

SYSTEM DIMENSIONS	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL	BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS	HUMAN USES
Extent Pattern	Nutrients, Carbon, Oxygen Contaminants Physical	Plants and Animals Communities Ecological Productivity	Food, Fiber, and Water Recreation and Other Services

⊖ Participation in Freshwater Recreational Activities

What Is This Indicator, and Why Is It Important? This indicator shows the number of days that people took part in a variety of freshwater activities. A “recreation day” for this measure is any day during which a person was engaged in the activity, whether for only a few minutes or for many hours.

Americans enjoy recreation in and around water, from birdwatching and fishing to sailing and swimming. Information on trends in participation documents the demand for recreation opportunities and can be useful in planning for recreational facilities.

Why Can't This Entire Indicator Be Reported at This Time? Data on national recreation participation have been collected since 1960, but earlier surveys are not compatible with the most recent, and most thorough, survey. Data from 1995 are available for the activities shown in the figure (see the core national recreation indicator, page 60), but except for freshwater fishing, these data do not distinguish what portion of the activities took place in fresh water rather than salt water. In 1995, Americans spent a total of 886 million days fishing in fresh water. The second National Survey on Recreation and the Environment is under way, but it is not clear if it will provide all of the data needed for this indicator.

There is no technical note for this indicator; the technical note (p. 217) for the core national recreation indicator lists the specific activities in each category on the graph above.

