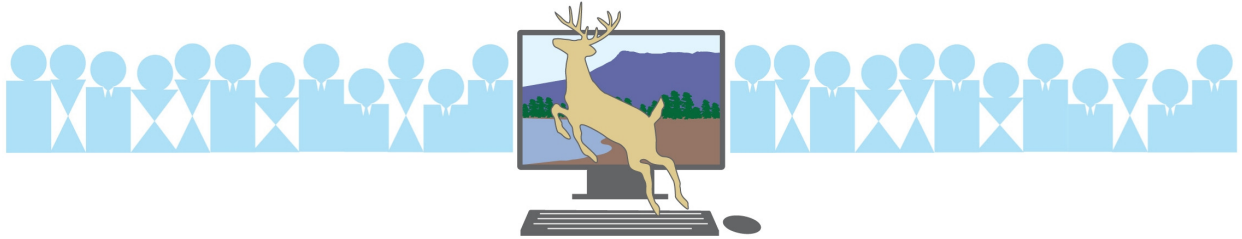


Responsive Management™



MAINE ANGLERS' PARTICIPATION IN AND OPINIONS ON FRESHWATER FISHING

Conducted for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

by Responsive Management

2016

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (the Department) to determine anglers' participation, practices, and opinions regarding freshwater fishing in the state. The study entailed a telephone survey of resident and nonresident licensed anglers in Maine, age 16 years or older.

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Department.

The sample of Maine licensed anglers was obtained from the Department, consisting of those who purchased a fishing license from 2012 to 2015. After a probability-based random sample was selected, Responsive Management called selected anglers to administer the survey. In the cases where telephone numbers were not available, 500 anglers were randomly selected out of this group (all of the original random selection that did not have telephone numbers) and were sent hard copy letters that included a toll-free number. This number allowed those who had been contacted by letter to call in to the Survey Center where they could take the survey at that time or schedule another time for the interview.

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 pm, Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. The survey was conducted in January and February 2016.

The sample included resident and nonresident anglers, so the results were weighted to ensure that the reported results are representative of the proportions of resident and nonresident anglers in the sample population. Likewise, the results among resident anglers were weighted among four geographic regions to ensure that the proportions of the regions in the sample matched the actual population distribution of the state.

In all, 1,205 completed interviews were collected in the proportions shown below.

Completed Surveys.

Location	Completed Surveys
Northern Region	200
Downeast Region	200
Central Region	203
Southern Region	202
Nonresident	400
Total	1,205

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

OPEN WATER FISHING

Participation and Days

- Three-quarters (75%) of anglers went fishing during Maine’s 2015 open water fishing season, 22% open water fished in the past 5 years but not in 2015, and 3% did not open water fish in the past 5 years.
- Anglers who fished during the 2015 open water season participated an average of 13.3 days.
 - This number was lowest among nonresidents, who had a mean participation of 9.2 days.

Open Water Species

- Anglers who fished open waters in 2015 most often fished for trout (58% fished for this species; this number includes all types of trout except Sunapee and blueback), followed by black bass (48%; includes largemouth and smallmouth bass), and landlocked salmon (22%).
 - Compared to the other regions, anglers who reside in the Northern Region least often fished for black bass (27%) and most often fished for trout (75%).
- Those who open water fished in 2015 were asked, regardless of the county where they open water fish, which inland freshwater species they most *prefer* to fish for in open water season.

Results from this question mirror those from the previous question of which species were *actually* fished, suggesting that most anglers are able to fish for their species of choice. Half (50%) of open water anglers prefer to fish for trout; this percentage reflects all the listed types of trout combined (except Sunapee and blueback), but eastern brook trout is by far the most popular type (37%). Other species popular with anglers are black bass (35%, which includes largemouth and smallmouth bass) and landlocked salmon (15%).

- Regional analysis shows that nonresidents most often prefer to fish for black bass (45%) and least often prefer to fish for trout (37%).

Designated Catch-and-Release Waters

- Of those who open water fished in 2015, 12% fished in designated catch-and-release waters, with little variation among the regions and nonresidents.
 - Open water season anglers most likely to fish these waters are females (15%), those with an education level of a bachelor's degree or higher (15%), and Central Region residents (14%).
 - Anglers who fished in designated catch-and-release waters participated an average of 7 days.
 - Anglers who reside in the Downeast Region participated the most days (mean of 9) and those who reside in the Northern Region participated the fewest days (mean of 4.5).
 - In contrast to the low number of anglers who fished in designated catch-and-release waters, a strong majority (84%) of open water anglers practiced catch-and-release fishing of their own volition (that is, they were not required by law).

Fall Open Water Season

- About a quarter (27%) of open water anglers fished during the fall open water season in the past 5 years (fall season is from October through December).
 - Regional analysis shows this percentage to be highest among open water anglers who reside in the Southern Region (32%) and lowest among those who reside in the Downeast Region (21%).

- Those who fished in the fall season most often did so in lakes/ponds (49%) or in a combination of lakes/ponds and rivers/streams (30%), with only 20% who fished solely in rivers or streams.
 - Fall season anglers from the Downeast Region most often fished in lakes and ponds only (56% did so) and those from the Northern Region least often fished in lakes and ponds only (32%).
 - Those who fished in lakes and ponds during the fall open water season, on average, spent 45% of their time fishing in lakes and ponds.

Ratings of Open Water Fishing Season

- Most anglers who open water fished gave favorable ratings to the quality of the open water fishing during the 2015 season: 22% rated it excellent and 48% rated it good. At the other end of the spectrum, 21% rated the quality fair and 8% rated it poor.
 - Northern Region anglers gave the lowest ratings (42% rated the quality as fair or poor). Other groups more likely to give low ratings are those with a household income under \$60,000 (34%) and those in the Southern Region (33%).

Species Fished in Open Water Season

Anglers who fished during the 2015 open water fishing season were asked a series of follow-up questions on the species they fished. Species that were not fished by at least 10 anglers in the survey are not included in this section; likewise, species fished by fewer than 30 anglers are not included in regional analysis.

Black Bass

- Those who fished for black bass (which includes smallmouth and largemouth bass) in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Cumberland County (16% fished black bass in this county), York County (14%), and Penobscot County (13%).
- The method most often used when fishing black bass was spin fishing (56% of black bass anglers used this method), followed by bait fishing (35%).

- Those who fished for black bass believe, on average, that a *quality* black bass needs to be a minimum size of 14 inches and that a *trophy* black bass needs to be a minimum size of 20 inches.

Crappie

- Those who fished for crappie in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in York County (39% fished there), Penobscot County (34%), and Kennebec County (15%).
- The method most often used when fishing crappie was spin fishing (70% used this method), followed by bait fishing (50%).

Northern Pike

- Those who fished for northern pike in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (42% fished there), followed by Androscoggin and Penobscot Counties (16% each).
- The method most often used when fishing northern pike was spin fishing (55%), followed by trolling (31%).

Pickerel

- Compared to other species, fishing for pickerel was fairly evenly distributed among Maine counties during the 2015 open water fishing season. Most pickerel fishing occurred in Penobscot County (16%), York County (14%), and Hancock County (12%).
- The method most often used when fishing pickerel was spin fishing (55%), followed by trolling (31%).
 - Trolling was practiced far more by anglers who reside in the Northern Region than the other groups.

Perch

- Those who fished for perch in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Penobscot County (20%), Kennebec County (14%), and Somerset County (12%).
- The method most often used when fishing perch was bait fishing (50% used this method), followed by spin fishing (43%) and trolling (30%).
- Those who fished for perch believe, on average, that a *quality* perch needs to be a minimum size of 9 inches and that a *trophy* perch needs to be a minimum size of 13 inches.

Landlocked Salmon

- Those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Aroostook County (16%) and Piscataquis County (15%).
- The method most often used when fishing landlocked salmon was trolling (64%), followed by fly fishing (35%).
- Those who fished for landlocked salmon believe, on average, that a *quality* landlocked salmon needs to be a minimum size of 16 inches and that a *trophy* landlocked salmon needs to be a minimum size of 23 inches.

Sunfish

- Those who fished for sunfish in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Cumberland County (31%), Hancock County (29%), and York County (29%).
- The method most often used when fishing sunfish was bait fishing (56%), followed by spin fishing (35%) and fly fishing (24%).

Eastern Brook Trout

- All Maine counties had at least some anglers fishing for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water fishing season, with the species most often fished in Piscataquis County (16%), Aroostook County (14%), and Penobscot County (13%).
- The method most often used when fishing eastern brook trout was fly fishing (42%), followed by bait fishing (36%), trolling (24%), and spin fishing (24%).
- Those who fished for eastern brook trout believe, on average, that a *quality* eastern brook trout needs to be a minimum size of 13 inches and that a *trophy* eastern brook trout needs to be a minimum size of 21 inches.
- Those who fished for eastern brook trout were evenly divided between mostly targeting wild fish or targeting both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (47% each). Only 4% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region were the least likely to mostly target wild fish.

Lake Trout

- Those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Cumberland County (22%), Piscataquis County (18%), and Aroostook County (12%).
- The method most often used when fishing lake trout, by far, was trolling (71% used this method).
- Those who fished for lake trout believe, on average, that a *quality* lake trout needs to be a minimum size of 18 inches and that a *trophy* lake trout needs to be a minimum size of 26 inches.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region stated larger mean sizes than those from the other groups.

- Those who fished for lake trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (63%), while 30% mostly targeted wild fish. Only 5% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Central Region were the least likely to mostly target wild fish and the most likely to mostly target hatchery fish.

Brown Trout

- Those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Oxford County (18%), York County (18%), and Cumberland County (17%).
- The methods most often used when fishing brown trout were fly fishing (41%), trolling (38%), bait fishing (25%), and spin fishing (21%).
- Those who fished for brown trout believe, on average, that a *quality* brown trout needs to be a minimum size of 14 inches and that a *trophy* brown trout needs to be a minimum size of 20 inches.
- Those who fished for brown trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (57%), while 31% mostly targeted wild fish and 11% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region were the least likely to mostly target wild fish and the most likely to mostly target hatchery fish.

Rainbow Trout

- Those who fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Oxford County (25%) and York County (13%).
- The methods most often used when fishing rainbow trout were bait fishing and fly fishing (39% each), followed by trolling (23%) and spin fishing (21%).

- Those who fished for rainbow trout believe, on average, that a *quality* rainbow trout needs to be a minimum size of 13 inches and that a *trophy* rainbow trout needs to be a minimum size of 19 inches.
- Those who fished for rainbow trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (58%), while 27% mostly targeted wild fish and 14% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern Region were the most likely to mostly target wild fish.

Any Species/Non-specific

- Anglers who did not target a specific species, but said they fished for anything in the 2015 open water fishing season, most often fished in Penobscot County (19%), Piscataquis County (15%), and Hancock County (11%).
- The method most often used by those who fished for any (non-specific) species is bait fishing (52%), followed by spin fishing (29%), fly fishing (17%), and trolling (16%).

ICE FISHING

- About a quarter of anglers (23%) went ice fishing in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season, 19% ice fished within the past 5 years but not in 2015, and 59% did not ice fish in the past 5 years.
 - Ice fishing participation was lowest among nonresidents.
- Anglers who fished during the 2015 ice fishing season participated an average of 8.5 days.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern and Downeast Regions participated an average of 11.0 days, followed by the Southern Region (mean of 9.2 days), the Central Region (mean of 7.5 days), and nonresidents (mean of 6.2 days).
- Anglers who ice fished in 2015 most often fished for trout (64% fished for this species; this number includes all types of trout except for Sunapee and blueback), followed by landlocked

salmon (31%) and black bass (16%; includes largemouth and smallmouth bass). A substantial number ice fished for anything/no particular species (12%).

- Compared to the other regions and nonresidents, anglers who reside in the Northern Region least often fished for black bass. Percentages who fished for trout are consistent between the groups.
- Those who ice fished in 2015 were asked, regardless of the county where they ice fish, which inland freshwater species they most *prefer* to fish for in ice fishing season. Results from this question generally mirror those from the preceding question of which species were *actually* fished, suggesting that most anglers are able to fish for their species of choice. However, note that percentages in this preference question are slightly lower than those from the participation question for nearly every species. A majority (59%) of ice fishing anglers prefer to fish for trout; this percentage reflects all the listed types of trout combined (except Sunapee and blueback), with eastern brook trout being the most popular type (33%). Landlocked salmon is also popular with anglers (27%).
- Regional analysis shows that nonresidents most often prefer to fish for black bass (45%), whereas anglers who reside in the Northern Region demonstrated no interest in bass.
- A majority of anglers who ice fished gave a rating of excellent or good to the quality of the ice fishing during the 2015 season (a combined 61% rated it excellent or good). At the other end of the spectrum, 25% rated the quality fair and 13% rated it poor.
- Anglers who reside in the Northern gave lower ratings than those from the other regions and nonresidents.
 - Ice fishing anglers most likely to give low ratings (fair or poor) are females (58% rated the quality fair or poor), those who reside in the Northern Region (57%), those with a household income under \$60,000 (45%), and those from a large city or urban area (45%).

Species Fished in Ice Fishing Season

Anglers who fished during the 2015 ice water fishing season were asked a series of follow-up questions on the species they fished. As with the open water season section, species that were

fished by fewer than 10 anglers in the survey are not included in this section and species fished by fewer than 30 anglers are not included in region/nonresident crosstabulations.

Anglers were asked the minimum size they would consider to be a quality fish or trophy fish for certain species; these results are combined for the seasons (open water and ice fishing) and are shown in the open water section.

Black Bass

- Those who fished for black bass (which includes smallmouth and largemouth bass) in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (25%), York County (20%), and Cumberland County (18%).
- Ice fishing anglers targeting black bass mostly used traps/tip-ups (90% used this method), while 26% used jigging.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region most often used jigging.

Northern Pike

- Those who fished for northern pike in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (39%) and Androscoggin County (35%), with little activity in the other counties.
- All ice fishing anglers (100%) targeting northern pike used traps/tip-ups, while 41% used jigging.

Pickerel

- Those who fished for pickerel in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Penobscot County (28%) and York County (16%).
- All ice fishing anglers (100%) targeting pickerel used traps/tip-ups, while 24% used jigging.

Perch

- Those who fished for perch in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in York County (20%), Aroostook County (19%), and Kennebec County (15%).
 - Anglers who reside in the Central Region exclusively ice fished for perch in Kennebec County.

- Ice fishing anglers targeting perch were divided between using traps/tip-ups (81%) and jigging (68%).
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region and nonresident anglers used jigging more often than traps/tip-ups.

Landlocked Salmon

- Those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Aroostook County (24%), Piscataquis County (15%), and Penobscot County (14%).

- All ice fishing anglers (100%) targeting landlocked salmon used traps/tip-ups, while 22% used jigging.

Smelt

- Those who fished for smelt in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Aroostook County (39%), Androscoggin County (20%), and Kennebec County (20%).

- Ice fishing anglers targeting smelt mostly used jigging (72% used this method), while 28% used some other method. (Smelt anglers did not use traps/tip-ups.)

- Smelt ice fishing anglers mostly used the smelt for consumption (72%), with 20% who used smelt for both consumption and bait. Only 5% used smelt for bait only. (Note that this question was only asked about smelt in the survey.)

Eastern Brook Trout

- Those who fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (18%), Penobscot County (18%), and Aroostook County (16%).
- Nearly all ice fishing anglers targeting eastern brook trout used traps/tip-ups (98%), while 23% used jigging.
- Those who fished for eastern brook trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (61%), while 24% mostly targeted wild fish and 15% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Downeast and Central Regions were the most likely to target hatchery fish.

Lake Trout

- Those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Cumberland County (17%) and Piscataquis County (16%). However, this activity was somewhat evenly distributed across most Maine counties.
- Nearly all ice fishing anglers targeting lake trout used traps/tip-ups (94%), while a third (33%) used jigging.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region most often used jigging.
- Those who fished for lake trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (73%), while 27% mostly targeted wild fish. No lake trout anglers mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Downeast Region were the most likely to target wild fish.

Brown Trout

- Those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (32%), York County (14%), and Oxford County (13%).

- Nearly all ice fishing anglers targeting brown trout used traps/tip-ups (98%), while a quarter (26%) used jigging.
 - Nonresidents used traps/tip-ups and jigging in equal numbers (67% used each method).
- Those who fished for brown trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (74%), while 16% mostly targeted wild fish and 9% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region were the most likely to target hatchery fish.

Any Species/Non-specific

- Anglers who did not target a specific species, but said they fished for anything in the 2015 ice fishing season, most often fished in Kennebec County (26%), Penobscot County (18%), and Cumberland County (14%).
- Nearly all anglers who ice fished for any (non-specific) species used traps/tip-ups (99%), while 14% used jigging.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region were the only ones to use jigging for non-specific species.

GENERAL ATTITUDES TOWARD FISHING IN MAINE

- Those who fished during both open water and ice fishing seasons were asked which they enjoy the most. A plurality (42%) responded that they enjoy both seasons equally, with more who prefer open water fishing season (37%) than ice fishing season (19%).
 - Regional analysis shows that anglers who reside in the Downeast Region are the least likely to prefer open water fishing season (24%) and those who reside in the Central Region are the least likely to prefer ice fishing season (11%).

Anglers were instructed to answer the remainder of the survey questions thinking about their fishing in Maine in general, regardless of whether they participate in open water fishing, ice fishing, or both.

Motivations for Fishing

- Anglers were asked to name their primary reason for fishing in Maine over the past 5 years from the following six items: for the sport, for a trophy, to be close to nature, for relaxation, for the meat, or to be with family and friends. The top responses are for relaxation and to be with family and friends (both named by 31% of anglers) and for the sport (25%). Only 4% selected “to catch fresh fish for food,” which seems to correlate well with the high percentage of anglers who voluntarily practice catch-and-release fishing.
- A majority of anglers (53%) say their fishing activity has remained about the same over the past 5 years. There is an even divide between those who say it increased (23%) and decreased (24%).
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region least often said their activity has remained about the same (40%), but equal numbers say it has increased and decreased (30% each).
 - Those most likely to say their fishing activity has increased over the past 5 years are Southern Region anglers (30%) and those younger than the median age of 49 (27%).
 - Those most likely to say their fishing activity has decreased over the past 5 years are anglers who reside in the Southern Region (30%) and Northern Region (29%).
- Half of anglers (50%) say nothing takes away from their fishing satisfaction or causes them not to fish as much as they would like. Otherwise, lack of time was the greatest obstacle—a reason over which agencies have little sway.
 - Nonresidents most often said nothing takes away from their fishing satisfaction or participation in Maine.

Fisheries Management

- Most anglers (85%) agree that Maine’s freshwater fishery resources are currently well managed by the Department; 57% *strongly* agree with the statement.
 - There is little overall difference between the regions and nonresidents, although there is some variation between strong and moderate agreement.
 - Those most likely to disagree (strongly or moderately) with the statement are anglers who reside in the Northern Region (13%) and Central Region (8%).

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- Anglers who fished for trout were informed that a higher bag limit may help increase the size of the average trout in waters where the trout population is high. They were asked, if the average size of trout from their favorite fishing water has declined due to a high population, would they support or oppose having a higher bag limit on trout in those waters. Opinions were divided, with more anglers expressing support (55%) than opposition (34%).
 - Support for the higher trout bag limit is lowest among anglers who reside in the Southern Region and nonresident anglers.
 - Those most likely to strongly or moderately support the higher limit are anglers who reside in the Central Region (64%), female anglers (60%), and anglers who reside in the Northern Region (60%).

 - The survey presented a series of regulations used by the Department to reduce the number of fish that anglers keep and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality. Respondents were asked if they support or oppose each one; seven regulations were presented.
 - There are majorities in support of all seven regulations. At the top are waters that are catch-and-release only and low bag limits.
 - The regional analysis shows that support for catch-and-release waters is highest among nonresident anglers and support for low bag limits is highest among anglers who reside in the Southern Region.

 - The survey next presented a series of items and asked anglers to rate how much of a priority each should be for the Department, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all a priority and 10 is an extremely high priority.
 - Anglers rated environmental interests above human interests. The top-rated priority is managing waters for the health of native fish populations where possible (mean rating of 8.7 out of 10), followed by managing waters for the health of threatened and endangered wildlife species, even if it impacts recreational fishing opportunities (8.0).

Factors When Planning Fishing Trips

- The survey presented a series of factors and asked anglers to rate how important each is on deciding where to fish in Maine. For each factor, anglers rated it from 0 (not at all important) to 10 (extremely important).
 - The top-rated factor is “that the area offers solitude and pristine views of nature” (mean rating of 7.9 out of 10), followed by “that the water body offers the type of fishing that I prefer” (7.7).
 - Results are generally consistent between the regions, although nonresidents gave slightly higher ratings to the top two responses.

- Most anglers (79%) agree that viewsapes are an important factor when fishing ponds in remote areas of Maine; 49% *strongly* agree.
 - Overall agreement is generally consistent between the regions, although nonresidents most often *strongly* agree with the statement.

- Anglers were asked about their levels of awareness of Maine’s fish stocking program (before taking this survey): 29% were very aware, 38% were somewhat aware, 17% were a little aware, and 16% were not at all aware.
 - Awareness of Maine’s fish stocking program is fairly consistent among the Maine regions and is lowest among nonresidents.

- Finally in this section, anglers were asked how often they use the information that the Department provides on stocking locations to help plan fishing trips: 6% said always, 13% said frequently, 19% said sometimes, 27% said rarely, and 36% said they never use the information. In other words, a majority of anglers rarely or never use the Department’s fish stocking information.

FISHING ACCESS

- The survey presented a series of location types and asked anglers how often they use each to access the waters they fish in Maine.
 - Anglers most often use public boat launches (45% always or frequently use this), public land (44%), and a public road next to water (43%).
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region are the most likely (always or frequently) to use public boat launches (57%).

- Most anglers (91%) did not experience any problems accessing waters during the last season they fished in Maine.
 - The small percentage that did have access problems experienced these problems with lakes and ponds more often than with rivers and streams.
 - Those who had access problems were asked how often they were able to resolve the issues. In the continuum from “always” to “never,” the results are nearly evenly distributed.
 - Access problems were most often experienced in Cumberland County (16%), Oxford County (15%), and York County (15%).

- A solid majority of anglers (69%) say Maine fishing access has stayed about the same in the past 5 years. Slightly more anglers say it has gotten better (13%) than worse (9%).

- Anglers much more often agree (67%) than disagree (13%) that there are an adequate number of state owned boat ramps in Maine.
 - Nonresidents are the least likely to agree with the statement. They do not disagree more, but selected “don’t know” much more often than the regions (residents).

- Anglers mostly gave favorable ratings to the overall condition of boat ramps in Maine, with 12% rating the condition excellent and 49% rating it good. At the other end of the scale, 23% rated it fair and 3% rated it poor.
 - Nonresidents answered “don’t know” much more often than the regions (residents), thereby resulting in lower percentages in most of the qualitative responses.

ATTITUDES TOWARD FISHING REGULATIONS IN MAINE

- Anglers were asked how often they look for information about fishing regulations in Maine, on a continuum from “always” to “never.” A strong majority (78%) of anglers always, frequently, or sometimes look for information on regulations, compared to 22% who rarely or never do. These responses illustrate that most anglers try to keep abreast of fishing regulations.
 - Nonresidents most often responded “rarely” and “never.”

- Those who responded with anything other than “never” to the previous question were presented with a series of five information sources, and were asked how often they use each source to find out about fishing regulations in Maine (again on the continuum from “always” to “never”).
 - Anglers most often use the Department’s fishing regulations book, followed by the Department’s website. This is true for all regions.

- A solid majority of anglers (73%) think the number of fishing regulations in Maine is about right, with 20% who think there are too many regulations and only 2% who think there are too few.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern Region most often think there are too many regulations (34%).

- Similarly, a strong majority of anglers (85%) think the fishing regulations in Maine are about right regarding how strict they are, with 10% who think they are too strict and only 3% who think they are not strict enough.

- In an open-ended question, anglers were asked what they would change about Maine’s fishing regulations book given the opportunity. The question asked about the book itself (paper or online), not the regulations.

- The top response was that they would not change anything (45% stated this), followed by simplifying regulations or making them less detailed (22%). All other responses were given by less than 10% of respondents.

- The survey presented anglers with three regulations on slot limits and asked them how clear or unclear each regulation is worded. Most anglers do not have difficulty understanding the wording. The regulations and angler responses are shown below.
 - “Daily bag limit on lake trout or togue: 6 fish, minimum length limit is 14 inches, only 1 fish can exceed 23 inches.” Most anglers (86%) find this wording very clear, 11% find it somewhat clear, and only 2% find it not at all clear.
 - Regional analysis shows some variation between very clear and somewhat clear responses, but no group has more than 4% who finding the wording not at all clear.
 - “Daily bag limit on bass: 1 fish; minimum length limit 10 inches, all bass between 16 and 20 inches must be released alive at once.” Most anglers (83%) find the wording very clear, 13% find it somewhat clear, and only 3% find it not at all clear.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern and Central Regions are the least likely to find the wording very clear, although both groups have only 5% who find it not at all clear.
 - “Daily bag limit on trout: 2 fish, minimum length limit of 10 inches, only 1 fish can exceed 12 inches.” Most anglers (84%) find the wording very clear, 13% find it somewhat clear, and only 2% find it not at all clear.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region most often find the wording very clear. No group has more than 5% who finding the wording not at all clear.

- Over the past 5 years, a third of anglers (33%) have been aware of any fish consumption advisories specifically for freshwater fish in Maine’s inland waters.
 - Awareness was fairly consistent among Maine regions and was substantially lower among nonresidents.
 - Of those who were aware of consumption advisories, over half (54%) say they were not planning to harvest anyway, followed by 29% who said it did not affect how much they harvested. However, 16% harvested less (or none at all) because of the advisory.

- Anglers who reside in the Northern and Downeast Regions most often said the advisories did not affect how much they harvested.
- Of those who were aware of consumption advisories, most (89%) agree that the fish consumption guidelines issued by the Department are clear and easy to understand (63% *strongly* agree).
- Agreement is fairly consistent between the regions, although with variations between *strongly* agree and *moderately* agree responses.

ADDITIONAL FISHING INFORMATION

- The survey presented a series of information sources on fisheries management in Maine. Anglers were asked to evaluate the credibility of each source with the following response options: extremely credible, very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible.
 - The sources rated as most credible are a game warden with the Department (84% rated the source as extremely or very credible), a biologist with the Department (79%), and a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (66%).
- Three-quarters of anglers (75%) are not currently a member of nor have donated to any fishing or conservation organizations in the past 5 years. However, 6% are members of or donated to Trout Unlimited and 2% are members of or donated to BASS Masters. The graph shows the full results. The data are shown at one decimal place not to imply that the survey has accuracy to that level but to avoid having most of the organizations round to 0.
 - Nonresidents were most often involved with Trout Unlimited.
- About a quarter of survey respondents (26%) fished in saltwater in Maine in the past 5 years.
 - Compared to the other regions, substantially higher percentages of anglers who reside in the Southern Region (48%) and Downeast Region (42%) fished in saltwater.

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (the Department) to determine anglers' participation, practices, and opinions regarding freshwater fishing in the state. The study entailed a telephone survey of resident and nonresident licensed anglers in Maine, age 16 years or older (hereinafter all references to sample or state populations refer to those 16 or over). Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

USE OF TELEPHONES FOR THE SURVEY

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Maine anglers (both landlines and cell phones were called).

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Department, based on the research team's familiarity with fishing, natural resources, and outdoor recreation. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

SURVEY SAMPLE

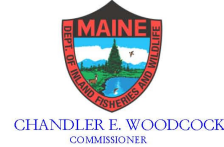
The sample of Maine licensed anglers was obtained from the Department, consisting of those who purchased a fishing license from 2012 to 2015. After a probability-based random sample was selected, attempts were made to contact the selected anglers. When telephone numbers were available in the selected sample, Responsive Management called these anglers to administer the survey. However, in many cases telephone numbers were not available in this sample.

Therefore, 500 anglers were randomly selected out of this group (all of the original random selection that did not have telephone numbers) and were sent hard copy letters that included a toll-free number. This telephone number allowed those who had been contacted by letter to call in to the Survey Center where they could take the survey at that time or schedule another time for the interview. The template for the outgoing letter is shown on the next page.

Letter Template to Selected Anglers.



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
284 STATE STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



January 18, 2016

FIRST NAME LAST NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIP
RECORD NUMBER: X (REGION: [XXXX])

Dear Maine Angler,

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has contracted with Responsive Management to conduct a study that seeks anglers' input regarding their fishing participation and views on management issues. Your address was one of only a small number that has been randomly selected to help with the study, and we hope that you will consider participating by taking a short survey. This survey will ask about your fishing participation and your opinions on fishing quality and fisheries management, including opinions on potential changes to the Department's management program.

Participation is voluntary and responses are completely confidential. Your answers will never be associated with your mailing address, and we do not keep any name or address in the survey data provided to the Department by Responsive Management. If you would like to participate in this survey, please call 1-800-432-6135 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and a professional interviewer will ask you the survey questions. By completing a survey, you will be helping the Department understand angler opinions on important fisheries management issues.

Thank you for your time, and we hope to hear from you and receive your responses to the survey questions.

Sincerely,

Alison Lanier
Research Associate
Responsive Management

PHONE: (207) 287-5202

FISH AND WILDLIFE ON THE
WEB:
www.maine.gov/ifw

EMAIL ADDRESS:
ifw.webmaster@maine.gov

The sample included resident and nonresident anglers, so the results were weighted to ensure that the reported results are representative of the proportions of resident and nonresident anglers in the sample population. Likewise, the results among resident anglers were weighted among four geographic regions to ensure that the proportions of the regions in the sample matched the actual population distribution of the state. In other words, the results were weighted so that 22.6% of the statewide sample was from the Central Region, which matches the proportion of the statewide population of anglers that resides in that region. In all, 1,205 completed interviews were collected in the proportions shown below.

Completed Surveys.

Location	Completed Surveys
Northern Region	200
Downeast Region	200
Central Region	203
Southern Region	202
Nonresident	400
Total	1,205

TELEPHONE INTERVIEWING FACILITIES

A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of outdoor recreation and natural resources.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted a project briefing with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey questionnaire, reading of

the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaire.

INTERVIEWING DATES AND TIMES

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The survey was conducted in January and February 2016.

TELEPHONE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey questionnaire was programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. The survey questionnaire itself contains error checkers and computation statements to ensure quality and consistent data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

As previously stated, Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,205 completed interviews. The total sample size on some questions is less than 1,205 because the survey asked some questions only of specific respondents in the survey. In particular, this was done when a

follow-up question did not apply to some respondents. For instance, only those who fished for salmon were asked follow-up questions about salmon.

DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The weighting of the data was discussed in the section on the survey sample.

On questions that asked respondents to provide a number (e.g., number of days fishing), the graph shows ranges of numbers rather than the precise numbers. Nonetheless, in the survey each respondent provided a precise number, and the dataset includes this precise number, even if the graph only shows ranges of numbers. Note that the calculation of means and medians used the precise numbers that the respondents provided.

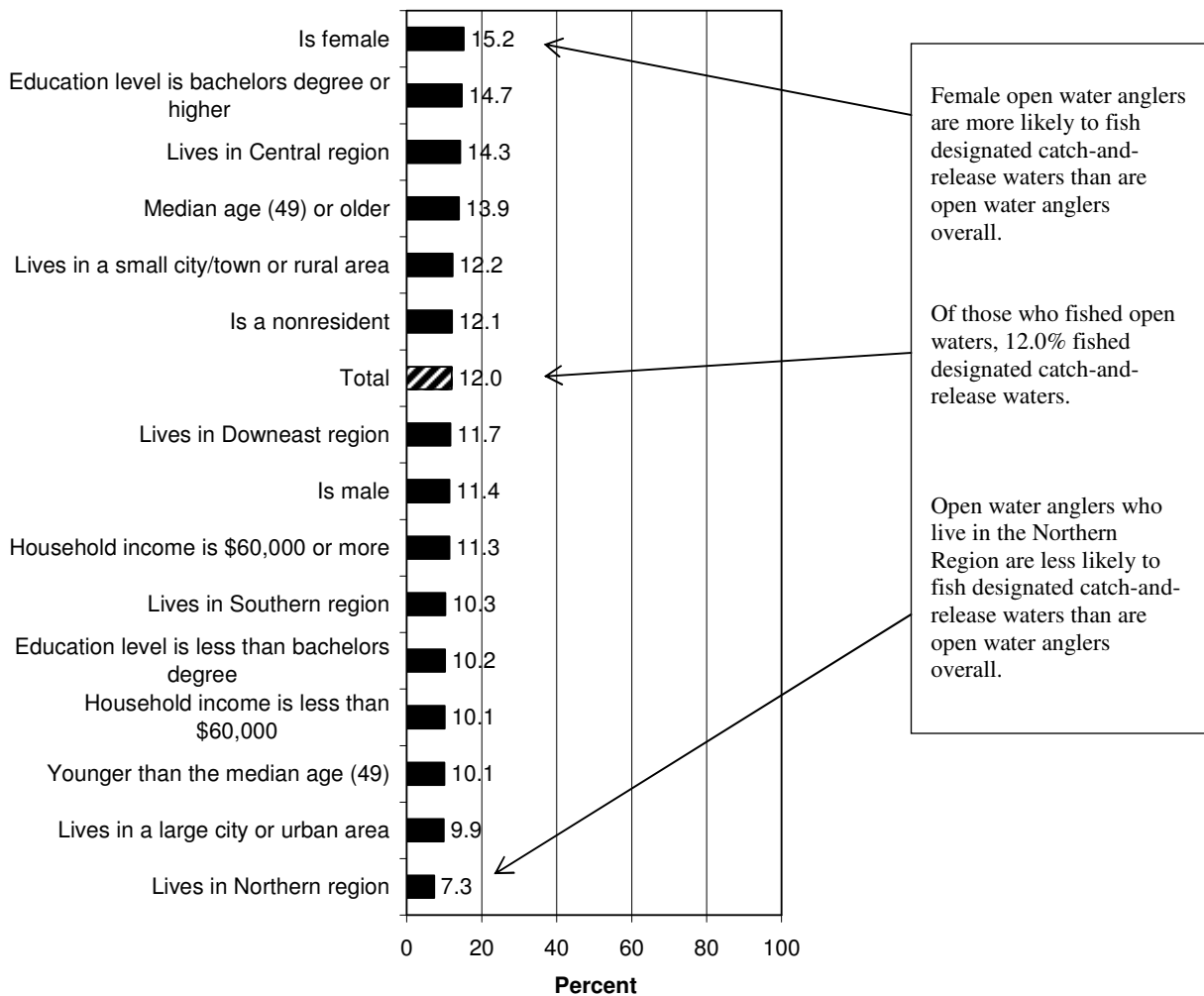
The data are broken down by residents versus nonresidents, then among residents by region (Northern, Downeast, Central, or Southern). These crosstabulations are presented following the statewide graph for each question.

In addition to the graphs discussed above, some other graphs show the characteristics of anglers who hold various opinions or who participated in various activities (such as those who fished during open season). These graphs show the percentage of various groups who hold the opinion/did the action compared to the overall percentage who hold the opinion/did the action, thereby showing the groups who are more likely to hold an opinion or do an action. (Note that to better differentiate between the various groups, percentages are shown on these graphs to one decimal point. However, throughout the narrative and on general graphs, results are presented in whole percentages.) An example of this type of graph is shown on the next page.

HOW TO INTERPRET THE DEMOGRAPHIC CORRELATION GRAPHS

Graphs are included for select questions that show how various demographic characteristics correlate with various opinions or activities. Each graph shows an overall result, and then it shows the result for that question among various demographic groups. Those groups at the top of the graph have a greater percentage giving a specific response, compared to respondents overall; those groups at the bottom of the graph have a lower percentage giving a specific response, compared to respondents overall. An example of a demographic correlation graph is provided below:

Percent of the following groups that fished in open waters in 2015 who fished designated catch-and-release waters:



SAMPLING ERROR

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of Maine anglers, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 3.16 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 3.16 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described below, with an overall sample size of 1,205 and a population size of 462,139 Maine anglers 16 years old and older who held a fishing license within the past 4 years.

Sampling Error Equation

$$B = \left(\sqrt{\frac{N_p(.25) - .25}{N_s}} \right) (1.96)$$

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)
 N_p = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)
 N_s = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

Note: This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the maximum sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

The sampling errors for the regions and nonresidents are shown in the tabulation below. Note that the overall sampling error is lower than those for the regions and nonresidents; this is because an increased sample size has a vast influence on reducing the resultant sampling error, with little influence from the population size.

Sample	Sample Size	Population Size	Sampling Error
Northern Region	200	32,457	6.91
Downeast Region	200	132,489	6.92
Central Region	203	104,204	6.87
Southern Region	202	18,939	6.86
Nonresident	400	174,050	4.89

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTATION OF RESULTS IN THE REPORT

In examining the results, it is important to be aware that the questionnaire included several types of questions:

- Open-ended questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- Closed-ended questions have an answer set from which to choose.
- Single or multiple response questions: Some questions allow only a single response, while other questions allow respondents to give more than one response or choose all that apply. Those that allow more than a single response are indicated on the graphs with the label, “Multiple Responses Allowed.”
- Scaled questions: Many closed-ended questions (but not all) are in a scale, such as excellent-good-fair-poor.
- Series questions: Many questions are part of a series, and the results are primarily intended to be examined relative to the other questions in that series (although results of the questions individually can also be valuable). Typically, results of all questions in a series are shown together.

Some graphs show an average, either the mean or median (or both). The mean is simply the sum of all numbers divided by the number of respondents. Because outliers (extremely high or low numbers relative to most of the other responses) may skew the mean, the median may be shown. The median is the number at which half the sample is above and the other half is below. In other words, a median of 150 means that half the sample gave an answer of more than 150 and the other half gave an answer of less than 150.

Most graphs show results rounded to the nearest integer; however, all data are stored in decimal format, and all calculations are performed on unrounded numbers. For this reason, some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of this rounding on the graphs. Additionally, rounding may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

OPEN WATER FISHING

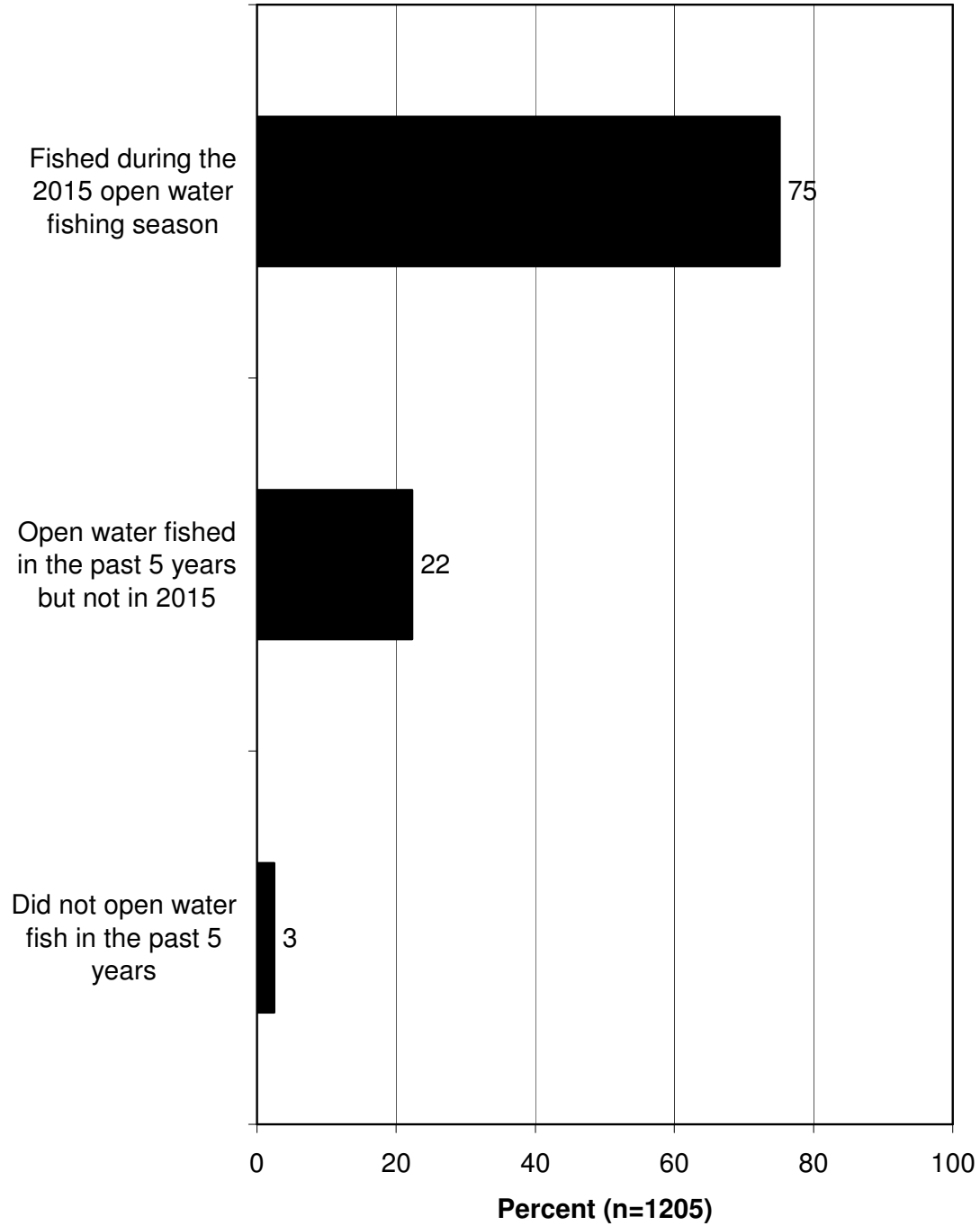
At the beginning of the survey, a screener question asked if the respondent had purchased a Maine fishing license within the past four years (2012-2015). Only those who purchased a license during this timeframe were administered the survey. For this report, “anglers” refers to this group. For most questions, a graph of the statewide results is followed by a graph showing the regional analysis. For this study, “regional analysis” refers to an evaluation of four geographic regions in Maine (Northern, Downeast, Central, and Southern) as well as a fifth group, nonresident Maine anglers. Throughout this report the terms “regional analysis” or “regions” also includes the nonresident group.

PARTICIPATION AND DAYS

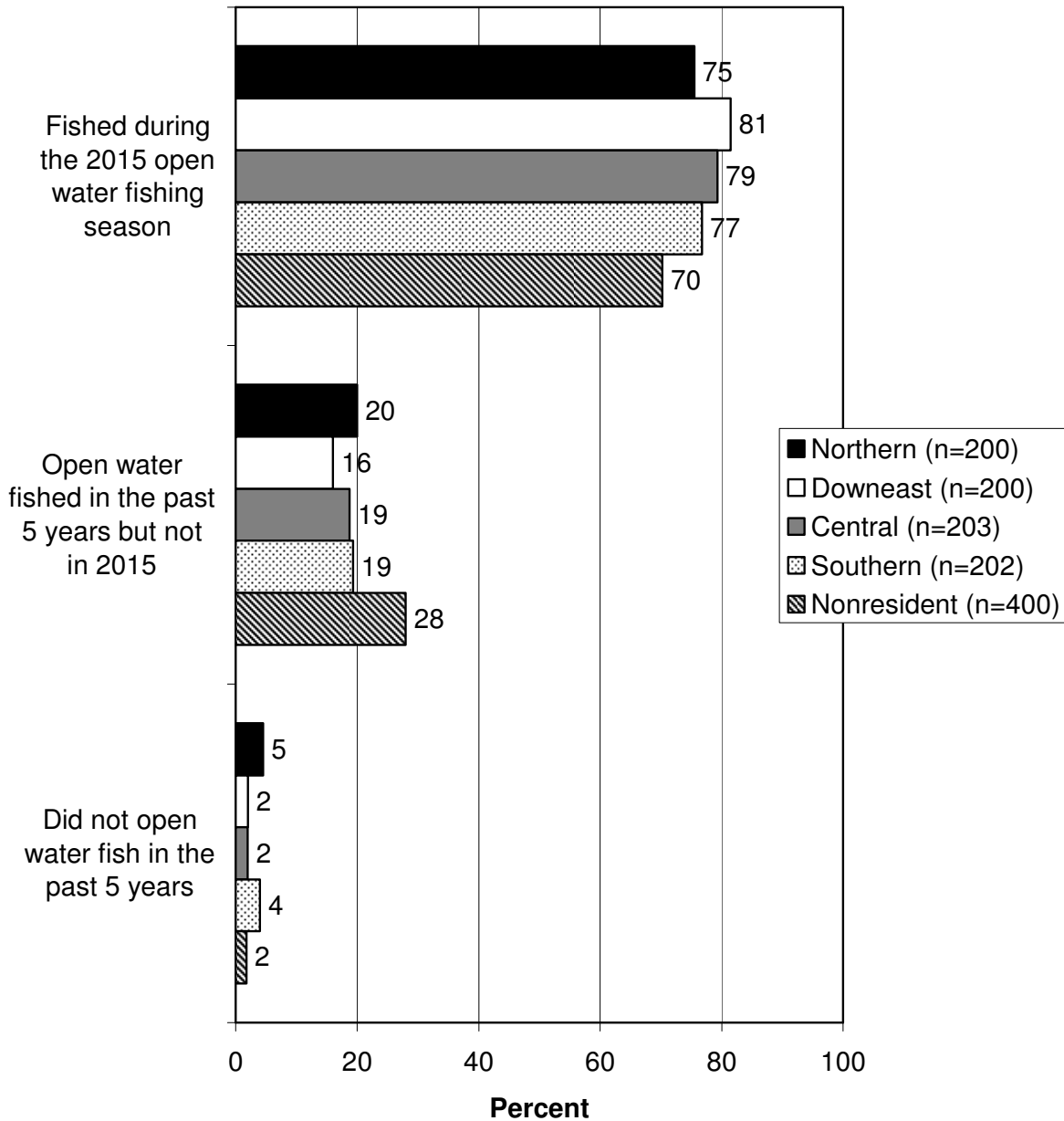
- Three-quarters (75%) of anglers went fishing during Maine’s 2015 open water fishing season, 22% open water fished in the past 5 years but not in 2015, and 3% did not open water fish in the past 5 years. There were minor differences between the regions.

- Anglers who fished during the 2015 open water season participated an average of 13.3 days.
 - This number was lowest among nonresidents, who had a mean participation of 9.2 days.

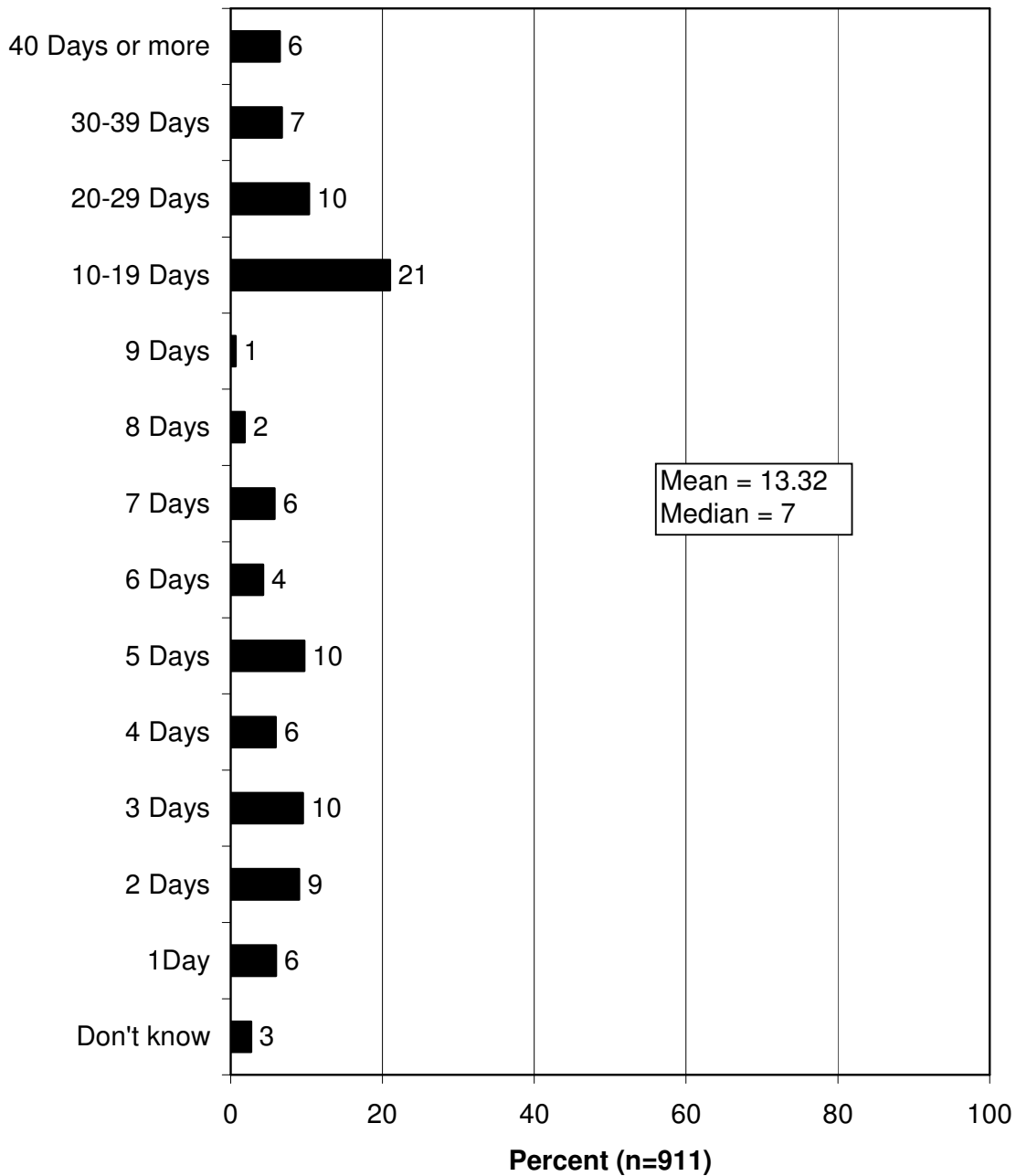
Q13/Q14. Participation in Maine's open water fishing season.



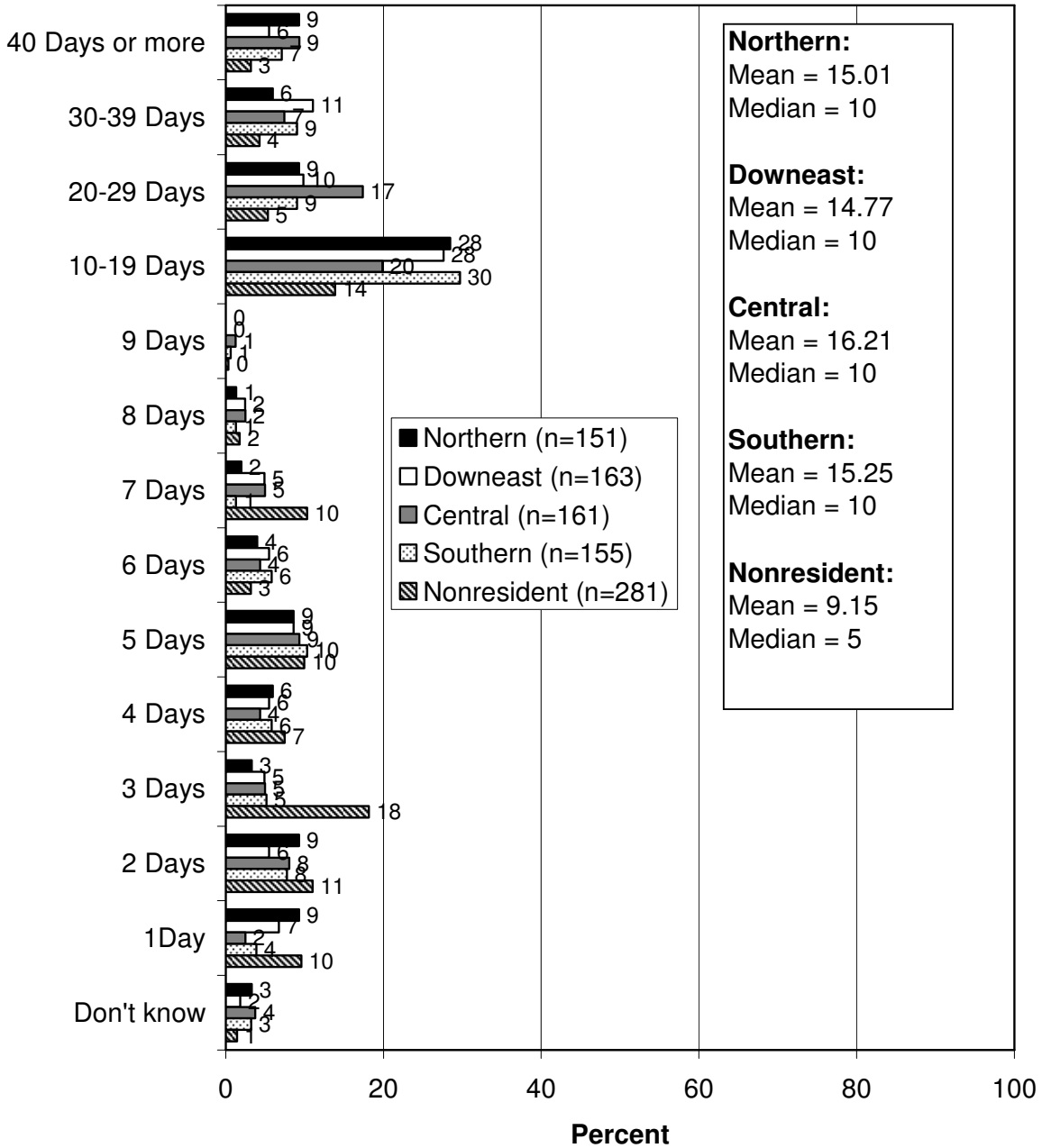
Q13/Q14. Participation in Maine's open water fishing season.



Q15. How many days did you fish during the 2015 open water fishing season? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)



Q15. How many days did you fish during the 2015 open water fishing season? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)

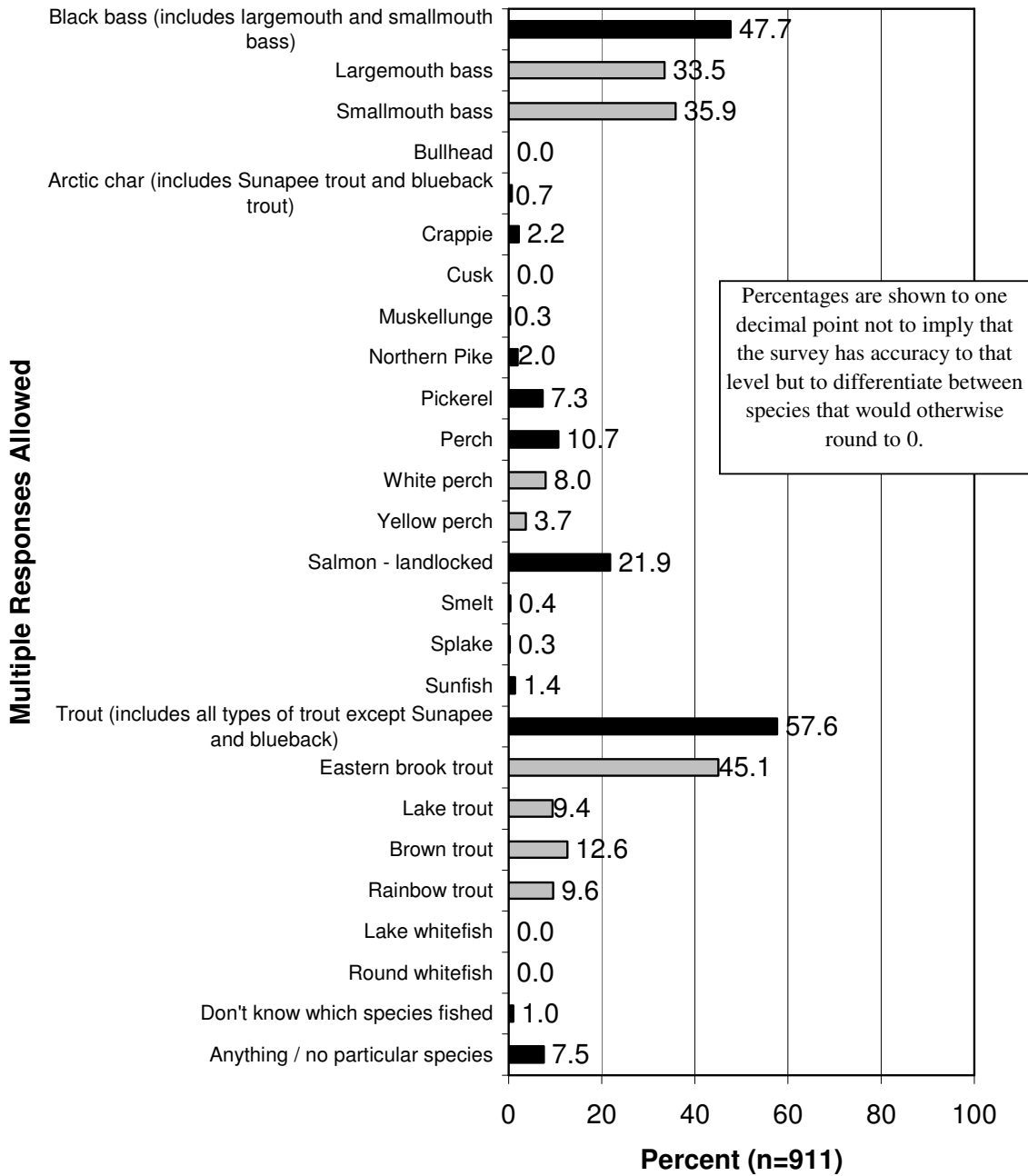


OPEN WATER SPECIES

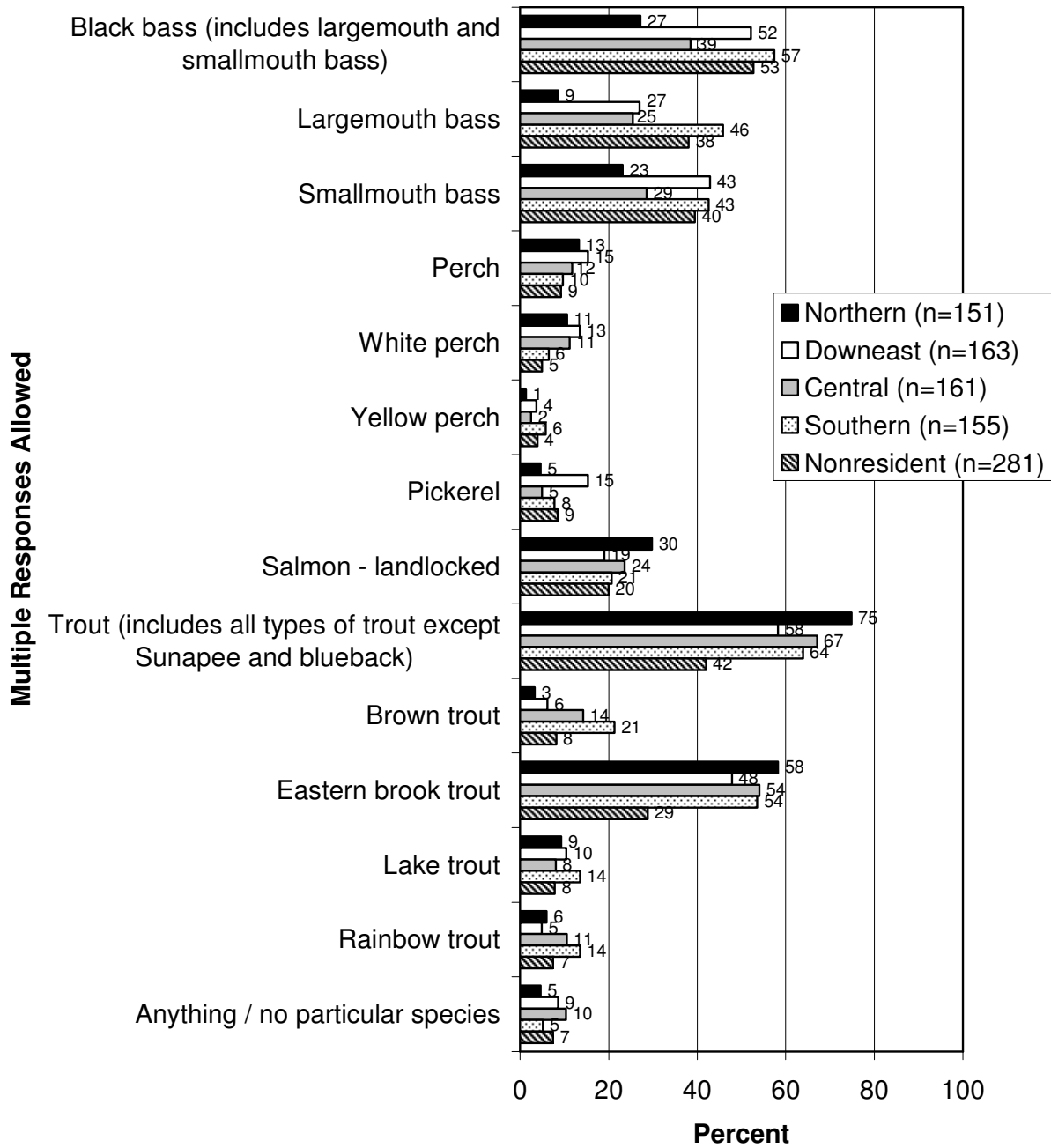
- Anglers who fished open waters in 2015 most often fished for trout (58% fished for this species; this number includes all types of trout except Sunapee and blueback), followed by black bass (48%; includes largemouth and smallmouth bass), and landlocked salmon (22%).
 - Compared to the other regions, anglers who reside in the Northern Region least often fished for black bass (27%) and most often fished for trout (75%).

- Those who open water fished in 2015 were asked, regardless of the county where they open water fish, which inland freshwater species they most *prefer* to fish for in open water season. Results from this question mirror those from the previous question of which species were *actually* fished, suggesting that most anglers are able to fish for their species of choice. Half (50%) of open water anglers prefer to fish for trout; this percentage reflects all the listed types of trout combined (except Sunapee and blueback), but eastern brook trout is by far the most popular type (37%). Other species popular with anglers are black bass (35%, which includes largemouth and smallmouth bass) and landlocked salmon (15%).
 - Regional analysis shows that nonresidents most often prefer to fish for black bass (45%) and least often prefer to fish for trout (37%).

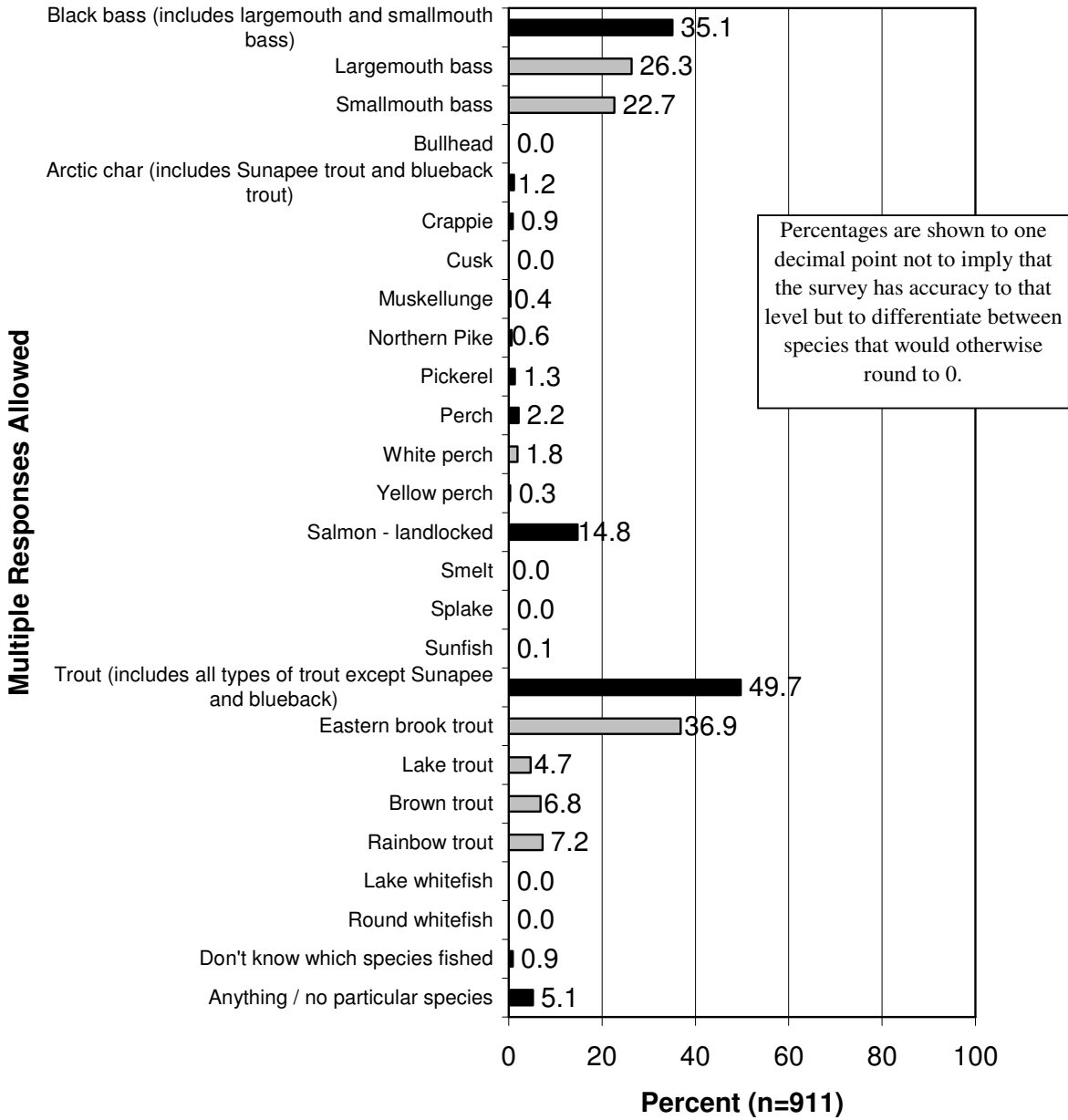
**Q19. What inland freshwater species did you fish for during the 2015 open water fishing season?
(Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)**



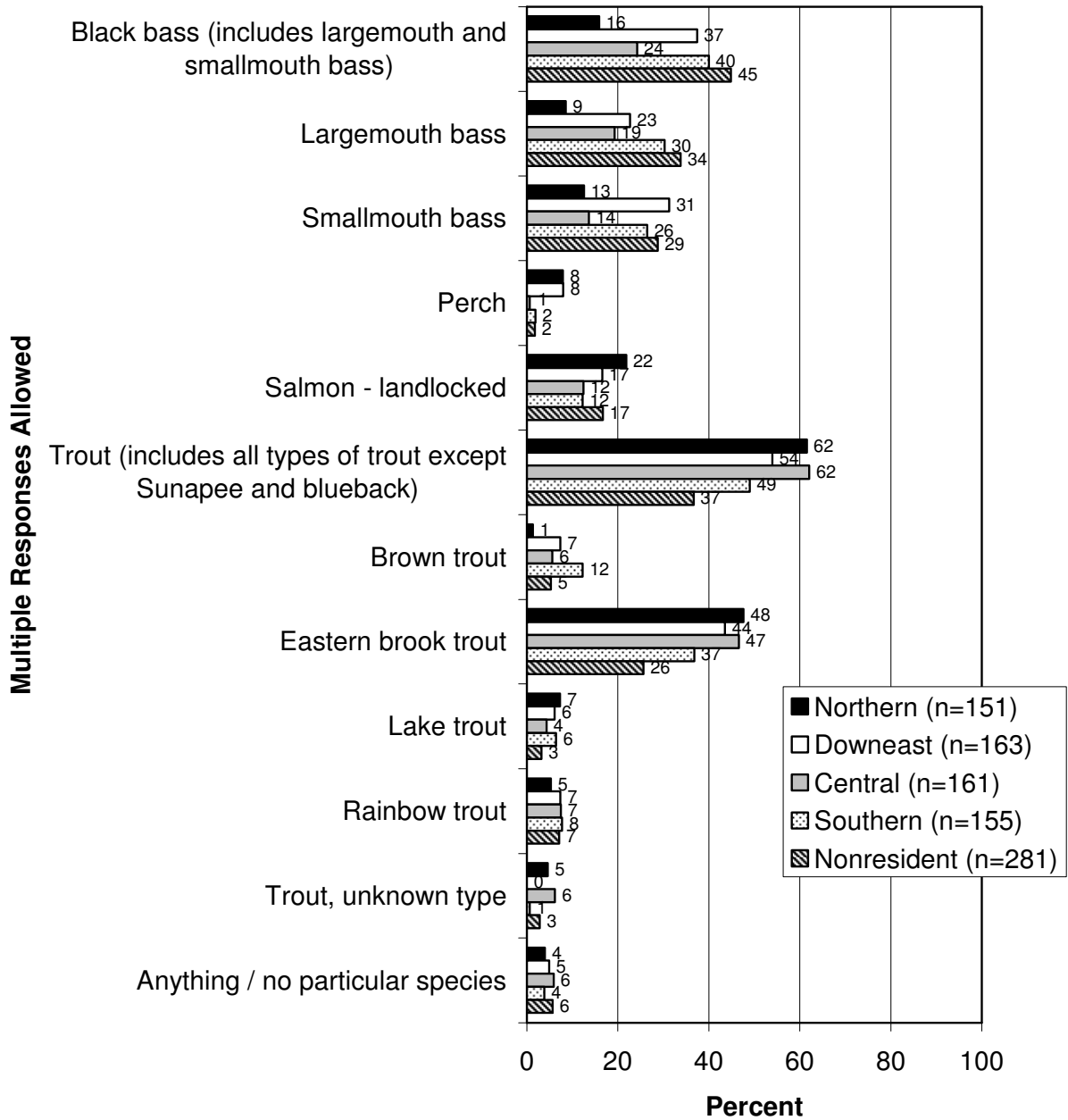
**Q19. What inland freshwater species did you fish for during the 2015 open water fishing season?
(Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)**



**Q186. Regardless of the county where you open water fish, which inland freshwater species do you most prefer to fish for in the open water season?
(Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)**



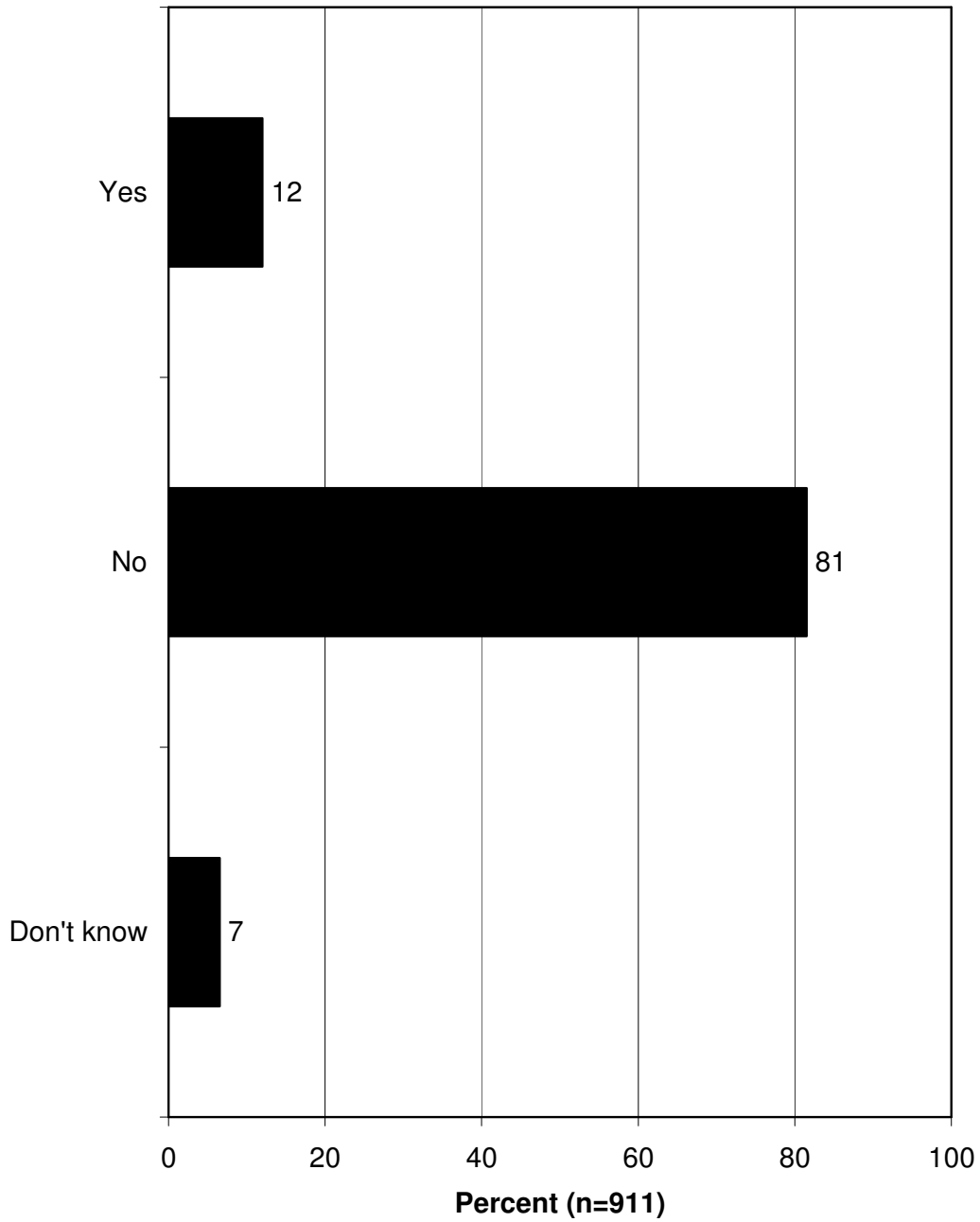
**Q186. Regardless of the county where you open water fish, which inland freshwater species do you most prefer to fish for in the open water season?
(Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)**



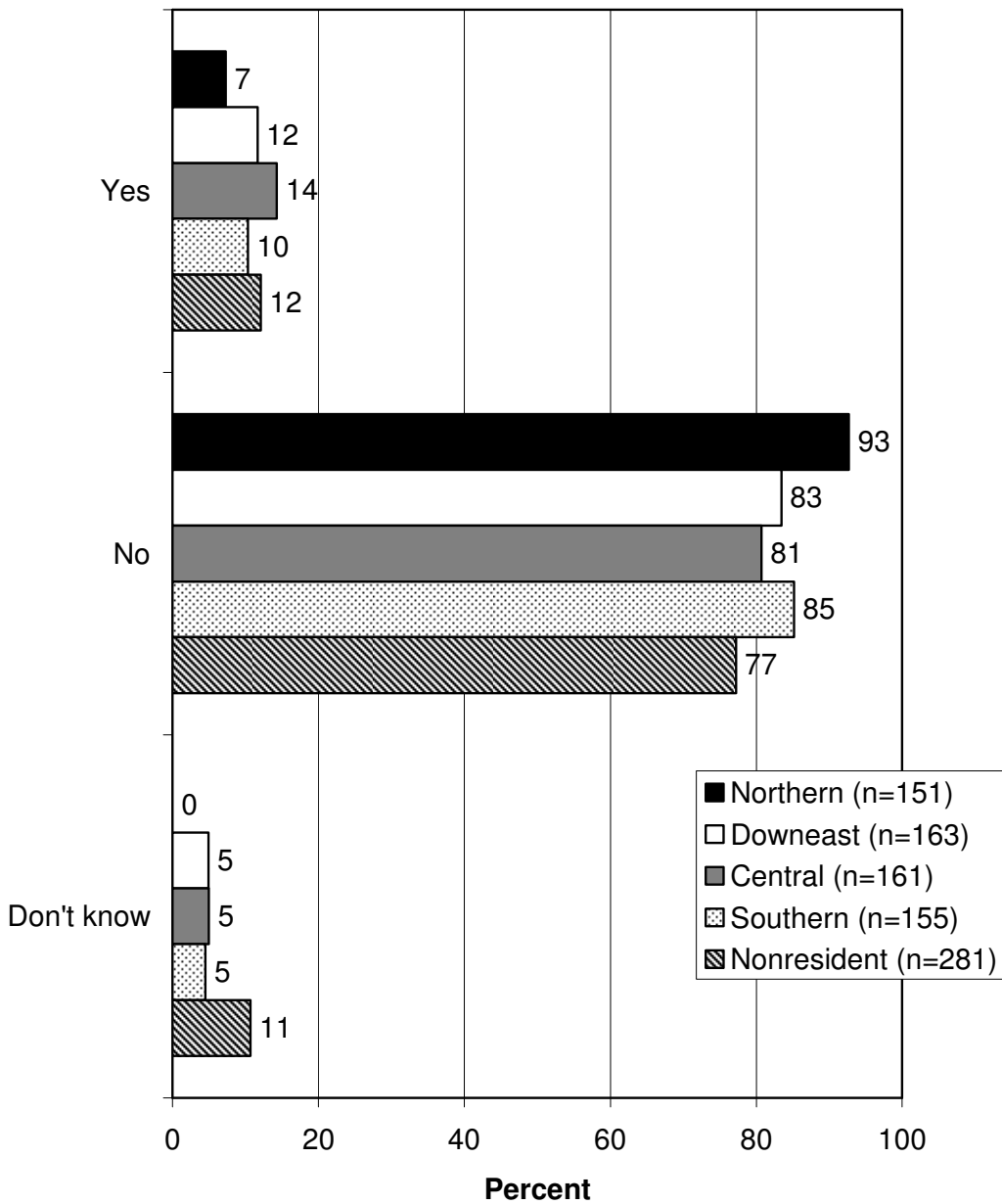
DESIGNATED CATCH-AND-RELEASE WATERS

- Of those who open water fished in 2015, 12% fished in designated catch-and-release waters, with little variation among the regions and nonresidents.
 - Open water season anglers most likely to fish these waters are females (15%), those with an education level of a bachelor's degree or higher (15%), and Central Region residents (14%).
 - Anglers who fished in designated catch-and-release waters participated an average of 7 days.
 - Anglers who reside in the Downeast Region participated the most days (mean of 9) and those who reside in the Northern Region participated the fewest days (mean of 4.5).
 - In contrast to the low number of anglers who fished in designated catch-and-release waters, a strong majority (84%) of open water anglers practiced catch-and-release fishing of their own volition (that is, they were not required by law).
 - There are minor variations among the regions.

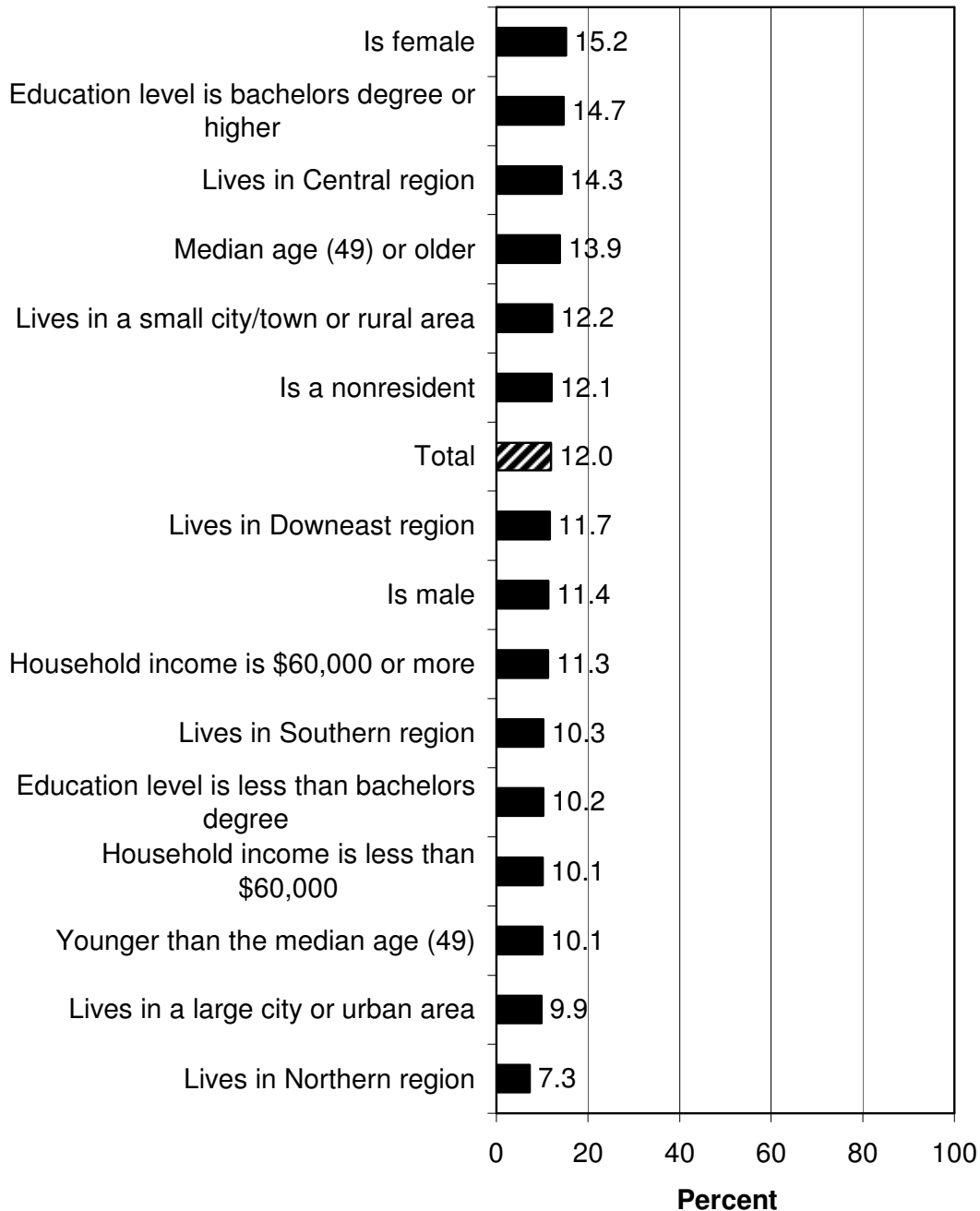
Q178. Did you fish any designated catch-and-release waters in Maine in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)



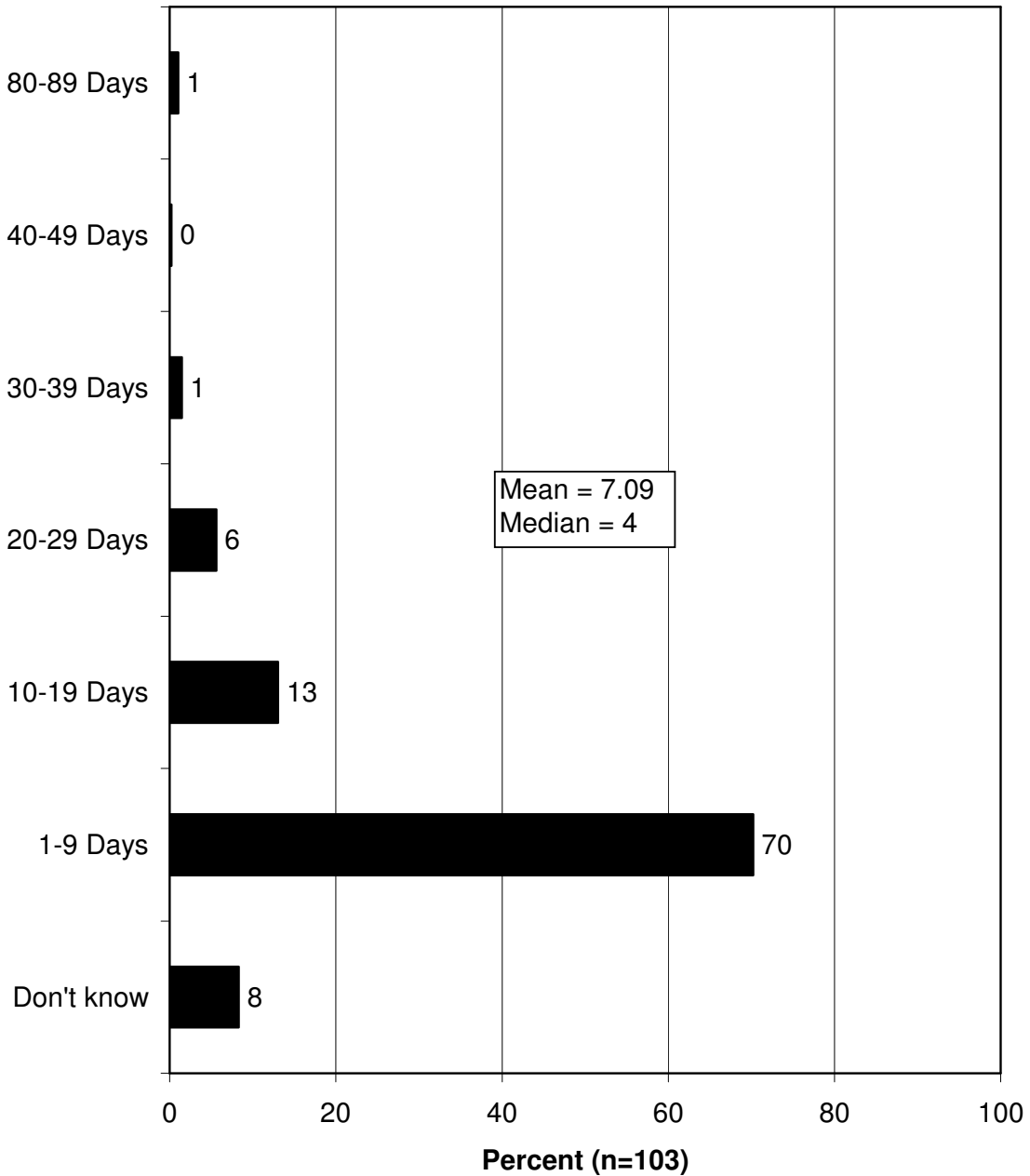
Q178. Did you fish any designated catch-and-release waters in Maine in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)



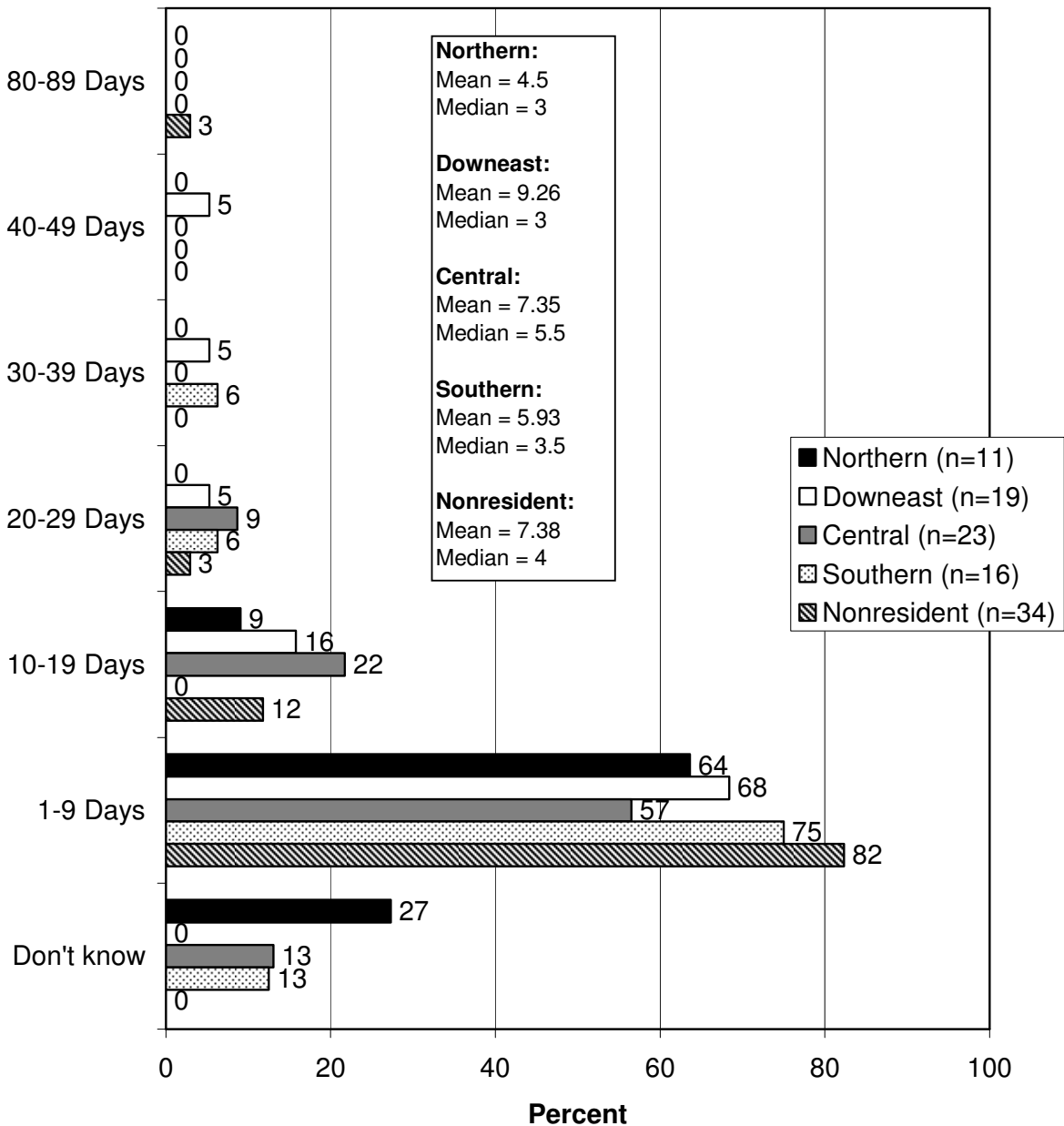
Percent of the following groups that fished in open waters in 2015 who fished designated catch-and-release waters:



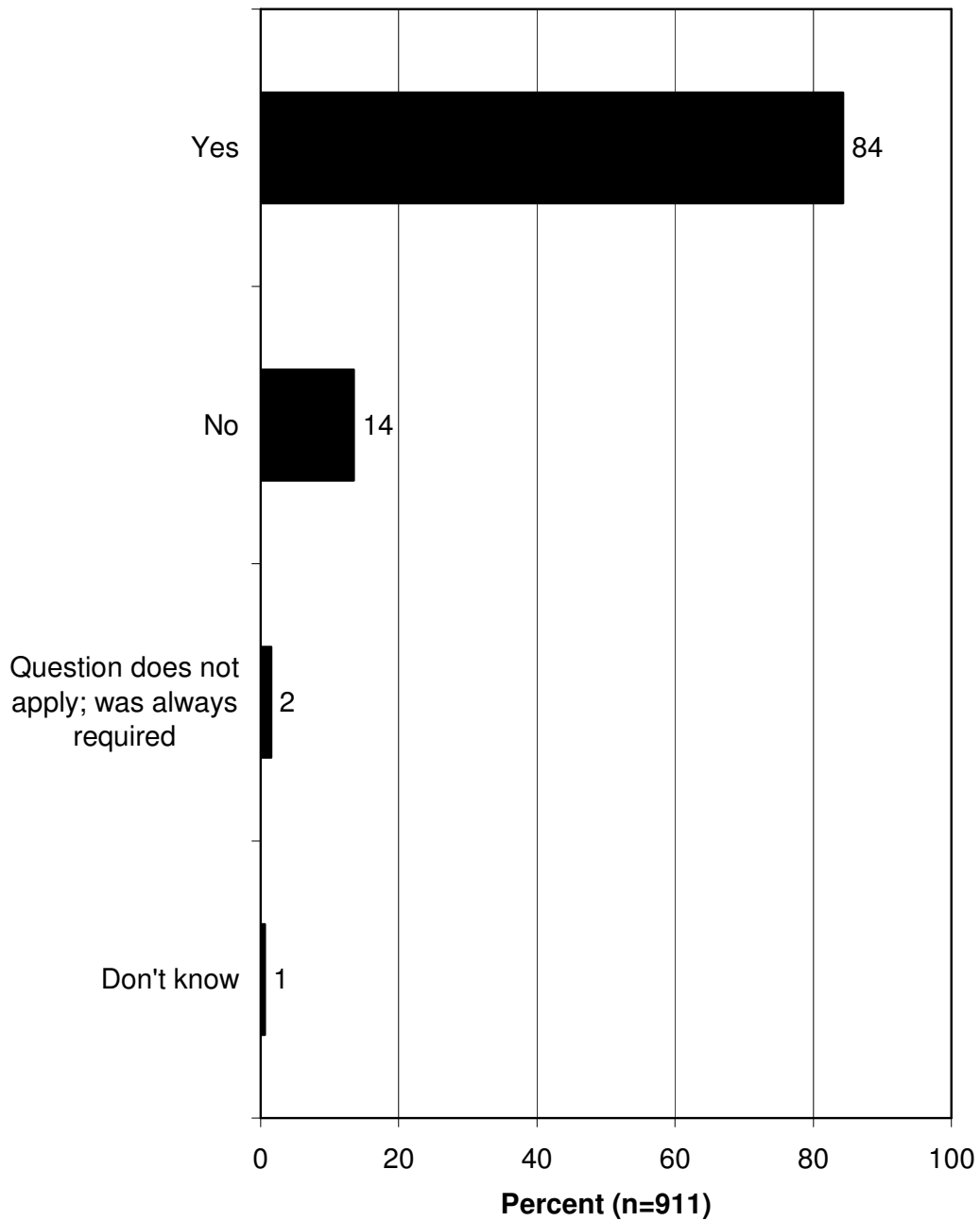
Q179. How many days did you fish designated catch-and-release waters? (Asked of those who fished designated catch-and-release waters in Maine in 2015.)



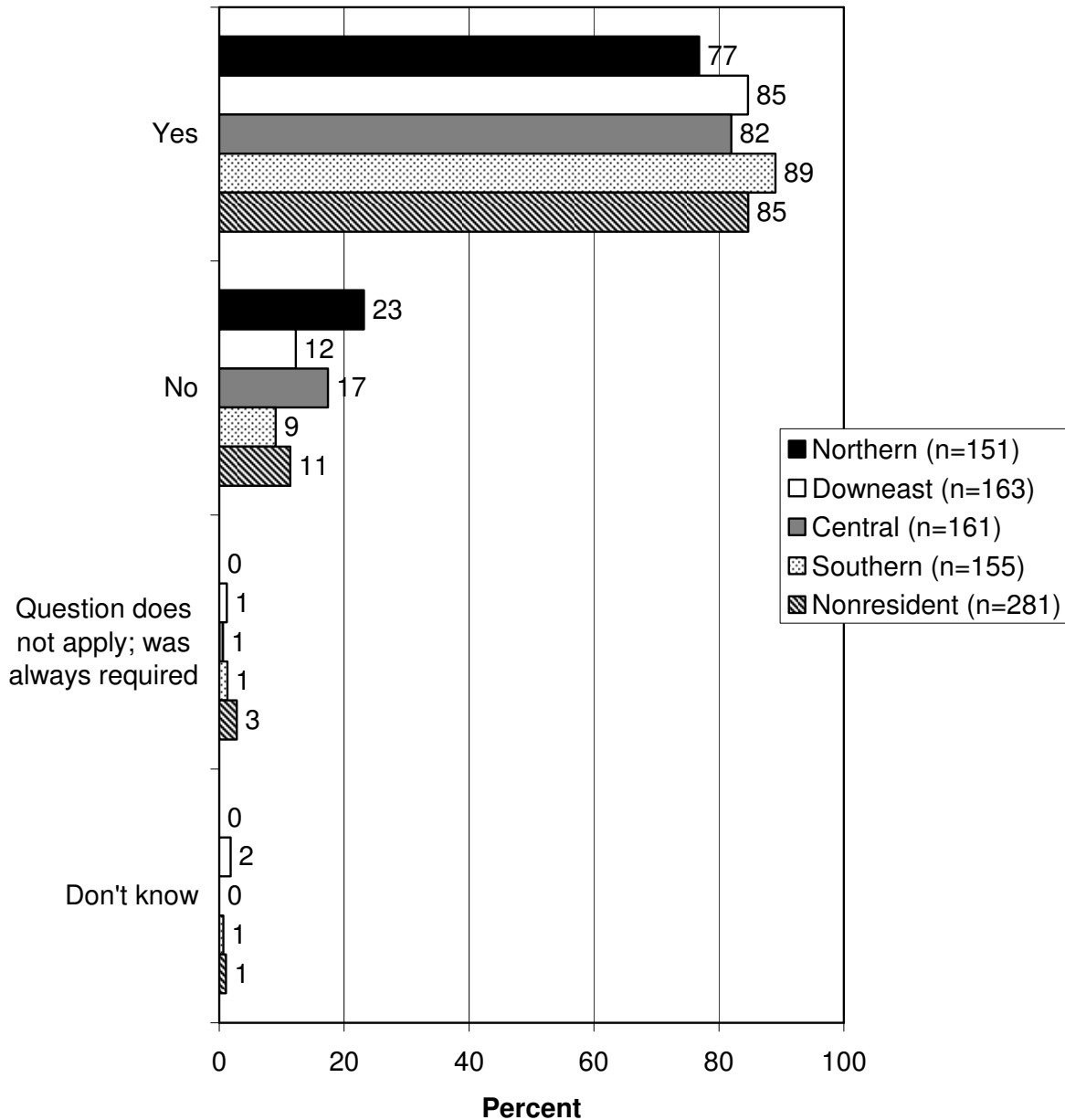
Q179. How many days did you fish designated catch-and-release waters? (Asked of those who fished designated catch-and-release waters in Maine in 2015.)



Q181. During the 2015 open water season, did you practice catch-and-release fishing when you were not required by law? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)



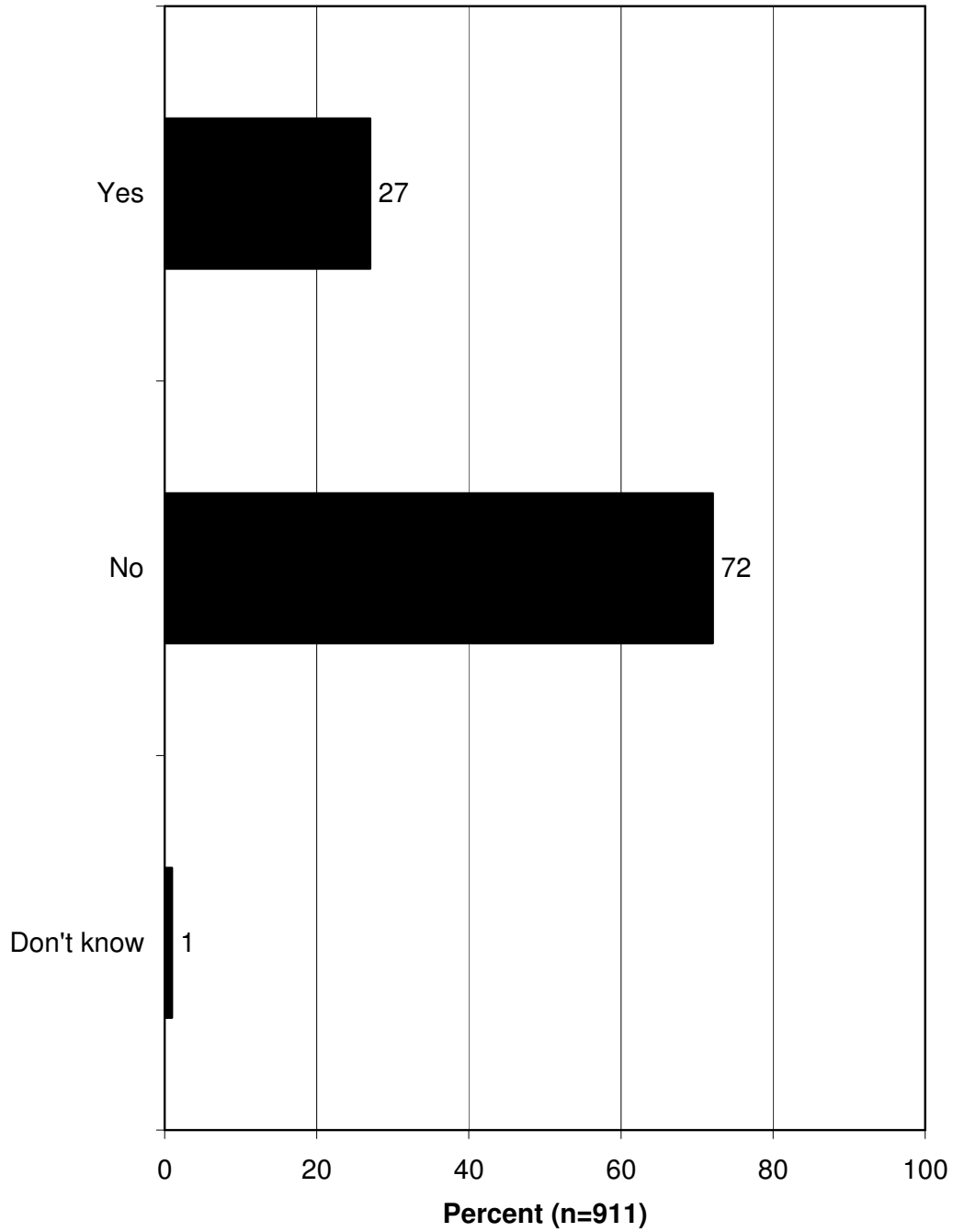
Q181. During the 2015 open water season, did you practice catch-and-release fishing when you were not required by law? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)



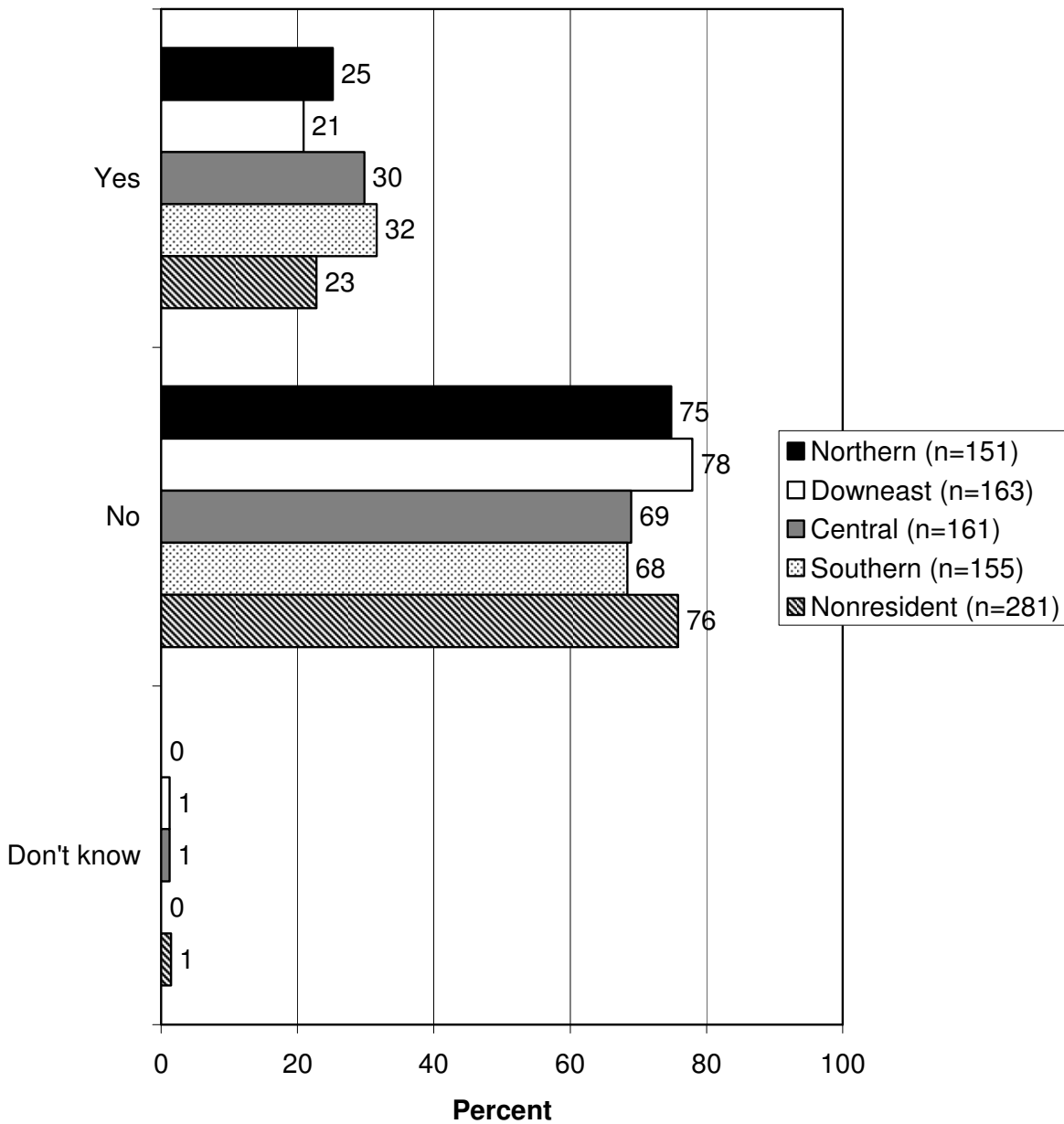
FALL OPEN WATER SEASON

- About a quarter (27%) of open water anglers fished during the fall open water season in the past 5 years (fall season is from October through December).
 - Regional analysis shows this percentage to be highest among open water anglers who reside in the Southern Region (32%) and lowest among those who reside in the Downeast Region (21%).
 - Those who fished in the fall season most often did so in lakes/ponds (49%) or in a combination of lakes/ponds and rivers/streams (30%), with only 20% who fished solely in rivers or streams.
 - Fall season anglers from the Downeast Region most often fished in lakes and ponds only (56% did so) and those from the Northern Region least often fished in lakes and ponds only (32%).
 - Those who fished in lakes and ponds during the fall open water season, on average, spent 45% of their time fishing in lakes and ponds. (Regional analysis is shown, but note that n-values are low.)

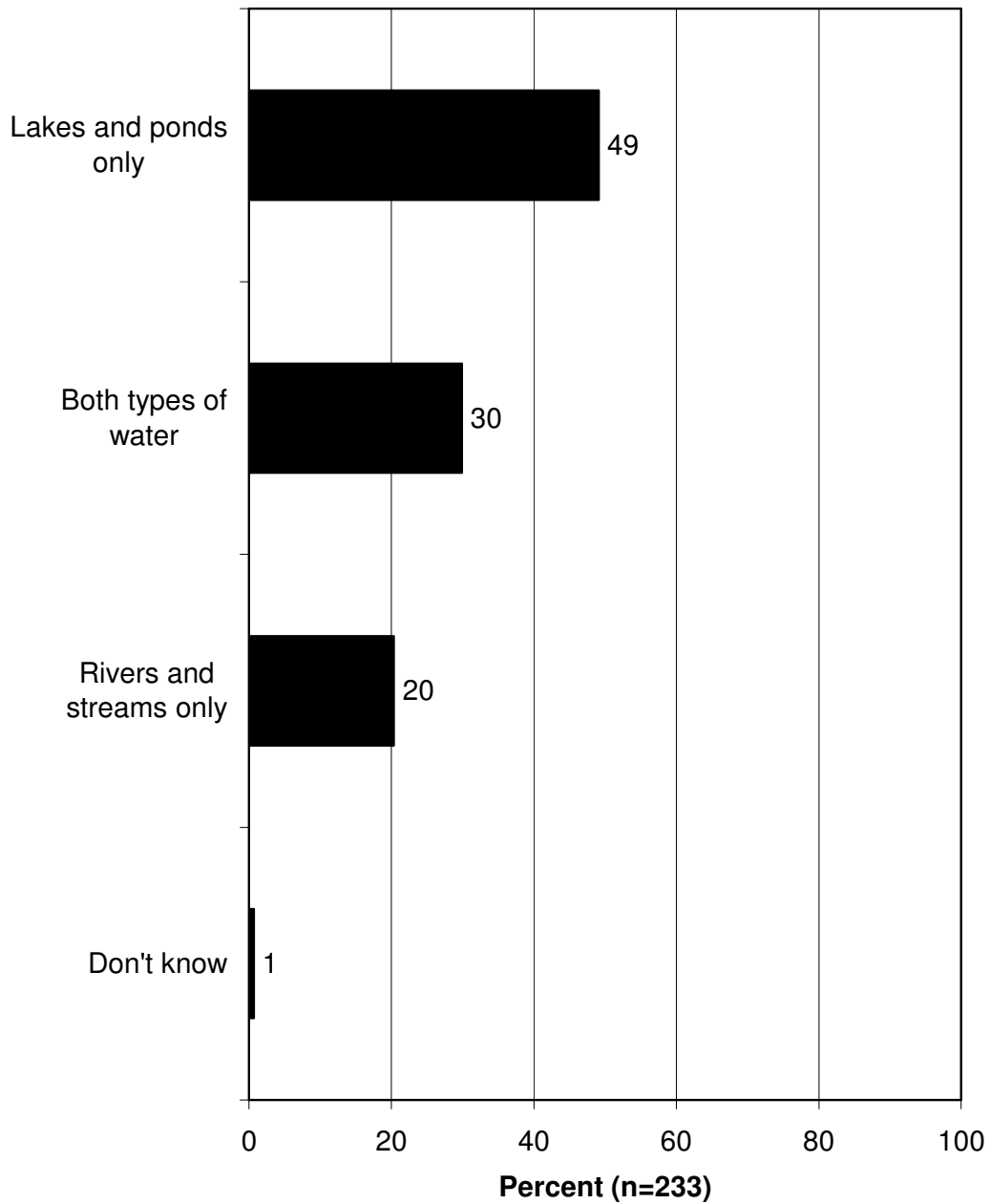
Q182. During the past 5 years, did you fish during the fall open water fishing season? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)



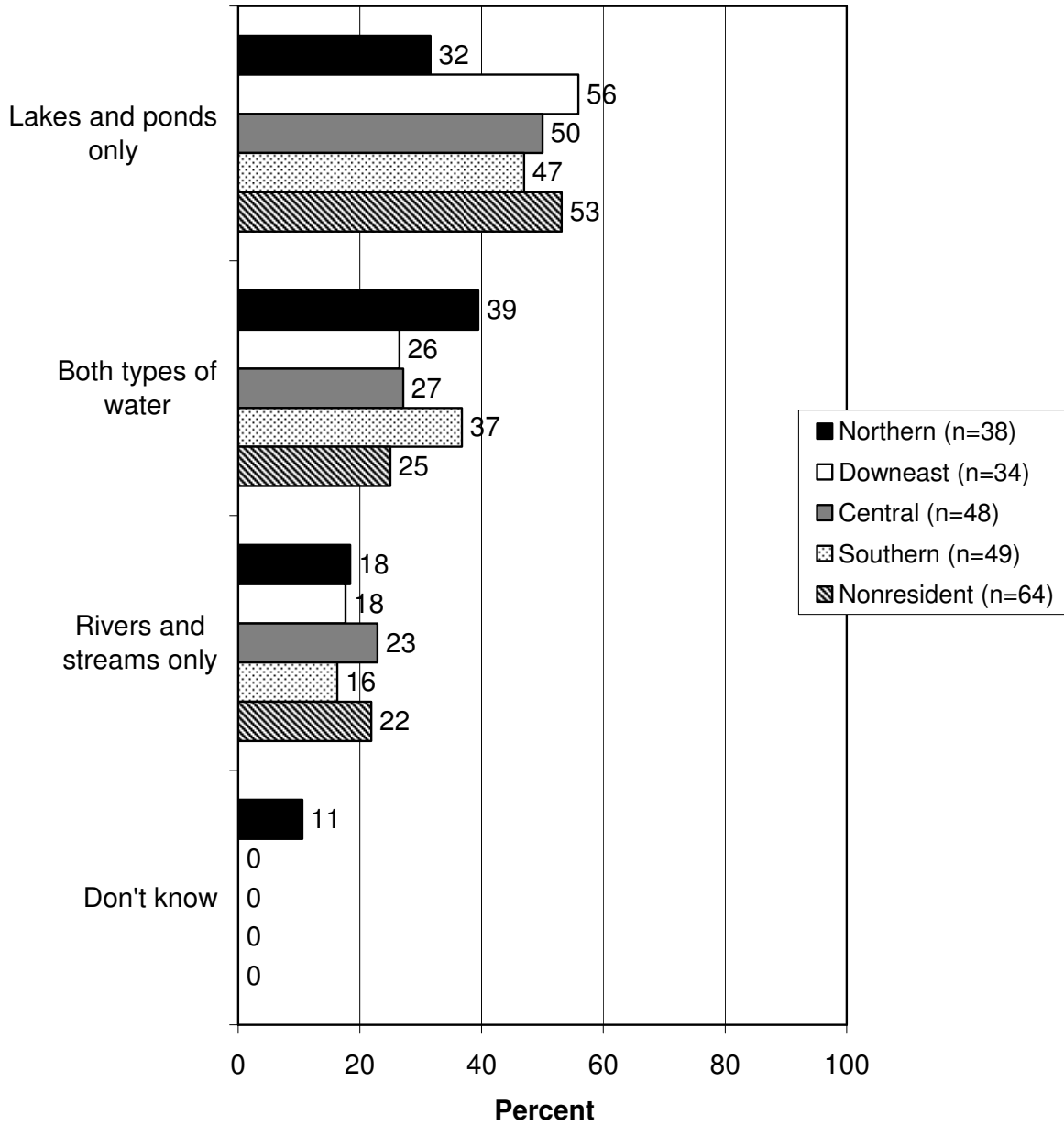
Q182. During the past 5 years, did you fish during the fall open water fishing season? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)



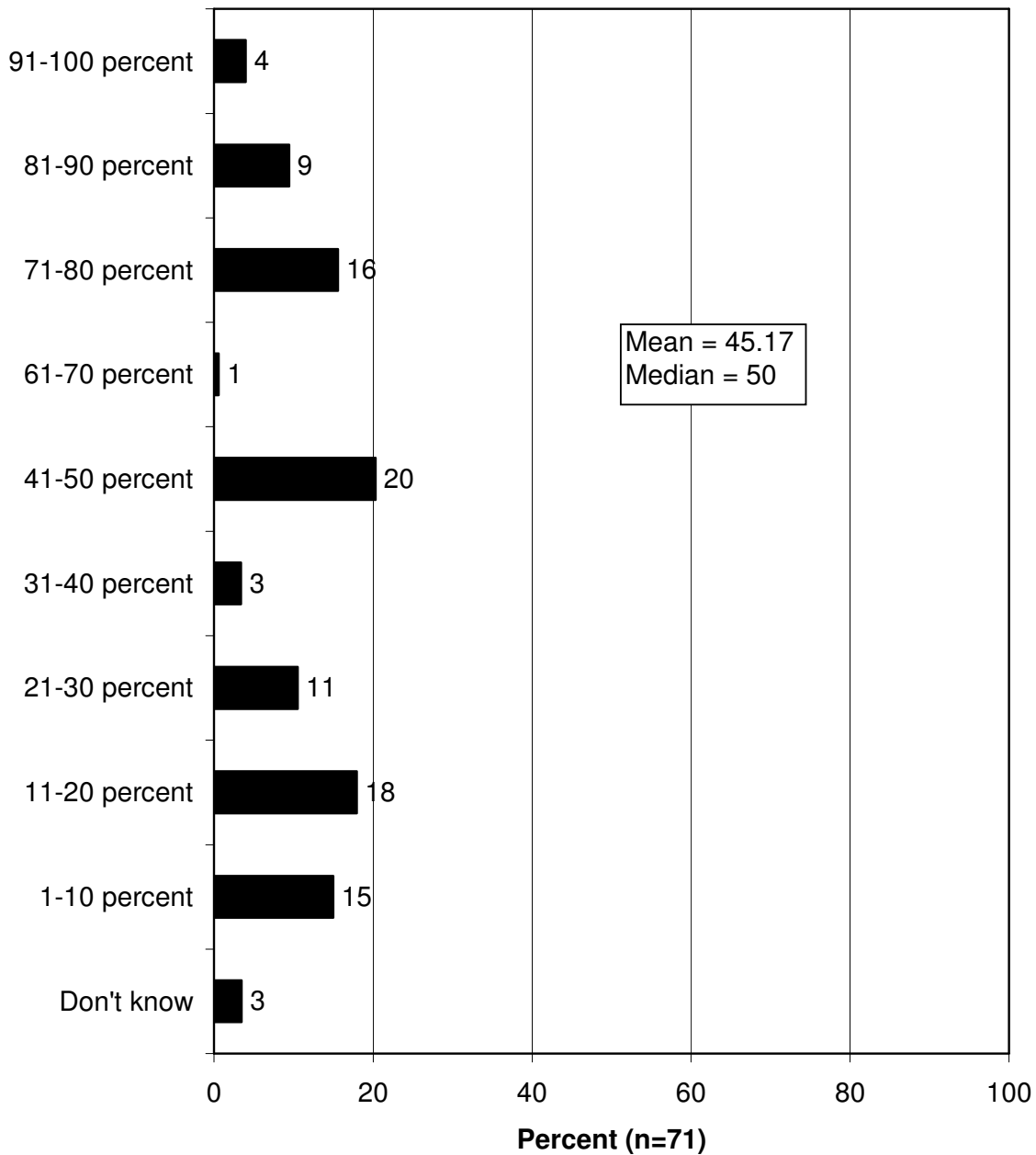
Q183. Did you fish in the fall season in lakes and ponds only, in rivers and streams only, or in both types of waters? (Asked of those who fished during the fall open water fishing season during the past 5 years.)



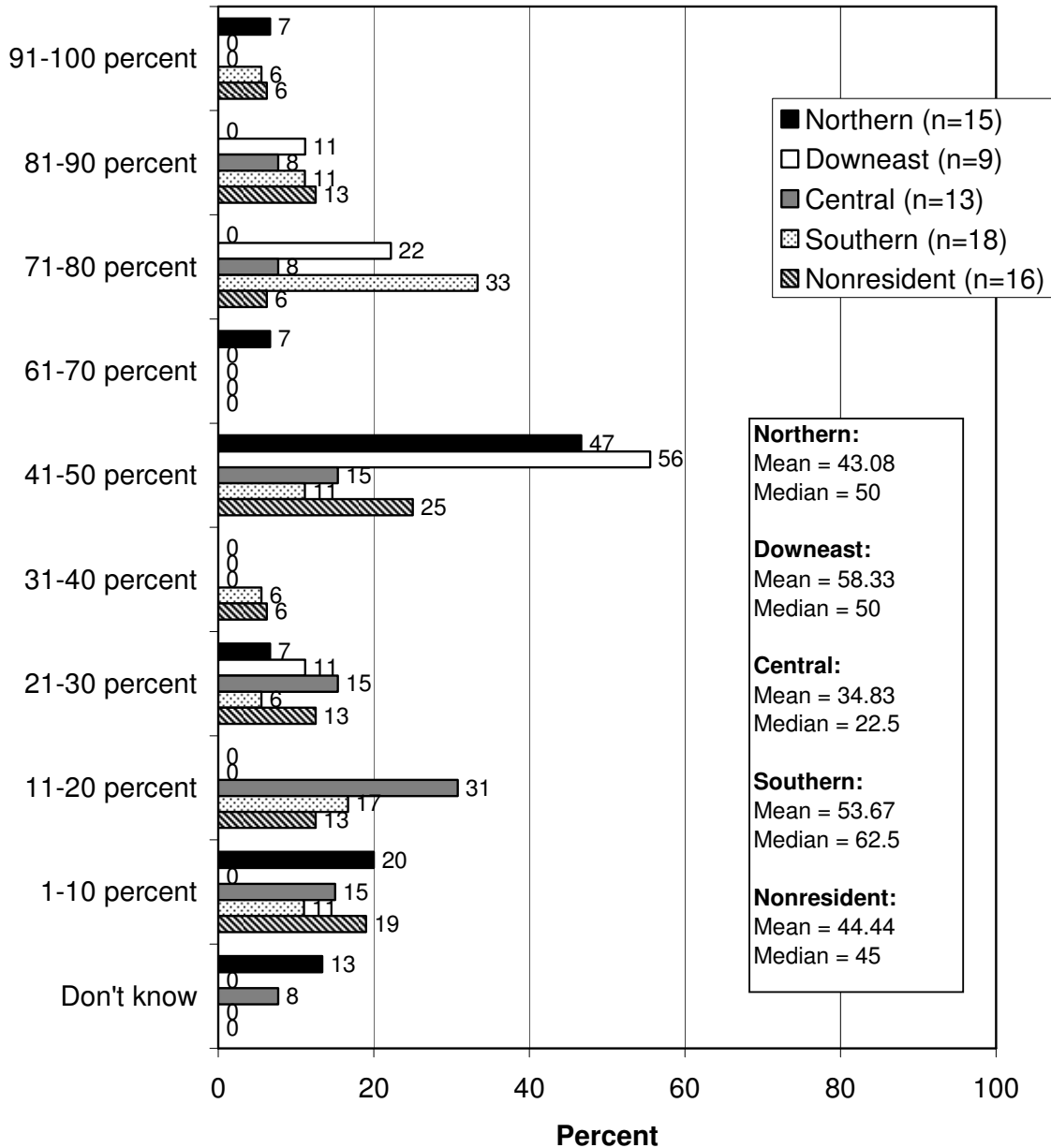
Q183. Did you fish in the fall season in lakes and ponds only, in rivers and streams only, or in both types of waters? (Asked of those who fished during the fall open water fishing season during the past 5 years.)



Q184. What percent of time do you fish in lakes and ponds in the fall season? (Asked of those who fished lakes and ponds during the fall open water season in Maine in the past 5 years.)



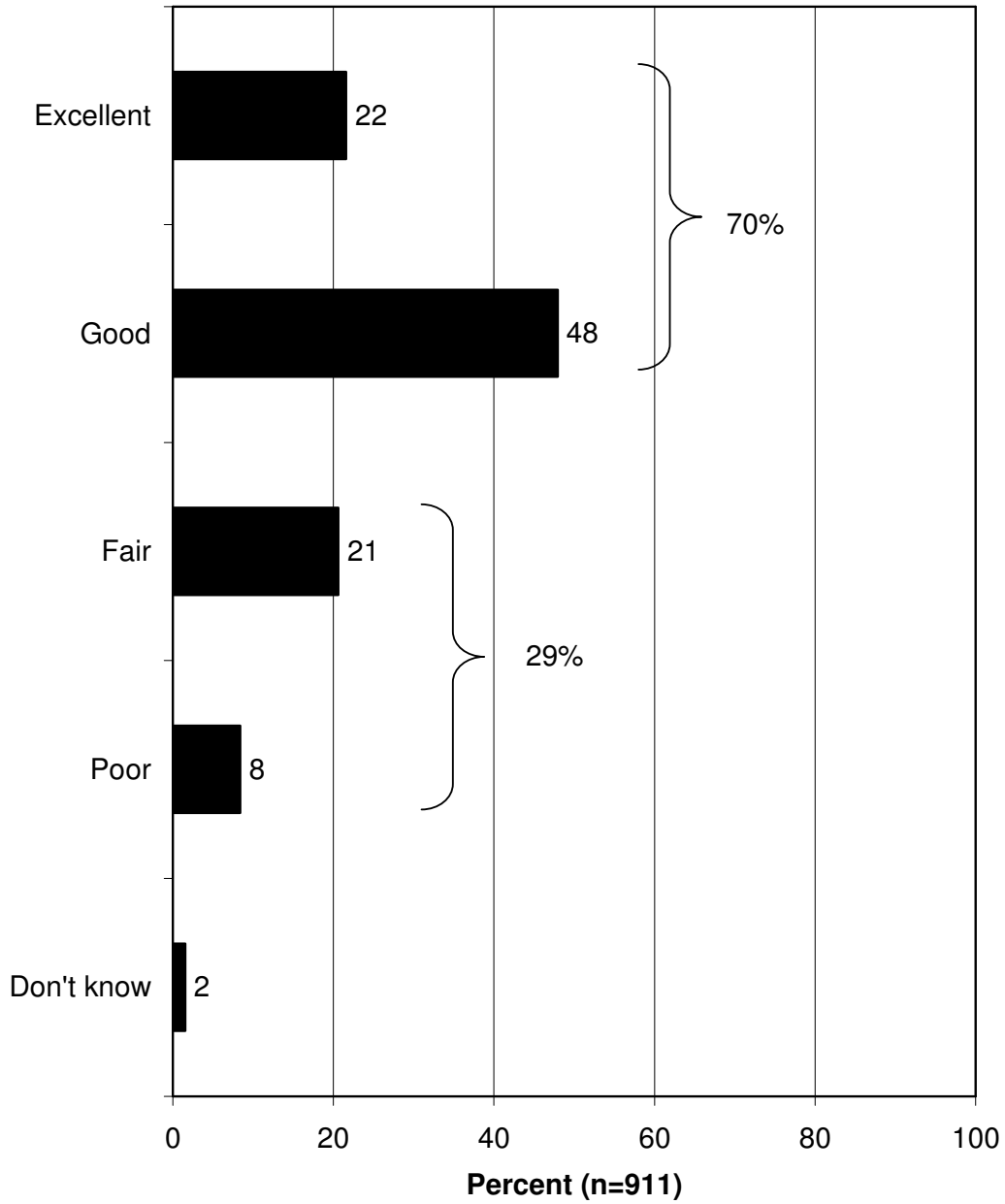
Q184. What percent of time do you fish in lakes and ponds in the fall season? (Asked of those who fished lakes and ponds during the fall open water season in Maine in the past 5 years.)



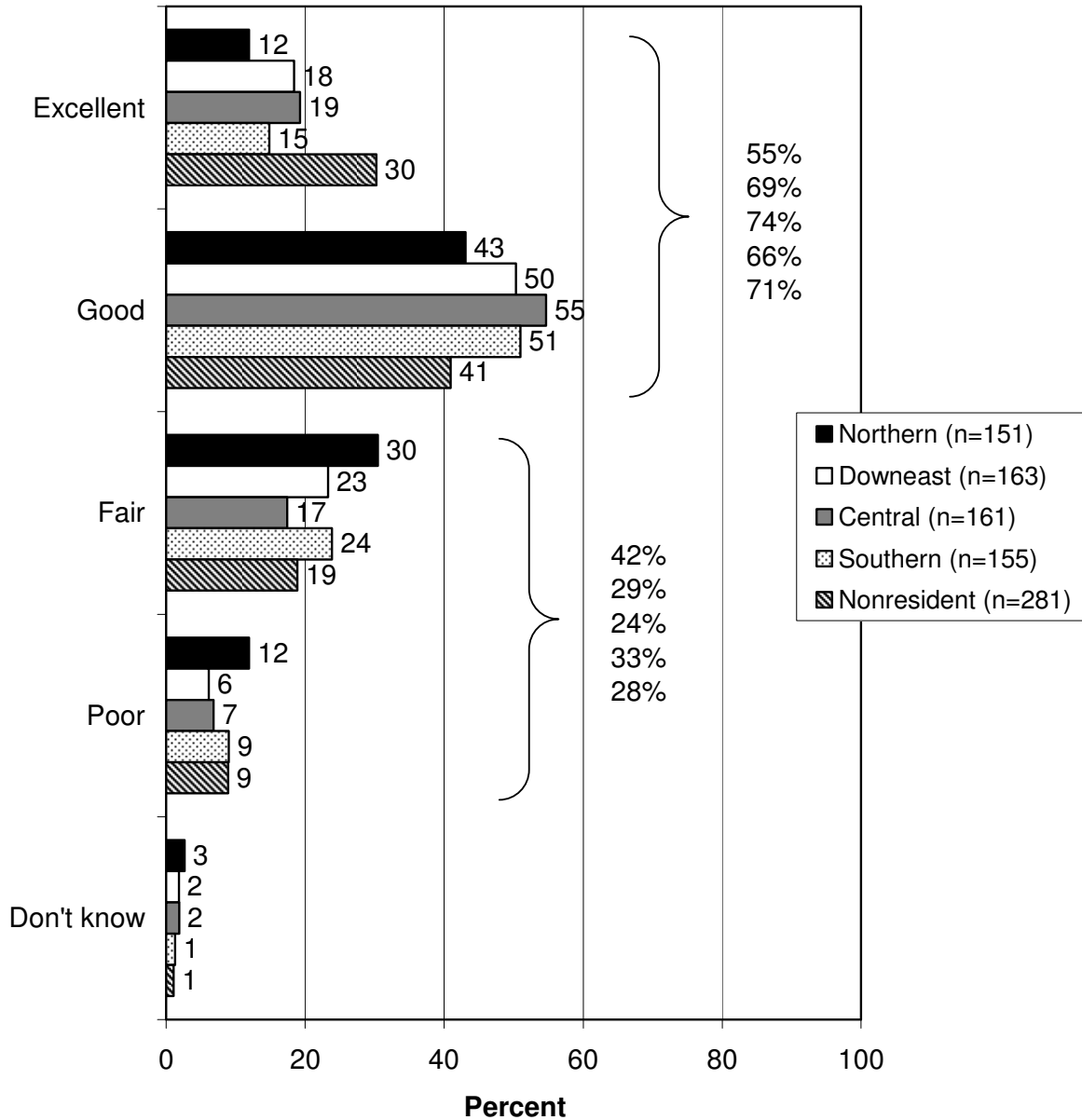
RATINGS OF OPEN WATER FISHING SEASON

- Most anglers who open water fished gave favorable ratings to the quality of the open water fishing during the 2015 season: 22% rated it excellent and 48% rated it good. At the other end of the spectrum, 21% rated the quality fair and 8% rated it poor.
 - Northern Region anglers gave the lowest ratings (42% rated the quality as fair or poor). Other groups more likely to give low ratings are those with a household income under \$60,000 (34%) and those in the Southern Region (33%).

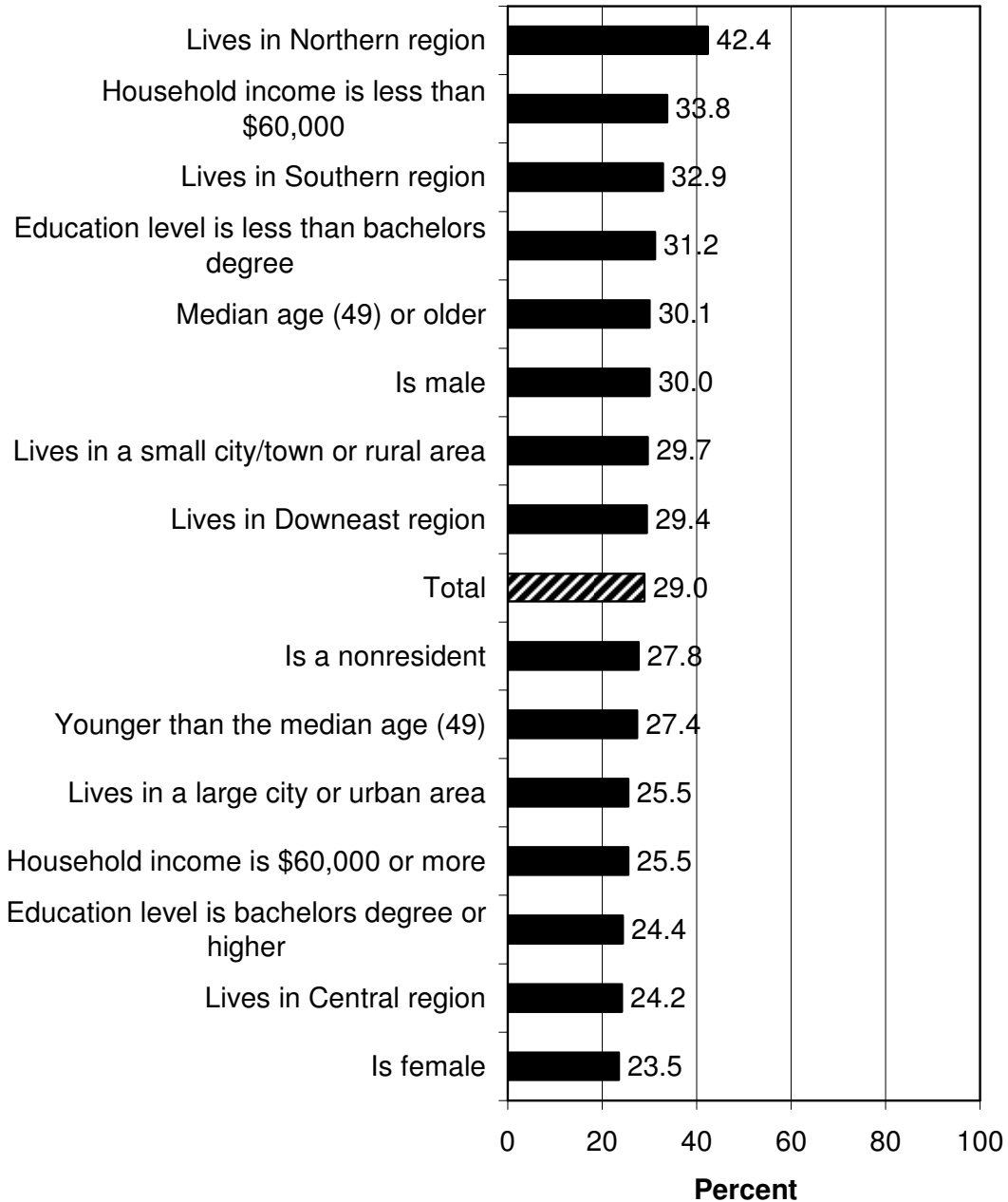
Q189. How would you rate the quality of the open water fishing during the 2015 open water season? Would you say excellent, good, fair, or poor? (Asked of those who open water fished in Maine in 2015.)



**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 open water fished in Maine in 2015.)**



Percent of the following groups that fished open waters in 2015 who rated open water fishing quality in Maine as poor:



SPECIES FISHED IN OPEN WATER SEASON

Anglers who fished during the 2015 open water fishing season were asked a series of follow-up questions on the species they fished. Species that were not fished by at least 10 anglers in the survey are not included in this section; likewise, species fished by fewer than 30 anglers are not included in regional analysis. Summary tables showing combined species data (the mean days fished per species in each county; the percent of fish kept) are included after the individual species subchapters.

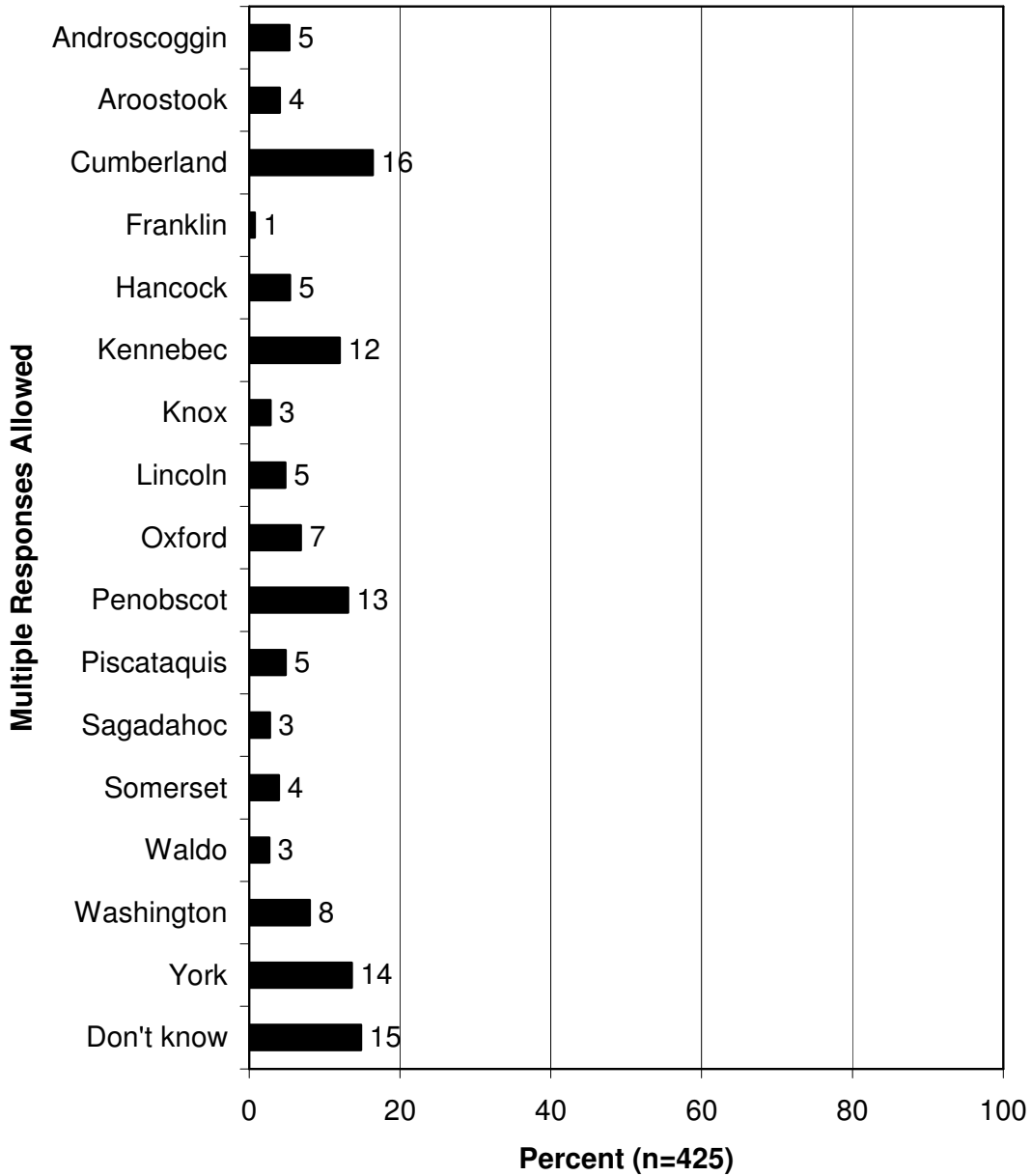
Black Bass

- Those who fished for black bass (which includes smallmouth and largemouth bass) in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Cumberland County (16% fished black bass in this county), York County (14%), and Penobscot County (13%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- The method most often used when fishing black bass was spin fishing (56% of black bass anglers used this method), followed by bait fishing (35%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Those who fished for black bass believe, on average, that a *quality* black bass needs to be a minimum size of 14 inches and that a *trophy* black bass needs to be a minimum size of 20 inches.
 - There was little variation among the regions of residence and nonresidents.

Q25. Black bass includes smallmouth and largemouth bass. In which counties did you open water fish for black bass in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for black bass in the 2015 open water season.)

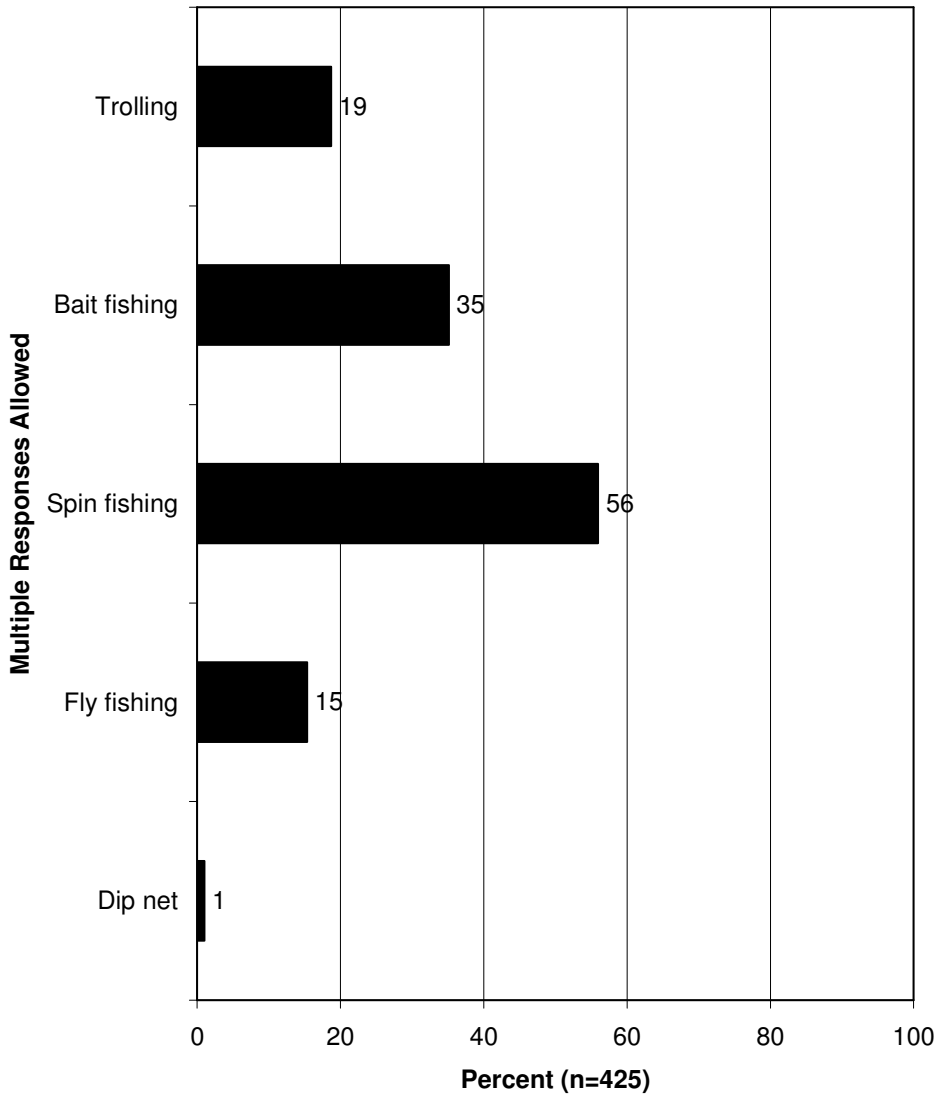


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Black Bass (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	1	10	7	3
Aroostook	24	2	3	2	4
Cumberland	0	2	6	35	13
Franklin	0	0	2	1	0
Hancock	0	52	6	0	3
Kennebec	0	0	29	10	5
Knox	2	0	0	8	1
Lincoln	0	0	2	10	4
Oxford	0	0	6	7	9
Penobscot	34	6	34	1	7
Piscataquis	20	0	10	2	3
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	9	1
Somerset	5	0	13	1	1
Waldo	0	0	3	1	4
Washington	15	49	5	4	7
York	0	1	0	39	7

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

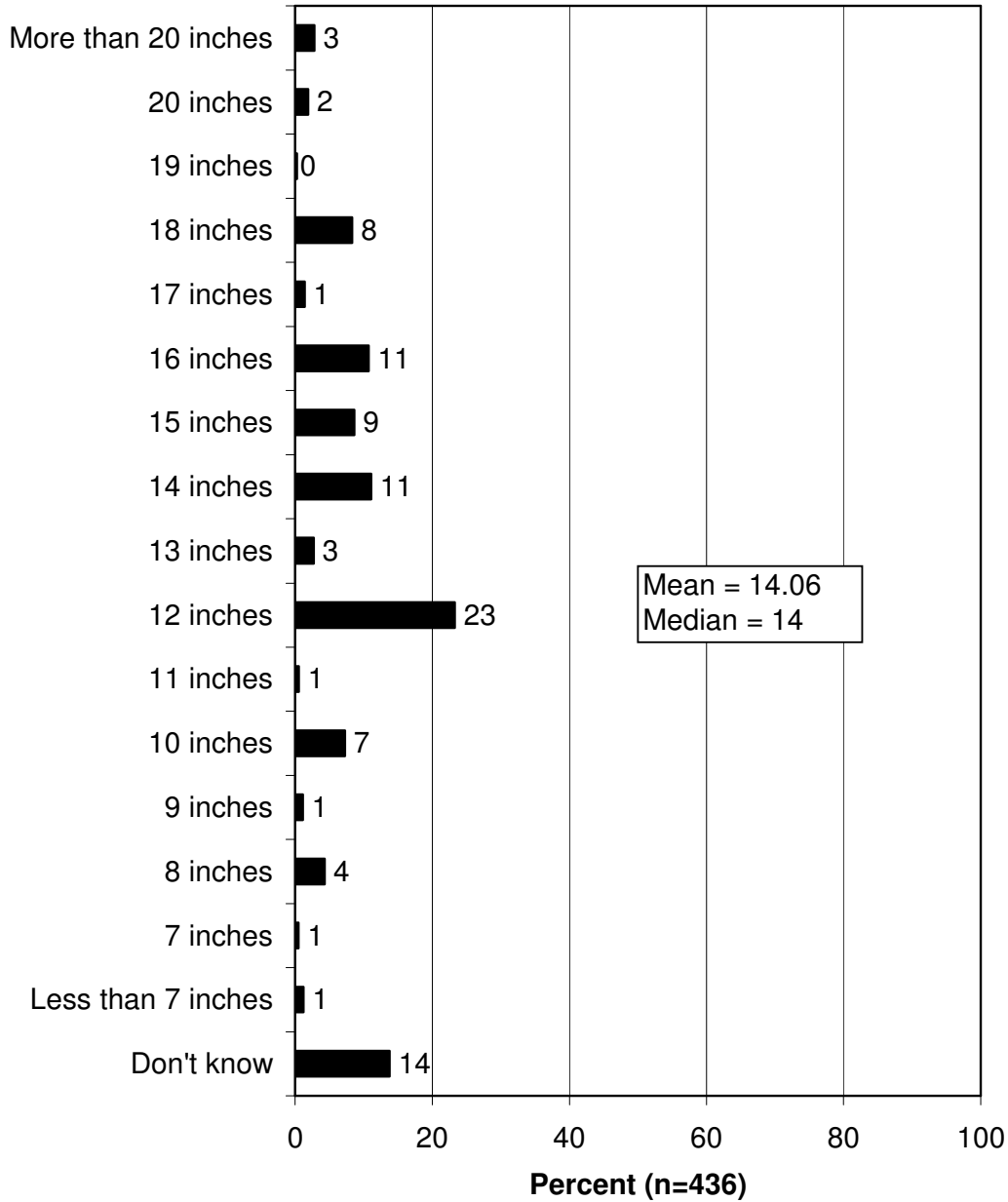
Q27. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for black bass in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for black bass in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



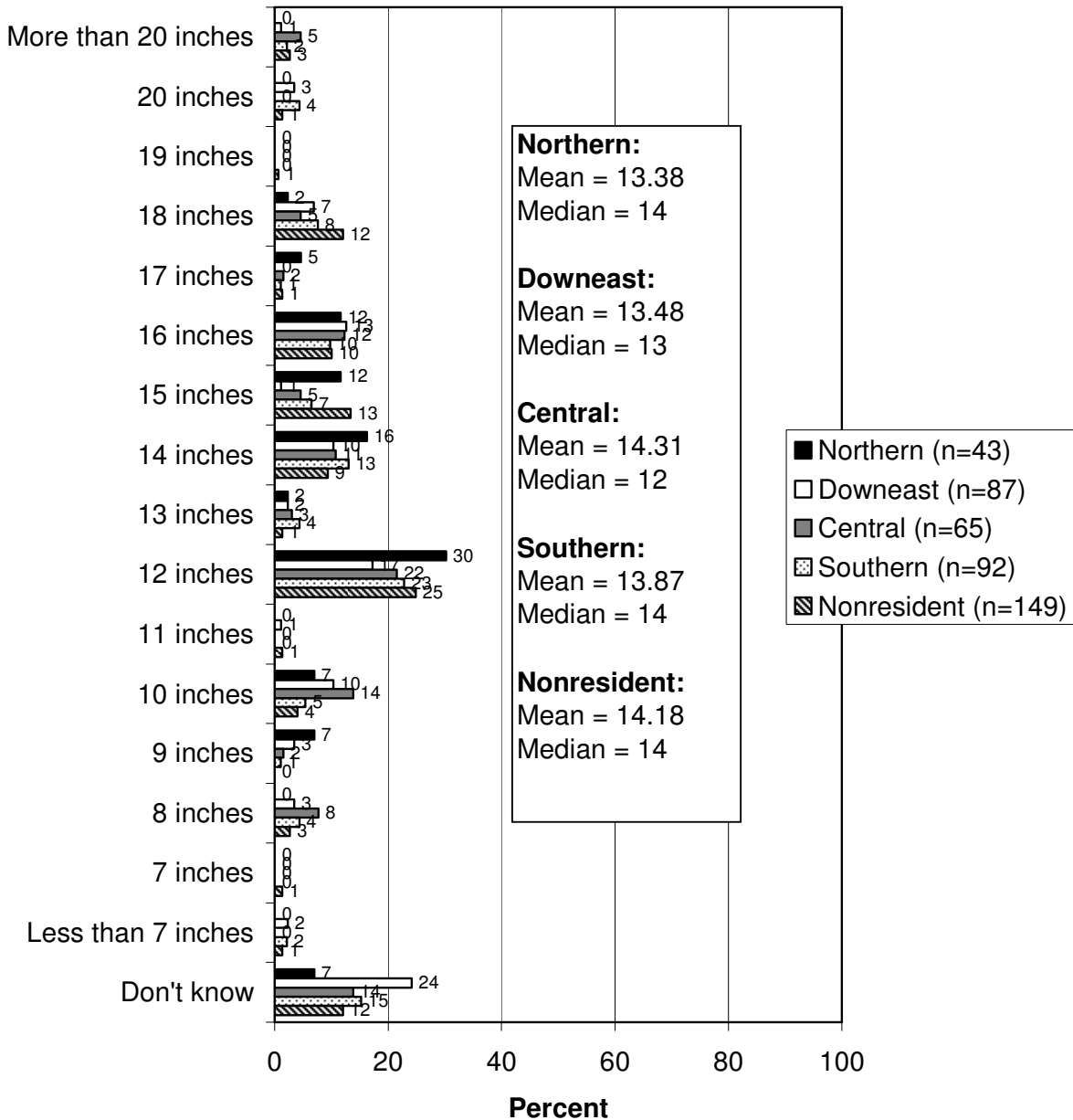
Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Black Bass (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	24	22	21	11	22
Bait Fishing	32	33	32	34	39
Spin Fishing	51	59	52	55	59
Fly Fishing	20	12	18	17	13
Dip Net	2	1	0	1	1

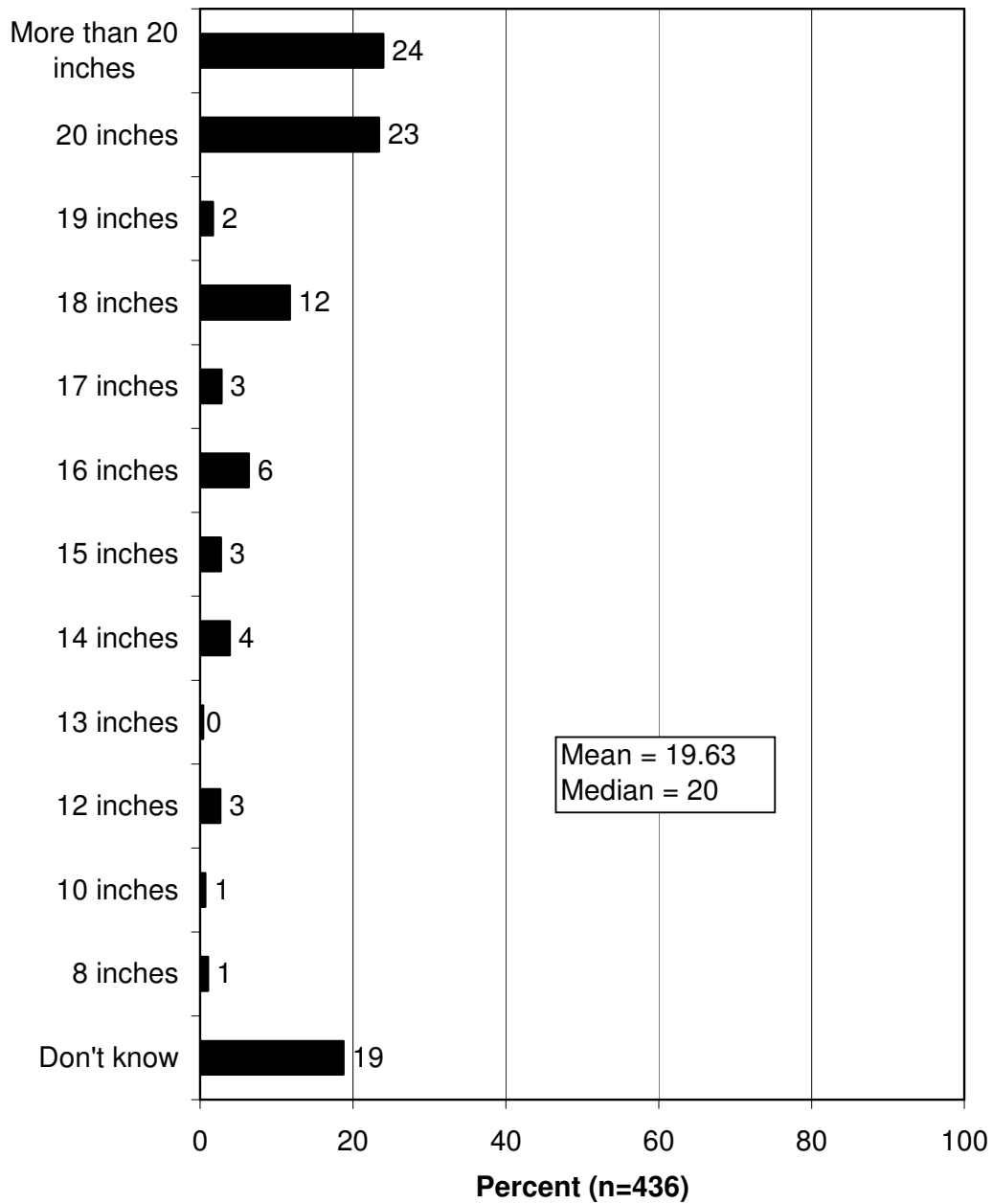
Q31/Q207. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a black bass needs to be to still be considered a quality black bass? (Asked of those who fished for black bass in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



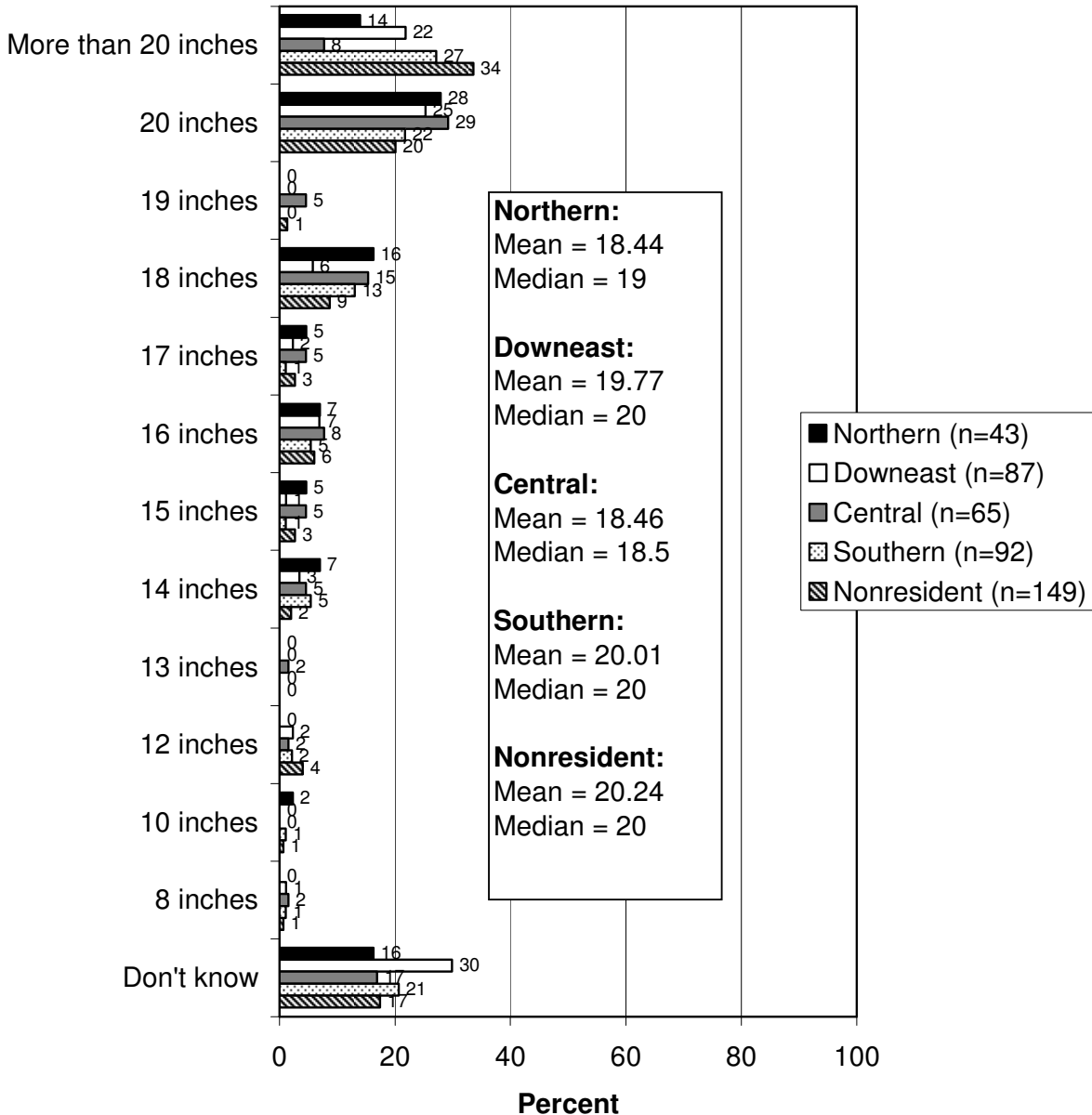
Q31/Q207. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a black bass needs to be to still be considered a quality black bass? (Asked of those who fished for black bass in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q33/Q209. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a black bass needs to be to be considered a trophy black bass? (Asked of those who fished for black bass in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q33/Q209. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a black bass needs to be to be considered a trophy black bass? (Asked of those who fished for black bass in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)

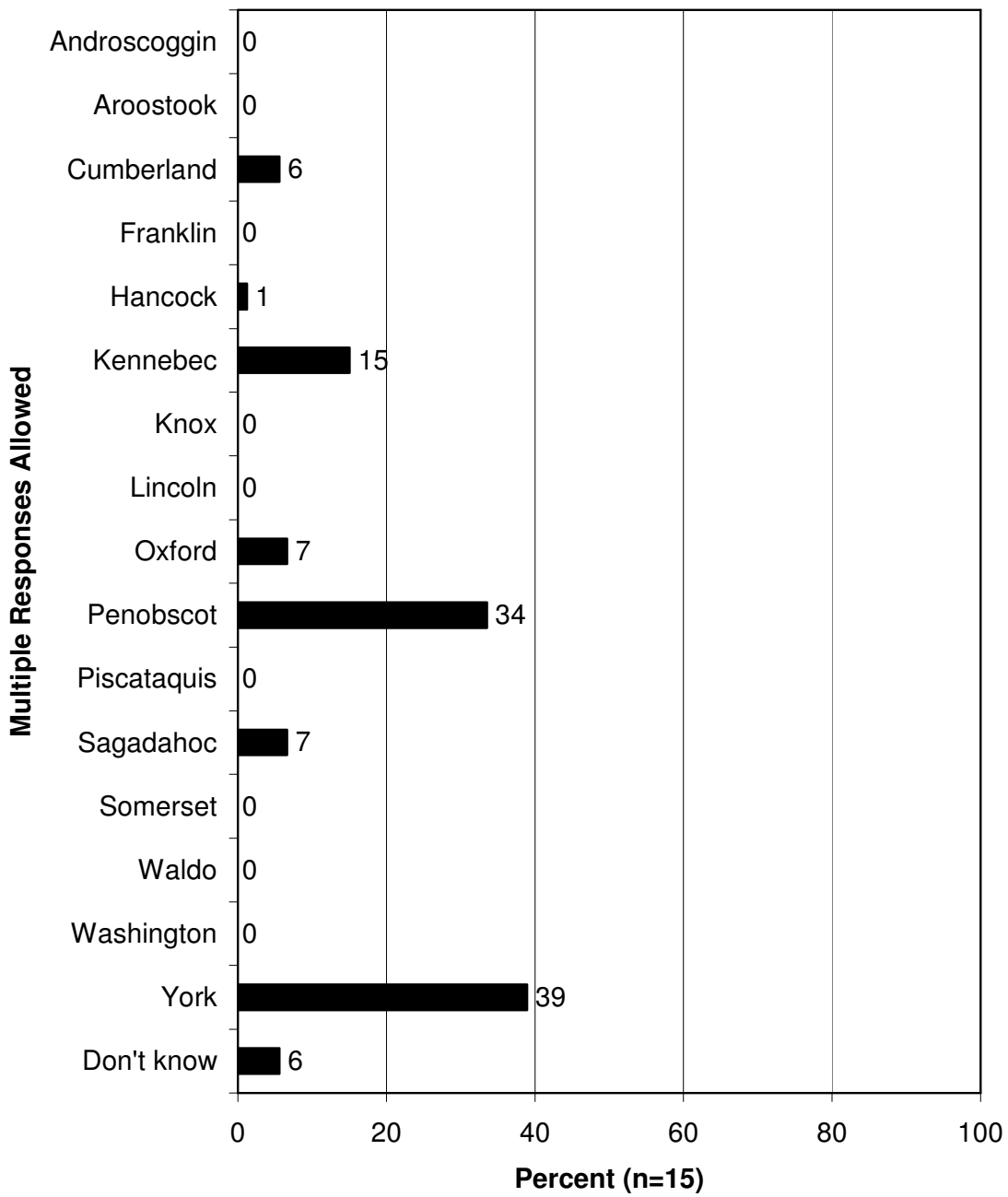


Crappie

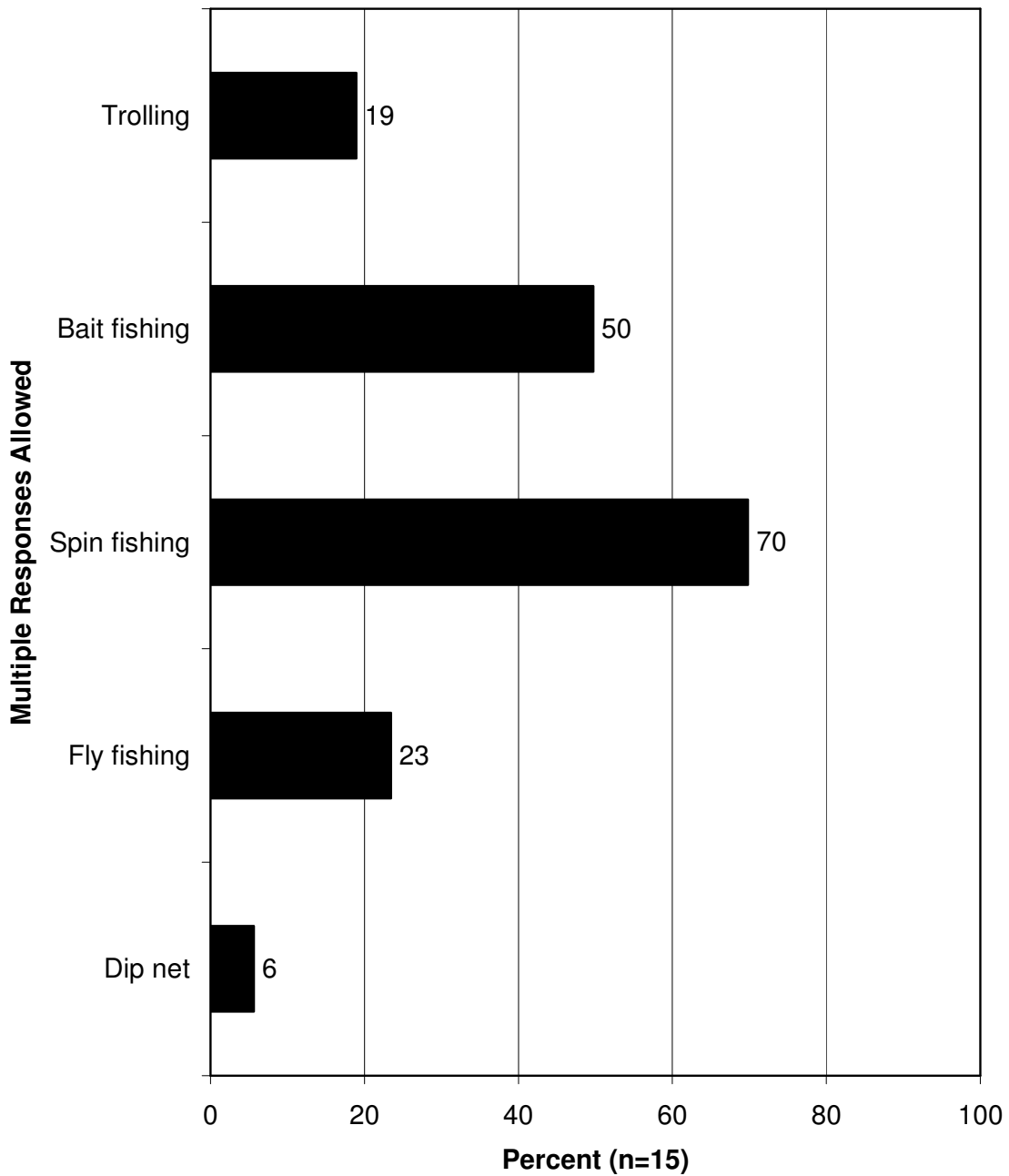
- Those who fished for crappie in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in York County (39% fished there), Penobscot County (34%), and Kennebec County (15%).

- The method most often used when fishing crappie was spin fishing (70% used this method), followed by bait fishing (50%).

**Q47. In which counties did you open water fish for crappie in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for crappie in the 2015 open water season.)**



Q49. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for crappie in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for crappie in the 2015 open water fishing season.)

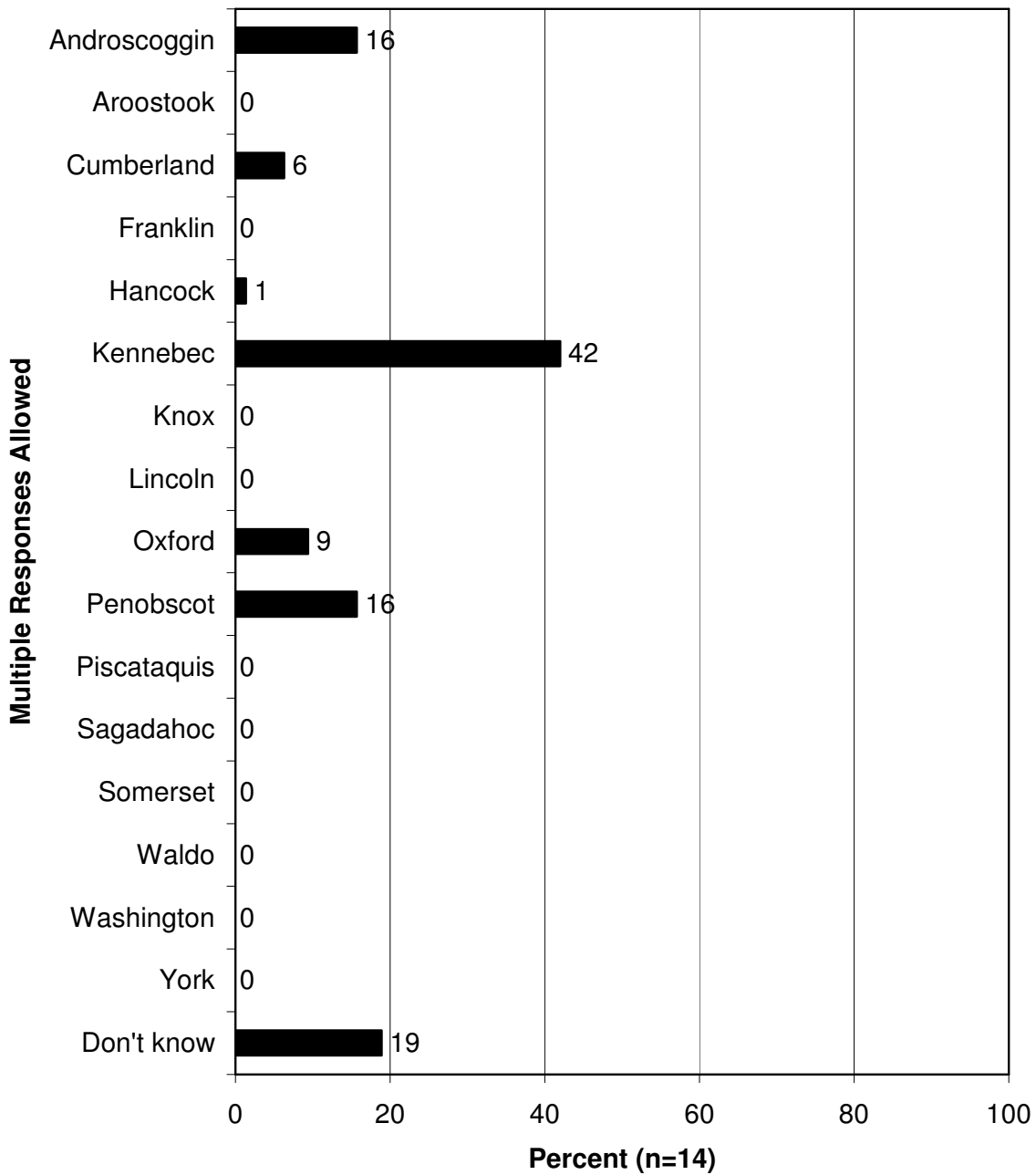


Northern Pike

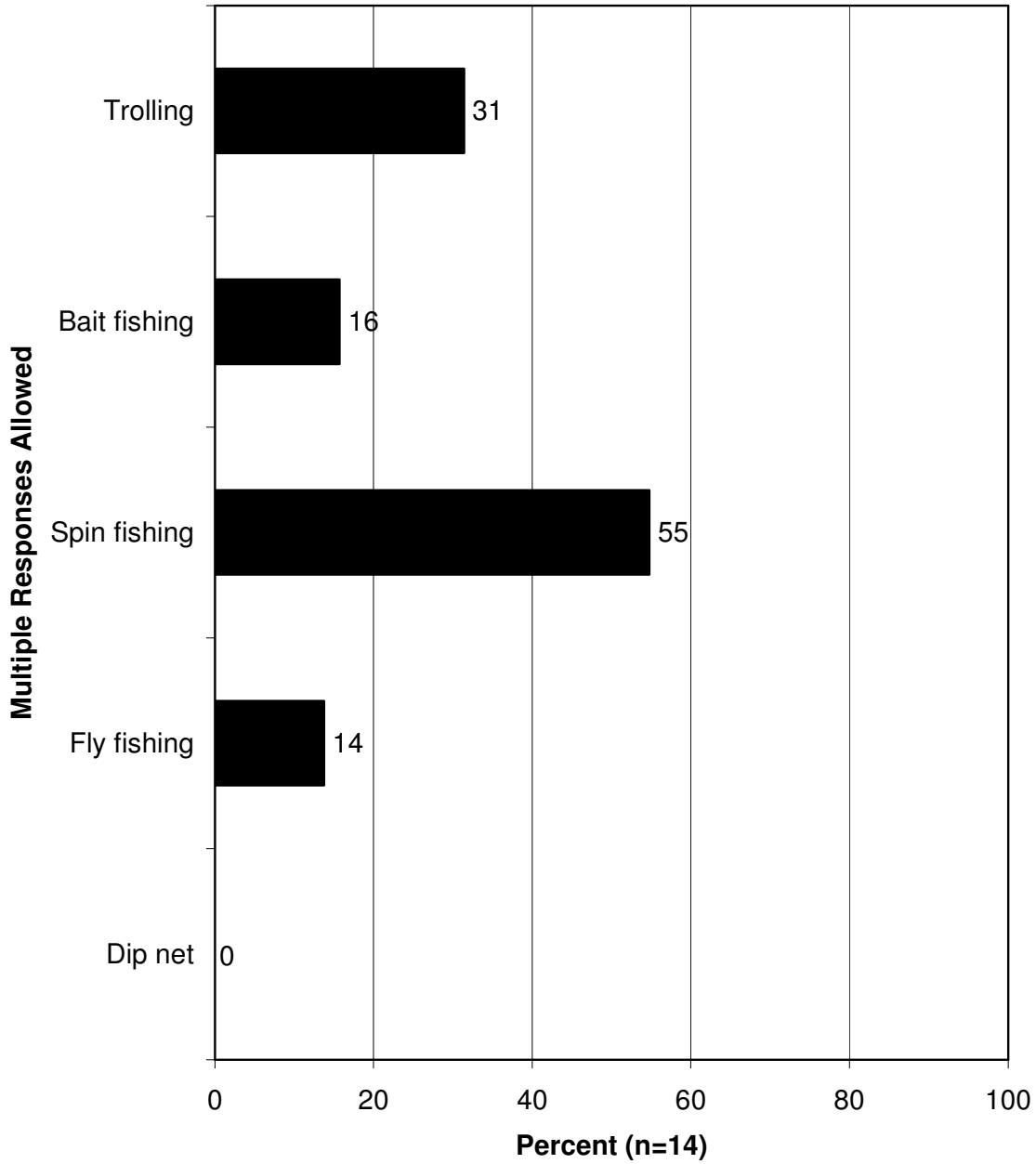
- Those who fished for northern pike in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (42% fished there), followed by Androscoggin and Penobscot Counties (16% each).

- The method most often used when fishing northern pike was spin fishing (55%), followed by trolling (31%).

**Q69. In which counties did you open water fish for northern pike in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for northern pike in the 2015 open water season.)**



Q71. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for northern pike in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for northern pike in the 2015 open water fishing season.)

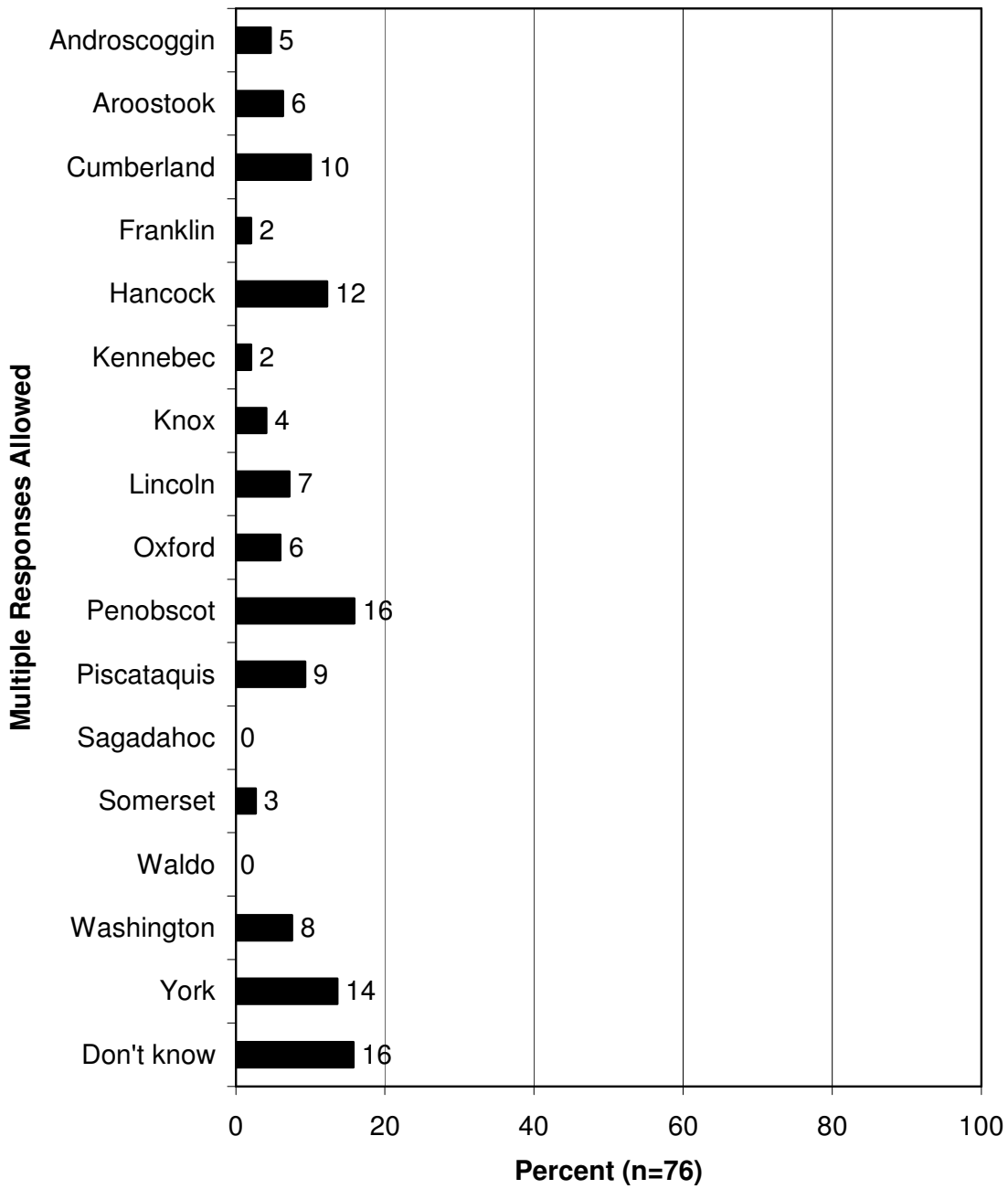


Pickerel

- Compared to other species, fishing for pickerel was fairly evenly distributed among Maine counties during the 2015 open water fishing season. Most pickerel fishing occurred in Penobscot County (16%), York County (14%), and Hancock County (12%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- The method most often used when fishing pickerel was spin fishing (55%), followed by trolling (31%).
 - Trolling was practiced far more by anglers who reside in the Northern Region than the other groups.

**Q75. In which counties did you open water fish for pickerel in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for pickerel in the 2015 open water season.)**

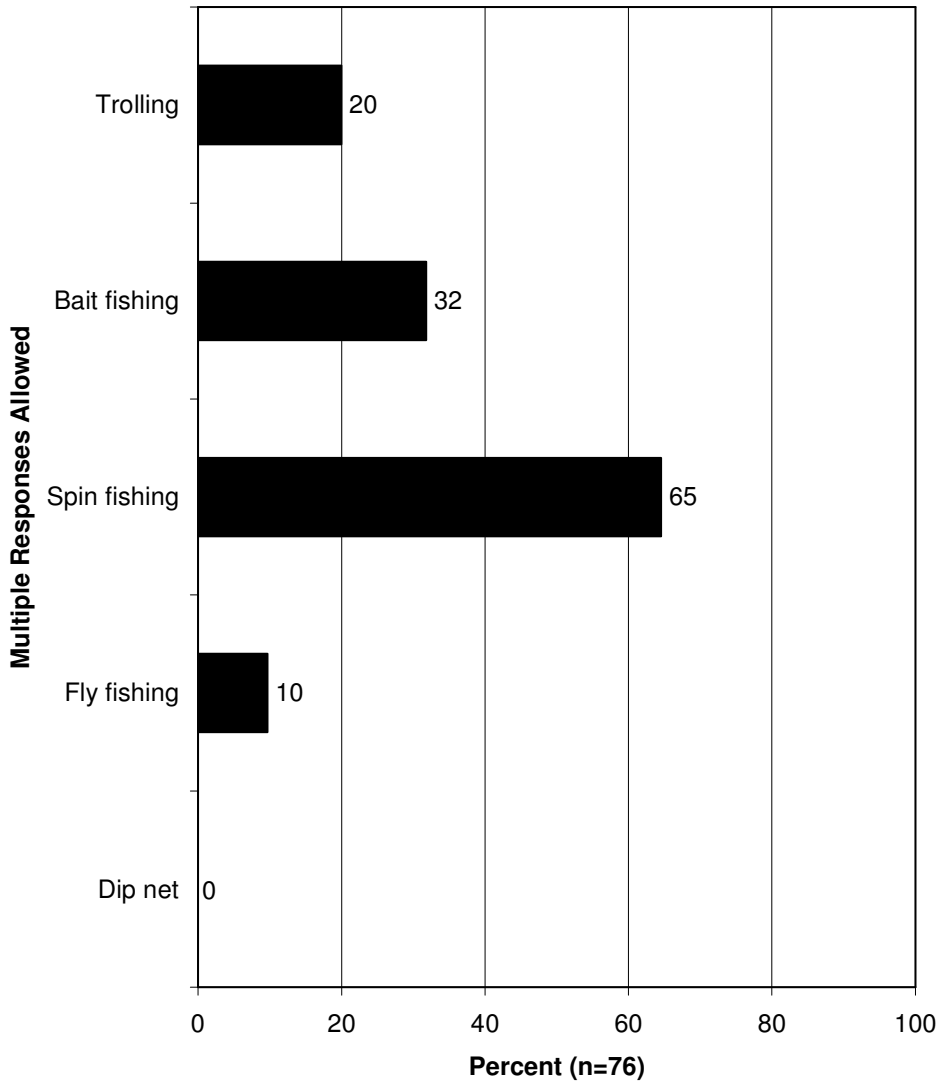


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Pickerel (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	4	13	0	4
Aroostook	57	0	0	8	4
Cumberland	0	0	13	17	8
Franklin	0	0	0	8	0
Hancock	14	60	13	0	8
Kennebec	0	0	0	8	0
Knox	0	0	0	17	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	8	13
Oxford	0	0	13	0	8
Penobscot	14	8	63	0	4
Piscataquis	29	0	13	8	8
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	14	0	0	8	0
Waldo	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	44	0	0	8
York	0	0	0	42	8

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

Q77. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for pickerel in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for picekerel in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Pickerel (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	86	28	13	17	17
Bait Fishing	29	32	38	25	33
Spin Fishing	29	68	63	75	63
Fly Fishing	0	12	25	0	8
Dip Net	0	0	0	0	0

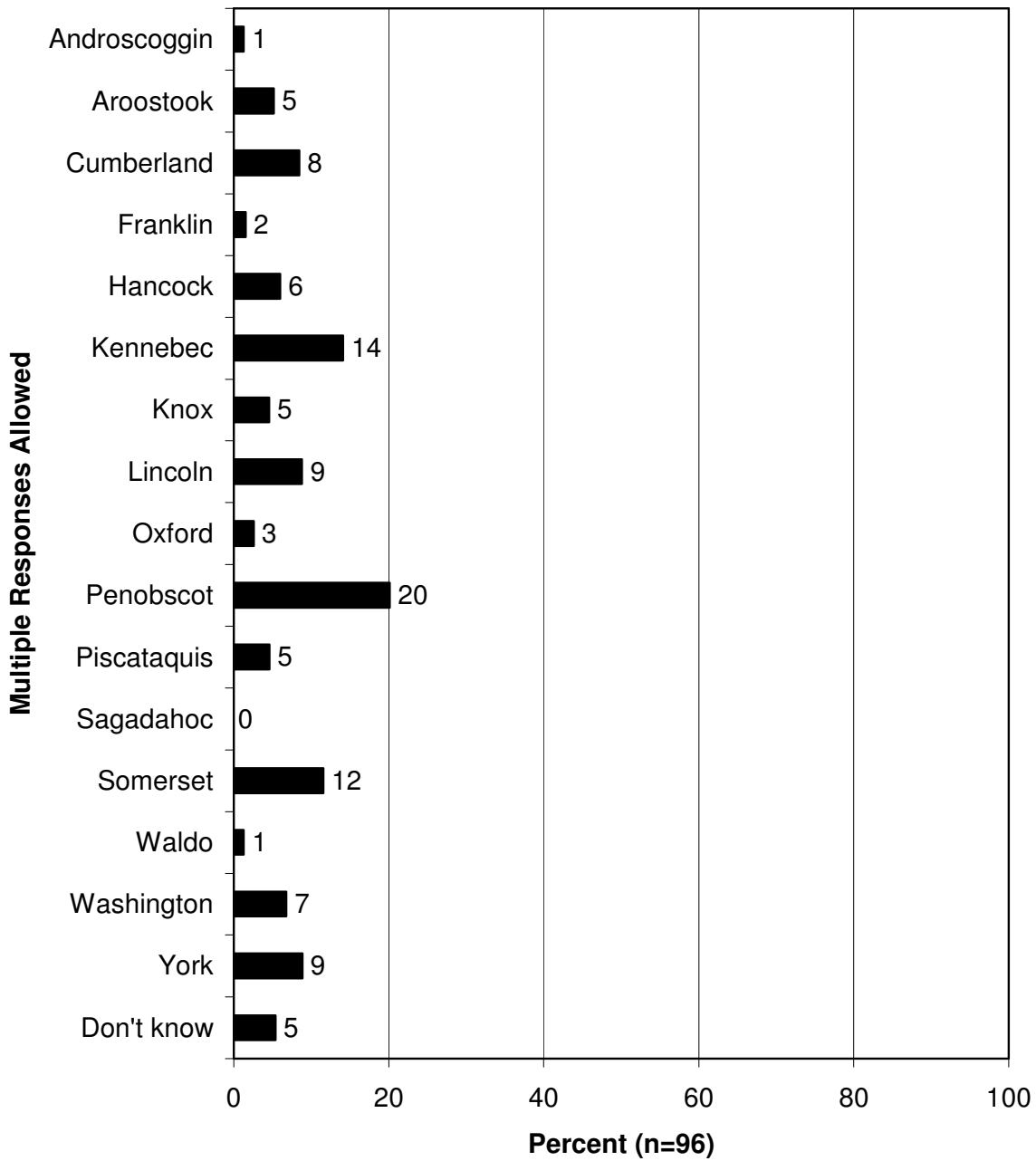
Perch

- Those who fished for perch in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Penobscot County (20%), Kennebec County (14%), and Somerset County (12%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- The method most often used when fishing perch was bait fishing (50% used this method), followed by spin fishing (43%) and trolling (30%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Those who fished for perch believe, on average, that a *quality* perch needs to be a minimum size of 9 inches and that a *trophy* perch needs to be a minimum size of 13 inches.
 - There is little marked difference between the regions.

**Q81. In which counties did you open water fish for perch in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for perch in the 2015 open water season.)**

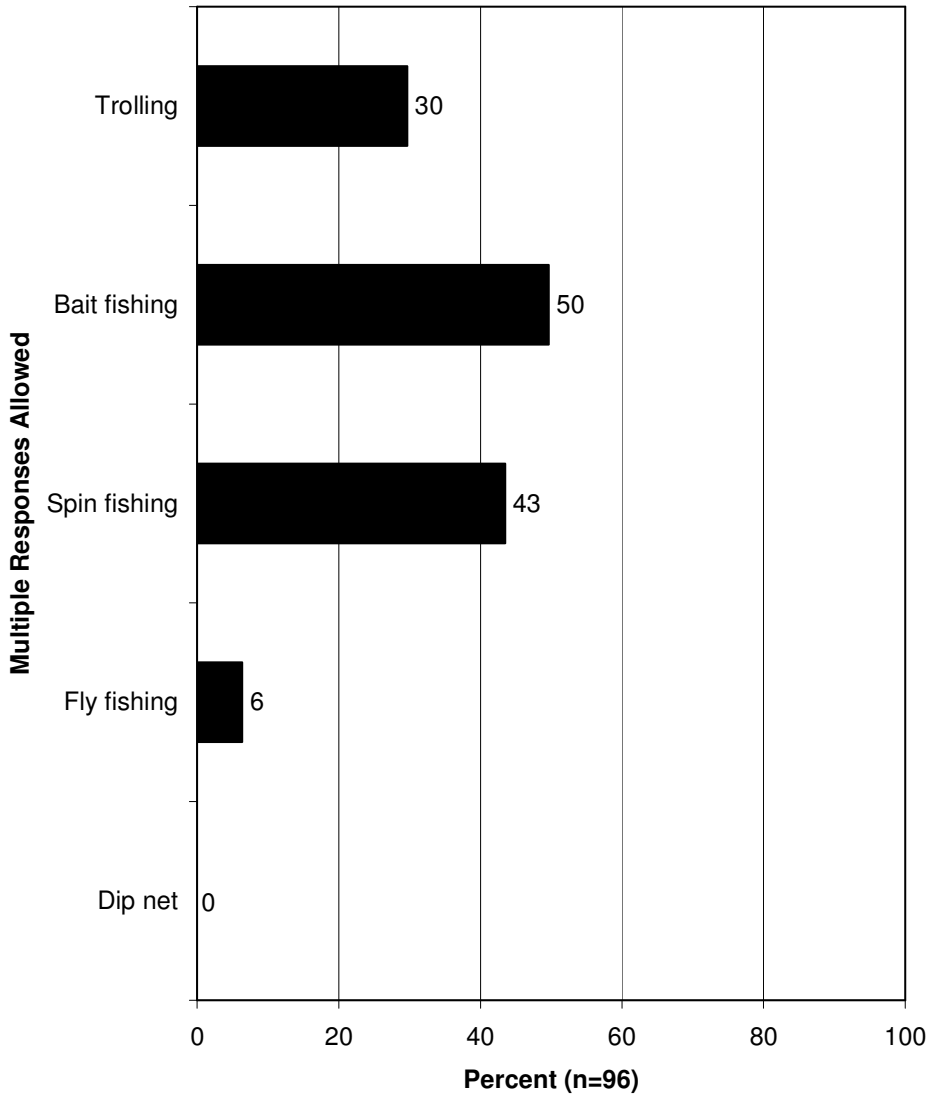


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Perch (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	0	0	5
Aroostook	28	0	0	7	5
Cumberland	0	4	0	13	20
Franklin	0	0	0	7	0
Hancock	0	42	5	0	5
Kennebec	0	0	26	20	0
Knox	0	0	0	20	0
Lincoln	0	0	5	13	15
Oxford	0	0	0	0	10
Penobscot	39	13	37	0	10
Piscataquis	28	4	5	0	0
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	6	0	26	7	0
Waldo	0	0	0	0	5
Washington	17	42	0	0	10
York	0	0	0	33	5

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

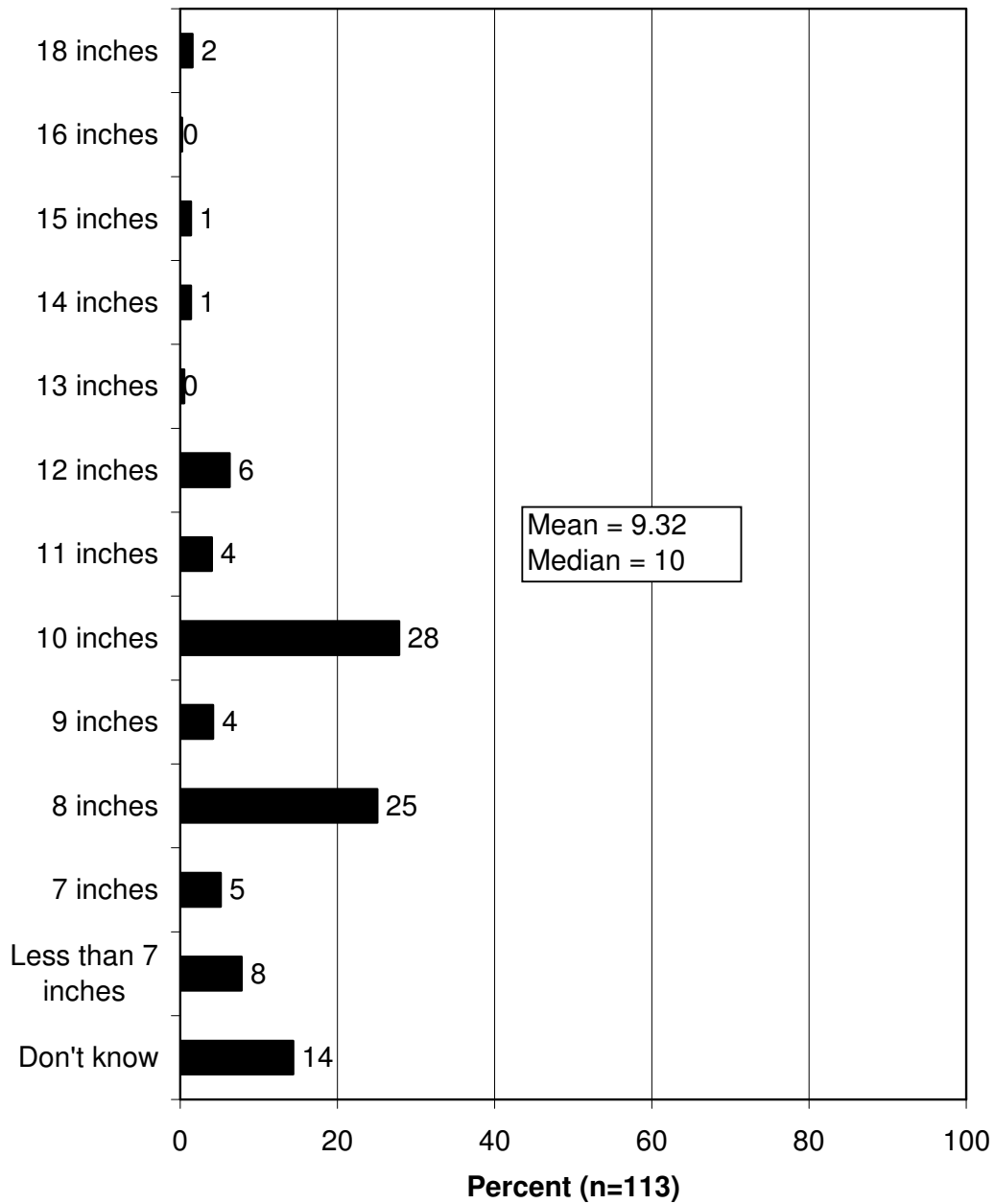
Q83. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for perch in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for perch in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



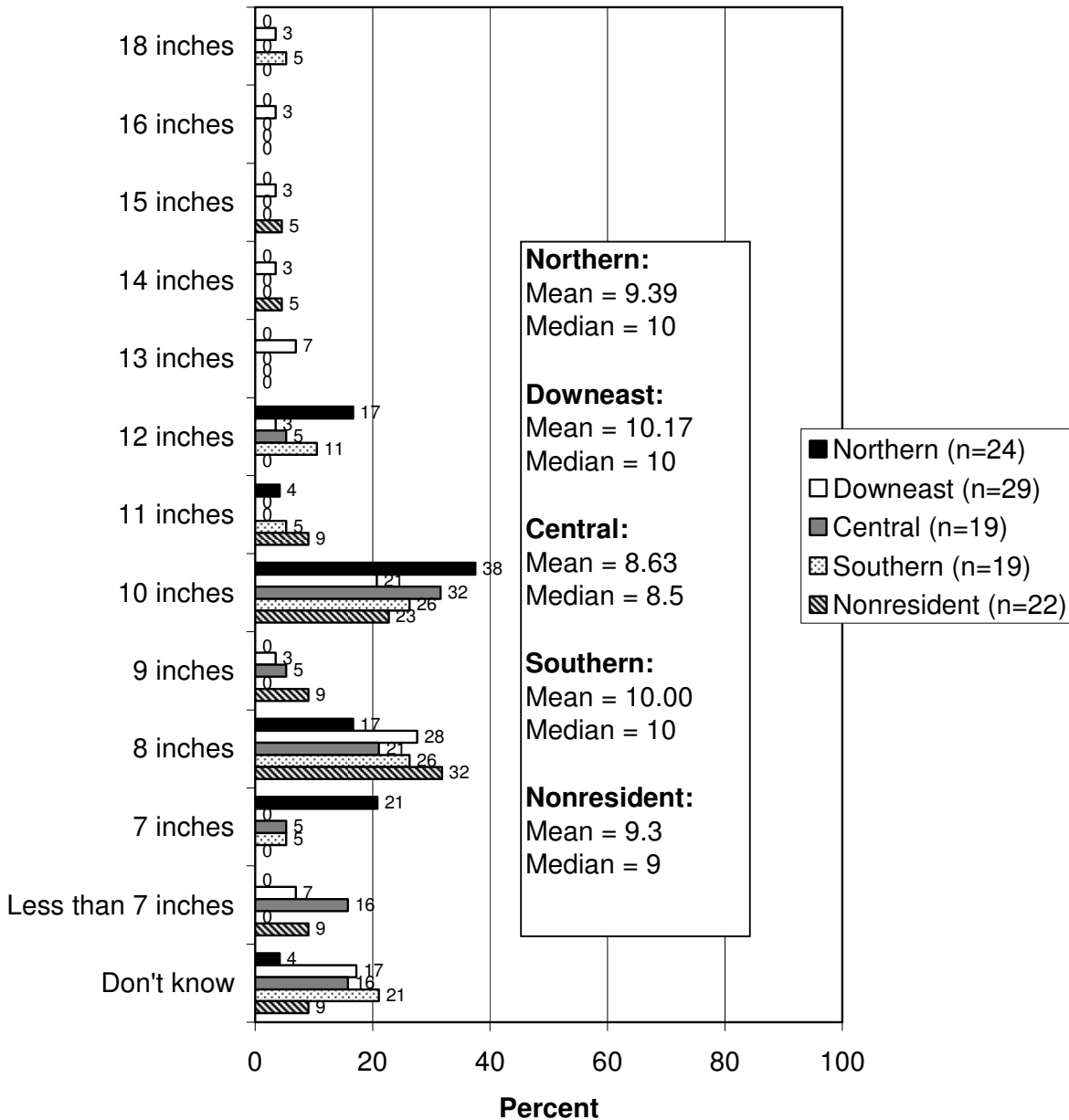
Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Perch (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	50	21	21	27	40
Bait Fishing	56	58	58	20	60
Spin Fishing	33	29	32	80	35
Fly Fishing	6	4	0	13	10
Dip Net	0	0	0	0	0

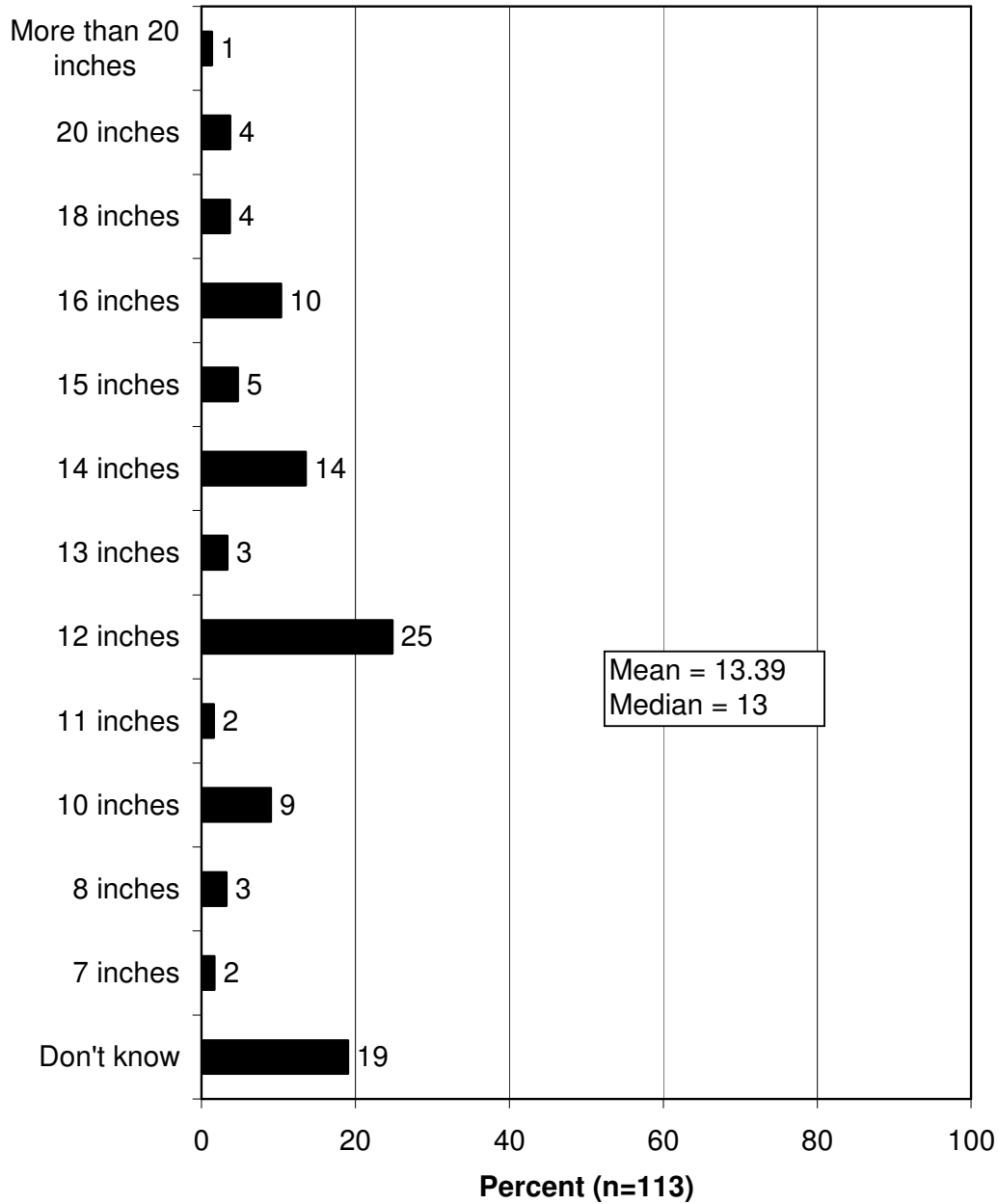
Q87/Q263. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a perch needs to be to still be considered a quality perch? (Asked of those who fished for perch in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



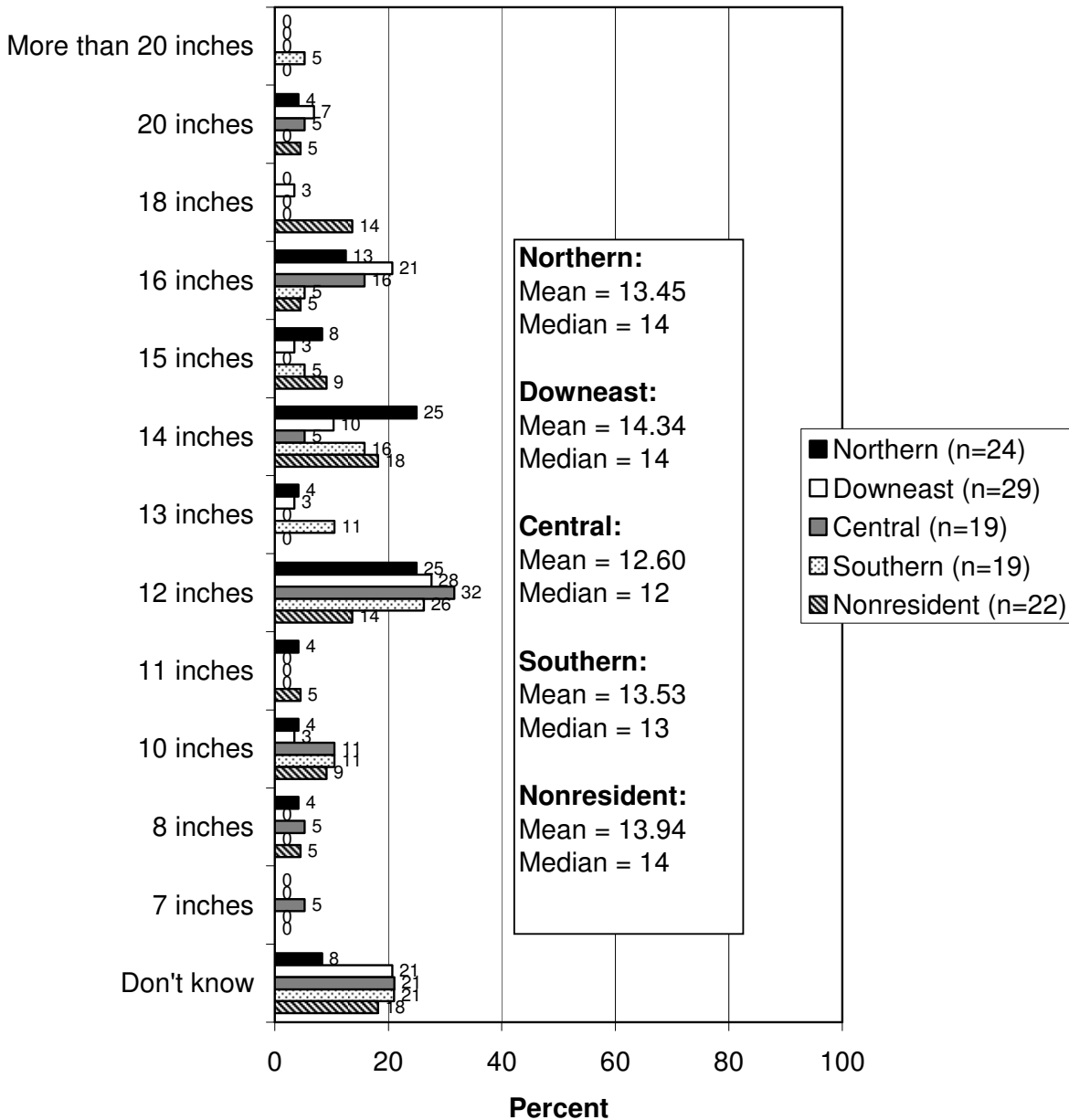
Q87/Q263. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a perch needs to be to still be considered a quality perch? (Asked of those who fished for perch in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q89/Q265. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a perch needs to be to be considered a trophy perch? (Asked of those who fished for perch in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q89/Q265. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a perch needs to be to be considered a trophy perch? (Asked of those who fished for perch in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



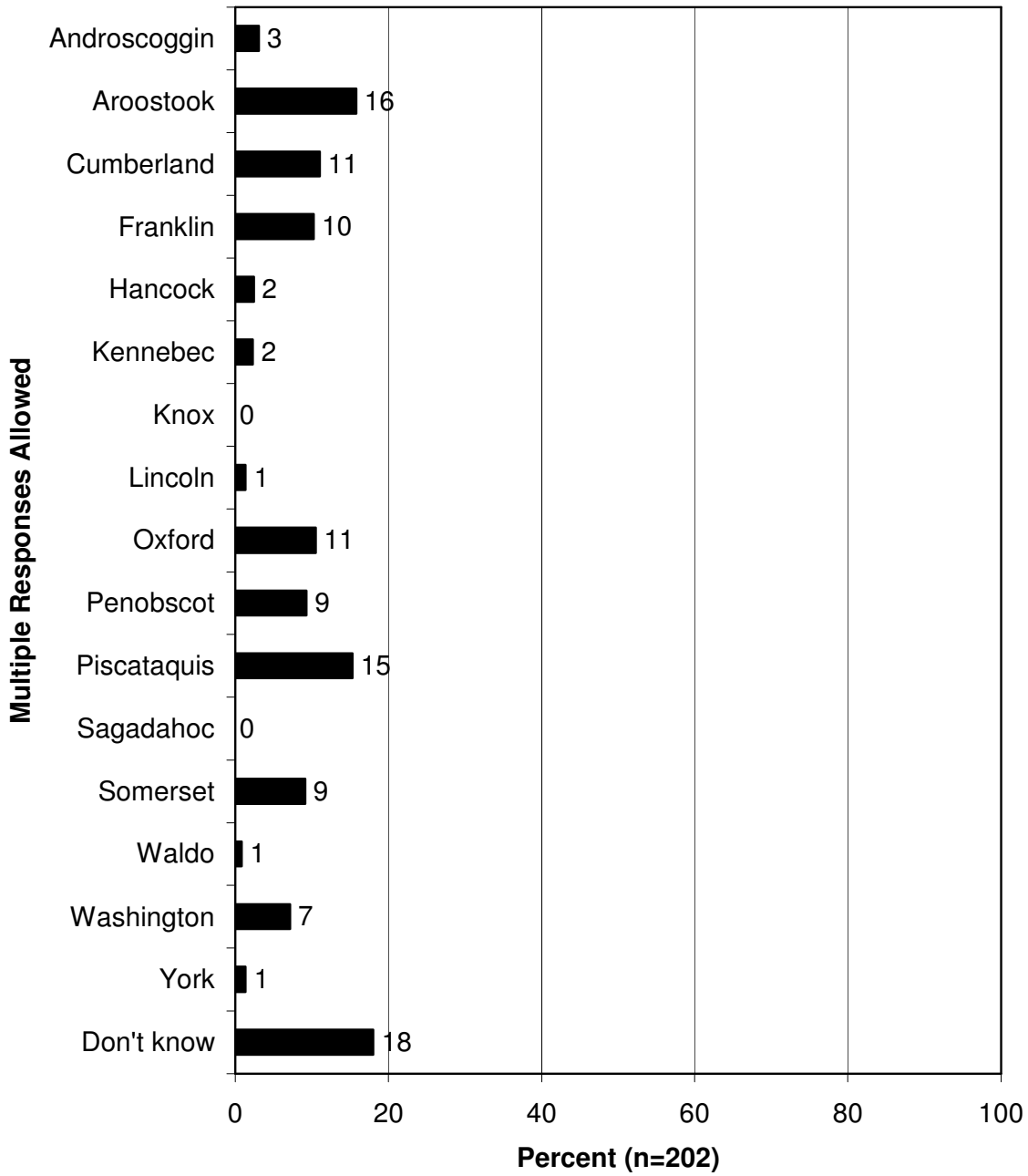
Landlocked Salmon

- Those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Aroostook County (16%) and Piscataquis County (15%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- The method most often used when fishing landlocked salmon was trolling (64%), followed by fly fishing (35%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Those who fished for landlocked salmon believe, on average, that a *quality* landlocked salmon needs to be a minimum size of 16 inches and that a *trophy* landlocked salmon needs to be a minimum size of 23 inches.
 - There is little marked difference between the regions.

**Q91. In which counties did you open water fish for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water season.)**

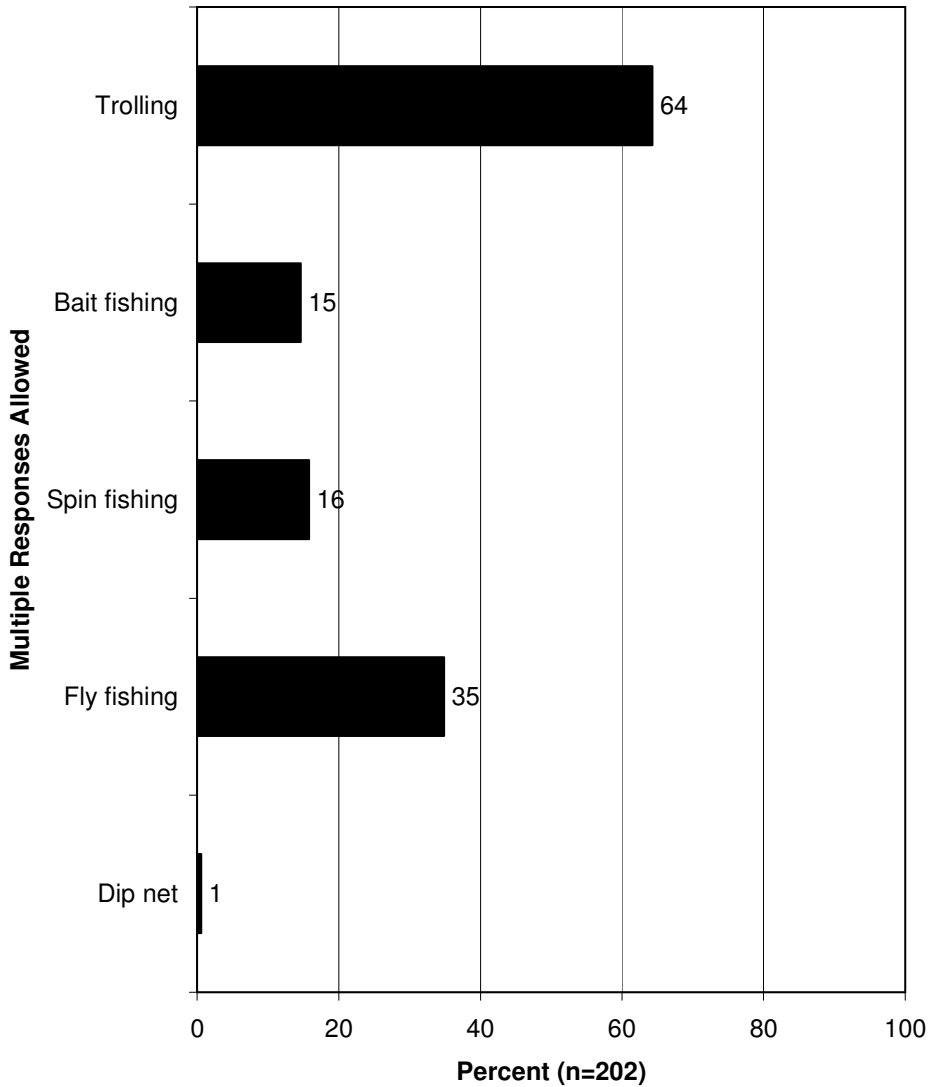


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Landlocked Salmon (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	5	6	0
Aroostook	53	10	16	16	5
Cumberland	0	0	0	38	9
Franklin	0	0	13	6	14
Hancock	2	35	3	0	0
Kennebec	0	0	5	0	2
Knox	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	6	0
Oxford	0	0	11	6	18
Penobscot	24	10	13	0	7
Piscataquis	24	16	26	9	5
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	7	0	18	6	4
Waldo	0	0	3	0	0
Washington	7	52	8	6	2
York	0	0	0	6	0

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

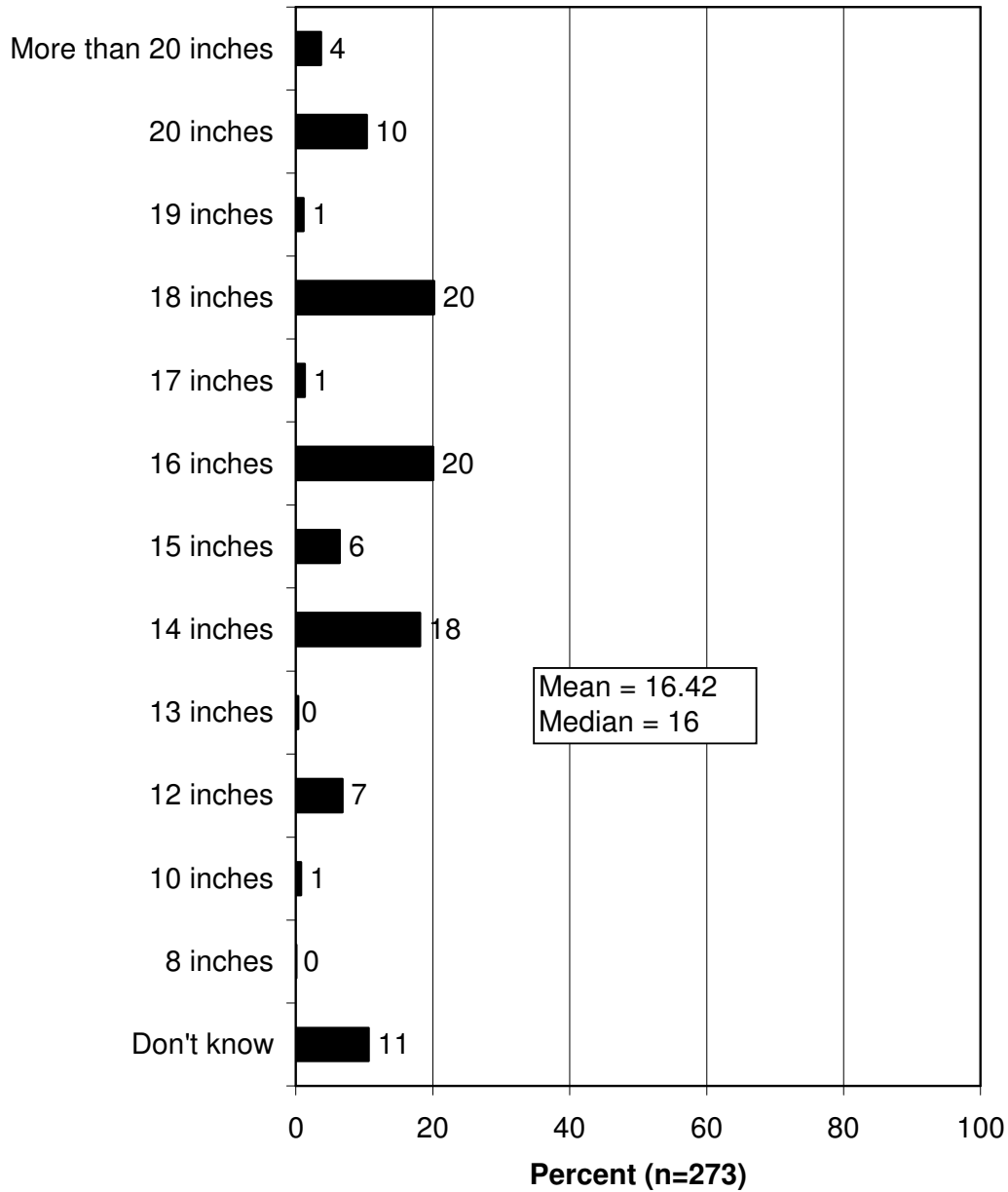
Q93. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



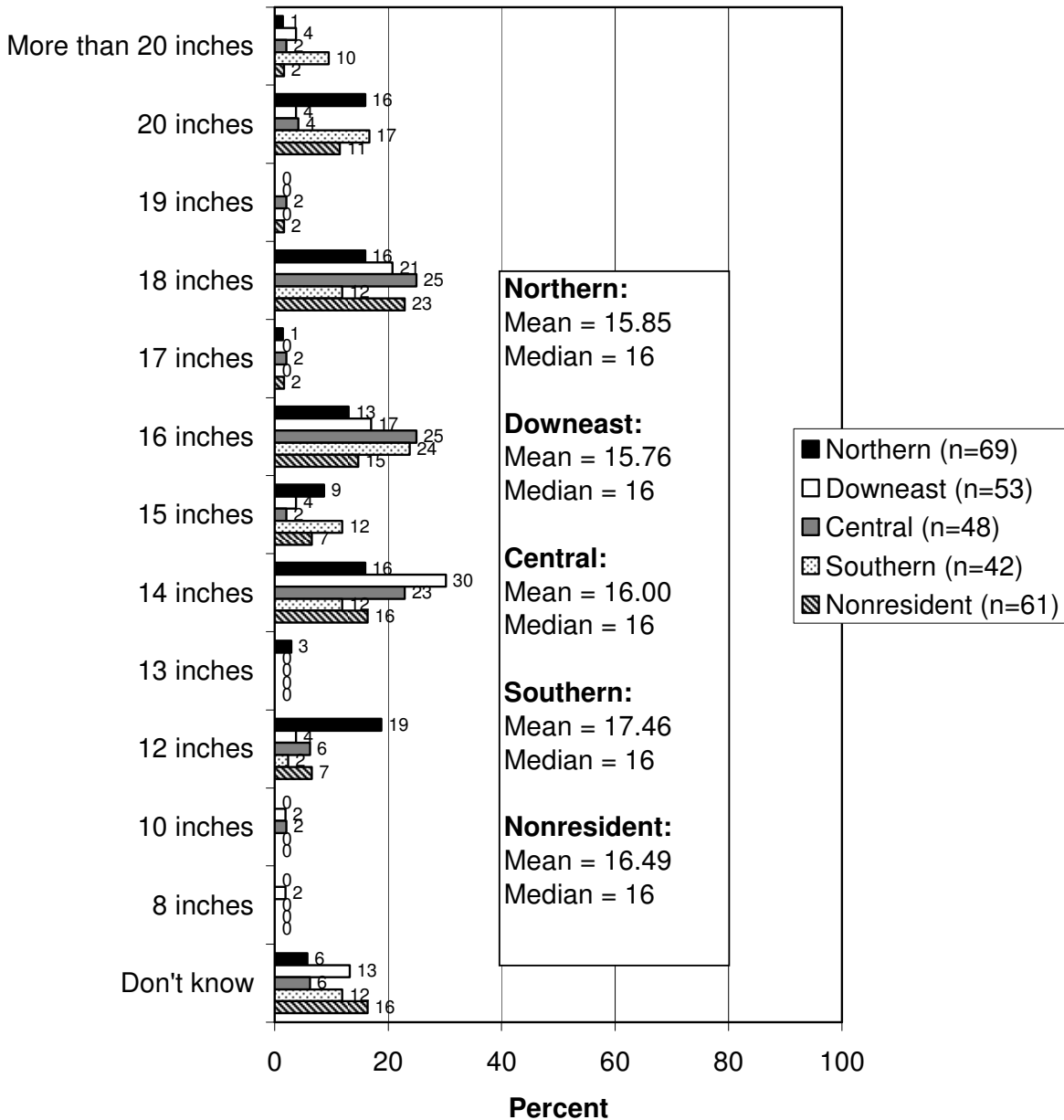
Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Landlocked Salmon (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	67	84	63	72	57
Bait Fishing	11	19	16	22	9
Spin Fishing	16	3	26	13	9
Fly Fishing	24	26	34	25	46
Dip Net	0	0	0	0	2

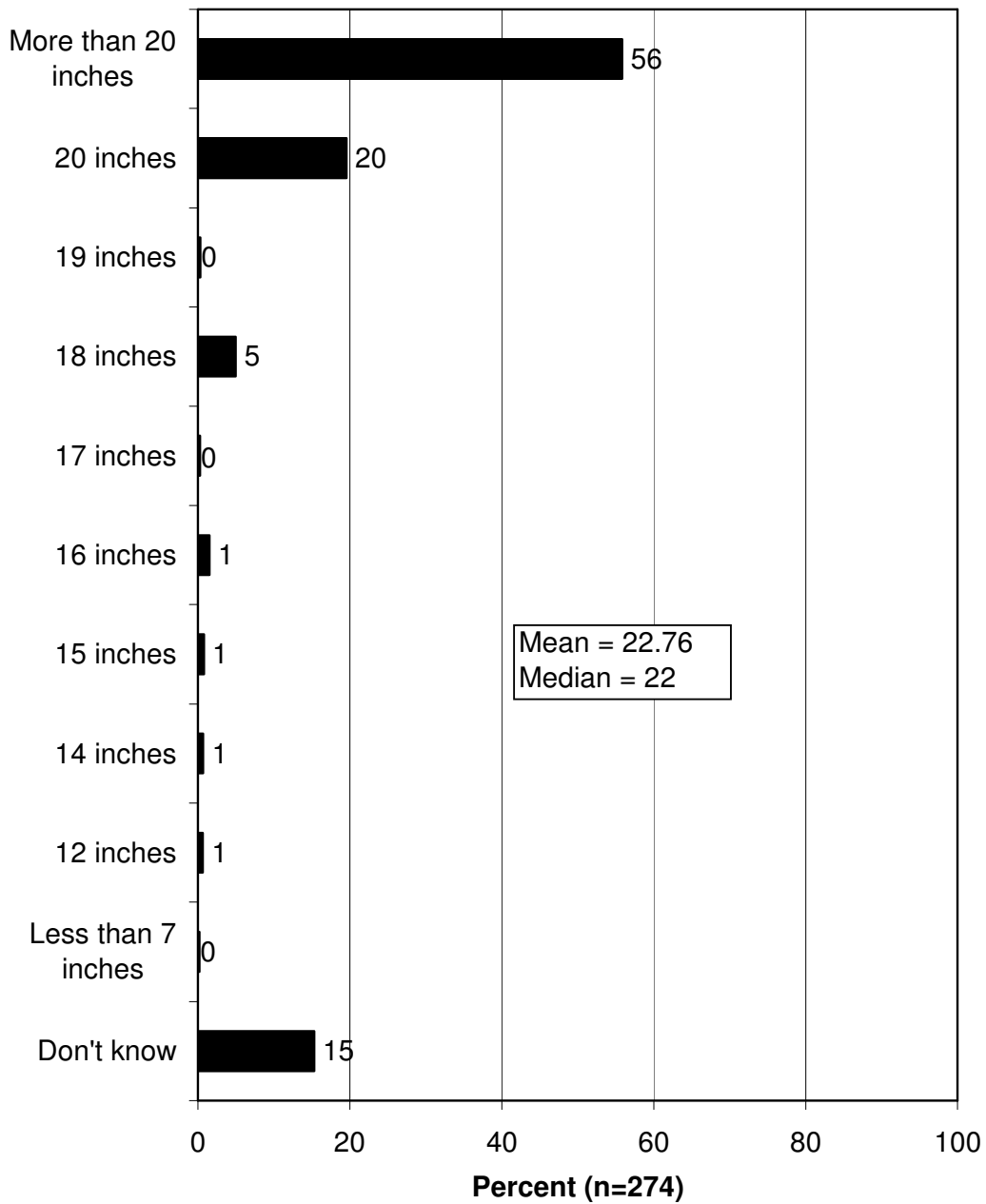
Q97/Q273. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a landlocked salmon needs to be to still be considered a quality landlocked salmon? (Asked of those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



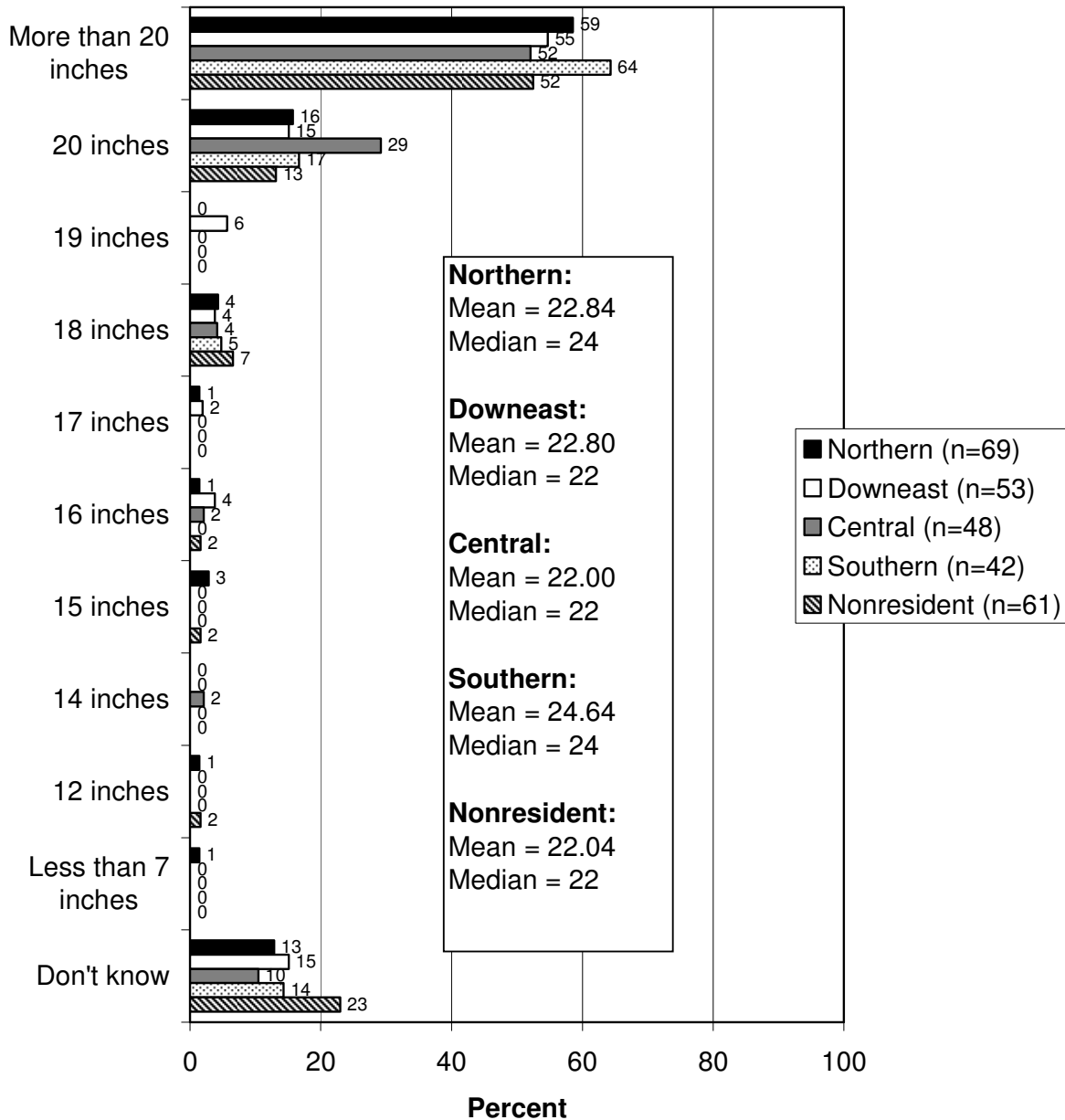
Q97/Q273. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a landlocked salmon needs to be to still be considered a quality landlocked salmon? (Asked of those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q99/Q275. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a landlocked salmon needs to be to still be considered a trophy landlocked salmon? (Asked of those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q99/Q275. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a landlocked salmon needs to be to still be considered a trophy landlocked salmon? (Asked of those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)

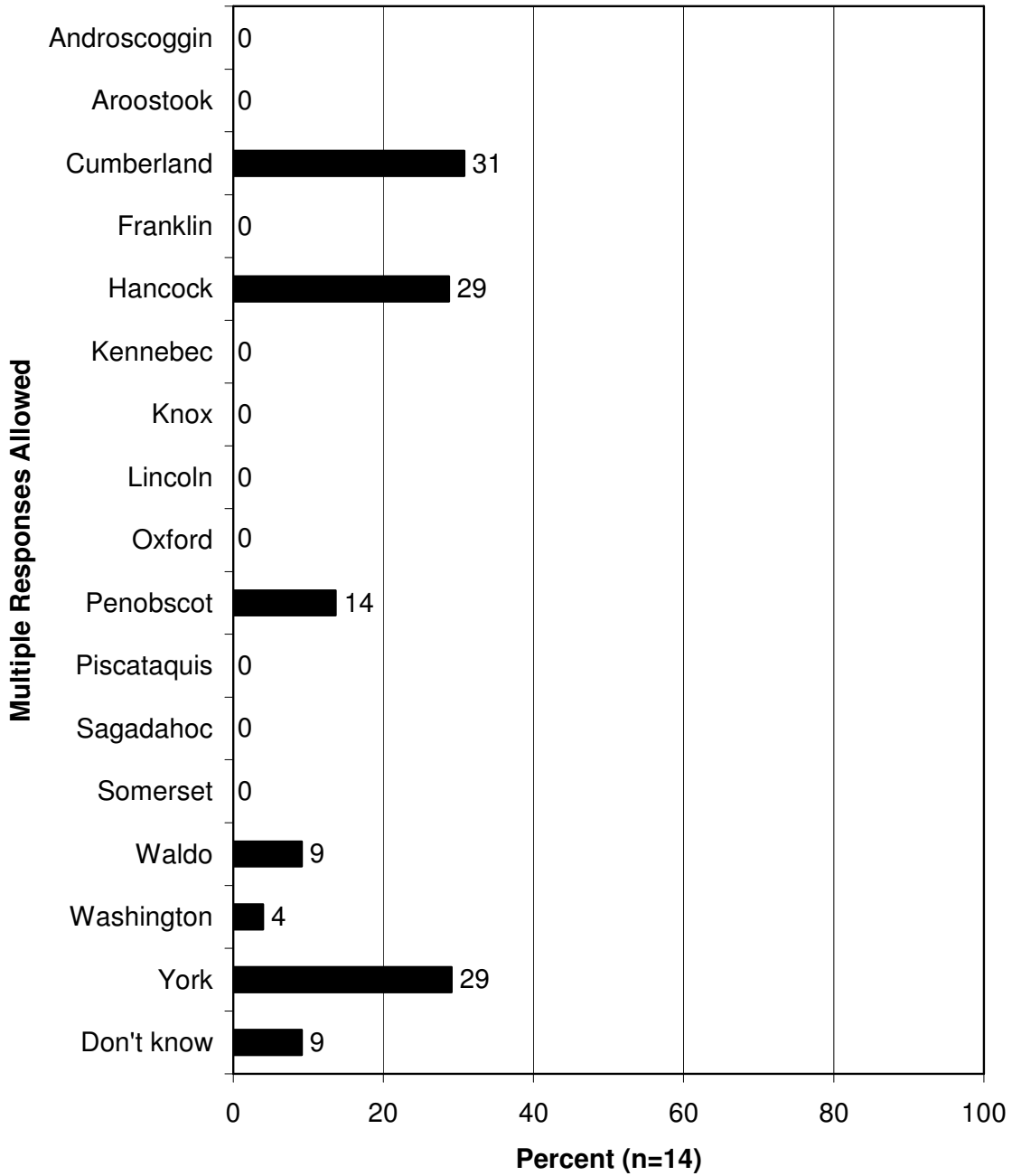


Sunfish

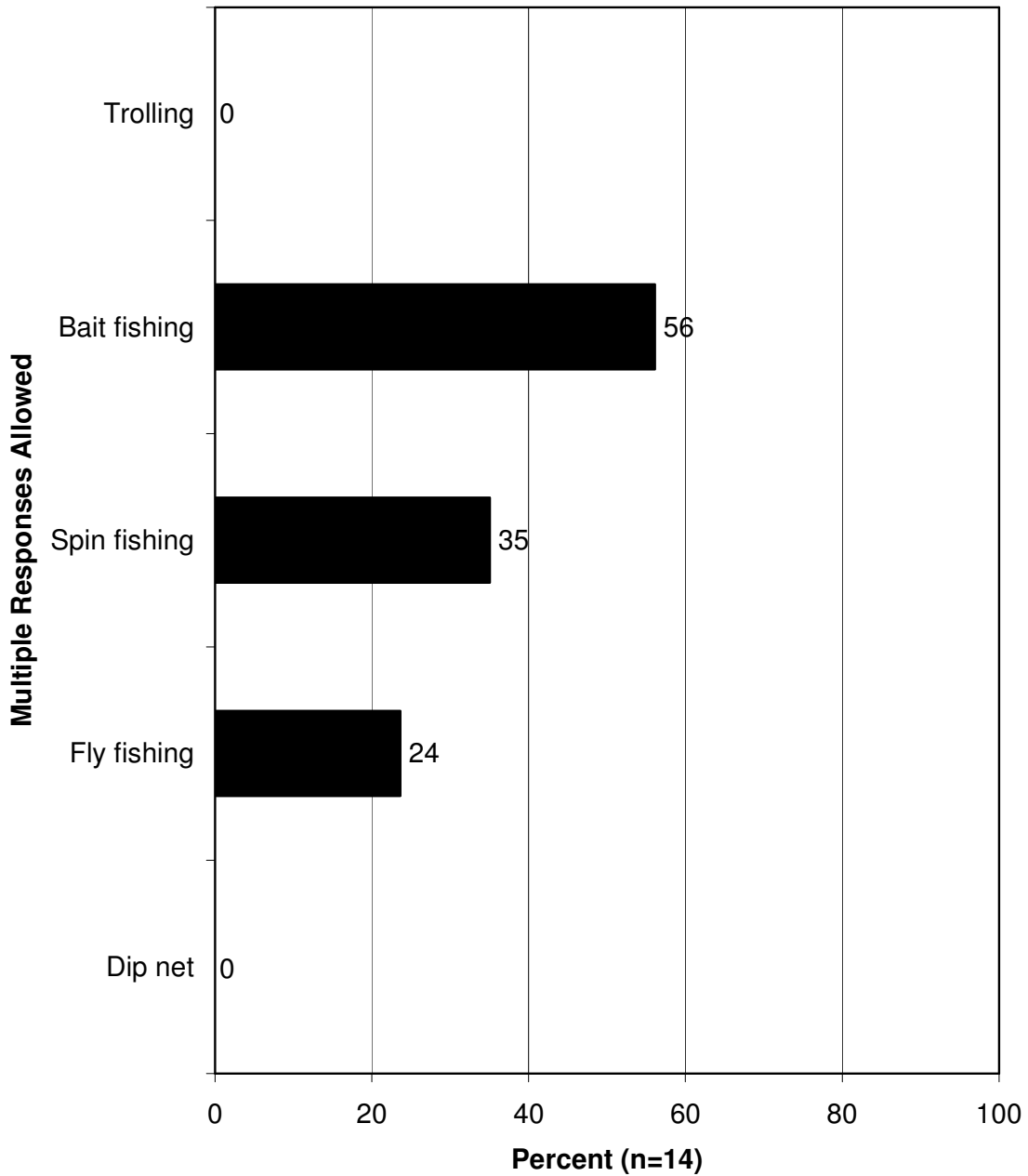
- Those who fished for sunfish in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Cumberland County (31%), Hancock County (29%), and York County (29%).

- The method most often used when fishing sunfish was bait fishing (56%), followed by spin fishing (35%) and fly fishing (24%).

**Q112. In which counties did you open water fish for sunfish in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for sunfish in the 2015 open water season.)**



Q114. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for sunfish in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for sunfish in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



Eastern Brook Trout

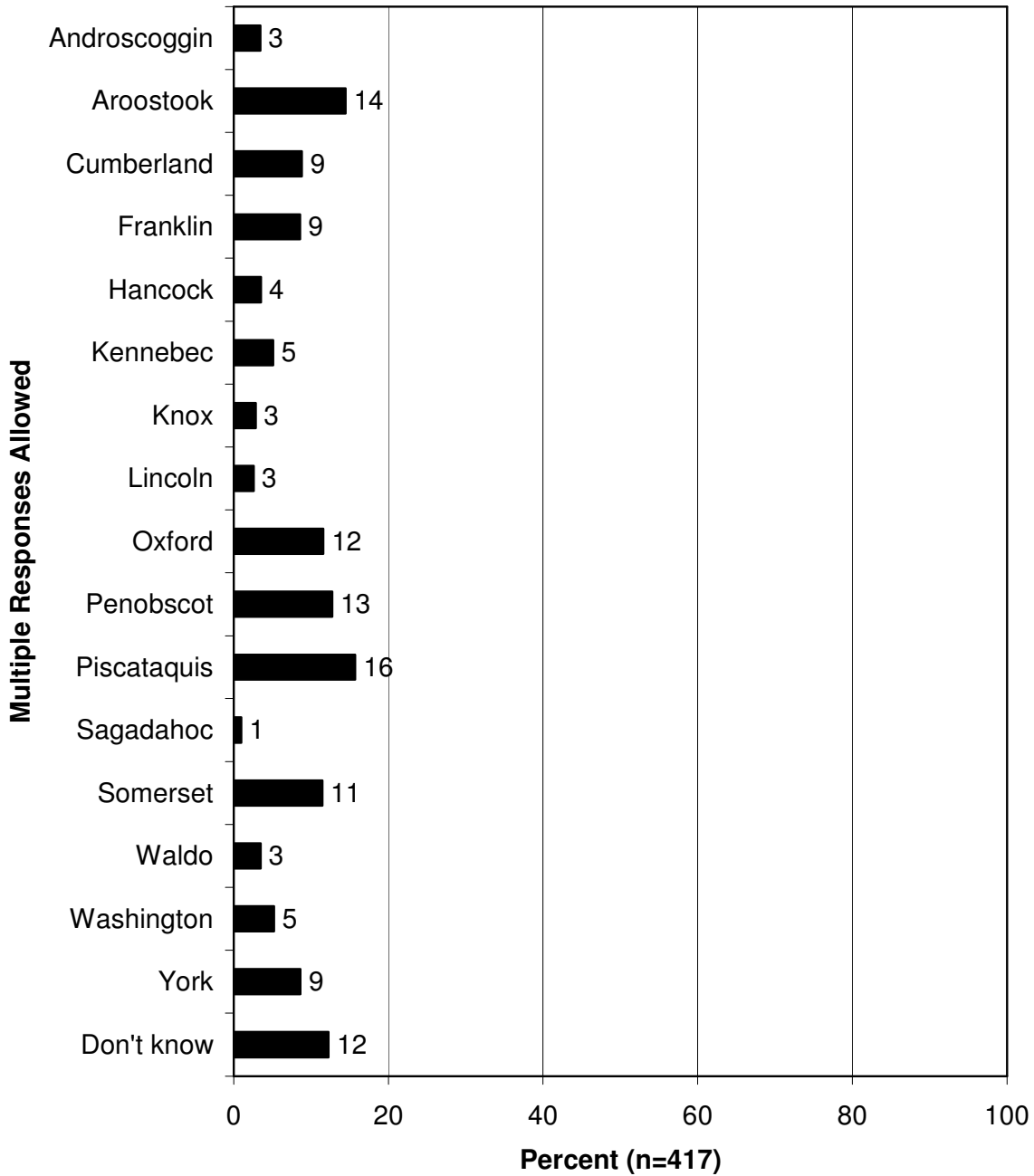
- All Maine counties had at least some anglers fishing for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water fishing season, with the species most often fished in Piscataquis County (16%), Aroostook County (14%), and Penobscot County (13%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- The method most often used when fishing eastern brook trout was fly fishing (42%), followed by bait fishing (36%), trolling (24%), and spin fishing (24%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Those who fished for eastern brook trout believe, on average, that a *quality* eastern brook trout needs to be a minimum size of 13 inches and that a *trophy* eastern brook trout needs to be a minimum size of 21 inches.
 - There was little marked difference between the regions.

- Those who fished for eastern brook trout were evenly divided between mostly targeting wild fish or targeting both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (47% each). Only 4% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region were the least likely to mostly target wild fish.

**Q118. In which counties did you open water fish for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for eastern brook trout
in the 2015 open water season.)**

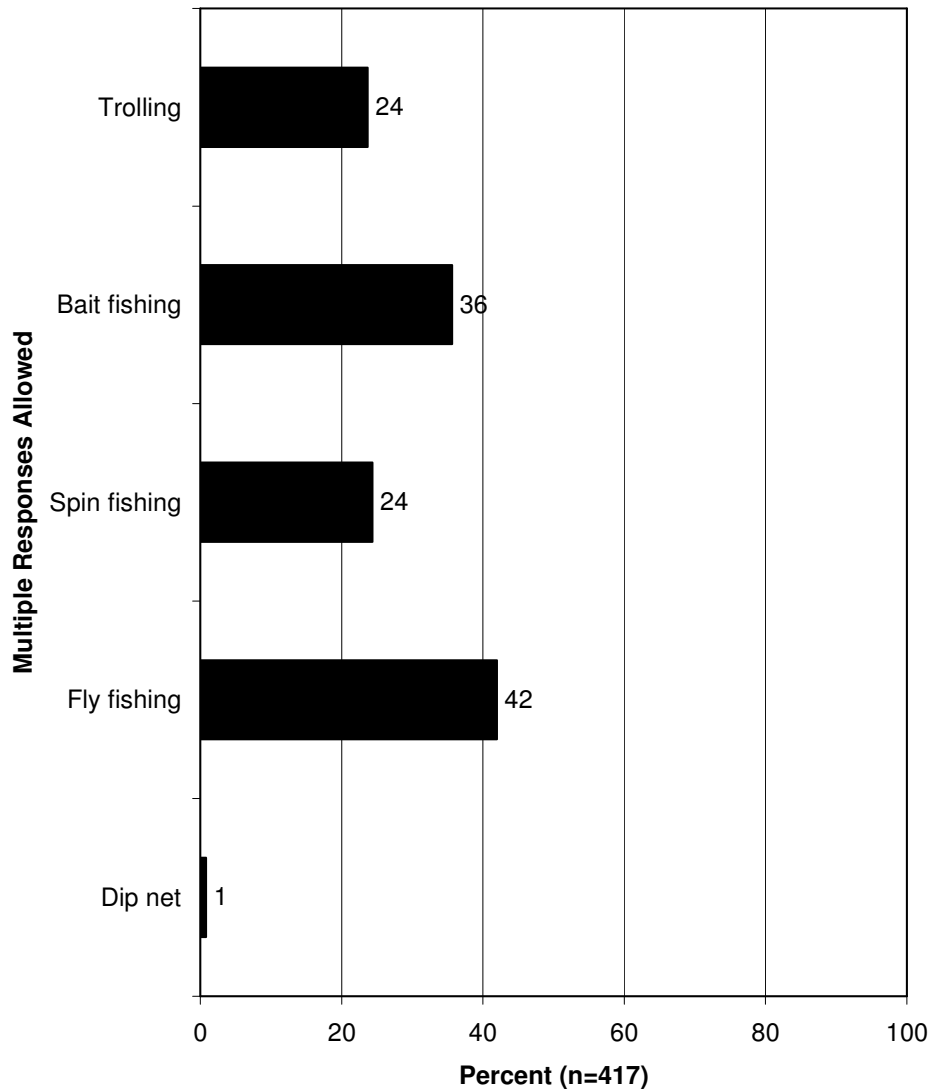


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Eastern Brook Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	7	2	1
Aroostook	68	8	9	8	10
Cumberland	0	0	0	30	2
Franklin	0	0	10	8	11
Hancock	0	33	5	0	1
Kennebec	1	1	10	1	4
Knox	1	0	2	6	1
Lincoln	0	0	0	8	1
Oxford	0	0	17	8	14
Penobscot	16	9	24	5	4
Piscataquis	25	6	23	8	11
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	4	0
Somerset	3	1	20	10	6
Waldo	0	0	7	4	0
Washington	3	60	2	2	2
York	0	0	0	27	6

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

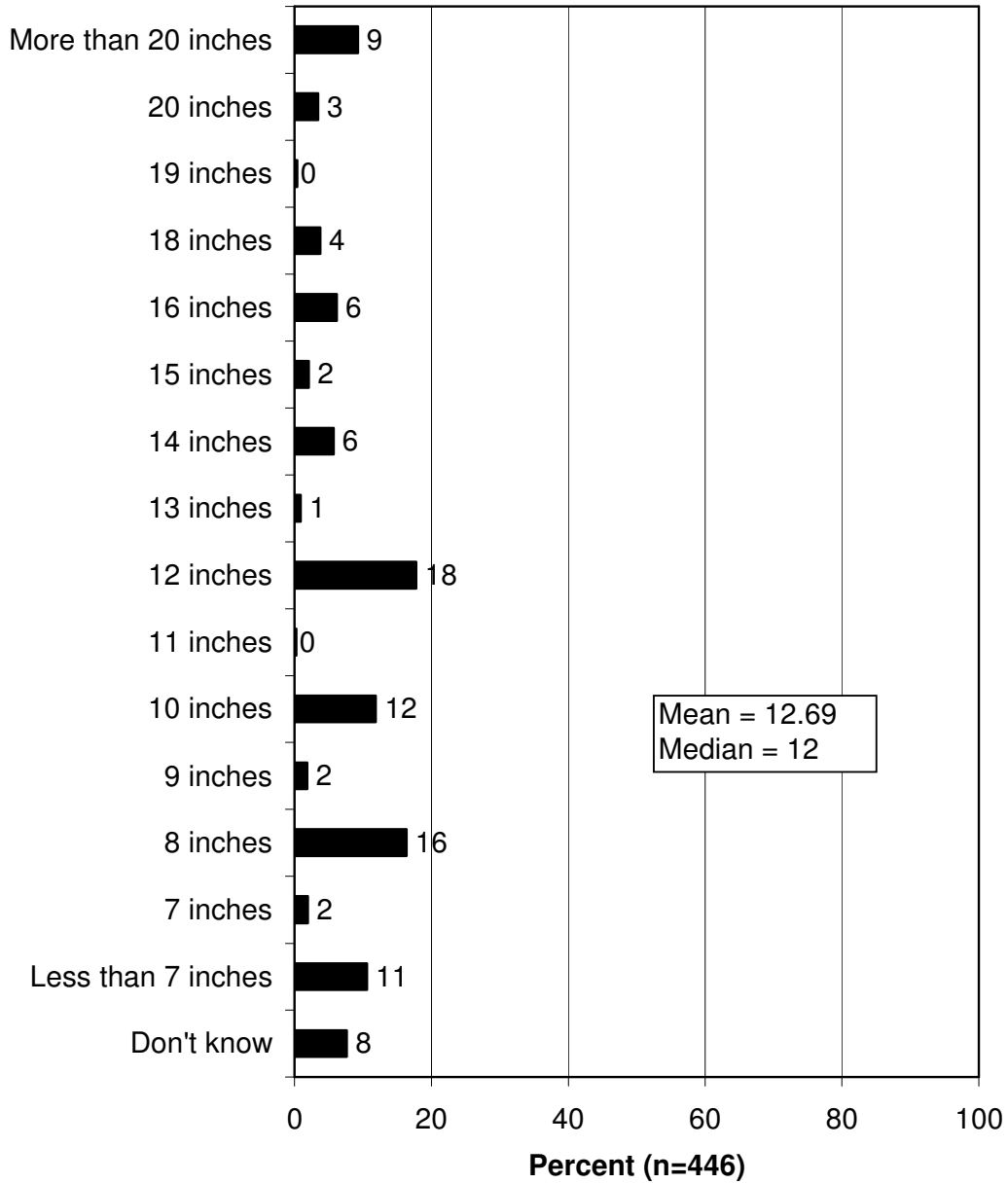
Q120. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



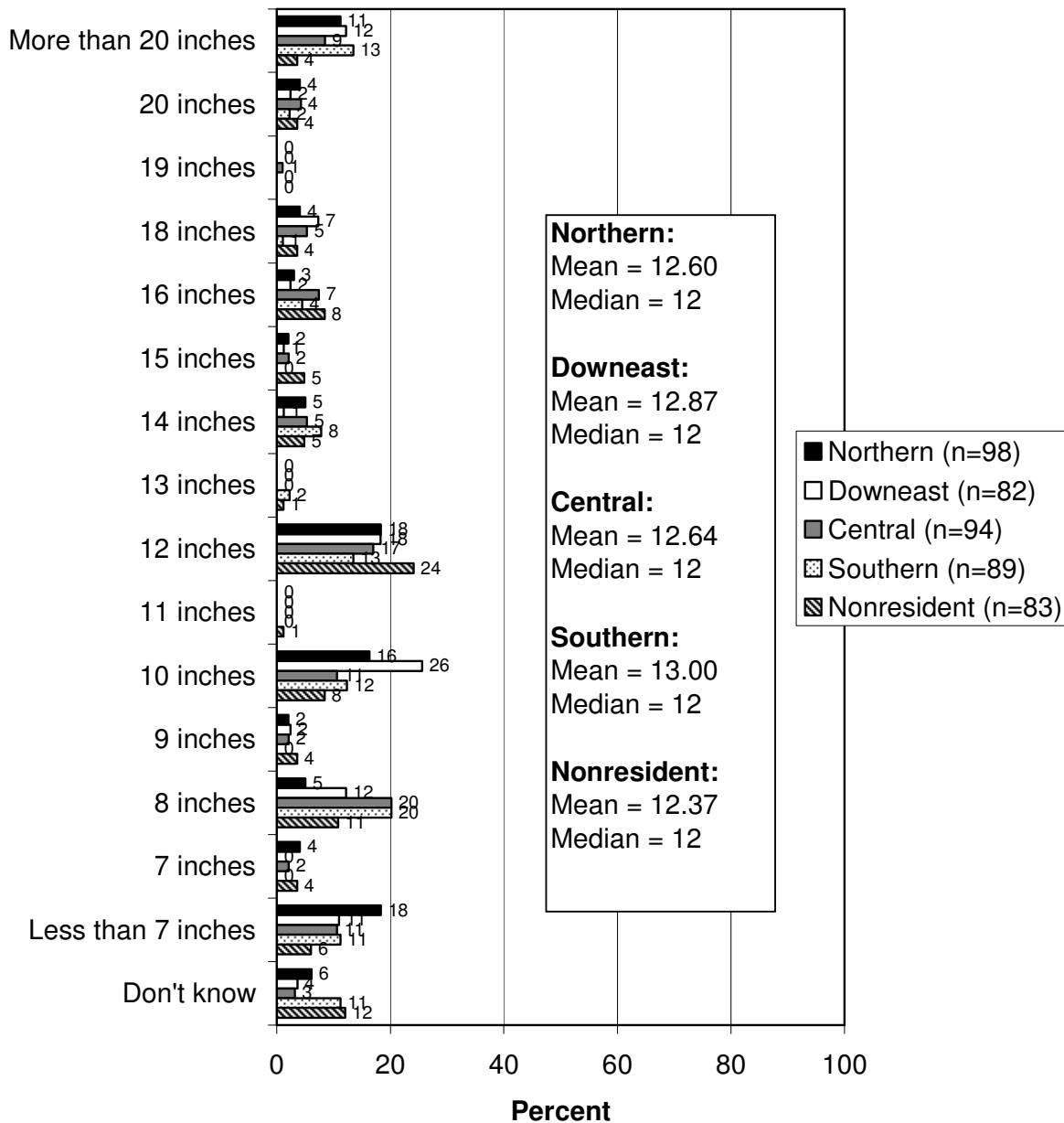
Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Eastern Brook Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	28	19	25	23	21
Bait Fishing	51	51	40	34	21
Spin Fishing	25	36	23	28	20
Fly Fishing	32	26	38	43	54
Dip Net	1	1	0	1	1

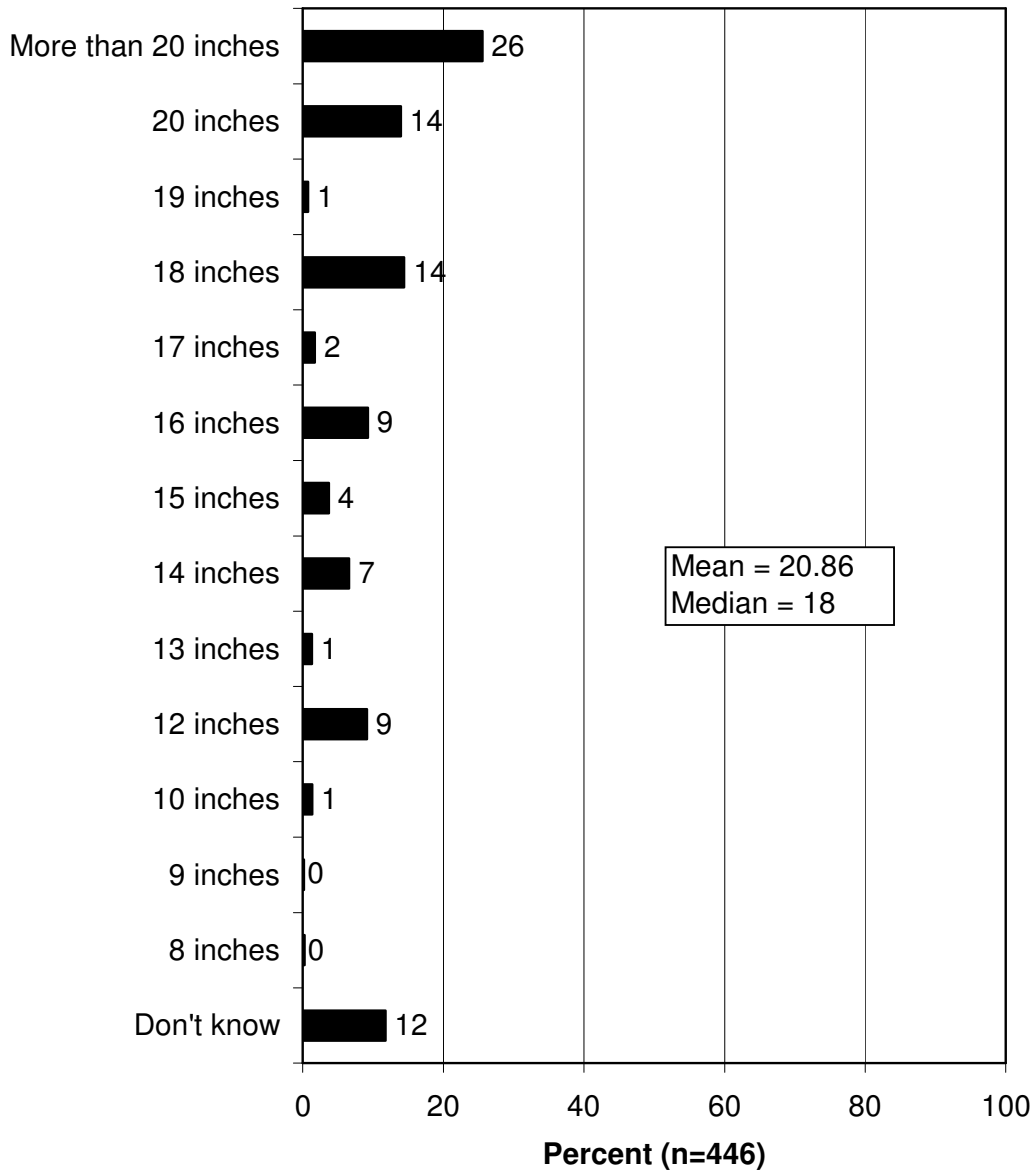
Q124/Q300. In your opinion, what is the minimum size an eastern brook trout needs to be to still be considered a quality eastern brook trout? (Asked of those who fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



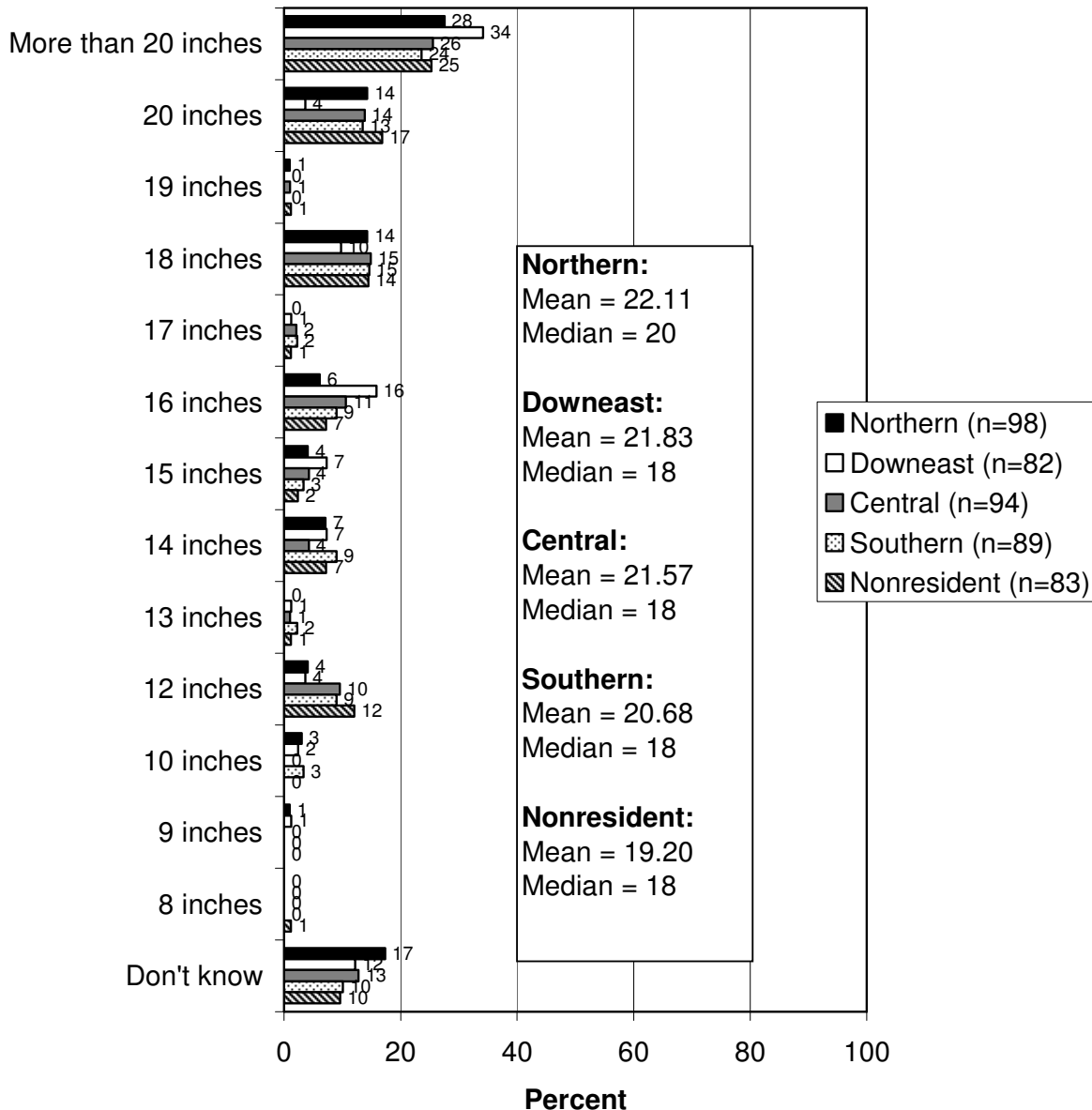
Q124/Q300. In your opinion, what is the minimum size an eastern brook trout needs to be to still be considered a quality eastern brook trout? (Asked of those who fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



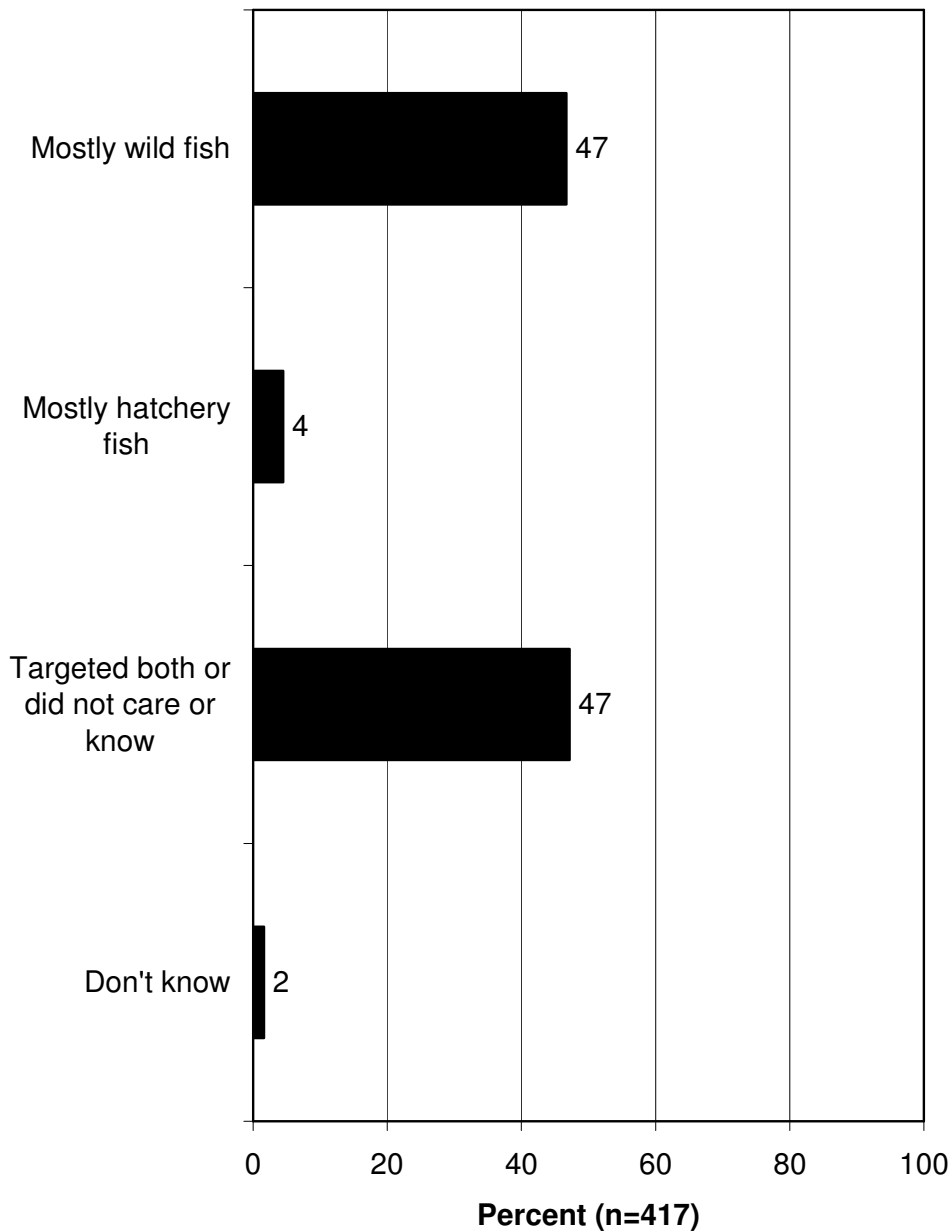
Q126/Q302. In your opinion, what is the minimum size an eastern brook trout needs to be to still be considered a trophy eastern brook trout? (Asked of those who fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



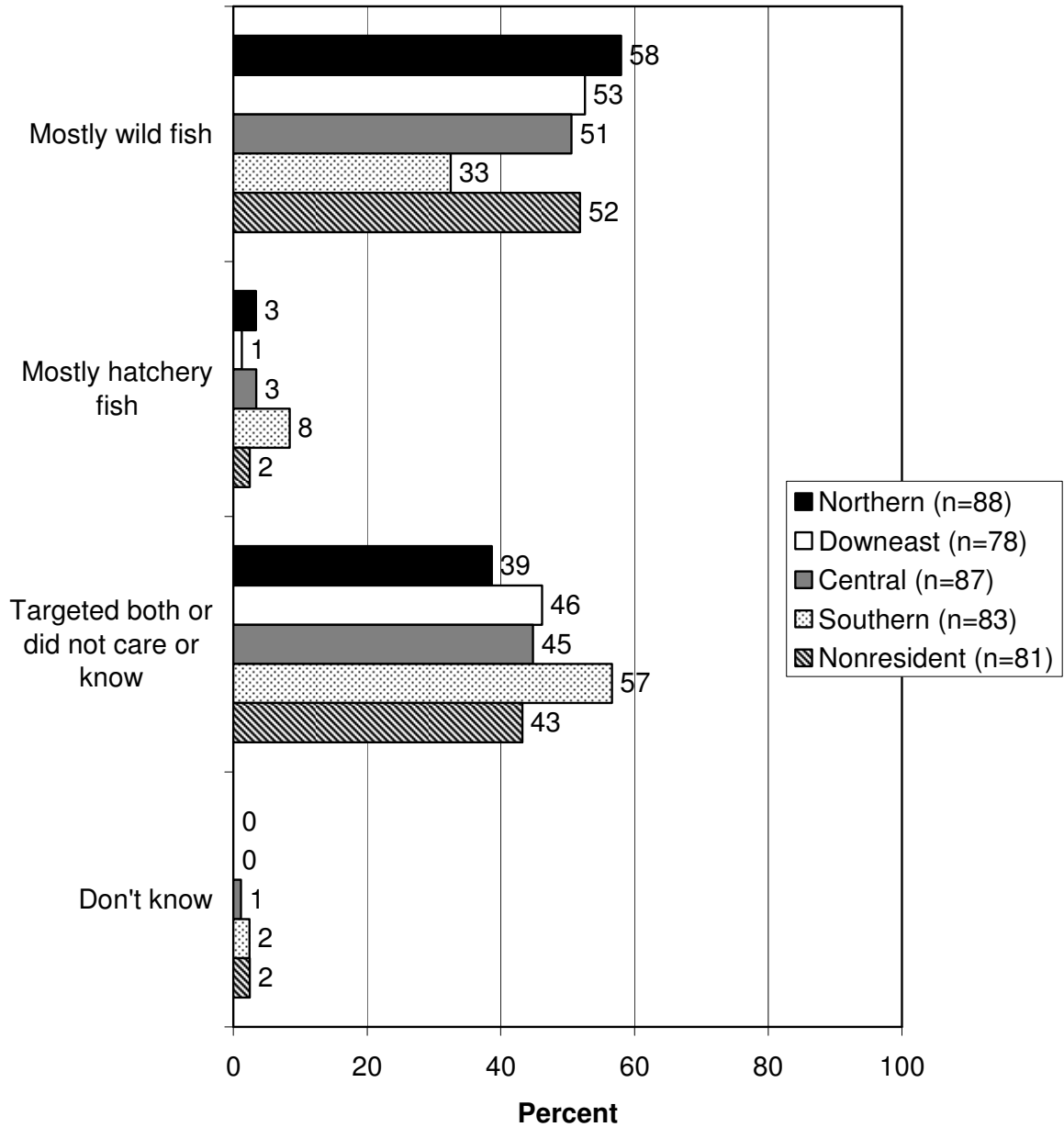
Q126/Q302. In your opinion, what is the minimum size an eastern brook trout needs to be to still be considered a trophy eastern brook trout? (Asked of those who fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q128. When you fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open-water season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care?



Q128. When you fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 open-water season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care?



Lake Trout

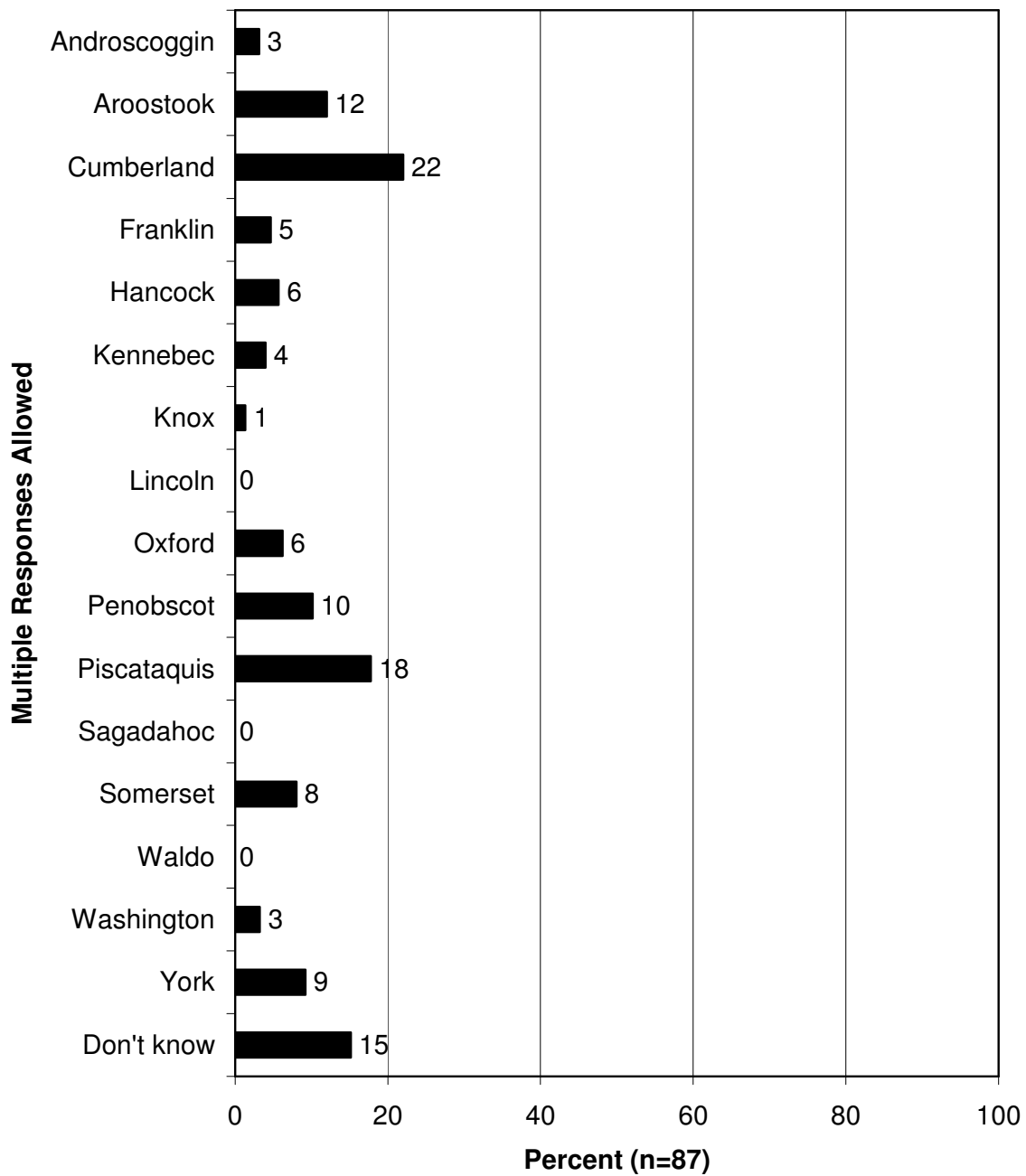
- Those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Cumberland County (22%), Piscataquis County (18%), and Aroostook County (12%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- The method most often used when fishing lake trout, by far, was trolling (71% used this method).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Those who fished for lake trout believe, on average, that a *quality* lake trout needs to be a minimum size of 18 inches and that a *trophy* lake trout needs to be a minimum size of 26 inches.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region stated larger mean sizes than those from the other groups.

- Those who fished for lake trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (63%), while 30% mostly targeted wild fish. Only 5% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Central Region were the least likely to mostly target wild fish and the most likely to mostly target hatchery fish.

**Q129. In which counties did you open water fish for lake trout in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water season.)**

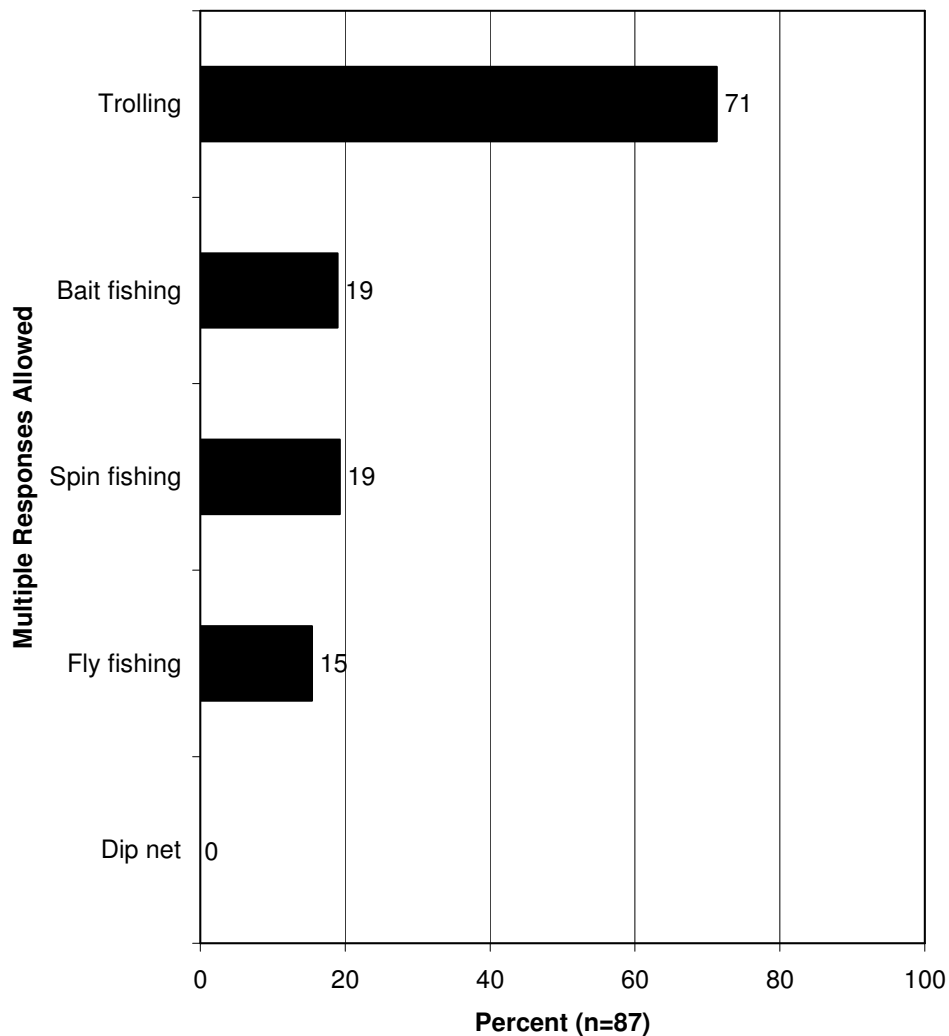


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Lake Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	0	10	0
Aroostook	43	12	15	10	5
Cumberland	0	6	8	48	14
Franklin	0	0	8	0	9
Hancock	7	47	0	5	5
Kennebec	0	0	15	0	0
Knox	0	0	0	0	5
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	8	5	9
Penobscot	14	6	23	5	5
Piscataquis	21	12	38	10	9
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	7	0	23	5	0
Waldo	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	7	24	0	5	0
York	0	0	0	24	5

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

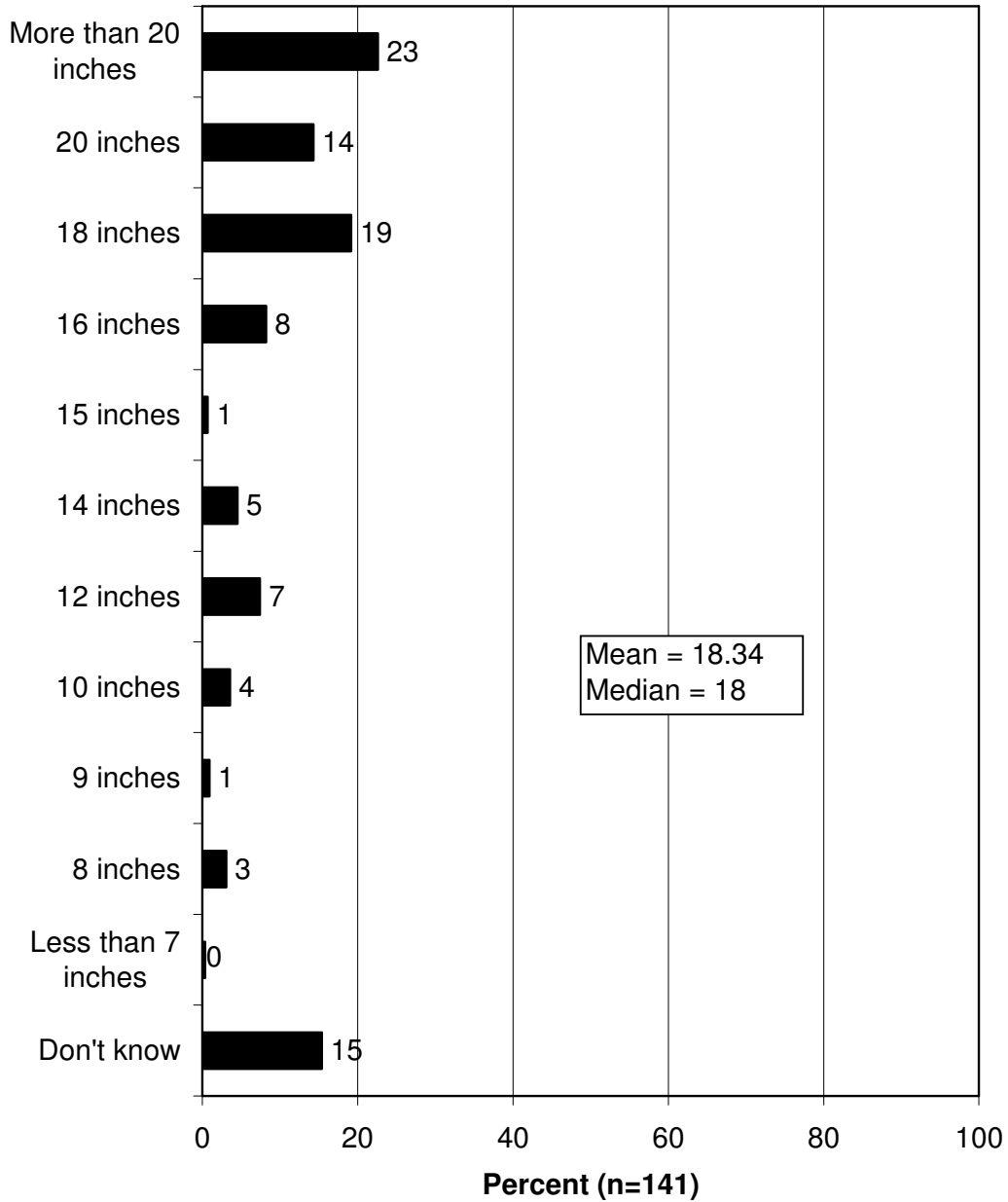
Q131. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for lake trout in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



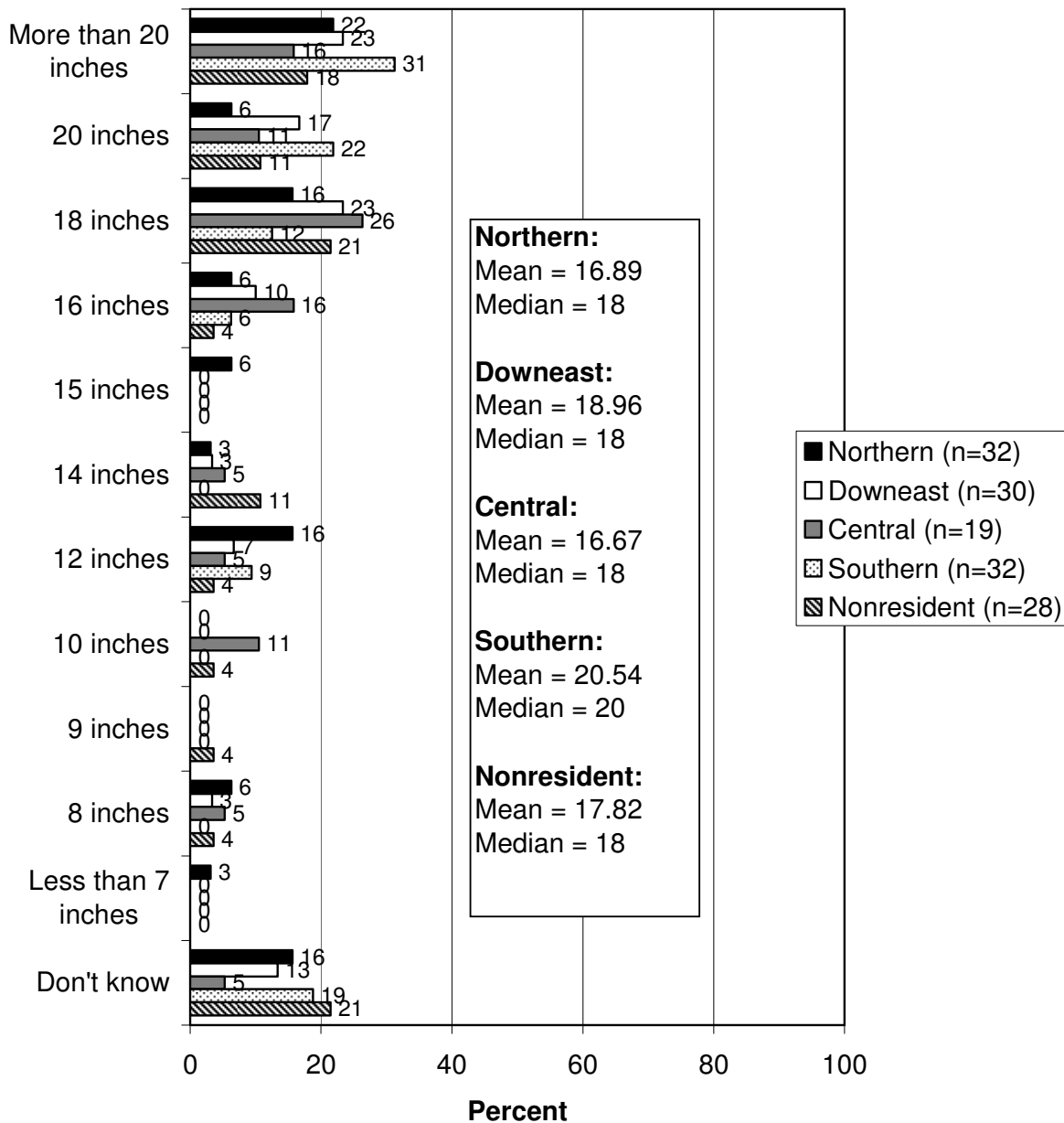
Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Lake Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	86	71	77	67	68
Bait Fishing	7	18	23	19	18
Spin Fishing	7	24	23	19	18
Fly Fishing	0	6	15	10	27
Dip Net	0	0	0	0	0

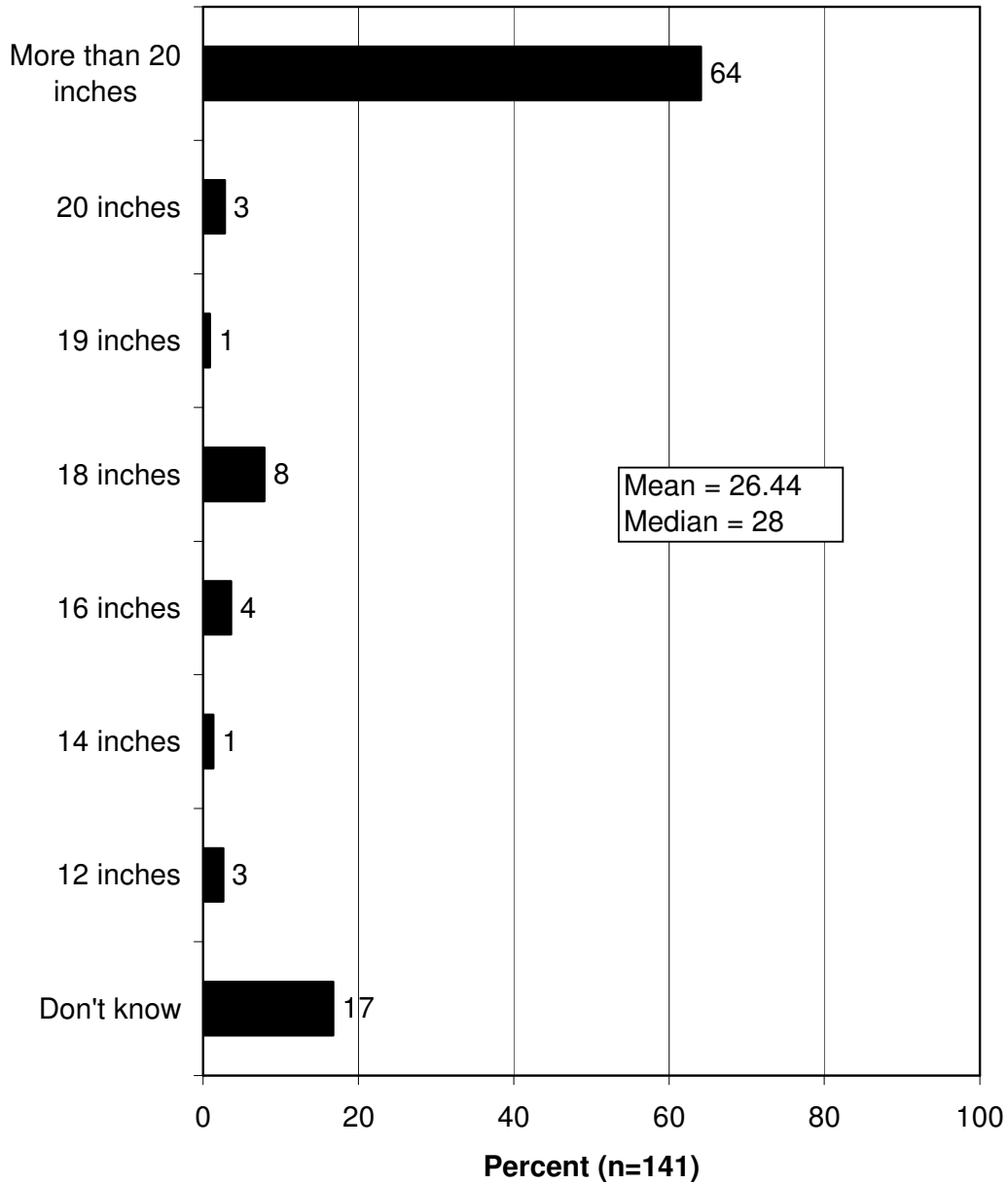
Q135/Q311. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a lake trout needs to be to still be considered a quality lake trout? (Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



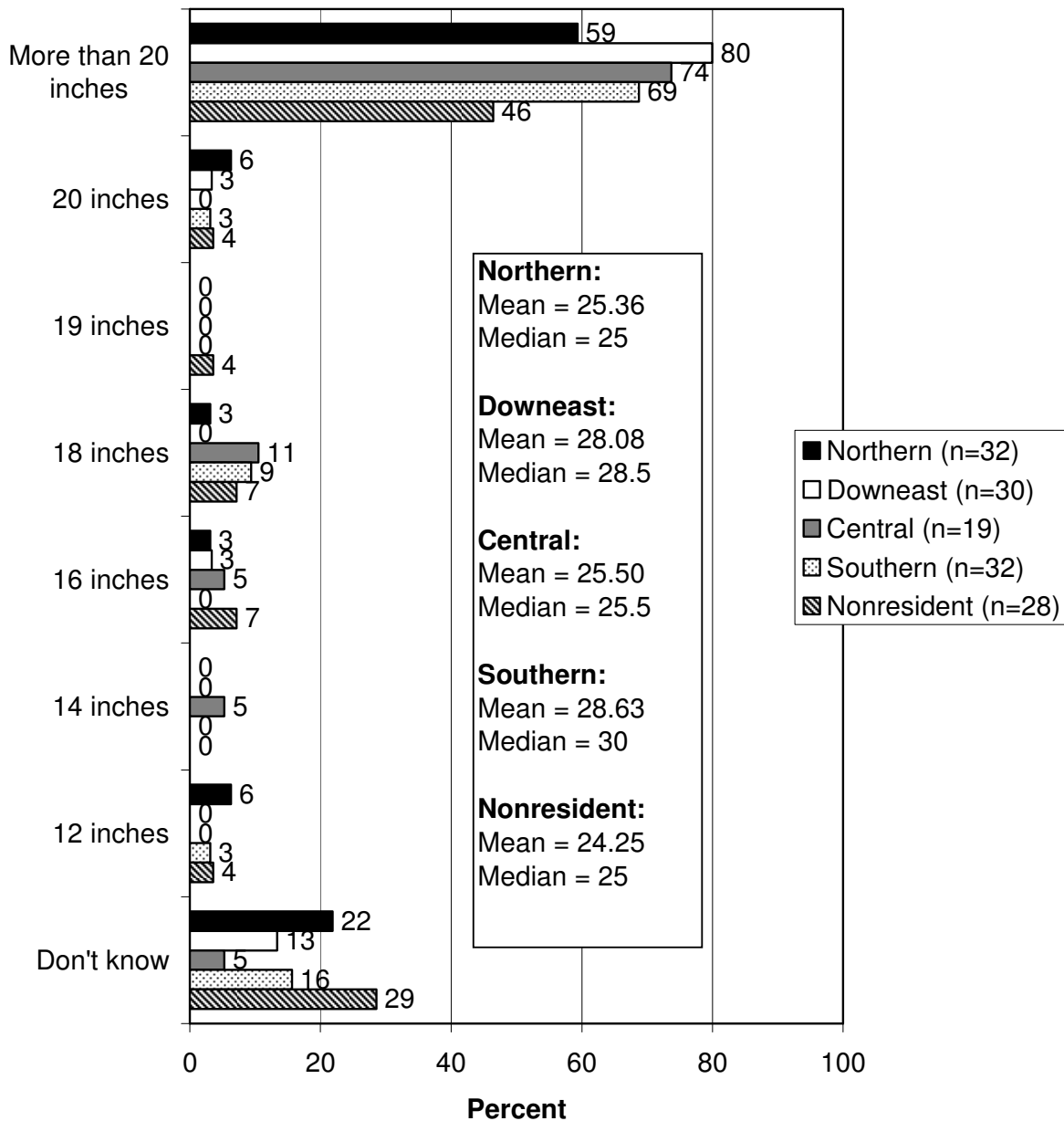
Q135/Q311. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a lake trout needs to be to still be considered a quality lake trout? (Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



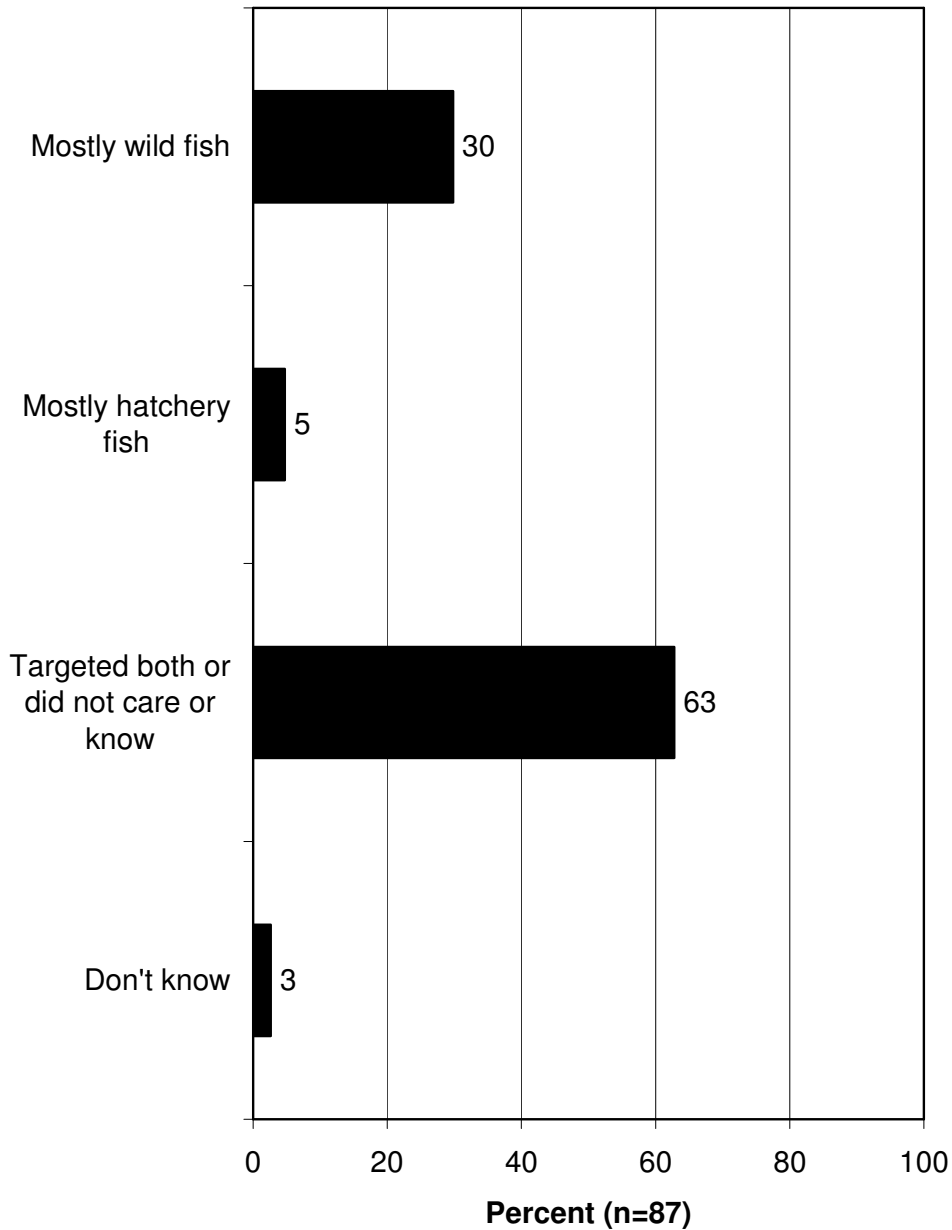
Q137/Q313. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a lake trout needs to be to be considered a trophy lake trout? (Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



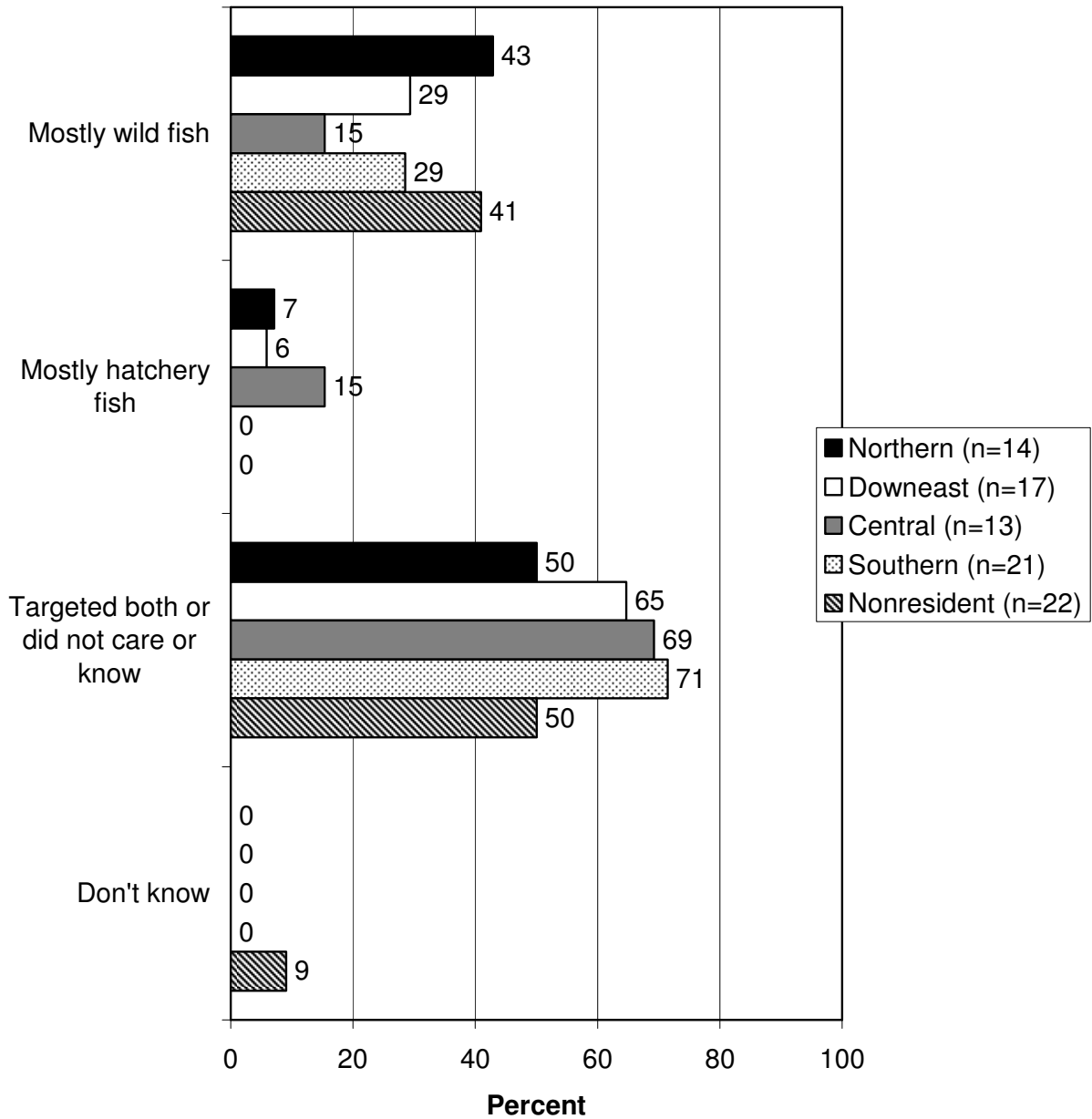
Q137/Q313. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a lake trout needs to be to be considered a trophy lake trout? (Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q139. When you fished for lake trout in the 2015 open-water season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



Q139. When you fished for lake trout in the 2015 open-water season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



Brown Trout

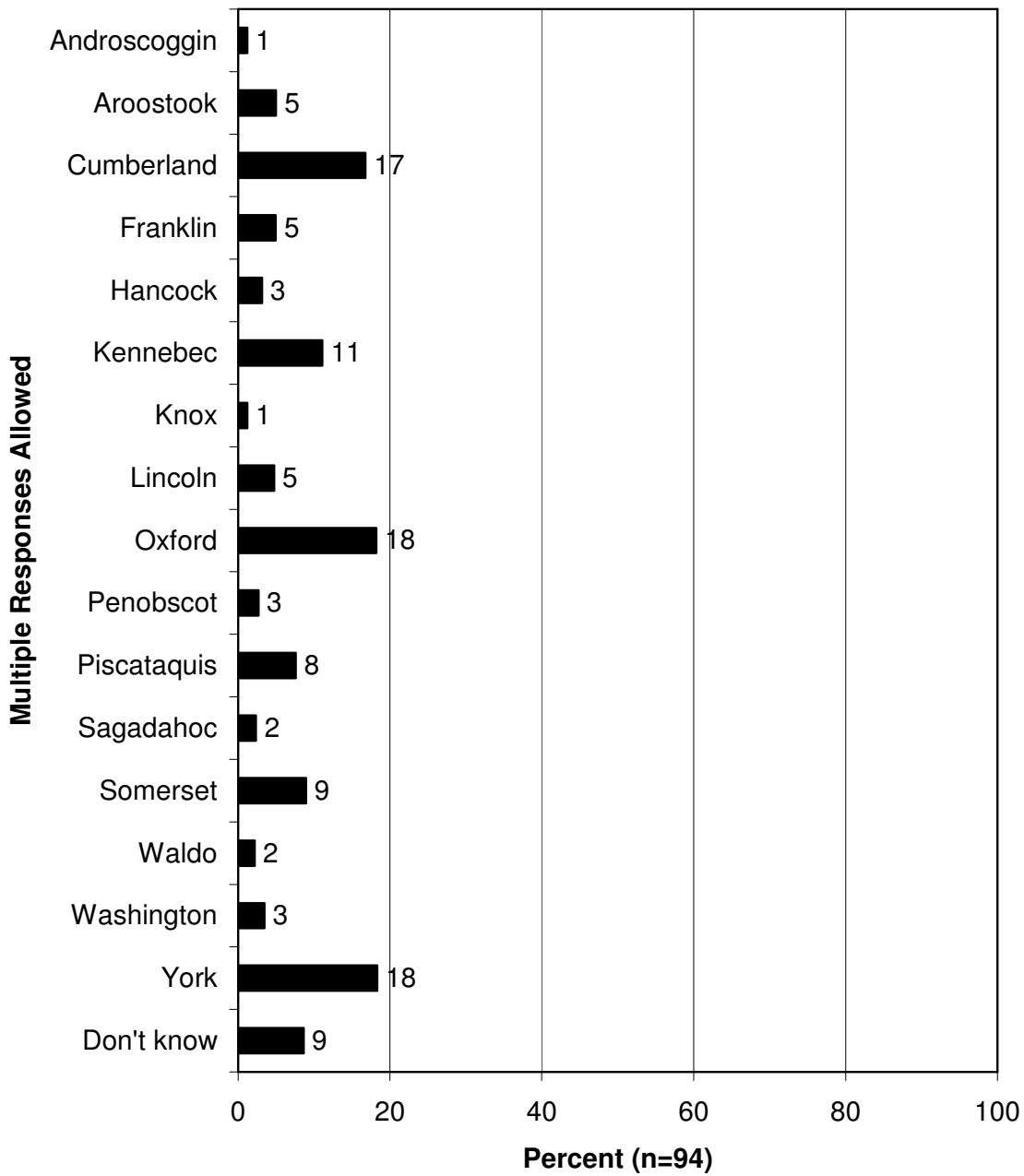
- Those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Oxford County (18%), York County (18%), and Cumberland County (17%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- The methods most often used when fishing brown trout were fly fishing (41%), trolling (38%), bait fishing (25%), and spin fishing (21%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Those who fished for brown trout believe, on average, that a *quality* brown trout needs to be a minimum size of 14 inches and that a *trophy* brown trout needs to be a minimum size of 20 inches.
 - There is little marked difference between the regions.

- Those who fished for brown trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (57%), while 31% mostly targeted wild fish and 11% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region were the least likely to mostly target wild fish and the most likely to mostly target hatchery fish.

**Q140. In which counties did you open water fish for brown trout in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 open water season.)**

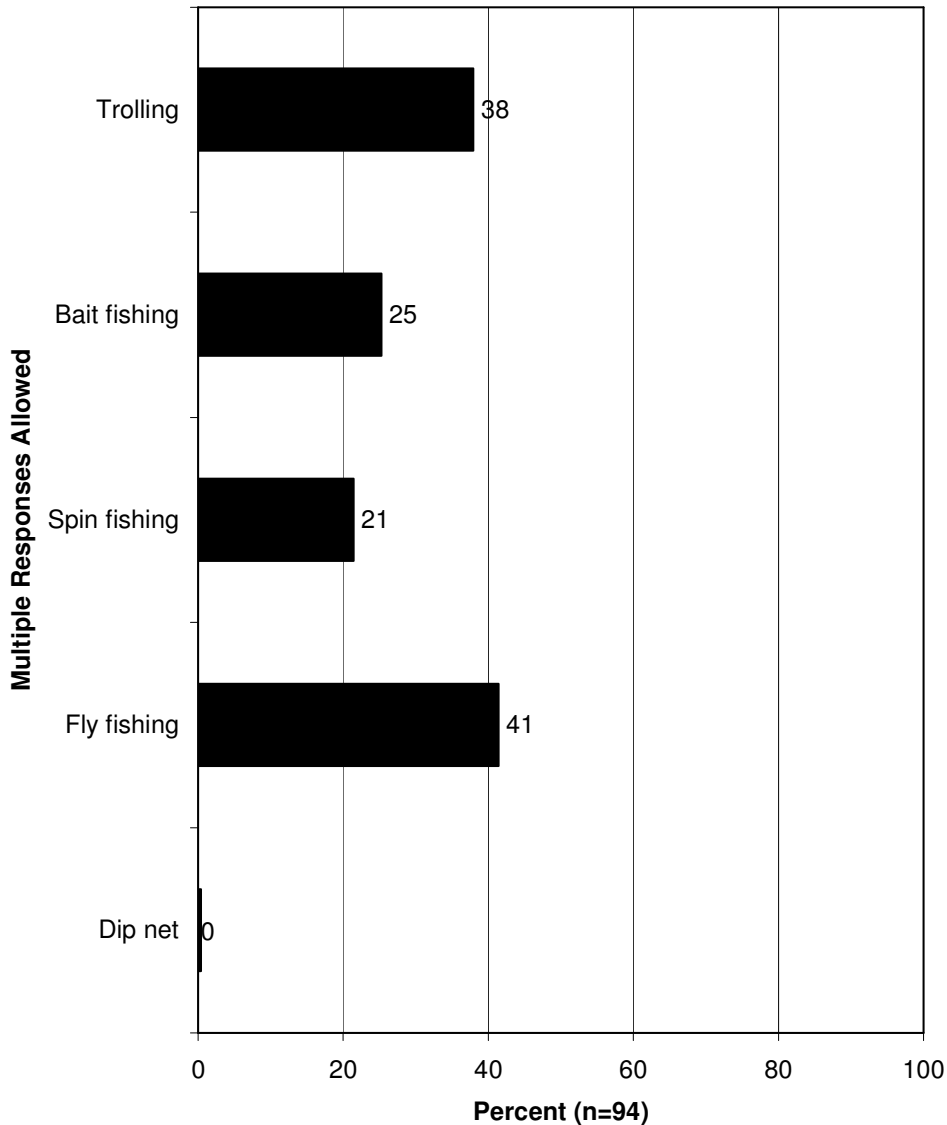


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Brown Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	0	3	0
Aroostook	60	10	4	3	4
Cumberland	0	0	9	30	9
Franklin	0	0	9	0	9
Hancock	0	30	4	0	4
Kennebec	0	0	26	3	4
Knox	0	0	0	3	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	12	0
Oxford	0	0	35	6	17
Penobscot	0	0	4	3	0
Piscataquis	40	10	13	3	4
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	6	0
Somerset	0	0	17	0	13
Waldo	0	0	0	3	4
Washington	0	60	0	3	4
York	0	0	0	39	13

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

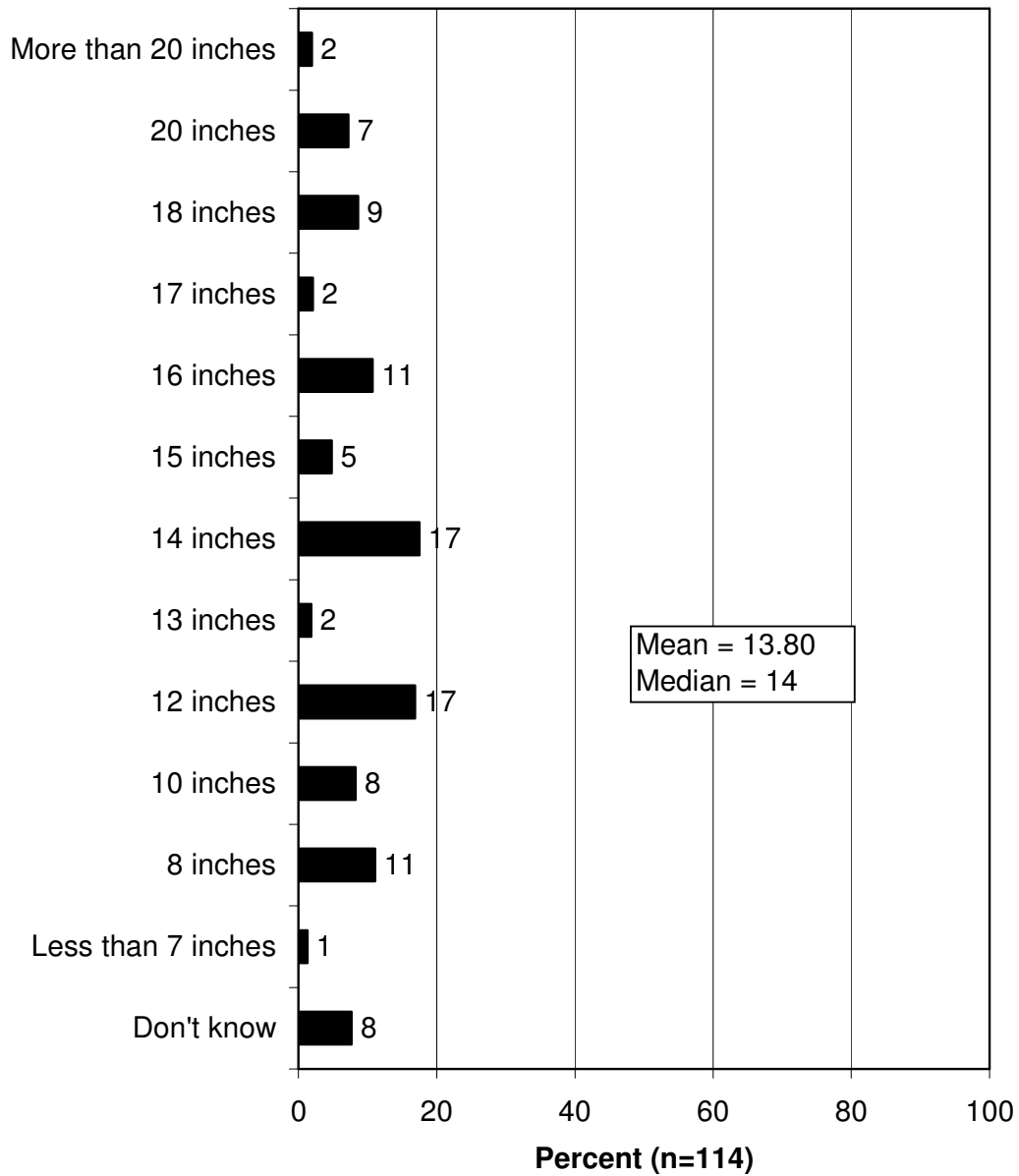
Q142. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for brown trout in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



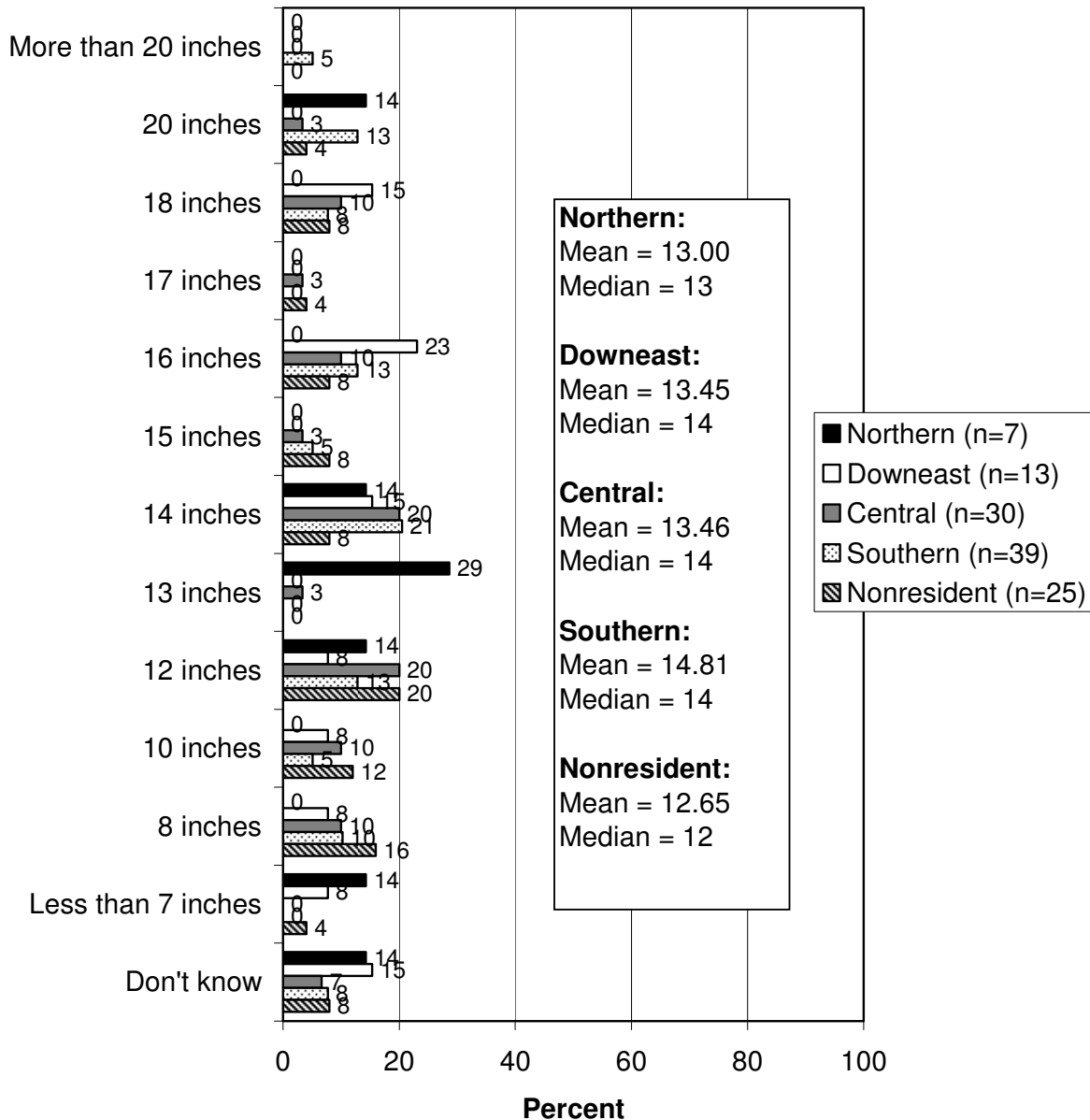
Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Brown Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	60	40	43	36	30
Bait Fishing	20	50	30	24	17
Spin Fishing	40	20	13	30	17
Fly Fishing	60	10	39	30	65
Dip Net	20	0	0	0	0

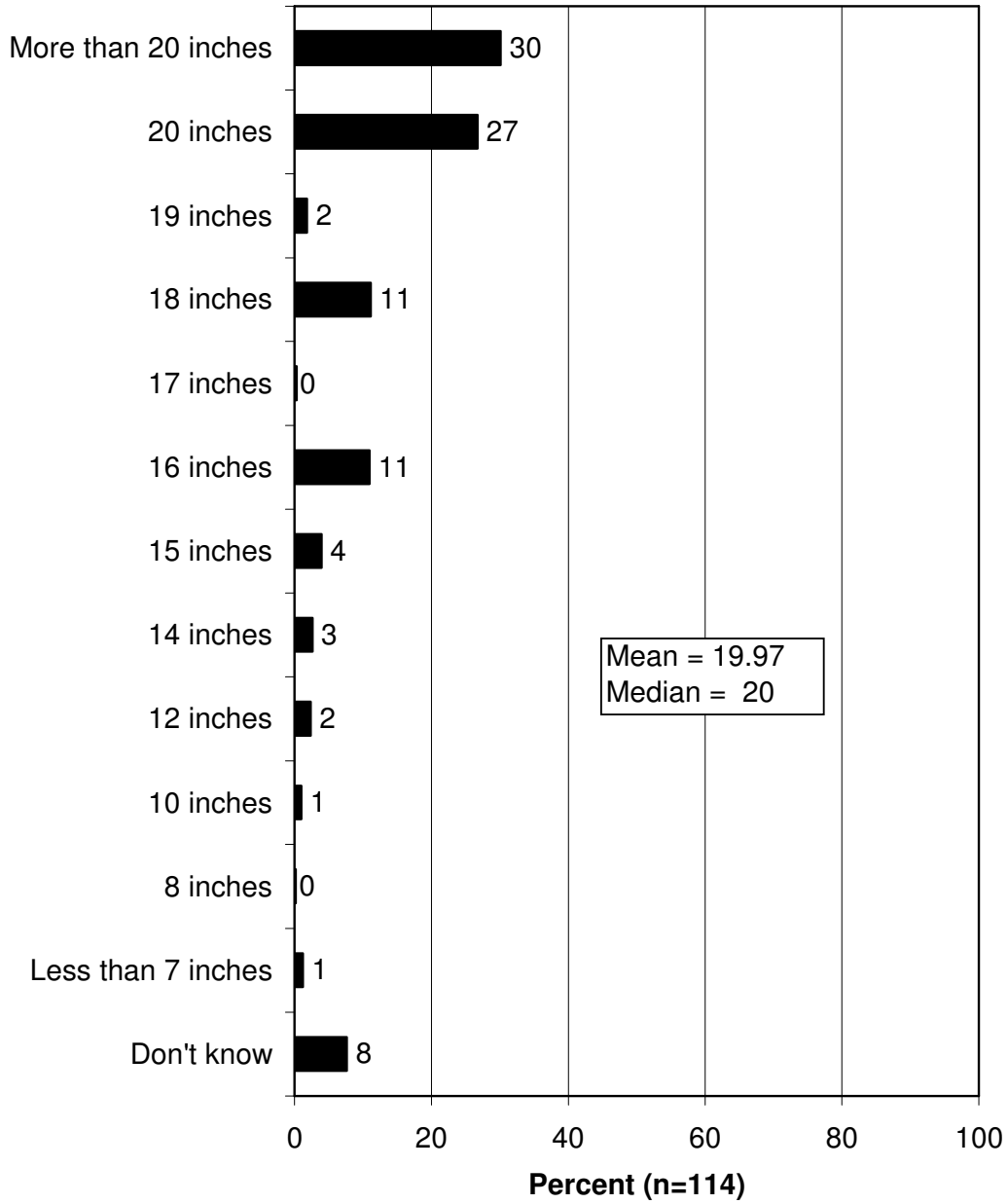
Q146/Q322. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a brown trout needs to be to still be considered a quality brown trout? (Asked of those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



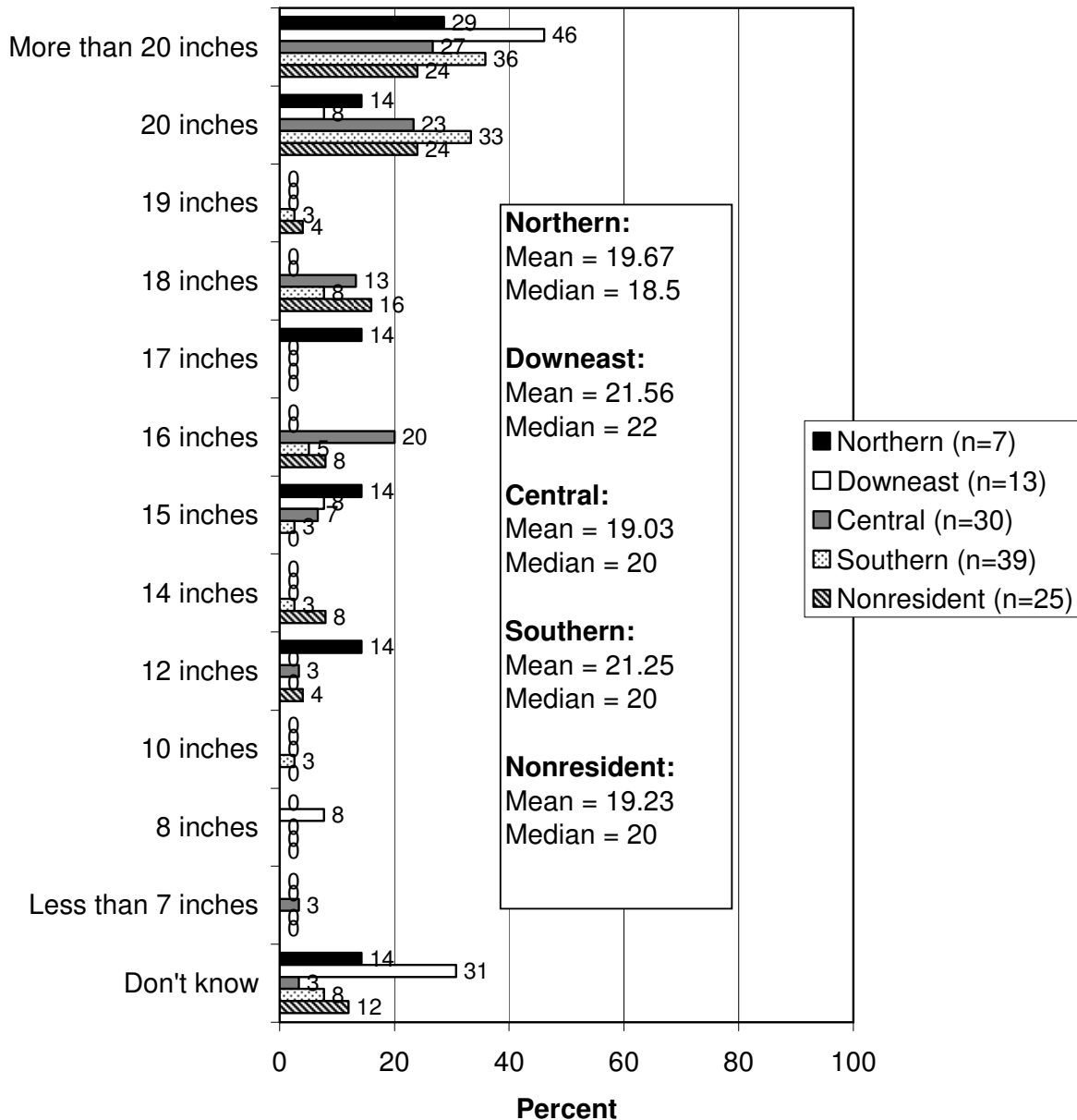
Q146/Q322. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a brown trout needs to be to still be considered a quality brown trout? (Asked of those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



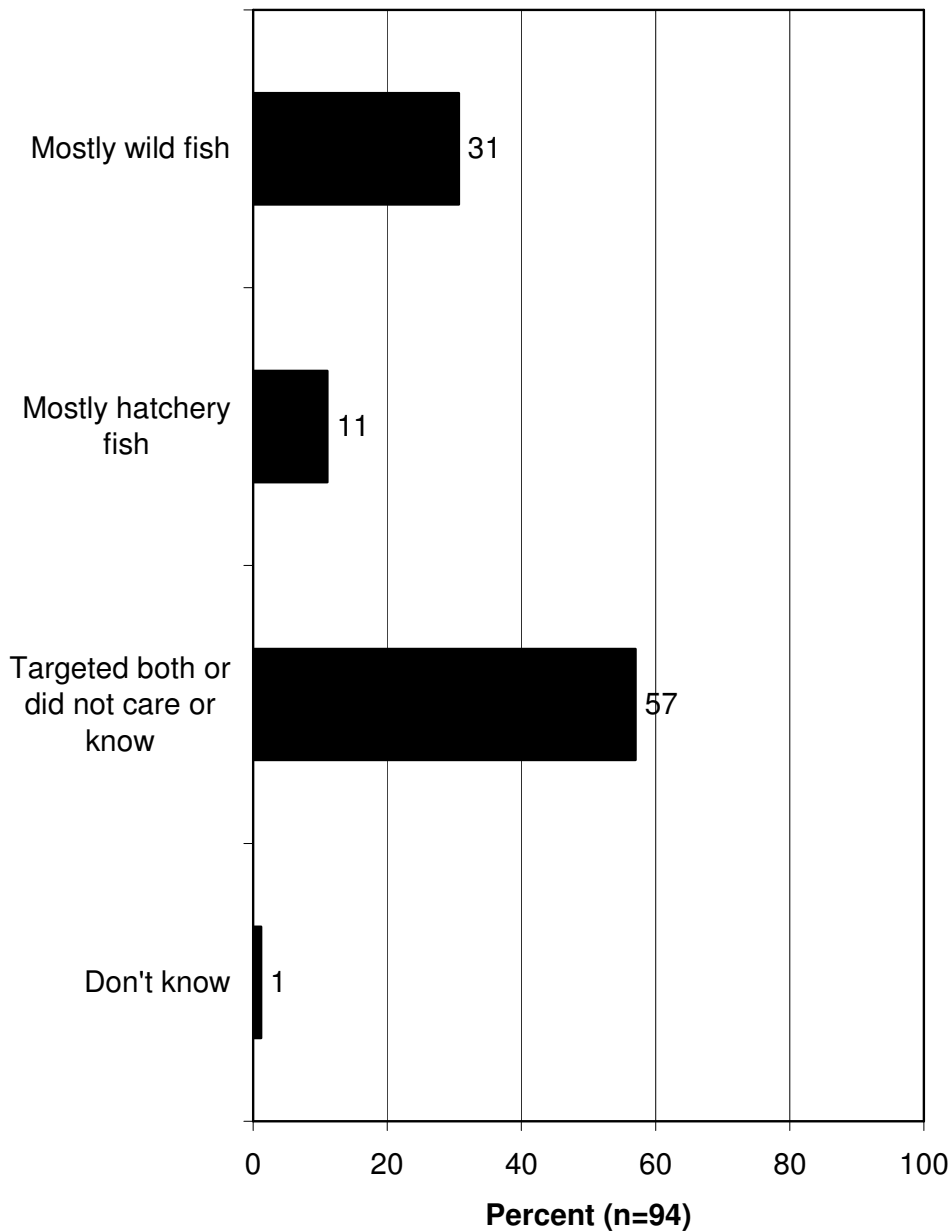
Q148/Q324. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a brown trout needs to be to be considered a trophy brown trout? (Asked of those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



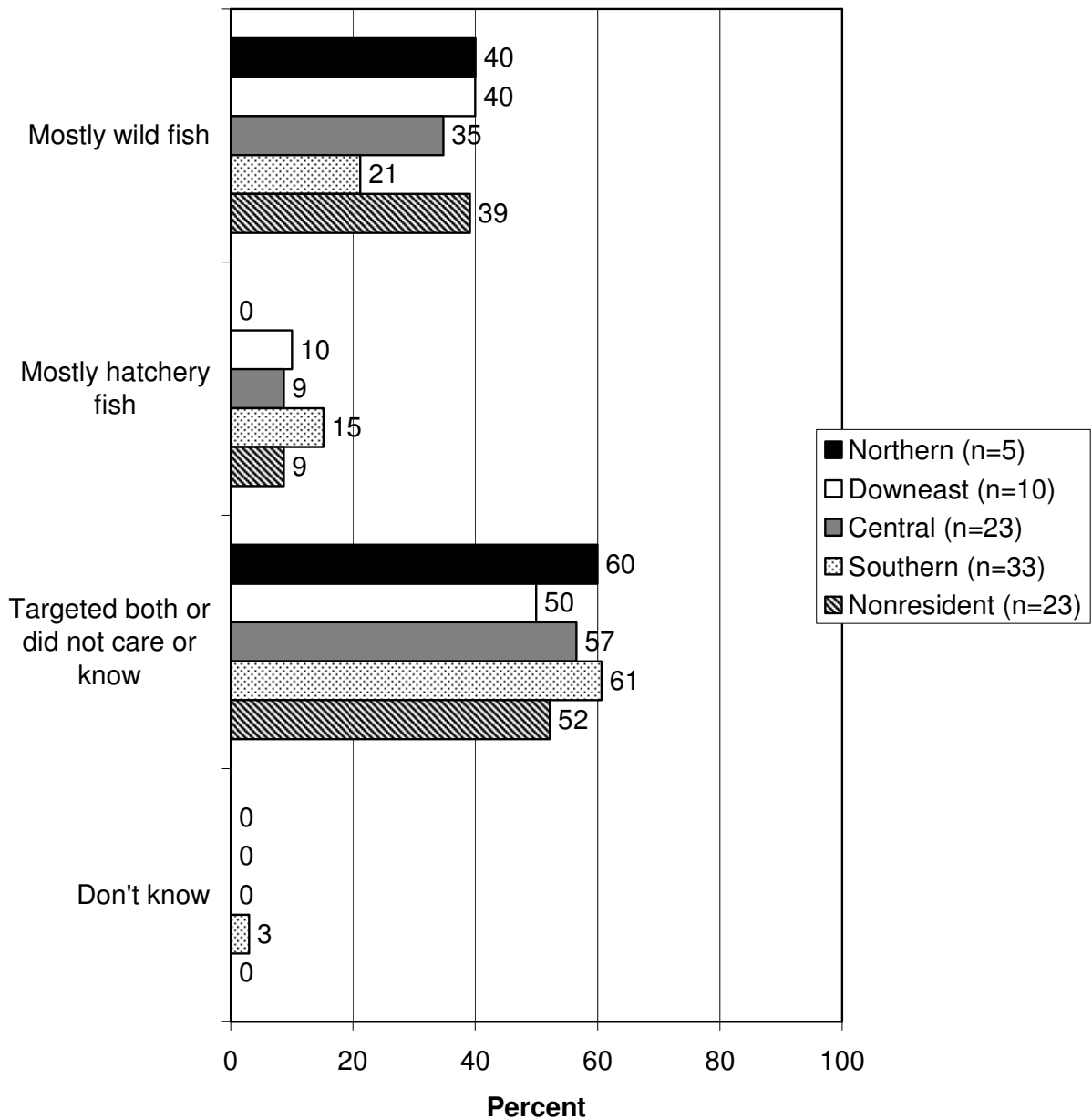
Q148/Q324. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a brown trout needs to be to be considered a trophy brown trout? (Asked of those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q150. When you fished for brown trout in the 2015 open-water season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



Q150. When you fished for brown trout in the 2015 open-water season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



Rainbow Trout

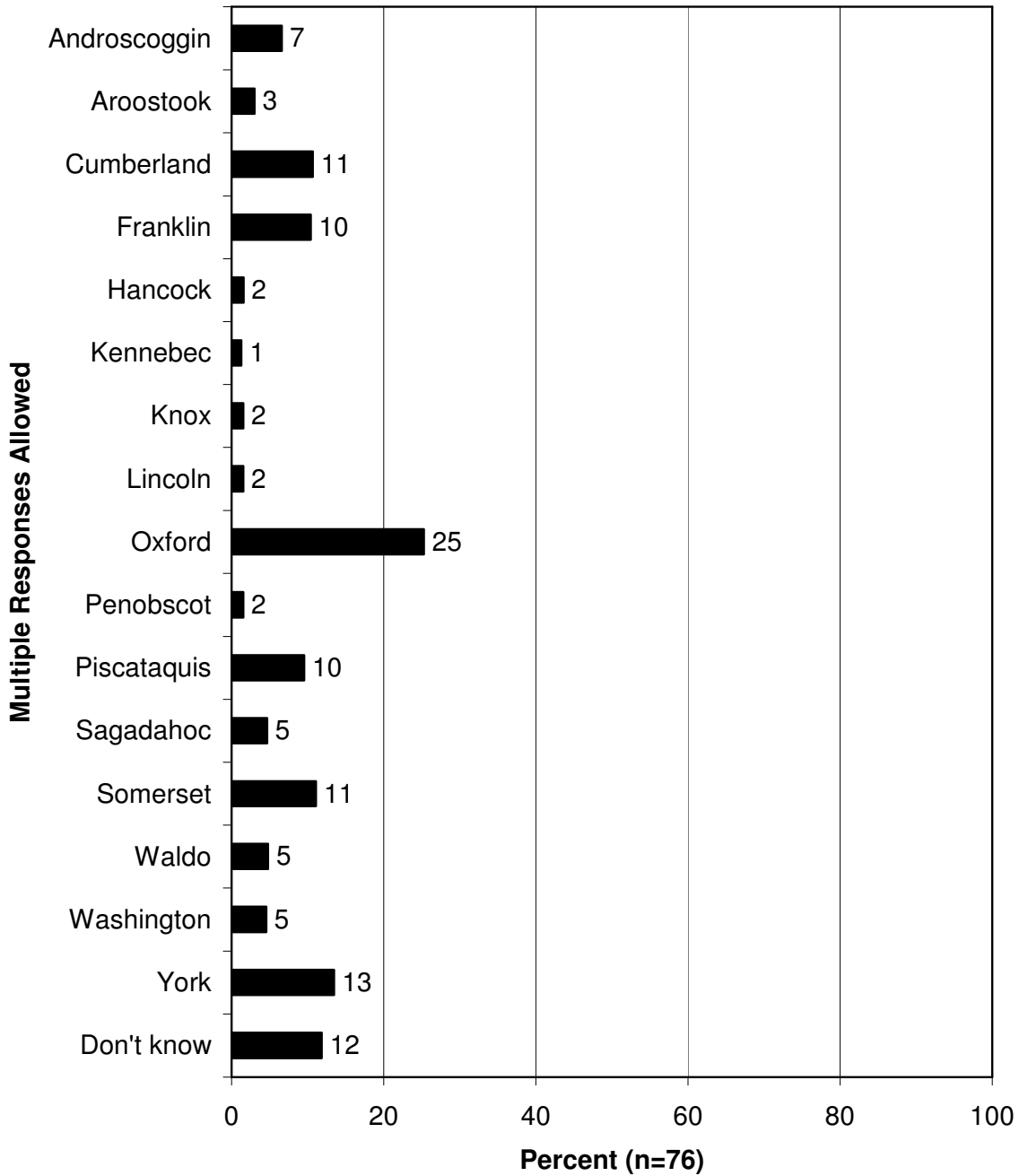
- Those who fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water fishing season most often fished this species in Oxford County (25%) and York County (13%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- The methods most often used when fishing rainbow trout were bait fishing and fly fishing (39% each), followed by trolling (23%) and spin fishing (21%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Those who fished for rainbow trout believe, on average, that a *quality* rainbow trout needs to be a minimum size of 13 inches and that a *trophy* rainbow trout needs to be a minimum size of 19 inches.
 - Differences between the regions are shown.

- Those who fished for rainbow trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (58%), while 27% mostly targeted wild fish and 14% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern Region were the most likely to mostly target wild fish.

**Q151. In which counties did you open water fish for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water season.)**

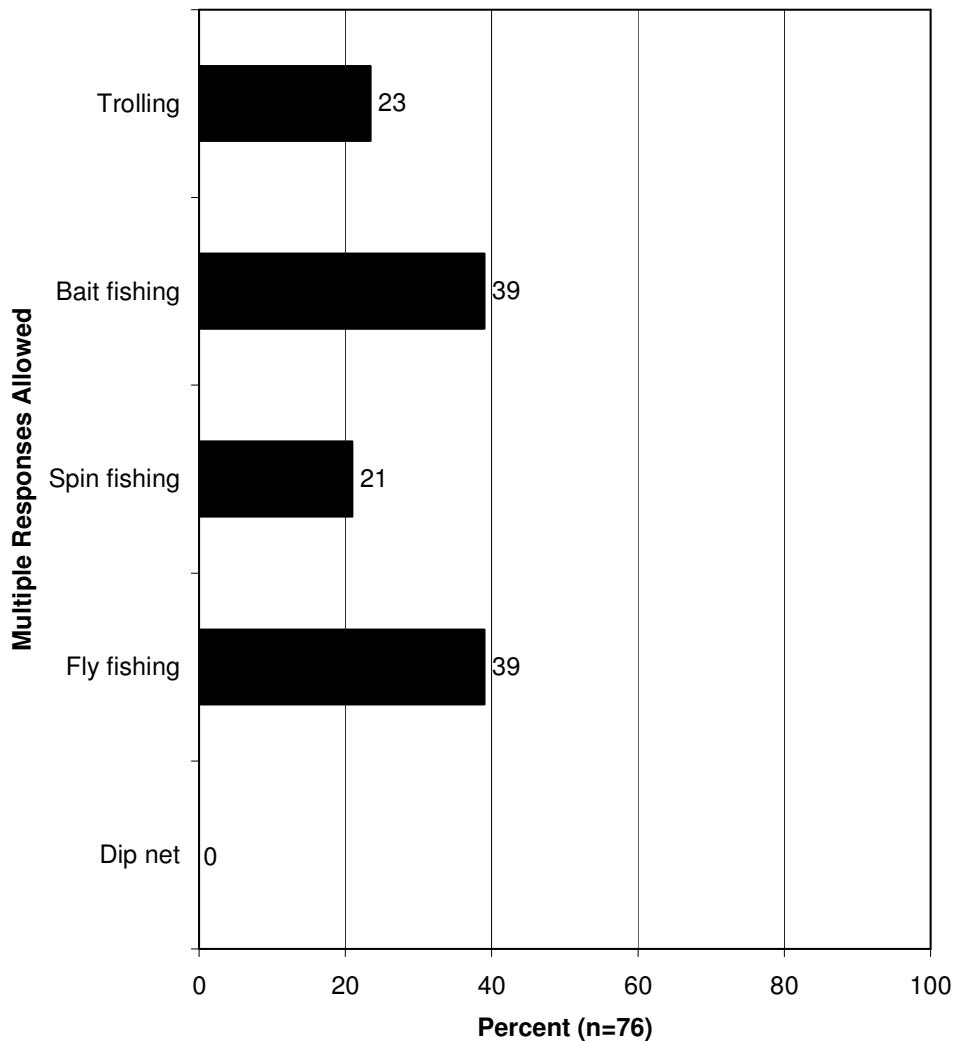


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Rainbow Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	6	14	0
Aroostook	33	0	0	5	0
Cumberland	0	13	0	24	10
Franklin	0	0	24	0	10
Hancock	0	13	0	0	5
Kennebec	0	0	0	0	5
Knox	0	0	0	5	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	5	0
Oxford	0	0	47	10	24
Penobscot	22	25	0	0	0
Piscataquis	33	0	12	5	10
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	14	0
Somerset	0	0	29	0	5
Waldo	0	0	6	5	5
Washington	0	75	0	5	5
York	0	0	0	33	10

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

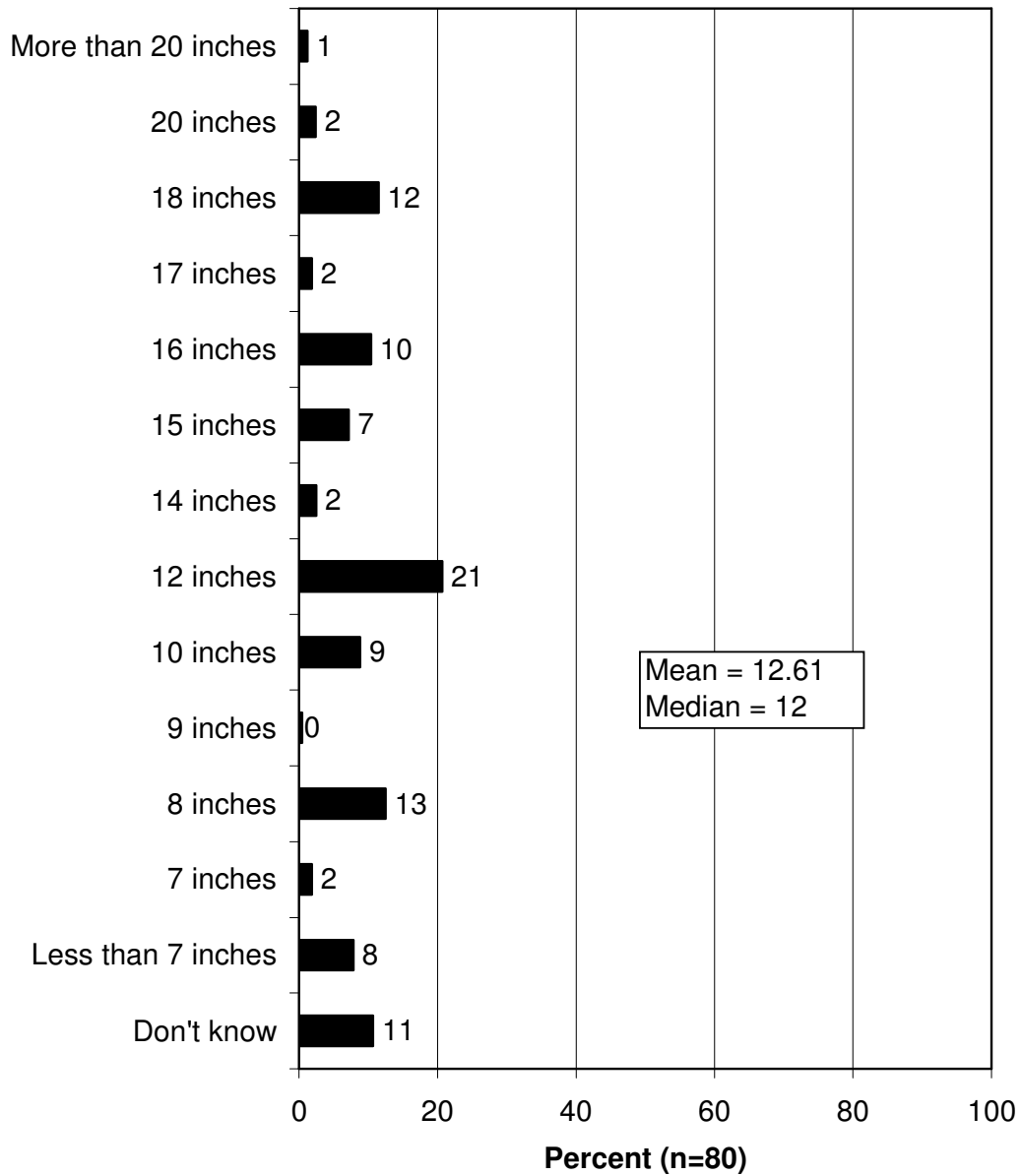
Q153. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water season? (Asked of those who fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water fishing season.)



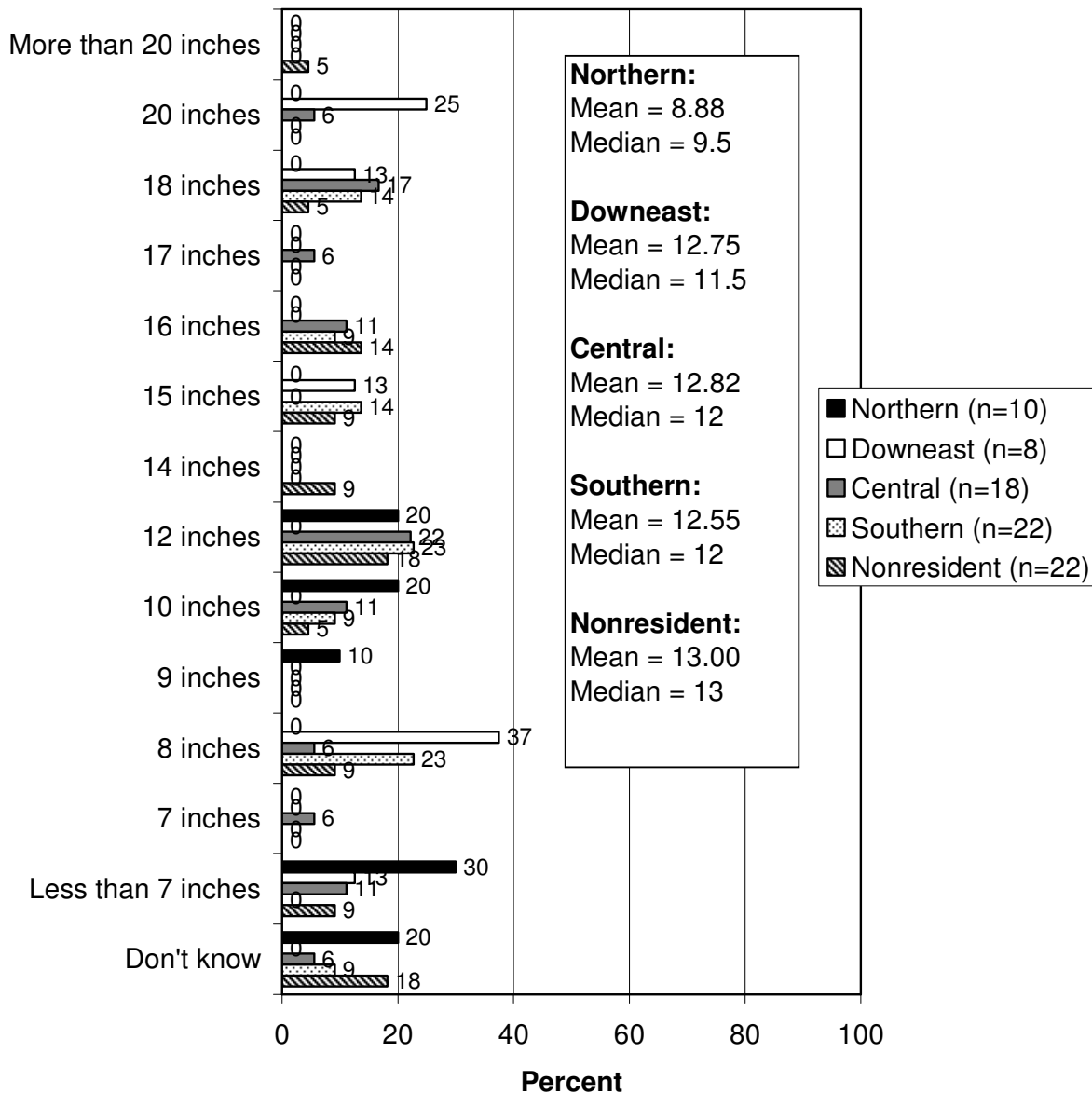
Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Rainbow Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	22	25	24	19	29
Bait Fishing	56	75	35	43	33
Spin Fishing	11	13	29	24	10
Fly Fishing	33	25	35	33	52
Dip Net	0	0	0	0	0

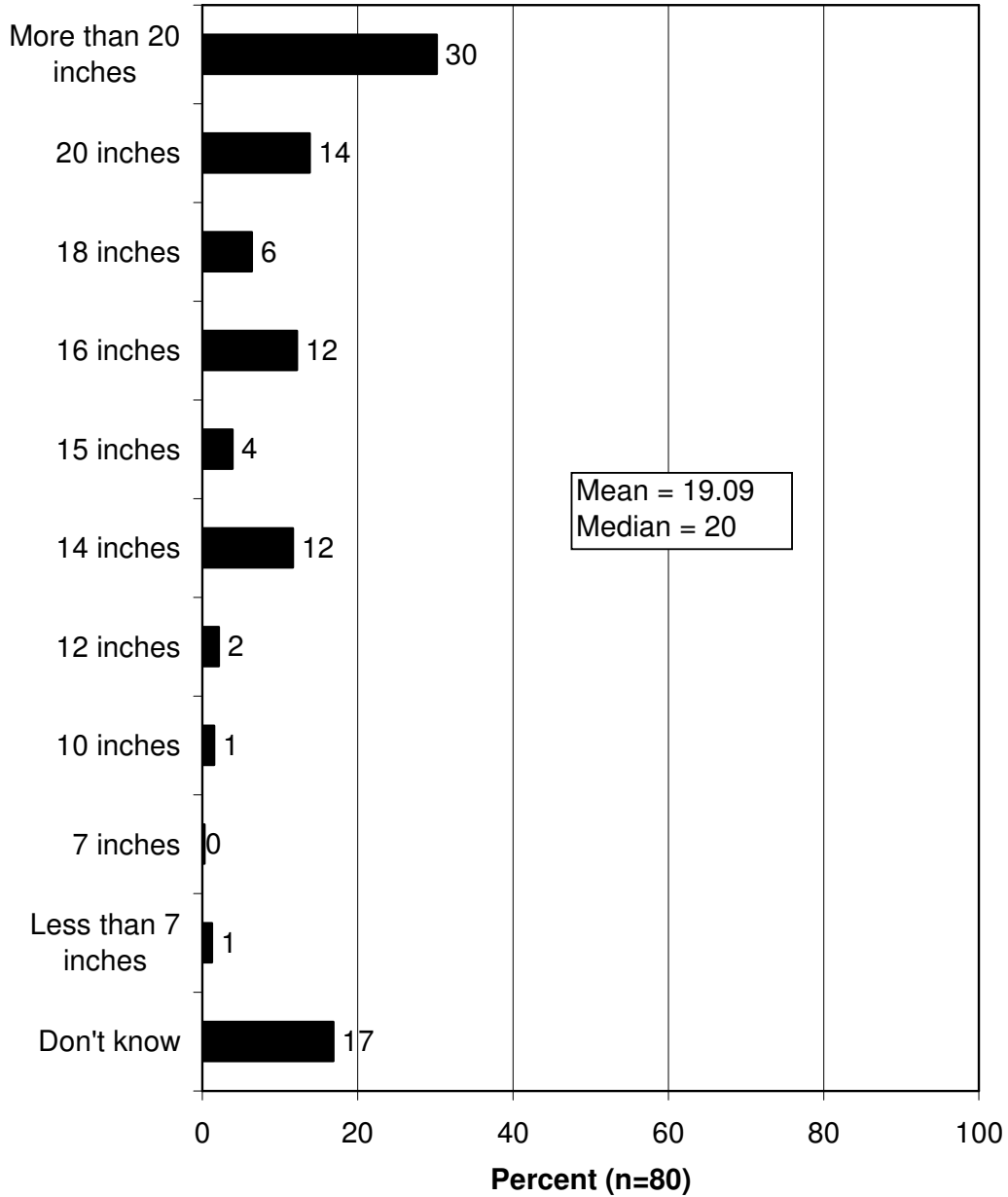
Q157/Q333. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a rainbow trout needs to be to still be considered a quality rainbow trout? (Asked of those who fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



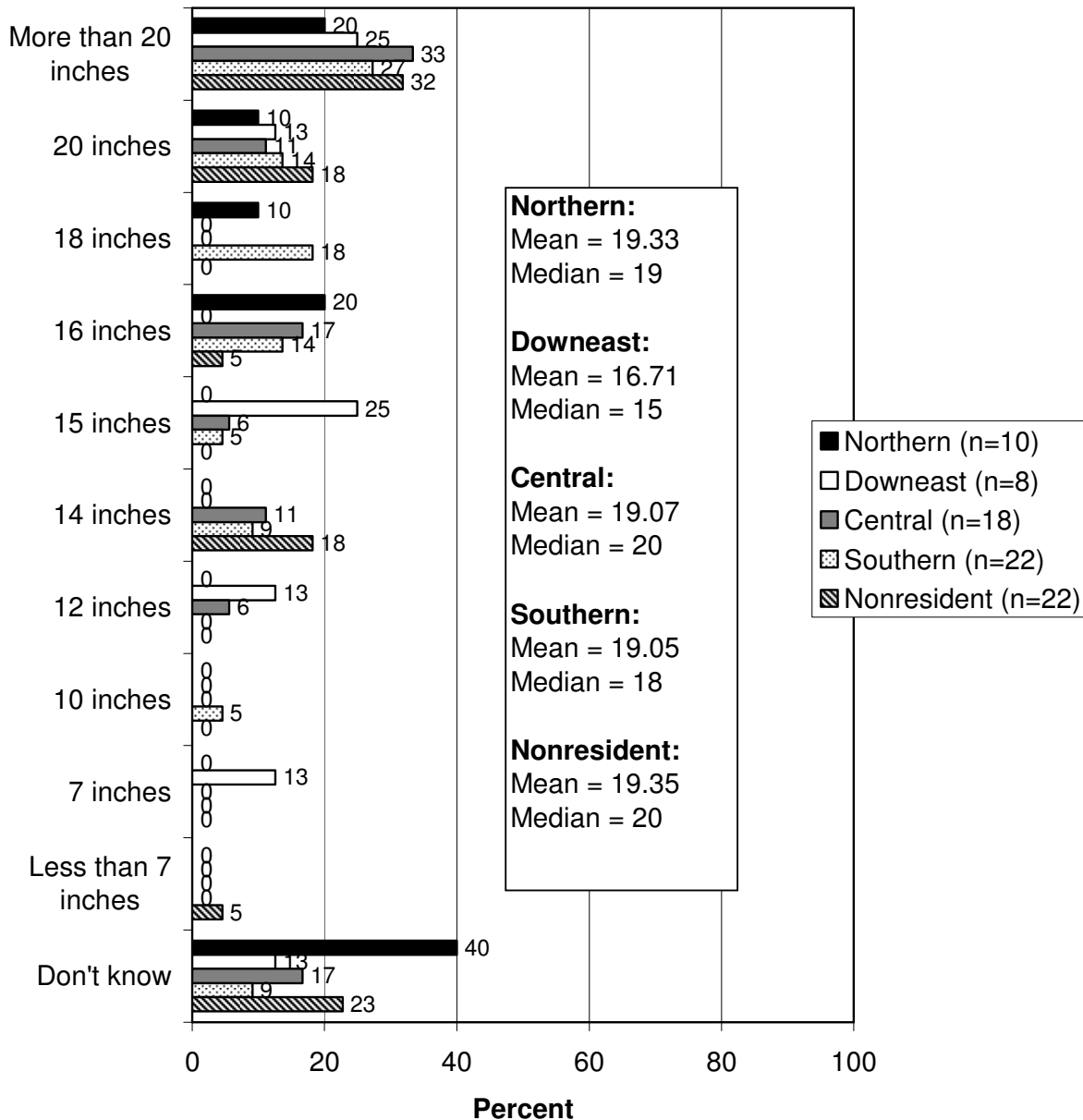
Q157/Q333. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a rainbow trout needs to be to still be considered a quality rainbow trout? (Asked of those who fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



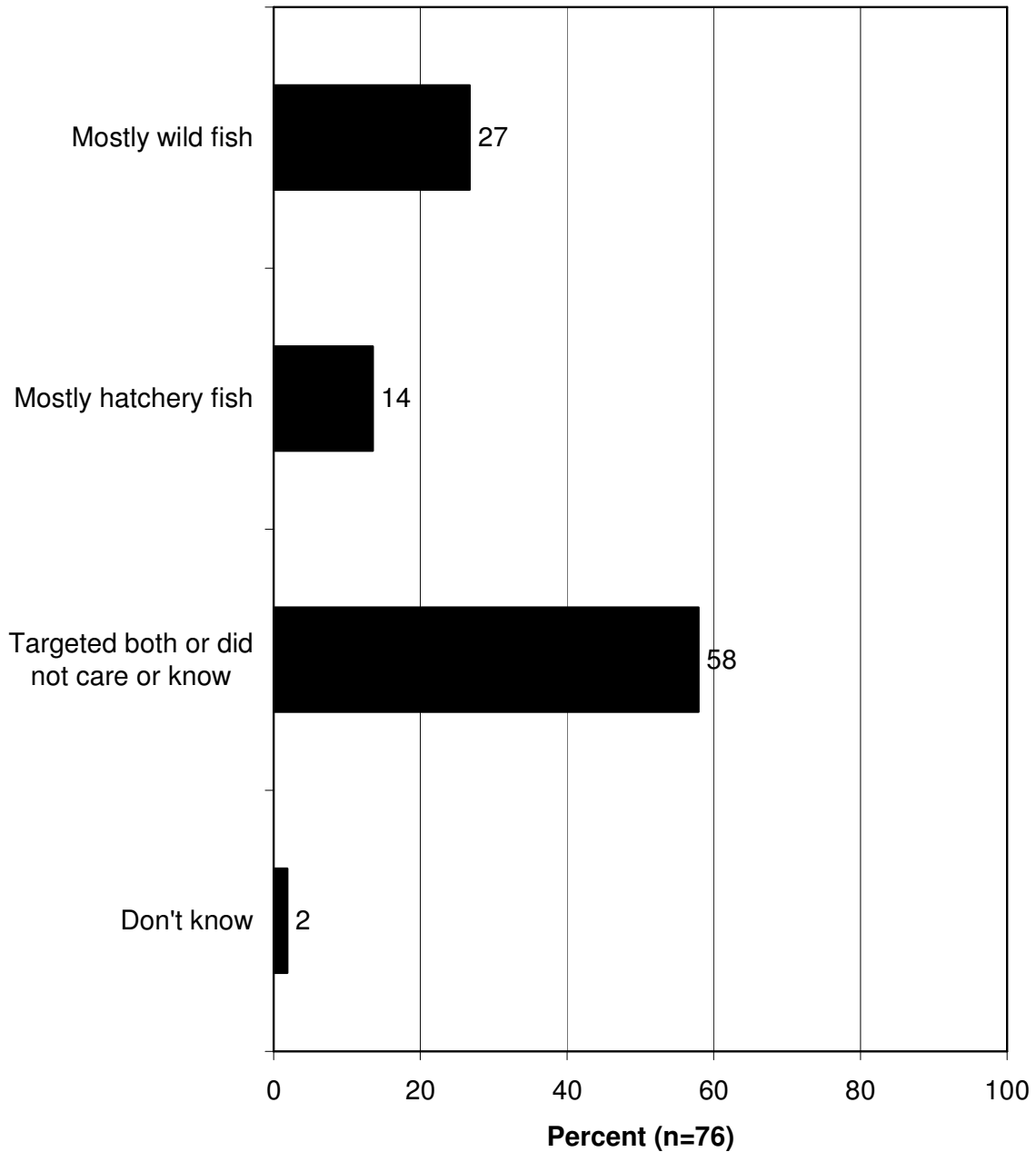
Q159/Q335. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a rainbow trout needs to be to be considered a trophy rainbow trout? (Asked of those who fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



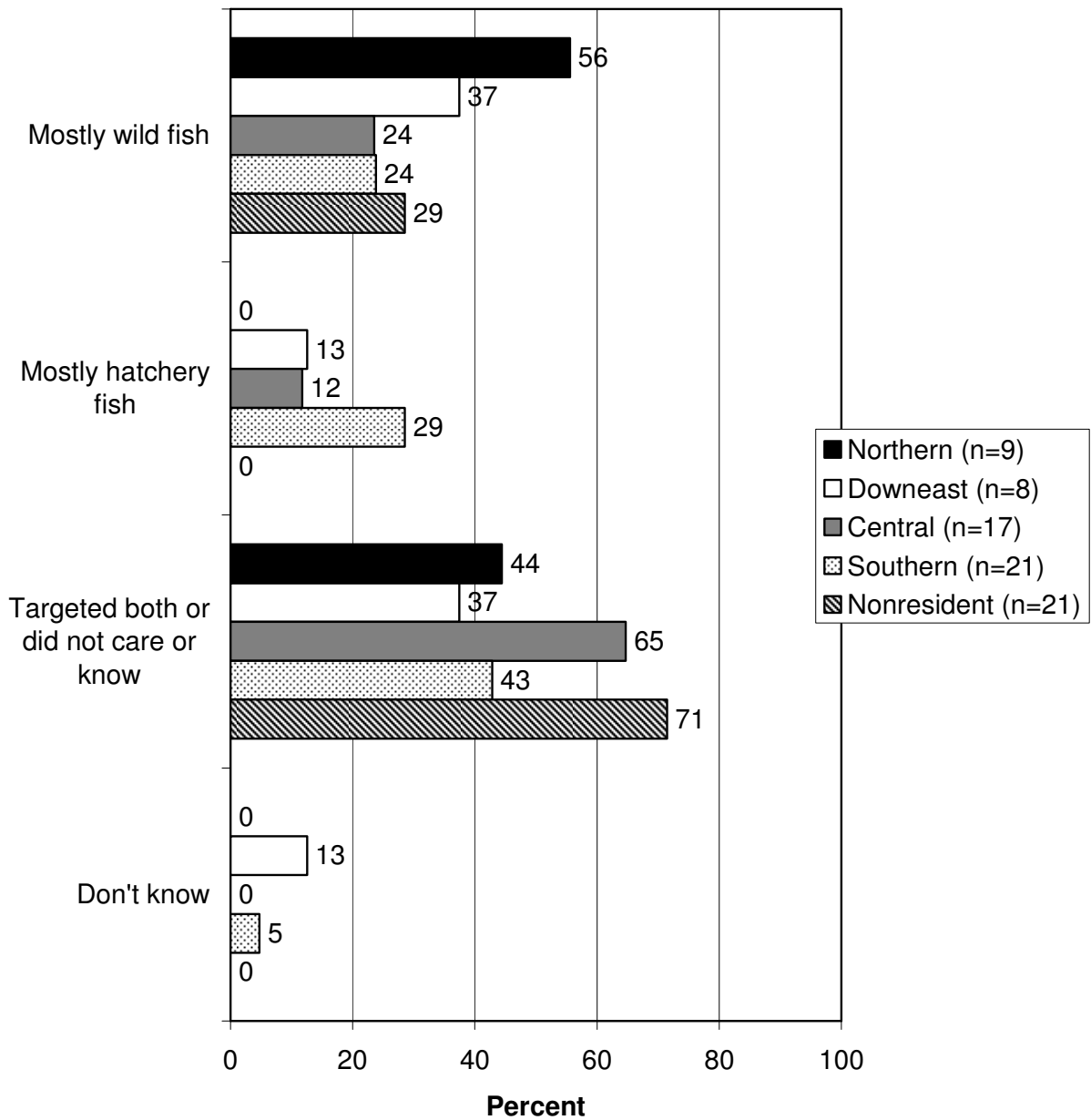
Q159/Q335. In your opinion, what is the minimum size a rainbow trout needs to be to be considered a trophy rainbow trout? (Asked of those who fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open water fishing season and/or 2015 ice fishing season.)



Q161. When you fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open-water season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



Q161. When you fished for rainbow trout in the 2015 open-water season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?

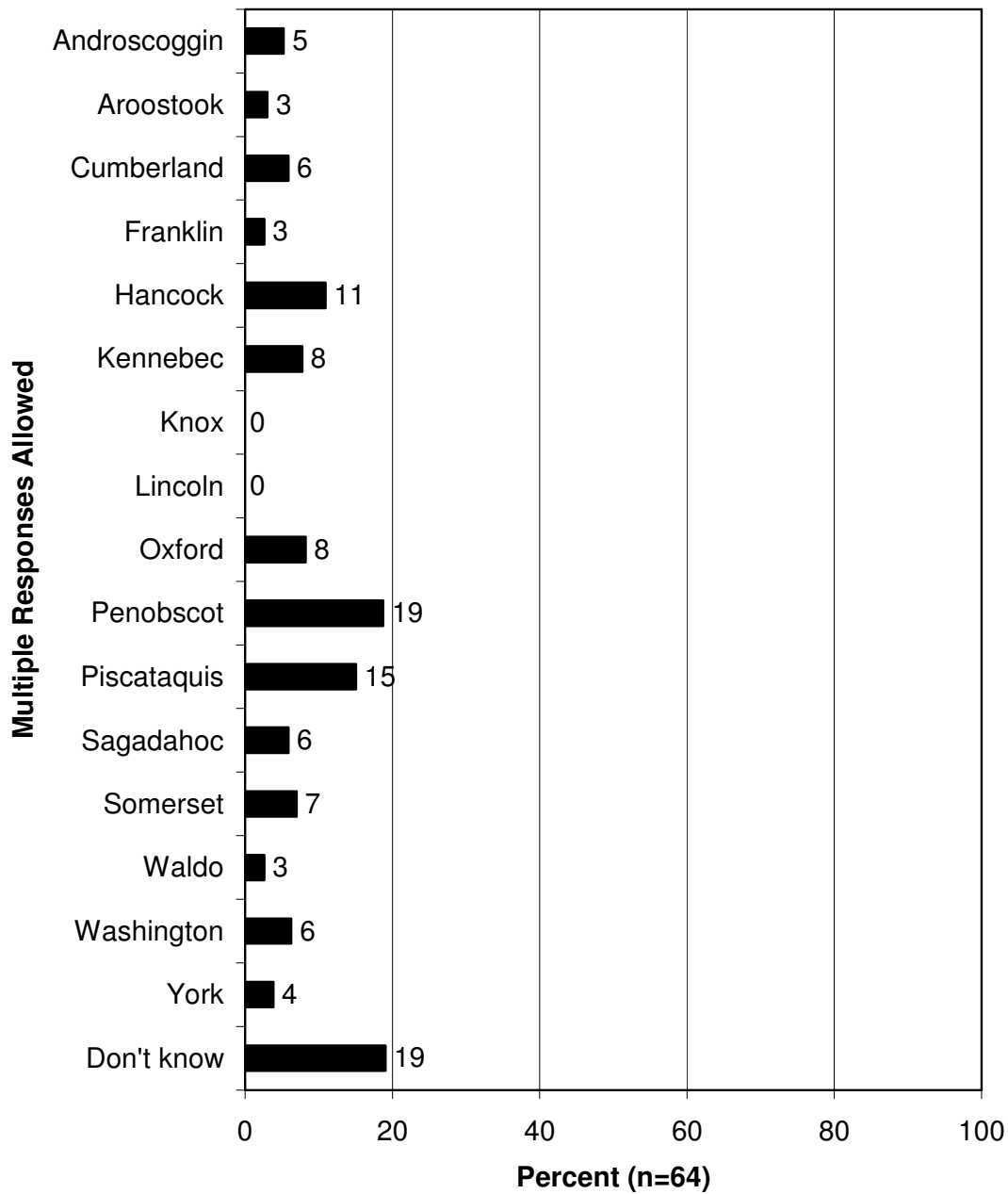


Any Species/Non-specific

- Anglers who did not target a specific species, but said they fished for anything in the 2015 open water fishing season, most often fished in Penobscot County (19%), Piscataquis County (15%), and Hancock County (11%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions and nonresidents are shown.

- The method most often used by those who fished for any (non-specific) species is bait fishing (52%), followed by spin fishing (29%), fly fishing (17%), and trolling (16%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions and nonresidents are shown.

Q174. In which counties did you open water fish in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for anything / no particular species in the 2015 open water fishing season.)

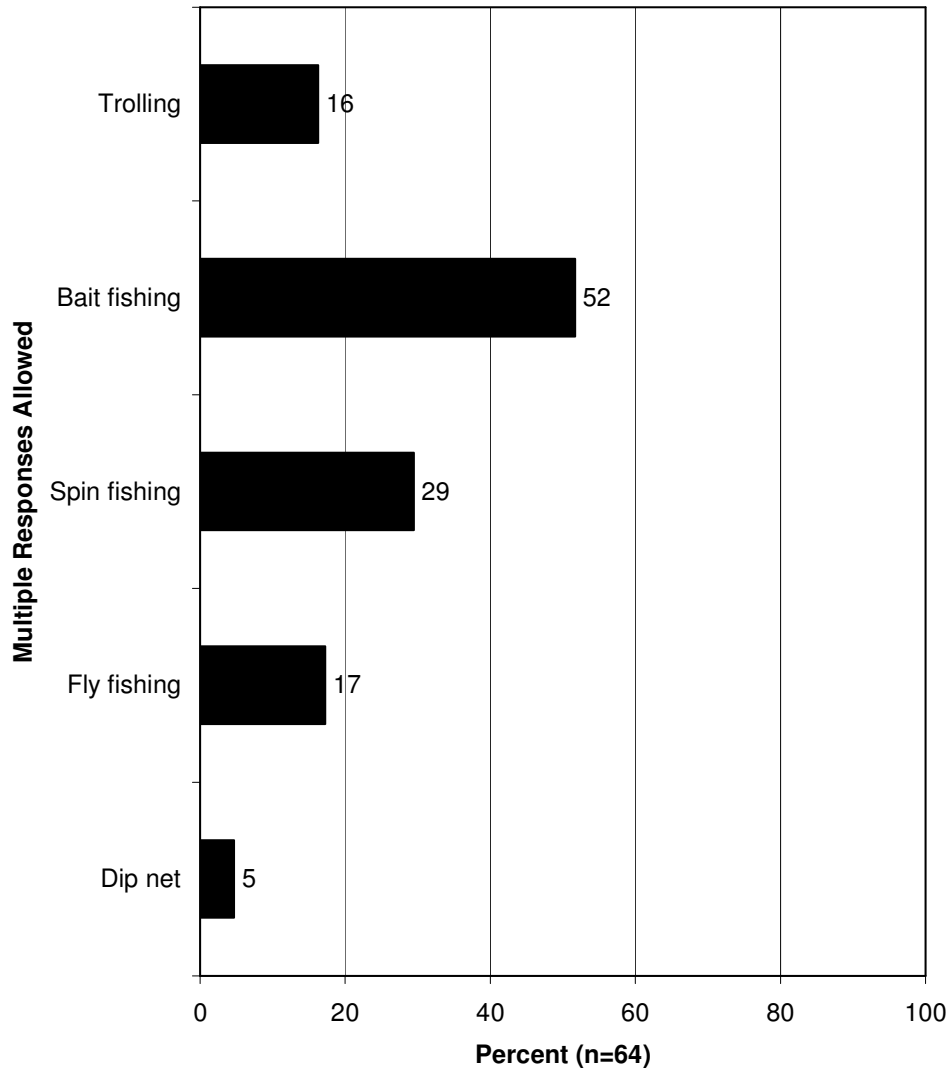


Counties Fished When Open Water Fishing for Anything/No Particular Species (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	14	0	0
Aroostook	29	0	0	0	5
Cumberland	0	0	0	25	5
Franklin	0	0	7	0	0
Hancock	14	71	7	13	5
Kennebec	0	14	14	0	5
Knox	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	7	13	10
Penobscot	29	0	43	0	5
Piscataquis	43	0	21	0	14
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	25	5
Somerset	0	0	14	0	5
Waldo	0	0	7	0	0
Washington	0	36	7	0	5
York	0	0	0	13	5

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

**Q176. Which of these methods did you use when open water fishing in the 2015 open water season?
(Asked of those who fished for anything / no particular species in the 2015 open water fishing season.)**



Methods Used When Open Water Fishing for Anything/No Particular Species (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Trolling	57	14	14	25	10
Bait Fishing	43	71	64	50	38
Spin Fishing	71	36	21	25	33
Fly Fishing	14	0	21	0	24
Dip Net	0	0	7	13	0

The following tables show the mean number of days fished for each species within each county during the Maine 2015 open water season. For perspective on the numbers, the sample size (n value) has been included in each cell below the mean days value. For example, 23 anglers fished in Androscoggin County for black bass (n=23), and the average number of days fished by those anglers is 14.7. In contrast, only one person fished in Cumberland County for crappie, so the mean days value of 40.0 simply means that this angler fished for 40 days.

Mean Days Open Water Fished by Species and County (Part 1)

	Black Bass	Crappie	Northern Pike	Pickereel	Perch	Landlocked Salmon
Androscoggin	14.7 (n = 23)		8.2 (n = 2)	3.4 (n = 5)	14.0 (n = 2)	3.2 (n = 5)
Aroostook	9.2 (n = 20)			5.4 (n = 6)	6.9 (n = 7)	10.7 (n = 42)
Cumberland	8.6 (n = 52)	40.0 (n = 1)	2.0 (n = 1)	9.5 (n = 5)	15.7 (n = 7)	7.7 (n = 15)
Franklin	4.1 (n = 2)			2.0 (n = 1)	2.0 (n = 1)	9.0 (n = 15)
Hancock	15.8 (n = 55)	8.0 (n = 1)	1.0 (n = 1)	11.2 (n = 19)	11.2 (n = 11)	14.4 (n = 13)
Kennebec	13.1 (n = 34)	17.0 (n = 2)	12.3 (n = 5)	3.5 (n = 2)	8.0 (n = 8)	9.6 (n = 3)
Knox	22.5 (n = 10)			8.5 (n = 2)	9.7 (n = 3)	
Lincoln	8.3 (n = 17)			14.0 (n = 4)	12.5 (n = 6)	17.5 (n = 2)
Oxford	11.4 (n = 19)	8.0 (n = 1)	15.0 (n = 1)	3.3 (n = 4)	9.0 (n = 2)	11.8 (n = 16)
Penobscot	10.2 (n = 52)	14.5 (n = 4)	3.6 (n = 2)	7.5 (n = 9)	13.7 (n = 17)	11.3 (n = 24)
Piscataquis	10.2 (n = 20)			9.7 (n = 6)	7.6 (n = 7)	8.3 (n = 30)
Sagadahoc	14.5 (n = 8)	8.0 (n = 1)				
Somerset	9.2 (n = 12)			5.9 (n = 2)	12.1 (n = 7)	17.8 (n = 13)
Waldo	6.2 (n = 9)				1.0 (n = 1)	2.0 (n = 1)
Washington	10.6 (n = 60)			8.9 (n = 11)	10.9 (n = 13)	21.3 (n = 23)
York	12.8 (n = 43)	18.1 (n = 8)		13.4 (n = 7)	19.2 (n = 6)	17.0 (n = 2)

Mean Days Open Water Fished by Species and County (Part 2)

	Sunfish	Eastern Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Any Species
Androscoggin		8.2 (n = 15)	1.1 (n = 2)	6.5 (n = 2)	7.3 (n = 5)	2.6 (n = 4)
Aroostook		12.0 (n = 85)	7.1 (n = 12)	12.0 (n = 6)	6.7 (n = 4)	2.1 (n = 3)
Cumberland	17.7 (n = 3)	7.2 (n = 26)	5.8 (n = 13)	8.8 (n = 13)	15.3 (n = 7)	18.3 (n = 3)
Franklin		9.1 (n = 24)	7.9 (n = 3)	11.2 (n = 4)	25.0 (n = 6)	
Hancock	9.4 (n = 5)	8.6 (n = 33)	8.8 (n = 11)	9.3 (n = 5)	6.0 (n = 2)	6.1 (n = 14)
Kennebec		10.7 (n = 15)	5.5 (n = 2)	14.7 (n = 8)	3.0 (n = 1)	8.7 (n = 5)
Knox		8.7 (n = 9)	10.0 (n = 1)	12.0 (n = 1)	12.0 (n = 1)	
Lincoln		13.7 (n = 8)		11.0 (n = 4)	12.0 (n = 1)	
Oxford		10.7 (n = 30)	6.7 (n = 3)	11.5 (n = 12)	6.7 (n = 15)	3.1 (n = 4)
Penobscot	12.0 (n = 1)	7.9 (n = 49)	16.1 (n = 9)	16.1 (n = 2)	10.3 (n = 4)	11.7 (n = 10)
Piscataquis		7.6 (n = 63)	8.6 (n = 12)	11.2 (n = 7)	8.7 (n = 6)	3.8 (n = 8)
Sagadahoc		5.0 (n = 3)		2.0 (n = 1)	5.0 (n = 3)	8.0 (n = 3)
Somerset		7.0 (n = 34)	11.4 (n = 5)	16.3 (n = 7)	8.5 (n = 6)	5.0 (n = 1)
Waldo	1.0 (n = 1)	7.6 (n = 8)		3.9 (n = 2)	6.4 (n = 3)	2.0 (n = 1)
Washington	6.0 (n = 2)	12.5 (n = 54)	8.1 (n = 5)	7.5 (n = 6)	6.8 (n = 8)	5.8 (n = 7)
York	11.8 (n = 3)	13.9 (n = 28)	14.2 (n = 6)	14.1 (n = 16)	7.7 (n = 9)	12.5 (n = 3)

The table below shows the mean percent of their harvest that anglers kept for each species within each county during the Maine 2015 open water fishing season. As previously stated, regional analysis was not conducted for species fished by fewer than 30 anglers in open water season.

Mean Percent of Open Water Harvest Kept by Species and Region

Species (Sample Size)	Region of Residence				Non-Residents	Total
	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern		
Black bass (n = 423)	13.6	5.8	4.0	1.0	1.4	2.6
Crappie (n = 15)						23.7
Northern pike (n = 14)						15.1
Pickrel (n = 75)	57.5	3.4	6.3	0.0	3.3	5.2
Perch (n = 96)	63.1	41.8	20.2	21.3	27.1	27.3
Landlocked salmon (n = 200)	24.7	24.3	12.5	24.7	8.5	15.5
Sunfish (n = 14)						1.2
Eastern brook trout (n = 408)	30.4	28.7	20.8	14.8	10.4	18.0
Lake trout (n = 86)	19.3	26.4	18.5	17.8	10.5	16.4
Brown trout (n = 94)	19.0	21.0	18.7	11.5	4.7	12.7
Rainbow trout (n = 76)	37.8	33.9	20.5	15.5	8.4	16.6

ICE FISHING

- About a quarter of anglers (23%) went ice fishing in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season, 19% ice fished within the past 5 years but not in 2015, and 59% did not ice fish in the past 5 years.
 - Ice fishing participation was lowest among nonresidents.

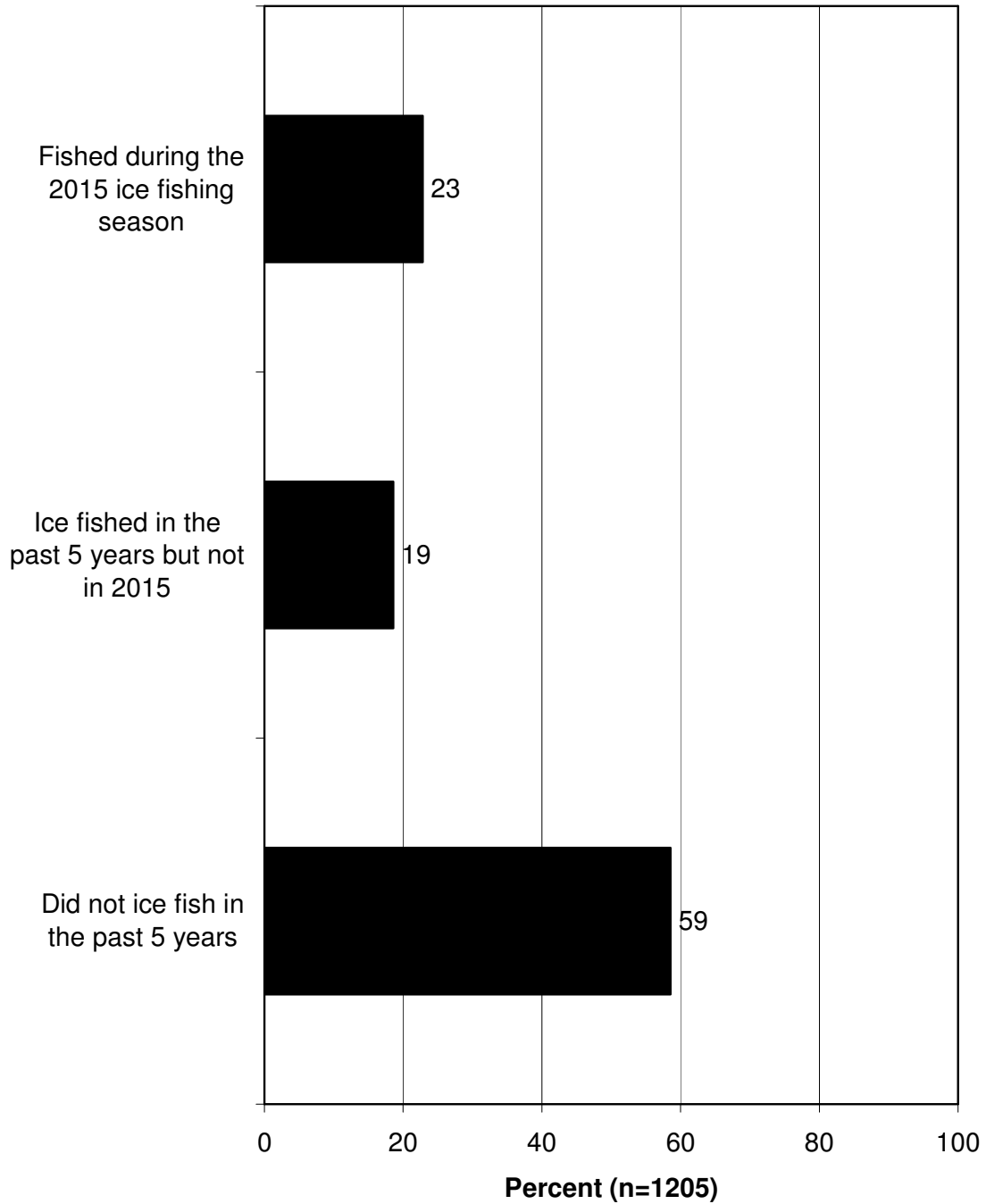
- Anglers who fished during the 2015 ice fishing season participated an average of 8.5 days.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern and Downeast Regions participated an average of 11.0 days, followed by the Southern Region (mean of 9.2 days), the Central Region (mean of 7.5 days), and nonresidents (mean of 6.2 days).

- Anglers who ice fished in 2015 most often fished for trout (64% fished for this species; this number includes all types of trout except for Sunapee and blueback), followed by landlocked salmon (31%) and black bass (16%; includes largemouth and smallmouth bass). A substantial number ice fished for anything/no particular species (12%).
 - Compared to the other regions and nonresidents, anglers who reside in the Northern Region least often fished for black bass. Percentages who fished for trout are consistent between the groups.

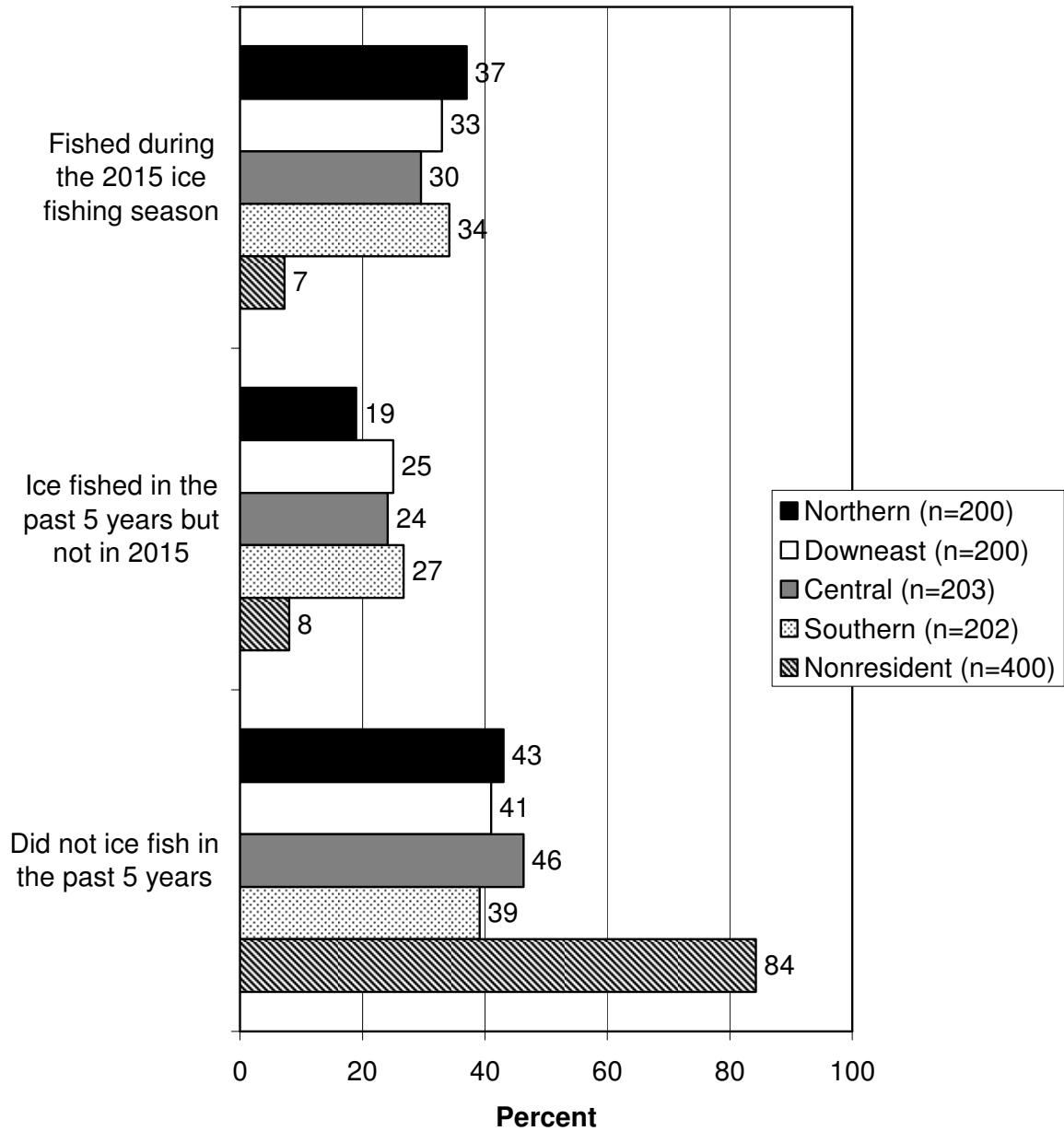
- Those who ice fished in 2015 were asked, regardless of the county where they ice fish, which inland freshwater species they most *prefer* to fish for in ice fishing season. Results from this question generally mirror those from the preceding question of which species were *actually* fished, suggesting that most anglers are able to fish for their species of choice. However, note that percentages in this preference question are slightly lower than those from the participation question for nearly every species. A majority (59%) of ice fishing anglers prefer to fish for trout; this percentage reflects all the listed types of trout combined (except Sunapee and blueback), with eastern brook trout being the most popular type (33%). Landlocked salmon is also popular with anglers (27%).
 - Regional analysis shows that nonresidents most often prefer to fish for black bass (45%), whereas anglers who reside in the Northern Region demonstrated no interest in bass.

- A majority of anglers who ice fished gave a rating of excellent or good to the quality of the ice fishing during the 2015 season (a combined 61% rated it excellent or good). At the other end of the spectrum, 25% rated the quality fair and 13% rated it poor.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern gave lower ratings than those from the other regions and nonresidents.
 - Ice fishing anglers most likely to give low ratings (fair or poor) are females (58% rated the quality fair or poor), those who reside in the Northern Region (57%), those with a household income under \$60,000 (45%), and those from a large city or urban area (45%).

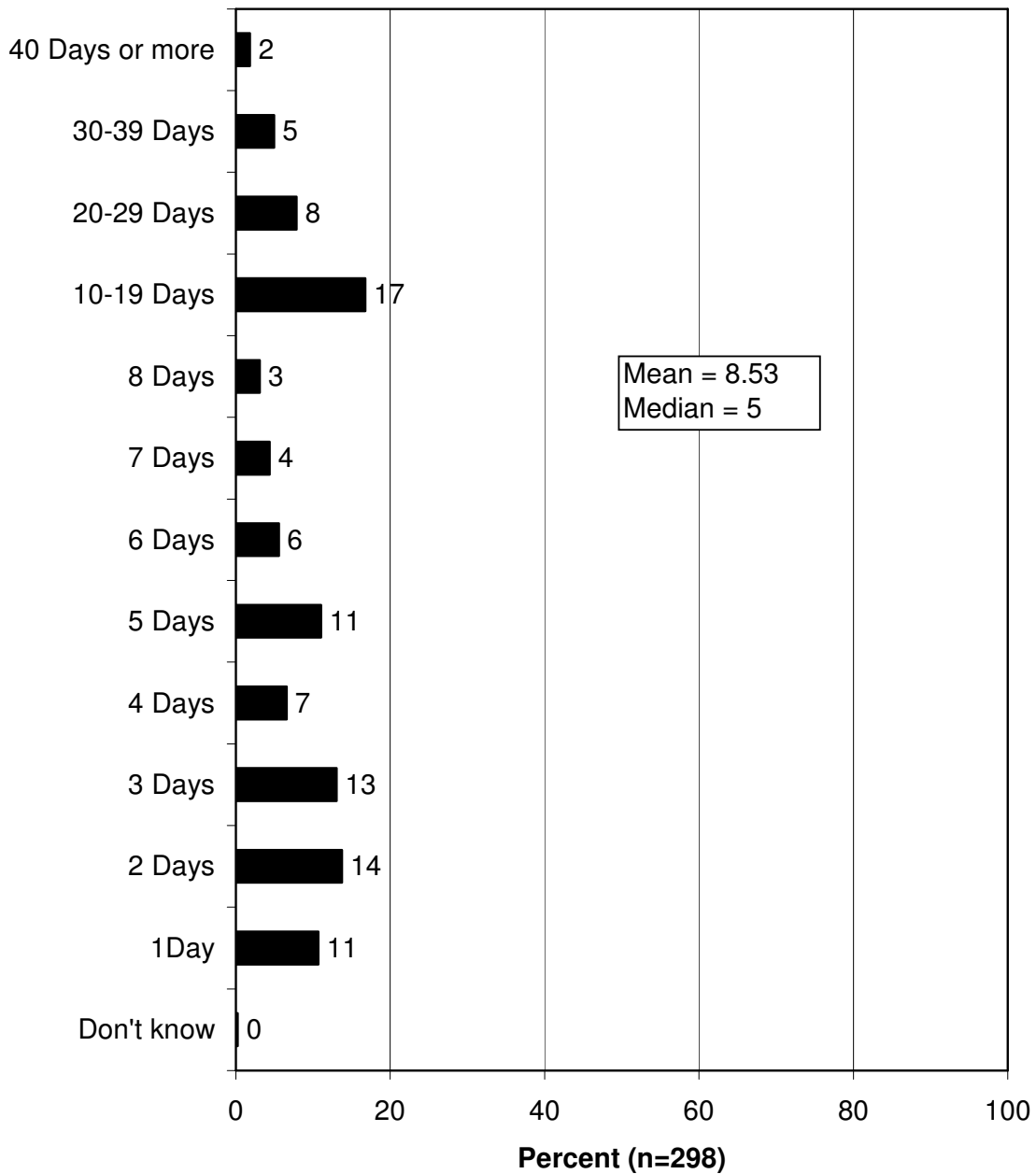
Q190/Q191. Participation in Maine's ice fishing season.



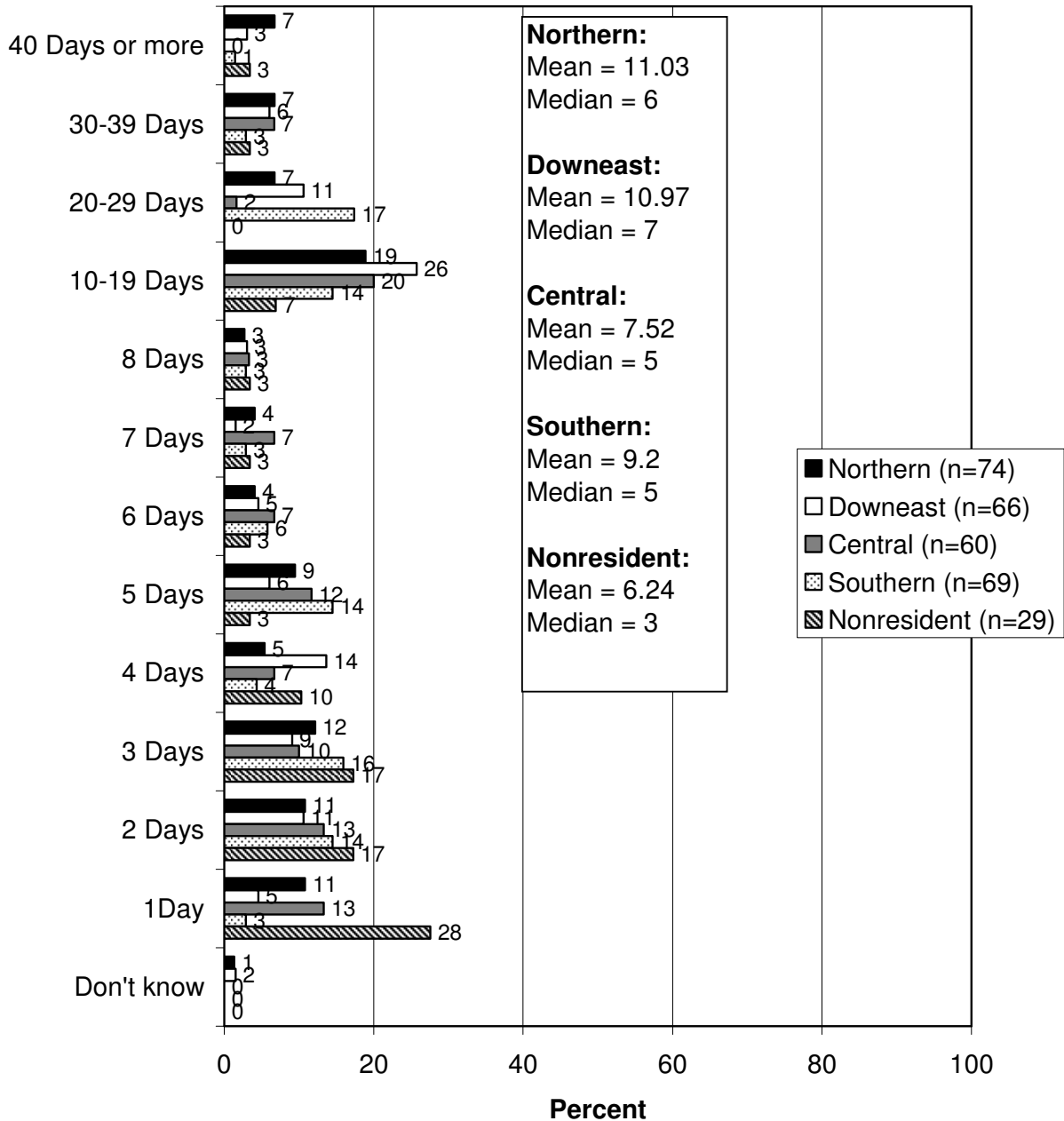
Q190/Q191. Participation in Maine's ice fishing season.



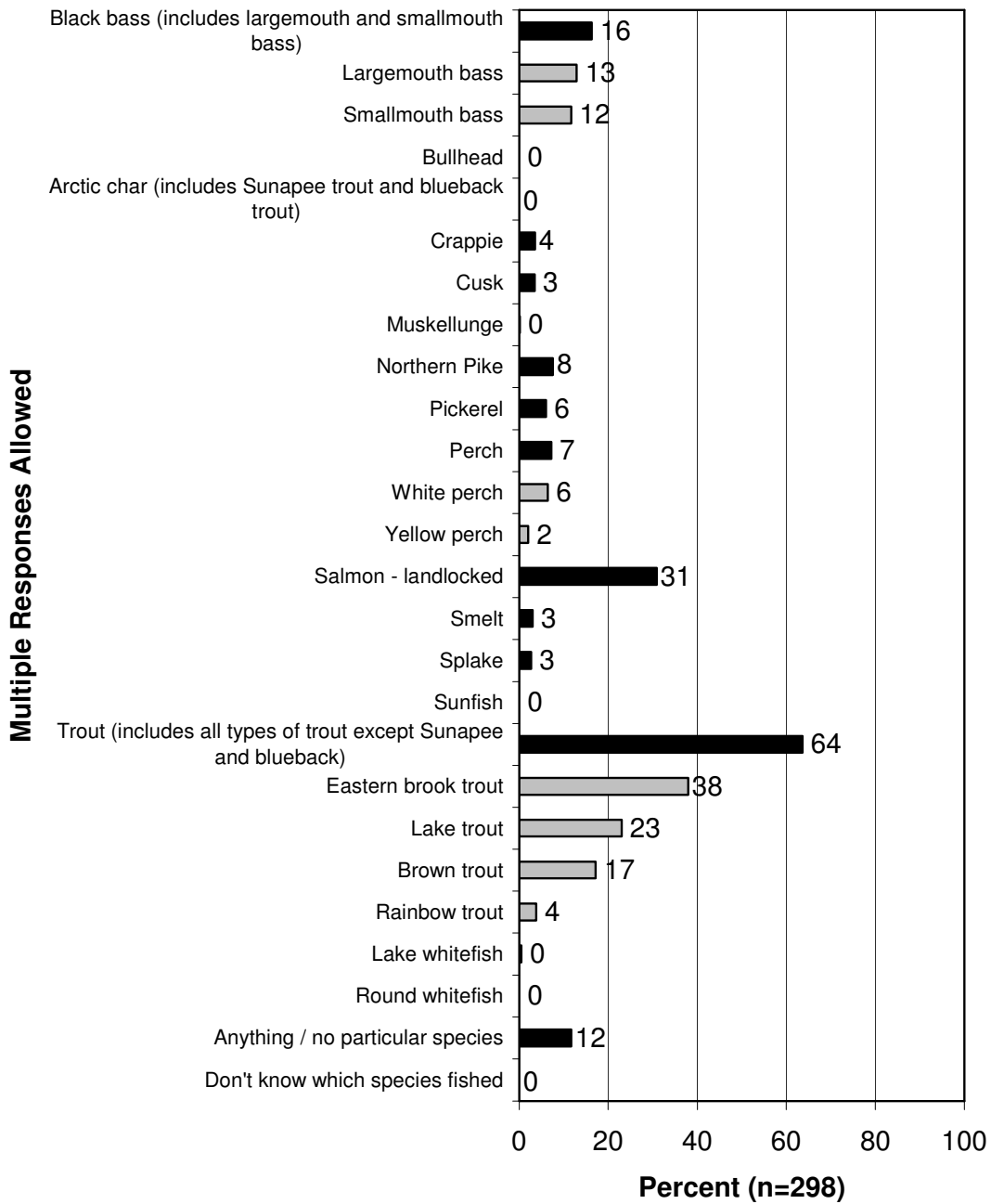
Q193. How many days did you ice fish during the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)



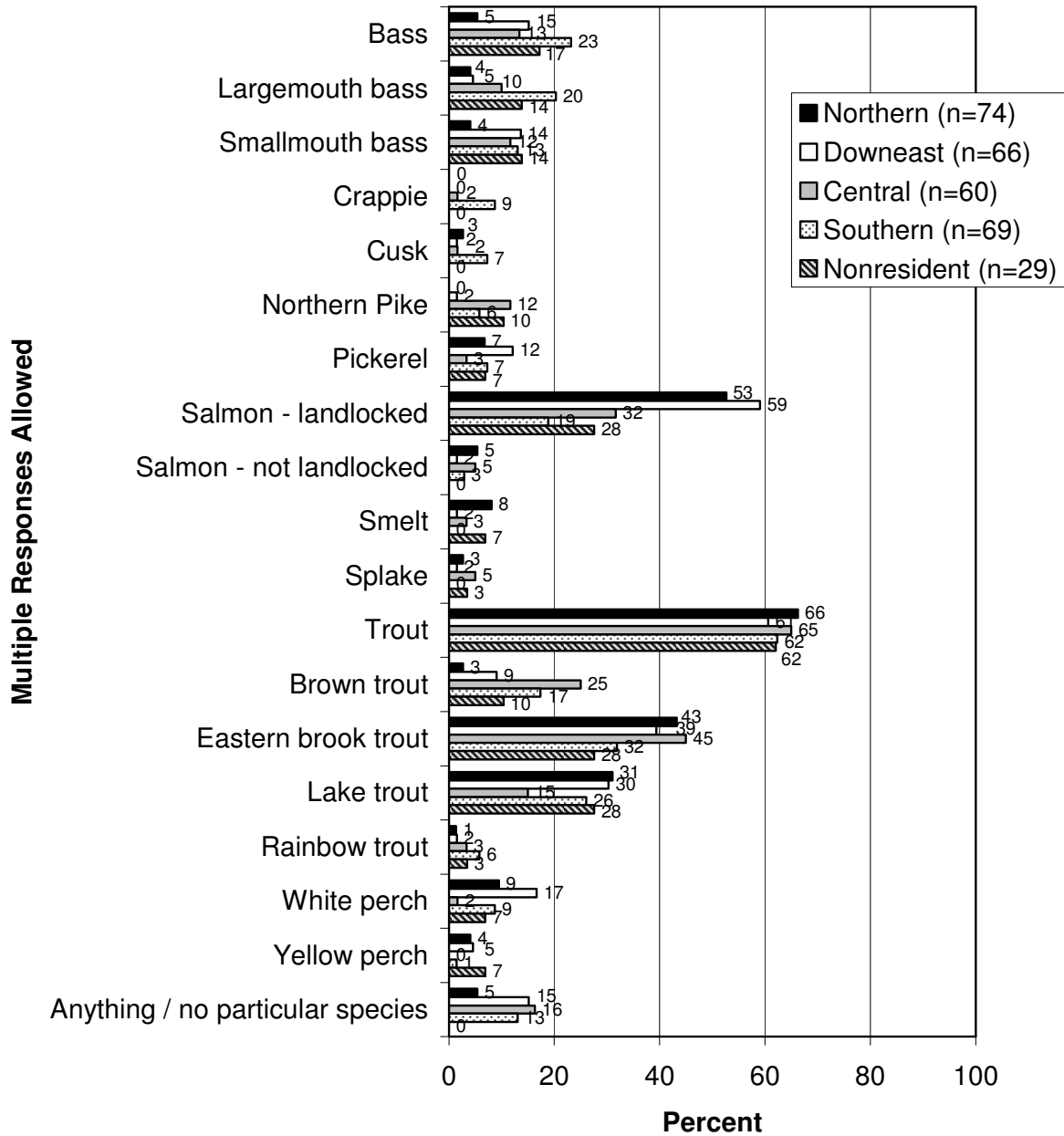
Q193. How many days did you ice fish during the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)



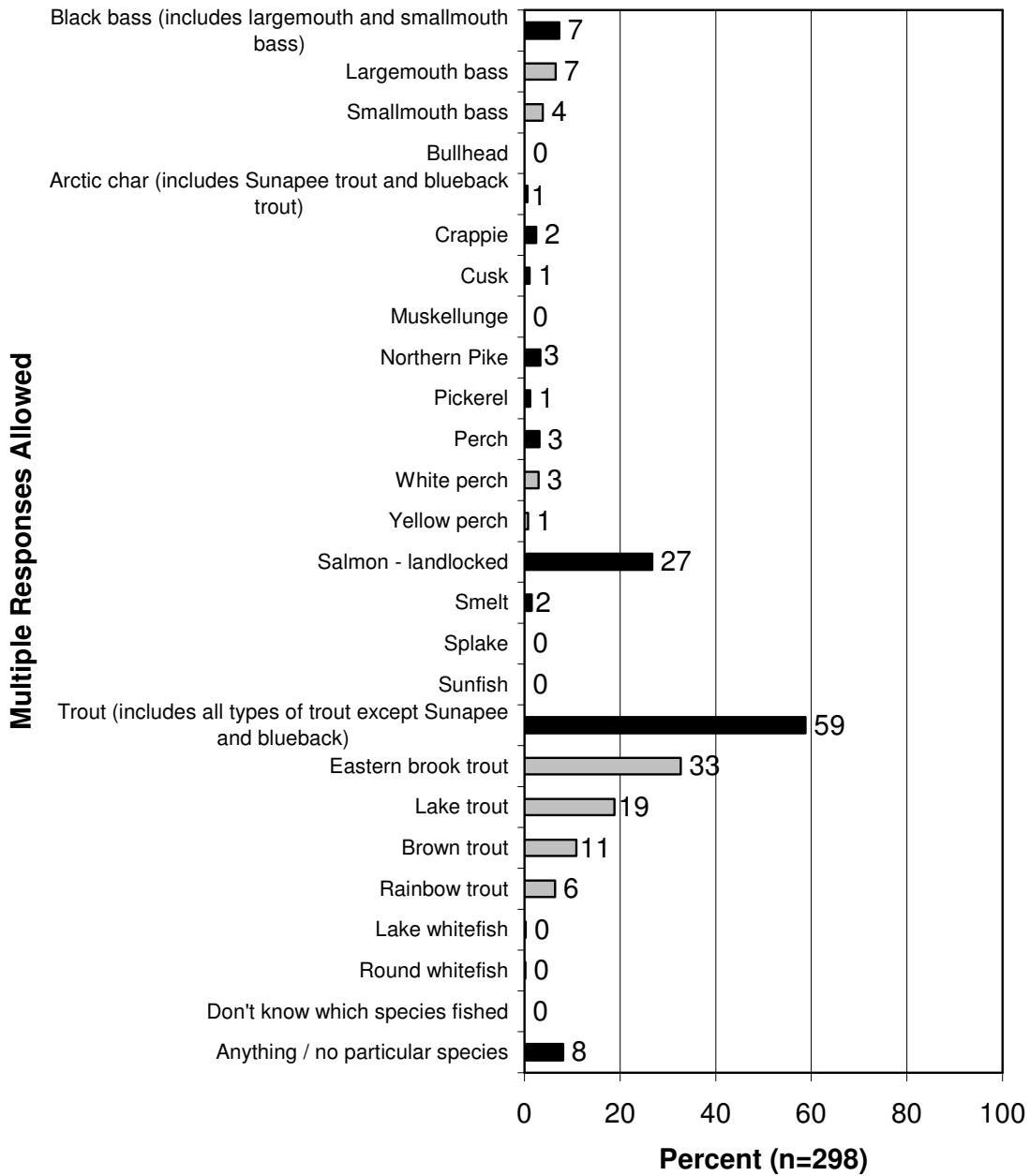
**Q196. What inland freshwater species did you ice fish for during the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)**



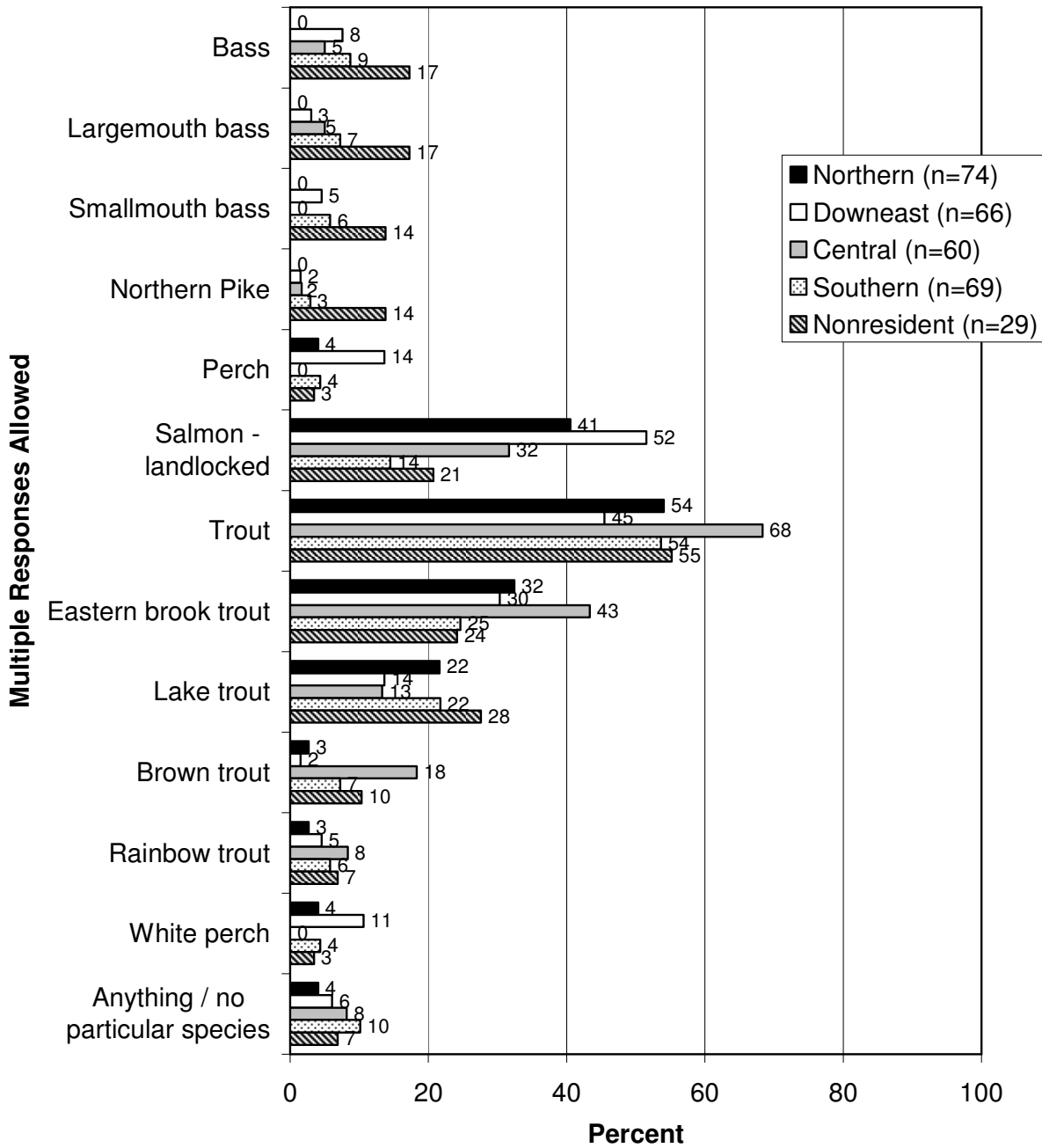
**Q196. What inland freshwater species did you ice fish for during the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)**



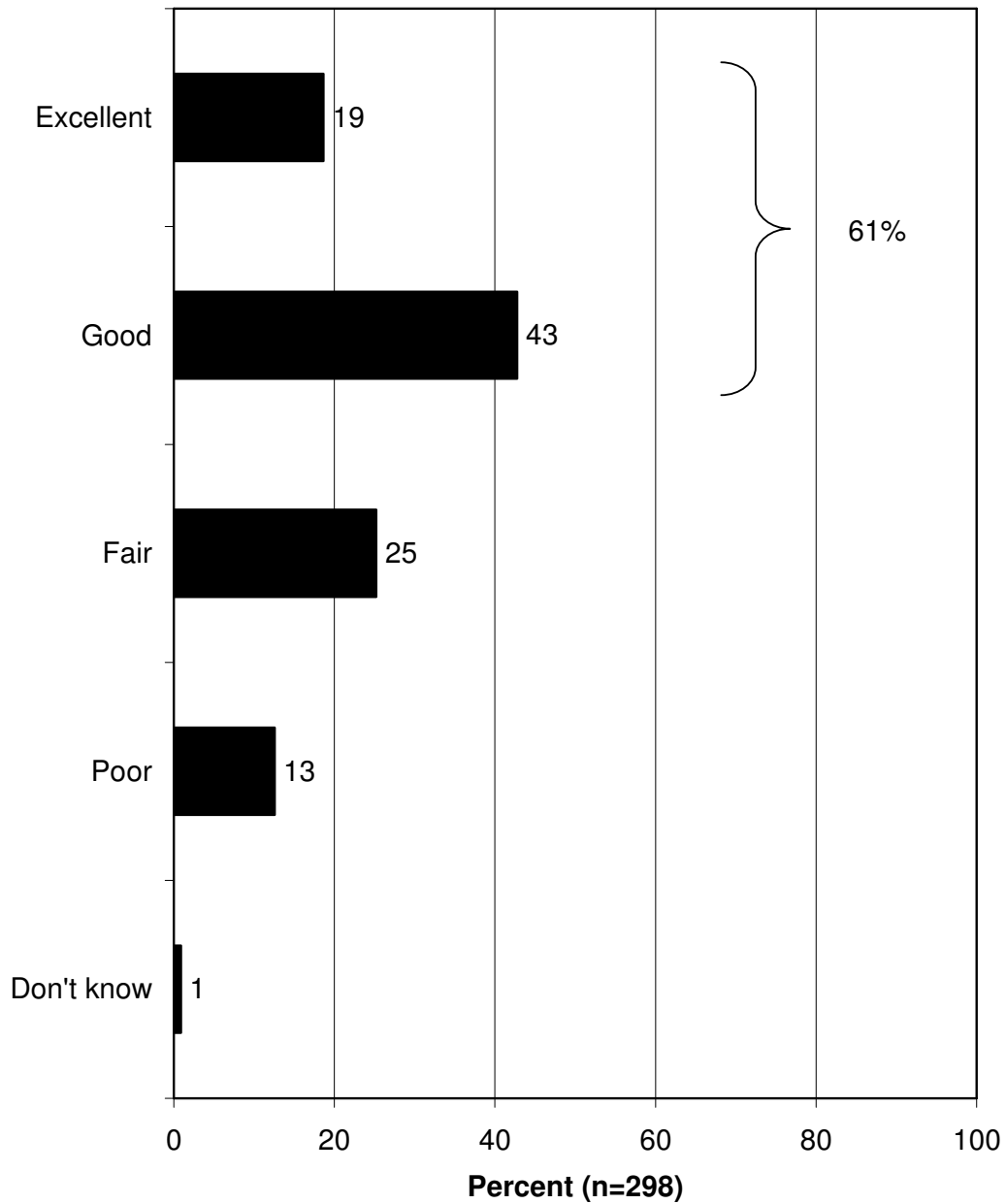
Q354. Regardless of the county where you ice fish, which inland freshwater species do you most prefer to ice fish for? (Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)



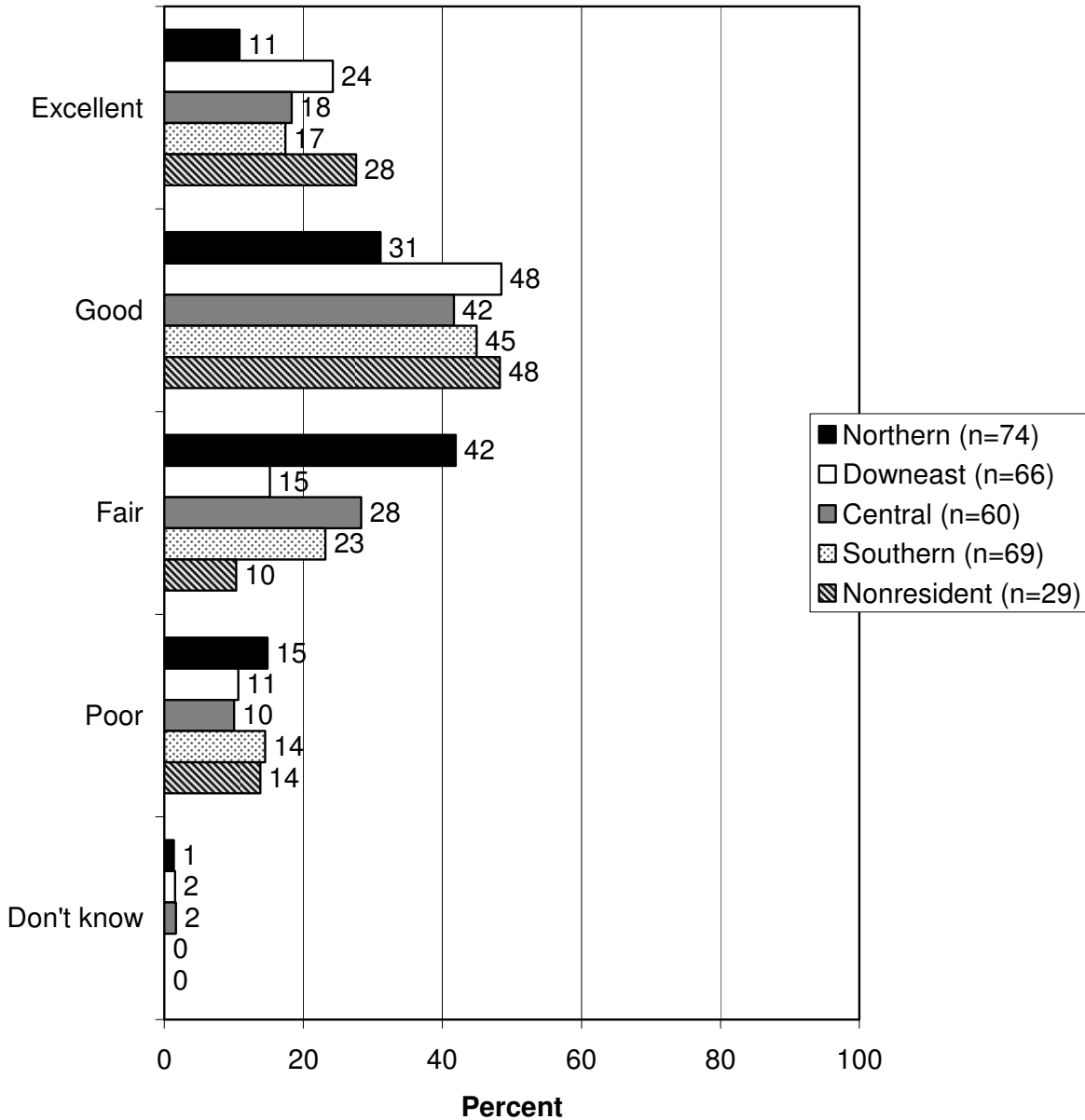
Q354. Regardless of the county where you ice fish, which inland freshwater species do you most prefer to ice fish for? (Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)



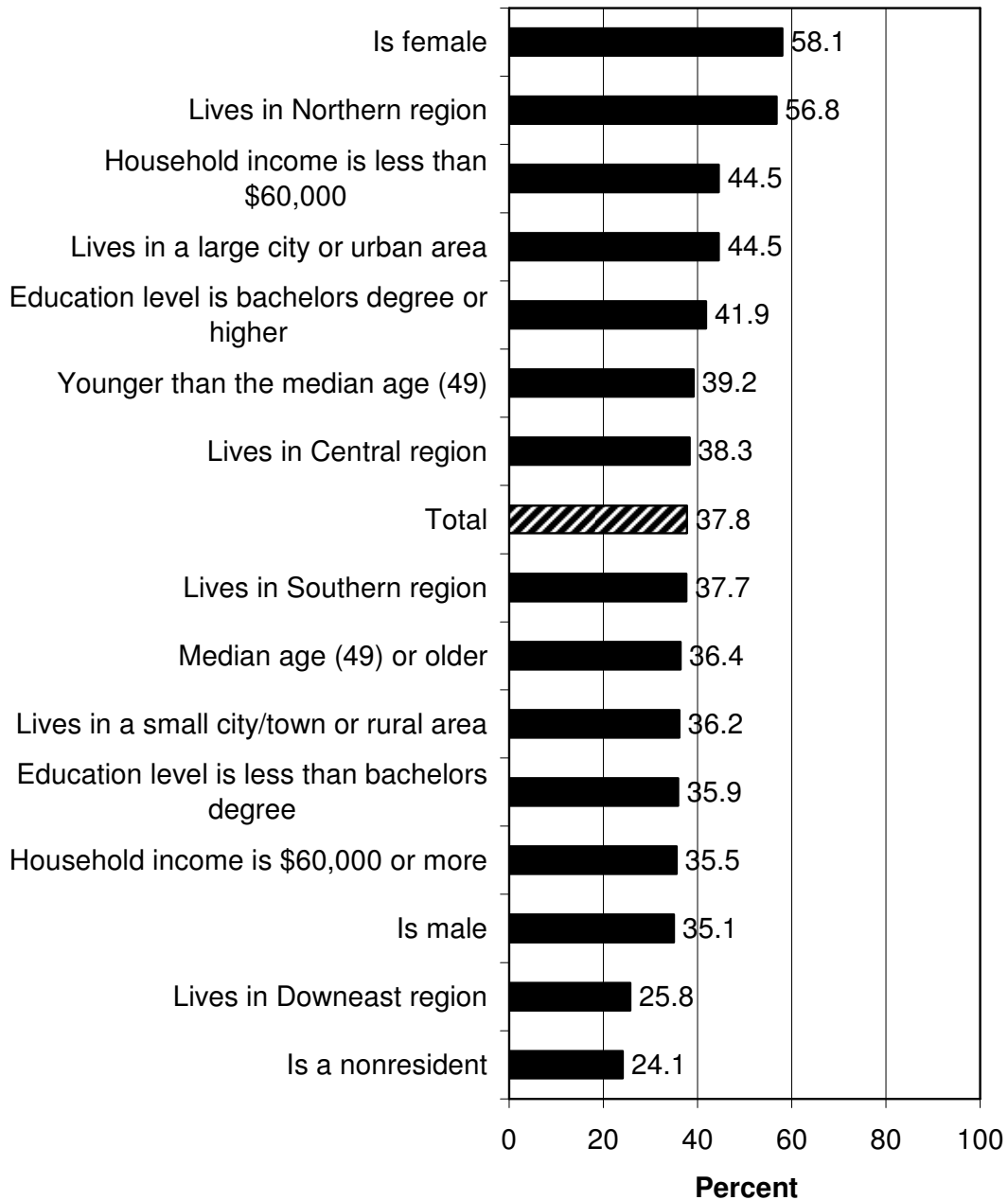
**Q357. How would you rate the quality of the ice fishing during the 2015 ice fishing season? Would you say it was excellent, good, fair, or poor?
(Asked of those who ice fished in Maine during the 2015 ice fishing season.)**



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 the following groups that fished in the
2015 ice fishing season who rated ice fishing
quality in Maine as fair or poor:**



SPECIES FISHED IN ICE FISHING SEASON

Anglers who fished during the 2015 ice water fishing season were asked a series of follow-up questions on the species they fished. As with the open water season section, species that were fished by fewer than 10 anglers in the survey are not included in this section and species fished by fewer than 30 anglers are not included in region/nonresident crosstabulations.

Anglers were asked the minimum size they would consider to be a quality fish or trophy fish for certain species; these results are combined for the seasons (open water and ice fishing) and are shown in the open water section.

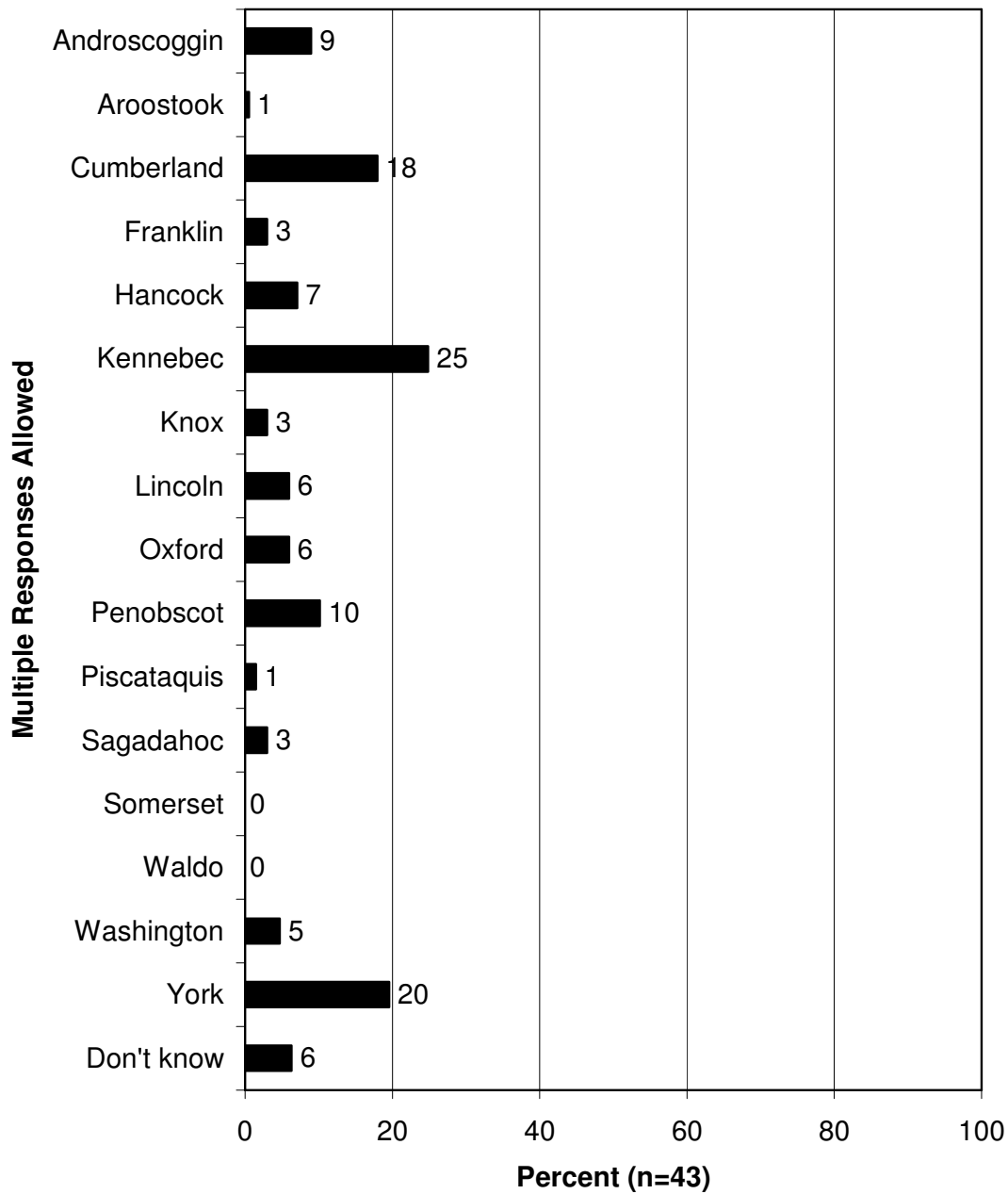
Summary tables showing combined species data (the mean days fished per species in each county; the percent of fish kept) are included after the individual species subsections.

Black Bass

- Those who fished for black bass (which includes smallmouth and largemouth bass) in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (25%), York County (20%), and Cumberland County (18%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Ice fishing anglers targeting black bass mostly used traps/tip-ups (90% used this method), while 26% used jigging.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region most often used jigging.

Q201. Black bass includes smallmouth and largemouth bass. In which counties did you go ice fishing for black bass in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for black bass in the 2015 ice fishing season.)

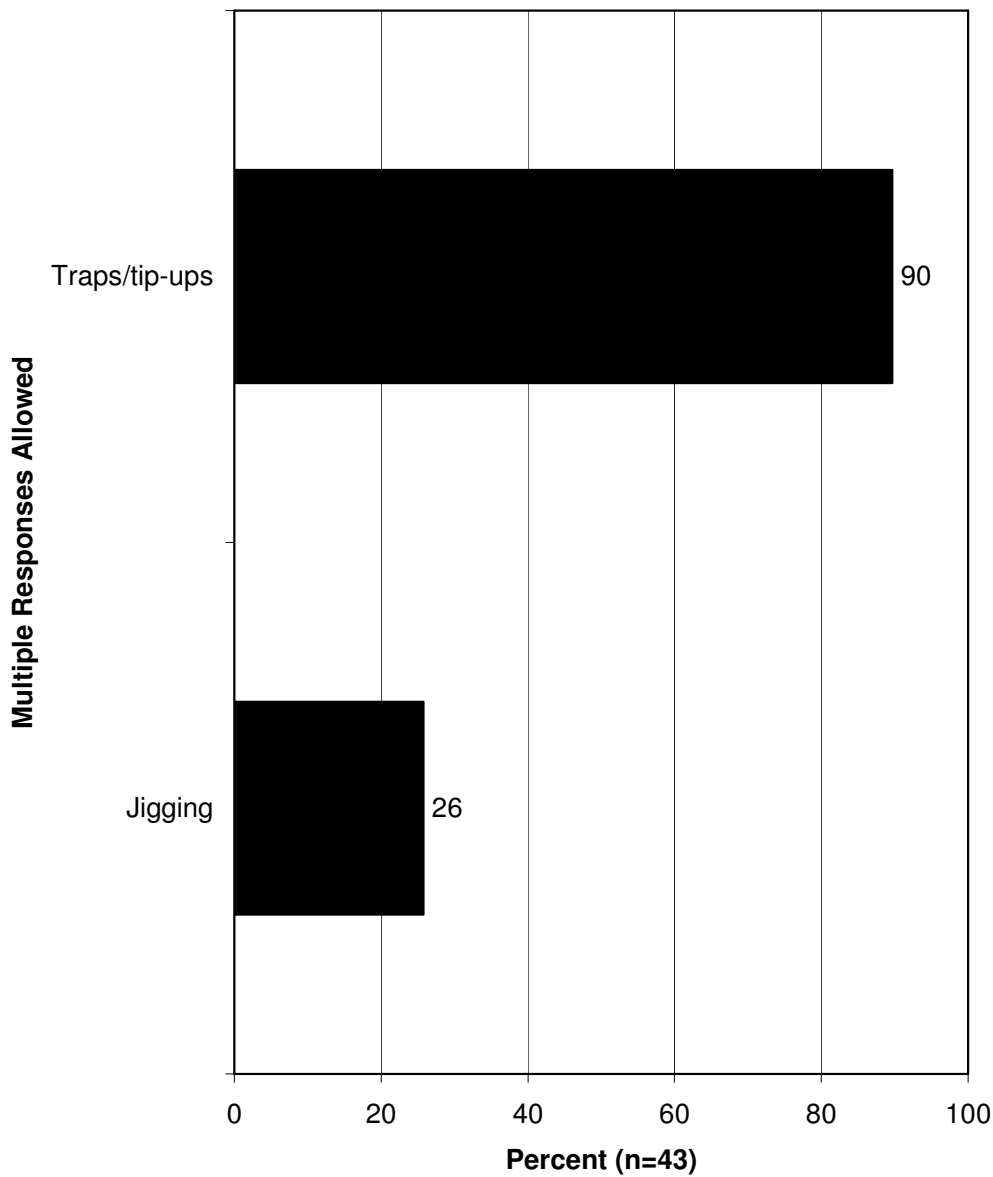


Counties Fished When Ice Fishing for Black Bass (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	0	19	0
Aroostook	0	10	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	38	0
Franklin	0	0	0	6	0
Hancock	0	60	13	0	0
Kennebec	0	0	63	13	0
Knox	0	0	0	6	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	13	0
Oxford	0	0	0	13	0
Penobscot	75	10	13	6	0
Piscataquis	25	10	0	0	0
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	6	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Waldo	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	40	0	0	20
York	0	0	0	25	60

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

Q203. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for black bass in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for black bass in the 2015 ice fishing season.)



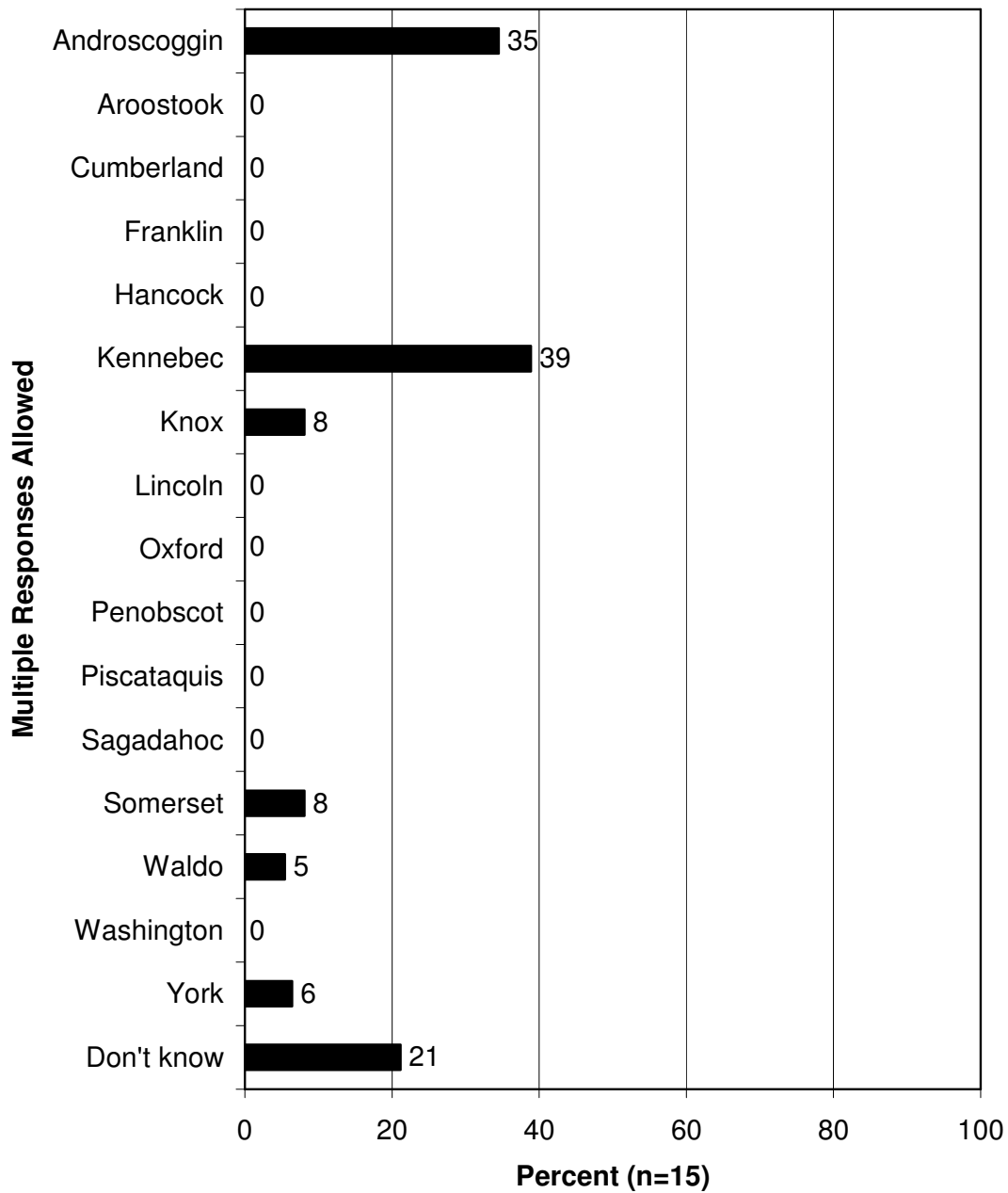
	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Traps/tip-ups	100	90	88	88	100
Jigging	25	10	13	38	20

Northern Pike

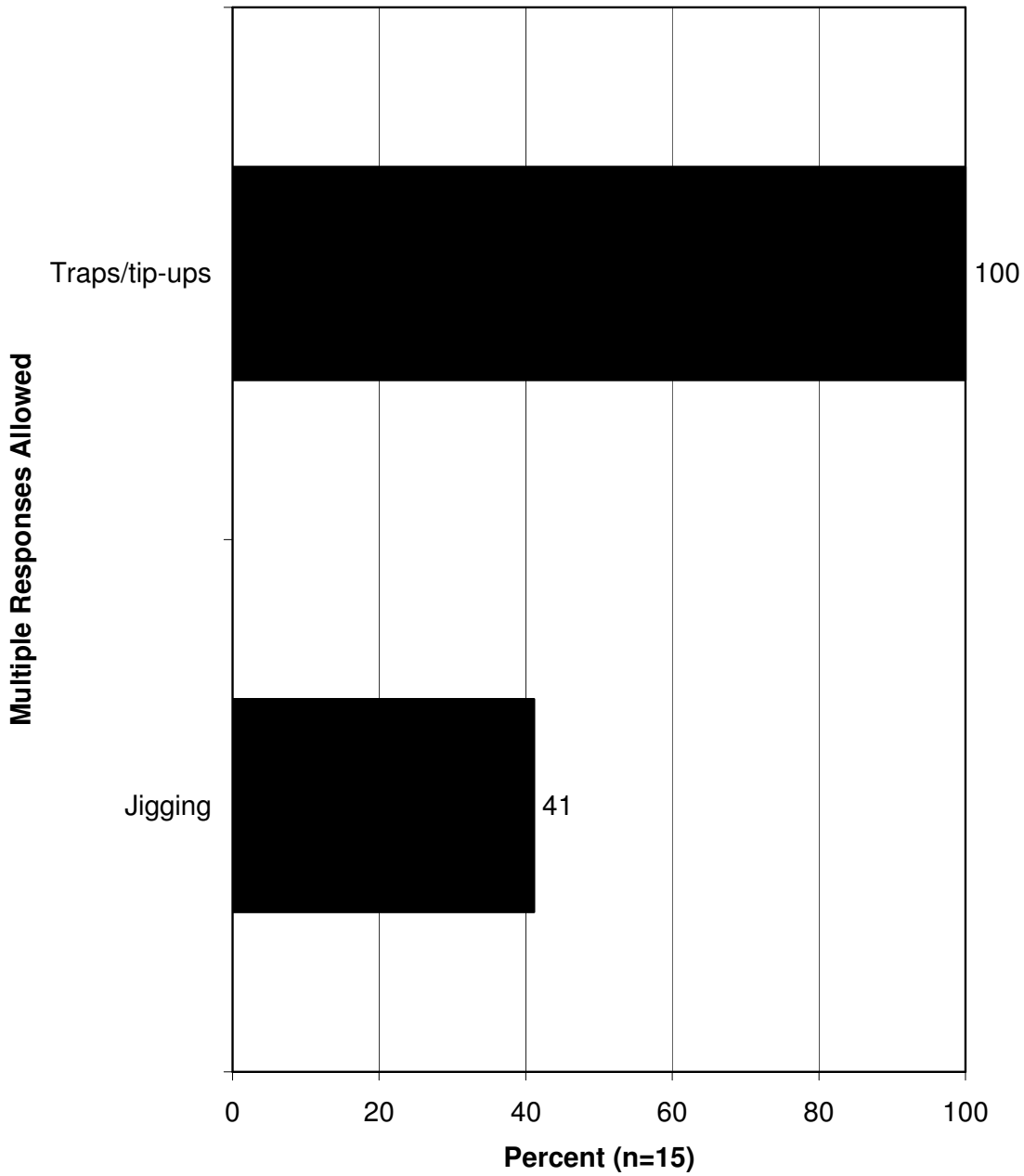
- Those who fished for northern pike in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (39%) and Androscoggin County (35%), with little activity in the other counties.

- All ice fishing anglers (100%) targeting northern pike used traps/tip-ups, while 41% used jigging.

**Q245. In which counties did you go ice fishing for northern pike in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for northern pike in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**



Q247. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for northern pike in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for northern pike in the 2015 ice fishing season.)

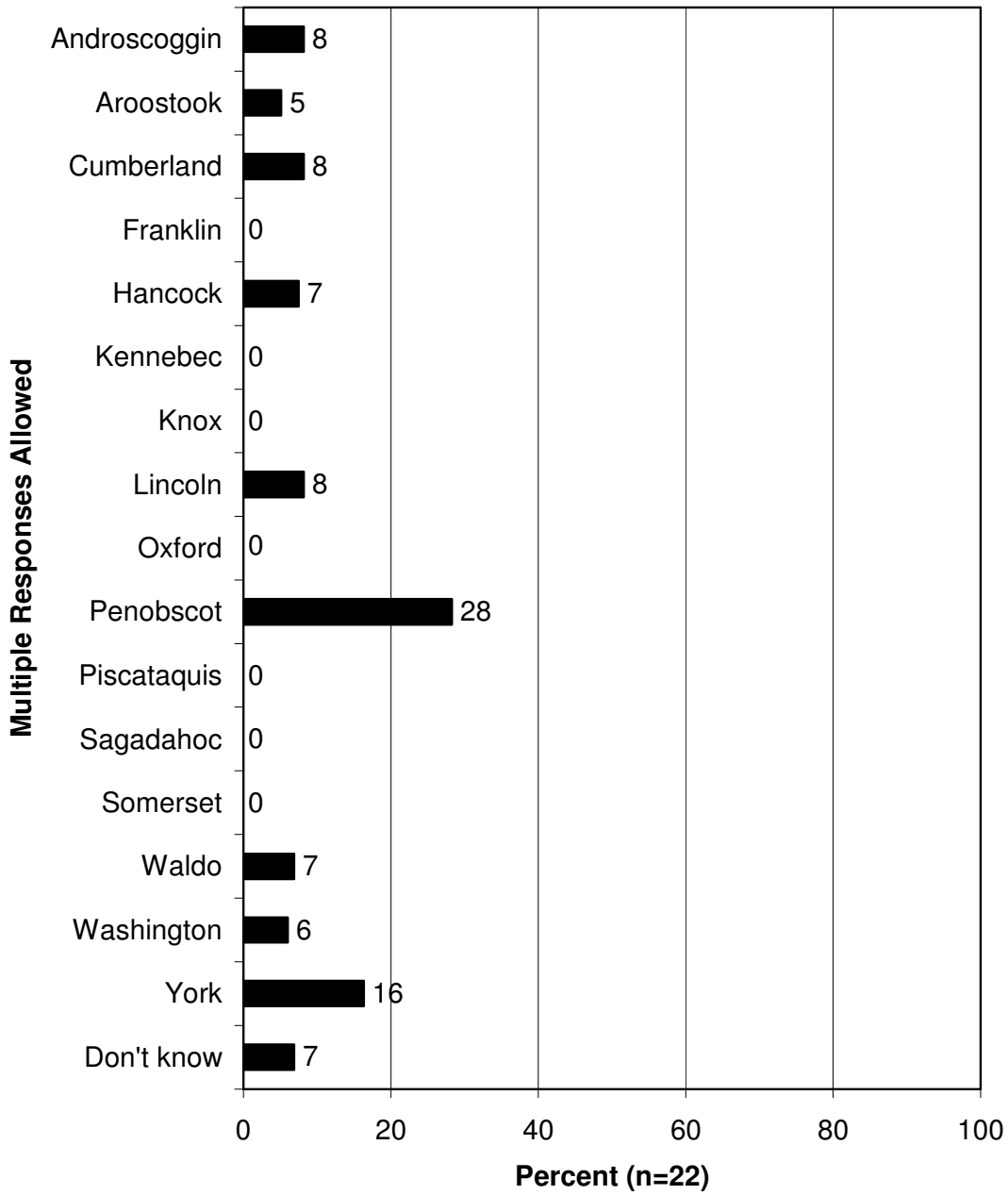


Pickereel

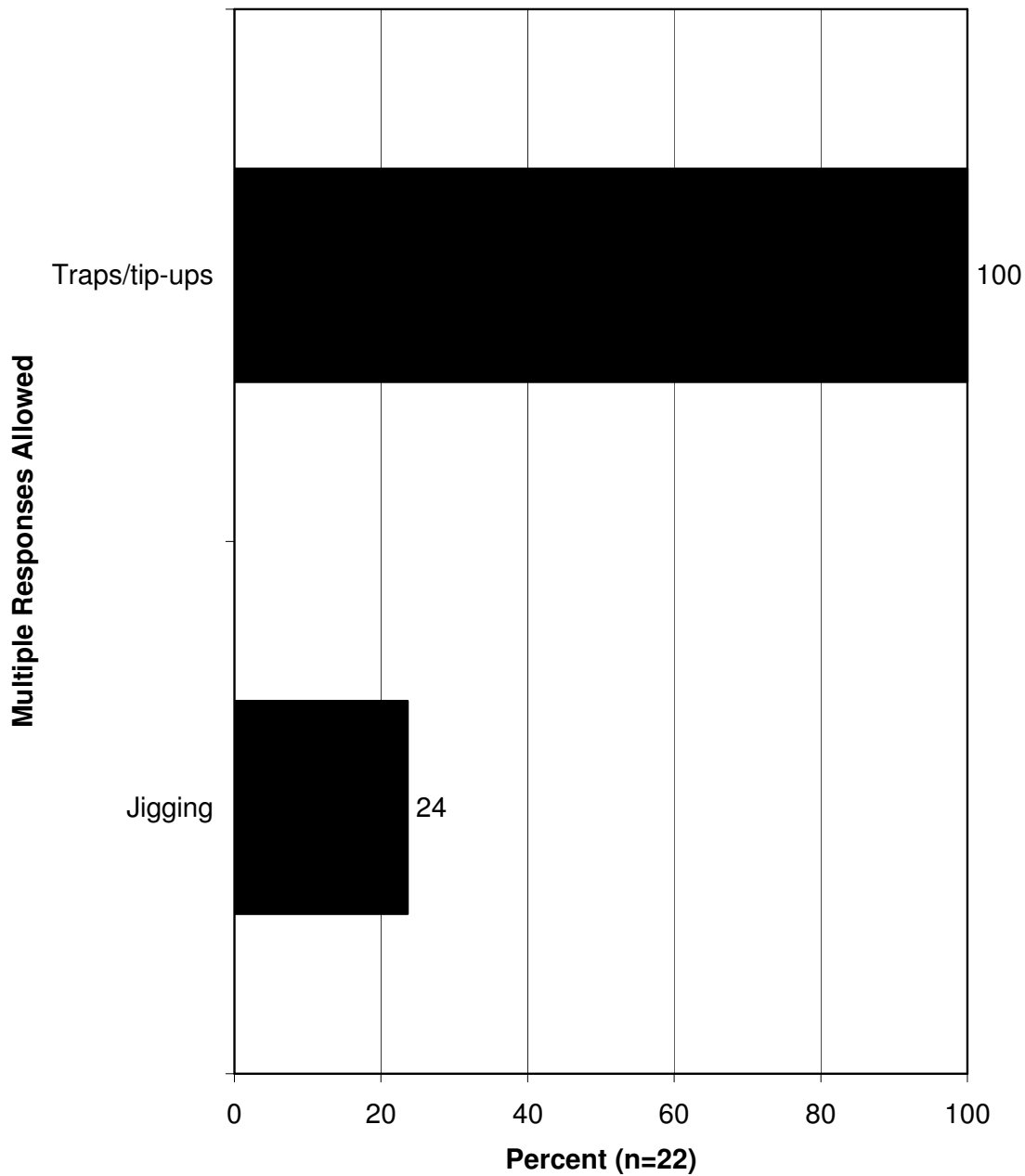
- Those who fished for pickereel in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Penobscot County (28%) and York County (16%).

- All ice fishing anglers (100%) targeting pickereel used traps/tip-ups, while 24% used jigging.

**Q251. In which counties did you go ice fishing for pickerel in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for pickerel in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**



Q253. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for pickerel in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for pickerel in the 2015 ice fishing season.)

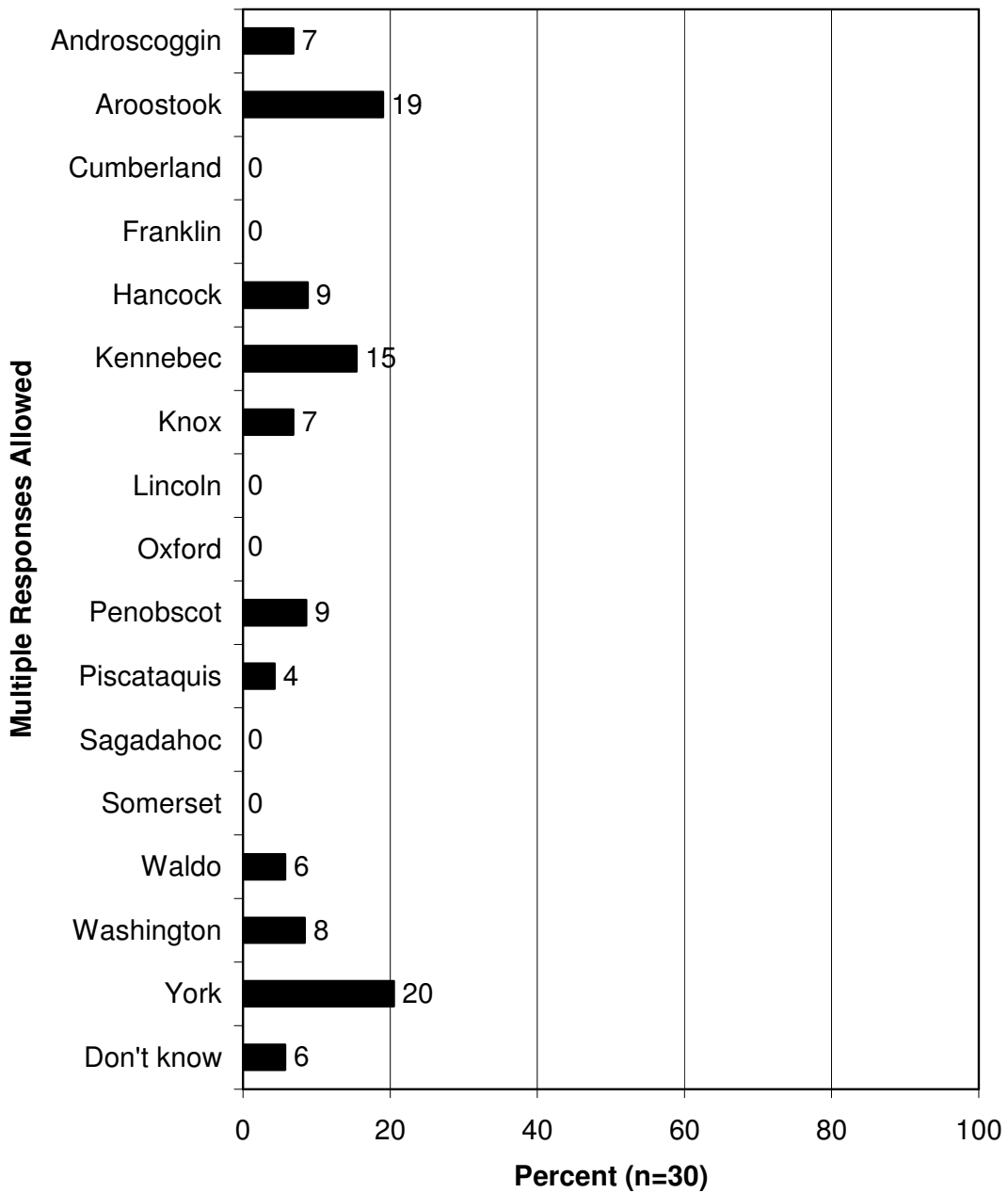


Perch

- Those who fished for perch in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in York County (20%), Aroostook County (19%), and Kennebec County (15%).
 - Anglers who reside in the Central Region exclusively ice fished for perch in Kennebec County.

- Ice fishing anglers targeting perch were divided between using traps/tip-ups (81%) and jigging (68%).
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region and nonresident anglers used jigging more often than traps/tip-ups.

**Q257. In which counties did you go ice fishing for perch in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for perch in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**

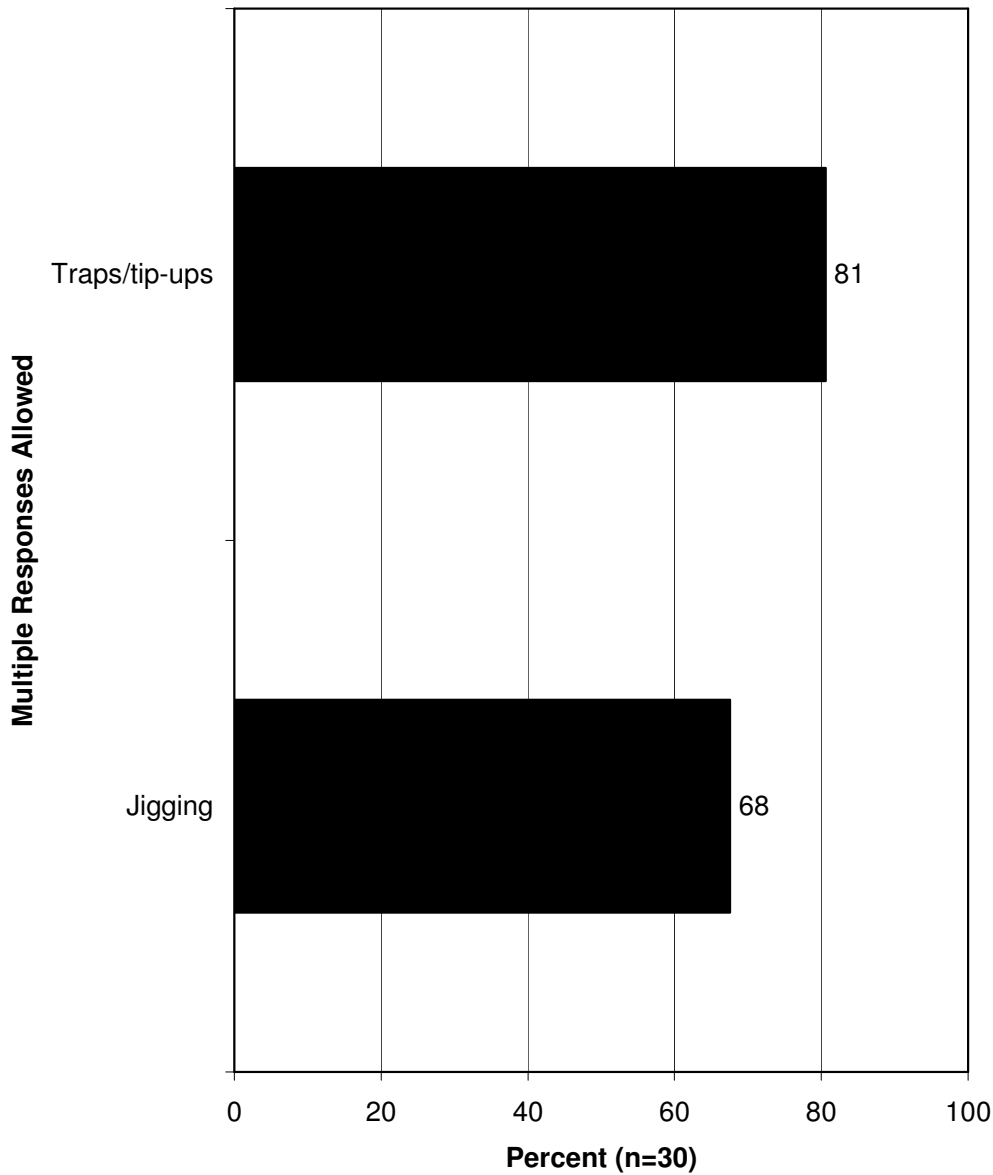


Counties Fished When Ice Fishing for Perch (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	0	17	0
Aroostook	33	0	0	17	33
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	0	64	0	0	0
Kennebec	0	0	100	17	0
Knox	0	0	0	17	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	0	0	0
Penobscot	44	0	0	0	0
Piscataquis	22	0	0	0	0
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Waldo	0	0	0	0	33
Washington	11	45	0	0	0
York	0	0	0	50	0

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

Q259. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for perch in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for perch in the 2015 ice fishing season.)



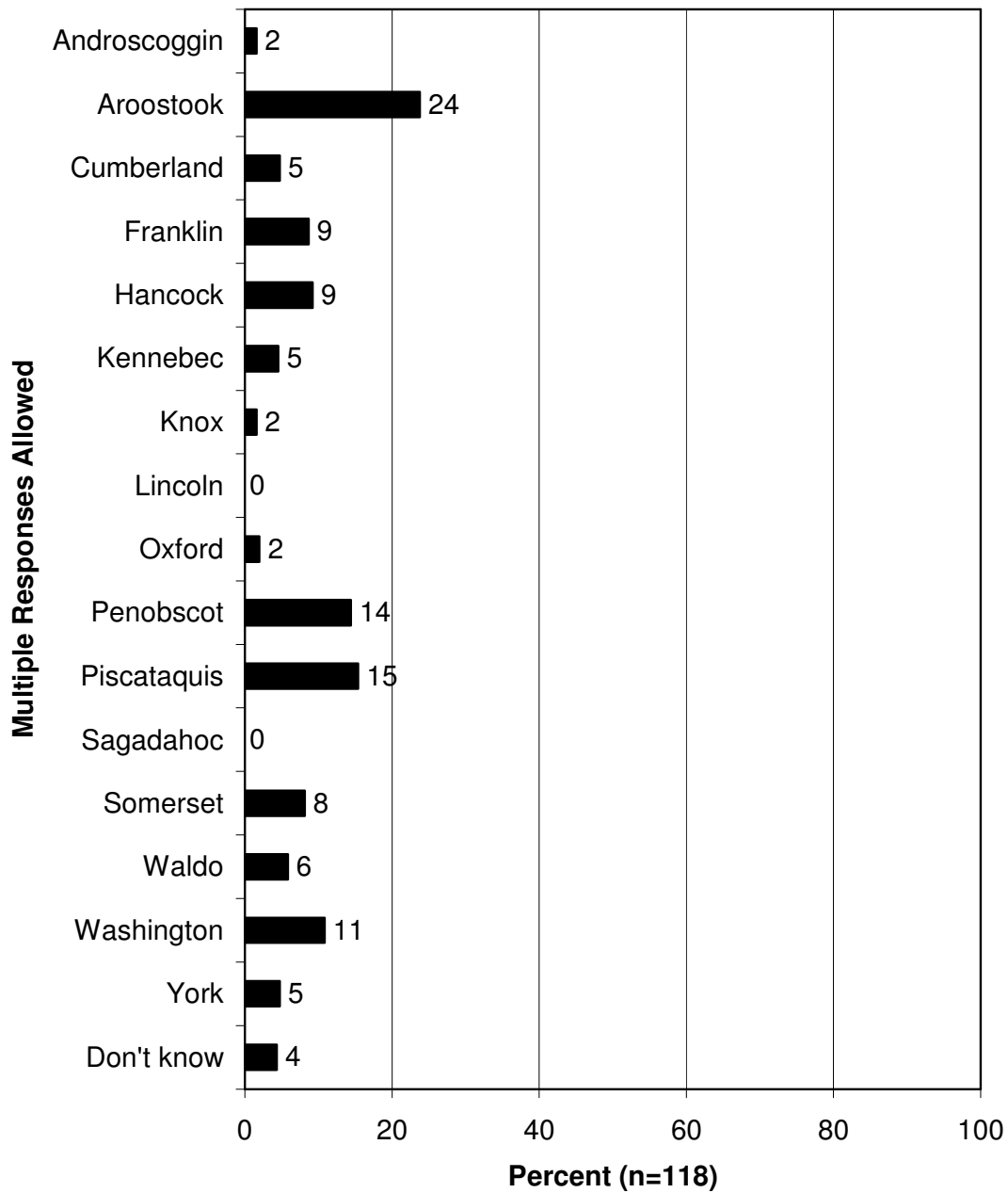
	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Traps/tip-ups	100	100	100	67	67
Jigging	44	55	0	83	100

Landlocked Salmon

- Those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Aroostook County (24%), Piscataquis County (15%), and Penobscot County (14%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- All ice fishing anglers (100%) targeting landlocked salmon used traps/tip-ups, while 22% used jigging.
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

**Q267. In which counties did you go ice fishing for landlocked salmon in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**

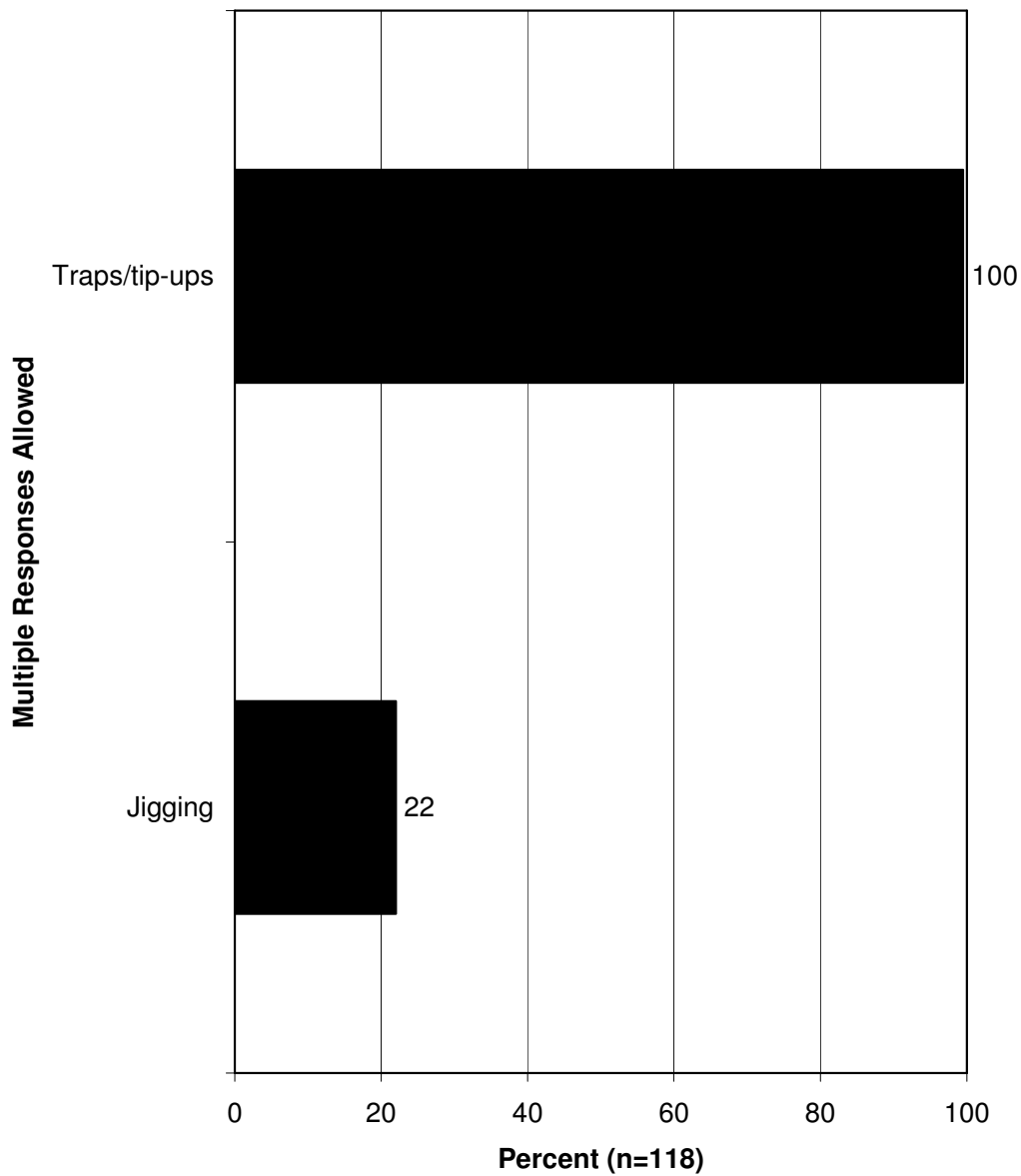


Counties Fished When Ice Fishing for Landlocked Salmon (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	0	8	0
Aroostook	69	10	5	15	38
Cumberland	0	0	0	23	0
Franklin	0	0	16	0	25
Hancock	3	49	0	15	0
Kennebec	0	5	11	0	0
Knox	0	0	0	8	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	5	0	0
Penobscot	5	13	32	0	0
Piscataquis	10	8	21	15	13
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	5	0	11	15	0
Waldo	0	3	11	8	0
Washington	10	49	5	0	13
York	0	0	0	23	0

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

Q269. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for landlocked salmon in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for landlocked salmon in the 2015 ice fishing season.)



	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Traps/tip-ups	97	100	100	100	100
Jigging	36	18	11	31	25

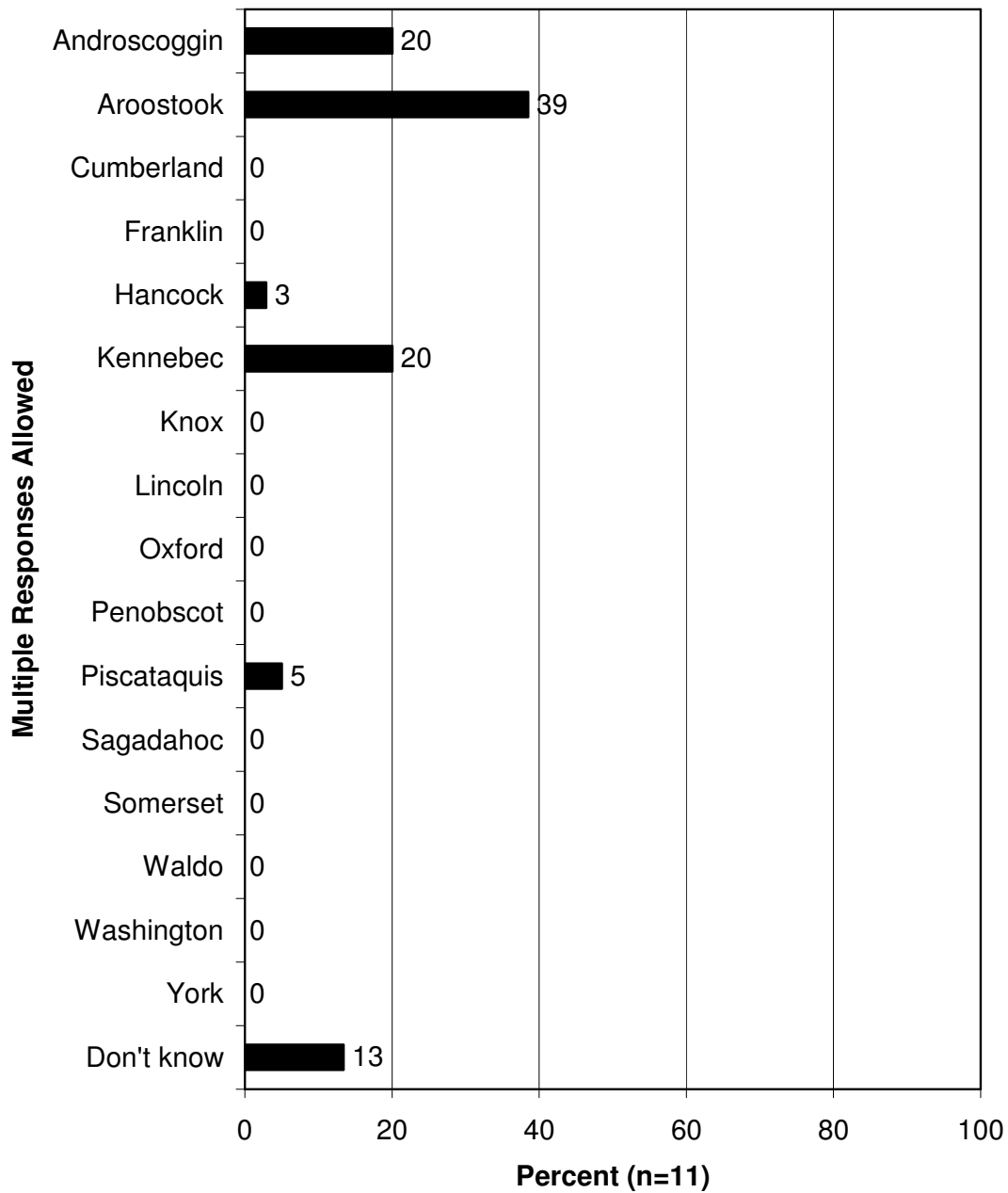
Smelt

- Those who fished for smelt in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Aroostook County (39%), Androscoggin County (20%), and Kennebec County (20%).

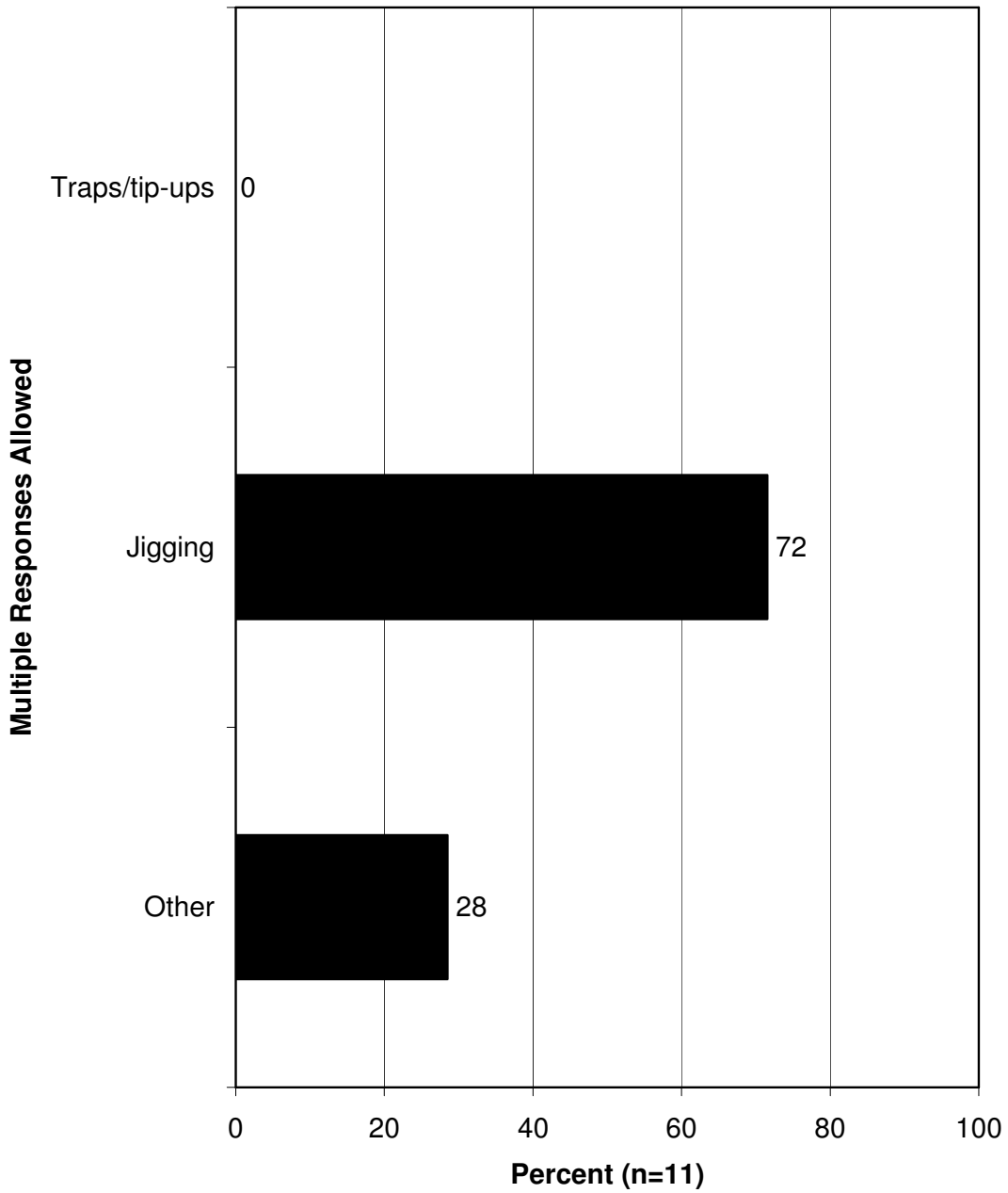
- Ice fishing anglers targeting smelt mostly used jigging (72% used this method), while 28% used some other method. (Smelt anglers did not use traps/tip-ups.)

- Smelt ice fishing anglers mostly used the smelt for consumption (72%), with 20% who used smelt for both consumption and bait. Only 5% used smelt for bait only. (Note that this question was only asked about smelt in the survey.)

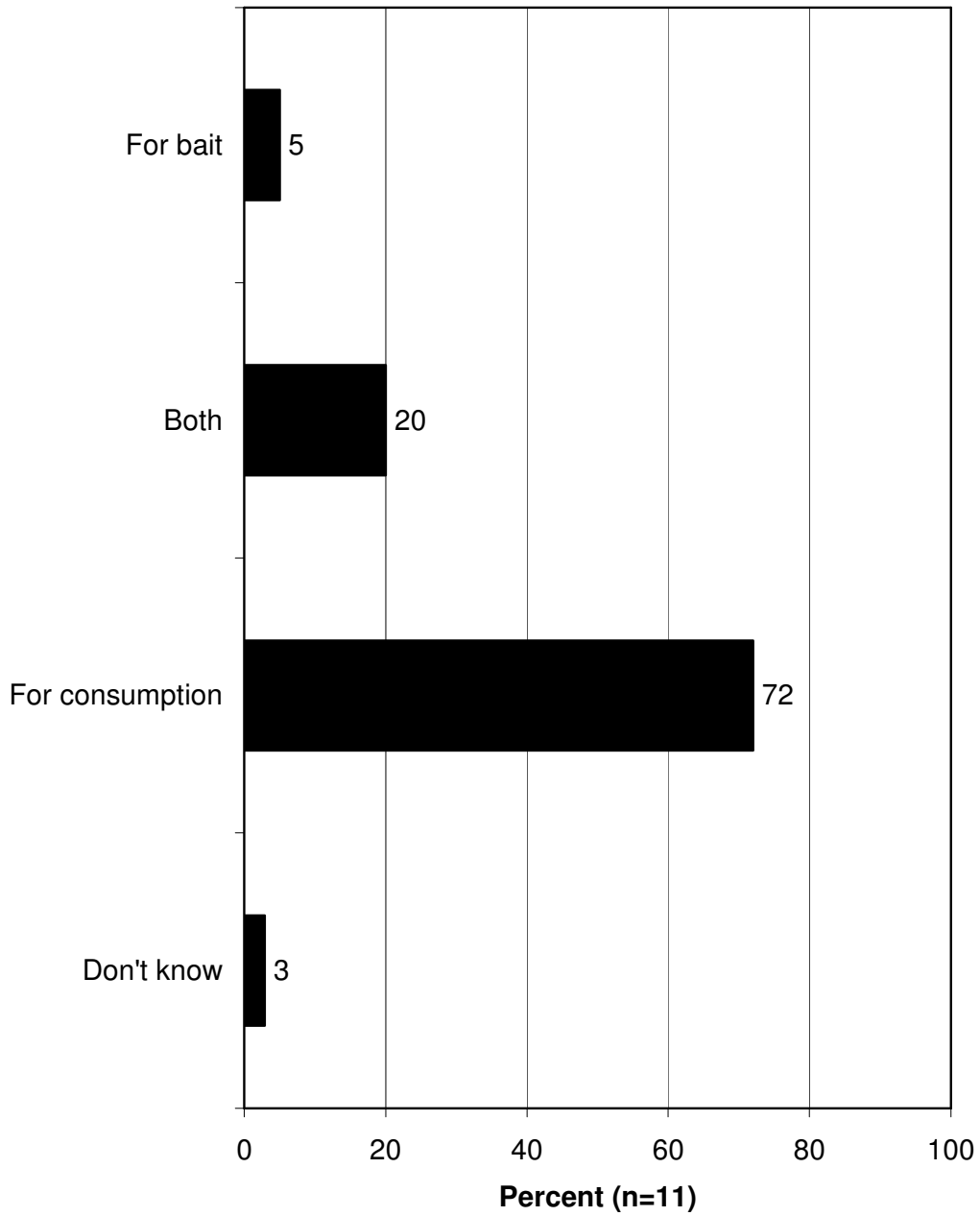
**Q277. In which counties did you go ice fishing for smelt in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for smelt in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**



**Q279. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for smelt in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for smelt in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**



Q281. When you fished for smelt in the 2015 ice fishing season, did you use them for bait, for consumption, or both?



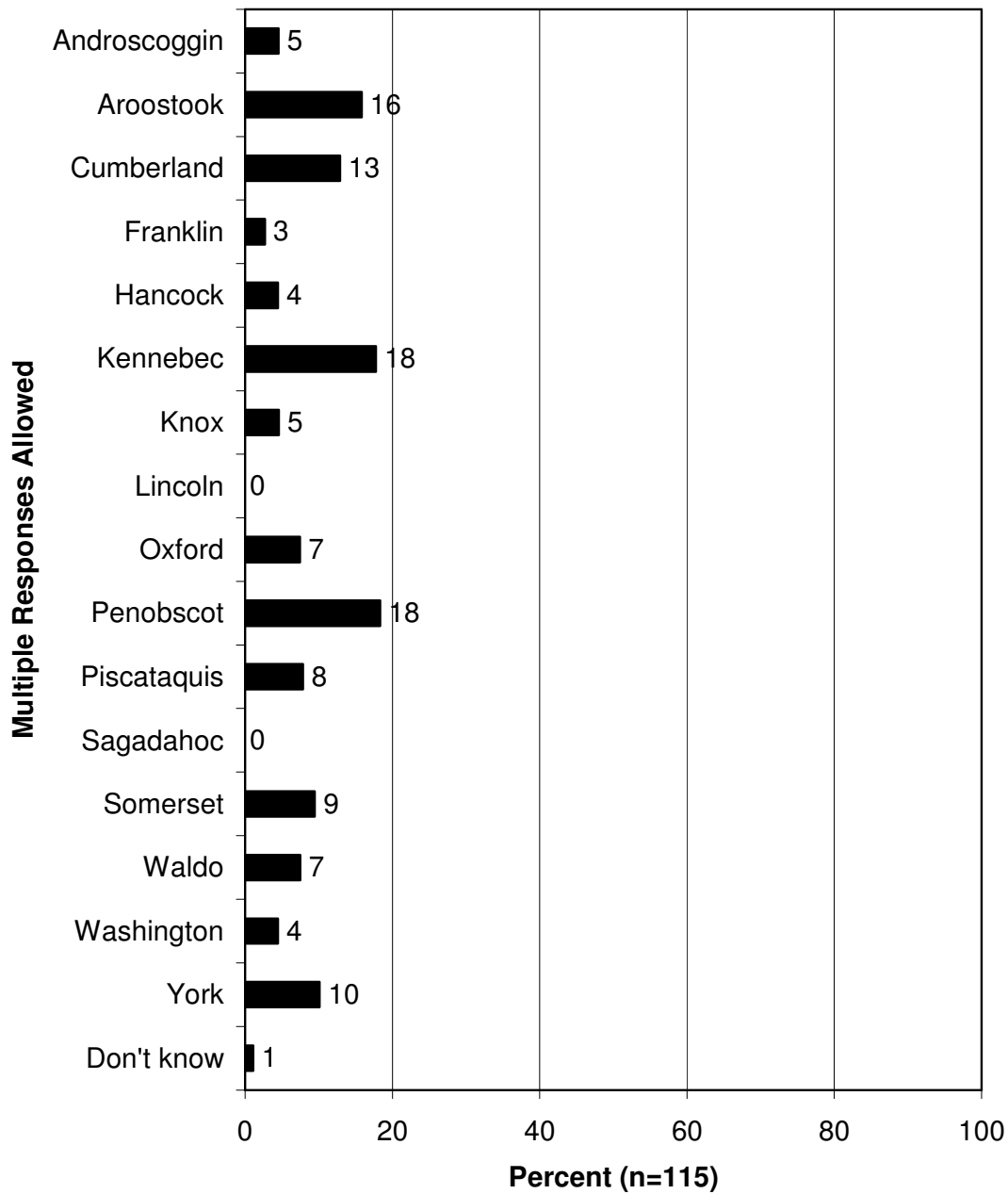
Eastern Brook Trout

- Those who fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (18%), Penobscot County (18%), and Aroostook County (16%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Nearly all ice fishing anglers targeting eastern brook trout used traps/tip-ups (98%), while 23% used jigging.
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Those who fished for eastern brook trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (61%), while 24% mostly targeted wild fish and 15% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Downeast and Central Regions were the most likely to target hatchery fish.

**Q294. In which counties did you go ice fishing for eastern brook trout in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for eastern brook trout
in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**

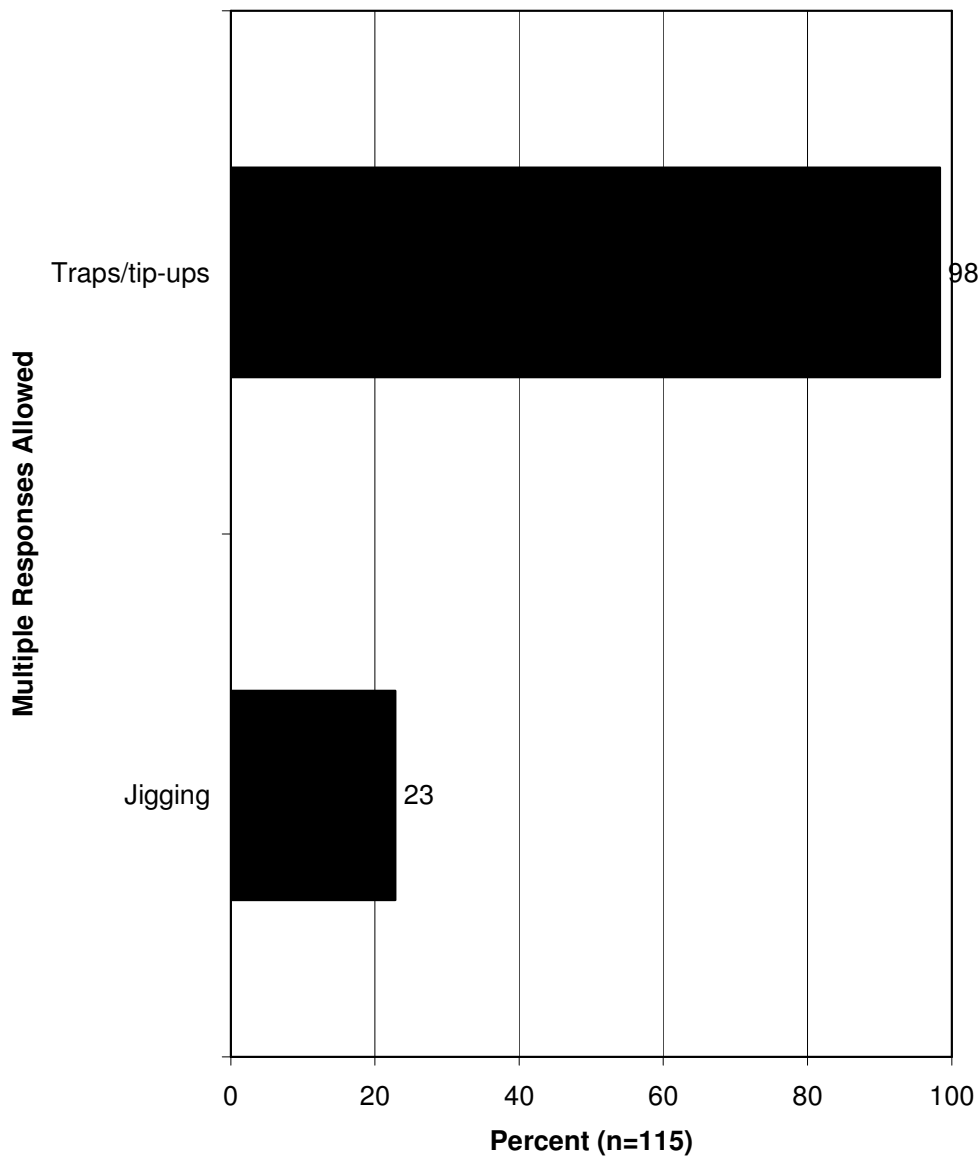


Counties Fished When Ice Fishing for Eastern Brook Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	7	5	0
Aroostook	78	15	0	9	25
Cumberland	0	0	0	45	0
Franklin	0	0	4	0	13
Hancock	0	46	4	0	0
Kennebec	0	4	37	5	0
Knox	3	0	4	9	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	11	9	0
Penobscot	16	15	30	5	13
Piscataquis	3	4	11	5	13
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	3	0	15	9	0
Waldo	0	4	11	5	13
Washington	13	46	0	0	0
York	0	0	0	32	13

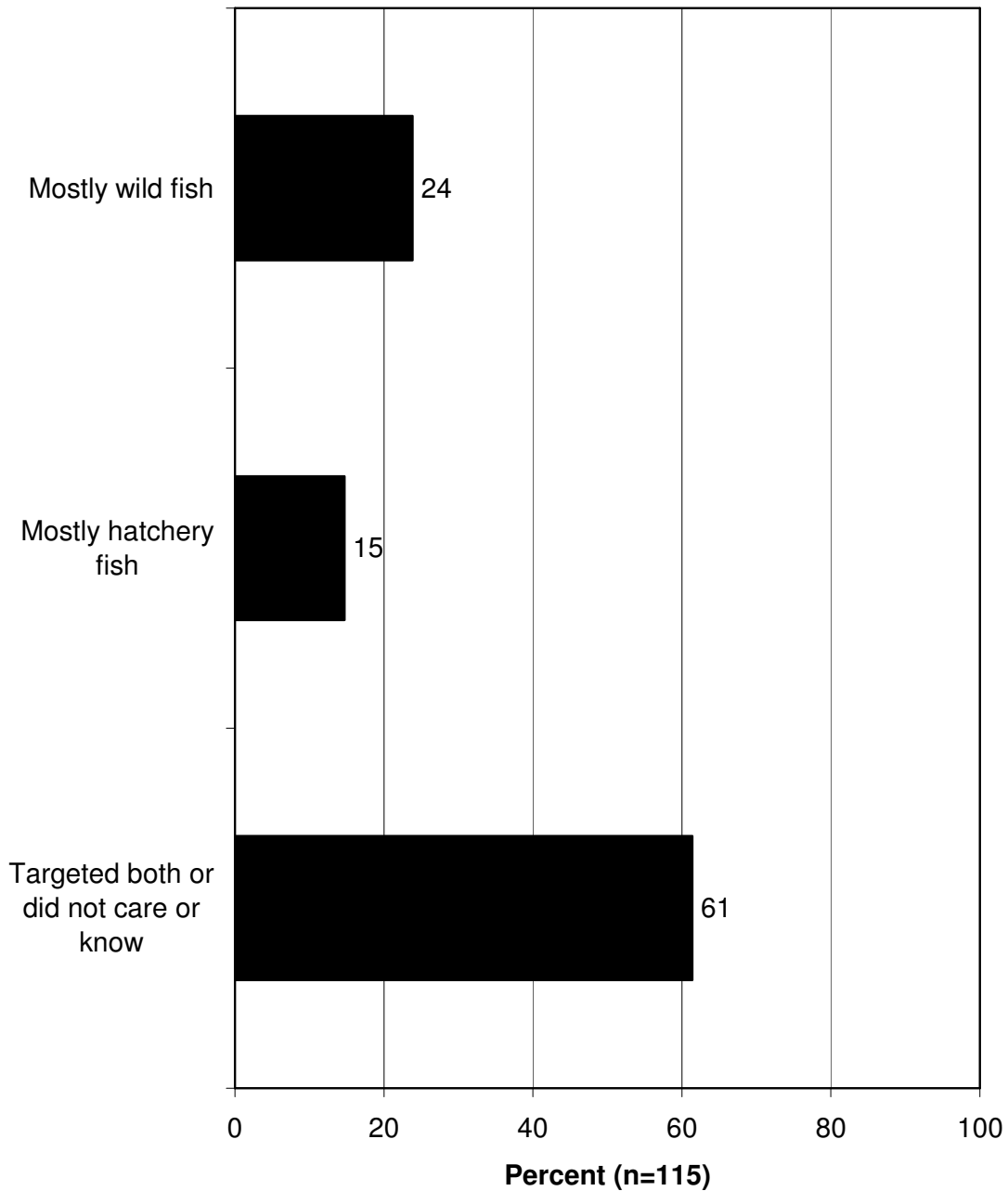
*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

Q296. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for eastern brook trout in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 ice fishing season.)

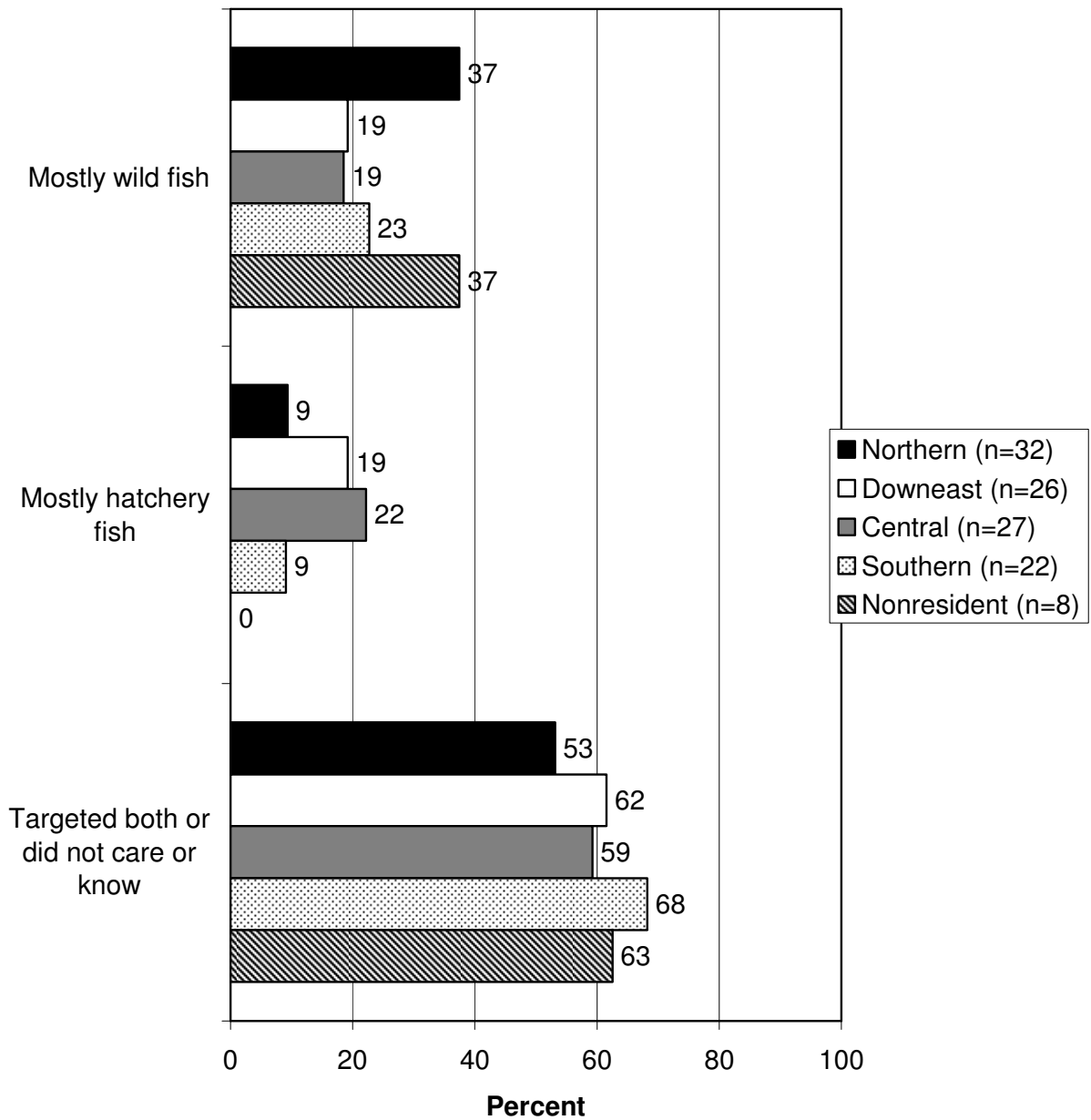


	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Traps/tip-ups	100	100	96	100	100
Jigging	31	4	22	27	13

Q304. When you fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 ice fishing season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



Q304. When you fished for eastern brook trout in the 2015 ice fishing season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



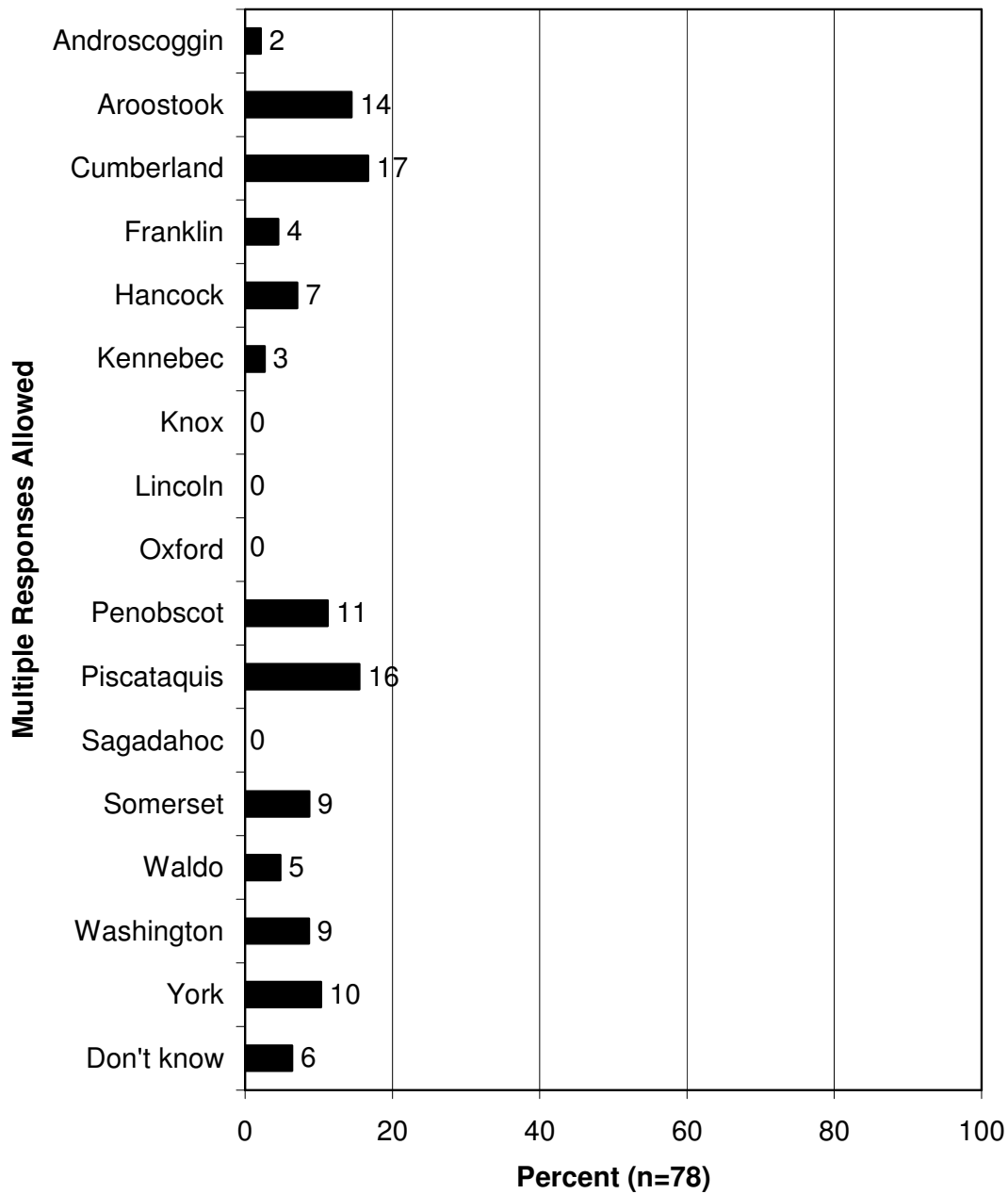
Lake Trout

- Those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Cumberland County (17%) and Piscataquis County (16%). However, this activity was somewhat evenly distributed across most Maine counties.
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Nearly all ice fishing anglers targeting lake trout used traps/tip-ups (94%), while a third (33%) used jigging.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region most often used jigging.

- Those who fished for lake trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (73%), while 27% mostly targeted wild fish. No lake trout anglers mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Downeast Region were the most likely to target wild fish.

**Q305. In which counties did you go ice fishing for lake trout in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**

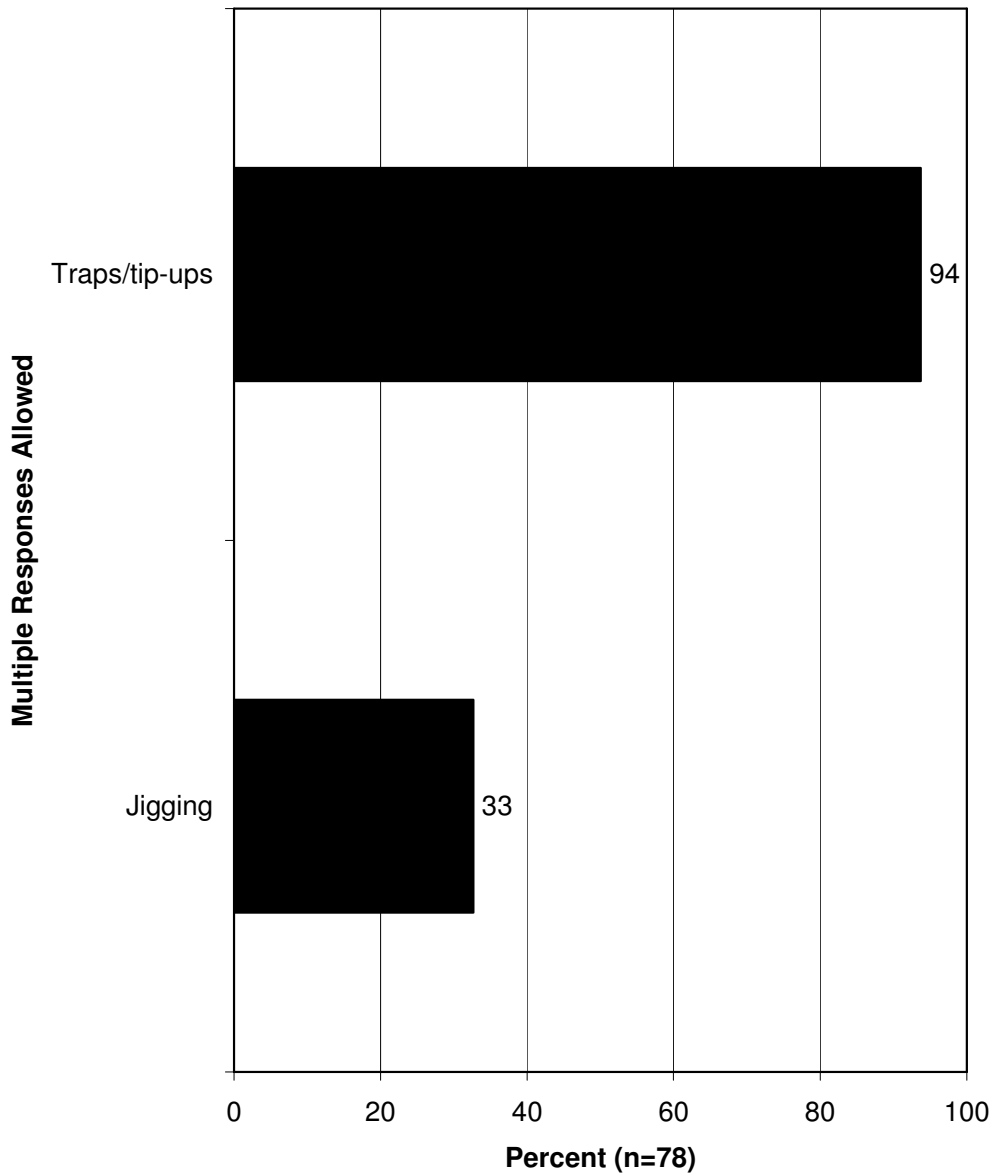


Counties Fished When Ice Fishing for Lake Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	0	6	0
Aroostook	43	15	11	6	13
Cumberland	0	0	0	39	13
Franklin	0	0	11	0	13
Hancock	4	55	0	6	0
Kennebec	0	0	11	0	0
Knox	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	0	0	0
Penobscot	13	15	33	0	0
Piscataquis	22	10	22	11	13
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	4	0	33	0	0
Waldo	0	0	11	6	0
Washington	22	45	0	0	13
York	0	0	0	22	13

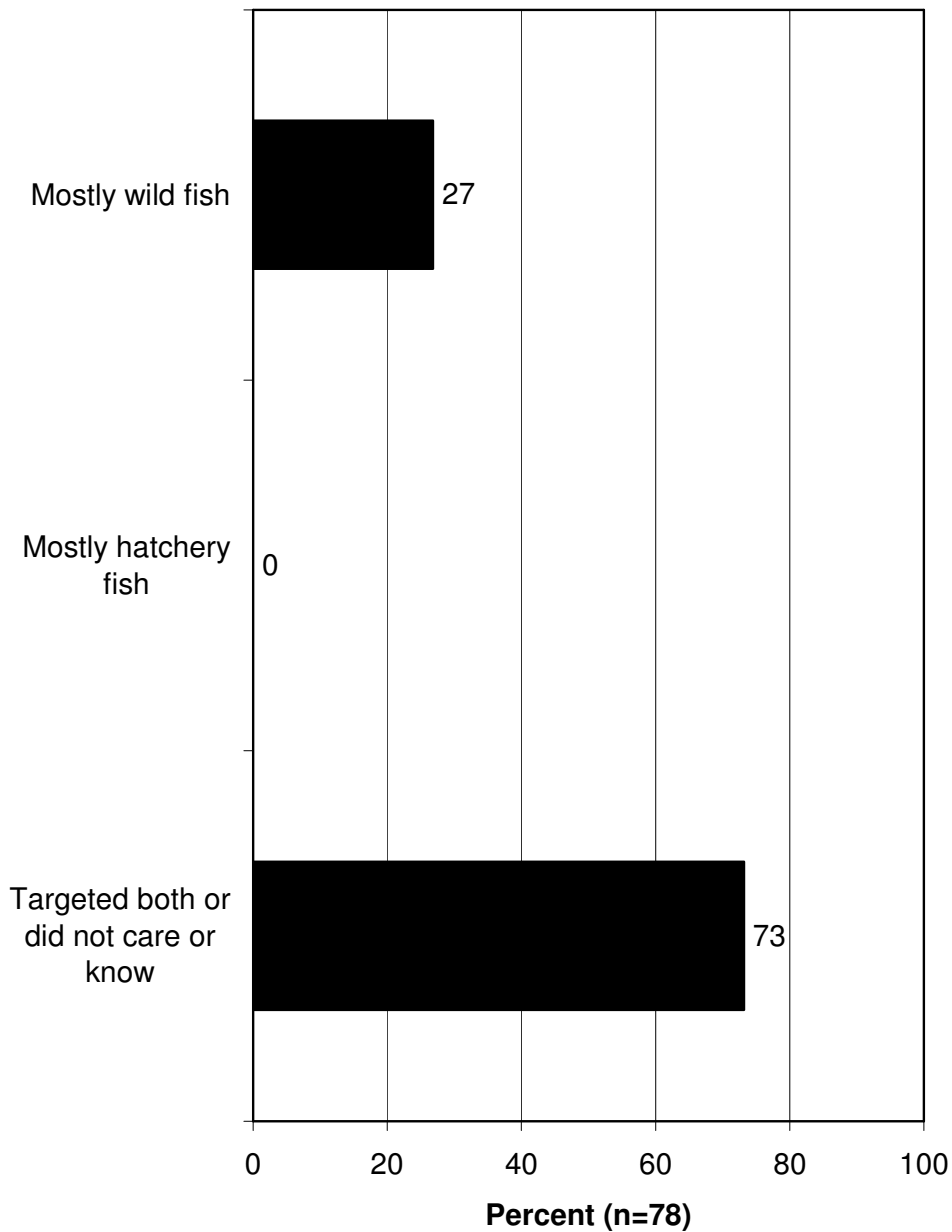
*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

Q307. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for lake trout in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for lake trout in the 2015 ice fishing season.)

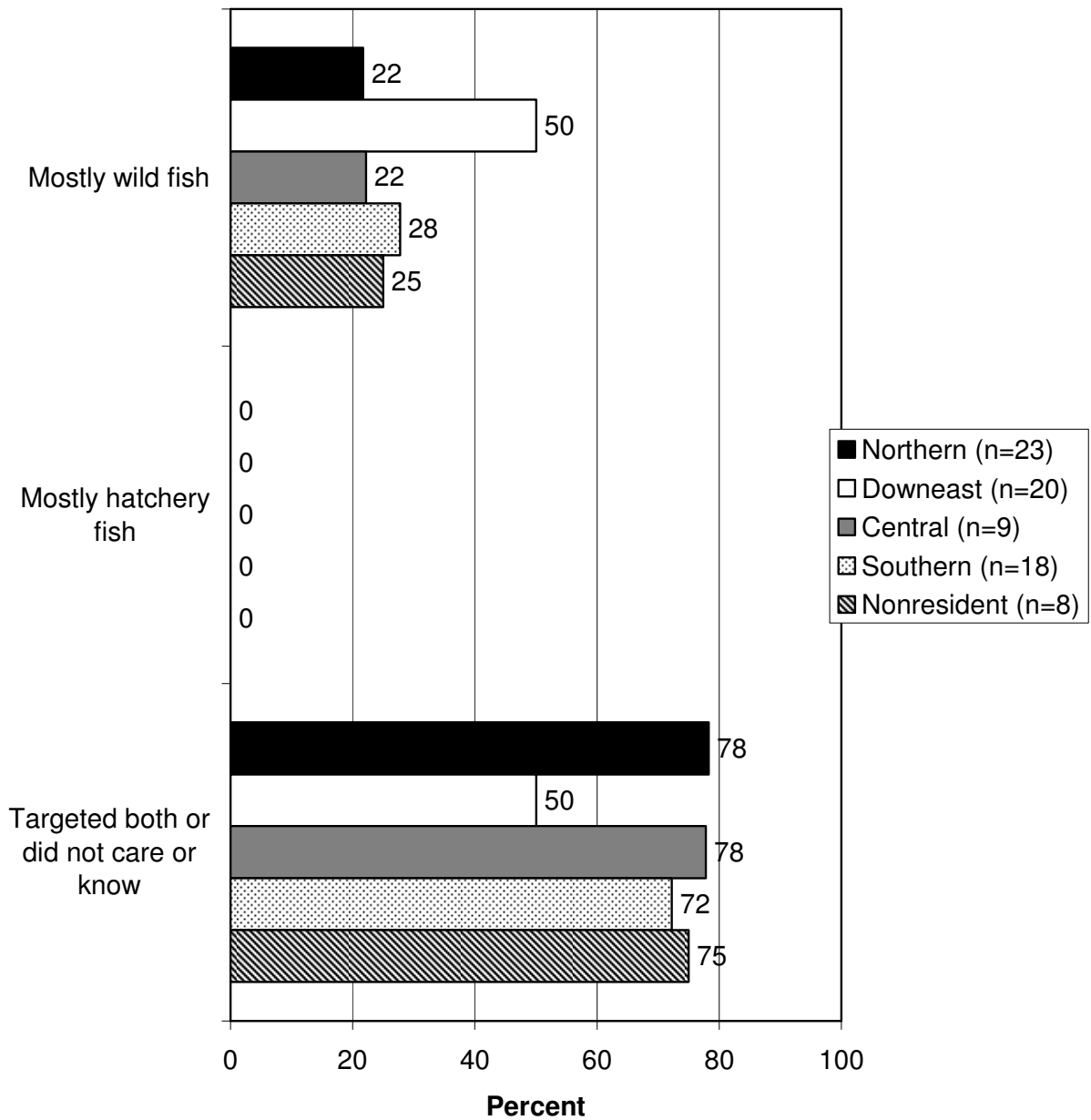


	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Traps/tip-ups	87	100	100	89	100
Jigging	30	40	0	56	25

Q315. When you fished for lake trout in the 2015 ice fishing season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



Q315. When you fished for lake trout in the 2015 ice fishing season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



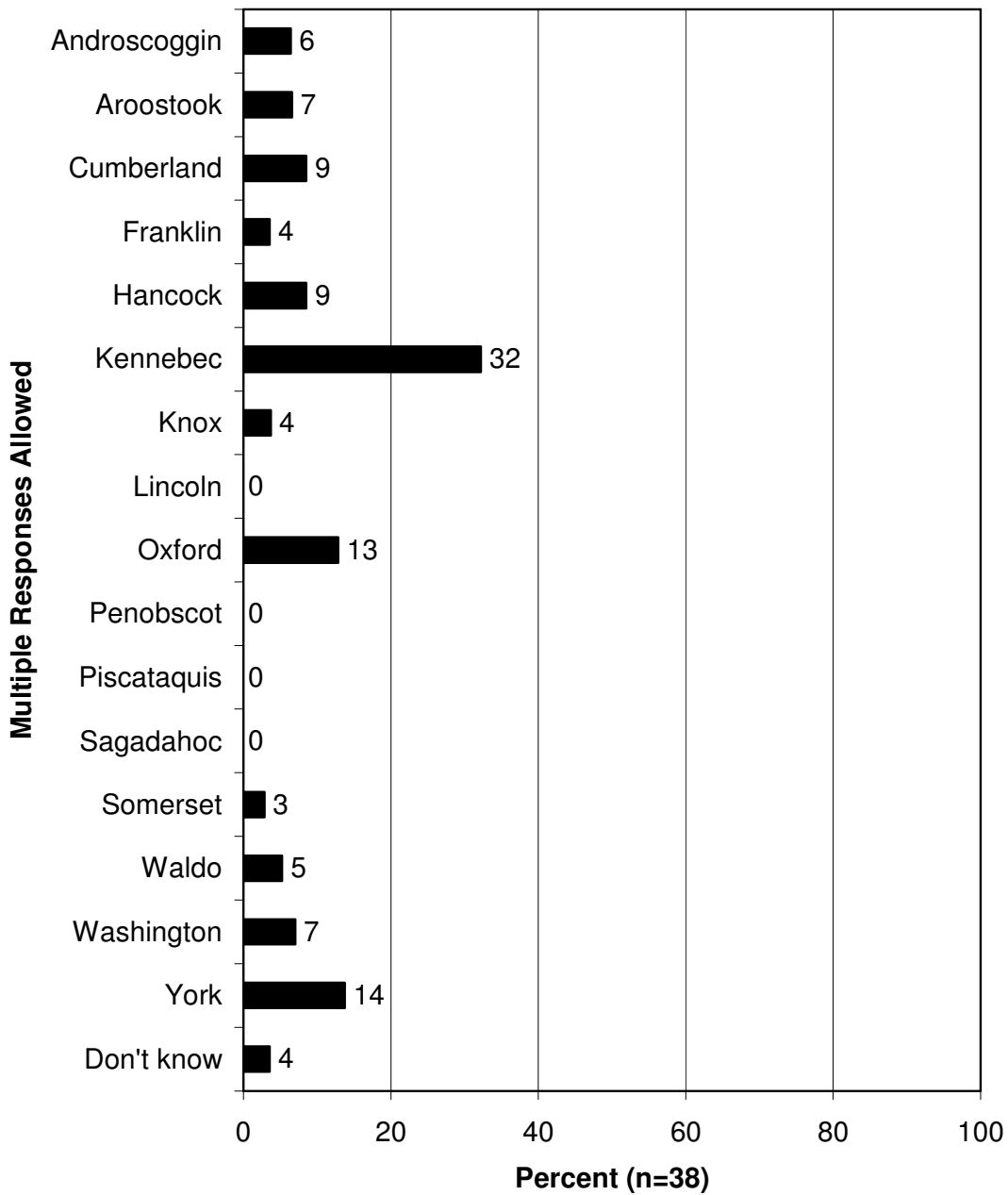
Brown Trout

- Those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 ice fishing season most often fished this species in Kennebec County (32%), York County (14%), and Oxford County (13%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Nearly all ice fishing anglers targeting brown trout used traps/tip-ups (98%), while a quarter (26%) used jigging.
 - Nonresidents used traps/tip-ups and jigging in equal numbers (67% used each method).

- Those who fished for brown trout most often targeted both wild fish and hatchery fish without distinction (74%), while 16% mostly targeted wild fish and 9% mostly targeted hatchery fish.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region were the most likely to target hatchery fish.

**Q316. In which counties did you go ice fishing for brown trout in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 ice fishing season.)**

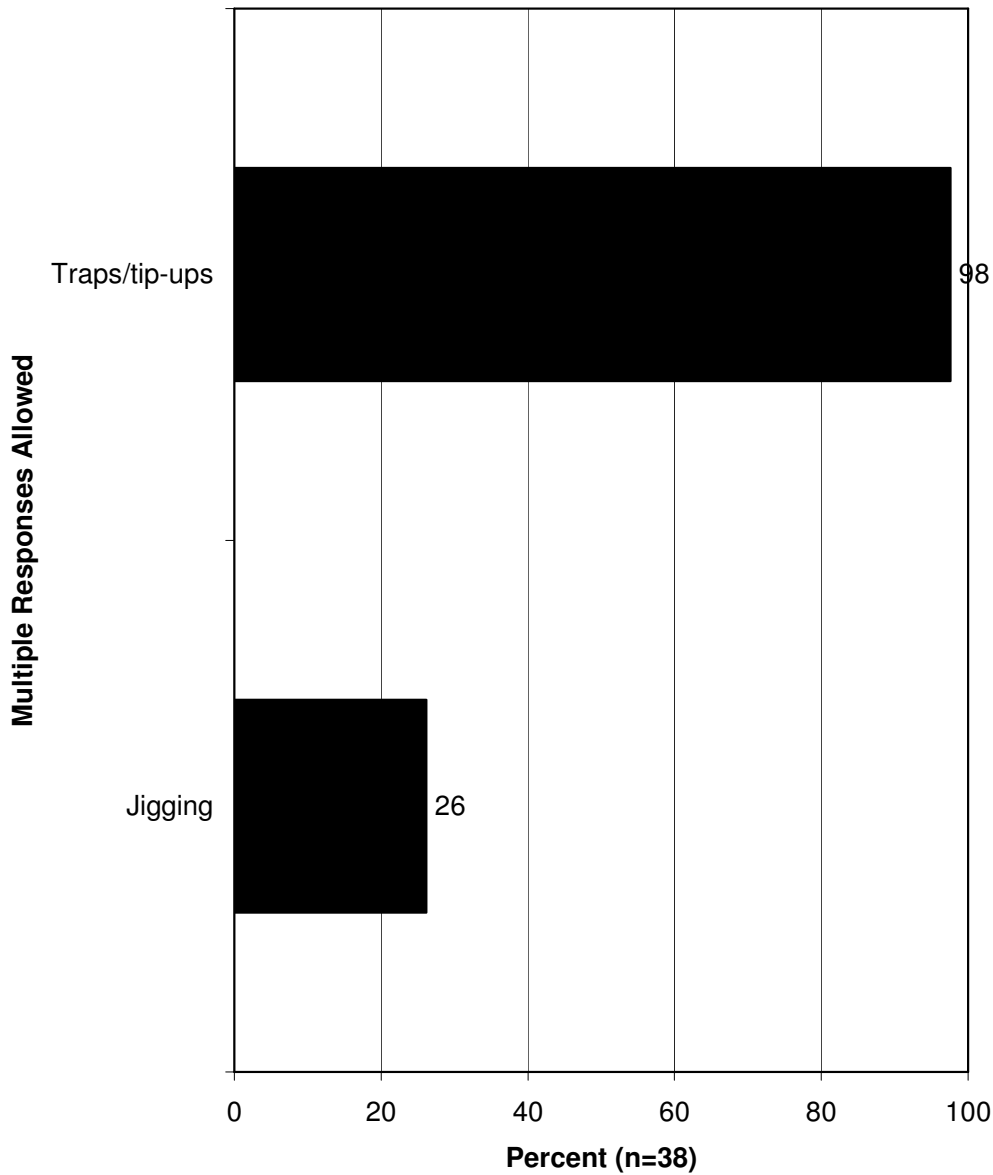


Counties Fished When Ice Fishing for Brown Trout (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	7	8	0
Aroostook	50	0	0	17	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	25	0
Franklin	0	0	7	0	0
Hancock	0	67	7	8	0
Kennebec	0	0	60	0	0
Knox	50	0	0	8	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	13	17	0
Penobscot	0	0	0	0	0
Piscataquis	0	0	0	0	0
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	8	0
Waldo	0	0	0	8	33
Washington	0	33	7	0	33
York	0	0	0	33	33

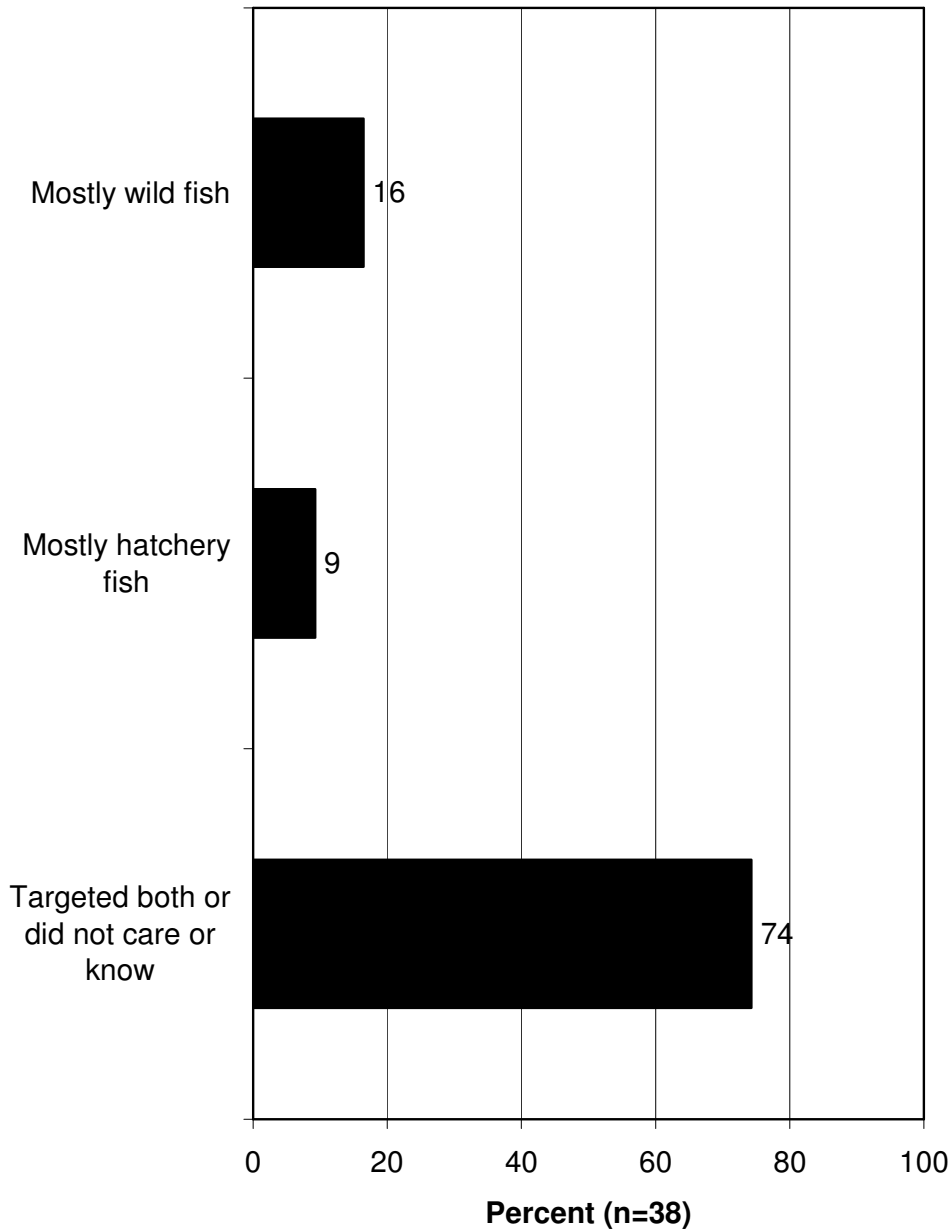
*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

Q318. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing for brown trout in the 2015 ice fishing season? (Asked of those who fished for brown trout in the 2015 ice fishing season.)

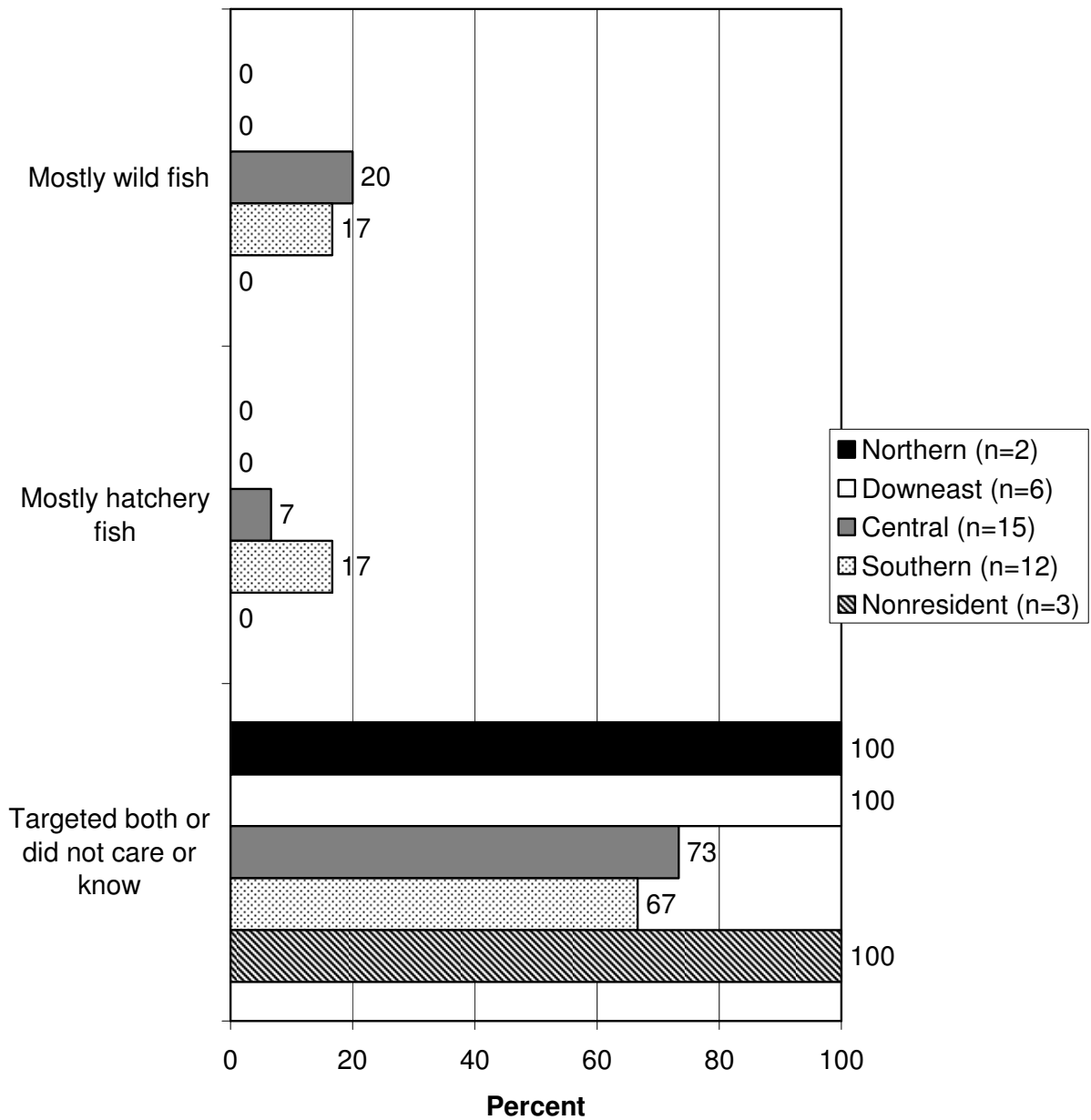


	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Traps/tip-ups	100	100	100	100	67
Jigging	0	0	13	42	67

Q326. When you fished for brown trout in the 2015 ice fishing season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?



Q326. When you fished for brown trout in the 2015 ice fishing season, did you mostly target wild fish, hatchery fish, or did you not care ?

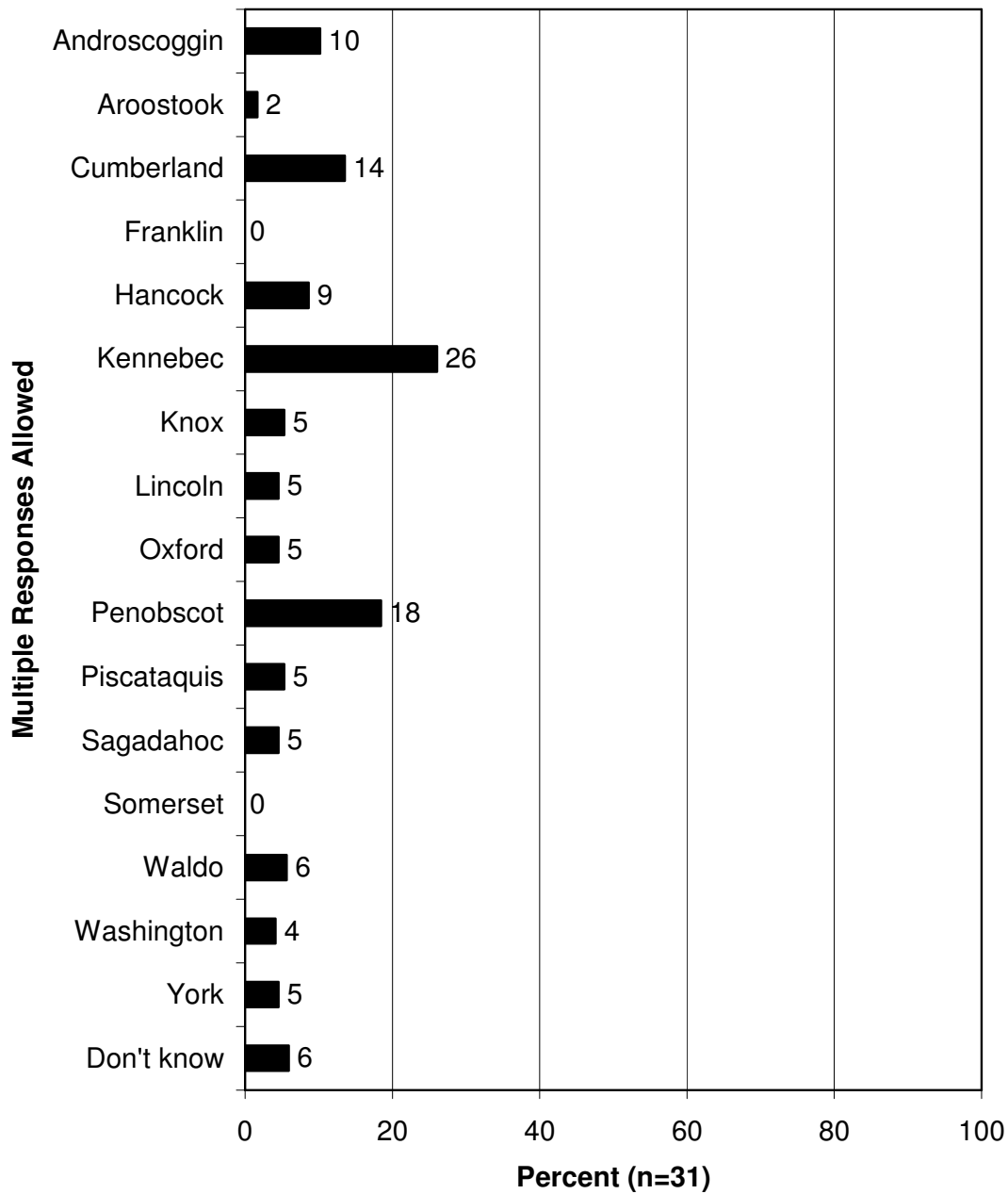


Any Species/Non-specific

- Anglers who did not target a specific species, but said they fished for anything in the 2015 ice fishing season, most often fished in Kennebec County (26%), Penobscot County (18%), and Cumberland County (14%).
 - Percentages broken down by regions of residence and nonresidents are shown.

- Nearly all anglers who ice fished for any (non-specific) species used traps/tip-ups (99%), while 14% used jigging.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region were the only ones to use jigging for non-specific species.

Q350. In which counties did you go ice fishing in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for anything / no particular species in the 2015 open water fishing season.)

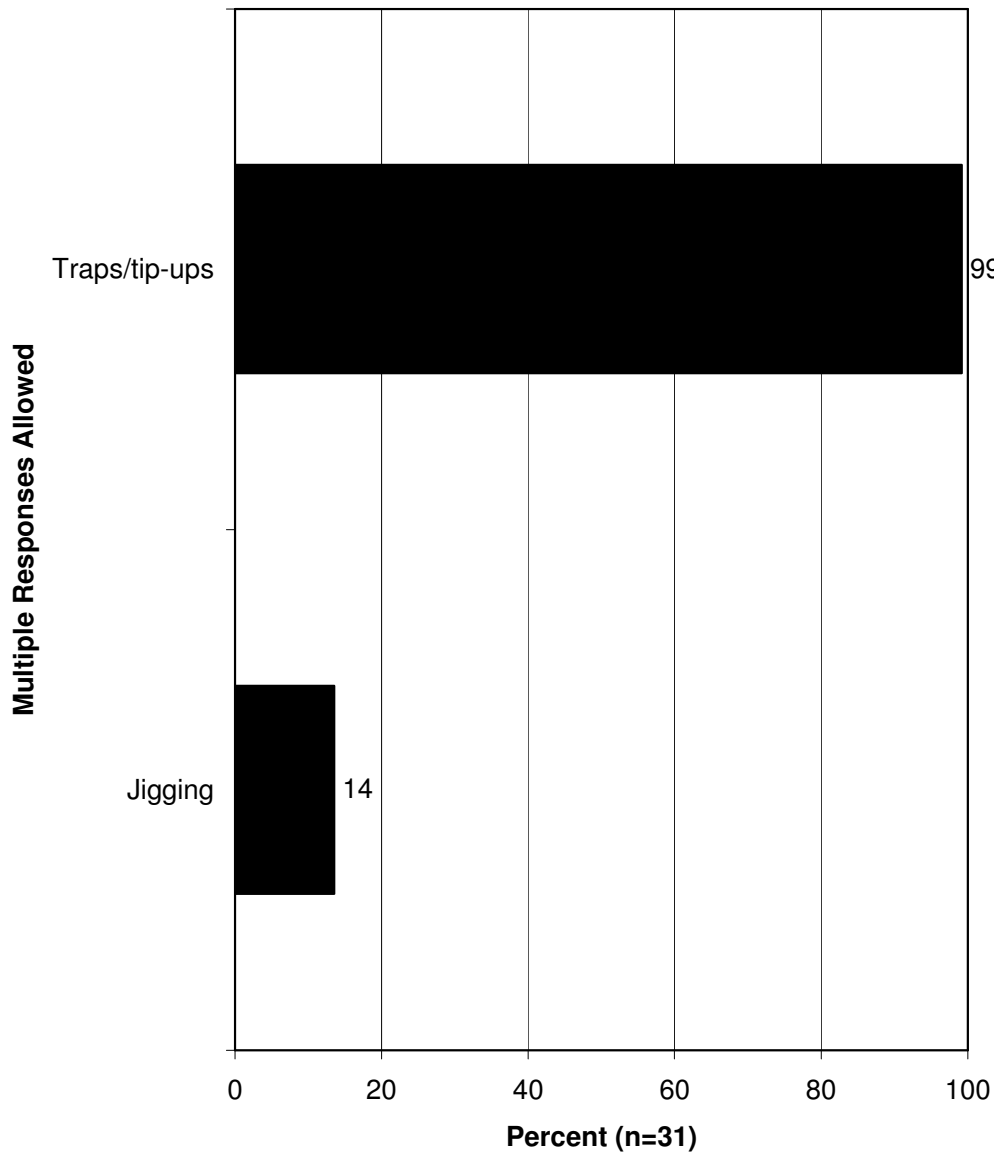


Counties Fished When Ice Fishing for Anything/No Particular Species (Percent)

	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Androscoggin	0	0	13	11	0
Aroostook	0	20	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	33	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	50	70	0	0	50
Kennebec	0	0	38	22	0
Knox	0	10	0	11	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	11	0
Oxford	0	0	0	11	0
Penobscot	25	0	38	0	25
Piscataquis	0	10	0	11	0
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	11	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Waldo	0	0	13	0	0
Washington	0	50	0	0	0
York	0	0	0	11	0

*Note: In these tables, the regions refer to the anglers' region of residence, not the region in which they fished.

**Q352. Which of these methods did you use when ice fishing in the 2015 ice fishing season?
(Asked of those who fished for anything / no particular species in the 2015 open water fishing season.)**



	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern	Nonresident
Traps/tip-ups	100	90	100	100	100
Jigging	0	0	0	33	0

The following tables show the mean number of days fished for each species within each county during the Maine 2015 ice fishing season. The sample size (n value) has been included in each cell below the mean days value.

Mean Days Ice Fished by Species and County (Part 1)

	Black Bass	Northern Pike	Pickrel	Perch	Landlocked Salmon
Androscoggin	2.7 (n = 3)	2.8 (n = 6)	4.3 (n = 2)	4.3 (n = 2)	8.2 (n = 3)
Aroostook	3.0 (n = 1)		15.0 (n = 2)	6.3 (n = 5)	11.1 (n = 36)
Cumberland	12.2 (n = 5)		1.0 (n = 1)		6.0 (n = 3)
Franklin	2.0 (n = 1)				6.5 (n = 5)
Hancock	5.1 (n = 7)		10.2 (n = 5)	5.8 (n = 6)	7.1 (n = 23)
Kennebec	6.6 (n = 7)	8.2 (n = 5)		1.9 (n = 2)	1.5 (n = 3)
Knox	10.0 (n = 1)			10.0 (n = 1)	7.0 (n = 1)
Lincoln	3.5 (n = 2)		5.0 (n = 1)		
Oxford	2.0 (n = 2)				12.0 (n = 1)
Penobscot	5.5 (n = 7)		3.6 (n = 5)	2.0 (n = 4)	3.8 (n = 13)
Piscataquis	2.0 (n = 1)			2.0 (n = 2)	4.3 (n = 13)
Sagadahoc	1.0 (n = 1)				
Somerset					3.3 (n = 6)
Waldo		2.0 (n = 1)	6.0 (n = 1)	6.0 (n = 1)	3.6 (n = 4)
Washington	6.9 (n = 5)		8.0 (n = 4)	17.8 (n = 5)	6.9 (n = 25)
York	7.0 (n = 7)	14.0 (n = 1)	5.5 (n = 2)	8.7 (n = 3)	15.7 (n = 3)

Mean Days Ice Fished by Species and County (Part 2)

	Smelt	Eastern Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Brown Trout	Any Species
Androscoggin	4.0 (n = 1)	4.6 (n = 3)	2.7 (n = 2)	3.9 (n = 2)	1.6 (n = 3)
Aroostook	14.8 (n = 6)	10.6 (n = 32)	6.7 (n = 16)	8.0 (n = 3)	1.8 (n = 3)
Cumberland		6.8 (n = 10)	13.2 (n = 8)	7.3 (n = 3)	1.9 (n = 4)
Franklin		7.4 (n = 2)	7.4 (n = 2)	2.0 (n = 1)	
Hancock	35.0 (n = 1)	6.4 (n = 13)	8.5 (n = 13)	3.9 (n = 6)	6.0 (n = 9)
Kennebec	8.0 (n = 1)	7.5 (n = 12)	2.0 (n = 1)	7.1 (n = 10)	2.6 (n = 5)
Knox		13.9 (n = 4)		7.0 (n = 1)	1.0 (n = 2)
Lincoln					1.0 (n = 1)
Oxford		9.9 (n = 5)		18.1 (n = 4)	3.0 (n = 1)
Penobscot		4.3 (n = 19)	3.7 (n = 9)		5.0 (n = 4)
Piscataquis	20.0 (n = 1)	4.2 (n = 7)	5.3 (n = 12)		2.3 (n = 2)
Sagadahoc					
Somerset		3.7 (n = 7)	1.7 (n = 4)	5.0 (n = 1)	
Waldo		6.9 (n = 6)	2.4 (n = 2)	4.4 (n = 2)	1.0 (n = 1)
Washington		5.5 (n = 15)	6.1 (n = 14)	2.7 (n = 5)	11.0 (n = 5)
York		8.6 (n = 8)	4.7 (n = 5)	7.4 (n = 4)	2.0 (n = 1)

The table below shows the mean percent of their harvest that anglers kept for each species within each county during the Maine 2015 ice fishing season. Regional analysis was not conducted for species fished by fewer than 30 anglers in ice fishing season.

Mean Percent of Ice Fishing Harvest Kept by Species and Region

Species (Sample Size)	Region of Residence				Non-Residents	Total
	Northern	Downeast	Central	Southern		
Black bass (n = 43)	2.8	15.2	1.4	18.8	0.0	10.3
Northern pike (n = 15)						15.9
Pickeral (n = 22)						26.6
Perch (n = 30)	46.1	37.3	0.0	35.0	65.0	39.6
Landlocked salmon (n = 115)	33.7	24.2	17.2	8.5	32.1	21.1
Eastern brook trout (n = 114)	38.1	23.3	21.0	4.0	0.5	16.7
Lake trout (n = 78)	26.4	15.9	12.4	6.0	18.8	13.3
Brown trout (n = 38)	0.0	20.8	3.1	12.6	0.0	6.6

GENERAL ATTITUDES TOWARD FISHING IN MAINE

- Those who fished during both open water and ice fishing seasons were asked which they enjoy the most. A plurality (42%) responded that they enjoy both seasons equally, with more who prefer open water fishing season (37%) than ice fishing season (19%).
 - Regional analysis shows that anglers who reside in the Downeast Region are the least likely to prefer open water fishing season (24%) and those who reside in the Central Region are the least likely to prefer ice fishing season (11%).

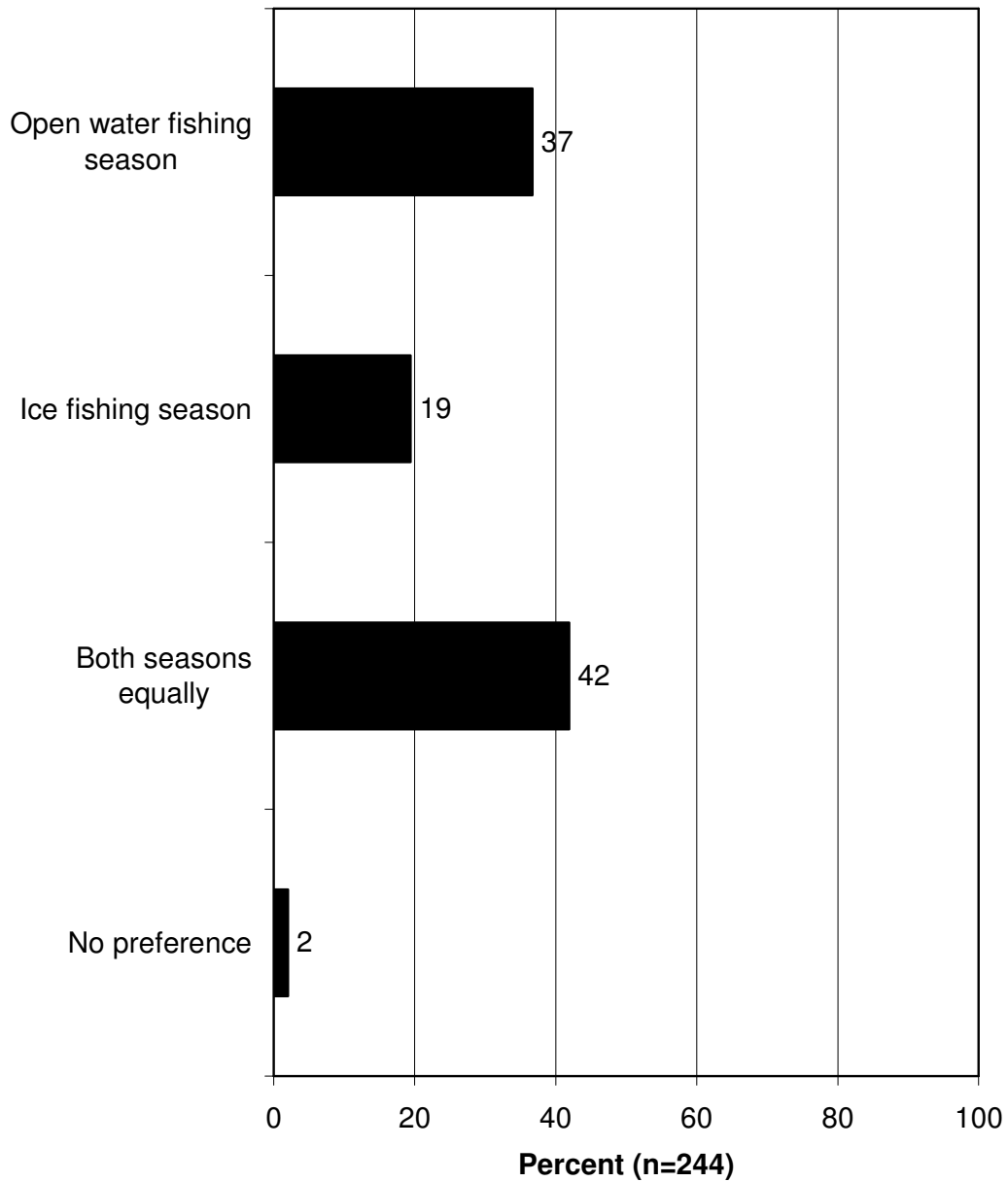
Anglers were instructed to answer the remainder of the survey questions thinking about their fishing in Maine in general, regardless of whether they participate in open water fishing, ice fishing, or both.

MOTIVATIONS FOR FISHING

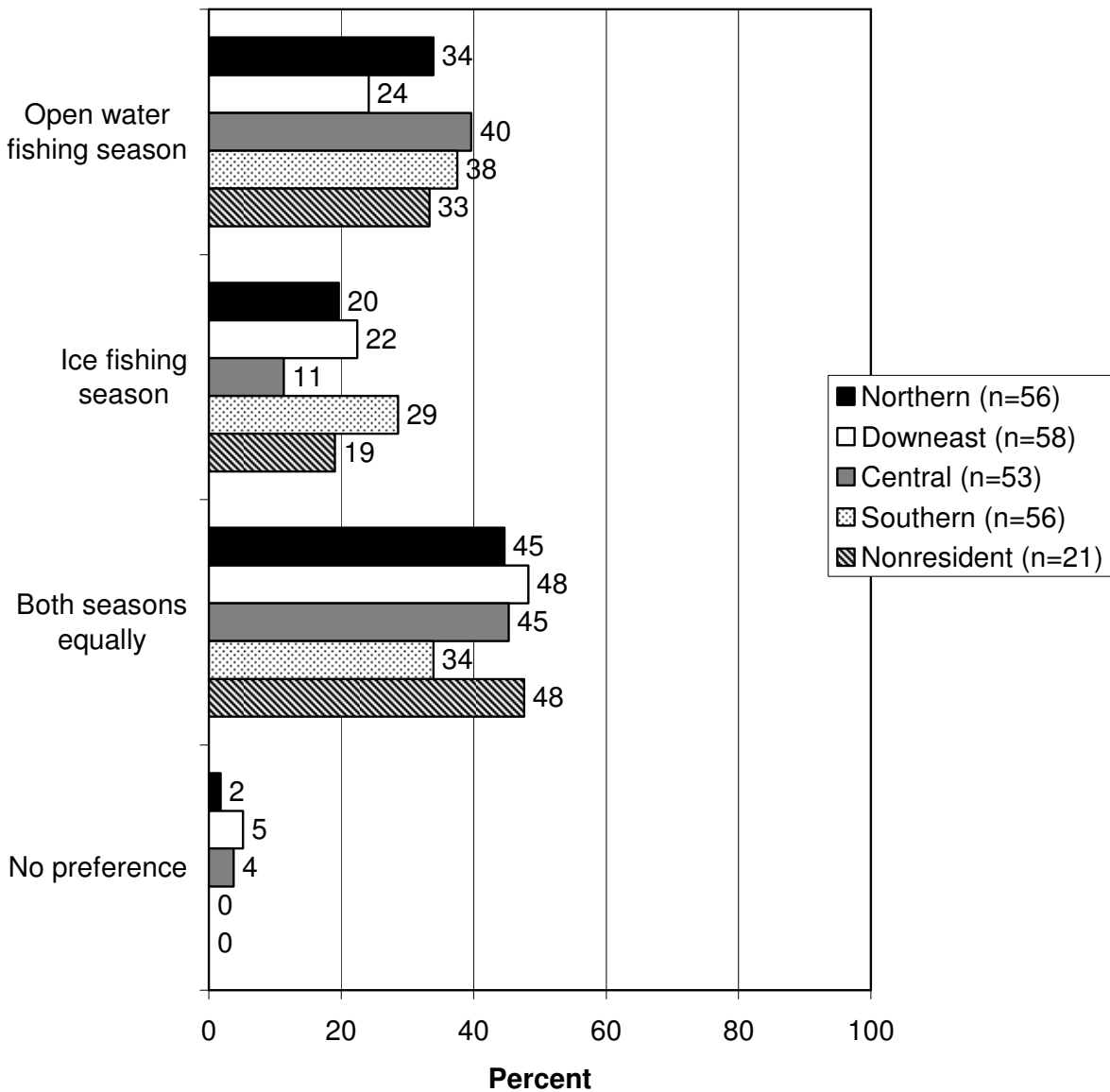
- Anglers were asked to name their primary reason for fishing in Maine over the past 5 years from the following six items: for the sport, for a trophy, to be close to nature, for relaxation, for the meat, or to be with family and friends. The top responses are for relaxation and to be with family and friends (both named by 31% of anglers) and for the sport (25%). Only 4% selected “to catch fresh fish for food,” which seems to correlate well with the high percentage of anglers who voluntarily practice catch-and-release fishing.
 - Some variations can be observed between the regions.
- A majority of anglers (53%) say their fishing activity has remained about the same over the past 5 years. There is an even divide between those who say it increased (23%) and decreased (24%).
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region least often said their activity has remained about the same (40%), but equal numbers say it has increased and decreased (30% each).
 - Those most likely to say their fishing activity has increased over the past 5 years are Southern Region anglers (30%) and those younger than the median age of 49 (27%).
 - Those most likely to say their fishing activity has decreased over the past 5 years are anglers who reside in the Southern Region (30%) and Northern Region (29%).

- Half of anglers (50%) say nothing takes away from their fishing satisfaction or causes them not to fish as much as they would like. Otherwise, lack of time was the greatest obstacle—a reason over which agencies have little sway.
 - Nonresidents most often said nothing takes away from their fishing satisfaction or participation in Maine.

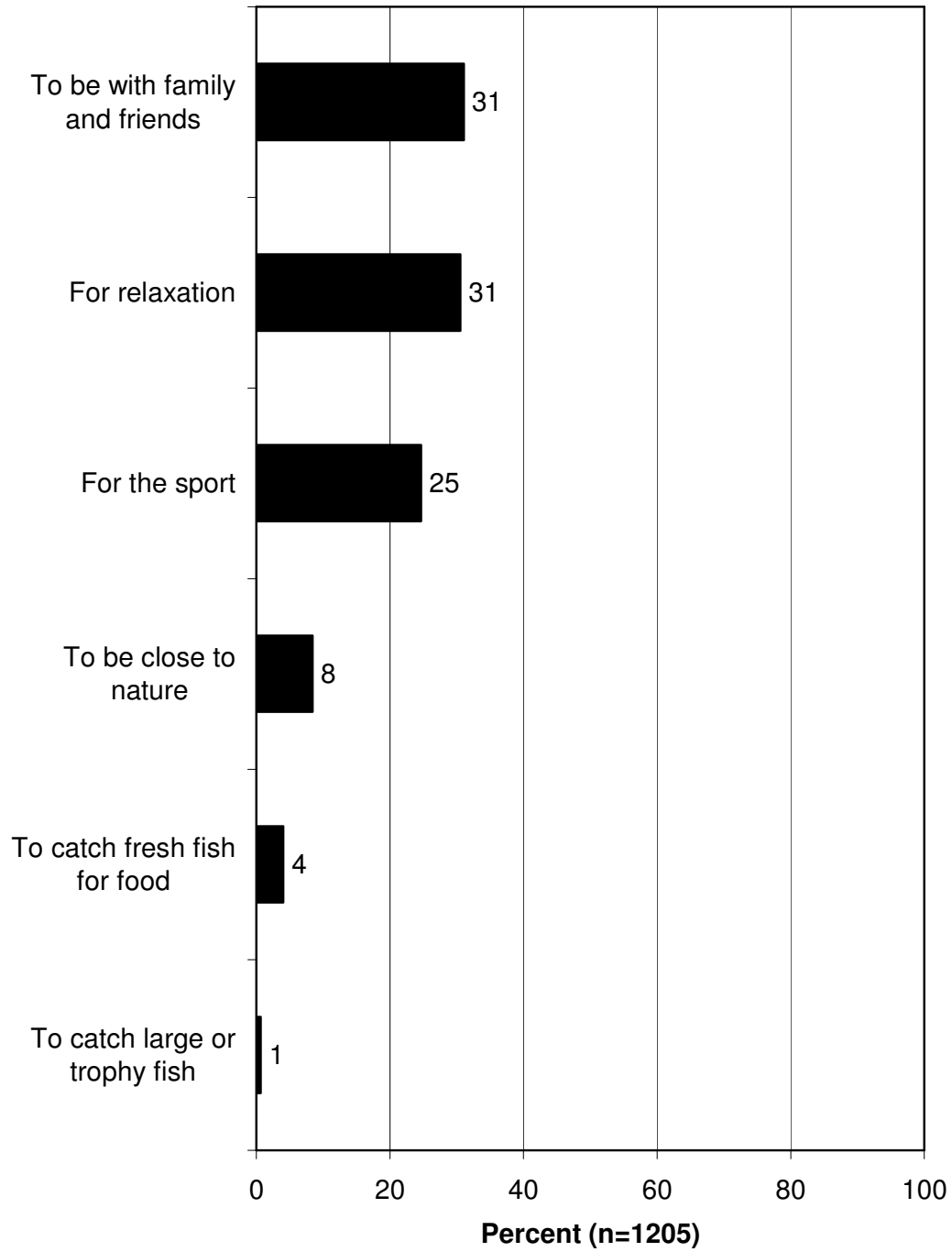
Q358. Which fishing season do you enjoy the most: the open water fishing season, the ice fishing season, or do you enjoy both seasons equally? (Asked of those who fished open water and ice fished in Maine during the 2015 fishing season.)



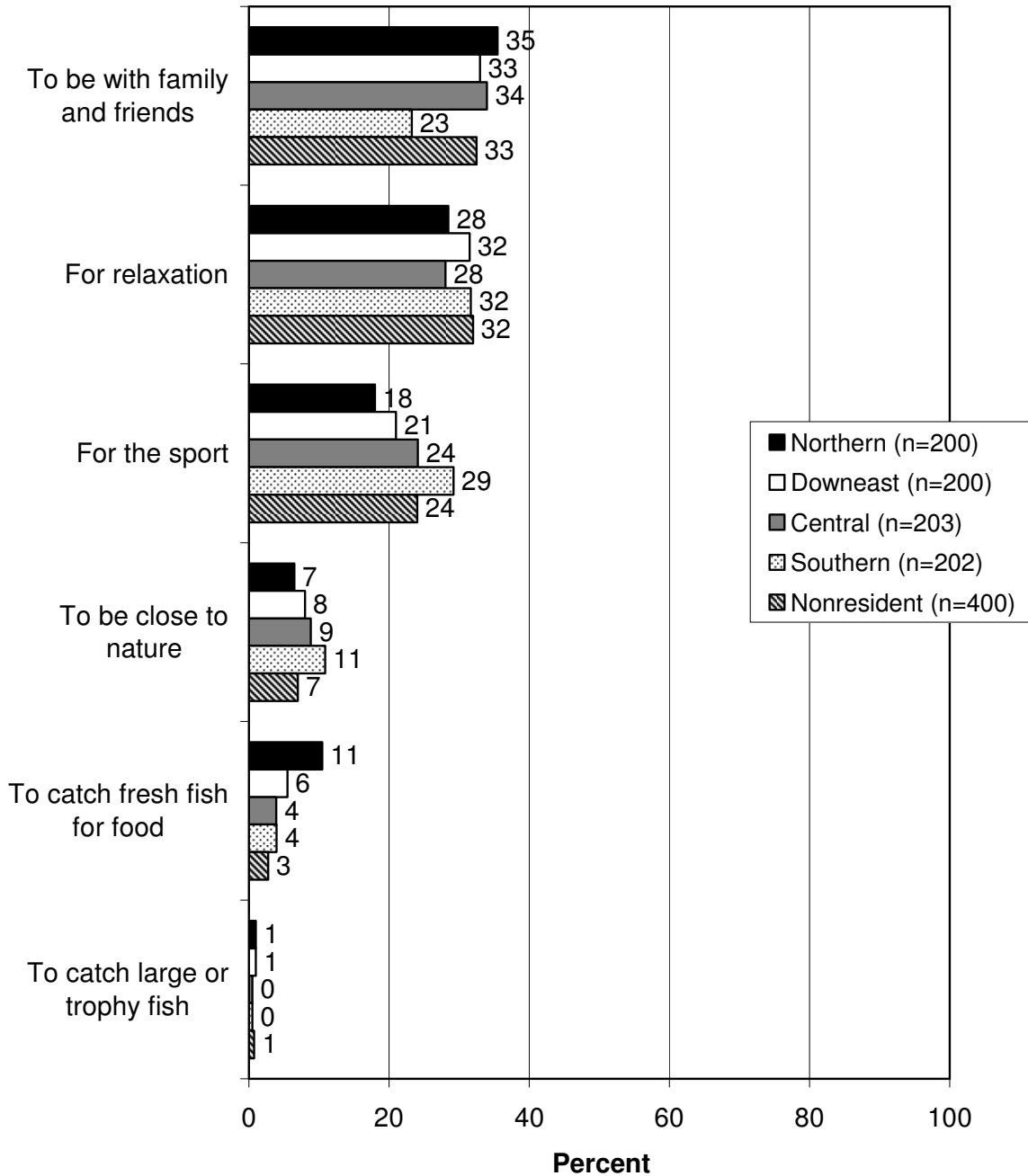
Q358. Which fishing season do you enjoy the most: the open water fishing season, the ice fishing season, or do you enjoy both seasons equally? (Asked of those who fished open water and ice fished in Maine during the 2015 fishing season.)



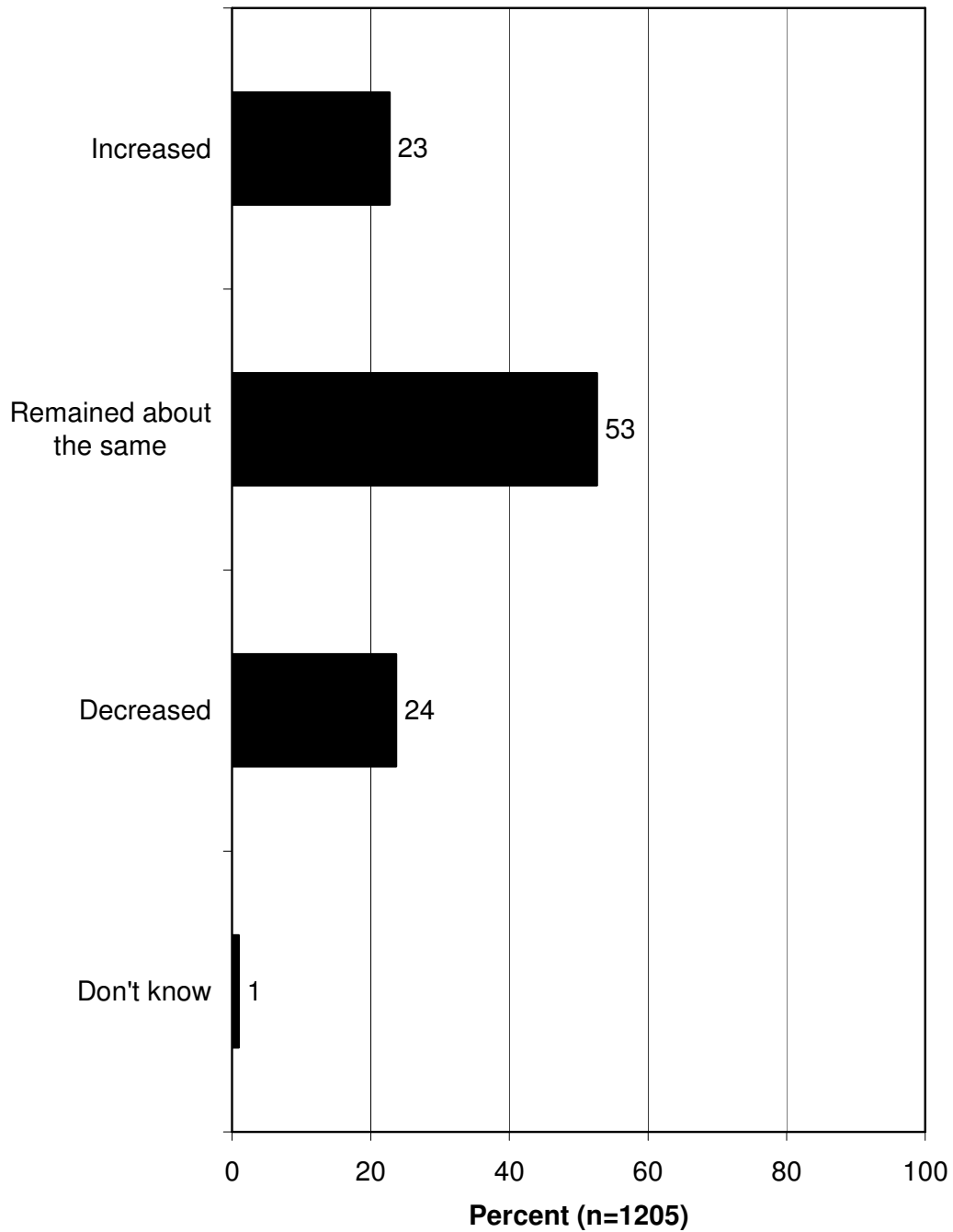
Q360. What was your primary reason for fishing in Maine over the past 5 years?



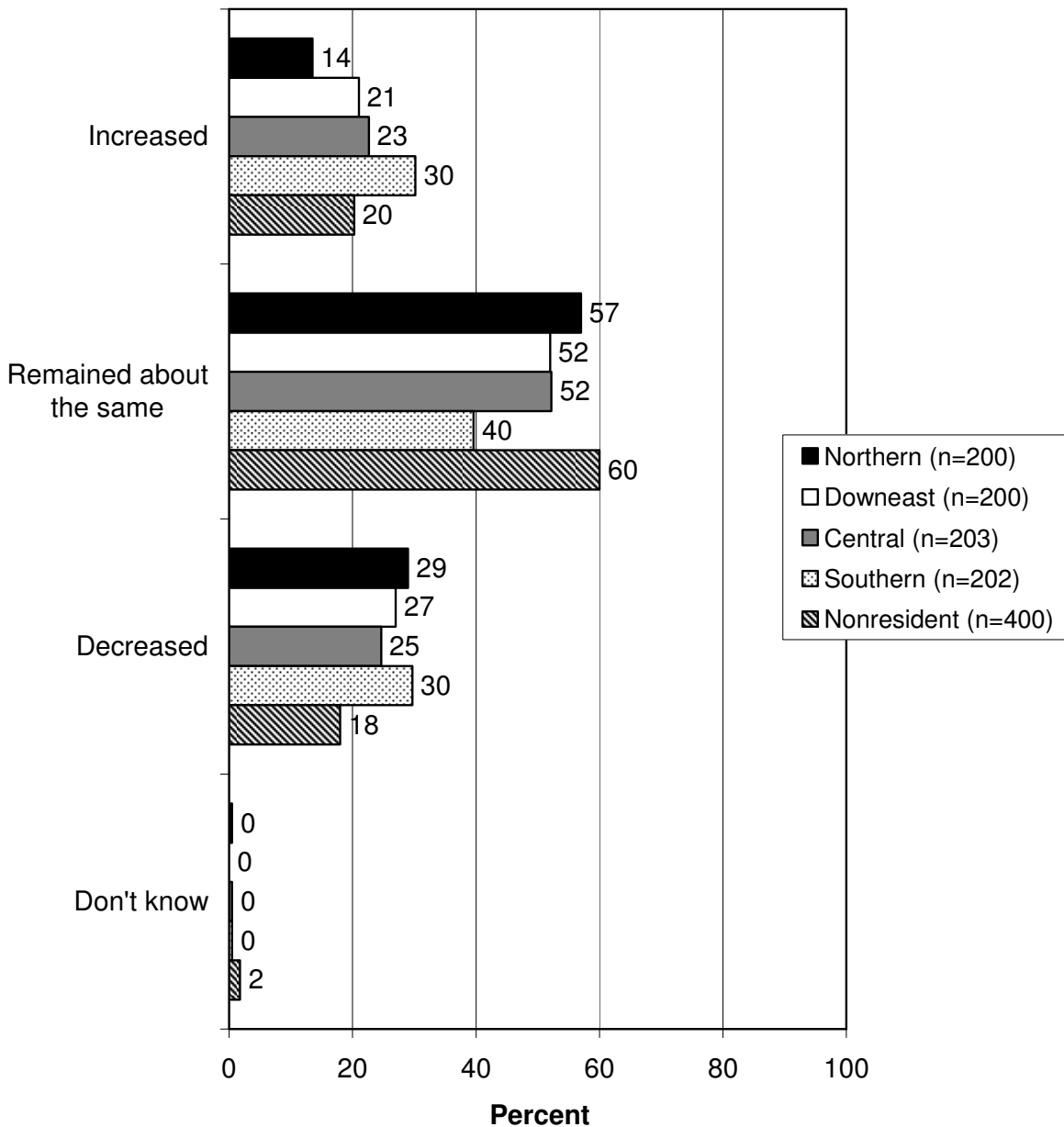
Q360. What was your primary reason for fishing in Maine over the past 5 years?



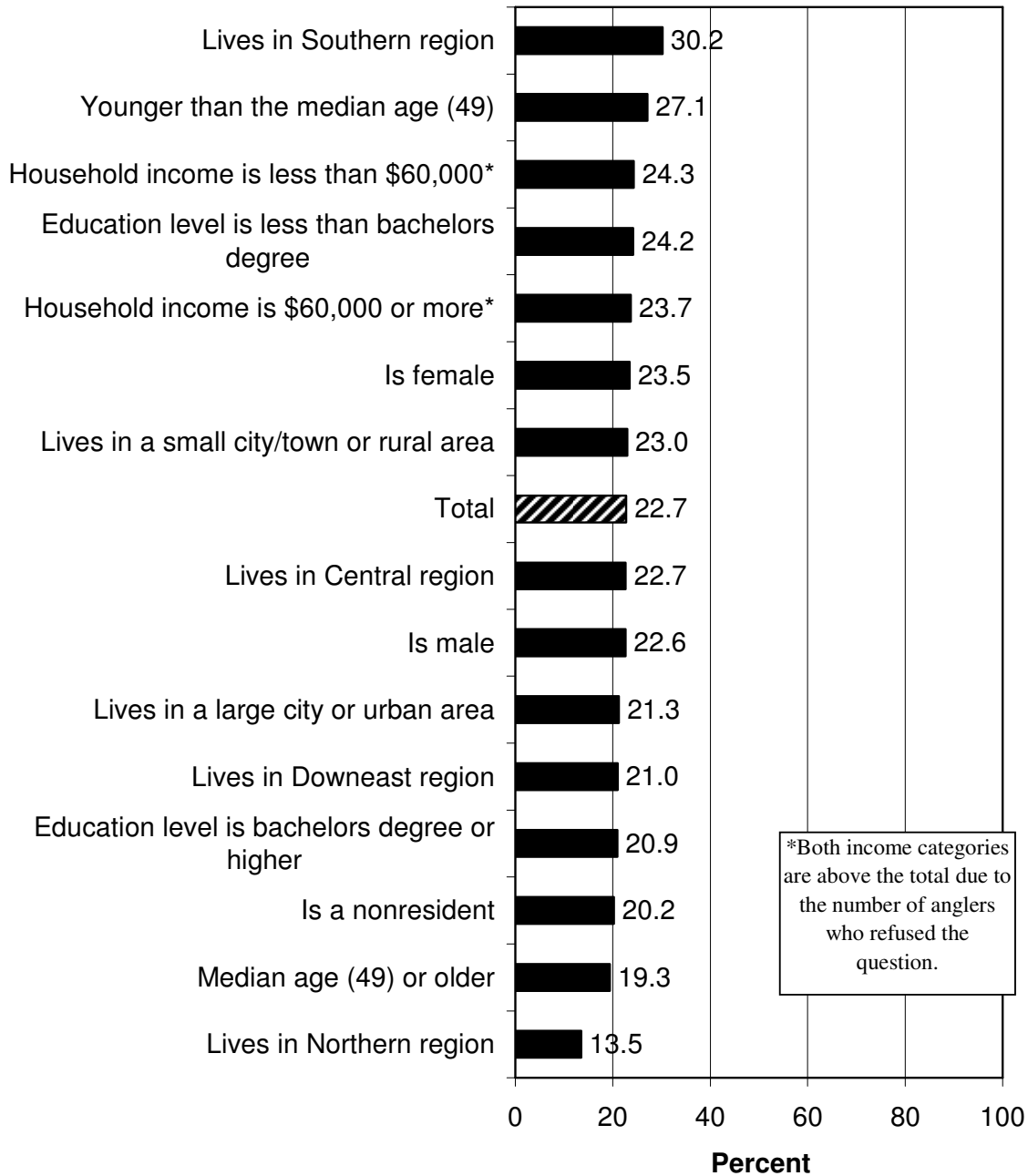
Q361. Over the past 5 years, would you say your fishing activity in Maine has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?



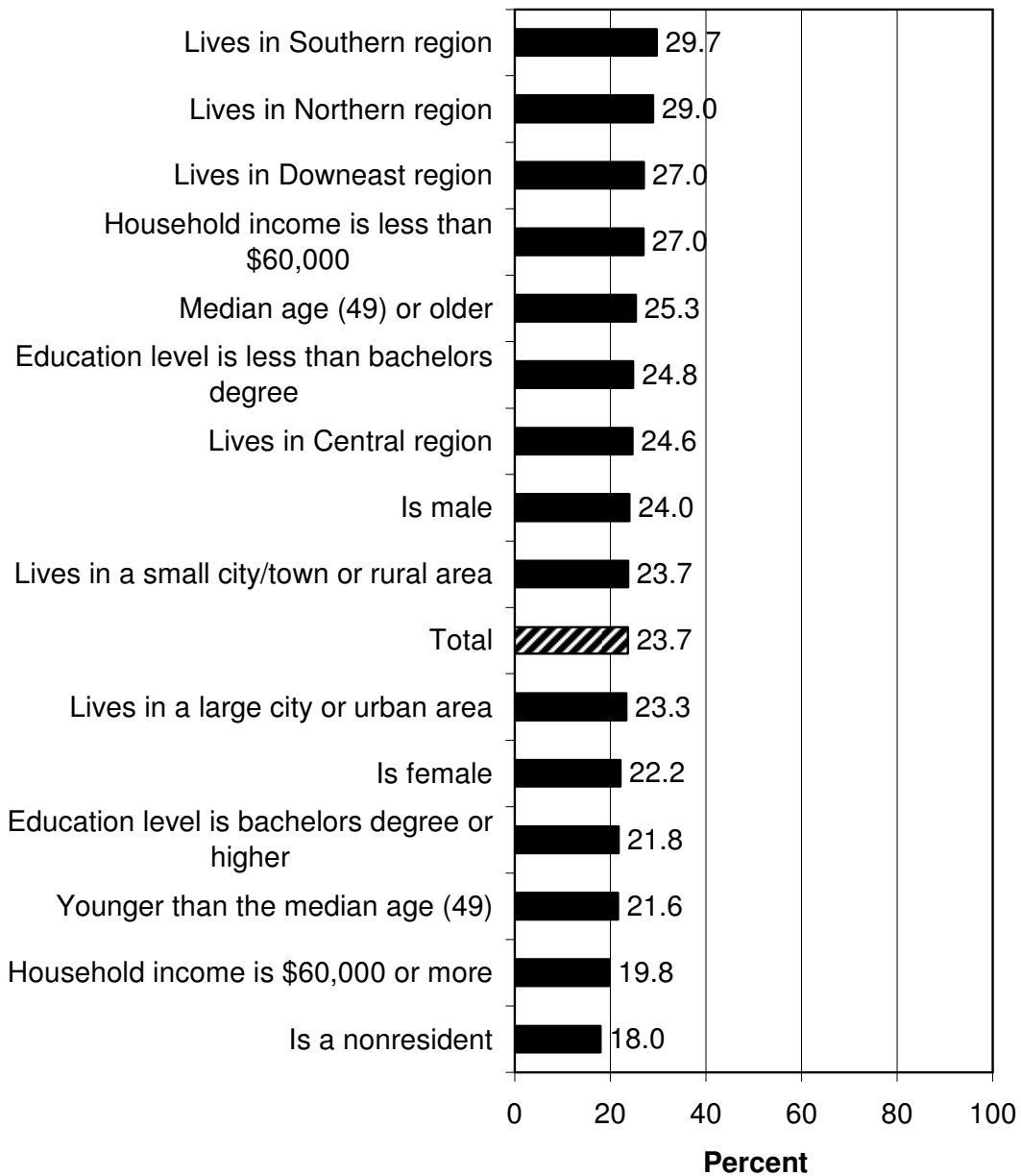
Q361. Over the past 5 years, would you say your fishing activity in Maine has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?



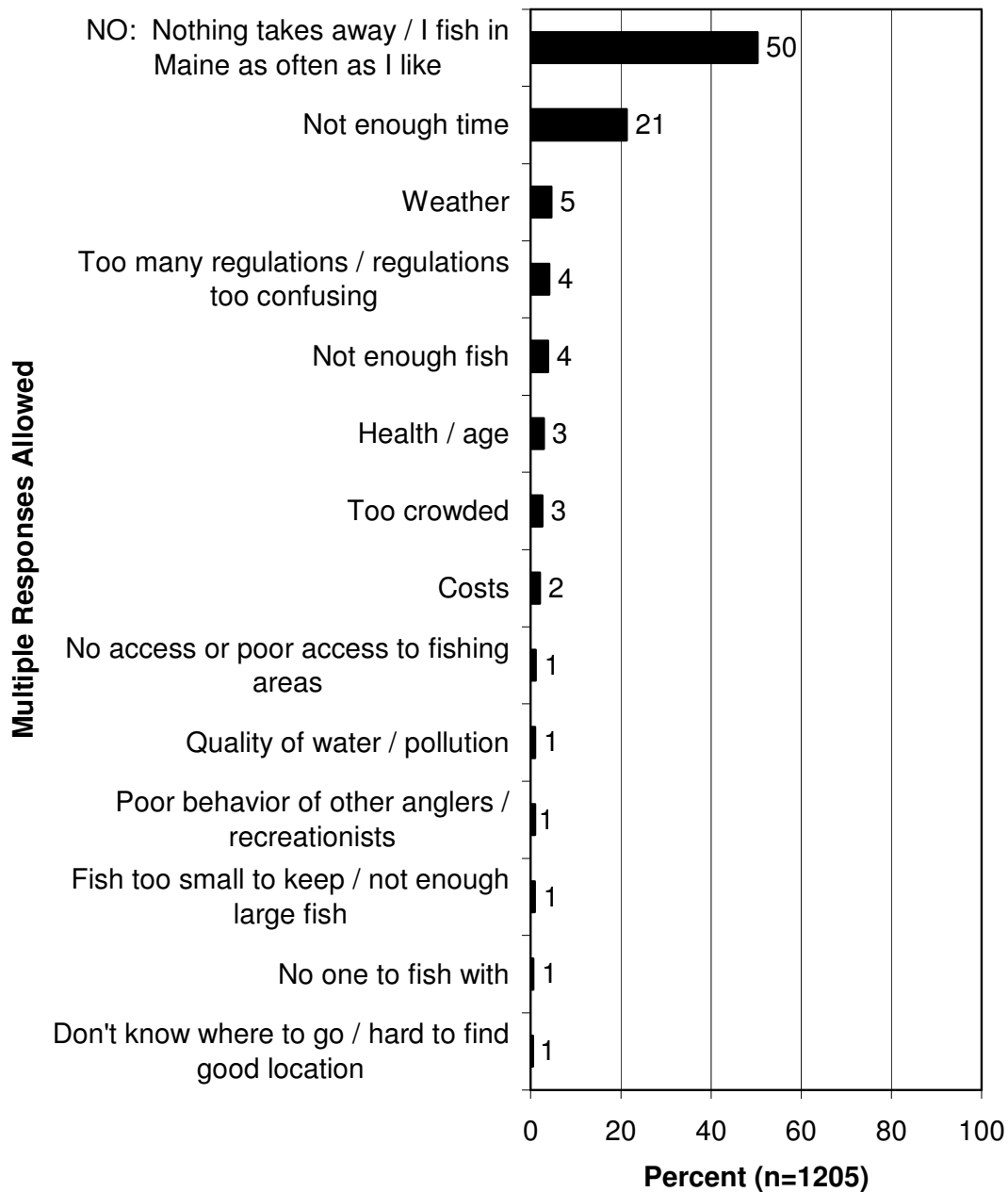
Percent of each of the following groups whose fishing activity in Maine has increased in the past 5 years:



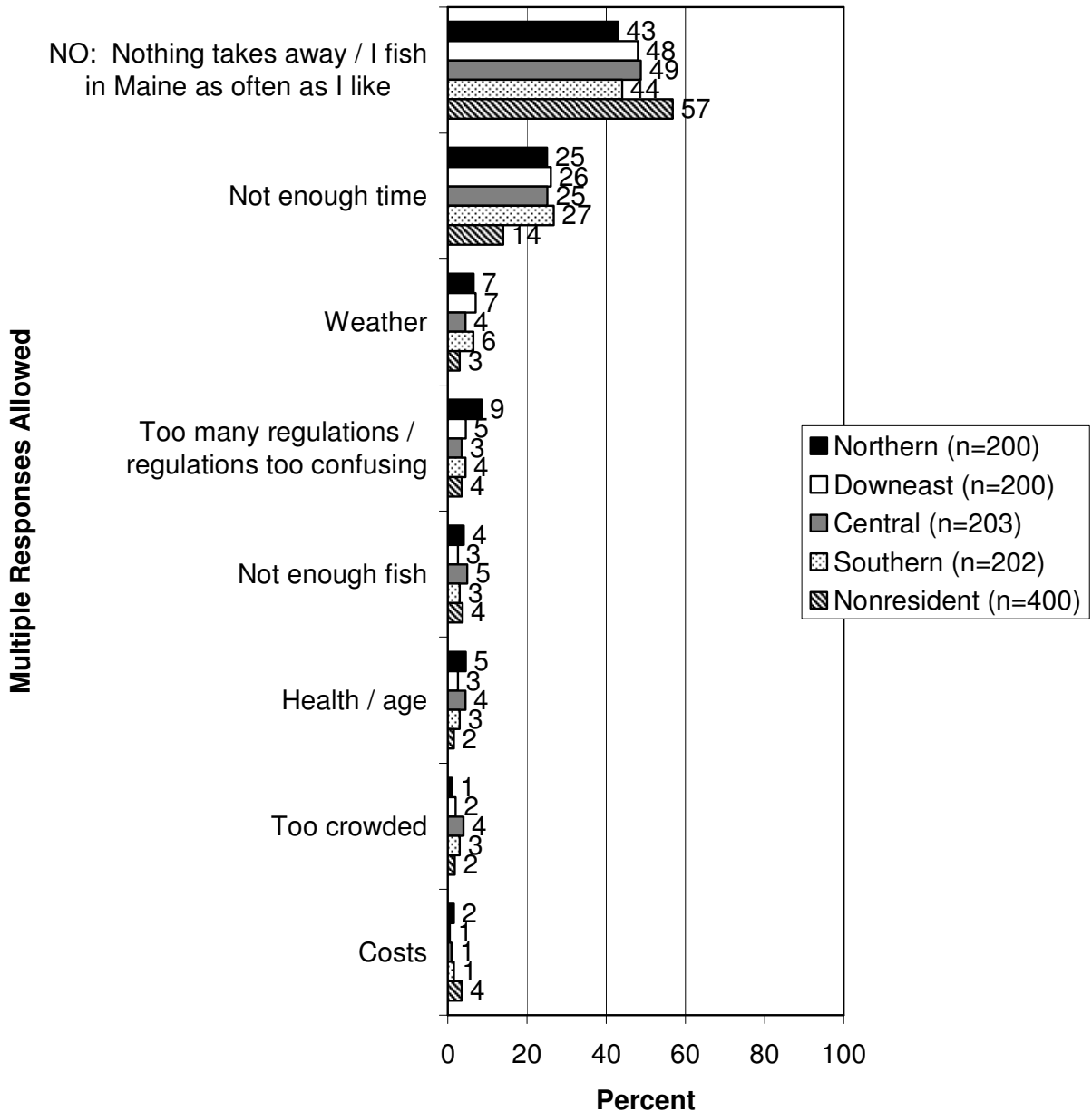
Percent of each of the following groups whose fishing activity in Maine has decreased in the past 5 years:



Q362. In general, are there any things that take away from your fishing satisfaction in Maine or cause you not to fish as much as you would like?



Q362. In general, are there any things that take away from your fishing satisfaction in Maine or cause you not to fish as much as you would like?



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- Most anglers (85%) agree that Maine's freshwater fishery resources are currently well managed by the Department; 57% *strongly* agree with the statement.
 - There is little overall difference between the regions and nonresidents, although there is some variation between strong and moderate agreement.
 - Those most likely to disagree (strongly or moderately) with the statement are anglers who reside in the Northern Region (13%) and Central Region (8%).

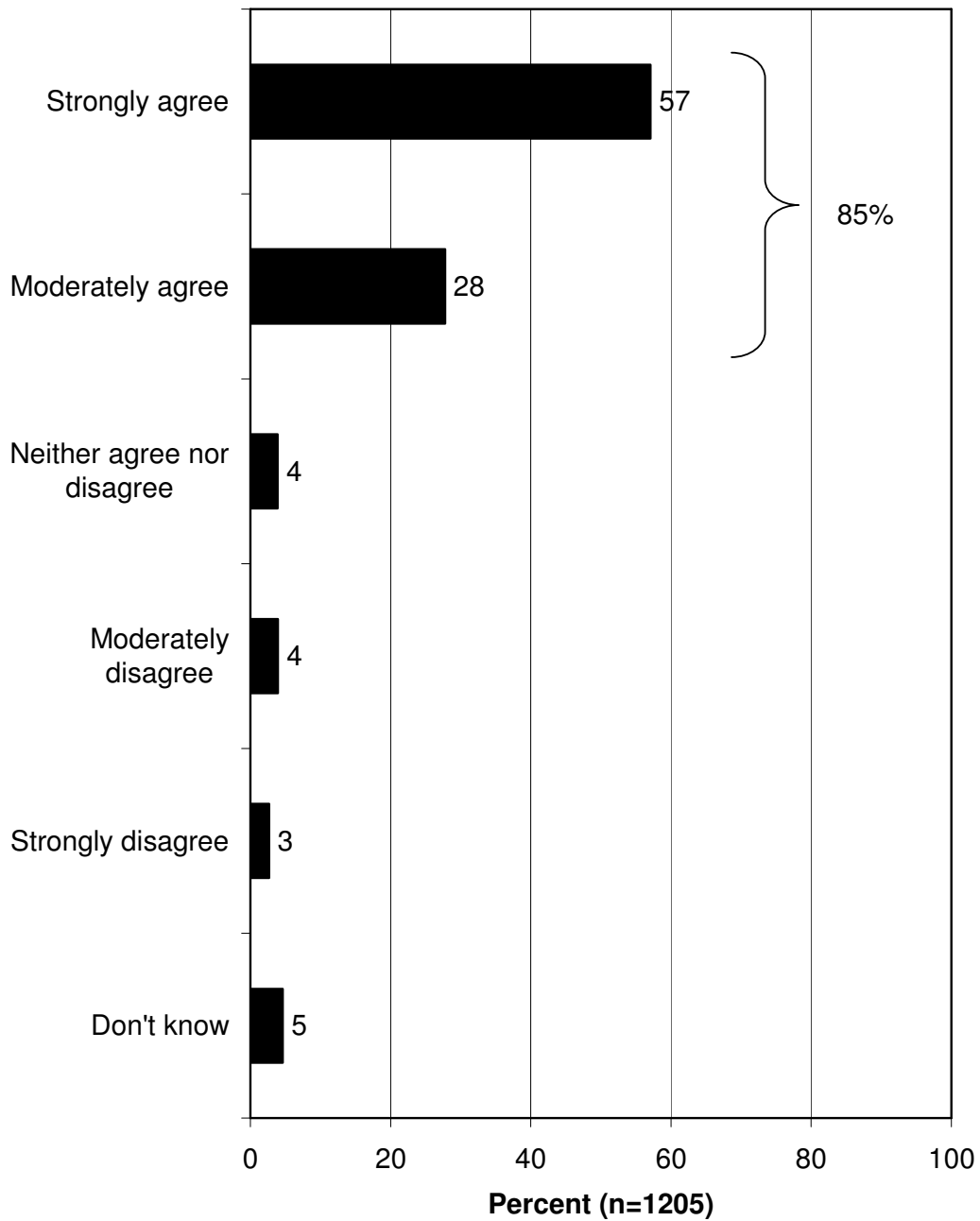
- Anglers who fished for trout were informed that a higher bag limit may help increase the size of the average trout in waters where the trout population is high. They were asked, if the average size of trout from their favorite fishing water has declined due to a high population, would they support or oppose having a higher bag limit on trout in those waters. Opinions were divided, with more anglers expressing support (55%) than opposition (34%).
 - Support for the higher trout bag limit is lowest among anglers who reside in the Southern Region and nonresident anglers.
 - Those most likely to strongly or moderately support the higher limit are anglers who reside in the Central Region (64%), female anglers (60%), and anglers who reside in the Northern Region (60%).

- The survey presented a series of regulations used by the Department to reduce the number of fish that anglers keep and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality. Respondents were asked if they support or oppose each one; seven regulations were presented.
 - There are majorities in support of all seven regulations. At the top are waters that are catch-and-release only and low bag limits.
 - Four graphs are shown: strongly support by itself, strongly and moderately support combined, strongly and moderately oppose combined, and strongly oppose by itself.
 - The regional analysis shows that support for catch-and-release waters is highest among nonresident anglers and support for low bag limits is highest among anglers who reside in the Southern Region.

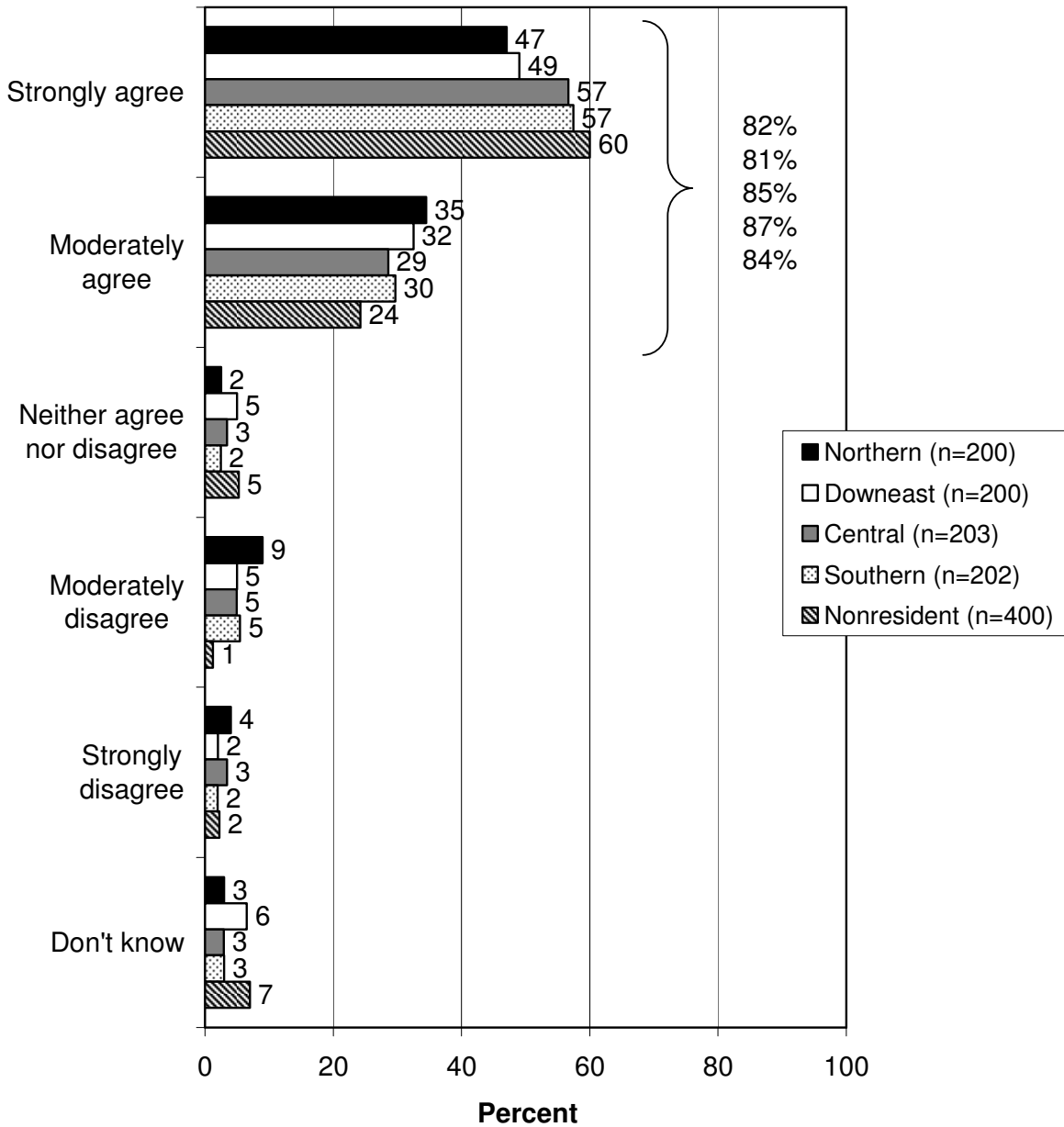
- The survey next presented a series of items and asked anglers to rate how much of a priority each should be for the Department, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all a priority and 10 is an extremely high priority.
 - Anglers rated environmental interests above human interests. The top-rated priority is managing waters for the health of native fish populations where possible (mean rating of 8.7 out of 10), followed by managing waters for the health of threatened and endangered wildlife species, even if it impacts recreational fishing opportunities (8.0).
 - Results are generally consistent between the regions.

- Anglers were asked if there are any additional fishing opportunities they would like to have available in Maine that are not available right now. Those who answered “yes” had an opportunity to describe the opportunities they felt are lacking. These open-ended responses are shown in the tabulation.

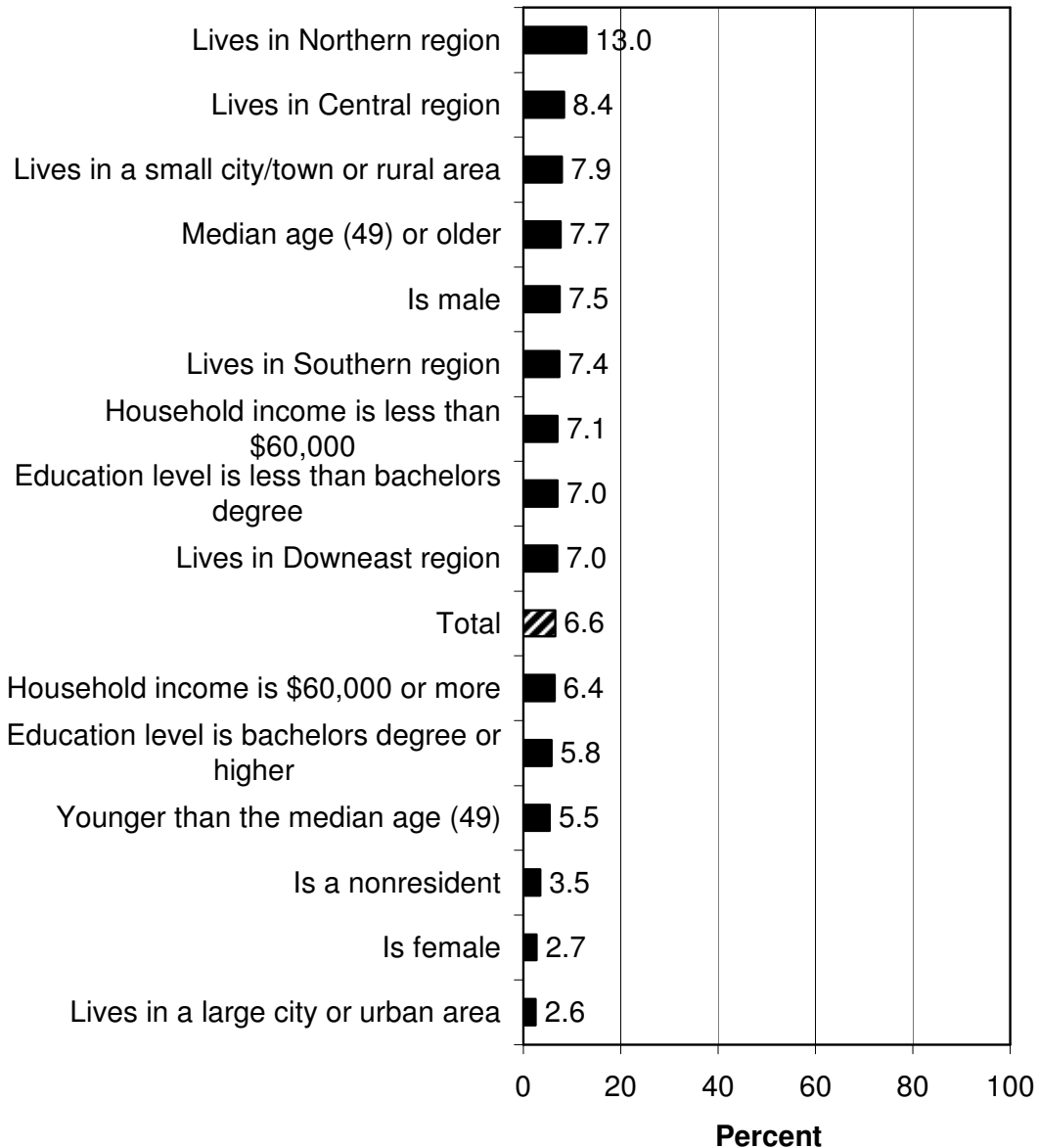
Q364. Do you agree or disagree that Maine's freshwater fishery resources are currently well managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife?



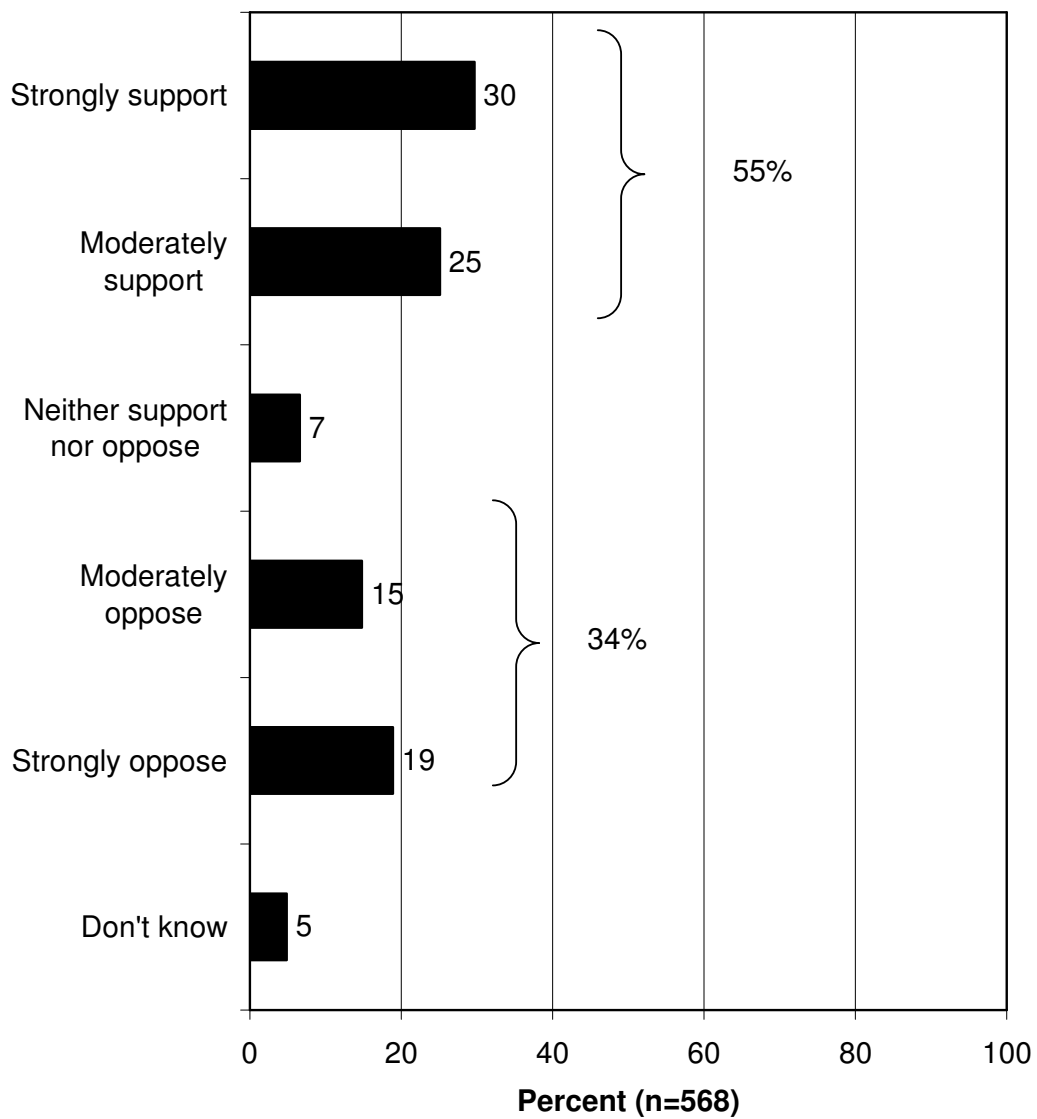
Q364. Do you agree or disagree that Maine's freshwater fishery resources are currently well managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife?



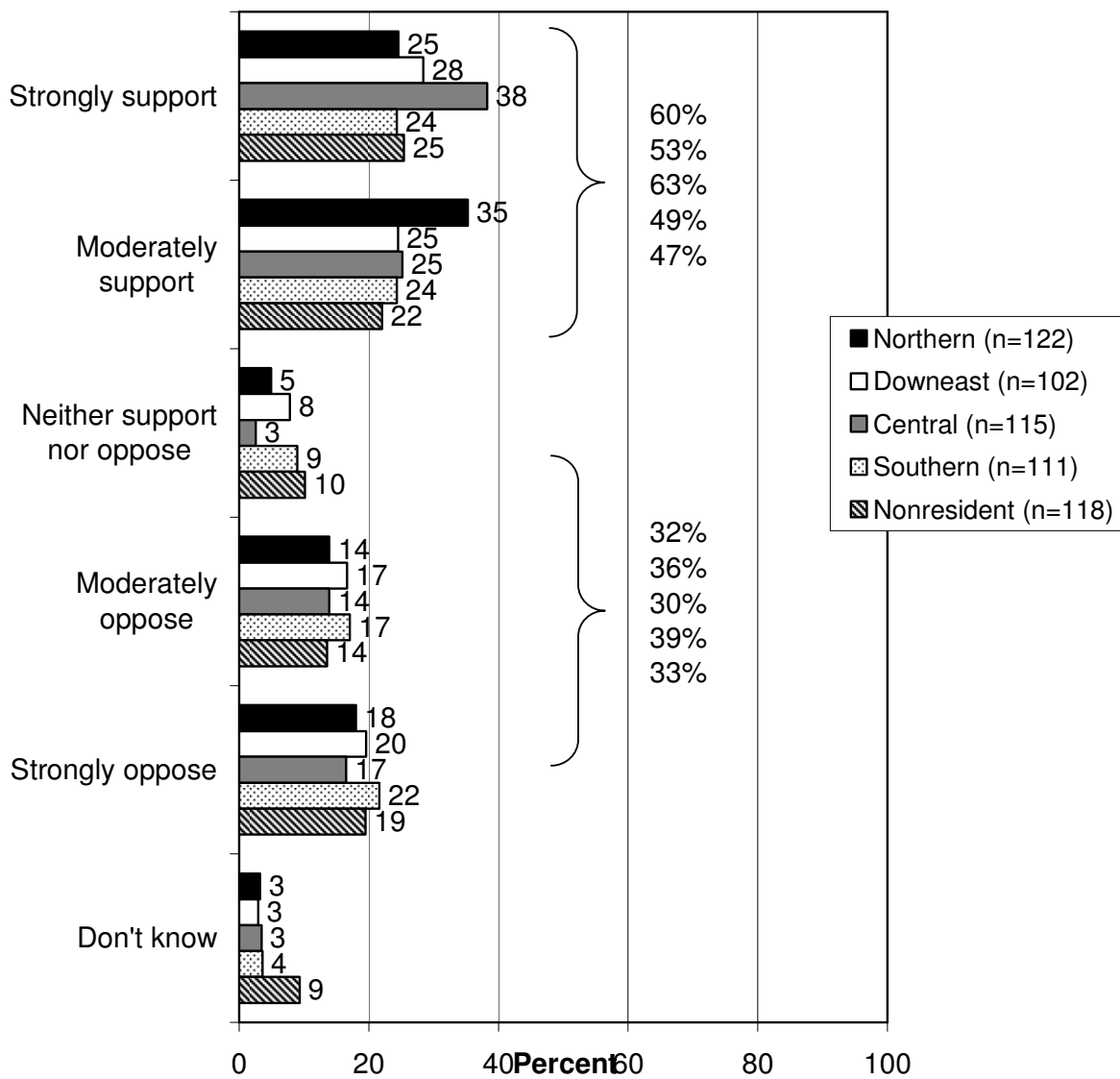
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately disagree that Maine's freshwater fishery resources are currently well managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:



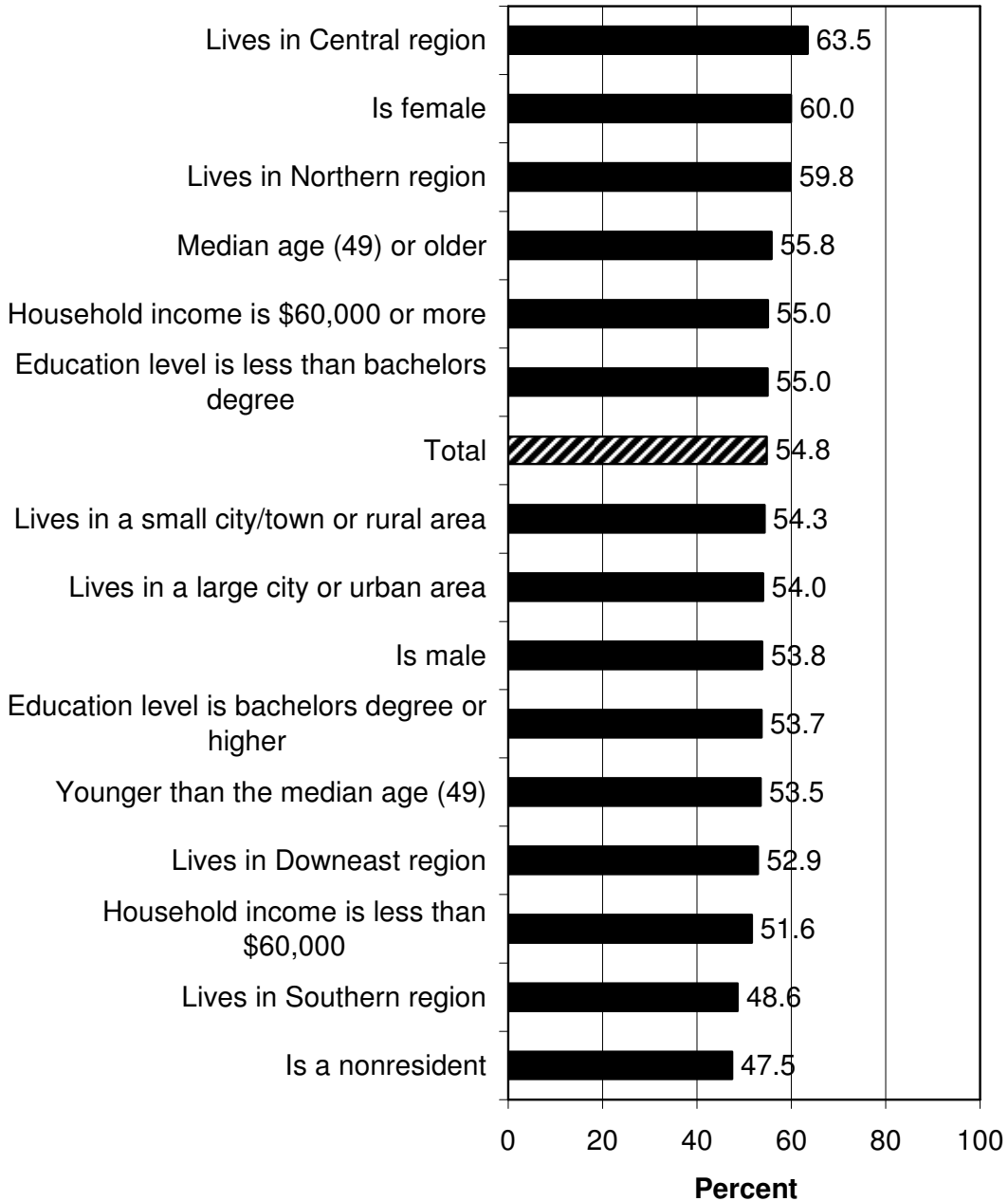
Q365. A higher bag limit may help increase the size of the average trout in waters where the trout population is high. If the average size of trout from your favorite fishing water has declined due to a high population, would you support or oppose having a higher bag limit on trout in those waters? (Asked of those who fished for trout in Maine in 2015, excluding Sunapee and blueback trout.)



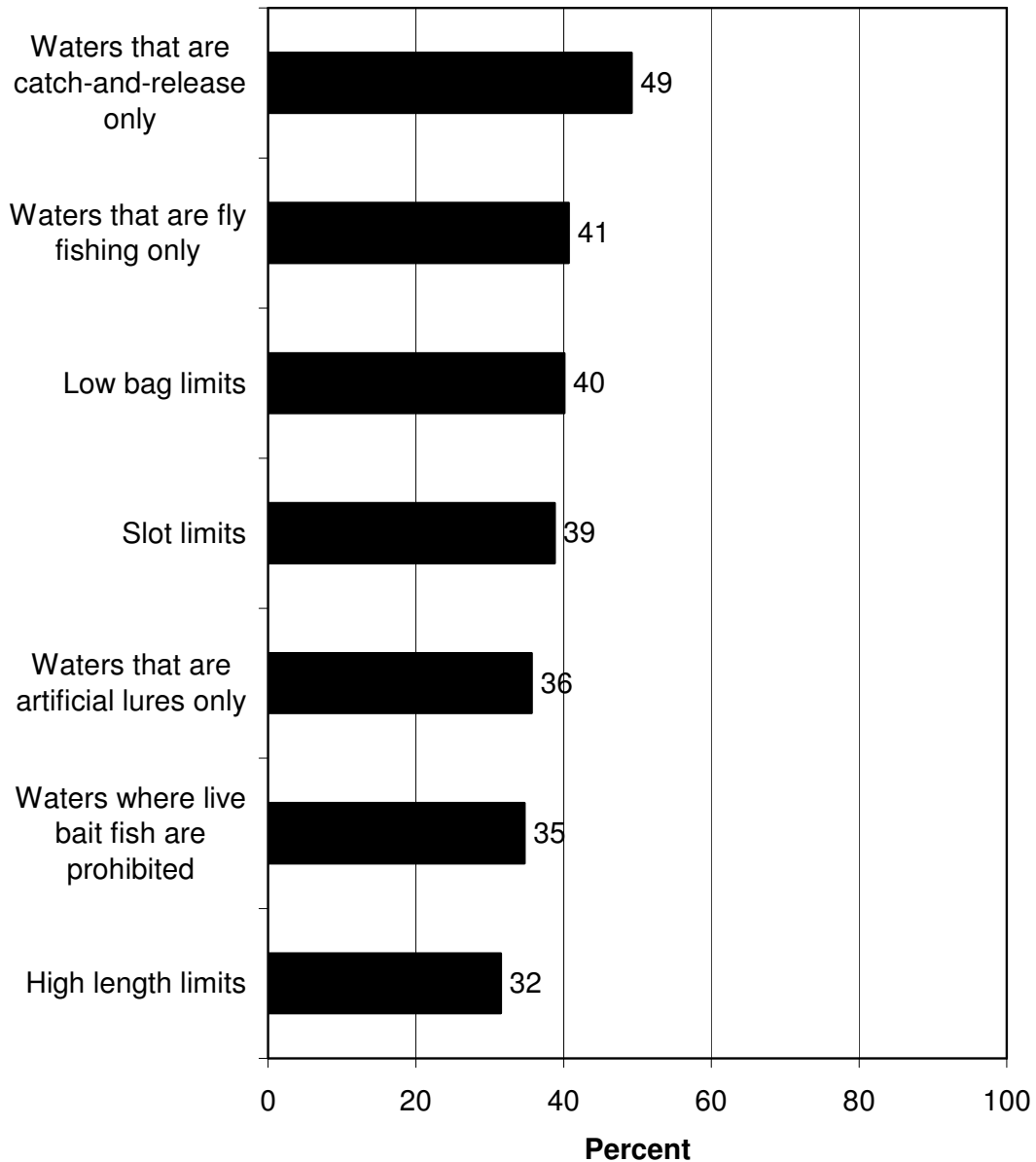
Q365. A higher bag limit may help increase the size of the average trout in waters where the trout population is high. If the average size of trout from your favorite fishing water has declined due to a high population, would you support or oppose having a higher bag limit on trout in those waters? (Asked of those who fished for trout in Maine in 2015, excluding Sunapee and blueback trout.)



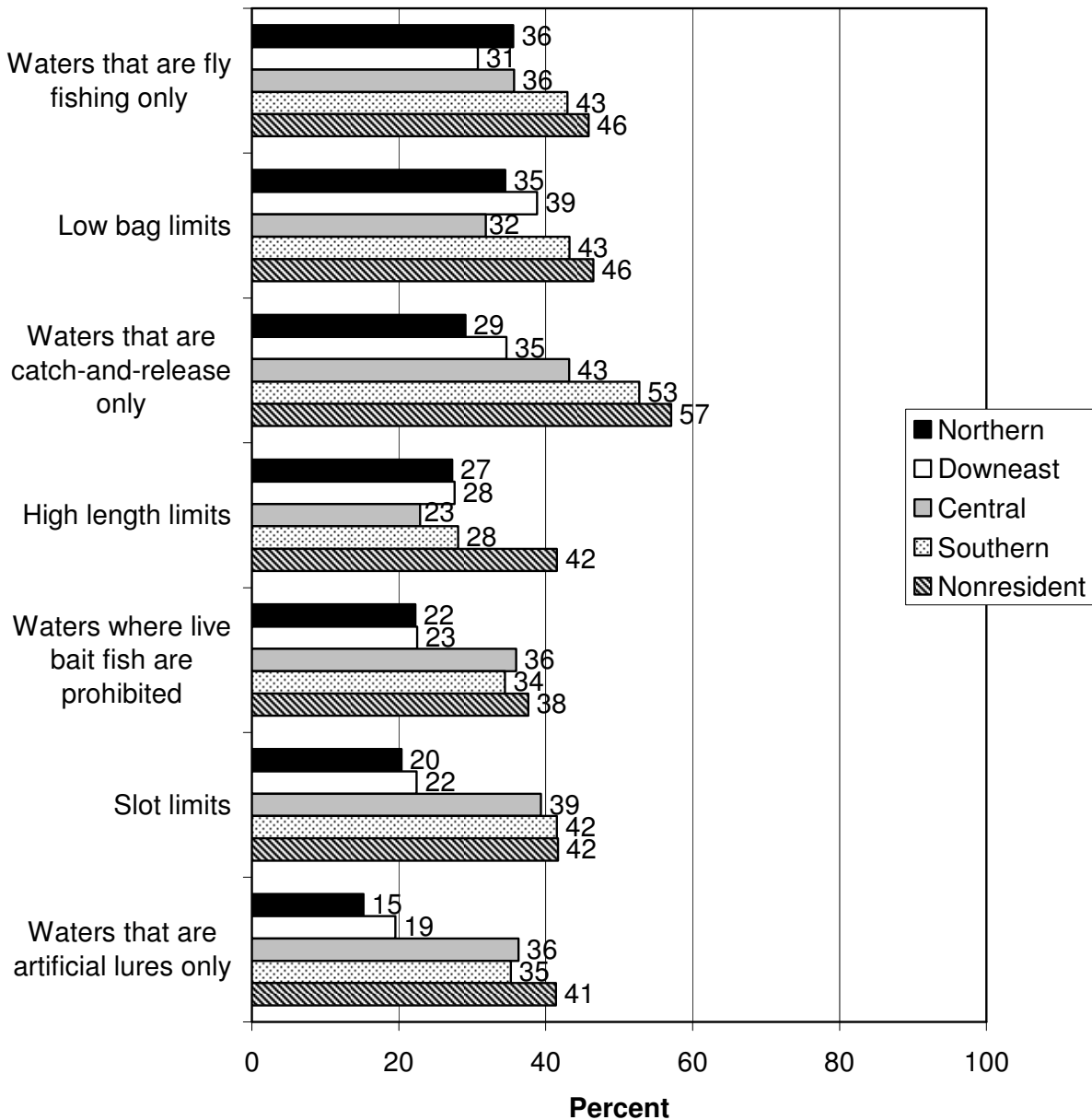
Percent of each of the following groups that fished for trout who would support a higher trout bag limit:



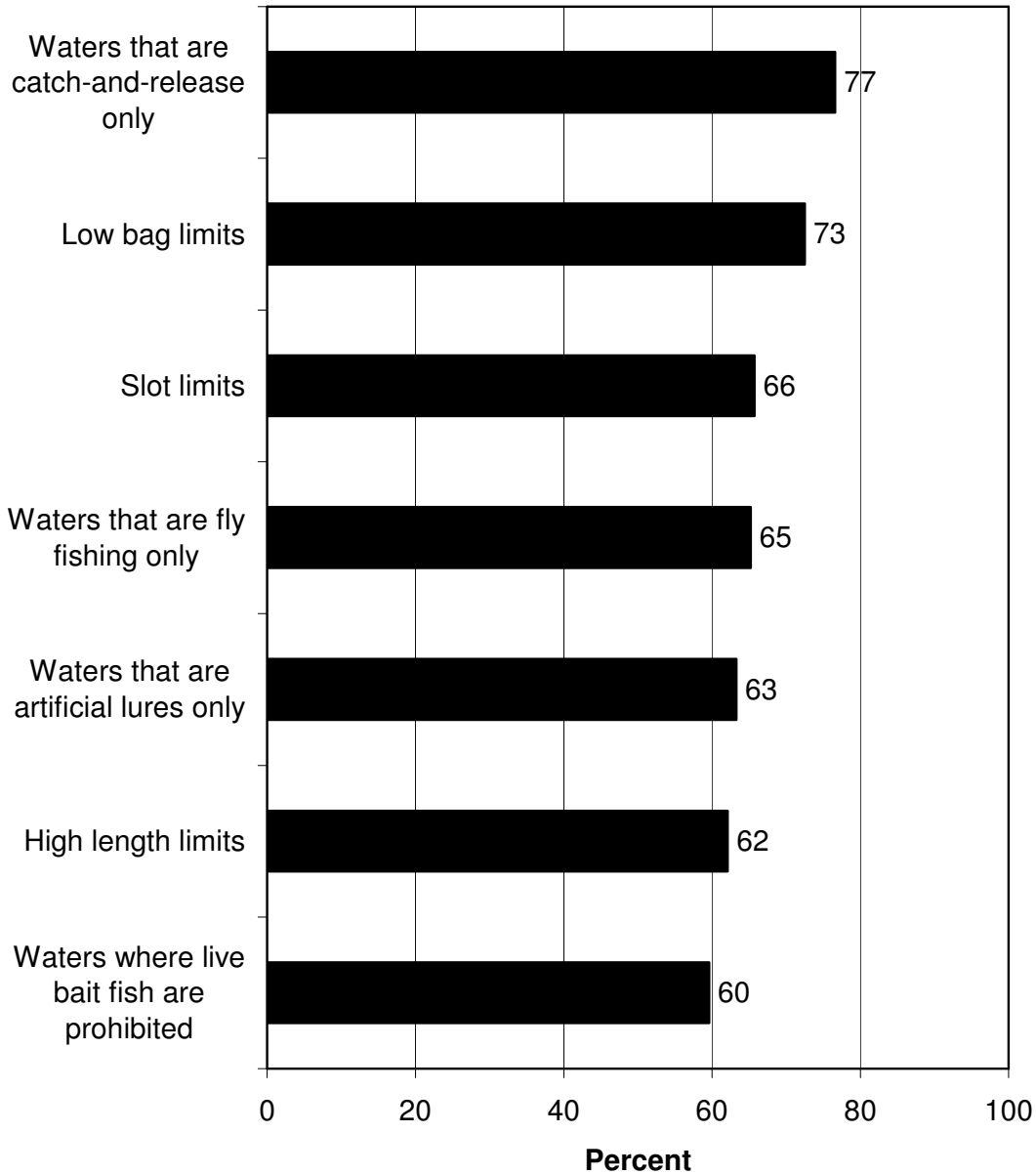
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly support each of the following regulations to reduce the number of fish that are kept and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality:



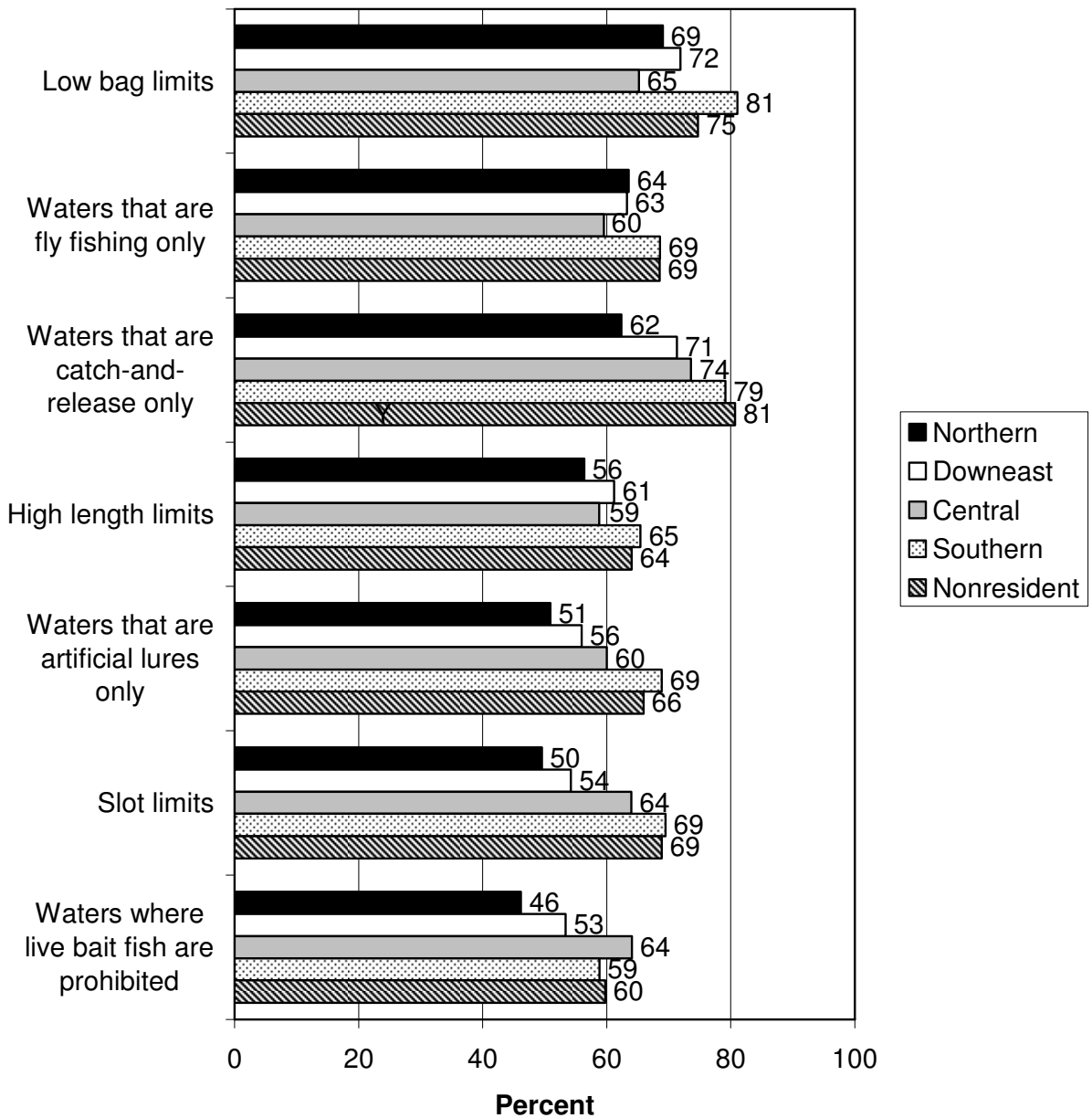
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly support each of the following regulations to reduce the number of fish that are kept and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality:



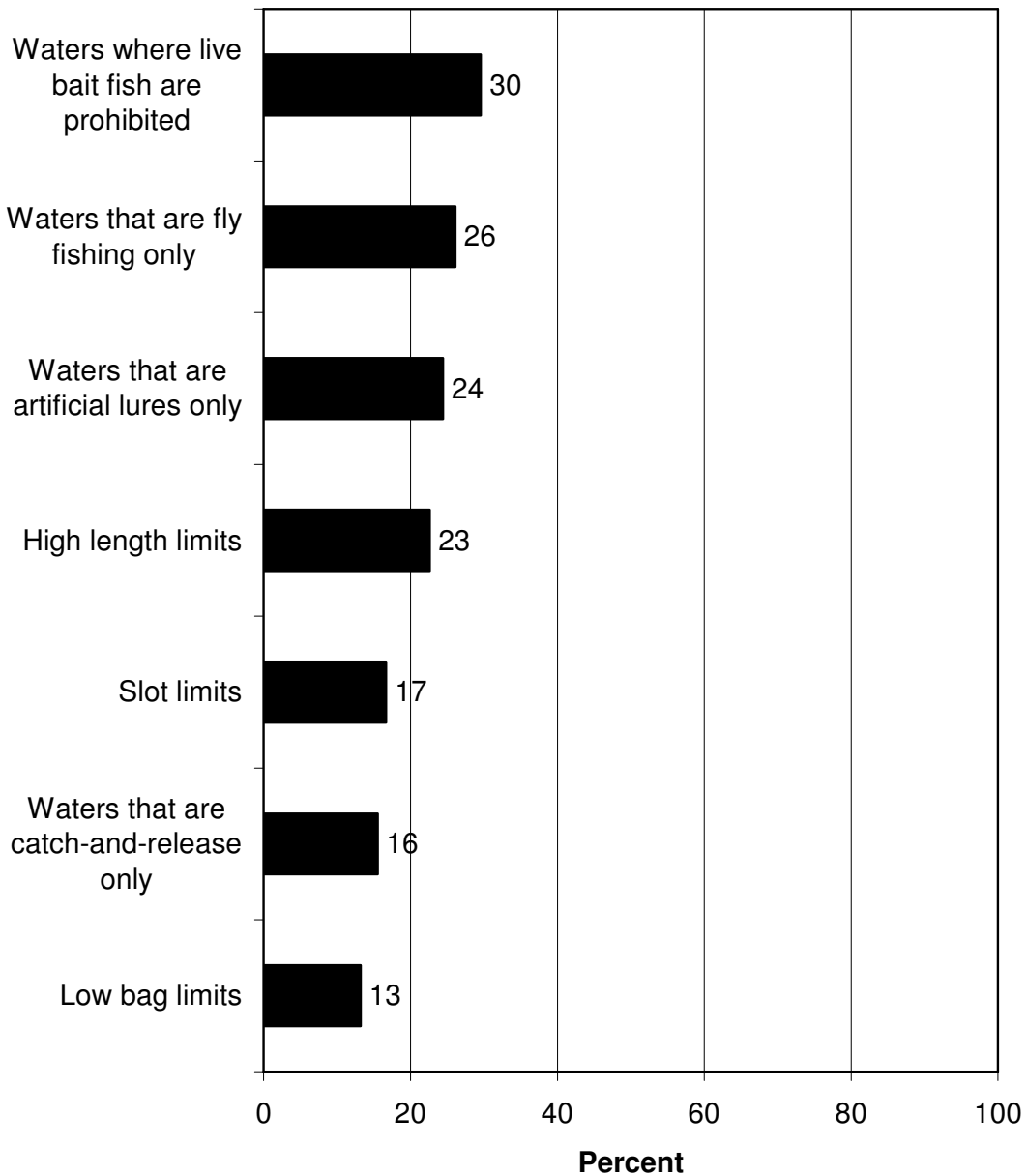
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately support each of the following regulations to reduce the number of fish that are kept and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality:



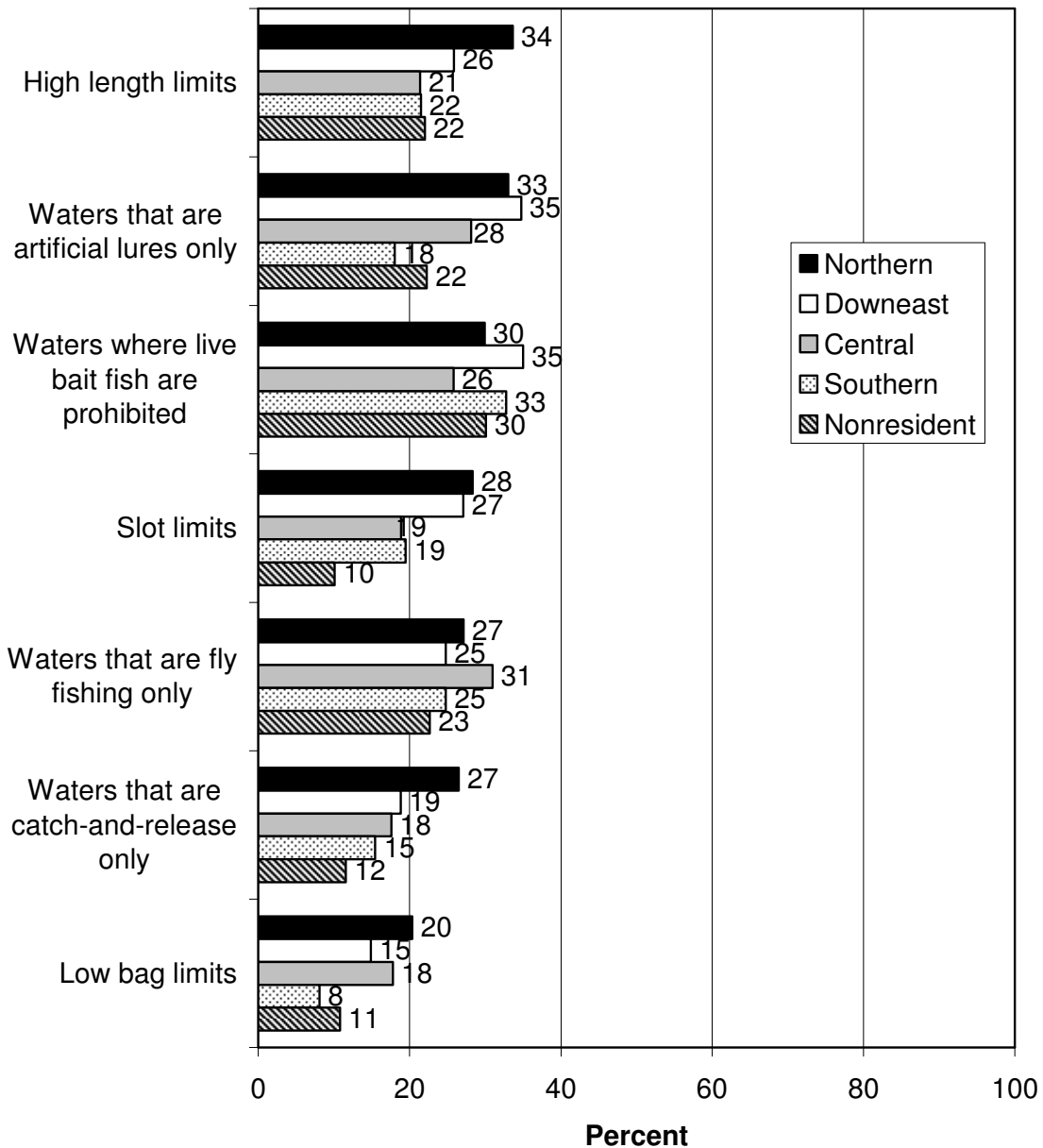
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately support each of the following regulations to reduce the number of fish that are kept and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality:



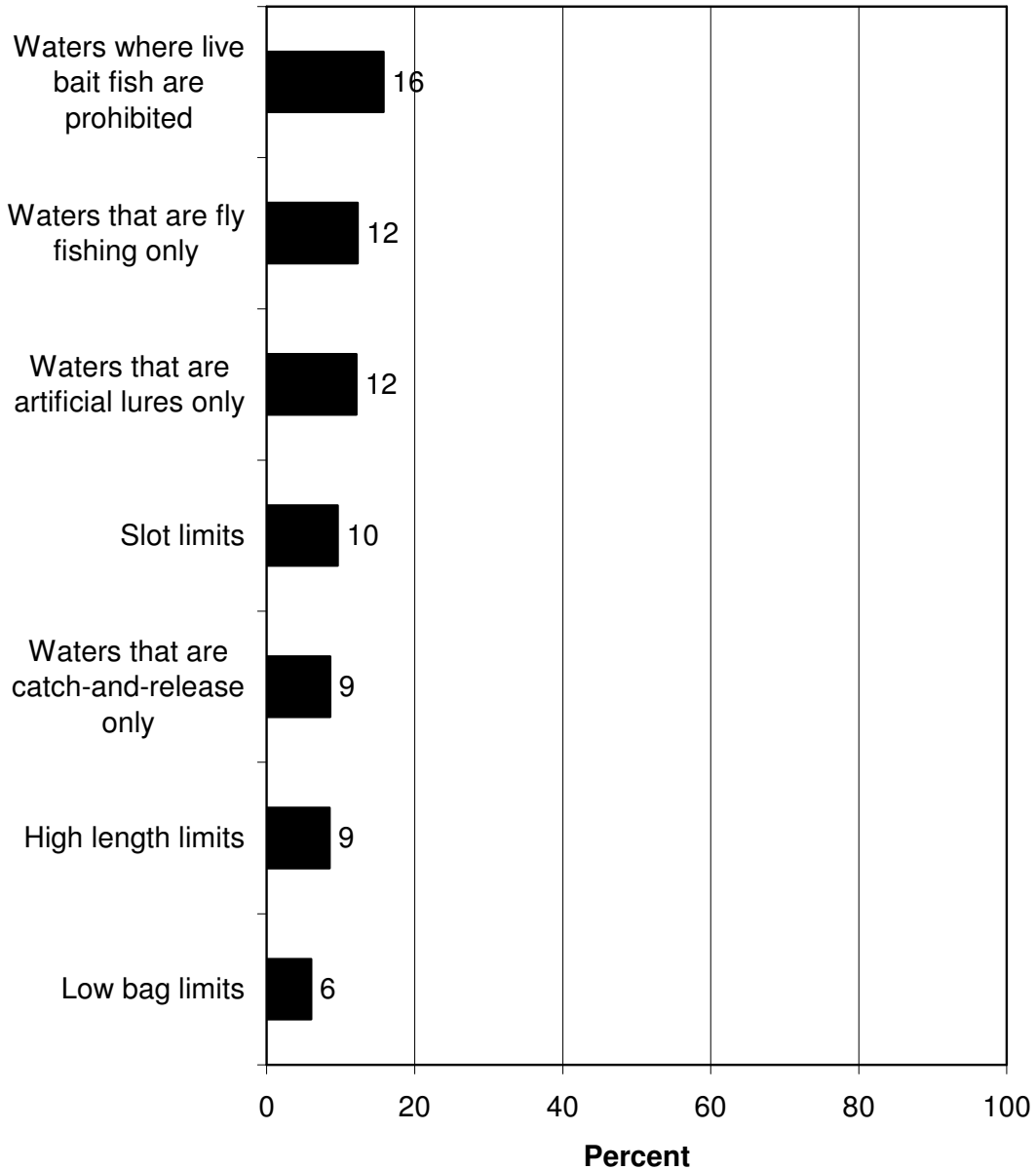
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately oppose each of the following regulations to reduce the number of fish that are kept and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality:



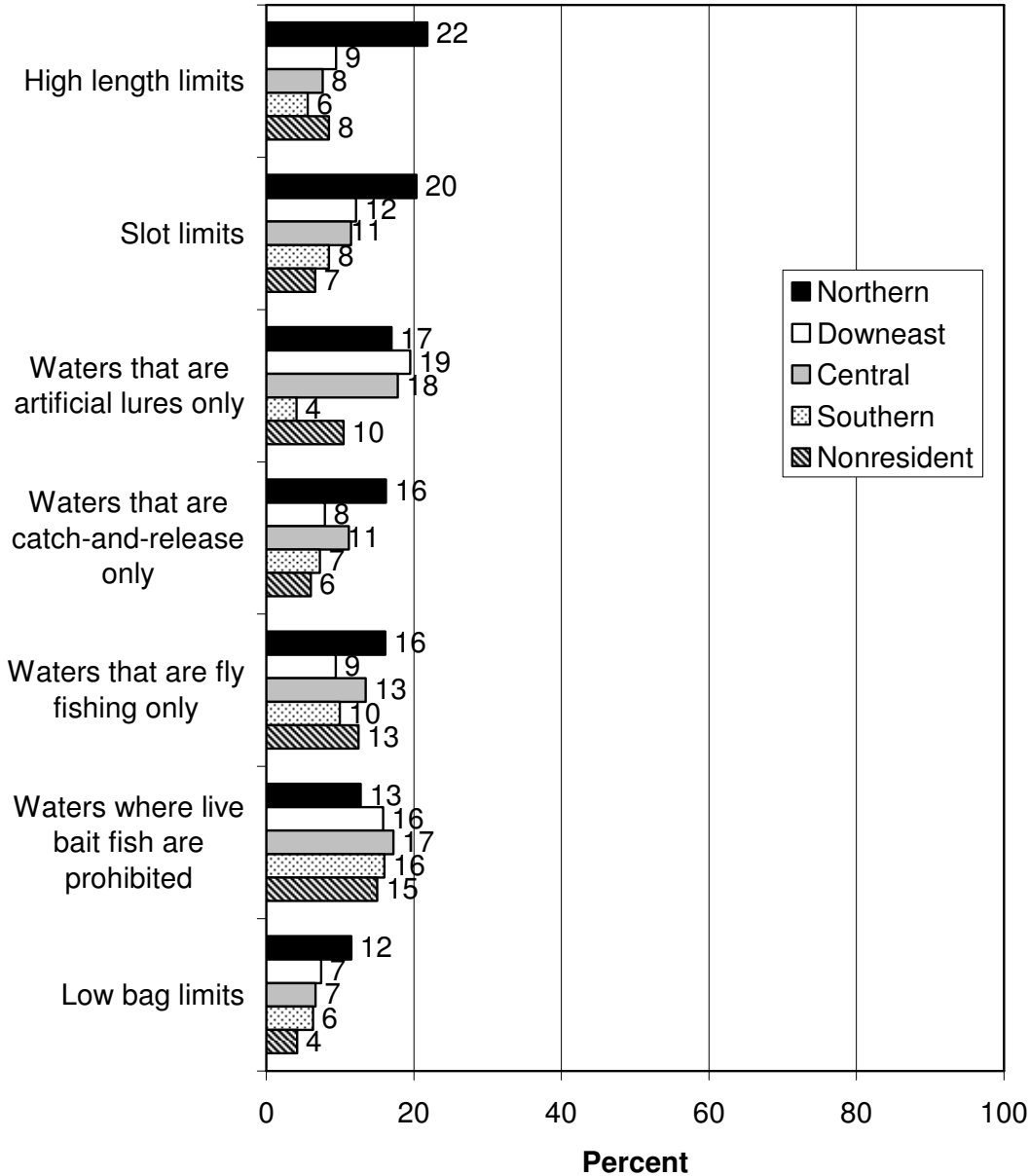
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately oppose each of the following regulations to reduce the number of fish that are kept and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality:



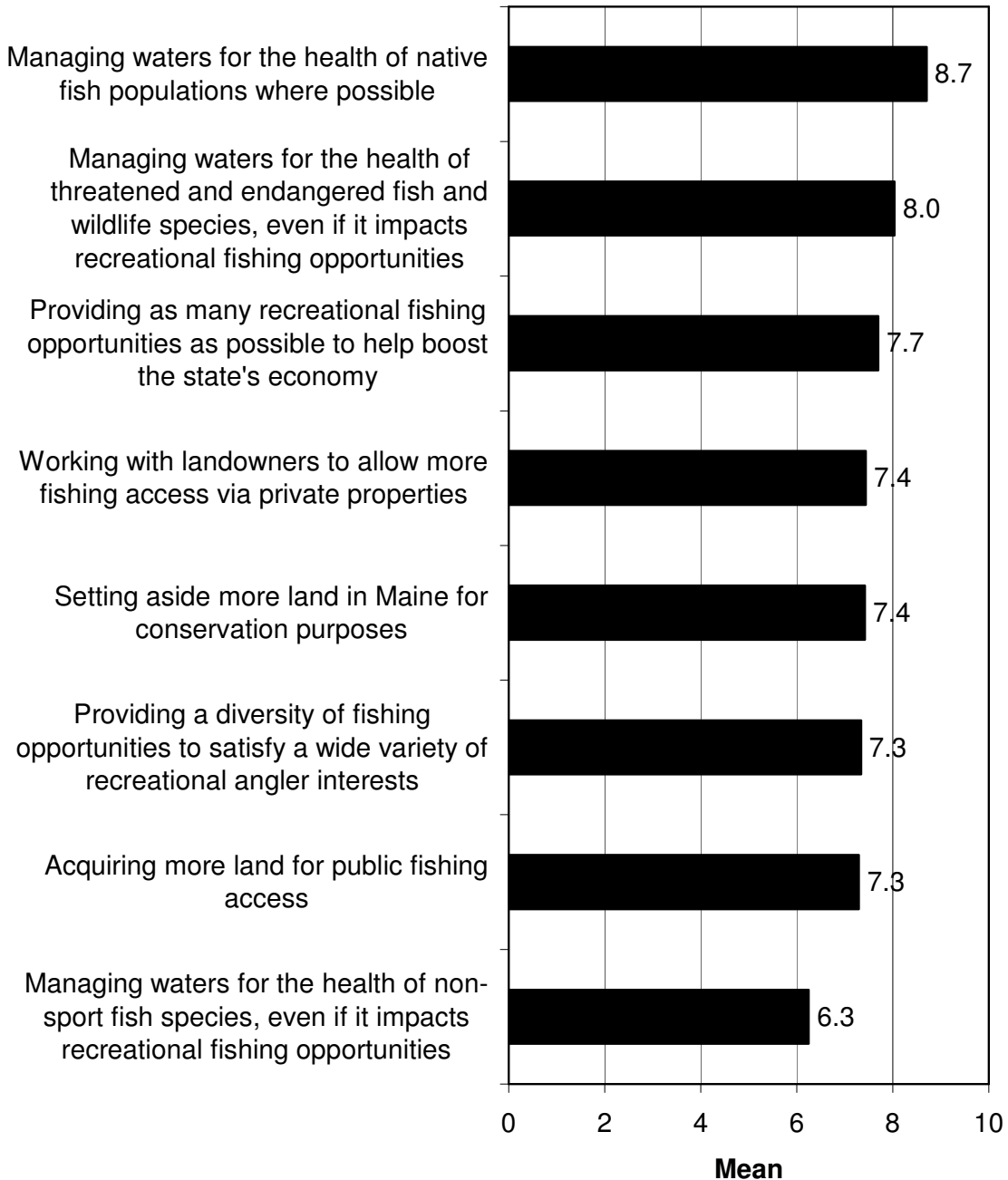
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly oppose each of the following regulations to reduce the number of fish that are kept and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality:



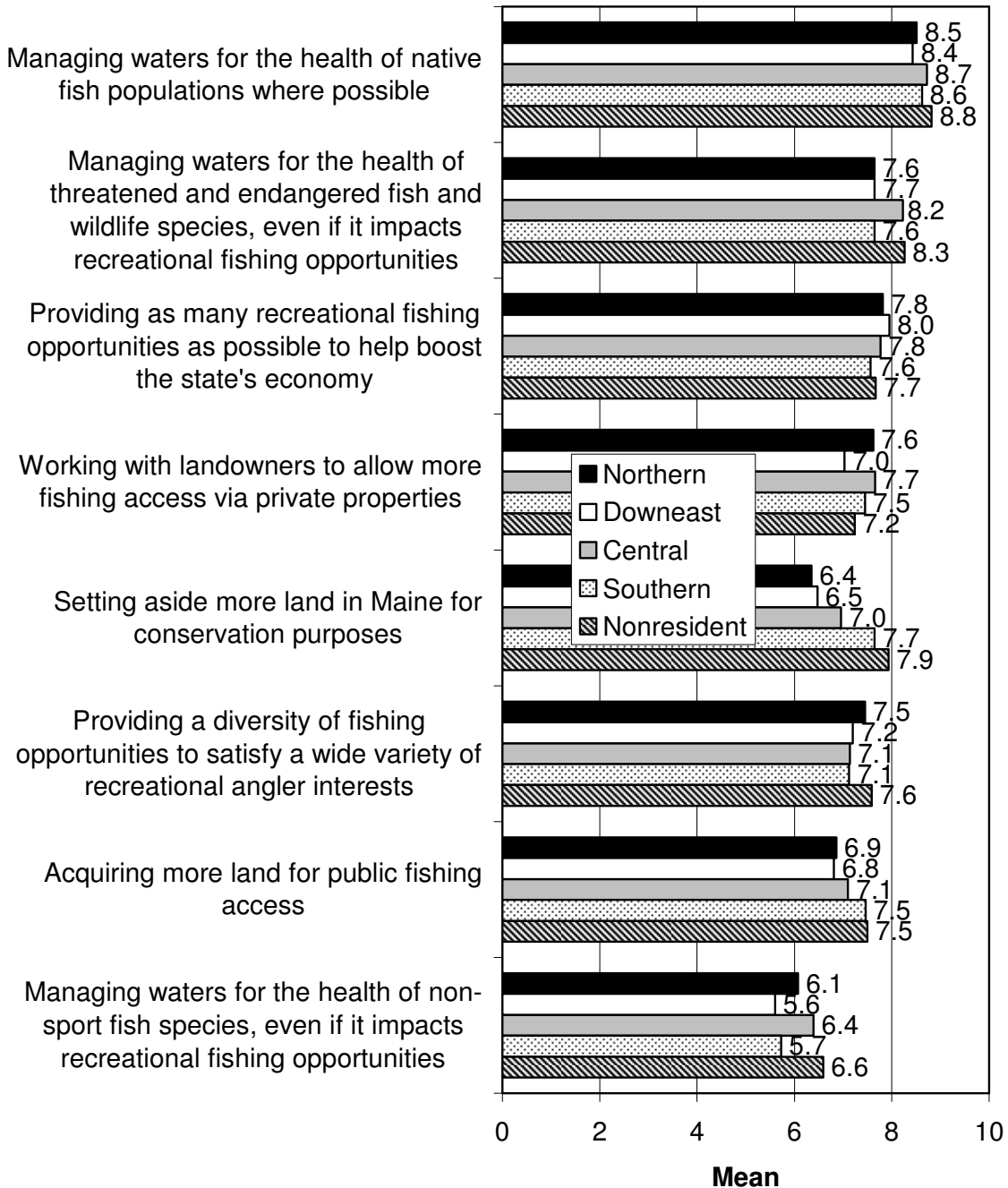
Q368-Q374. Percent of respondents who strongly oppose each of the following regulations to reduce the number of fish that are kept and reduce the number of fish that die from hooking mortality:



Mean ratings regarding how much of a priority each of the following should be for the Department:



Mean ratings regarding how much of a priority each of the following should be for the Department:



Q386. Are there any additional fishing opportunities that you would like to have available in Maine that are not available right now? (IF YES: What are they?)

A few more open days for kids
access for handicapped anglers
Atlantic Salmon
Atlantic Salmon
better saltwater opportunities
both fly fishing and bait
bow fishing
extend the fishing license, like maybe have 2-year licenses
I'd like to see more trout (rainbow and brown), walleye, and many more here in Maine.
ice fishing muskies
larger fish
Like to see bass bag limits raised to 5
Like to see more hike in or easy access fishing areas
Longer seasons, later ending date
lower license costs for property owners
more areas where you can use live bait
more free fishing days for kids
More kids only opportunities or easier access for children
more ponds open, long pond in Sullivan
more saltwater opportunities
more time fishing before winter comes
no fishing licenses for kids
no licenses for ocean
People 65 and older should have a free license, as well as kids up to 16 years old.
ponds are closed to ice fishing, making no sense
reciprocal license
smelt fishing freshwater
stock from hatchery at my lake
stock limits too low compared to New Hampshire
stock more brook trout in more lakes
Would like to know more about catfish and striper
would like to open-water fish after the ice comes in - later season

FACTORS WHEN PLANNING FISHING TRIPS

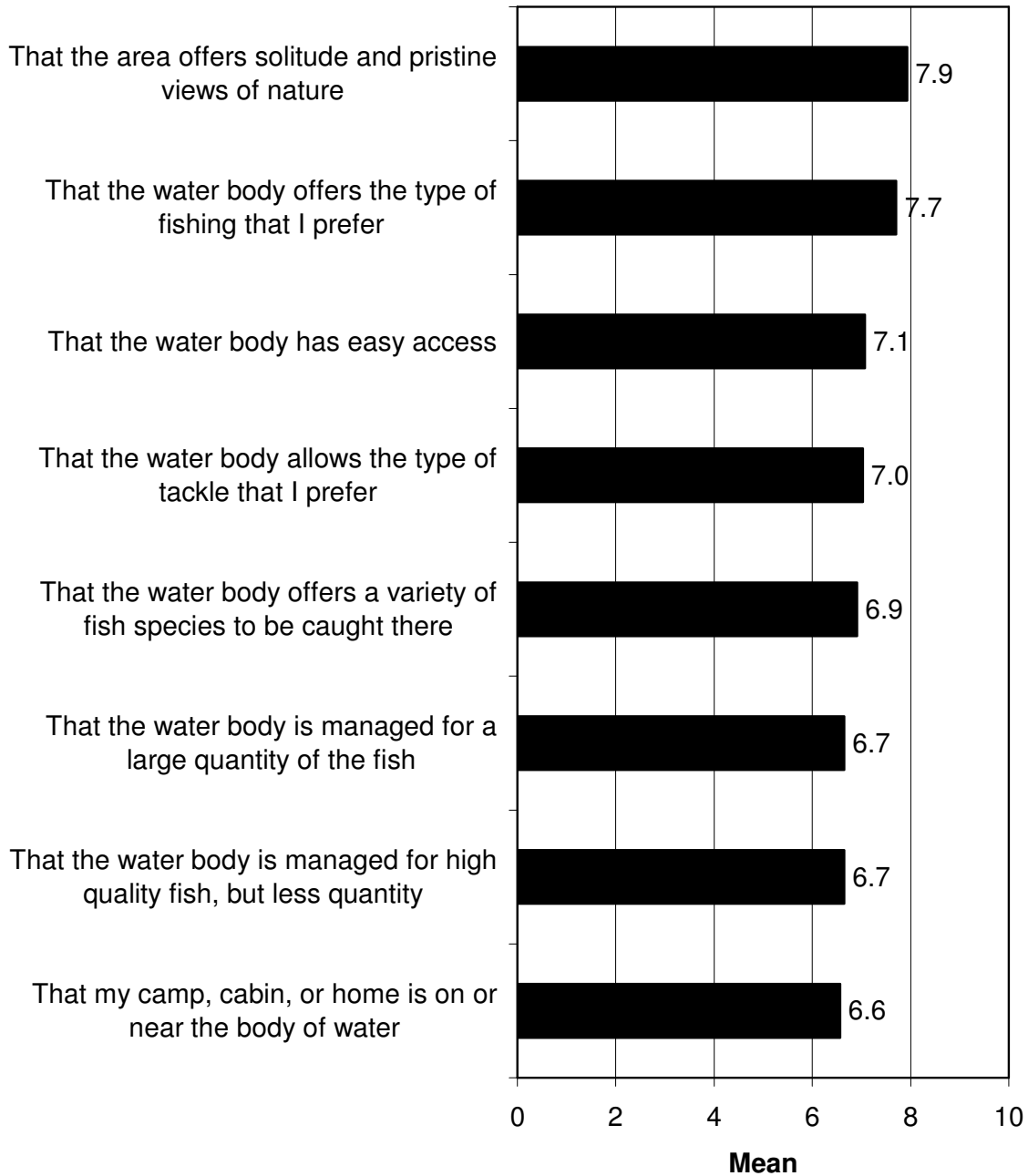
- The survey presented a series of factors and asked anglers to rate how important each is on deciding where to fish in Maine. For each factor, anglers rated it from 0 (not at all important) to 10 (extremely important).
 - The top-rated factor is “that the area offers solitude and pristine views of nature” (mean rating of 7.9 out of 10), followed by “that the water body offers the type of fishing that I prefer” (7.7).
 - Results are generally consistent between the regions, although nonresidents gave slightly higher ratings to the top two responses.

- Most anglers (79%) agree that viewsapes are an important factor when fishing ponds in remote areas of Maine; 49% *strongly* agree.
 - Overall agreement is generally consistent between the regions, although nonresidents most often *strongly* agree with the statement.

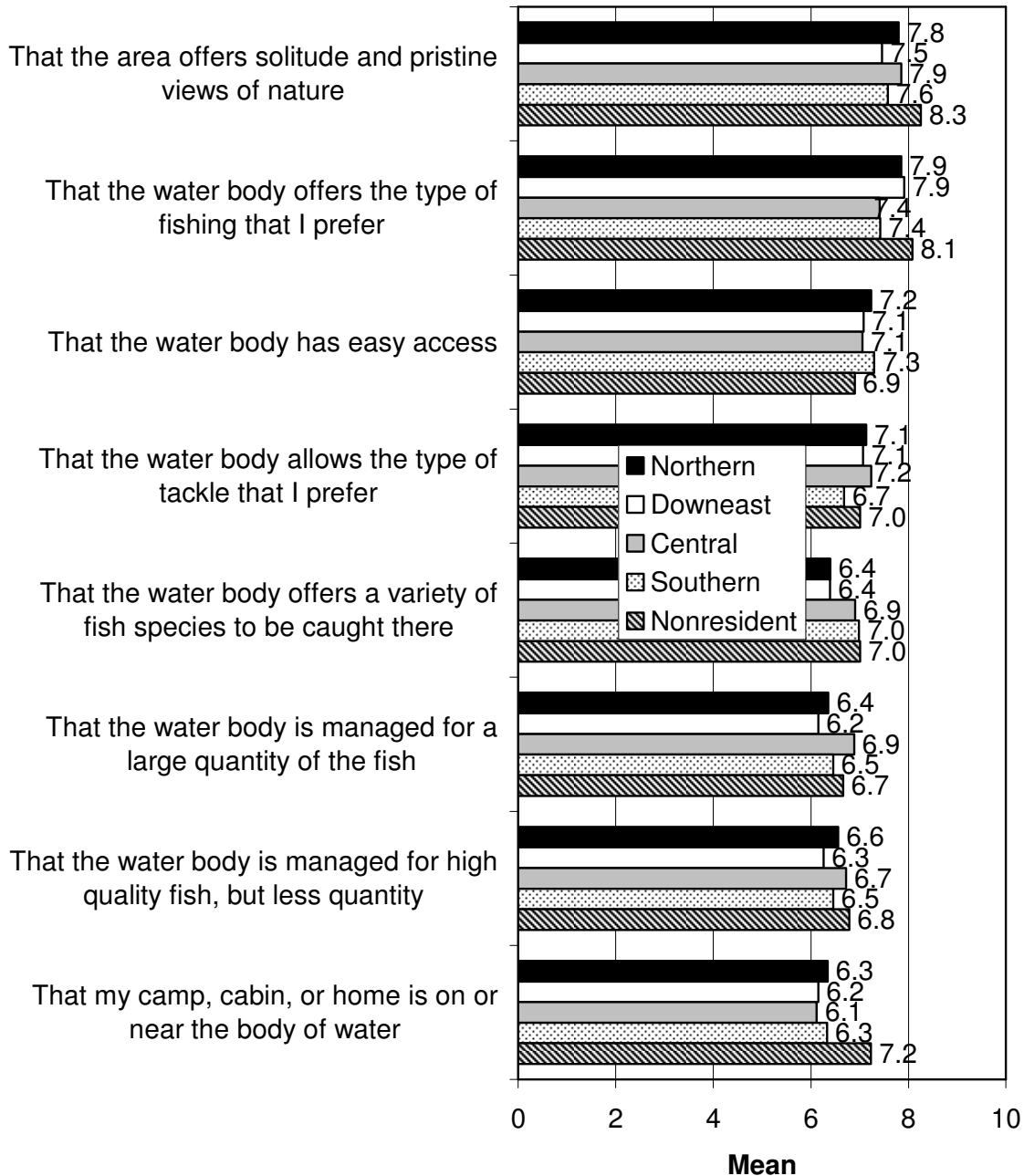
- Anglers were asked about their levels of awareness of Maine’s fish stocking program (before taking this survey): 29% were very aware, 38% were somewhat aware, 17% were a little aware, and 16% were not at all aware.
 - Awareness of Maine’s fish stocking program is fairly consistent among the Maine regions and is lowest among nonresidents.

- Finally in this section, anglers were asked how often they use the information that the Department provides on stocking locations to help plan fishing trips: 6% said always, 13% said frequently, 19% said sometimes, 27% said rarely, and 36% said they never use the information. In other words, a majority of anglers rarely or never use the Department’s fish stocking information.
 - There is little marked difference between the regions and nonresidents.

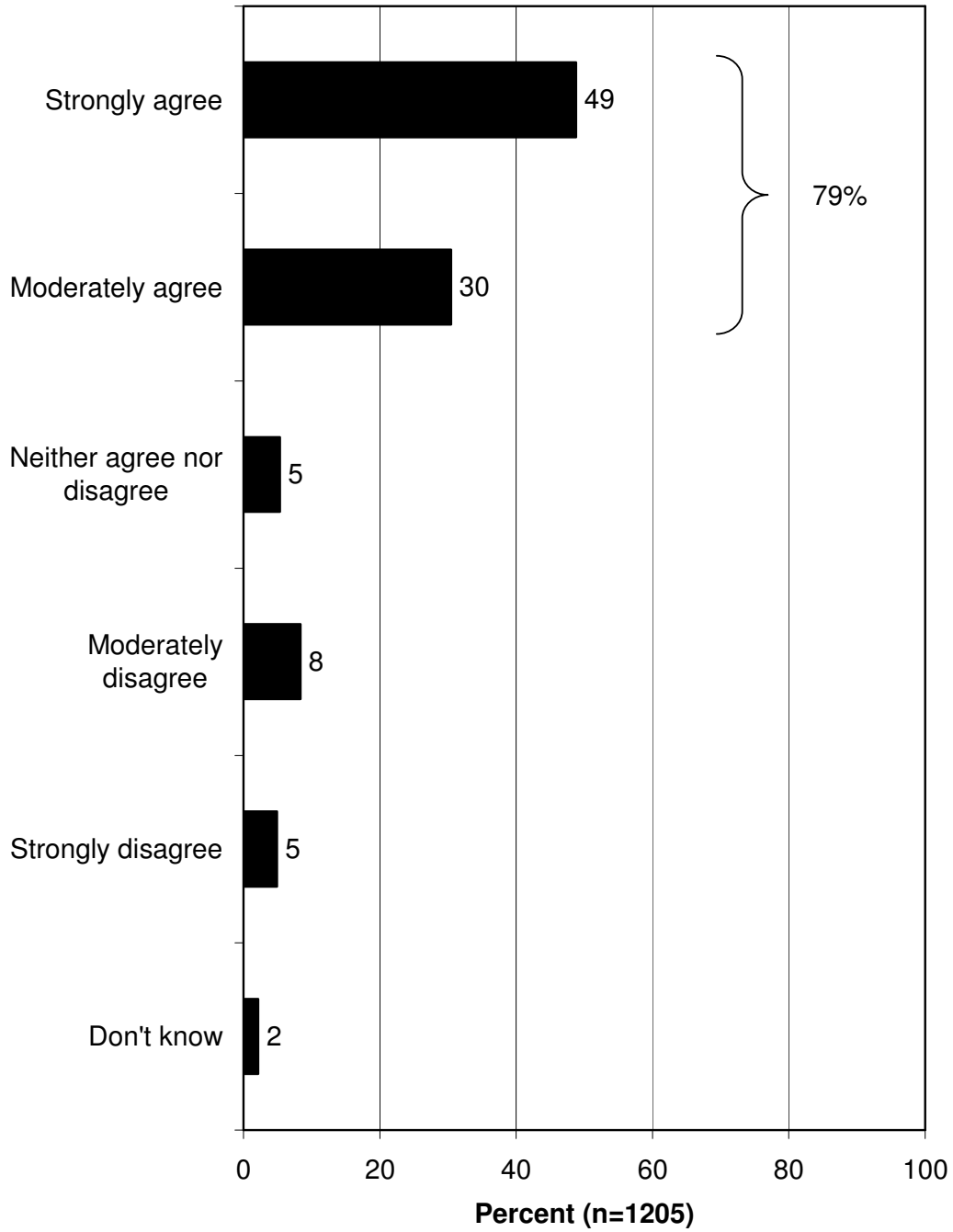
Respondents' mean rating of the importance of each of the following to them personally in deciding where to fish in Maine:



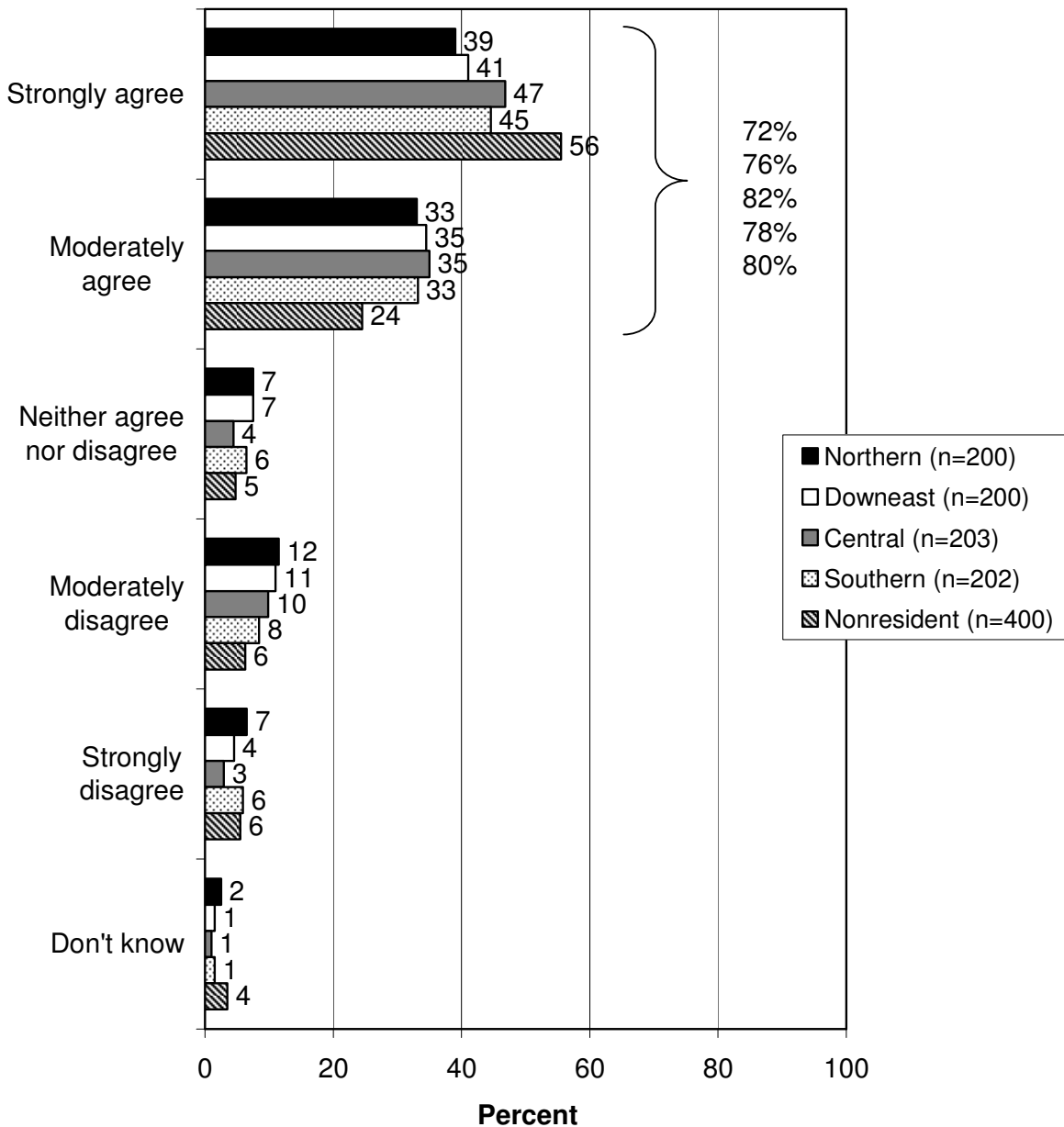
Respondents' mean rating of the importance of each of the following to them personally in deciding where to fish in Maine:



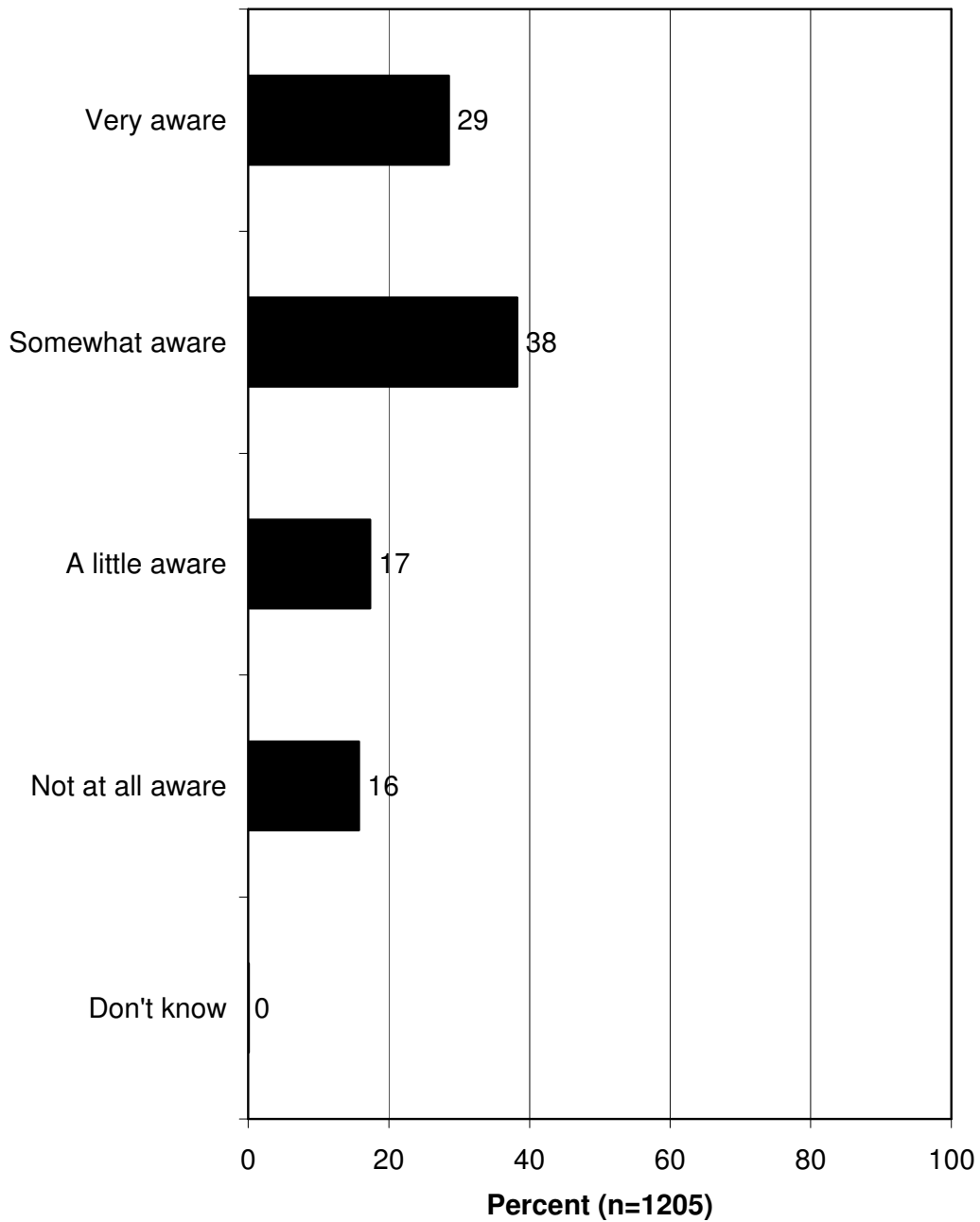
Q398. Do you agree or disagree that viewscapes are an important factor when fishing ponds in remote areas of Maine?



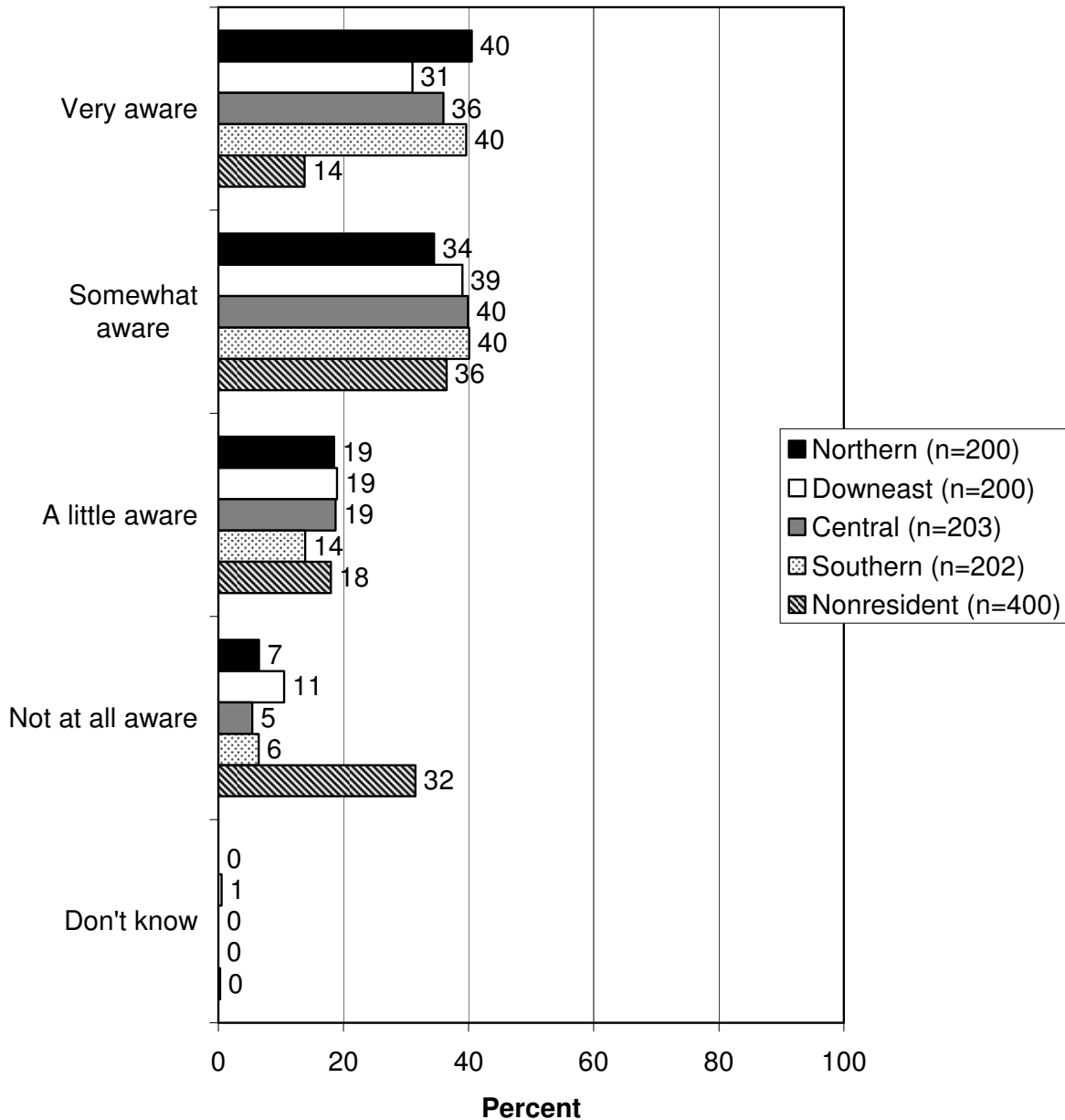
Q398. Do you agree or disagree that viewscapes are an important factor when fishing ponds in remote areas of Maine?



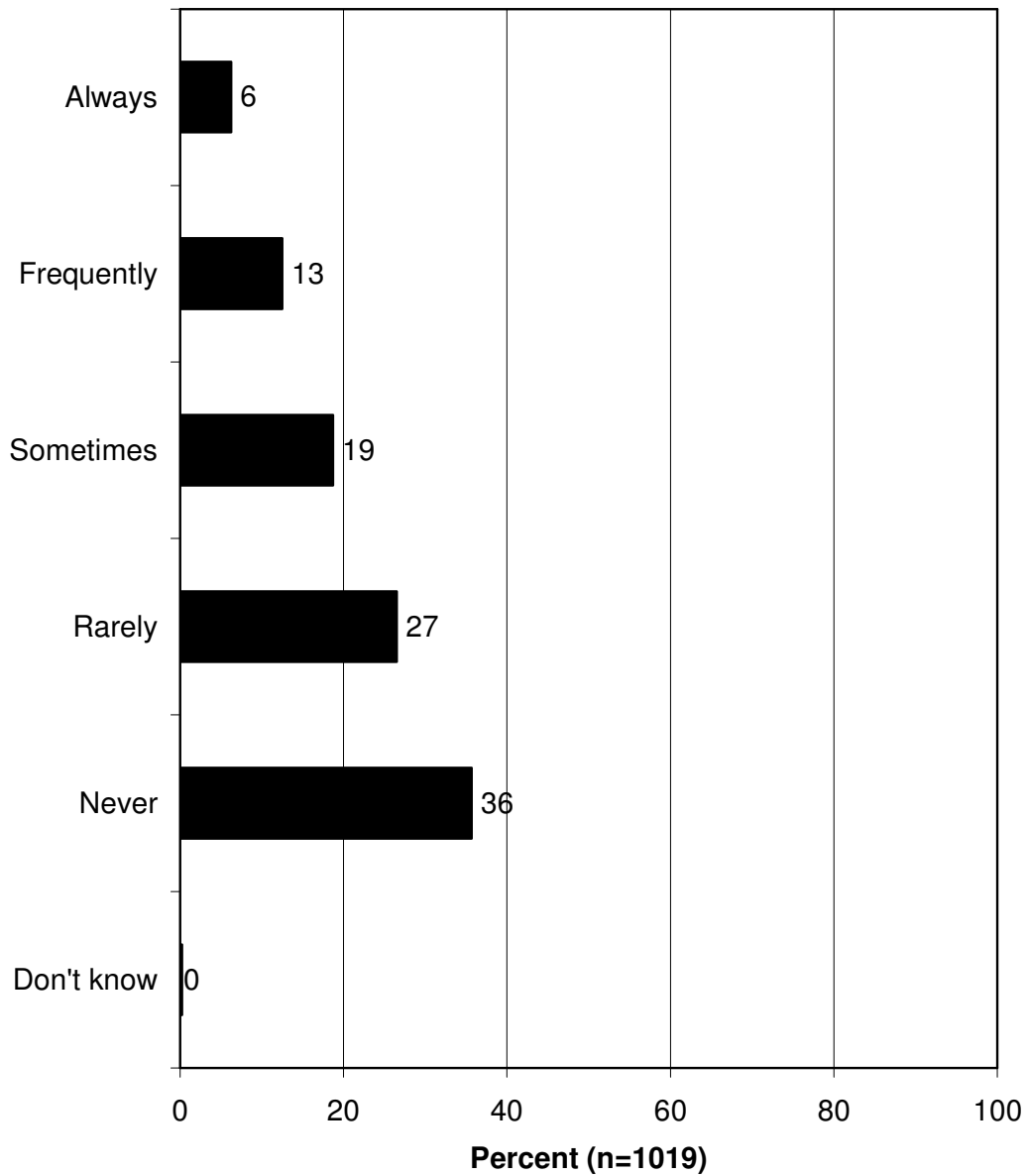
Q399. How aware were you of Maine's fish stocking program before this survey? Would you say very aware, somewhat aware, a little aware, or not at all aware?



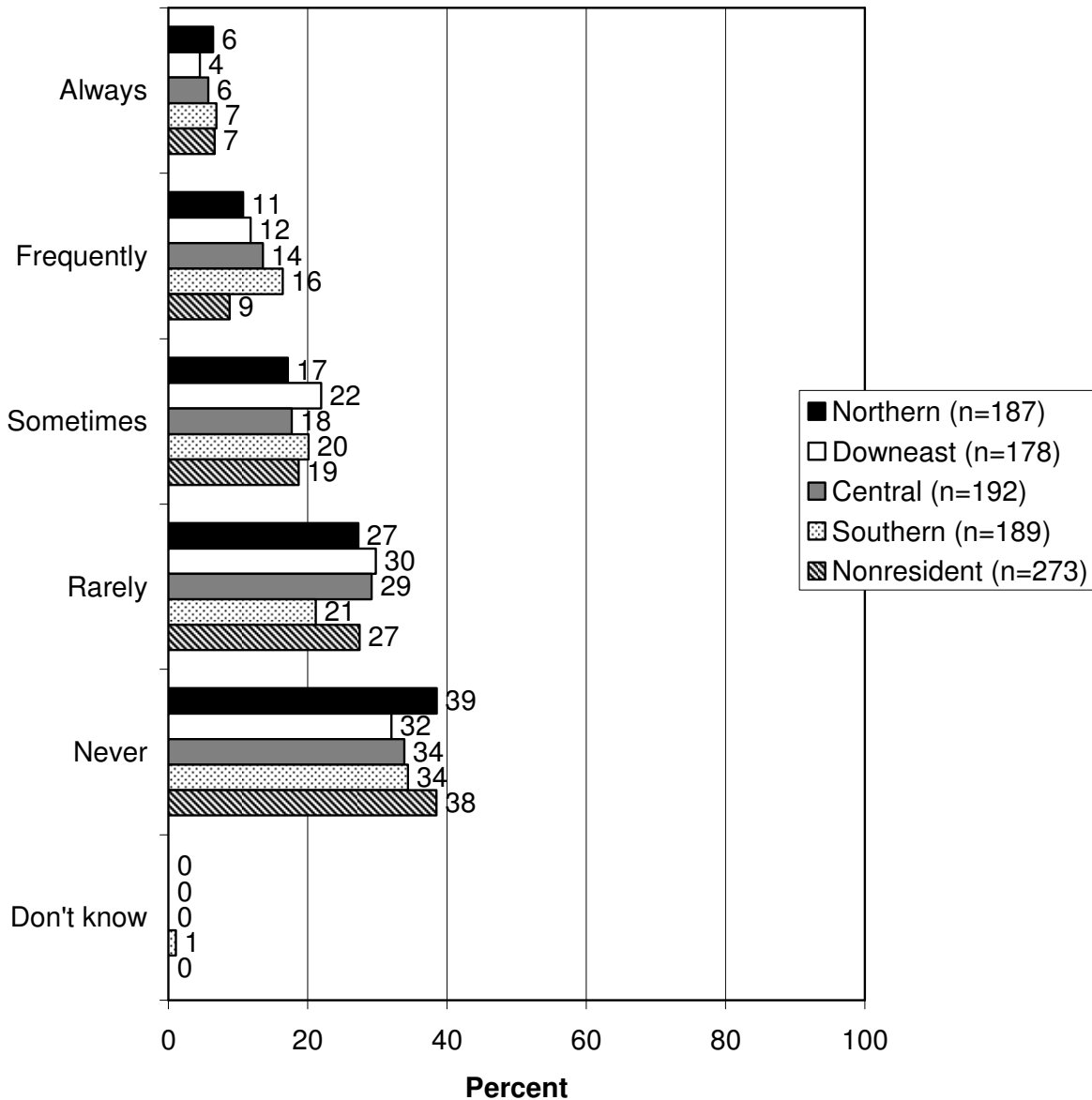
Q399. How aware were you of Maine's fish stocking program before this survey? Would you say very aware, somewhat aware, a little aware, or not at all aware?



Q400. How often do you use the information that the Department provides on stocking locations to help plan fishing trips? Would you say always, frequently, sometimes, rarely, or never? (Asked of those who are aware of Maine's fish stocking program.)



Q400. How often do you use the information that the Department provides on stocking locations to help plan fishing trips? Would you say always, frequently, sometimes, rarely, or never? (Asked of those who are aware of Maine's fish stocking program.)



FISHING ACCESS

- The survey presented a series of location types and asked anglers how often they use each to access the waters they fish in Maine.
 - Anglers most often use public boat launches (45% always or frequently use this), public land (44%), and a public road next to water (43%).
 - Four graphs are shown: always by itself, always and frequently combined, rarely and never combined, and never by itself.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region are the most likely (always or frequently) to use public boat launches (57%).

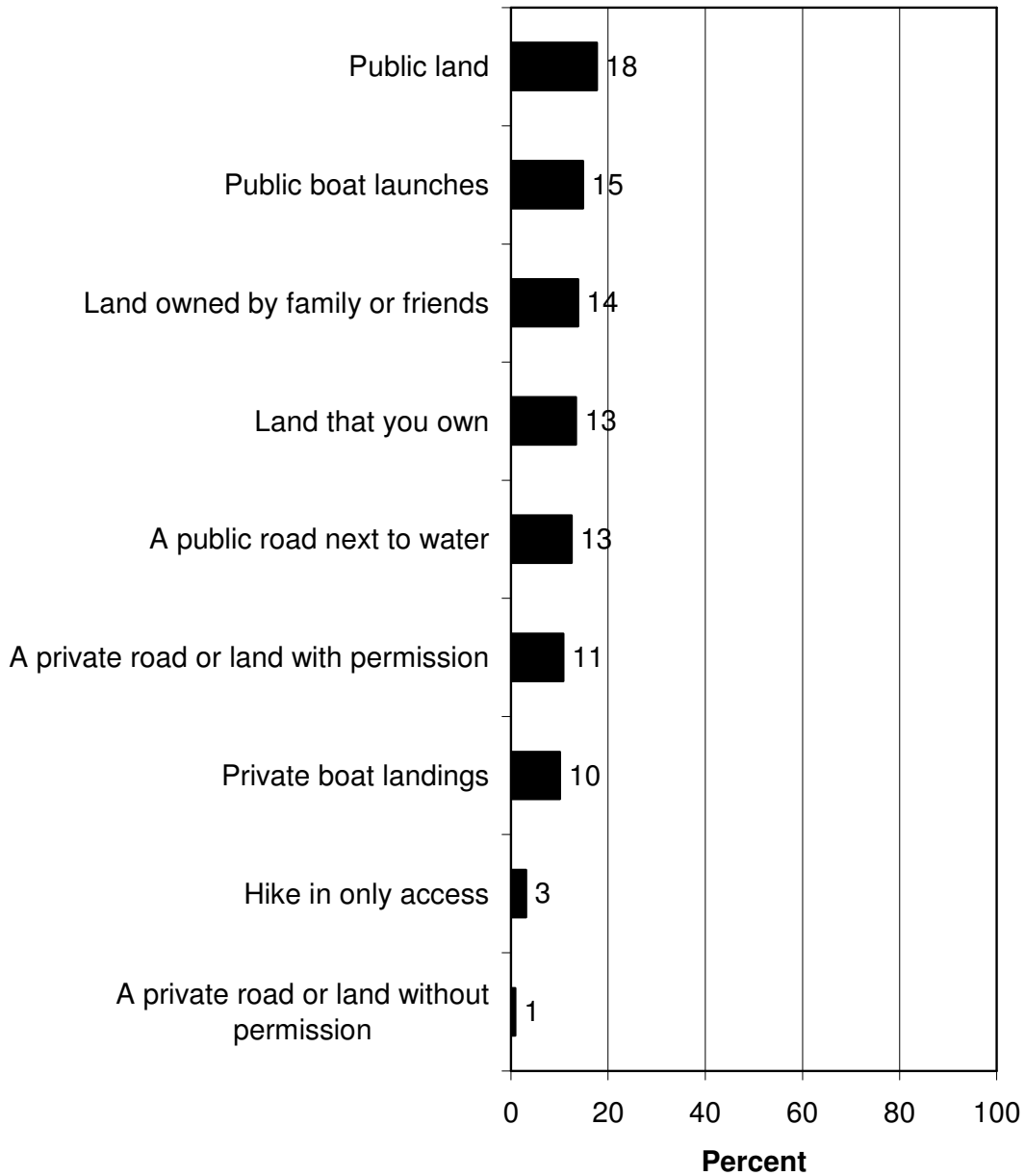
- Most anglers (91%) did not experience any problems accessing waters during the last season they fished in Maine. There was little difference between the regions.
 - The small percentage that did have access problems experienced these problems with lakes and ponds more often than with rivers and streams.
 - Those who had access problems were asked how often they were able to resolve the issues. In the continuum from “always” to “never,” the results are nearly evenly distributed.
 - Those who had access problems were asked with which water body they most often have these problems. Their open-ended responses are shown in the tabulation.
 - Access problems were most often experienced in Cumberland County (16%), Oxford County (15%), and York County (15%).

- A solid majority of anglers (69%) say Maine fishing access has stayed about the same in the past 5 years. Slightly more anglers say it has gotten better (13%) than worse (9%). There was little marked difference between the regions.

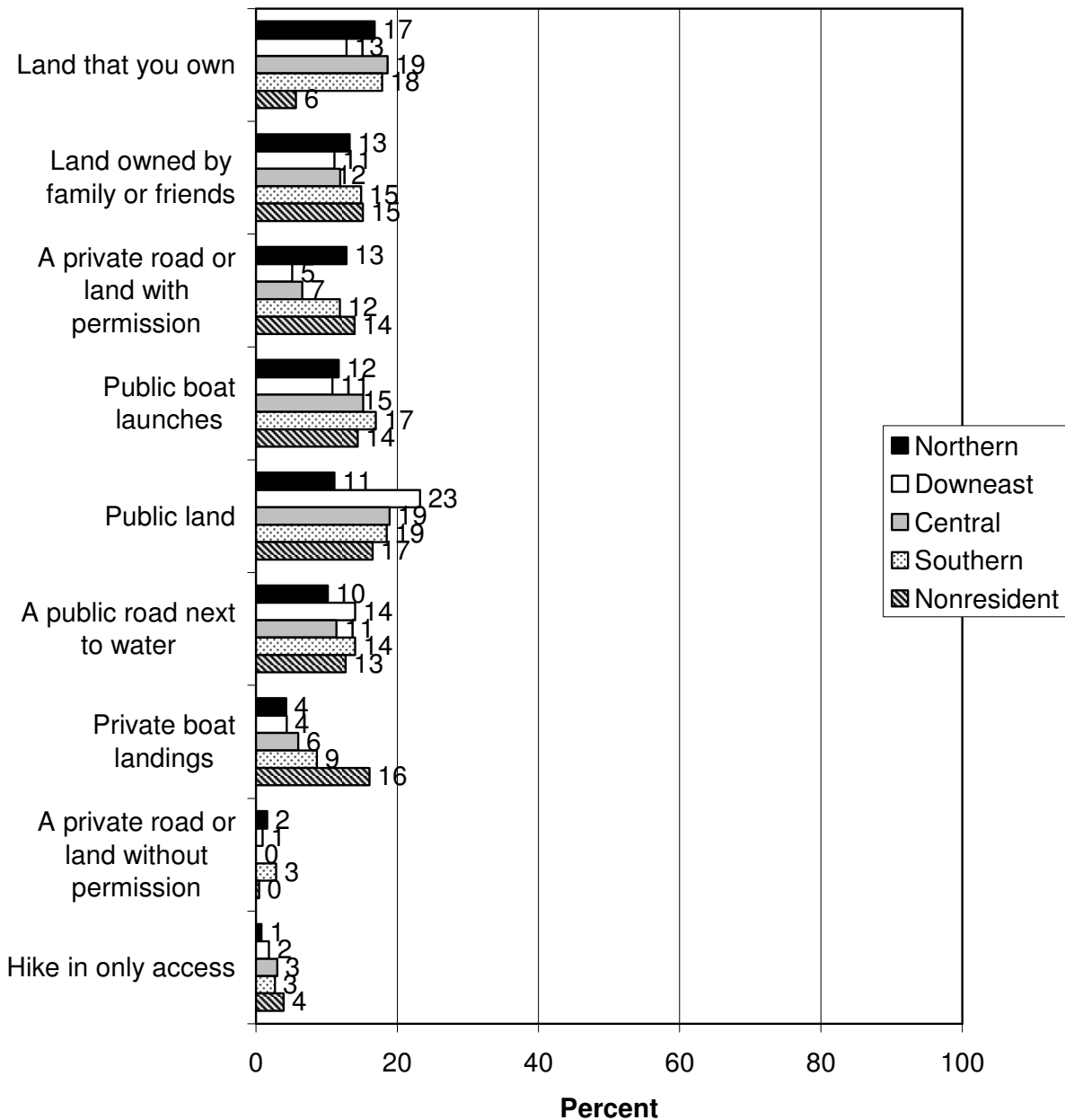
- Anglers much more often agree (67%) than disagree (13%) that there are an adequate number of state owned boat ramps in Maine.
 - Nonresidents are the least likely to agree with the statement. They do not disagree more, but selected “don’t know” much more often than the regions (residents).

- Anglers mostly gave favorable ratings to the overall condition of boat ramps in Maine, with 12% rating the condition excellent and 49% rating it good. At the other end of the scale, 23% rated it fair and 3% rated it poor.
 - Nonresidents answered “don’t know” much more often than the regions (residents), thereby resulting in lower percentages in most of the qualitative responses.

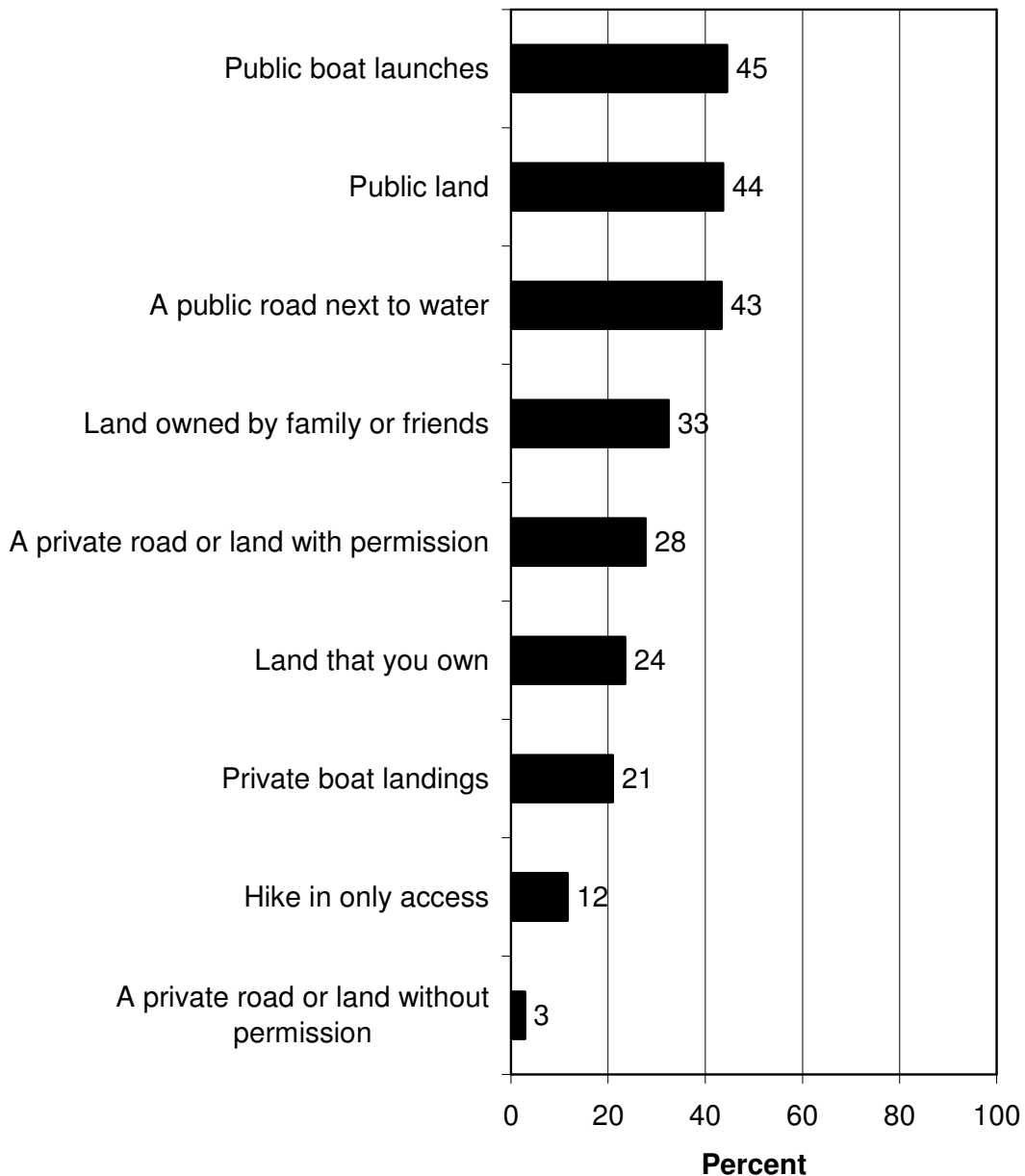
Q403-Q411. Percent of respondents who indicated that they always use each of the following locations to access the waters they fish in Maine:



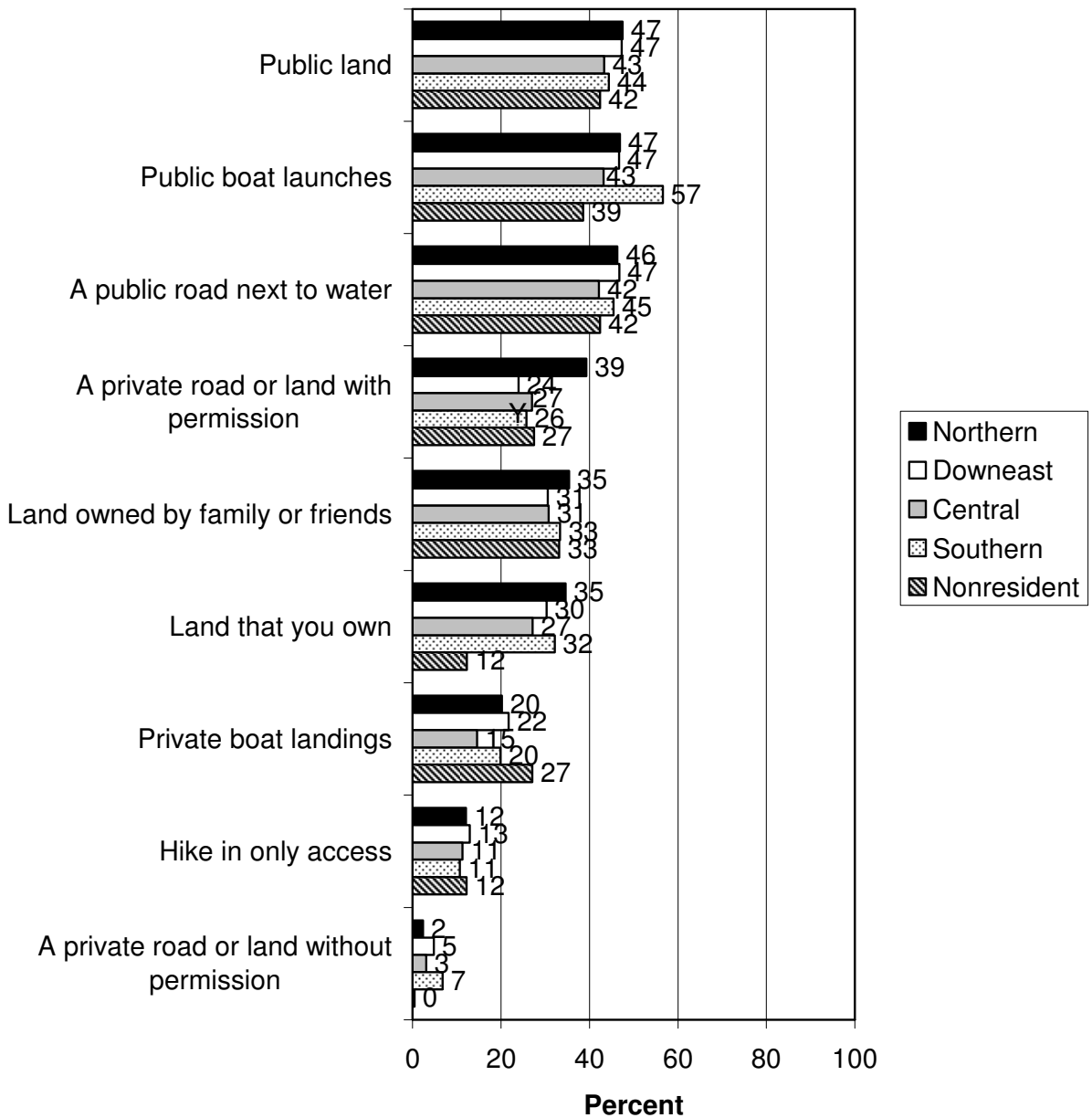
Q403-Q411. Percent of respondents who indicated that they always use each of the following locations to access the waters they fish in Maine:



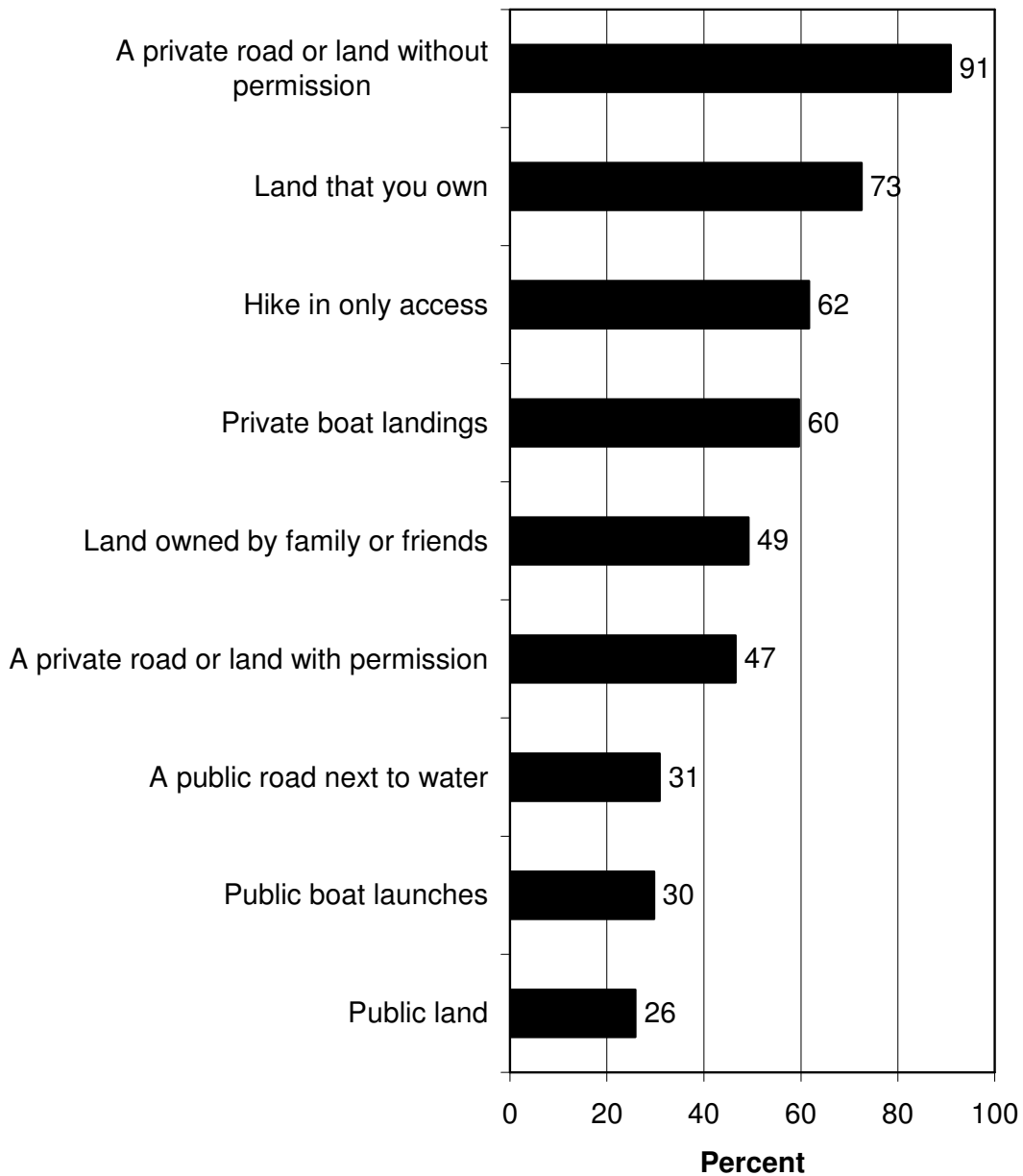
Q403-Q411. Percent of respondents who indicated that they always or frequently use each of the following locations to access the waters they fish in Maine:



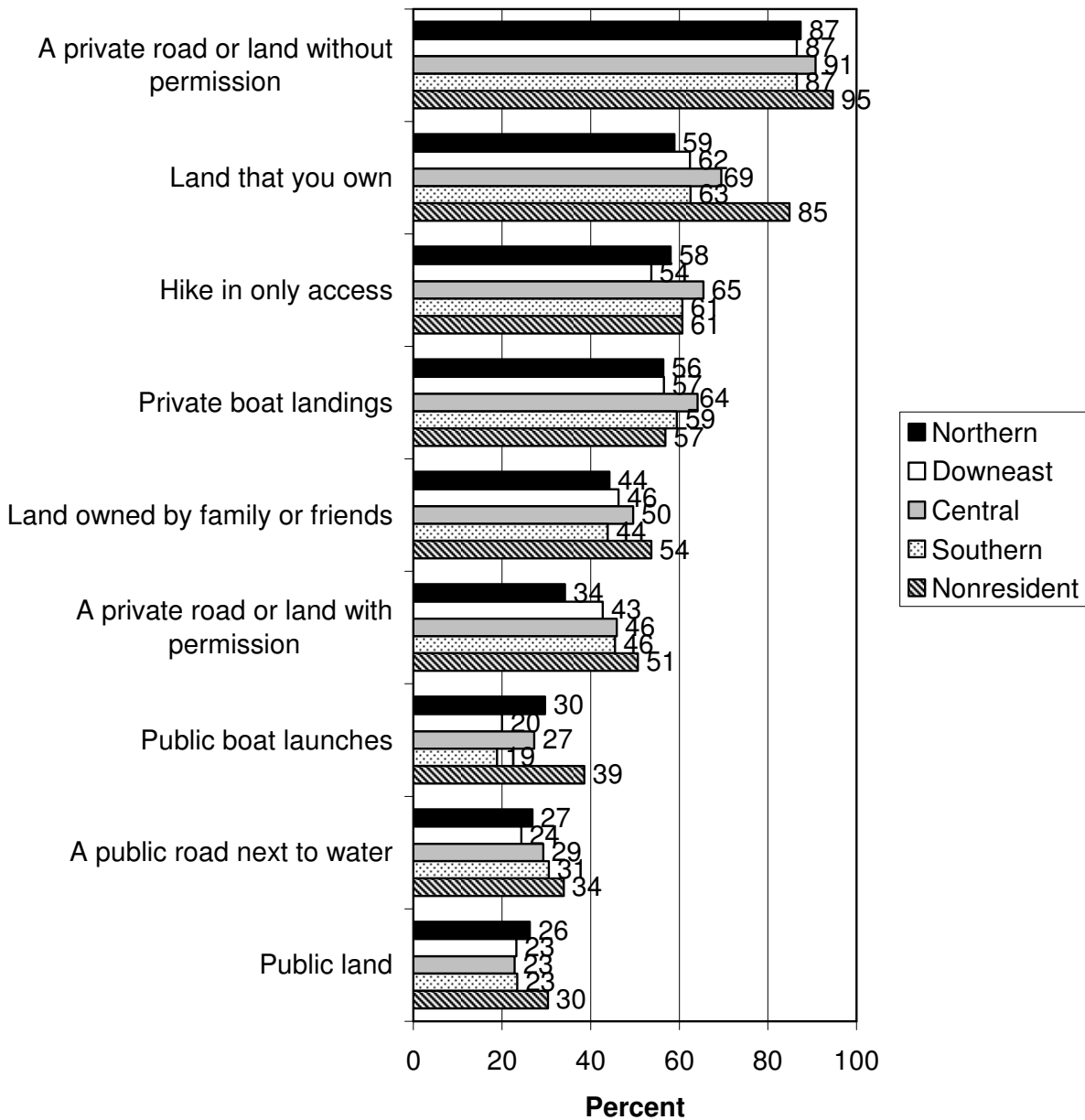
Q403-Q411. Percent of respondents who indicated that they always or frequently use each of the following locations to access the waters they fish in Maine:



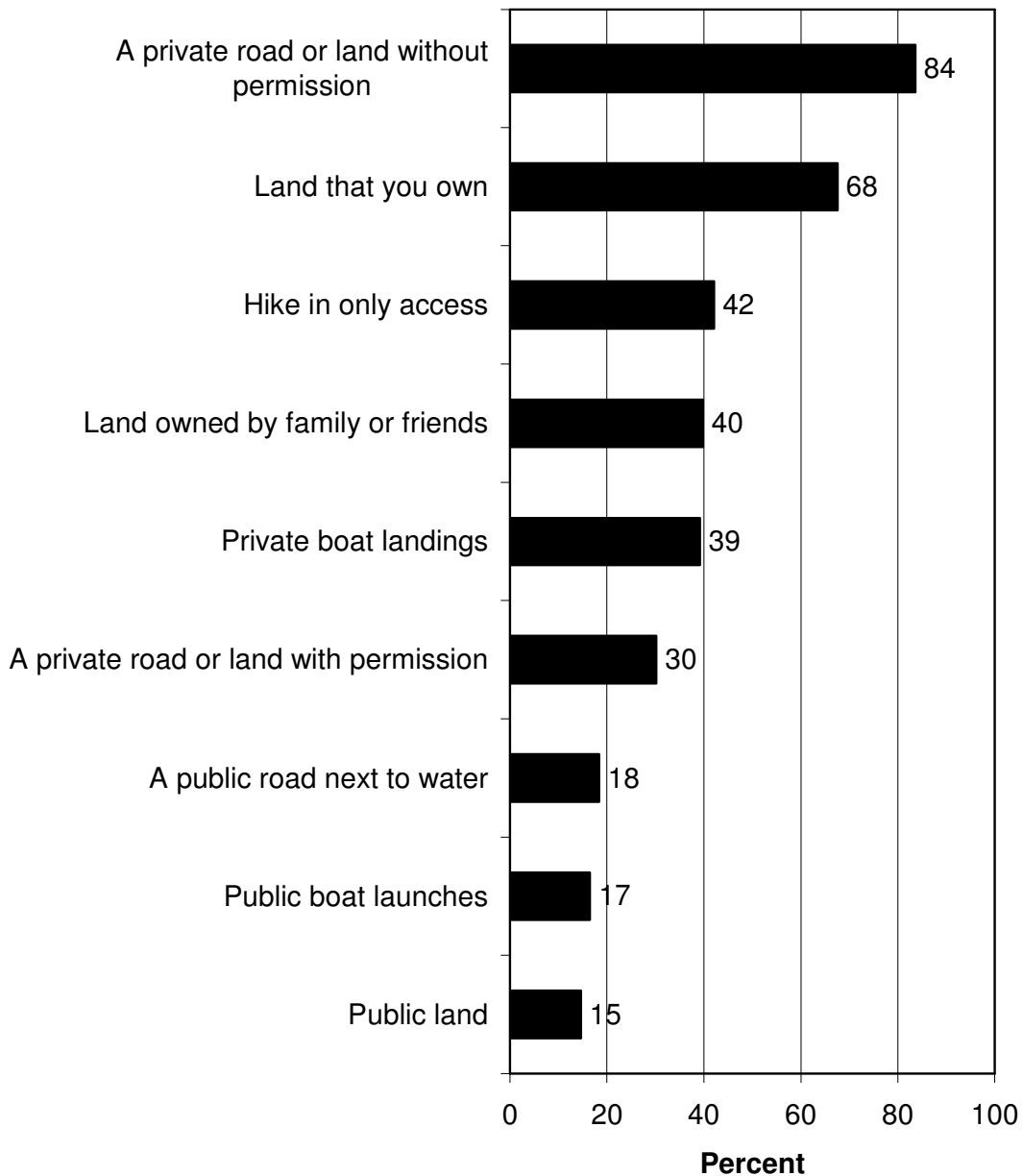
Q403-Q411. Percent of respondents who indicated that they rarely or never use each of the following locations to access the waters they fish in Maine:



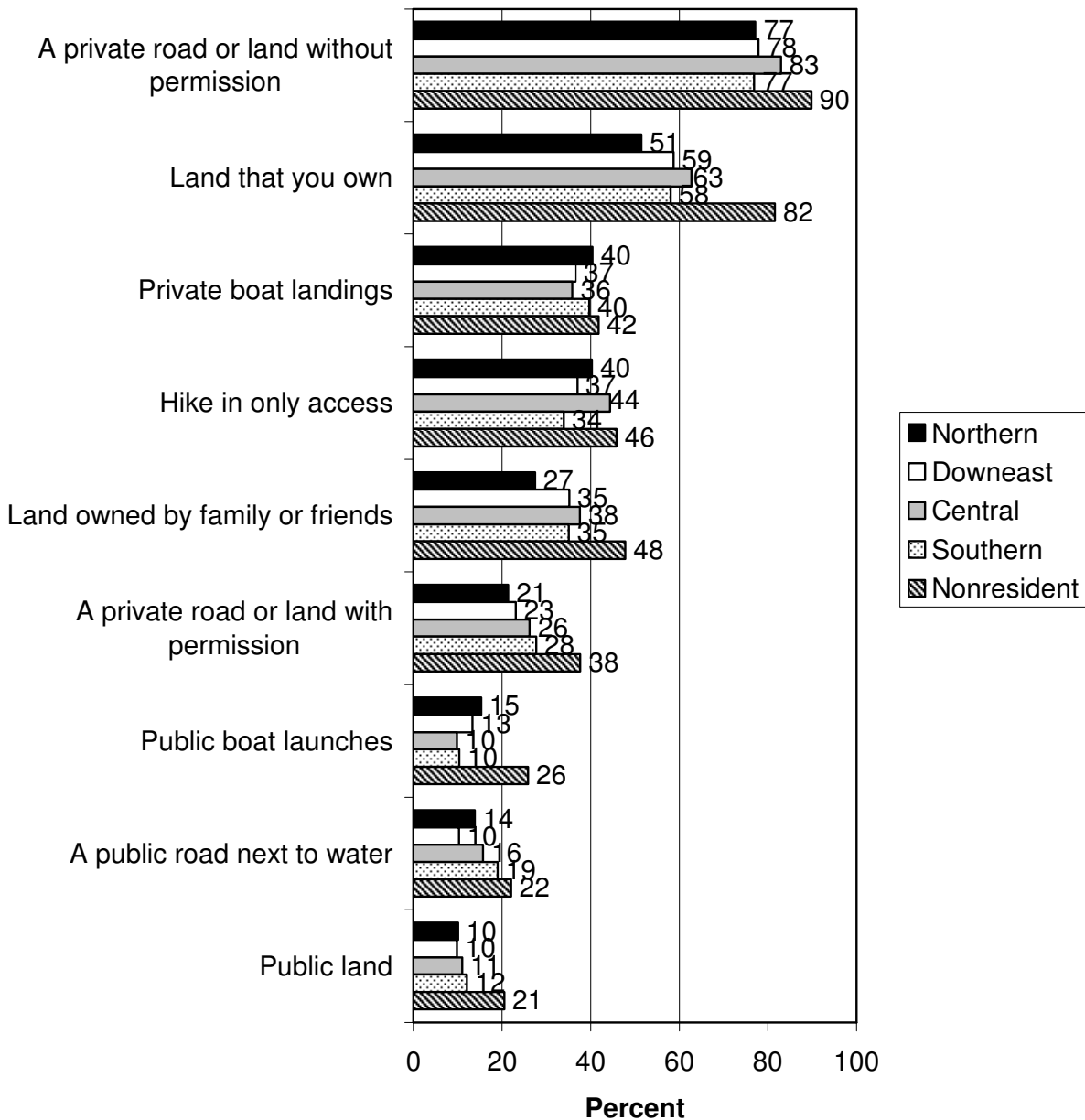
Q403-Q411. Percent of respondents who indicated that they rarely or never use each of the following locations to access the waters they fish in Maine:



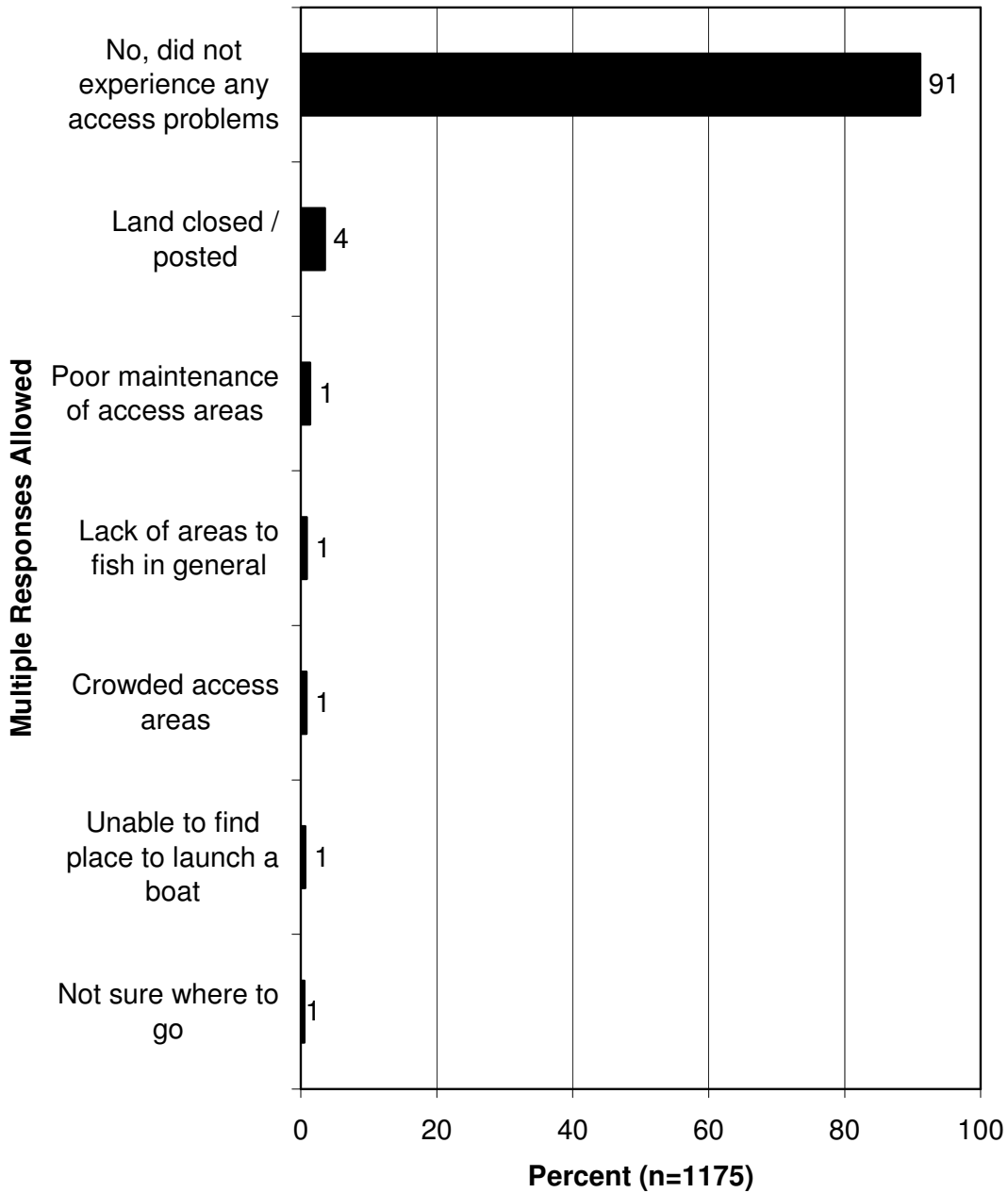
Q403-Q411. Percent of respondents who indicated that they never use each of the following locations to access the waters they fish in Maine:



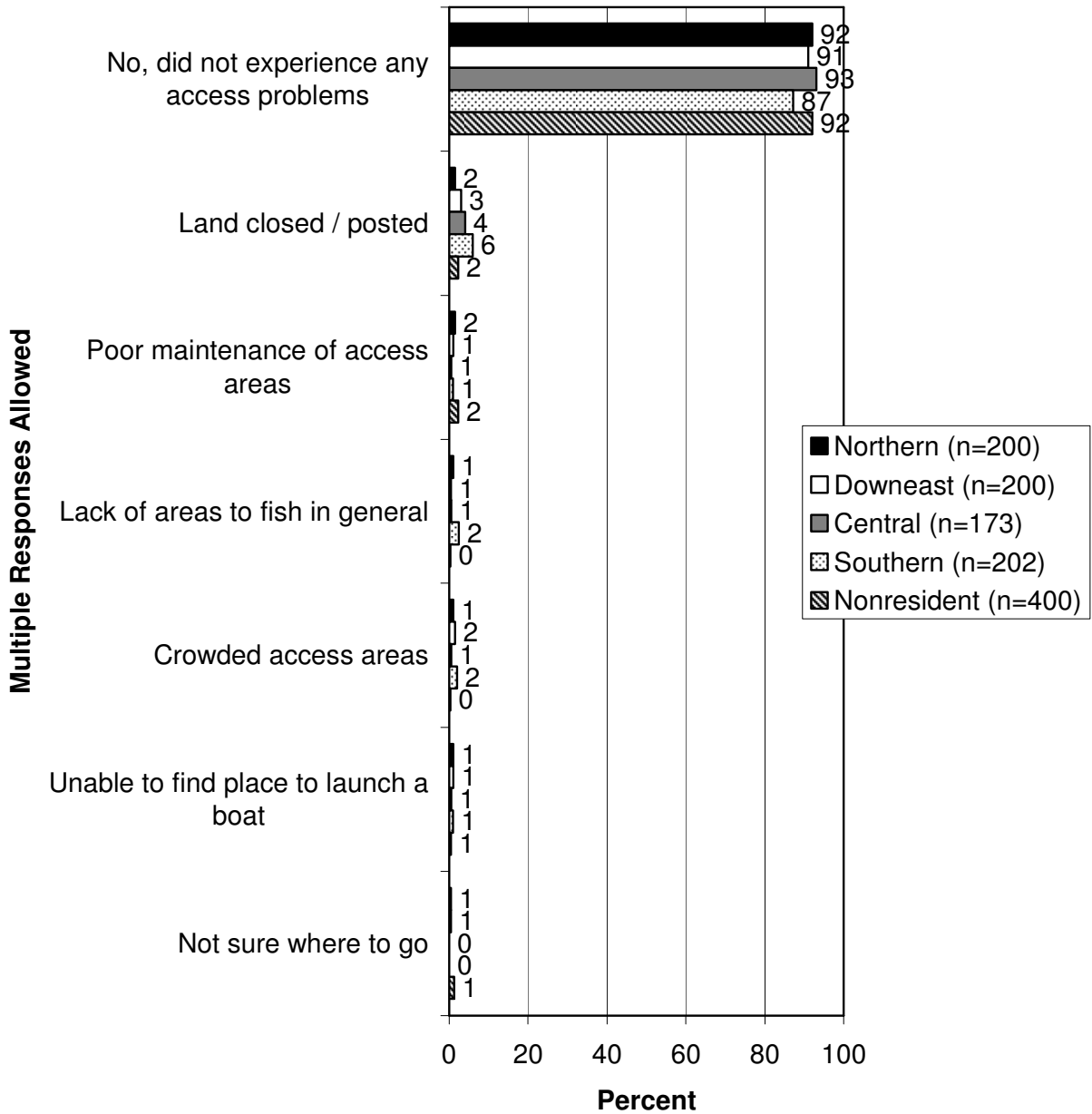
Q403-Q411. Percent of respondents who indicated that they never use each of the following locations to access the waters they fish in Maine:



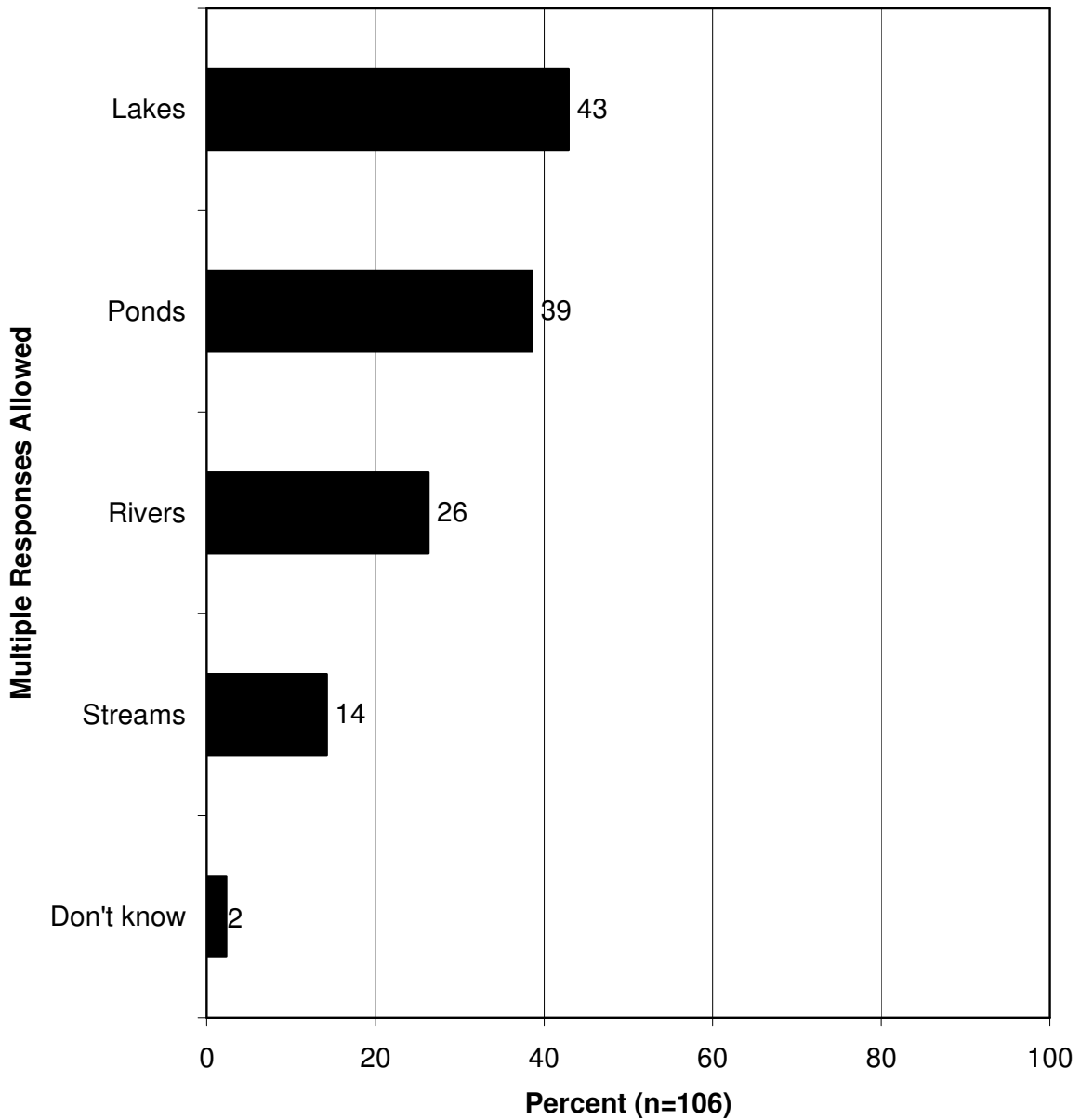
Q413. Did you have any problems accessing waters you fished or wished to fish during the last season in which you went fishing in Maine? If yes, what were they?



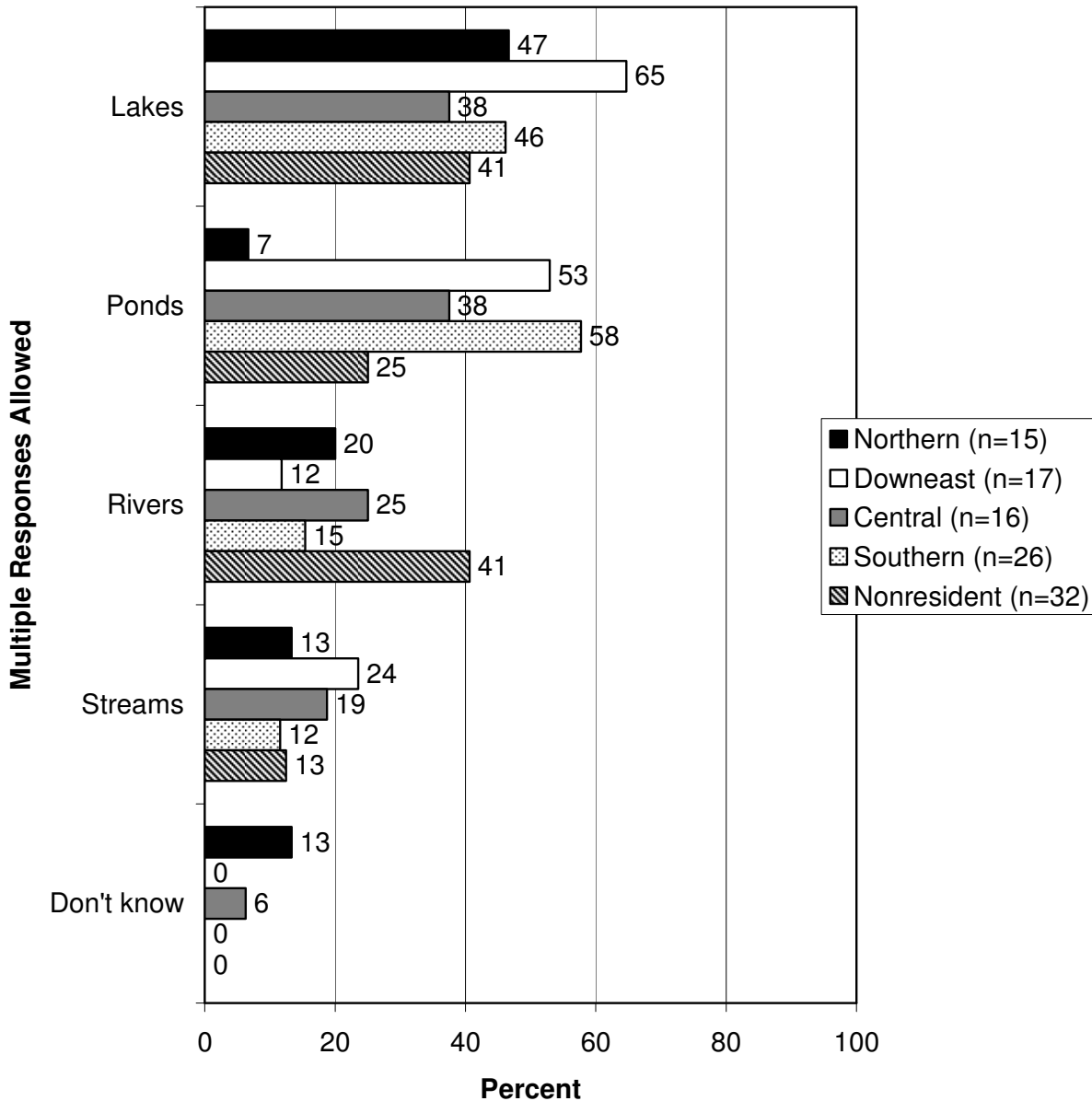
Q413. Did you have any problems accessing waters you fished or wished to fish during the last season in which you went fishing in Maine? If yes, what were they?



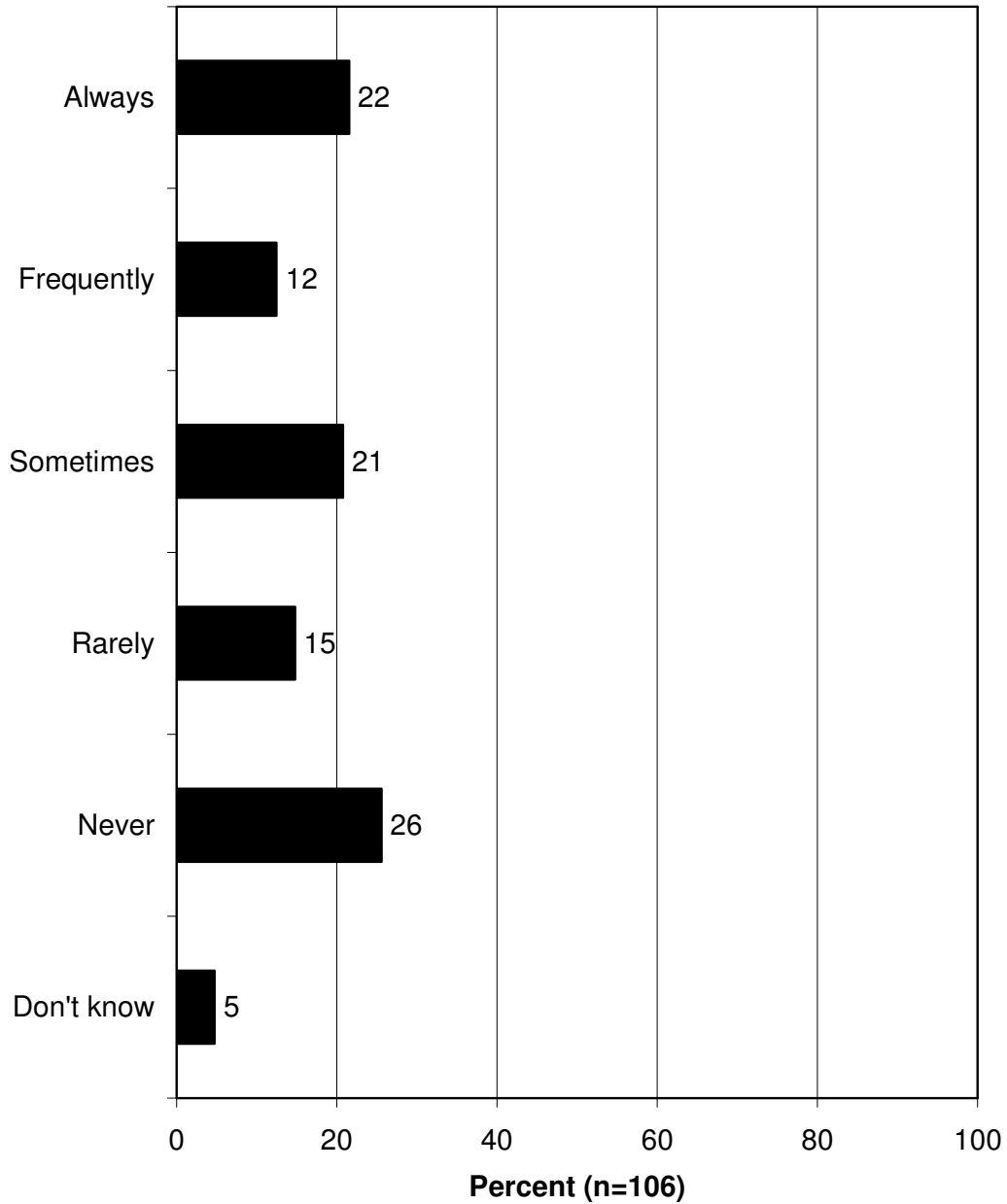
Q415. Which types of waters were you trying to access when you had the problems? Were you trying to access..? (Asked of those who had access problems during their last season fishing in Maine.)



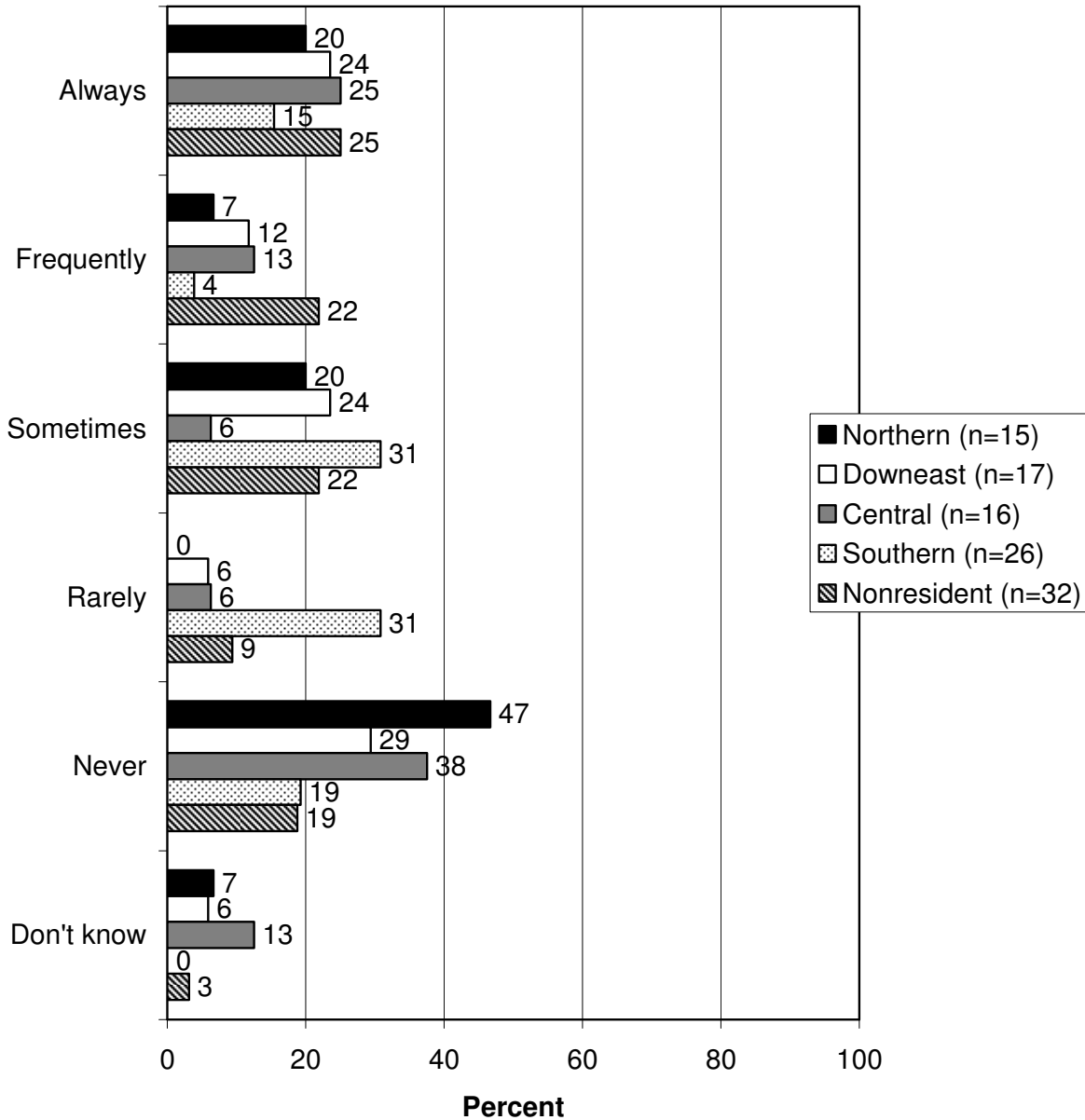
Q415. Which types of waters were you trying to access when you had the problems? Were you trying to access..? (Asked of those who had access problems during their last season fishing in Maine.)



Q416. How often were you able to resolve your fishing access problems during the last season in which you went fishing in Maine? Would you say..? (Asked of those who had access problems during their last season fishing in Maine.)



Q416. How often were you able to resolve your fishing access problems during the last season in which you went fishing in Maine? Would you say..? (Asked of those who had access problems during their last season fishing in Maine.)



**Q417. With which water body did you most often have access problems?
(Asked of those who had fishing access problems during their last fishing season in Maine.)**

a pond that I don't know the name of in Cornish by long pond
A stream off Willard Rd.
ALL
All of them except Sedago Lake.
Androscoggin river
Androscoggin river
Aroostook River
Assippie
Baskehagon
bath maine winnegeant creek
Boyd's pond, in Bristol
brooks
brooks
Clary Lake
Cobboscecontee Stream
Collins Pond
Crawford, Washington County
crooked river
cross pond, mixer pond
Davis Pond and Black Pond
Durpeo Lake
east grand
fall mountain pond
first pond
Highland Lake
I don't know the name of it but it's in the Denmark area.
In East Moxie Township (tried just one day after they'd fished but couldn't find it)
Jordan Pond
junior lake
Kathahdi
kennebec and the sabbascook river
Lake
lake estes
lake gasabeus
lakes
lakes
lakes
lakes
Lakes in general northeast of Rangeley that only had private roads going to them
Lakes for ice fishing
Long Pond

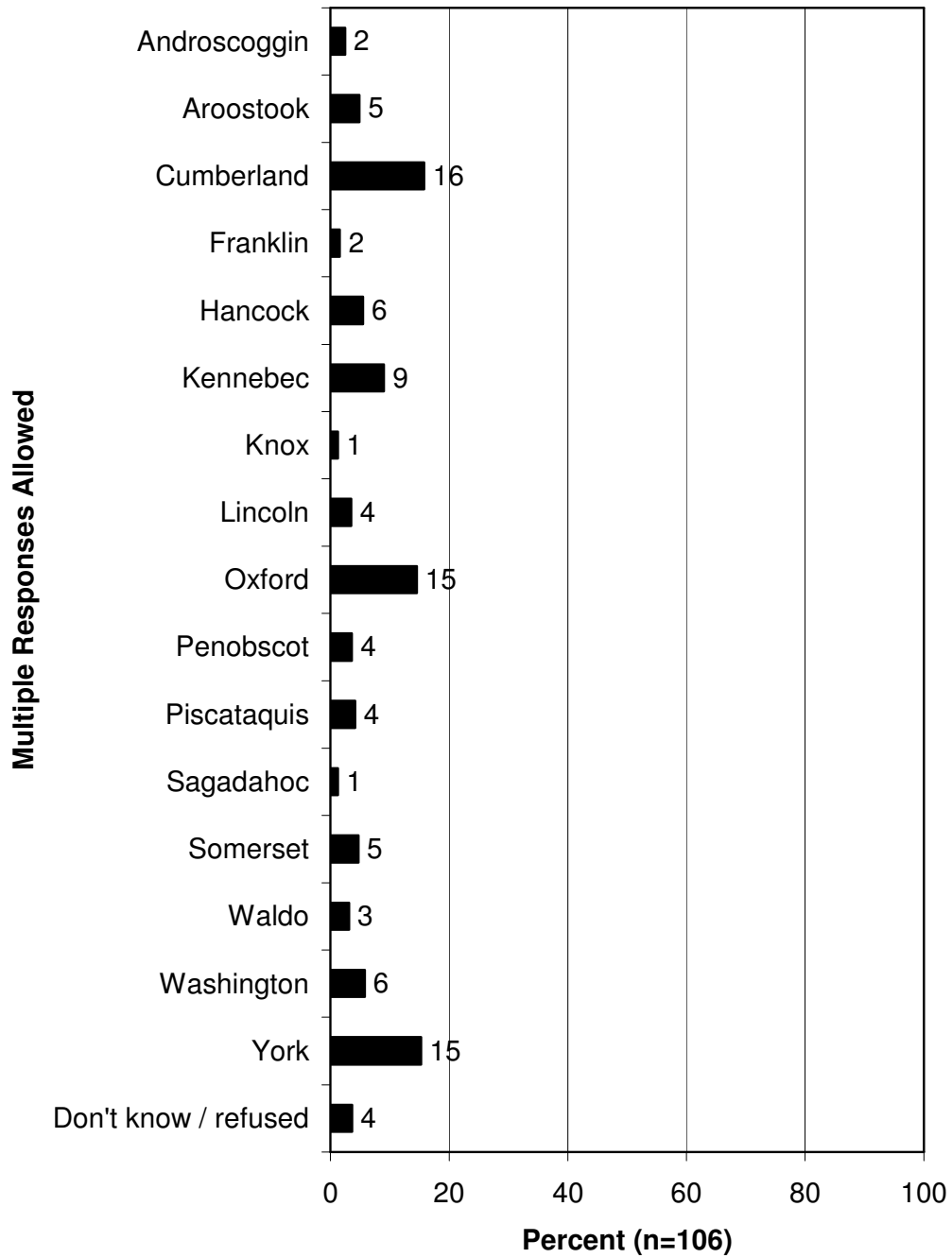
**Q417. With which water body did you most often have access problems?
(Asked of those who had fishing access problems during their last fishing season in Maine.)**

Long Pond, Lower Hadlock Pond.
man-made fire pond by side road
molunkus lake
Mossen River
mousoumn lake
Mud Brook
navel base reservoir
north pond bethel
north Twin and millinocket stream, Twin Ponds,
Norway Lake
ossipee lake
Patton pond in main
penaquan
pirckle pond, crystal pond, salmon pond, magius river west branch, crooked river
Piscataquis River
pond
pond
ponds
ponds
ponds
ponds
ponds & lakes
ponds and rivers
Rainbow Pond
Rangley Lakes region
river
river in Waterville
river into the lake
rocky lake whiting
s. e. pond
saco river
Saco River.
salmon pond
SASANOA
schoodic lake
sebago
sebago
Sebago Lake
Sevago
spencer lake
st john river

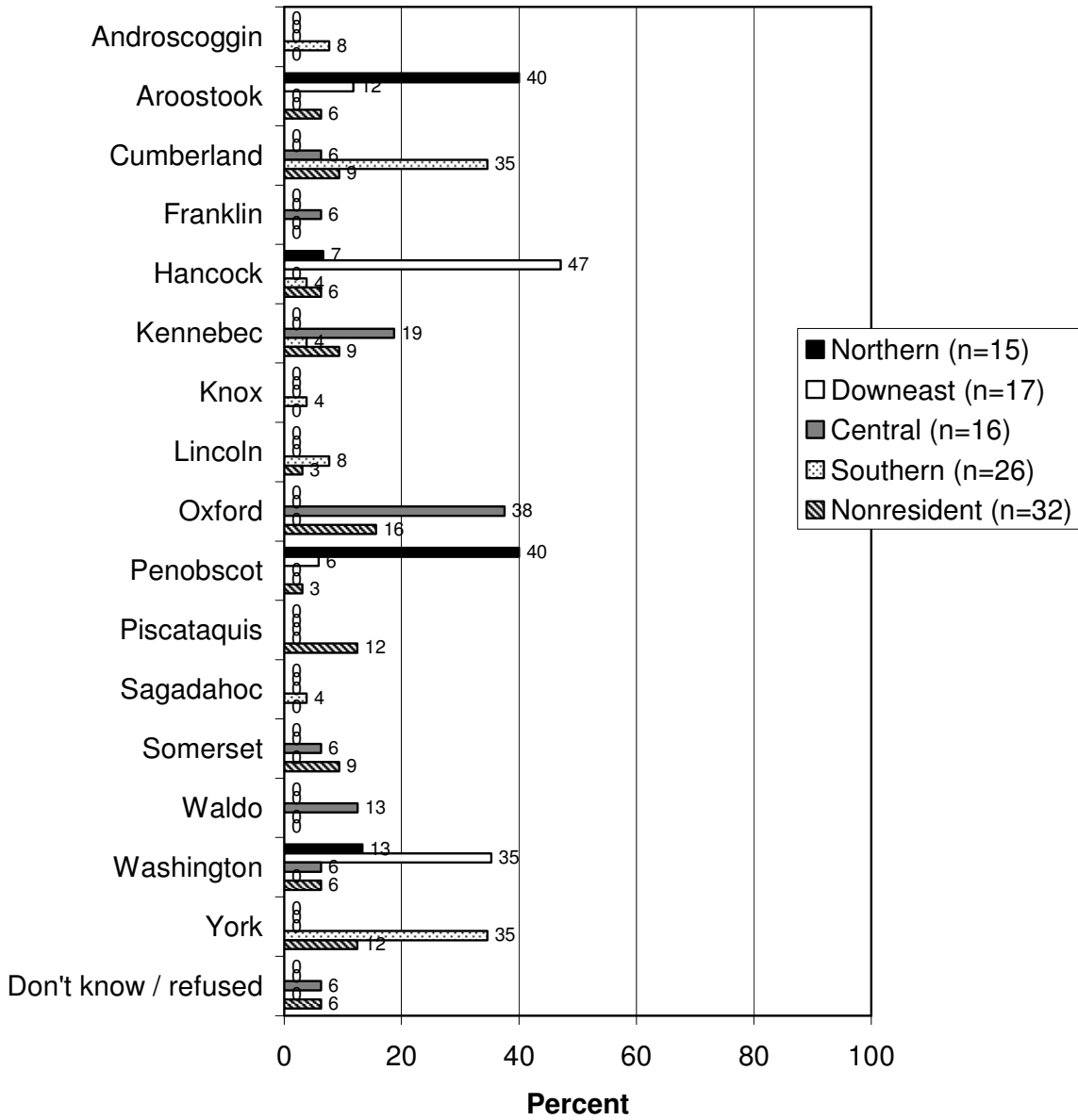
**Q417. With which water body did you most often have access problems?
(Asked of those who had fishing access problems during their last fishing
season in Maine.)**

Streams
syxlabosis and tocumus
Taylor Lake
the moose river
the second Wallagrass (didn't know how to spell) water was too low to put in pontoon boat
the stream that turns into a lake: gram lake (web brook)
Thomas Pond
upper coldstream pond
upper richardson the pool
westbranch in penobscot and medumkeunk
whites pond [penobscott] patens pond[surry]

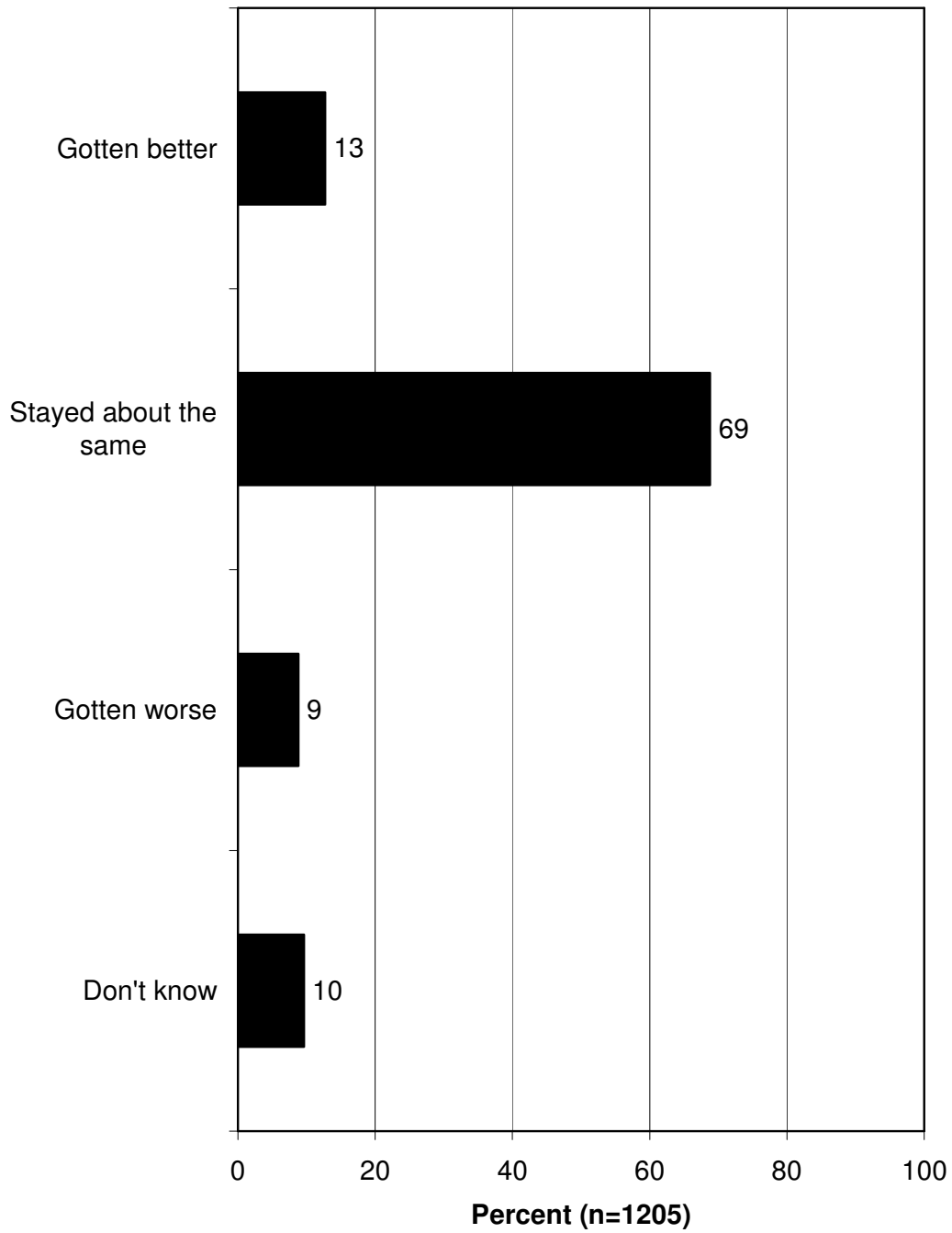
**Q418. Which county is that water body in?
(Asked of those who had access problems during
their last season fishing in Maine.)**



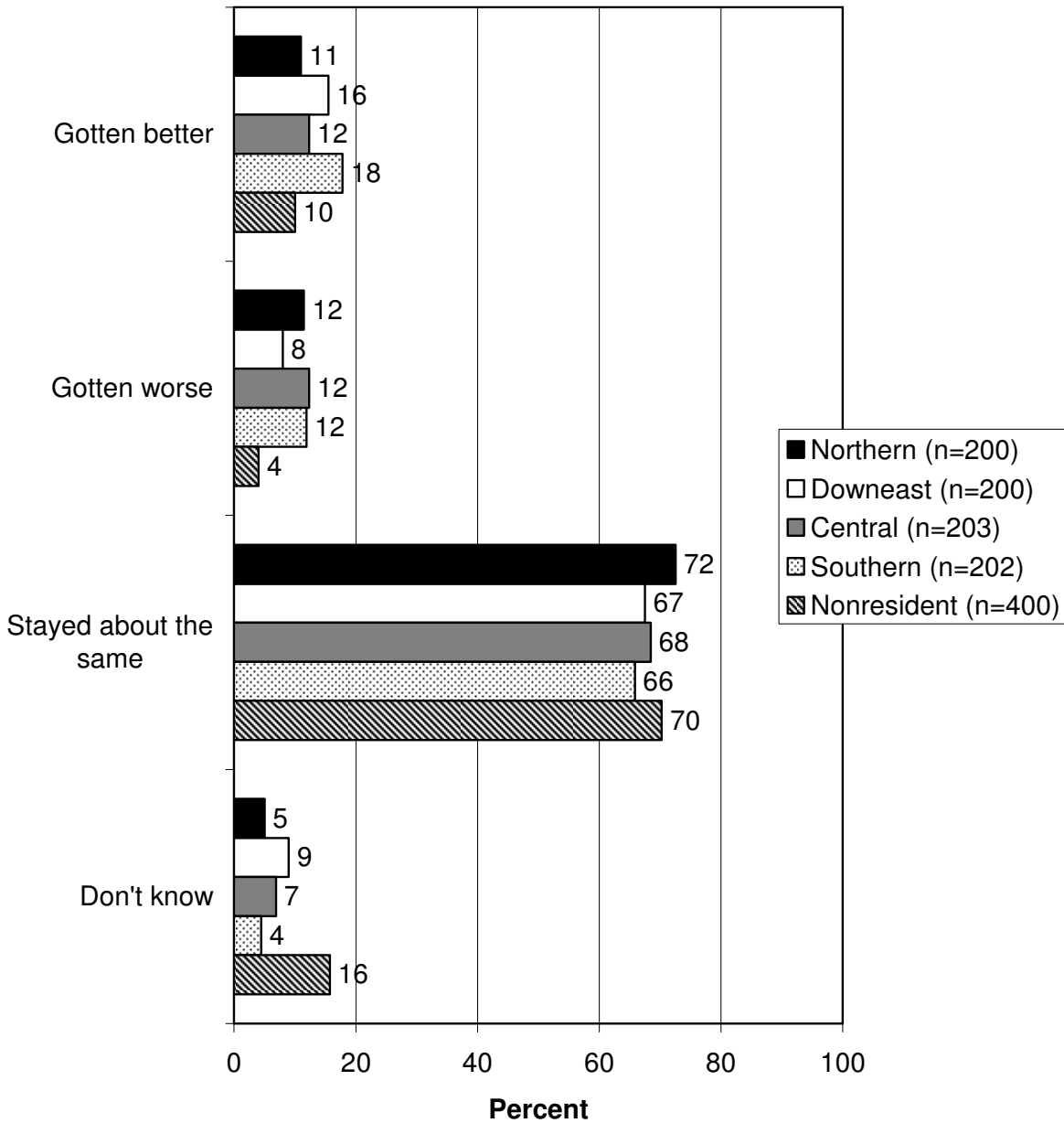
**Q418. Which county is that water body in?
(Asked of those who had access problems during
their last season fishing in Maine.)**



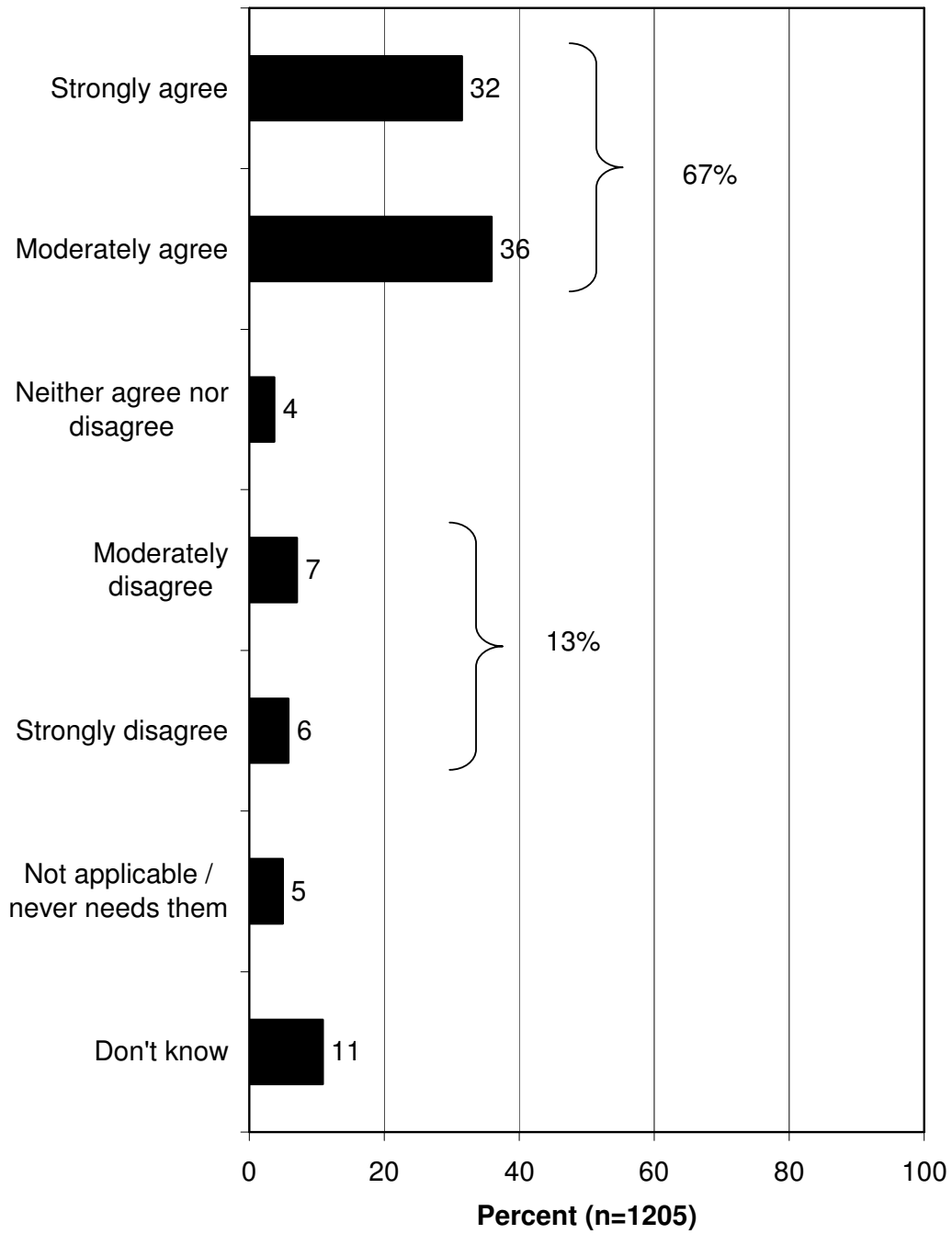
Q420. Overall, in the past 5 years, would you say fishing access in Maine has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?



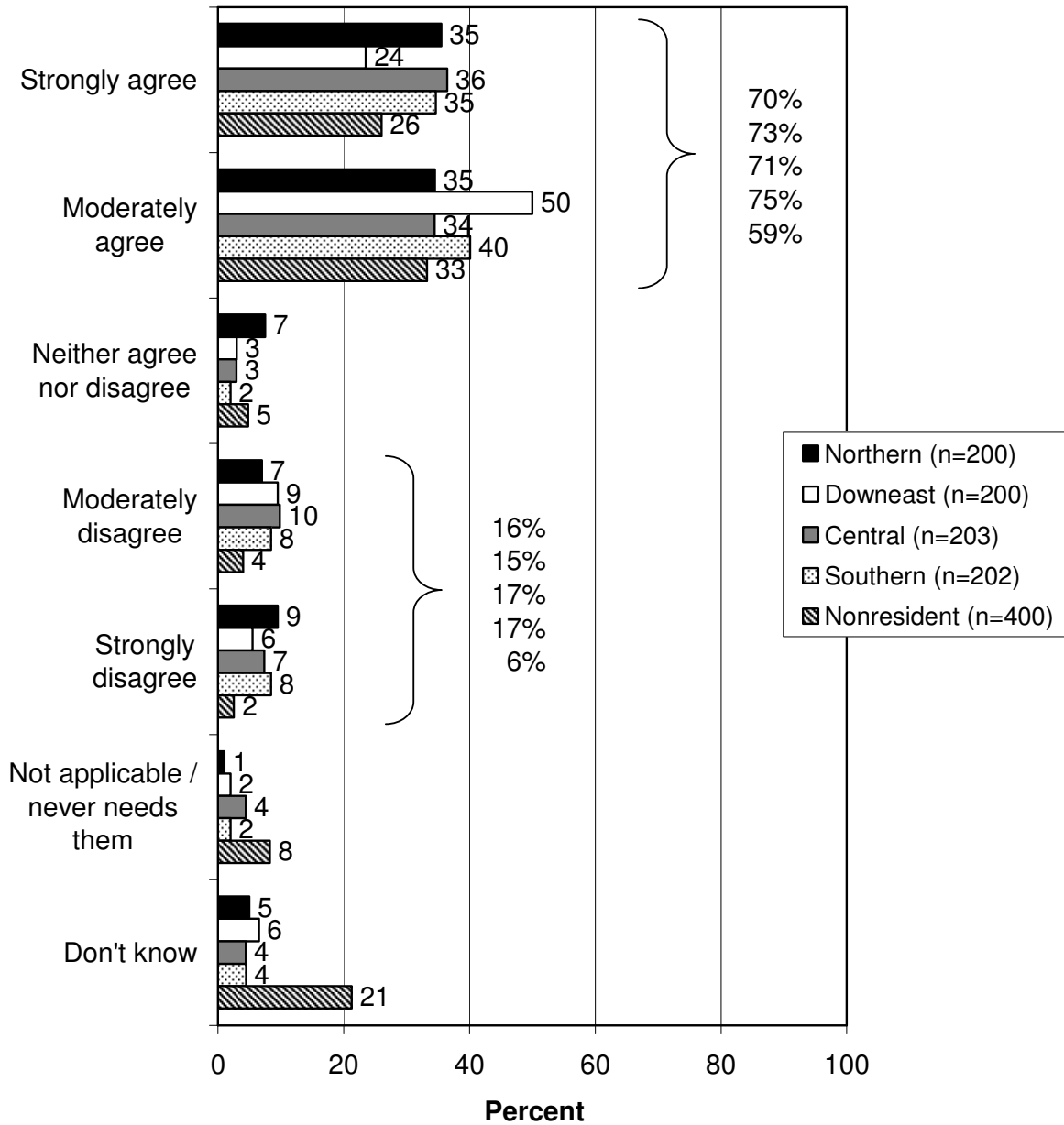
Q420. Overall, in the past 5 years, would you say fishing access in Maine has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?



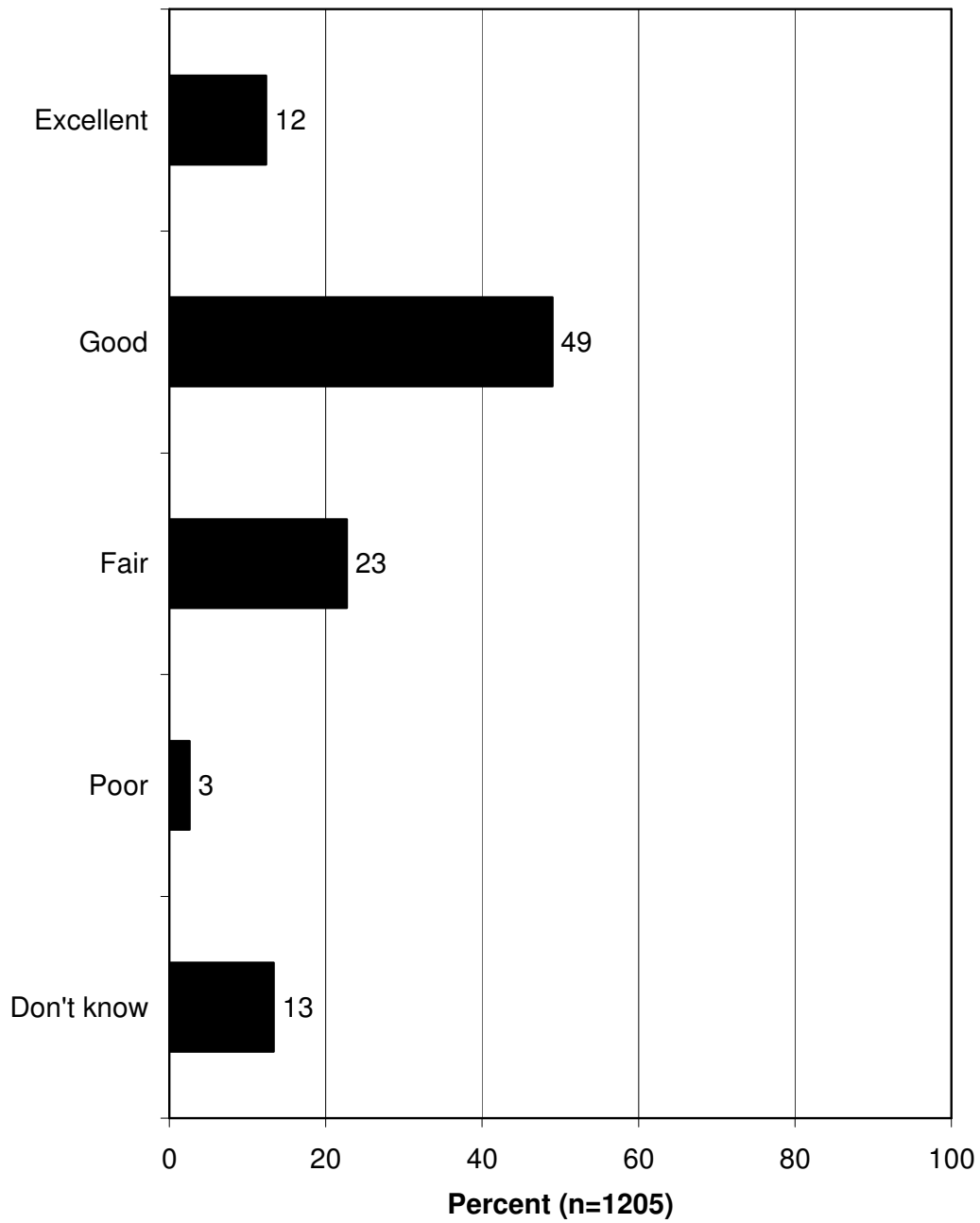
Q421. Do you agree or disagree that there are an adequate number of state owned boat ramps in Maine?



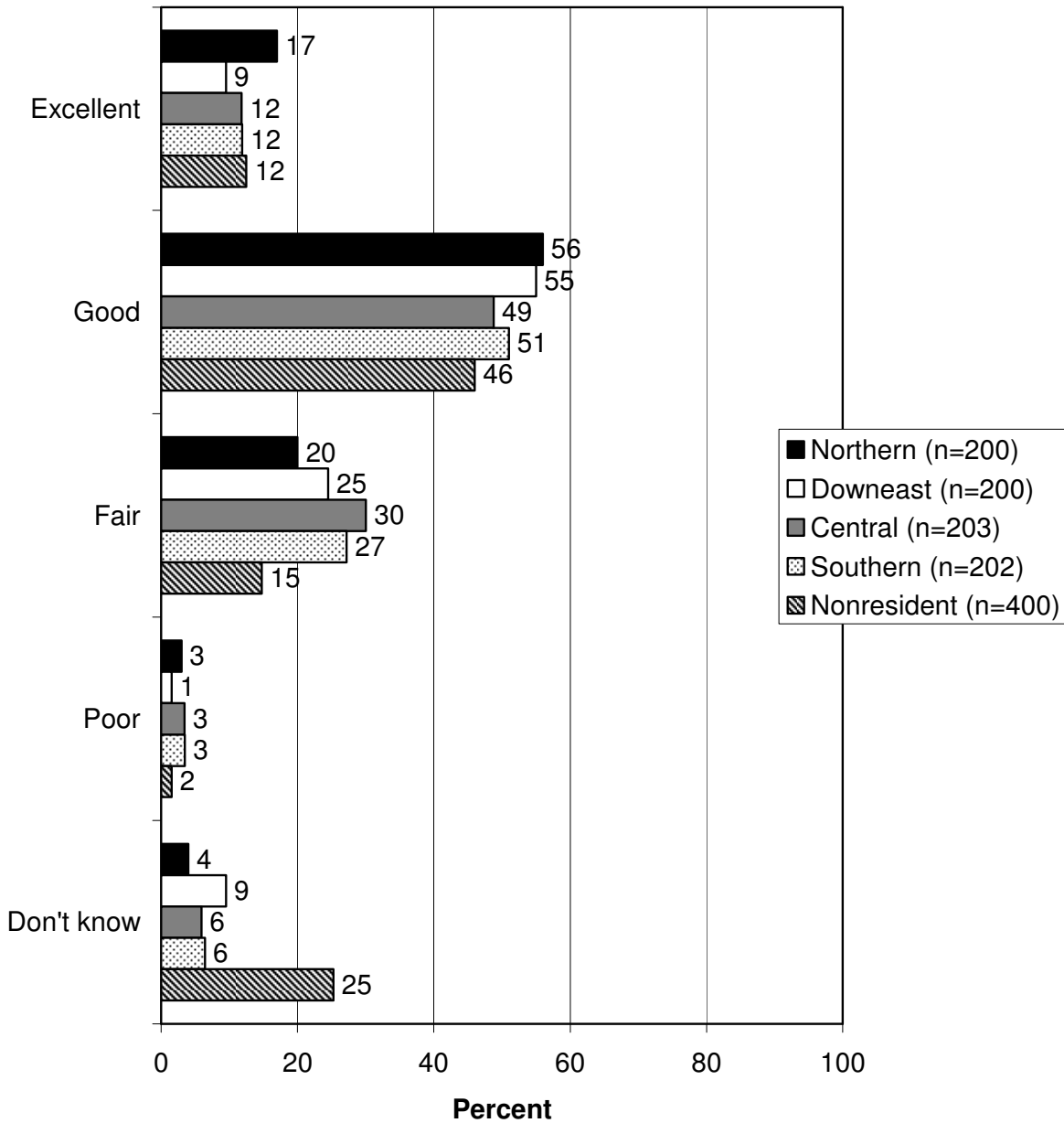
Q421. Do you agree or disagree that there are an adequate number of state owned boat ramps in Maine?



Q422. How would you rate the condition of boat ramps in Maine in general? Would you say their condition in general is excellent, good, fair, or poor?



Q422. How would you rate the condition of boat ramps in Maine in general? Would you say their condition in general is excellent, good, fair, or poor?



ATTITUDES TOWARD FISHING REGULATIONS IN MAINE

- Anglers were asked how often they look for information about fishing regulations in Maine, on a continuum from “always” to “never.” A strong majority (78%) of anglers always, frequently, or sometimes look for information on regulations, compared to 22% who rarely or never do. These responses illustrate that most anglers try to keep abreast of fishing regulations.
 - Nonresidents most often responded “rarely” and “never.”

- Those who responded with anything other than “never” to the previous question were presented with a series of five information sources, and were asked how often they use each source to find out about fishing regulations in Maine (again on the continuum from “always” to “never”).
 - Anglers most often use the Department’s fishing regulations book, followed by the Department’s website. This is true for all regions.
 - Four graphs are shown: always by itself, always and frequently combined, rarely and never combined, and never by itself.

- A solid majority of anglers (73%) think the number of fishing regulations in Maine is about right, with 20% who think there are too many regulations and only 2% who think there are too few.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern Region most often think there are too many regulations (34%).

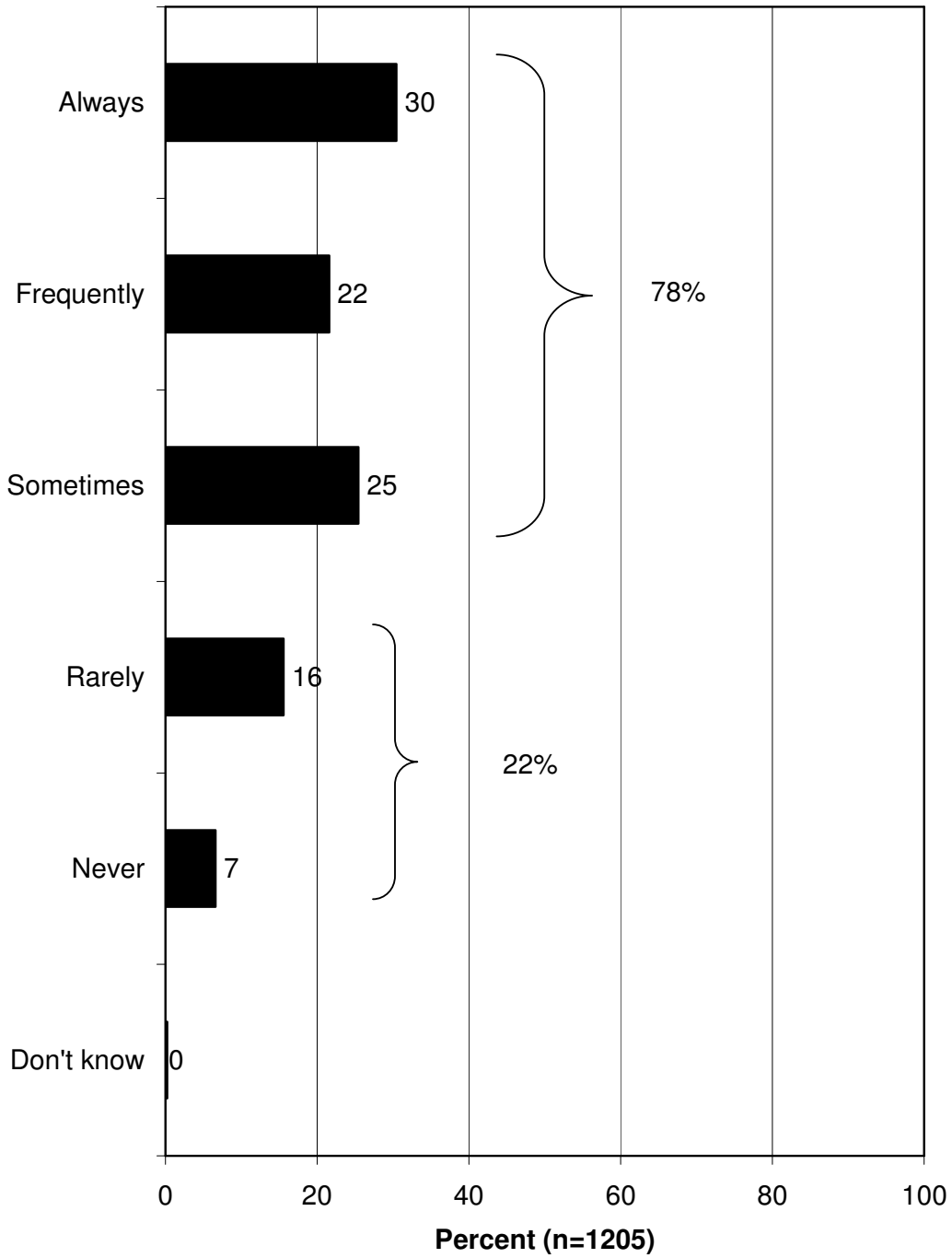
- Similarly, a strong majority of anglers (85%) think the fishing regulations in Maine are about right regarding how strict they are, with 10% who think they are too strict and only 3% who think they are not strict enough.
 - There is little marked difference between the regions.

- In an open-ended question, anglers were asked what they would change about Maine’s fishing regulations book given the opportunity. The question asked about the book itself (paper or online), not the regulations.

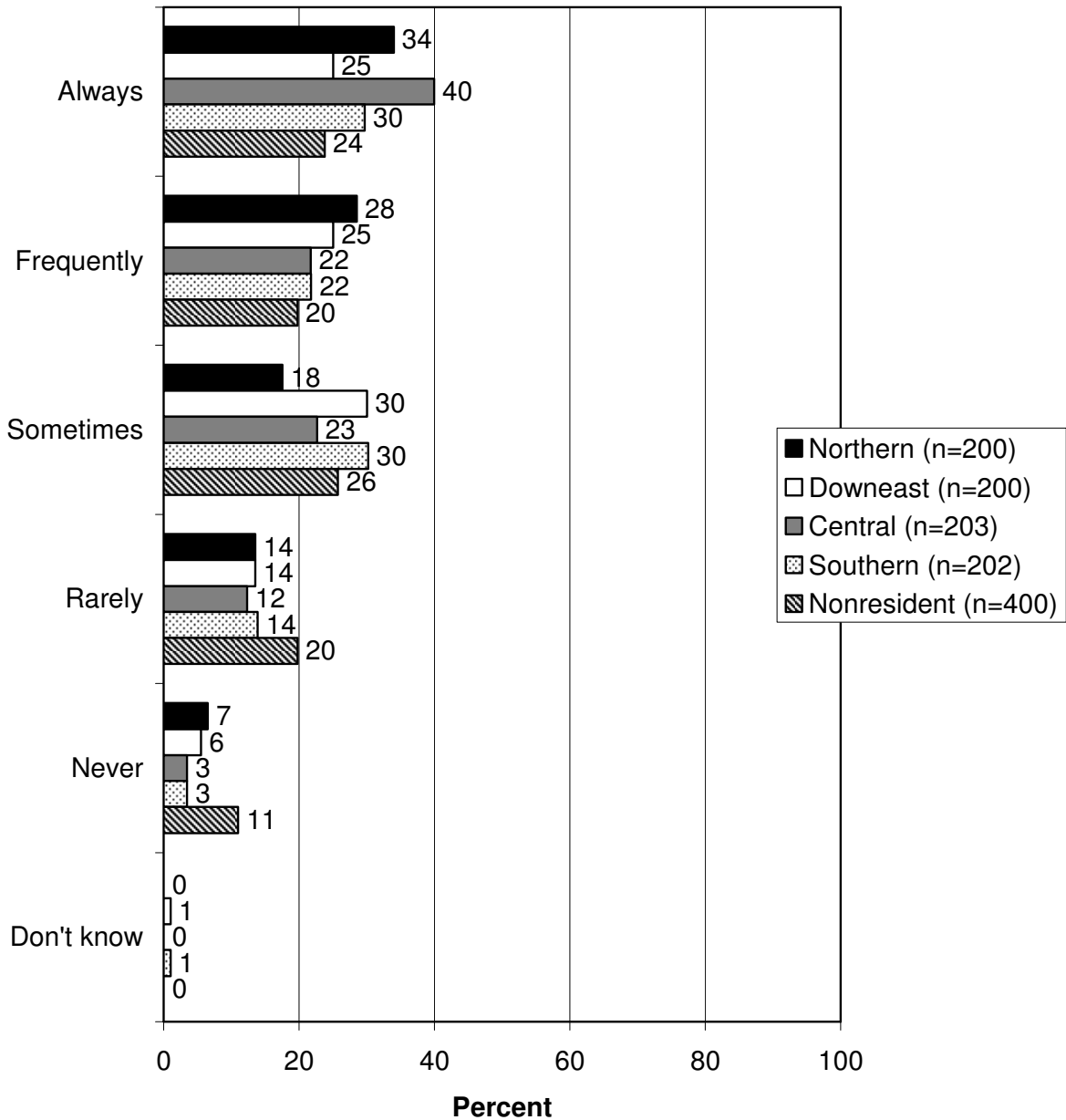
- The top response was that they would not change anything (45% stated this), followed by simplifying regulations or making them less detailed (22%). All other responses were given by less than 10% of respondents.
 - Minor variations can be observed between the regions.
- The survey presented anglers with three regulations on slot limits and asked them how clear or unclear each regulation is worded. Most anglers do not have difficulty understanding the wording. The regulations and angler responses are shown below.
- “Daily bag limit on lake trout or togue: 6 fish, minimum length limit is 14 inches, only 1 fish can exceed 23 inches.” Most anglers (86%) find this wording very clear, 11% find it somewhat clear, and only 2% find it not at all clear.
 - Regional analysis shows some variation between very clear and somewhat clear responses, but no group has more than 4% who finding the wording not at all clear.
 - “Daily bag limit on bass: 1 fish; minimum length limit 10 inches, all bass between 16 and 20 inches must be released alive at once.” Most anglers (83%) find the wording very clear, 13% find it somewhat clear, and only 3% find it not at all clear.
 - Anglers who reside in the Northern and Central Regions are the least likely to find the wording very clear, although both groups have only 5% who find it not at all clear.
 - “Daily bag limit on trout: 2 fish, minimum length limit of 10 inches, only 1 fish can exceed 12 inches.” Most anglers (84%) find the wording very clear, 13% find it somewhat clear, and only 2% find it not at all clear.
 - Anglers who reside in the Southern Region most often find the wording very clear. No group has more than 5% who finding the wording not at all clear.
- Over the past 5 years, a third of anglers (33%) have been aware of any fish consumption advisories specifically for freshwater fish in Maine’s inland waters.
- Awareness was fairly consistent among Maine regions and was substantially lower among nonresidents.
 - Of those who were aware of consumption advisories, over half (54%) say they were not planning to harvest anyway, followed by 29% who said it did not affect how much they harvested. However, 16% harvested less (or none at all) because of the advisory.

- Anglers who reside in the Northern and Downeast Regions most often said the advisories did not affect how much they harvested.
- Of those who were aware of consumption advisories, most (89%) agree that the fish consumption guidelines issued by the Department are clear and easy to understand (63% *strongly* agree).
- Agreement is fairly consistent between the regions, although with variations between *strongly* agree and *moderately* agree responses.

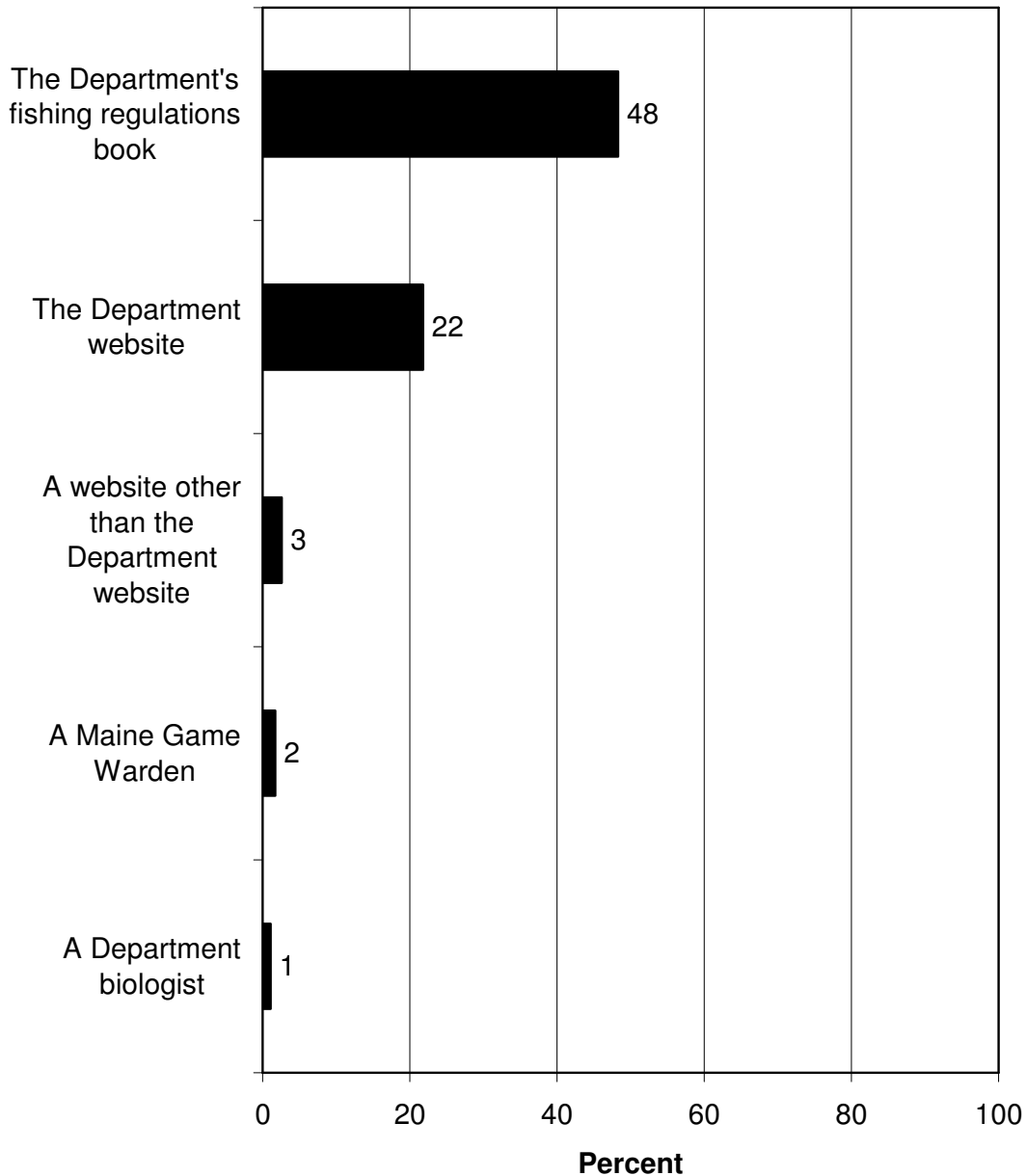
Q423. How often do you look for information about fishing regulations in Maine?



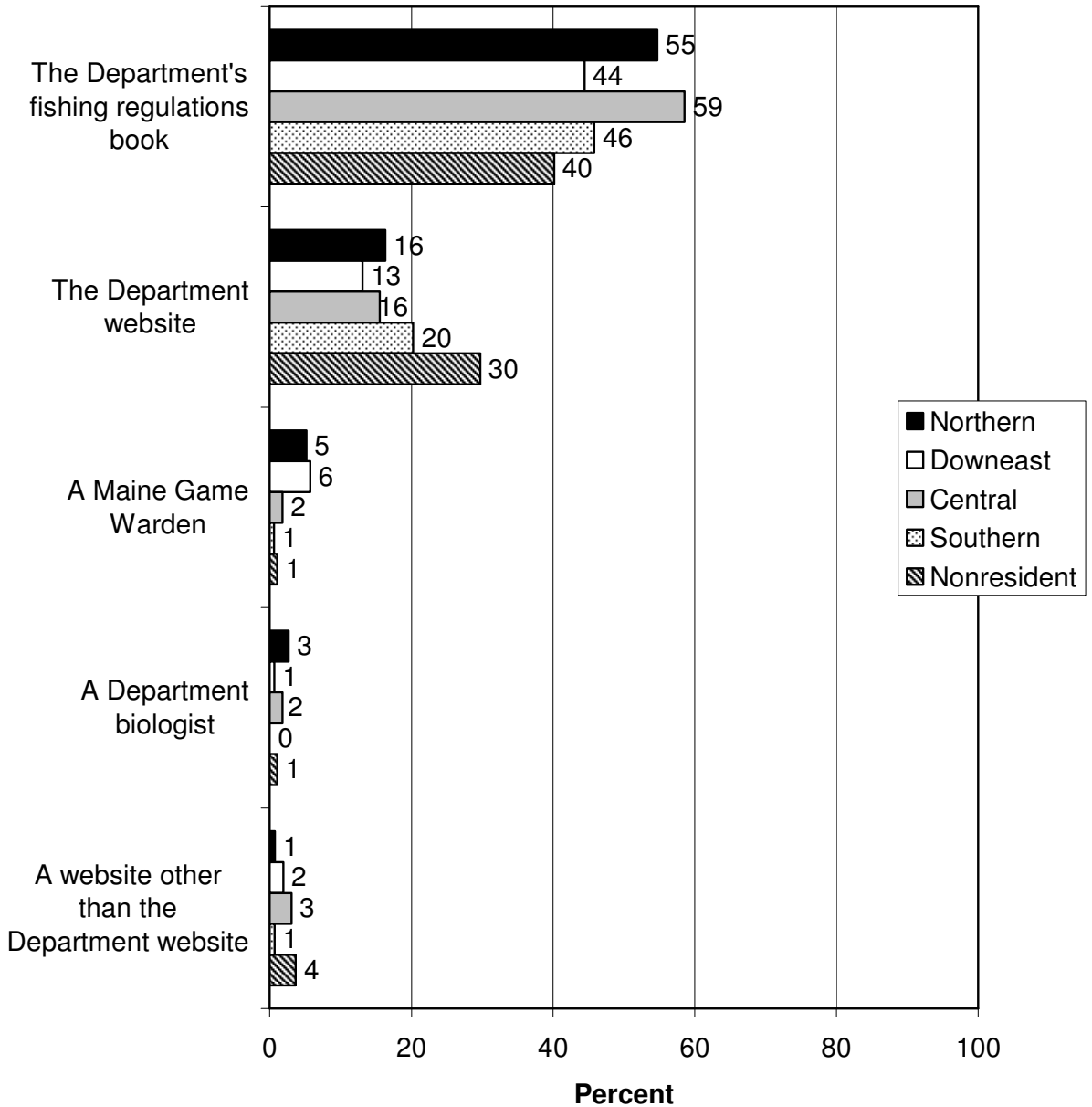
Q423. How often do you look for information about fishing regulations in Maine?



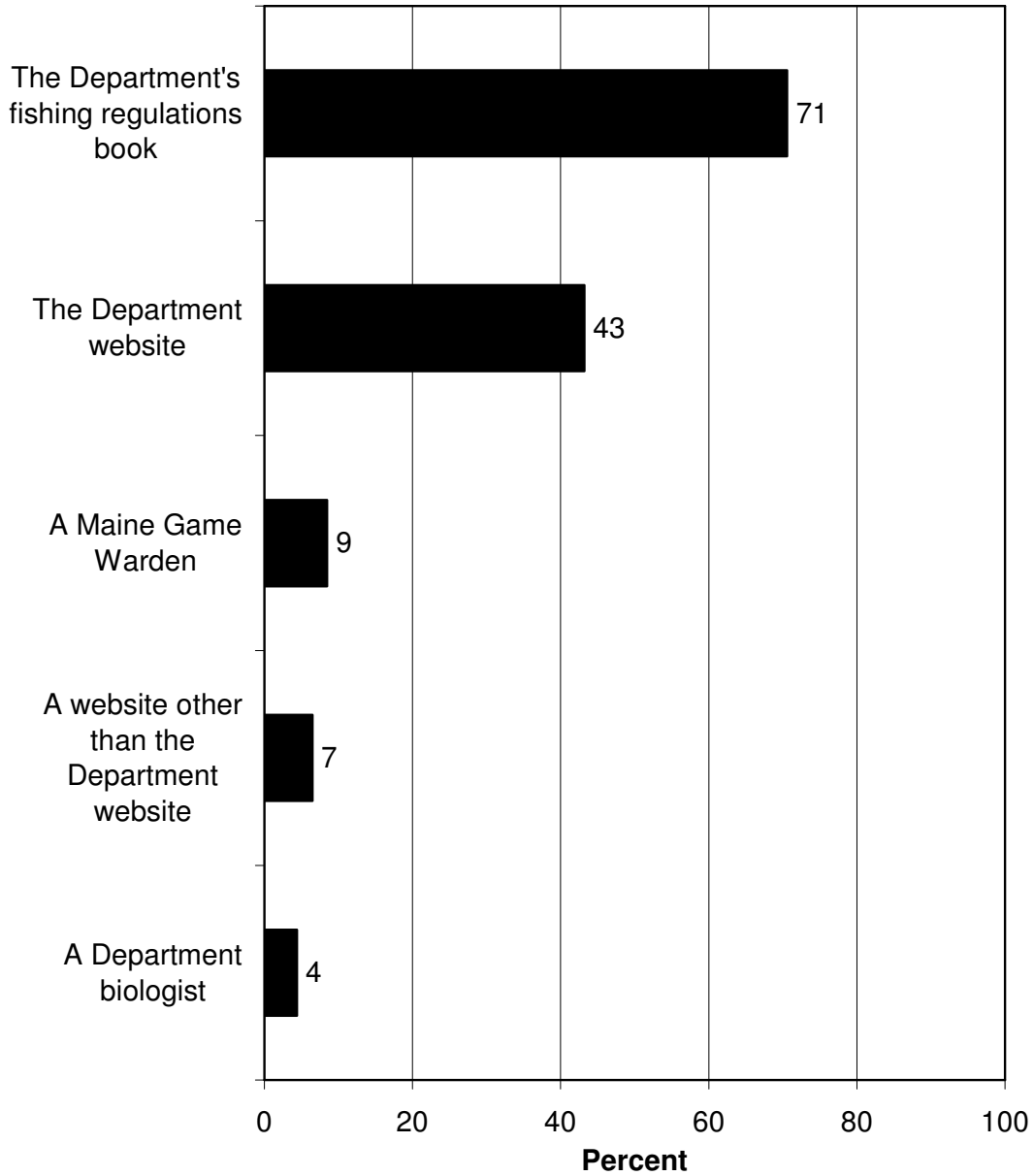
**Q426-Q430. Percent of respondents who indicated that they always use each of the following sources to find out about fishing regulations in Maine:
(Asked of those who look for information about fishing regulations in Maine.)**



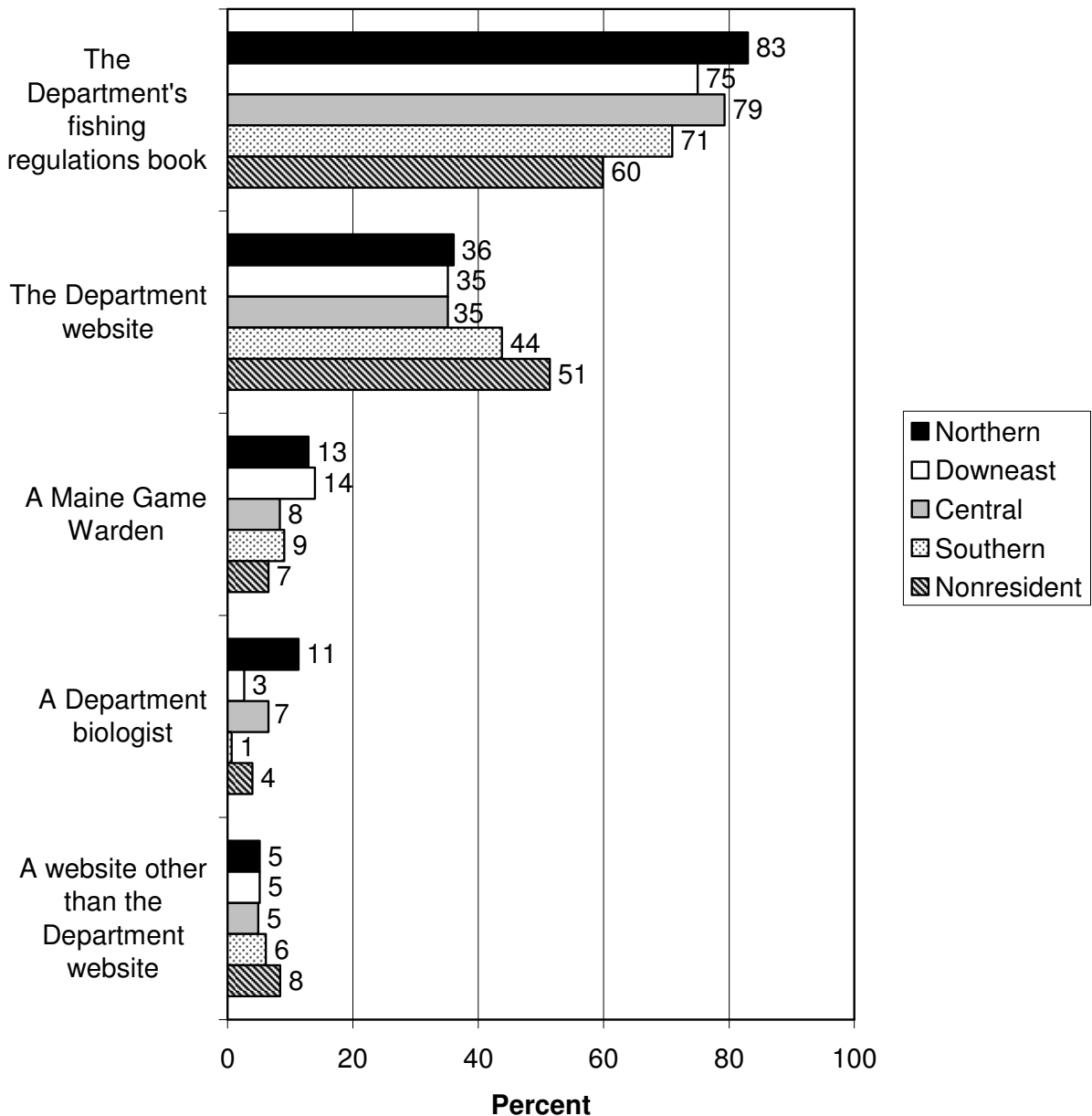
Q426-Q430. Percent of respondents who indicated that they always use each of the following sources to find out about fishing regulations in Maine: (Asked of those who look for information about fishing regulations in Maine.)



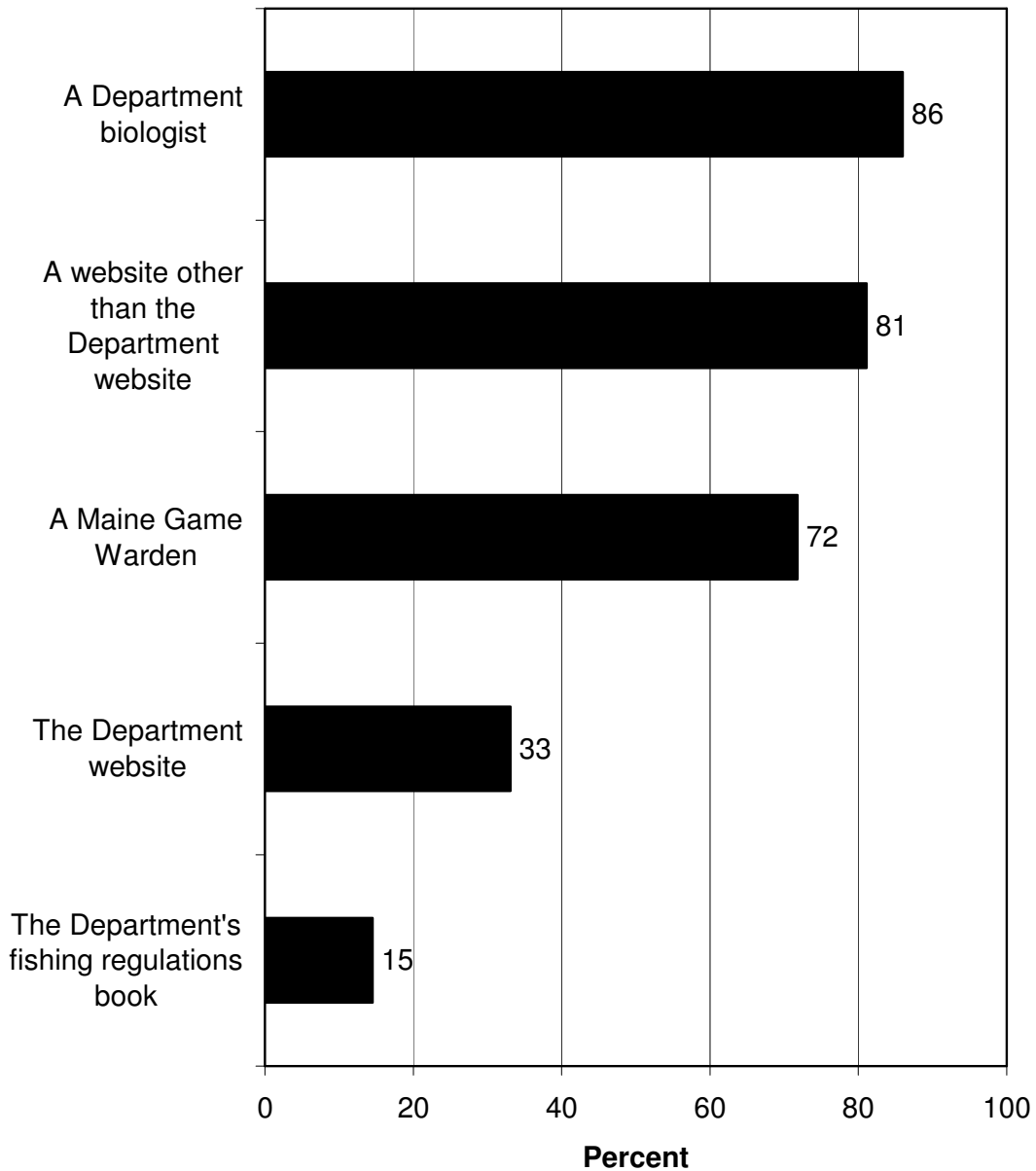
Q426-Q430. Percent of respondents who indicated that they always or frequently use each of the following sources to find out about fishing regulations in Maine: (Asked of those who look for information about fishing regulations in Maine.)



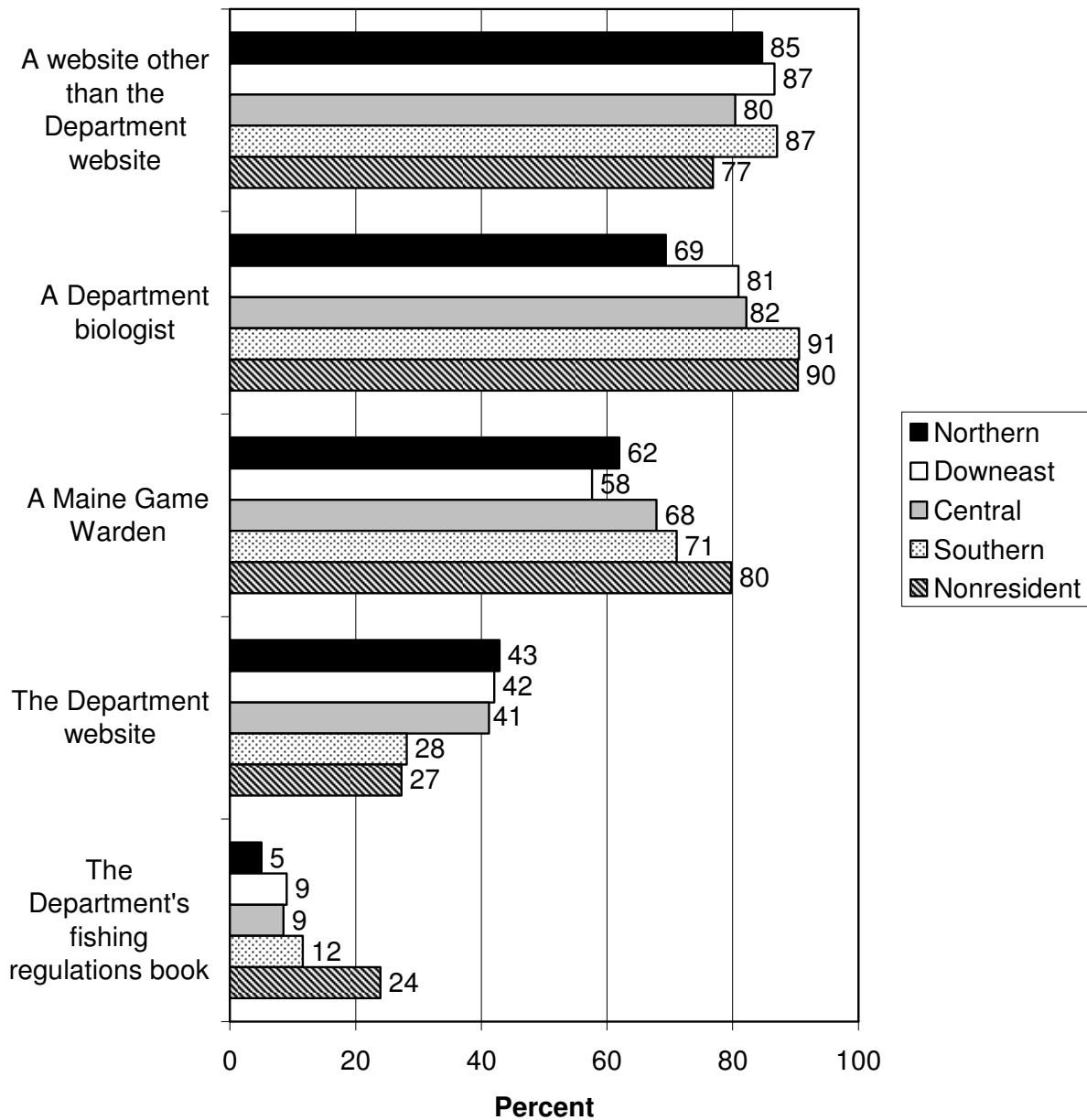
Q426-Q430. Percent of respondents who indicated that they always or frequently use each of the following sources to find out about fishing regulations in Maine: (Asked of those who look for information about fishing regulations in Maine.)



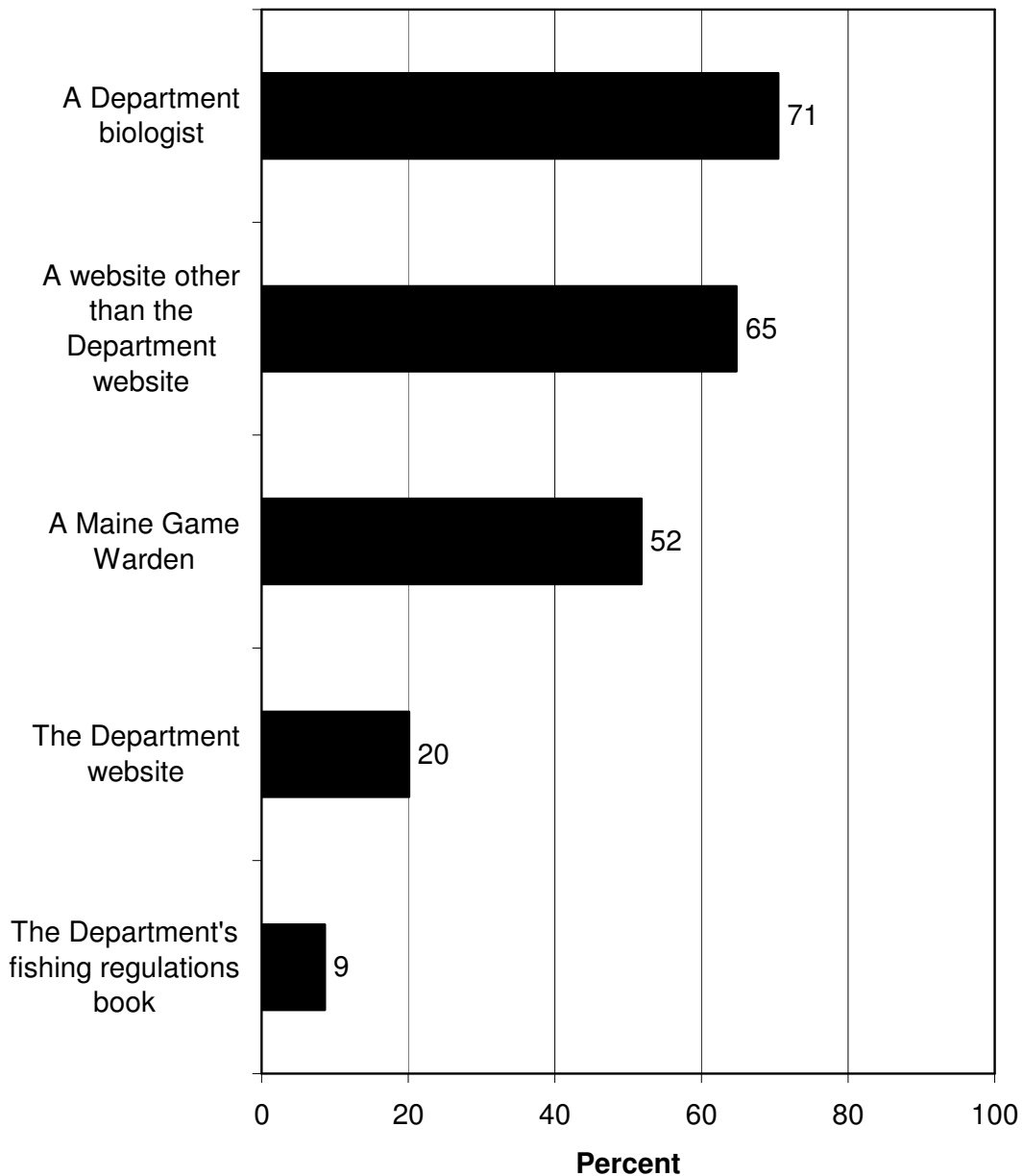
Q426-Q430. Percent of respondents who indicated that they rarely or never use each of the following sources to find out about fishing regulations in Maine: (Asked of those who look for information about fishing regulations in Maine.)



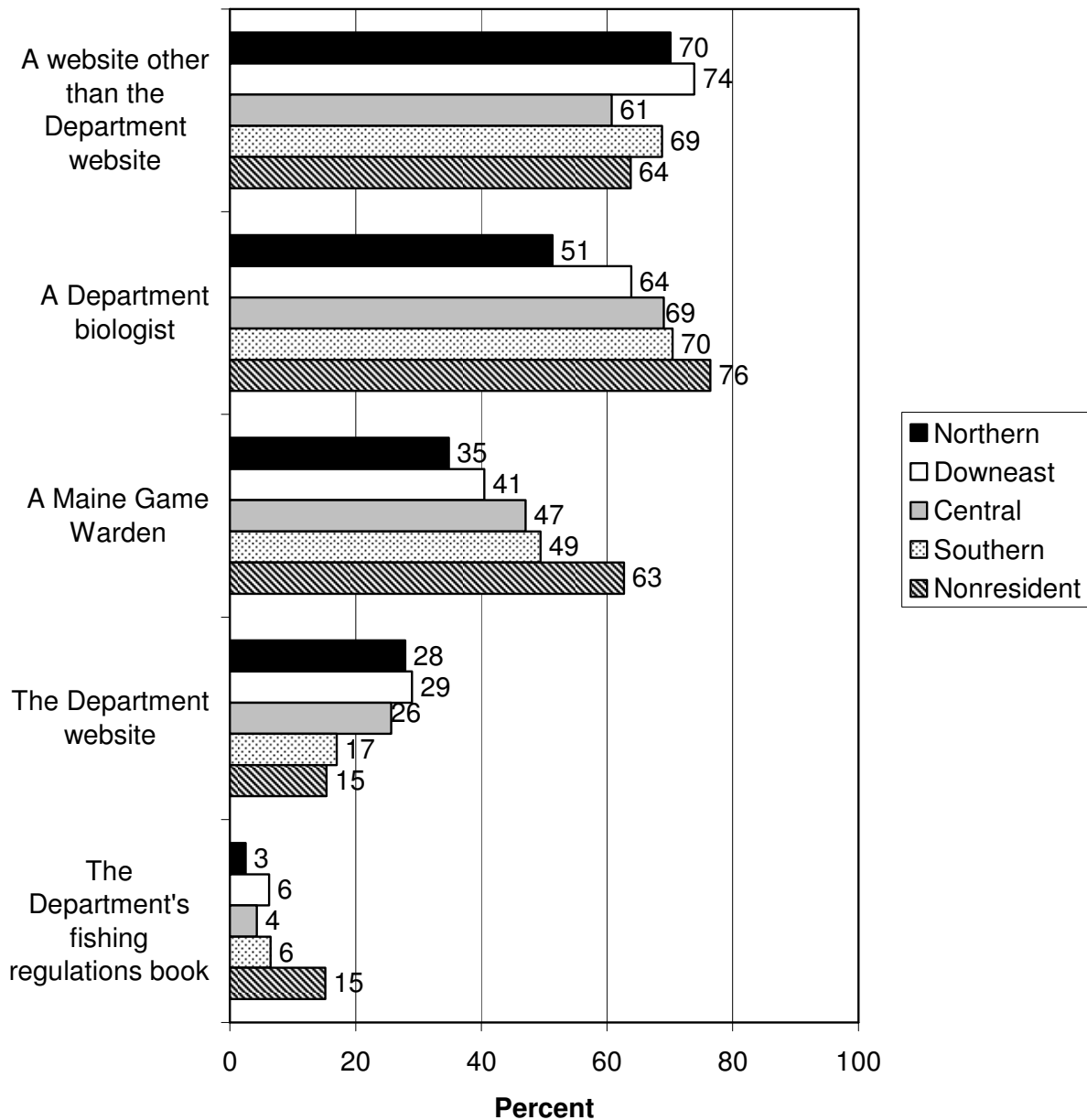
Q426-Q430. Percent of respondents who indicated that they rarely or never use each of the following sources to find out about fishing regulations in Maine: (Asked of those who look for information about fishing regulations in Maine.)



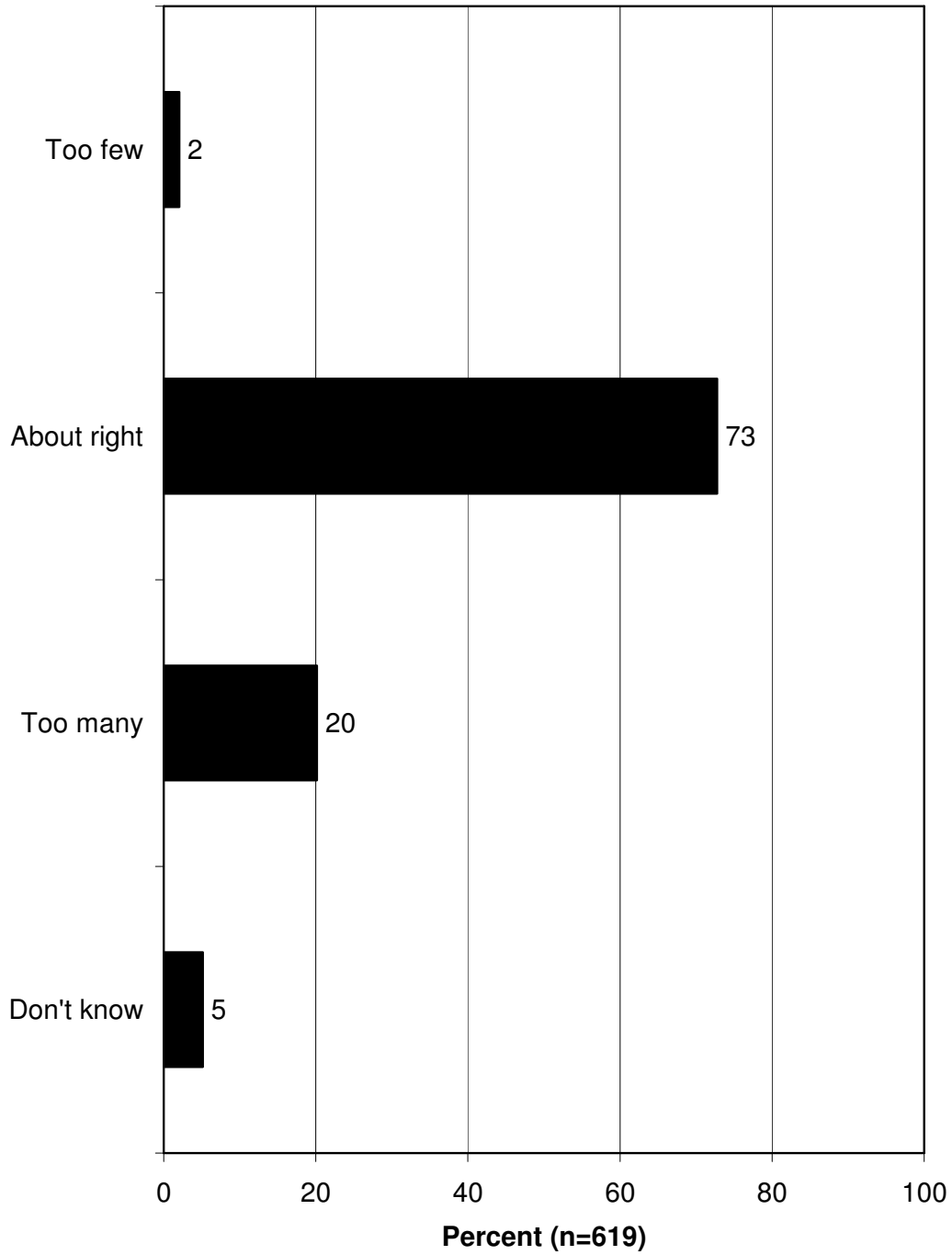
Q426-Q430. Percent of respondents who indicated that they never use each of the following sources to find out about fishing regulations in Maine: (Asked of those who look for information about fishing regulations in Maine.)



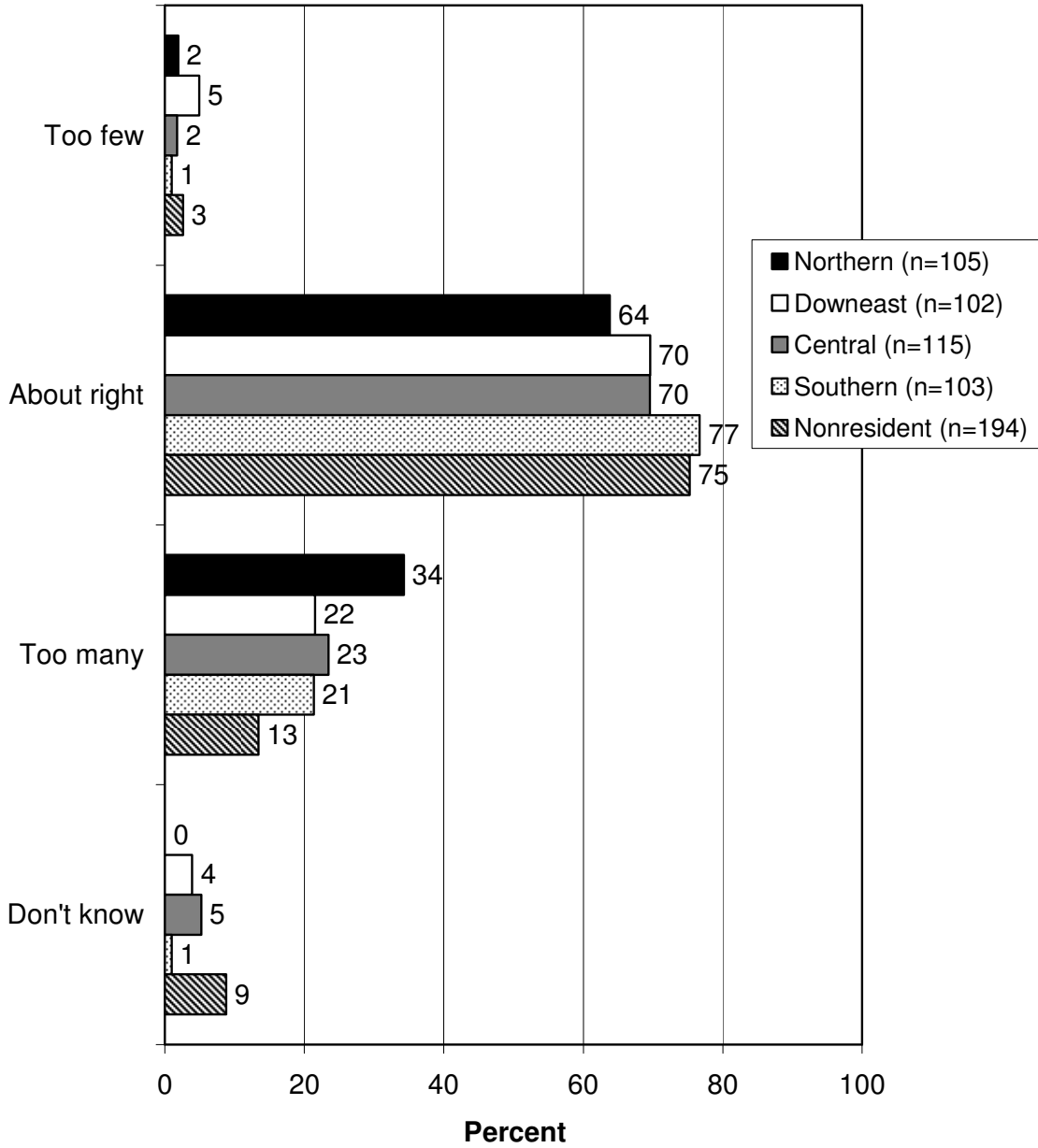
Q426-Q430. Percent of respondents who indicated that they never use each of the following sources to find out about fishing regulations in Maine: (Asked of those who look for information about fishing regulations in Maine.)



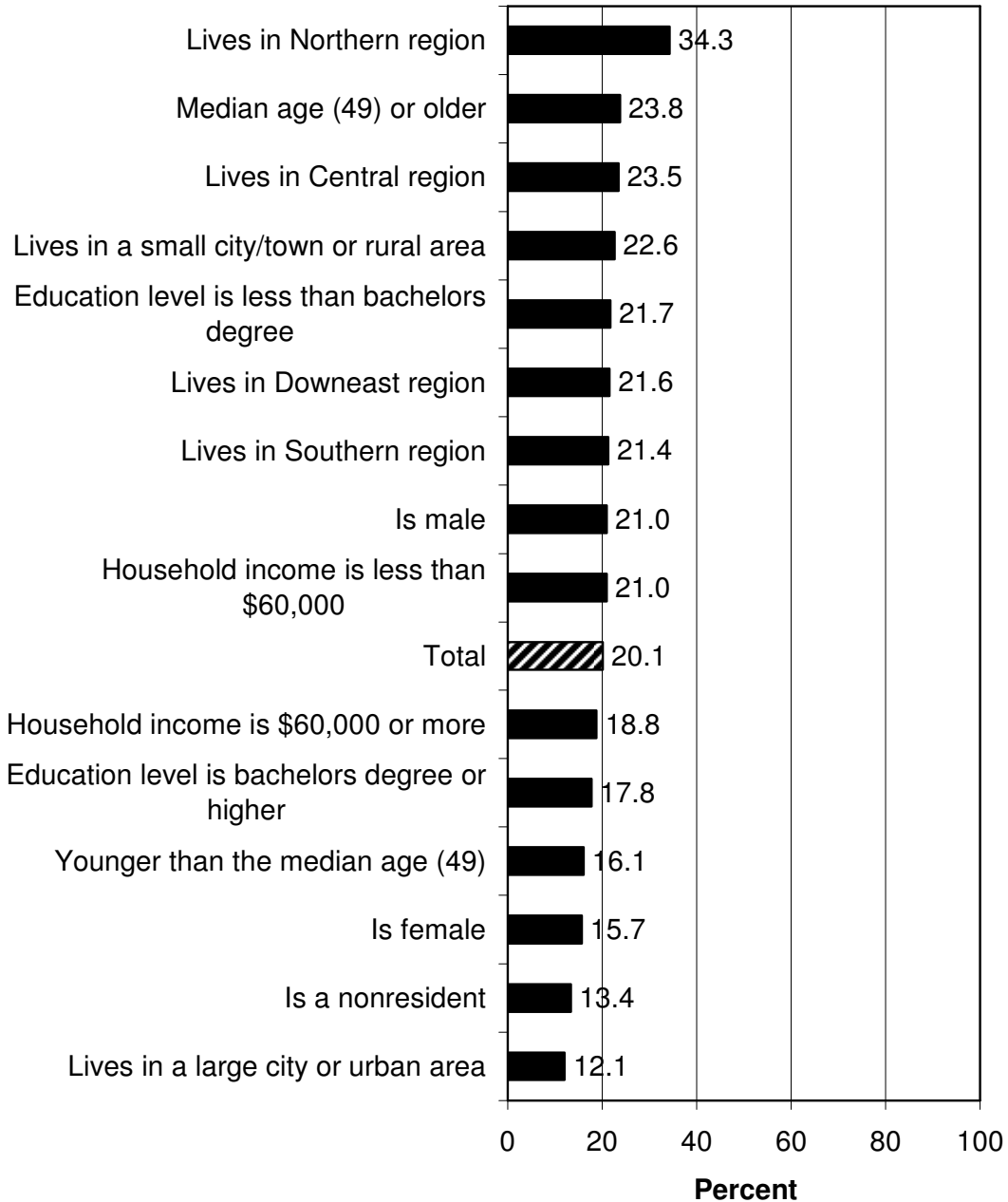
Q432. Do you think the number of fishing regulations in Maine is too few, too many, or about right?



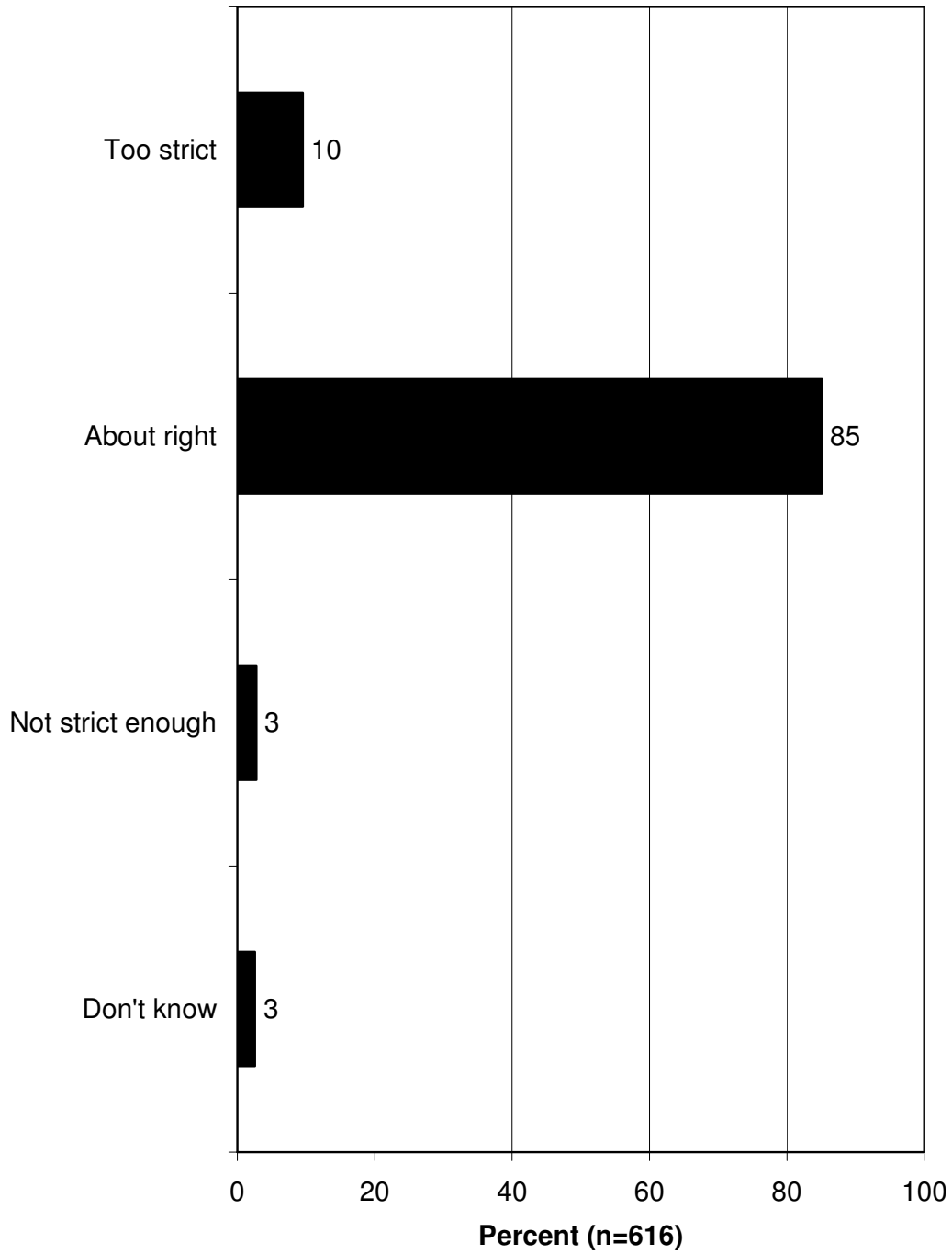
Q432. Do you think the number of fishing regulations in Maine is too few, too many, or about right?



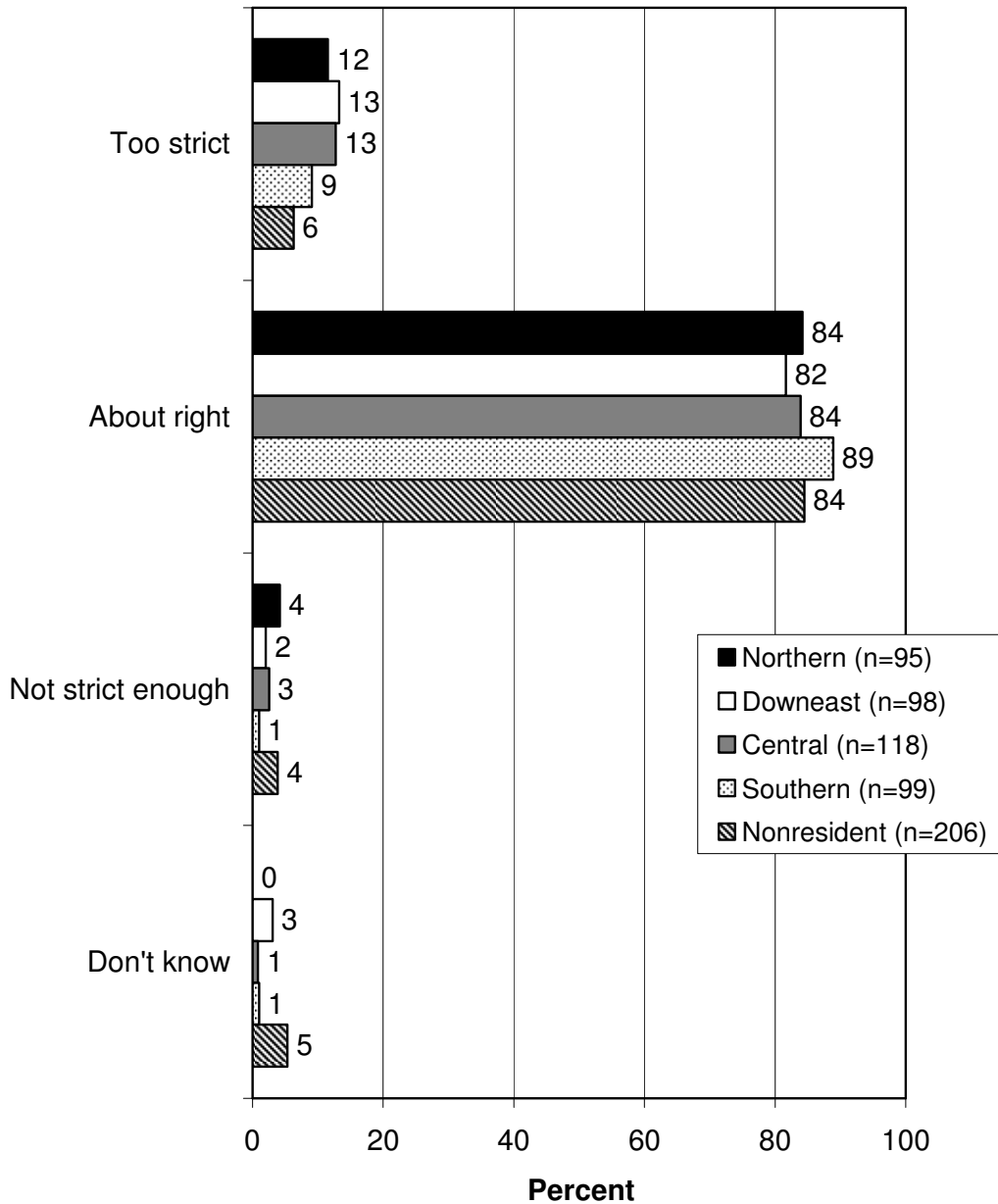
Percent of each of the following groups who think there are too many fishing regulations in Maine:



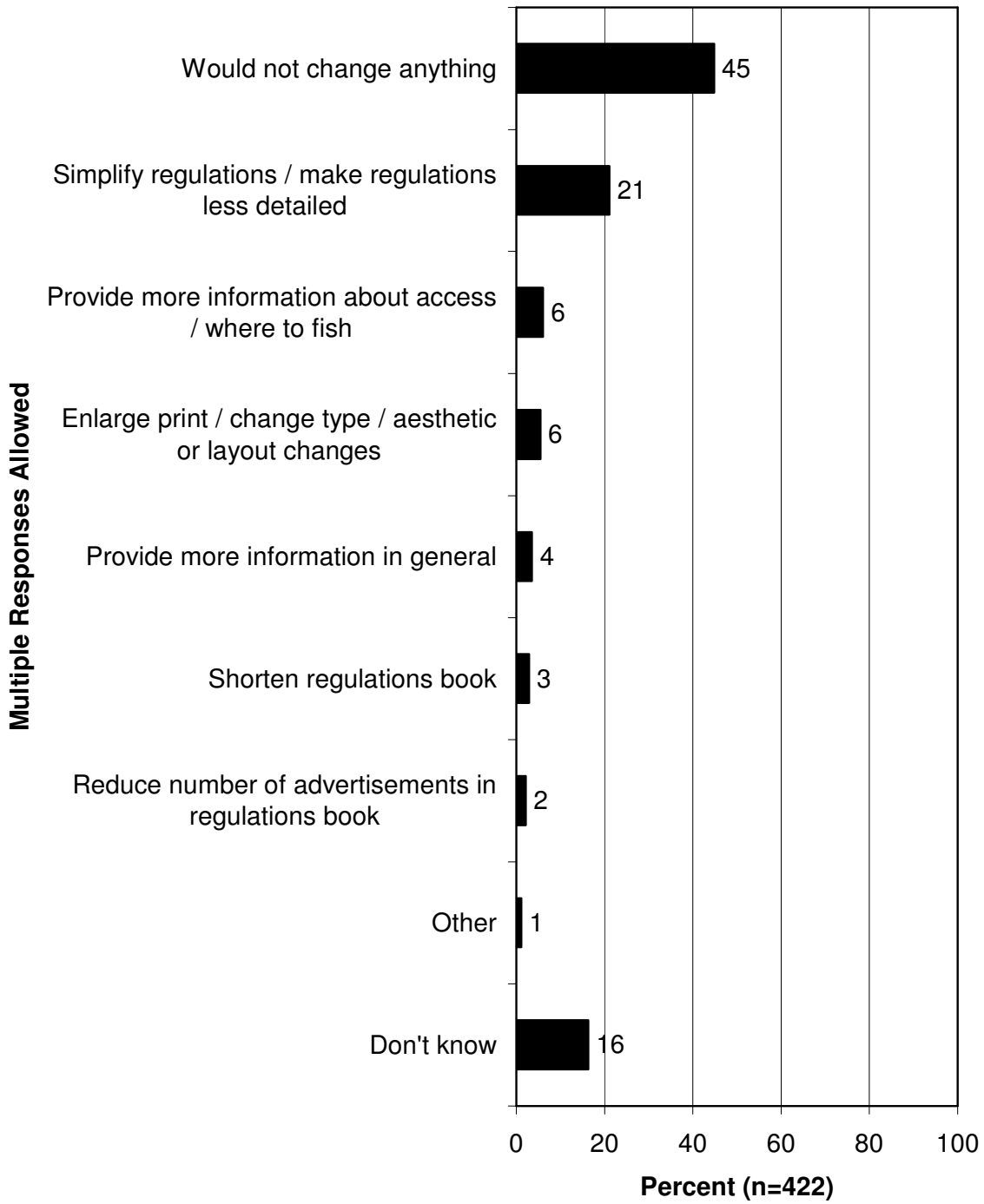
Q433. Do you think the fishing regulations in Maine are too strict, not strict enough, or about right?



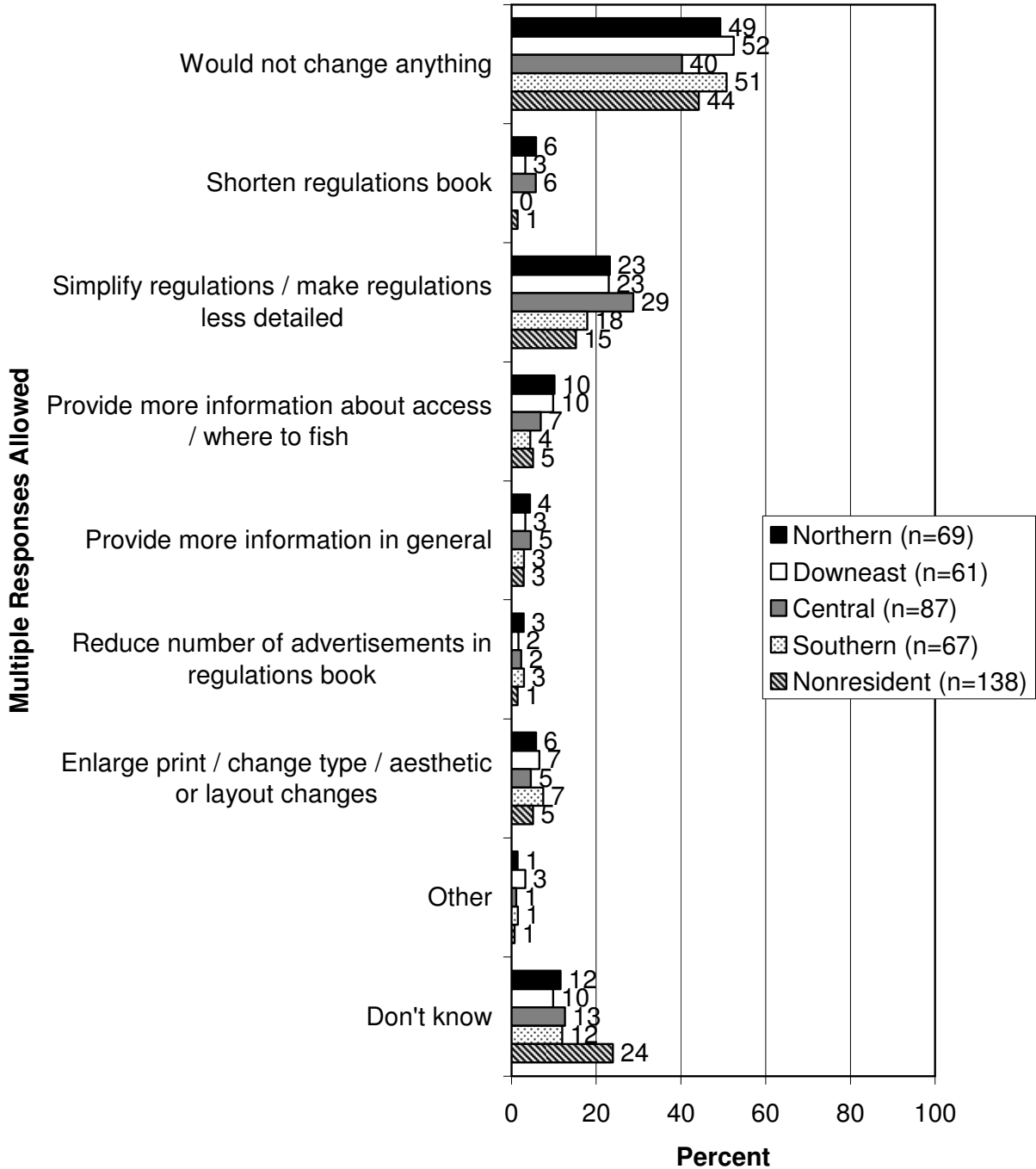
Q433. Do you think the fishing regulations in Maine are too strict, not strict enough, or about right?



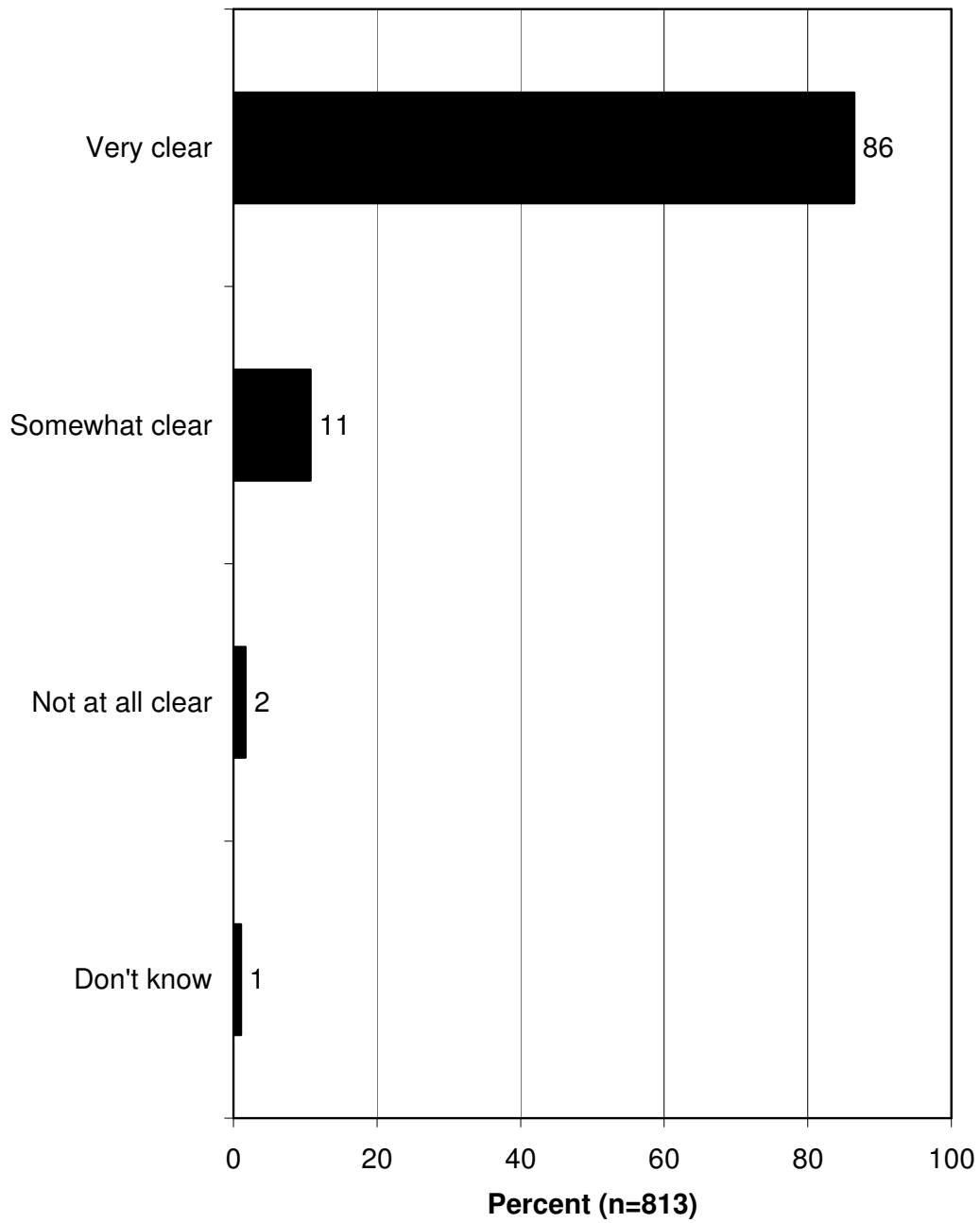
Q435. If you could improve Maine's fishing regulations book, what would you change?



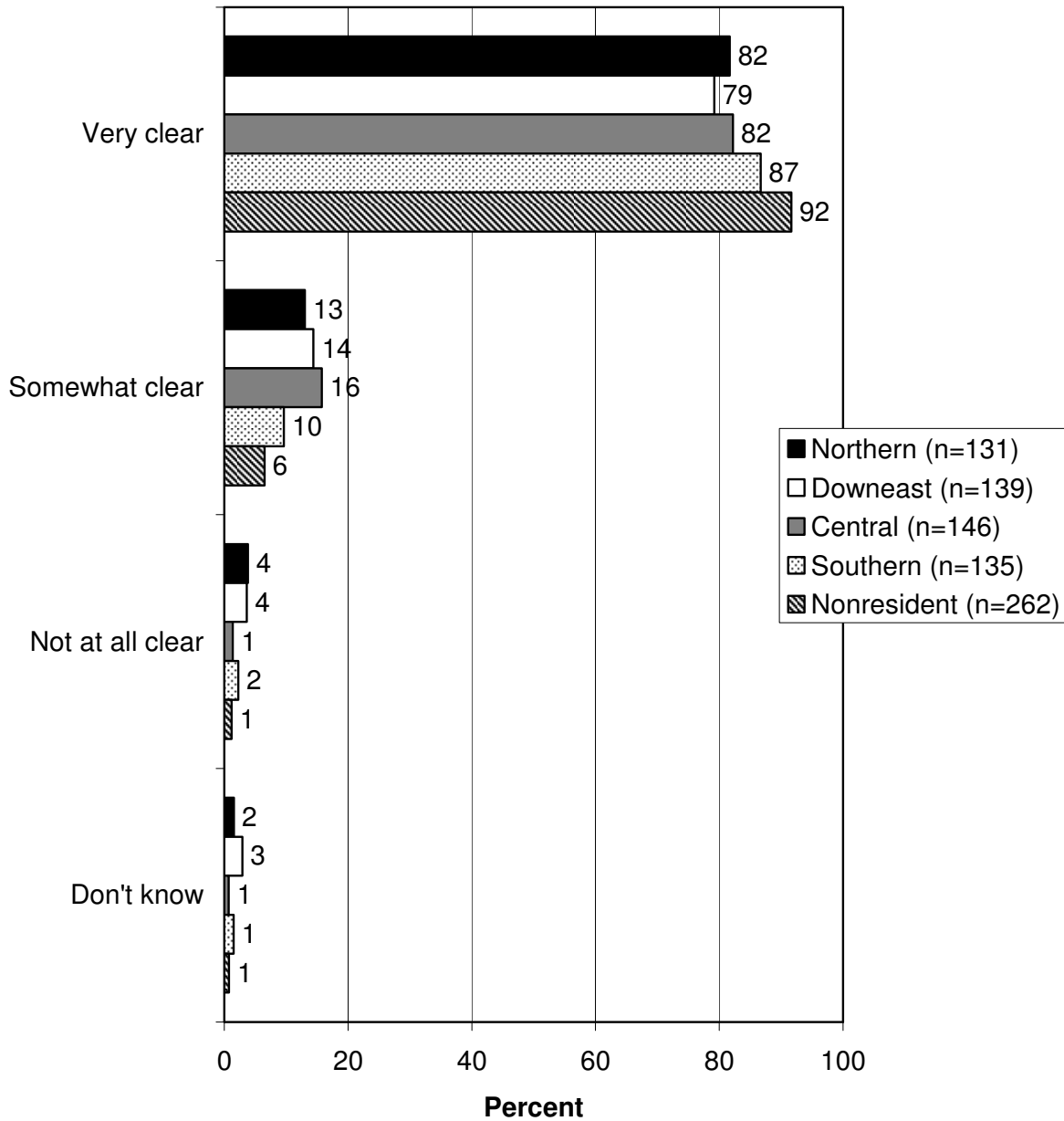
Q435. If you could improve Maine's fishing regulations book, what would you change?



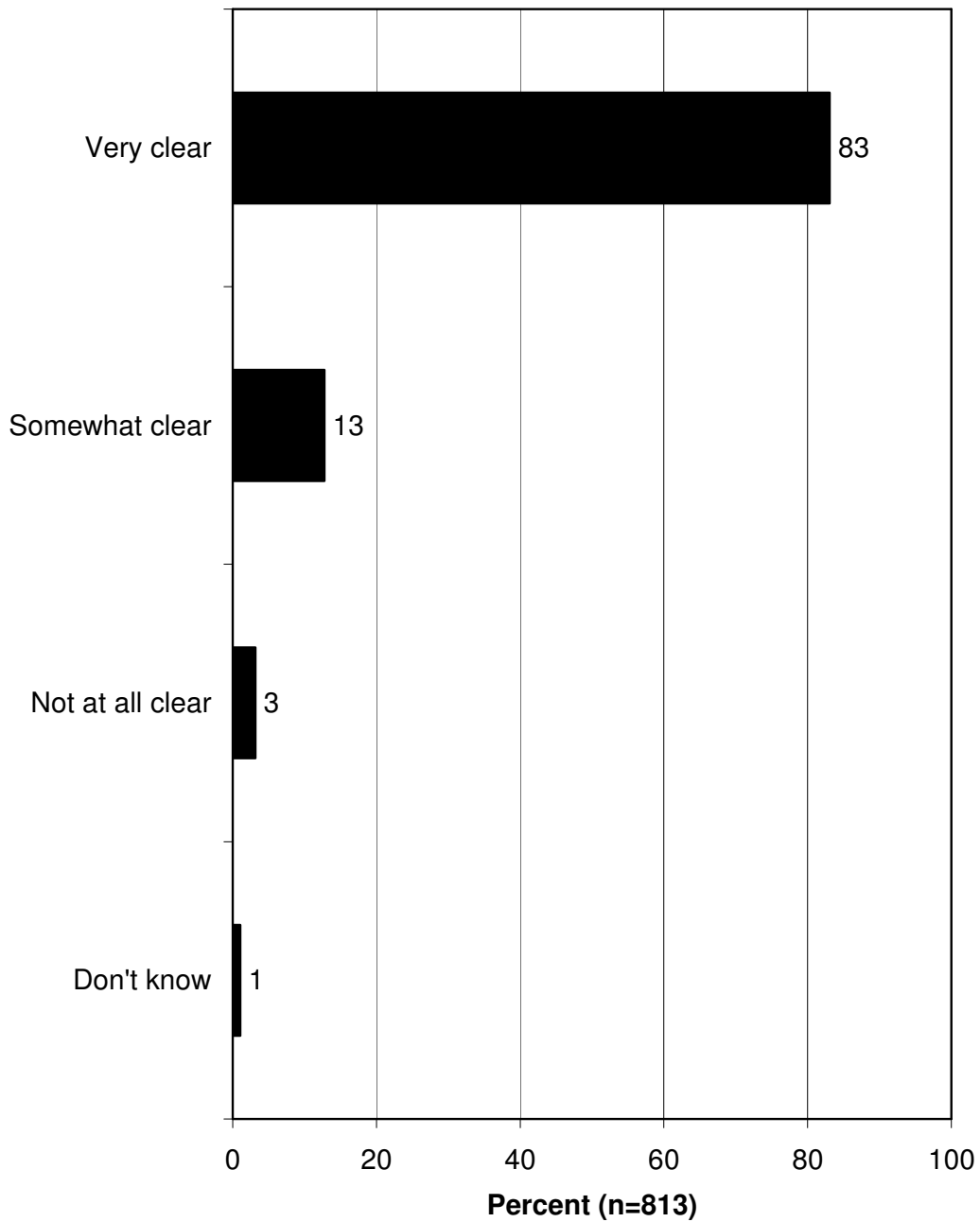
Q439. How clear or unclear is this slot limit worded: Daily bag limit on lake trout or togue: 6 fish, minimum length limit is 14 inches, only 1 fish can exceed 23 inches.



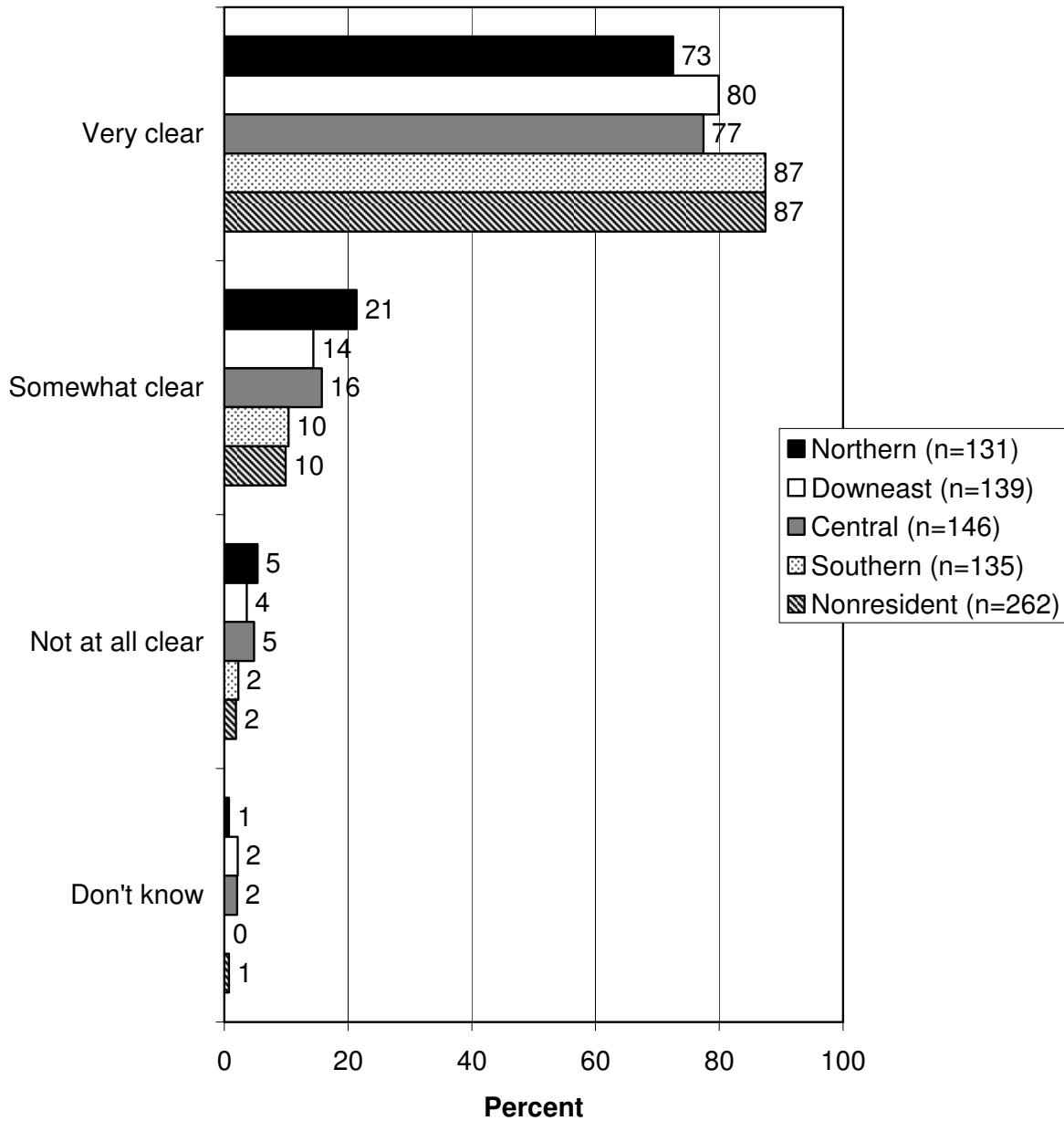
Q439. How clear or unclear is this slot limit worded: Daily bag limit on lake trout or togue: 6 fish, minimum length limit is 14 inches, only 1 fish can exceed 23 inches.



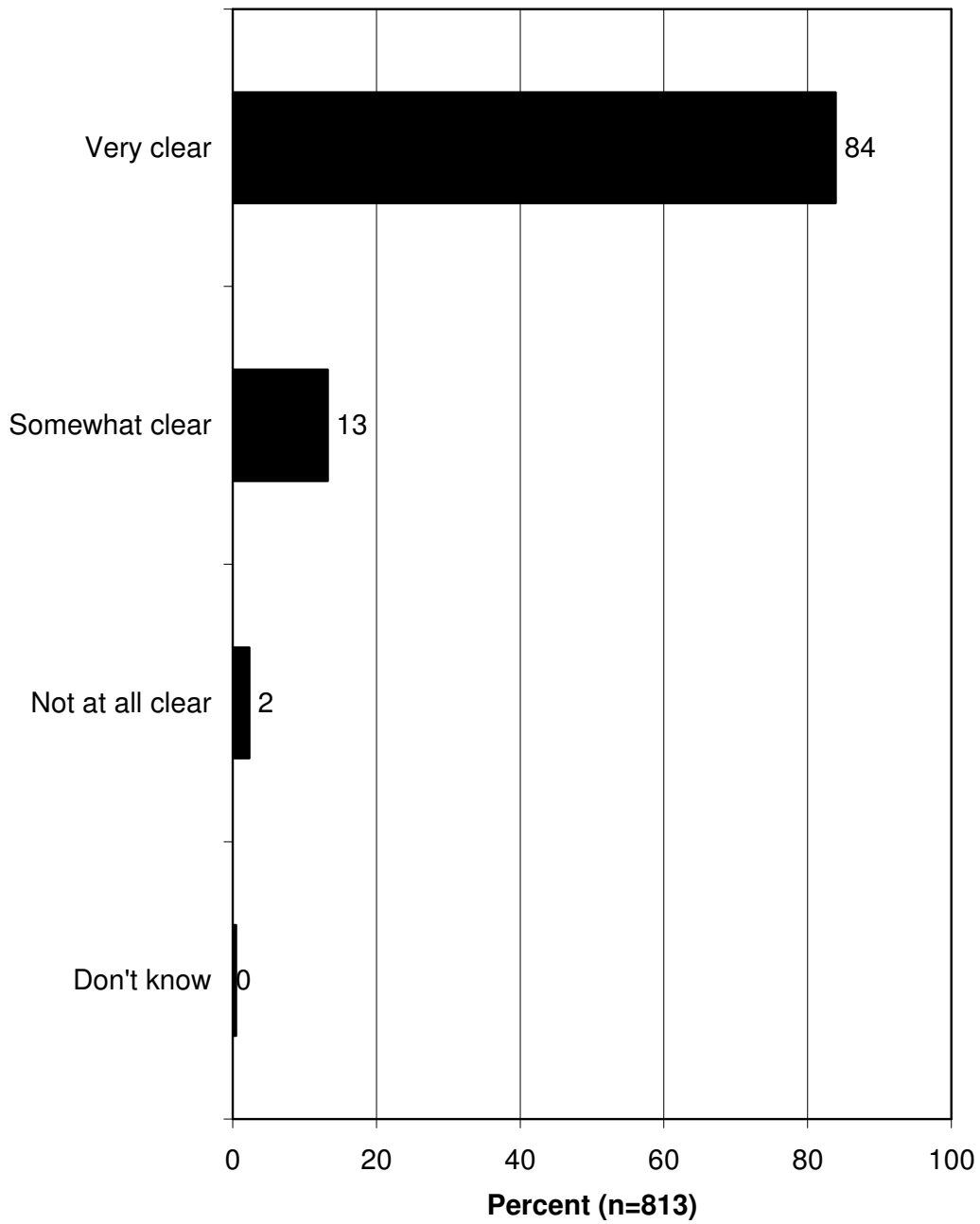
Q440. How clear or unclear is this slot limit worded: Daily bag limit on bass: 1 fish; minimum length limit 10 inches, all bass between 16 and 20 inches must be released alive at once.



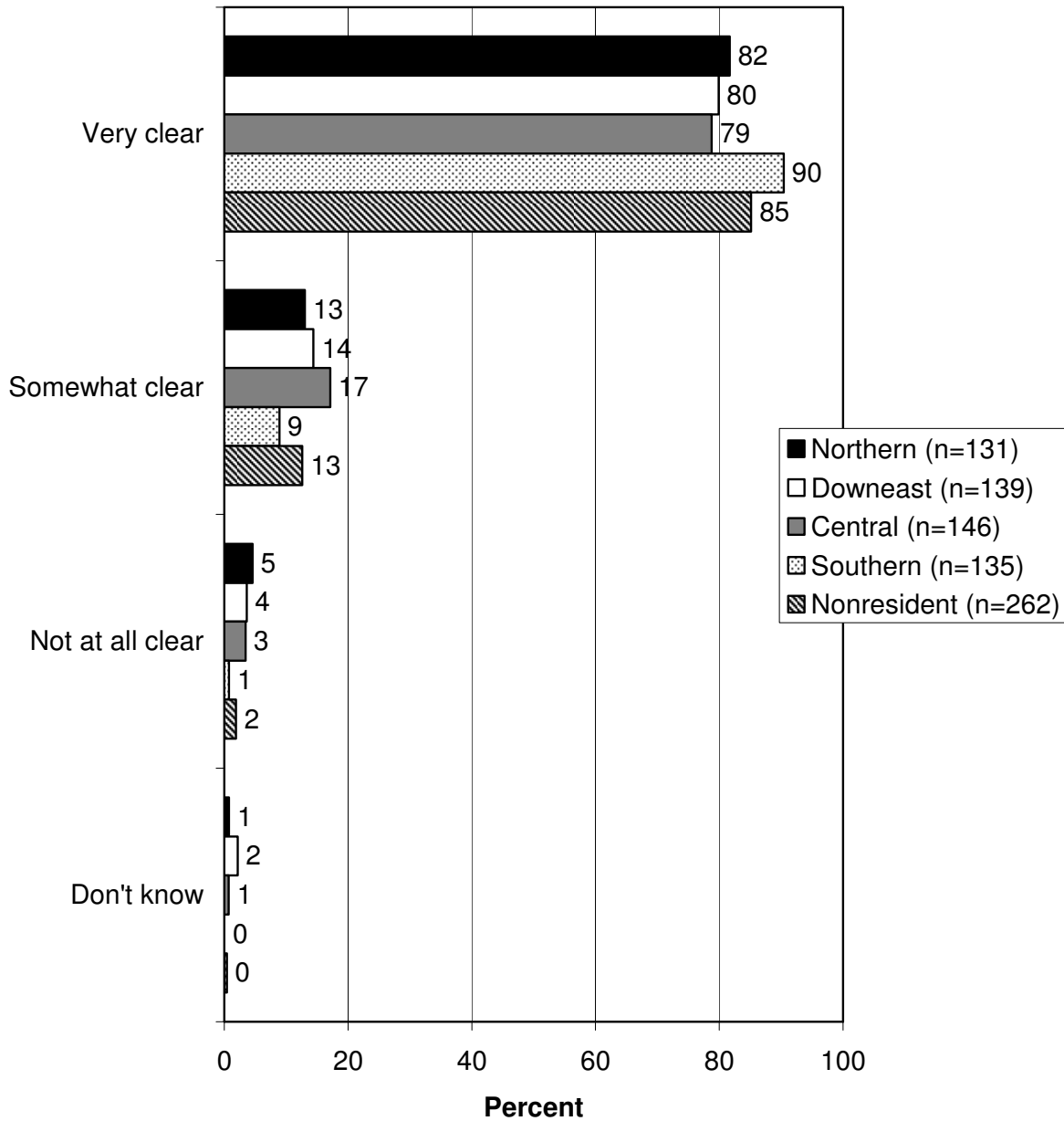
Q440. How clear or unclear is this slot limit worded: Daily bag limit on bass: 1 fish; minimum length limit 10 inches, all bass between 16 and 20 inches must be released alive at once.



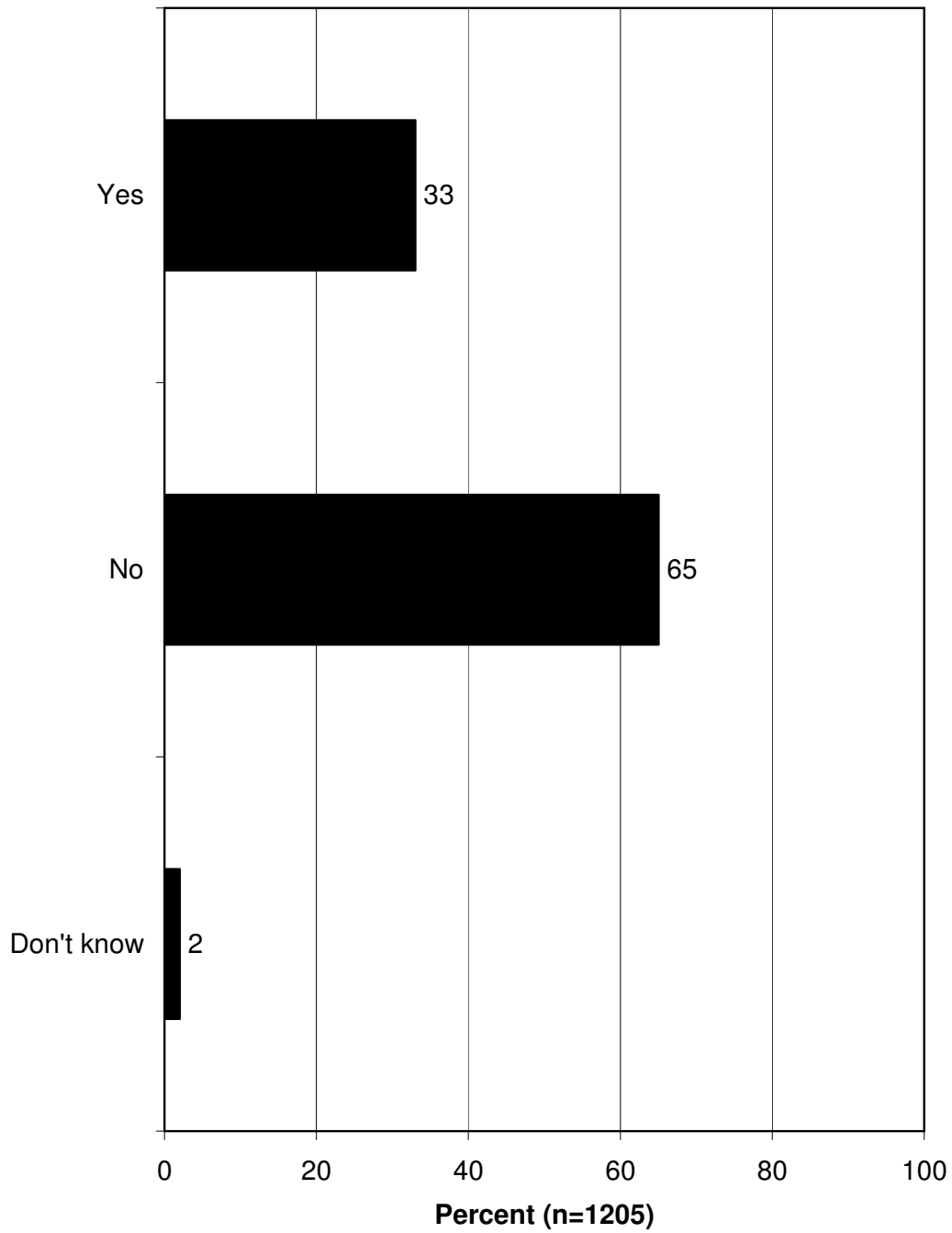
Q441. How clear or unclear is this slot limit worded: Daily bag limit on trout: 2 fish, minimum length limit of 10 inches, only 1 fish can exceed 12 inches.



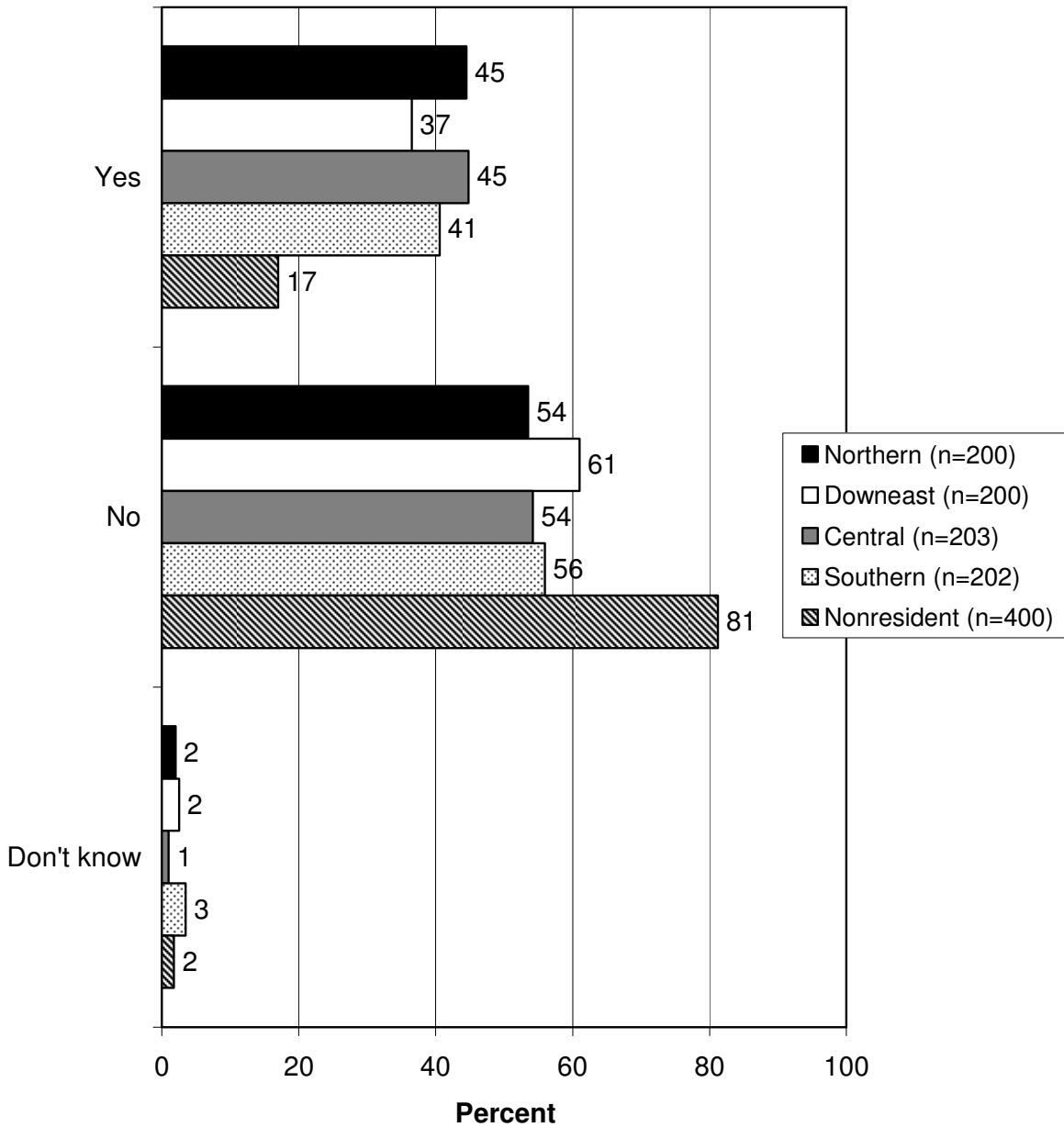
Q441. How clear or unclear is this slot limit worded: Daily bag limit on trout: 2 fish, minimum length limit of 10 inches, only 1 fish can exceed 12 inches.



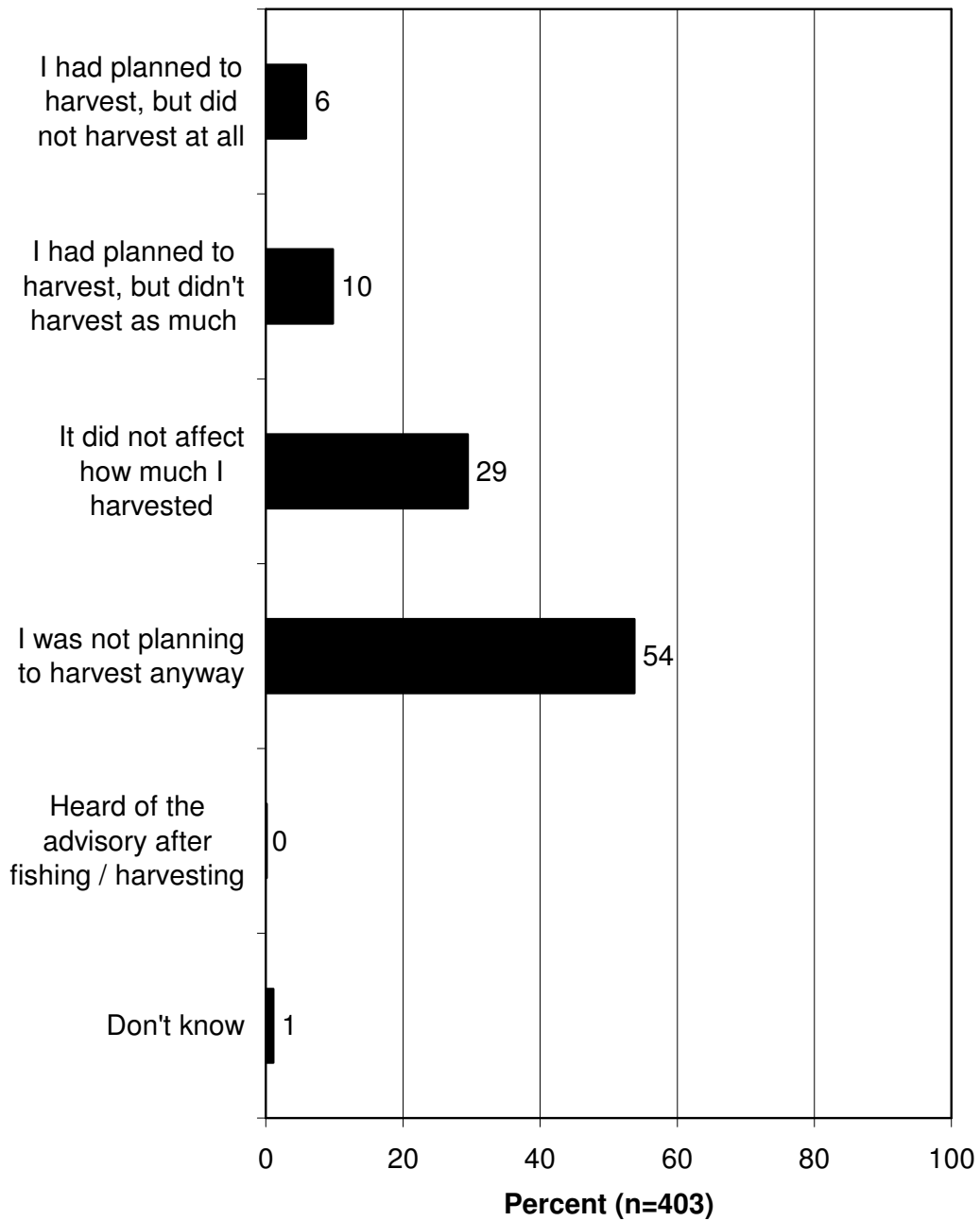
Q442. In the past 5 years, have you been aware of any fish consumption advisories specifically for freshwater fish in Maine's inland waters?



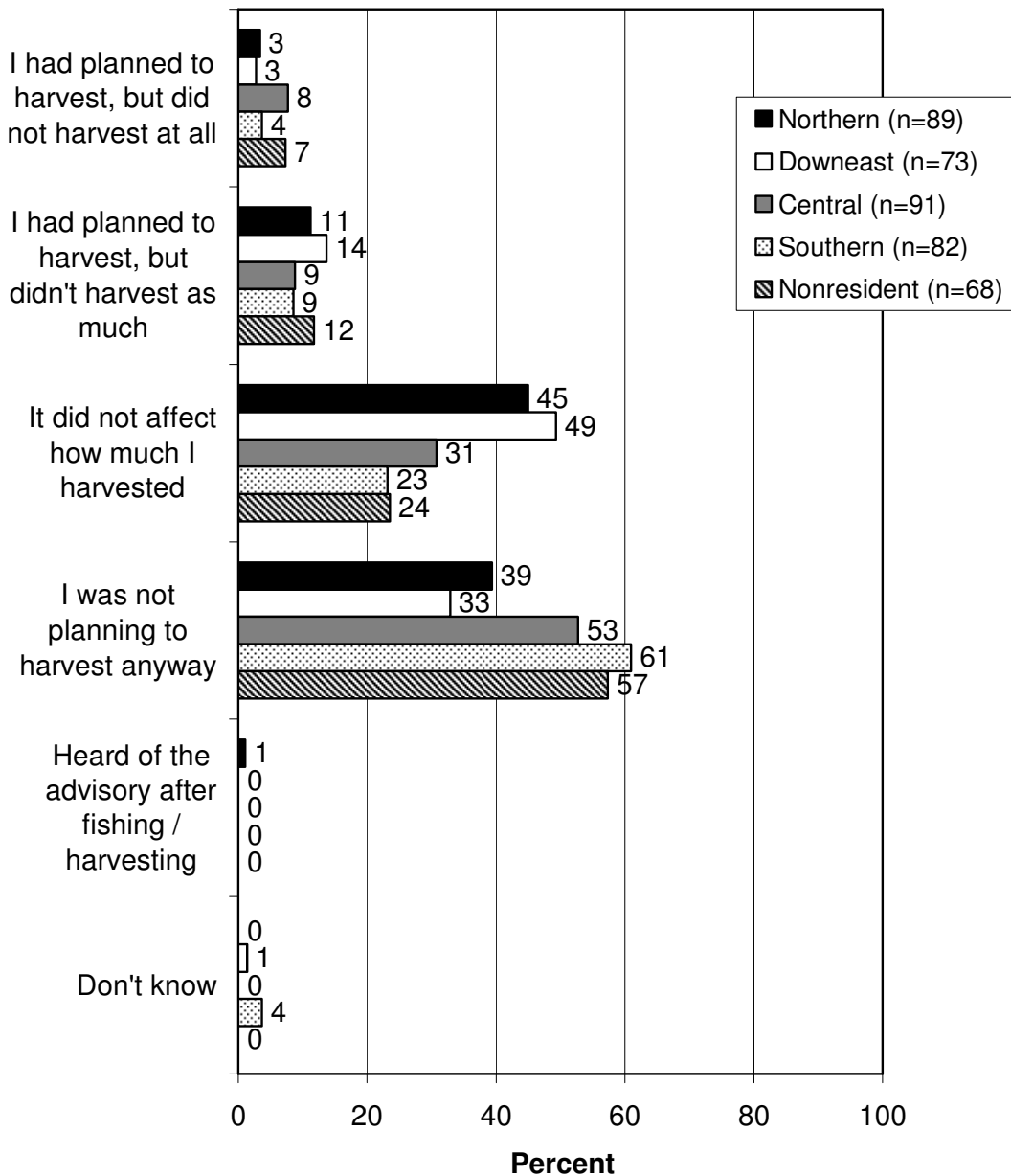
Q442. In the past 5 years, have you been aware of any fish consumption advisories specifically for freshwater fish in Maine's inland waters?



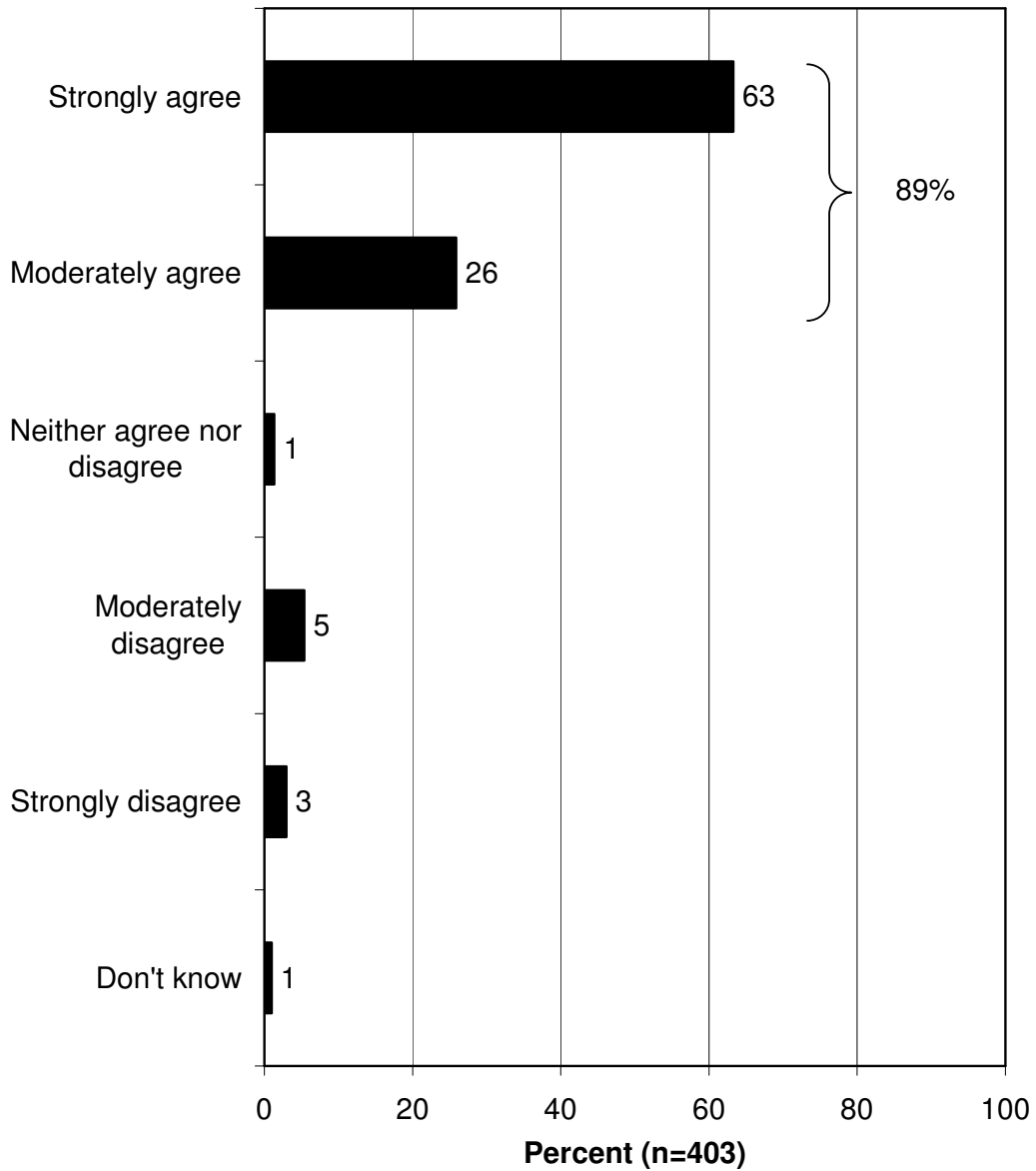
Q443. After you were aware of the advisory, which best describes you? (Asked of those who were aware of fish consumption advisories specifically for freshwater fish in Maine's inland waters.)



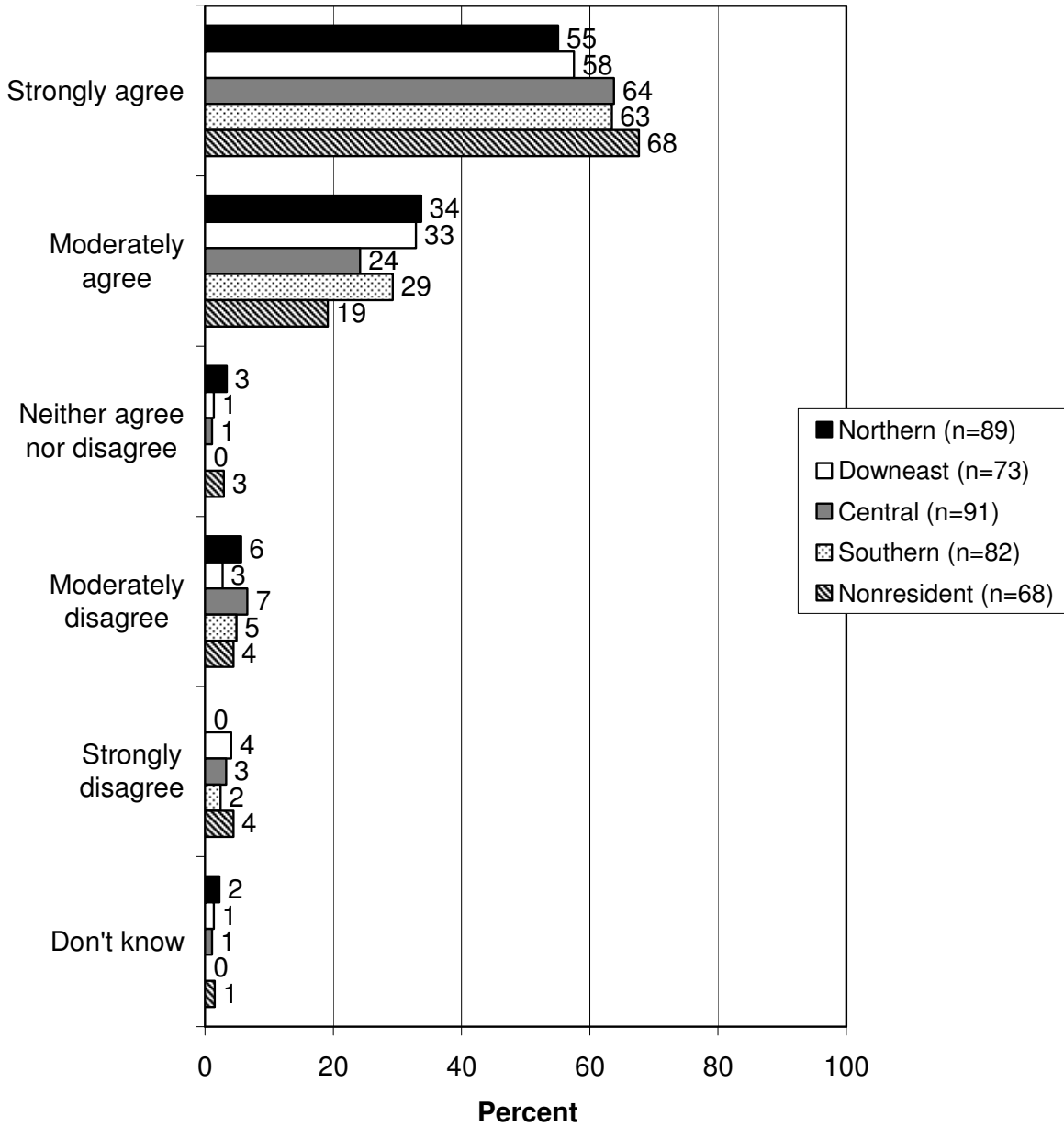
Q443. After you were aware of the advisory, which best describes you? (Asked of those who were aware of fish consumption advisories specifically for freshwater fish in Maine's inland waters.)



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? (Asked of those who were aware of fish consumption advisories specifically for freshwater fish in Maine's inland waters.)



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? (Asked of those who were aware of fish consumption advisories specifically for freshwater fish in Maine's inland waters.)



ADDITIONAL FISHING INFORMATION

- The survey presented a series of information sources on fisheries management in Maine. Anglers were asked to evaluate the credibility of each source with the following response options: extremely credible, very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible.
 - The sources rated as most credible are a game warden with the Department (84% rated the source as extremely or very credible), a biologist with the Department (79%), and a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (66%).
 - Three graphs are provided: extremely credible by itself, extremely and very credible combined, and not at all credible by itself.
 - Results are generally consistent between the regions.

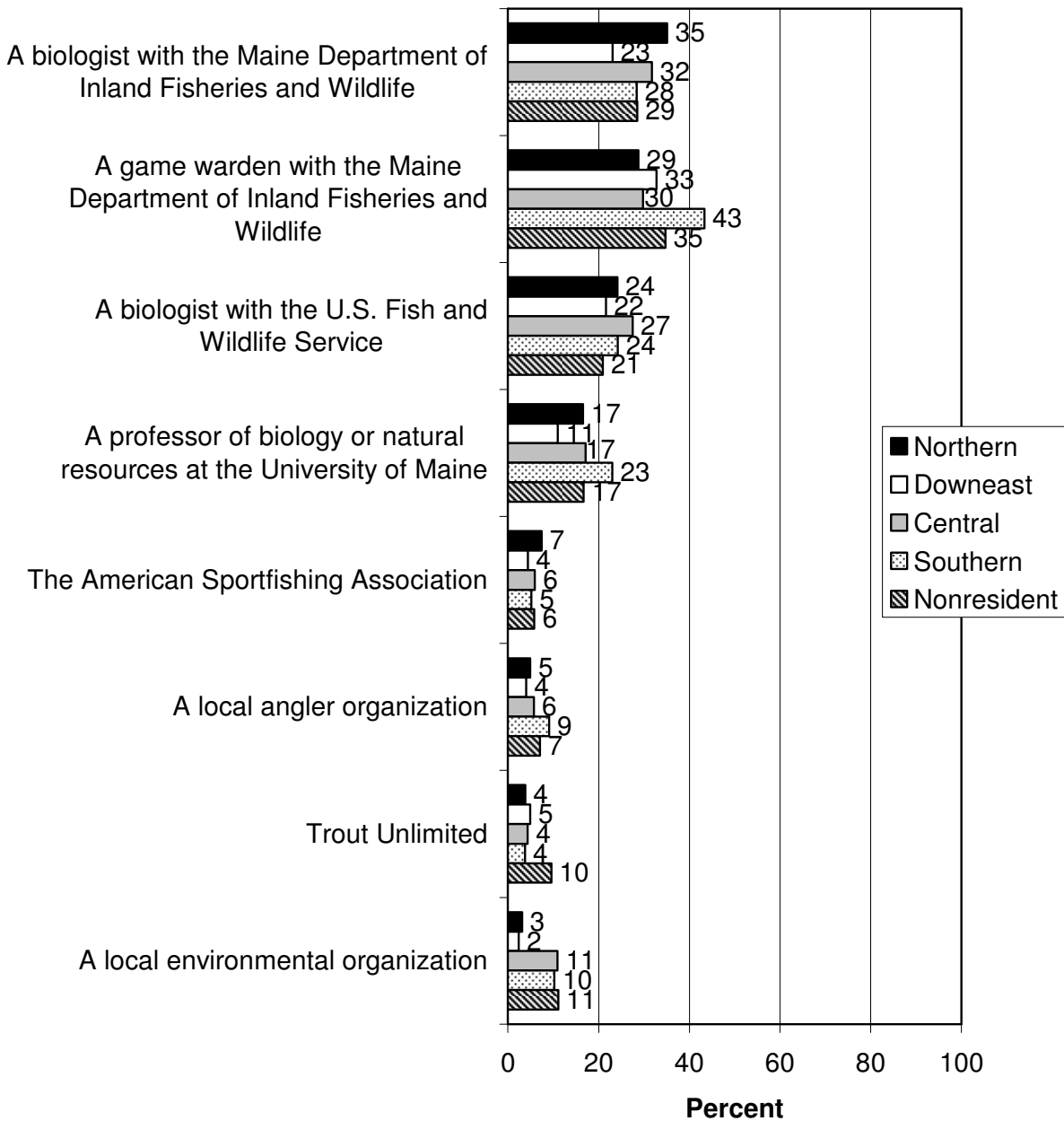
- Three-quarters of anglers (75%) are not currently a member of nor have donated to any fishing or conservation organizations in the past 5 years. However, 6% are members of or donated to Trout Unlimited and 2% are members of or donated to BASS Masters. The graph shows the full results. The data are shown at one decimal place not to imply that the survey has accuracy to that level but to avoid having most of the organizations round to 0.
 - Nonresidents were most often involved with Trout Unlimited.

- About a quarter of survey respondents (26%) fished in saltwater in Maine in the past 5 years.
 - Compared to the other regions, substantially higher percentages of anglers who reside in the Southern Region (48%) and Downeast Region (42%) fished in saltwater.

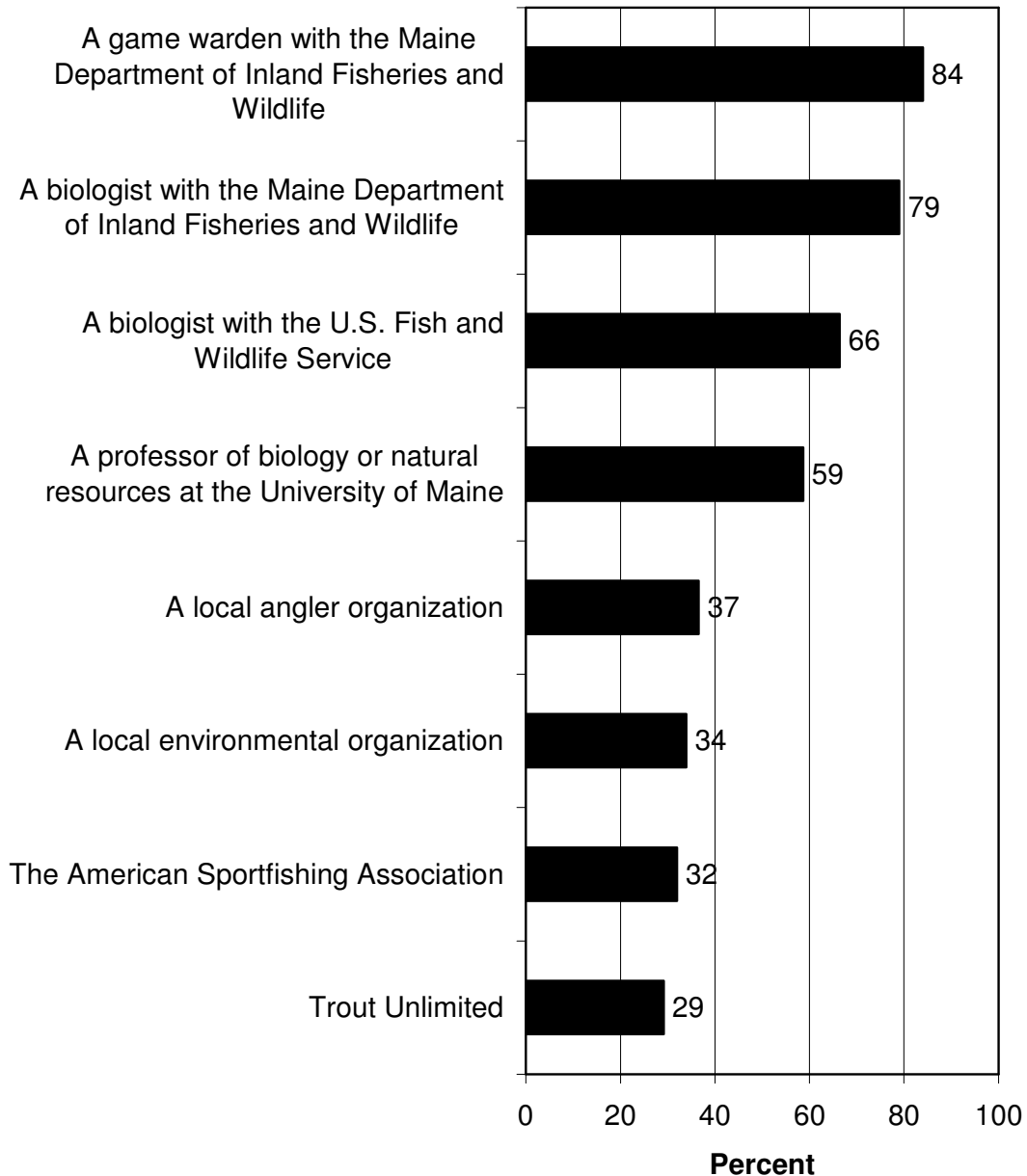
Q447-Q454. Percent of respondents who rated each of the following as an extremely credible source of information on fisheries management in Maine:



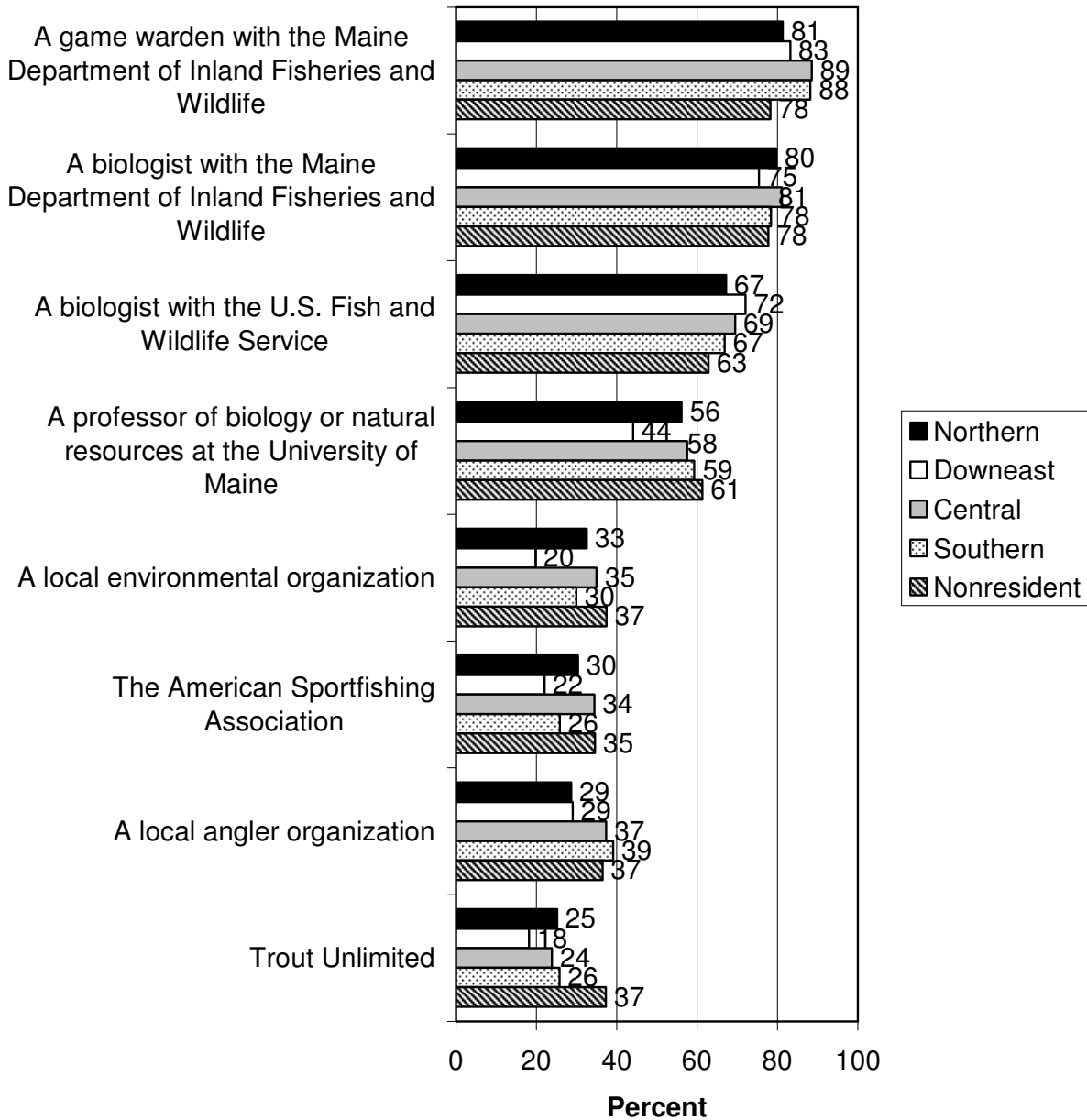
Q447-Q454. Percent of respondents who rated each of the following as an extremely credible source of information on fisheries management in Maine:



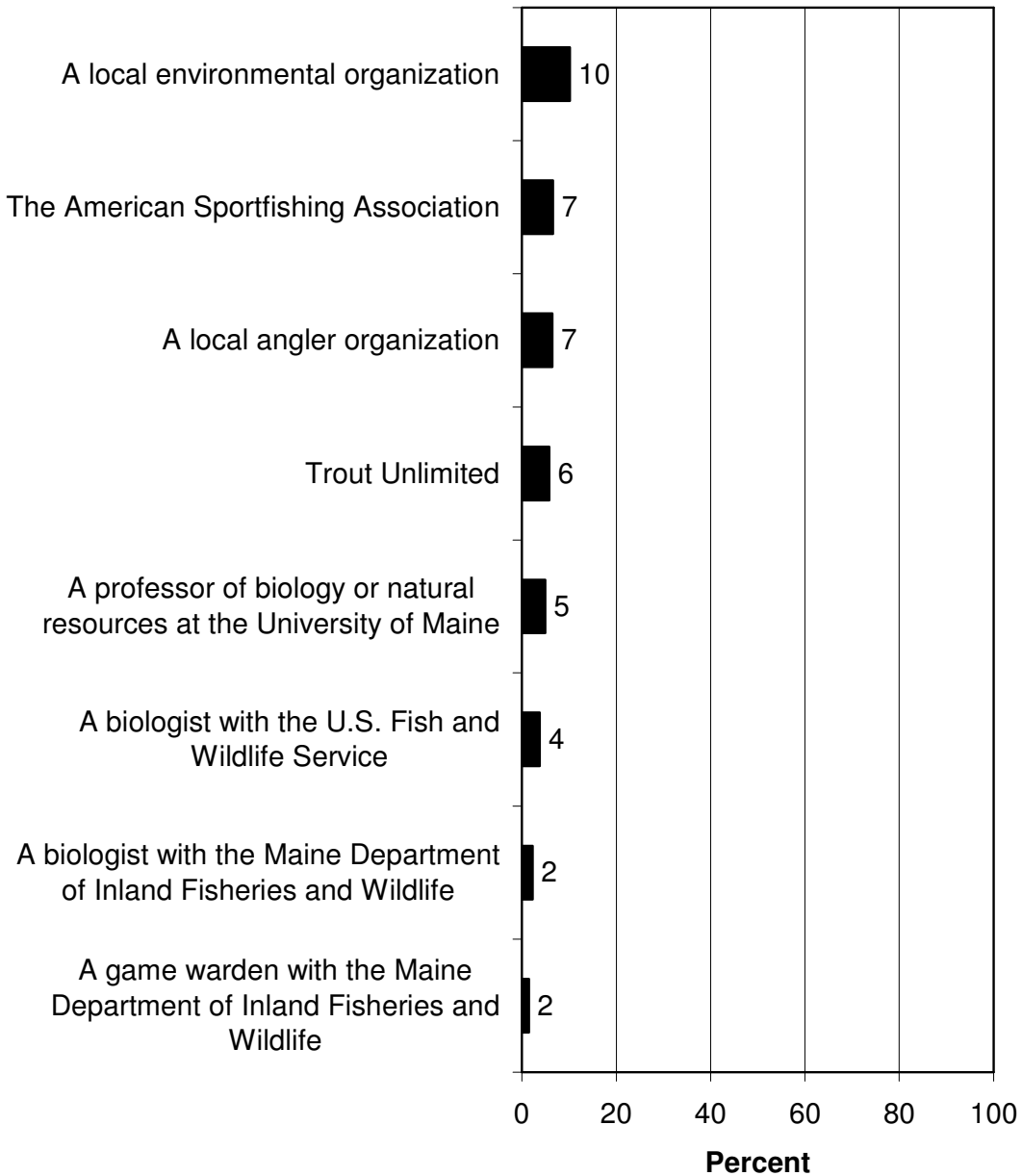
Q447-Q454. Percent of respondents who rated each of the following as an extremely or very credible source of information on fisheries management in Maine:



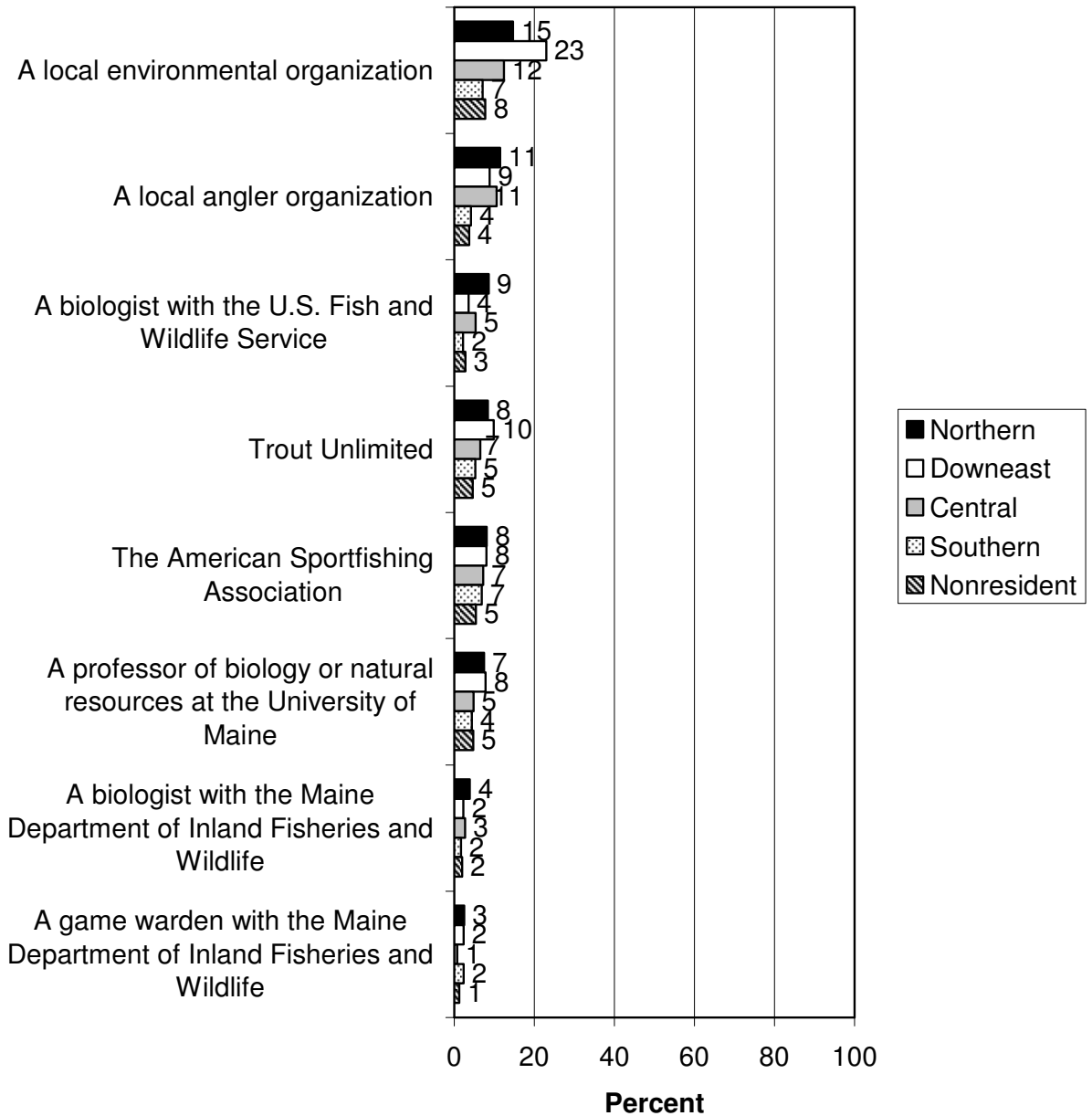
Q447-Q454. Percent of respondents who rated each of the following as an extremely or very credible source of information on fisheries management in Maine:



Q447-Q454. Percent of respondents who rated each of the following as a not at all credible source of information on fisheries management in Maine:



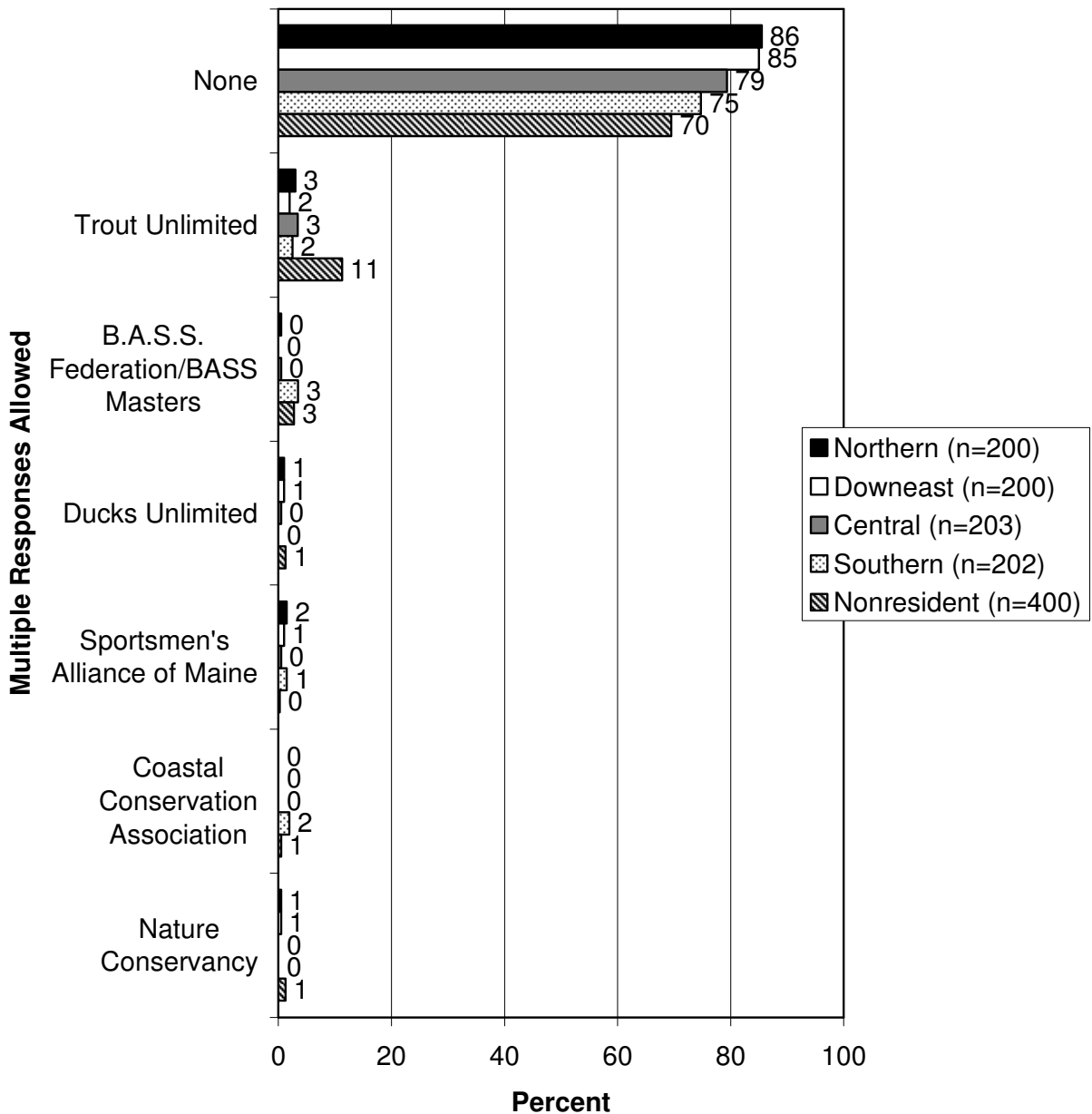
Q447-Q454. Percent of respondents who rated each of the following as a not at all credible source of information on fisheries management in Maine:



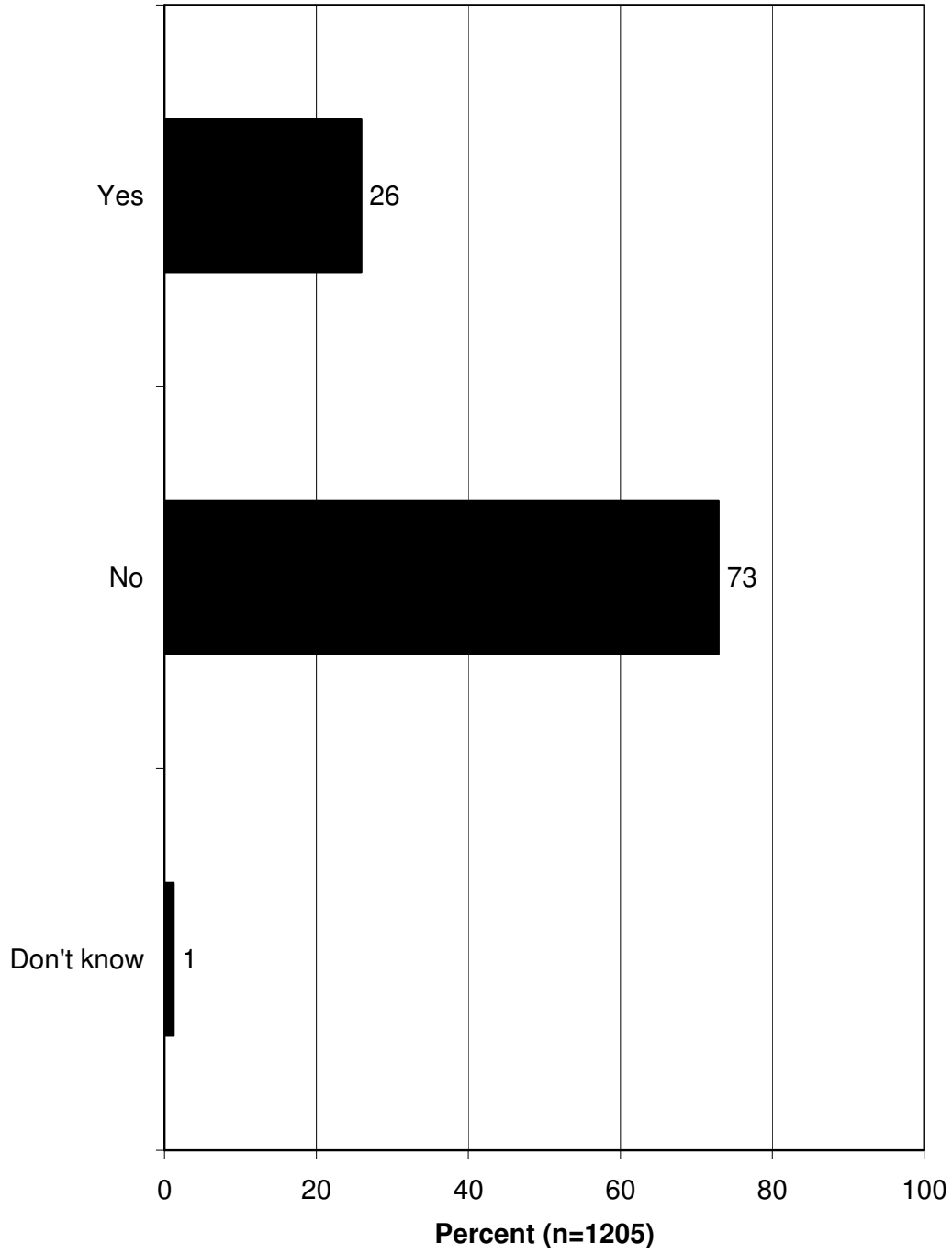
Q455. Are you currently a member of or have you donated to any fishing or conservation groups or organizations in the past 5 years? If yes, which ones?



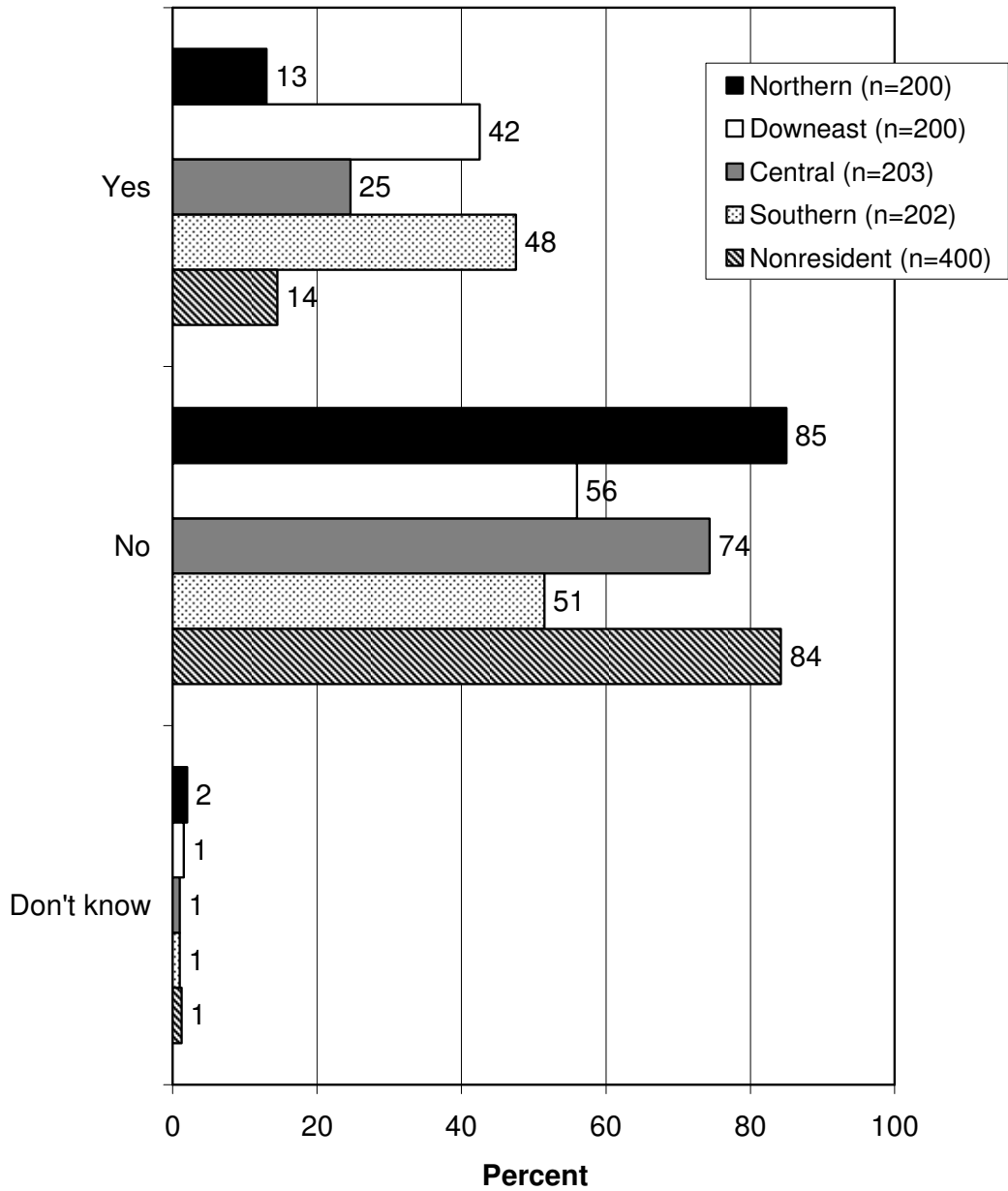
Q455. Are you currently a member of or have you donated to any fishing or conservation groups or organizations in the past 5 years? If yes, which ones? (Shows only those with 1% of the total.)



Q458. Did you fish in saltwater in Maine in the past 5 years?



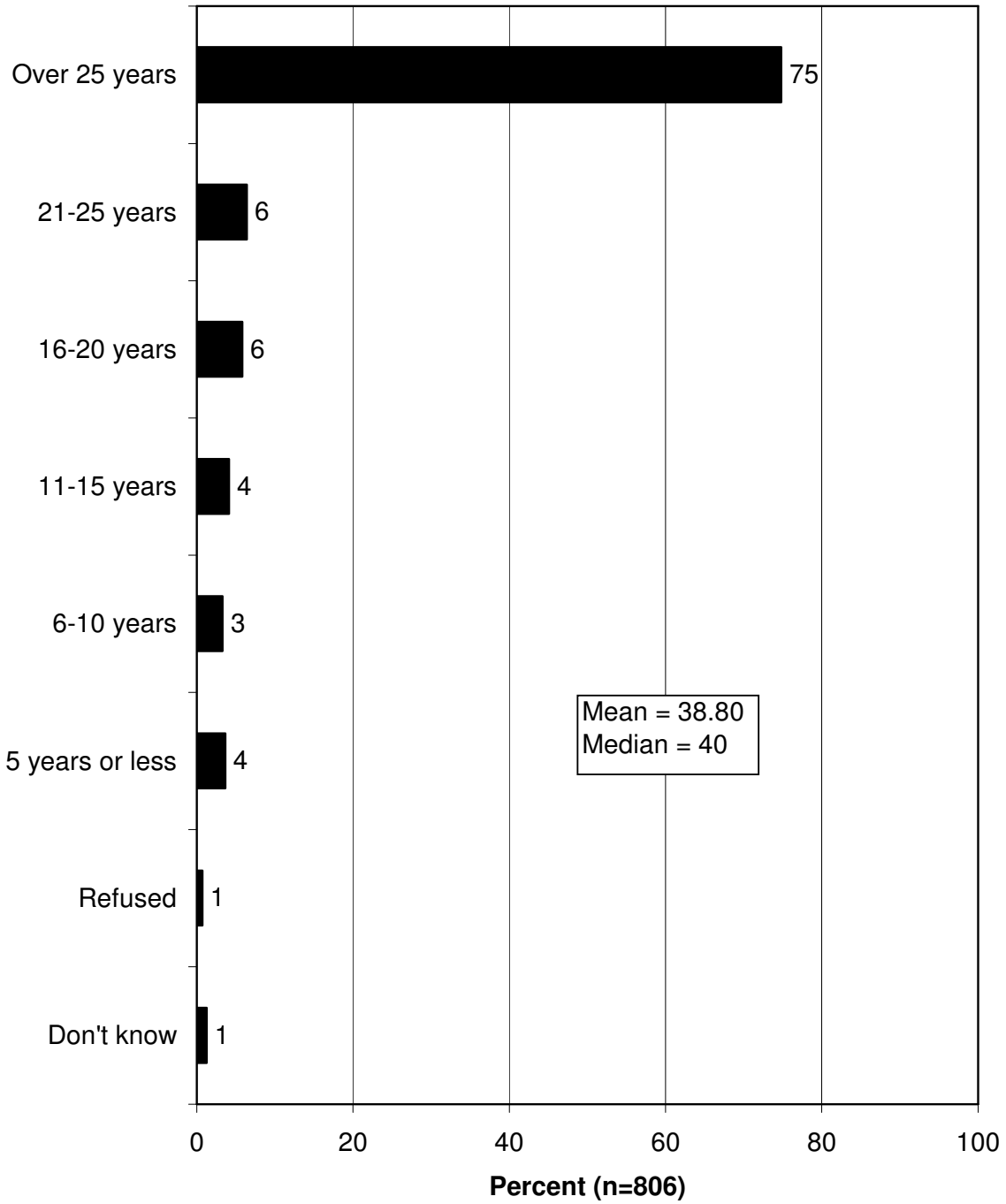
Q458. Did you fish in saltwater in Maine in the past 5 years?



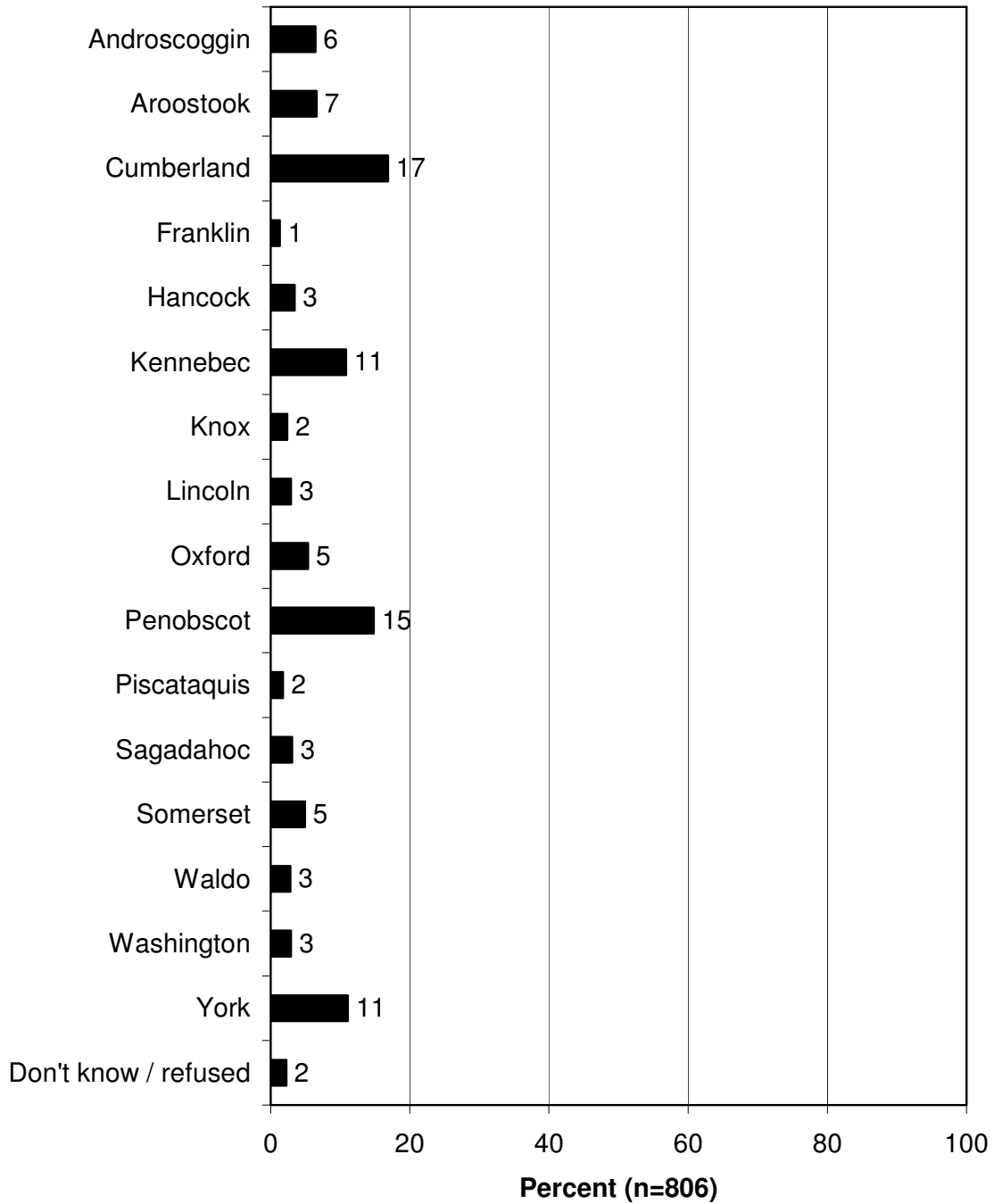
DEMOGRAPHICS

- Maine resident anglers have lived in the state an average of 39 years; most (75%) have lived in Maine over 25 years.
- Maine resident anglers most often live in Cumberland County (17%), Penobscot County (15%), Kennebec County (11%), and York County (11%).
- Nonresident anglers most often live in Massachusetts (34%), distantly followed by New Hampshire (10%) and Pennsylvania (8%). Interestingly, 6% of nonresident anglers travel all the way from Florida. The graph shows several other parts of the country where people have traveled great distances to freshwater fish in Maine.
- Anglers most often consider their place of residence to be a small city or town (35%) or a rural area not on a farm or ranch (31%).
 - Northern Region anglers are most likely to be from a small city or town and nonresident anglers are most likely to be from a large city or urban area.
- Regarding education levels, a plurality of anglers are high school graduates (28%), closely followed by those with a bachelor's degree (27%).
 - In general, nonresident anglers have higher education levels.
- Nearly all anglers (94%) are white or Caucasian.
- Percentages in the annual income categories generally follow a bell curve, albeit with a minor spike in the highest (\$120,000 or more) category.
 - Nonresident anglers are far more likely to be in the highest income category than resident anglers.
- The mean age of anglers is 48 years (only adults 16 or older were included in the license database).
 - Nonresident anglers are far more likely to be in the highest age category (65 or older).
- Most anglers are male (82%).
 - The highest percentage of female anglers is in the Central Region (27%).

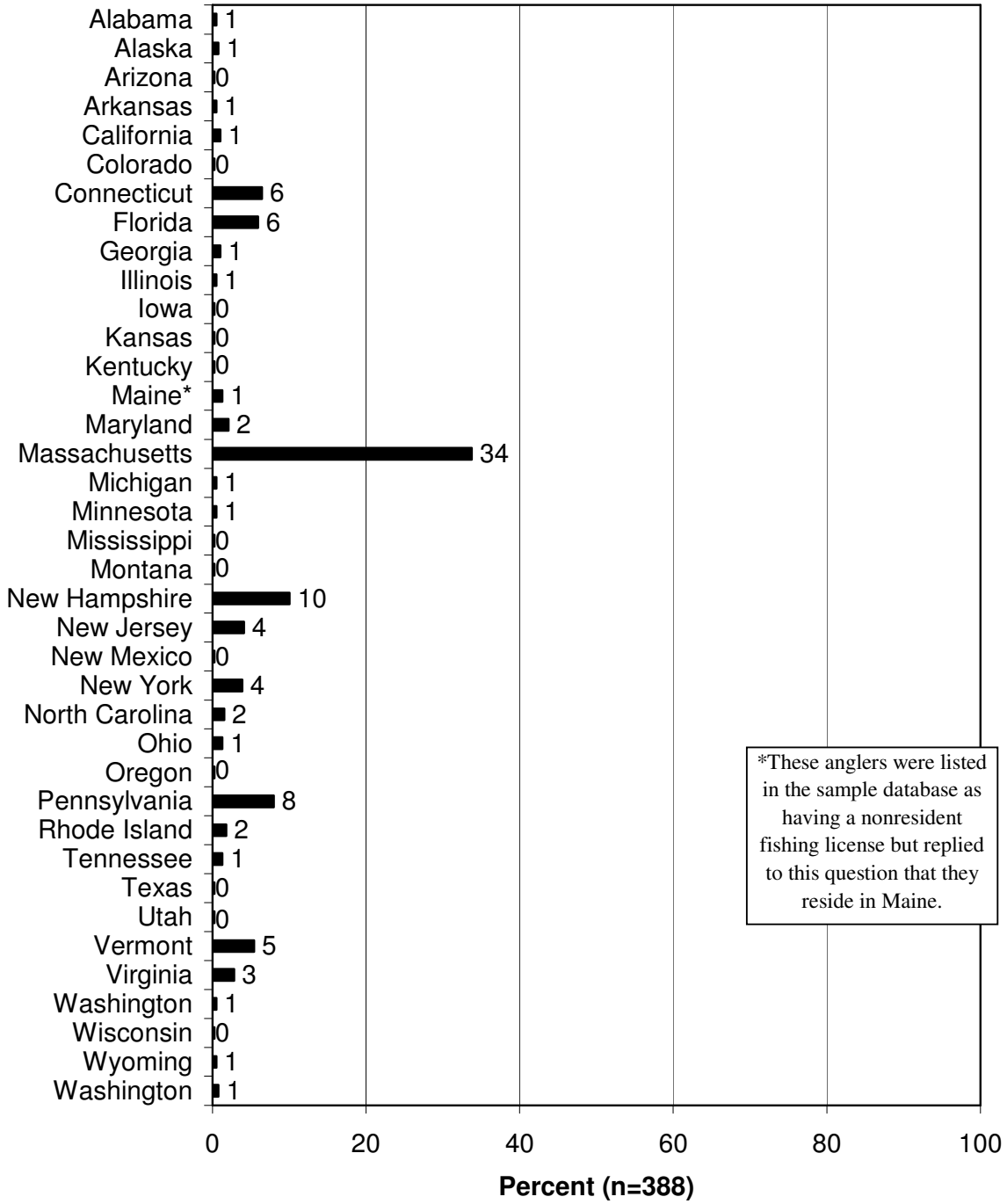
**Q460. How many years have you lived in Maine?
(Asked of Maine residents.)**



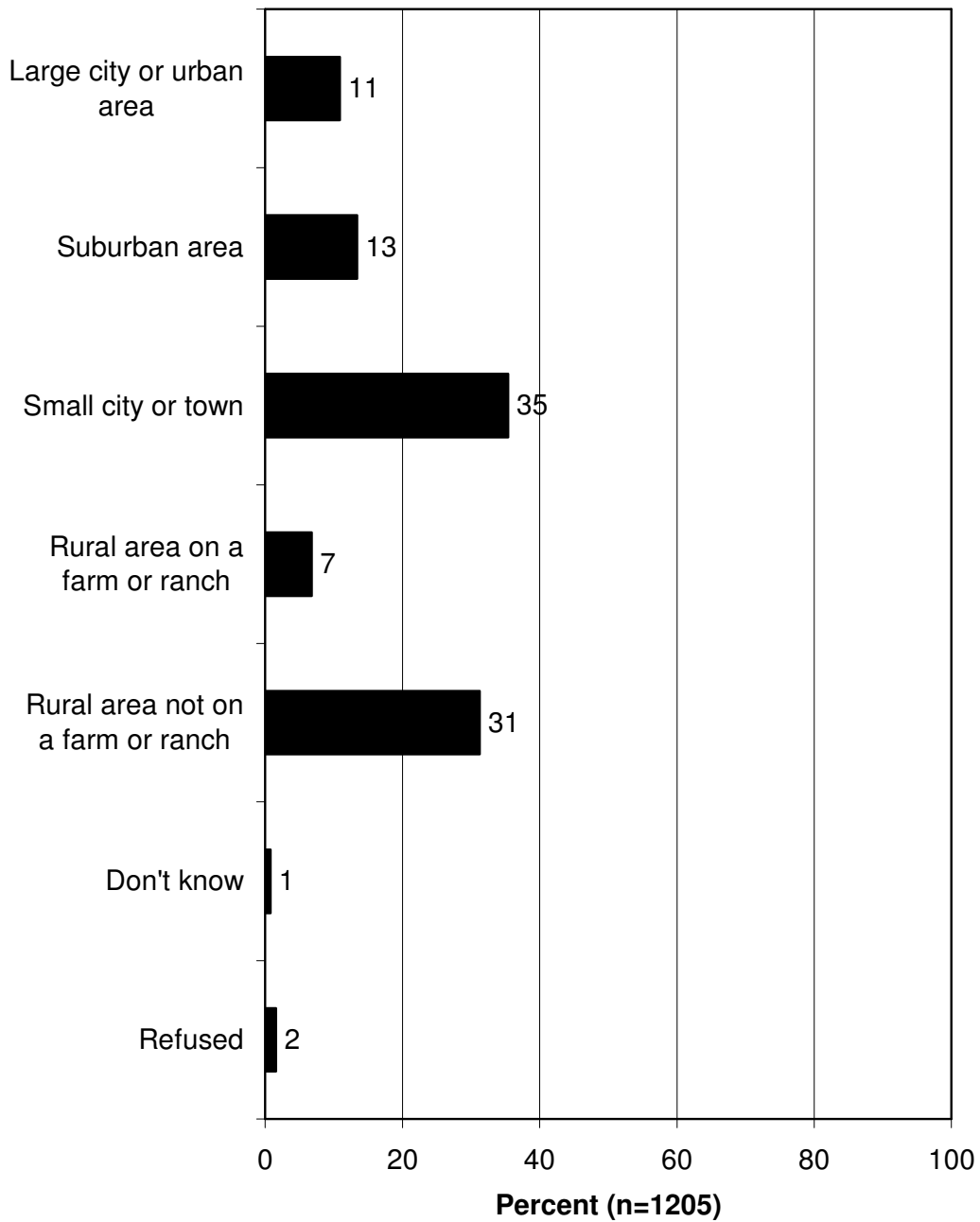
**Q463. Which county do you live in?
(Asked of Maine residents.)**



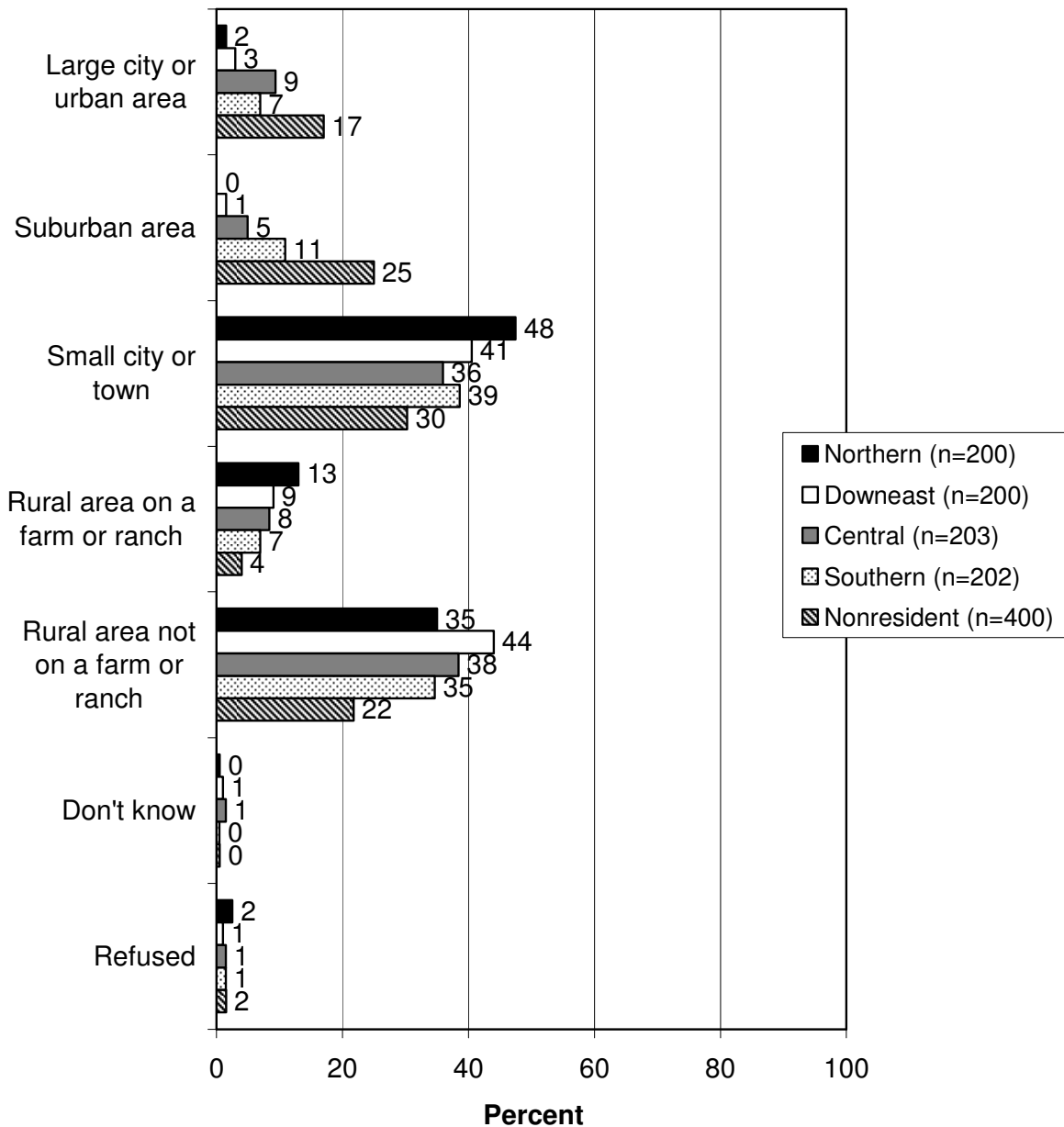
Q465. What is your state of residence? (Asked of nonresidents.)



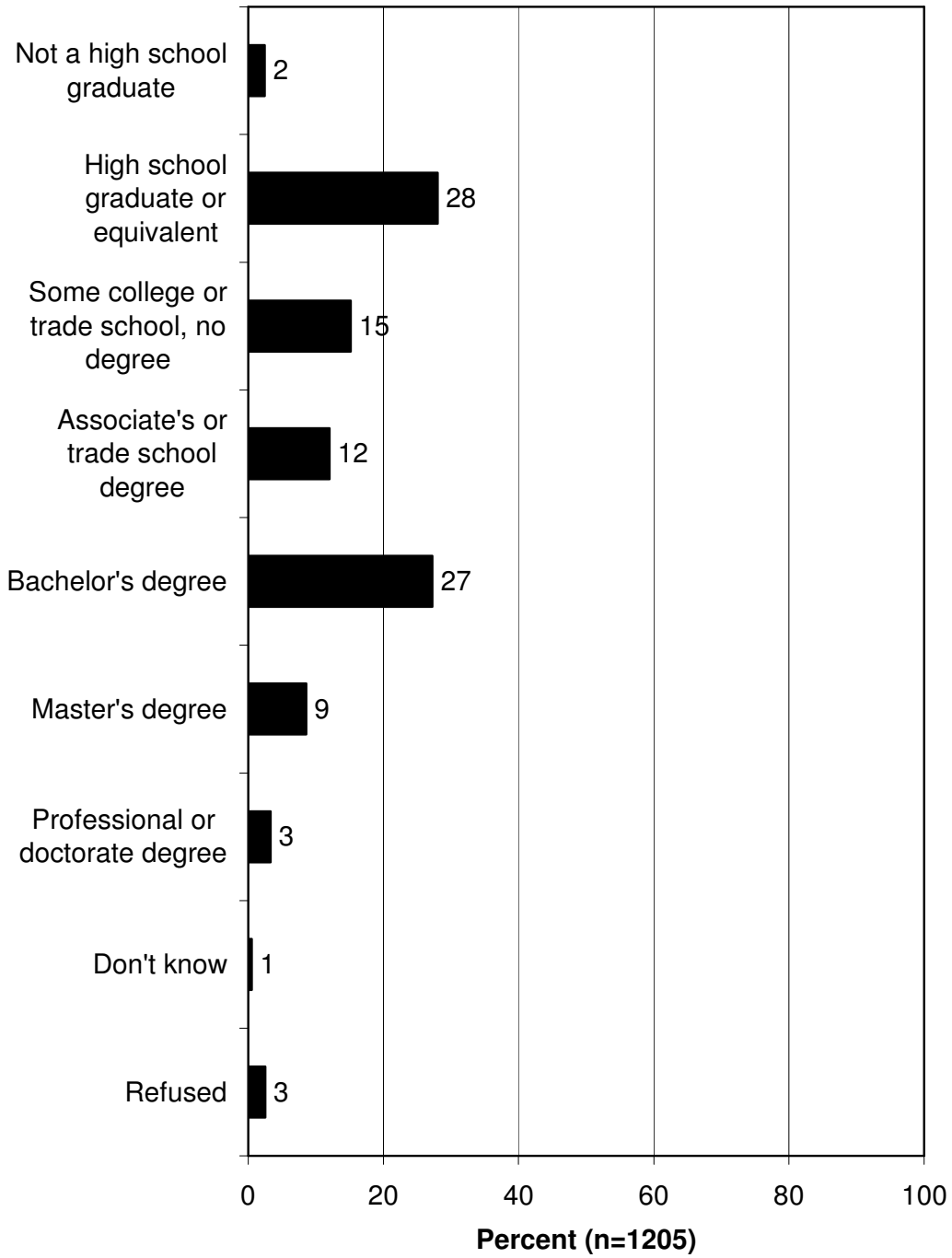
Q466. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?



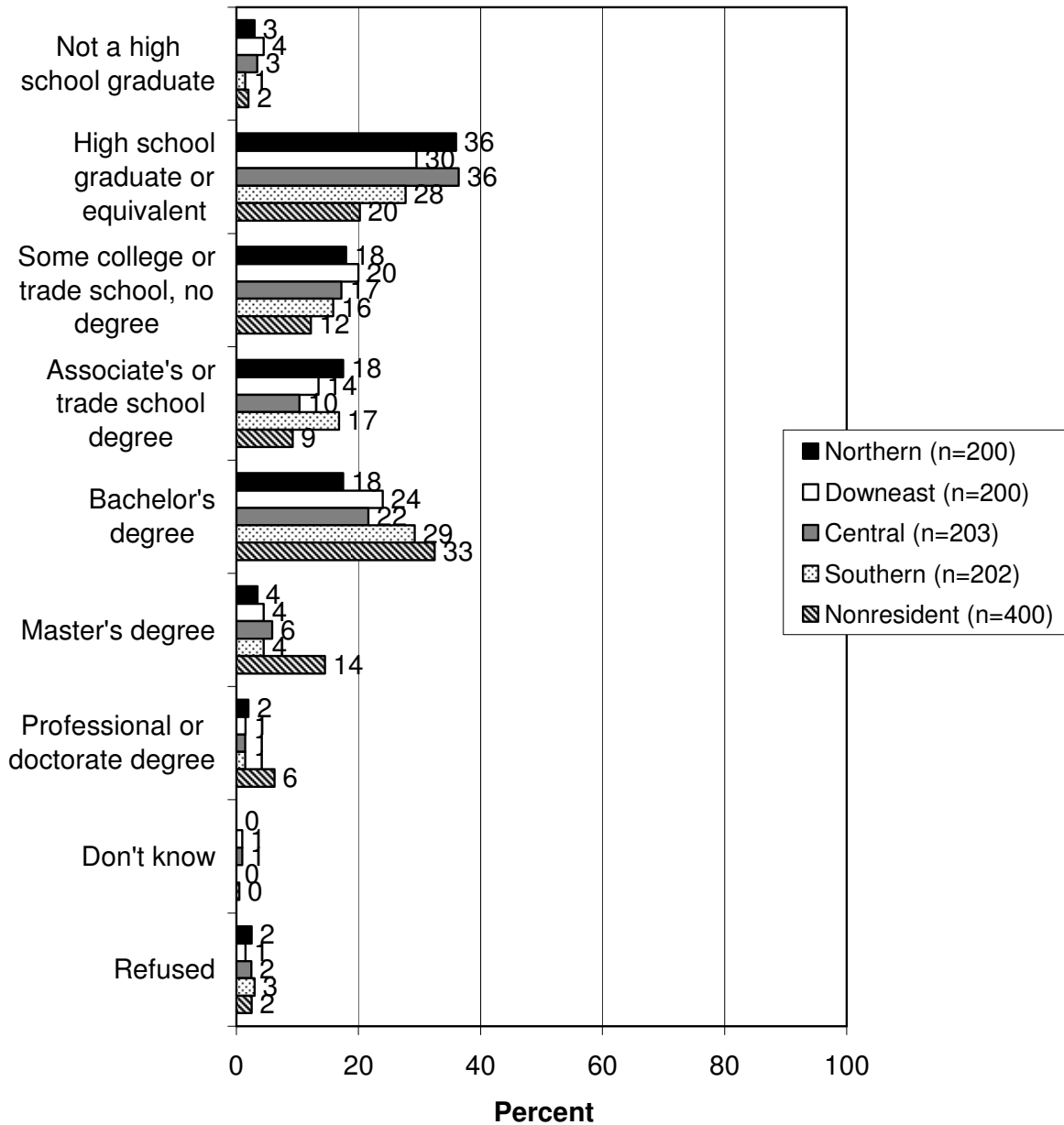
Q466. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?



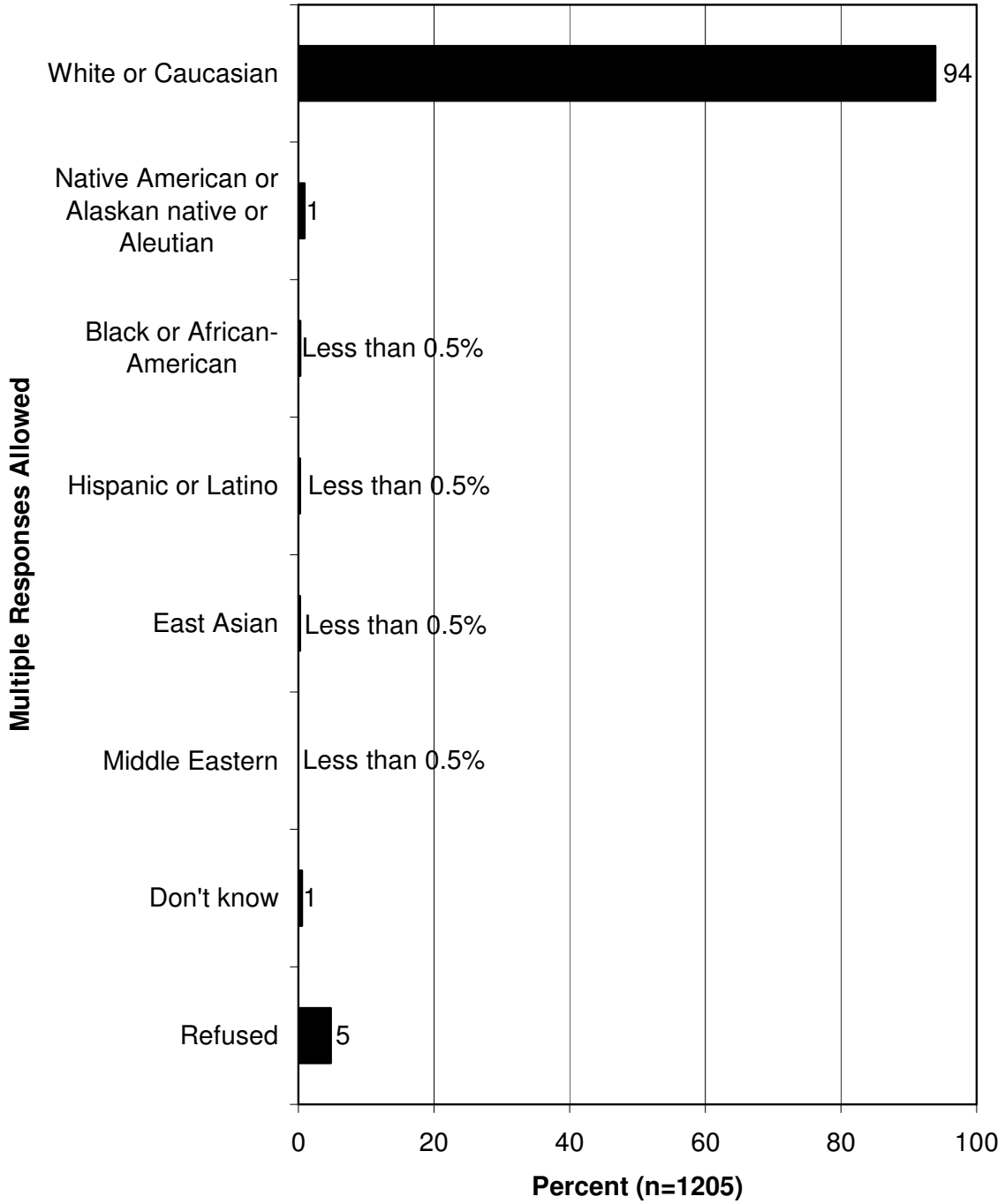
Q467. What is the highest level of education you have completed?



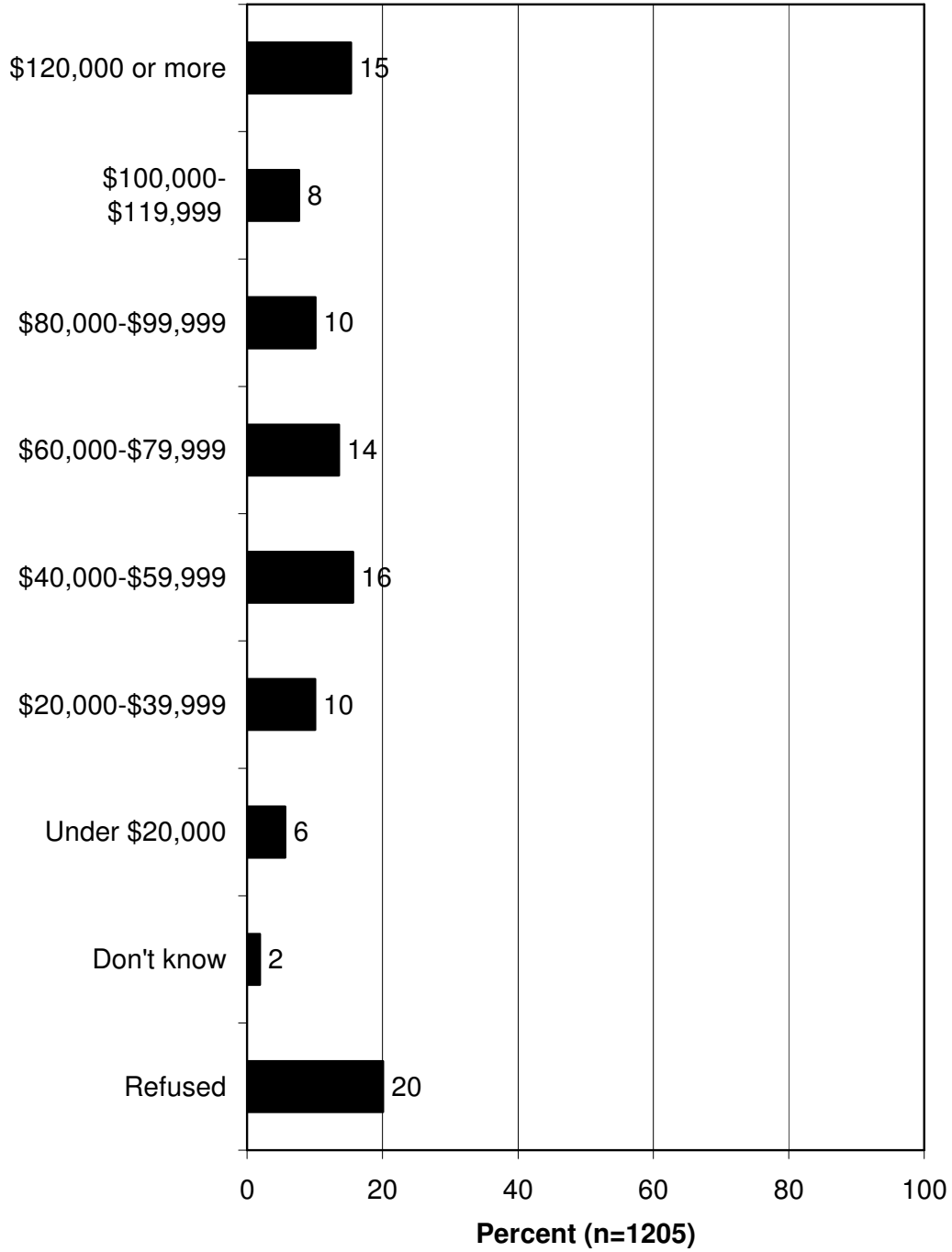
Q467. What is the highest level of education you have completed?



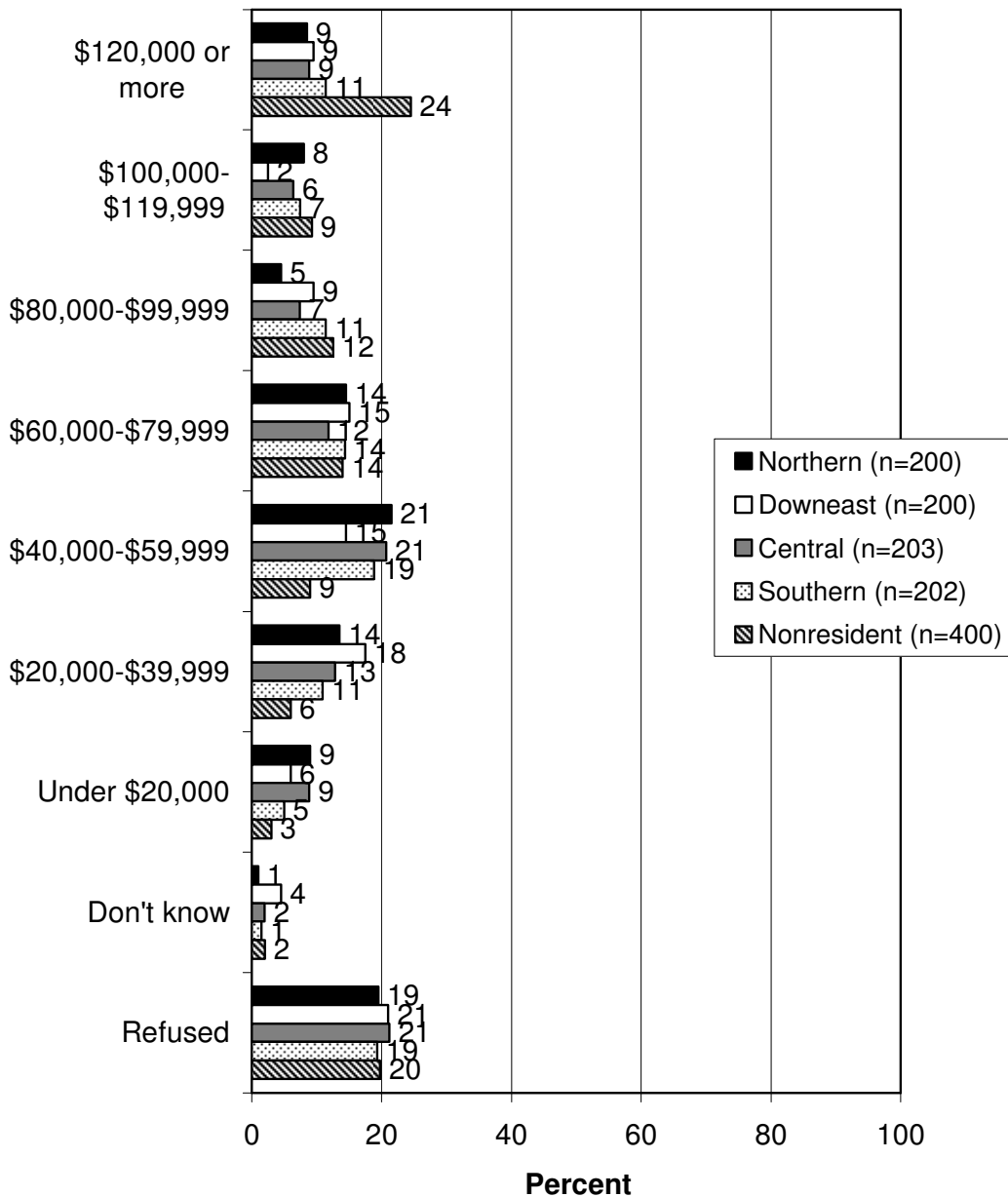
Q470. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself?



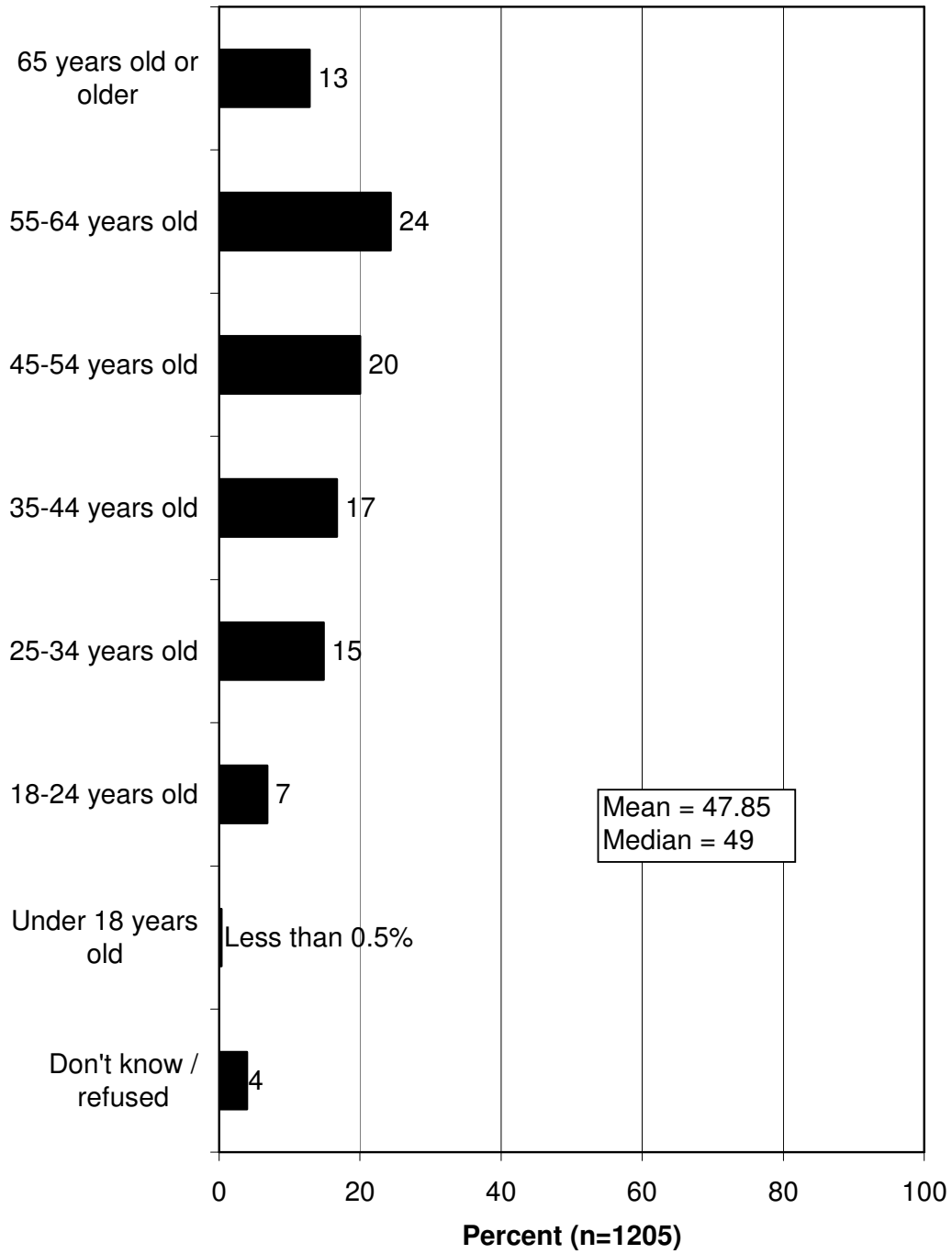
Q472. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?



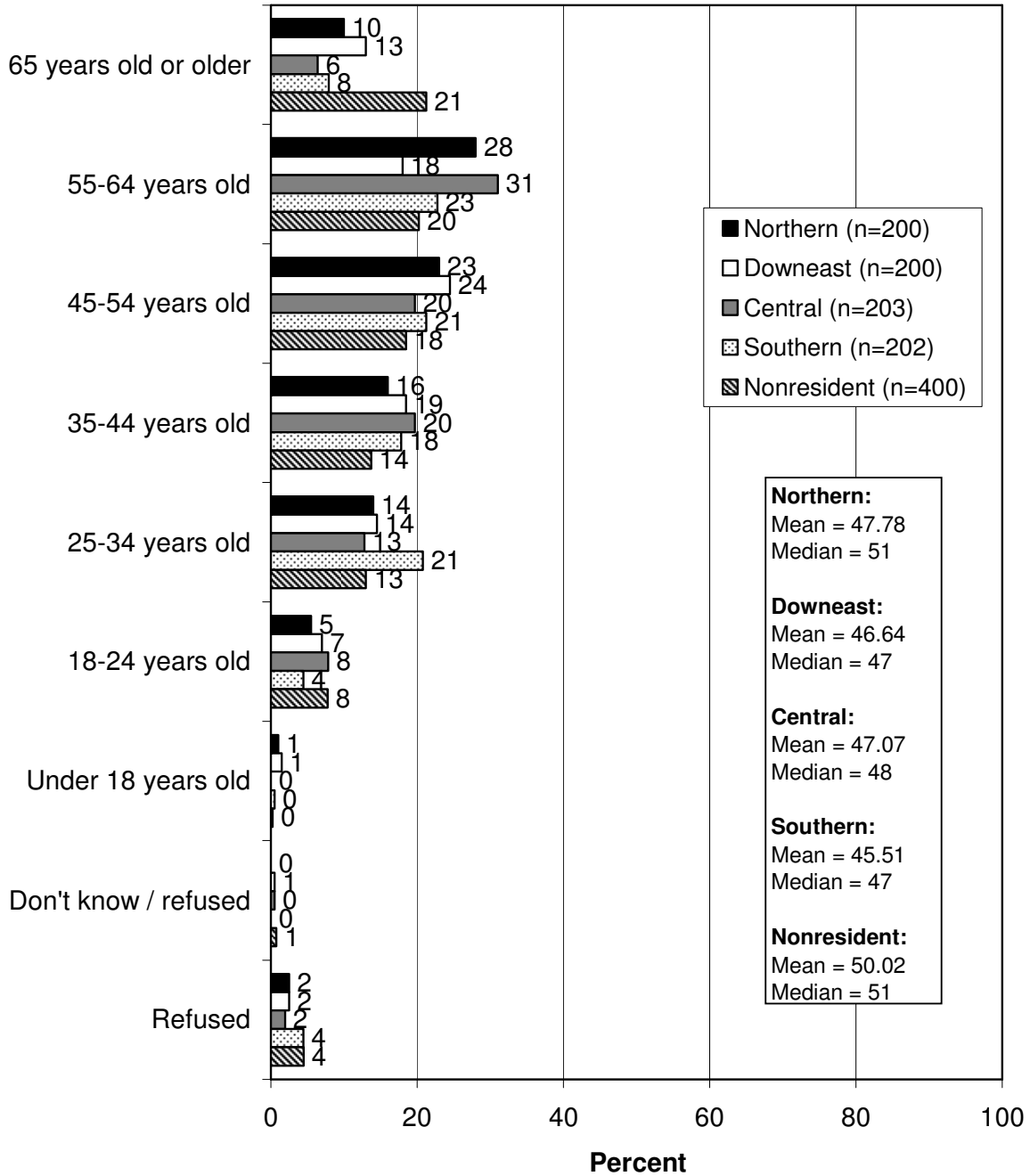
Q472. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?



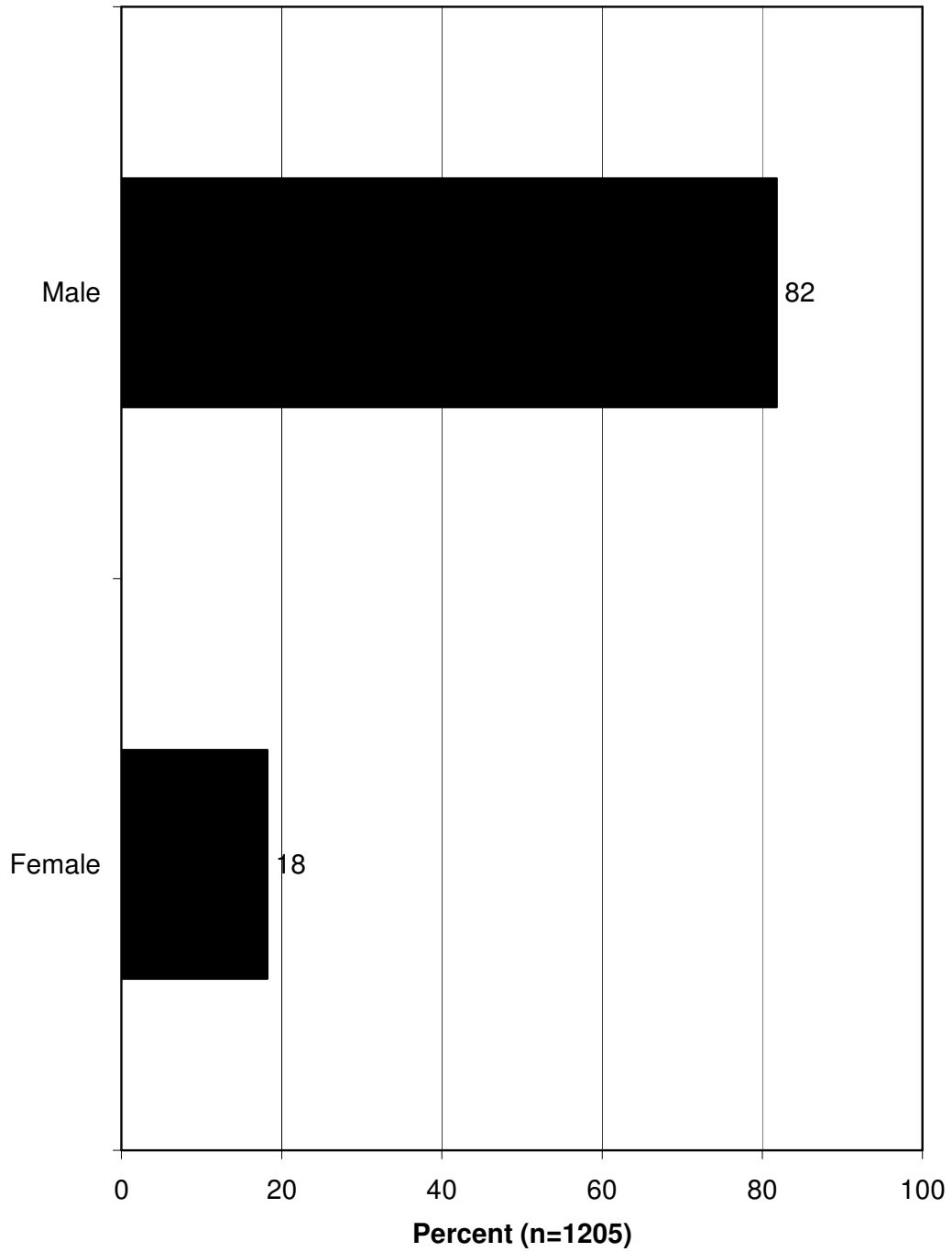
Q473. May I ask your age?



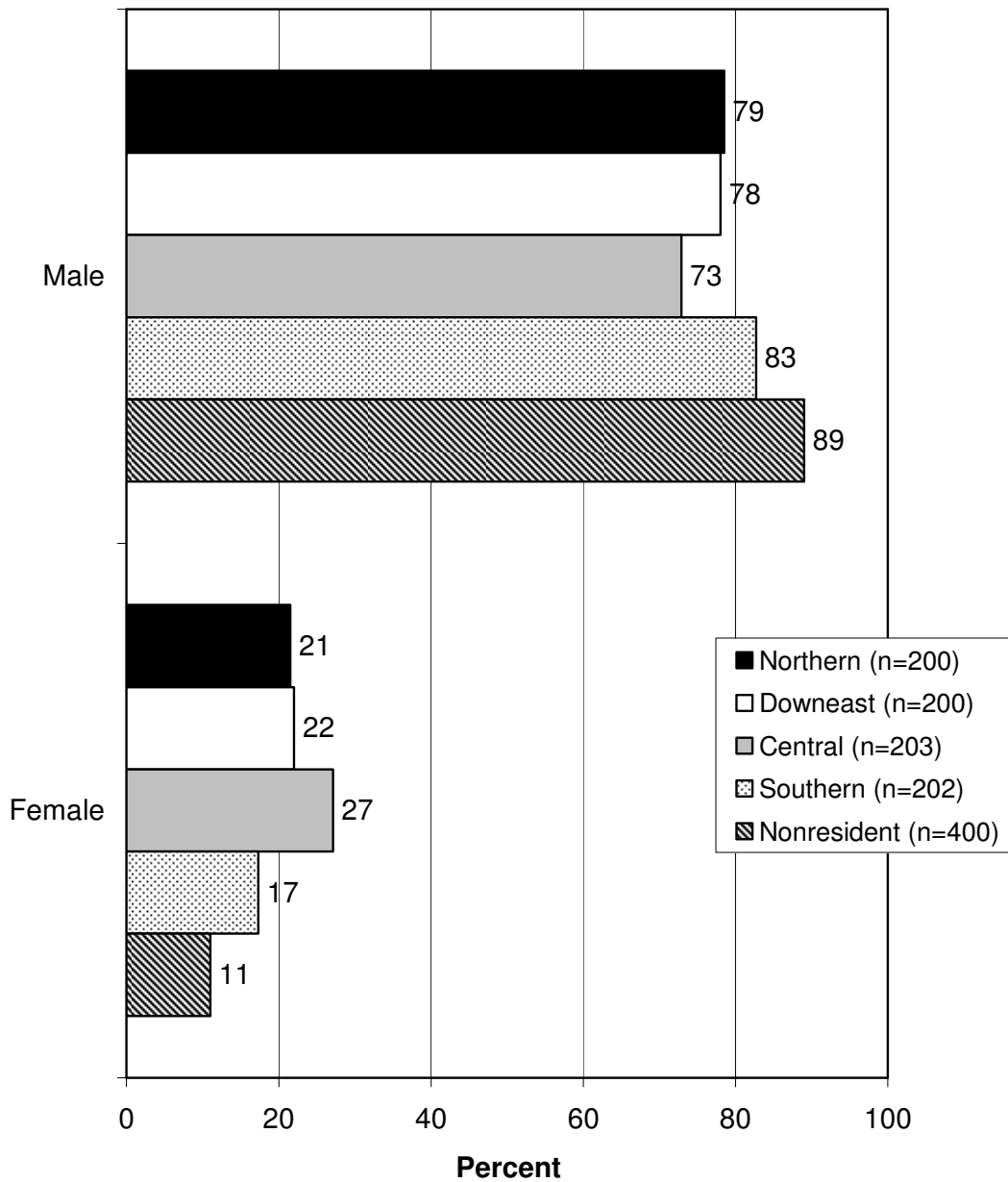
Q473. May I ask your age?



Q480. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer).



Q480. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer).



ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Our mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing our in-house, full-service telephone, mail, and web-based survey center with 50 professional interviewers, we have conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communication plans, needs assessments, and program evaluations.

Clients include the federal natural resource and land management agencies, most state fish and wildlife agencies, state departments of natural resources, environmental protection agencies, state park agencies, tourism boards, most of the major conservation and sportsmen's organizations, and numerous private businesses. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities.

Specializing in research on public attitudes toward natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, Responsive Management has completed a wide range of projects during the past 22 years, including dozens of studies of hunters, anglers, wildlife viewers, boaters, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, birdwatchers, campers, and rock climbers. Responsive Management has conducted studies on endangered species; waterfowl and wetlands; and the reintroduction of large predators such as wolves, grizzly bears, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has assisted with research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and has helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their membership and donations. Additionally, Responsive Management has conducted major organizational and programmatic needs assessments to assist natural resource agencies and organizations in developing more effective programs based on a solid foundation of fact.

Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management has also conducted focus groups and personal interviews with residents of the African countries of Algeria, Cameroon, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Responsive Management routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has conducted surveys in Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese and has completed numerous studies with specific target audiences, including Hispanics; African-Americans; Asians; women; children; senior citizens; urban, suburban, and rural residents; large landowners; and farmers.

Responsive Management's research has been upheld in U.S. District Courts; used in peer-reviewed journals; and presented at major natural resource, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation conferences across the world. Company research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front pages of *USA Today* and *The Washington Post*. Responsive Management's research has also been highlighted in *Newsweek* magazine.

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