

Maine Anglers' Participation in and Opinions on Freshwater Fishing



Presented to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

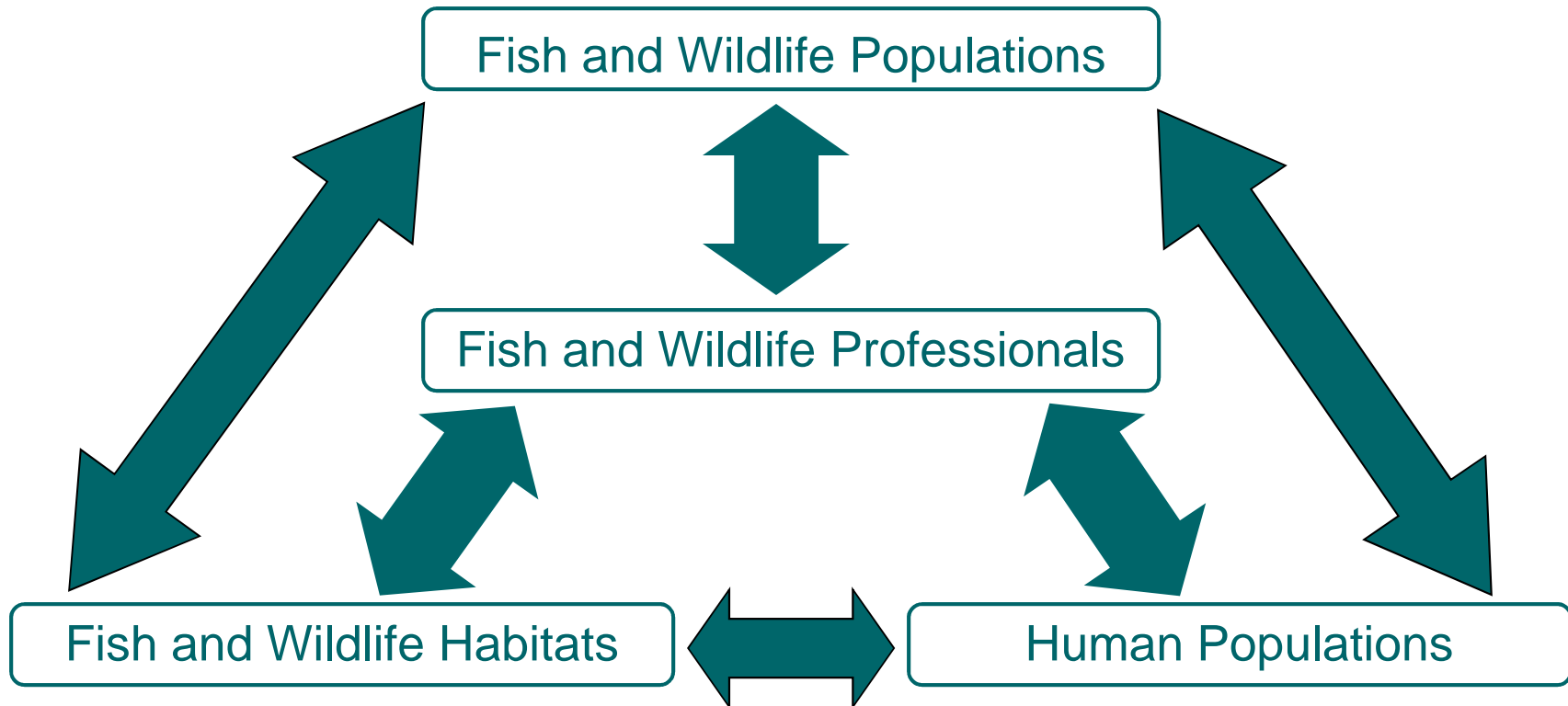
March 1, 2016

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Mark Damian Duda, Responsive Management



Focus of Fish and Wildlife Management



Responsive Management™



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Research Update

Recent Studies at Responsive Management

Responsive Management has recently [completed more than 30 studies](#) on public opinion on and attitudes toward natural resource, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation issues. Currently, we are working on numerous [additional studies](#), including a study on Utah Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, knowledge of environmental impacts of use, and awareness of related marketing campaigns; a survey of Northeast U.S. residents' to determine attitudes toward and experiences with wildlife causing problems; and an assessment of hunting license marketing campaigns to calculate economic lift and determine the overall *effectiveness of different messages and*



RM Conducts:

[Telephone Surveys](#)

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RM Develops:

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[Policy Analysis](#)

[Public Relations Plans](#)



Reach of Responsive Management

- 1,000 human dimensions projects
- Almost \$60 million in research
- 50 states – 15 countries
- Every state fish and wildlife agency and most federal resource agencies; most DNRs and NGOs
- Industry leaders such as Yamaha, Winchester, Vista Outdoor (including Bushnell, Primos, Federal Premium, etc.), Trijicon, and many others
- Data collection for the nation's top universities:
Auburn University, Colorado State University, Duke University, George Mason University, Michigan State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Rutgers University, Stanford University, Texas Tech, University of California-Davis, University of Florida, University of Montana, University of New Hampshire, University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia University



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- **Methodology**
- **Open Water Fishing**
- **Ice Fishing**
- **General Attitudes Toward Fishing in Maine**
- **Opinions on Specific Aspects of Fishing Access**
- **Attitudes Toward Fishing Regulations in Maine**
- **Credibility of Information Sources**

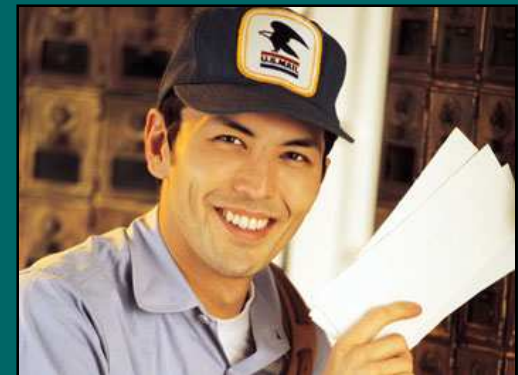


Methodology

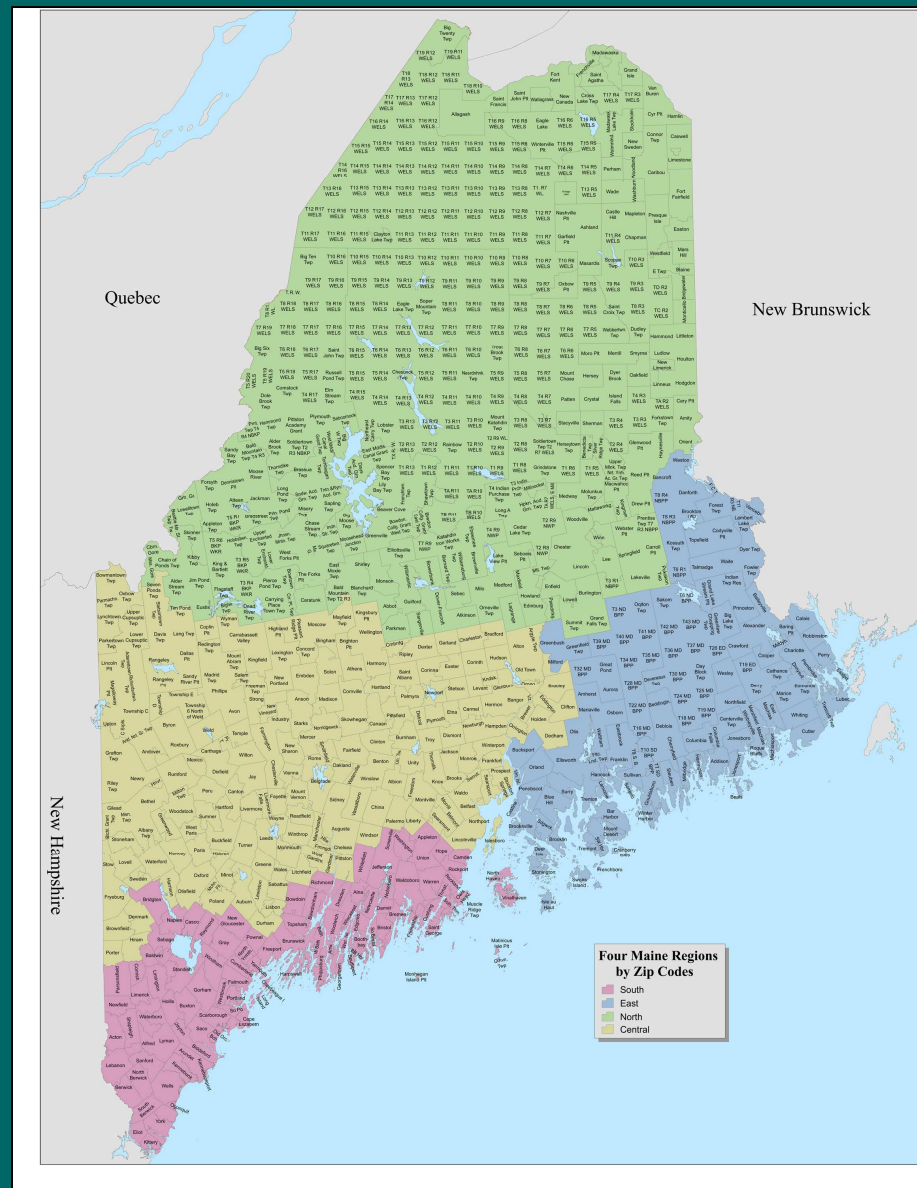


Methodology

- Scientific multi-modal survey of Maine licensed resident and nonresident anglers
 - $n=1,205$ (+/- 3.16)
- Data collected by telephone and mail
- Sampling and analysis by region:
 - Northern
 - Downeast
 - Central
 - Southern
- Survey conducted January–February 2016



Maine Survey Regions



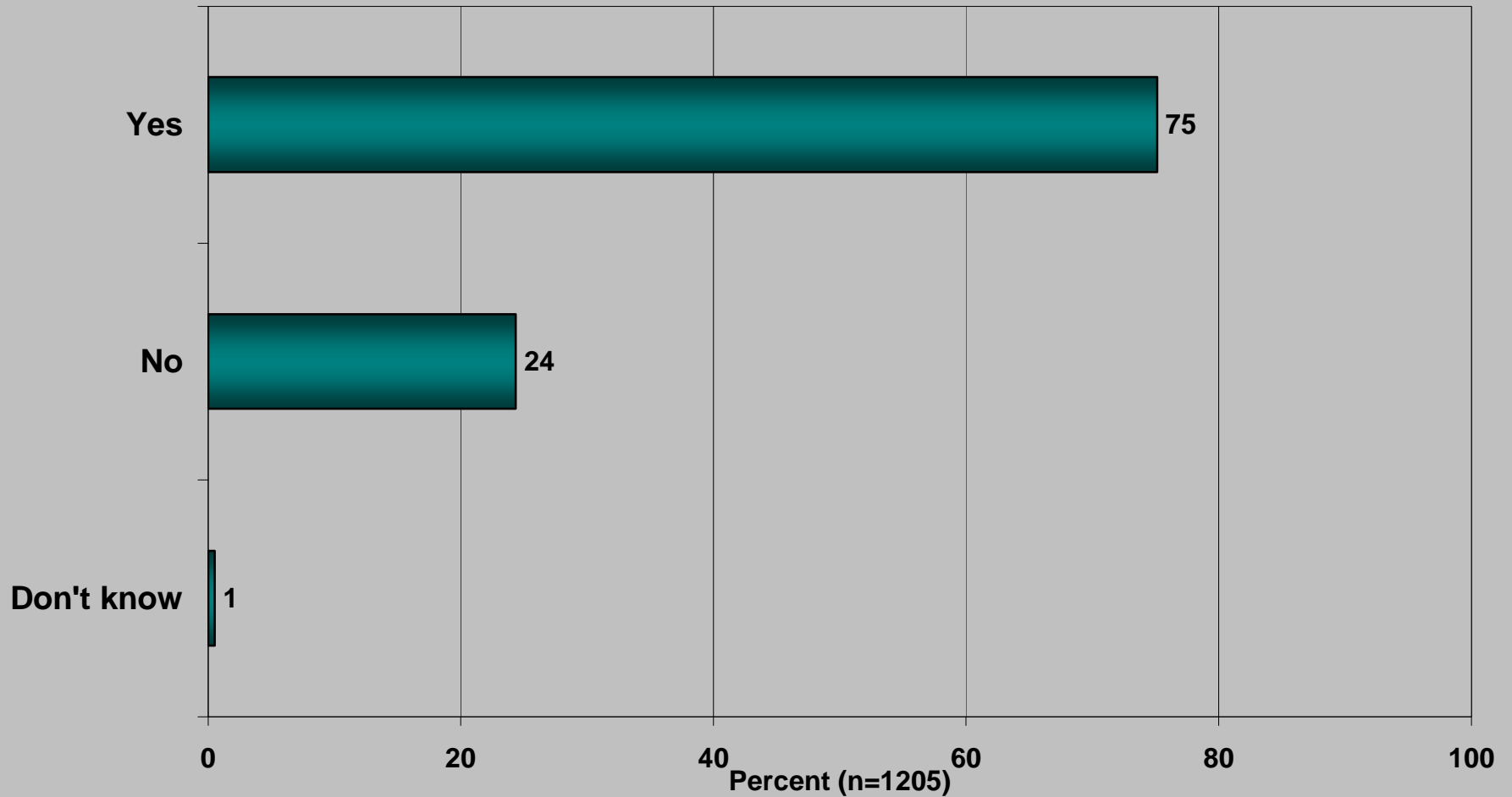
Survey Results



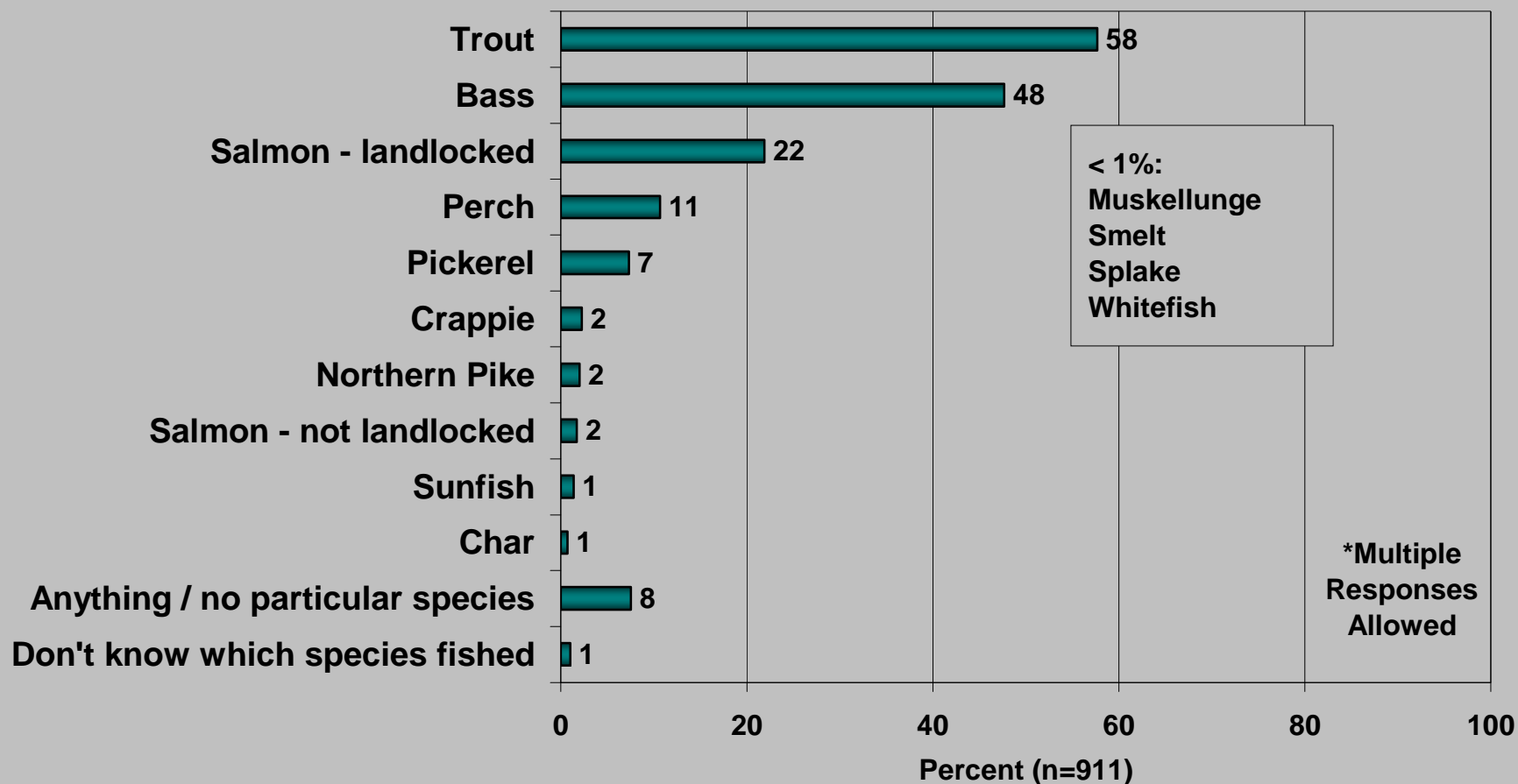
Open Water Fishing



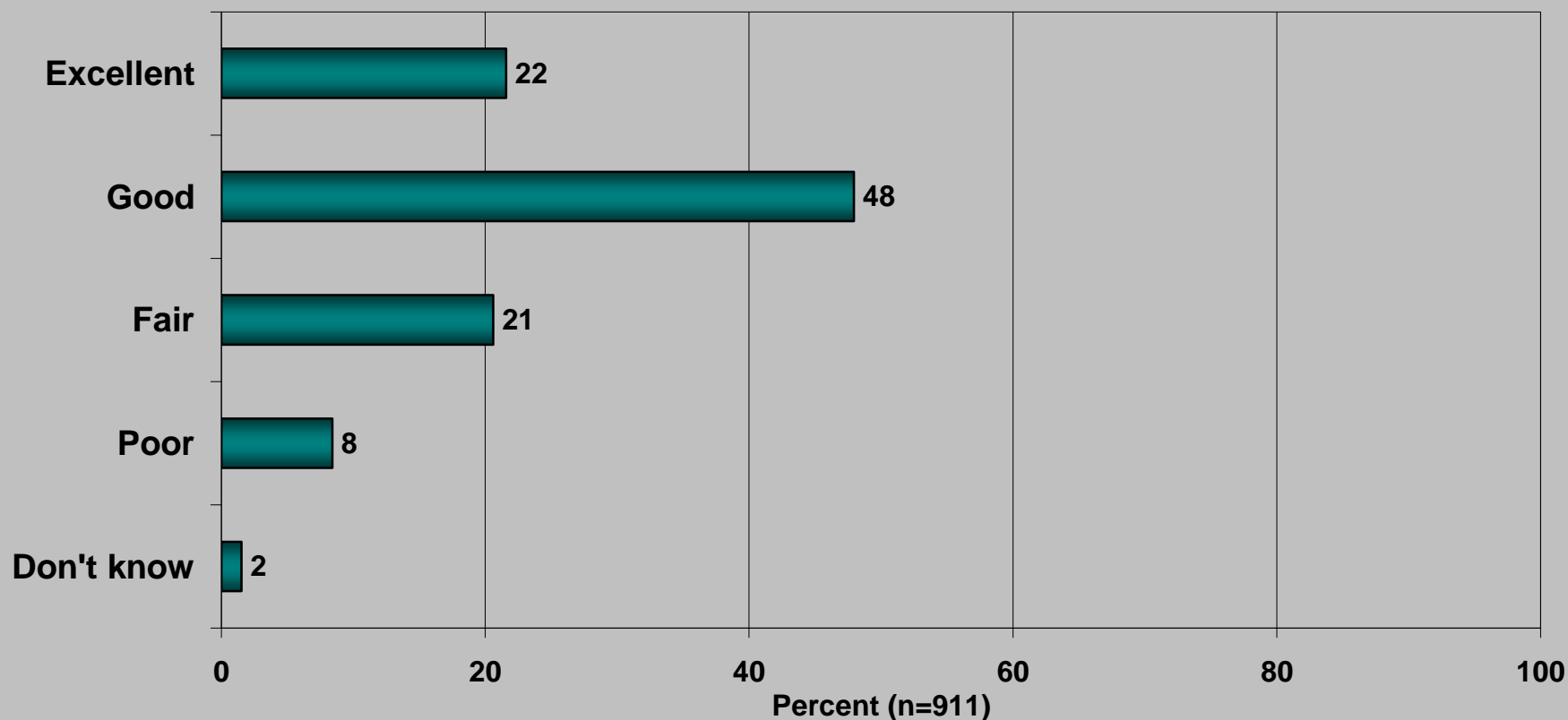
Q13. Did you open water fish on inland ponds, lakes, brooks, streams, or rivers in Maine during the 2015 open water fishing season?



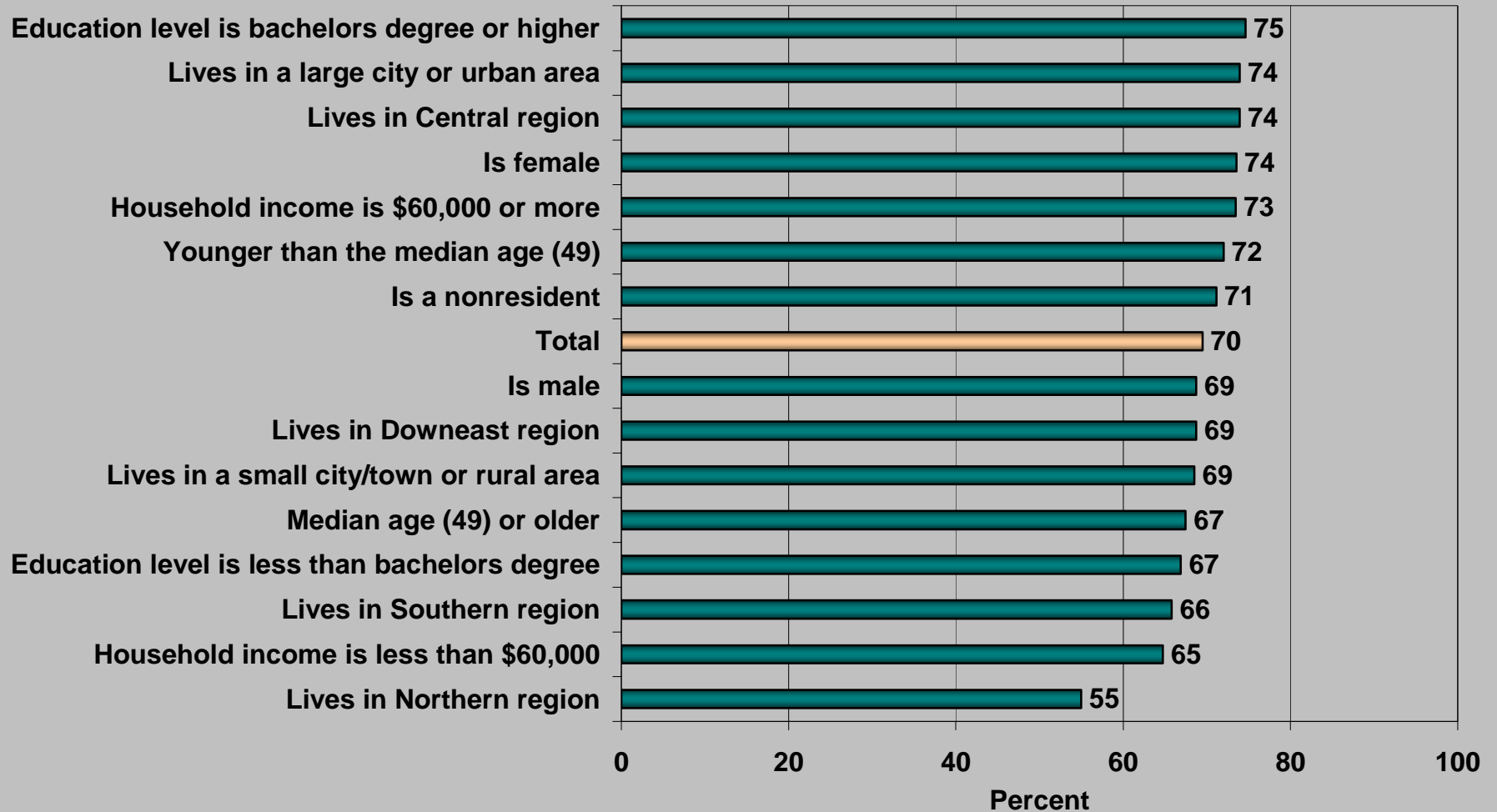
Q19. What inland freshwater species did you fish for during the 2015 open water fishing season? (Asked of those who fished in Maine during the 2015 open water fishing season.)



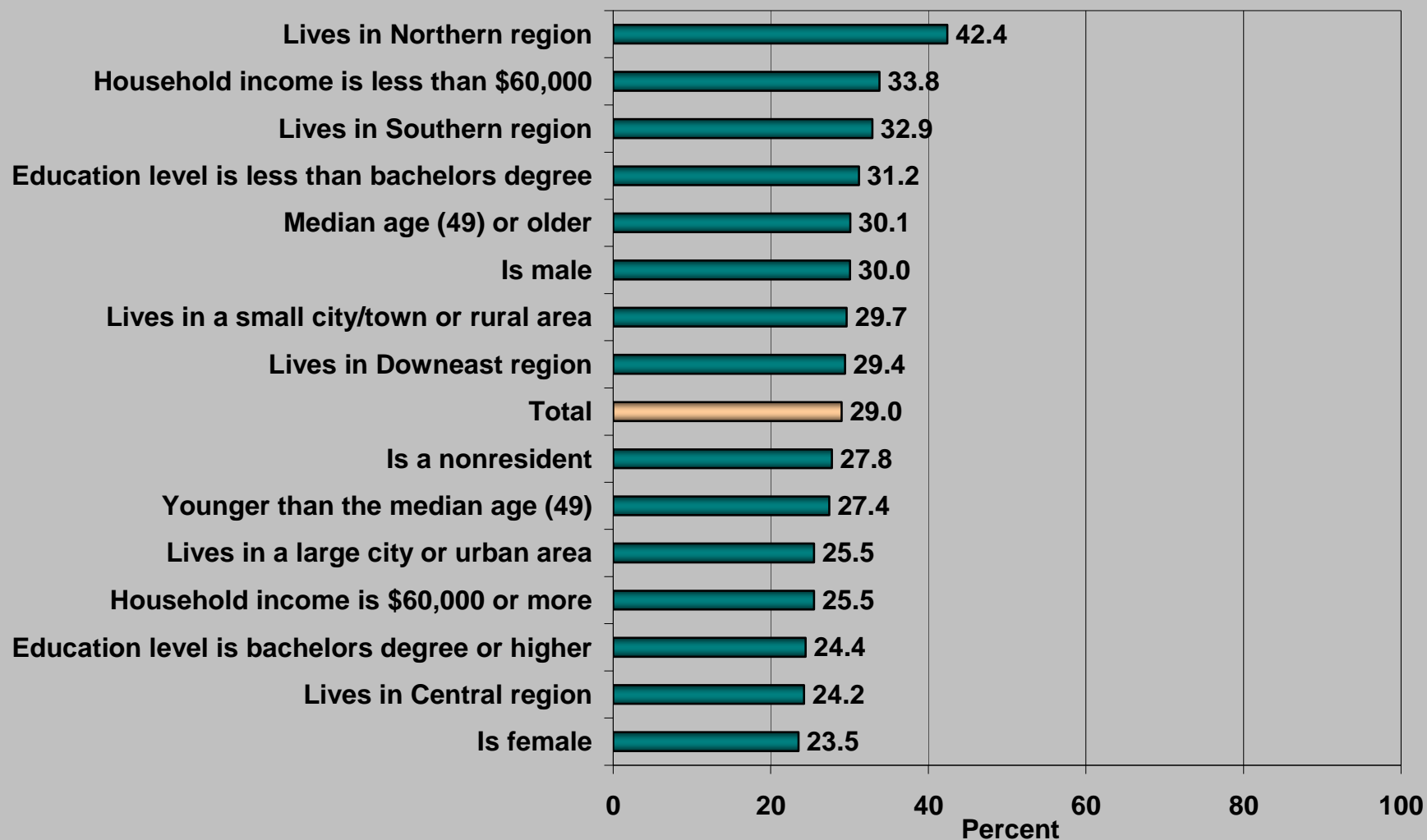
Q189. How would you rate the quality of the open water fishing during the 2015 open water season? Would you say excellent, good, fair, or poor? (Asked of those who fished in Maine during the 2015 open water fishing season.)



Percent of the following groups who rated open water quality in Maine as excellent or good:



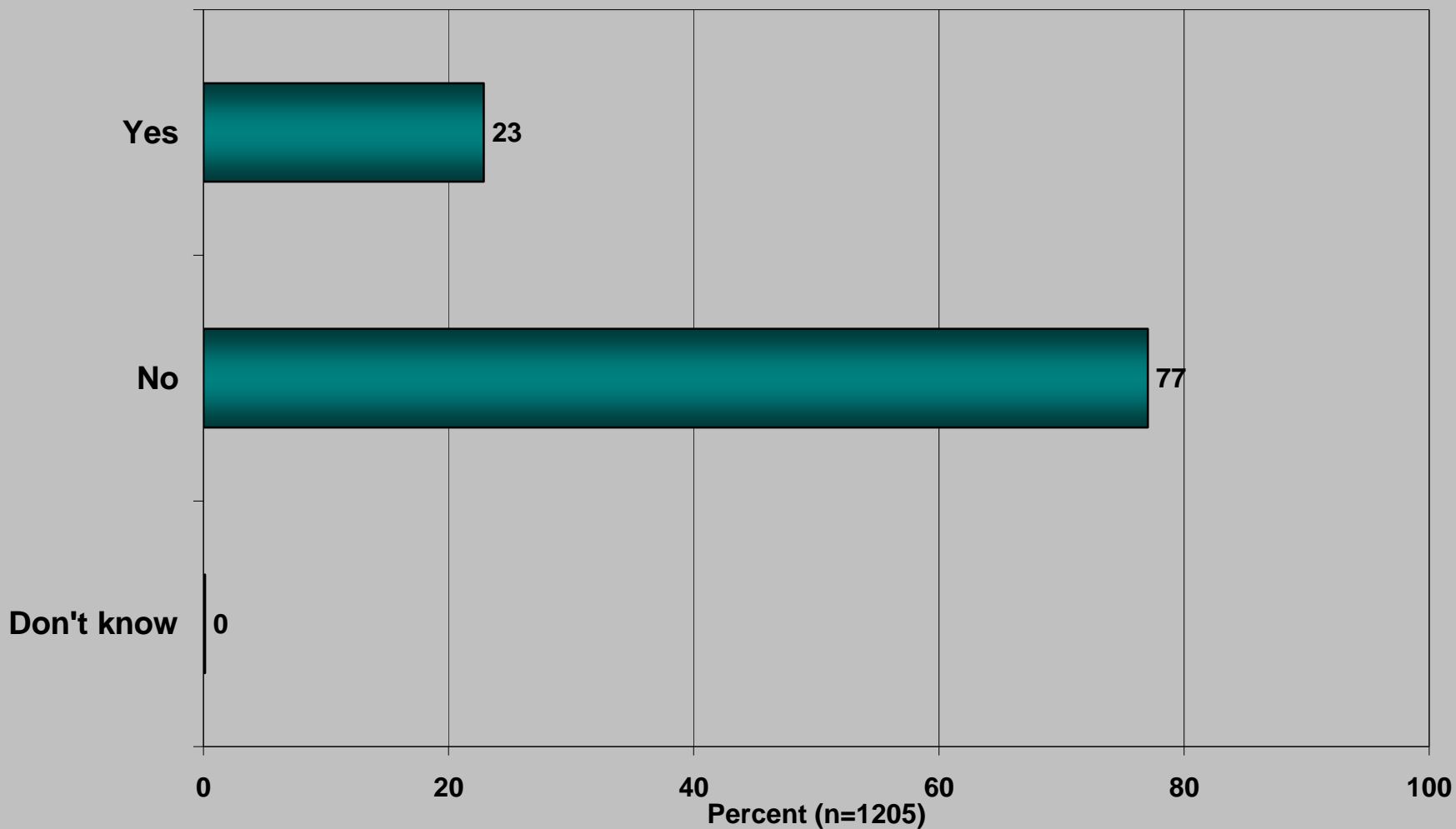
Percent of each of the following groups who rated open water fishing quality in Maine as fair or poor:



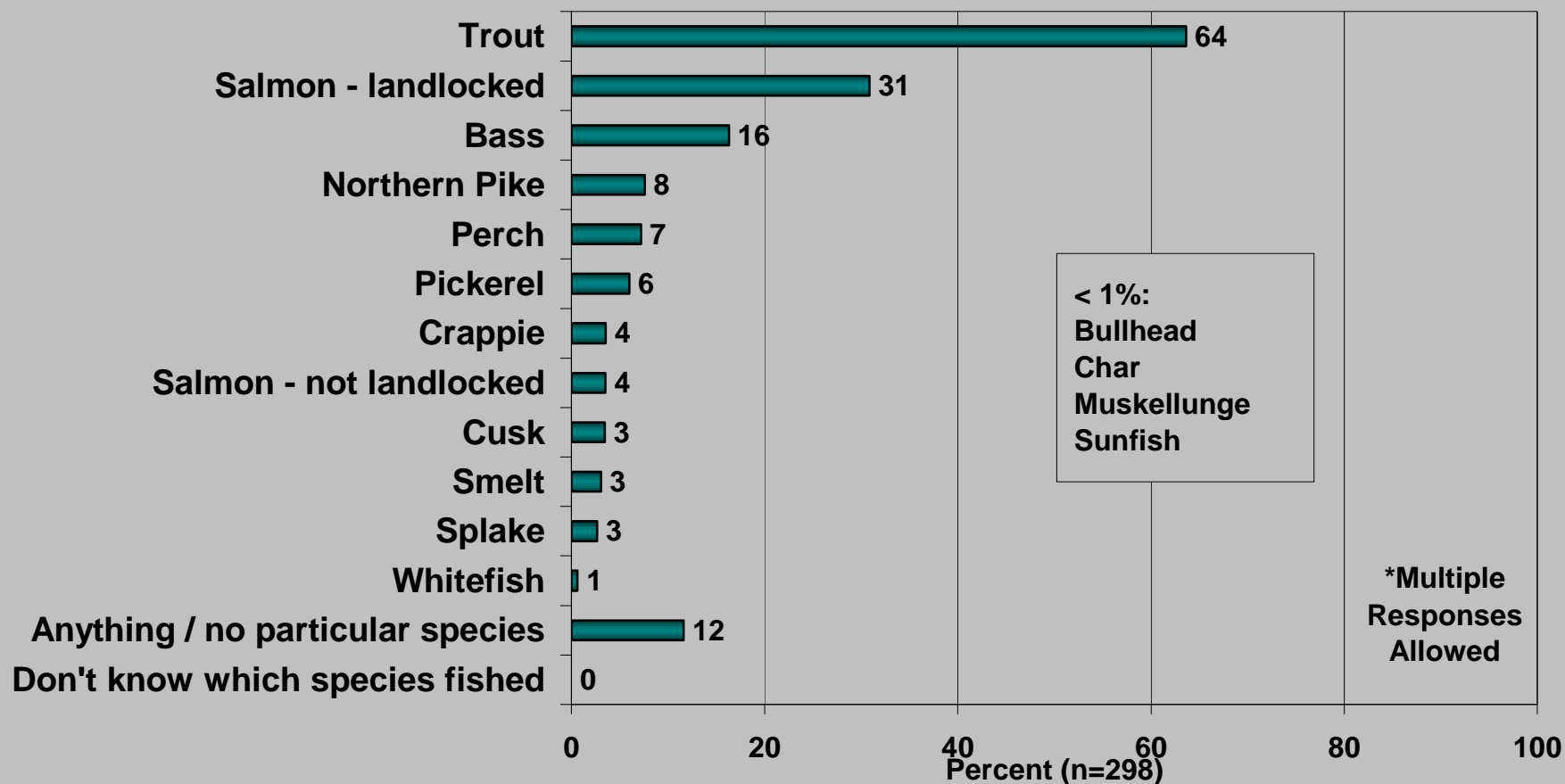
Ice Fishing



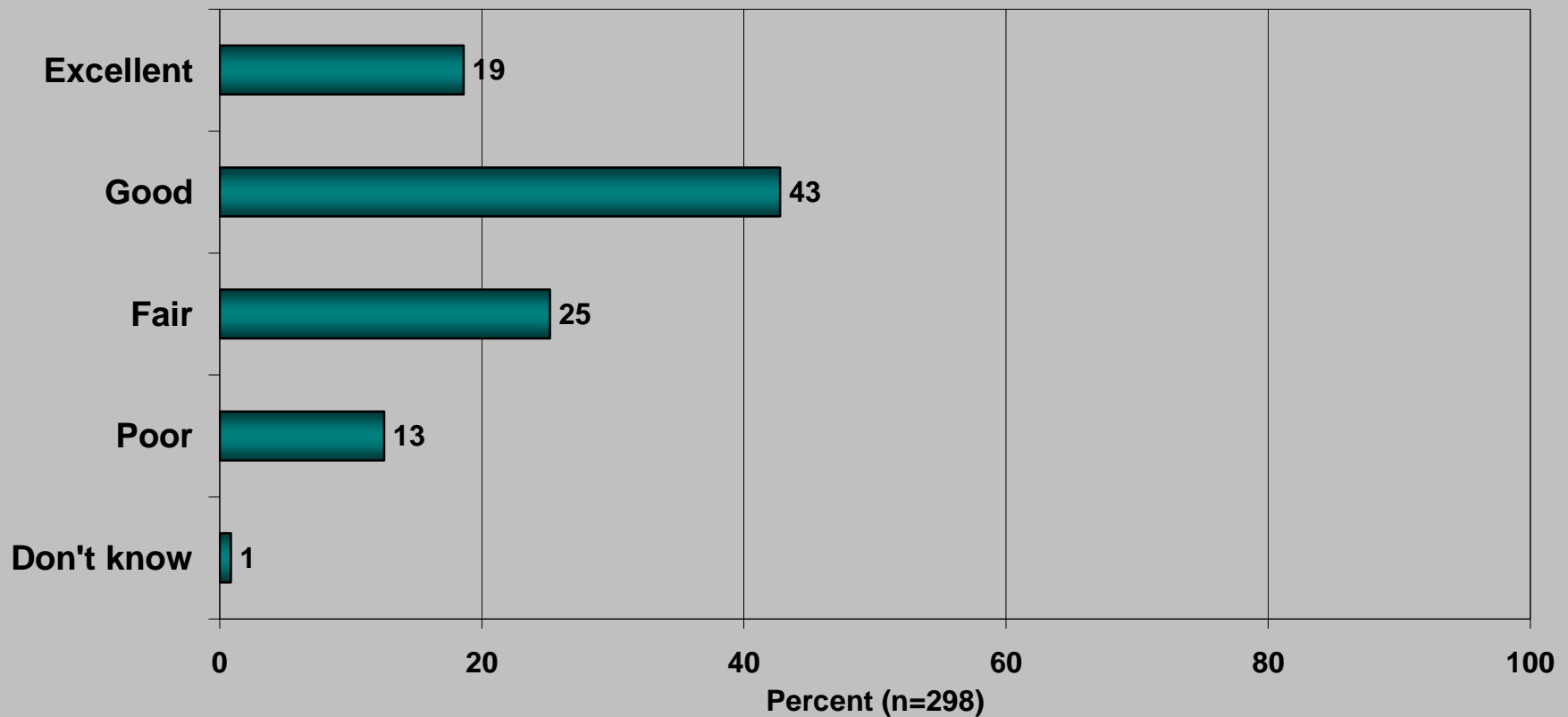
Q190. Did you ice fish in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season?



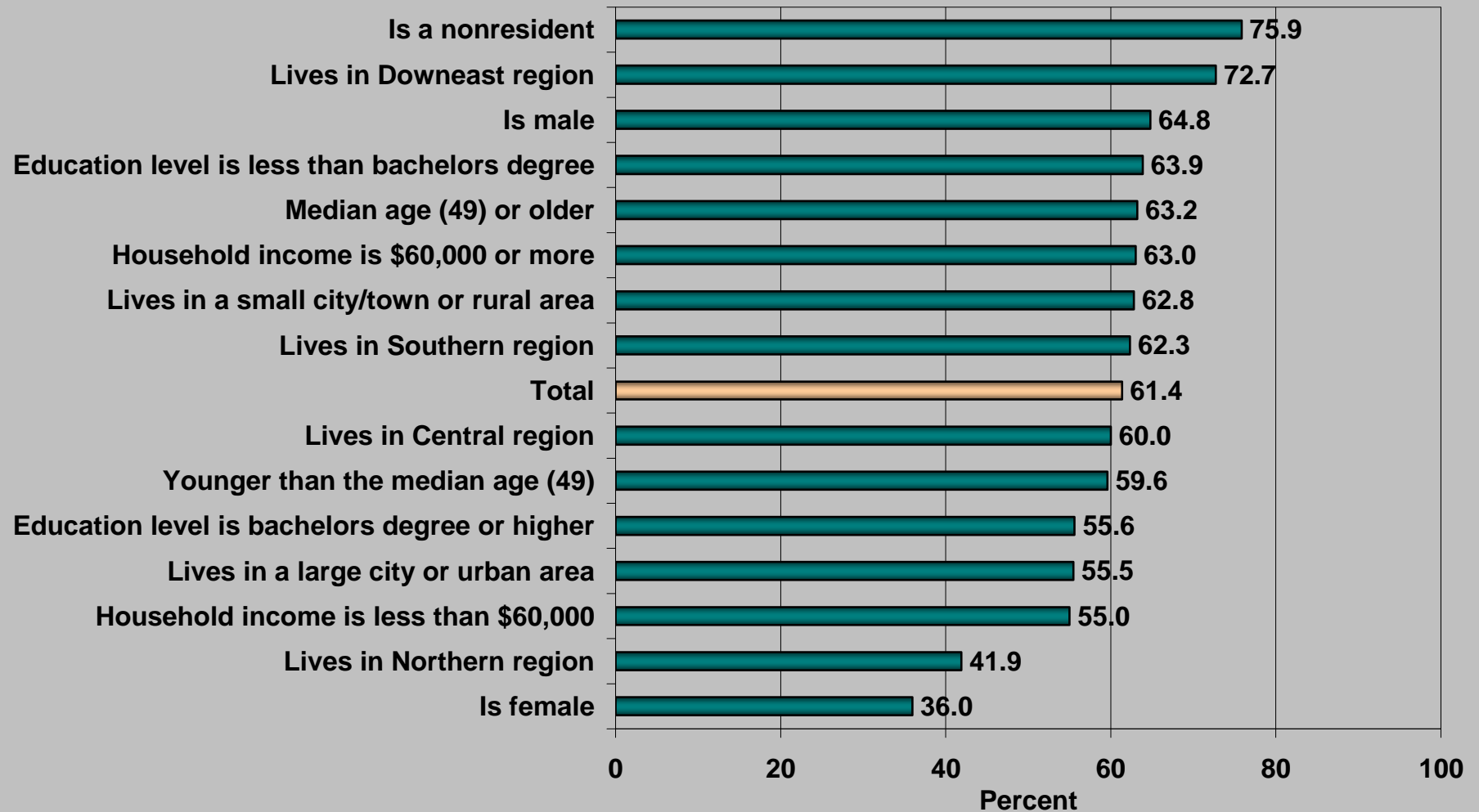
Q196. What inland freshwater species did you ice fish for during the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)



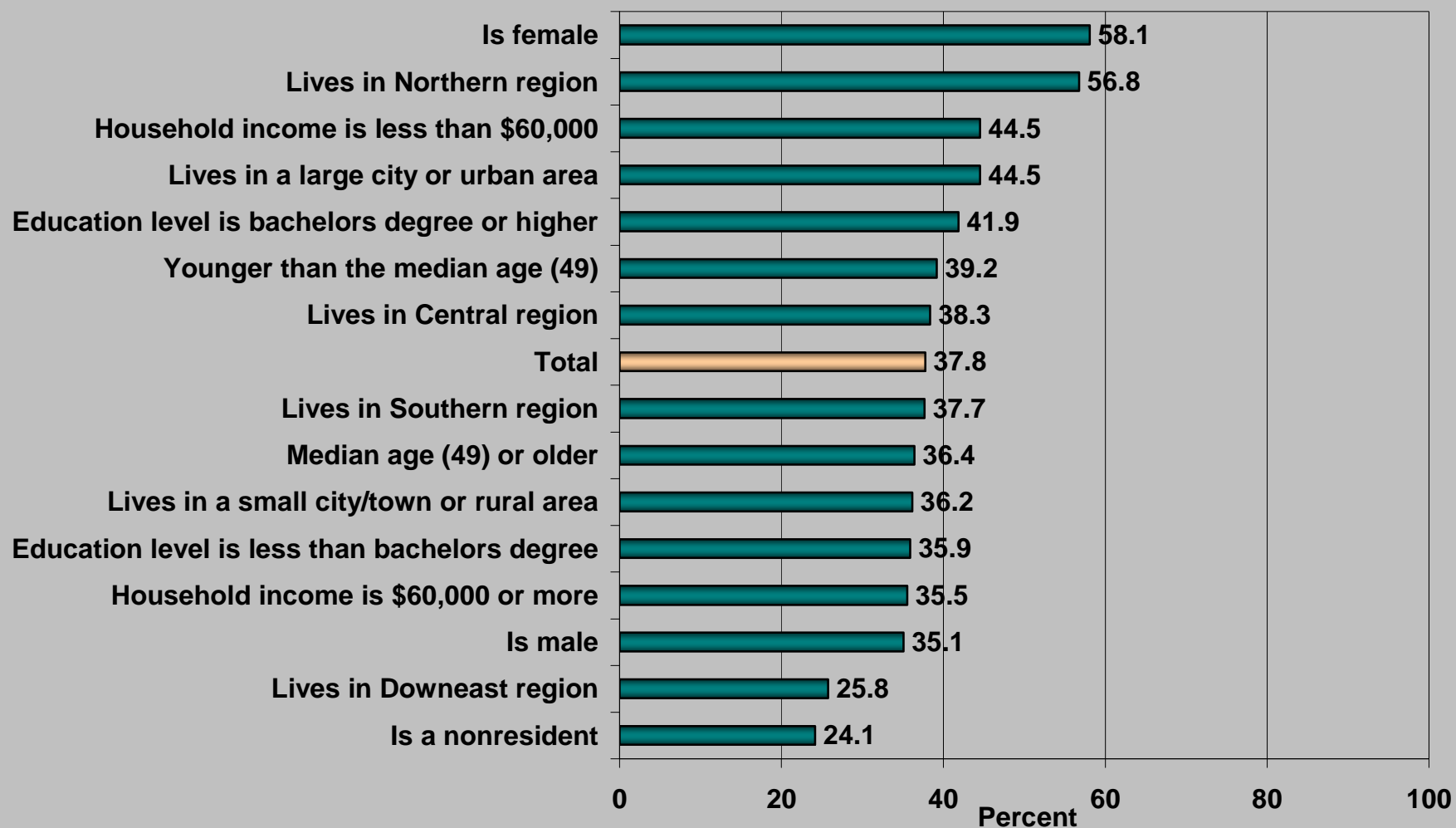
Q357. How would you rate the quality of the ice fishing during the 2015 ice fishing season? Would you say it was excellent, good, fair, or poor? (Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)



Percent of each of the following groups who rated ice fishing quality in Maine as excellent or good:



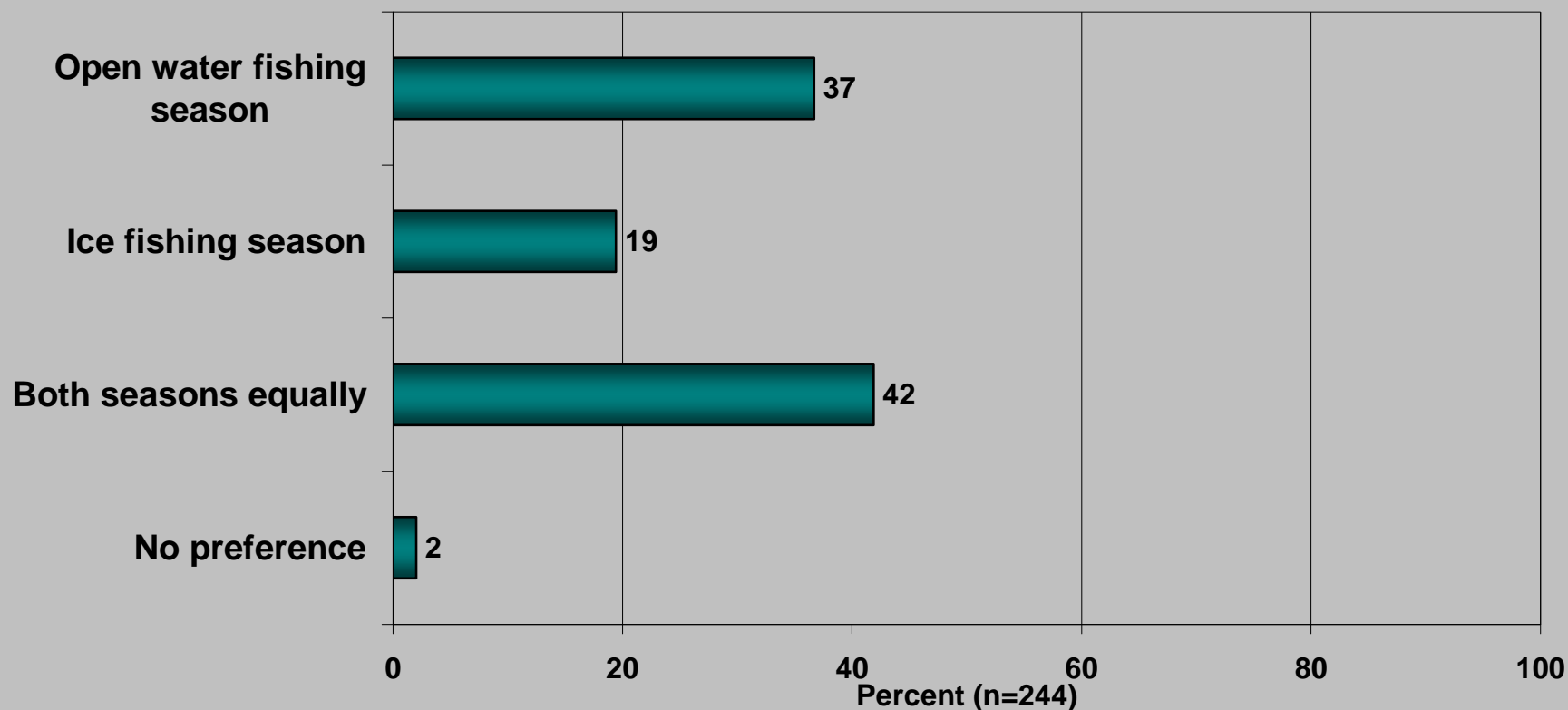
Percent of each of the following groups who rated ice fishing quality in Maine as fair or poor:



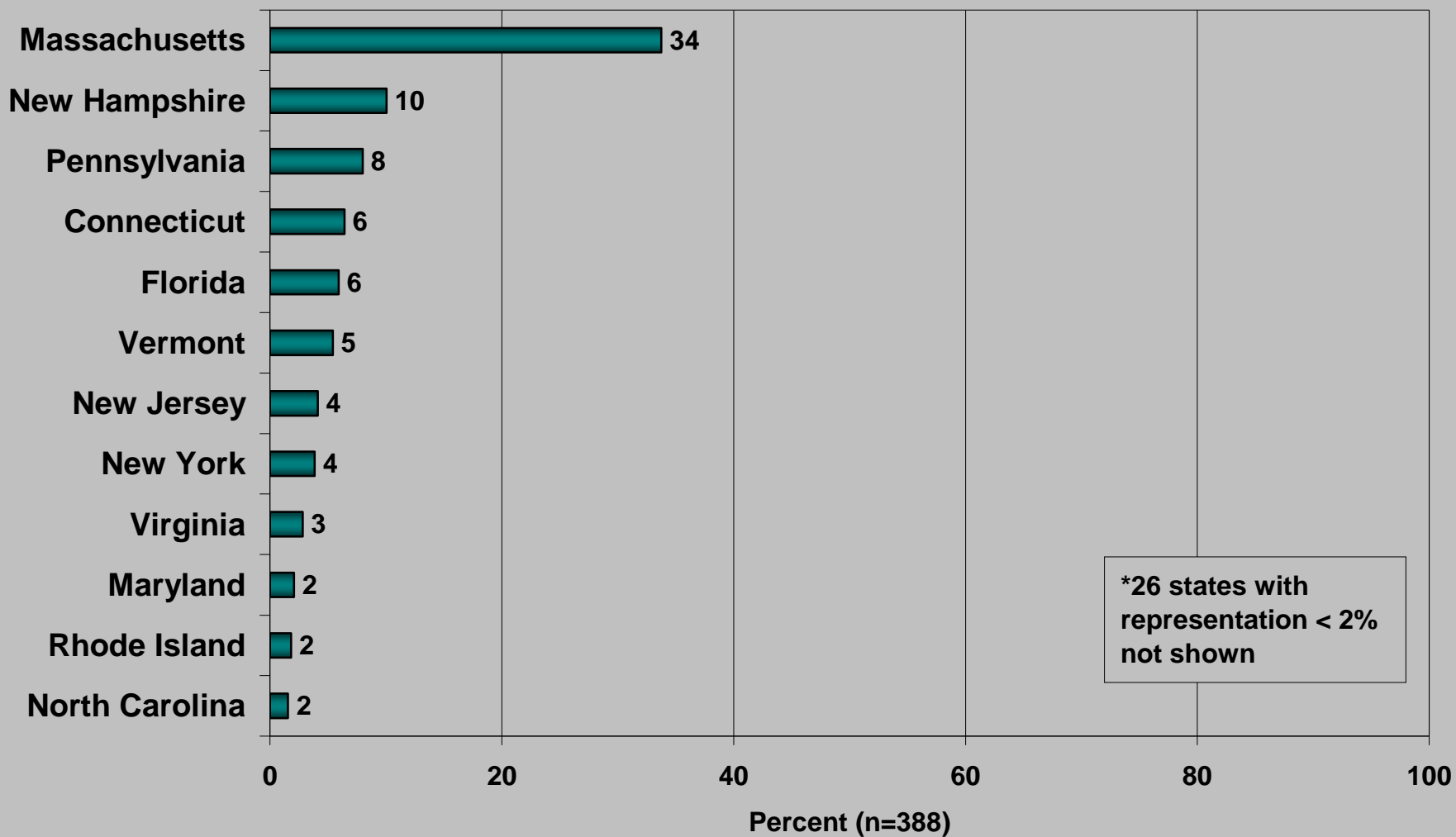
General Attitudes Toward Fishing in Maine



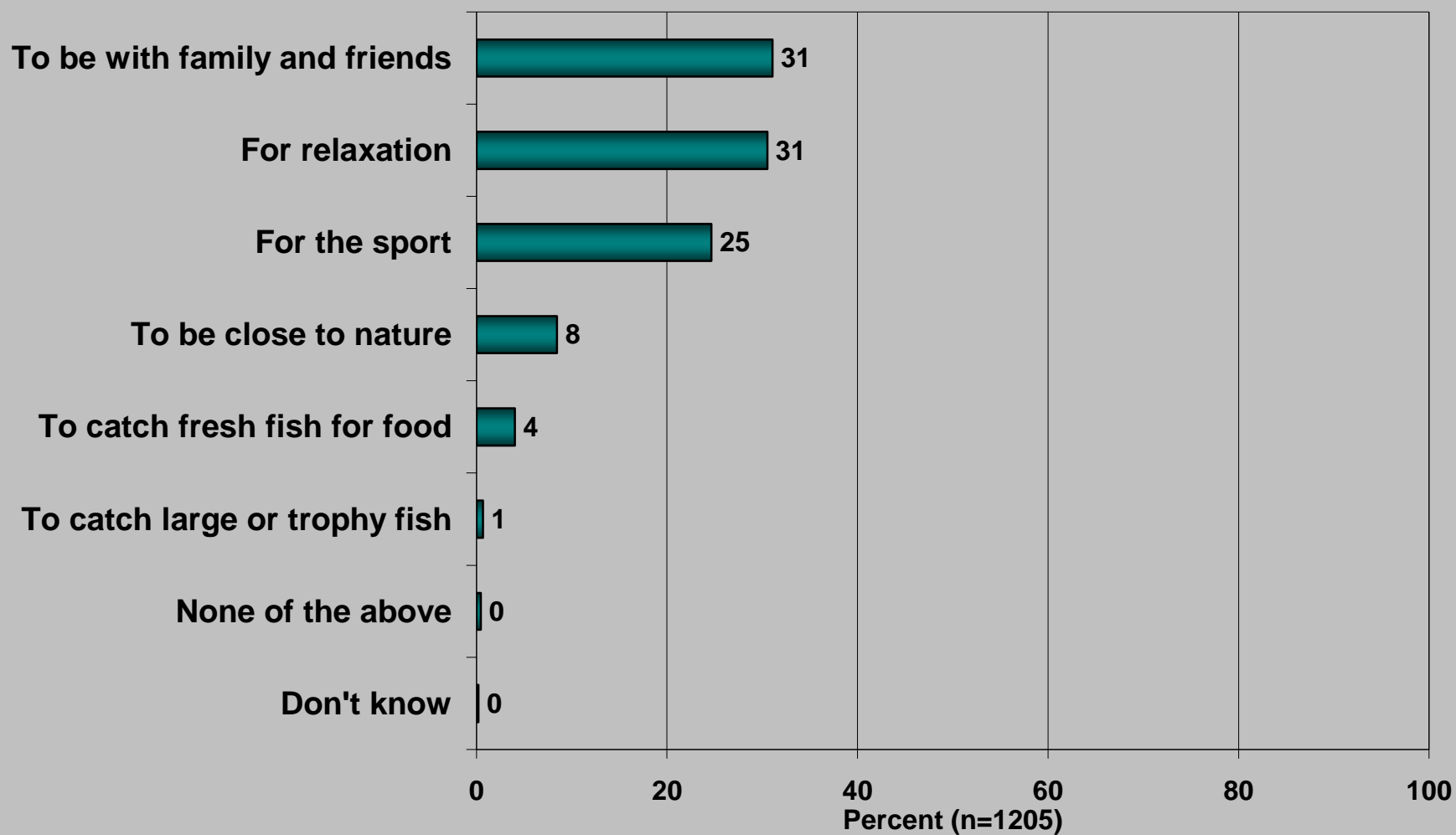
Q358. Which fishing season do you enjoy the most: the open water fishing season, the ice fishing season, or do you enjoy both seasons equally? (Asked of those who fished open water and ice fished in Maine during the 2015 fishing season.)



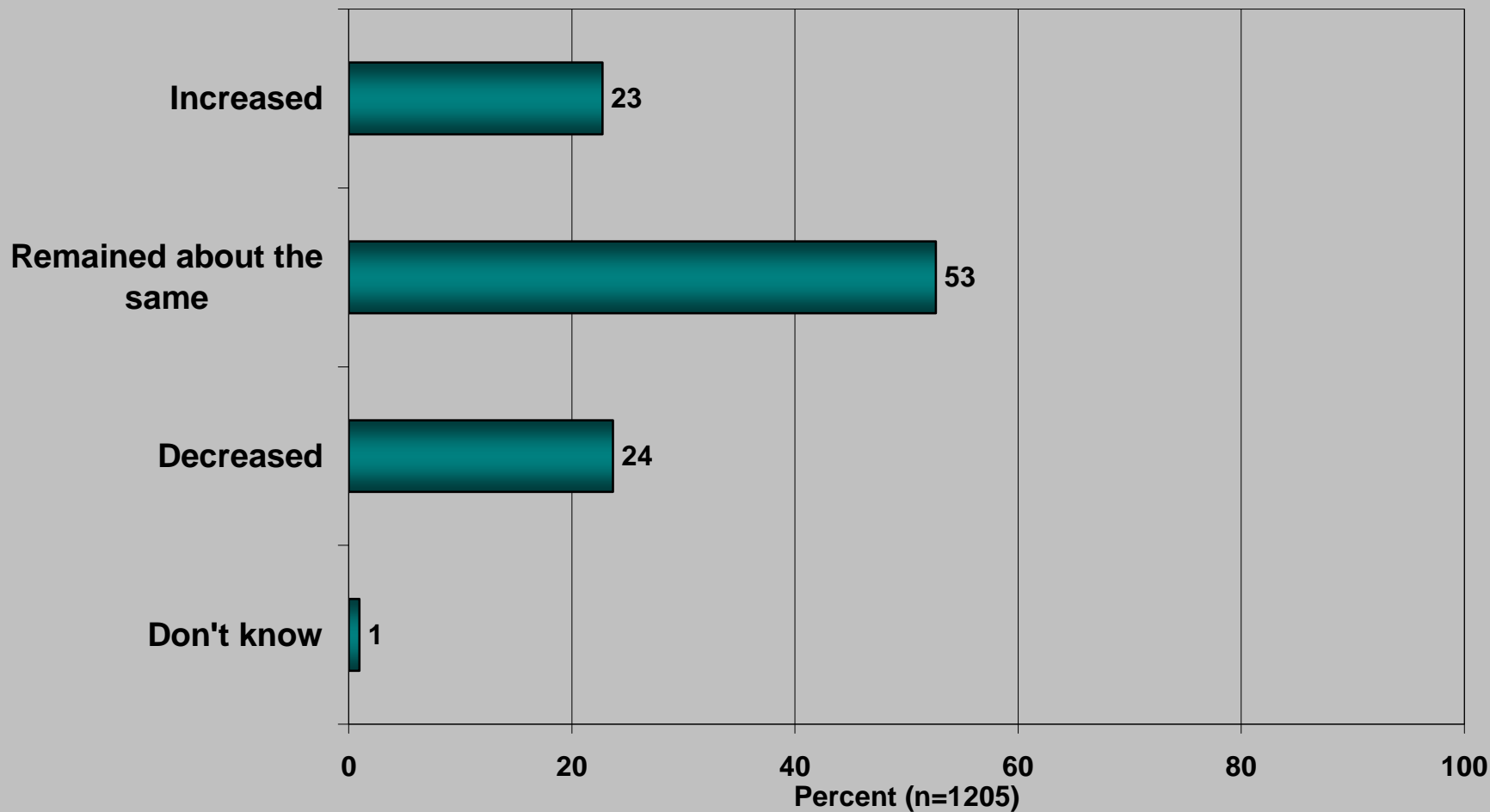
Q465. What is your state of residence? (Asked of those with nonresident licenses.)



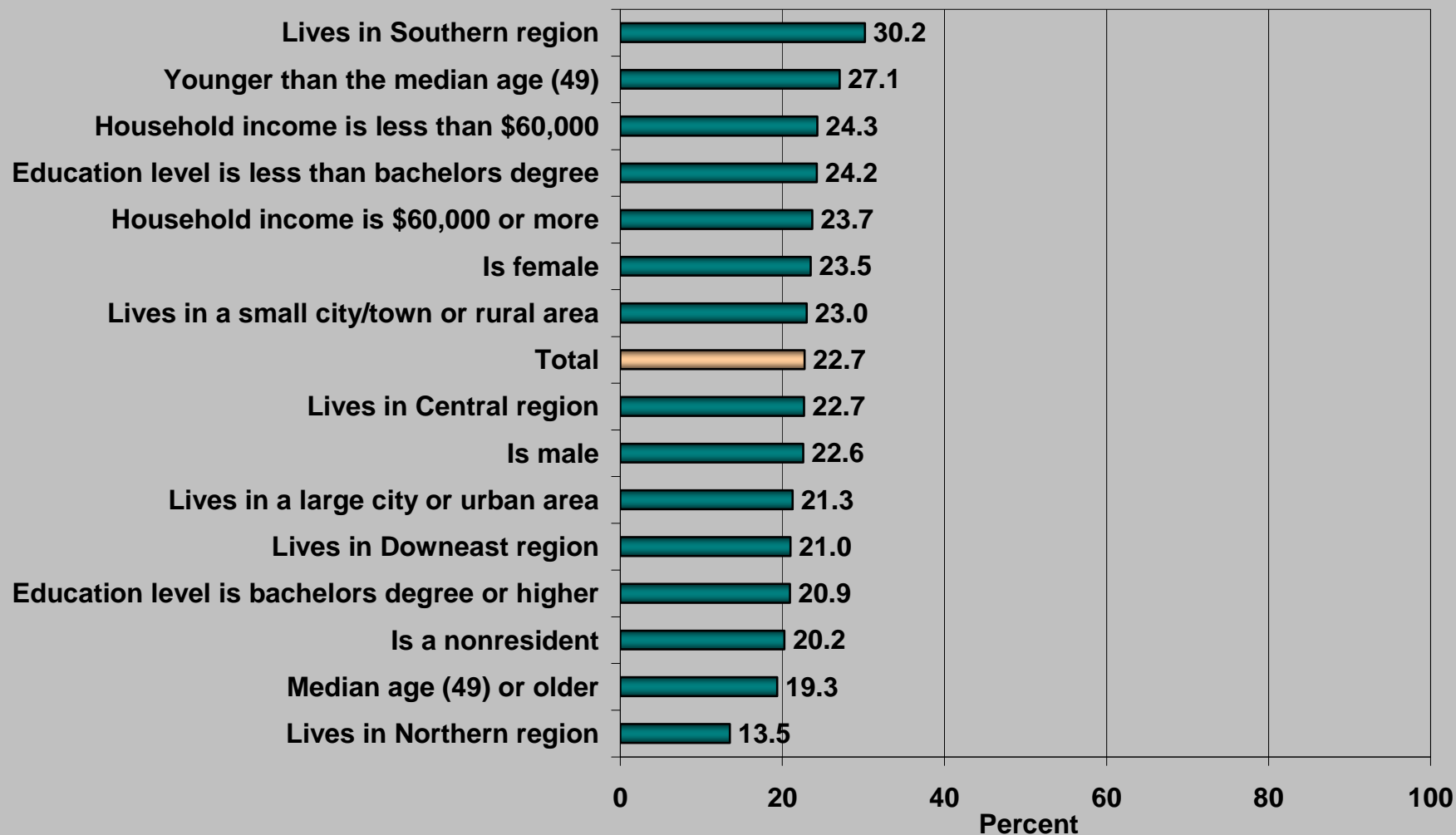
Q360. What was your primary reason for fishing in Maine over the past 5 years?



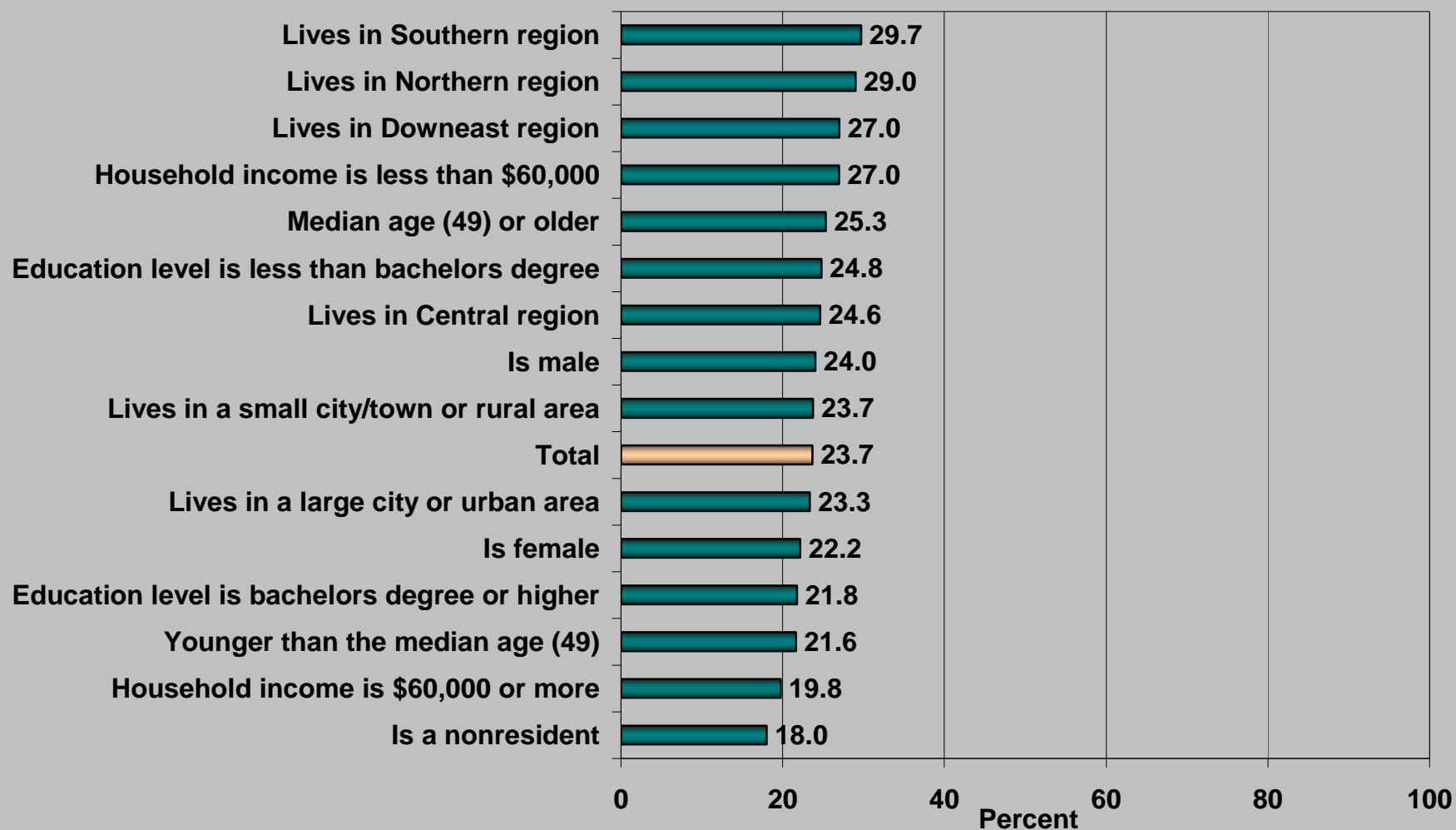
Q361. Over the past 5 years, would you say your fishing activity in Maine has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?



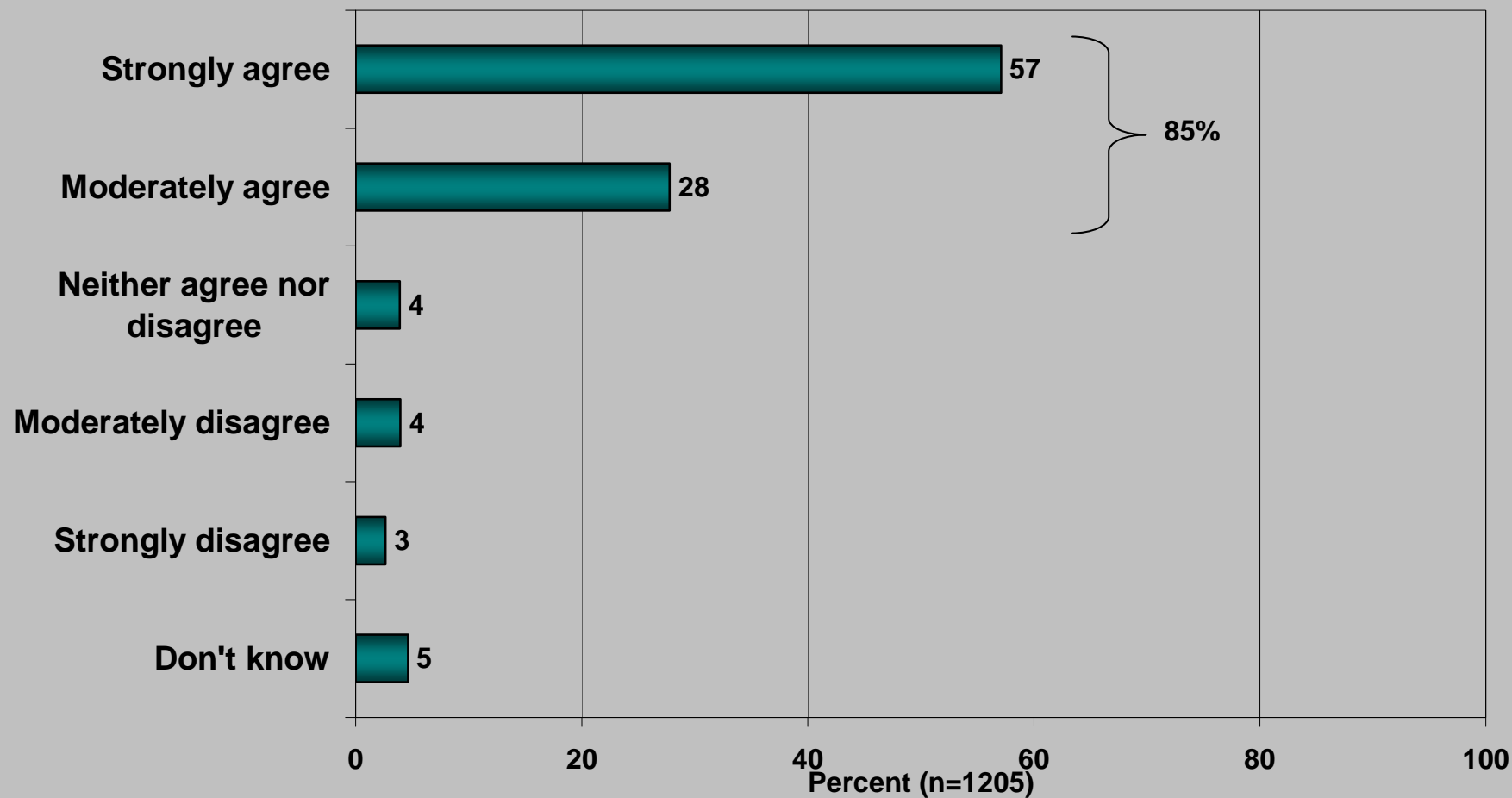
Percent of each of the following groups whose fishing activity in Maine has increased in past 5 years:



Percent of each of the following groups whose fishing activity in Maine has decreased in past 5 years:



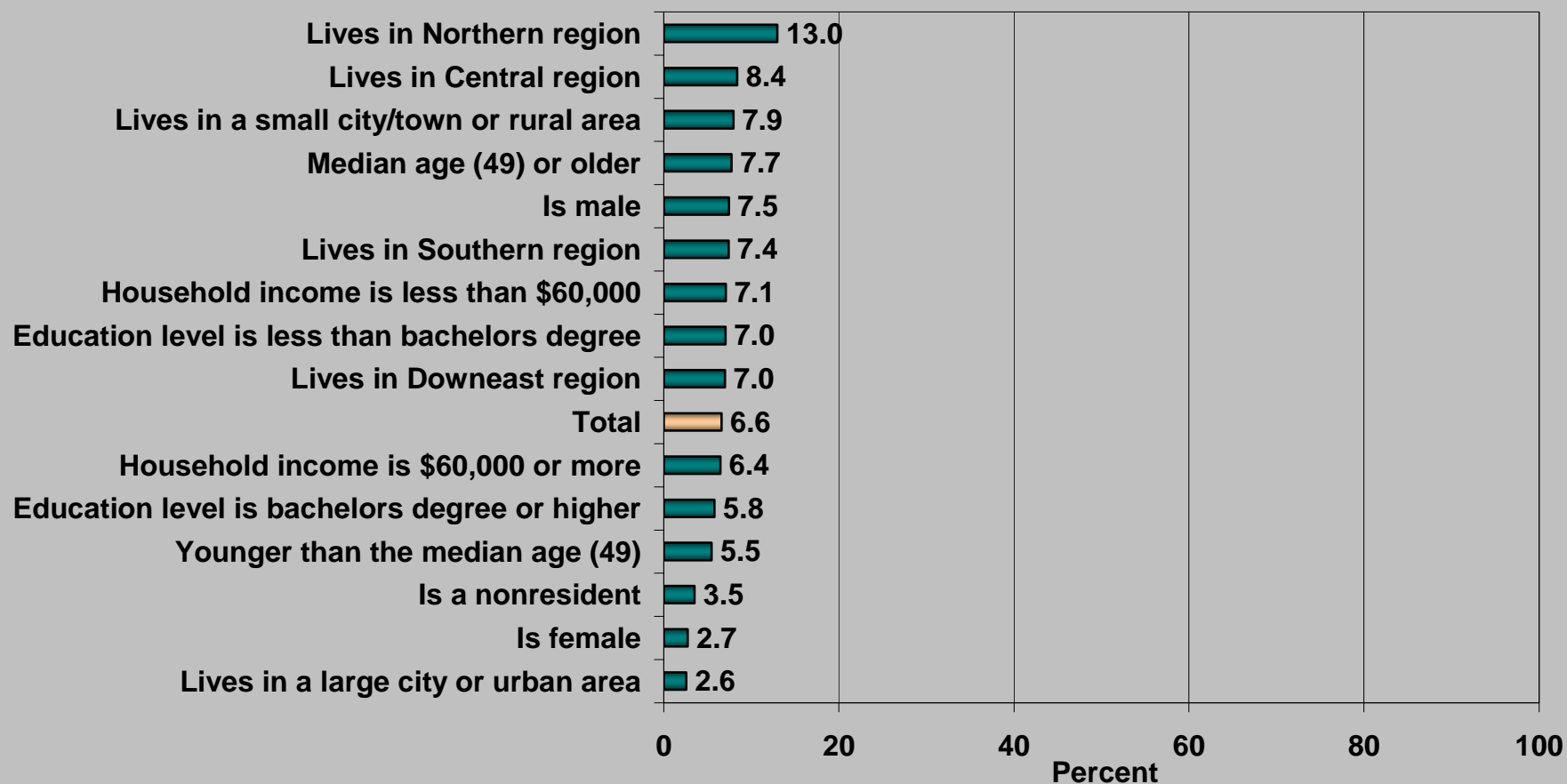
Q364. Do you agree or disagree that Maine's freshwater fishery resources are currently well managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife?



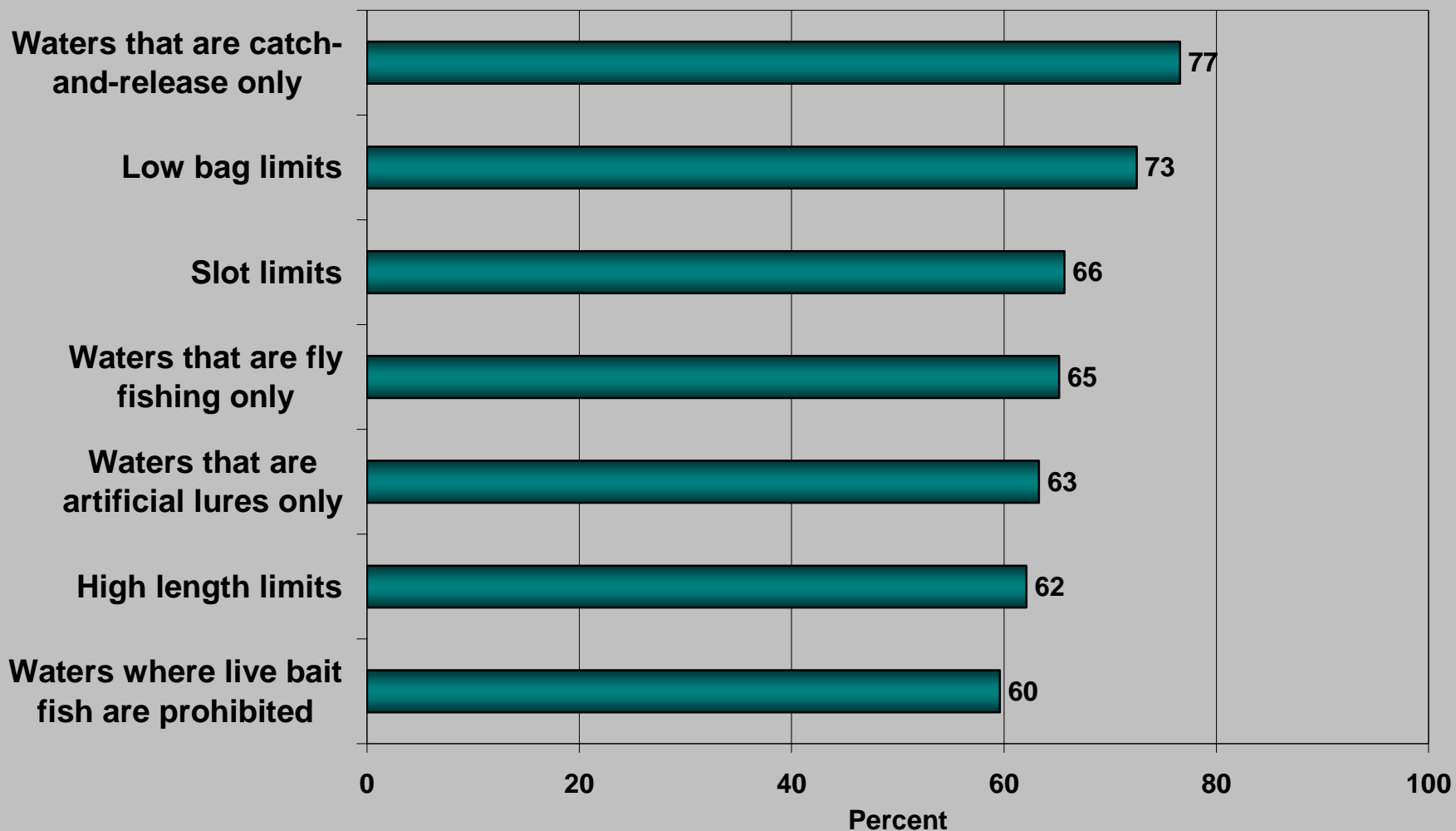
**Percent of each of the following groups who agree that
Maine's freshwater fishery resources are currently well
managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife:**



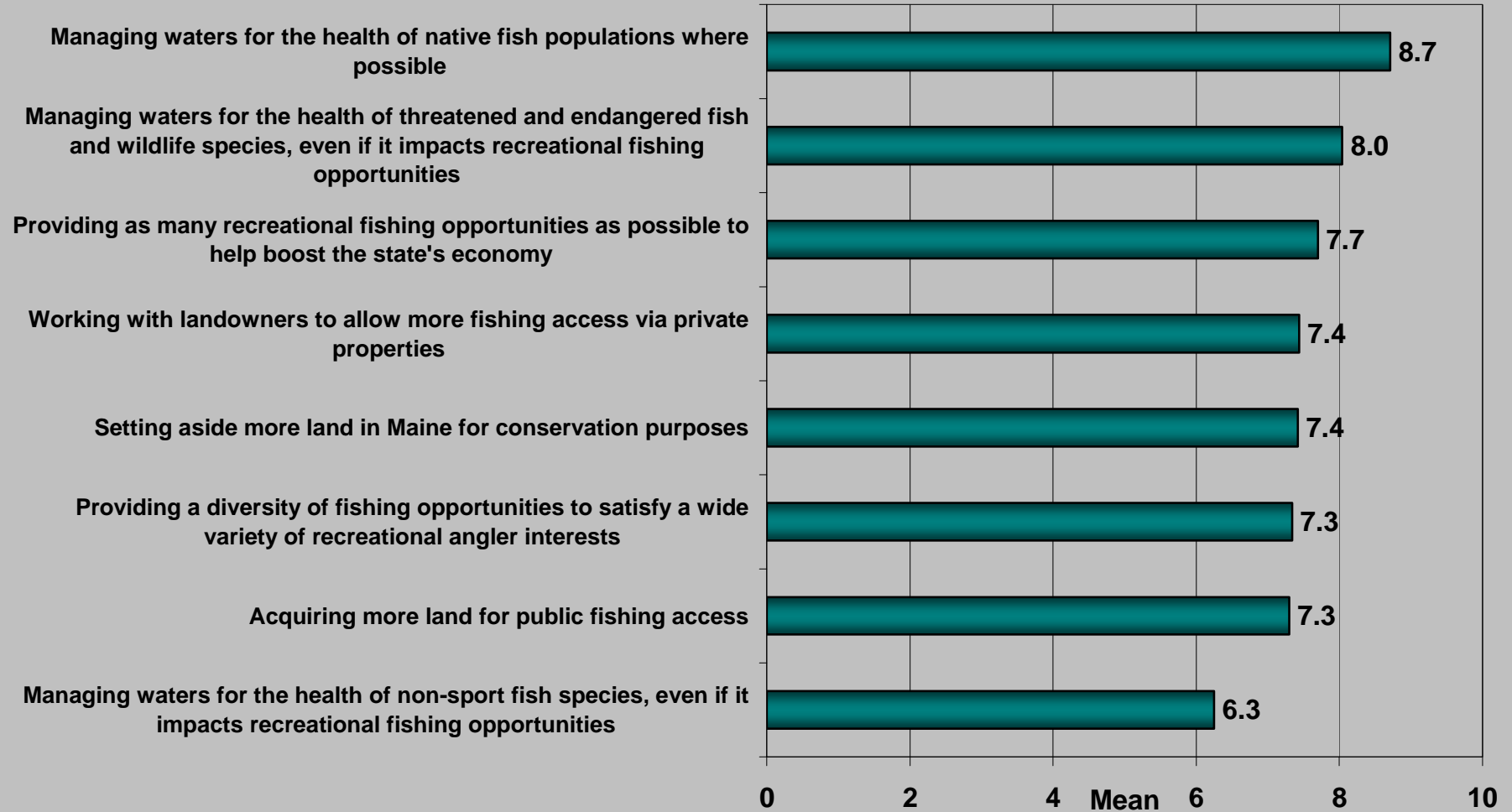
Percent of each of the following groups who disagree that Maine's freshwater fishery resources are currently well managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:



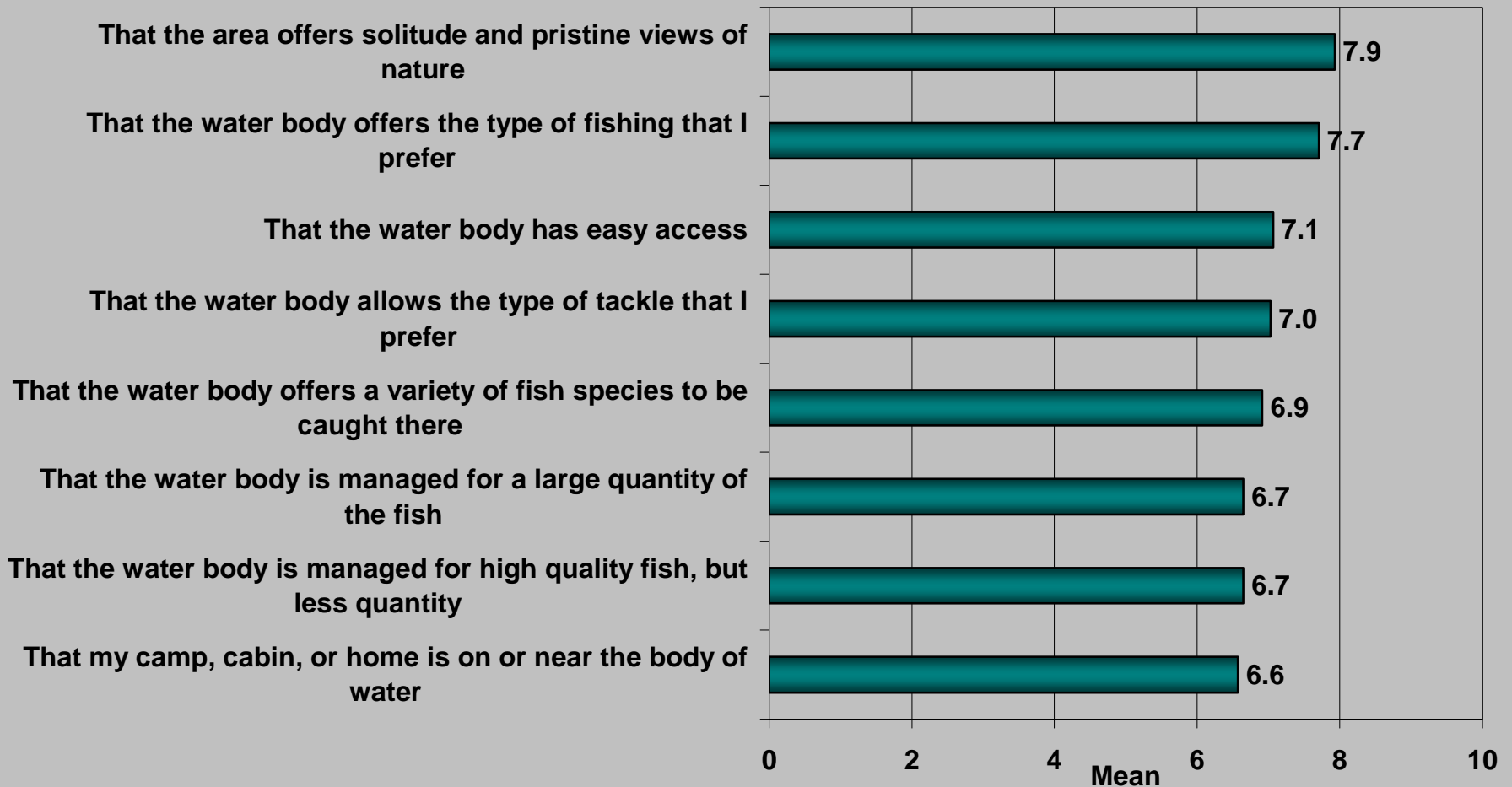
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately support each of the following regulations:



Respondents' mean rating of how much each of the following should be a priority for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:



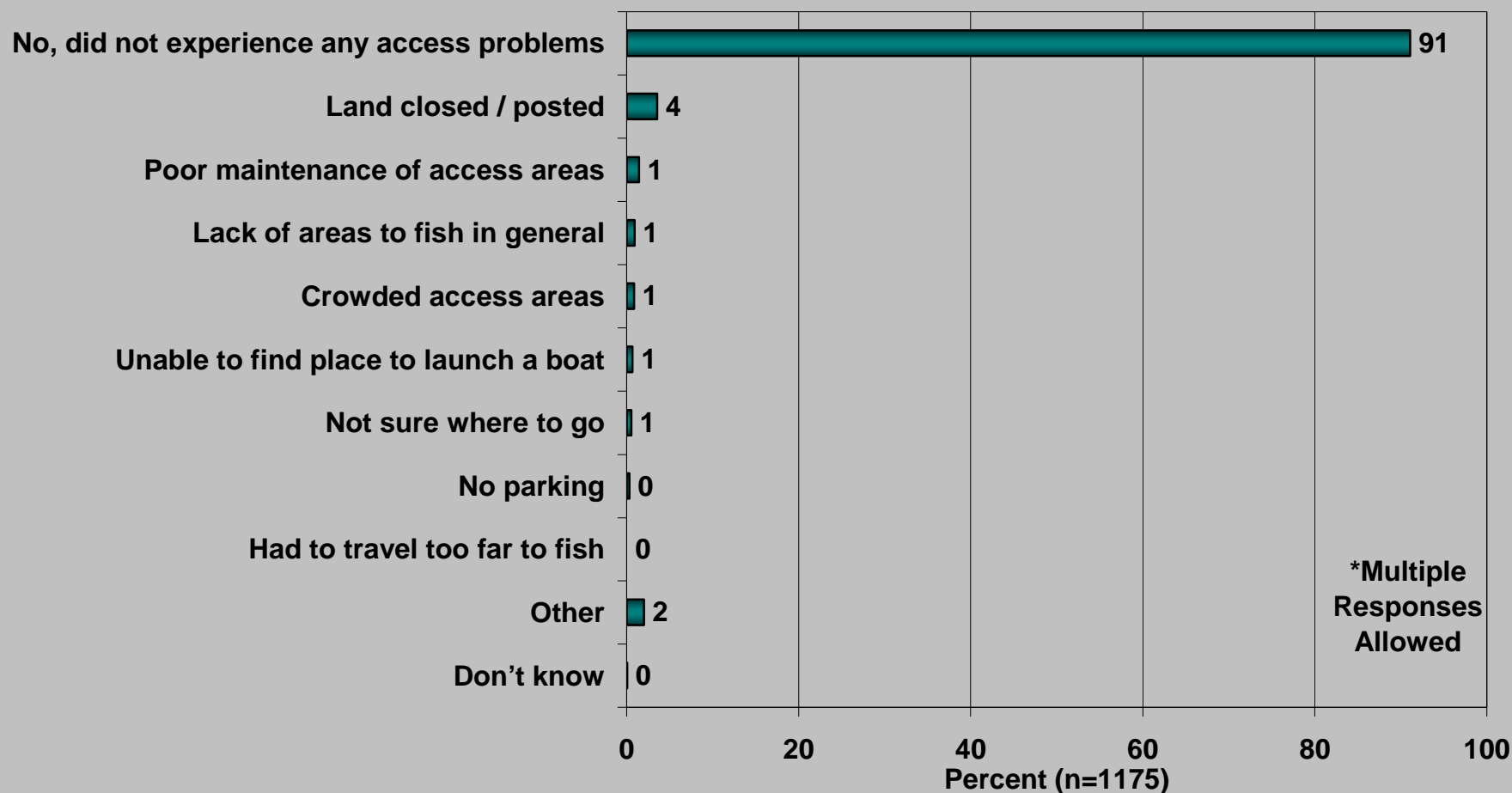
Respondents' mean rating of the importance of each of the following to them personally in deciding where to fish in Maine:



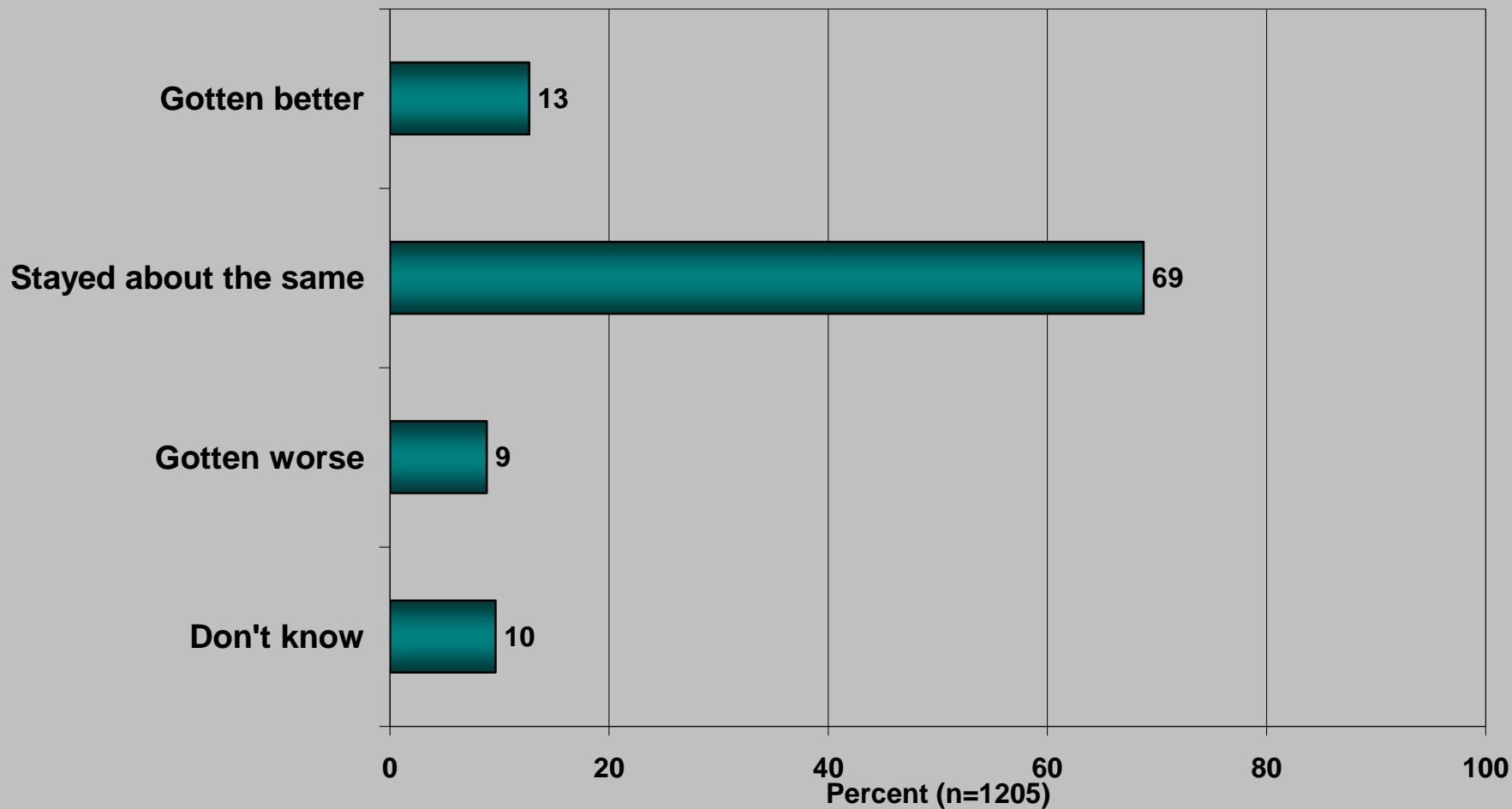
Opinions on Specific Aspects of Fishing Access



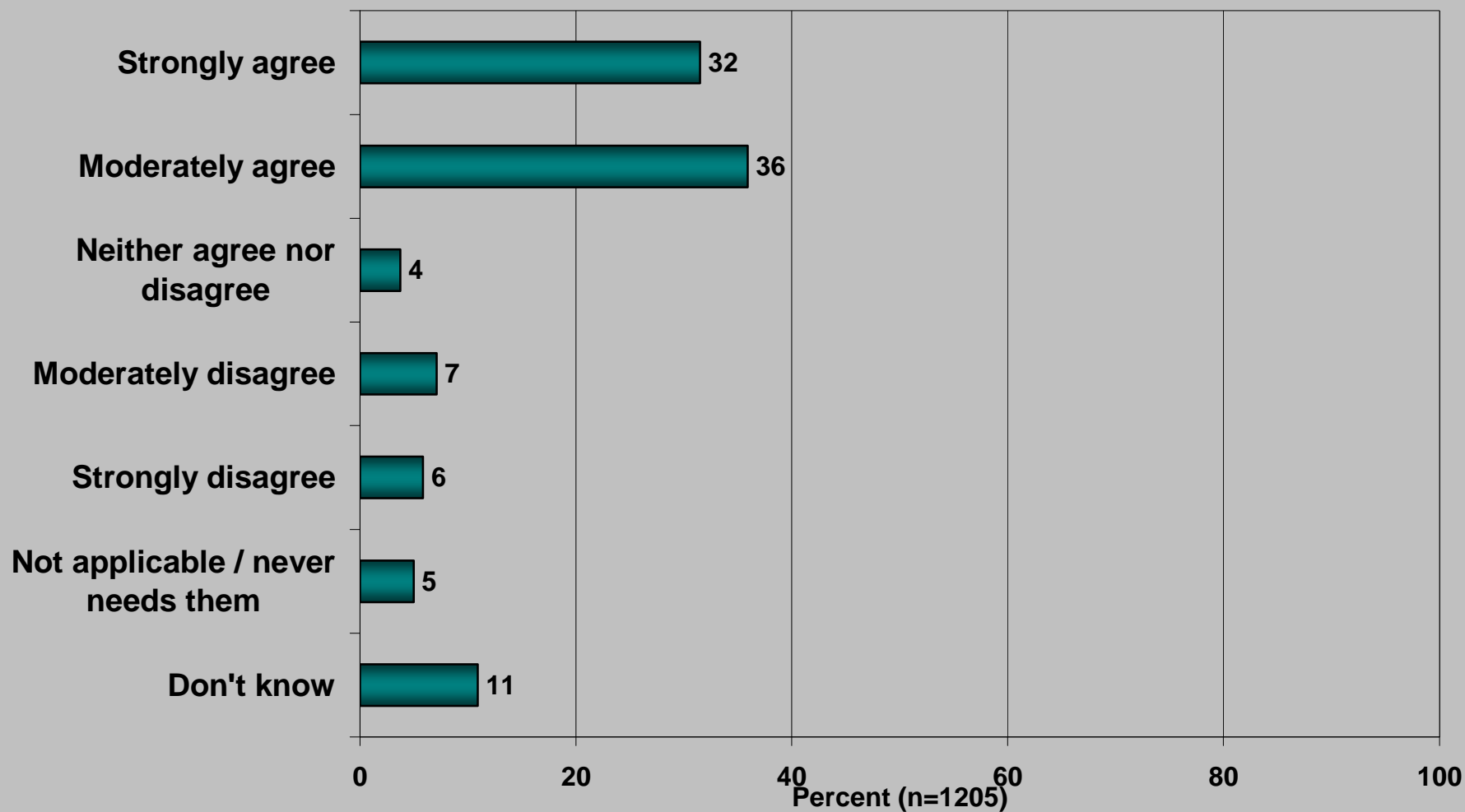
Q413. Did you have any problems accessing waters you fished or wished to fish during the last season in which you went fishing in Maine? If yes, what were they?



Q420. Overall, in the past 5 years, would you say fishing access in Maine has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?



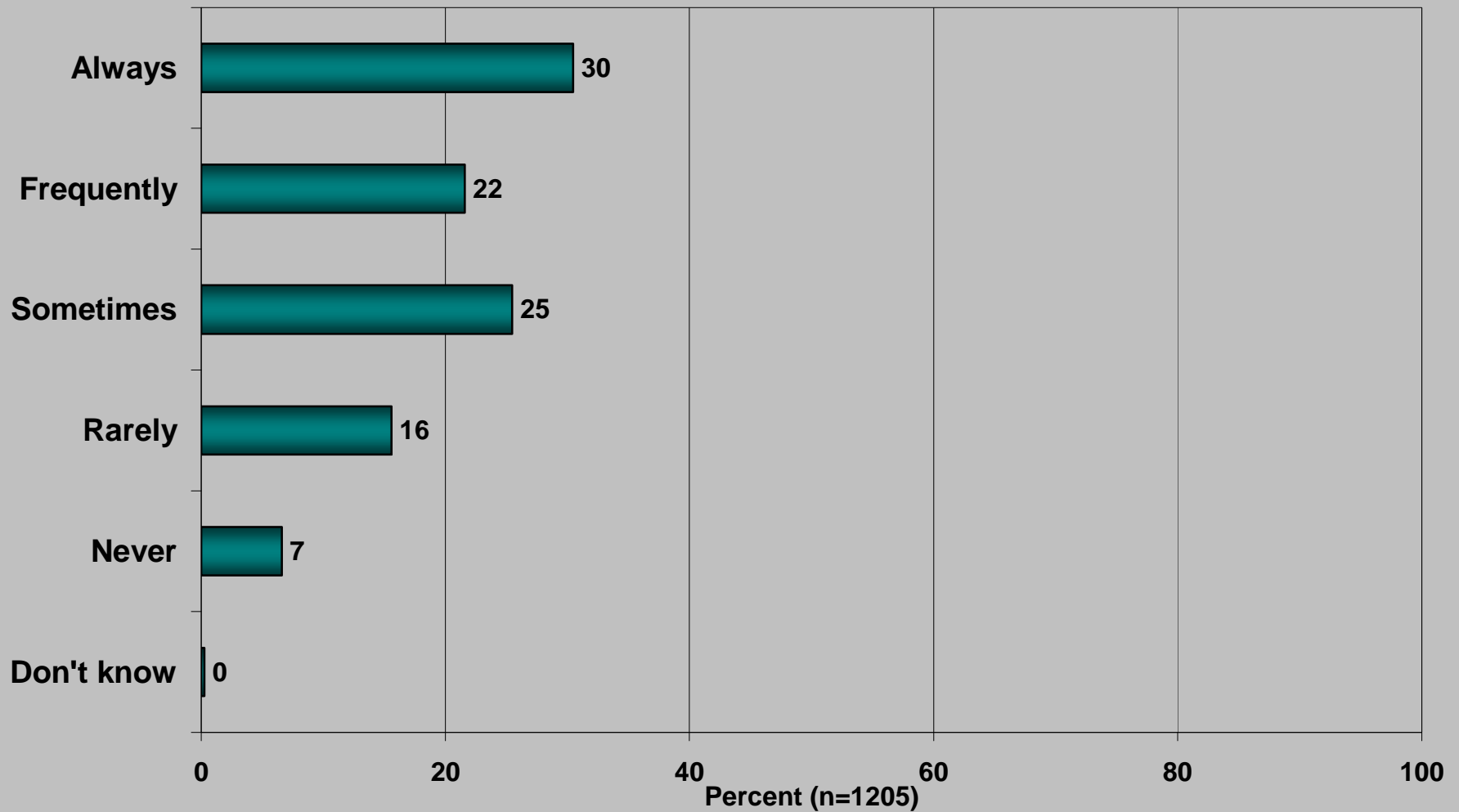
Q421. Do you agree or disagree that there are an adequate number of state owned boat ramps in Maine?



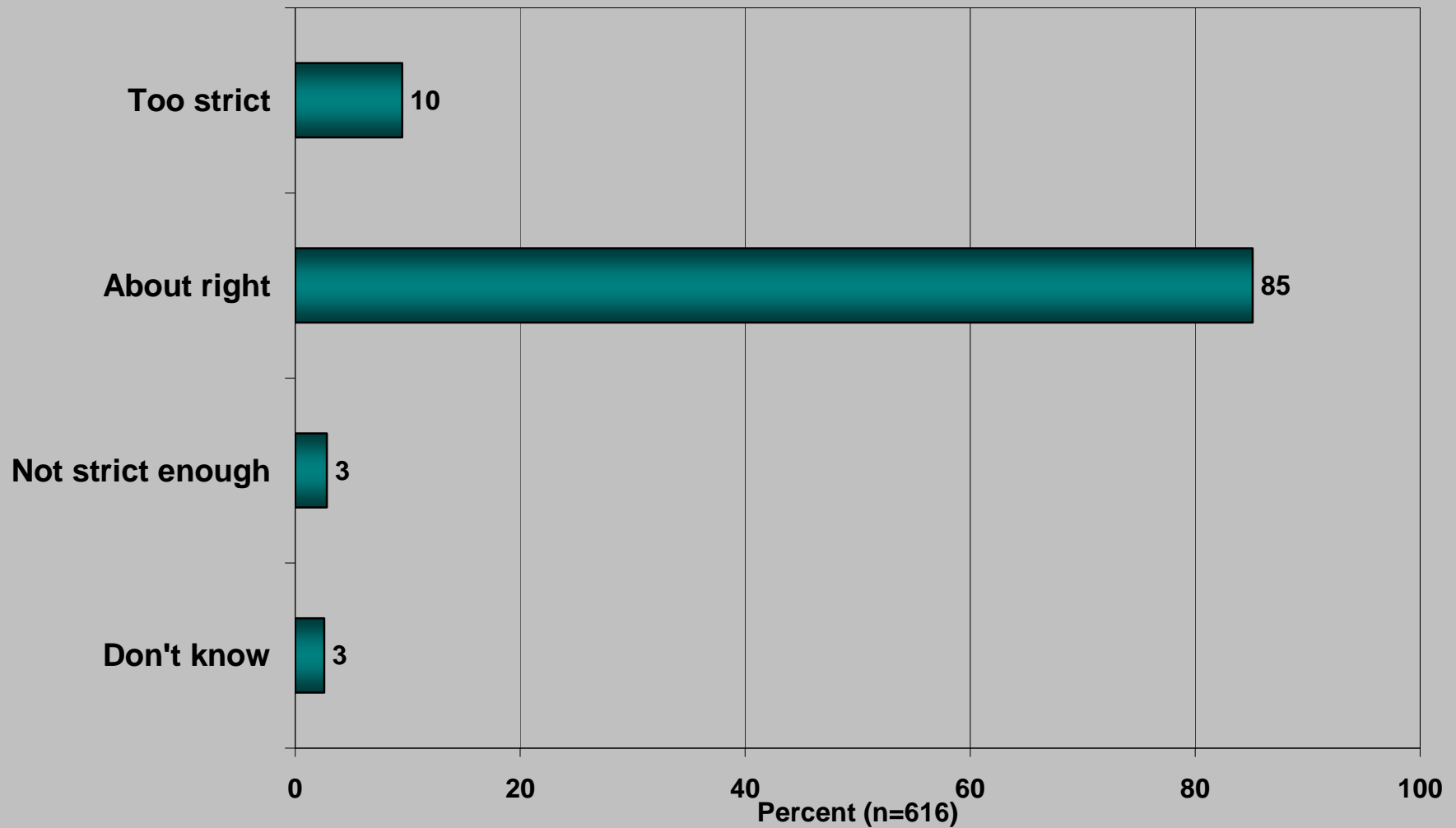
Attitudes Toward Fishing Regulations in Maine



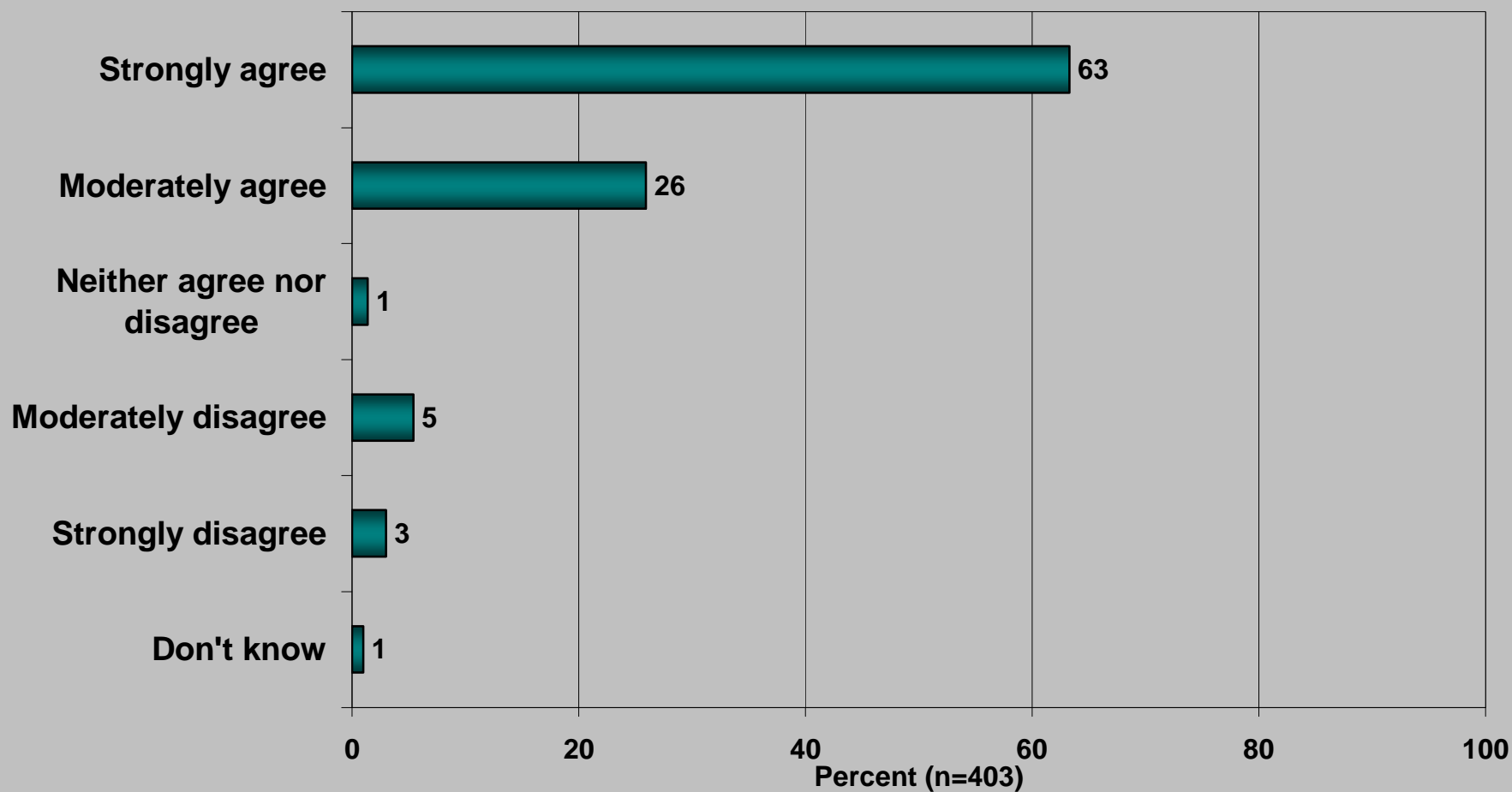
Q423. How often do you look for information about fishing regulations in Maine?



Q433. Do you think the fishing regulations in Maine are too strict, not strict enough, or about right?



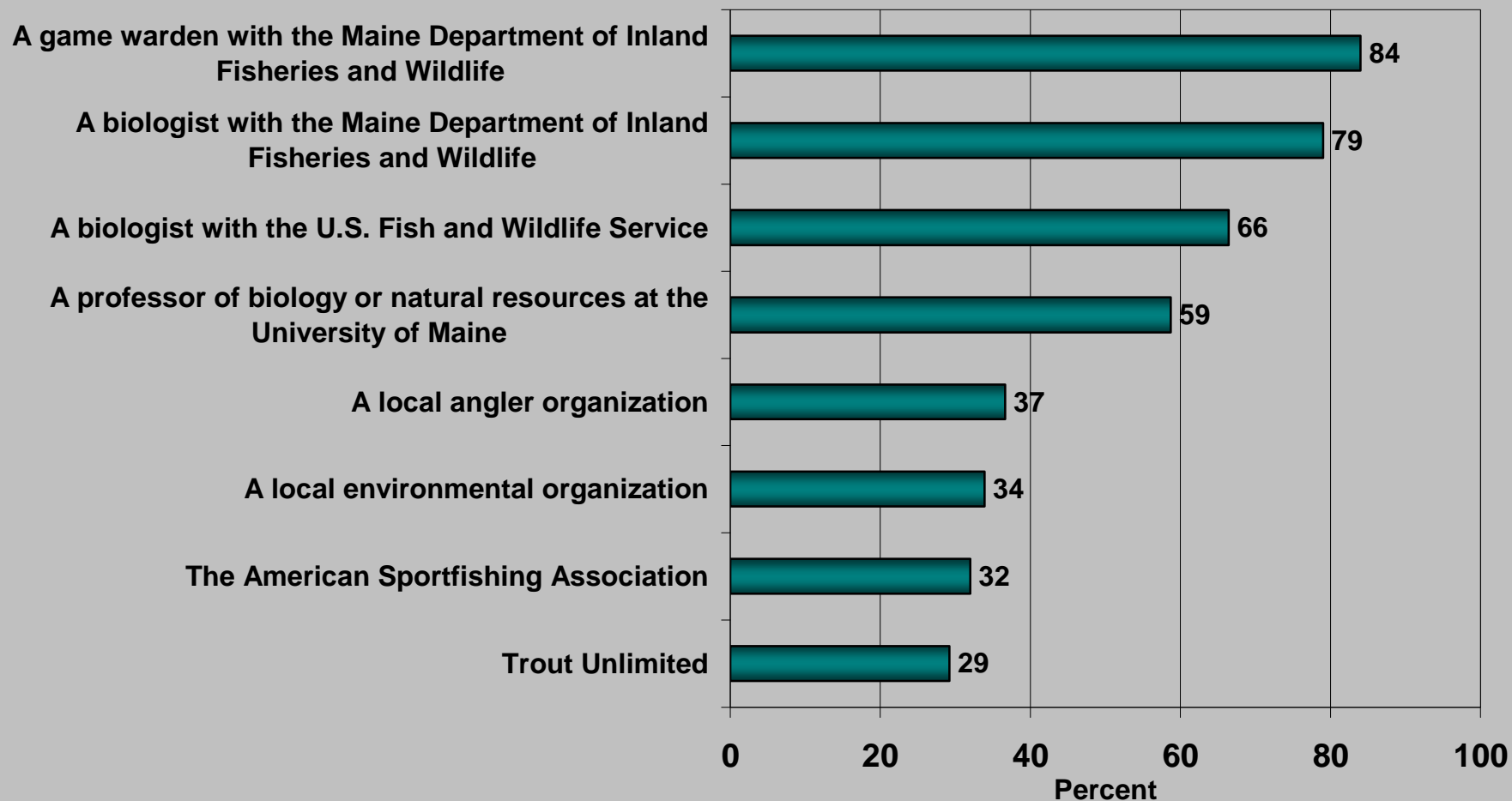
Q444. Do you agree or disagree that the fish consumption guidelines for various fish species issued by the Department are clear and easy to understand?



Credibility of Information Sources



Q447-Q454. Percent of respondents who rated each of the following as an extremely or very credible source of information on fisheries management in Maine:





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