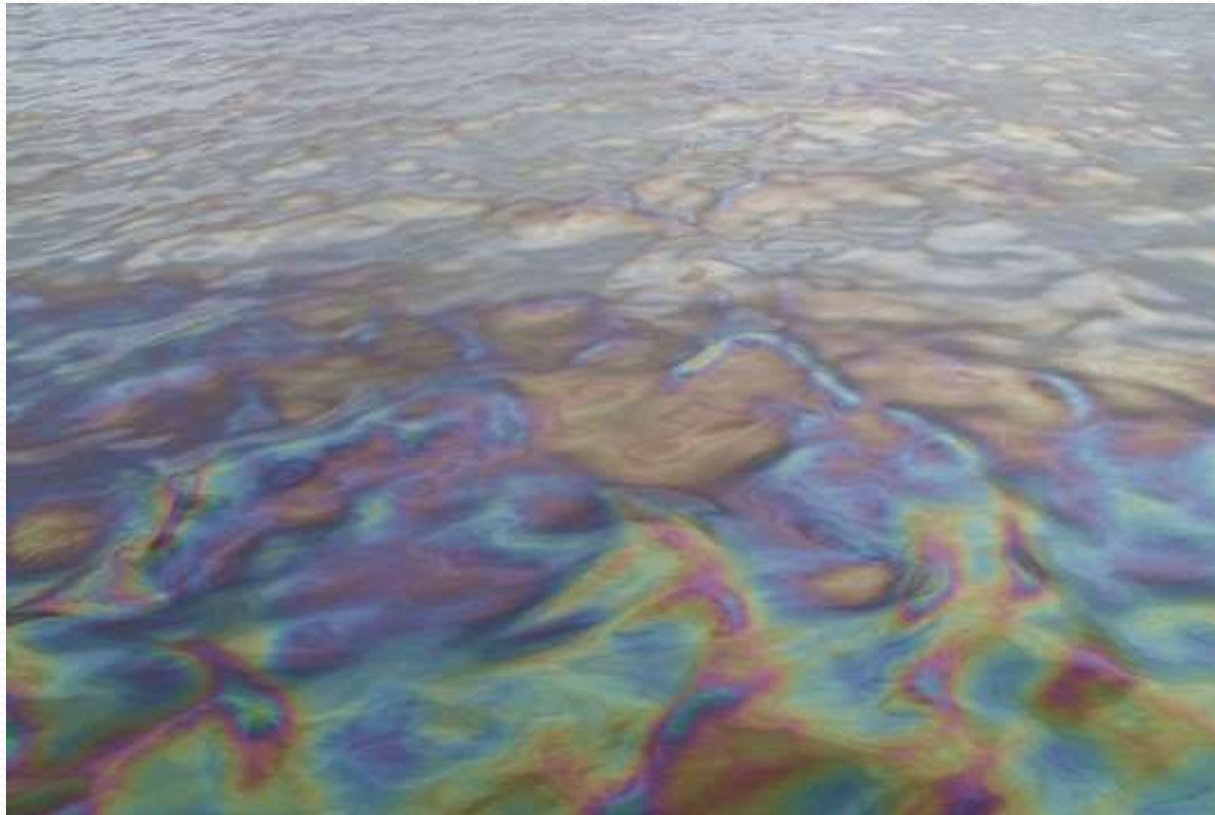


Clean Boating in the Susitna Valley



Heather Leba
Mat-Su Science Symposium
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Why a Clean Boating Program?

- Big Lake listed as an impaired waterbody by DEC in 2006; Little Su at risk of impairment
 - Carbureted 2-stroke engines major contributor
 - High recreation use area
 - Water quality testing shows continued elevated levels
- Educate boaters on impacts of hydrocarbon pollution
 - Salmon health and productivity
 - Water quality for other aquatic organisms
 - Long-term impacts

Big Lake Action Plan

- Developed in 2010 by Big Lake community
- ADEC, DNR, ADF&G, State Parks and others
- Designed to address lake environment & hydrocarbon pollution
- Outreach and education program a primary focus
- Increase boater awareness of clean boating practices

Program Framework

- “Launch Host” program & survey
- Outreach and Education
- Local business partnerships
- Community consultation
- Attending sportsman shows and community events
- Potential old 2-stroke engine trade-up program

Launch Host



Big Lake



Little Susitna



Deshka Landing

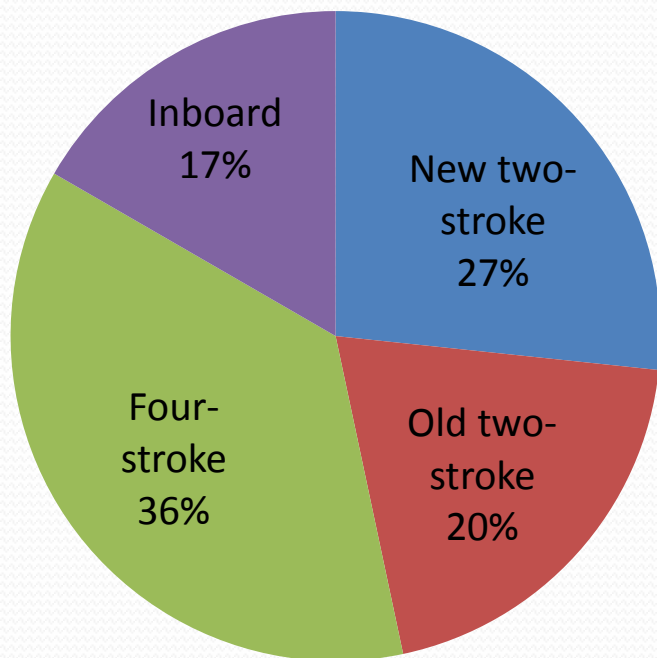


Survey Results

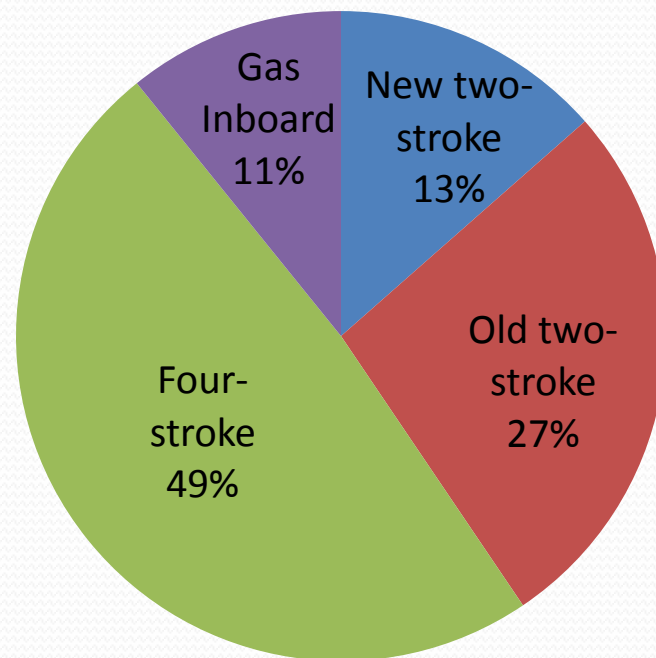
- Over 50% male
- Majority of boaters over the age of 40
- 25% still using old 2-strokes
- Over 75% of respondents know Big Lake is polluted
- Nearly 90% know Little Su is at risk
- Very few boaters use oil absorbs to prevent spills
- Boaters from Willow to Anchorage
 - Nearly half of boaters surveyed at Big Lake from Anchorage

Engine Use

Big Lake



Little Su



Outreach & Education



Engine Trade-up

- Targeting Valley & Anchorage boaters
- Encouraging upgrade from older 2-stroke engines
- Identifying incentives for boaters
- Working with DEC, Borough, ADF&G to identify funding sources
- Garnering support from local businesses
- Approaching other stakeholder and communities for ideas

Thank you!



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