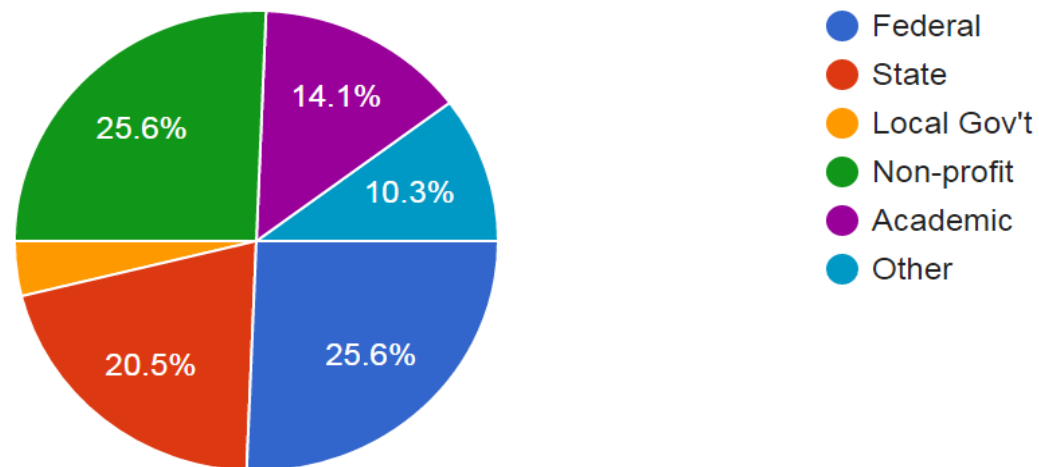


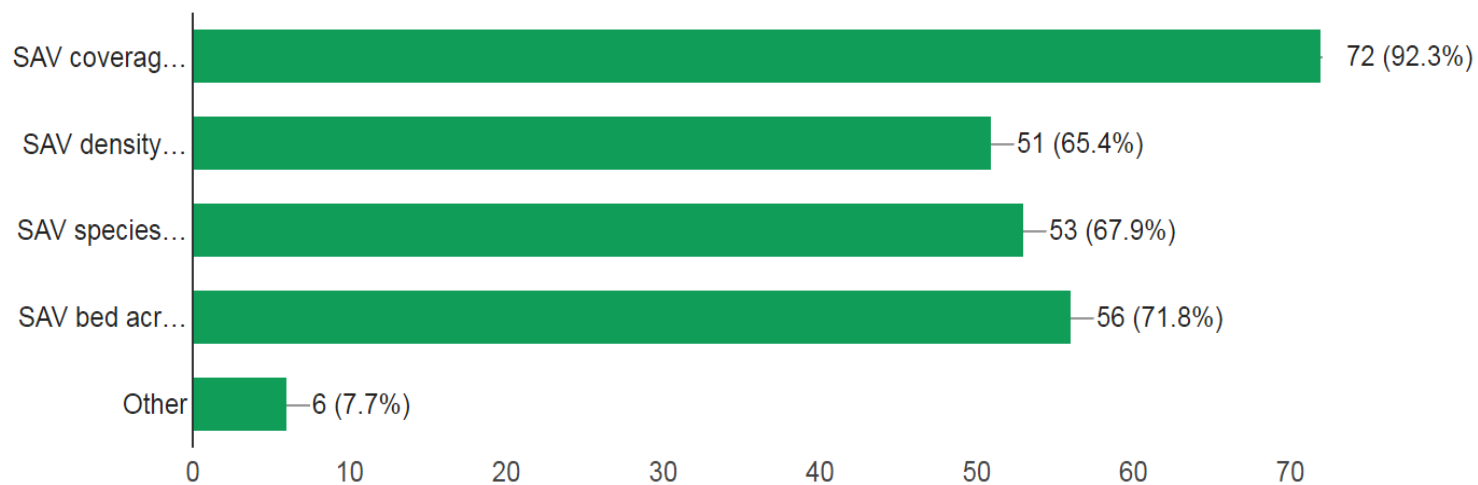
SAV Survey Data User Questionnaire Responses

Thank you all so much for responses to the SAV Survey Data User Questionnaire. Your responses are summarized in the following presentation and will be presented at the upcoming workshop on March 29th.

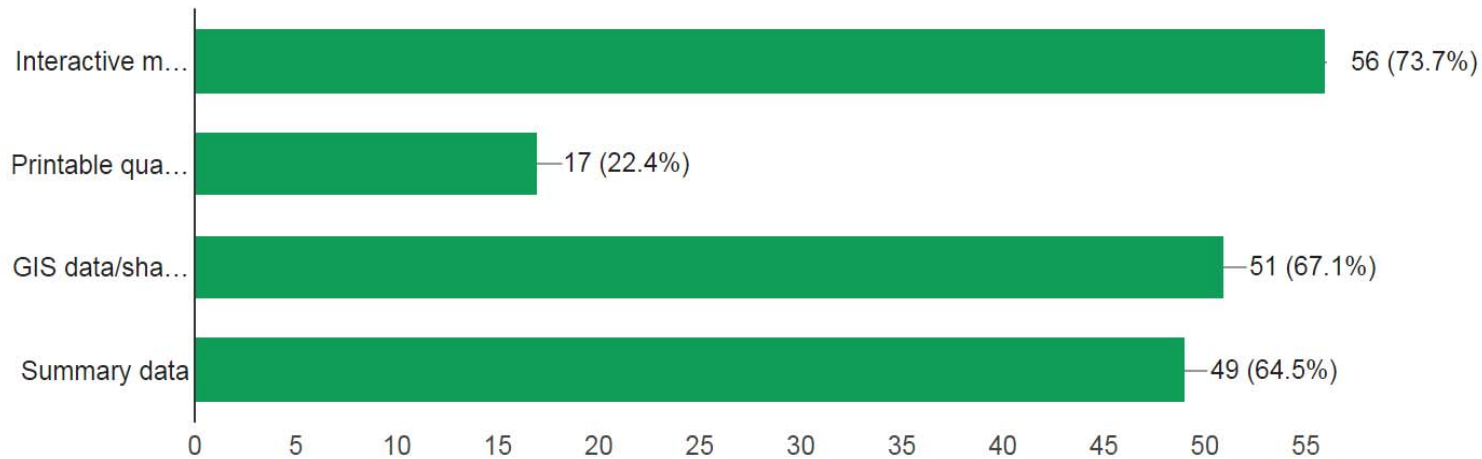
Is your organization (78 responses)



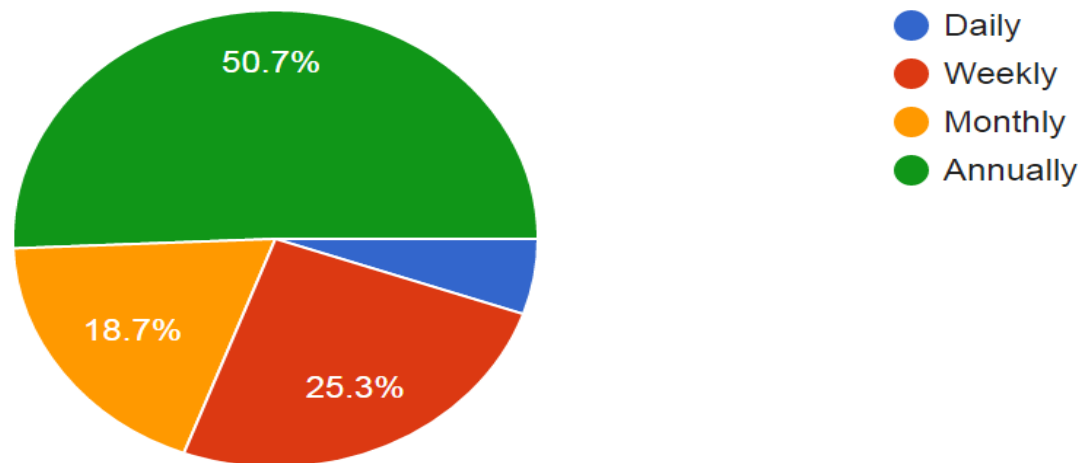
What SAV data do you use? Check all that apply. (78 responses)



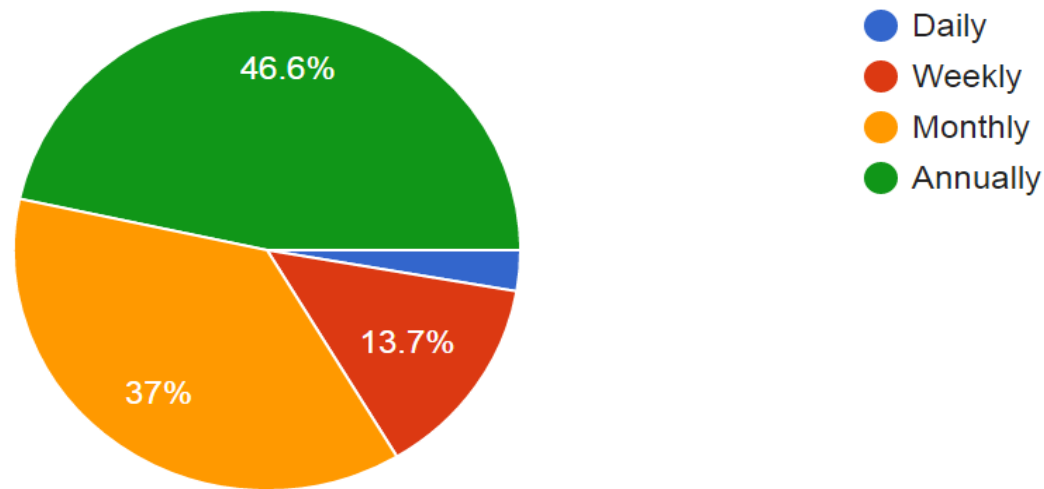
In what format do you use the data? Check all that apply. (76 responses)



How often do you use this data? (75 responses)

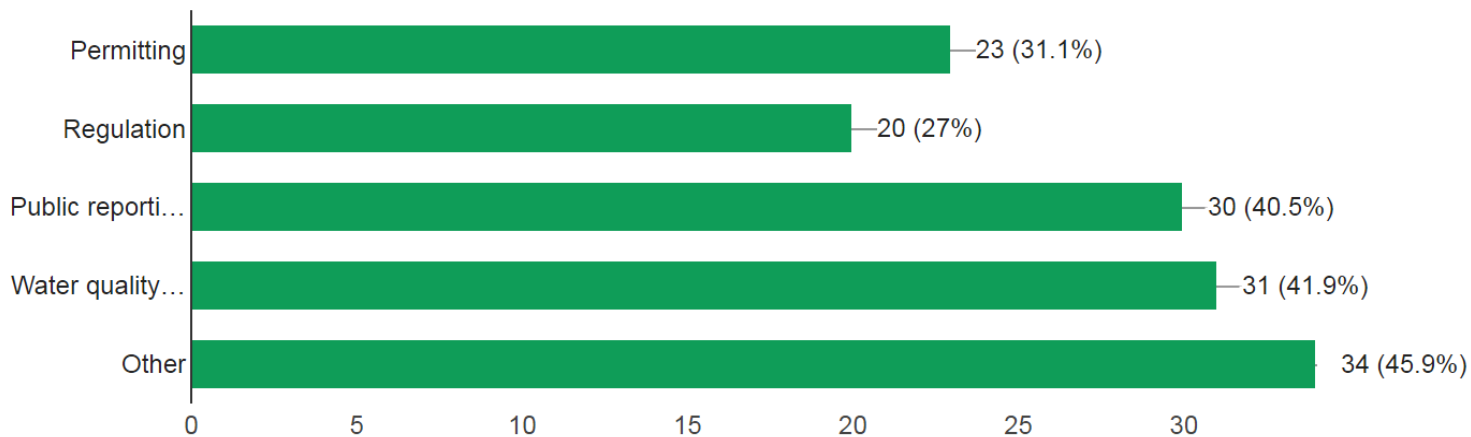


How often do you access the VIMS SAV website? (73 responses)



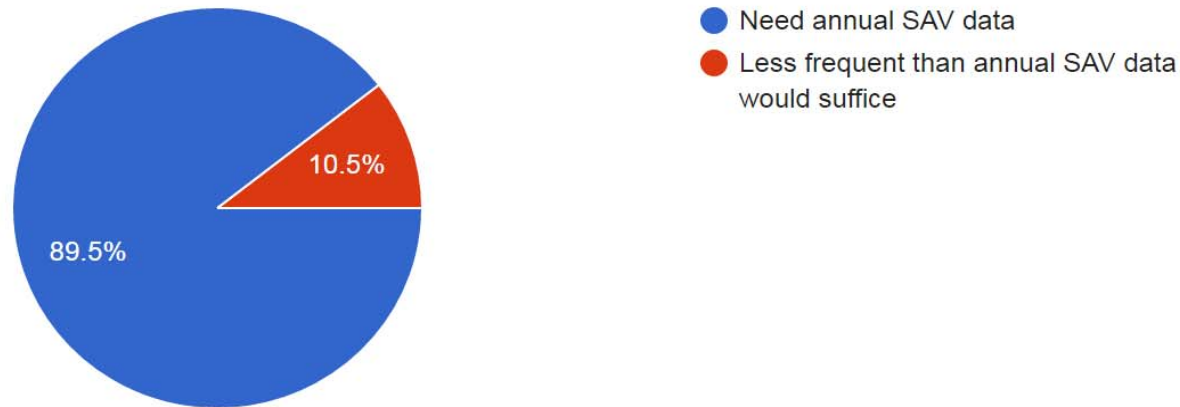
For what specific purposes do(es) you/your agency/your institution access and use these data? Check all that apply.

(74 responses)



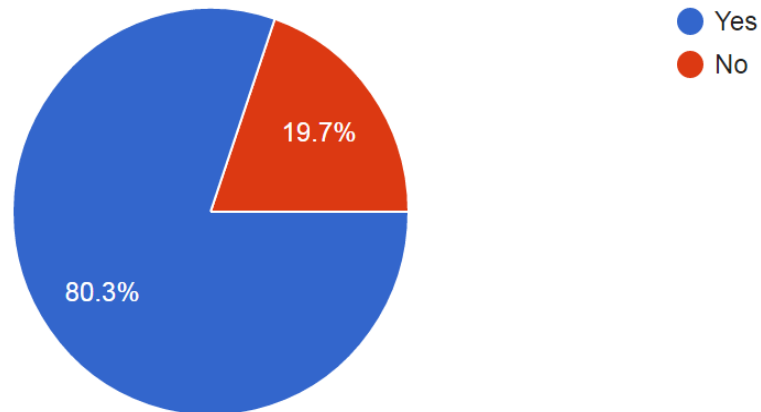
Is annual data important for your purposes, or would less frequent data suffice?

(76 responses)



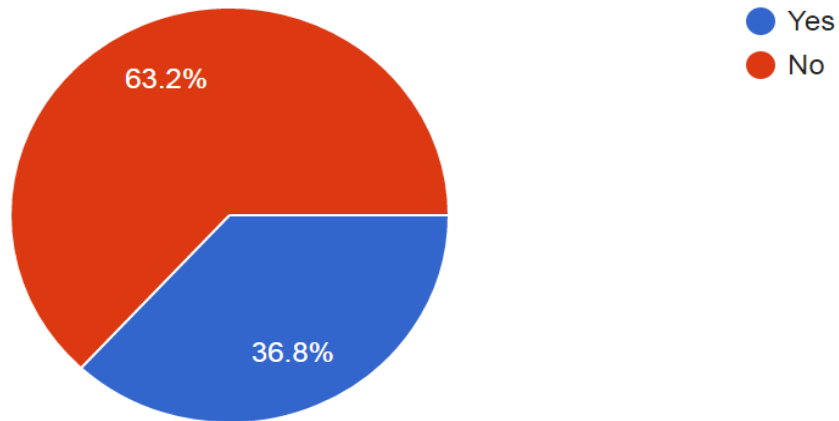
If annual SAV data becomes unavailable, would there be impacts to services that your organization provides?

(76 responses)



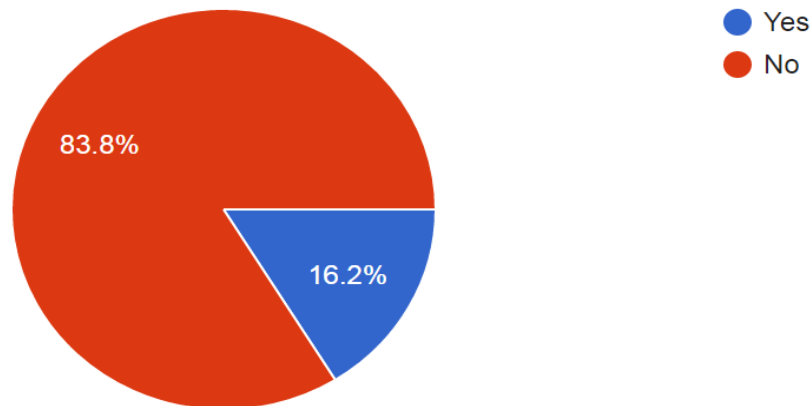
Would you have to collect SAV data yourself, for example, to approve permits?

(76 responses)



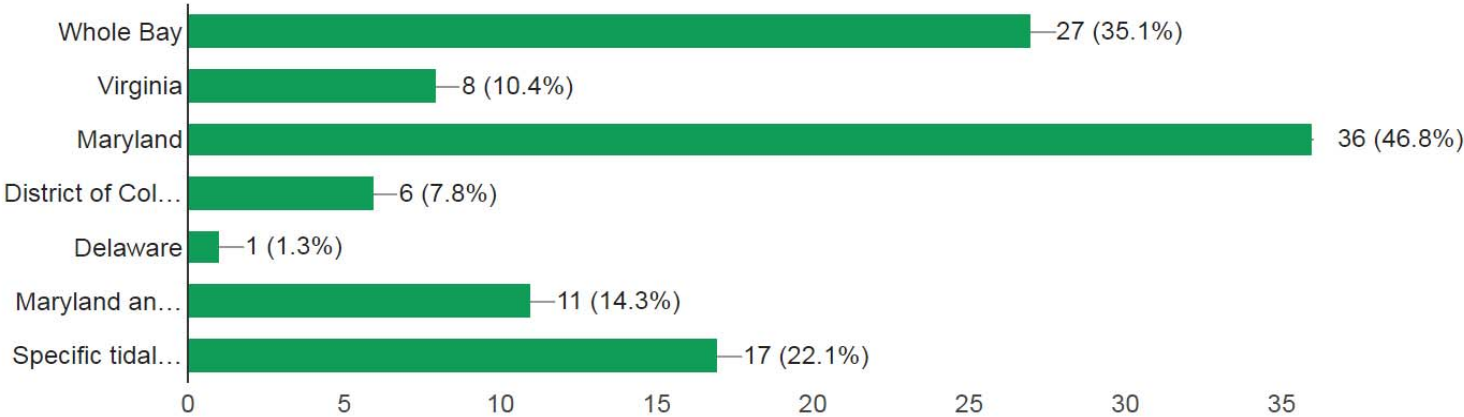
If so, is this a feasible option within your organization? Do you have the financial and logistical capacity?

(68 responses)



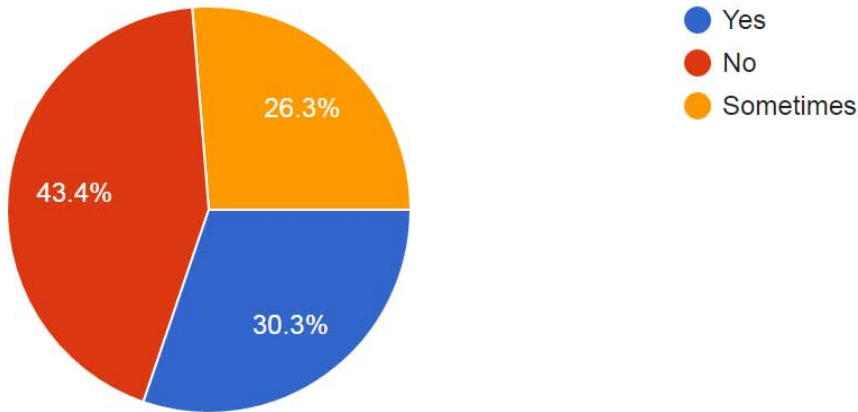
Which geographic portion of the Bay is the most relevant to your organization?

(77 responses)



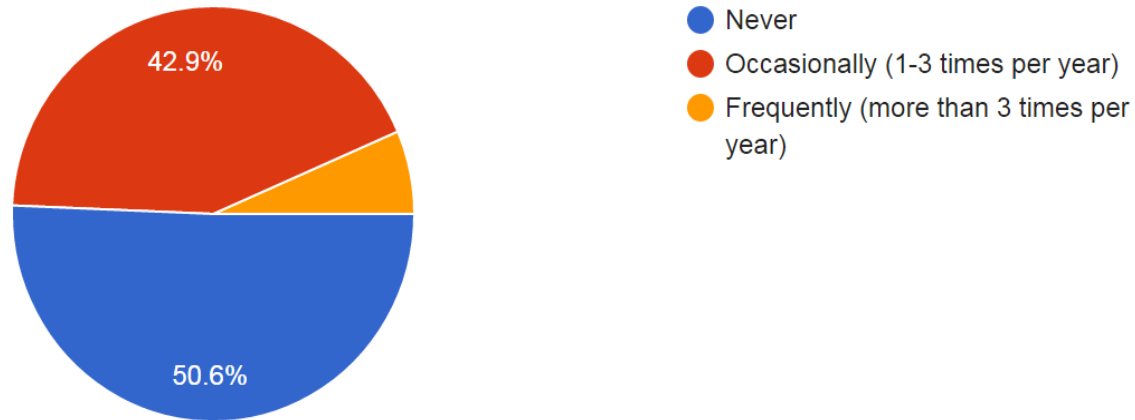
Does your organization contribute to the ground-survey efforts by providing SAV observation data to VIMS?

(76 responses)



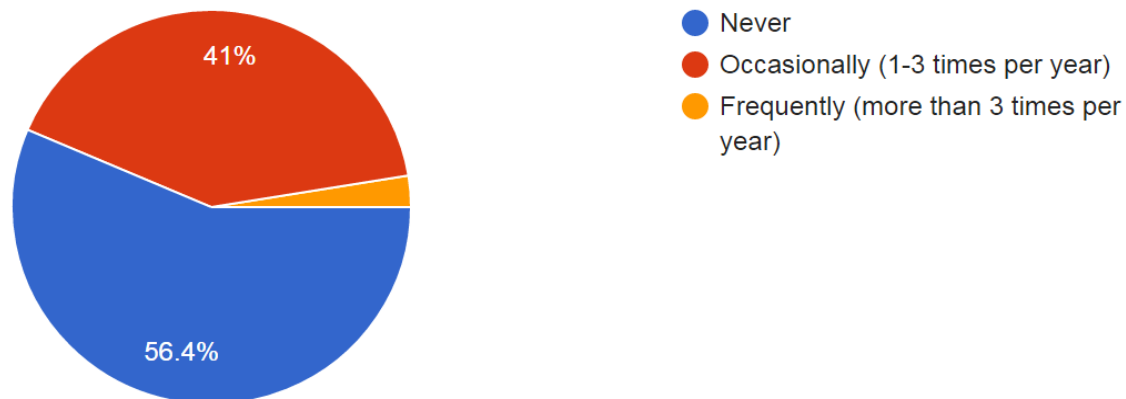
How often do you request specific or early information (before the data is officially released) from the VIMS SAV staff?

(77 responses)



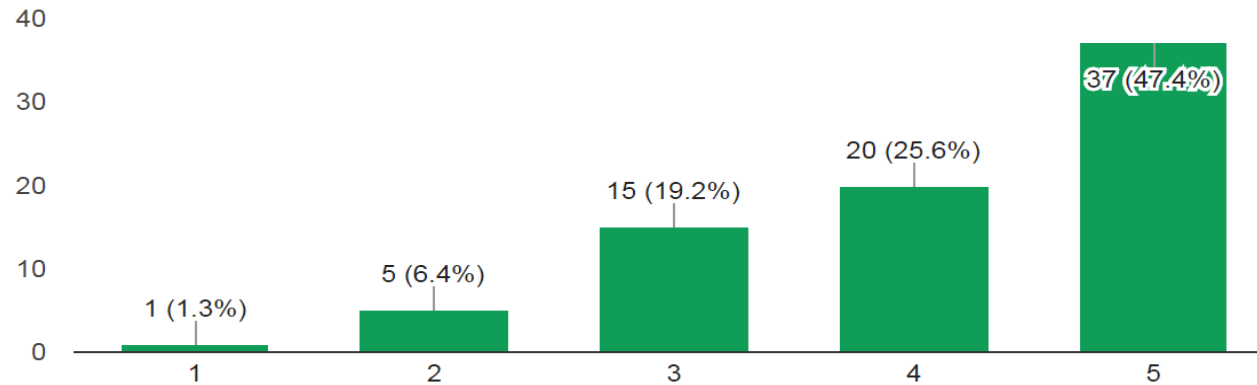
How often do you contact a third party for SAV survey data? ie. Md DNR, EPA, Va-DEQ

(78 responses)



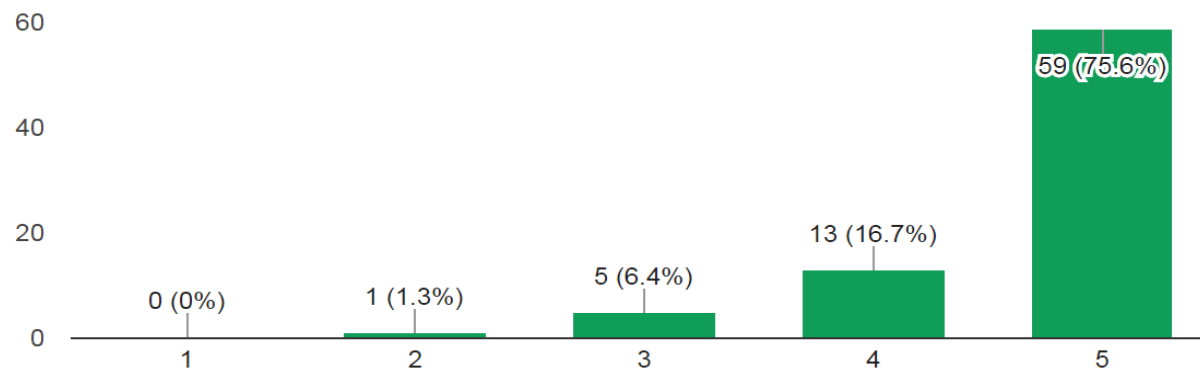
On a scale of 1 - 5, 5 being the most important, how important do you think the Chesapeake Bay Annual SAV aerial and ground data is to your organization?

(78 responses)



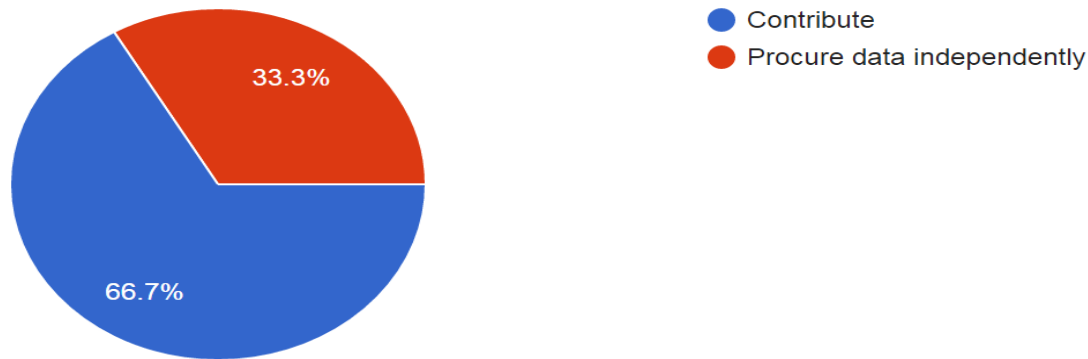
On a scale of 1 - 5, 5 being the most important, how important do you think the Chesapeake Bay Annual SAV aerial and ground data is to Chesapeake Bay conservation and restoration in general?

(78 responses)



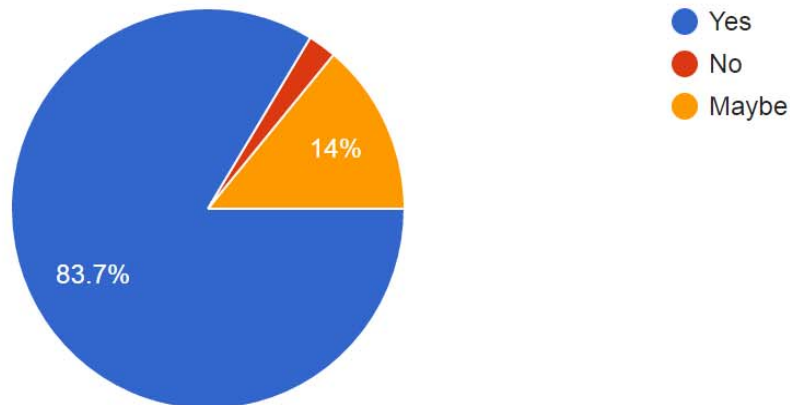
Would you rather financially contribute to keeping the Annual SAV survey program going as is, with Bay-wide data available annually, or would you invest in procuring the data you need for your organization's purposes independently?

(63 responses)



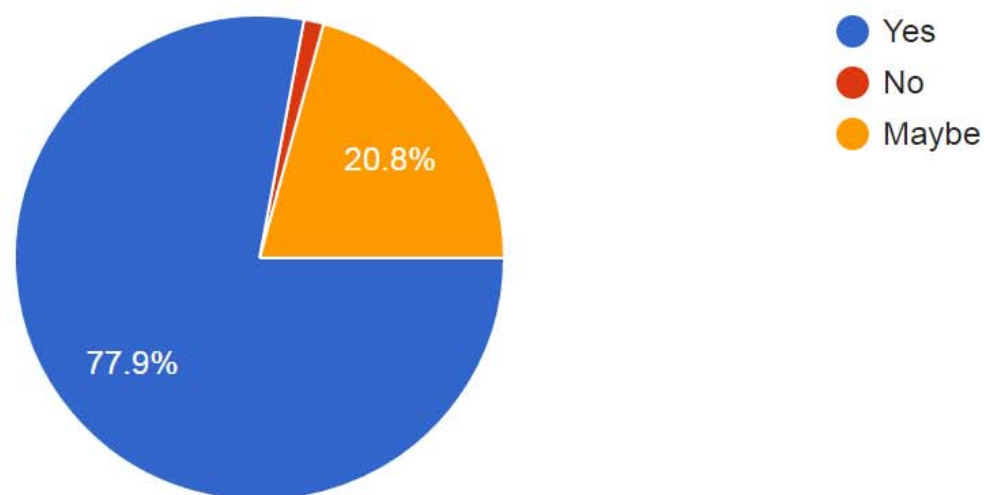
If you prefer to procure SAV data independently, would you be willing to make that data publicly available?

(43 responses)



Are you willing to participate in a one-day workshop this spring to further discuss the future of the Chesapeake Bay Annual SAV Aerial and Ground Surveys? The workshop will be held on March 29th, 2017 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Philip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis, MD.

(77 responses)



What do you use the data for? Please provide a written explanation.

(73 responses)

To investigate natural and human-related influences on SAV health

Use in assessing impacts of projects (generally Corps permits) to EFH. SAV is a habitat area of particular concern for summer flounder.

I am a writer historian and ecologist.

Analysis of species diversity and sav coverage vs environmental factors

Public awareness

Data is used to better understand local bay health and restoration targets.

Determining presence/absence of SAV in formulating permitting decisions for building/encroachment over State bottom.

Planning and providing guidance, coordinating and sharing data with DoD Facilities to look for conservation opportunities and target areas for SAV restoration projects.

Public reporting on Bay restoration progress, working with state and District partners in assessing attainment of MD, VA, DE and DC's Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards, analysis and interpretation of long term trends in Bay health, targeting management action (e.g., restoration, protection, pollutant load reduction BMPs).

Identify critical habitat and shoreline development

Permit, shellfish leasing and regulation decisions.

Understanding the resilience of SAV beds

We bi-annually assess SAV/water clarity acreage criteria for water quality standards that are submitted to EPA/MDE.

tracking water clarity standards attainment; tracking progress towards Maryland's SAV restoration goals; site selection for restoration and research projects; review of tidal wetlands permits/projects and fisheries activities w/ potential SAV conflicts

Assessing water quality standards for the purpose of the Integrated Report (303d List)

If annual SAV data becomes unavailable, would there be impacts to services that your organization provides?

(76 responses)

Please explain your response to the previous question. (67 responses)

Permit reviews and project screening is based on most recent 3 or 5 year annual survey data. A few regulations specifically mention that the data is from VIMS aerial survey

Distribution maps are invaluable to some of our ecological surveys and habitat restoration efforts;

Simulations on annual time scales would be harder to implement and would not have good data.

Would not have the data necessary to provide technical public comment on permits. Would not be able to adequately assess water quality and watershed health.

We would continue to very roughly map/quantify SAV at main installation, but would not have data for Bloodworth Island Range or properties adjacent to our installations

Would make it more difficult to conduct targeted SAV surveys

MD DNR would be unable to meet its statutory requirements to screen lease applications against the annual SAV data.

Our members expect an annual report card to assess condition of the River and effectiveness of restoration efforts. MRA uses these data to support grant requests.

Because restrictions on SAV zones are included in tidal wetland regulations, it is impossible to know how the lack of data would affect our projects, but I would suppose that the result would not be positive for our industry or the health of these beds.

We could not report annually to the public on one of the most understandable and most ecologically significant Bay living resources. We could not support the legal responsibility of the state and District partners to assess attainment of their Chesapeake Bay water quality standards biennially but based on the most recent 3 years worth of data.

Without these data, we would only be able to assess a small number of Bay segments at a time. The only "assessable" segments would be those where with a sufficient amount of water clarity data has been collected to enable the calculation of water clarity acreage. The number of such segments in any given assessment cycle is tiny compared to the total. The SAV aerial data allows us to assess all the segments.

If specific tributaries are most relevant to your organization, please write them in below.

(37 responses)

South River

Bohemia River

Sassafras River

James River and its tributaries

Patuxent

Anacostia and Potomac Rivers

Miles, Wye, Choptank

Anacostia River

Gunpowder and Bird Rivers

Potomac, Rappahannock, James, York,

MAgothy and Severn

Potomac River

Boundary Channel of the Potomac River

Miles River, Wye River, Choptank River, Eastern Bay.

Where DoD facilities are located (many)

Potomac, Patuxent, Patapsco,

Rappahannock River watershed and adjacent western Bay waters

Potomac

All :-).

York, Potomac

Susquehanna watershed, but this can vary.

Again, answering on behalf of APG and Reserve; Bush and Gunpowder River

Bush, Gunpowder

James River Basin

all the rivers of the Mid Eastern Shore

The Severn River and all of its tributaries

Lynnhaven River, Piankank River, Lower York River
significant if there is a potential for a federal project

Please provide any additional thoughts or comments regarding the Chesapeake Bay Annual SAV Aerial and Ground Surveys.

(31 responses)

Keep up the good work!

This element of bay-wide information is one of the cardinal data sets determined as necessary from the earliest stages of monitoring and analysis . Disrupting it would be an intentional, shameful political expedient and an admission of failure in stewardship of Chesapeake Bay

The surveys are an incredible program that have yield important information about the state of the Bay. Now that the TMDL program is underway and we're in an era of rapid change it is more important than ever to keep the program running.

Bob Orth is a dependable and courteous representative at VIMS.

The SAV program is an ESSENTIAL monitoring component. Must be retained. We really should be talking about EXPANDING this program rather than even thinking about reductions...that is crazy. We are seeing some signs of Bay restoration. This is no time to think reduction in one of the very important tools we have for assessing Bay condition.

I would not have the capacity to collect these data on my own, nor do I have the financial capacity to hire someone to collect such data.

From a researcher's perspective, the SAV survey data has allowed for many important research questions be explored and answered. Many of these findings have informed Chesapeake Bay management strategies. Our understanding of SAV ecology is, however, still incomplete and continued aerial surveys will be critical for addressing future research questions, particularly as efforts to reduce nutrient loading continue and unknowns related to increasing sediment loads associated with Conowingo remain.