



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

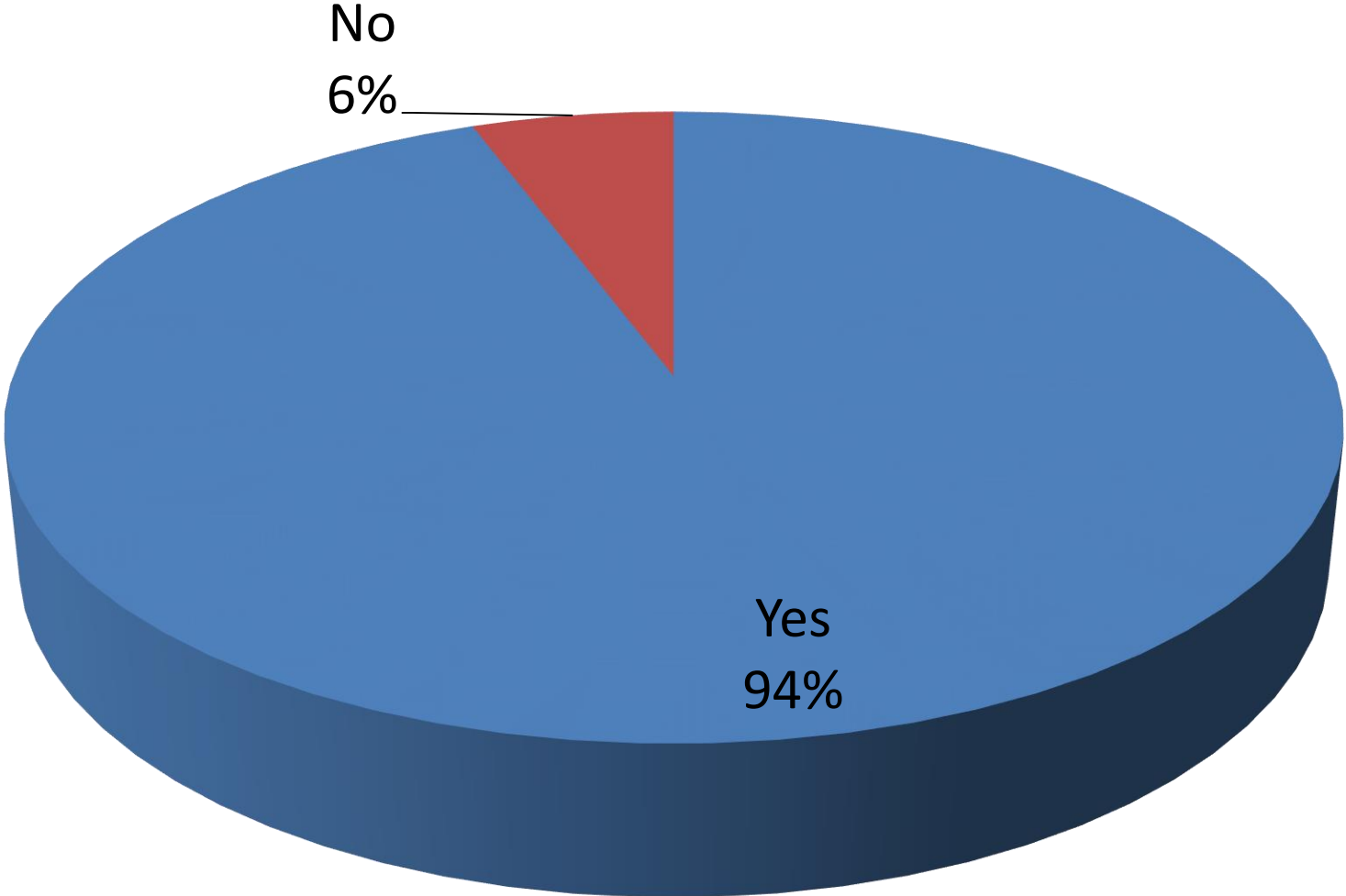
Pêches et Océans  
Canada

# **Gulf Region Striped bass Recreational fishery questionnaire**

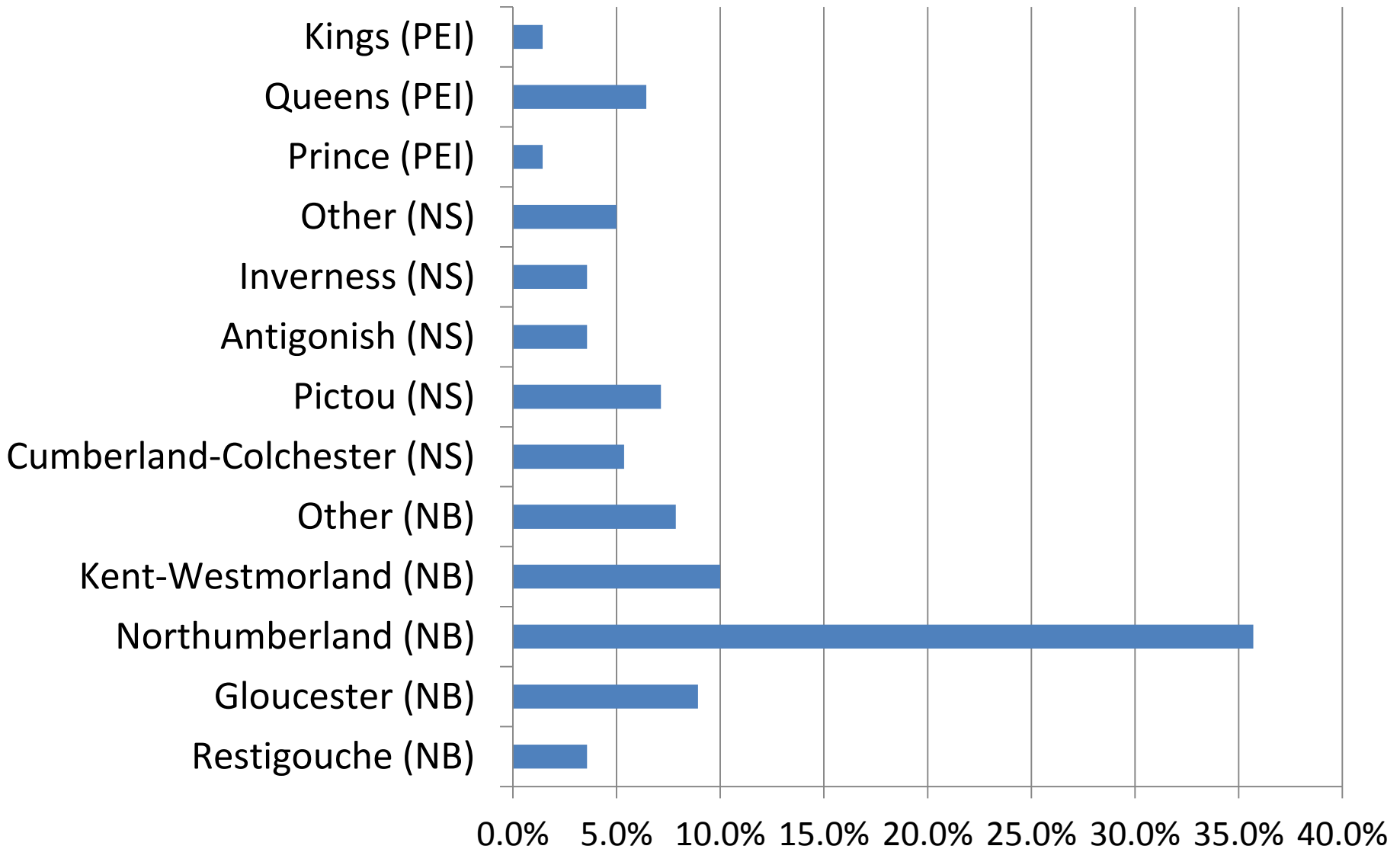
**November 8, 2018 – January 6, 2019**

**Canada**

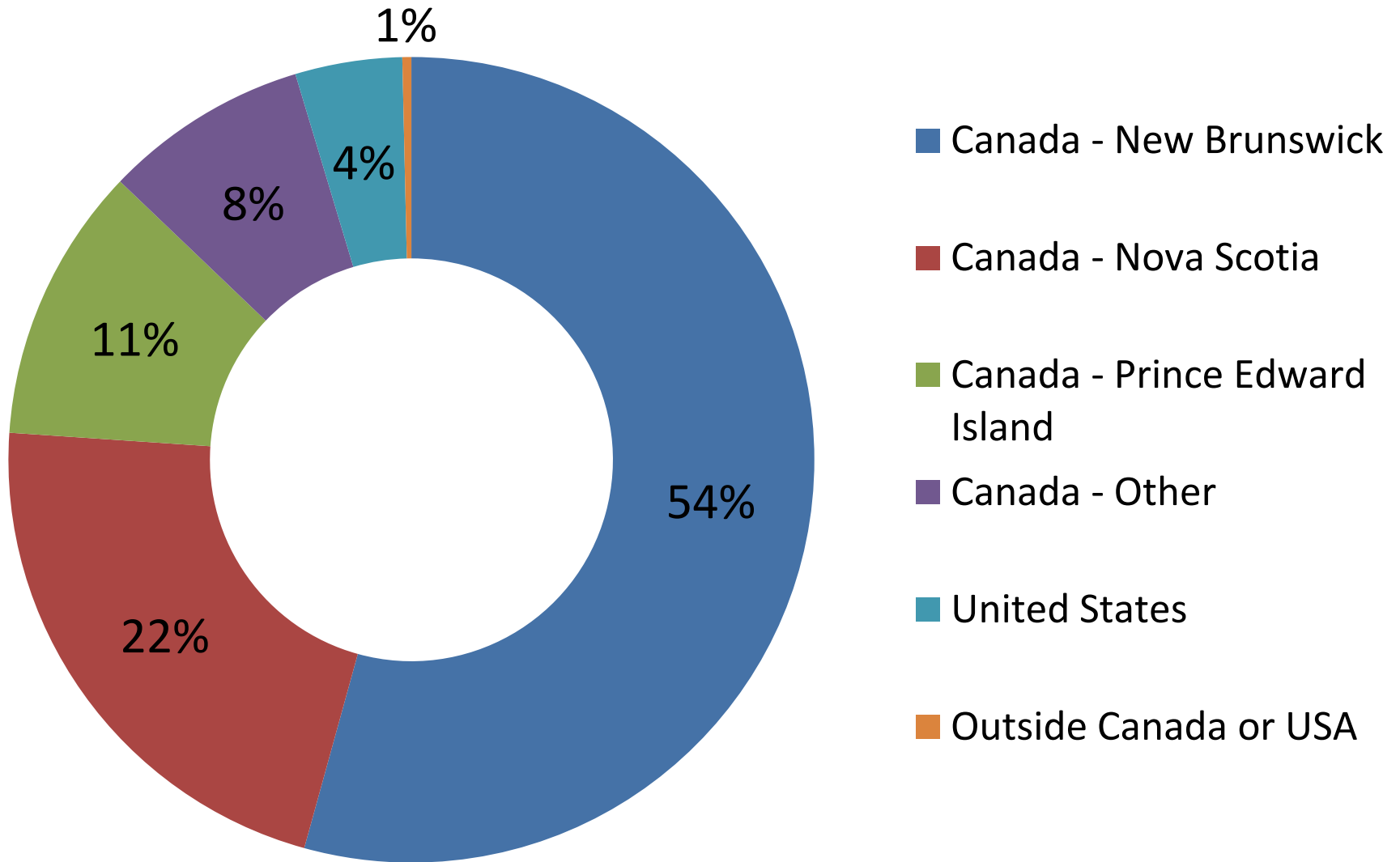
# Q. 5: Are you a Canadian Citizen?



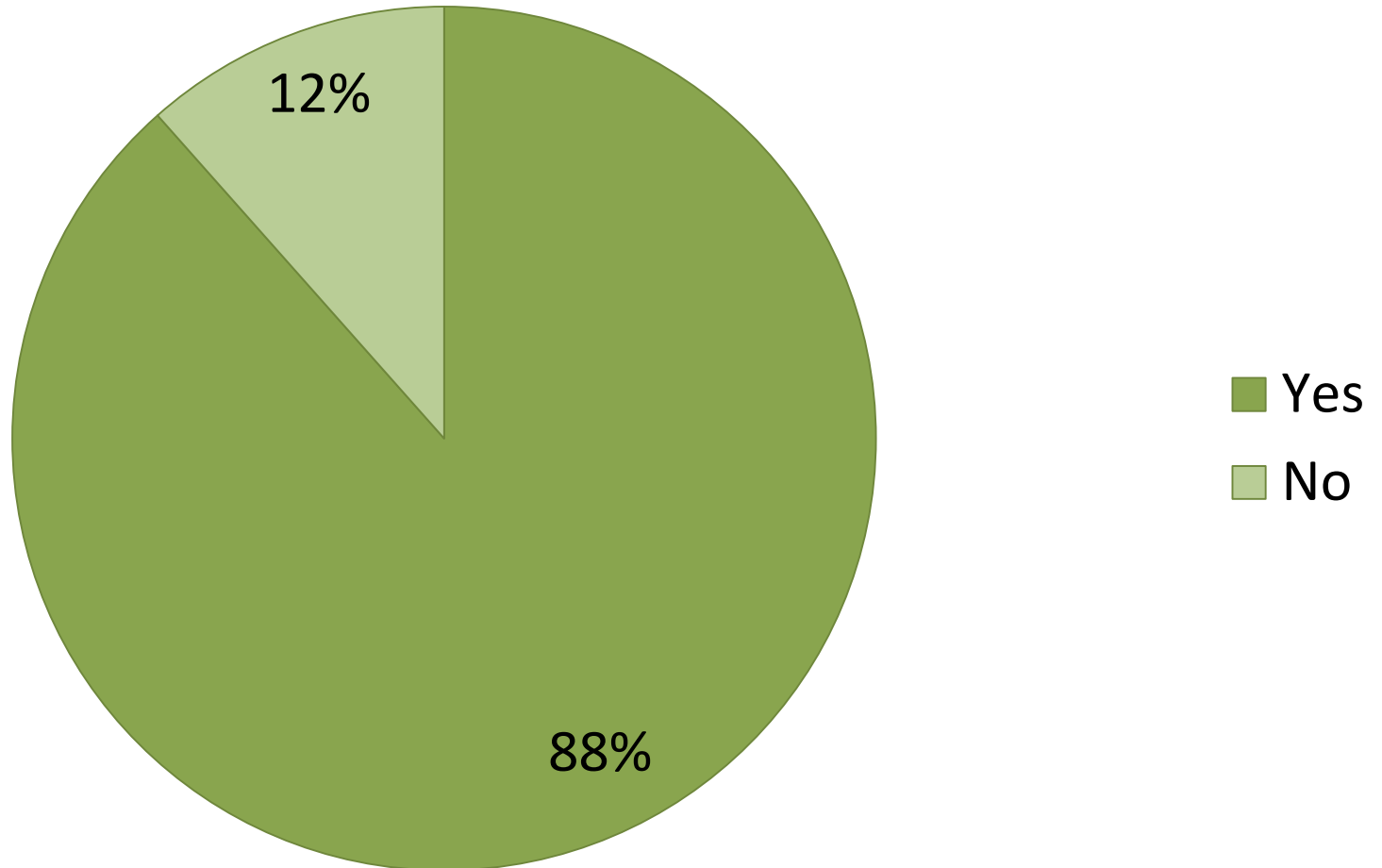
# Q. 6: In which county do you mostly angle for Striped bass?



# Q. 7: Where do you reside?

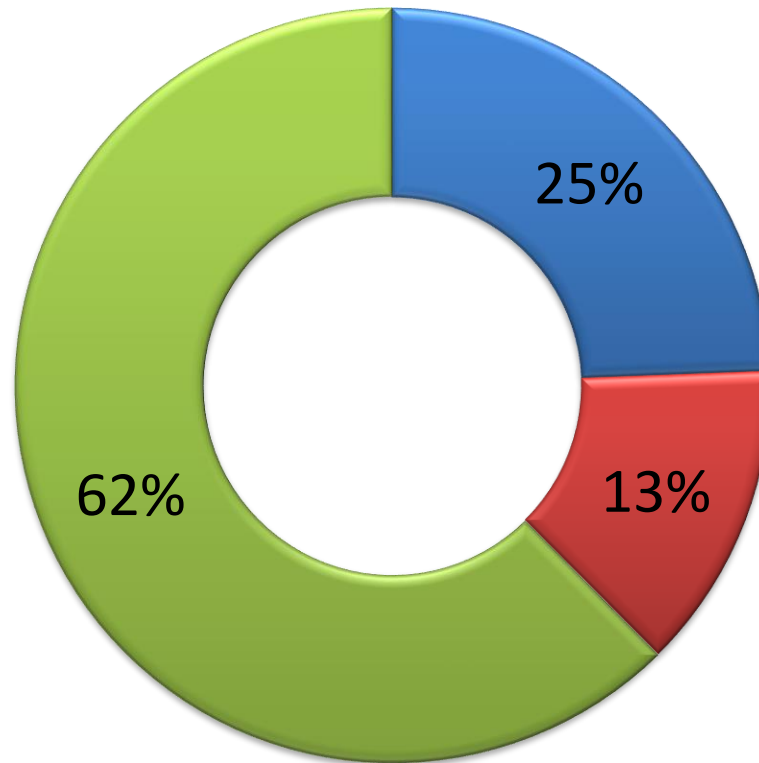


# Q. 8: Did you angle for Striped bass in 2018?

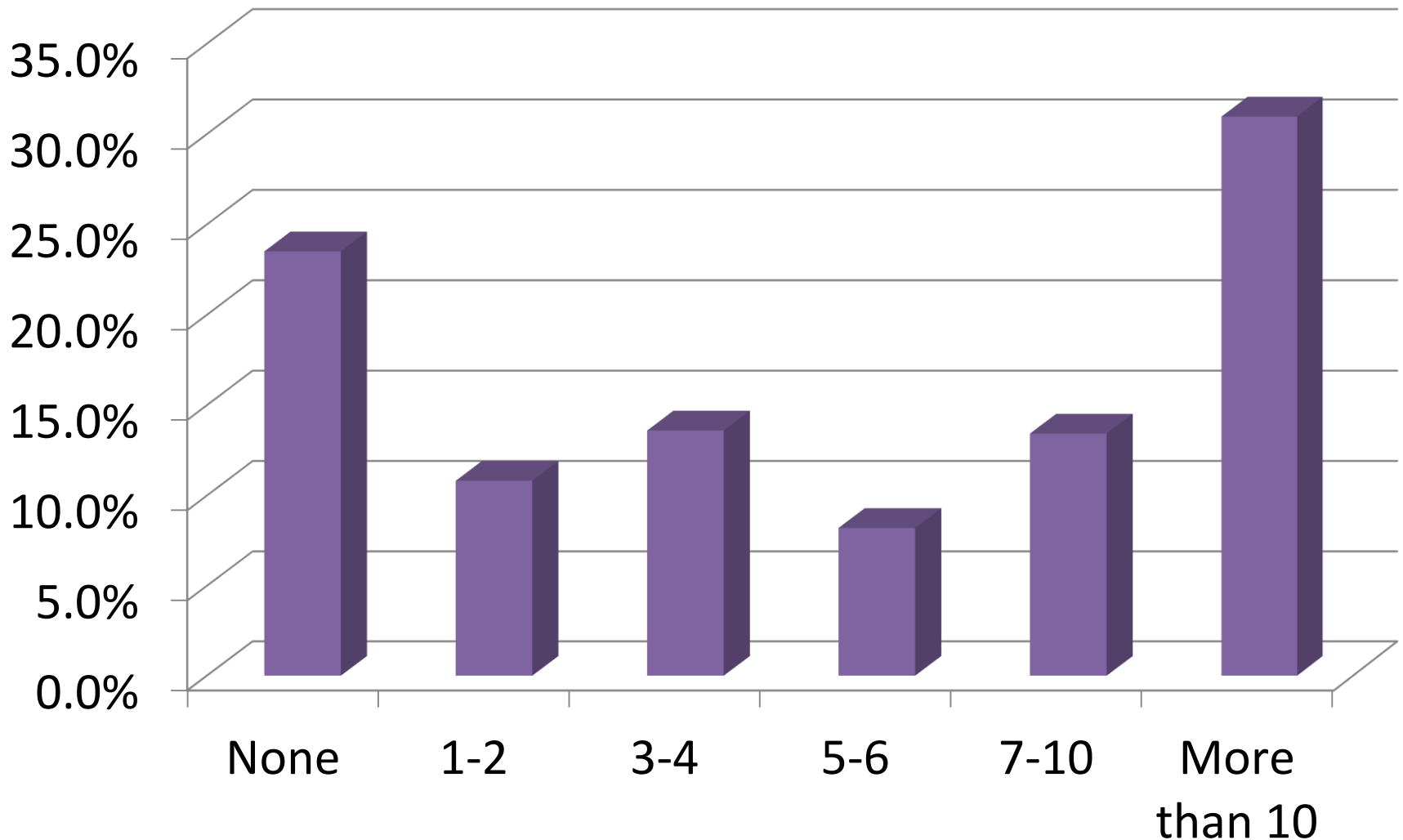


**Q. 9: If yes, how many days did you go angling for Striped bass? (one outing equals one angling day)**

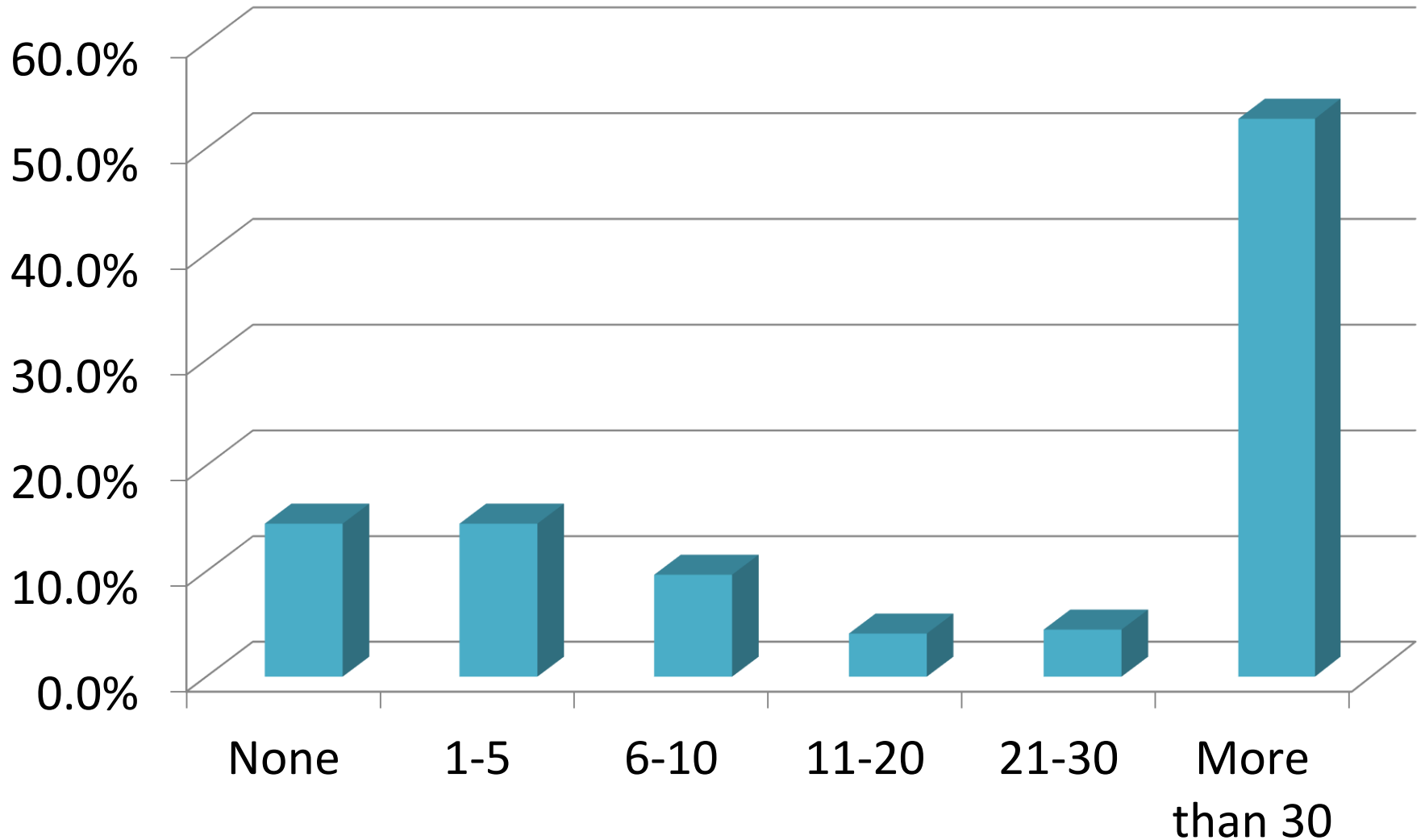
■ 1 to 5   ■ 6 to 10   ■ More than 10



# Q. 10: How many striped bass did you retain in 2018?

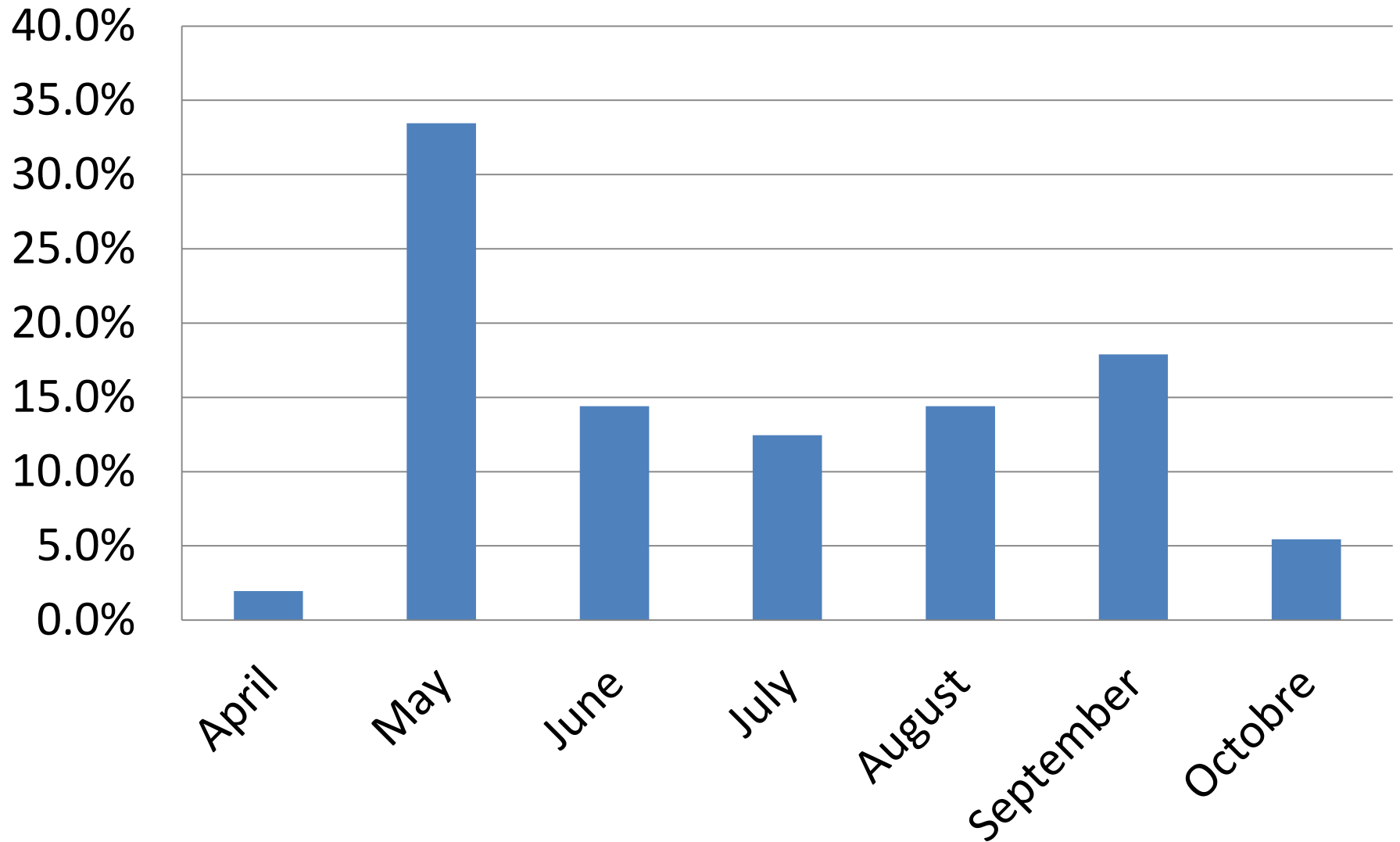


# Q. 11: How many Striped bass did you release in 2018?

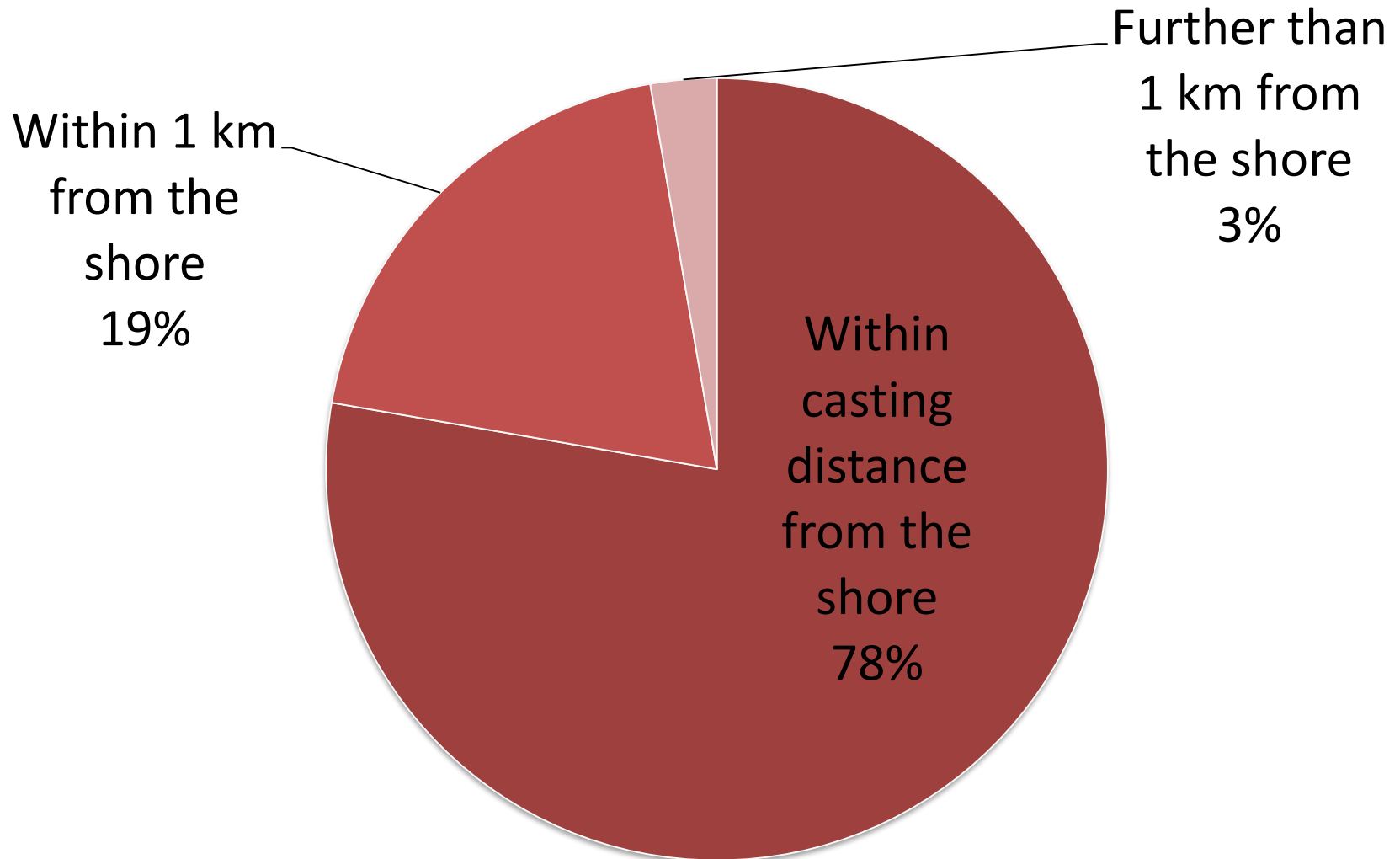




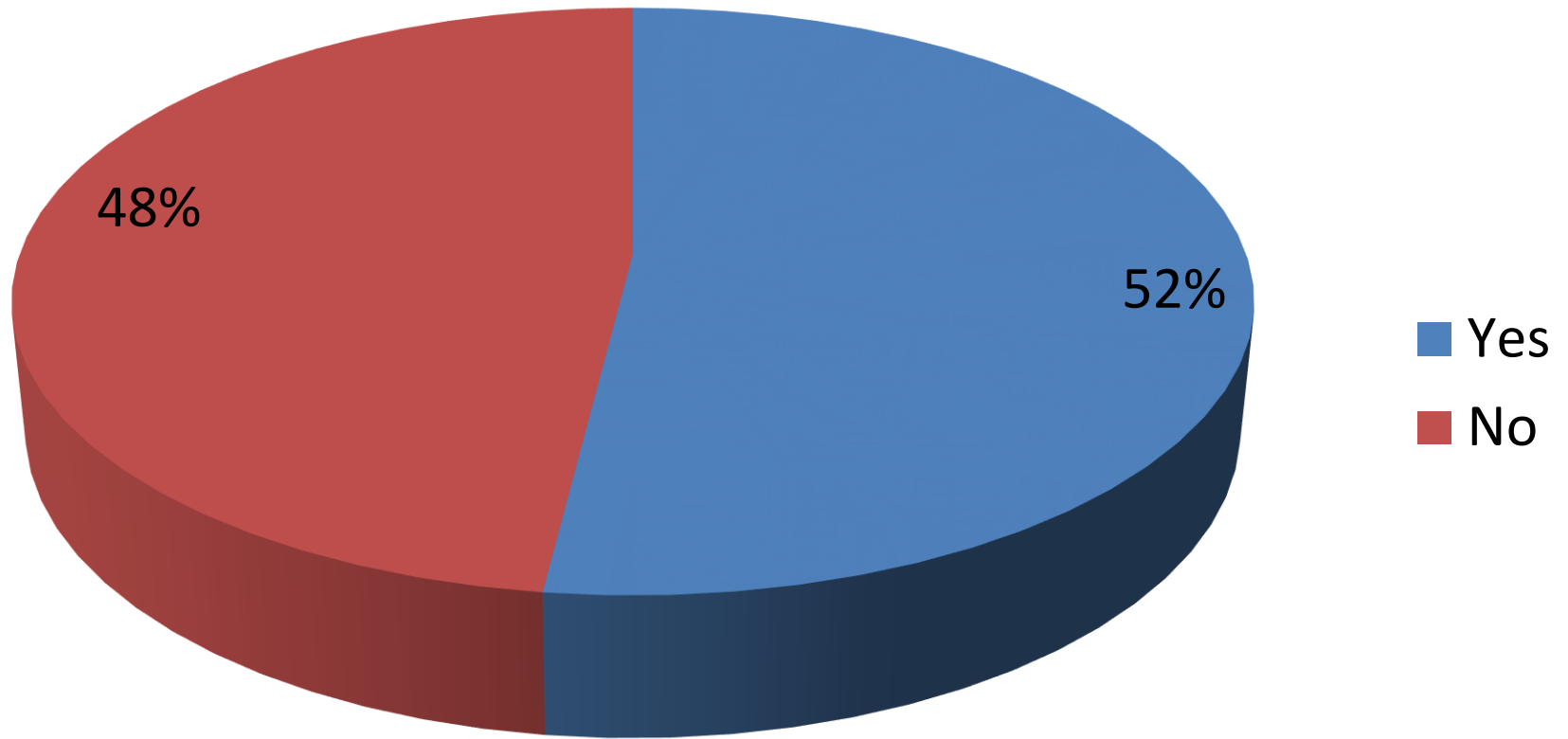
## Q. 12: In what month did you fish with the best results?



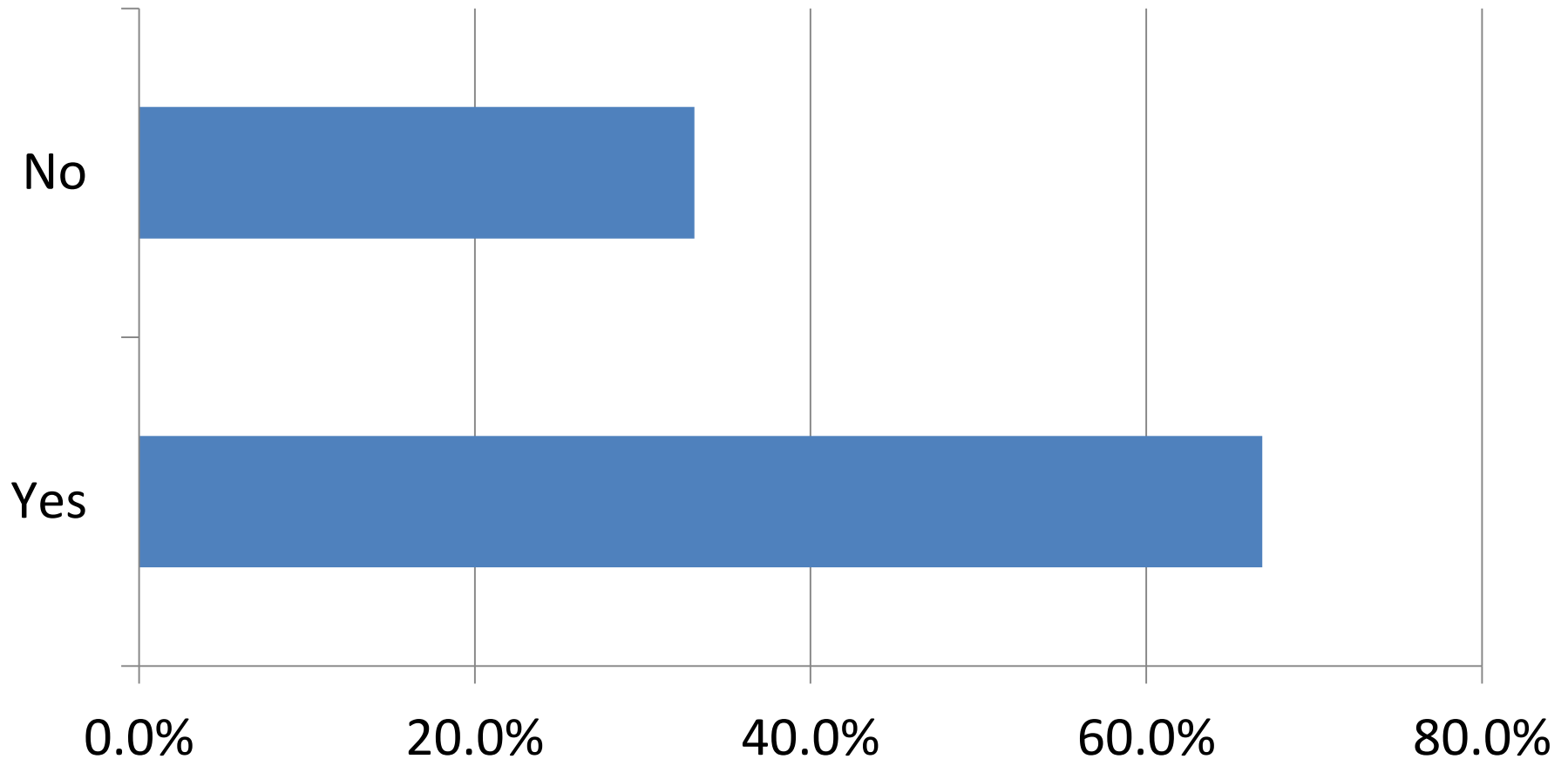
# Q. 13: If you fished coastal areas, how close to the shores did you mostly fish ?



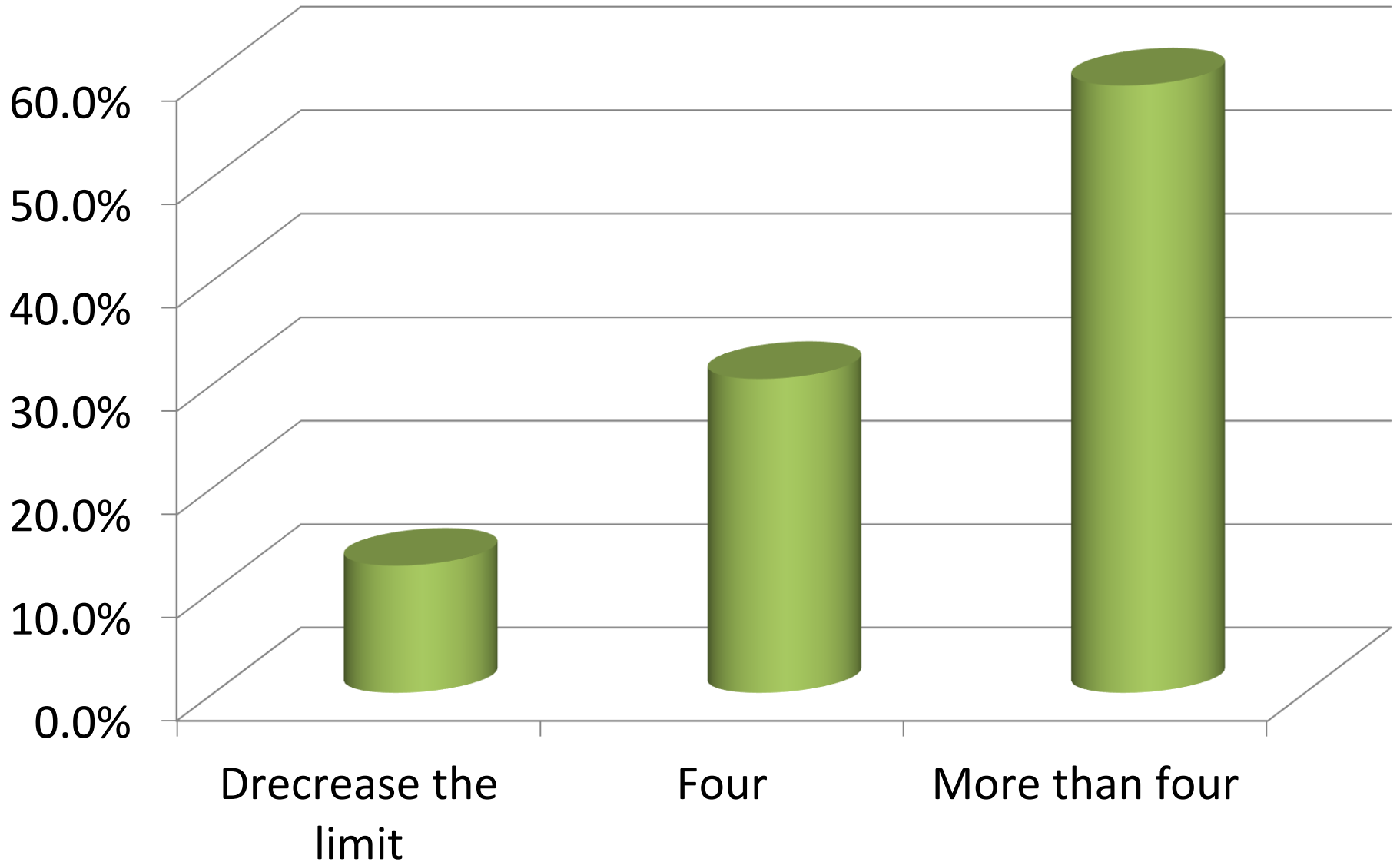
# Q. 14: Did you angle for Atlantic salmon in 2018?



**Q. 15: Should DFO modify the daily bag limit and possession limit in the Gulf Region Striped bass recreational fishery?**



# Q. 16: If you answered yes, what should the bag limit / possession limit be?



## Q. 17: Comments

Minimum 5 per angler per day. Drastic changes are needed. Salmon fishing is near extinct and something needs to be done. Also the retention size should allow the larger spawning fish to be retained, like all other regions in NB.

There should be NO limit on striped bass

Although I feel that the daily bag could be increased I would prefer a conservative approach to such an increase. I also feel that four fish of this size is sufficient to feed a very large family. To maximize the financial benefits of the fishery you need to maximize the fishing days, not the number of fish per day. A four fish limit makes a trip worthwhile.

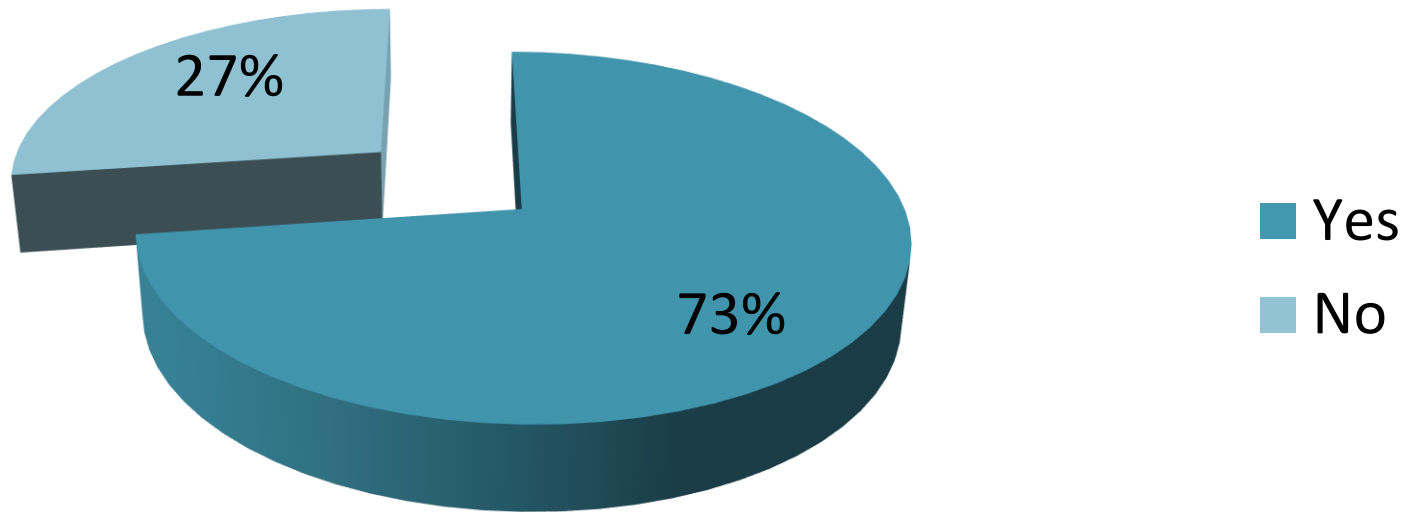
Baby steps, slight increase with increased numbers

Is this a statement or a question? Looks like the retention number for 2019 will be 4 based on the options...so why not keep it at 3 until you see the population estimates next year then adapt the possession limit with a precautionary approach given the excessive retention by many anglers and unknown effects of 50,000 bass removed by the commercial fishery between now and next spring?

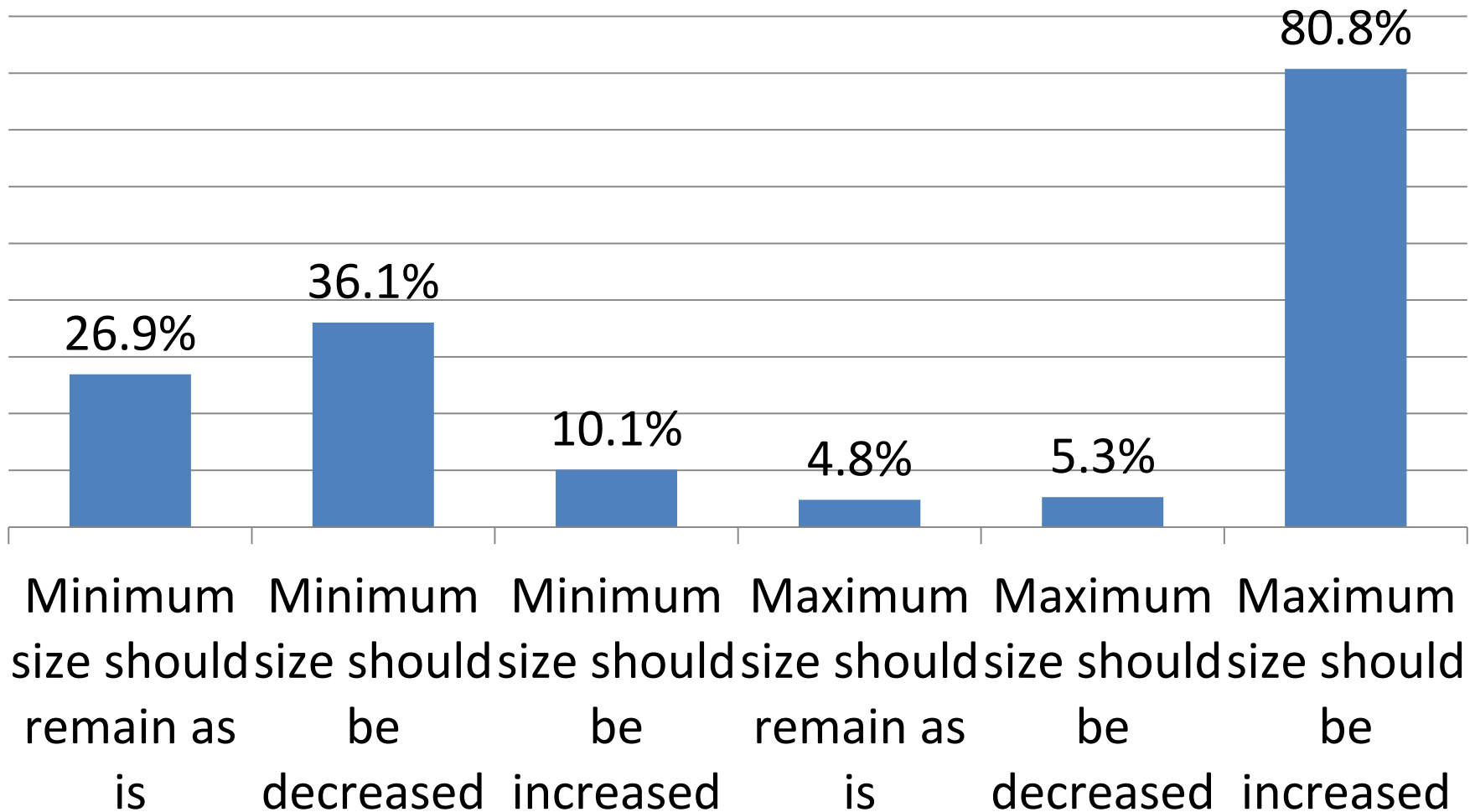
Decrease daily limit to one and one, possessions. Too many people are already keeping over their possessions limits. Increasing daily bag limit will only worsen the possessions dilemma. People are also selling their catches on the black market.

Decrease limit and tighten slot size and increase enforcement.

**Q. 18: For the next Striped bass management plan, should DFO adjust the legal size window (minimum and/or maximum total lengths) for the retention periods during the recreational fishery?**



# Q. 19: If you answered yes, how should the size window be modified? (2 choices maximum)





## Q. 20: Comments

This allows more meat possession to satisfy those who retain under a tag system (note: about increasing minimum legal size)

Why make changes before we can see the full effects can be seen or measures as a result of those changes. Too many adjustments does not paint a clear picture of species

I'm ok with the way it is now really...but one big fish would be nice so even if you were only allowed one bigger one would be great

If the goal is to decrease population the easiest / quickest way is to reduce the amount of large spawners.

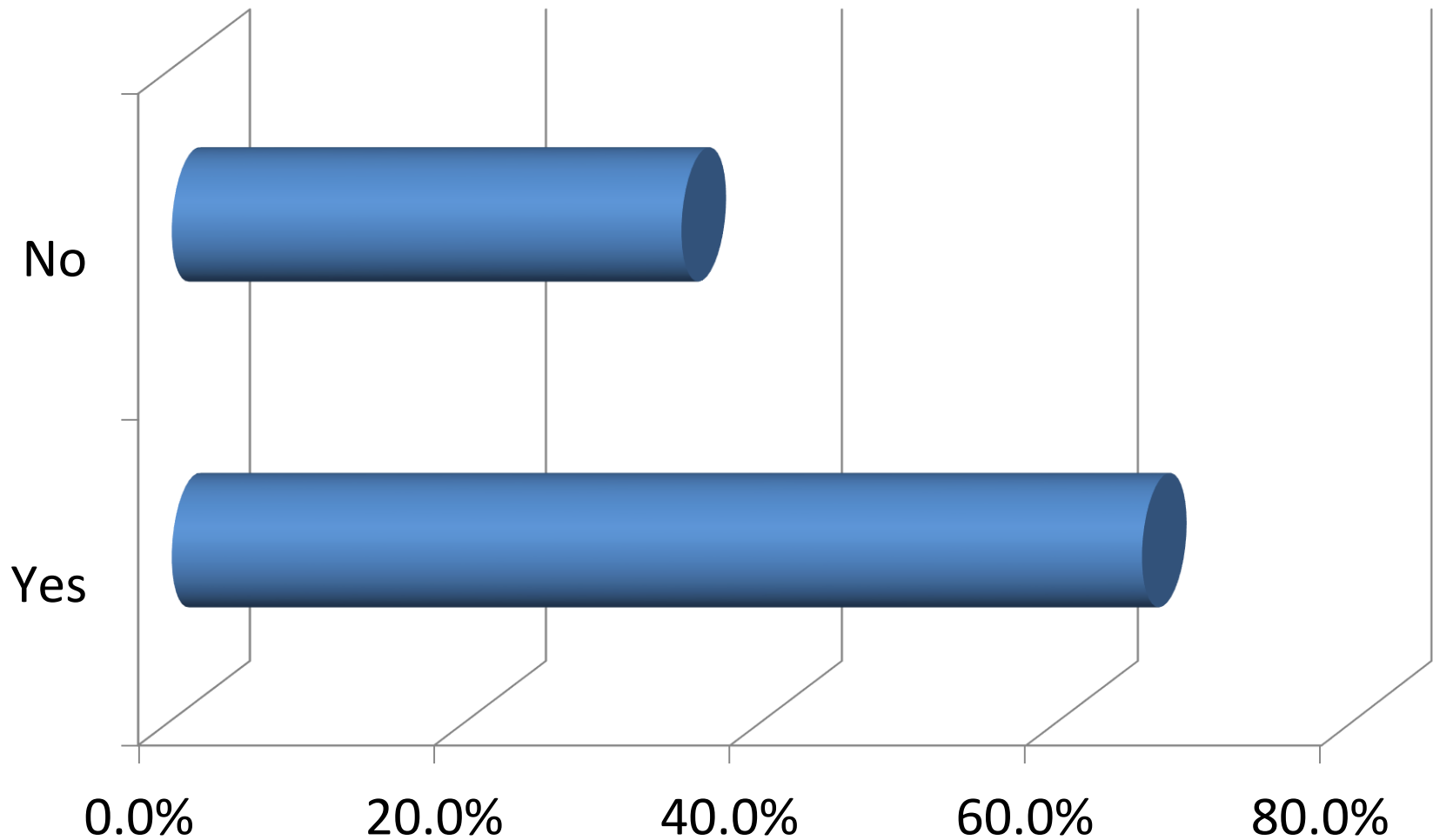
As the regulations currently stand, it is very hard to catch a fish that actually falls within the retention window. Most fish are either too big or too small to keep.

I would like to see a tag system, 2 bass of any size could be retained with a tag.

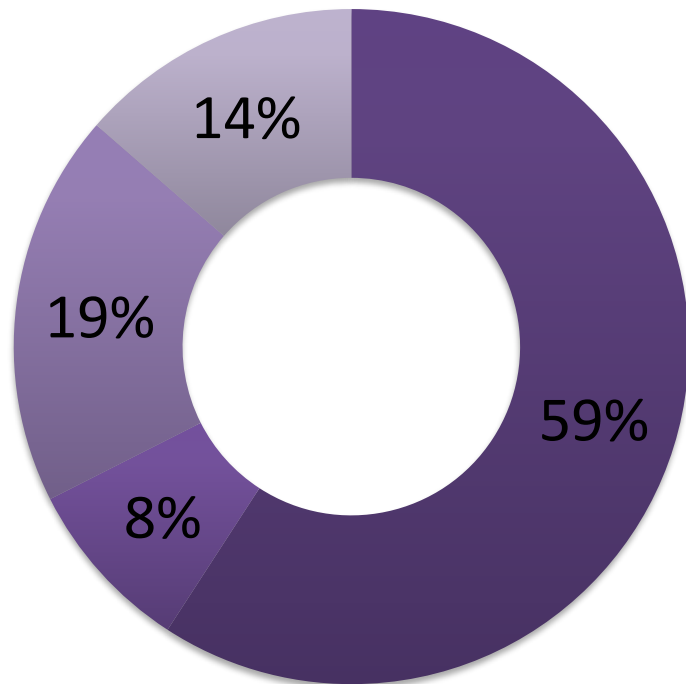
It's absolutely imperative above all else the slot limit be maintained to ensure a healthy spread of sizes in the system. There are not a tremendous number of world class sized fish in the system.

The size limit is fine - as pointed out, the larger fish are more valuable as spawners. I think they need to be kept to protect the resource. Increases should only be considered if the science and populations will support it, not just because a lot of people may want it.

# Q. 21: Do you think management measures should be implemented to protect the spawning of Striped bass?



## Q. 22: If you answered yes, what protection measure should be implemented?



- The limited portion of the Northwest Miramichi River where spawning occurs should be closed to all angling during the spawning period
- No retention angling should be allowed anywhere during the spawning period (catch and release only)
- No retention angling should be allowed during the spawning period (catch and release only), but only in the portion of the Northwest Miramichi River where spawning occurs
- Other

## Q. 23: Comments

Population has increased dramatically with no protection measures in place for years. Yes there is increased pressure but there is also a population boom and an ecosystem out of balance (...).

Keep it same, seems to work well

Keep this valuable fishery going to all sportsmen

Because it works for us on the bay of Fundy during spawning in the stewiacke river. (about catch and release only)

The actions used in 2017 and 2018 have been very successful at protecting the bass while letting anglers enjoy the season.

We need to conserve this fishery, so all should be done do conserve it, if that means closing the Miramichi river for a period of time to ensure its continued survival then so be it.. this should have been done 3 decades ago

Too many striped bass and anglers should be encouraged to harvest them as well as forbidden to release them including in high concentrations including in spawning areas. Striped bass are one of the factors that have decimated Atlantic salmon.

**Q. 24: Please indicate in the comments box below if there is any particular conservation concern or issue not mentioned in this survey and that should be addressed in order to improve the sustainable management of the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Striped bass population**

Should maintain commercial harvest levels for several years to accurately monitor changes in population

Stop any commercial fishery of striped bass (...)

We should allow artificial baits with treble hooks and ban the use of dead baits like herring or mackerel just like the regulations in Québec. The population is in great shape and it gives them a chance, using dead baits is cheating.

We need more third party, unbiased research. Research by the MSA is incredibly bias towards saving salmon and also is heavily funded by a large tree growing company. It also Needs to have a “problem” to get all those large grants. Research by DFO is bias to keep the political powers happy. DFO also does a very poor job at keeping the people in the know on issues related to the striped bass. Main example: the commercial fishery now in place in a First Nation. Little to no consultation done with New Brunswickers. Not acceptable. We need real, untainted, unbiased valid data. Otherwise the propaganda machine will continue to spew its distorted views of reality

There are currently a number of systems on PEI that meet the estuary size/upwelling criteria necessary for successful spawning that include the Hillsborough, West, Morell and Midgell Rivers. There are also a number of systems in Nova Scotia that match this spawning criteria. Maybe some mark recapture projects or acoustic tagging would be a good idea. Could you perhaps tag some fish in the Chaleur Bay region, or throughout PEI and NS to see if they actually return to the Miramichi in the spring to spawn?

## Q. 24: Comments

The two Striped Bass that I Released were hooked as by-Catch while Salmon Fishing. I'm not sure if this information is being accurately collected at present

I am pleased to see the Eel Ground commercial fishery and increased recreational harvest opportunities for striped bass over the previous few years. These are effective ways to provide opportunity while reducing the stock to achieve some level of balance with salmon and other stocks like smelt and gaspereau. The impact on the smolt run is staggering and needs attention from DFO. If you claim it's not the striped bass, then what are you doing to figure out why smolt survival is so low through the estuary since 2011 when the bass population exploded? It needs your attention.

The Miramichi striped bass fishery is world-class. I purchased a boat this spring from bass pro, and have traveled with family and friends several times to the area (Ritchie's wharf/Redbank, etc) to have a great day of fishing. I would support any action that ensures this fishery stays strong for many years. In 2019 I will again be using many vacation days to spend time fishing stripers on the Miramichi. I will be staying overnight, buying fuel, food, etc. with family and friends. My biggest concern is that by allowing the commercial fishery, we will lose it all. The success of striped bass has made for what I think is some of the best fishing in the world, and I want it to continue so that my kids can enjoy it. Plus: striped bass are delicious.

***Questions?***  
***Comments?***