

Options for Mapping Rhode Island's Wetlands

*Recommendations Based on User Needs and Technical,
Logistical, and Fiscal Considerations*

Results of the Survey of Rhode Island Map Users

Appendix B
of
Final Research Report

by

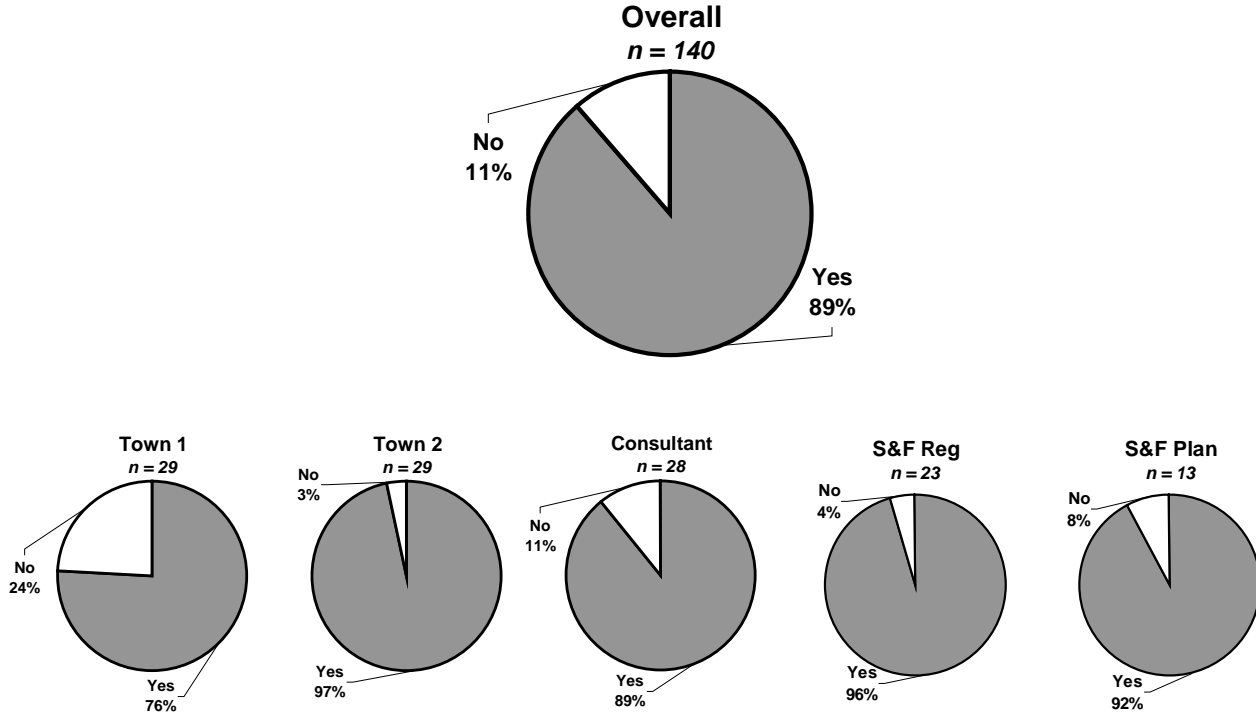
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Francis C. Golet, Professor
Peter V. August, Professor
Department of Natural Resources Science
University of Rhode Island, Kingston

March 2001

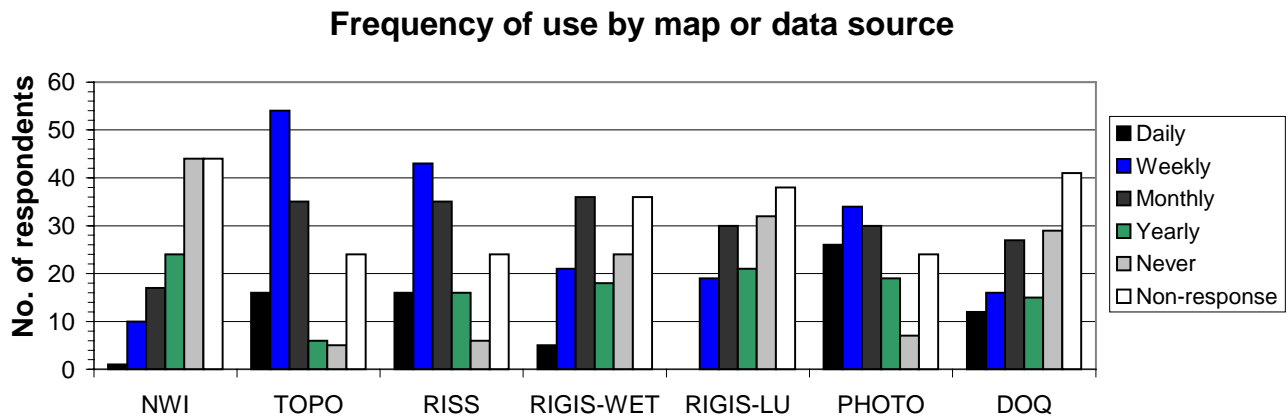


Appendix B. Results of the Survey of Rhode Island Map Users.

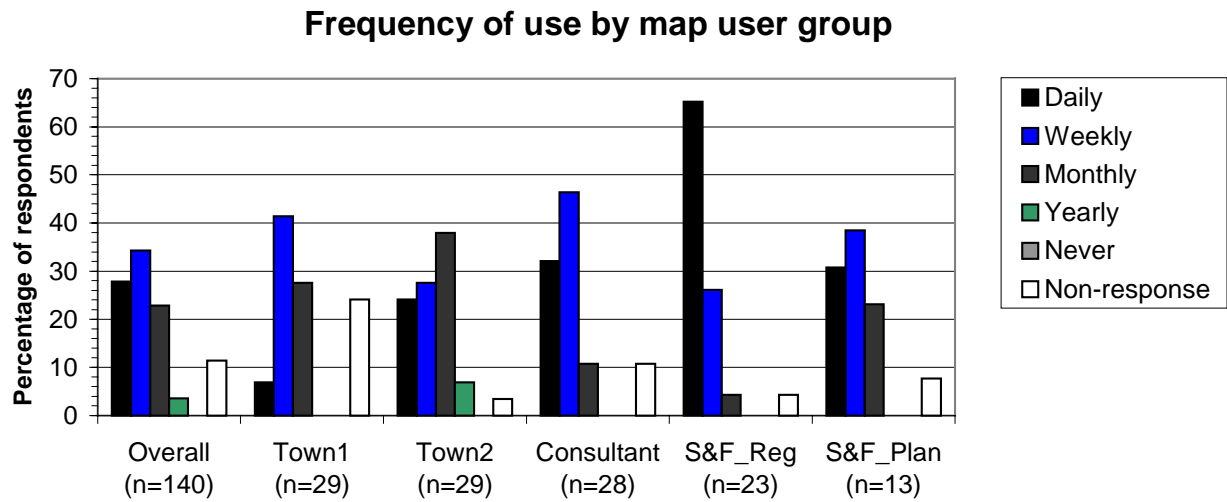
1. Do you use wetland maps or data sources in your work?



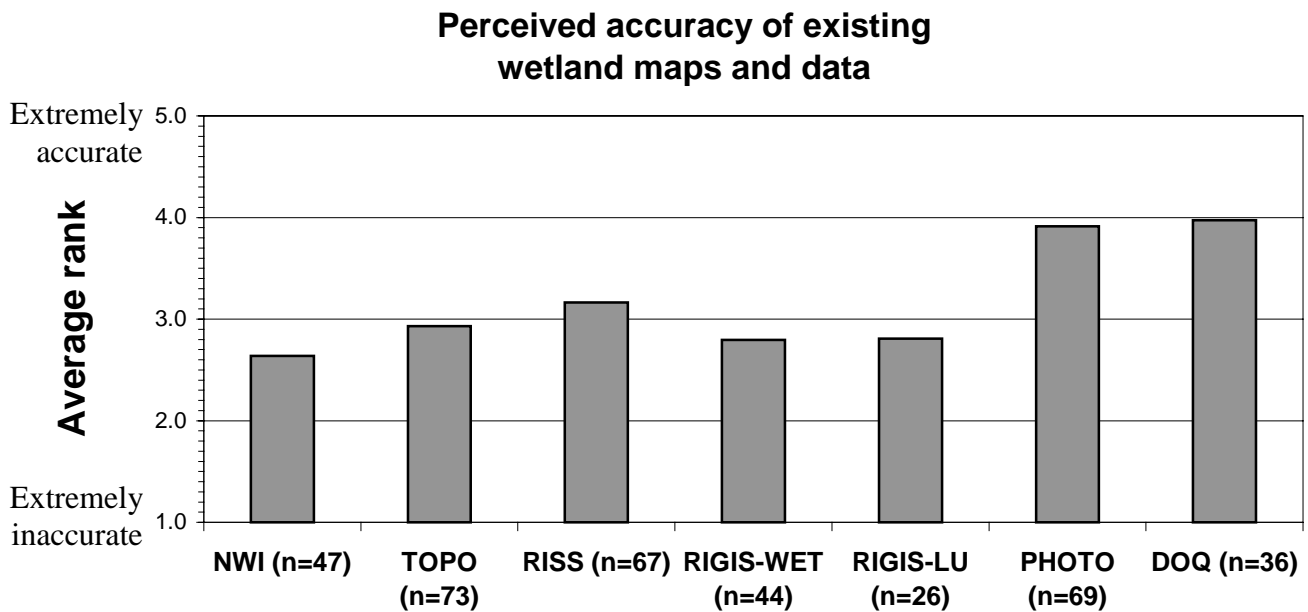
2. How often do you use wetland maps or data sources?



2. (Continued.)

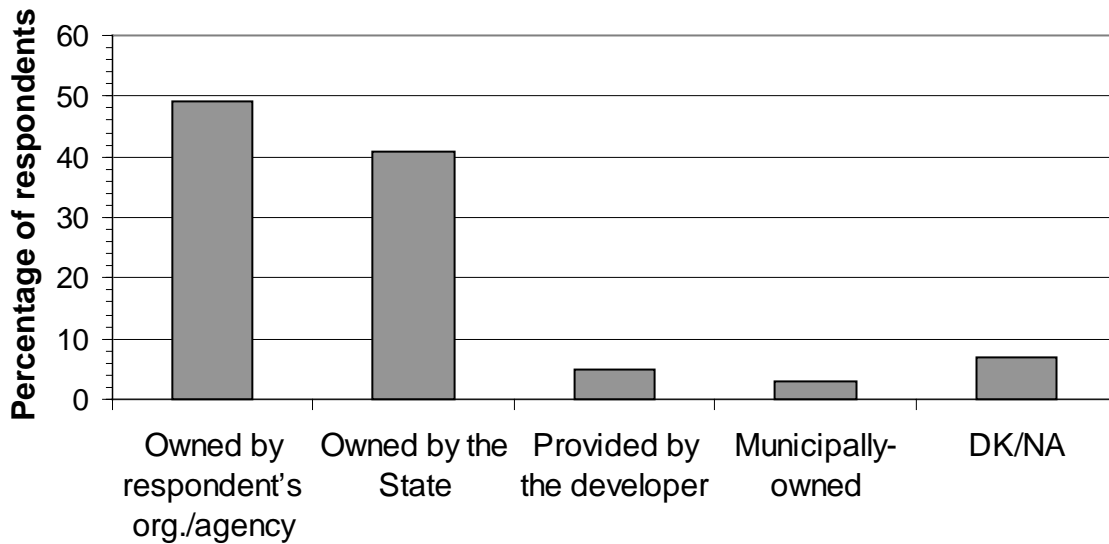


3. *If you are a field worker, based on your experience, how accurate have existing wetland maps and data sources been, relative to field conditions?*



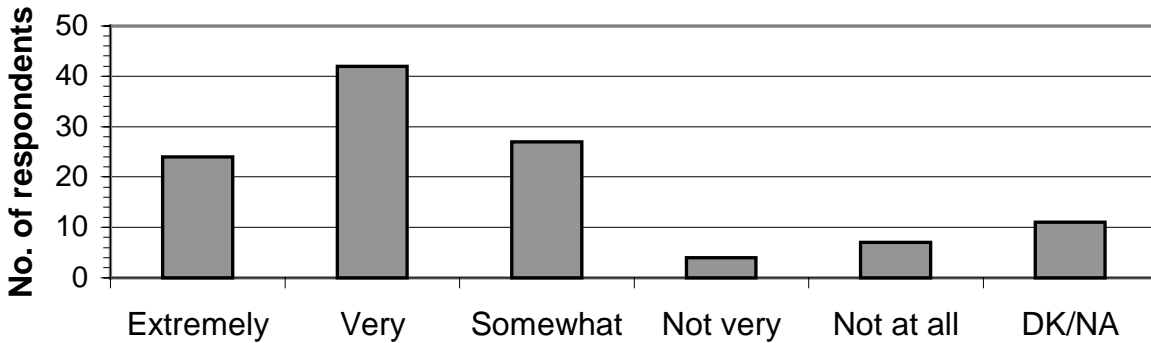
4. *If you use aerial photography for wetlands work:*
- a. How do you access the photos?

Sources of aerial photography
(n = 115)



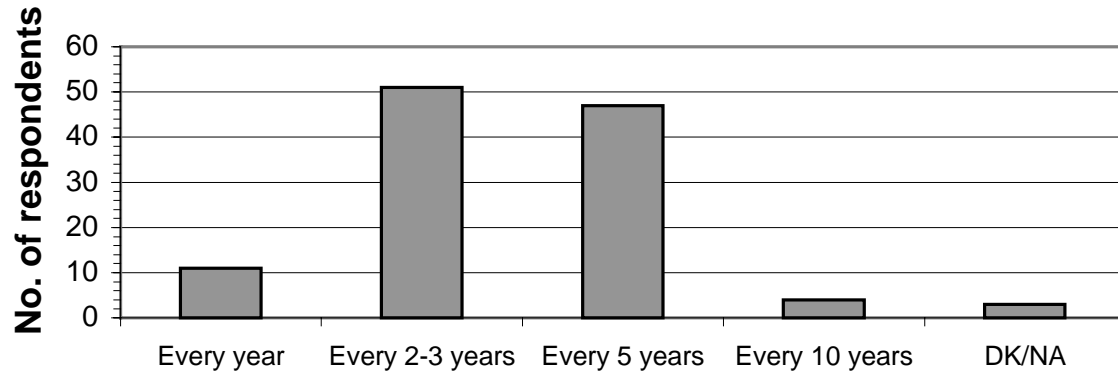
- b. How important is it to your work that access to State-owned aerial photos be improved?

Importance of improving access to State-owned aerial photos
(n = 115)



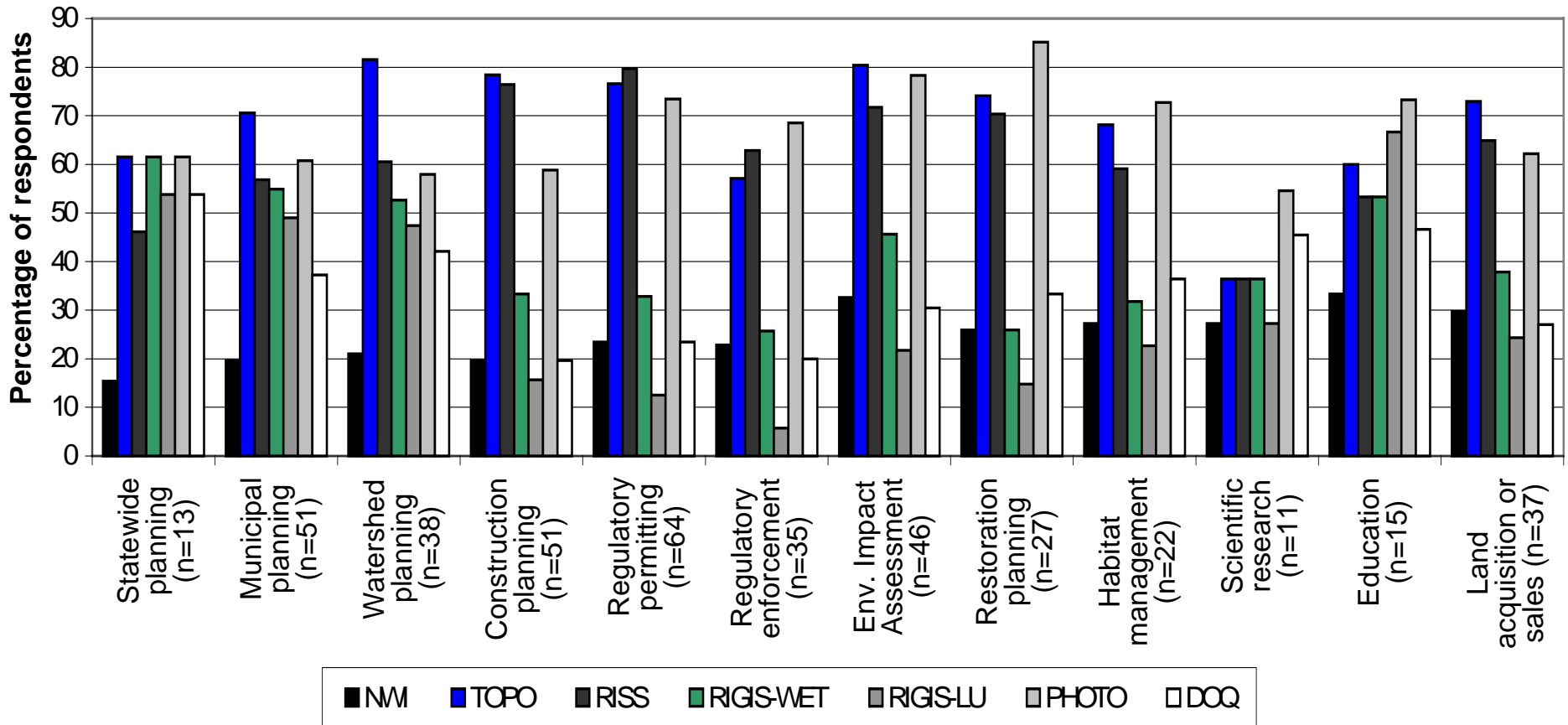
- c. To satisfy your needs, what is the *minimum* frequency at which statewide aerial photos should be taken?

Frequency at which statewide aerial photos should be taken
(n = 116)



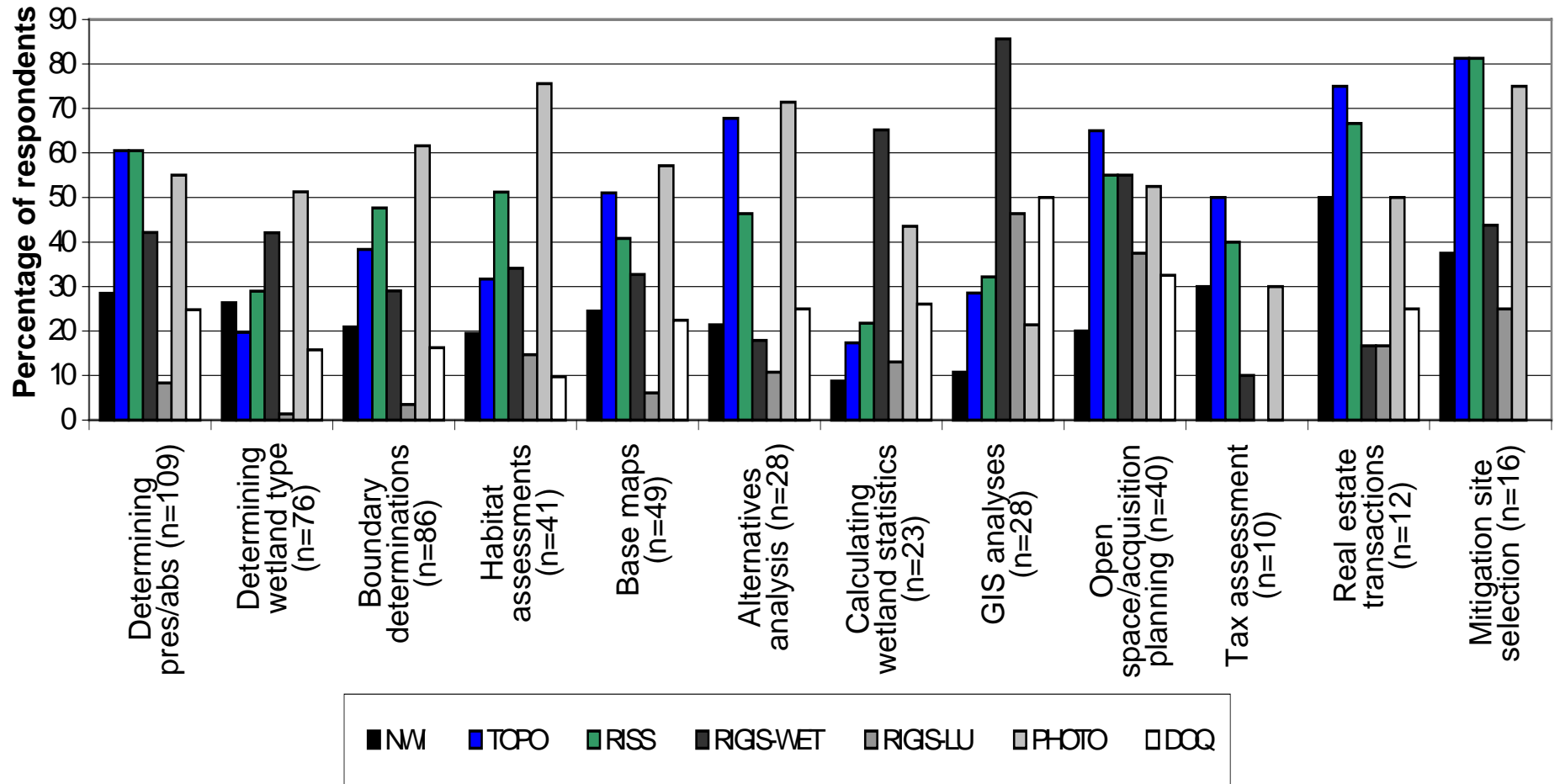
5. Please indicate the *primary* wetland-related activity(ies) that you perform—and the map or data sources that you *routinely* utilize for those activities—by checking the appropriate box(es).

Maps & data sources used for primary wetland-related activities

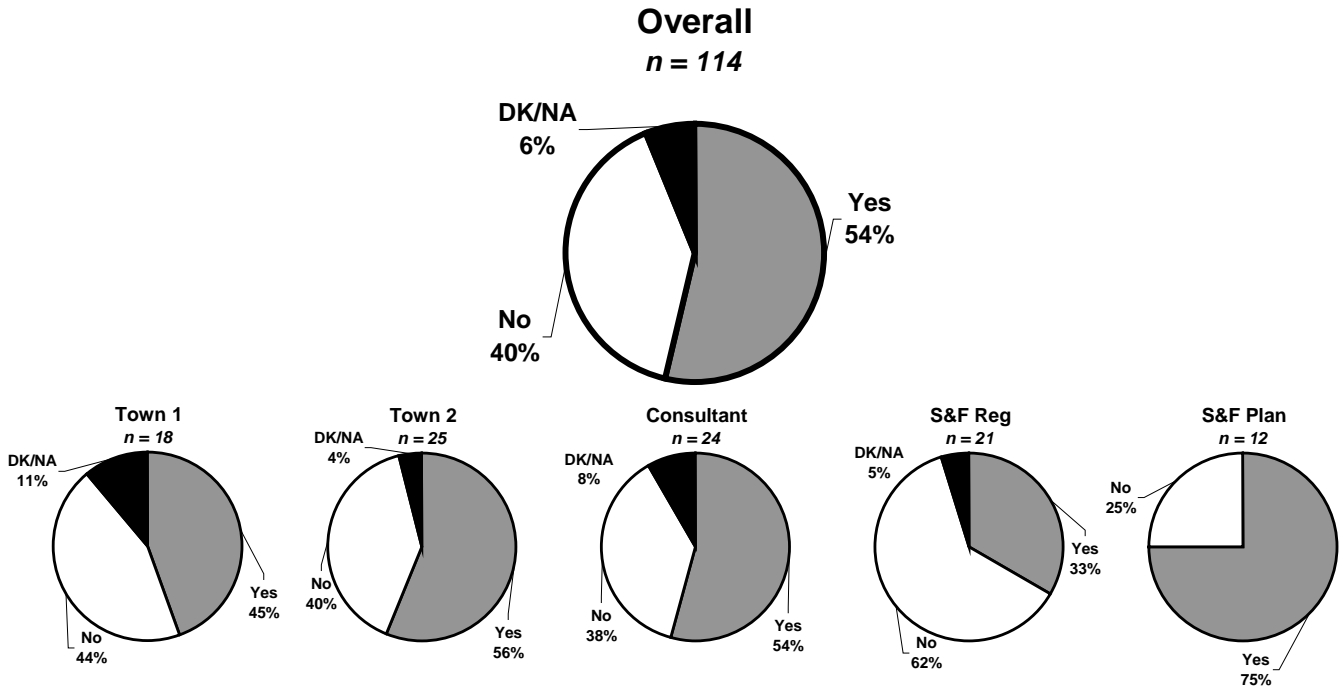


6. Please indicate the *specific* activity(ies) for which you use wetland maps and data sources by placing a check mark in the appropriate box(es).

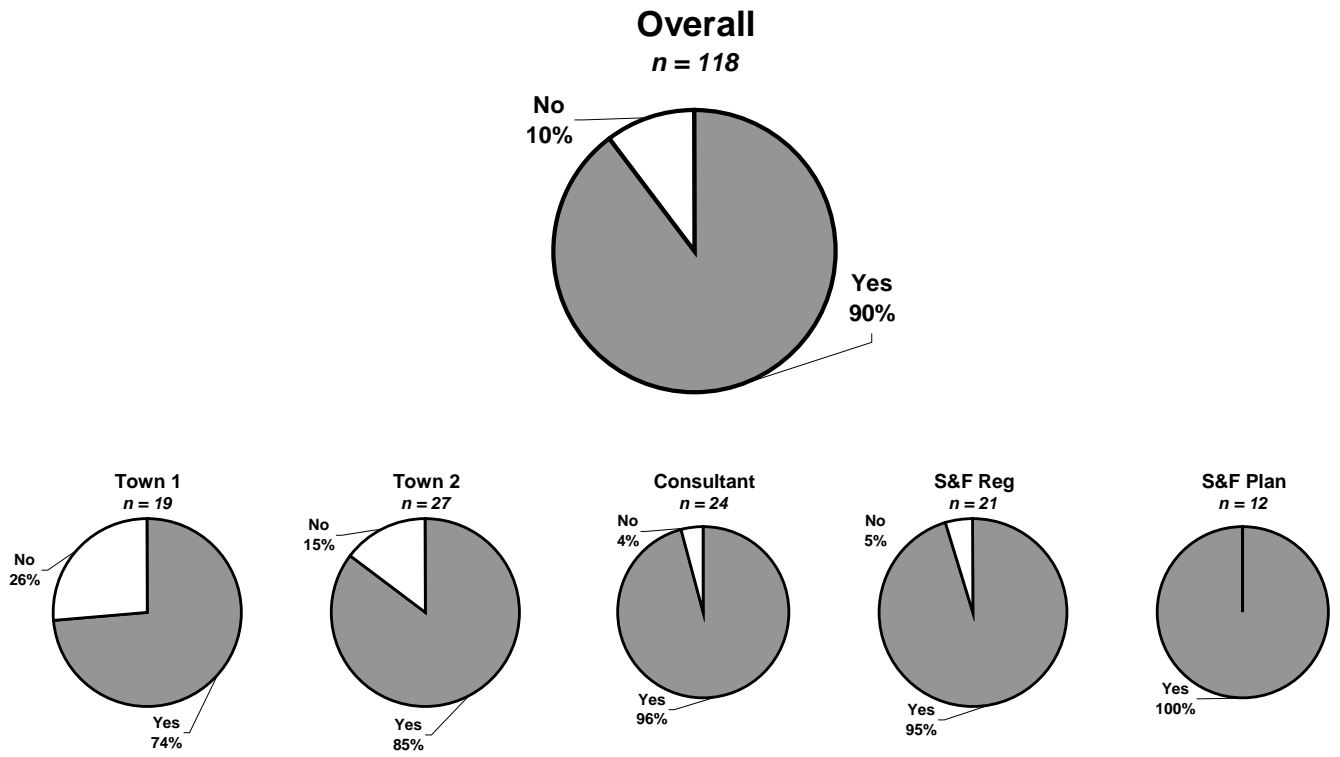
Maps and data sources used for specific wetland-related activities



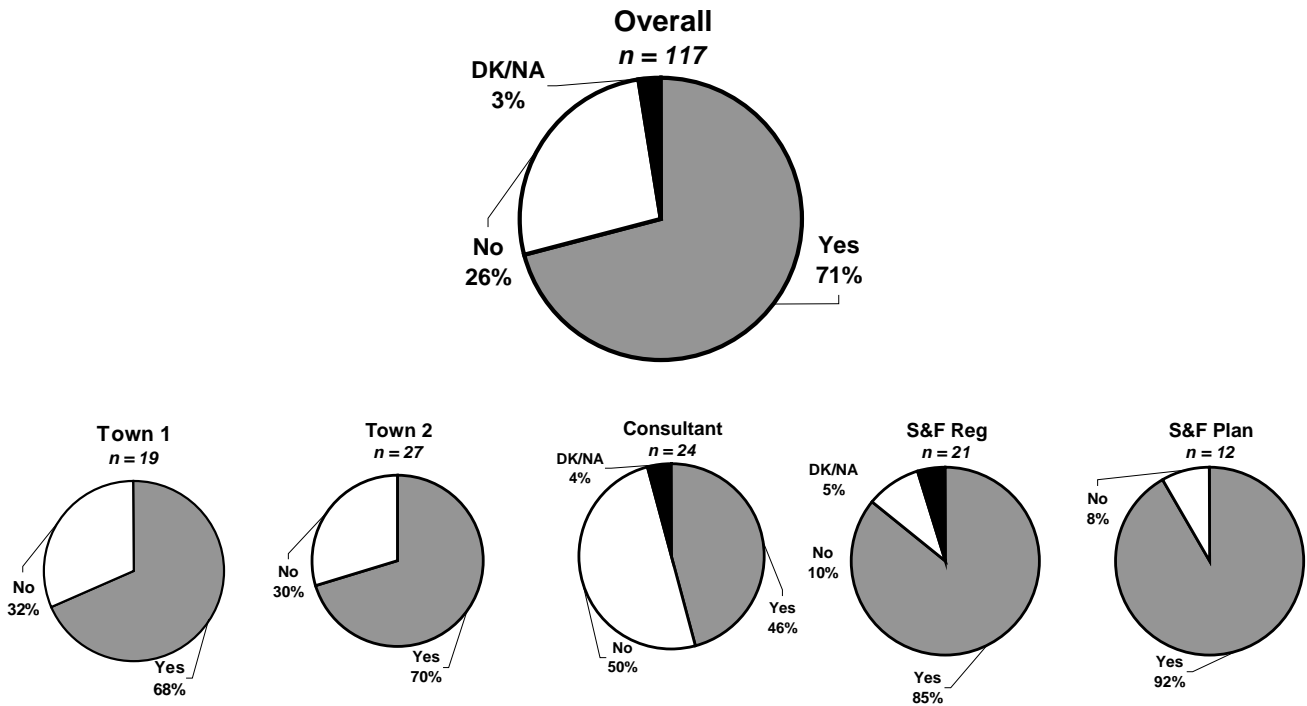
7. Do existing wetland maps and data sources meet your needs?



8. Do you have access to the Internet?

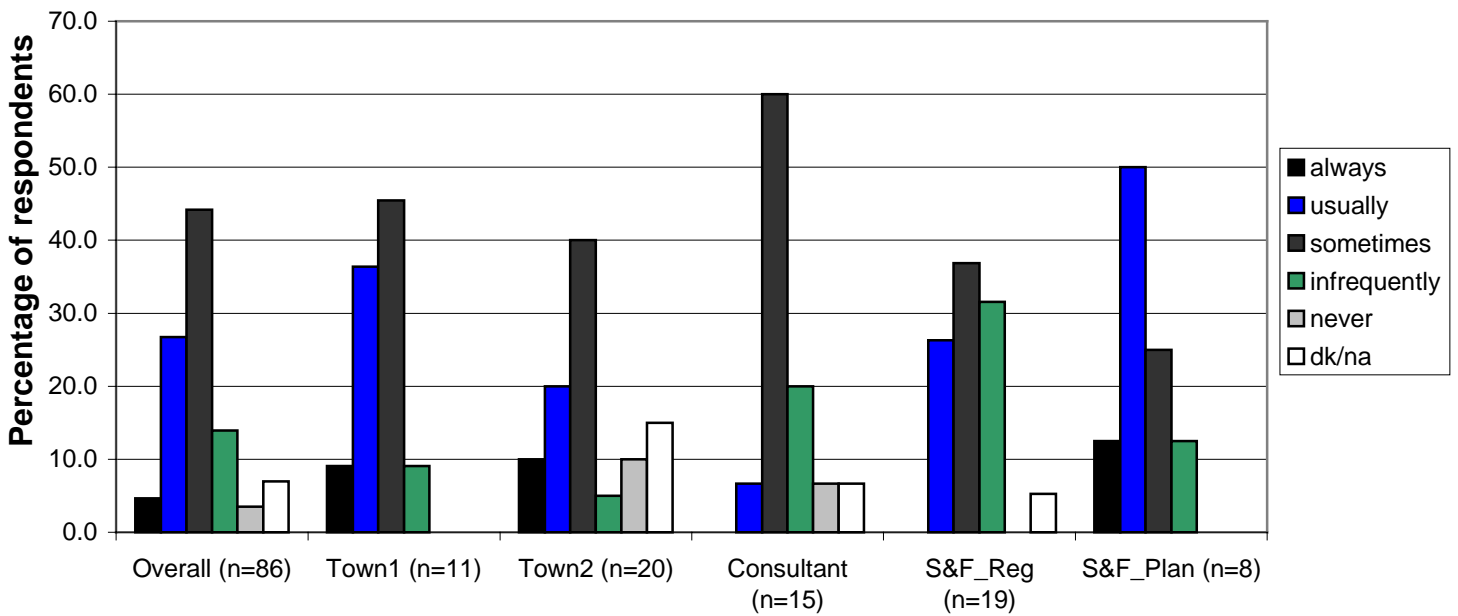


9. Do you have access to ArcView or other GIS software?



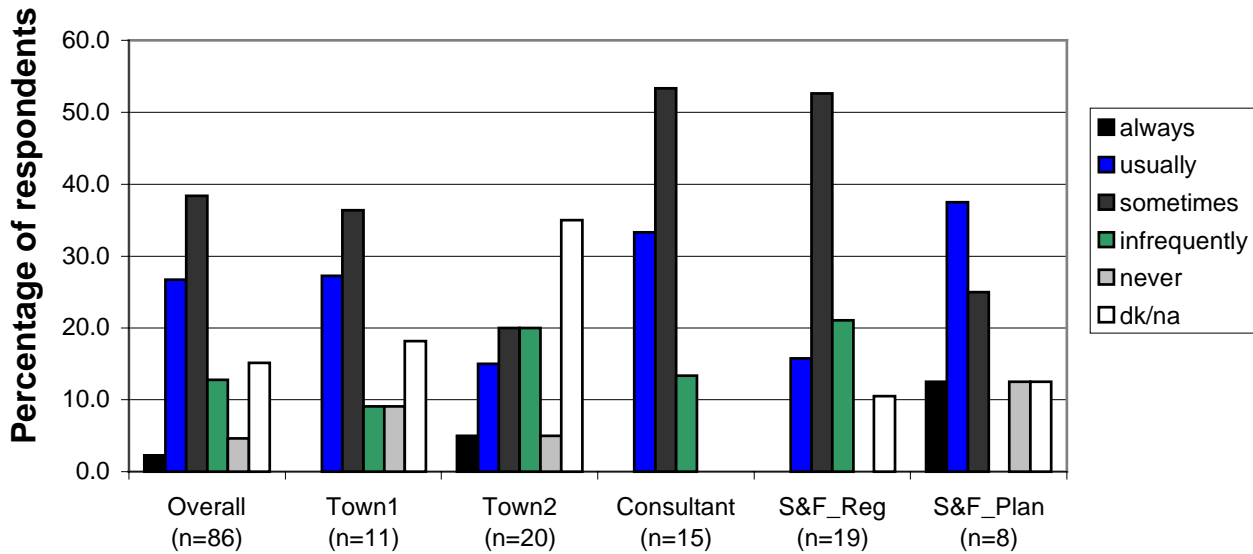
10. How often do the RIGIS wetland map data meet your needs—in terms of *scale* (i.e., in terms of the minimum size of mapped areas)?

Frequency at which RIGIS wetland map scale is adequate



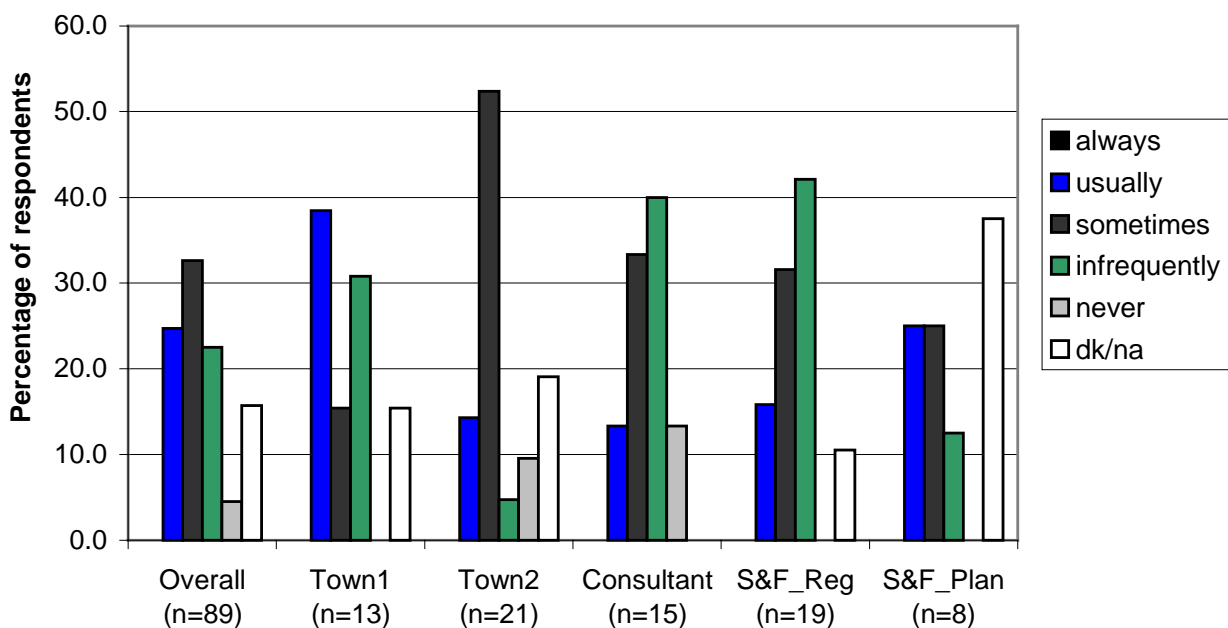
11. How often do the RIGIS wetland map data meet your needs—in terms of *wetland classification accuracy*?

Frequency at which RIGIS wetland map classification accuracy is adequate



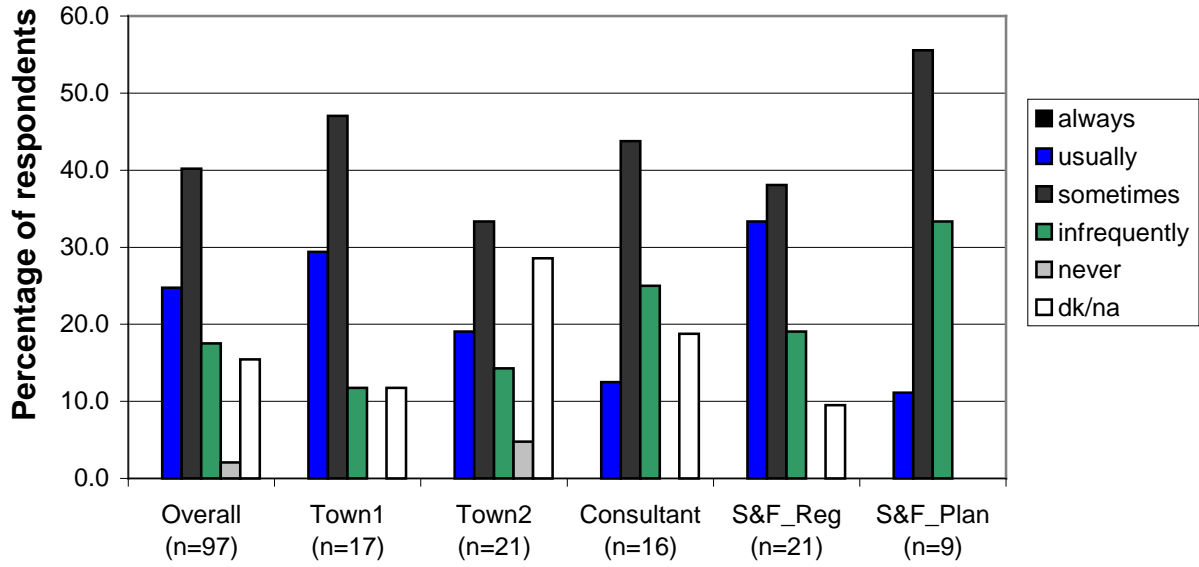
12. How often do the RIGIS wetland map data meet your needs—in terms of *positional accuracy* (i.e., map location vs. actual location of wetland on the ground)?

Frequency at which RIGIS wetland map positional accuracy is adequate



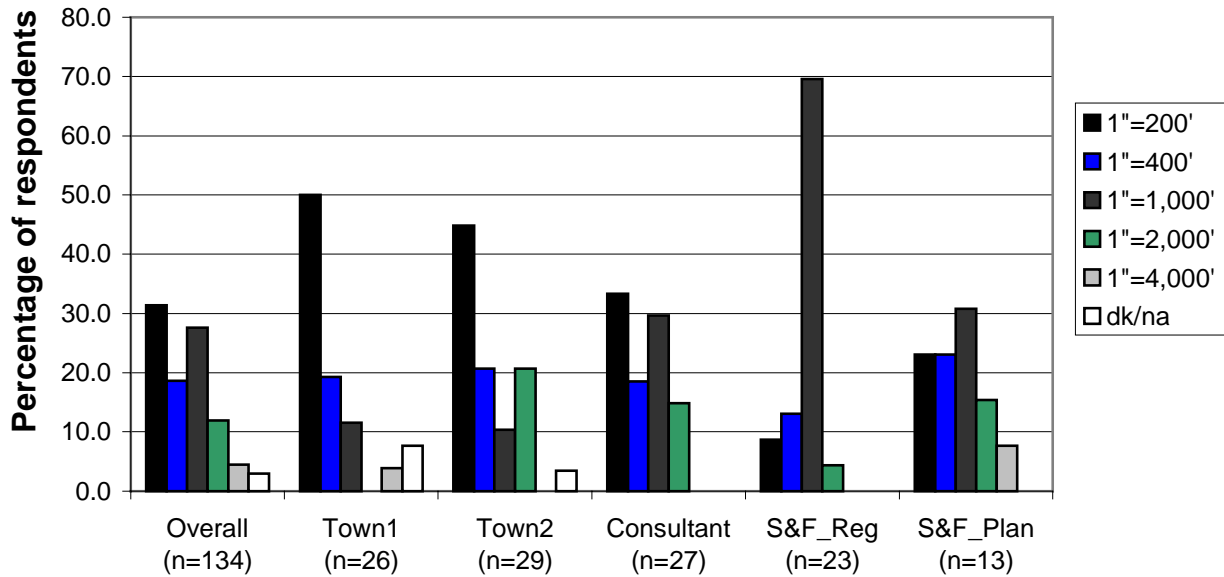
13. How often do the RIGIS wetland map data meet your needs—in terms of *the age of the data*?

Frequency at which the age of RIGIS wetland map data is adequate

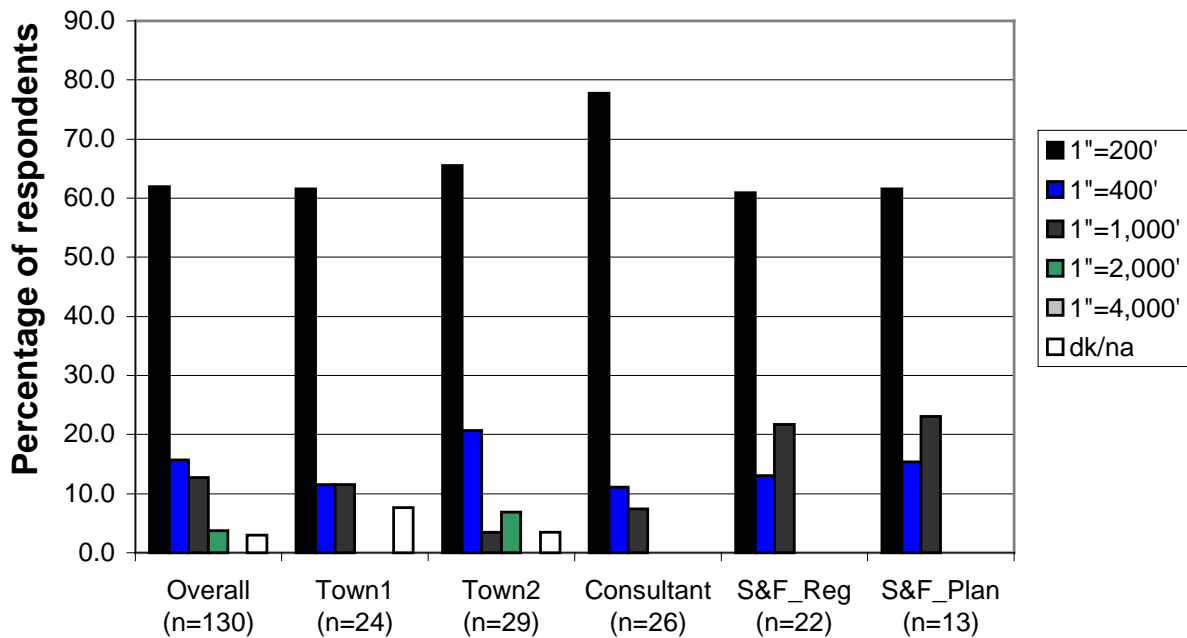


14. Which of the following wetland map scales would suffice for your needs?

Smallest scale that would satisfy map users' needs

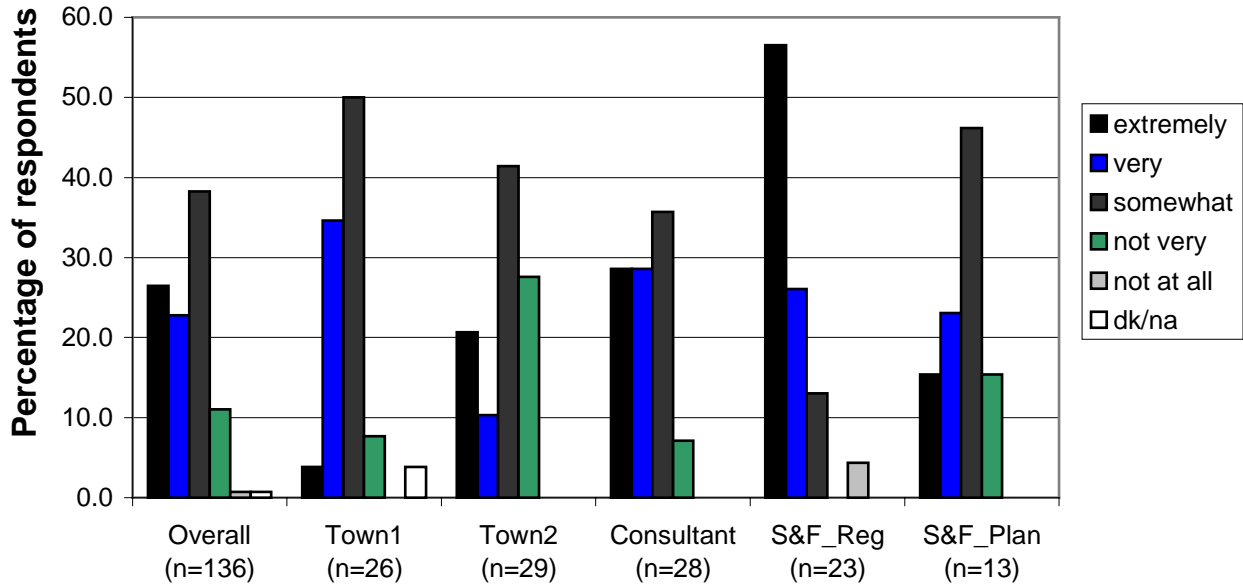


Scale that map users would prefer



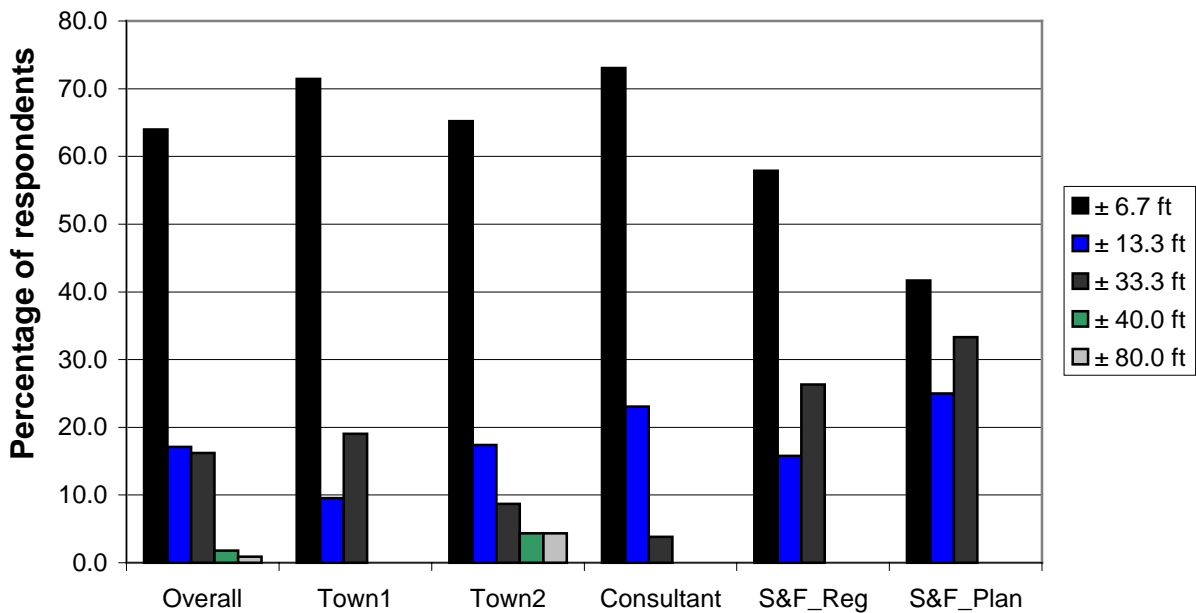
15. How important is the correct classification of wetland types (e.g., forested swamp, shrub swamp, bog, marsh, pond) to your work?

Importance of classification accuracy to map users' work



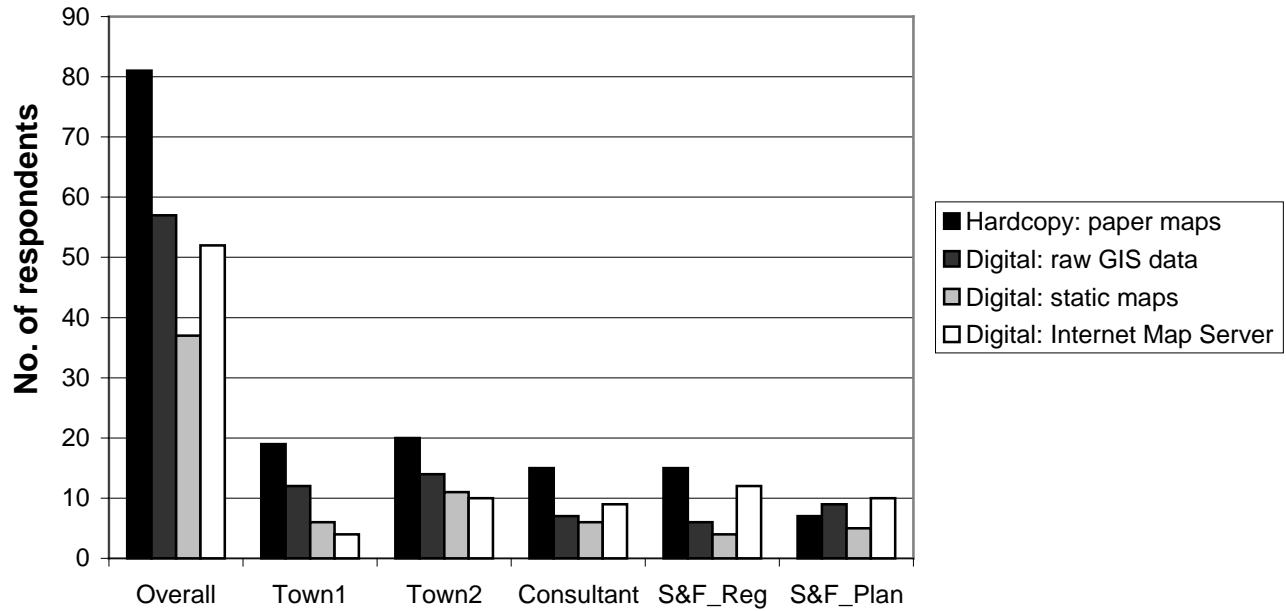
16. What level of positional accuracy do you need?

Level of positional accuracy needed by map users

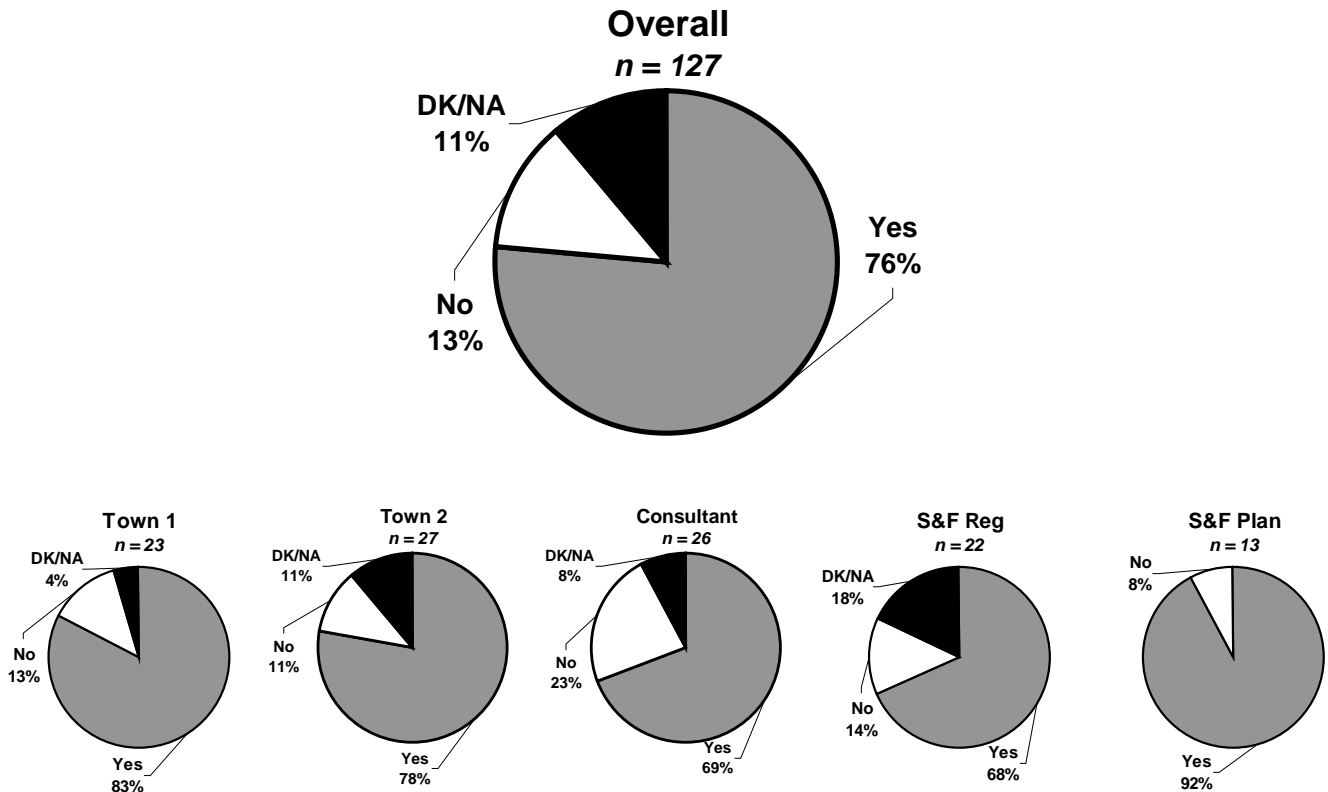


17. In what format(s) would you prefer improved wetland maps and data?

Preferred formats of wetland maps

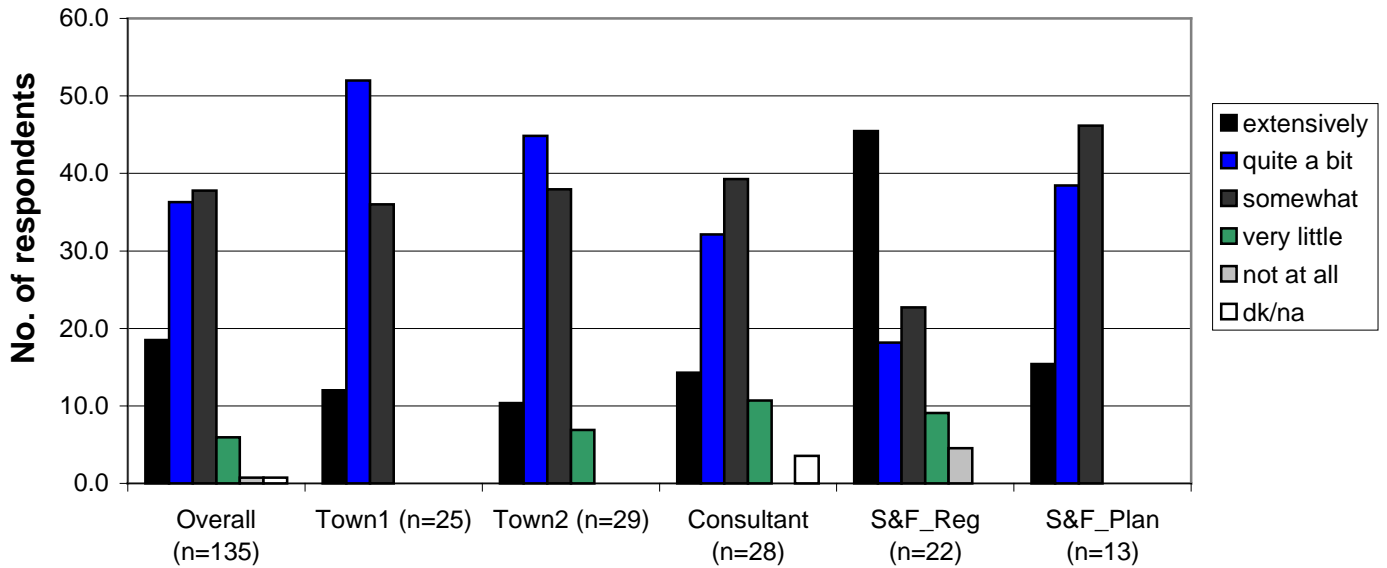


18. Should the improvement of wetland map data be a priority for the State?



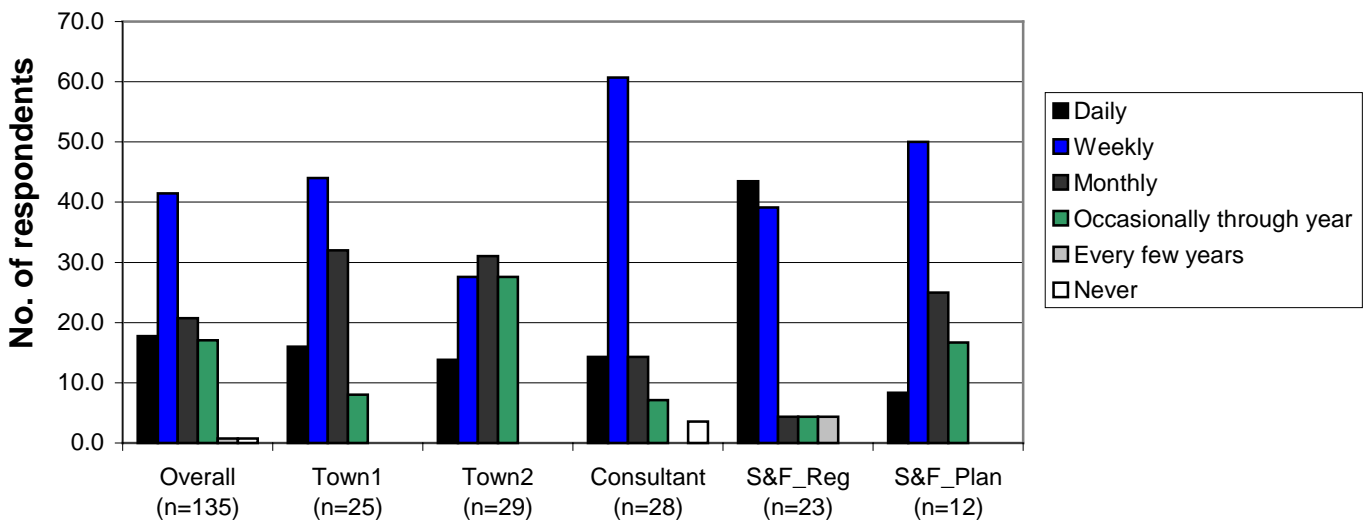
19. To what degree would improvements in Rhode Island’s current wetland maps (in terms of scale, classification, positional accuracy, and age of data) help you in your work?

Degree to which improvements in wetland maps would help map users in their work



20. How often would you use wetland maps that have been improved to meet your needs?

Frequency at which map users would use improved wetland maps



21. For what purpose(s) would you like to use wetland map data that you cannot at present due to various shortcomings?

No. of responses									Wetland map use*
Map user group									
Overall	Town1	Town2	S&F_Plan	S&F_Reg	Consultant	NGO	Academic	Assessor	
14	2	6	1	4		1			Review of development plans and permit applications
13	4	2		6	1				Precisely determining wetland edge/boundary
11	2				9				Development planning/Feasibility studies/Applying for permits
9	2	4			1		1	1	Viewing wetland boundaries in relation to parcel boundaries
7		1	1	2	3				Determining wetland type
6		1		4	1				Determining wetland size
5		1		1	3				Determining wetland presence
5			3	2					Wetland restoration planning
5		1	1	1	1		1		Preliminary development planning
4			1		1	1	1		Regional and watershed assessments and analyses
3				2	1				Cumulative wetland impact analyses
2				1	1				Wetland functional assessments
2				1	1				Researching review history
2						1	1		Identifying very small wetland units/Fine resolution
2								2	Determining highest & best use for valuation purposes

*Many individual responses were received for this question; only those that were stated by at least two respondents are provided here.

22. Please provide additional information or comments to help us assess the utility of existing wetland map data and to determine how those data could be improved to meet your needs.

No. of responses								Comment*
<i>Map user group</i>								
<i>Overall</i>	<i>Town1</i>	<i>Town2</i>	<i>S&F_Plan</i>	<i>S&F_Reg</i>	<i>Consultant</i>	<i>NGO</i>	<i>Academic</i>	
16	3	3	3	3	1	2	1	Wetland maps should have better positional accuracy
10				1	8		1	Wetland maps cannot replace field investigations
5		1	2			1	1	Wetland maps should be updated more frequently
3				1	2			Wetland maps should only be used for broad, general purposes
3	1				2			Wetland maps should be larger-scale
3				1	1	1		We need maps that don't require GIS software
2				2				It is better to use aerial photography than maps
2				1	1			Site-specific wetland info should be obtained from field visits
2			1		1			The RI Soil Survey is more accurate than wetland maps
2					2			More accurate wetland maps would facilitate better planning
2					2			High quality digital orthophotos should be taken at frequent intervals
2			1		1			RIGIS wetland maps and the RISS should be re-registered to an orthophoto base
2					2			Maps should be ground-truthed
2				1	1			Current wetland maps are often misused

*Many individual responses were received for this question; only those that were stated by at least two respondents are provided here.