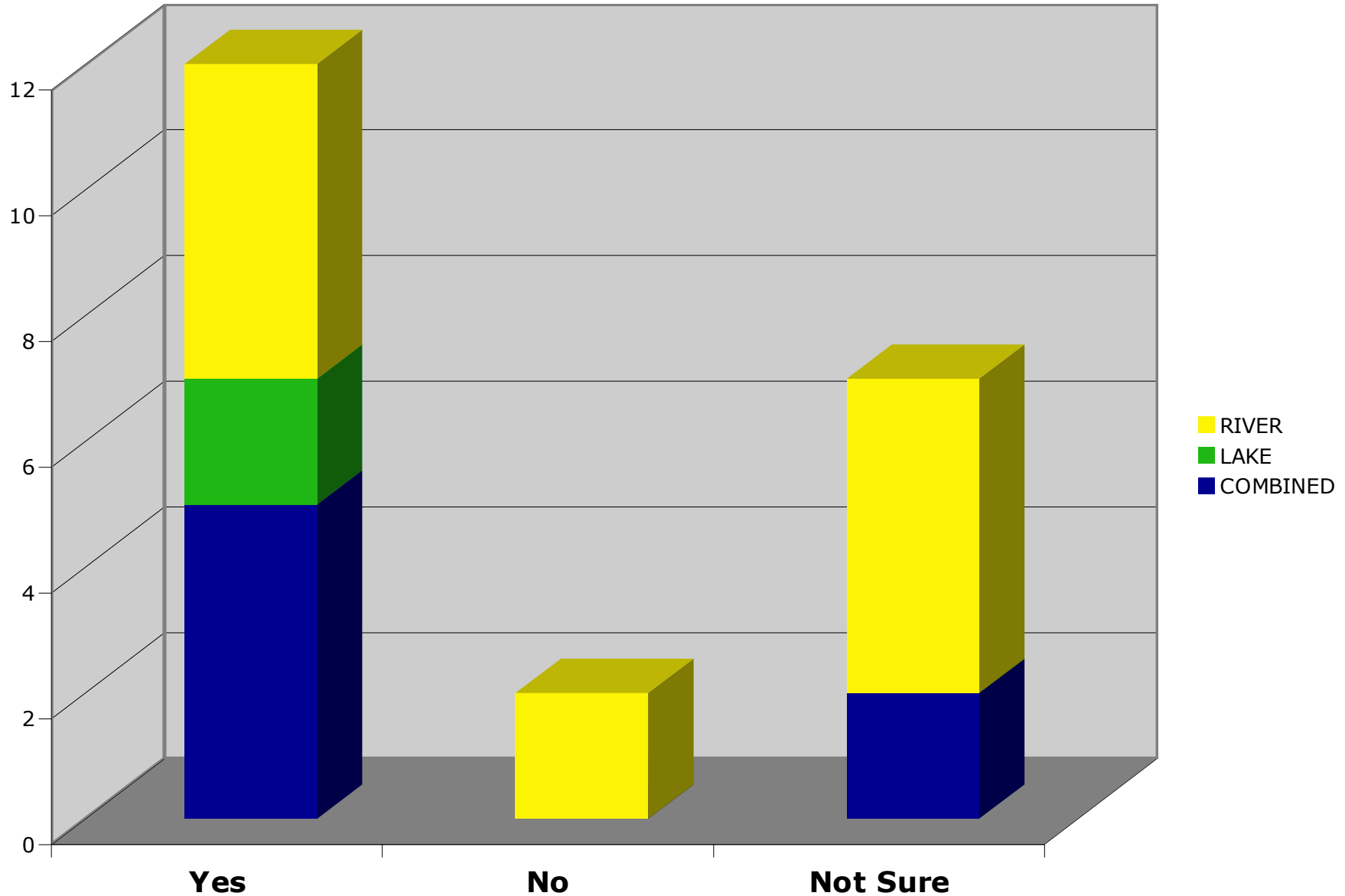
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# Combined Responses: All Groups

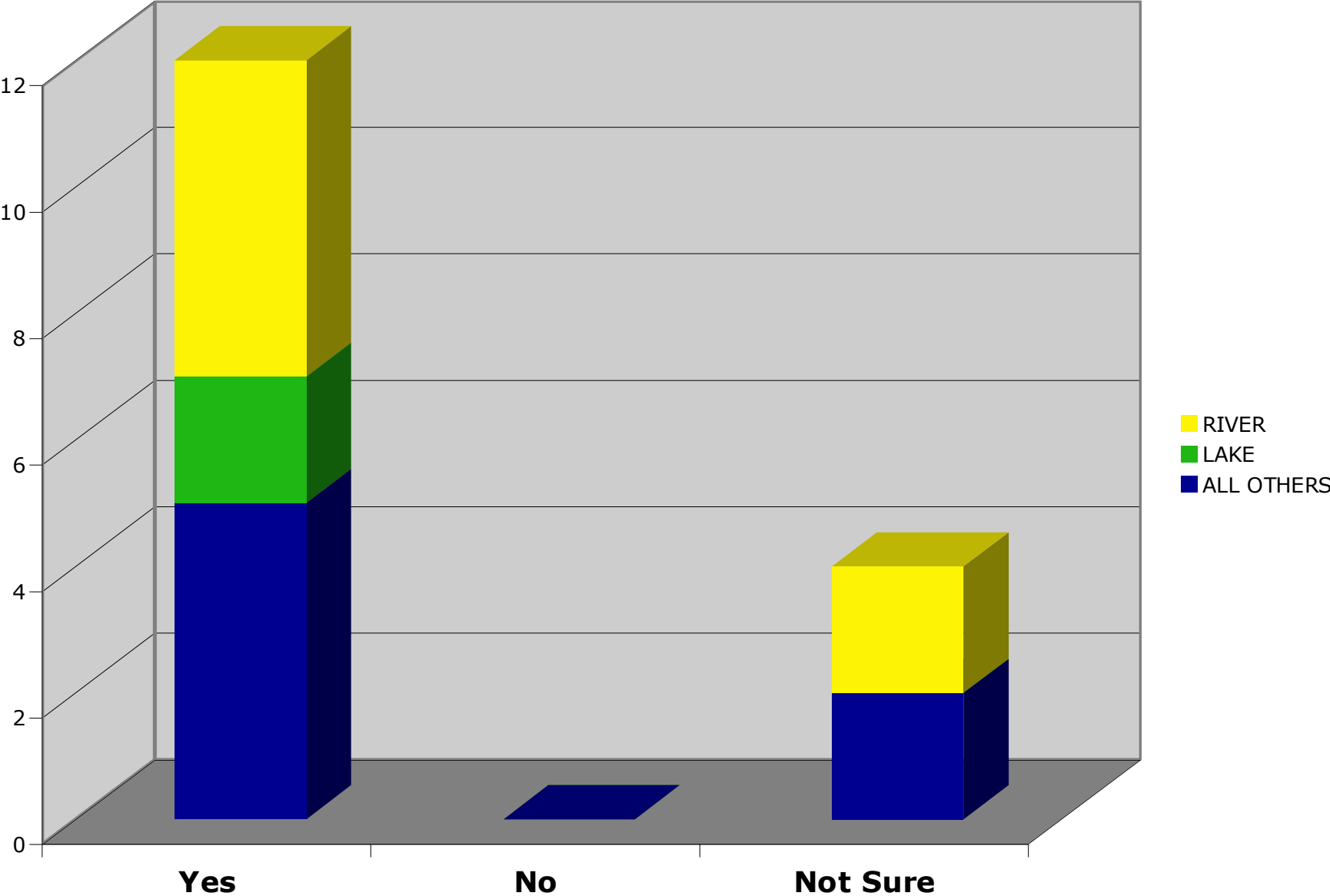
# 1. How Clear Do You Think Your Understanding is of Adaptive Management? (22)



## 2. Given your understanding of adaptive management, do you feel it has had a positive effect on management of the Tallapoosa River? (16)



# 3. Do you think the river is better off today than it was before flow modifications began in 2005? (14)



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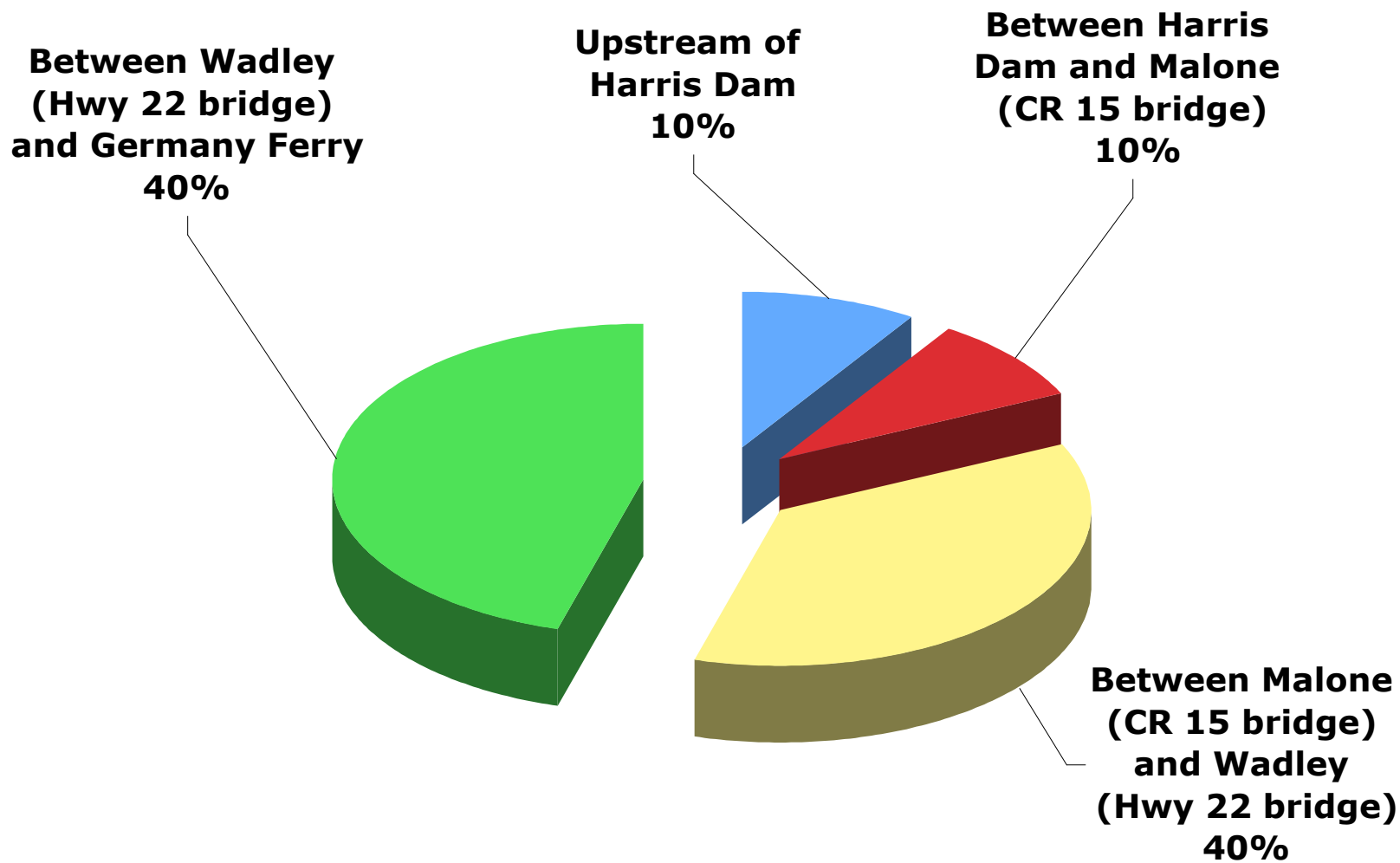
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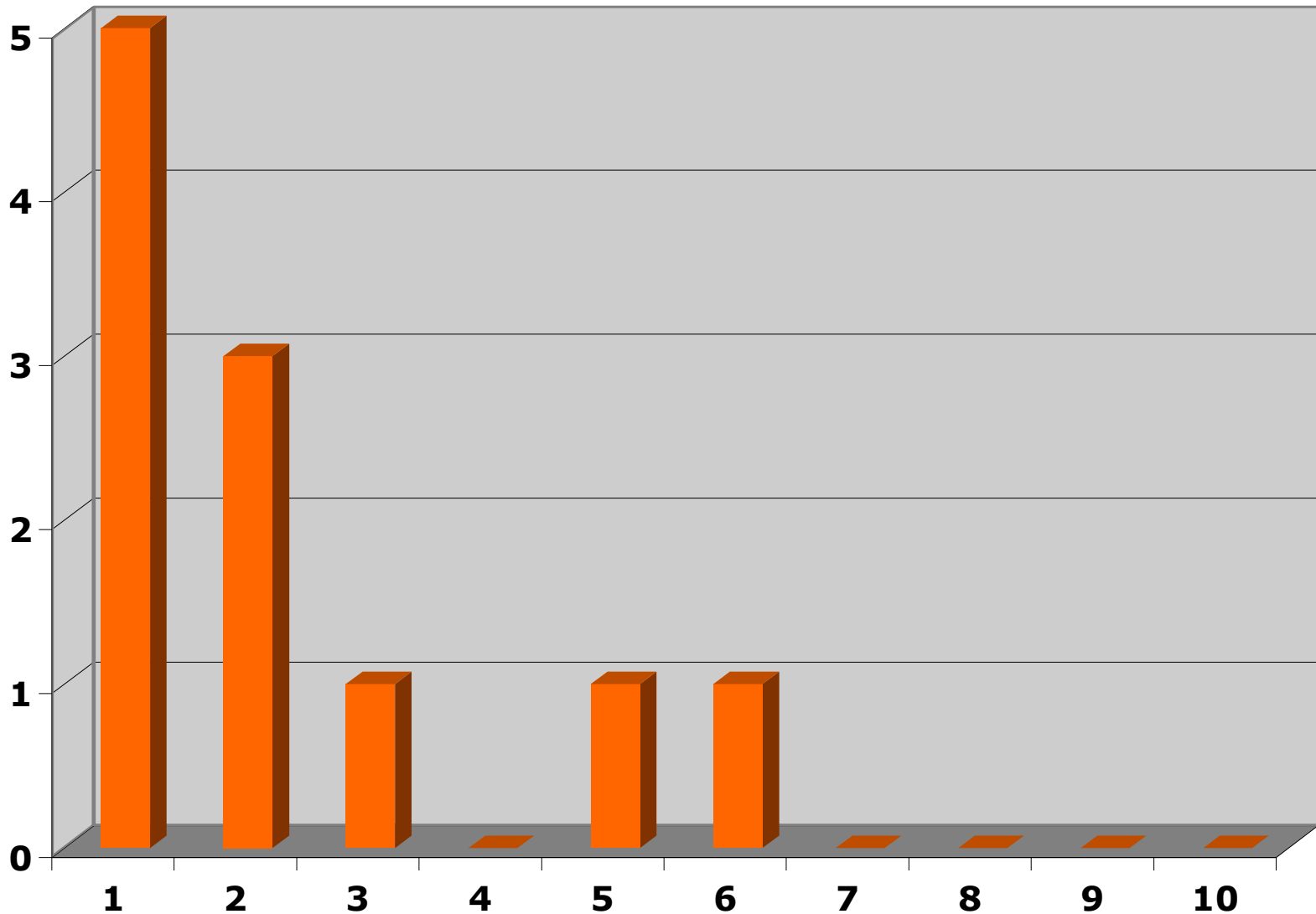
## River Stakeholder Responses



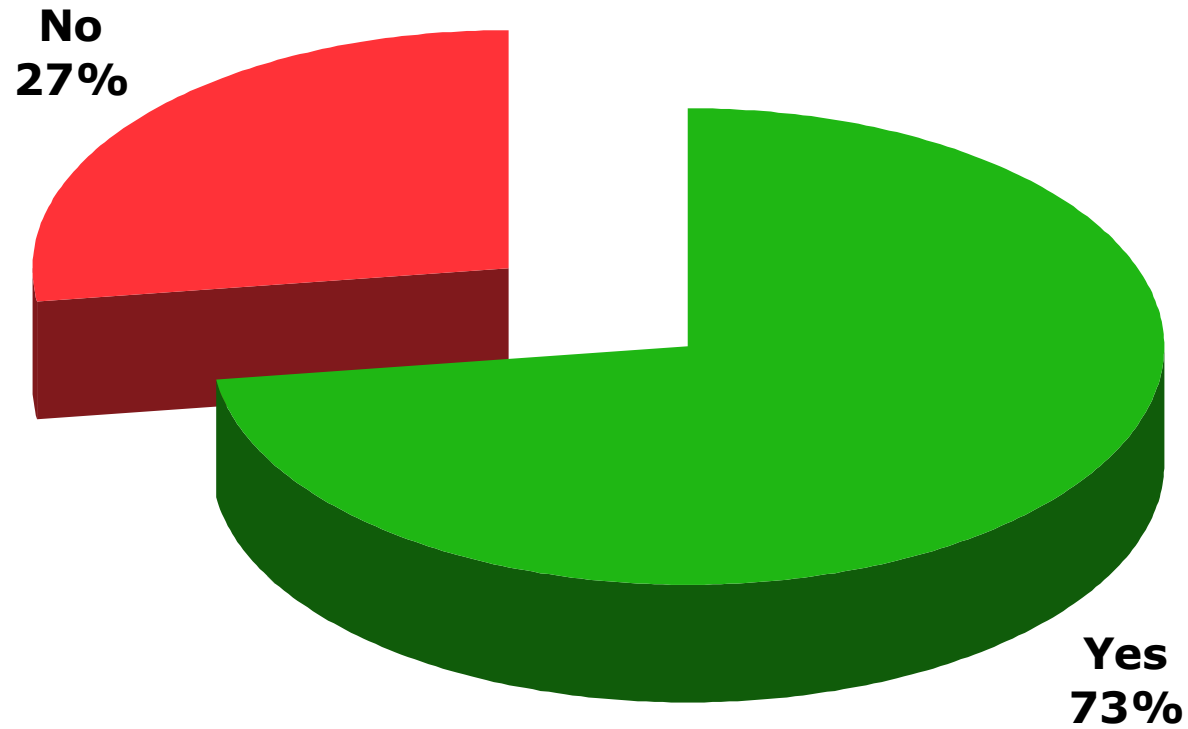
# Where on the Tallapoosa River do you live or recreate (boat, fish, etc.)? (9)



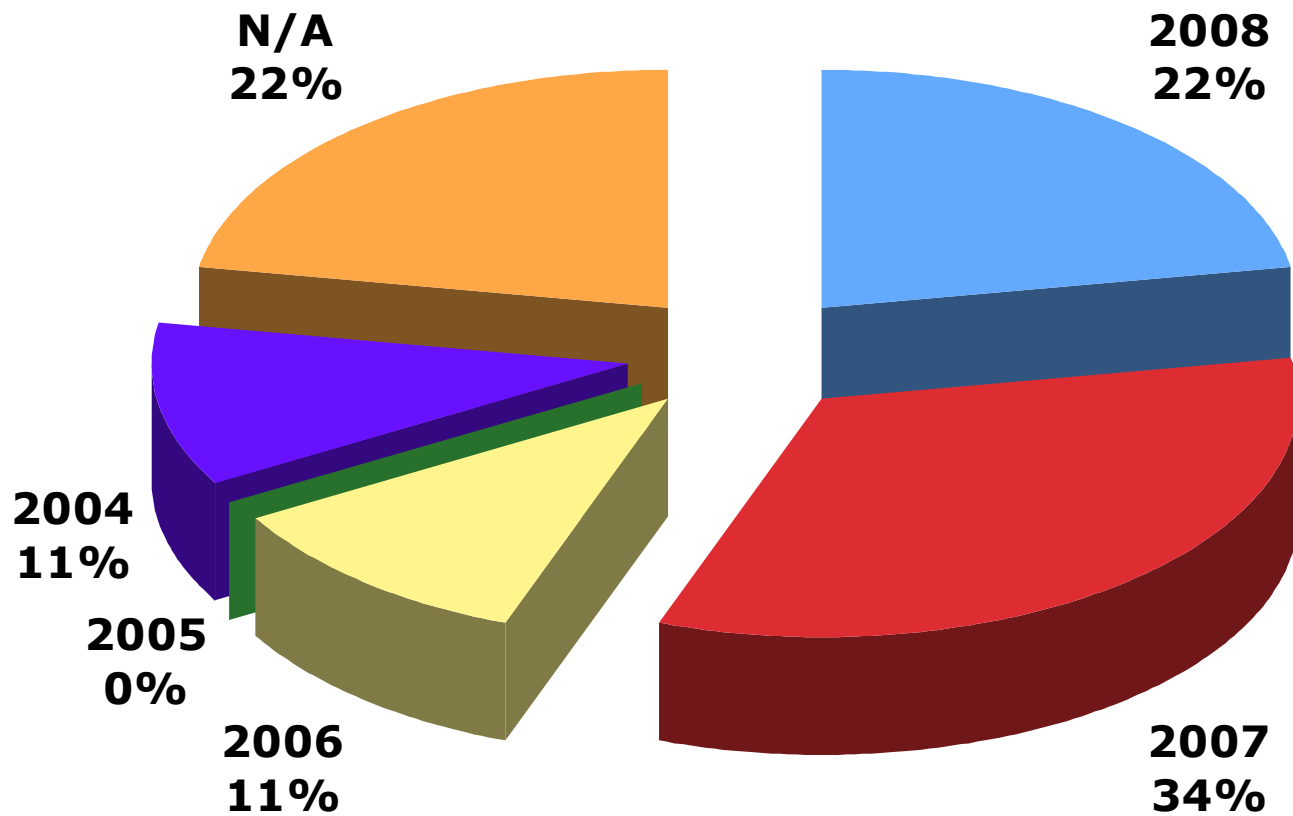
# 5. How satisfied are you with the current overall state of the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam? (11)



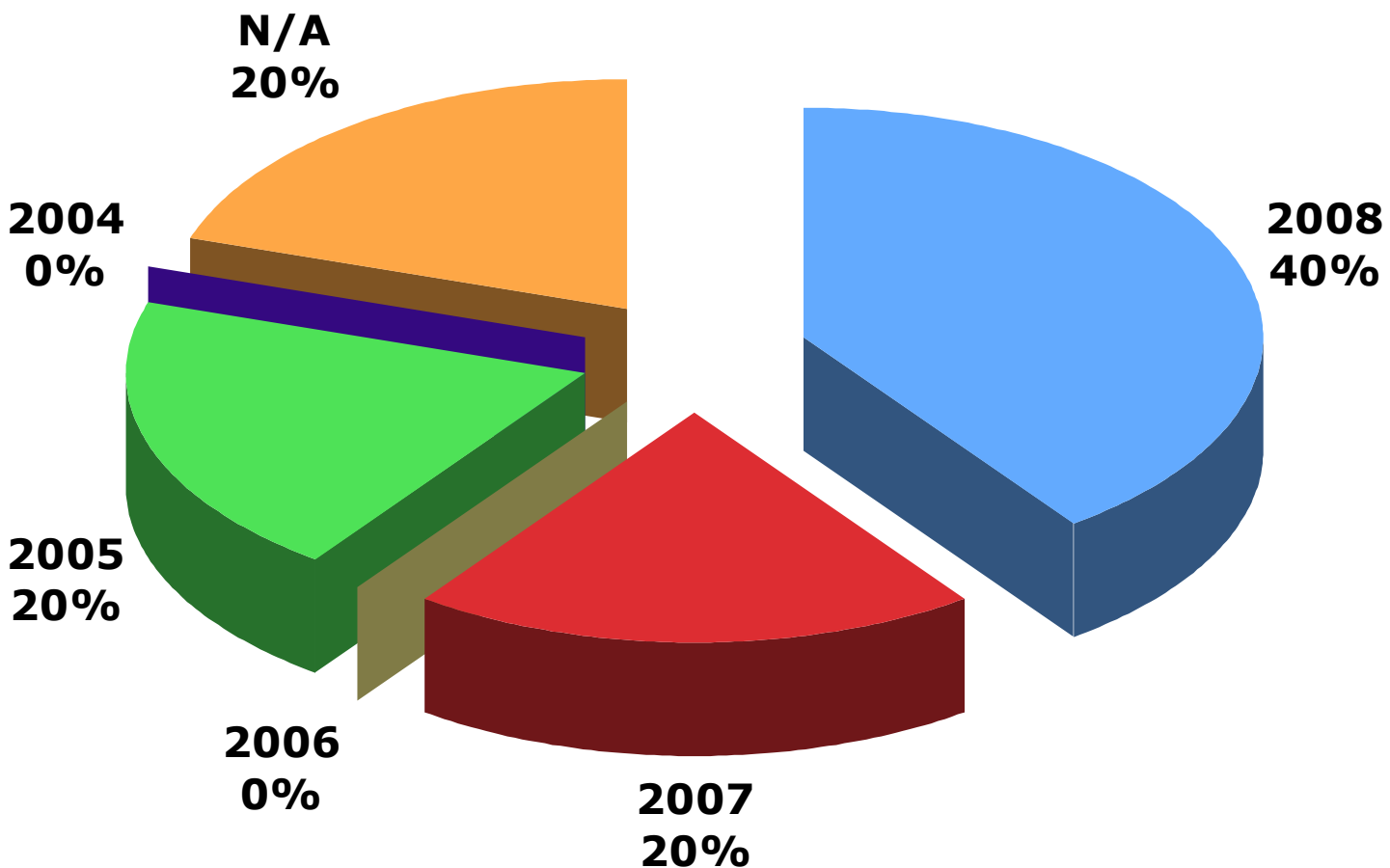
**Between April 2005 and now, do you think the condition of the river has been better in some years than in others? (11)**



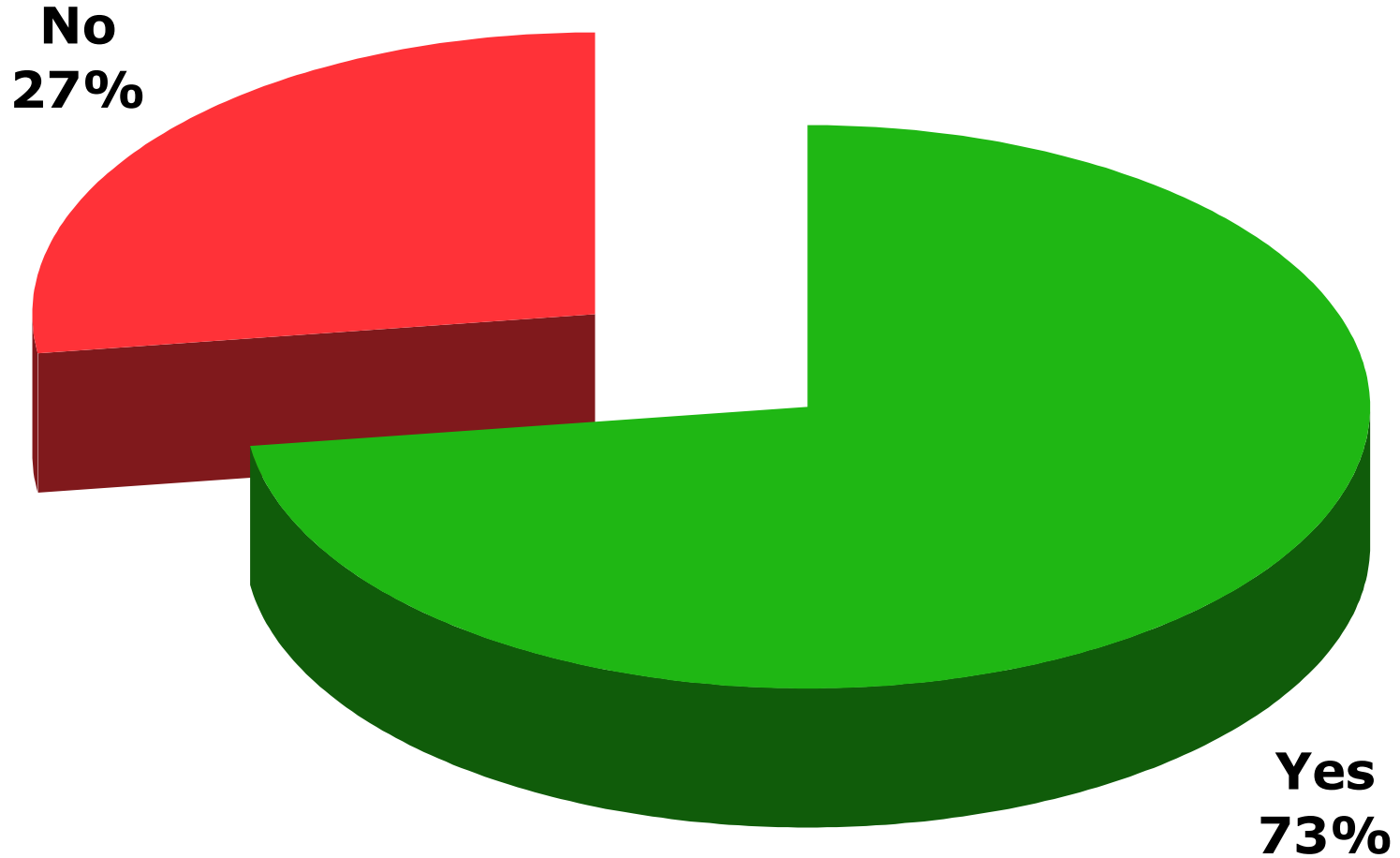
# During which year(s) do you think conditions were best? (11)



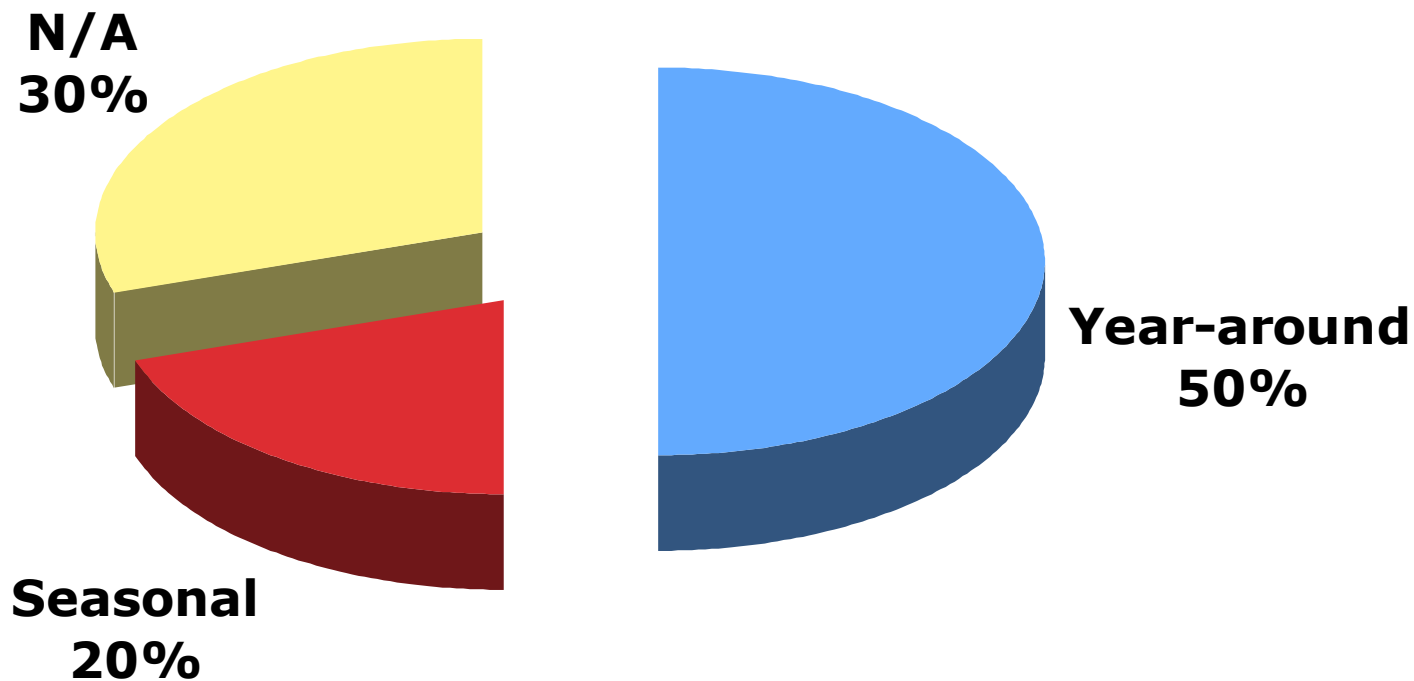
# During which year(s) do you think conditions were worst? (8)



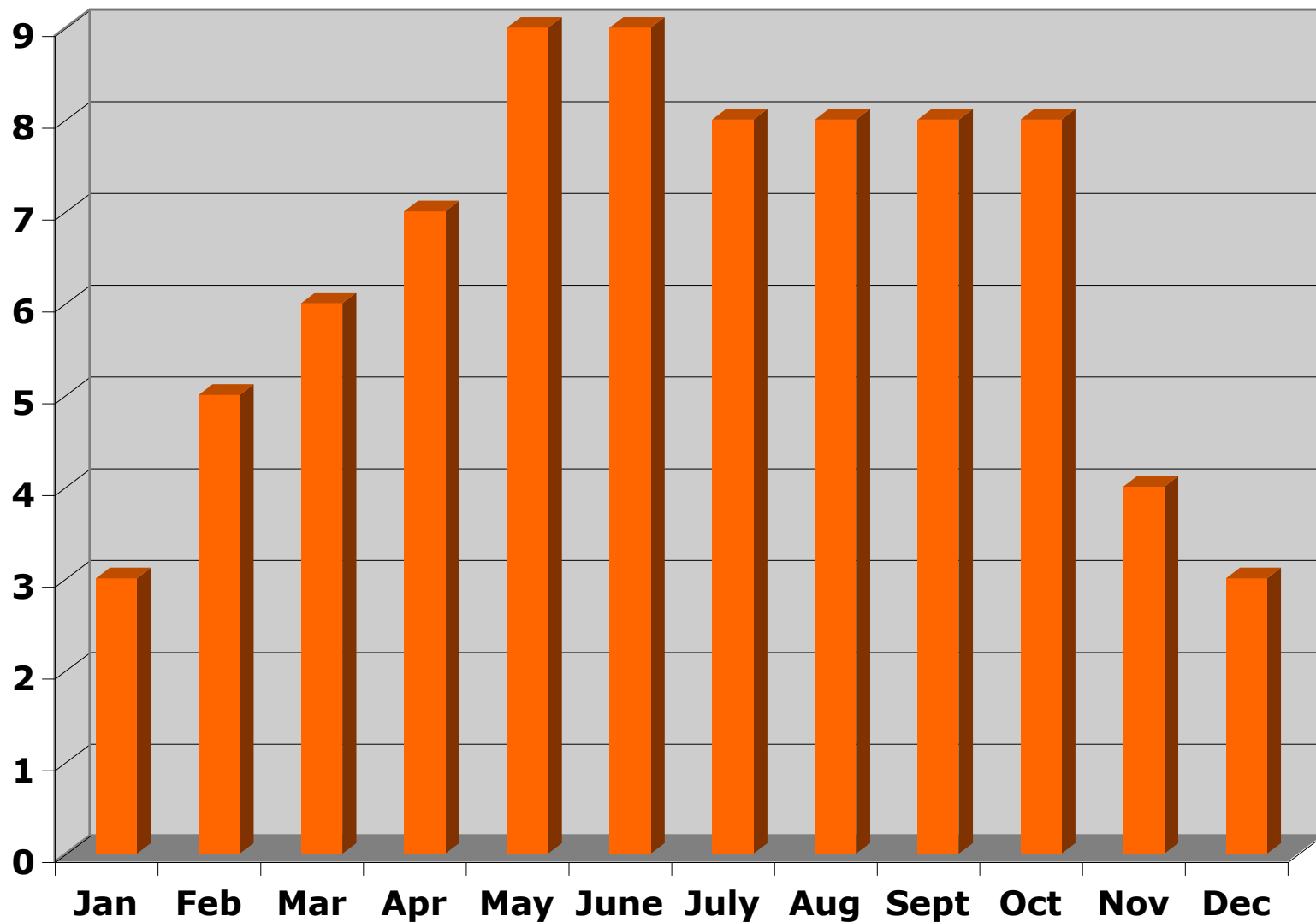
# Do you live or own property on the river? (12)



# Is Your Residence on the River Year-Round or Seasonal? (10)

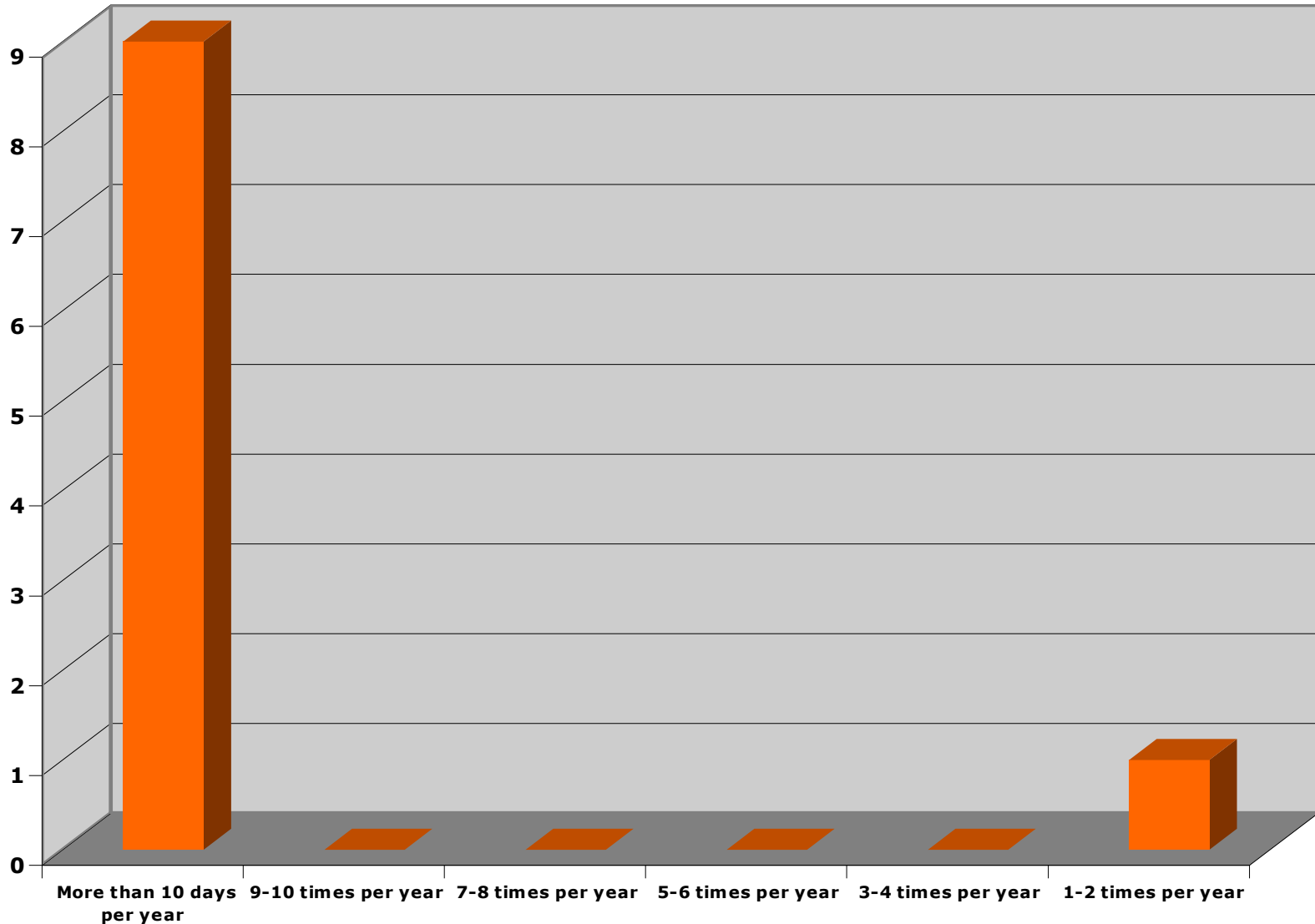


# During which months do you live, visit or recreate on the river? (9)





# How often do you visit the river? (10)



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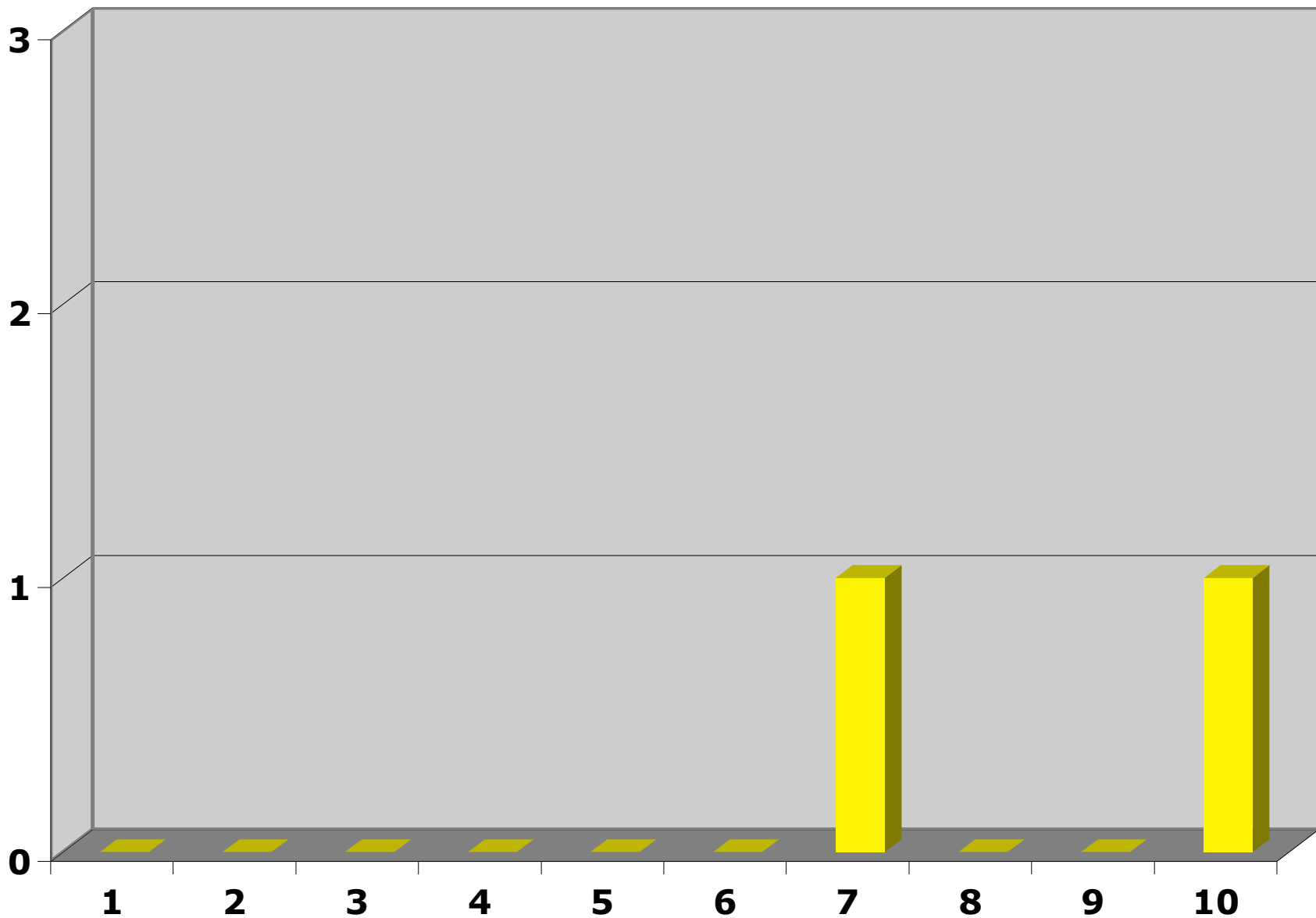


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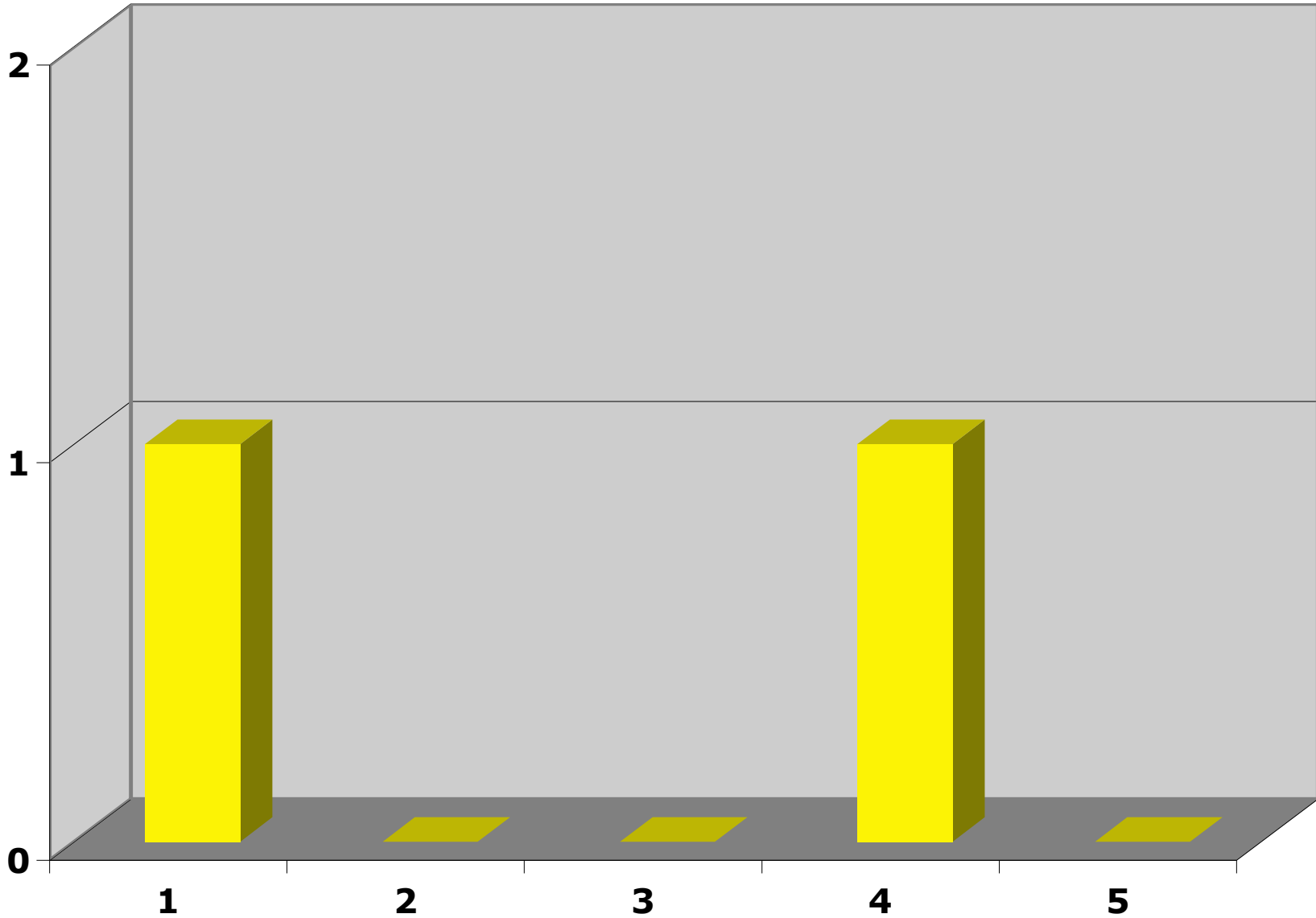
## Lake Stakeholder Responses

## 4. How satisfied are you with the current overall state of lake levels in Harris Reservoir? (2)



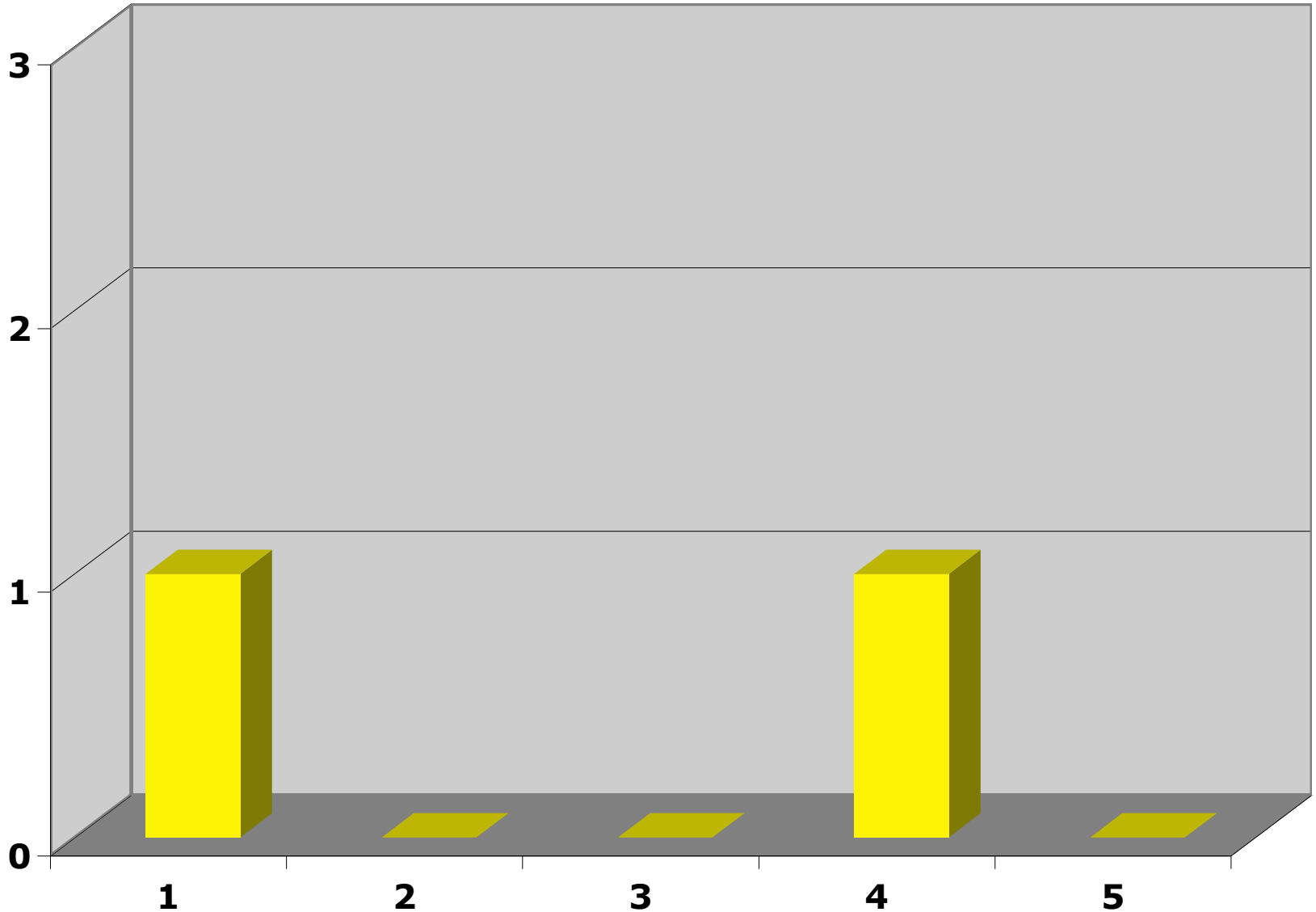
# 5. How have operations at Harris Dam affected lake levels in Lake Wedowee between April 2005 and today? (2)

Please use a scale of 1-5 with 1 being "not at all" and 5 being "extensively."



## 6. How have reservoir inflows and weather conditions affected lake levels in Lake Wedowee between April 2005 and today? (2)

Please use a scale of 1-5 with 1 being "not at all" and 5 being "extensively."



**7. Between April 2005 and now, do you think lake elevation has been better in some years than in others?**

Yes, some years were definitely better than others (2)

**8. During which year(s) do you think conditions were best?**

2005 (1)

# 9. During which year(s) do you think conditions were worst?

2007 (2)

2008 (1)

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# Final Thoughts: All Groups



10. Thanks for responding to our very specific and focused questions. If you have questions or observations for the modeling team about the adaptive management process please share them below.

- I'm interested in the effect(s) the drought had on your monitoring regime and modeling results. Were APC's Harris releases beneficial? If so, for which populations and to what extent?
- I question the validity of this survey due to extreme variations encountered since the green plan was adopted and the flexibility that the green plan offer Alabama Power for additional generation. The plan has improved lake levels when generation was held to minimums. The minimum flow from Harris Dam was increased from Permit (45 cfs to 160 cfs). The downstream flow minimum flow requirement affect the plan. The plan worked after the drought was seen because both APC reduced generation and the flow minimums downstream were relaxed.  
Sut smith
- I am eagerly waiting for the analysis of the flow regime and the effects of the water in relationship to the fish count.

10. Thanks for responding to our very specific and focused questions. If you have questions or observations for the modeling team about the adaptive management process please share them below.

- My concern about the Tallapoosa below Harris Dam is the dangerous conditions created by generating and lack of rec flows. Seems its either on or off. I'm nervous about the gens coming on every time I get on the river!! Glad somebody finally noticed a beautiful river was getting messed up. I hope AM works to make it better yet.
- As a resident on the river just above the flood plane, I applaud the efforts of both Auburn and Southern Company to find a satisfactory solution to the problems expressed in meetings between landowners and the Power Company. The current pulse system of passing water through the RL Harris dam has had many benefits to the wildlife and recreation intentions of all involved. Please maintain this course of generation. It is good.
- The river will never be the same. My dad and i fished all the time at Kirk Place and my son never got to enjoy the things i did because some one would not or could not control the flow and all the fish are gone.how sad????

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## Discussion