



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

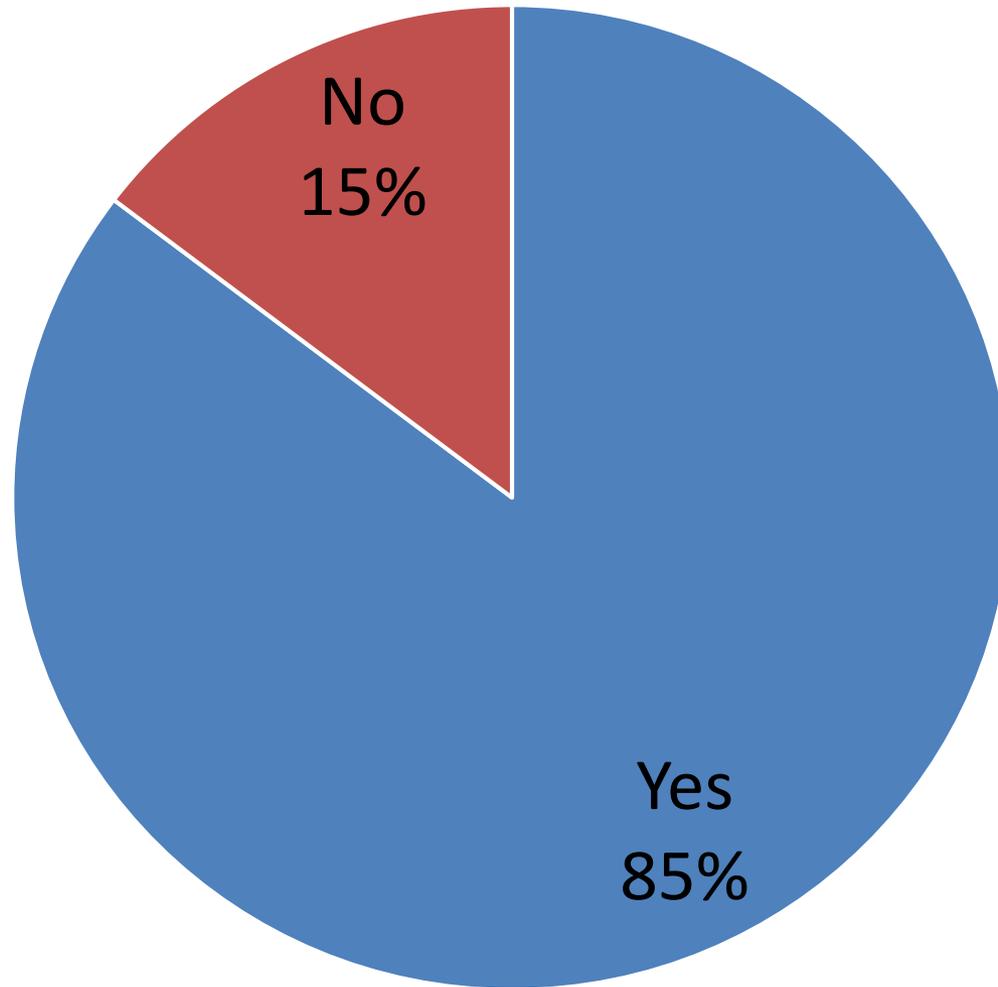
Pêches et Océans
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Gulf Region Atlantic Salmon Recreational Fishery questionnaire

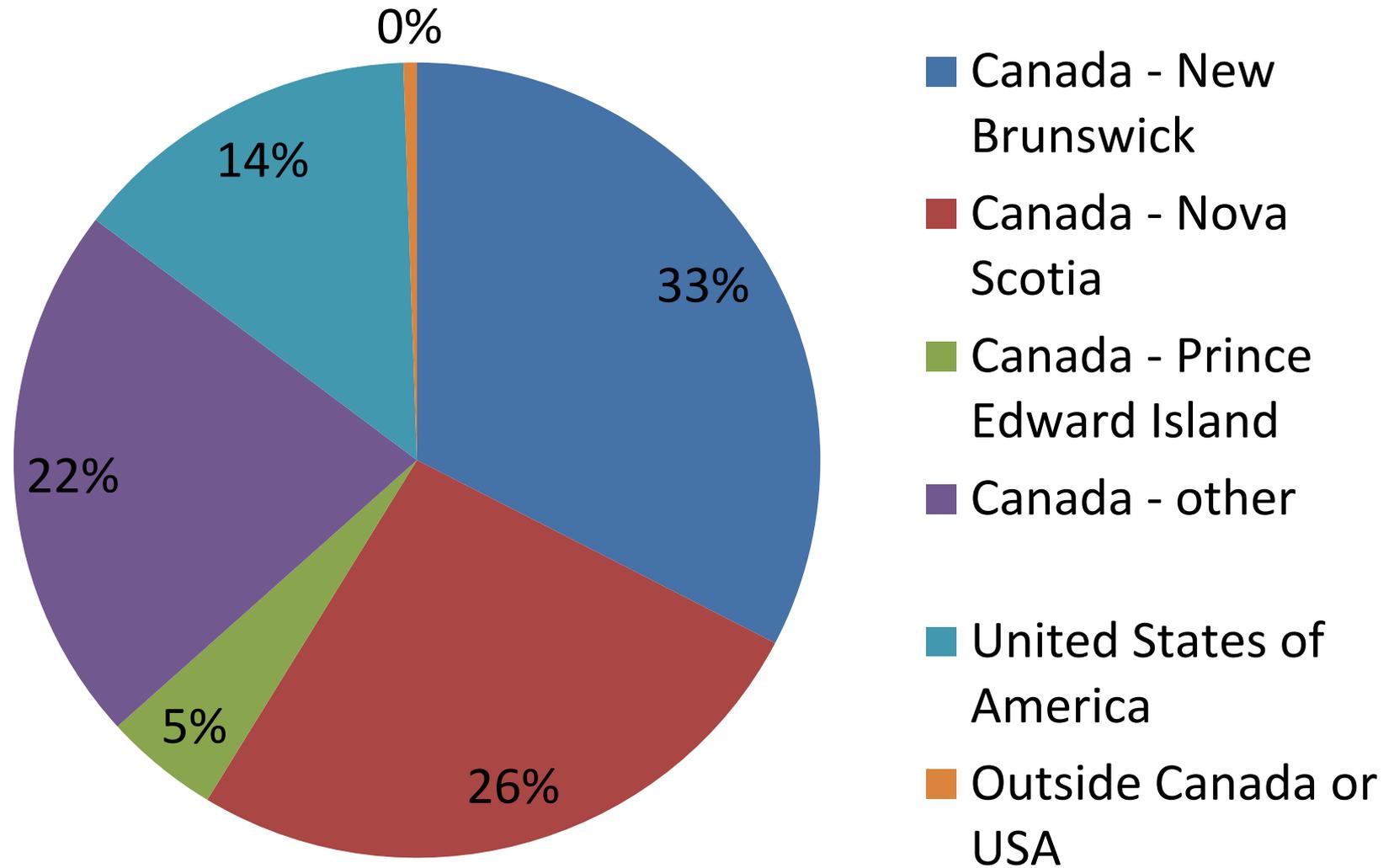
November 8, 2018 – January 6, 2019

Canada

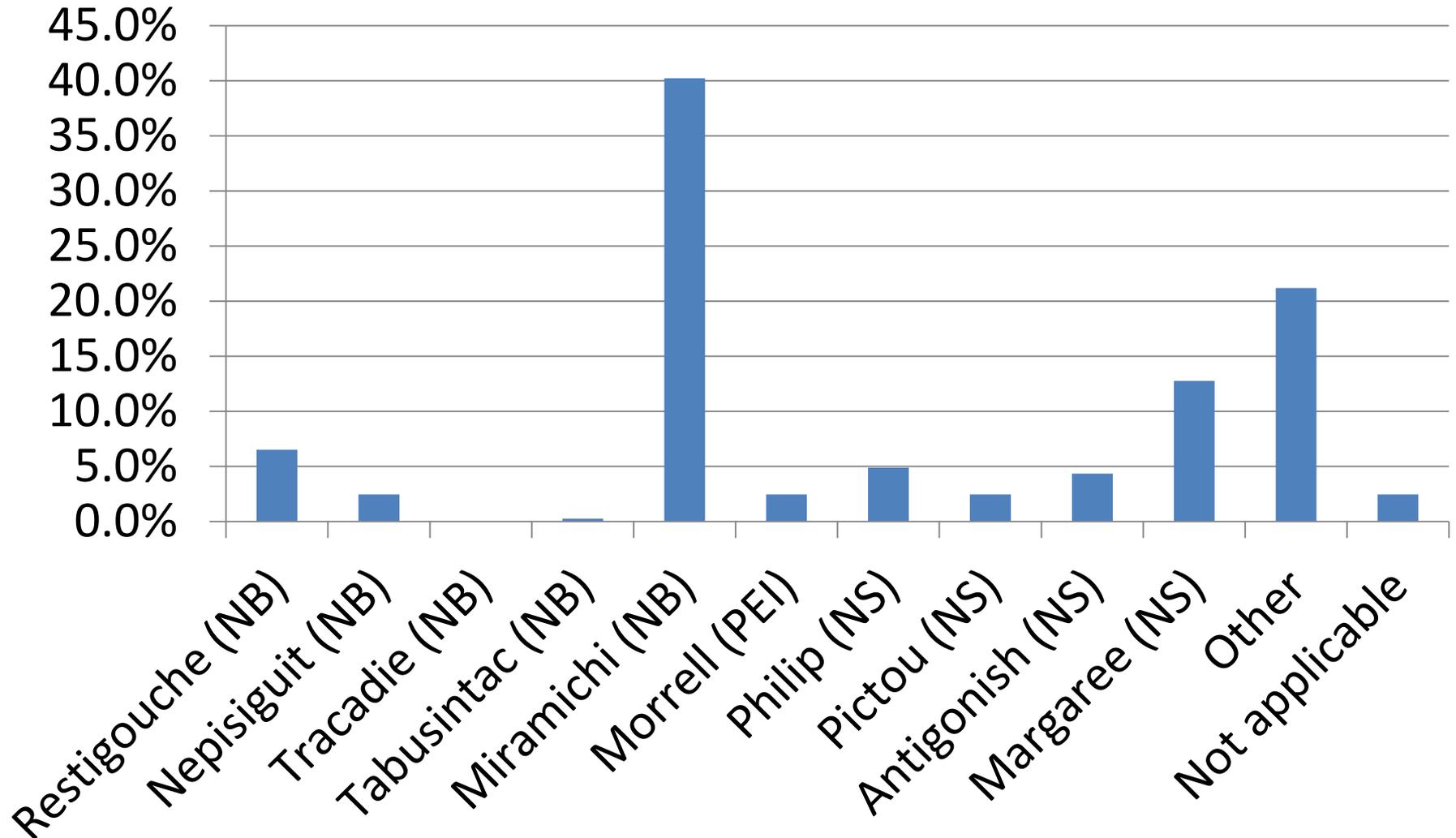
Q. 5: Are you a Canadian citizen?



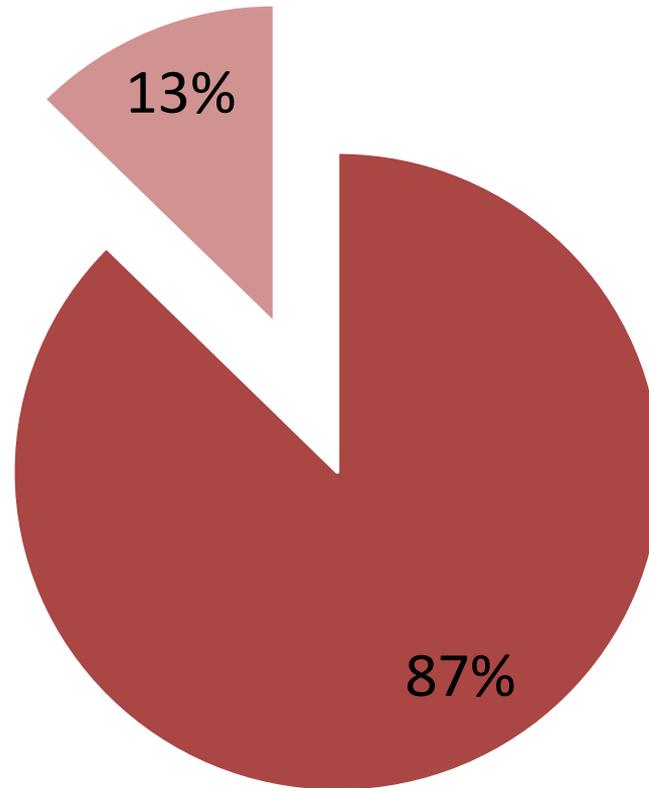
Q. 6: Where do you reside?



Q. 7: In which river system do you mostly angle for Atlantic salmon?



Q. 8: Did you angle for Atlantic salmon in 2018?

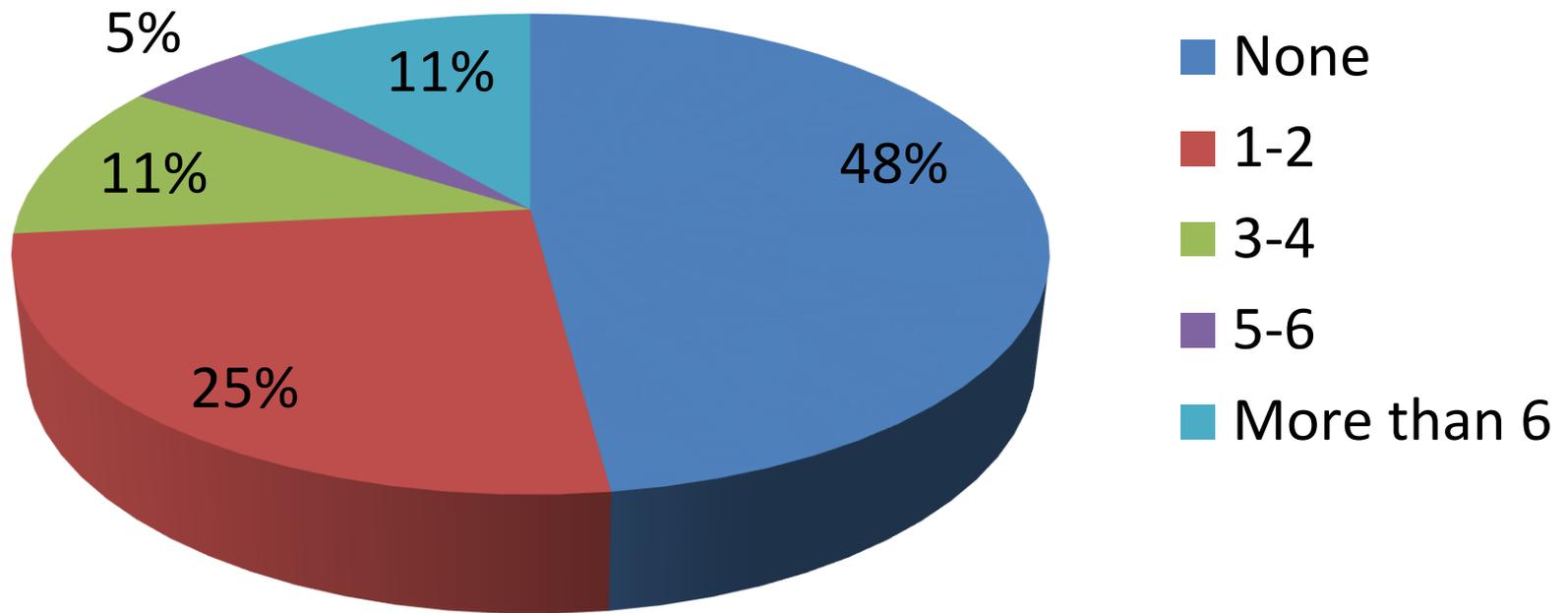


■ Yes ■ No

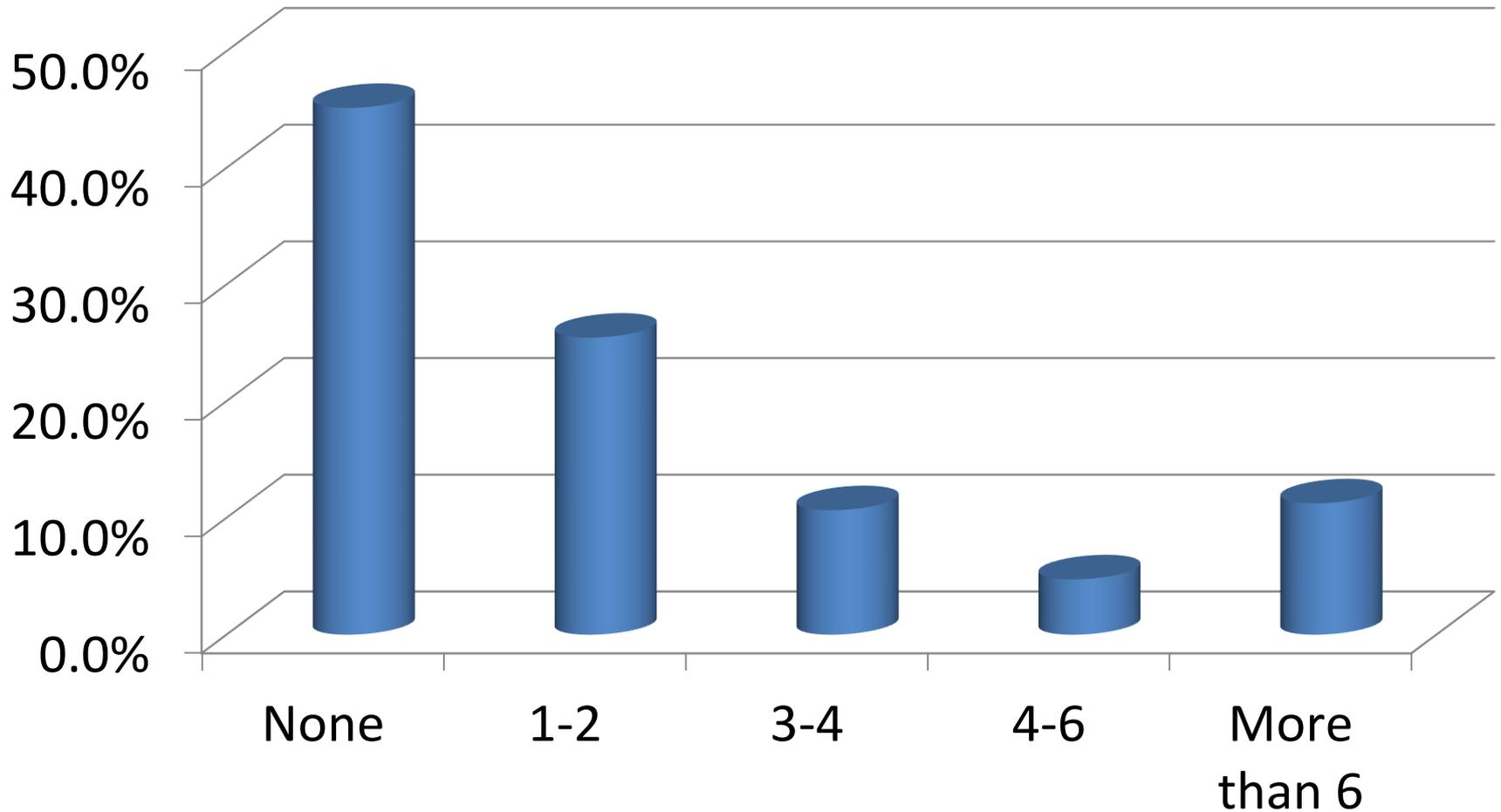
Q. 9: If you answered yes, how many days did you go angling for Atlantic salmon? (one outing equals one angling day)



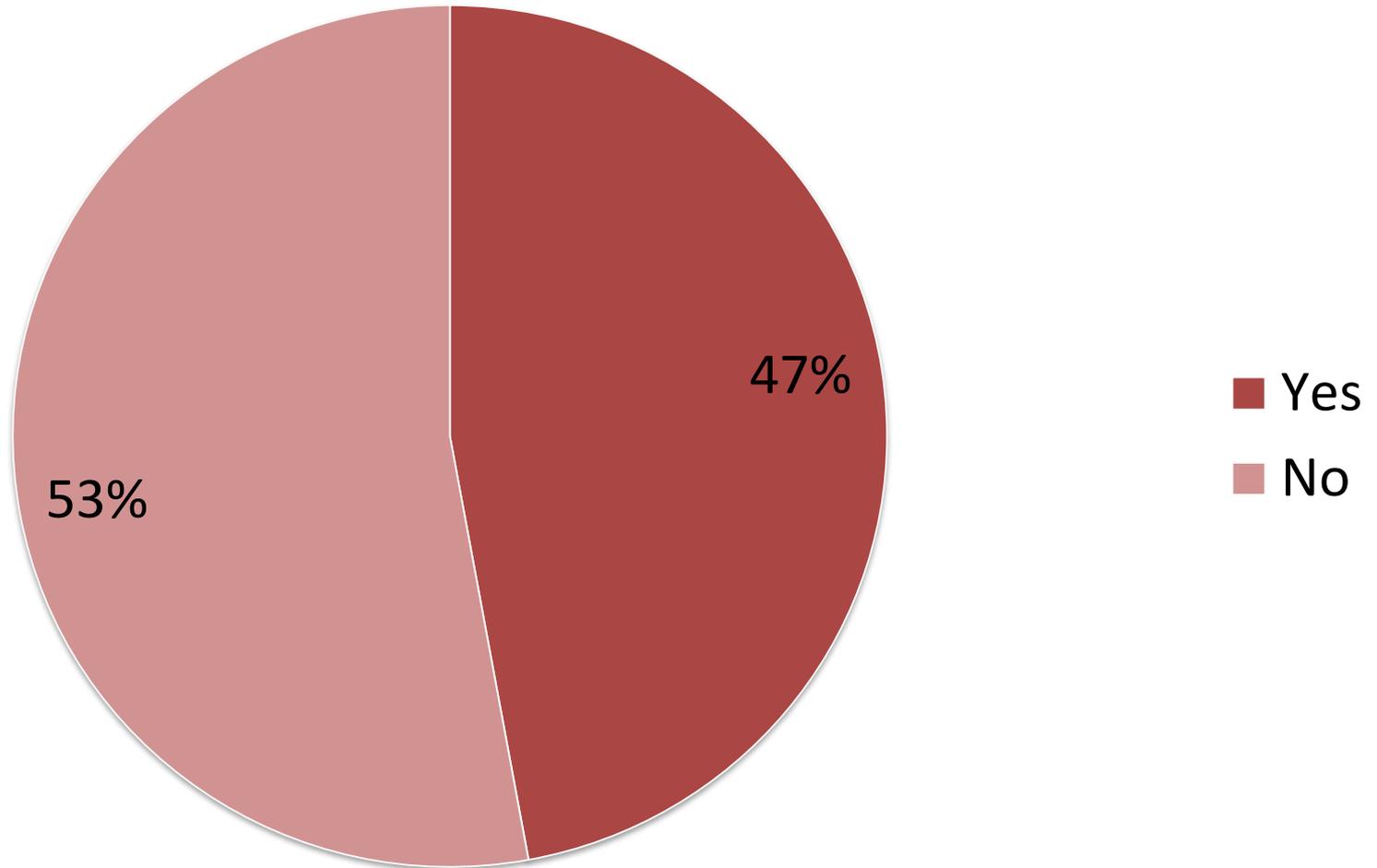
Q. 10: How many small Atlantic salmon (grilse) equal or less than 63 cm did you catch and release in 2018?



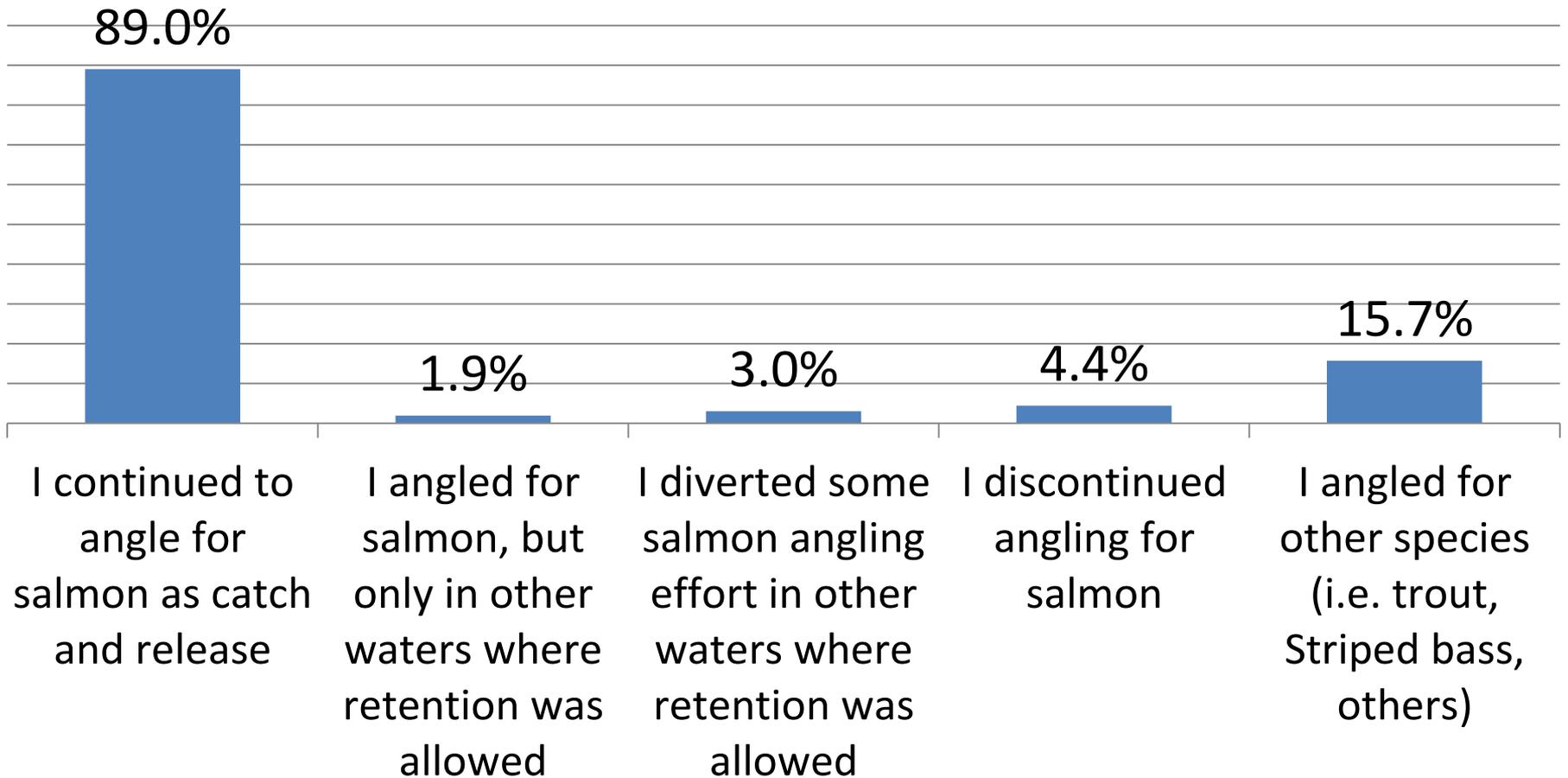
Q. 11: How many large salmon (equal or more than 63 cm) did you catch and release in 2018?



Q. 12: Did you angle for Striped bass in 2018?



Q. 13: When catch and release was implemented in the salmon fishery, how did it affect your angling habits? (check all choices that apply):



Q. 14: Comments

Although I missed retaining fish, understand the necessity to preserve.

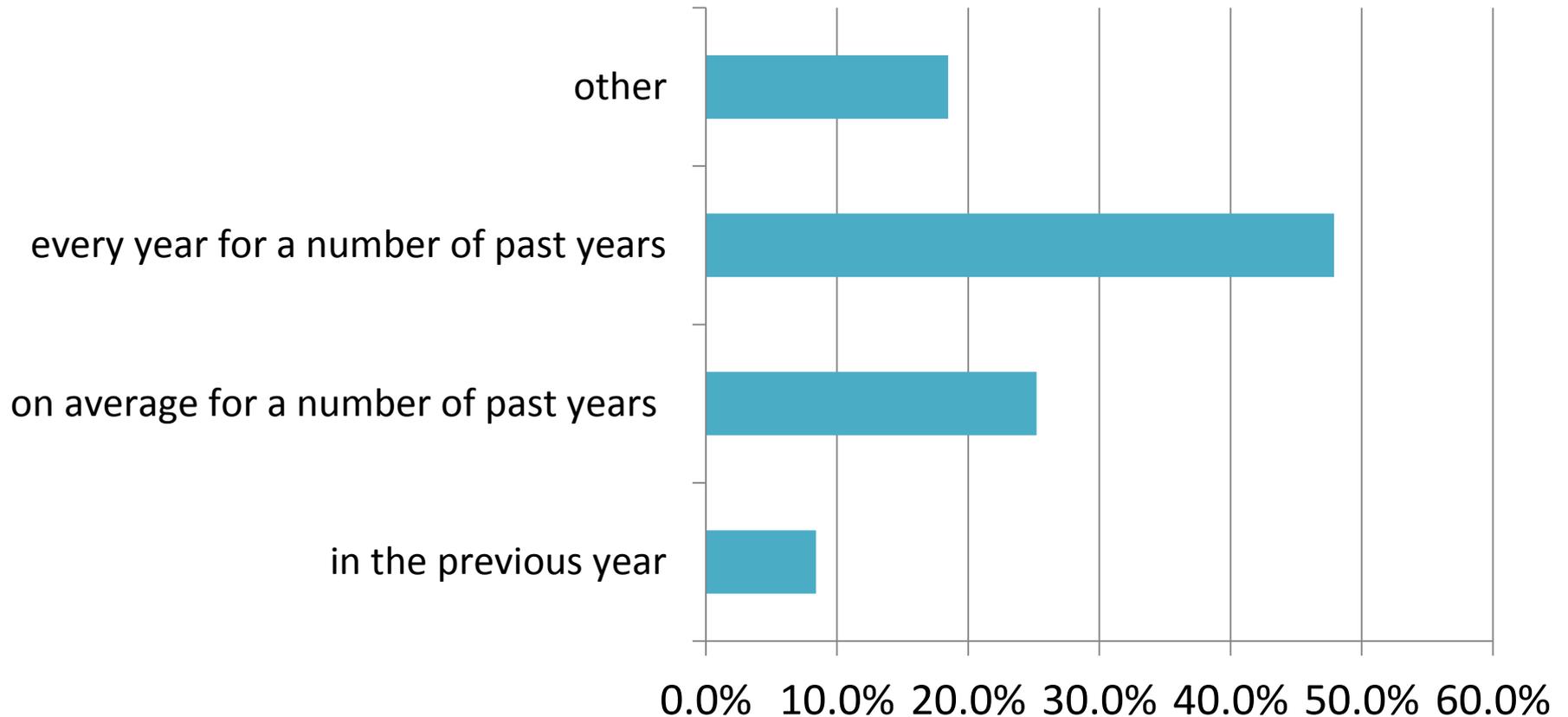
I feel salmon angler should have the option to retain 1 grilse per season. This would give the angler the incentive to go fishing more often and keep the interest in the sport. I started to lose interest in fishing salmon when the 1 grilse retention rule was eliminated. I used to own a salmon fishing lodge on the Miramichi River but eventually sold it due to the salmon decline.

i have been fishing the miramichi every year since the early '80s; i think these are the worst conditions for salmon i have seen in that period of time - this has been especially dramatic in the last several years); the two major changes that have occurred over that period (in addition to the dramatic reduction in salmon stocks) are the huge increases in striped bass in the bay and in the river and warmer/lower water conditions (which correlate with bass increases); (...); i now see it difficult for for profit salmon camps to survive and for the private ones (...) to sell a share when one opens up.

This was the first year in my life that I did not angle for Atlantic salmon. I am 51 and have been fishing since I was 9. This was due to the low returning numbers as well as the extreme warm summer and low water conditions

It's obvious that the returns are down. More anglers need to practice catch and release!
Killing salmon should be abolished

Q. 15: In your opinion, when does a salmon river produce enough fish that a harvest can take place? (please choose one answer)? When the minimum conservation requirements have been reach or surpassed (enough salmon returned to ensure conservation)...



Q. 16: Comments

Atlantic salmon are too important to retain. These fish offer more economically alive than they do dead. We need to be leaders in the world of conservation of this species rather than wonder if we should be eating them or not.

Minimum numbers are based on old assessments when environmental conditions were very different. High pH and warmer waters have likely reduced the capacity of some river to produce the expected (minimum) number of fish. Some of the larger rivers, (St Mary's in NS) will likely never again reach its minimum requirement but may still see runs approaching 1000+ fish. Anglers should be permitted catch and release on these rivers.

I'm happy to Fish Hook and Release only in all of our Rivers until such time as it becomes unquestionably clear that our Salmon Stocks are in a very Healthy State

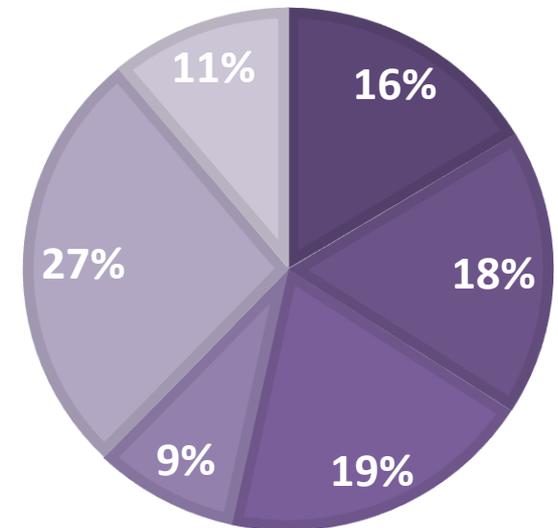
Au cours de l'année (meaning: assess during the season to establish if harvest is possible)

The current year's returns have little to do with the previous year's returns, so that shouldn't be the basis for management decisions on harvest. Need to take into account average trends on previous few years, giving some room for natural variability. The LRP and USRP in the PA is a good system to get away from the one reference point system used now. It will help determine sustainable harvest levels that can be shared by the recreational and FSC fisheries without infringing on rights. Get there as fast as you can.

I am fine with catch and release, I would rather have a high population and higher success rate than lower populations and lower success rate.

Q. 17: WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE BEST APPROACH TO ENSURE THAT SALMON ANGLERS PROVIDE ACCURATE AND TIMELY REPORTS OF THEIR FISHING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING HARVESTED FISH IF/WHEN AUTHORIZED (PLEASE CHOOSE ALL CHOICES THAT APPLY)?

- Voluntary effort and catch reporting system
- Mandatory return of fishing logbook at the end of season (subject to penalties, i.e., non-renewal of angling license the year in case no report is provided)
- Mandatory reporting of salmon (grisle) retained by recreational fishing if, where and when retention is allowed
- End of season survey by phone with sample of salmon license holders
- End of season survey by email with sample of salmon license holders
- Other ideas



Q. 18: Comments

There could be a check in/check out process. Buy your license, put up a retainer, if you do not submit your salmon card, then you lose your retainer. I also believe a fine / penalty for not reporting on fishing should be considered. I also believe any fines/penalties received could be reinvested into conservation efforts and research

I have not yet returned my license report, but if prompted via email , would immediately complete an online report

Put the reporting on line so people can do it on their computers. I believe NFLD has been doing this for a while.

It needs to be mandatory and electronic. Mailing in paper is outdated and not efficient, prone to errors and a bit ridiculous at this point in time

Comme au Québec, toutes les prises devraient être obligatoirement déclarées et contrôlées au moyen de tag, d'un nombre limité par pêcheur. De plus les remises à l'eau devraient être déclarées également, même s'il est difficile de l'obliger de façon légale. Il devrait être fortement encouragé au moyen de campagnes de sensibilisations, avec des incitatifs (concours, etc.).

Add an extra \$5 to license if last year's survey is not filed.

My summer cottage is near a popular salmon pool. People in this area often go to fish for just a couple of hours at a time so keeping a logbook would be onerous. Commercial lodges and professional guides though should be required to submit records, if this is not already the case.

Q. 19: Other conservations or management issues

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Efforts need to be made to increase the population by using various stocking methods. We cannot afford to wait and watch our salmon population continue to decrease! 2019 is the International Year of the Salmon; let us work together to increase the Atlantic salmon stocks before it is too late!

There are so many issues and factors against Atlantic Salmon I believe there is little chance of recovery therefore we should completely protect the remaining fish and divert more efforts and money into managing other species such as Brook trout.

The MSA program to grow smolts and released them again has good merit to ensure smolt survival.

need help with cold water pool reclamation - at sutters, we would pay for work to be done (if allowed) to reclaim our pools to access springs that have been covered over by erosion, etc; the warmer lower water conditions make it critical for the salmon to be able to find colder ware refuge in bad conditions; government should encourage & facilitate such efforts

Is enough attention being paid to the food fish in the ocean? Are the smelt, gaspereau, and capelin stocks being managed for maximum production? Is acid rain still having an impact on the rivers and what progress is expected in the future? Has any consideration been given to removing dams that are no longer beneficial?

Questions?
Comments?