

# One Design Sailing

2024 Class Association survey results  
81 respondents



# Methodology

- Contacted 230 + class leaders in the US Sailing contact list.
- Group was emailed various times.
- Survey was designed to take about 15 to 20 minutes.
- Survey was “open” from December 11, 2024 to January 16, 2025.



# **A wide range of classes responded to the survey, covering disciplines like:**

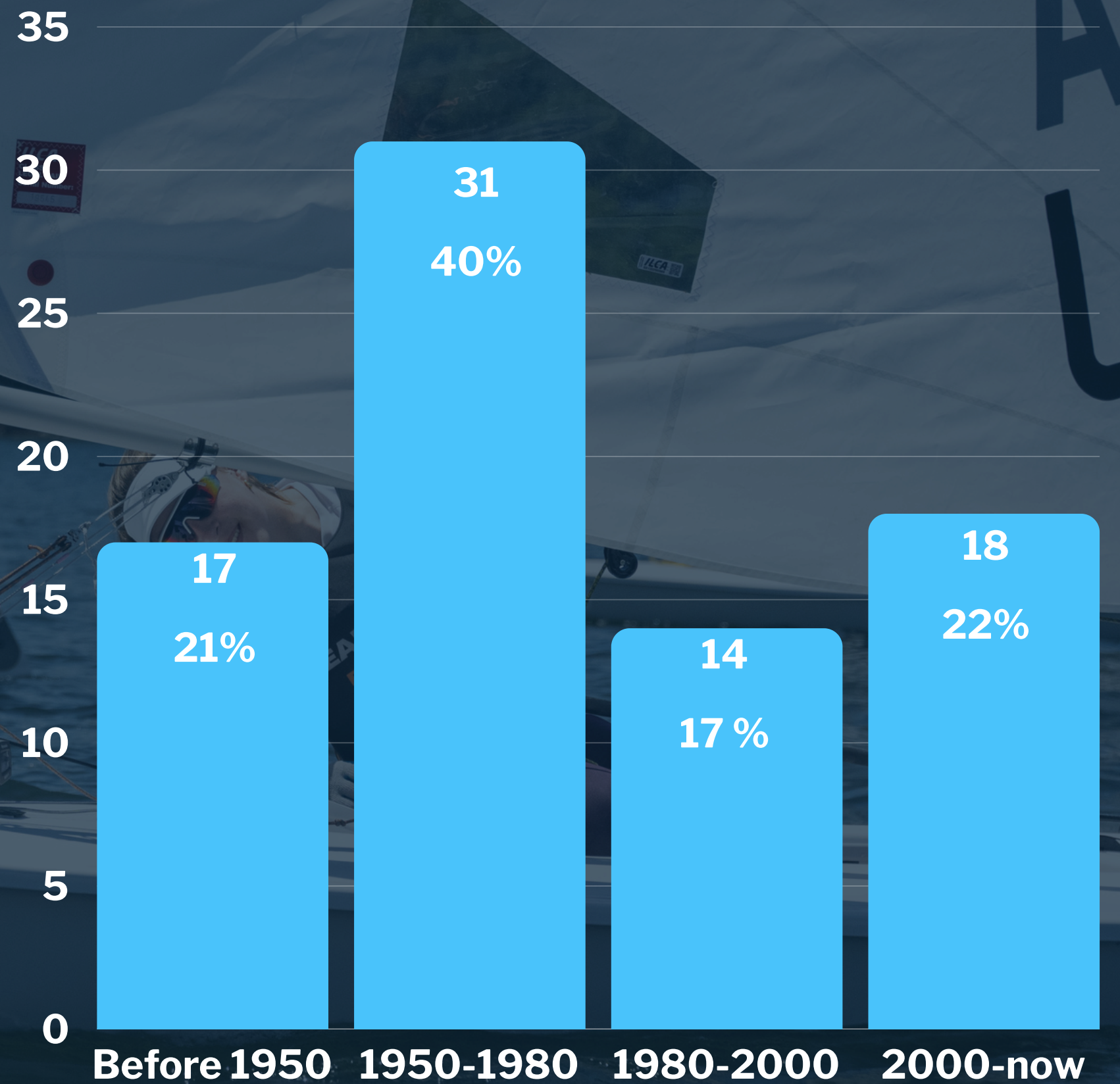
- Boards
- Dinghies
- Keelboats
- Catboat
- Multihulls
- Foiling
- Performance Cruisers
- RC Boats
- Iceboating
- Classic yachts

# **Comparison of responses from 2022-2024**

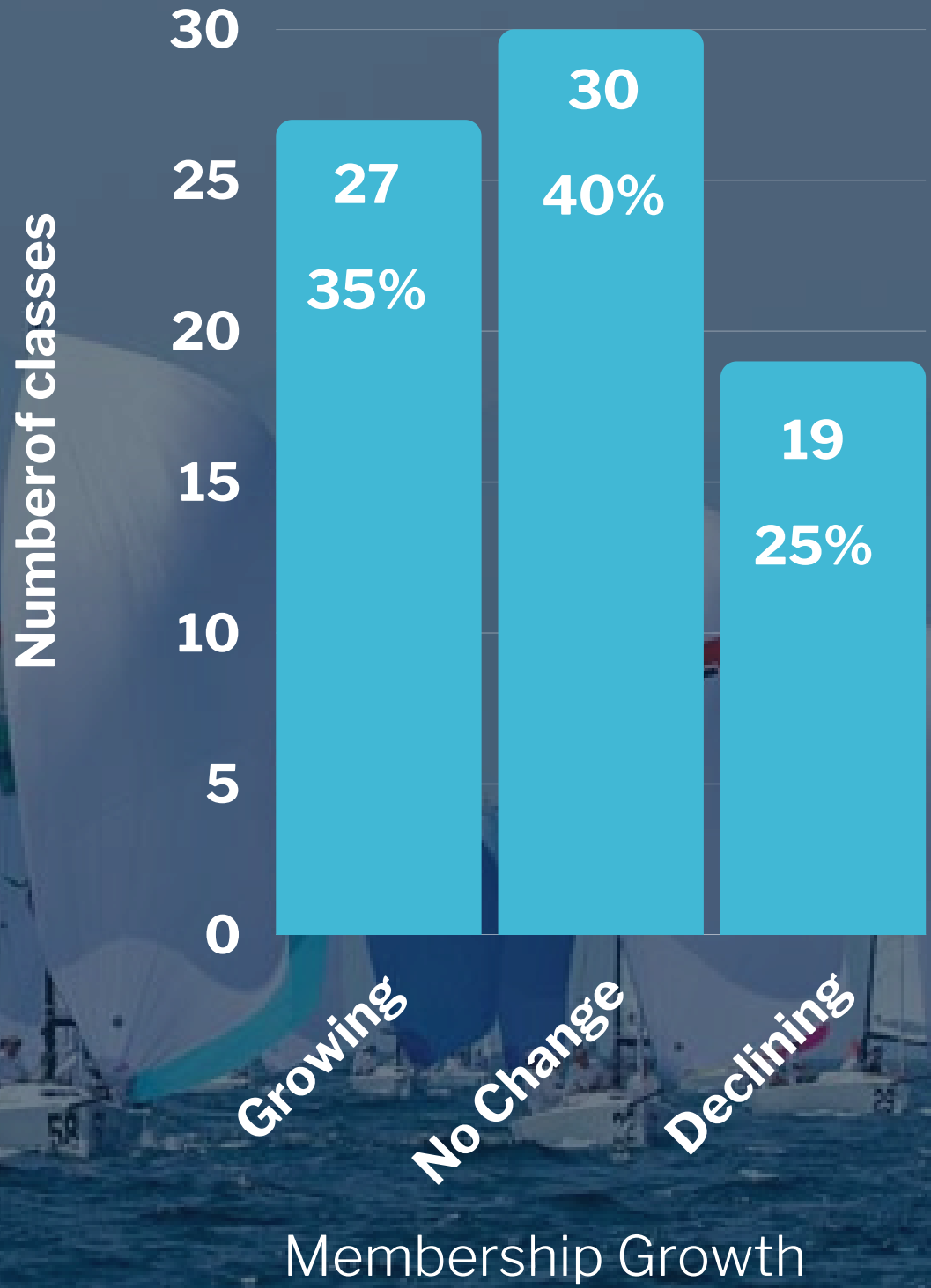
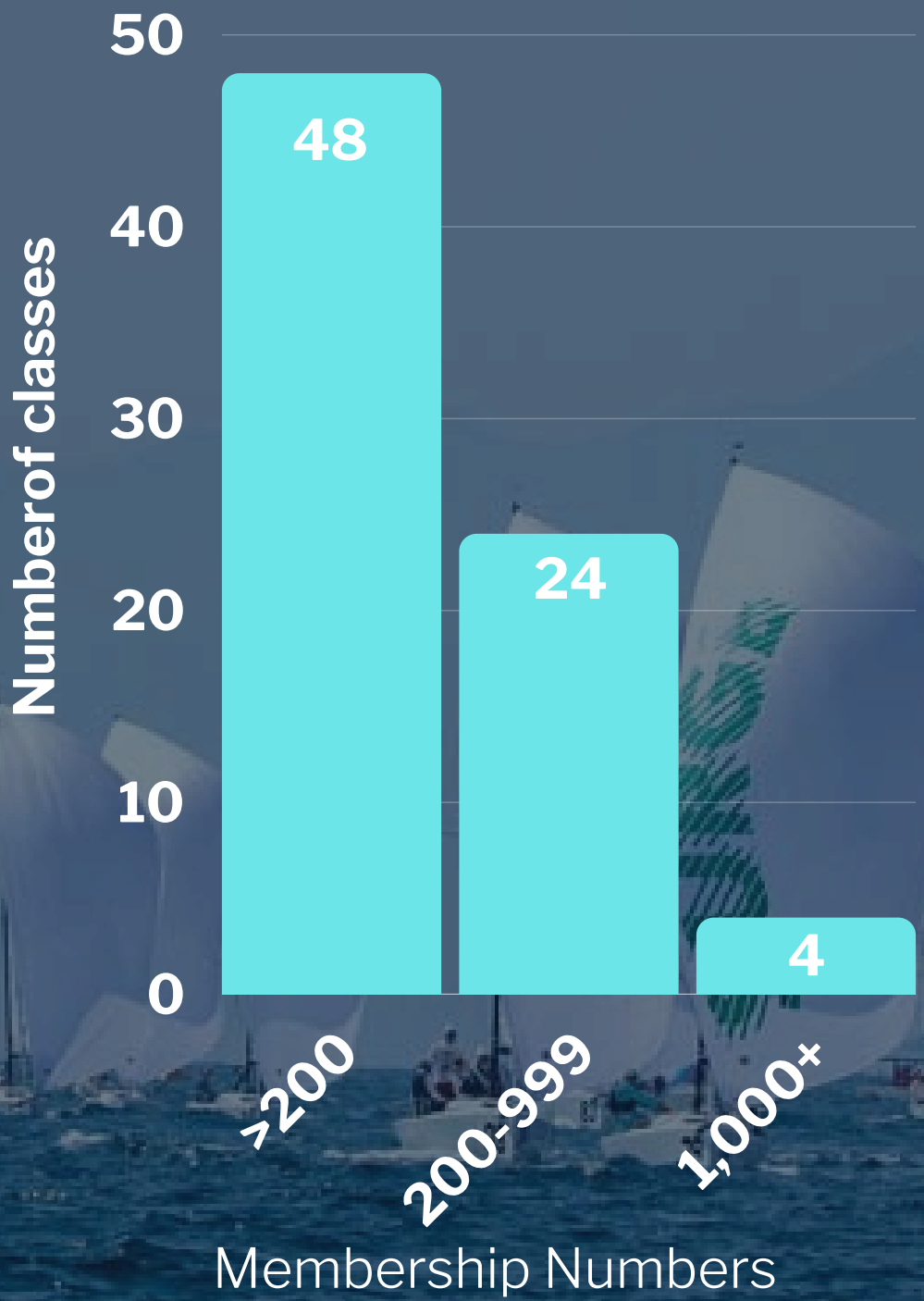
## **Compared to 2022 survey**

- **2024/ 2025 survey administered two months later in calendar year and for 25 days less than in 2022**
- **81 class surveys were initiated vs 60 classes in 2022**
- **2025 had 74% completion rate vs 83% in 2022**
- **34 of the 81 Classes took the 2022 survey**
- **36 of the 81 (51%) were new classes to take the survey**

# What year was your class established?



# Changes in membership within the 81 One Design Classes surveyed in the past 24 months:

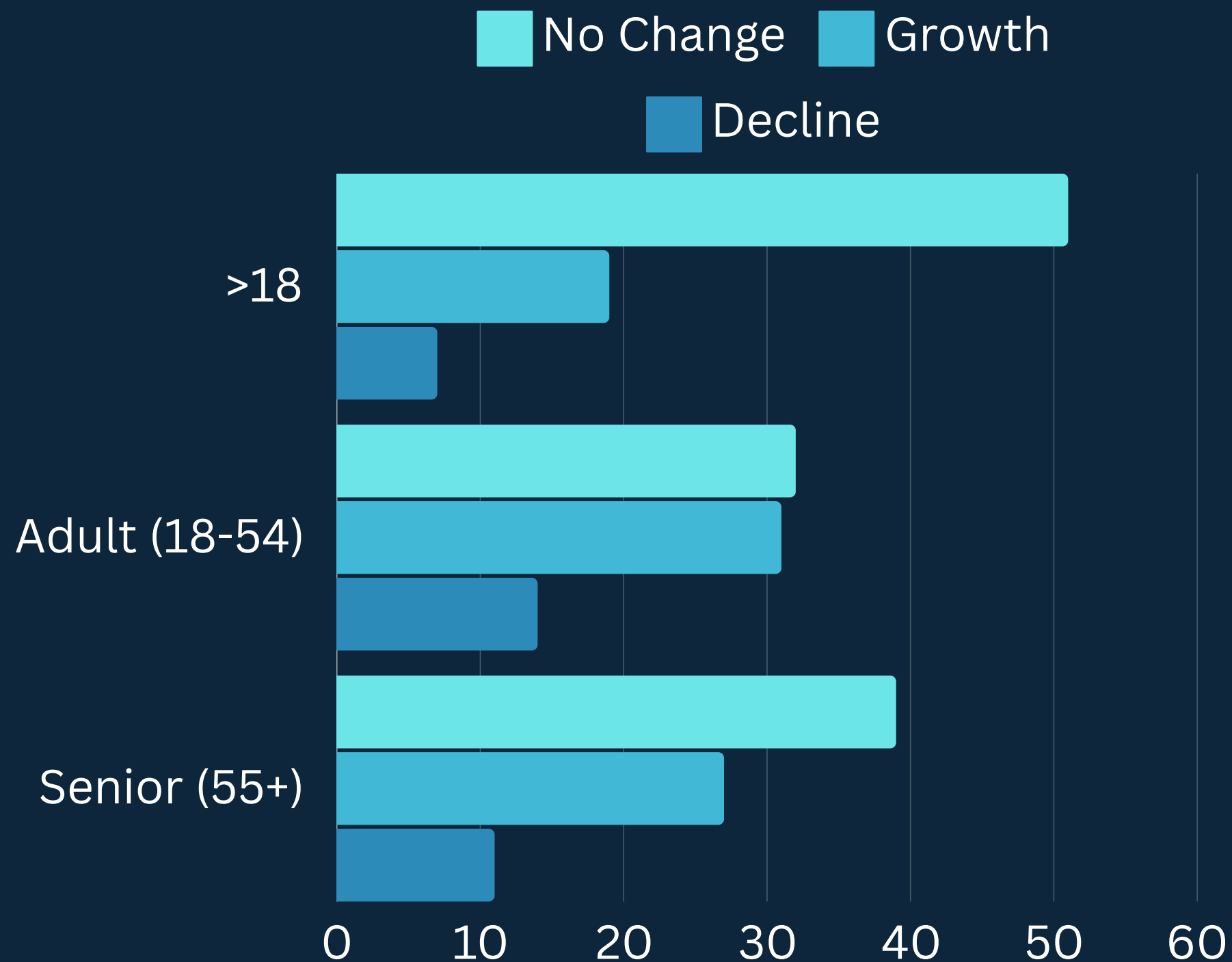


**The >18 experienced the highest “No Change”**

**The largest growth was seen in the adult age group (18-54)**

**Largest decline was also in the adult 18-54 group**

In the last 24 months, what is your class' trend in membership in three different age groups:

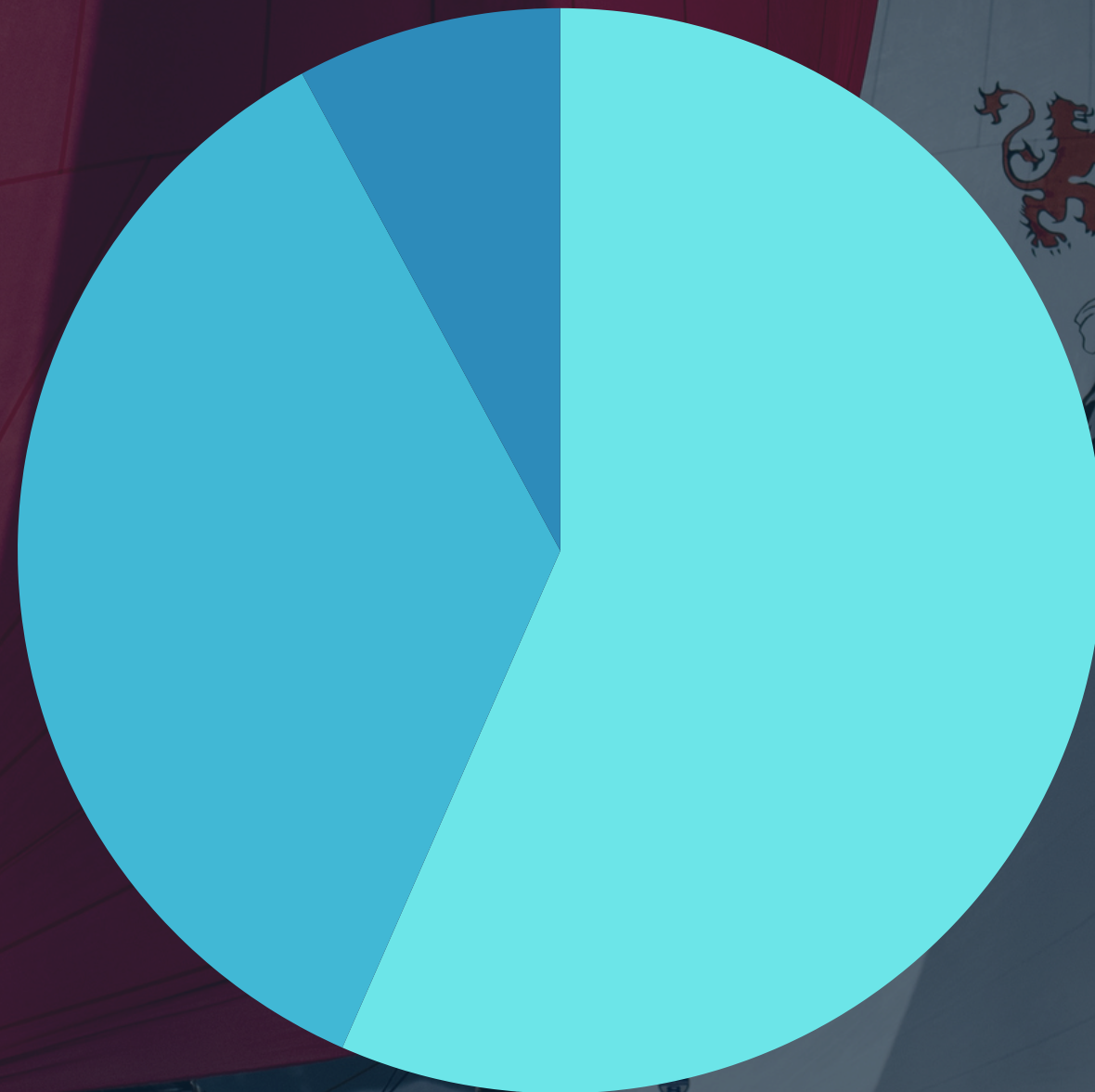


# What overall trends do you see in the age of your members?

*76 responded, 5 skipped*

**Getting Younger**  
**7.9%**

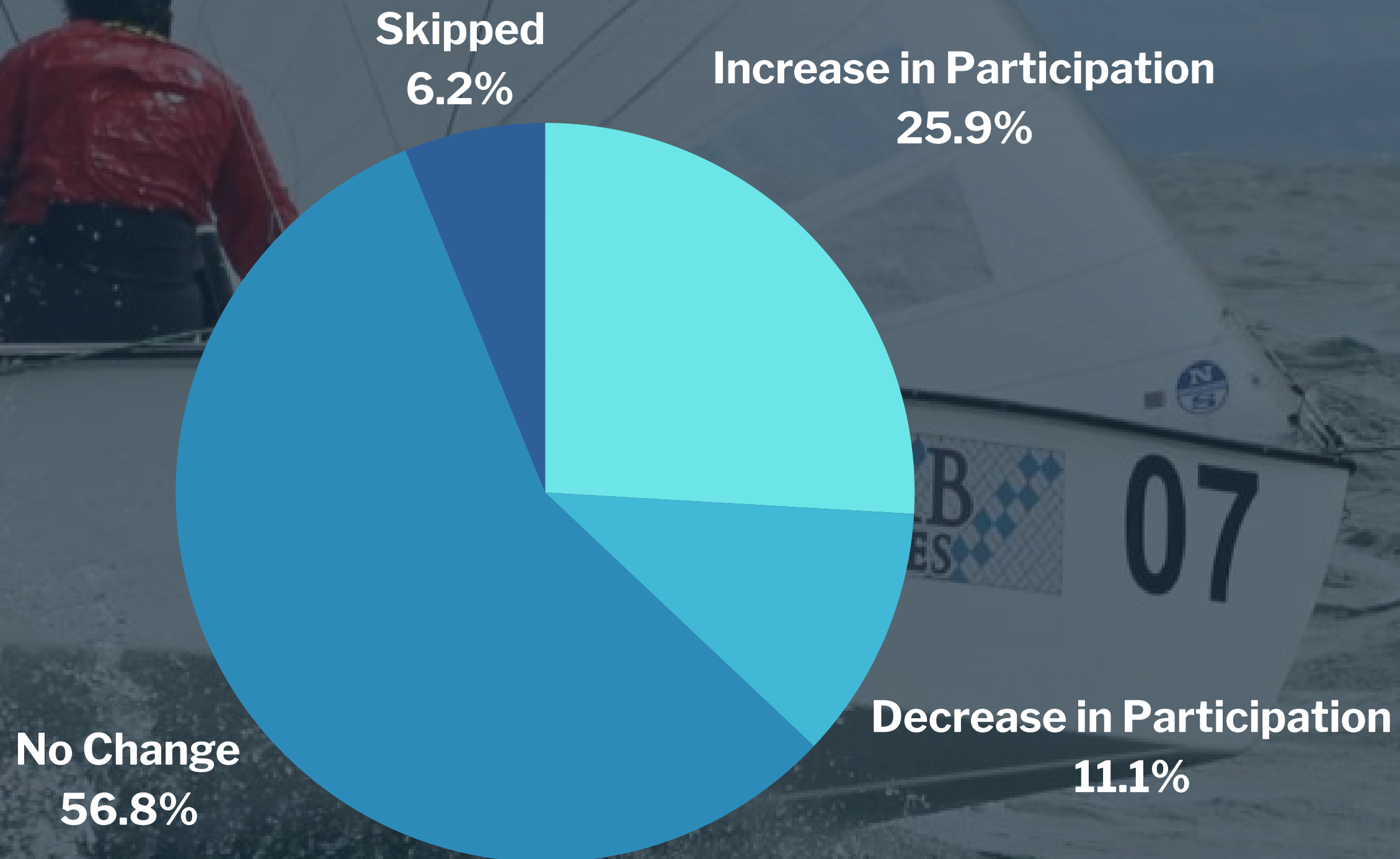
**Staying the Same**  
**35.5%**



**Membership Aging**  
**56.6%**

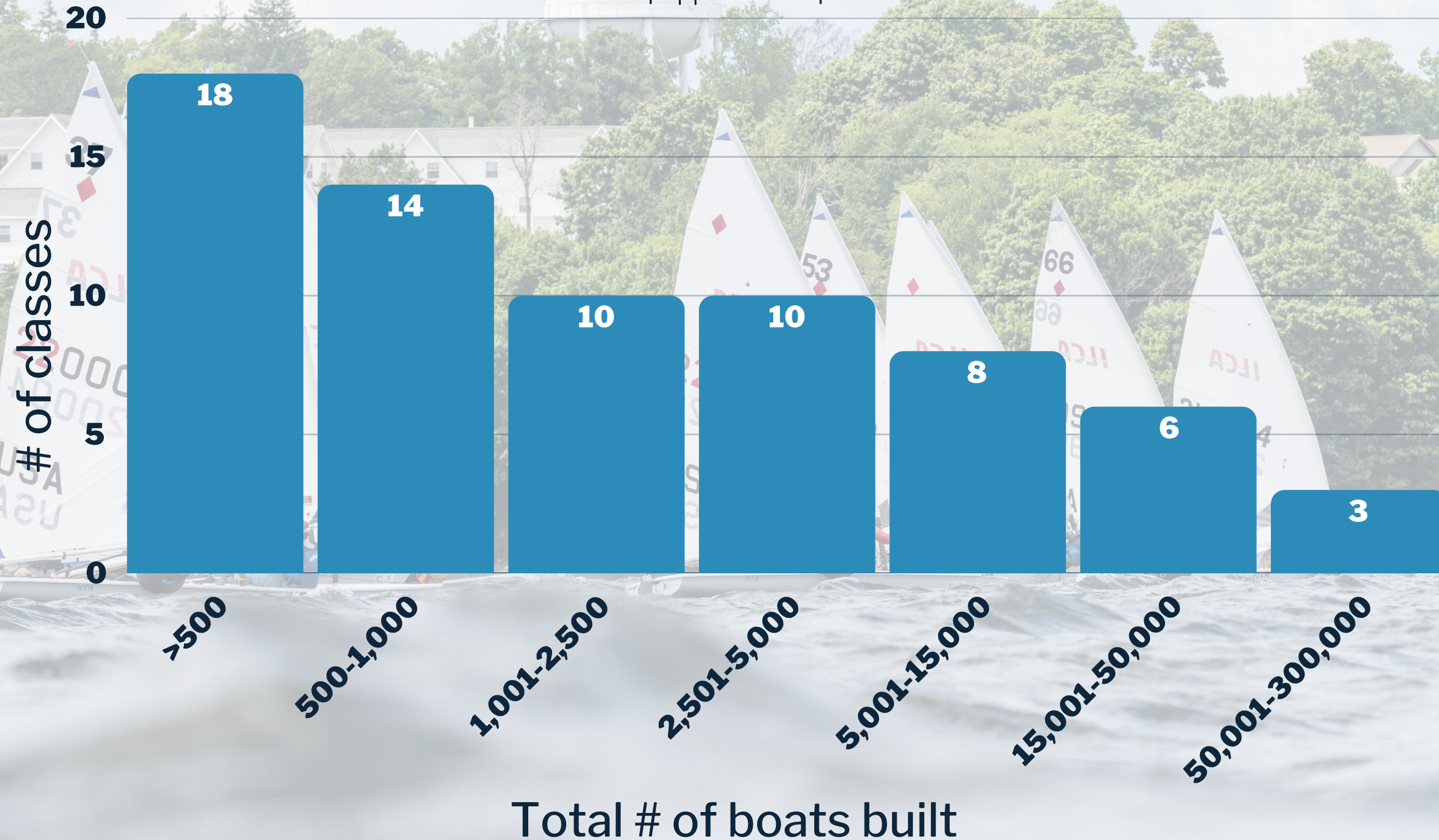


# Classes reported participation at National Championships in the last 2 years:

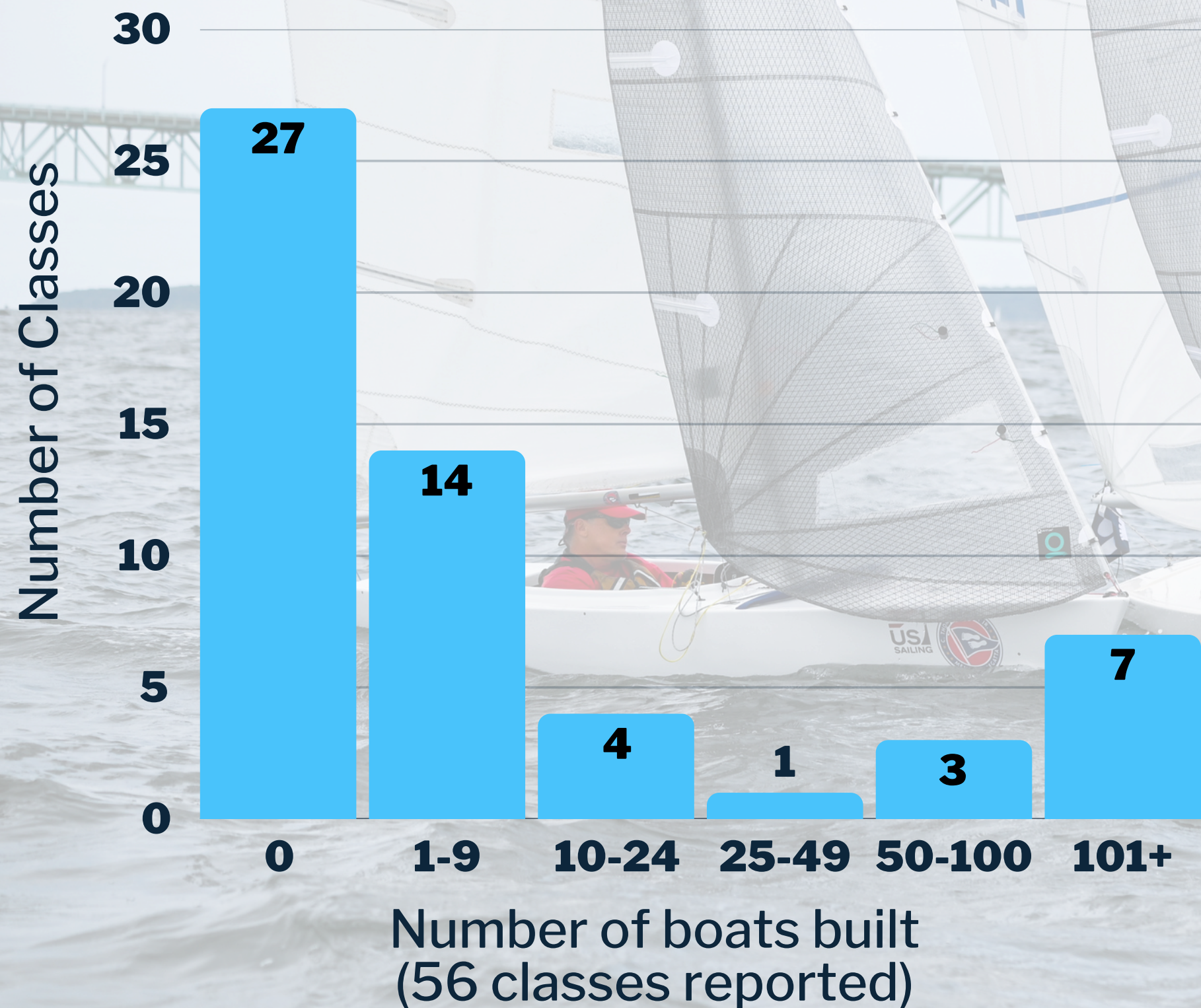


# Boats Built Since Class was Established

*12 skipped or unknown*



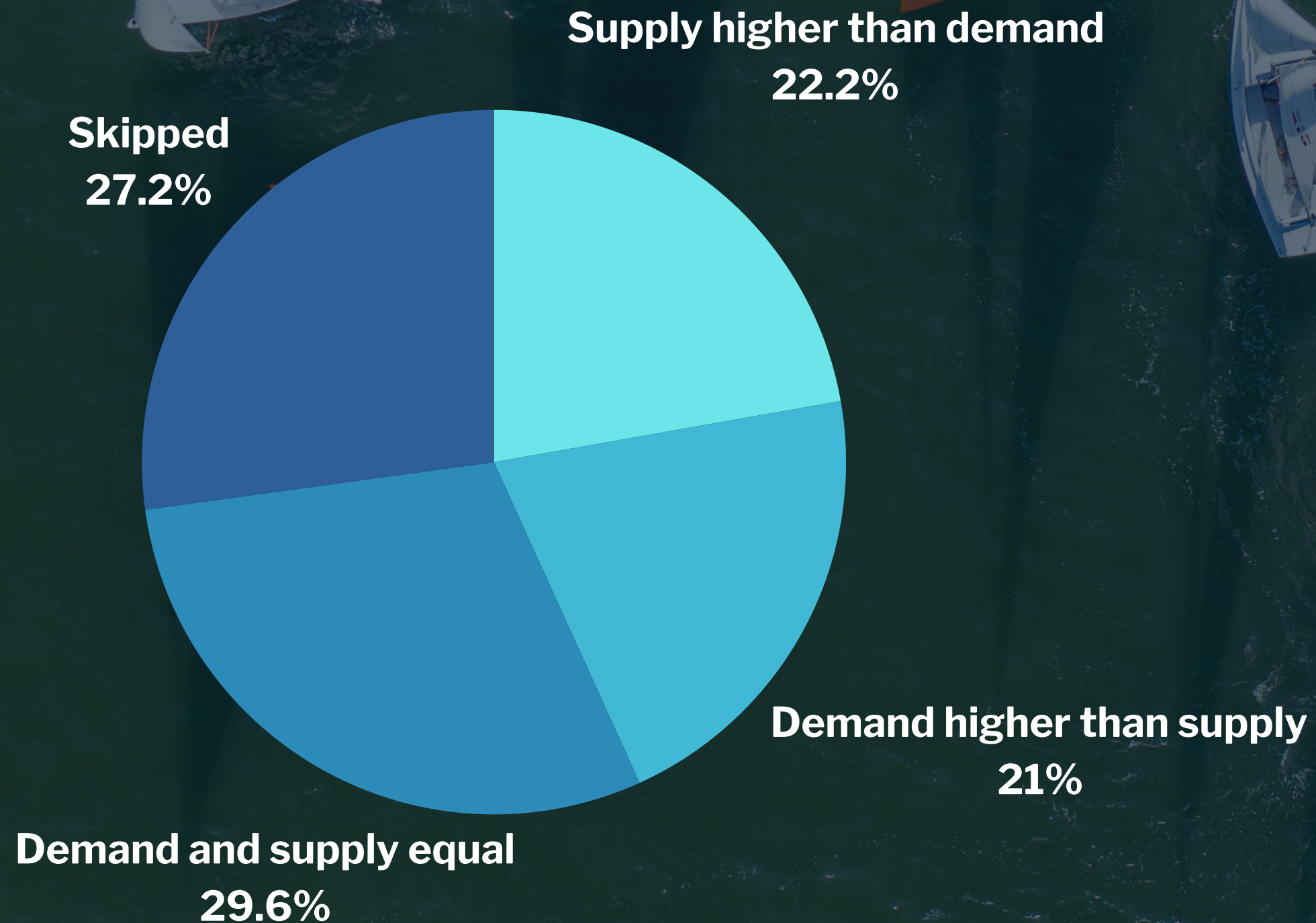
# 64% reported new builds in the past two years.



## 75 classes answered questions about their boat builder:

- 27 / 56 classes reported 0 boats built in last two years
- 36 classes have a full time active builder
- 22 had a part time builder
- 30% did not have a builder
- 53% of 81 classes said their boats are manufactured and assembled in the US
- Less than 2% said boats were only assembled in the US
- 45% also have international builders (mainly in Europe & AUS)

# How would you characterize your used boat market?



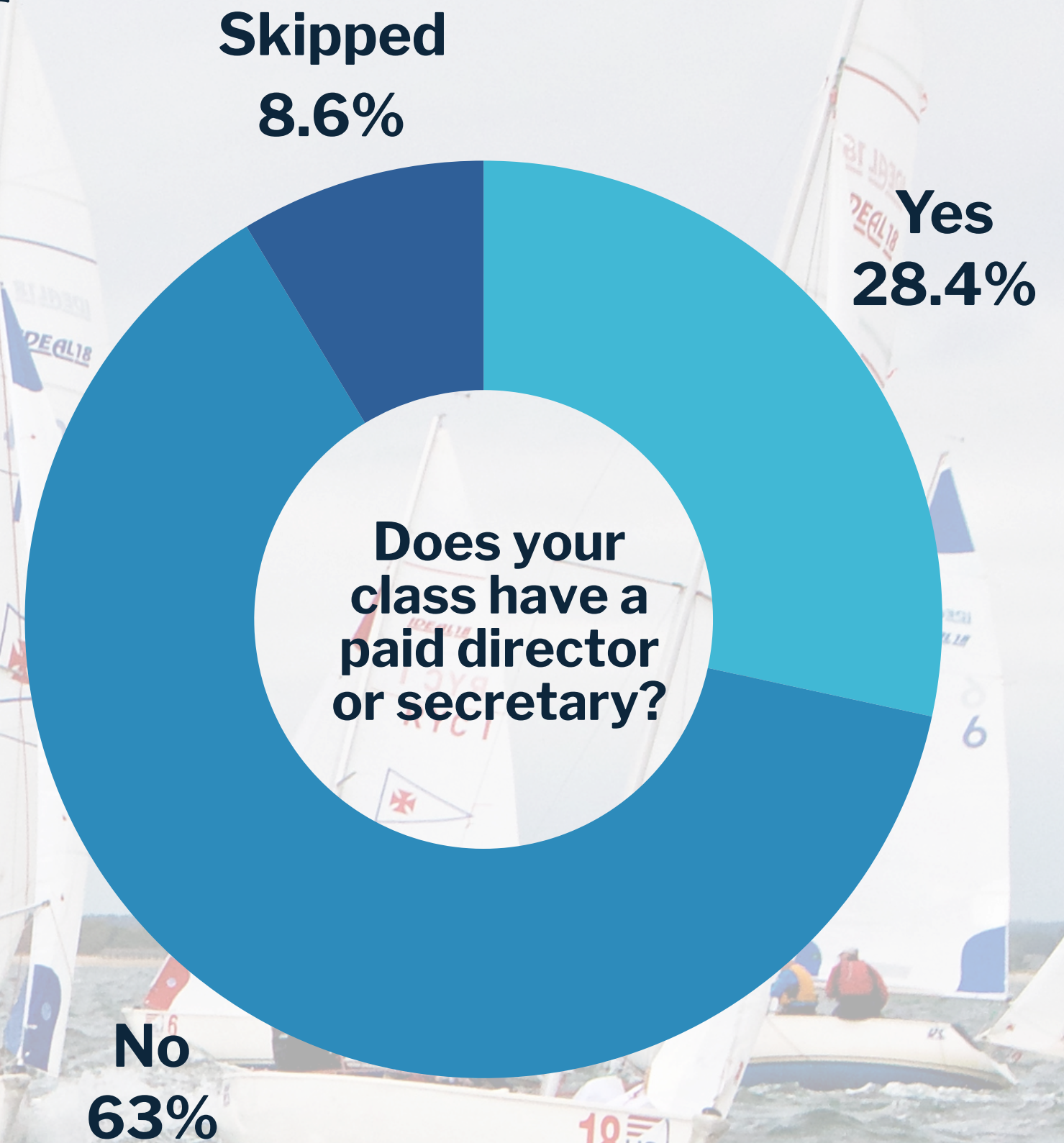
Over 8,000 used boats transferred to new owners in 74 classes in the last 24 months.

In 2022 a total of 1,949 used boats changed hands in 37 one design classes in 24 months.

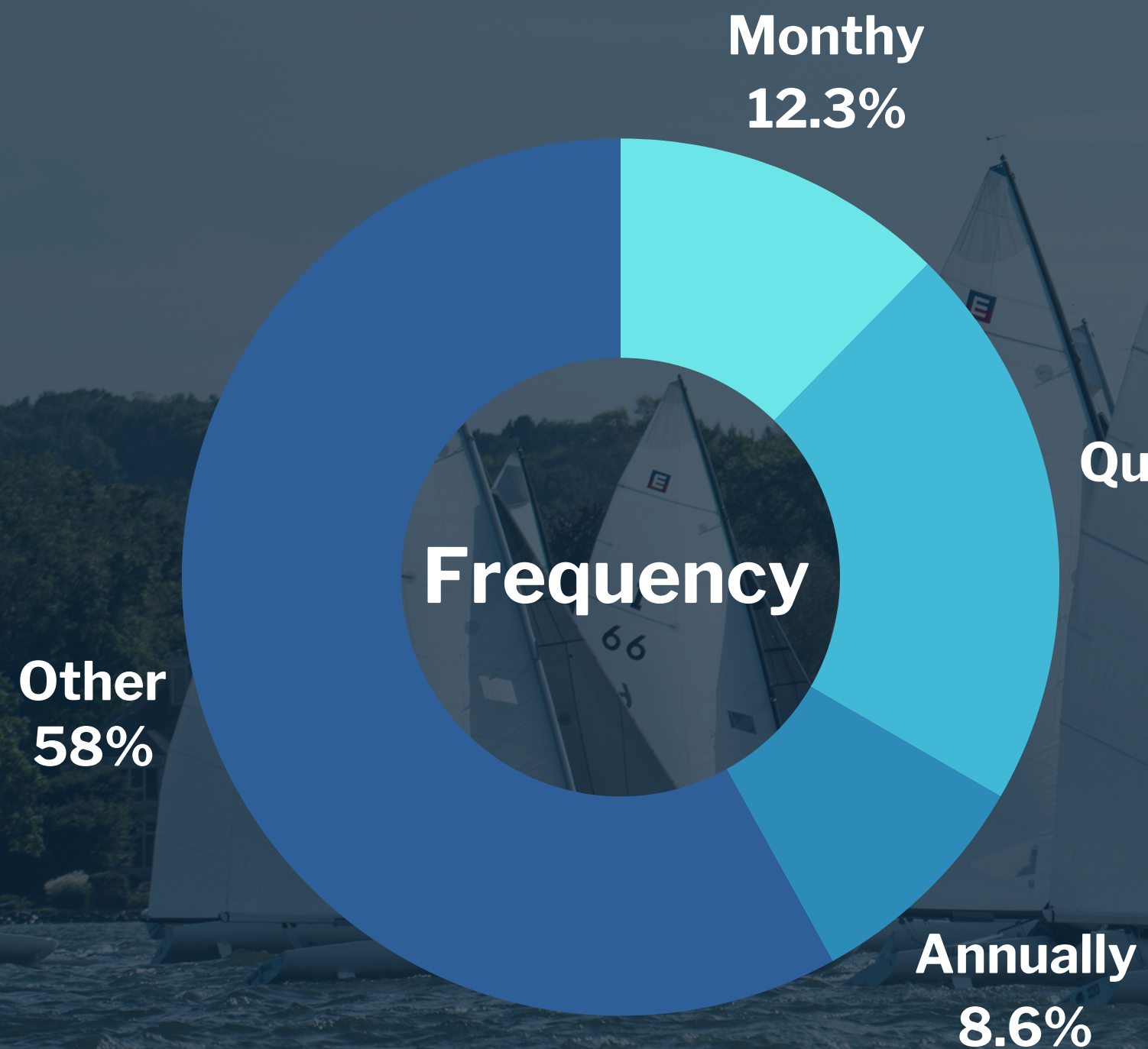
**Most classes do not have a paid class secretary / administrator**

**82% of paid class secretary / administrators are part time.**

**70% of the 25 (16) classes responding said they have a form of charitable status while 30% do not (58 classes skipped)**



# Class Newsletters



## Newsletters:

- When asked if the class has a newsletter - 59% indicated “yes” and 41% indicated “no”
- Over 72% indicated the newsletter is transmitted in an electronic format
- 24% indicated they use both electronic and print formats
- Only 4% print their newsletter
- “Other” included seasonal or as needed.

# **Class incentives to attract & retain Under 30 and first time sailors**

23 classes responded & explained their programs

**Some incentives / programs used :**

- **Free or discounted membership and / or regatta entry fees**
- **Boat grant programs**
- **Under 30's placed in leadership positions within the class**
- **Collaboration with college sailing teams**
- **Sailors under a certain age are not counted in total crew weight at National & North American events**

\*Based on survey participants

# Initiatives suggested by One Design Classes to US Sailing to increase engagement

- Topic focused round tables
- Insurance options
- Updated resource library for best practices and more (One Design Central)
- More communications & Marketing One Design
- Grants



# Changes in Class Participation

## For those who saw growth:

- Increased volunteer support
- Promotion of diverse & first time sailors
- Increase regional regattas focused on “fun”
- Lower cost of boat ownership (affordable used boats & loaner programs)
- Consistent championships, regatta calendars & class communications

## For those who saw a decline:

- Rising costs
- Increased competition with other sports & leisure activities
- Aging
- Professionalization within classes and the industry
- Lack of access & barriers to entry

**With thanks to the following who  
contributed to designing, executing and  
compiling the surveys:**

**One Design Committee:**

Jim Crabtree - Committee Chair

Chris Snow

Fred Roy

Evan Hoffmann

Nicole Shedden

Karl Felger

**For US Sailing:**

Diana Emmanuelli

Betsy Alison

Special thanks to Lexi Pline for helping  
create the final presentation.

**Panel Discussion  
and  
Q+A**

# Individual Sailors give their thoughts on participation:

**"Make it less expensive: work with clubs to offer basic affordable programs. Free, open house style sail boat rides, samplings of various experiences on different boats."**

"Regattas need to be more 'entry level friendly' by welcoming questions, offering easy explanation of rules, and encouraging participation."

"Advertise and promote Youth programs. Educate youth sailors on how to get started. Yacht clubs need to give scholarships or financial aid. Give kids without a lot of money an opportunity for competitive sailing not just learn to sail."

**"Crew match nights. Dock talks that are for everyone, not just skippers - training crew in actual races."**

# Feedback & Comments Received from Individual Sailors

- Local clinics (most repeated comment) - Be more welcoming and helpful to get newcomers up to speed.
- Promote learn to sail/race locally - Make local access to water a priority
- More socials - Promote fun & social over racing - Support non-racing sailing activities.
- "Our club has found boat share for non boat owners and many opportunities to sail in different types of sailboats. I suggest you examine this program as a model by Sarasota Sailing Squadron."
- Developing local regatta circuits - Fun beer can racing during the week
- "There is a need to get more women involved in the sport... the NCWSA (North Coast Women's Sailing Association) at Edgewater Yacht Club in Cleveland is a great example of how to do this."
- Exposure on popular media, TV, schools, free events.