

**MISSOURI DUCK SEASON SEASON STRUCTURE
EVALUATION**

2017-2020 RECOMMENDATIONS AND HUNTER INPUT

Missouri Department of Conservation

April 29, 2016

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the rationale for duck season date formulas and zone boundaries for the 2017-2020 duck seasons and the public input the Department of Conservation (Department) received regarding potential duck season dates and zone boundaries for the 2017-2020 seasons. The opportunity to change duck season structure (continuous or split seasons and zone boundaries) is available to states about every five years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) allowed states to submit zone boundary and continuous versus split season recommendations by May 1, 2016 for the 2017-2020 duck seasons. The zone options selected for 2017-2020 must remain in place even if the duck season is shortened to 45 or 30 days. Duck season structure options for 2017-2020 include the following:

- No more than four zones with no splits
- Split seasons (no more than three segments) with no zones, or
- No more than three zones with the option for 2-way (2-segments) in one, two or all zones.

The Department also considered potential changes to the duck season date formulas that have been in place since 2011. As hunters know, hunting conditions can vary tremendously from one year to the next. During some years, the best hunting can occur early in the season; during other years, it can occur late. Limiting changes to about every five years helps the Department evaluate the effectiveness of zone boundaries and season dates over a range of possible conditions.

Hunter input is an essential part of the equation for establishing duck season dates and zone boundaries. The Department surveyed 20,000 migratory bird hunters after the 2014 hunting season to capture a broad range of duck hunter perspectives regarding Missouri's duck season structure. In addition, the Department hosted 14 workshops during February and March 2016. Hunters also provided input through letters, e-mails, and phone calls.

In the pages that follow, we describe the Department's objective when setting season dates and zone boundaries as well as the guiding principles it used when establishing zone boundaries and season dates. We then highlight the rationale for the zone and season date formulas that will be in effect from 2017-2020, including a brief summary of hunter input, potential impacts of the proposed season dates and zone boundaries, and some additional perspectives regarding the decisions that were made. We then summarize hunter input results for eleven regions in Missouri. These results include responses from the 3,515 duck hunters who responded to the opinion survey after the 2014 season, responses from the 538 workshop participants who completed individual surveys at the workshops, and the suggestions provided by 97 small groups. The small groups attempted to reach consensus regarding season dates and zone boundaries and then shared their results with all workshop participants. We thank all of the hunters who took the time to complete surveys, participate in workshops, and contact Department staff.

Missouri Duck Season Structure Objectives and Guiding Principles

Objective

To establish zone boundaries and season dates that best accommodate hunter preferences, including those of hunters with varying levels of experience and those who hunt in different types of habitat (e.g., shallow water versus rivers and reservoirs), target different species (e.g., mallards versus early-season migrants), have varying physical capabilities (e.g., tolerance for cold and ice), and employ different hunting styles (e.g., water versus field hunting).

Given the range of hunter preferences, not all hunters will be completely satisfied regardless of which season dates or zone boundaries are selected. The challenge is to provide a balance that will accommodate at least a portion of most hunters' desires. The choice of duck season structure and season dates has little impact on the overall status of duck populations. As a result, biological considerations are not as critical as providing duck seasons that contribute to overall quality hunting experiences. The FWS uses an Adaptive Harvest Management approach to determine if the season will be 60 days, 45 days, or 30 days in length and if the overall bag limit will be six ducks or three ducks. The combination of season length and bag limits is determined by the size of duck populations and habitat on the breeding grounds. States can select opening and closing dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 and the last Sunday in January.

Guiding Principles

1. Current duck season options must consider the possibilities for 30-day, 45-day, and 60-day seasons. We have experienced nearly unprecedented opportunity with 60-day seasons since 1997. There is no guarantee that this will continue and potential season lengths of 30 and 45 days are possibilities that must be considered as changes in season structure are contemplated.
2. Duck season dates and zone boundaries will be recommended to accommodate a range of hunting styles and preferences. All hunter preferences are legitimate. Dates that completely favor one group will likely disenfranchise another and may not accommodate the range of hunting styles throughout a region.
3. Duck season date and zone boundary selections will seek to balance providing opportunities for new hunters and satisfying more avid hunters. Over the past two decades, duck hunter numbers have declined across the country, but have remained relatively stable in Missouri. The Department will continue to consider the implications of season structure for recruiting new hunters as well as for retaining existing hunters.
4. Duck season dates for each zone must balance the hunter preferences from different regions within each zone.
5. Although season dates will continue to be based primarily on timing for mallards, other species will also be considered. Mallards are preferred by most Missouri hunters and account for 50% or more of the duck harvest. However, other ducks comprise about 80% of the fall flight and should be considered as season dates and zone boundaries are developed.
6. Duck zone boundaries will be based upon the preferred season dates for hunters throughout a region. Boundaries will not be designed to accommodate a particular area or ownership, whether

it is public or private.

7. The purpose of duck zones is to provide the “best” season dates for a particular region, not to extend the season for hunters who travel from zone to zone to extend their hunting season.

8. Recommendations for 2017-2020 will depend primarily upon hunters’ input. If most hunters from a particular region prefer a different season structure (zones and splits) or season dates, a change will likely be recommended. Otherwise, “change for the sake of change” will not be recommended. Regardless, the time and effort taken by hunters to provide their input is valued and it will help us develop the best possible recommendation for Missouri duck hunters.

Data Sources

Duck Hunter Opinion Survey

The Department of Conservation surveyed 20,000 migratory bird permit holders after the 2014 waterfowl season. Ten thousand individuals received a mail version of the survey and 10,000 received a web version of the survey. The surveys contained a series of questions designed to evaluate hunter satisfaction with the current zone boundaries, Week Most Prefer to Hunt, Week Most Prefer a Split, and to elicit opinions about desired zone locations, season dates, and season structure (i.e., number of zones and splits).

Workshops

Missouri duck hunters had the opportunity to attend 13 workshop held throughout Missouri in February and March, 2016. Our goal was to hear the opinions of hunters throughout the state. We held workshops at locations near existing zone boundaries (areas where questions had arisen in recent years about zones and season dates), but also made sure to provide hunters throughout each zone the opportunity to attend meetings (Figure 1).

The workshops provided MDC with an opportunity to have more in-depth discussions with duck hunters about their season preferences. Each workshop participant received a [report](#) (follow link to Workshop Report by holding down Ctrl key and clicking left mouse button) that summarized hunter opinion survey results along with information about weather, habitat, harvest, and duck migrations by regions within the state. After presenting this background material, we divided workshop participants into small groups (~6 individuals/group) based on the regions in which they hunted most. The small groups gave hunters the chance to work together to develop formulas for setting duck season dates for the next five years, to adjust zone boundaries, and to consider split season options with fewer zones. These small groups then shared their conclusions with all of the workshop participants. Participants also had the opportunity to share their individual opinions with the Department by completing an individual survey with many questions similar to those included in the 2014 Duck Hunter Opinion Survey.

The results from the statewide survey of migratory bird hunters, the survey given to individuals who attended the workshops, and the workshop small group exercise provided three sources of information to gauge hunter preferences. The statewide survey, based on scientific sampling methods, provides the most representative picture of what all duck hunters in Missouri desire. The individual survey results from workshop participants suggest what more avid hunters and those with specific concerns may desire. The results from the workshop small groups reveal what hunters prefer after having the opportunity to work with other hunters to reach consensus

on season date and season structure options. The following report compares the results from all three sources: the 2014 Duck Hunter Opinion Survey, the survey of individual workshop participants, and the workshop small group exercise. Results presented as “Survey” are from the 2014 Duck Hunter Opinion Survey. Results from the workshops include responses from individual participants as well as small groups and are presented by region most hunted (e.g. North, Southeast, Missouri River West-North, etc.). Regions are shown in Figure 2. Responses from all three sources include percent of respondents/participants/small groups who expressed an opinion on a particular topic (no preference responses are not included in the data presented). Final recommendations for the 2017-2020 season structure will be based on public input and information about duck harvest, weather, and habitat conditions.

Workshop Locations:

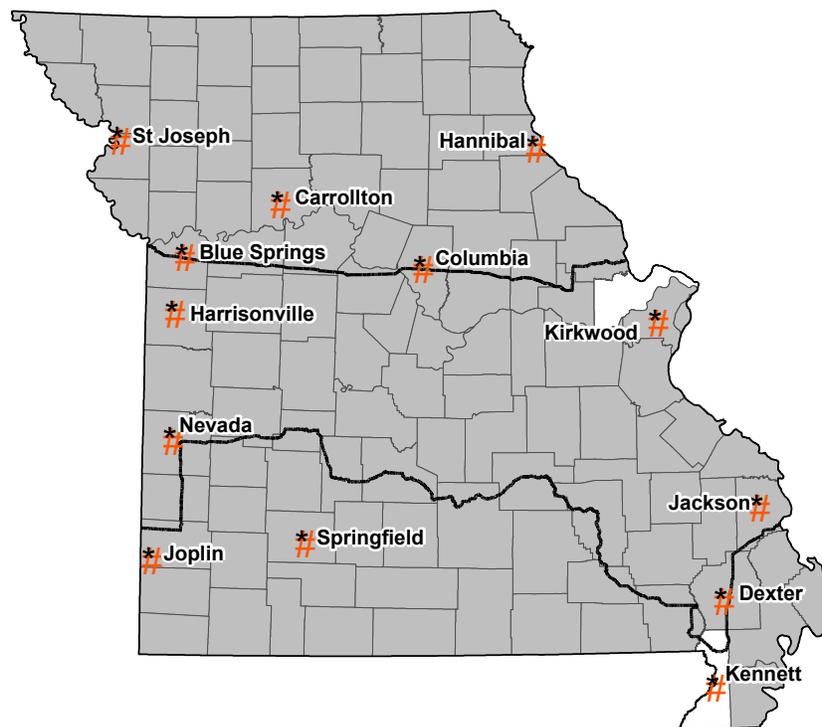


Figure 1. Locations of 13 Duck Season Dates and Zone Boundaries workshops conducted in 2016.

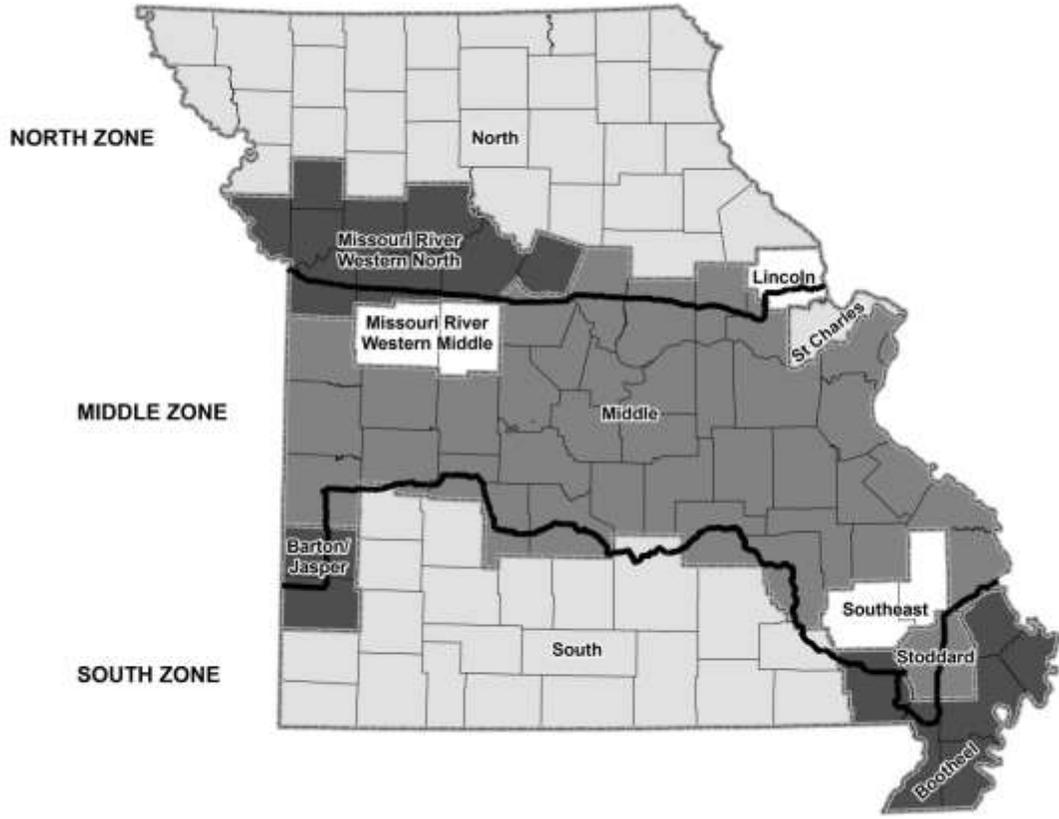


Figure 2. Eleven regions used for analyzing duck hunter preference information for 2016 waterfowl season review.

60-DAY SEASON DATE FORMULAS AND RATIONALE

North Zone Formula

Open the First Saturday in November. The North Zone currently opens the last Saturday in October.

Hunter Input

- Sixty-nine percent of survey respondents and 80% of workshop participants expressed a desire for later seasons.
- Moving the season back a week will result in a season that has similar proportions of hunters believing it is too early, about right, or too late. Opening on the first Saturday in November will be too late for 34% of Missouri hunters, about right for 29%, and too early for 37%.
- Thirteen out of 17 workshop small groups recommended later season dates.
- Five out of 17 small groups recommended opening the first Saturday in November. The next two most popular options, maintaining the current season structure or opening the last Saturday in October for two days, closing for five days, and then reopening for 58 days were each recommended by four groups.
- Workshop participants generally indicated that the later into November you went the less desirable it would be to have the season closed using a split option.

Potential Impacts

- The North Zone season date formula will provide additional late season hunting opportunity that will benefit those who hunt fields, rivers, reservoirs, private hunters who have the capability to keep water open, and those who simply want later seasons.
- During some years, it likely will result in missing one of the first flights of early season migrants.
- It will likely result in the loss of shallow water hunting opportunity, especially in the northern counties of Missouri.
- Opening day will range from Nov. 2 – Nov. 7 and will benefit hunters with earlier season preferences during some years and those with later season preferences in other years.

Additional Perspectives

We considered both split season and continuous season options for the North Zone, but ultimately landed on maintaining a continuous season that opens a week later than in recent years. North Zone workshop participants indicated that they wanted to maintain as many November days as possible. These hunters noted that often by the first week or two in December that most shallow water can be frozen. To help try reaching consensus, we included four potential season options for workshop small groups to consider. One of the options was to have a split during mid-December. We thought this option would retain as many November days as possible and provide an additional week of hunting. This option was not selected by any of the workshop small groups. By opening the season a week later, we will eliminate days in October and only a few days in November during most years. Based on weather, migration, and harvest data, we were surprised by such a strong interest in later seasons in the North Zone.

Middle Zone Formula

A split season that opens for seven days on the Saturday nearest November 6, closes for five days, and then reopens for 53 days. The season currently opens on the first Saturday in November.

Hunter Input

- Fifty-five percent of survey respondents and 75% of workshop participants wanted later seasons.
- Based on survey results, closing the season about a week later is about right for 27%, too late for 45%, and too early for 28%.
- Forty-seven out of 54 workshop small groups recommended later seasons.
- The two most popular season date formulas amongst workshop small groups were to either open on the second Saturday in November (selected by 14 groups) or to open the first Saturday in November for 9 days, close for 5 days, and then reopen for 51 days (selected by 10 groups).

Potential Impacts

- The Middle Zone season date formula will provide more days in January. These later days will likely result in boom or bust hunting opportunity depending on weather conditions.
- This formula results in seasons that will be 5-12 days later than currently offered and will provide a compromise amongst those desiring slightly later season dates (27%) and those who desire more significant change (28%).
- Opening on the Saturday nearest November 6 will provide two years of learning about the effectiveness of seasons that are significantly later than current Middle Zone season dates.
- It will benefit the nearly half of Middle Zone hunters who desire a split season.
- A significant migration, including mallards, often occurs around Veteran's Day. The split may occur during major migrations, but many of these ducks will likely still be present for the second opener.
- It will help the 70% of Middle Zone hunters who also deer hunt from having to make a choice between preserving opening day deer season or opening day duck season traditions.

Additional Perspectives

The Middle Zone proved to be the most challenging. While workshop participants indicated a desire for later dates, they offered a wide-range of opinions about how to get there. Even after we highlighted four potential options that we thought would be most likely to yield consensus, the 54 workshop small groups still came up with 20 different season date formula recommendations.

Some readers may be surprised that we landed on a split season that occurs during the first five days of the firearms deer season after we had discouraged this option at the workshops. We had highlighted the importance of the third week of November for many Middle Zone hunters and the fact that deer season often falls on the third week of November. After reviewing the

workshop results, we were leaning toward recommending opening the Middle Zone season on the second Saturday in November. This option was the most popular. It was recommended by 14 out of 54 small groups. However, the option of opening on the first Saturday in November for 9 days, closing for 5 days, and the reopening for 51 days was also very popular. It was selected by 10 groups. No other option was recommended by more than four small groups.

Knowing that both a continuous season that opened a week later or an early split season were the two best candidates, we then wrestled with the implications of having a season date formula that would have either the opener or second opener in the case of a split season open on the same weekend as the firearms deer season for three out of the four years from 2017-2020. It turns out that 70% of Middle Zone duck hunters are also deer hunters. We expect that these 70% of Middle Zone duck hunters would not relish the idea of having duck and deer seasons open on the same day. At the same time, we did not want to recommend a season that eliminated too many days around the third week of November.

Our solution was to recommend a split season that was very similar to the split season option recommended by 10 workshop small groups. By having the first segment open for 7 days rather than 9 days, the split will begin on the firearms deer season rather than the Monday after the deer season opener and by limiting the split to only the first five days of deer season, the closed period will not extend as far into mid-November. We recognize the importance of maintaining the traditions associated with opening days for both duck and deer hunting and didn't want to force the 70% of Middle Zone duck hunters who also hunt deer to have to make that choice. We now will have the opportunity to gain experience with a split season and to gain experience with a season that remains open significantly later two out of four years.

South Zone Formula

A split season that opens on Thanksgiving Day for four days, closes (if needed), and then reopens until the last Sunday in January (the latest the federal framework allows). The current season opens on Thanksgiving Day.

Hunter Input

- Forty percent of South Zone survey respondents and 61% of South Zone workshop participants wanted later seasons.
- Fifty three percent of survey respondents and 76% of workshop participants from the Bootheel, the region with the most duck hunting in the South Zone, preferred later seasons.
- Twenty two out of 26 workshop small groups focused on the South Zone recommended later seasons.
- Thirteen out of 26 workshop small groups recommended a Thanksgiving split. The next most popular choice, going as late as the federal framework allows, was selected by five groups.

Potential Impacts

- This option will extend the season as late as possible while preserving hunting opportunity over the Thanksgiving weekend, a popular time to hunt for many duck hunters.

- The season dates will more closely match the season dates in surrounding states.
- It will result in a split season three out of the four years from 2017-2020. In 2019, a continuous 60-day season beginning on Thanksgiving Day will extend as late as the federal framework allows.
- The change will likely provide the most benefit to hunters in the Bootheel and Southwest Missouri where larger numbers of mallards winter.

Additional Perspectives

We recognize the South Zone season date formula will result in seasons later than desired by 60% of South Zone hunters. In fact, 37% of South Zone hunters actually expressed interest in season dates that better match those offered in the North and Middle zones. Unfortunately, there is no good way to reach a compromise that would benefit this group of hunters along with those who want dates to remain the same or later than current season dates. For much of the South Zone, the greatest abundance of ducks in occurs in mid-October through mid-November when wood ducks are still present and early season migrants such as gadwall, green-winged teal, shovelers, scaup, and ring-necks briefly stop on farm ponds and reservoirs before continuing further south. By mid-November, most migration events for these species are over and as a consequence moving the season a week or two earlier would not result in much additional hunting opportunity during most years.

It should be noted that hunters at the workshop in Kennett proposed a split season to more closely align with Arkansas duck season dates. They proposed a split season that would have the first segment open the Saturday before Thanksgiving and close on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and then have the second segment open as late as necessary for the season to remain open as late as the federal framework allows. This option was not well received at other workshops where most participants were fairly adamant that they did not want any days earlier than what is now offered.

45-DAY AND 30-DAY SEASON FORMULAS AND RATIONALE

It is possible that if habitat conditions deteriorate or waterfowl populations decline that Missouri would only be able to offer a season of 45 or 30 days. The challenge we all face is that it has been nearly 20 years since we last experienced anything less than a 60-day season. At the workshops, we asked individuals and small groups to provide us with the six weeks they would most prefer to have open during a 45-day season and the four weeks they would prefer to have open during a 30-day season. We used the results from these questions along with what survey respondents indicated was their most preferred week to hunt to inform the development of season date formulas for 45- and 30-day seasons. The season date formulas for the 2017-2020 seasons attempt to bracket the time when waterfowl are most abundant in Missouri, the most preferred weeks to hunt of survey respondents, and the most frequently cited weeks to include by workshop participants.

The 45-day season date formulas are as follows:

North Zone: Open the second Saturday in November

Middle Zone: Open the Saturday nearest November 15

South Zone: Open the Saturday nearest December 10, close December 20-25, open December 26 through the last Sunday in January (latest federal framework allows)

The 30-day season date formulas are as follows:

North Zone: Open the Saturday nearest November 14

Middle Zone: Open the Saturday nearest November 19

South Zone: Open the Saturday nearest December 15, close December 19-25, open December 26 through Sunday nearest January 20 (latest federal framework allows)

ZONE BOUNDARIES AND RATIONALE**North Zone – West Missouri**

Zone boundary changed from I-70 to Hwy 24 in west Missouri to include more of the Missouri River Bottoms and Smithville Reservoir in the Middle Zone from Hwy 63 to the Kansas border. This change will place Grand Pass CA in the Middle Zone.

North Zone: That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Mo. Hwy. 79; south on Mo. Hwy. 79 to Mo. Hwy. 47; west on Mo. Hwy. 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to Hwy 63; north on Hwy 63 to Hwy 24, west on Hwy 24 to MO Hwy 10, west on Hwy 10 to Hwy 69, north on Hwy 69 to MO Hwy 116, west on MO Hwy 116 to Hwy 59, south on Hwy 59 to the Kansas border.

Hunter Input

- Although only 27% of hunters who hunt mainly in this region recommended changing the zone boundary, 50% recommended season dates more closely matched with those offered in the Middle Zone.
- On average, hunters who hunt mainly in this region had continuous season date preferences that more closely matched the Middle Zone than the North Zone.
- Sixty three percent of workshop participants who hunt mainly in this region indicated they would like the zone boundary moved to Hwy 24.
- All of the workshop small groups focused on this region recommended moving the boundary north and 13 out of 15 of the groups recommended moving the boundary to Hwy 24.

Potential Impacts

- This change will benefit field, Missouri River, and Smithville Reservoir hunters. It also was preferred by workshop participants who hunt at Dalton Cutoff.
- Hunters who primarily hunt shallow water habitats at Grand Pass CA and other shallow water wetlands will likely face more days when these habitats are frozen-over.

Additional Perspectives

This change was first considered after the 2011 Zone Workshops, but opinions were diverse enough that no changes were made. Anticipating potential interest in this change, we held a workshop in Carrollton to target hunters who likely hunt in this region. We had one of the largest turnouts at this workshop and there was overwhelming support for changing the zone boundary. People who attended other workshops and hunted in this region also supported this change.

North Zone – East Missouri

No Change

The North Zone: That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Mo. Hwy. 79; south on Mo. Hwy. 79 to Mo. Hwy. 47; west on Mo. Hwy. 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to Hwy 63; north on Hwy 63 to Hwy 24, west on Hwy 24 to MO Hwy 10, west on Hwy 10 to Hwy 69, north on Hwy 69 to MO Hwy 116, west on MO Hwy 116 to Hwy 59, south on Hwy 59 to the Kansas border.

Hunter Input

- St. Charles County hunters expressed little interest in moving the zone back to I-70 to include this region in the North Zone. Fifty-three percent of survey respondents and 79% of workshop participants who hunt in St. Charles County recommended no change.
- On average, hunters who hunt mainly in St. Charles County had continuous season date preferences that matched the Middle Zone more than the North Zone.
- Only 30% of Lincoln County hunters indicated that they would prefer a zone change to move Lincoln County from the North Zone to Middle Zone.
- On average, hunters who hunt mainly in Lincoln County had continuous season date preferences that more closely matched the North Zone than the Middle Zone.
- Only five individuals who hunt mainly in Lincoln County attended a workshop. If there was a significant demand for a zone change in this region we would have expected more hunters from Lincoln County to attend one of the workshops.

Potential Impacts

- Maintaining the current zone boundaries will enable St. Charles County hunters to maintain Middle Zone season dates and Lincoln County hunters to maintain North Zone dates.

Additional Perspectives

We heard very little interest for a zone change by hunters who hunt most in the regions that would have been affected by either moving the zone boundary north or south. During the next review, we will likely hold a workshop in Lincoln County in anticipation that there may be more interest for change in 2021.

South Zone – West Missouri:

Zone boundary changed back to Hwy 54, the location prior to 2011.

South Zone: That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Mo. Hwy. 74 to Mo. Hwy. 25; south on Mo. Hwy 25. to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Mo. Hwy. 53; north on Mo. Hwy. 53 to Mo. Hwy. 51; north on Mo. Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Mo. Hwy. 21; north on Mo. Hwy. 21 to Mo. Hwy. 72; west on Mo. Hwy. 72 to Mo. Hwy. 32; west on Mo. Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to the Kansas border.

Hunter Input

- Survey and workshop results both indicated that hunters wanted the boundary moved back with 68% of survey respondents and 77% of workshop participants who hunt in this region recommending this change.
- Fourteen out of 15 small groups focused on this region recommended moving the zone boundary back to Hwy 54.
- On average, hunters who hunt mainly in Jasper and Barton counties had continuous season date preferences that matched the South Zone more than the Middle Zone.
- Fifty eight percent of survey respondents and 57% of workshop participants recommended season dates that either matched or were later than the current South Zone season date formula.

Potential Impacts

- This change will provide additional late season hunting when mallards are more likely to be using shallow irrigation lakes, Stockton Reservoir, and surrounding crop fields.
- It will largely eliminate opportunities for wood ducks and other early season migrants that often depart Missouri by mid-November.
- In the event of 45-day and 30-day seasons, hunters who depend on shallow water habitats that are the first to freeze could have significantly reduced opportunity.

Additional Perspectives

The Department depends on the opinions of workshop participants more so in this region than any other in the state. A relatively small number of hunters focus primarily on this region so we cannot achieve large enough sample sizes from mail surveys to get an adequate representation. In the absence of any state or federal refuges we also have limited migration data for this region. It was for this reason that we held workshops in Springfield, Joplin, and Nevada. We wanted to make sure people who hunt in this region had an opportunity to attend. We did the same thing before making the zone change in 2011. At that time, attendance was low, but those in attendance came up with the compromise zone boundary recommendation that was implemented in 2011. The fact that over 90 people showed up at the Joplin workshop, the most of any workshop in the state, provided a strong indication that hunters in the region desired a change.

South Zone – East Missouri

No Change

South Zone: That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Mo. Hwy. 74 to Mo. Hwy. 25; south on Mo. Hwy. 25. to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Mo. Hwy. 53; north on Mo. Hwy. 53 to Mo. Hwy. 51; north on Mo. Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Mo. Hwy. 21; north on Mo. Hwy. 21 to Mo. Hwy. 72; west on Mo. Hwy. 72 to Mo. Hwy. 32; west on Mo. Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to the Kansas border.

Hunter Input

- Zone preferences and season date preferences do not match for hunters in Bollinger, Wayne, and Stoddard counties – the portion of Southeast Missouri in the Middle Zone.
- Although 62% of survey respondents and 65% of workshop participants recommended changing the zone boundary to encompass more of Southeast Missouri in the South Zone, only 22% of survey respondents and 37% of workshop participants recommended South Zone season dates.
- The workshop small groups focused on this region were equally divided. Six groups recommended changing the zone boundary and six groups recommended maintaining the current zone boundaries.
- Only four of the 12 small groups recommended season dates that would be the same or later as the current South Zone dates.

Potential Impacts

- This decision will benefit the majority of hunters who indicated that they did not want South Zone dates.
- It will continue to provide opportunity during the periods when duck numbers and harvest are the highest in this region.
- It will not provide additional late season opportunity when ducks can be more active during periods of freezing and thawing or for the limited number of areas that can maintain open water during periods of ice conditions.
- In the event of 45-day and 30-day seasons, this zone boundary will ensure hunting opportunity is available in late November through early December, the weeks that are most preferred to hunt by 56% of hunters from this region.

Additional Perspectives

We struggled the most with coming up with a zone boundary recommendation for southeast Missouri. We heard compelling reasons to change the zone boundary and equally compelling reasons to leave it unchanged. In contrast to other regions where we did recommend changes, we did not see a groundswell of support for change with large numbers of hunters voicing general agreement. The driving factors for our decision to recommend no change were that only 22% of those who hunt primarily in Stoddard, Bollinger, and Wayne counties indicated that they preferred South Zone dates, only 4 of 12 workshop small groups recommended South Zone dates, and workshop small groups were equally divided about zone boundaries with 6 recommending a change and 6 recommending no change. In the absence of changing the zone boundary, the change in the Middle Zone season date formula will result in season dates that provide an even compromise that will be too late for 33%, about right for 33%, and not late enough for 34% of hunters from Southeast Missouri according to the survey results.

One of the other challenges we faced in this region was that season date preferences did not match zone boundary preferences. It was difficult to reconcile how 78% of hunters from this region did not want South Zone dates yet 62% of hunters recommended changing the zone boundaries. Based on comments heard at the workshops, we expect that some survey respondents indicated they would like to see the zone boundaries changed for reasons other than getting later seasons. Some survey respondents likely suggested a change in zone boundaries to

add one or more Department wetland areas to the South Zone in an effort to extend their season on public areas. Others likely recommended a change with the hope that having more Department wetland areas in the South Zone would increase their chances of getting drawn for hunt. Others may have been motivated by the perception that the current zone boundaries are politically motivated and recommended a change to rectify this situation. We felt responses to questions regarding season dates provided a clearer picture of how to time the season in this region compared to the zone boundary responses that could be influenced by a much greater range of factors.

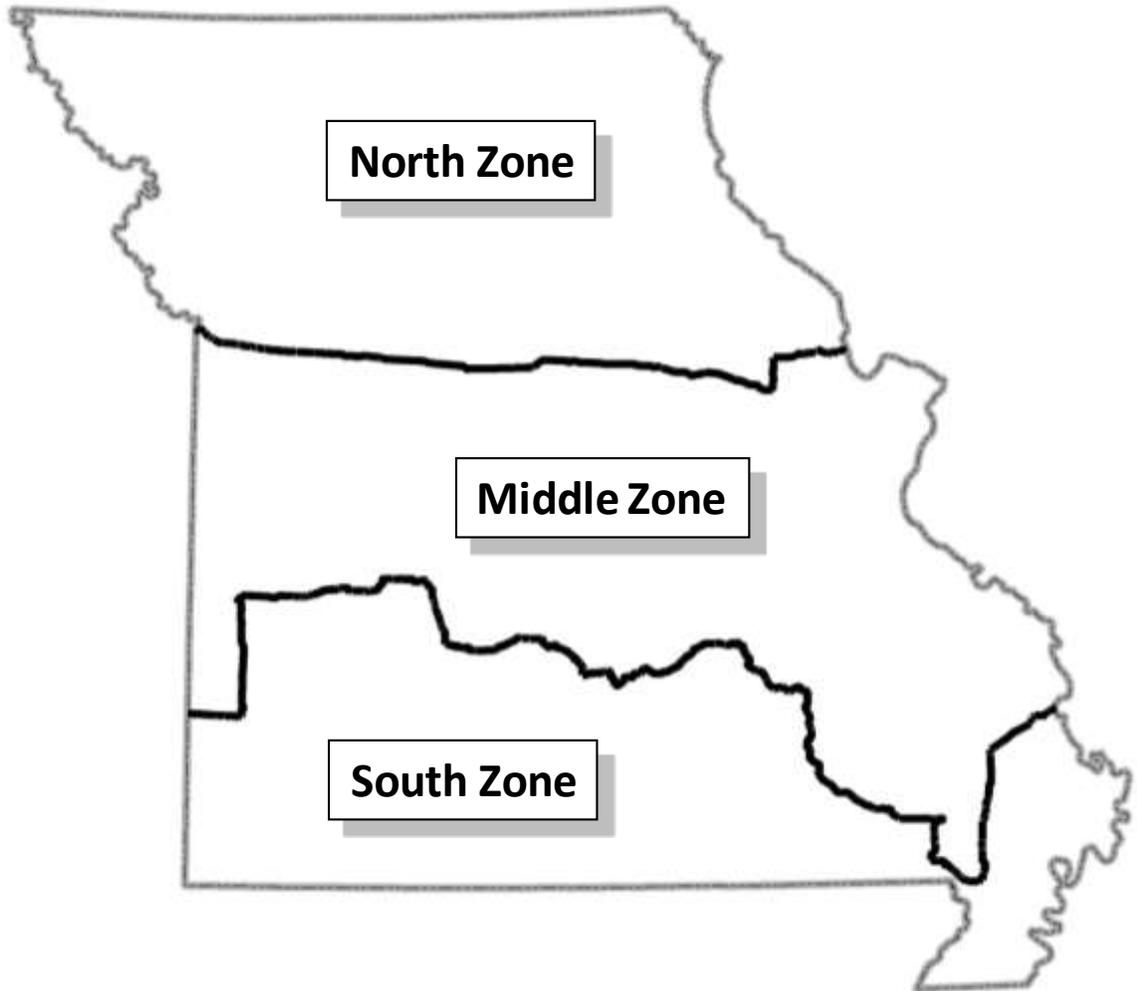
We acknowledge that this decision will not please everyone. At the workshops, we heard from hunters who said their best hunting takes place in November when migration events occur and ducks are new to the area. These hunters passionately argued for retaining days in November. We heard from others at the workshops who argued that temperatures are too warm early in the season and that ducks can be inactive. Workshop participants with earlier season preferences argued that if this region were moved to the South Zone, hunting days would be lost due to ice and that hunting would be more difficult with a greater chance of hunting “stale” birds that are decoy shy and feed mainly at night. Workshop participants wanting to be moved into the South Zone countered that some of their best hunting occurs late in the season when weather conditions are more dynamic. The issue of shallow water freezing-up was of less concern for those hunters who are able to maintain open water by using ice eaters or other methods.

To offer a compromise, a small number of workshop participants suggested moving the boundary to Hwy 60. This move would leave a portion of southeast Missouri in the Middle Zone. When this idea was presented, a much larger number of participants said not to make this change. They indicated it would hurt everyone. The ducks would simply move from the rice fields on one side of the road to the other side of the road to avoid the open seasons.

We also considered whether or not to continue using Hwy 25 as a portion of the South Zone boundary. The zone boundary was adjusted from I-55 to Hwy 25 in 2011. This change was based, in part, on the observations of workshop participants and Department staff that ducks tend to use the rice fields east of Hwy 25 later than the fields west of Hwy 25 in the vicinity of Otter Slough. It was also made to provide more opportunity to gain experience with later seasons in this region. Four years later, the results were mixed. Hunters generally supported the change; however, two small groups at the Jackson workshop recommended that this region be placed back into the Middle Zone. To make their point, they showed personal hunting records that demonstrated their hunting was worse after their leases were moved into the South Zone with the shift to Hwy 25 in 2011.

In the absence of a zone boundary change, we are hopeful that later Middle Zone season dates will at least somewhat accommodate those hunters who preferred a zone change. The Middle Zone season date formula will also provide two years with closing dates that are significantly later than they have been in the past. This will provide hunters in Southeast Missouri and the remainder of the Middle Zone with the opportunity to gain experience with later season dates. If more hunters desire even later seasons based on this experience we will be able to consider changes after the 2020 season.

HUNTER INPUT RESULTS BY ZONE



North Zone



North Zone - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

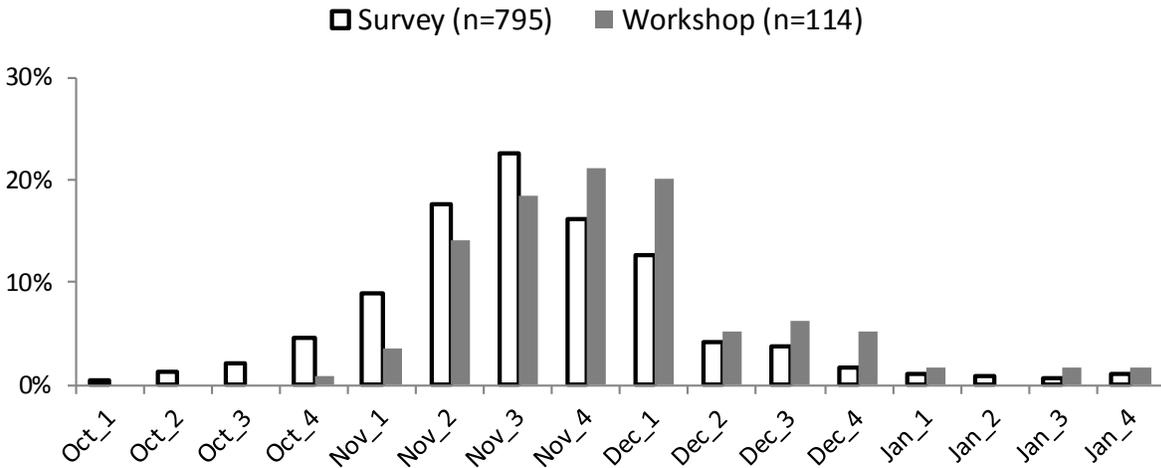


Figure 3. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the North Zone.

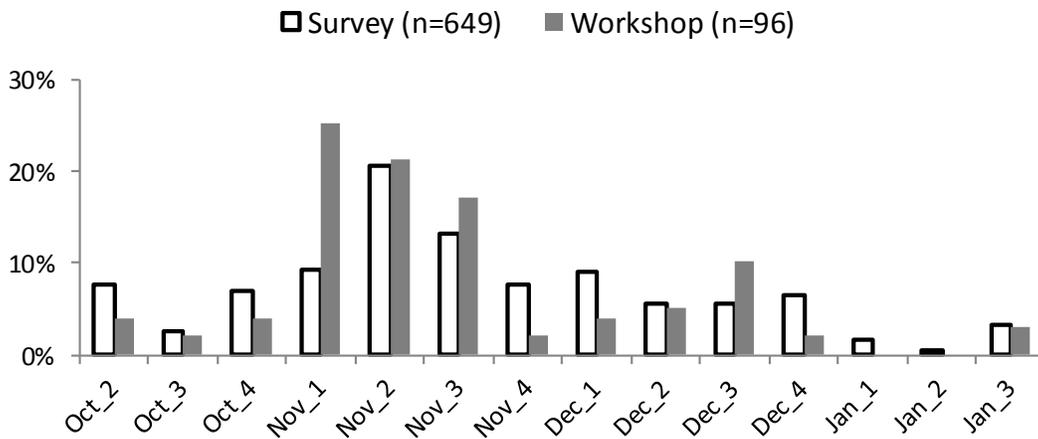


Figure 4. One week most preferred for a temporary closure by survey respondents and workshop participants in the North Zone.

North Zone - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Survey respondents and Workshop Participants

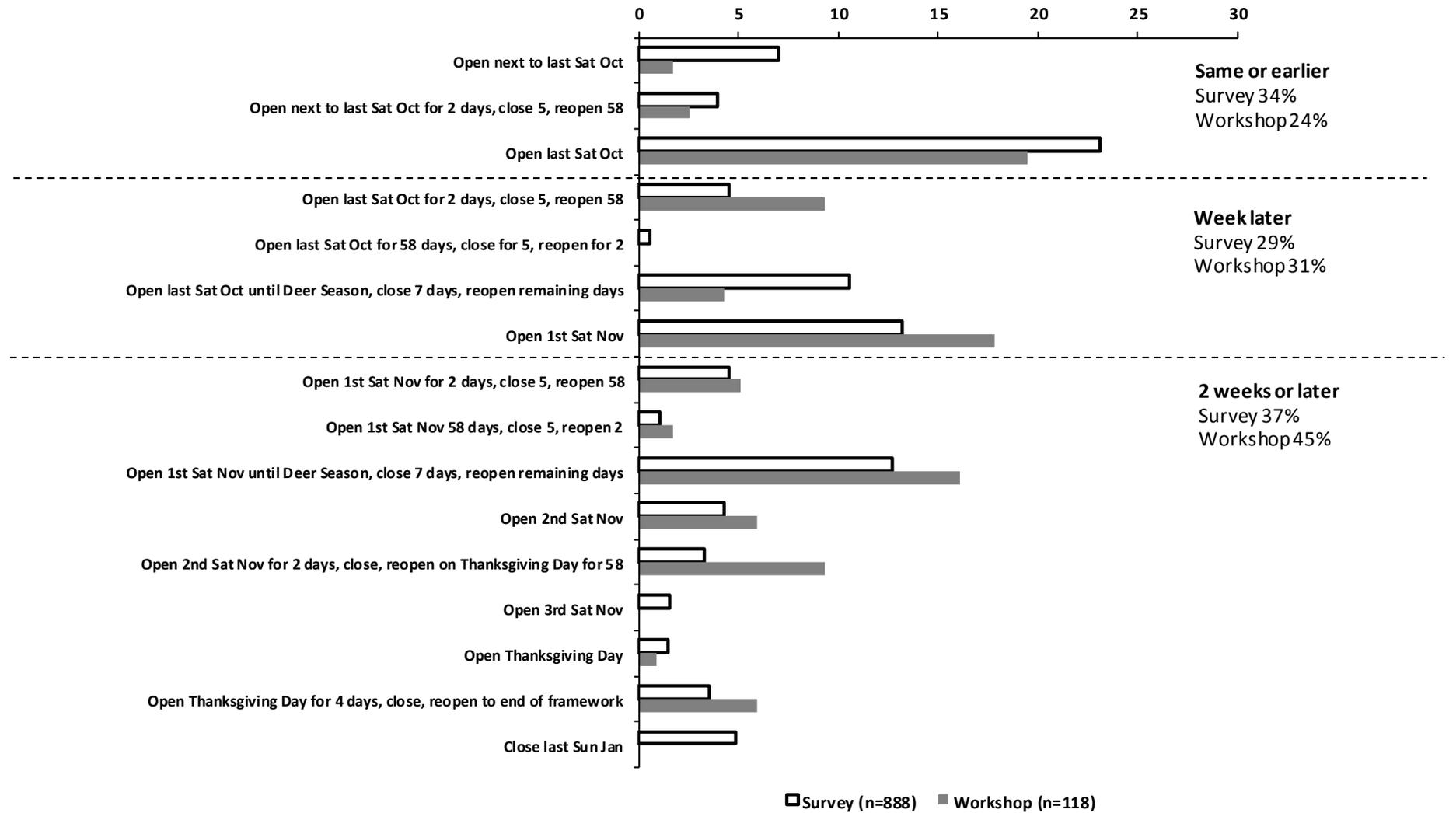


Figure 5. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the North Zone.

North Zone - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small Groups

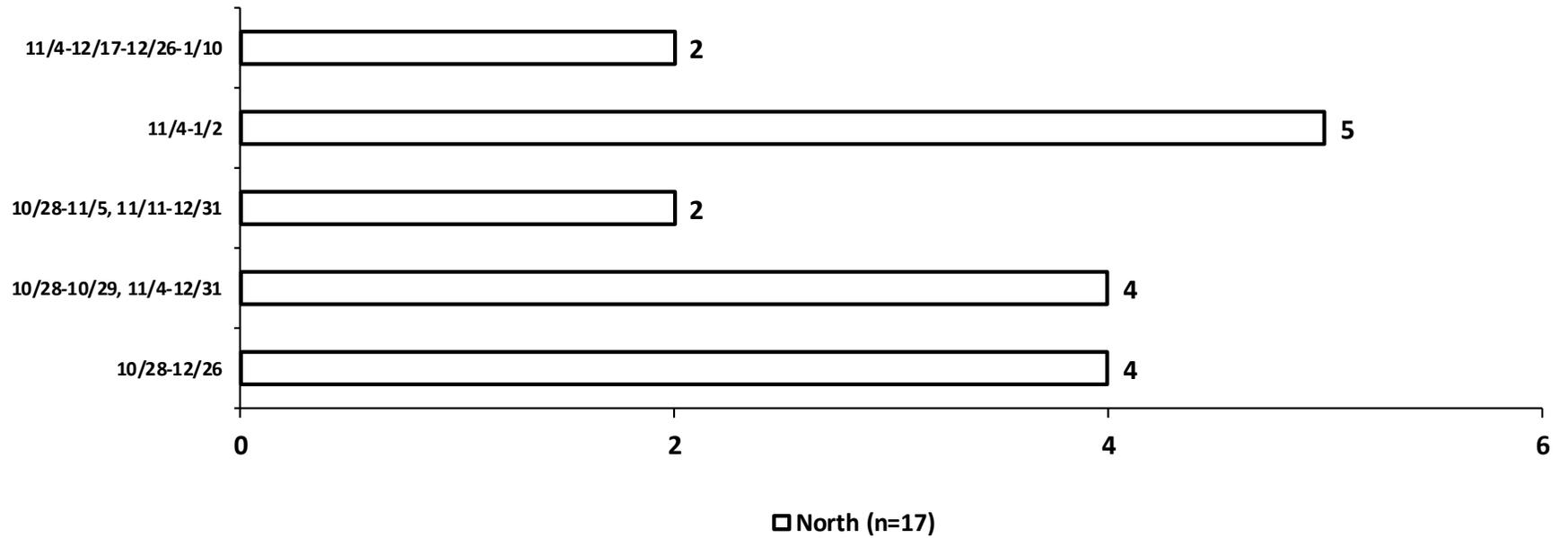


Figure 6. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from the North Zone.

North Zone - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season –Workshop participants (n=109)

Table 1. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

Selection	Oct 1st Wk	Oct 2nd Wk	Oct 3rd Wk	Oct 4th Wk	Nov 1st Wk	Nov 2nd Wk	Nov 3rd Wk	Nov 4th Wk	Dec 1st Wk	Dec 2nd Wk	Dec 3rd Wk	Dec 4th Wk	Jan 1st Wk	Jan 2nd Wk	Jan 3rd Wk	Jan 4th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	14%	18%	21%	20%	5%	6%	5%	2%	0%	2%	2%
Preferred 4 Weeks		0%	0%	1%	21%	34%	55%	74%	66%	40%	40%	24%	17%	9%	1%	
Preferred 6 Weeks	1%	0%	1%	9%	34%	55%	66%	79%	89%	86%	74%	44%	29%	11%	5%	1%

North Zone – Workshop small groups (n=17)

Table 2. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

Selection	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	53%	88%	94%	76%	47%	12%	6%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	12%	53%	82%	94%	94%	94%	82%	47%	18%	12%	6%	0%	0%

North Zone – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=507)

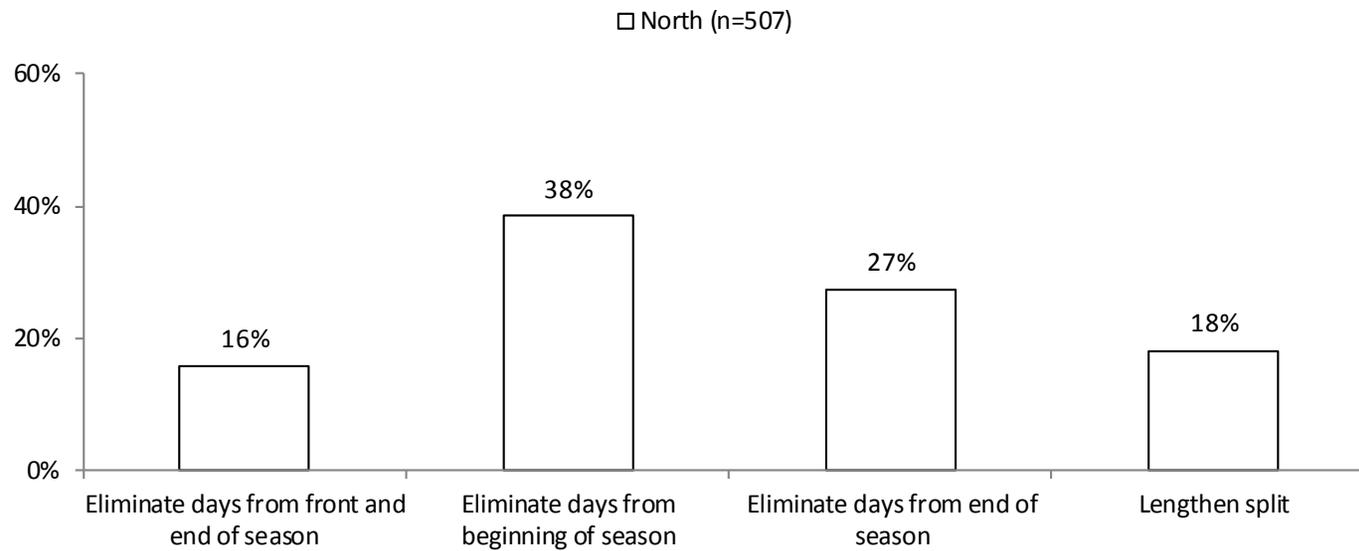


Figure 7. Percent of survey respondents from the North Zone that indicated where days should be eliminated in the event of a shortened duck season.

Middle Zone



Middle Zone - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

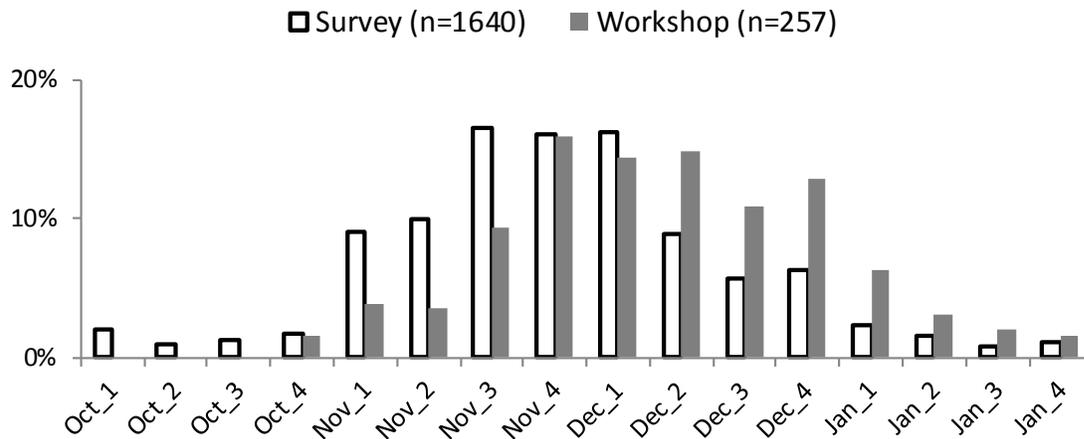


Figure 8. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Middle Zone.

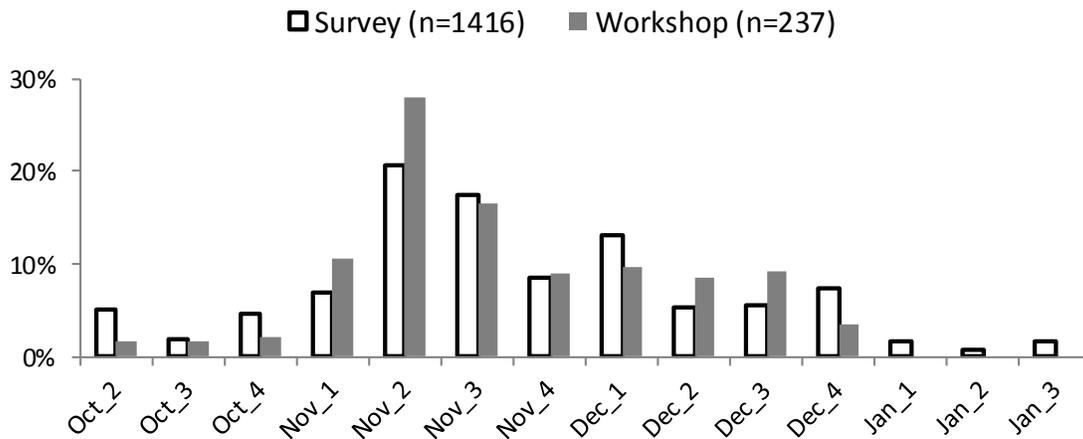


Figure 9. One week most preferred for a temporary closure by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Middle Zone.

Middle Zone - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Survey respondents and Workshop Participants

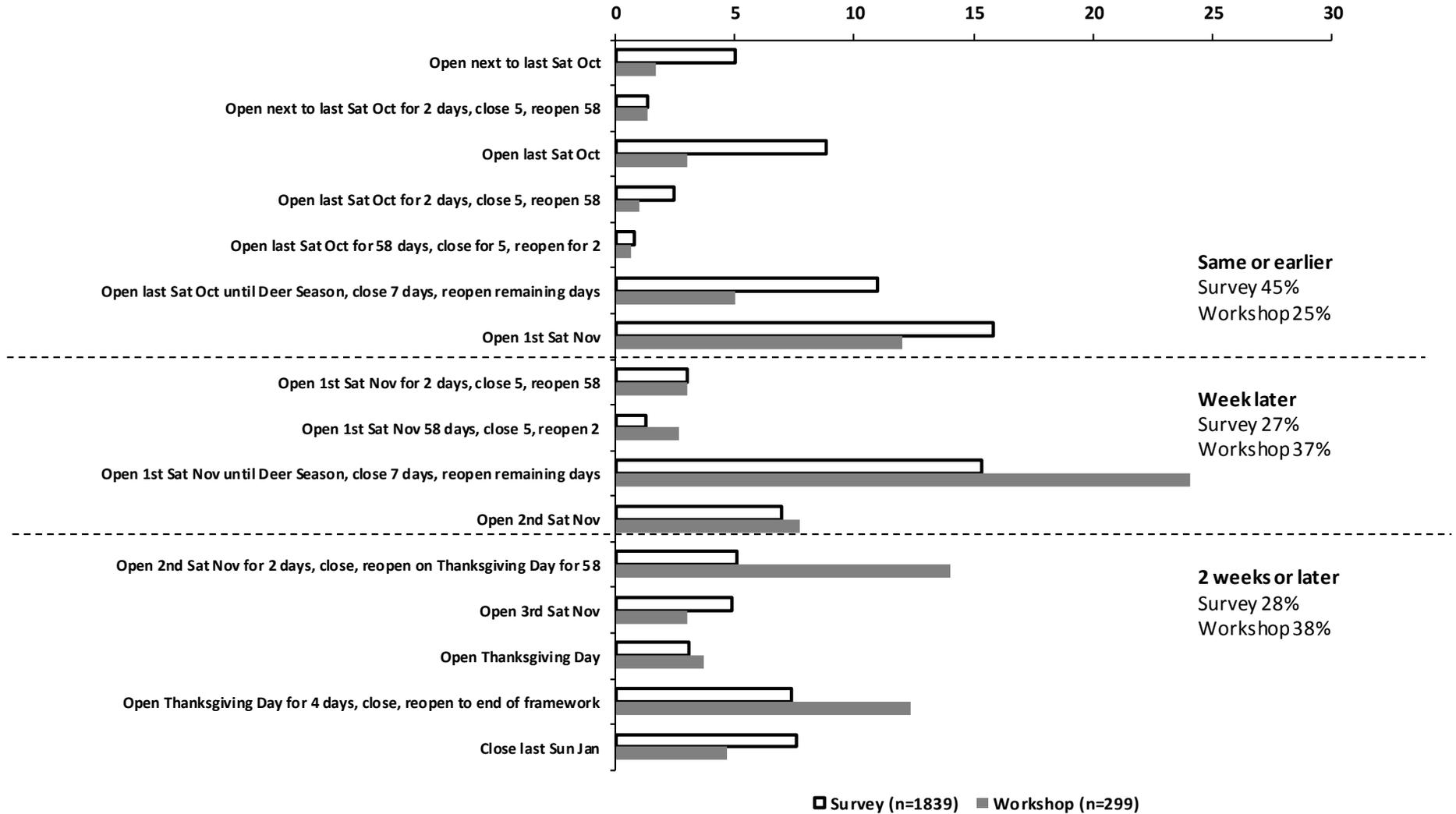


Figure 10. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the Middle Zone.

Middle Zone - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small Groups

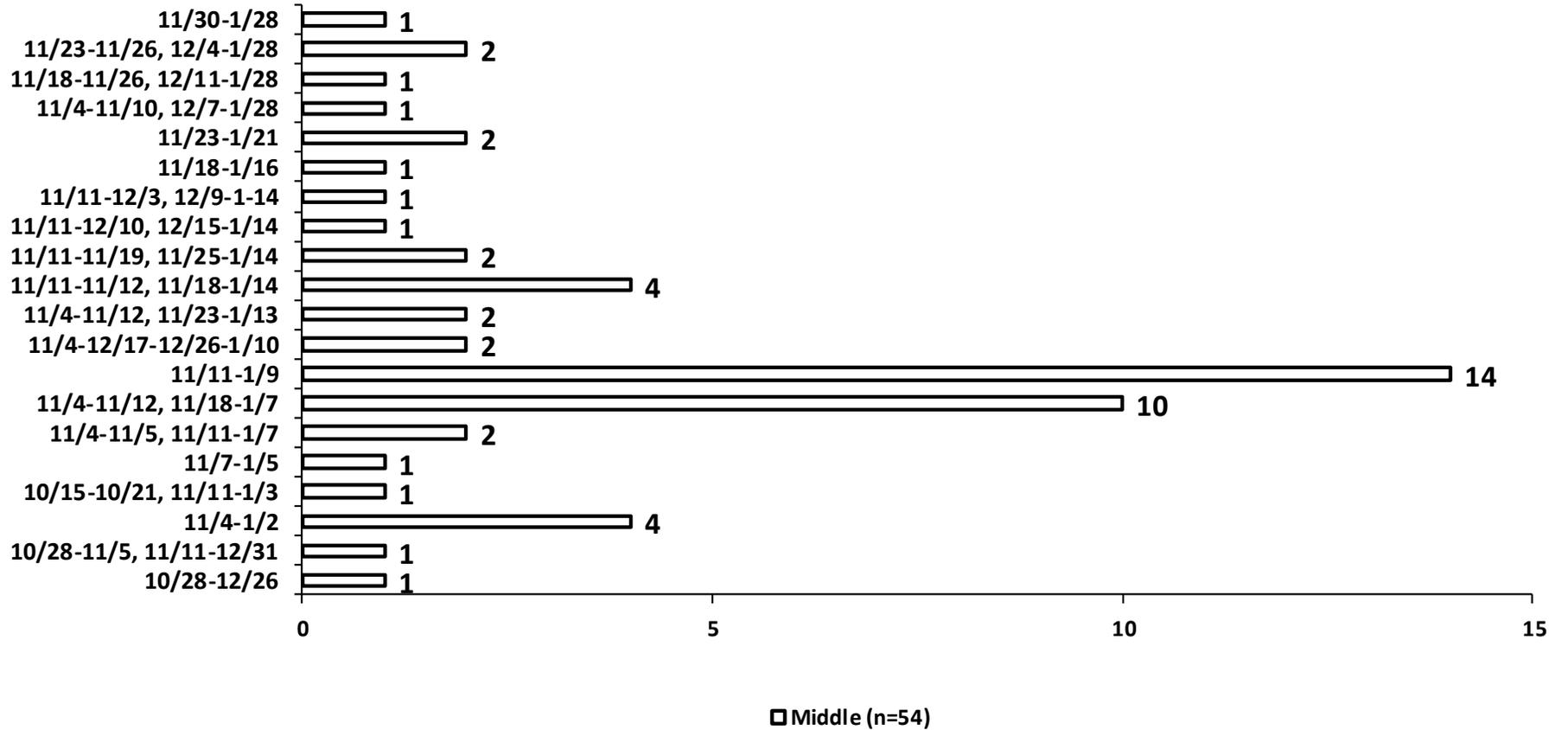


Figure 11. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from the Middle Zone.

Middle Zone - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop participants (n=263)

Table 3. Weeks most preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

Selection	Oct 1st Wk	Oct 2nd Wk	Oct 3rd Wk	Oct 4th Wk	Nov 1st Wk	Nov 2nd Wk	Nov 3rd Wk	Nov 4th Wk	Dec 1st Wk	Dec 2nd Wk	Dec 3rd Wk	Dec 4th Wk	Jan 1st Wk	Jan 2nd Wk	Jan 3rd Wk	Jan 4th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	4%	9%	16%	14%	15%	11%	13%	6%	3%	2%	2%
Preferred 4 Weeks		0%	0%	2%	10%	21%	39%	52%	57%	49%	49%	43%	33%	21%	8%	
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	3%	5%	18%	38%	51%	67%	72%	77%	78%	67%	54%	35%	18%	10%

Workshop small groups (n=55)

Table 4. Weeks most preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

Selection	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	2%	5%	15%	51%	55%	60%	64%	49%	44%	22%	13%	5%	2%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	2%	2%	4%	11%	42%	62%	78%	75%	80%	80%	65%	44%	15%	5%	4%

Middle Zone – Shorter Season Considerations

Workshop Survey respondents (n=1002)

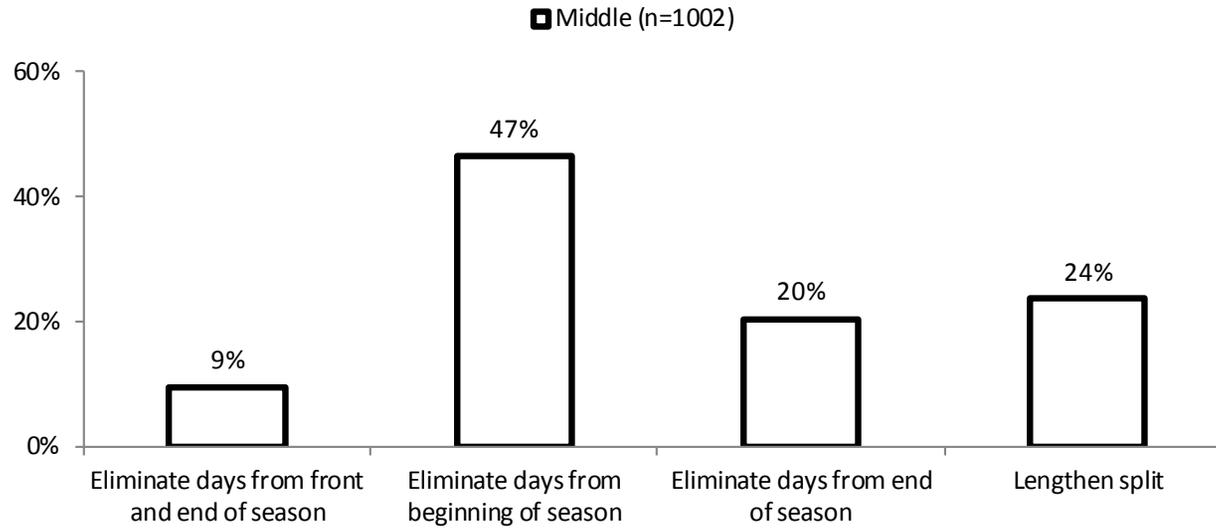


Figure 12. Percent of survey respondents, who expressed an opinion, from the Middle Zone that indicated where days should be cut in the event of a shortened season.

South Zone



South Zone - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

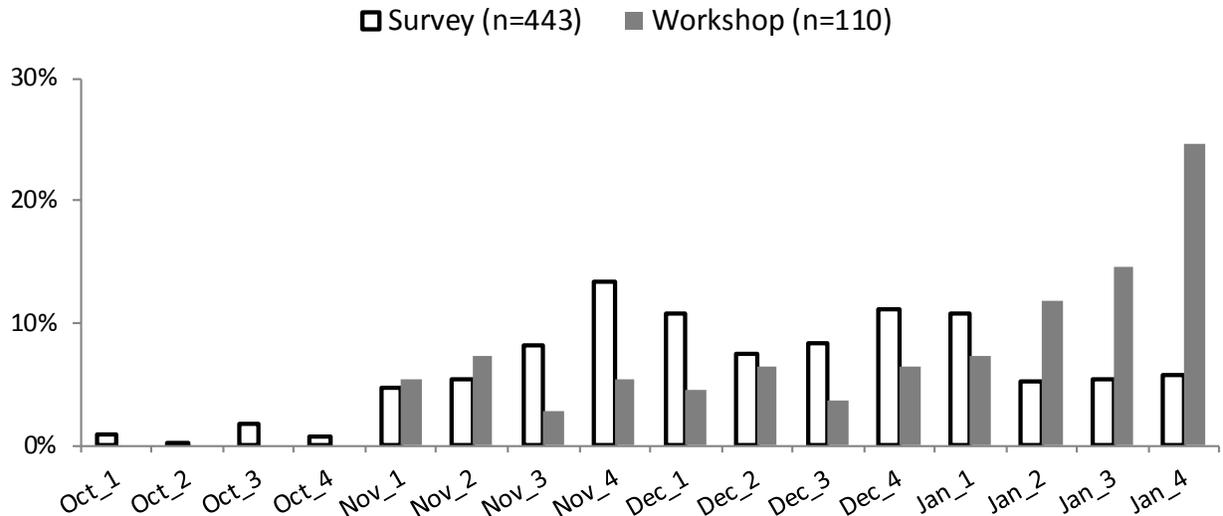


Figure 13. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the South Zone.

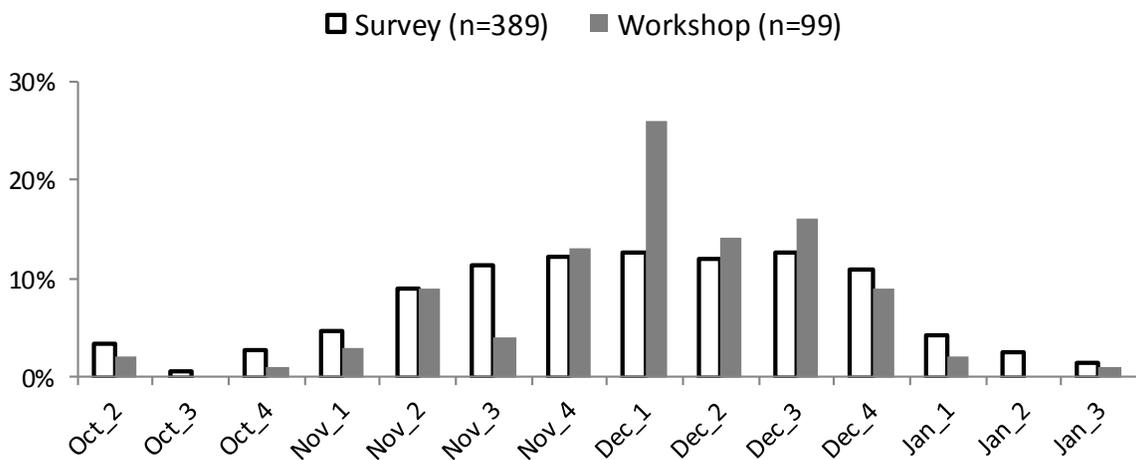


Figure 14. One week most preferred for a temporary closure by survey respondents and workshop participants in the South Zone.

South Zone - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Survey respondents and Workshop Participants

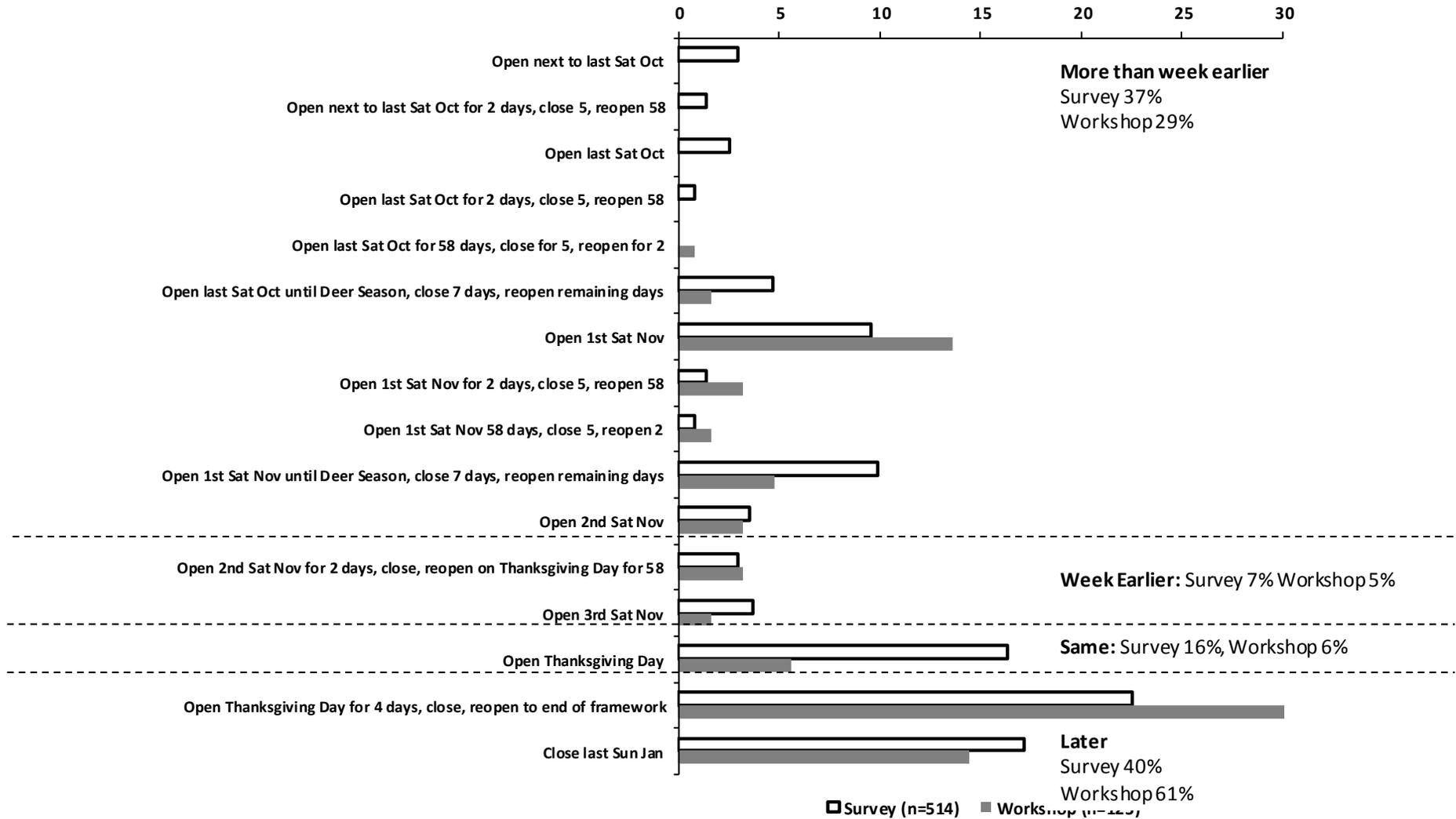


Figure 15. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the South Zone.

South Zone - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small Groups

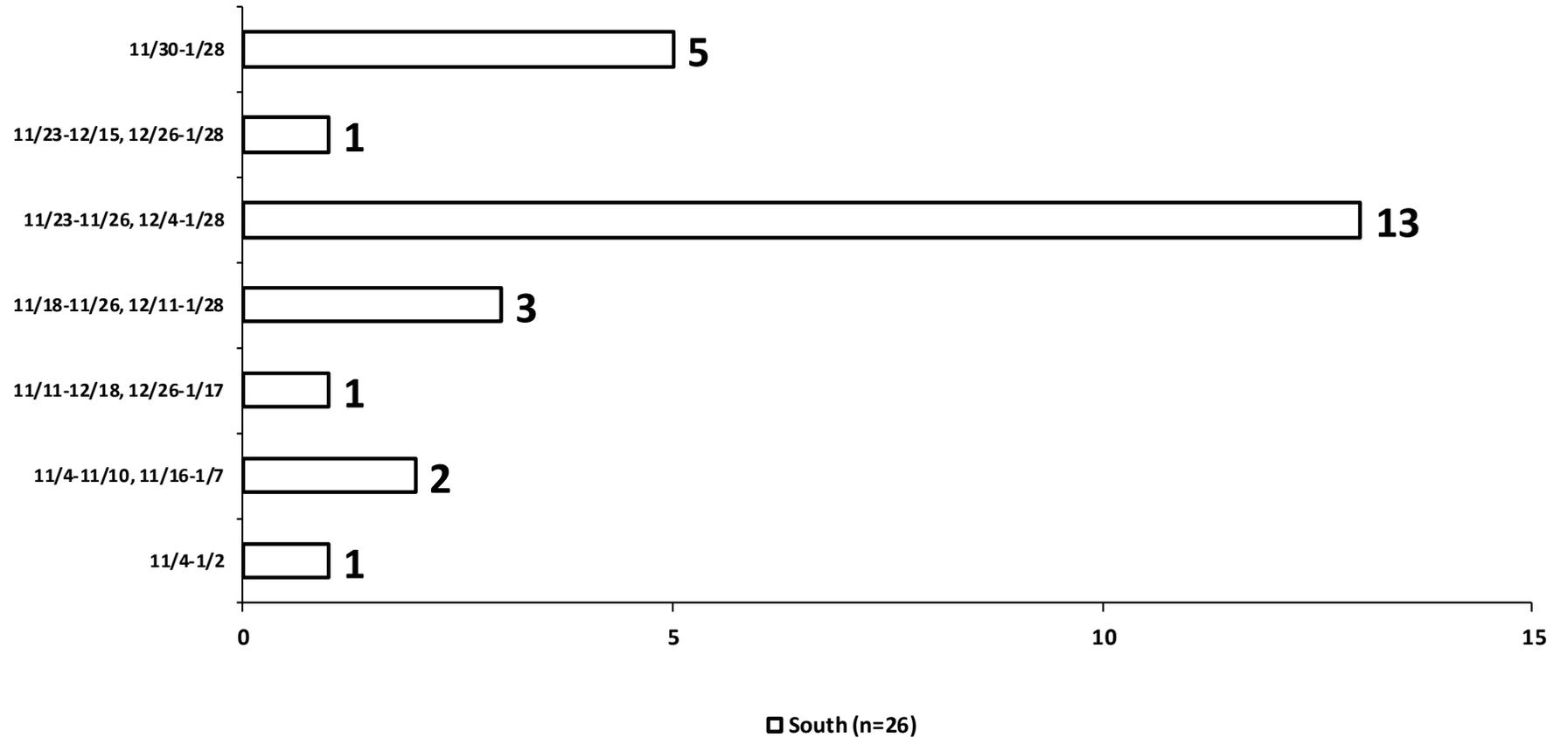


Figure 16. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from the South Zone.

South Zone - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop participants (n=117)

Table 5. Weeks most preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

Selection	Oct 1st Wk	Oct 2nd Wk	Oct 3rd Wk	Oct 4th Wk	Nov 1st Wk	Nov 2nd Wk	Nov 3rd Wk	Nov 4th Wk	Dec 1st Wk	Dec 2nd Wk	Dec 3rd Wk	Dec 4th Wk	Jan 1st Wk	Jan 2nd Wk	Jan 3rd Wk	Jan 4th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	7%	3%	5%	5%	6%	4%	6%	7%	12%	15%	25%
Preferred 4 Weeks		0%	0%	0%	10%	15%	20%	27%	19%	29%	29%	64%	67%	72%	53%	
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	22%	27%	38%	40%	44%	68%	65%	74%	75%	68%	59%

Workshop small groups (n=26)

Table 6. Weeks most preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	19%	15%	19%	27%	23%	58%	69%	65%	38%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%	19%	35%	27%	27%	69%	65%	77%	69%	69%	65%

South Zone – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=236)

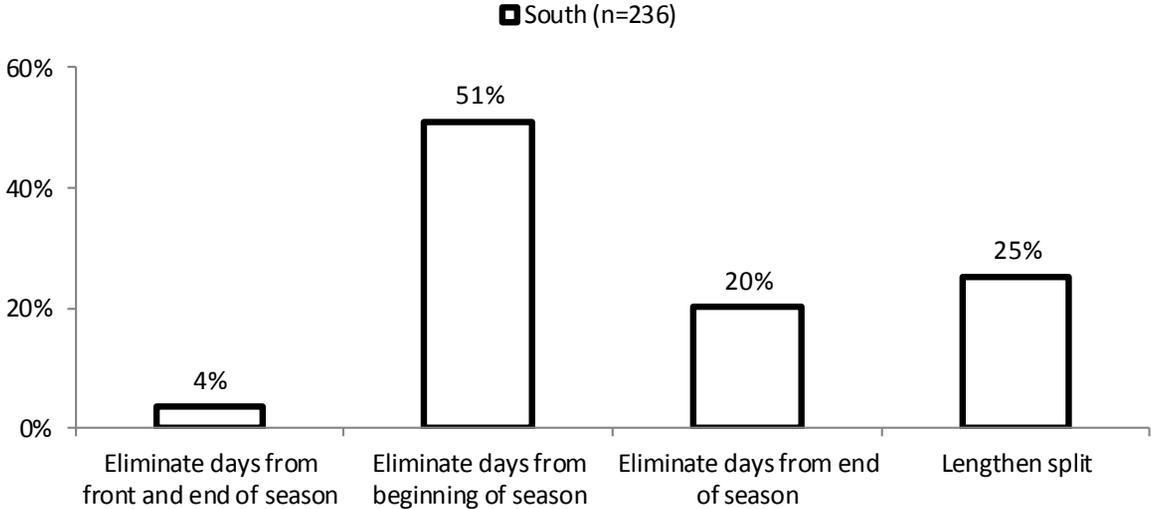
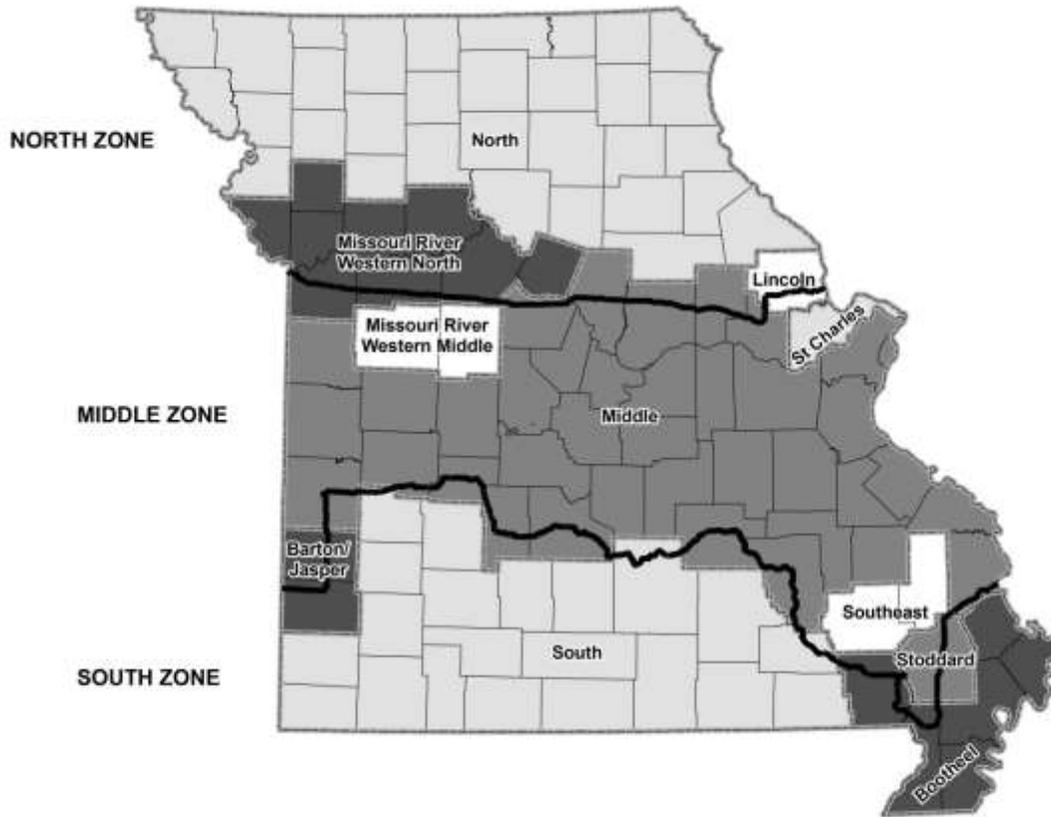
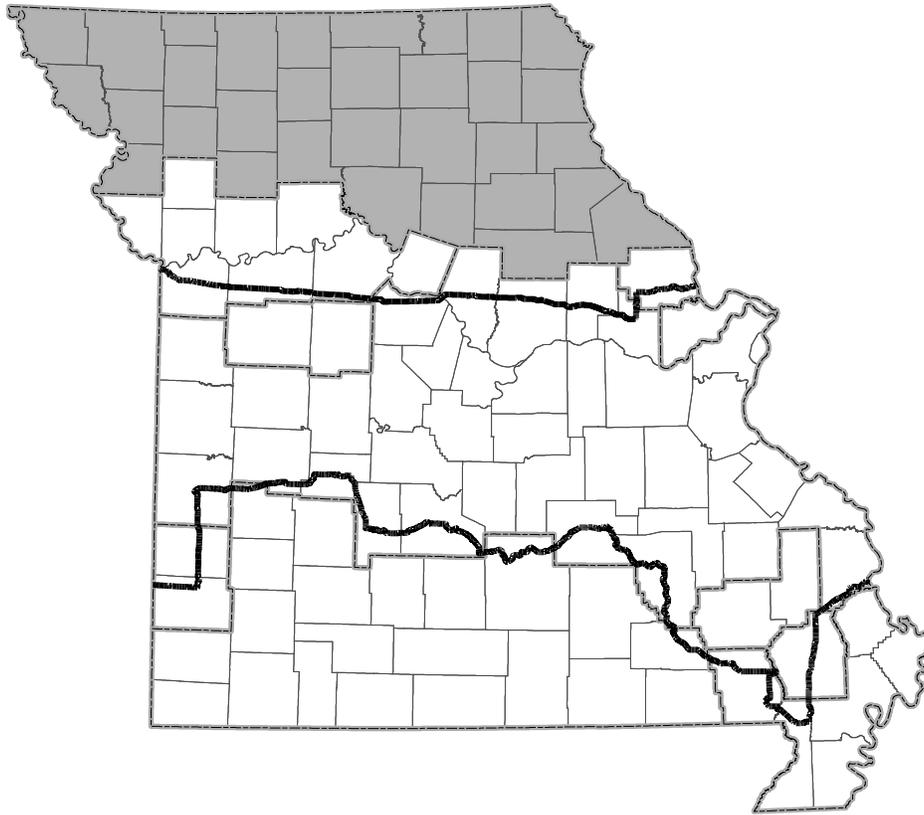


Figure 17. Percent of survey respondents from the South Zone that indicated where days should be cut in the event of a shortened season.

HUNTER INPUT RESULTS BY REGION



North Region



North Region - Satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries

Survey respondents and workshop participants

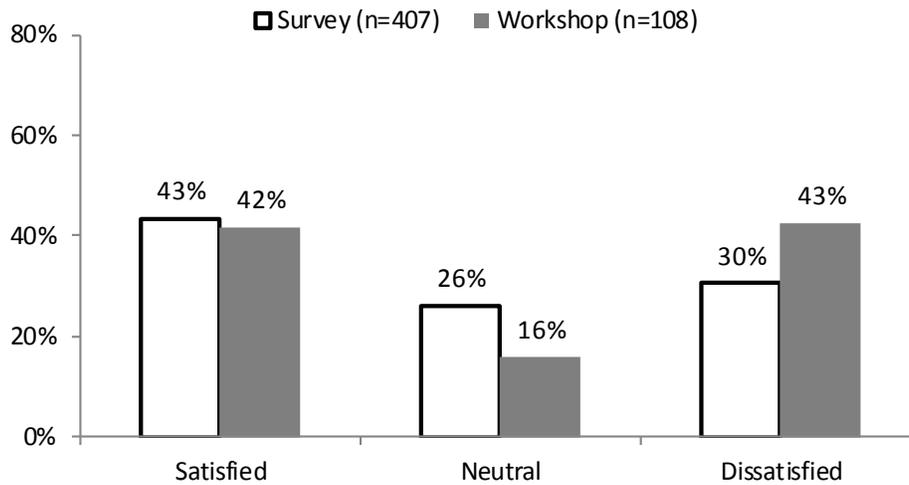


Figure 18. Satisfaction with season dates in North Region

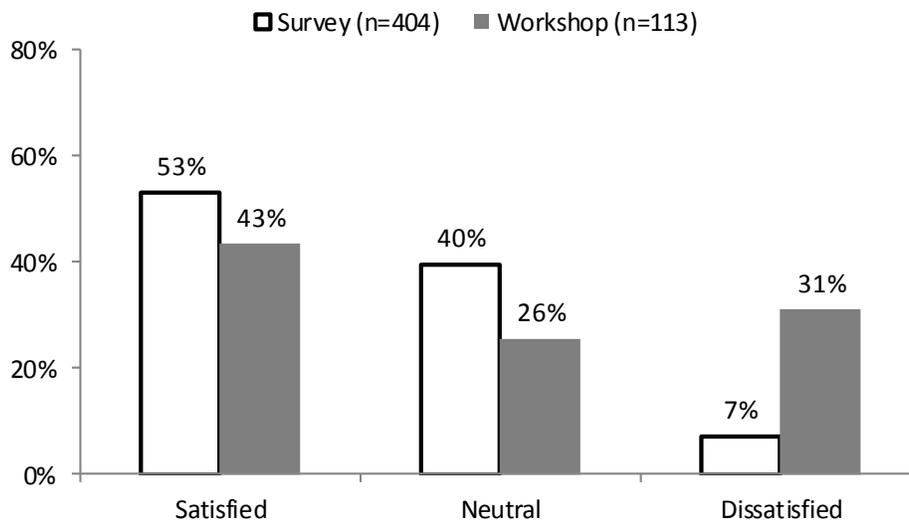


Figure 19. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in North Region

North Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split
Survey respondents and workshop participants

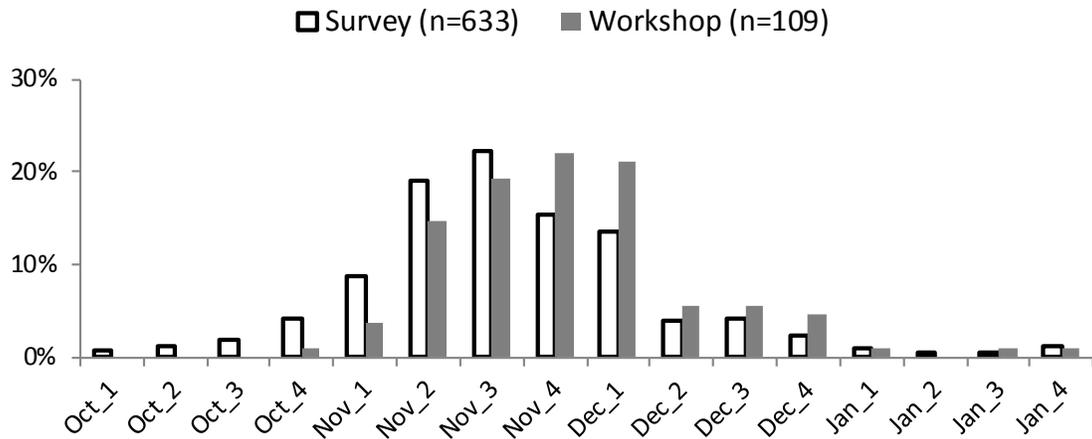


Figure 20. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the North Region.

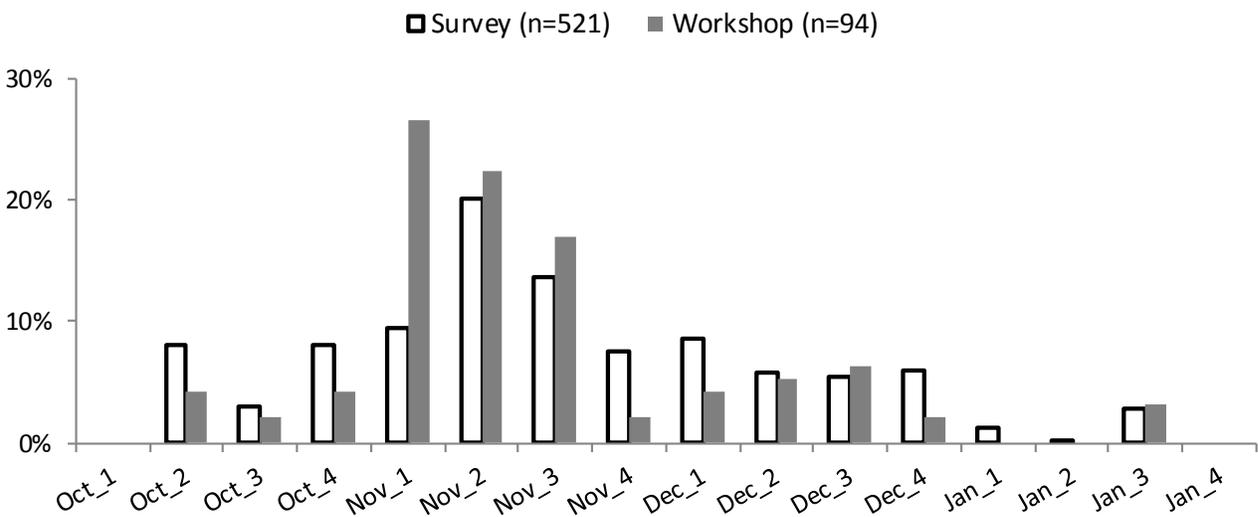


Figure 21. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the North Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

North Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Survey respondents and Workshop Participants

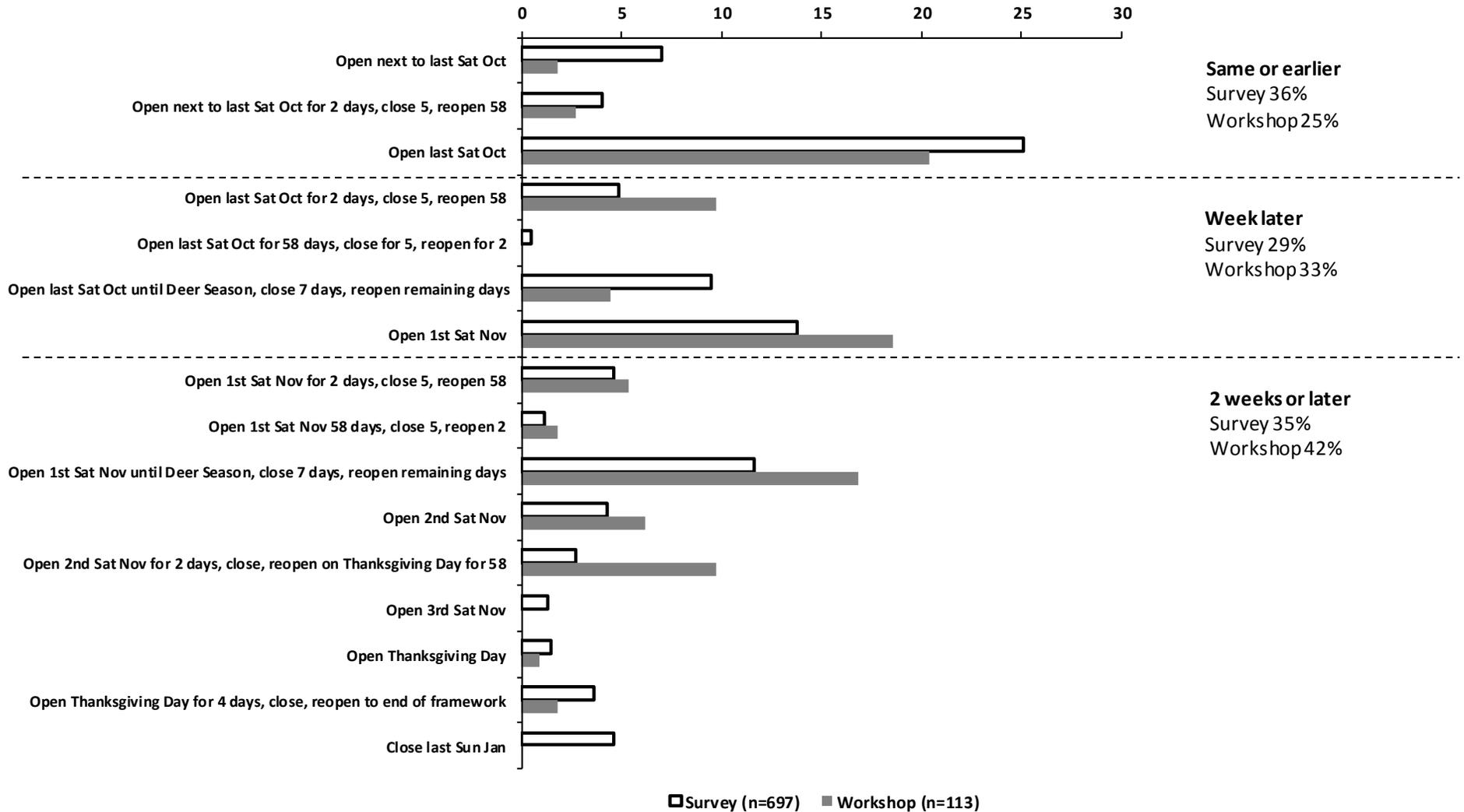


Figure 22. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the North Region.

North Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small Groups

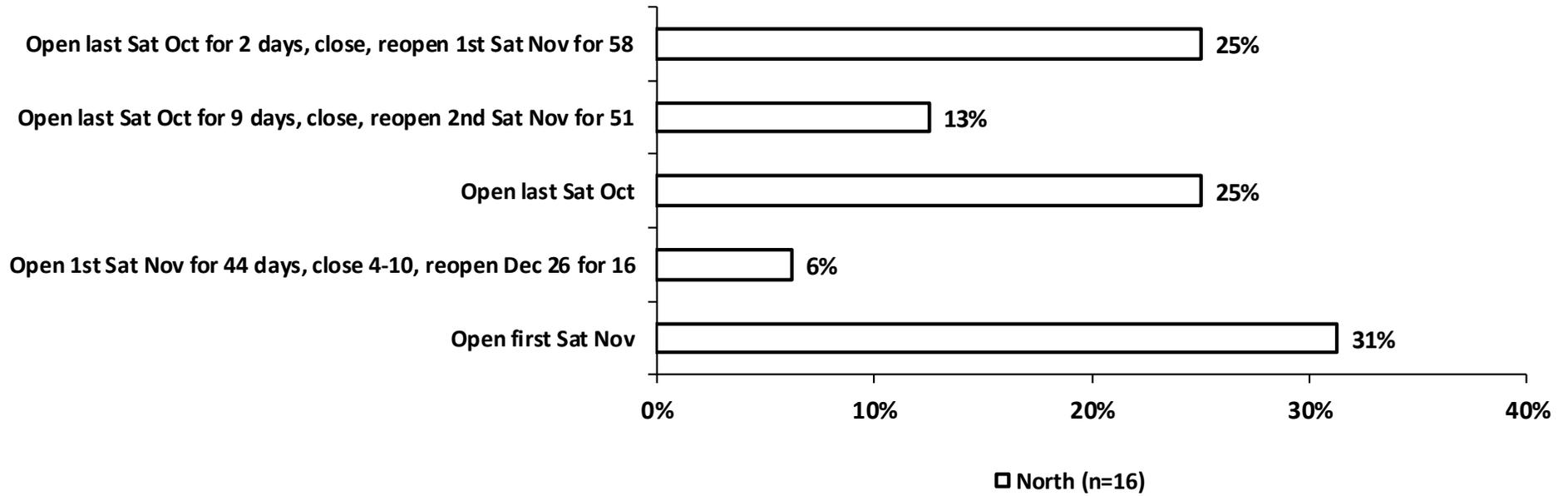


Figure 23. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from the North Region.

North Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop participants (n=104)

Table 7. Most preferred weeks to hunt in the event of a shortened duck season by workshop participants in North Region.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	14%	19%	22%	20%	5%	6%	4%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	1%	22%	36%	57%	76%	68%	38%	38%	21%	15%	6%	0%	
Preferred 6 Weeks	1%	0%	1%	10%	35%	58%	70%	82%	90%	85%	75%	43%	27%	8%	3%	0%

Workshop small groups (n=16)

Table 8. Most preferred weeks to hunt in the event of a shortened duck season by workshop small groups in North Region.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	19%	56%	94%	100%	81%	44%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	13%	56%	88%	100%	100%	94%	81%	44%	13%	6%	0%	0%	0%

North Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=397)

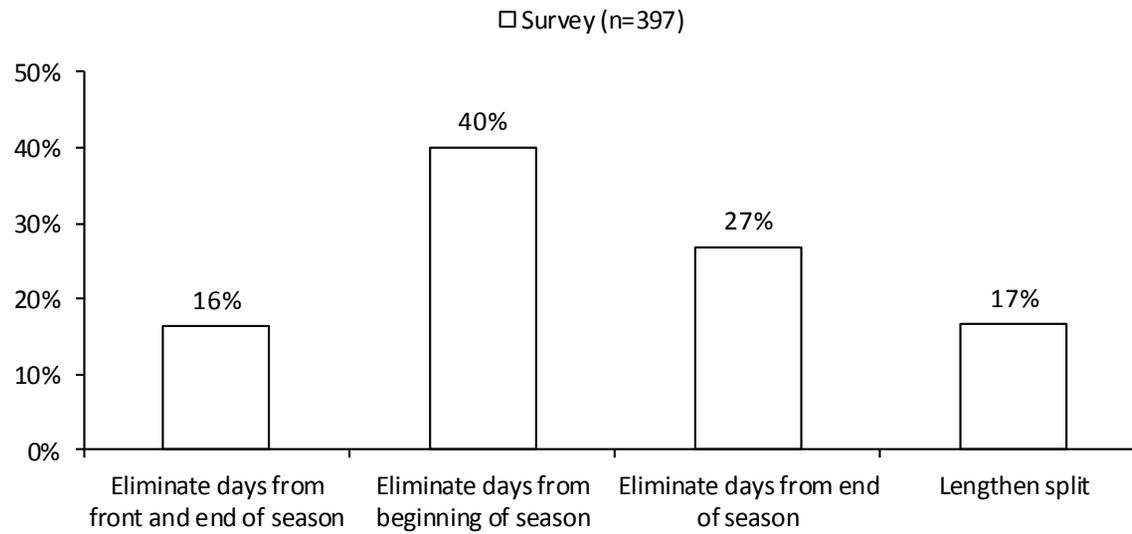
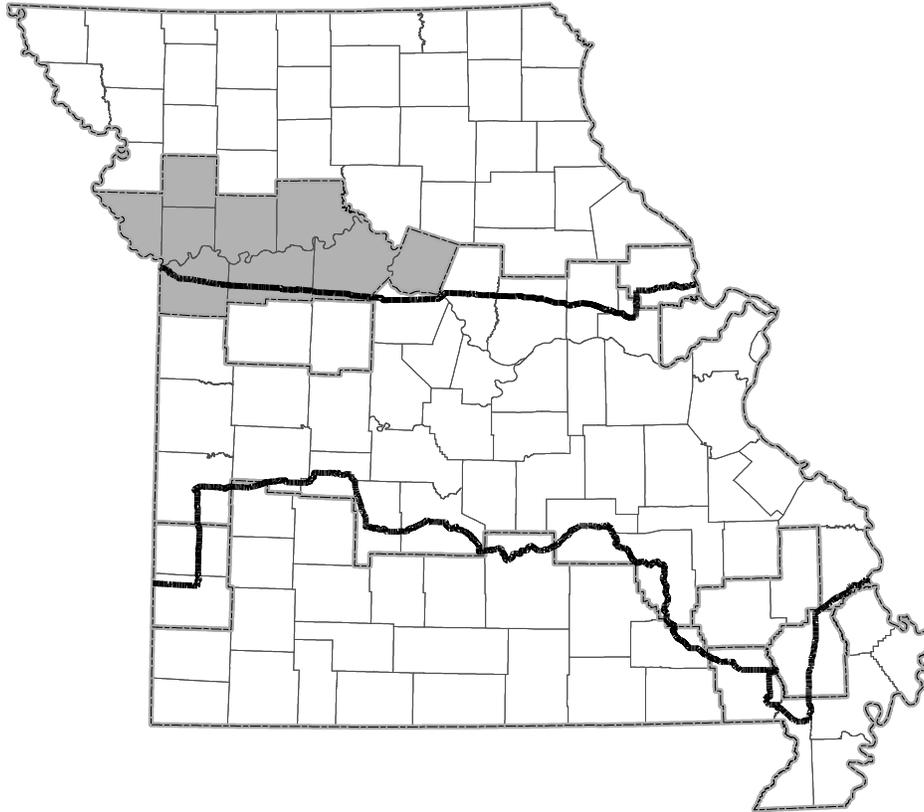


Figure 24. Percent of survey respondents who expressed an opinion from the North Region on where days should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

Missouri River West-North Zone



Missouri River West-North Region - Satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries

Survey respondents and workshop participants

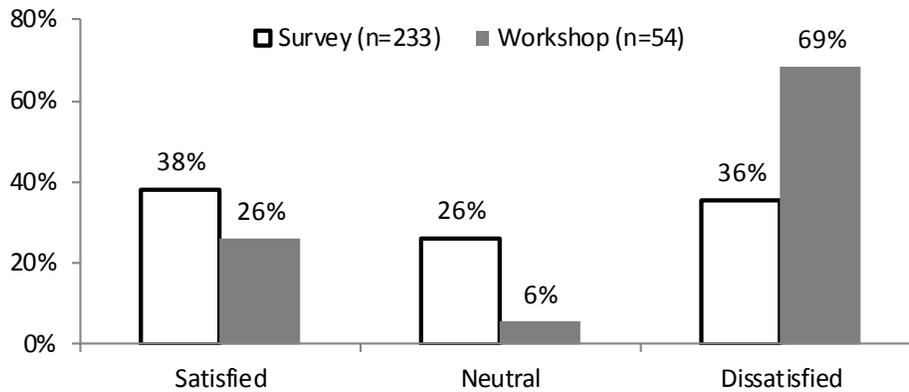


Figure 25. Satisfaction with season dates in Missouri River West-North Region

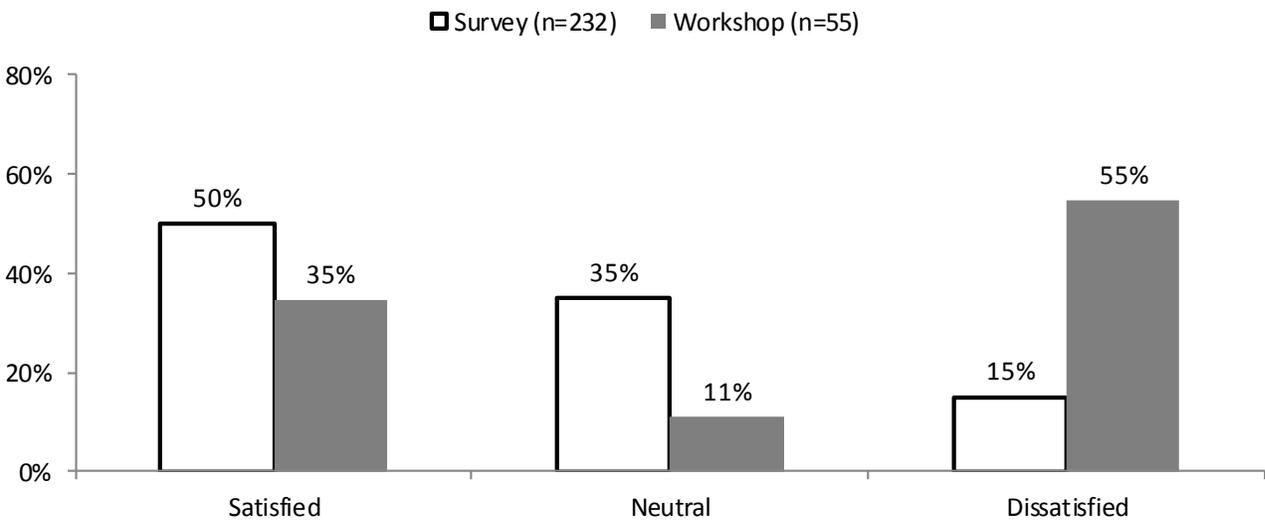


Figure 26. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in Missouri River West-North Region.

Missouri River West-North Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split

Survey respondents and workshop participants

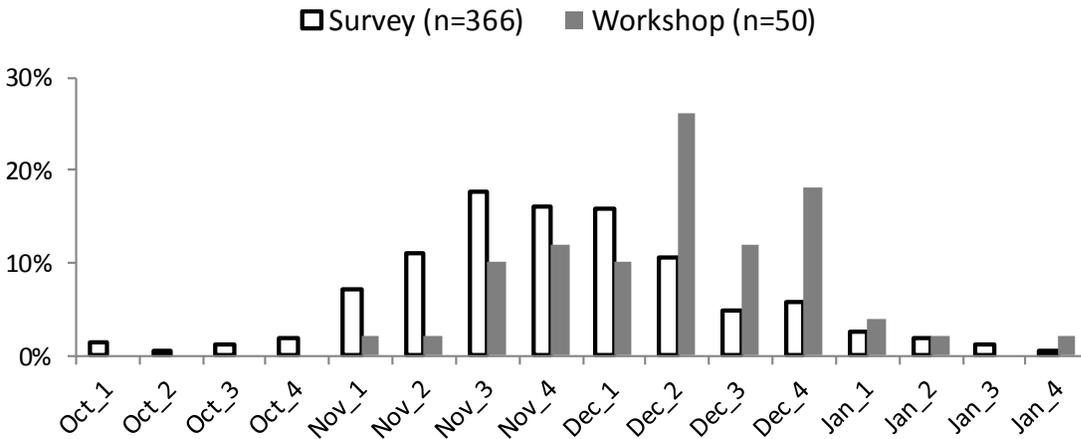


Figure 27. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Missouri River West-North Region.

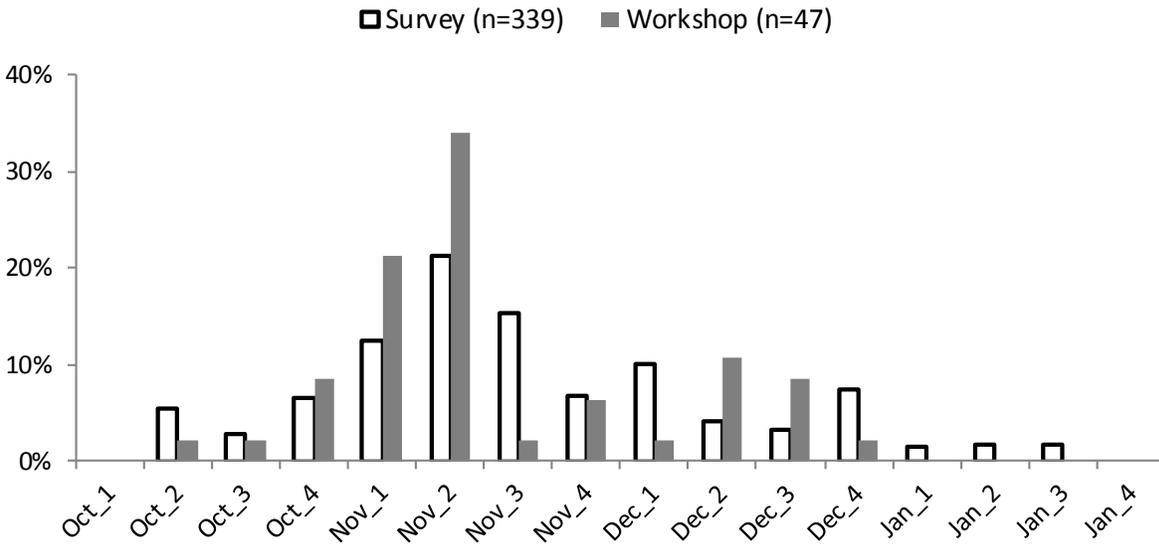


Figure 28. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the Missouri River West-North Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

Missouri River West-North Region - Zone Boundary Preferences Survey respondents and workshop participants

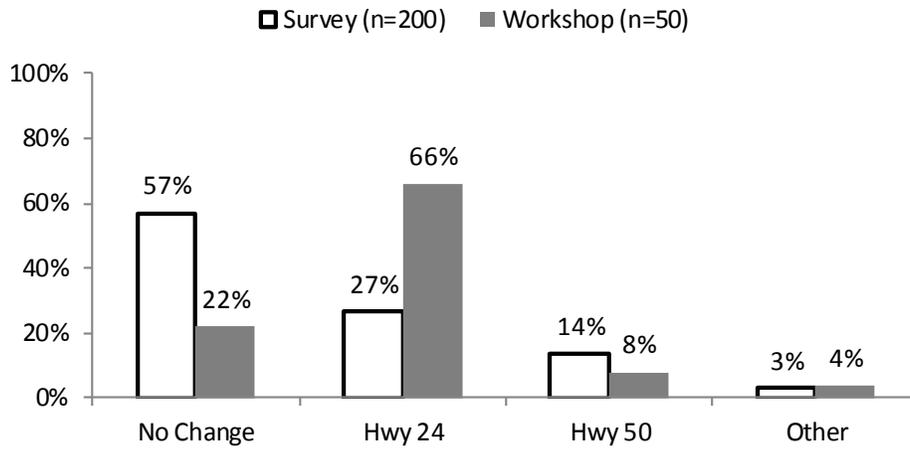


Figure 29. Zone boundary preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the Missouri River West-North Region.

Workshop Small Groups

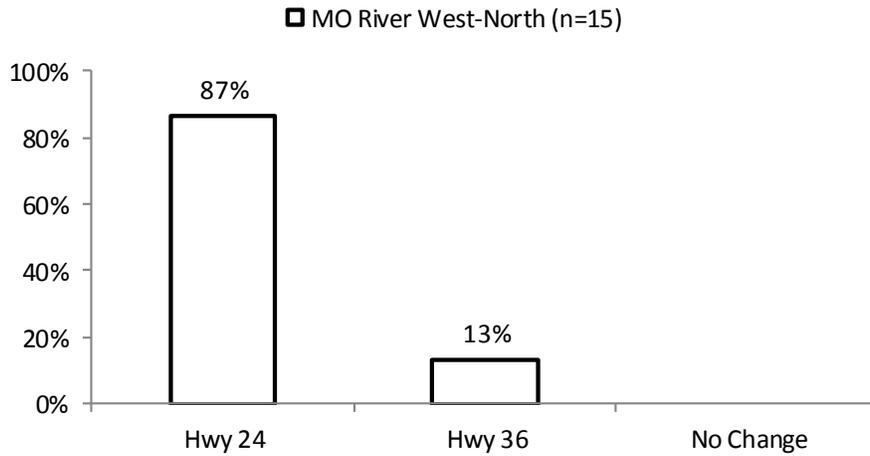


Figure 30. Zone boundary preferences for workshop small group participants from the Missouri River West-North Region.

Missouri River West-North - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

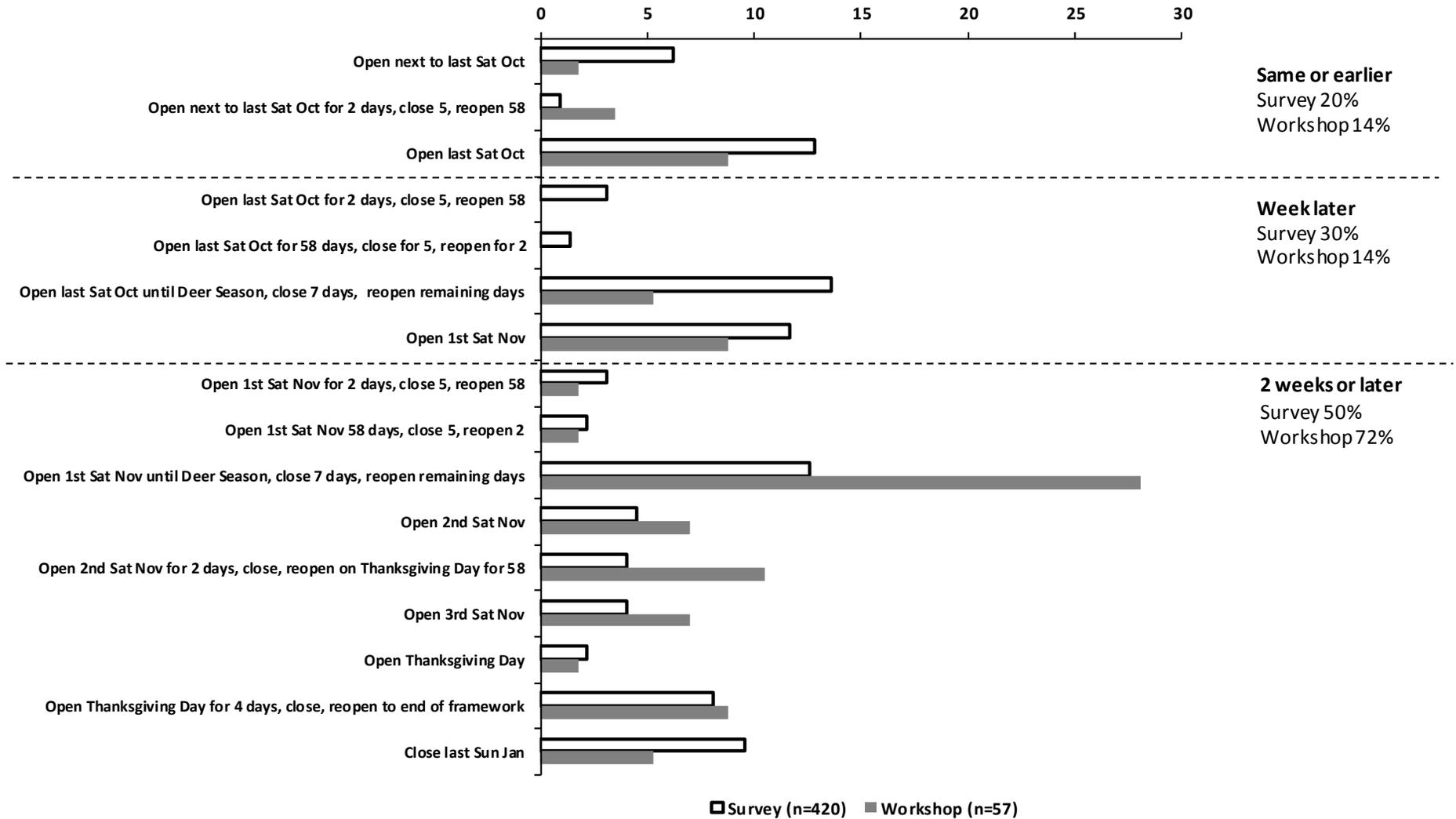


Figure 31. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the Missouri River West-North region.

Missouri River West-North - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small groups

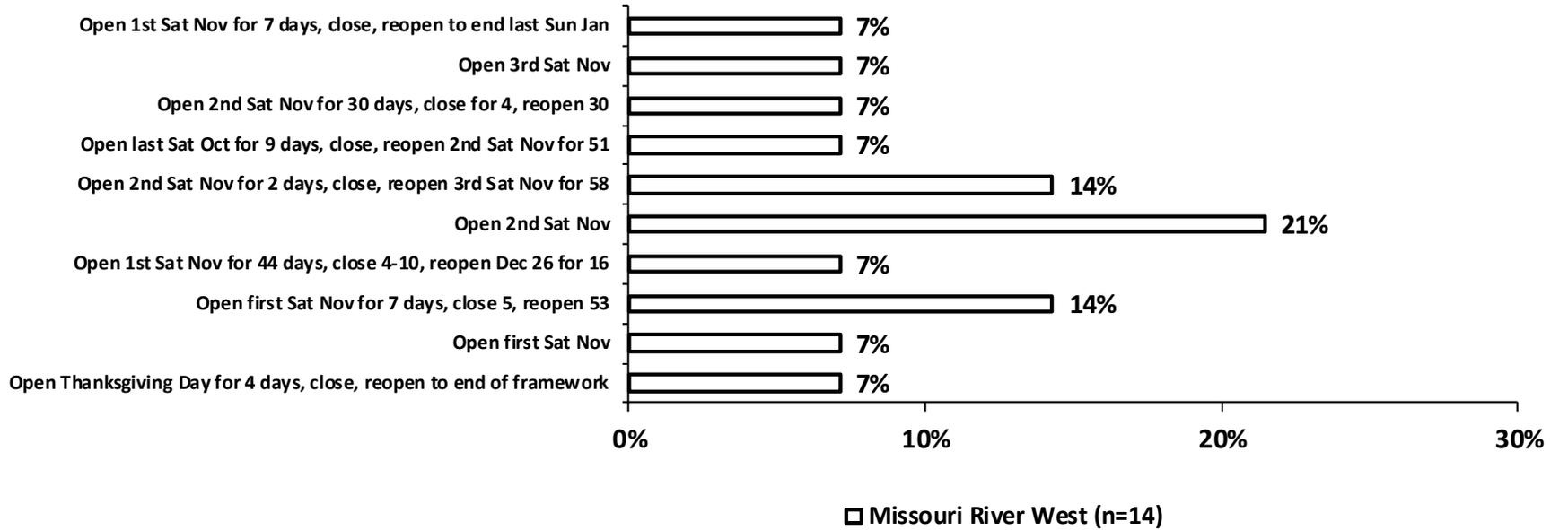


Figure 32. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from the Missouri River West-North region. Region.

Missouri River West-North Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop Participants (n=47)

Table 9. Most preferred weeks to hunt in the event of a shortened duck season by workshop participants in Missouri River West-North Region.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	11%	11%	9%	26%	11%	19%	4%	2%	0%	2%
Preferred 4 Weeks	2%	2%	2%	2%	11%	17%	36%	49%	49%	55%	55%	40%	36%	21%	6%	
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	2%	4%	8%	23%	40%	46%	60%	83%	88%	71%	65%	60%	40%	6%	2%

Workshop Small Groups (n=15)

Table 10. Most preferred weeks to hunt in the event of a shortened duck season by workshop participants in Missouri River West-North Region.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	7%	47%	53%	53%	93%	67%	60%	47%	20%	0%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	33%	53%	67%	80%	80%	80%	67%	53%	27%	7%	0%

Missouri River West-North Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=227)

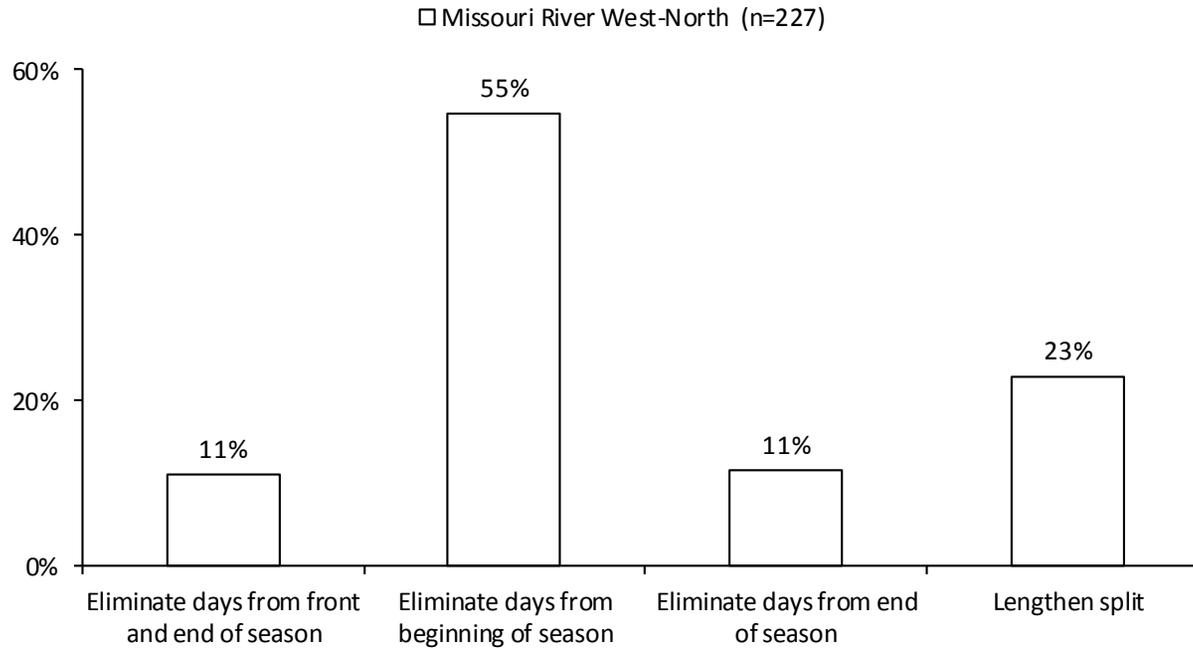
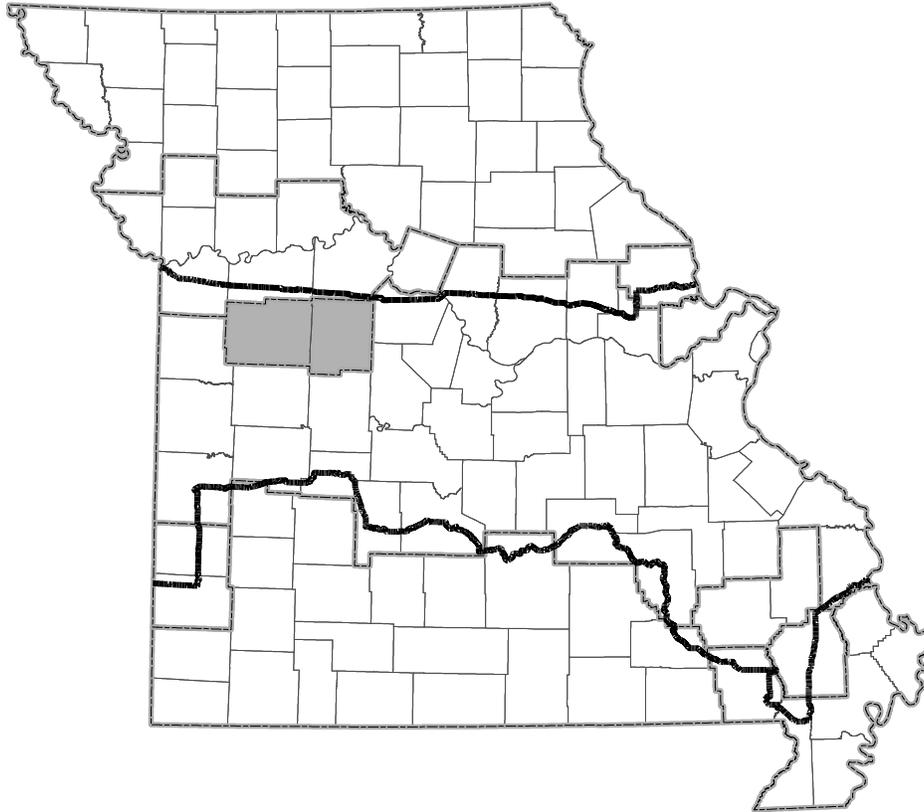


Figure 33. Percent survey respondents in the Missouri River West-North Zone region who indicated where days should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

Missouri River West-Middle Zone



Missouri River West-Middle Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries

Survey respondents

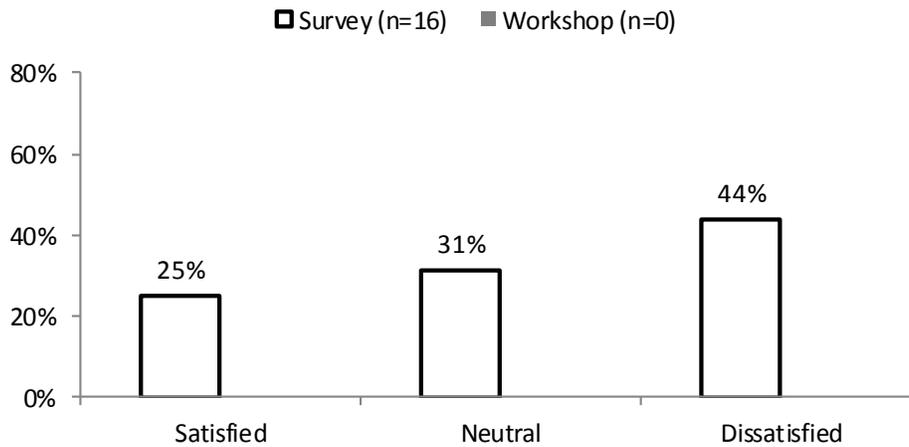


Figure 34. Satisfaction with season dates in Missouri River West-Middle Region.

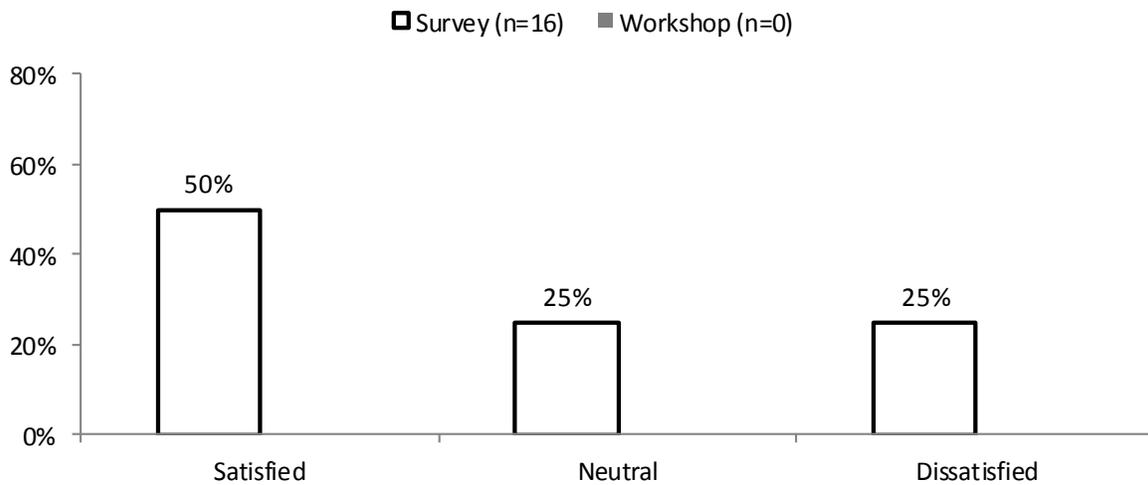


Figure 35. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in Missouri River West-Middle Region.

Missouri River West-Middle - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split

Survey respondents

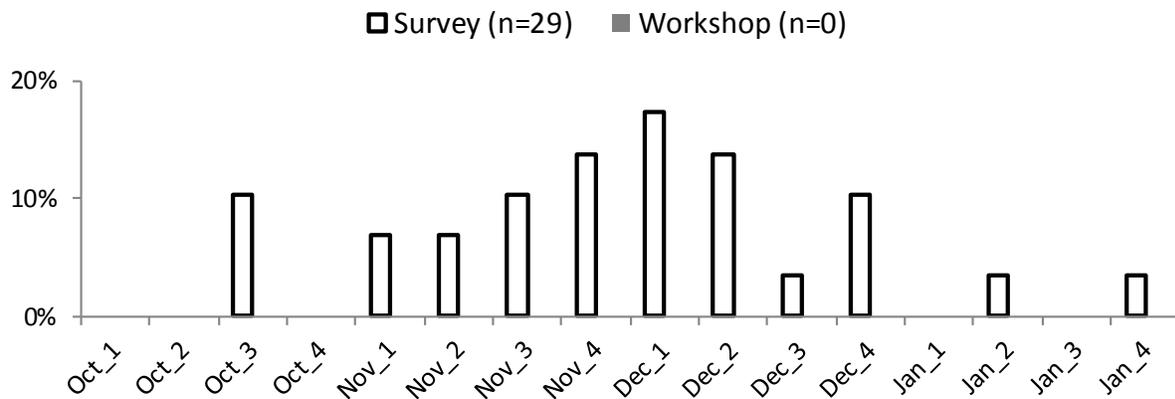


Figure 36. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Missouri River West-Middle Region.

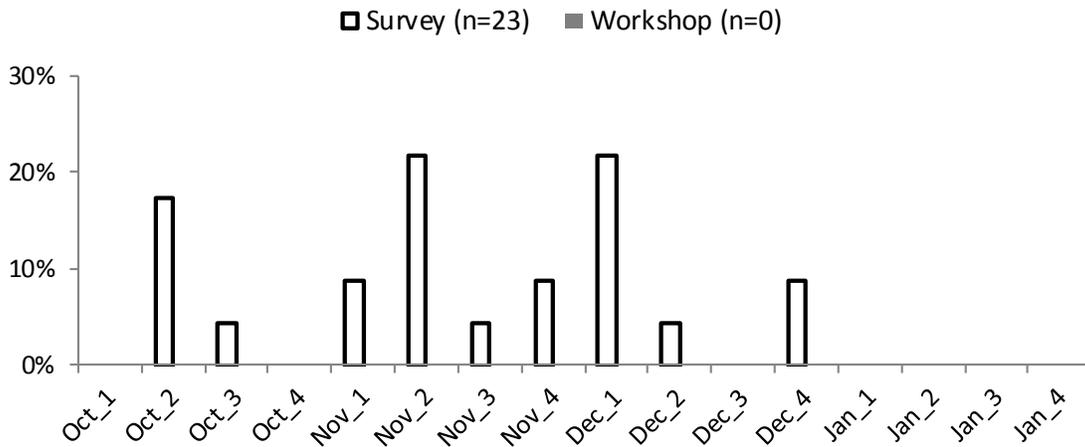


Figure 37. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the Missouri River West-Middle Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

Missouri River West-Middle - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Survey Respondents

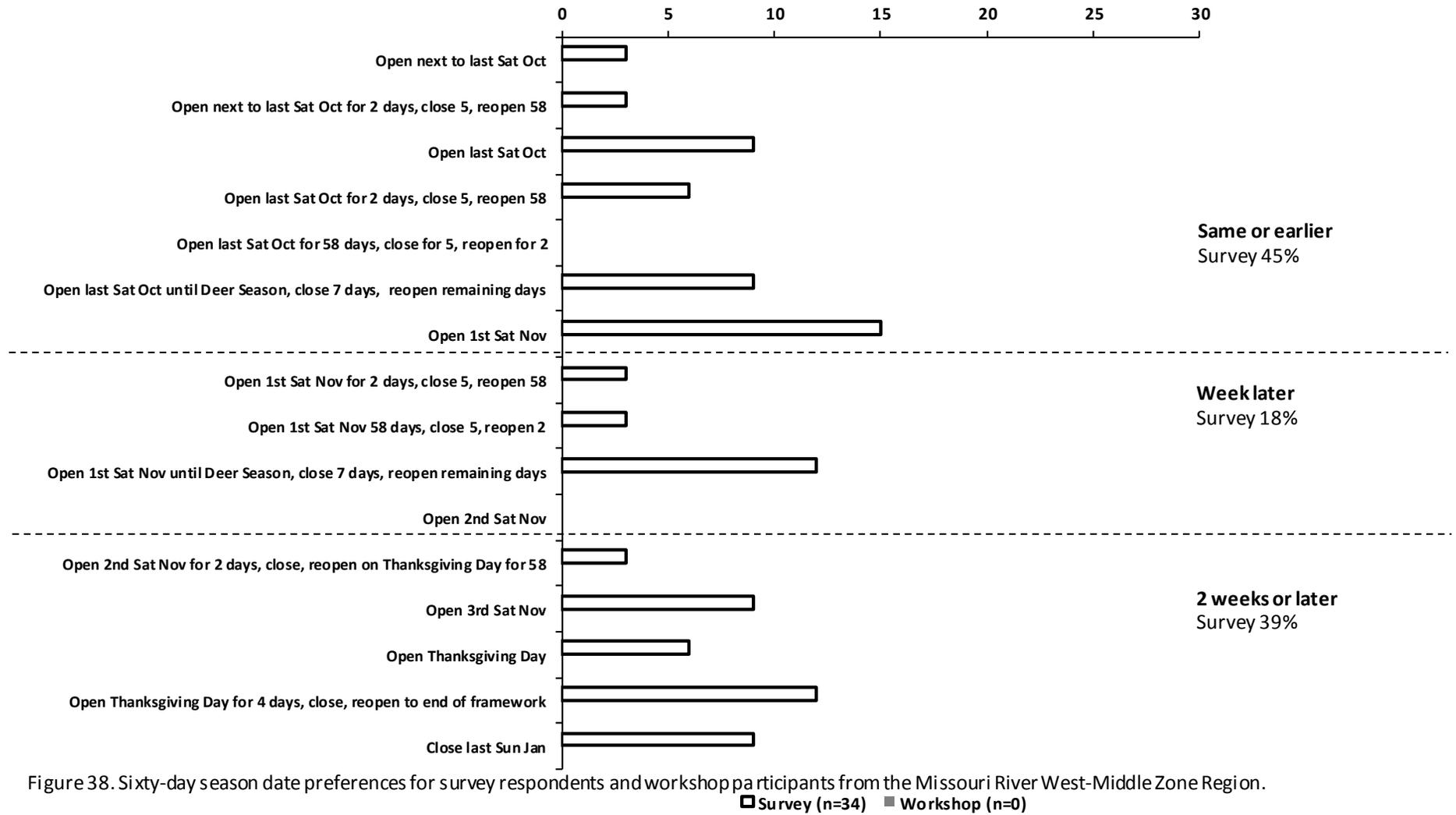


Figure 38. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the Missouri River West-Middle Zone Region.

■ Survey (n=34) ■ Workshop (n=0)

Lincoln County Region



Lincoln County Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries

Survey respondents and workshop participants

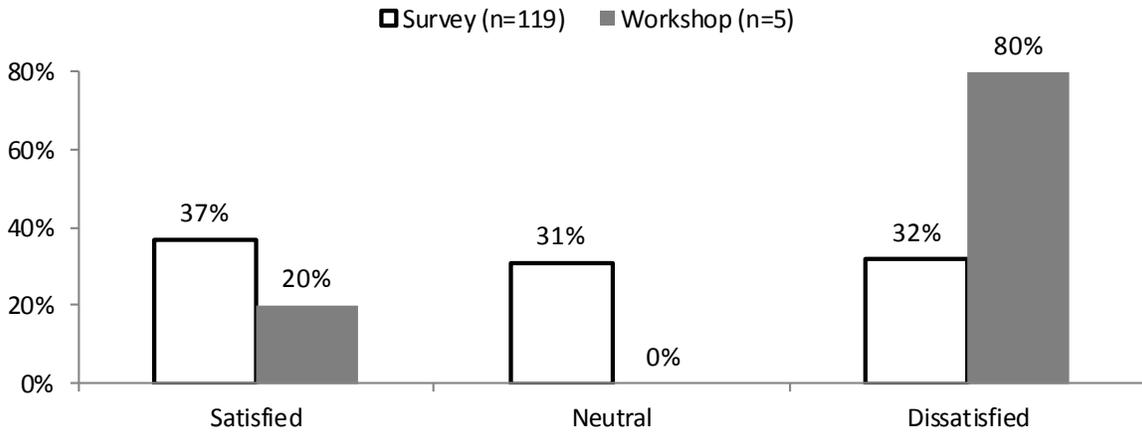


Figure 39. Satisfaction with season dates in Lincoln Region.

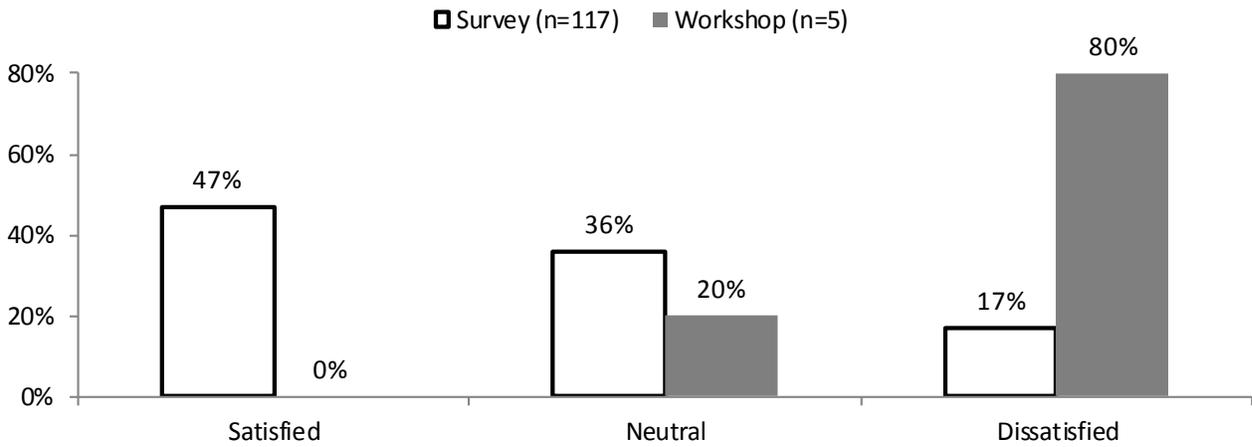


Figure 40. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in Lincoln Region.

Lincoln County Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

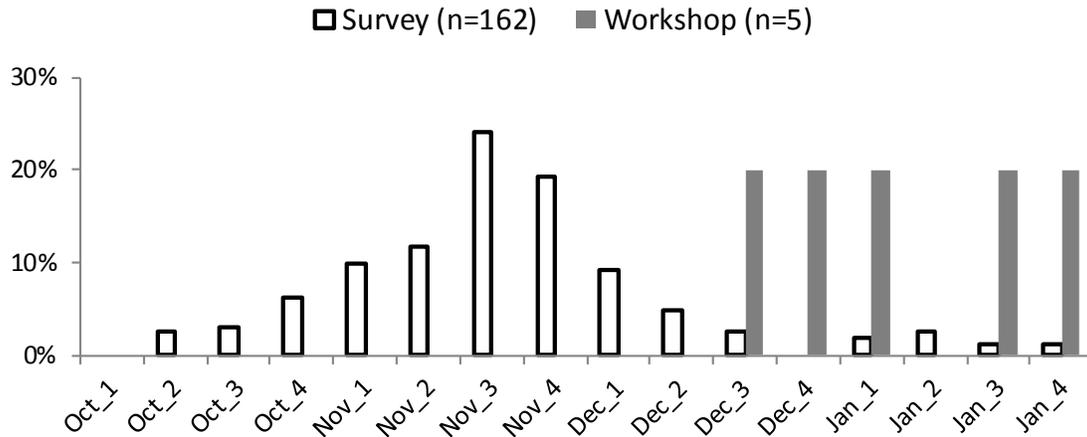


Figure 41. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Lincoln Region.

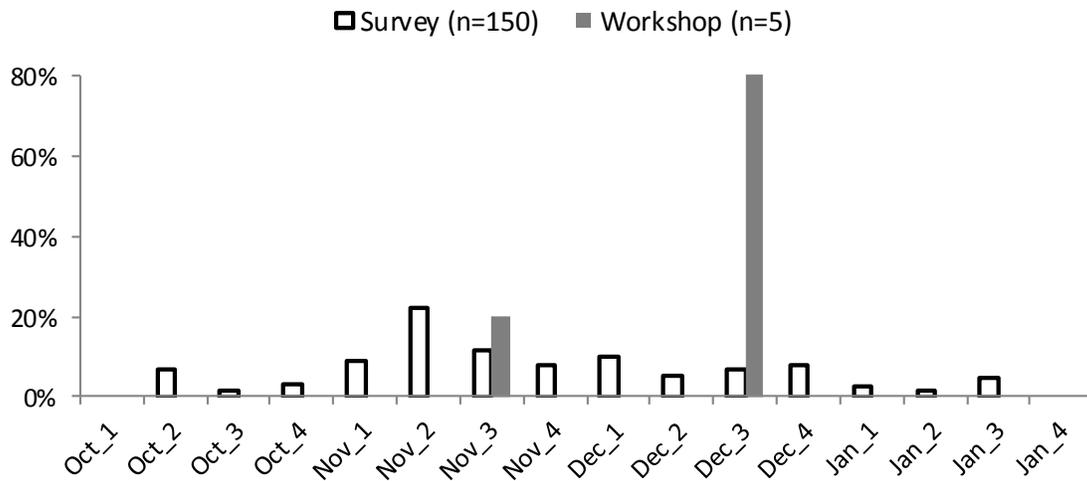


Figure 42. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the Lincoln Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

Lincoln County Region - Zone Boundary Preferences

Survey respondents and Workshop Participants

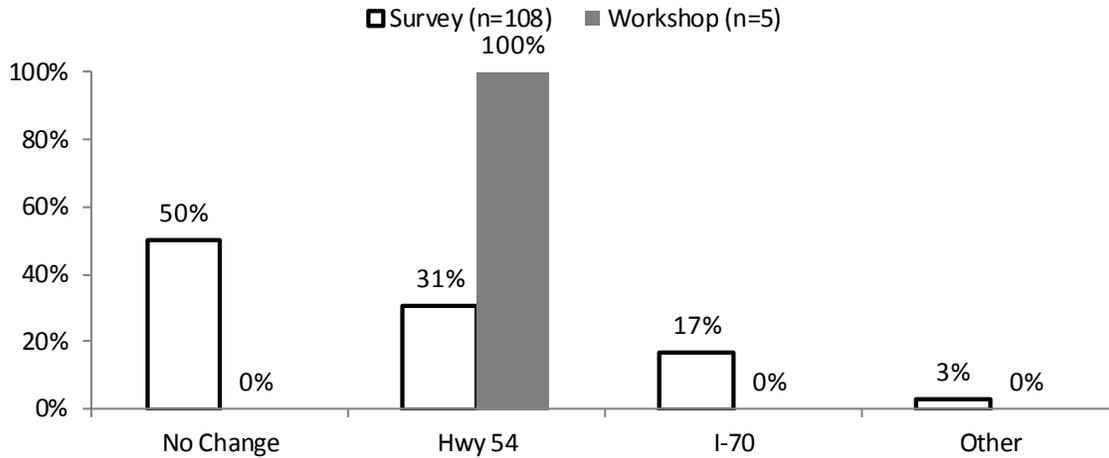


Figure 43. Zone boundary preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from Lincoln Region.

Workshop Small Groups

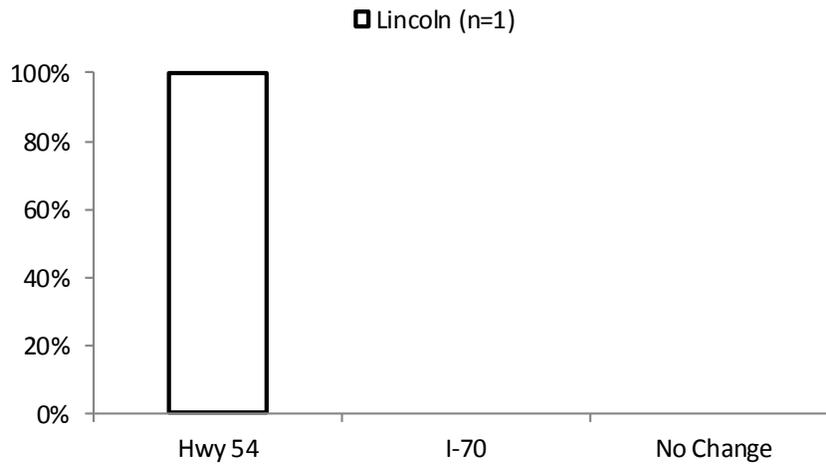


Figure 44. Zone boundary preferences for workshop small group participants from Lincoln Region.

Lincoln County Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

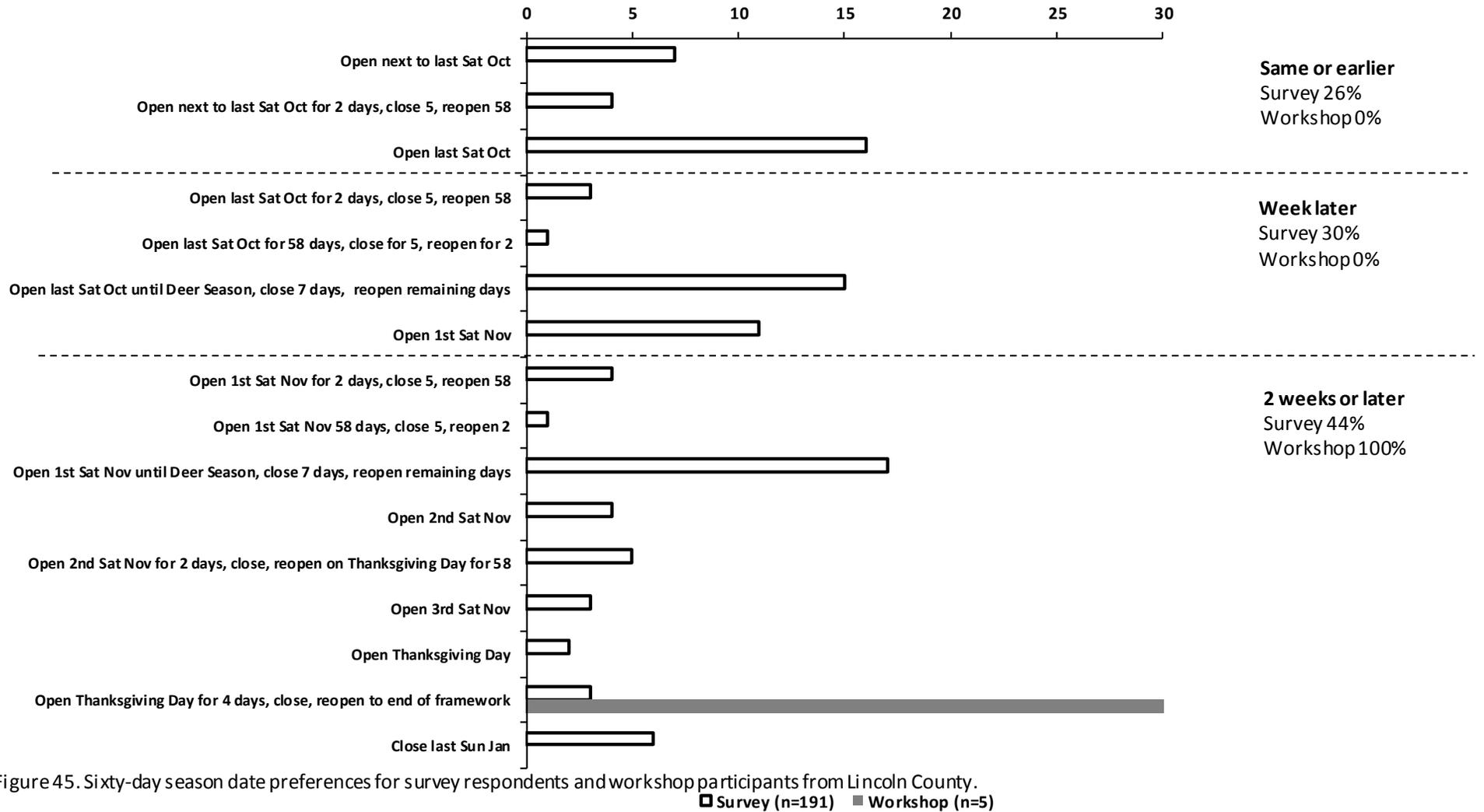


Figure 45. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from Lincoln County.

Lincoln County Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small groups

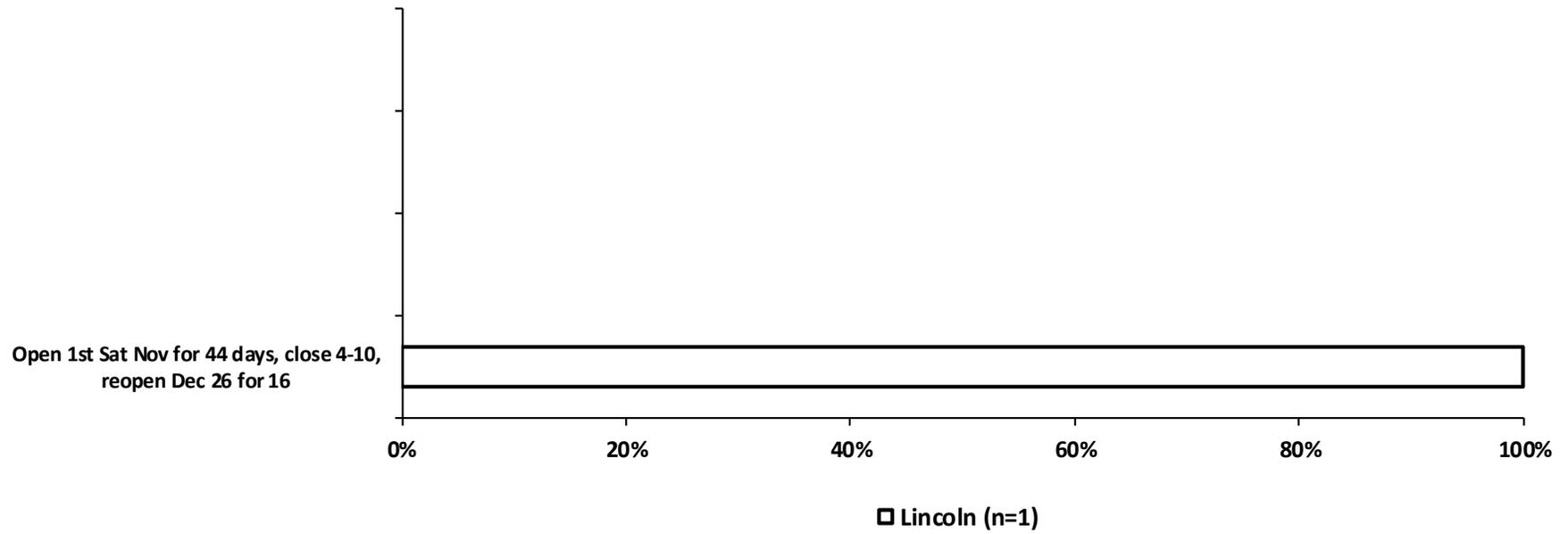


Figure 46. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from Lincoln County.

Lincoln County Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Survey respondents and Workshop Participants (n=5)

Table 11. Most preferred weeks to hunt in the event of a shortened duck season by workshop participants in Lincoln County Region.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	20%	20%	0%	20%	20%
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	20%	80%	80%	80%	60%	80%	20%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	60%	100%	60%	60%	60%	80%	40%	20%

Workshop Small Groups (n=1)

Table 12. Most preferred weeks to hunt in the event of a shortened duck season by workshop small groups in Lincoln County Region.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%

Lincoln County Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=116)

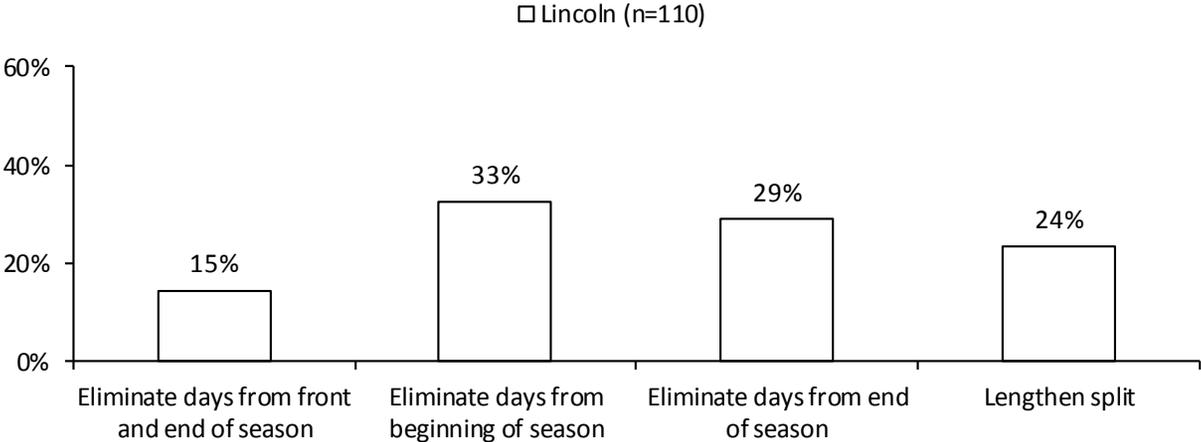


Figure 47. Percent survey respondents from the Lincoln region who indicated where dates should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

St Charles County Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries

Survey respondents and workshop participants

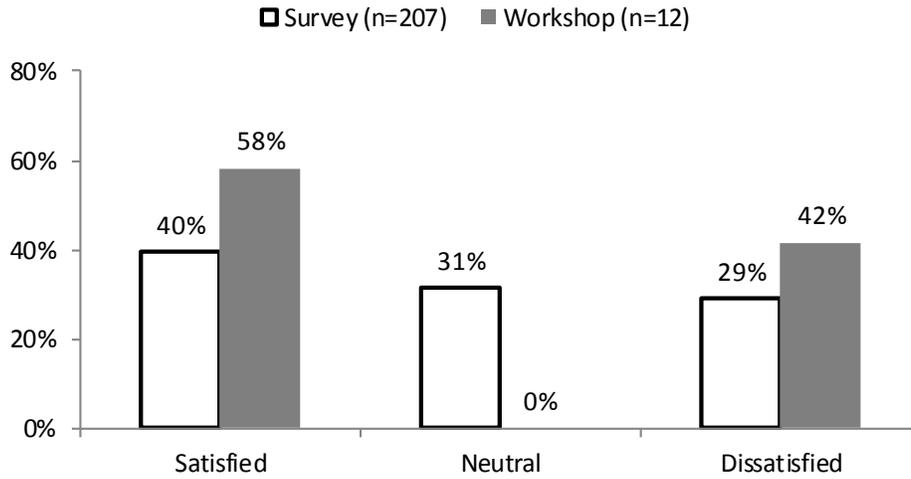


Figure 48. Satisfaction with season dates in St Charles Region.

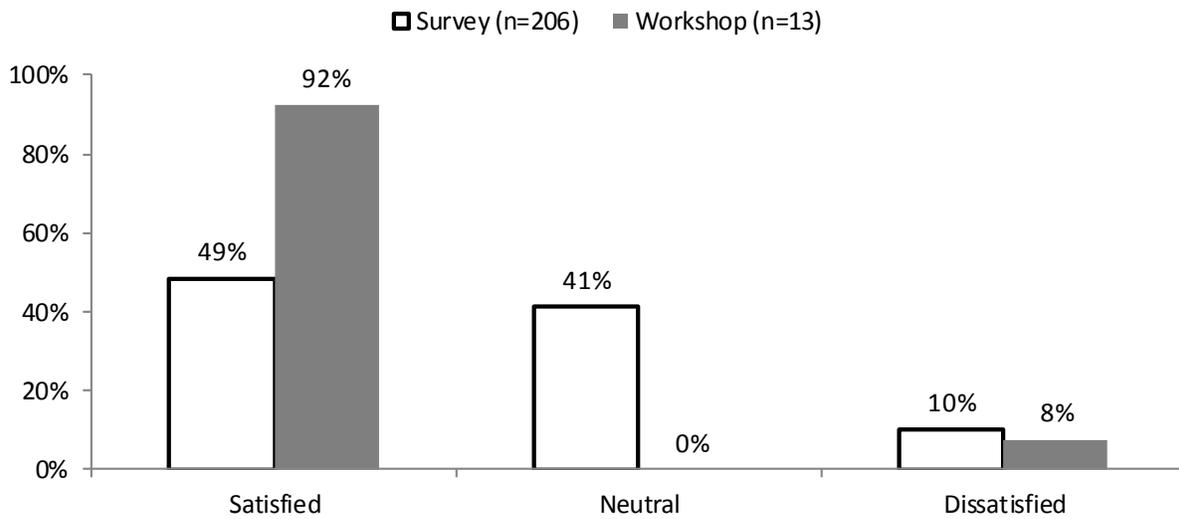


Figure 49. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in St Charles Region.

St Charles County Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split

Survey respondents and workshop participants

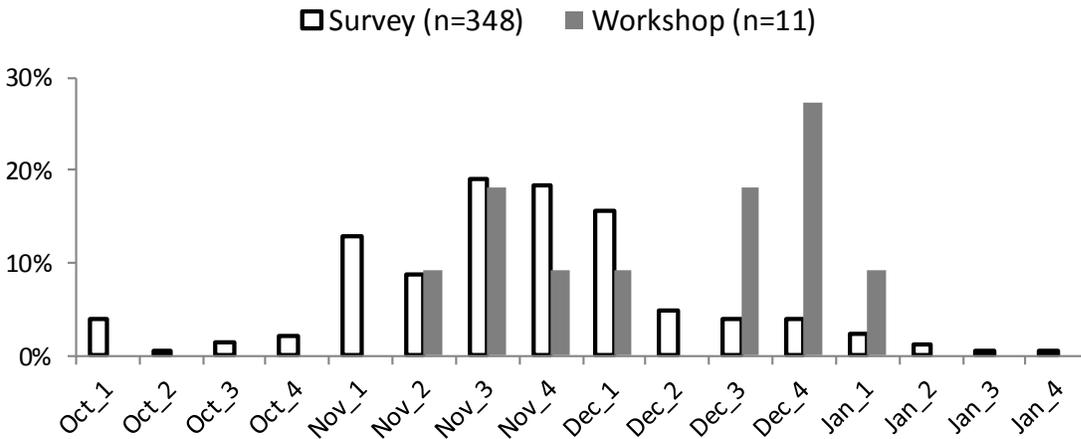


Figure 50. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the St Charles Region.

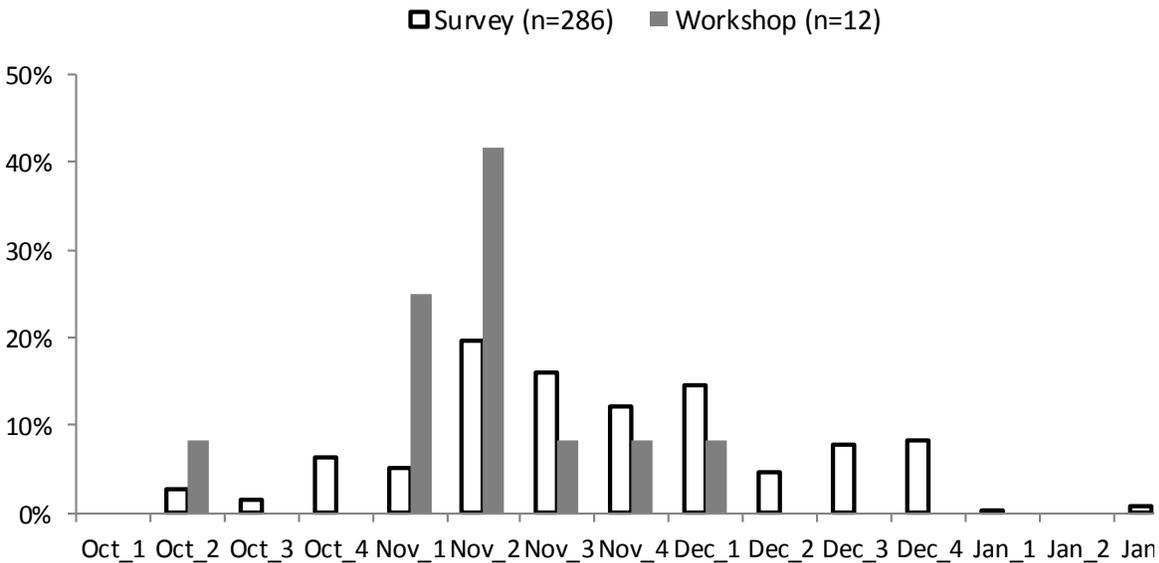


Figure 51. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the St Charles Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

St Charles County Region - Zone Boundary Preferences

Survey respondents and workshop participants

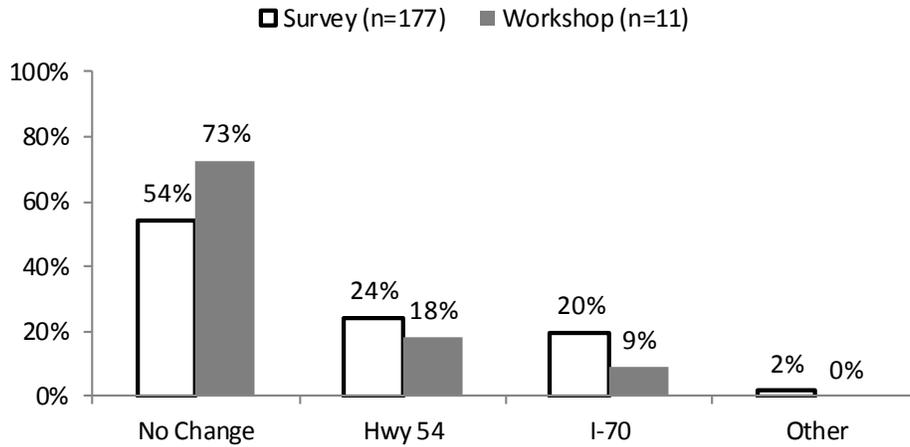


Figure 52. Zone boundary preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the St Charles Region.

Workshop Small Groups

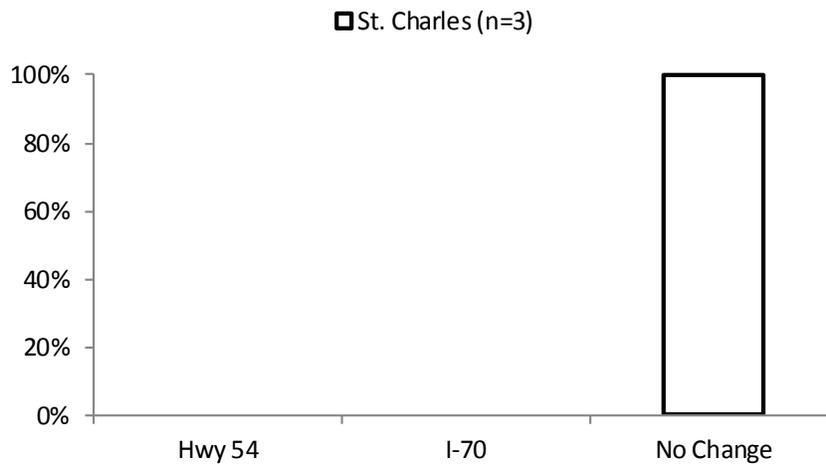


Figure 53. Zone boundary preferences for workshop small group participants from St Charles Region.

St Charles County Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

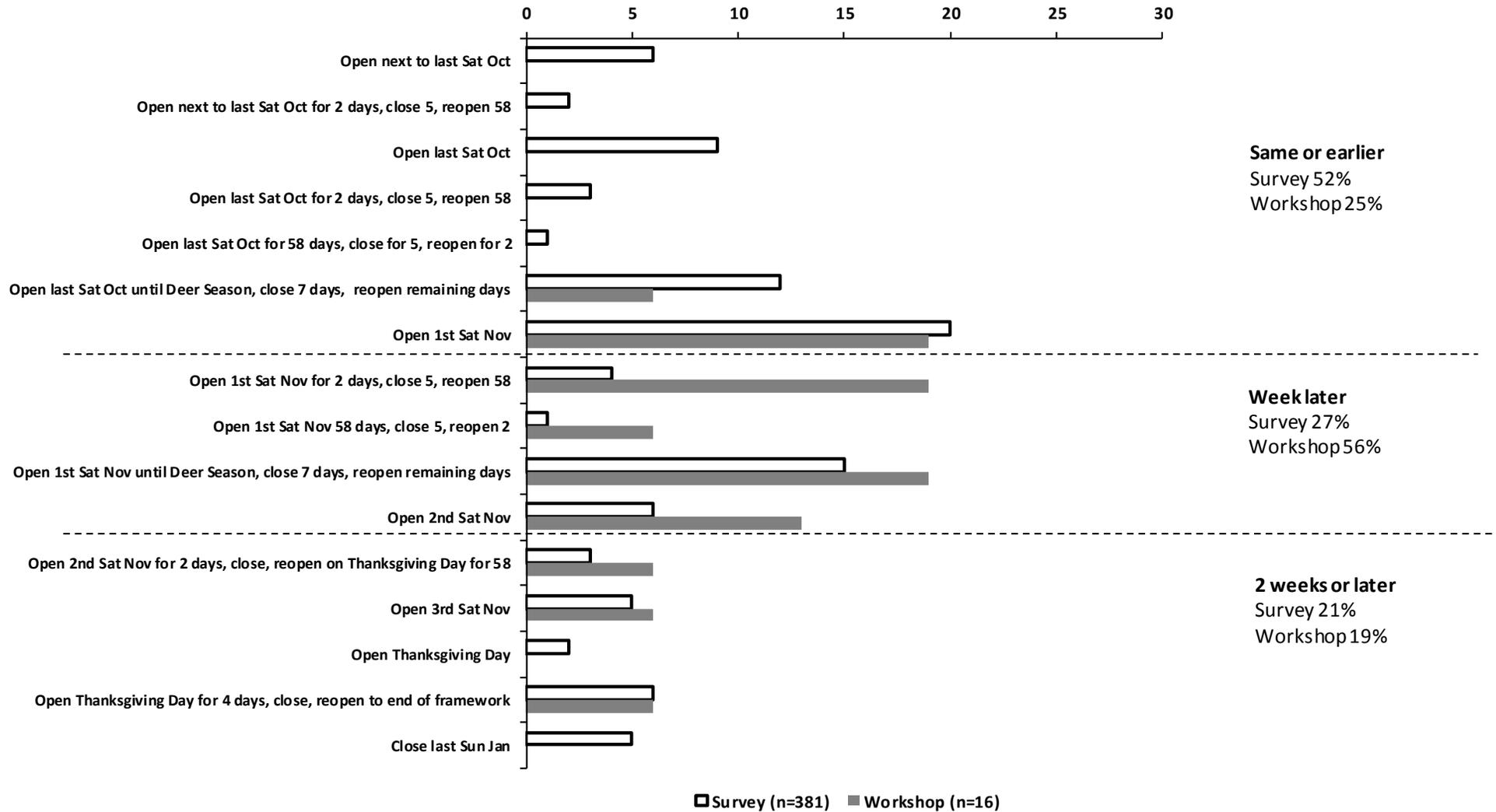


Figure 54. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from St. Charles.

St Charles County Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small groups

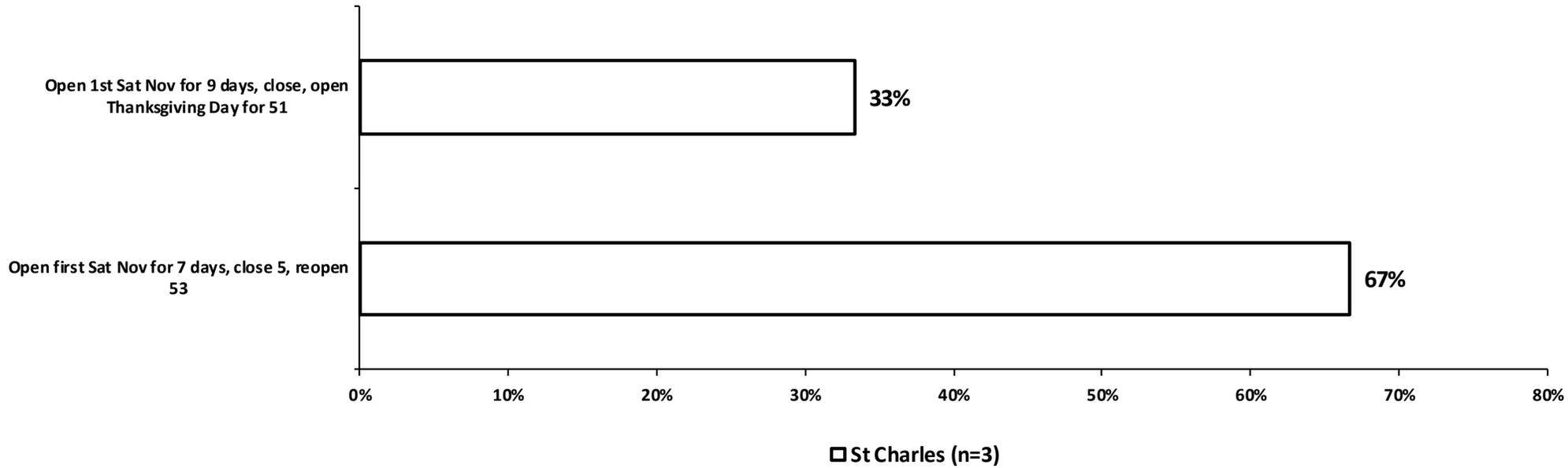


Figure 55. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from St. Charles.

St Charles County Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop Participants (n=11)

Table 13. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	15%	8%	15%	0%	15%	31%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	64%	55%	64%	36%	36%	45%	27%	18%	9%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	42%	75%	83%	83%	92%	92%	58%	42%	17%	0%	0%

Workshop Small Groups (n=3)

Table 14. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop small groups the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	67%	67%	33%	0%	67%	67%	33%	33%	0%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%	100%	67%	67%	33%	0%	0%

St Charles County Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=201)

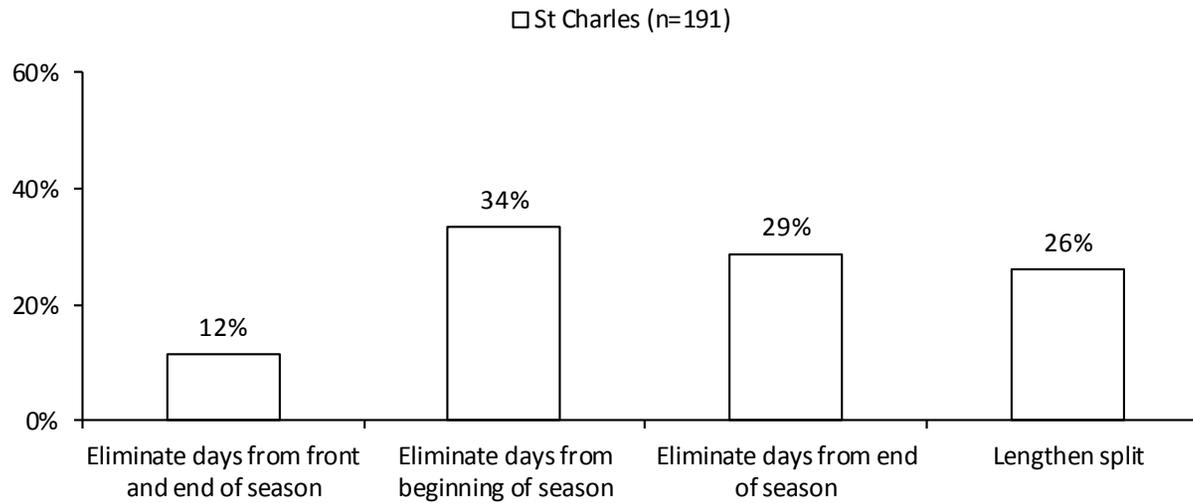
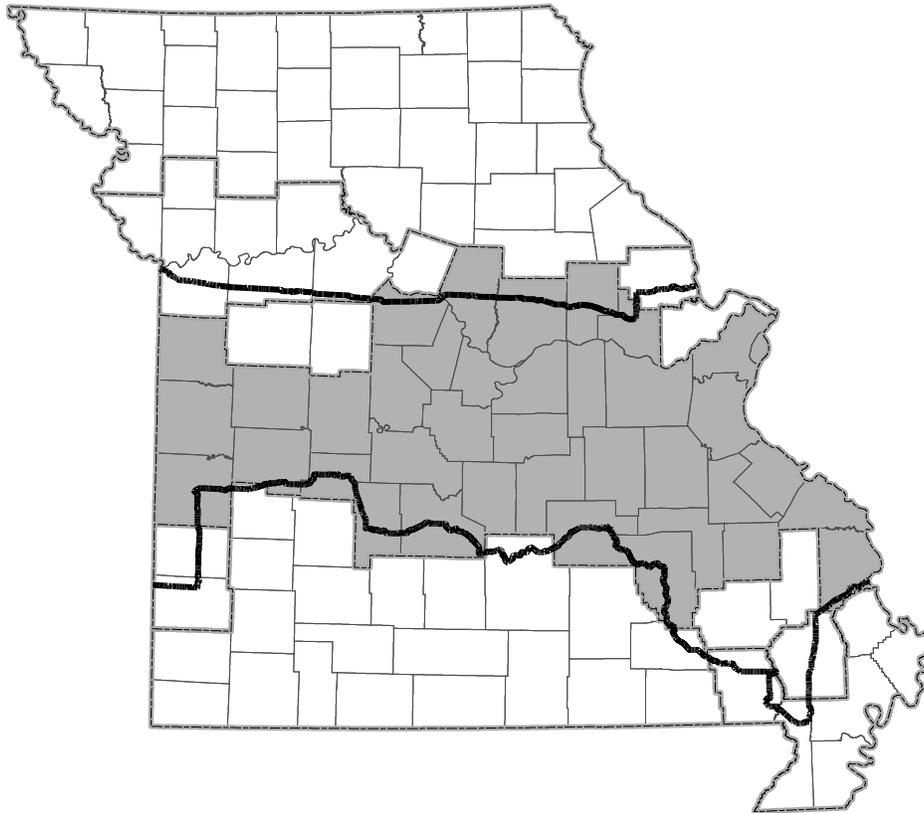


Figure 56. Percent of survey respondents from the St Charles region who indicated where days should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

Middle Region



Middle Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries

Survey respondents and workshop participants

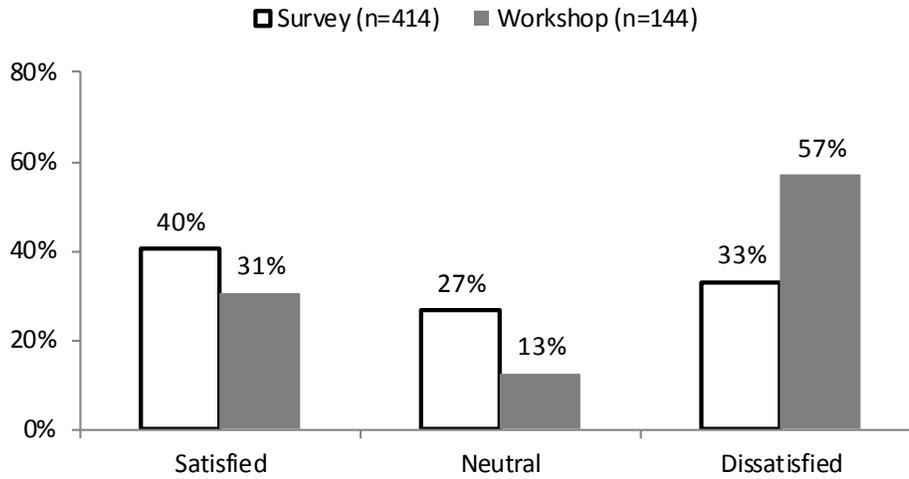


Figure 57. Satisfaction with season dates in Middle Region.

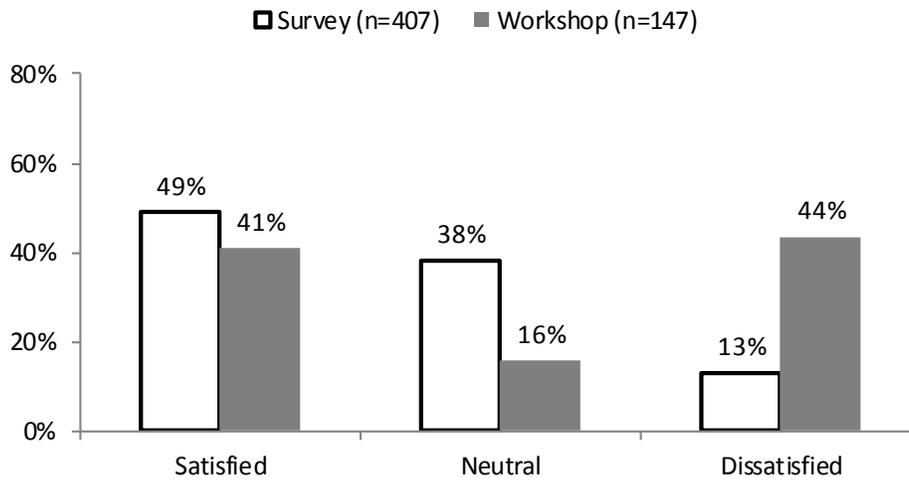


Figure 58 Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in Middle Region.

Middle Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

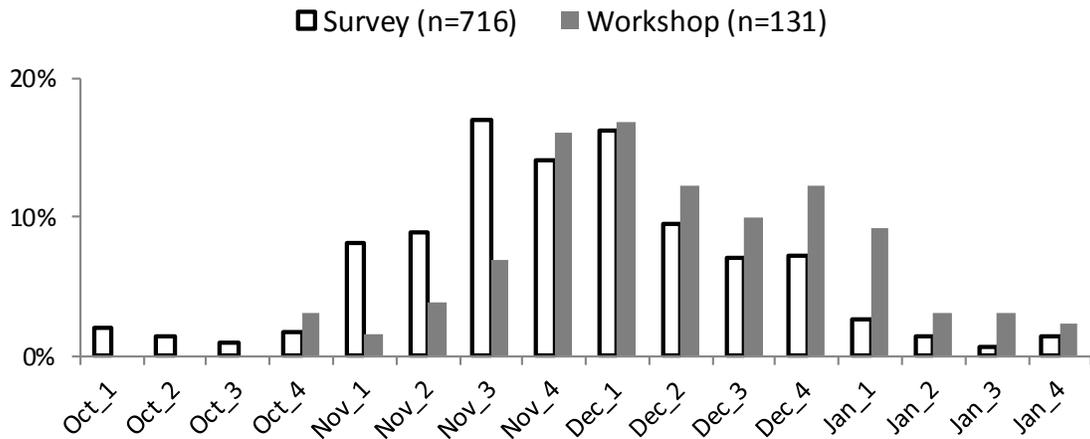


Figure 59. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Middle Region.

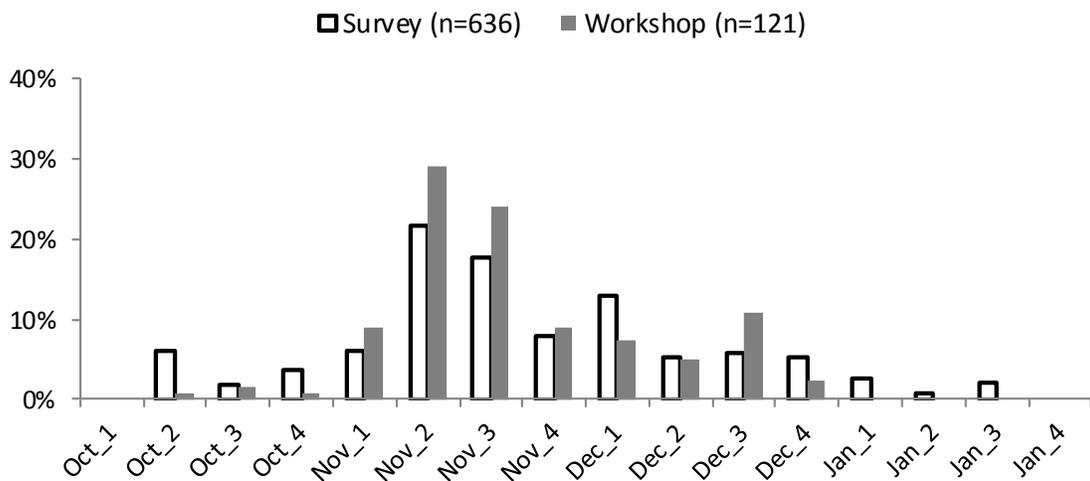


Figure 60. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the Middle Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

Middle Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

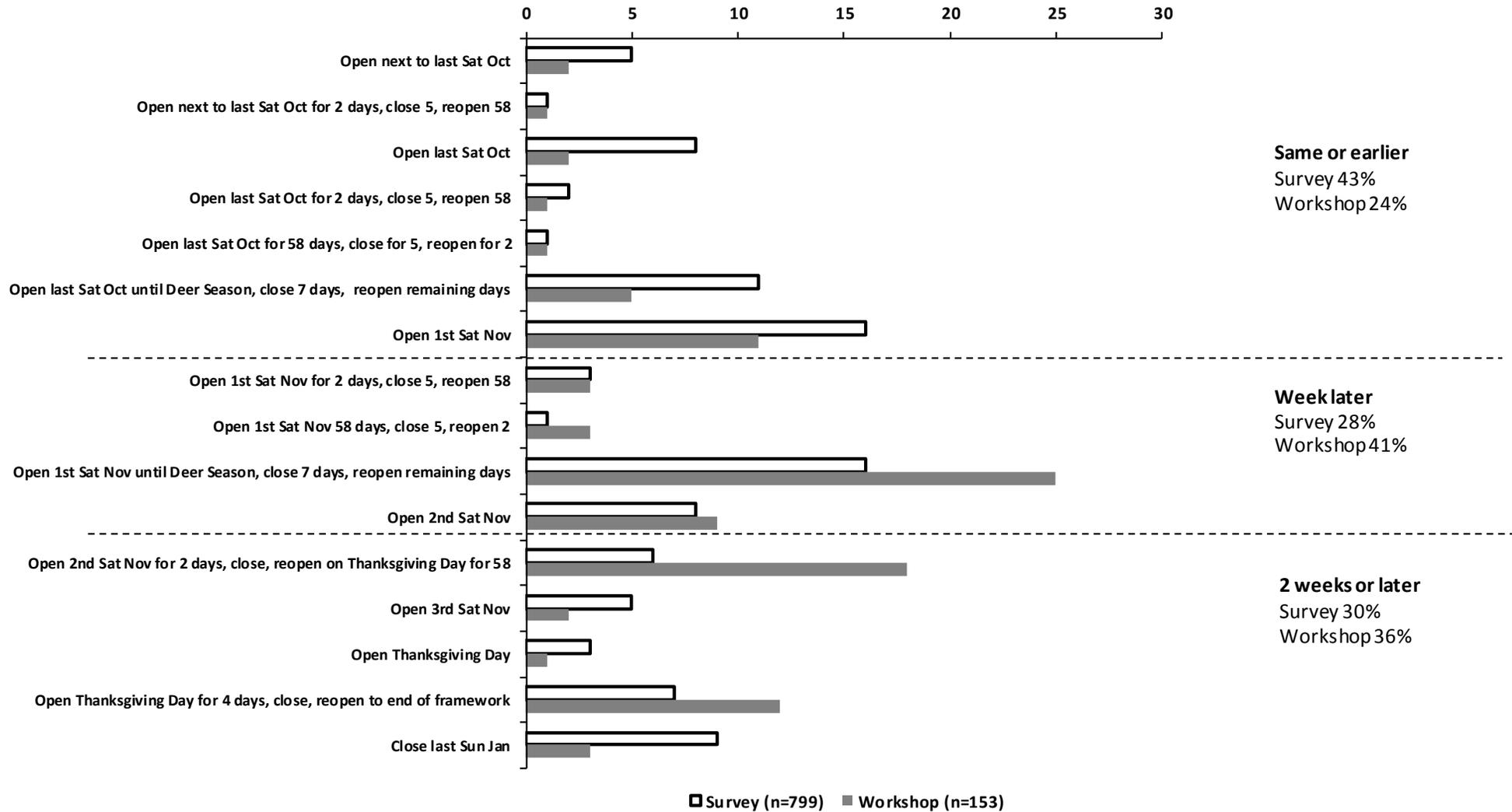


Figure 61. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the Middle region.

Middle Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small groups

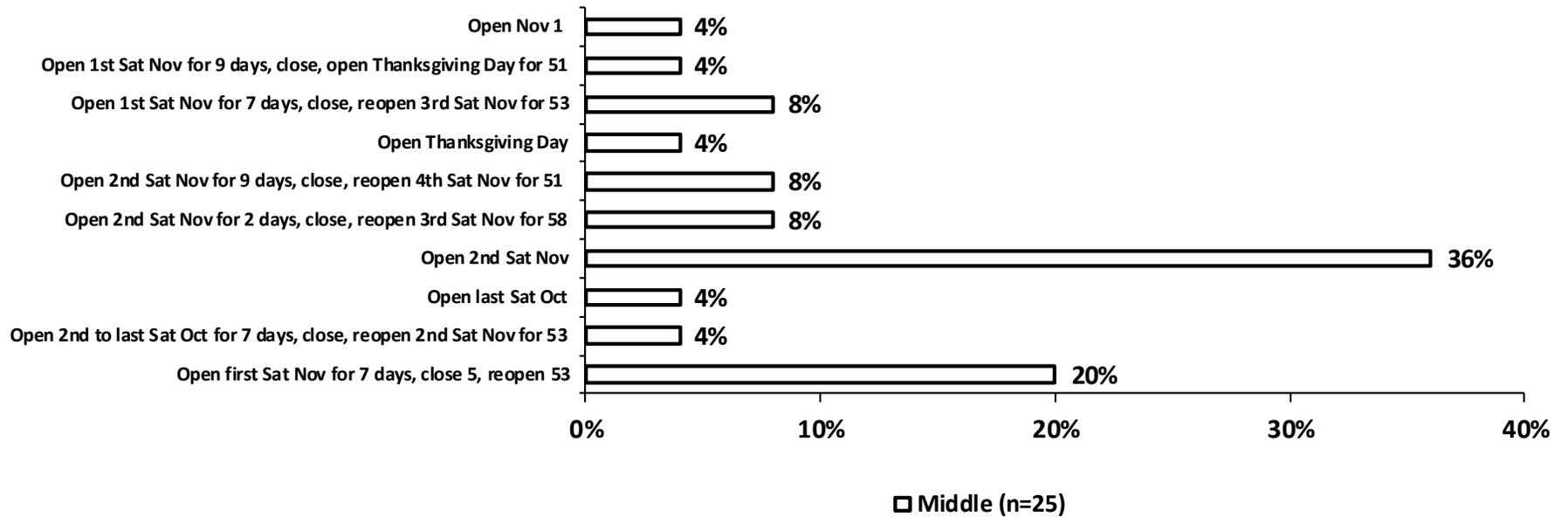


Figure 62. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from the Middle region.

Middle Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop Participants (n=128)

Table 15. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	4%	1%	4%	6%	16%	17%	12%	10%	12%	9%	3%	4%	2%
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	3%	6%	15%	36%	50%	64%	56%	56%	45%	31%	18%	6%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	3%	5%	13%	34%	52%	69%	69%	75%	82%	70%	56%	36%	20%	10%

Workshop Small Groups (n=25)

Table 16. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	4%	4%	12%	48%	56%	72%	68%	48%	36%	8%	4%	4%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	4%	12%	28%	64%	92%	84%	88%	84%	72%	44%	4%	0%	0%

Middle Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=437)

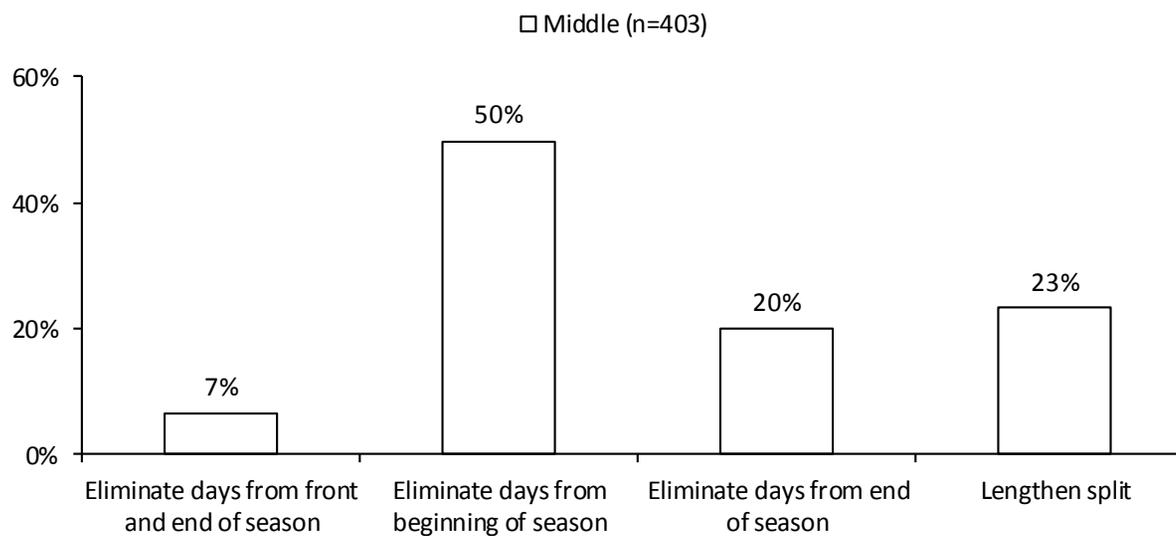
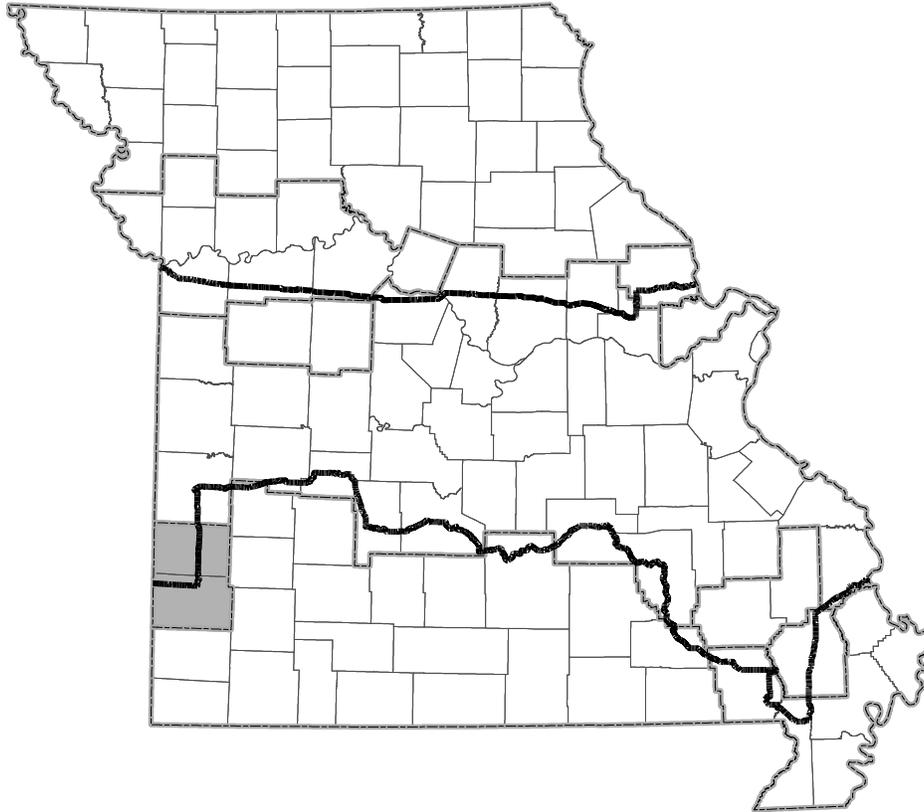


Figure 63. Percent survey respondents in the Middle region who indicated where days should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

Barton/Jasper Region



Barton/Jasper Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries

Survey respondents and workshop participants

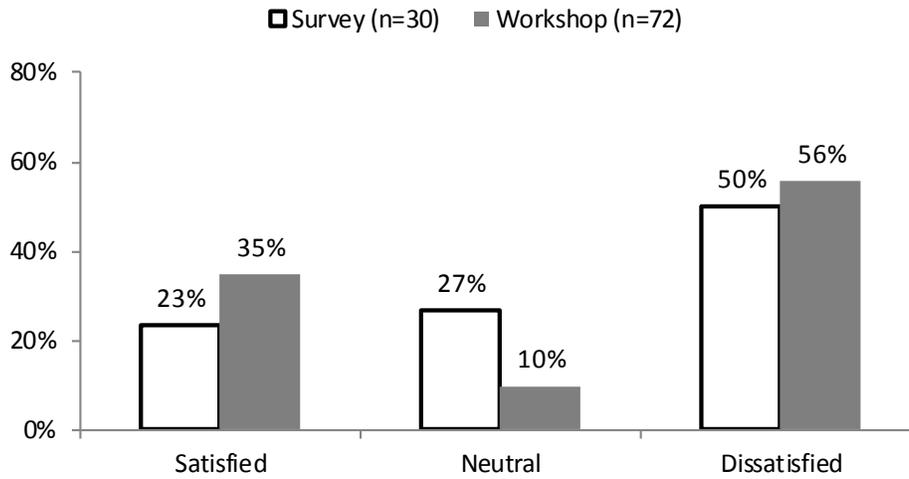


Figure 64. Satisfaction with season dates in Barton/Jasper Region.

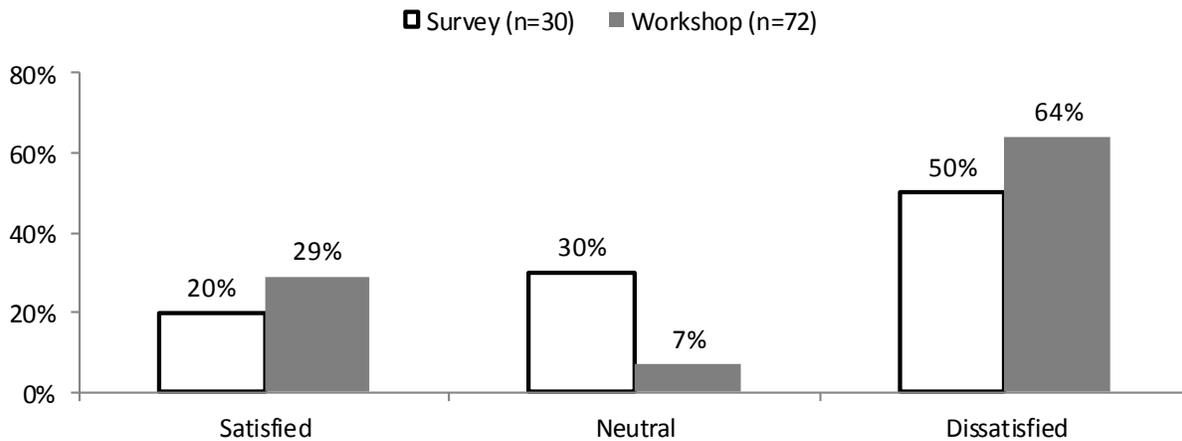


Figure 65. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in Barton/Jasper Region.

Barton/Jasper Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

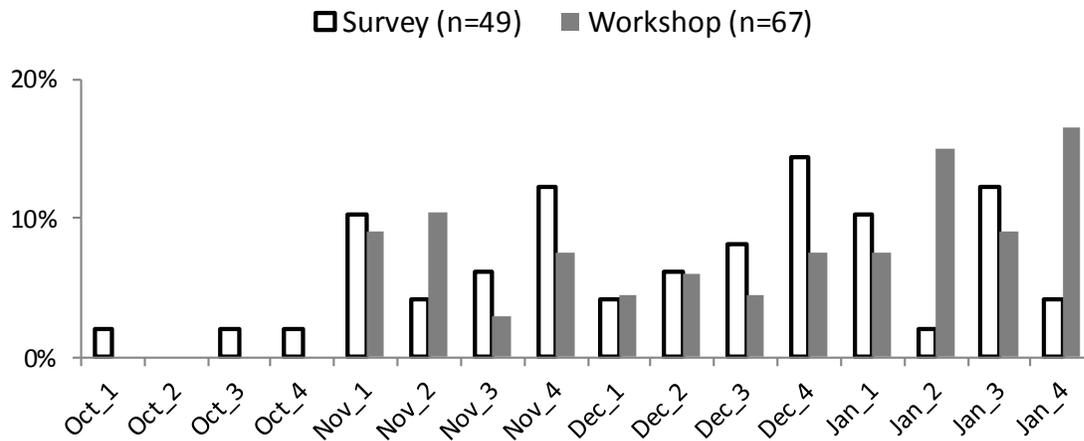


Figure 66. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Barton-Jasper Region.

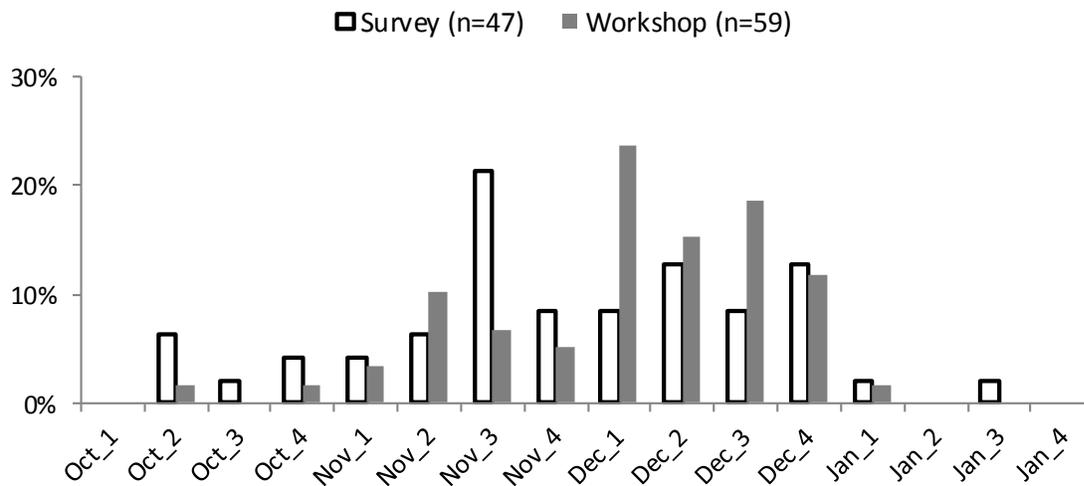


Figure 67. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the Barton-Jasper Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

Barton/Jasper Region - Zone Boundary Preferences Survey respondents and Workshop Participants

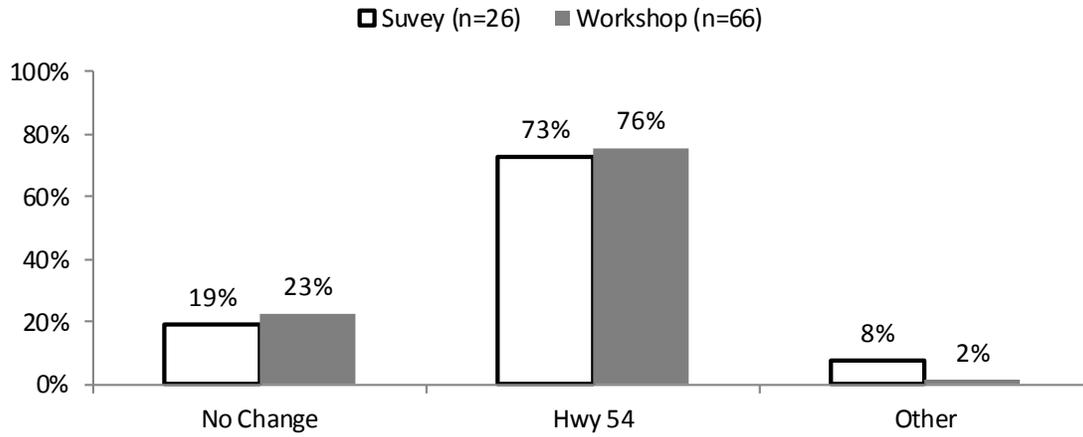


Figure 68. Zone boundary preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the Barton/Jasper Region.

Workshop Small Groups

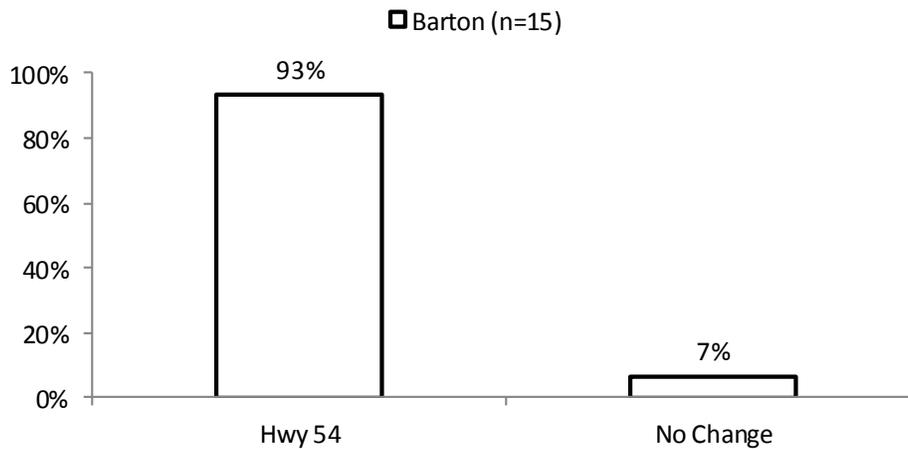


Figure 69. Zone boundary preferences for workshop small group participants from the Barton/Jasper Region.

Barton/Jasper Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

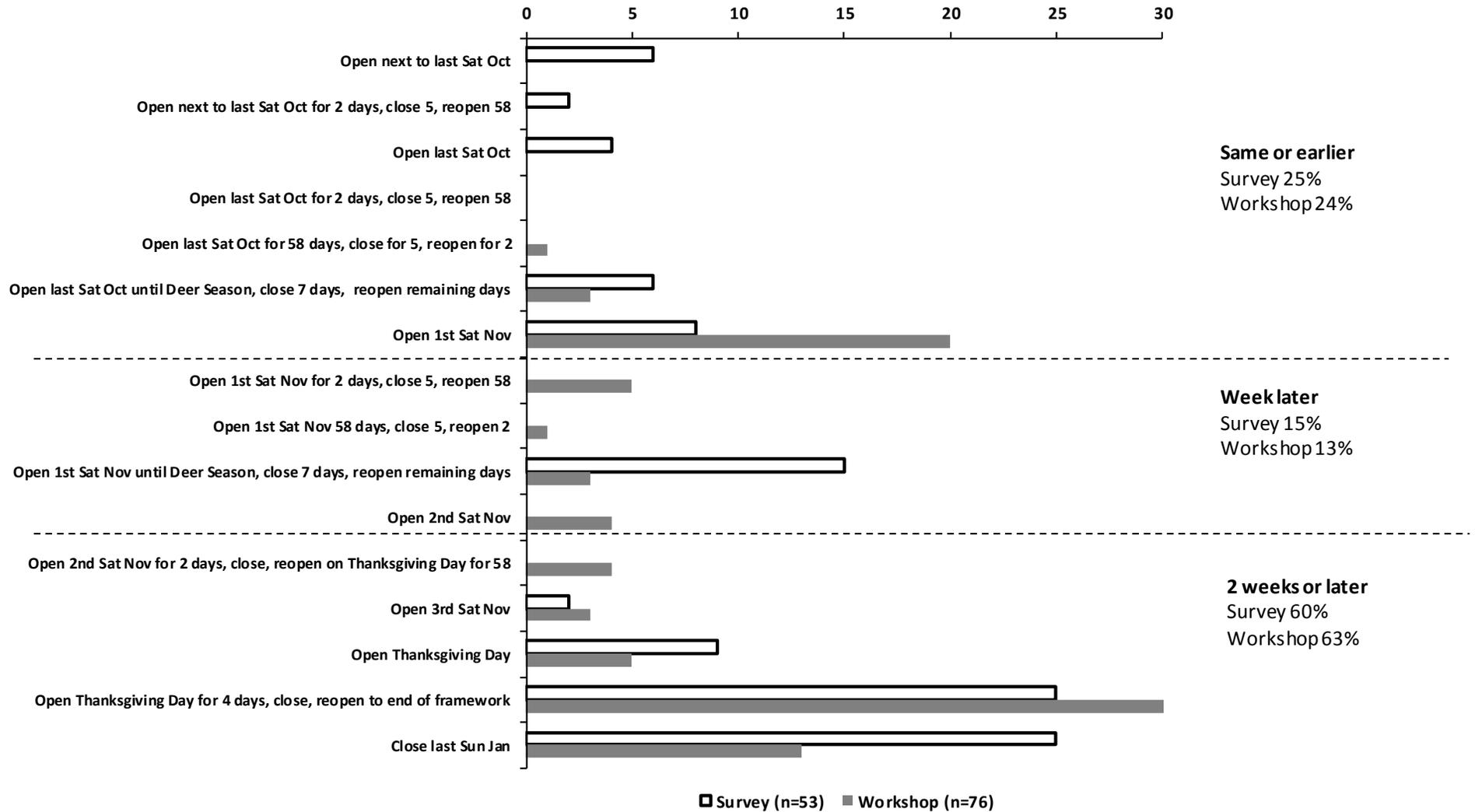


Figure 70. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from Barton/Jasper region.

Barton/Jasper Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small groups

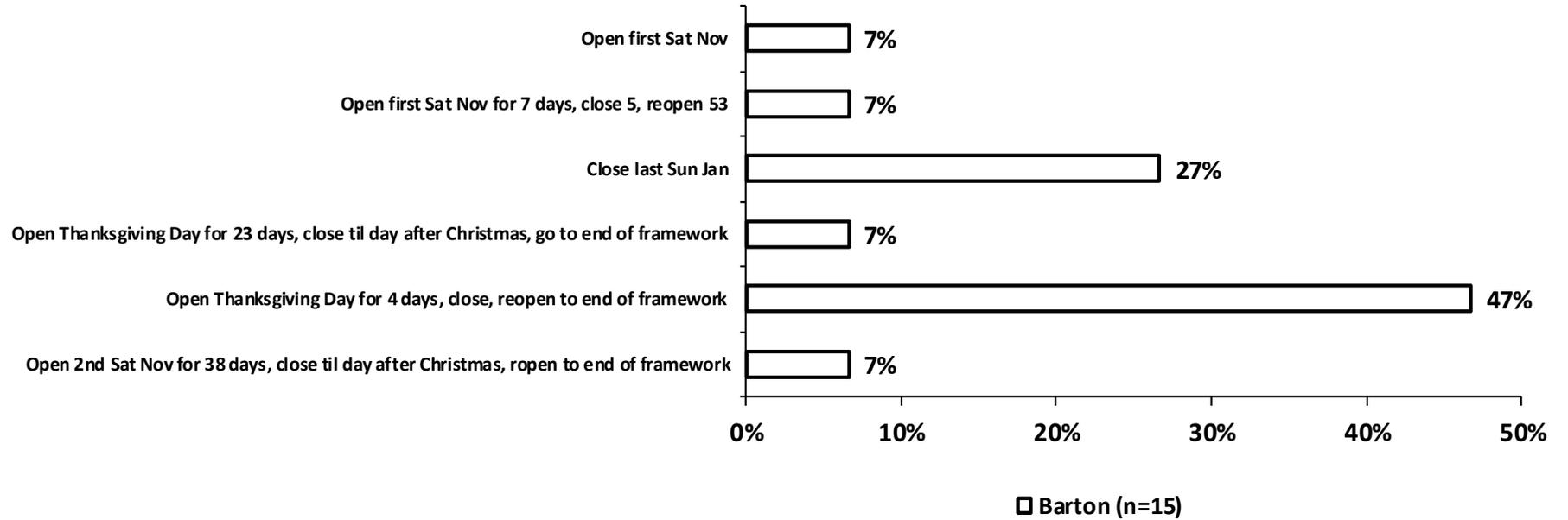


Figure 71. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from Barton/Jasper region.

Barton/Jasper Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop Participants (n=67)

Table 16. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	10%	4%	10%	4%	5%	4%	7%	8%	14%	10%	16%
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	22%	27%	34%	24%	31%	31%	58%	61%	61%	43%	
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	22%	30%	33%	43%	46%	52%	69%	63%	67%	66%	58%	48%

Workshop Small Groups (n=15)

Table 17. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	27%	20%	20%	20%	33%	53%	60%	60%	20%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	27%	40%	27%	33%	73%	67%	73%	60%	60%	53%

Barton/Jasper Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=25)

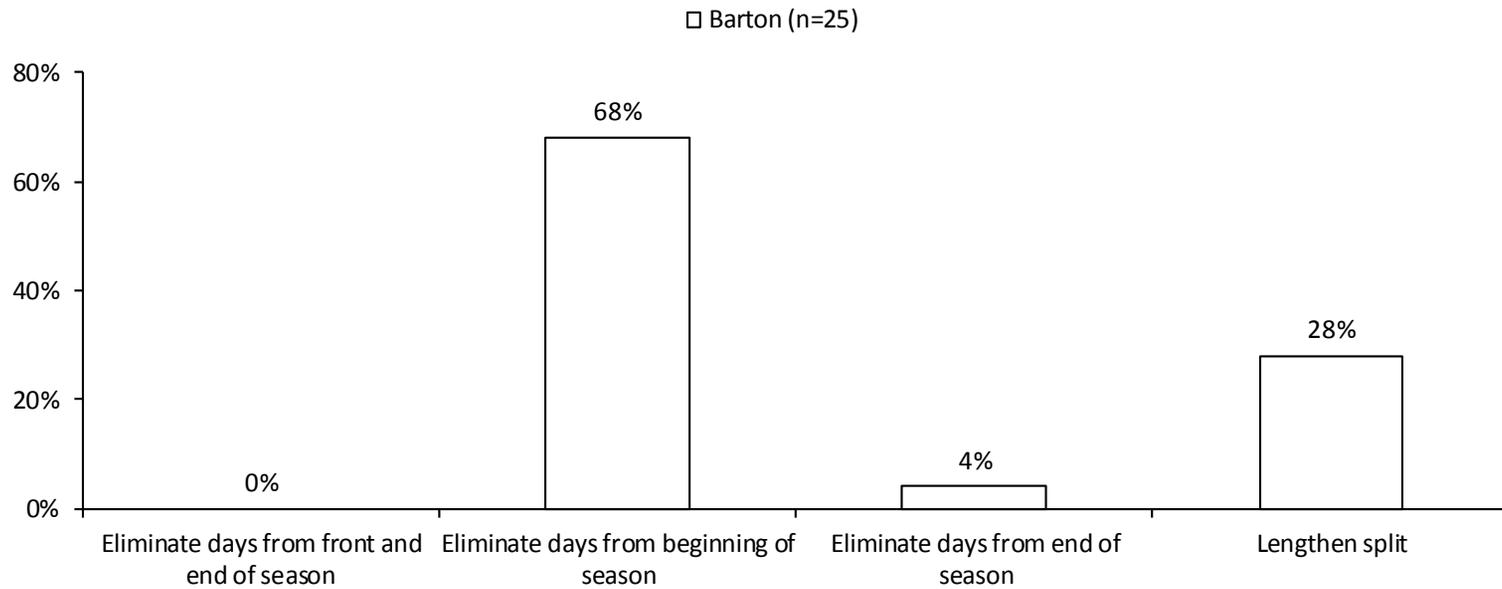
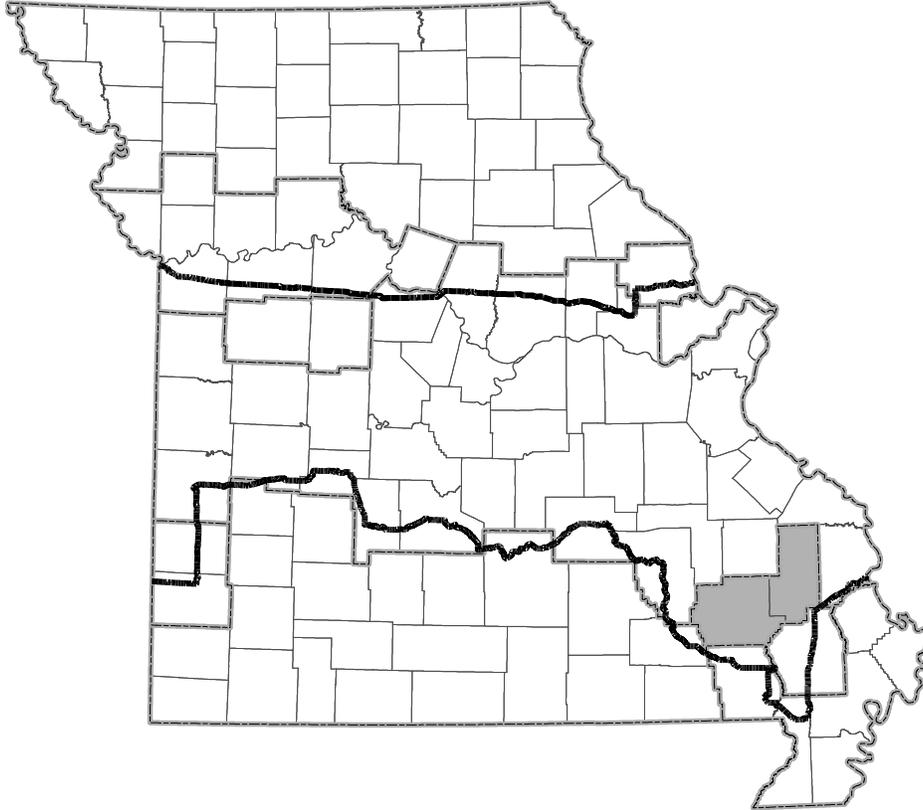


Figure 72. Percent survey respondents in the Barton/Jasper region who indicated where dates should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

Southeast Region



Southeast Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries
Survey respondents and workshop participants

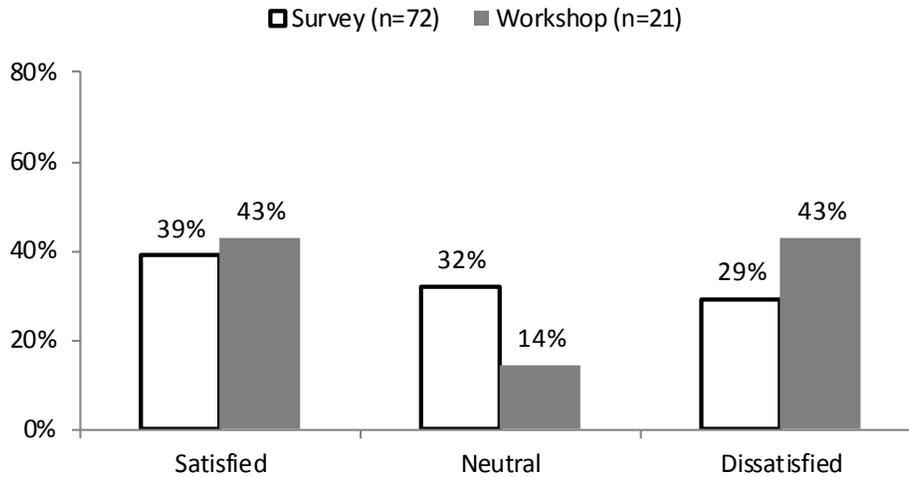


Figure 73. Satisfaction with season dates in Southeast Region.

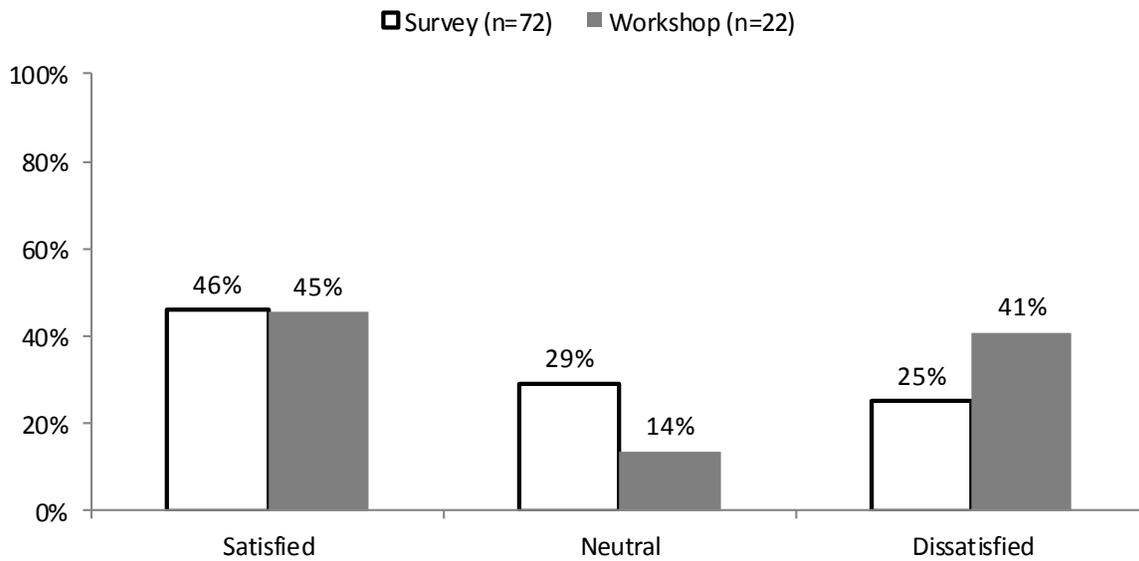


Figure 74. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in Southeast Region.

Southeast Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

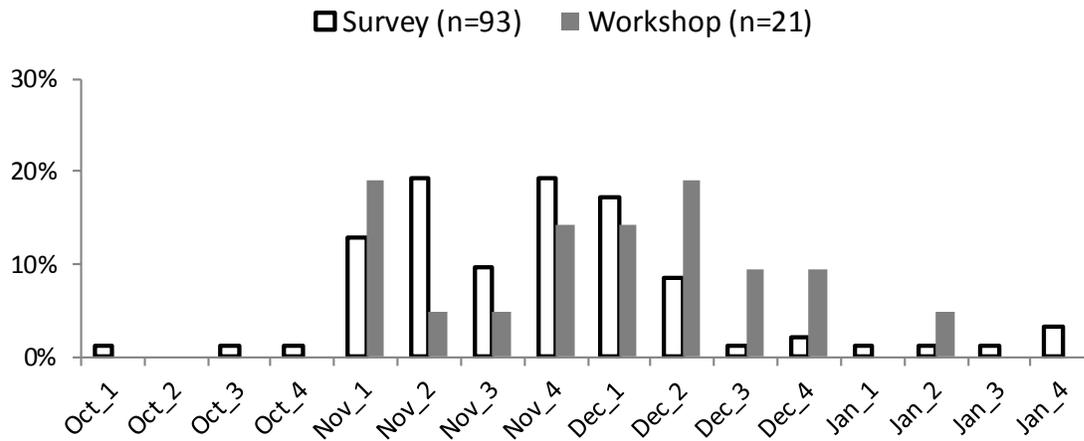


Figure 75. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Southeast Region.

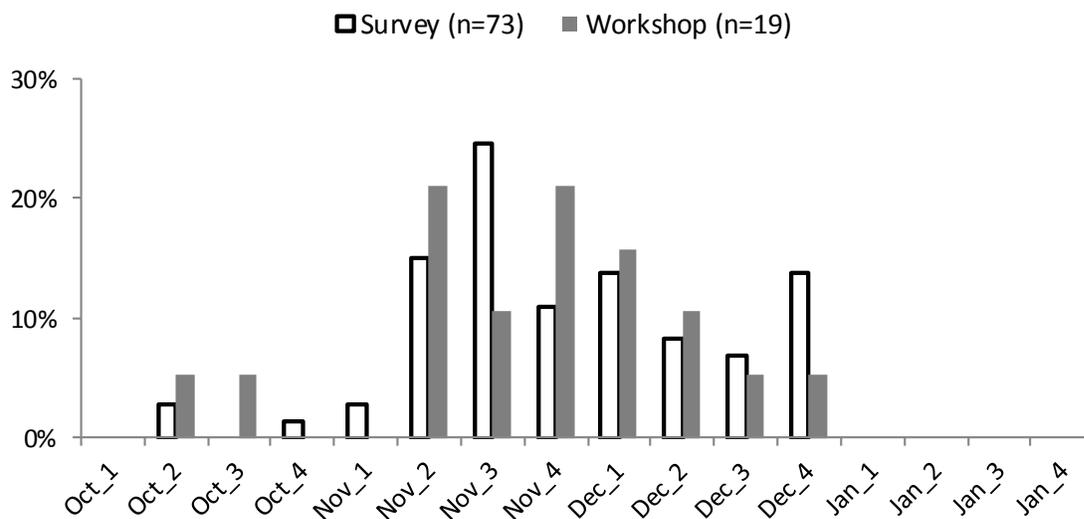


Figure 76. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the Southeast Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

Southeast Region - Zone Boundary Preferences

Survey respondents and Workshop Participants

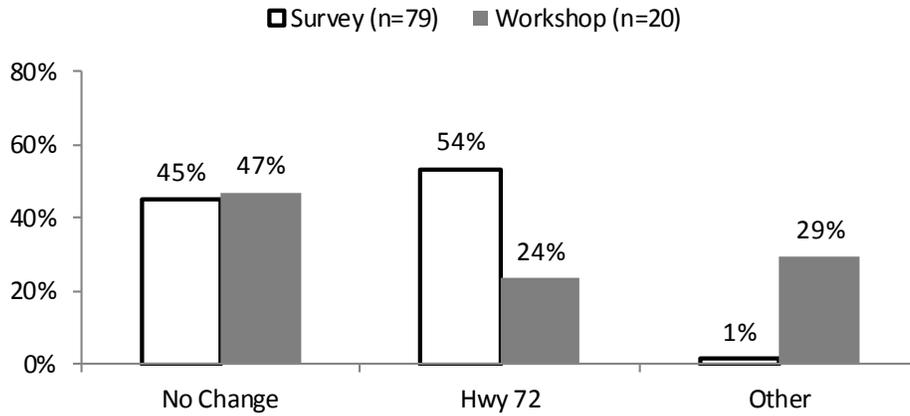


Figure 77. Zone boundary preferences for the north-south portion of boundary in southeast Missouri for survey respondents and workshop participants from Southeast Region.

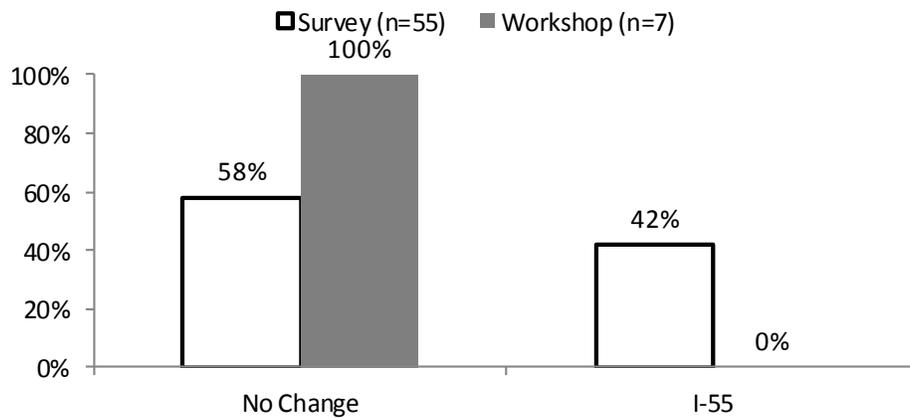


Figure 78. Zone boundary preferences for the east-west portion of the boundary line in southeast Missouri from survey respondents and workshop participants in the Southeast Region.

Southeast Region - Zone Boundary Preferences Workshop Small Groups

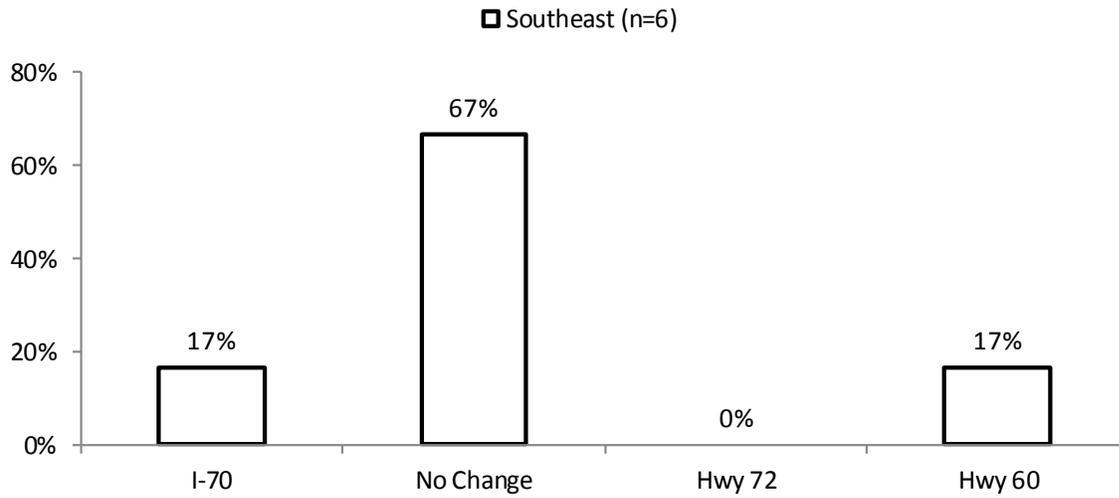


Figure 79. Zone boundary preferences for southeast Missouri for workshop small group participants from Southeast Region.

Southeast Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

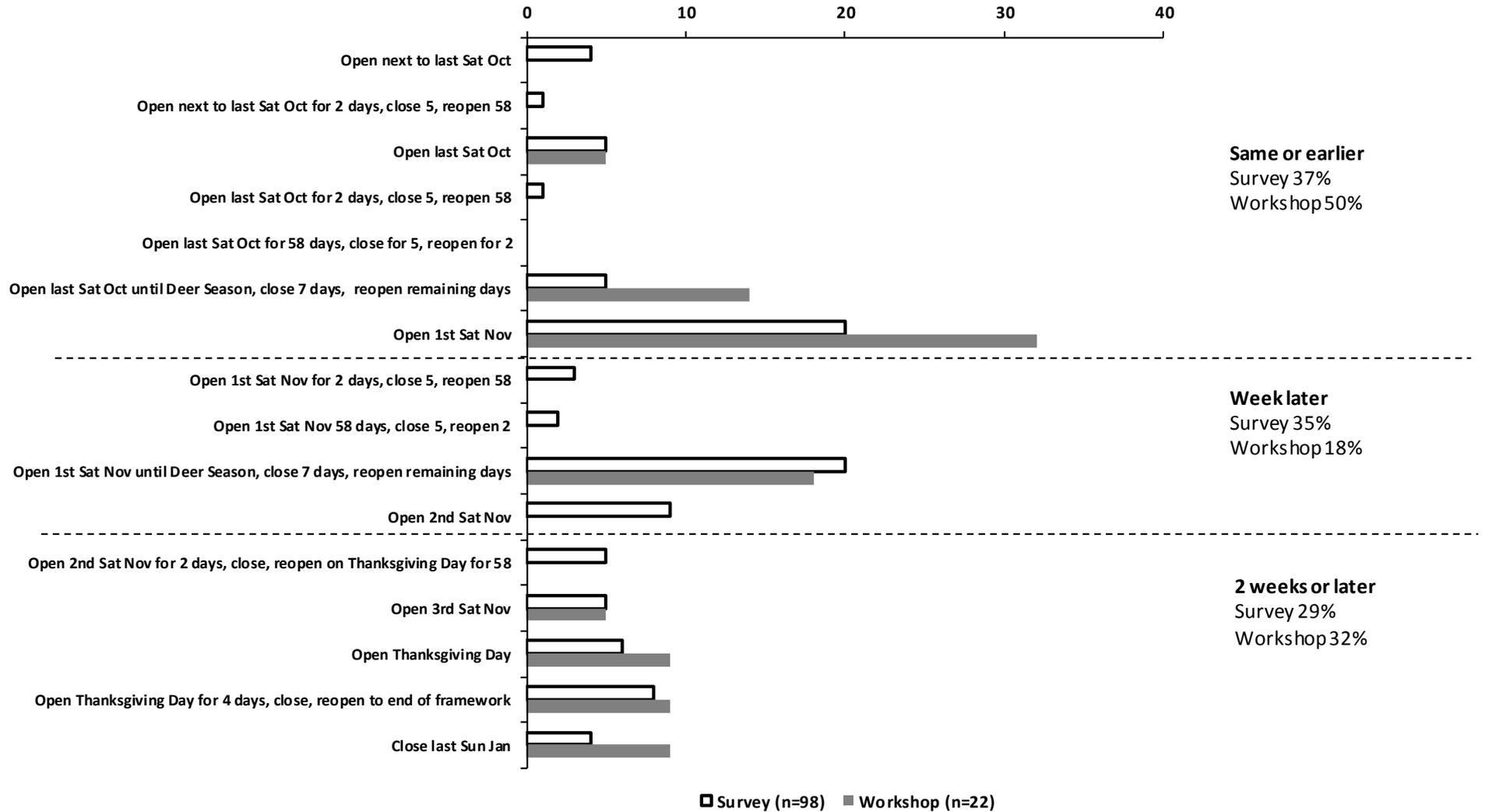


Figure 80. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from Southeast region.

Southeast Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small Groups

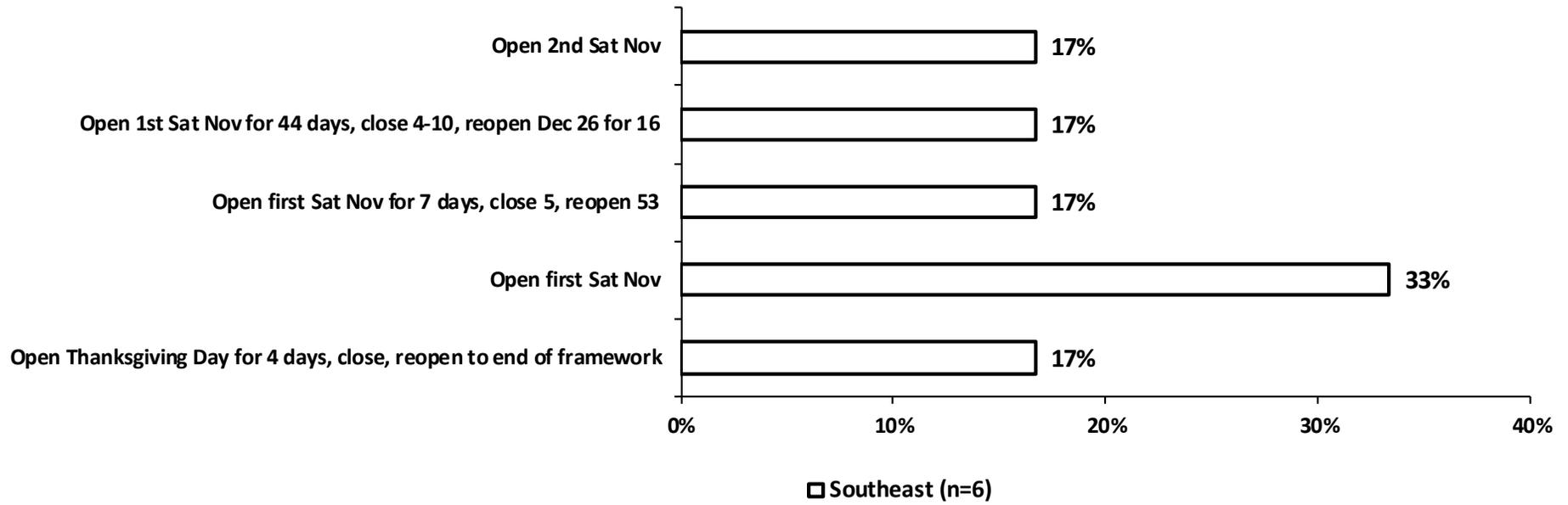


Figure 81. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from Southeast region.

Southeast Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop Participants (n=21)

Table 17. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	4%	4%	13%	17%	22%	9%	9%	0%	4%	0%	0%
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	29%	38%	62%	62%	43%	24%	24%	33%	33%	24%	10%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	5%	10%	38%	43%	62%	71%	76%	71%	67%	57%	43%	29%	14%	14%

Workshop Small Groups (n=6)

Table 18. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	50%	67%	67%	67%	33%	17%	33%	17%	17%	17%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	67%	83%	100%	83%	83%	67%	33%	17%	17%	17%	17%

Southeast Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=77)

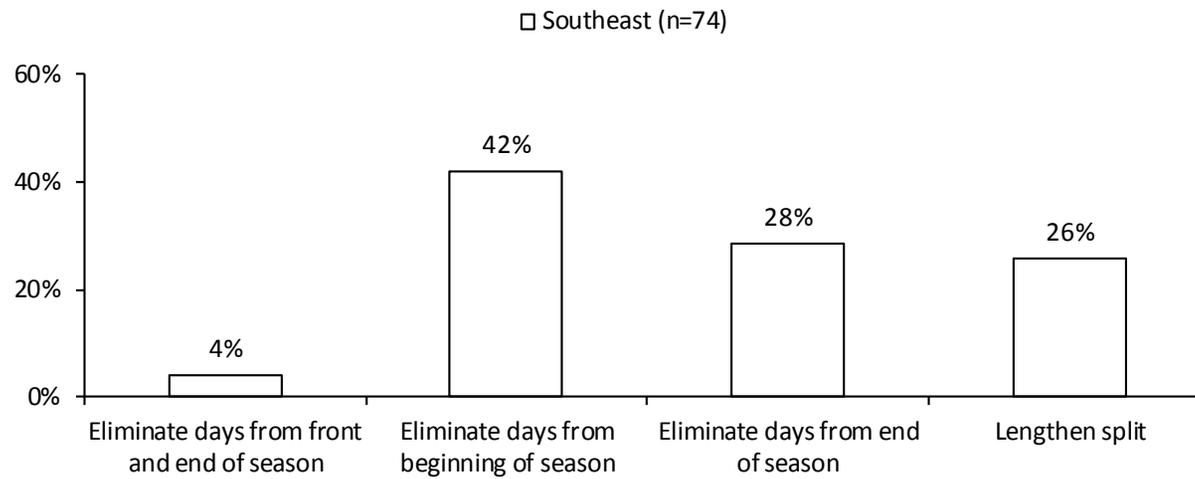


Figure 82. Percent survey respondents from the Southeast Region who indicated where days should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

Stoddard Region



Stoddard Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries
Survey respondents and workshop participants

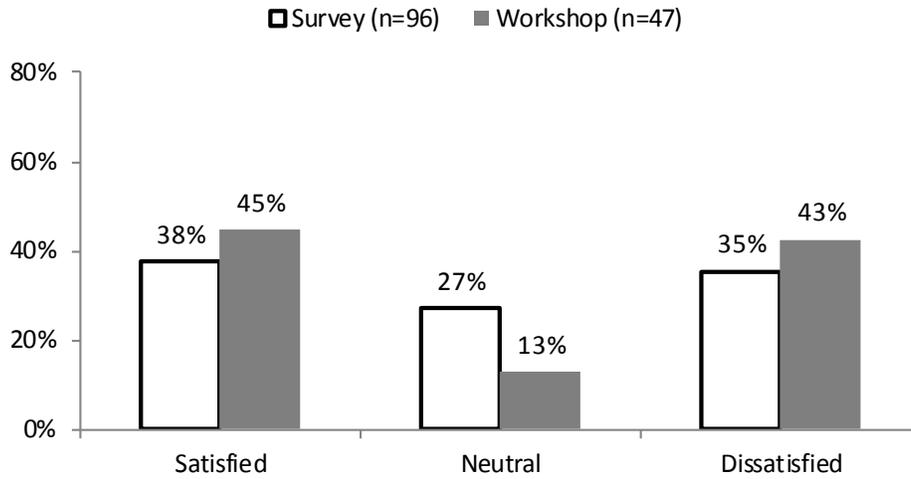


Figure 83. Satisfaction with season dates in Stoddard Region.

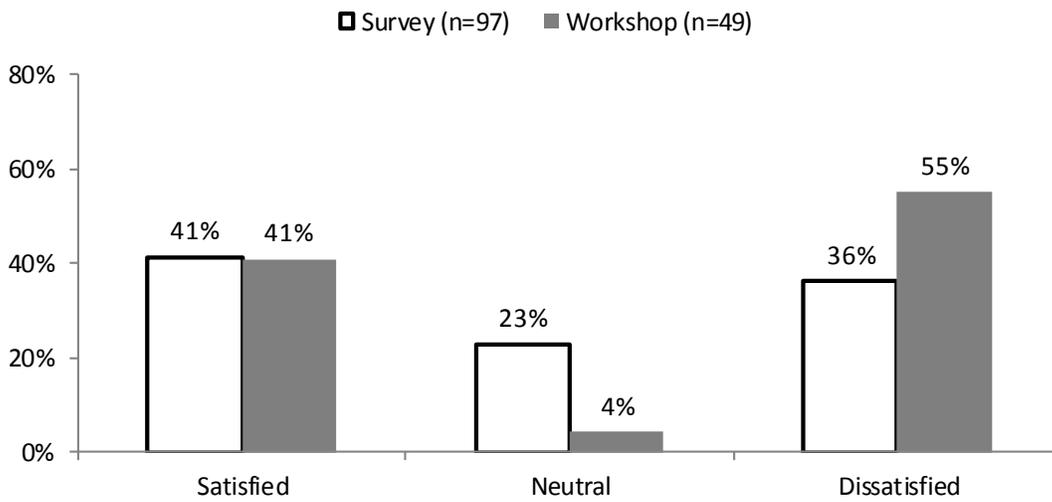


Figure 84. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in Stoddard Region.

Stoddard Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

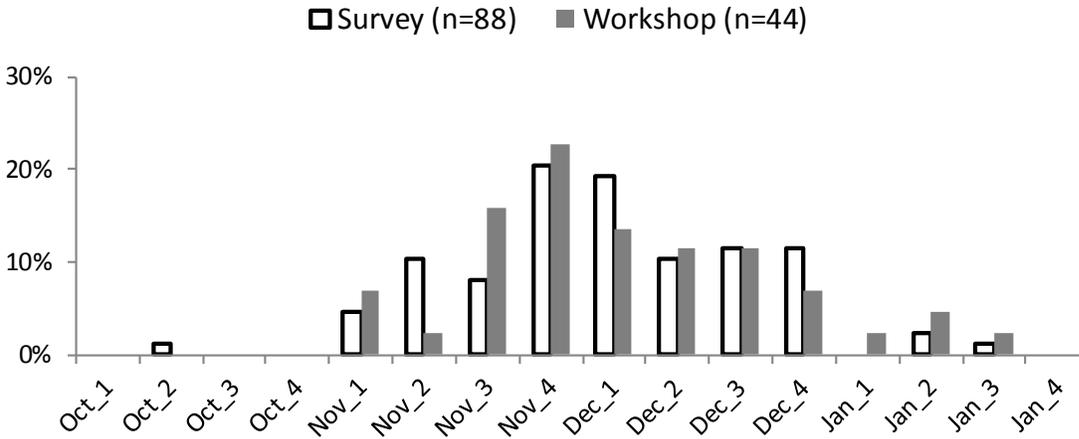


Figure 85. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Stoddard Region.

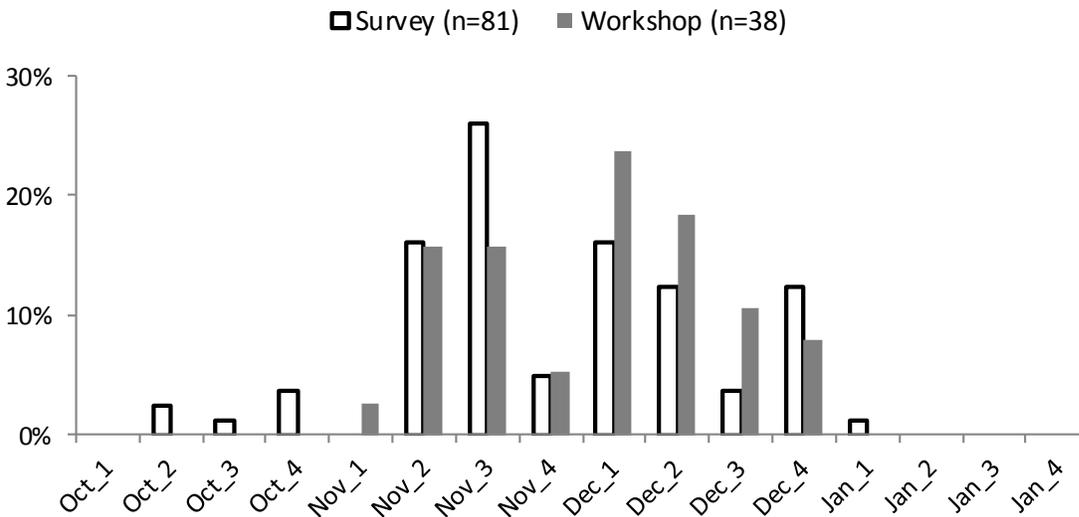


Figure 86. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the Stoddard Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

Stoddard Region - Zone Boundary Preferences

Survey respondents and Workshop Participants

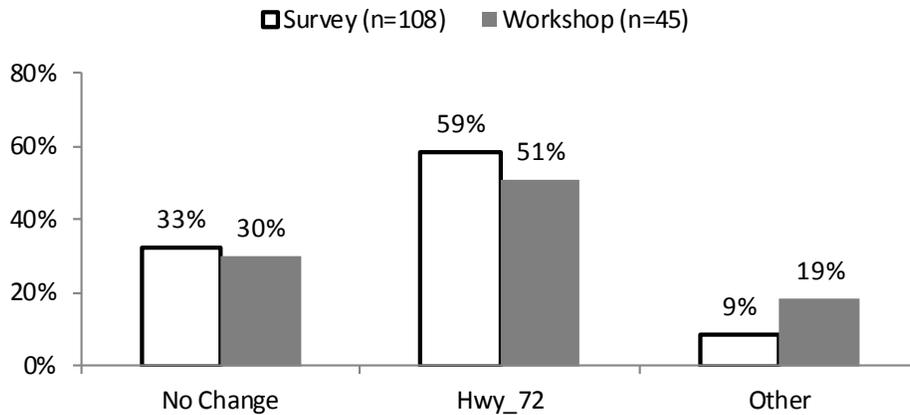


Figure 87. Zone boundary preferences for the north-south portion of the zone boundary in southeast Missouri for survey respondents and workshop participants from Stoddard Region.

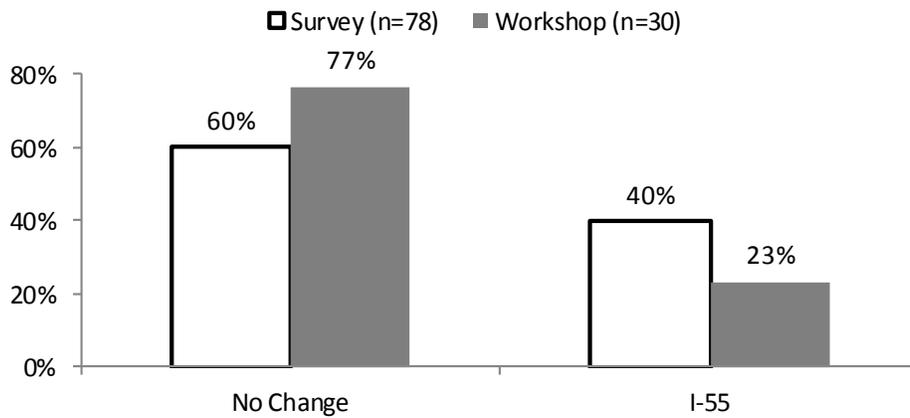


Figure 88. Zone boundary preferences for the east-west portion of the boundary line in southeast Missouri for survey respondents and workshop participants from Stoddard Region.

Stoddard Region - Zone Boundary Preferences Workshop Small Groups

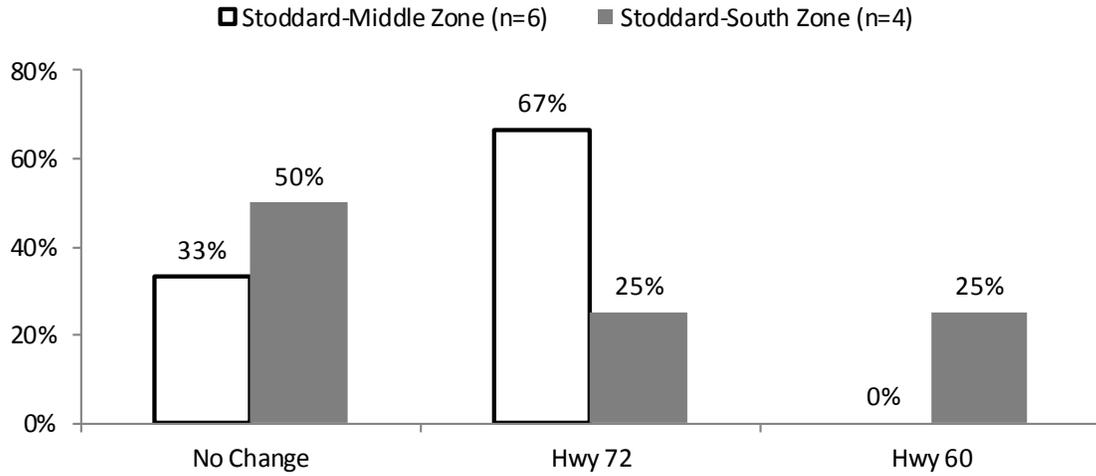


Figure 89. Zone boundary preferences for southeast Missouri for workshop small group participants from Stoddard Region.

Stoddard Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

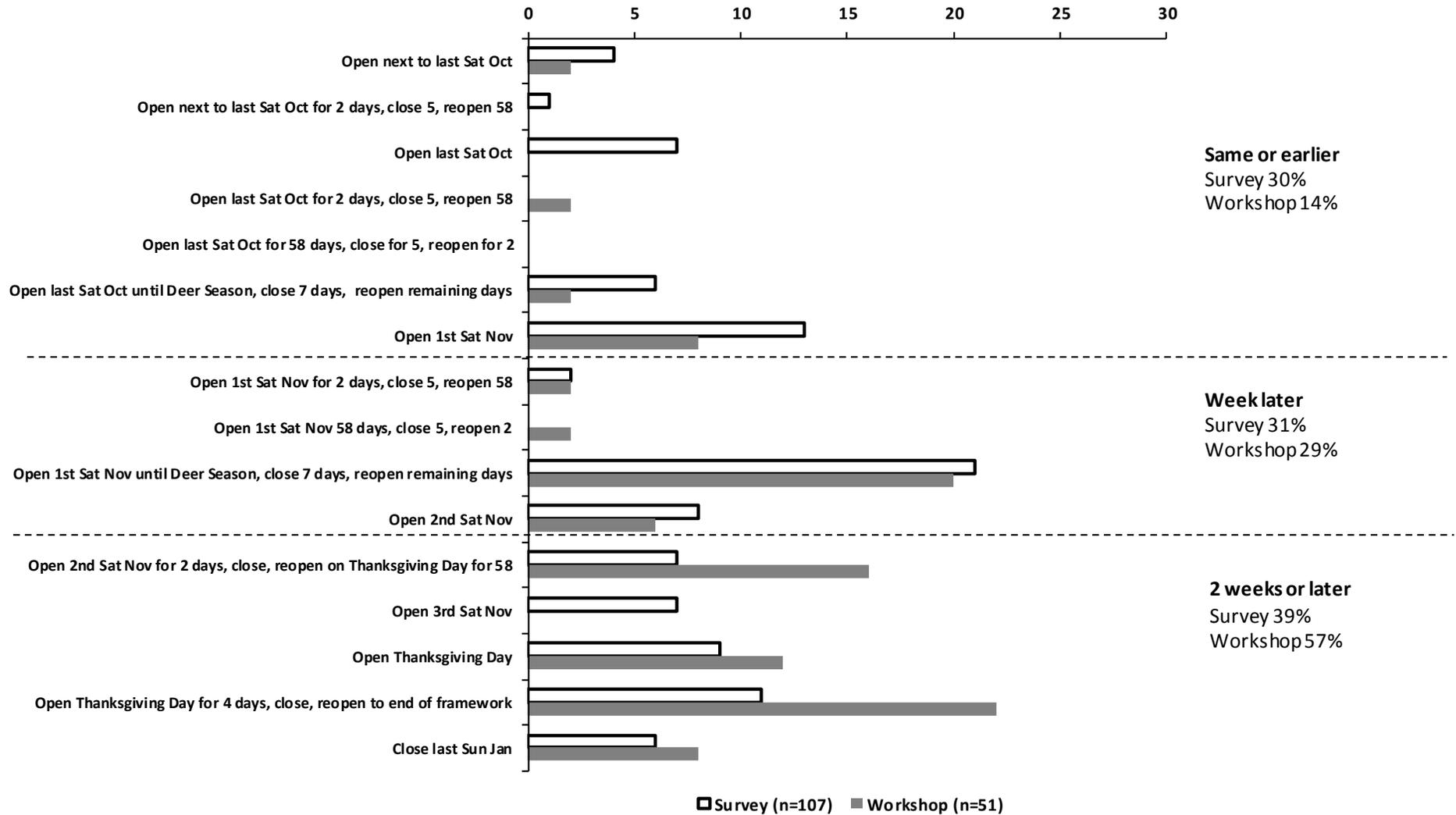


Figure 90. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from Stoddard region.

Stoddard Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small groups

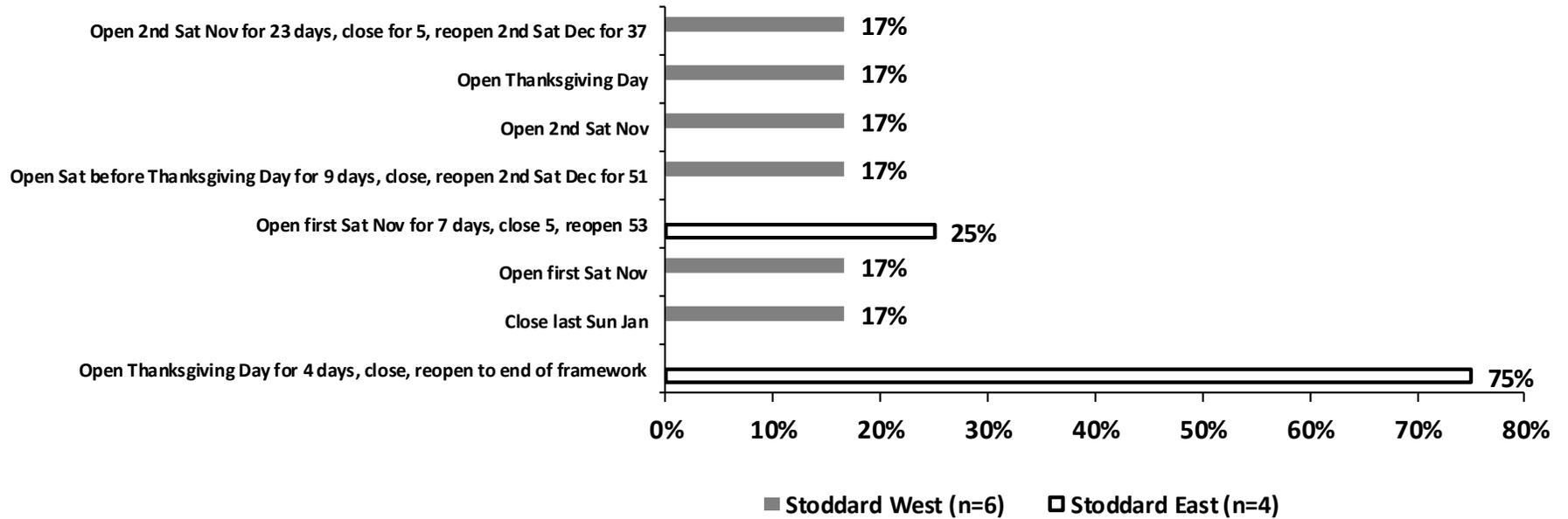


Figure 91. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from Stoddard region.

Stoddard Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop Participants (n=42)

Table 19. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	2%	15%	24%	13%	11%	13%	7%	2%	4%	2%	0%
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	2%	14%	36%	36%	55%	52%	40%	40%	40%	36%	29%	14%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	2%	22%	46%	41%	59%	61%	66%	76%	68%	51%	39%	32%	24%

Workshop Small Groups

Table 20. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

Stoddard-Middle Zone (n=6)

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	50%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	17%	17%	17%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	17%	17%	17%	17%	83%	50%	33%	17%	50%	67%	67%	33%	17%	17%	17%

Table 21. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

Stoddard-South Zone (n=4)

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	25%	25%	75%	25%	75%	75%	50%	25%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	100%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%

Stoddard Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=93)

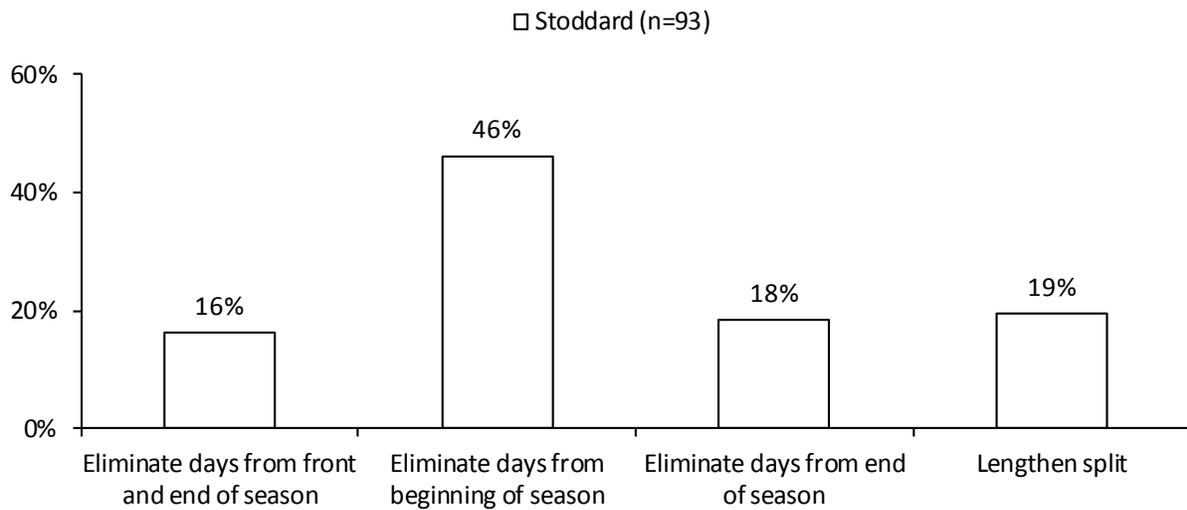
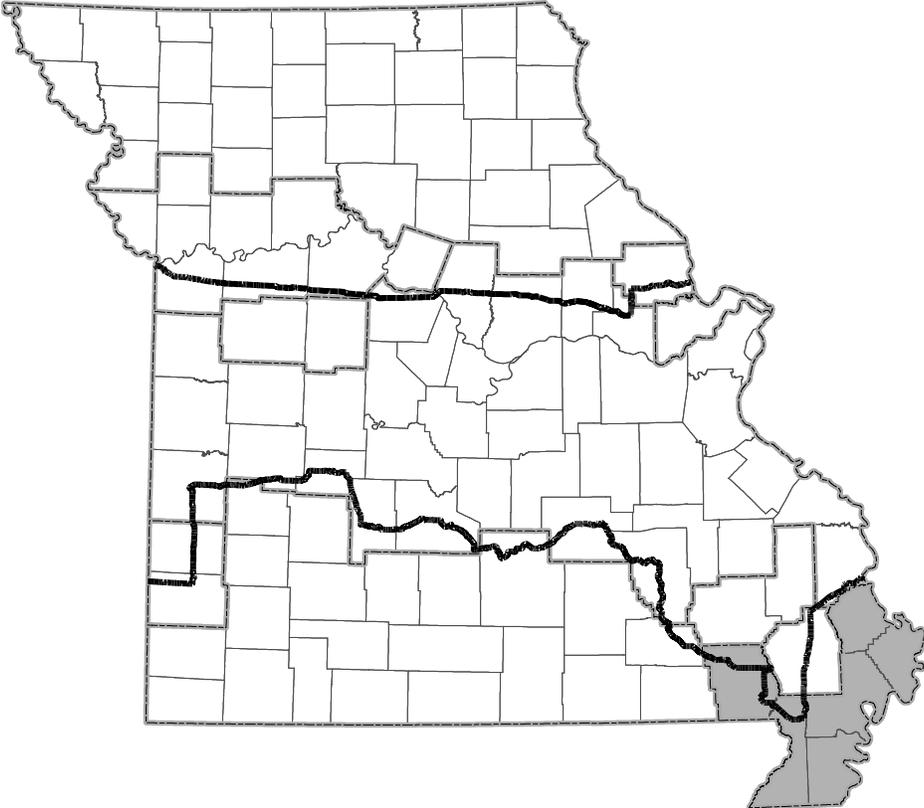


Figure 92. Percent survey respondents from the Stoddard region who indicated where days should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

Bootheel Region



Bootheel Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries
Survey respondents and workshop participants

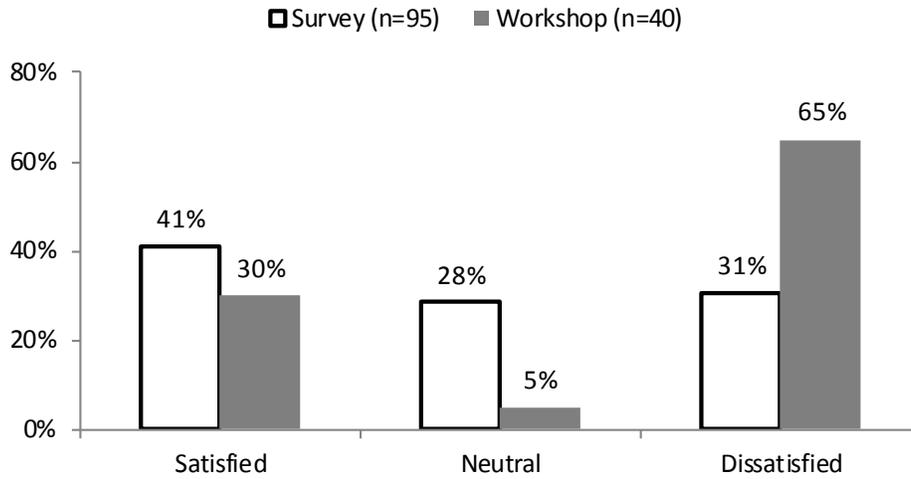


Figure 93. Satisfaction with season dates in Bootheel Region.

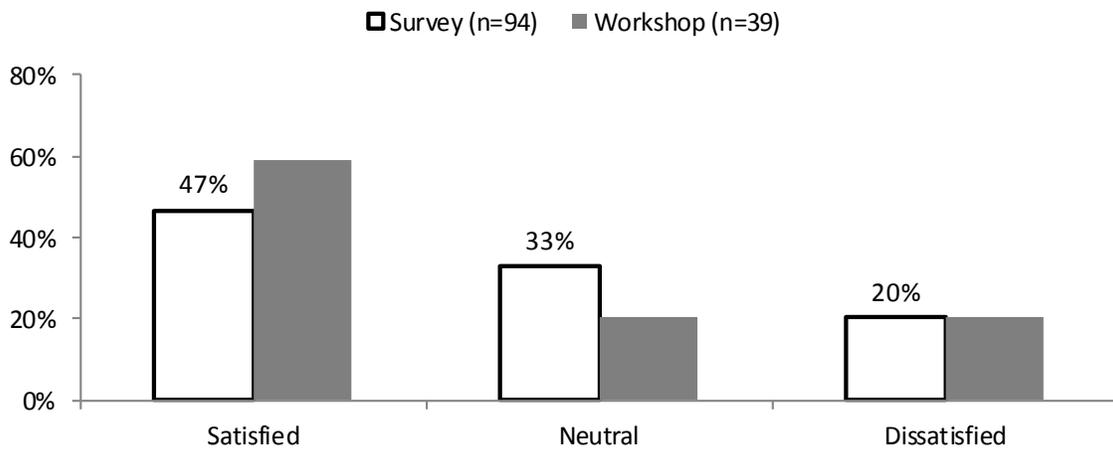


Figure 94. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in Bootheel Region.

Bootheel Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split Survey respondents and workshop participants

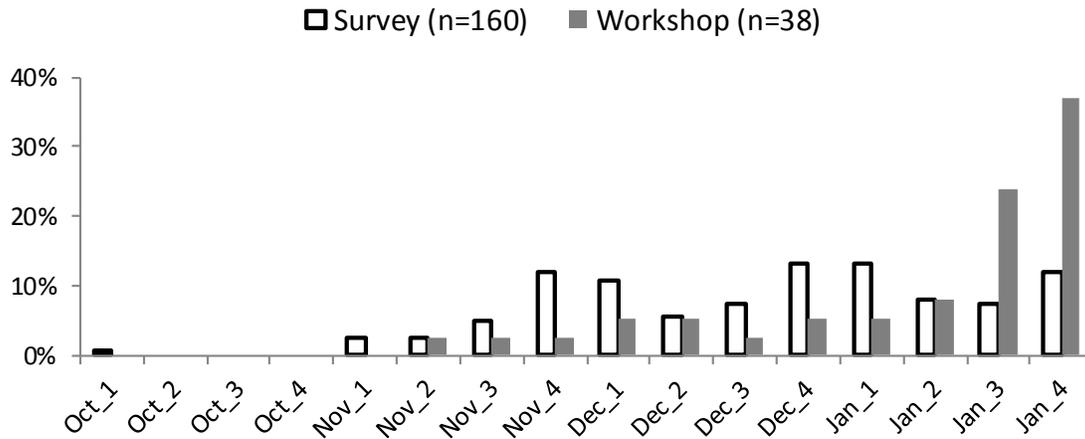


Figure 95. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the Bootheel Region.

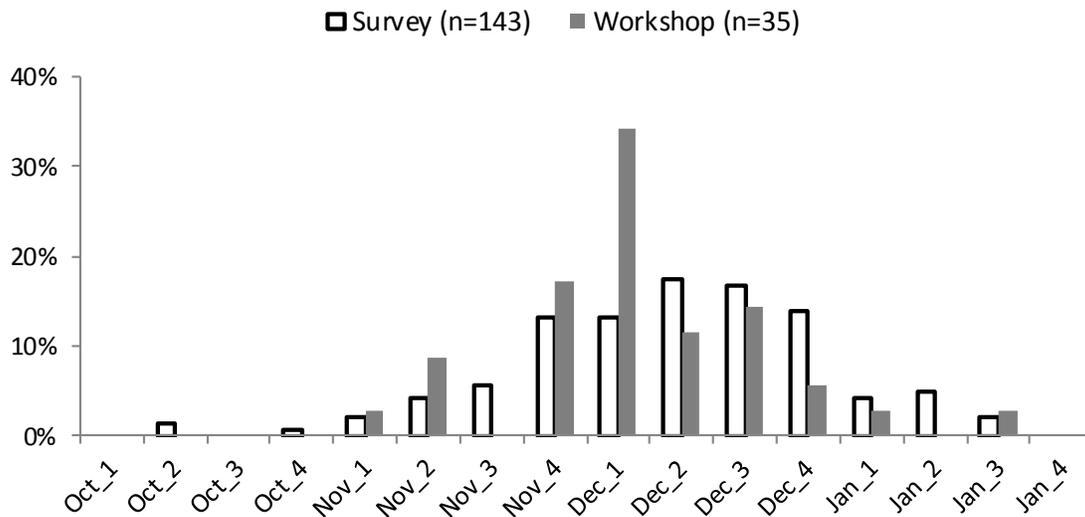


Figure 96. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the Bootheel Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

Bootheel Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

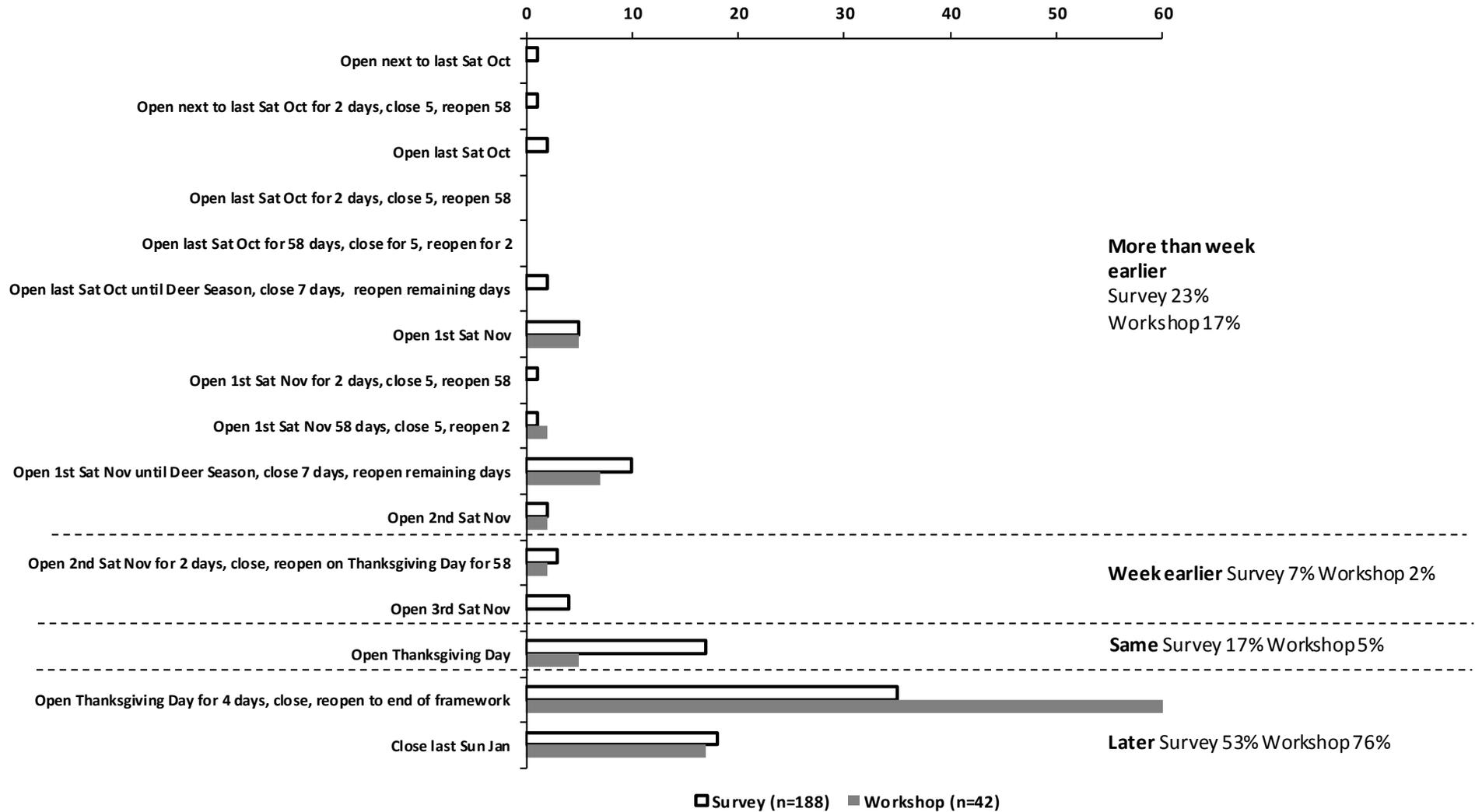


Figure 97. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from Bootheel region.

Bootheel Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small groups

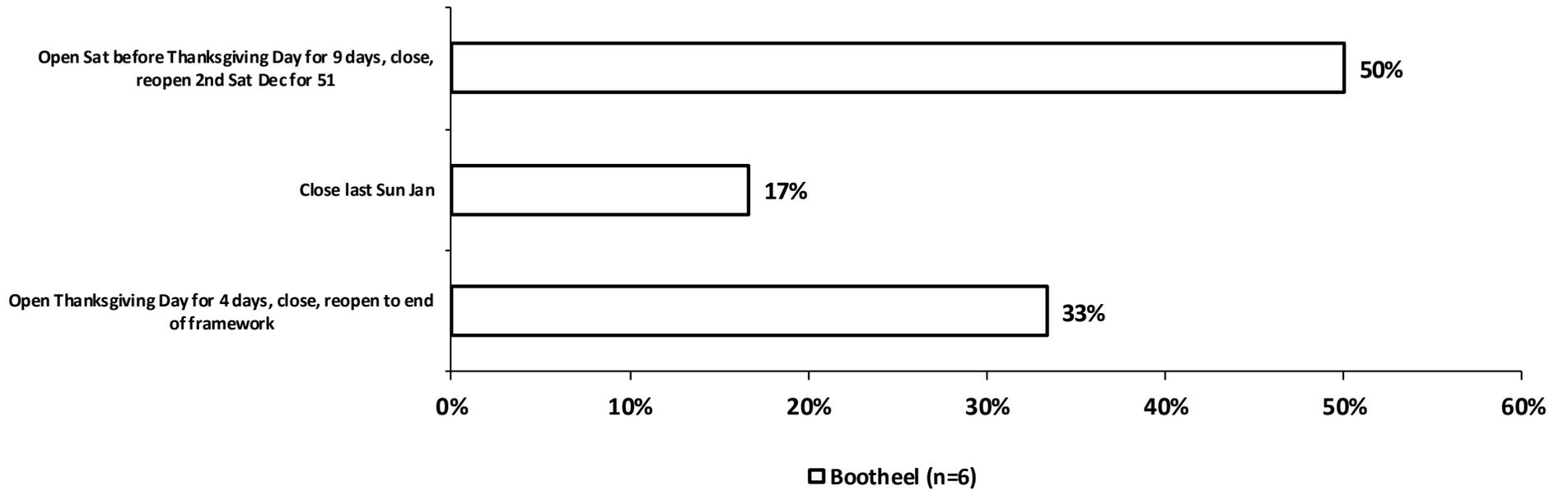


Figure 98. Sixty-day season date preferences for workshop small group participants from Bootheel region.

Bootheel Region - Weeks Prefer to Hunt During 45-Day and 30-Day Season

Workshop Participants (n=37)

Table 22. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop participants in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred Week	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%	7%	5%	2%	5%	5%	10%	24%	34%
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	11%	17%	11%	20%	20%	71%	77%	89%	71%	
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	8%	19%	32%	32%	32%	70%	70%	84%	86%	81%	73%

Workshop Small Groups (n=6)

Table 23. Weeks preferred to hunt by workshop small groups in the event of a shorter duck season.

	Oct 1 st Wk	Oct 2 nd Wk	Oct 3 rd Wk	Oct 4 th Wk	Nov 1 st Wk	Nov 2 nd Wk	Nov 3 rd Wk	Nov 4 th Wk	Dec 1 st Wk	Dec 2 nd Wk	Dec 3 rd Wk	Dec 4 th Wk	Jan 1 st Wk	Jan 2 nd Wk	Jan 3 rd Wk	Jan 4 th Wk
Preferred 4 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	17%	0%	50%	83%	83%	83%	0%
Preferred 6 Weeks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	33%	17%	33%	50%	83%	83%	83%	83%

Bootheel Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=99)

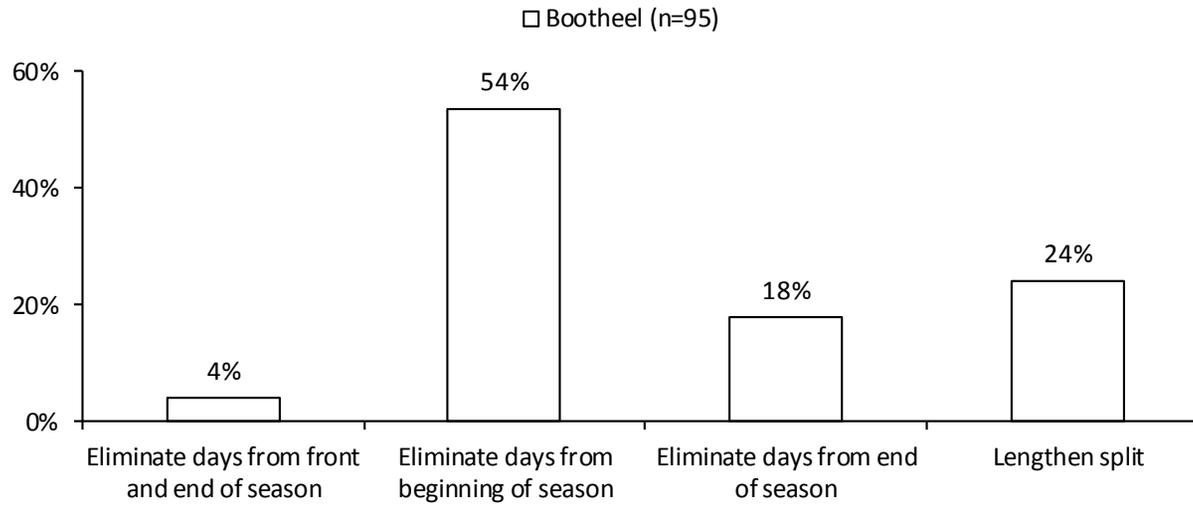
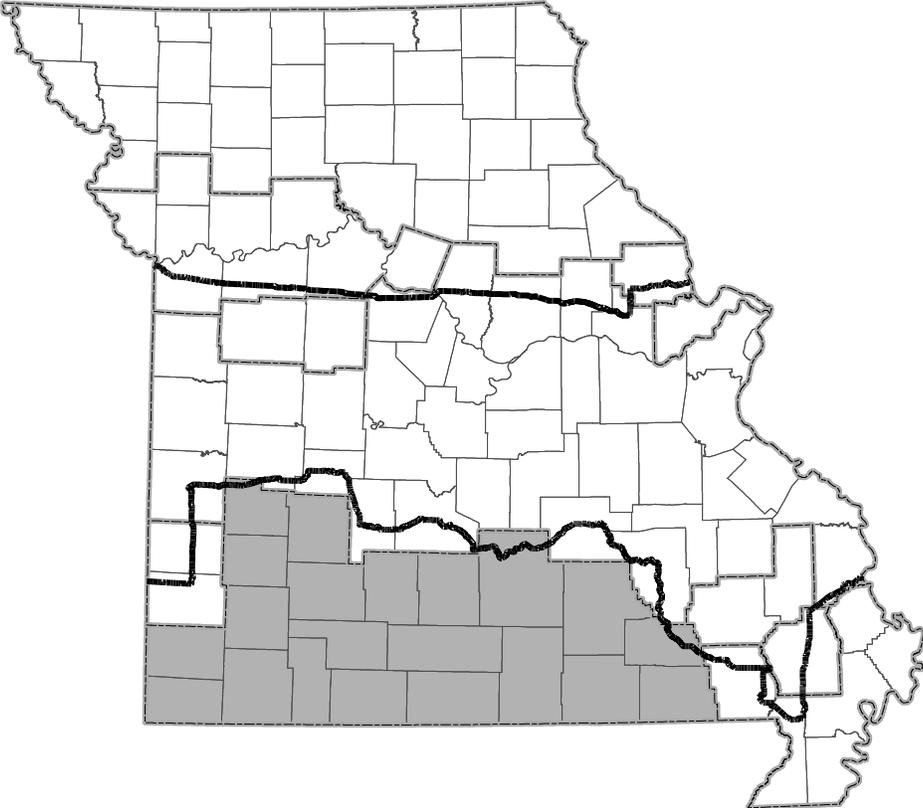


Figure 99. Percent survey respondents from Bootheel region who indicated where days should be eliminated in the event of a shorter season.

South Region



South Region - Satisfaction with season dates and duck zone boundaries

Survey respondents and workshop participants

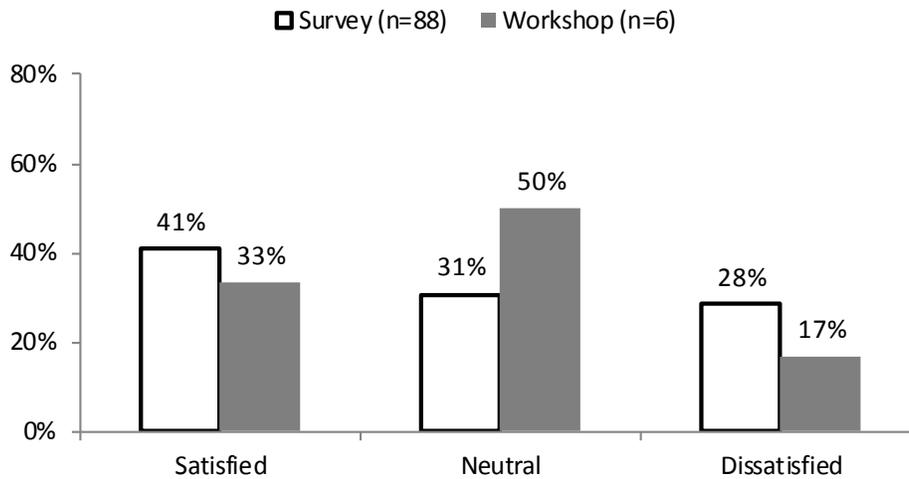


Figure 100. Satisfaction with season dates in South Region.

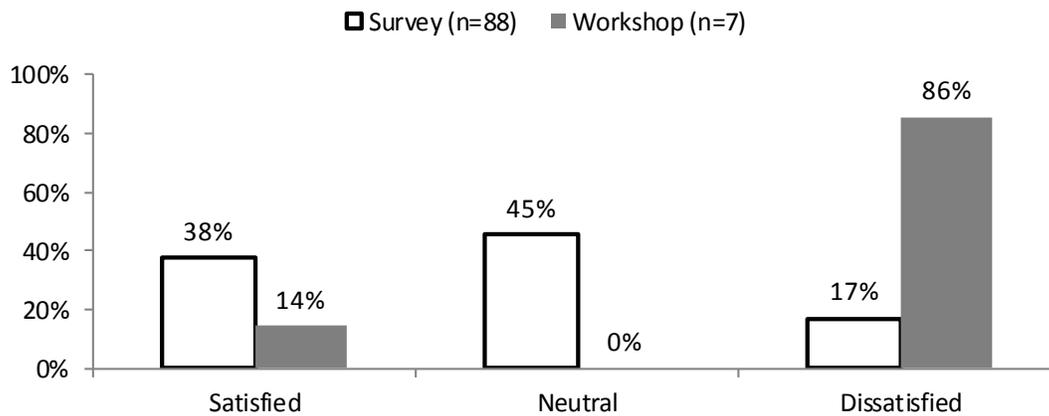


Figure 101. Satisfaction with duck zone boundaries in South Region.

South Region - Week Most Prefer to Hunt and Week Most Prefer a Split
Survey respondents and workshop participants

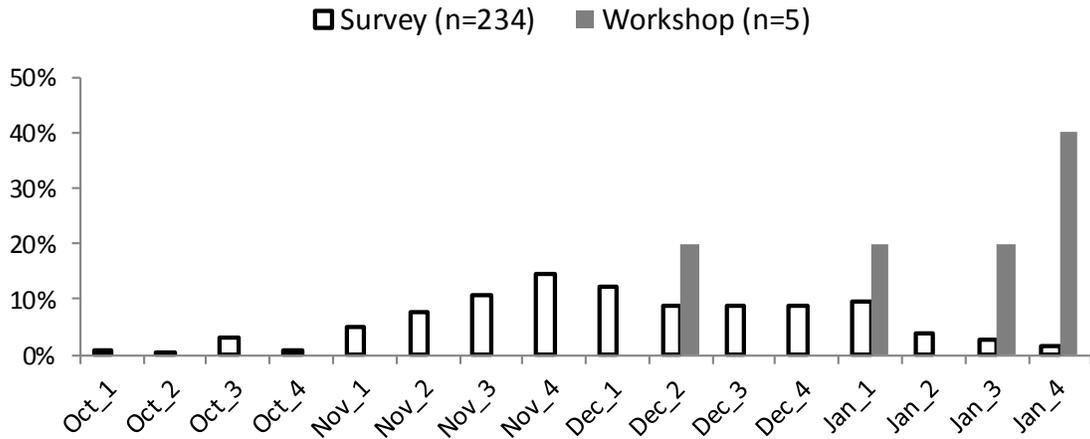


Figure 102. One week most preferred to hunt ducks by survey respondents and workshop participants in the South Region.

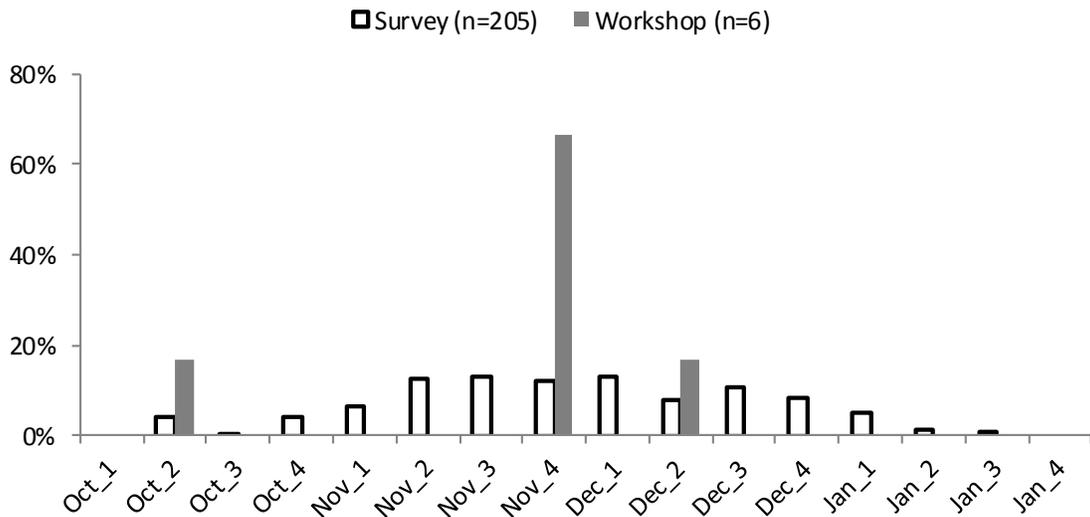


Figure 103. One week that survey respondents and workshop participants from the South Region would prefer a temporary closure to occur in duck season.

South Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

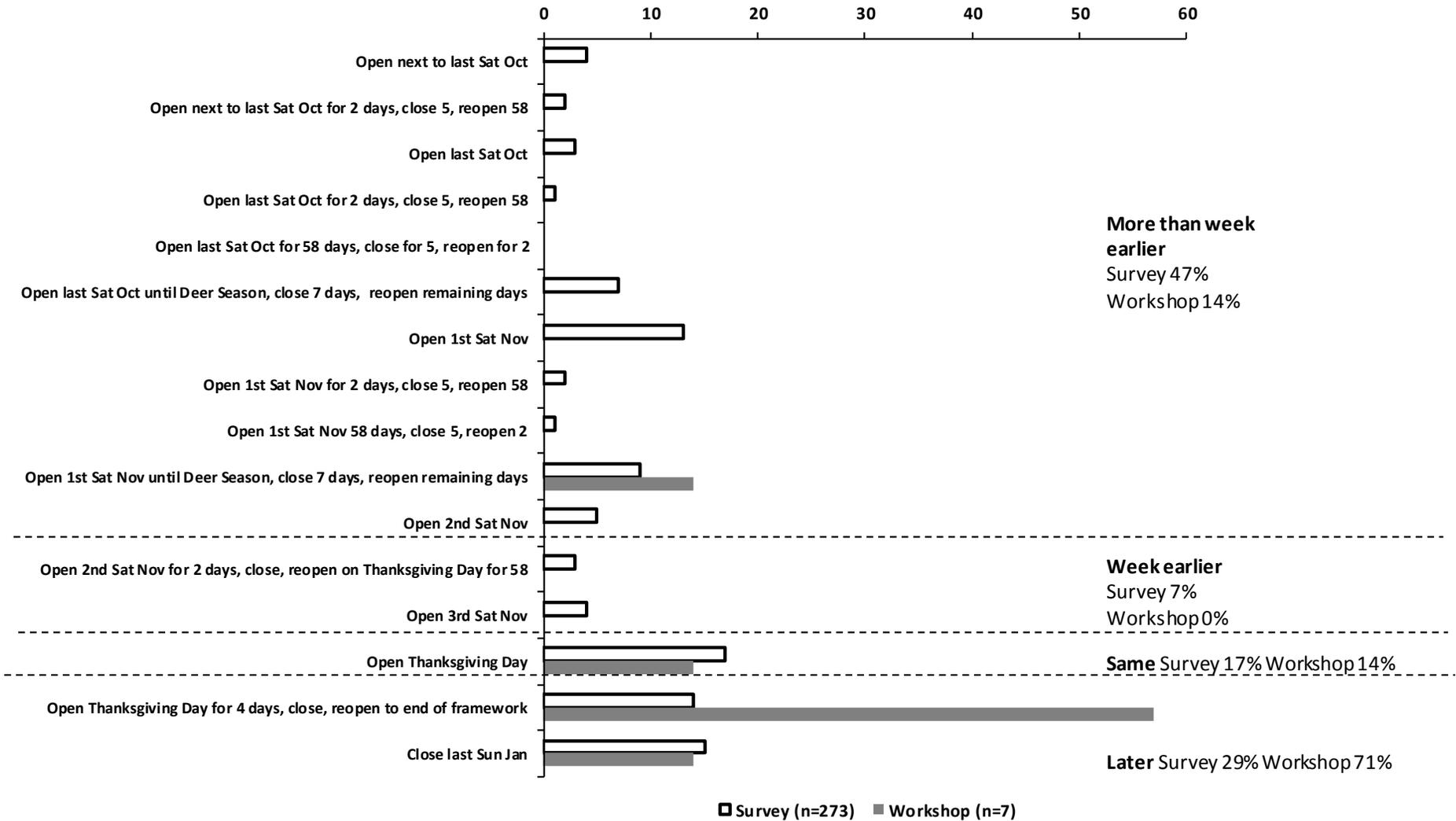


Figure 104. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the South Region.

South Region - Season Date Formula Preferences – 60-day season

Workshop Small groups

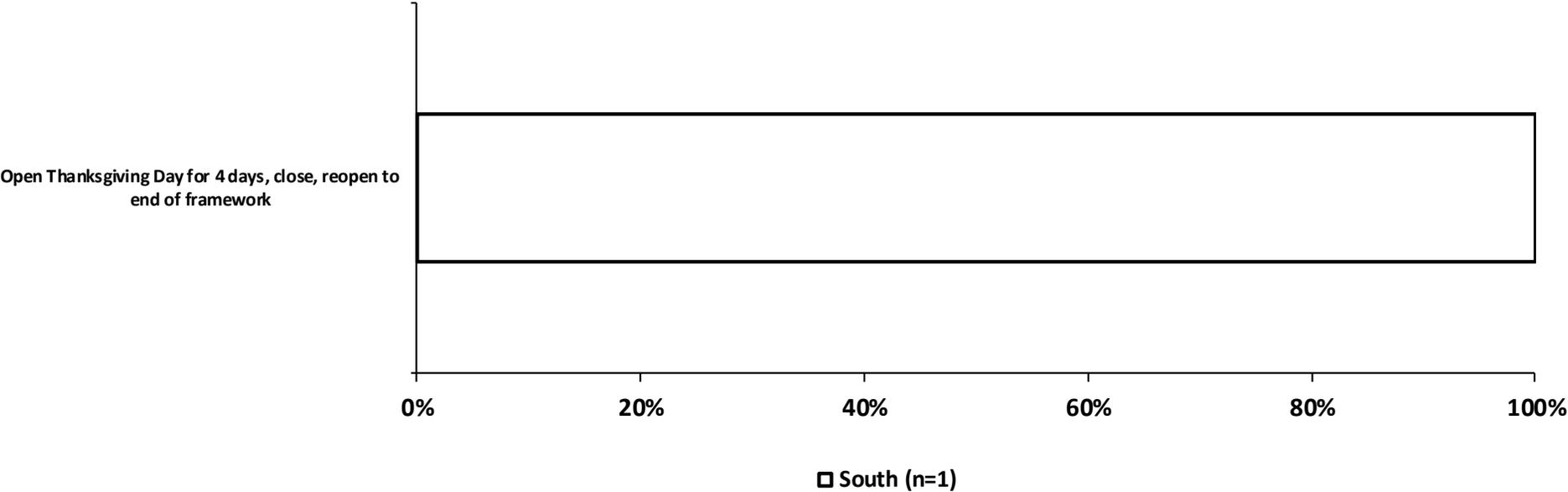


Figure 105. Sixty-day season date preferences for survey respondents and workshop participants from the South Region.

South Region – Shorter Season Considerations

Survey respondents (n=81)

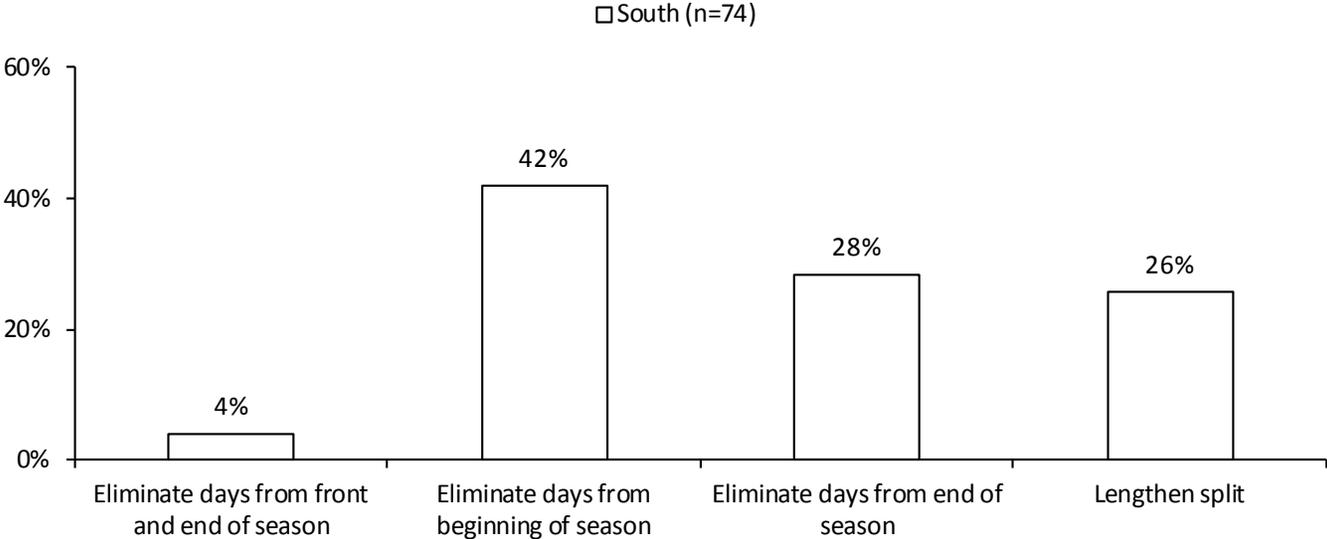


Figure 106. Percent survey respondents from the South region who expressed an opinion on where days should be eliminated in the event of a shortened season.

