

WATERFRONT HOMEOWNERS' PERCEPTIONS OF SHORELINE TYPES & MANAGEMENT

In 2018, a survey of waterfront homeowners in Florida was conducted to understand how they perceive and value their shorelines. The survey provided information on what features homeowners prioritize when deciding on shoreline protection, perceptions of functions and values provided by different shoreline types and satisfaction with their current shoreline. This information will aid managers and restoration practitioners in developing restoration plans and management actions aimed at increasing coastal resilience.

SHORELINE TYPE DEFINITIONS:

ARMORED: seawall or rock revetment with no natural elements.

HYBRID: armored shoreline that incorporates natural elements (oysters, beach, dune, marsh or mangroves).

LIVING SHORELINE: marshes/mangroves, oyster reefs & other nature-based features installed by humans, without armoring.

NATURAL: naturally occurring marshes or mangroves without armoring.

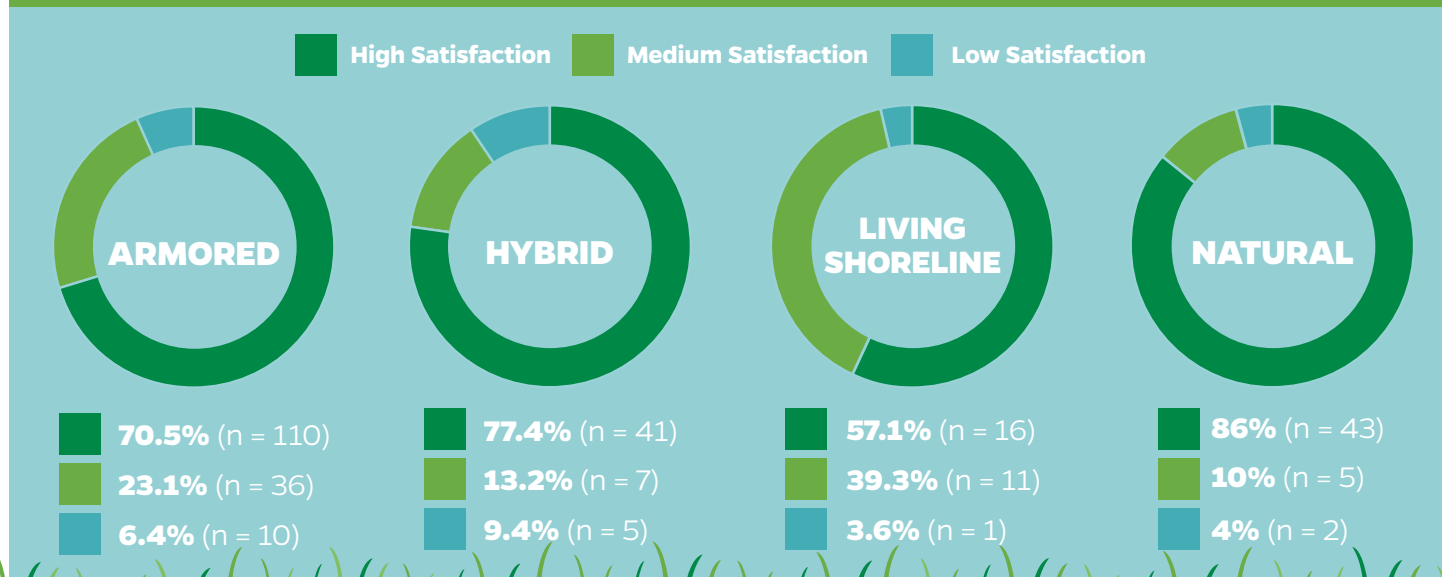
When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their shoreline type (armored, hybrid, living shoreline or natural). The majority of respondents reported high levels of satisfaction with their shoreline. Property owners with natural and hybrid shorelines reported the highest rates of satisfaction.

Participants were asked about their considerations when making shoreline management decisions. Effectiveness was identified as the most important factor in shoreline management decision-making. Participants perceived armored shorelines to be the most effective. However, more natural shoreline types ranked higher in all other aspects.

TOP CONSIDERATIONS FOR MAKING SHORELINE DECISIONS



SATISFACTION WITH OWN SHORELINE TYPE



BENEFITS OF SHORELINE TYPES

For their shoreline type, respondents were asked to rate access, recreation, aesthetics, maintenance, protection and environmental benefits. Hybrid shorelines received the highest scores in the areas of access, recreation and maintenance. Property owners thought armored shorelines provided the most protection. Natural shorelines were rated highest for aesthetics, and living shorelines received the highest score for environmental benefits. Scores are displayed below on a 5.0 scale.

