

Responsive Management



CONSTITUENT AWARENESS OF THE ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

Conducted for the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

by Responsive Management

March 2003

CONSTITUENT AWARENESS OF THE ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to determine the overall awareness of and opinions on the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) and related programs among its constituents, their sources of information about the programs, their opinions on the programs, their participation in associations and clubs, and the types of information that would be of interest and use to them. The study entailed a telephone survey of domestic seafood dealers, commercial saltwater fishermen (referred to as anglers in the survey—both terms should be considered interchangeable in this report), charter boat operators, and recreational saltwater anglers in three regions: the Mid-Atlantic region, New England, and the South Atlantic region. The survey was administered from February to March 2003. The total number of completed interviews for each constituent group is shown in the tabulation below.

Number of Completed Interviews

Constituent Group	Number of Completed Interviews
Domestic seafood dealers	346
Commercial saltwater fishermen	338
Charter boat operators	305
Recreational saltwater anglers	330
Total	1,319

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., all 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.

The data were collected using Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1, which is computer software specifically designed for survey data collection. The software used for the analysis was the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 11.5. SPSS is software specifically designed for statistical analyses of quantitative data. Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval.

AWARENESS OF THE ACCSP AND ITS OBJECTIVES

- Overall awareness of the ACCSP is low.
 - 75% to 86% of the respondent groups knew nothing about the ACCSP when respondents were asked about their awareness of the ACCSP.
 - When asked how they had heard of the ACCSP, respondents most commonly answered, “Don’t know.”
 - When asked what the main objectives of the ACCSP are, large majorities of each group answered, “Don’t know.”
 - Respondents most commonly answered that they knew nothing when they were asked about their awareness of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS).
 - The most common answer regarding the objectives of the MRFSS was “Don’t know.”
 - The most common answer respondents gave when asked about the types of information in which they would be interested was general background information.

- The top sources of information about the ACCSP were family/friend, fishing magazines, newspapers, and the ACCSP itself (either an employee or a contact by the ACCSP for data).

- The top answers regarding what respondents perceived to be the main objectives of the ACCSP were to manage/maintain fish stocks and to keep catch statistics.

PERFORMANCE OF THE ACCSP’S EFFORTS

- For the series of questions (14 through 17) regarding whether the ACCSP meets the needs of various groups (fishery managers, scientists, commercial fishermen, and recreational anglers), the most marked variation among all groups was based not on constituent type but on respondent region: those from the South Atlantic consistently had higher percentages giving responses of excellent or good than did Mid-Atlantic and New England respondents. Otherwise, recreational anglers had the highest percentages giving a response of excellent or good in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic regions; commercial fishermen had the highest percentage giving a response of excellent or good in New England.

➤ Results of Questions 14 through 17 include:

- Domestic seafood dealers from the Mid-Atlantic region felt that the needs of scientists were best served (26% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Domestic seafood dealers from New England felt that the needs of scientists were best served (14% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Domestic seafood dealers from the South Atlantic region felt that the needs of fishery managers were best served (40% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Charter boat operators from the Mid-Atlantic region felt that the needs of recreational anglers were best served (18% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Charter boat operators from New England felt that the needs of commercial fishermen were best served (30% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Charter boat operators from the South Atlantic region felt that the needs of commercial fishermen were best served (38% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Commercial fishermen from the Mid-Atlantic region felt that the needs of fishery managers, commercial fishermen, and recreational anglers were best served (13% gave an answer of excellent or good for all three types of users of ACCSP data).
- Commercial fishermen from New England felt that the needs of fishery managers and commercial fishermen were best served (28% gave an answer of excellent or good for both types of users of ACCSP data).
- Commercial fishermen from the South Atlantic region felt that the needs of recreational anglers were best served (37% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Recreational anglers from the Mid-Atlantic region felt that the needs of fishery managers and commercial fishermen were best served (30% gave an answer of excellent or good for both types of users of ACCSP data).
- Recreational anglers from New England felt that the needs of commercial fishermen and recreational anglers were best served (17% gave an answer of excellent or good for both types of users of ACCSP data).
- Recreational anglers from the South Atlantic region felt that the needs of recreational anglers were best served (67% gave an answer of excellent or good for both types of users of ACCSP data).

- Other highlights of the results of this series of questions include:
 - 0% of charter boat operators from the South Atlantic region gave an answer of poor regarding how well the ACCSP meets the needs of various users of ACCSP data.
 - The highest percentages giving a rating of poor were 41% of charter boat operators from the Mid-Atlantic region who thought that the ACCSP does a poor job of meeting the needs of recreational anglers and 27% of domestic seafood dealers from the South Atlantic region who thought that the ACCSP does a poor job of meeting the needs of commercial fishermen; otherwise, the percentages giving poor ratings typically were in the teens or single digits.

- In general, more respondents from all groups gave a rating of excellent or good than gave a rating of poor regarding how well the ACCSP meets its goals in Questions 18 through 21. However, there was wide variation among constituent types and among regions.

- Results of Questions 18 through 21 include:
 - Domestic seafood dealers from the Mid-Atlantic region felt that the goal that was best met was the production of complete, timely, accurate fishery data (48% gave an answer of excellent or good).
 - Domestic seafood dealers from New England felt that the goals that were best met were the development and maintenance of active support and participation by program partners and the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data, although the percentage giving a rating of excellent or good was small (7% gave an answer of excellent or good for both these goals).
 - Domestic seafood dealers from the South Atlantic region felt that the goal that was best met was the production of complete, timely, accurate fishery data (40% gave an answer of excellent or good).
 - Domestic seafood dealers from the Mid-Atlantic and the South Atlantic had higher percentages giving ratings of excellent or good for all goals of the ACCSP than did New England domestic seafood dealers.

- Commercial fishermen from the Mid-Atlantic region felt that the goal that was best met was the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data (33% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Commercial fishermen from New England felt that the goals that were best met were the production of complete, timely, accurate fishery data and the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data (44% gave an answer of excellent or good for both these goals).
- South Atlantic commercial fishermen had equal percentages giving a rating of excellent or good for all goals (32%).
- Charter boat operators from the Mid-Atlantic region felt that the goals that were best met were the production of complete, timely, accurate fishery data and the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data (18% gave an answer of excellent or good for both these goals).
- Charter boat operators from New England felt that the goal that was best met was the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data (50% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Charter boat operators from the South Atlantic region felt that the goals that were best met were the increase of public and industry confidence in fishery data and the development and maintenance of active support and participation by program partners (31% gave an answer of excellent or good for both these goals).
- Recreational anglers from the Mid-Atlantic region had a three-way tie regarding how well the ACCSP meets its goals: 50% gave a rating of excellent or good for the goals of the production of complete, timely, accurate fishery data; the development and maintenance of active support and participation by program partners; and the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data.
- Recreational anglers from New England felt that the goal that was best met was the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data (50% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Recreational anglers from the South Atlantic region felt that the goal that was best met was the production of complete, timely, accurate fishery data (50% gave an answer of excellent or good).

ATTITUDES TOWARD MANDATORY CATCH AND EFFORT TRIP REPORTING

- 59% to 70% of domestic seafood dealers and 55% to 67% of commercial fishermen strongly or moderately agreed that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the management of the fishery.
 - 10% to 29% of domestic seafood dealers and 14% to 23% of commercial fishermen moderately or strongly disagreed that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the management of the fishery.

- 57% to 74% of domestic seafood dealers and 60% to 71% of commercial fishermen strongly or moderately agreed that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the fishing industry.
 - 8% to 23% of domestic seafood dealers and 15% to 22% of commercial fishermen moderately or strongly disagreed that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the fishing industry.

AWARENESS OF THE MRFSS AND ITS OBJECTIVES, PARTICIPATION IN THE MRFSS, AND CREDIBILITY OF DATA

- Awareness of the MRFSS is low.
 - The percentages responding “nothing” regarding awareness of the MRFSS ranged from 45% to 56% of charter boat operators and 72% to 79% of recreational anglers.
 - Only 14% to 16% of charter boat operators and 3% to 4% of recreational anglers had participated in the MRFSS within the previous 2 years.

- The top answers when respondents were asked to name their perception of the main objectives of the MRFSS were to produce recreational fishing catch estimates and to produce recreational fishing effort estimates.

- When asked how credible they thought the MRFSS data are, more respondents among charter boat operators and recreational anglers within the three regions thought that the MRFSS data are very or somewhat credible than thought that the data are not at all credible, with one exception: Mid-Atlantic charter boat operators. Among this latter group, 16%

thought the MRFSS data are very or somewhat credible, while 18% thought the data are not at all credible.

- Slightly more respondents strongly or moderately agreed than moderately or strongly disagreed that the new ACCSP standards were an improvement to the MRFSS.
 - Among regional charter boat operator groups, 6% to 8% agreed, while 2% to 4% disagreed
 - Among regional recreational angler groups, 4% to 6% agreed, while 1% to 3% disagreed.

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERBOAT OPERATORS AND LOCAL FISHING CLUBS

- Large majorities of charter boat operators from all regions are *not* members of the National Association of Charterboat Operators.
 - The percentage saying that they *are* members of the National Association of Charterboat Operators ranges from 24% of South Atlantic charter boat operators to 36% of Mid-Atlantic charter boat operators.
- Of those charter boat operators who are members of the National Association of Charterboat Operators, those from the Mid-Atlantic region and New England are the most active.
 - The mean number of times members attended meetings of their local chapter were 4.8 times for Mid-Atlantic respondents and 4.5 times for New England respondents.
 - South Atlantic respondents were considerably less active, with the mean number of times they attended meetings being only 1.7 times.
- Among recreational anglers, attendance at local fishing club meetings is close to 1 meeting per year, with those from the South Atlantic region being the most active.

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO CONSTITUENTS AND THE NEED FOR ONLINE LANDINGS DATA

- Interest was highest for general background information about the ACCSP.
 - 44% to 65% of various groups indicated that they are interested in general background information.
 - Otherwise, information regarding the ACCSP organization and previous ACCSP research were the most desired types of information.

- Majorities of all groups said that the best way to provide them with information about the ACCSP is through ACCSP publications via direct mail.
 - Other important ways to provide information are e-mail and the ACCSP Website.

- Substantial percentages of all groups said that they would be interested in accessing landings data online.
 - Interest for online landings data was highest among charter boat operators and domestic seafood dealers.

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to determine the overall awareness of and opinions on the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) and related programs among its constituents, their sources of information about the programs, their opinions on the programs, their participation in associations and clubs, and the types of information that would be of interest and use to them. The study entailed a telephone survey of domestic seafood dealers, commercial saltwater fishermen (referred to as anglers in the survey—both terms should be considered interchangeable in this report), charter boat operators, and recreational saltwater anglers in three regions: the Mid-Atlantic region, New England, and the South Atlantic region. The ACCSP provided the samples of domestic seafood dealers and commercial saltwater fishermen; Responsive Management obtained the samples of charter boat operators and recreational saltwater anglers.

The survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the ACCSP staff. A pre-test of the questionnaire was conducted, and revisions were made to the questionnaire based on the pre-test. The survey was administered from February to March 2003. The total number of completed interviews for each constituent group is shown in the tabulation below.

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Constituent Group	Number of Completed Interviews
Domestic seafood dealers	346
Commercial saltwater fishermen	338
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Total	1,319

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. In addition, 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, which are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subject of natural resources. The data were collected using Questionnaire Programming

Language 4.1 (QPL), which is computer software specifically designed for survey data collection.

Responsive Management has designed a telephone interviewing facility that stresses the importance of highly trained telephone interviewers who work under the close supervision of Responsive Management senior staff. To ensure that the data collected are of the highest quality, Responsive Management's interviewers 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 conducted project briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on the type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey instrument, reading of the survey instrument, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instrument. The Survey Center Managers randomly monitored telephone workstations without the interviewers' knowledge to evaluate the performance of each interviewer. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians edited each completed survey to check for clarity and completeness.

Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., all 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.

As indicated above, the software used for data collection was QPL. The survey data were entered into the computer as the 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 instrument is programmed so that QPL branches, codes, and

substitutes phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The software used for the analysis was the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 11.5. SPSS is software specifically designed for statistical analyses of quantitative data.

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. Sampling error was calculated using the formula that follows.

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 (e.g., total number of dealers, total number of anglers)

N_s = sample size

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 each constituent group is shown in the tabulation that follows.

Sampling Error

Constituent Group	Sample Size	Population Size	Sampling Error %
Mid-Atlantic Domestic Seafood Dealers	123	2,776	8.64
New England Domestic Seafood Dealers	118	14,414	8.98
South Atlantic Domestic Seafood Dealers	105	17,265	9.53
Mid-Atlantic Commercial Saltwater Fishermen	114	17,603	9.15
New England Commercial Saltwater Fishermen	112	12,035	9.22
South Atlantic Commercial Saltwater Fishermen	112	8,063	9.20
Mid-Atlantic Charter Boat Operators	103	461	8.52
New England Charter Boat Operators	100	183	6.62
South Atlantic Charter Boat Operators	102	189	6.60
Mid-Atlantic Recreational Saltwater Anglers	109	2,290,385	9.39
New England Recreational Saltwater Anglers	114	968,737	9.18
South Atlantic Recreational Saltwater Anglers	107	2,278,555	9.47

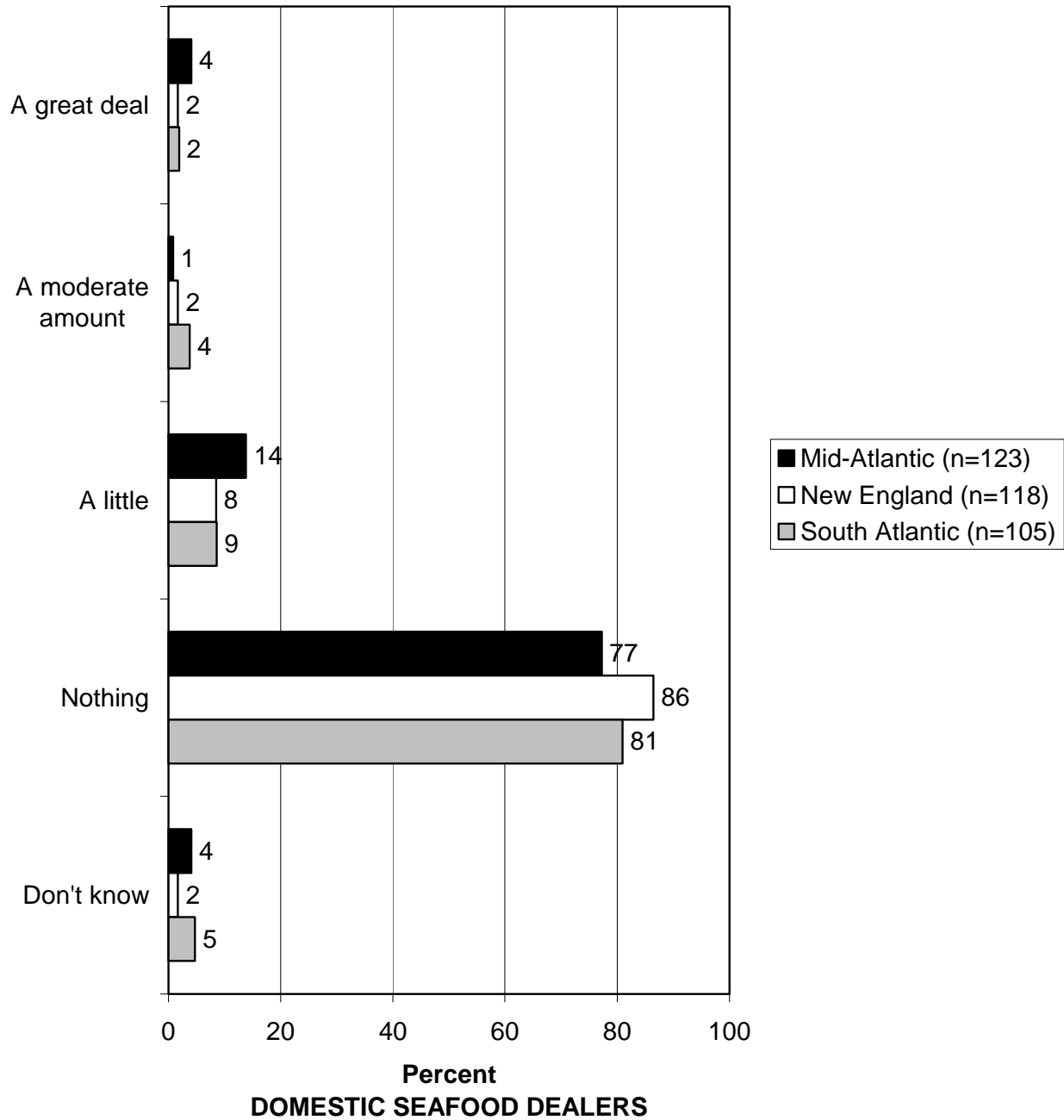
AWARENESS OF THE ACCSP AND ITS OBJECTIVES

Q7. Awareness of the ACCSP was low among all respondent groups, with large majorities of all groups saying that they knew nothing about the ACCSP, ranging from 75% of Mid-Atlantic charter boat operators to 86% of New England domestic seafood dealers. The percentages saying that they knew a great deal or a moderate amount ranged from 1% to 9%.

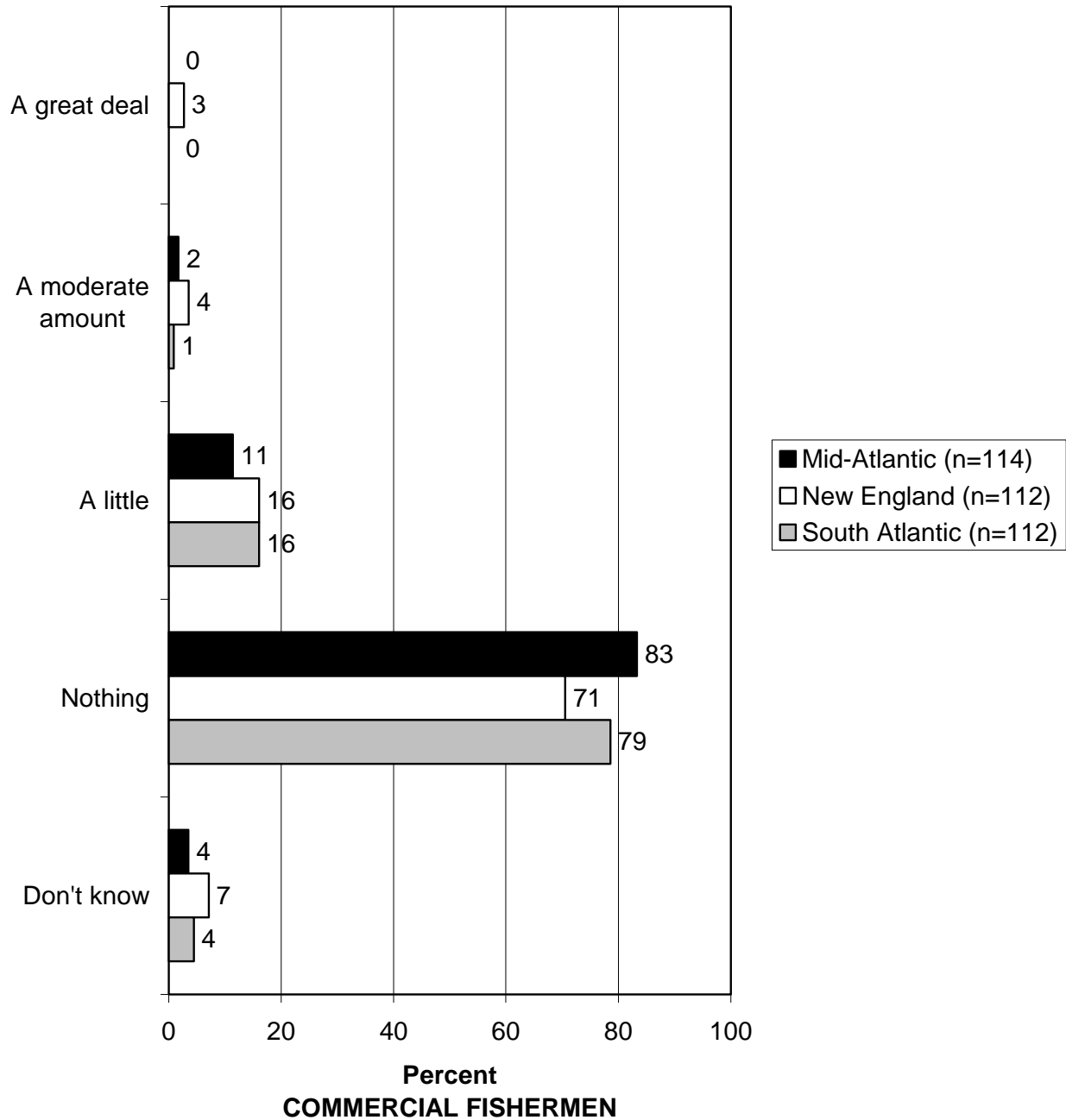
Q9. One of the top answers regarding how respondents first heard of the ACCSP was “don’t know,” with the percentage giving this response ranging from 17% of New England recreational anglers to 40% of Mid-Atlantic recreational anglers. Otherwise, the top sources of information about the ACCSP were family/friend, fishing magazines, newspapers, and the ACCSP itself (either an employee or a contact by the ACCSP for data).

Q12. As with the above two questions, Question 12 most often elicited the response of “don’t know.” Large majorities of all groups, from 77% to 90%, responded that they did not know the main objectives of the ACCSP. Otherwise, the top answers were to manage/maintain fish stocks and to keep catch statistics.

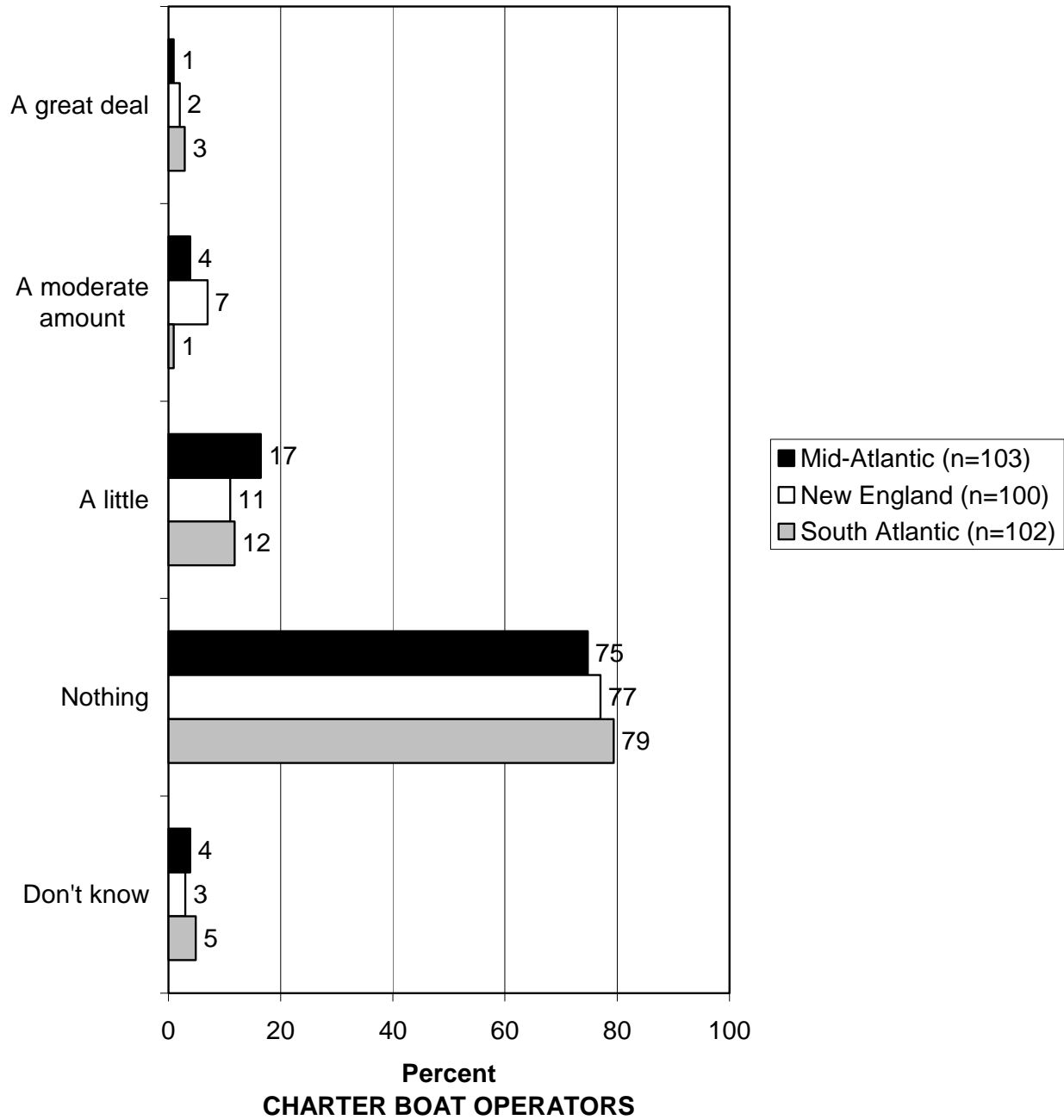
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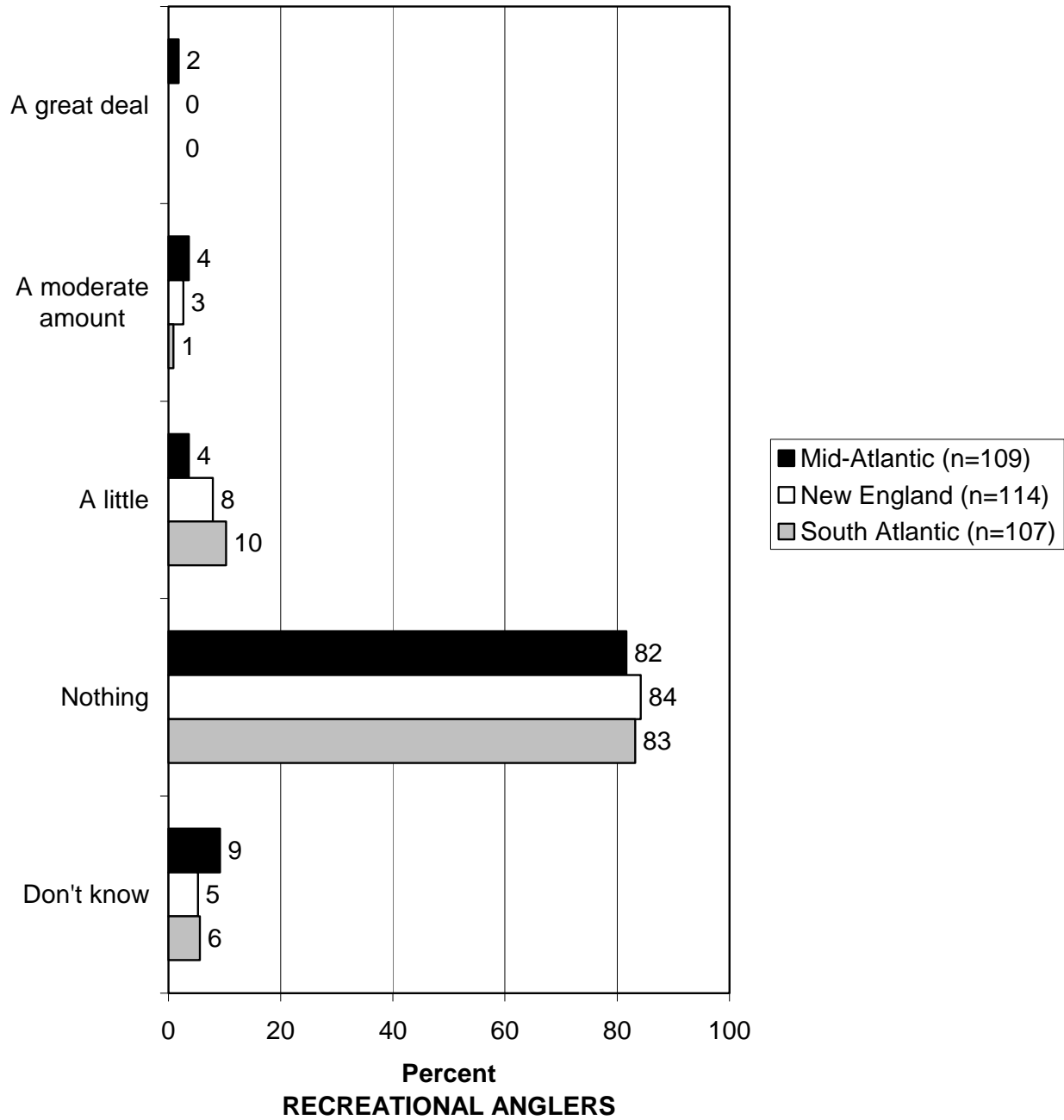
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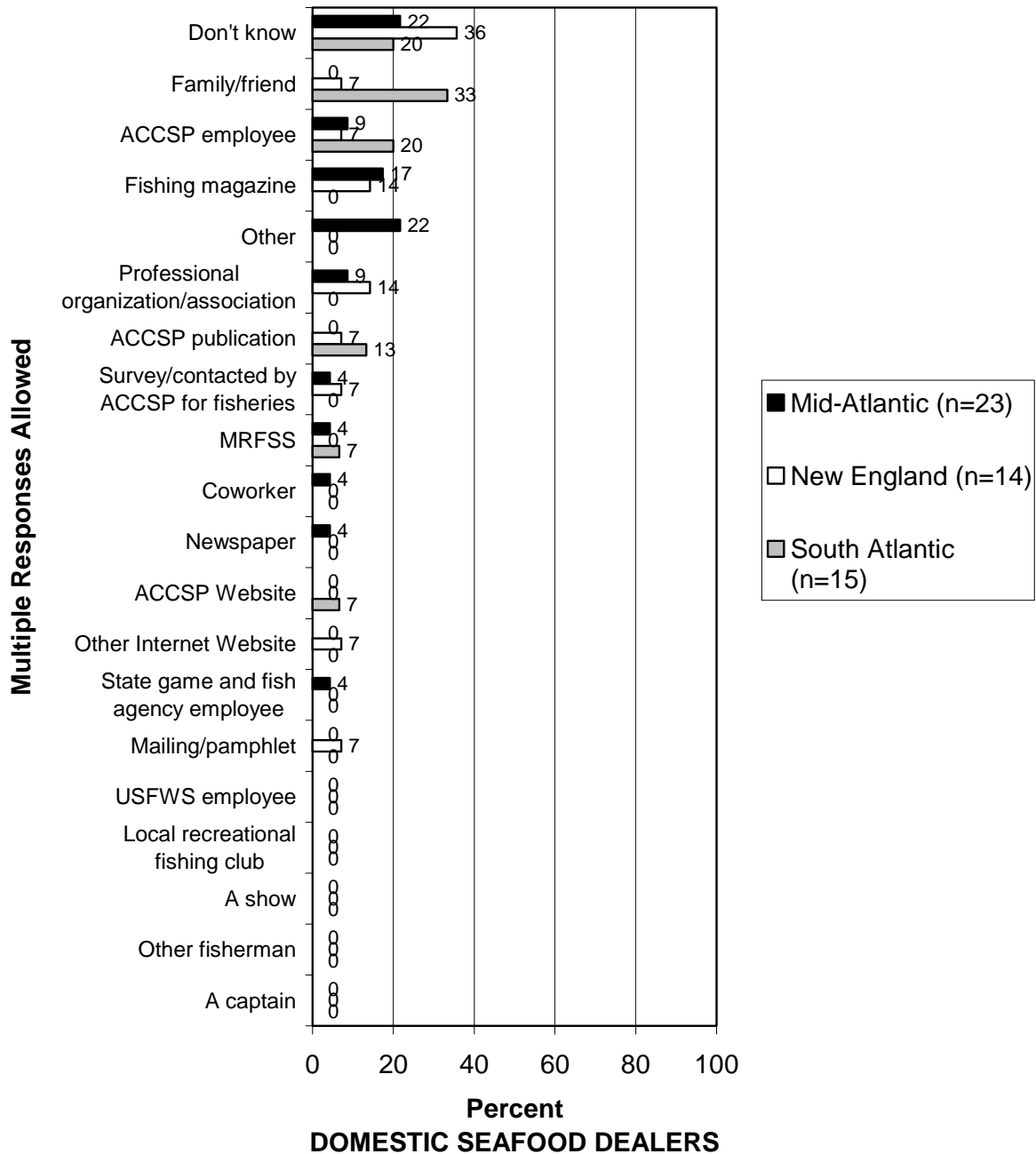
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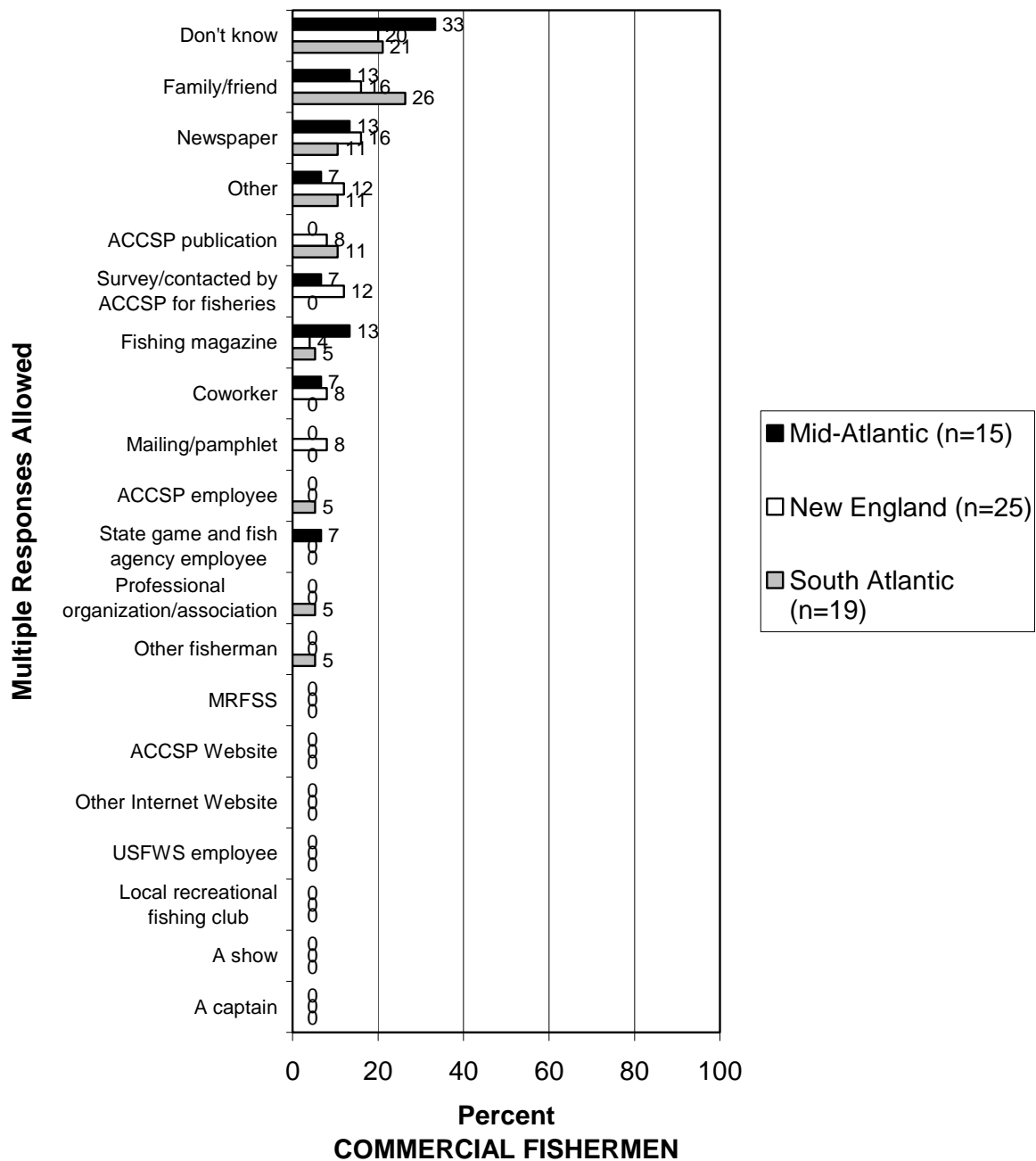
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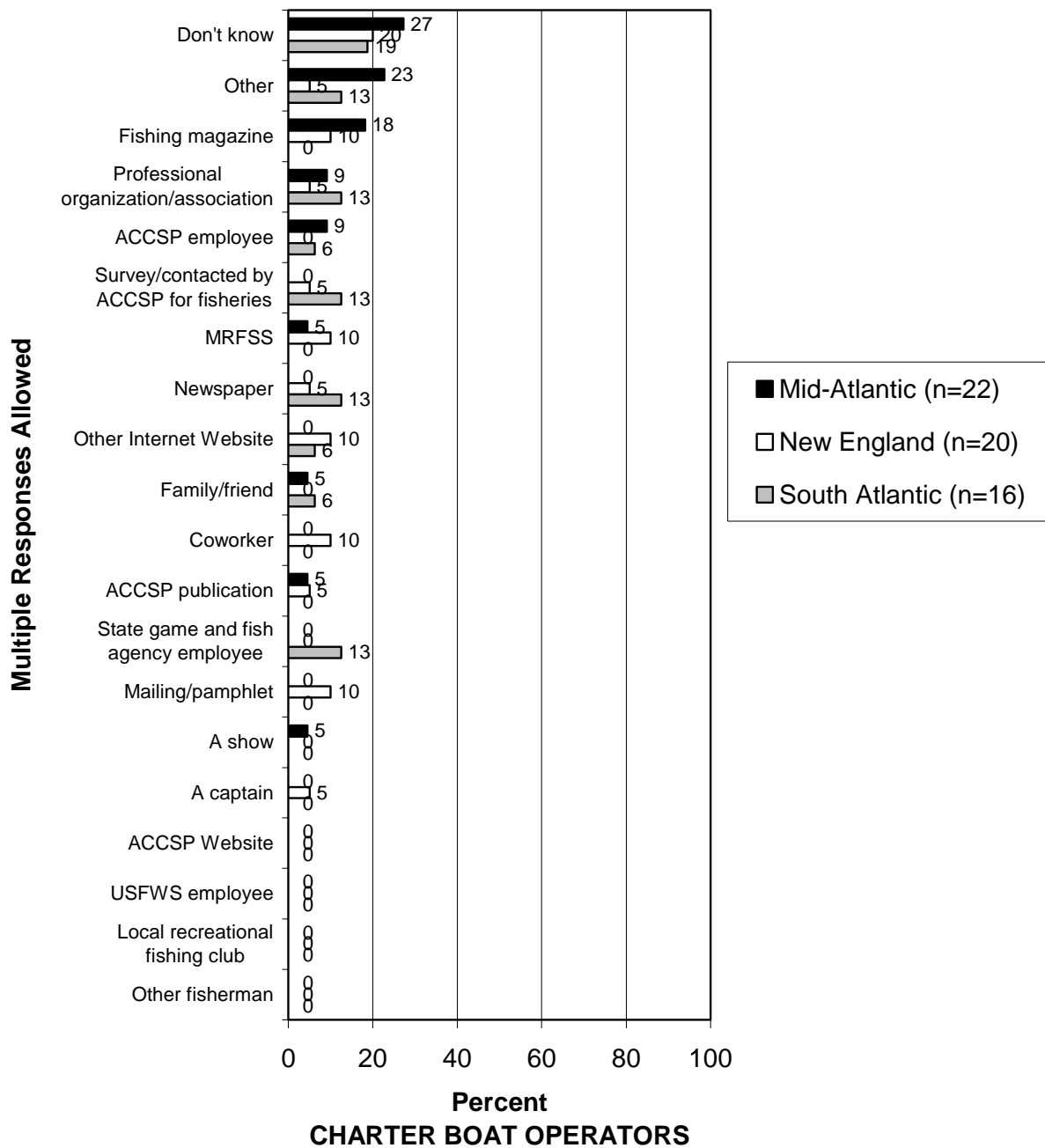
**Q9. How did you first hear about the ACCSP?
(Asked of those who knew a great deal, a moderate amount, or a little about the ACCSP.)**



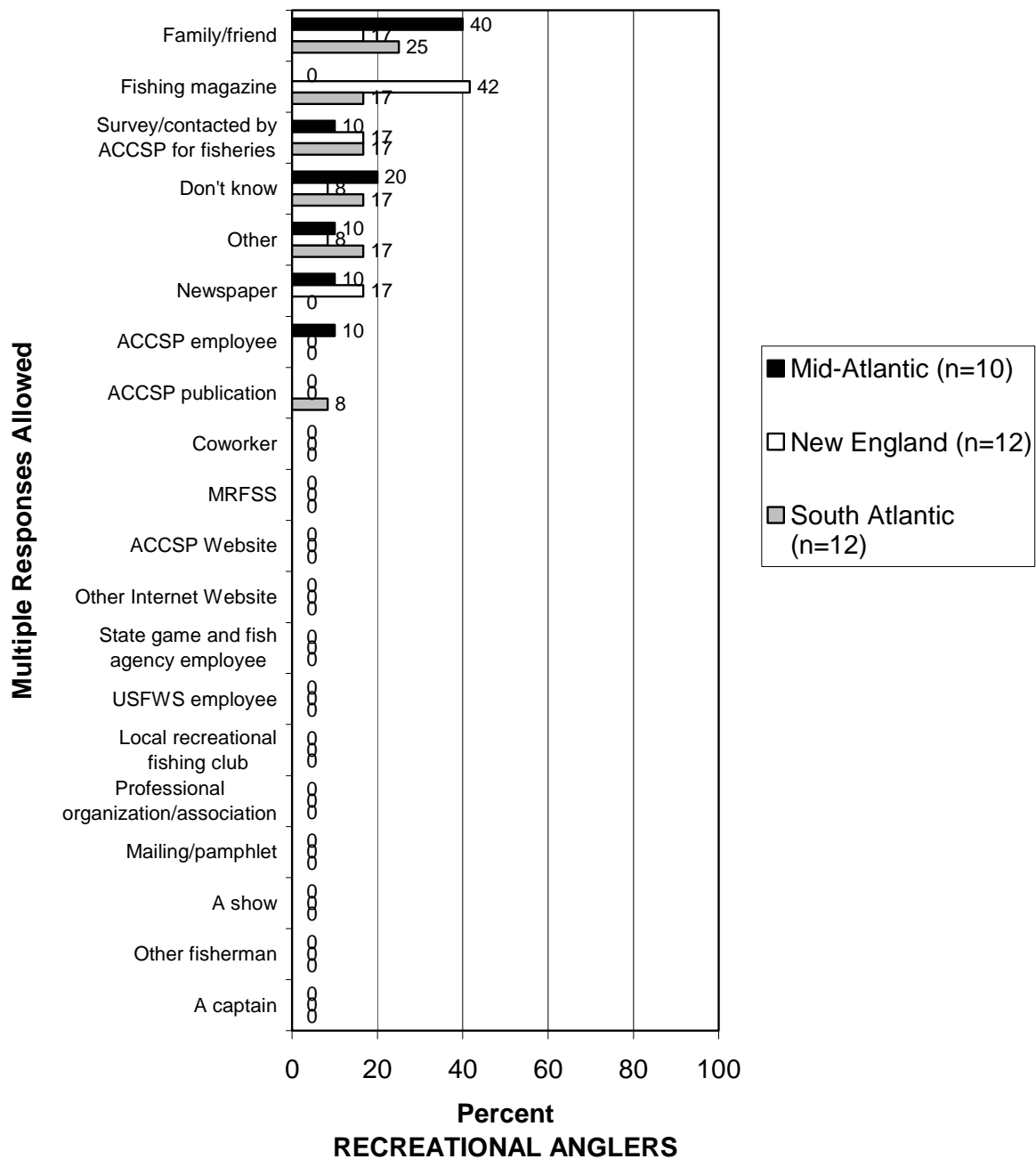
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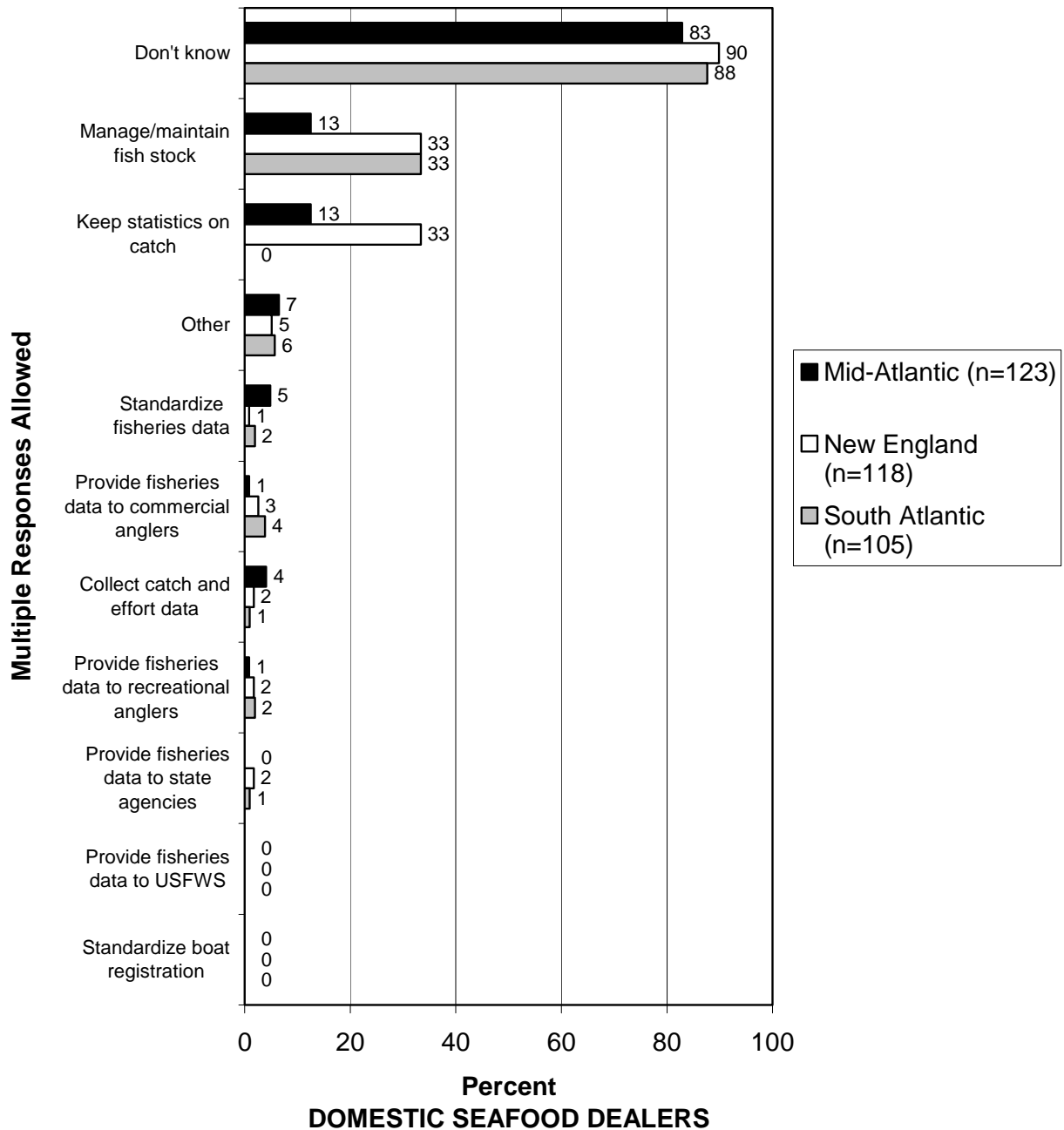
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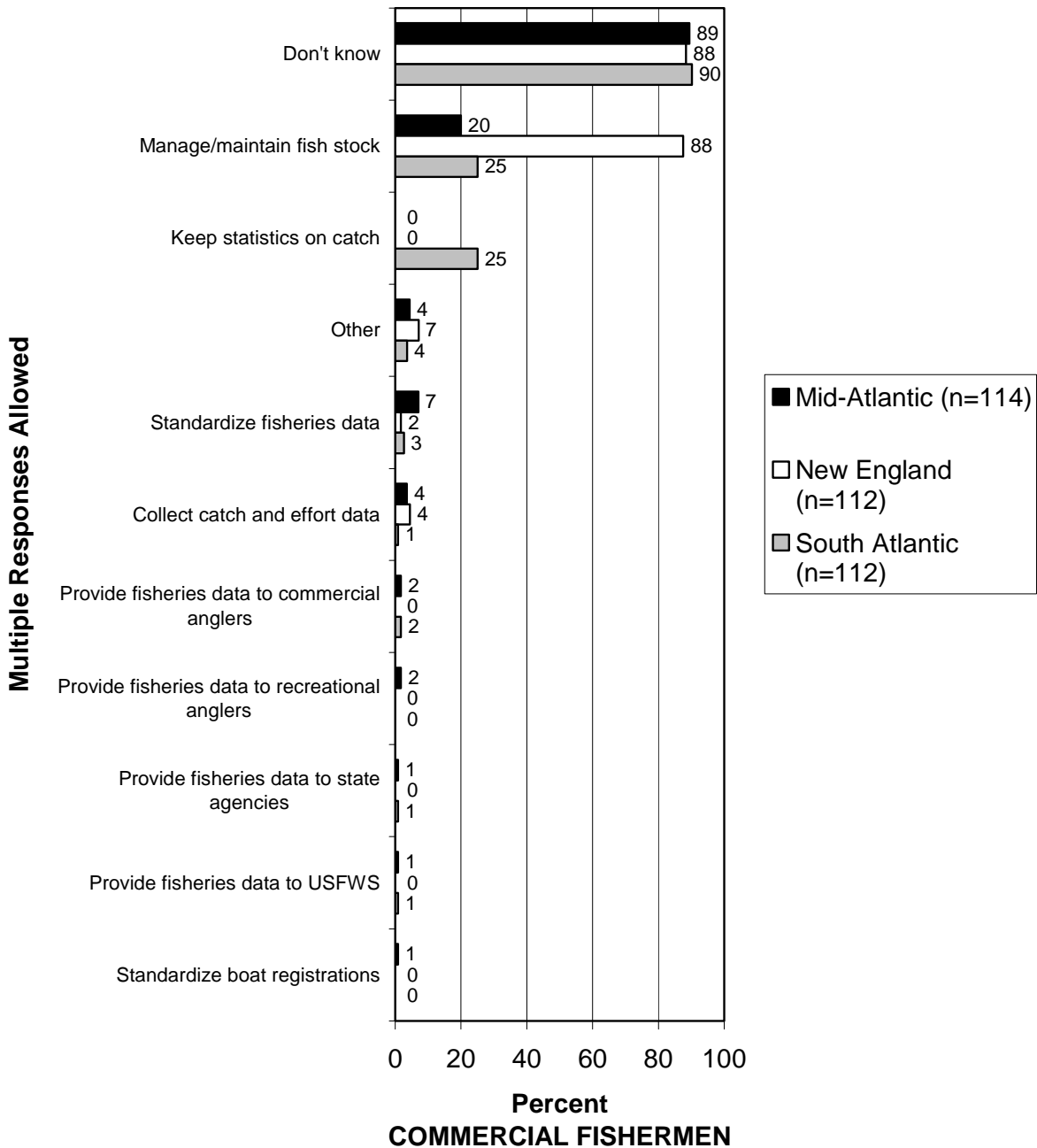
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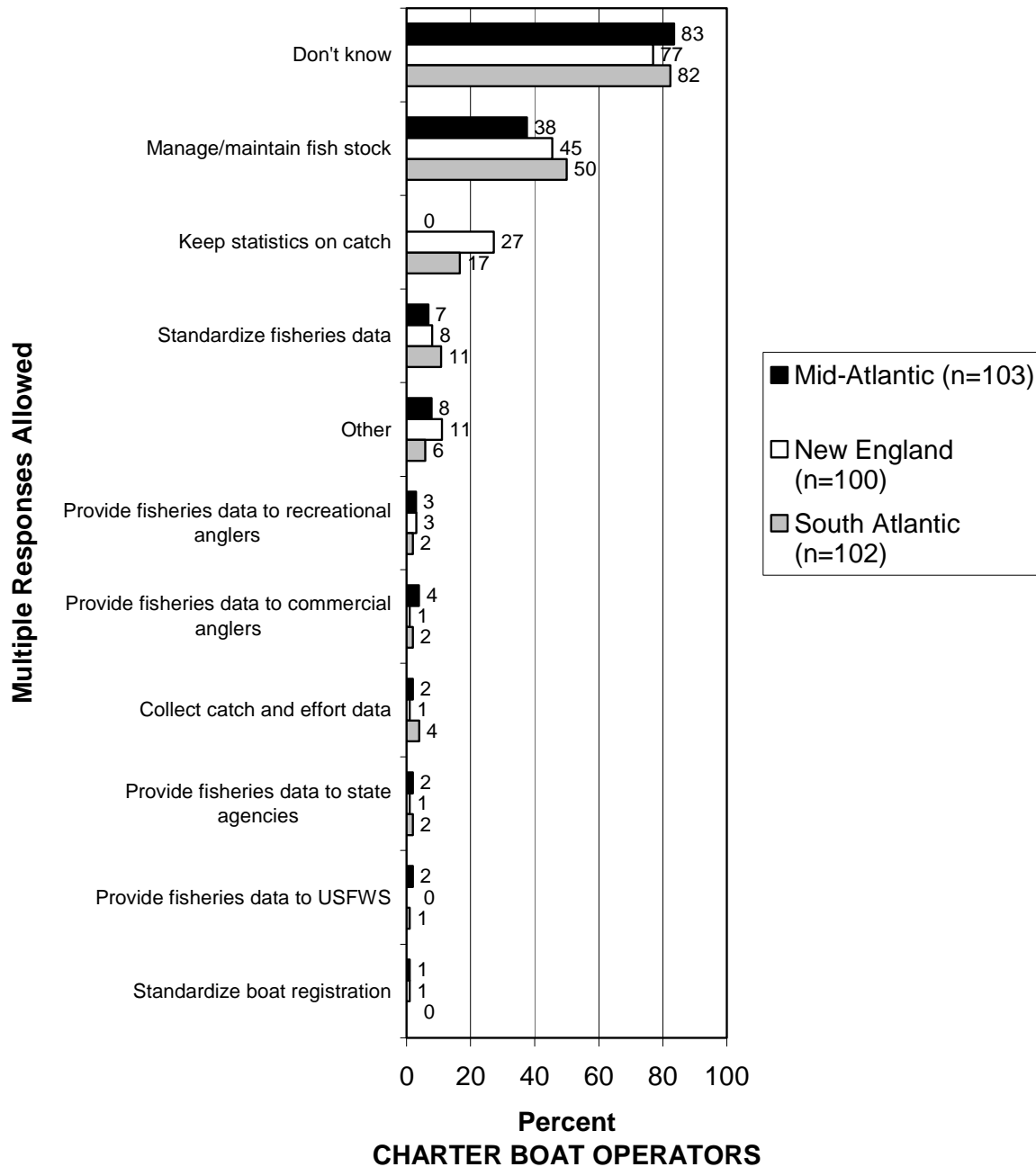
Q12. What do you perceive to be the main objectives of the ACCSP?



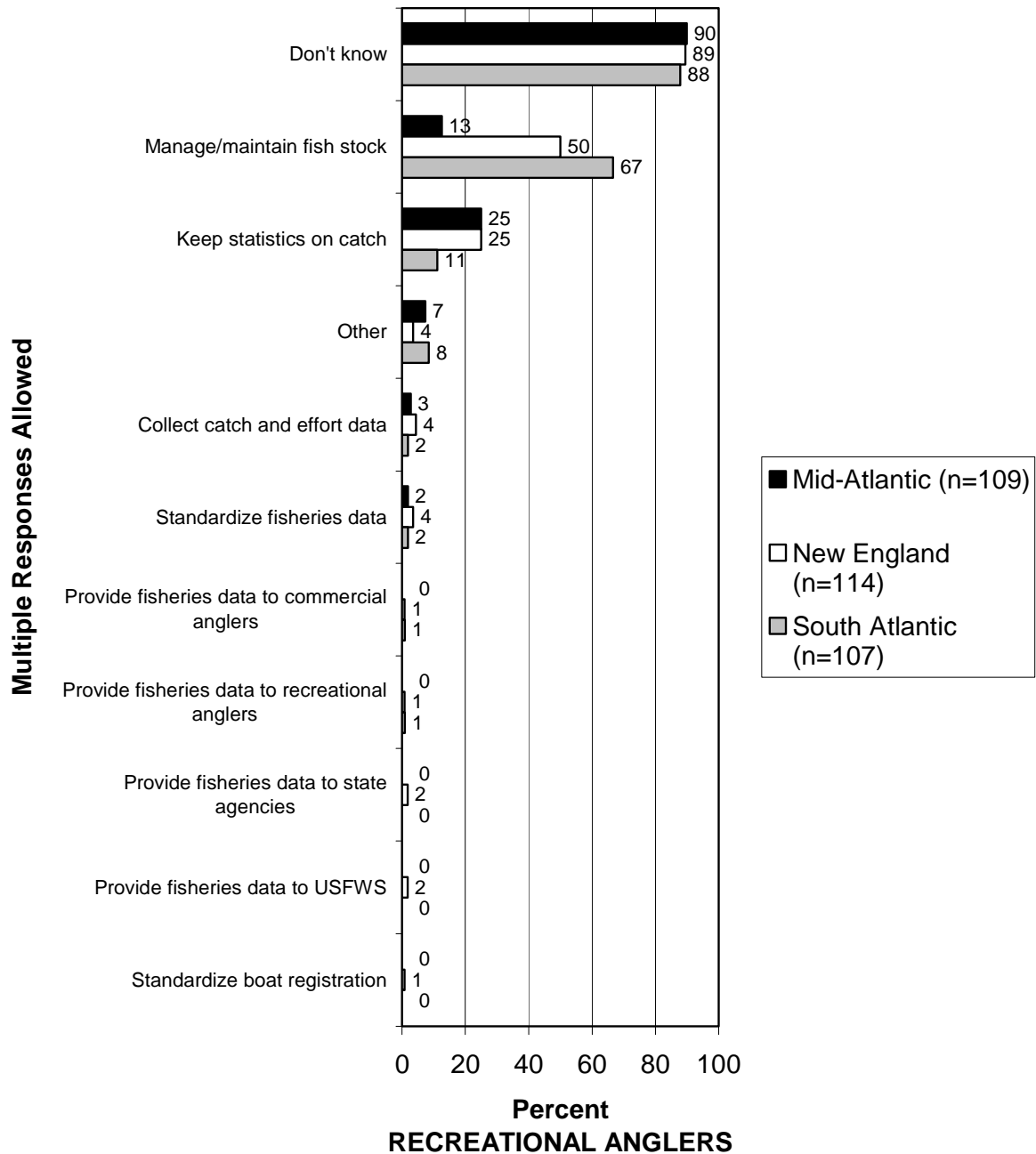
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Other highlights of the results of this series of questions include:

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- The highest percentages giving a rating of poor were 41% of charter boat operators from the Mid-Atlantic region who thought that the ACCSP does a poor job of meeting the needs of recreational anglers and 27% of domestic seafood dealers from the South Atlantic region who thought that the ACCSP does a poor job of meeting the needs of commercial fishermen; otherwise, the percentages giving poor ratings typically were in the teens or single digits.

Q18-Q21. In general, more respondents from all groups gave a rating of excellent or good than gave a rating of poor regarding how well the ACCSP meets its goals. However, there was wide variation among constituent types and among regions.

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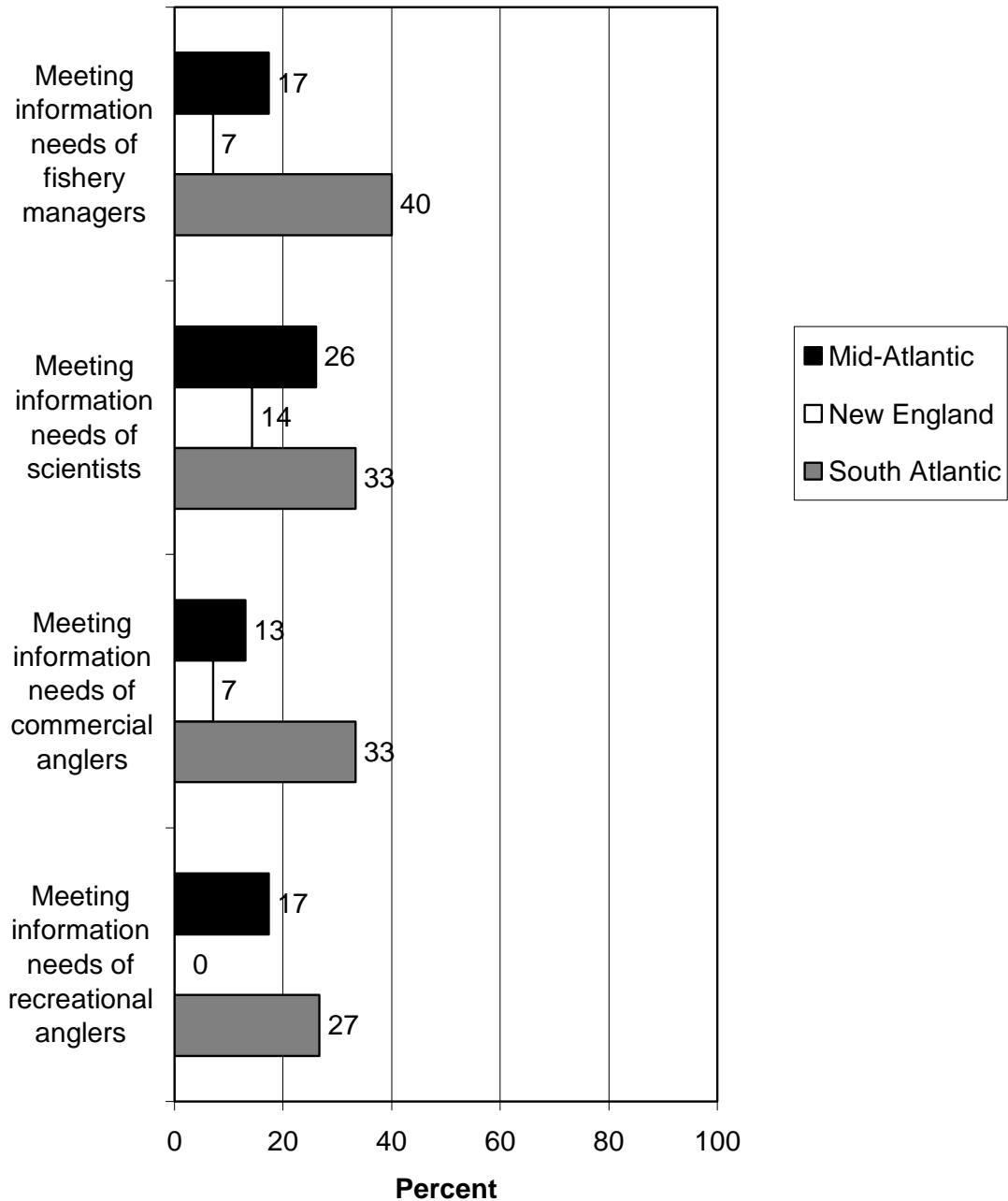
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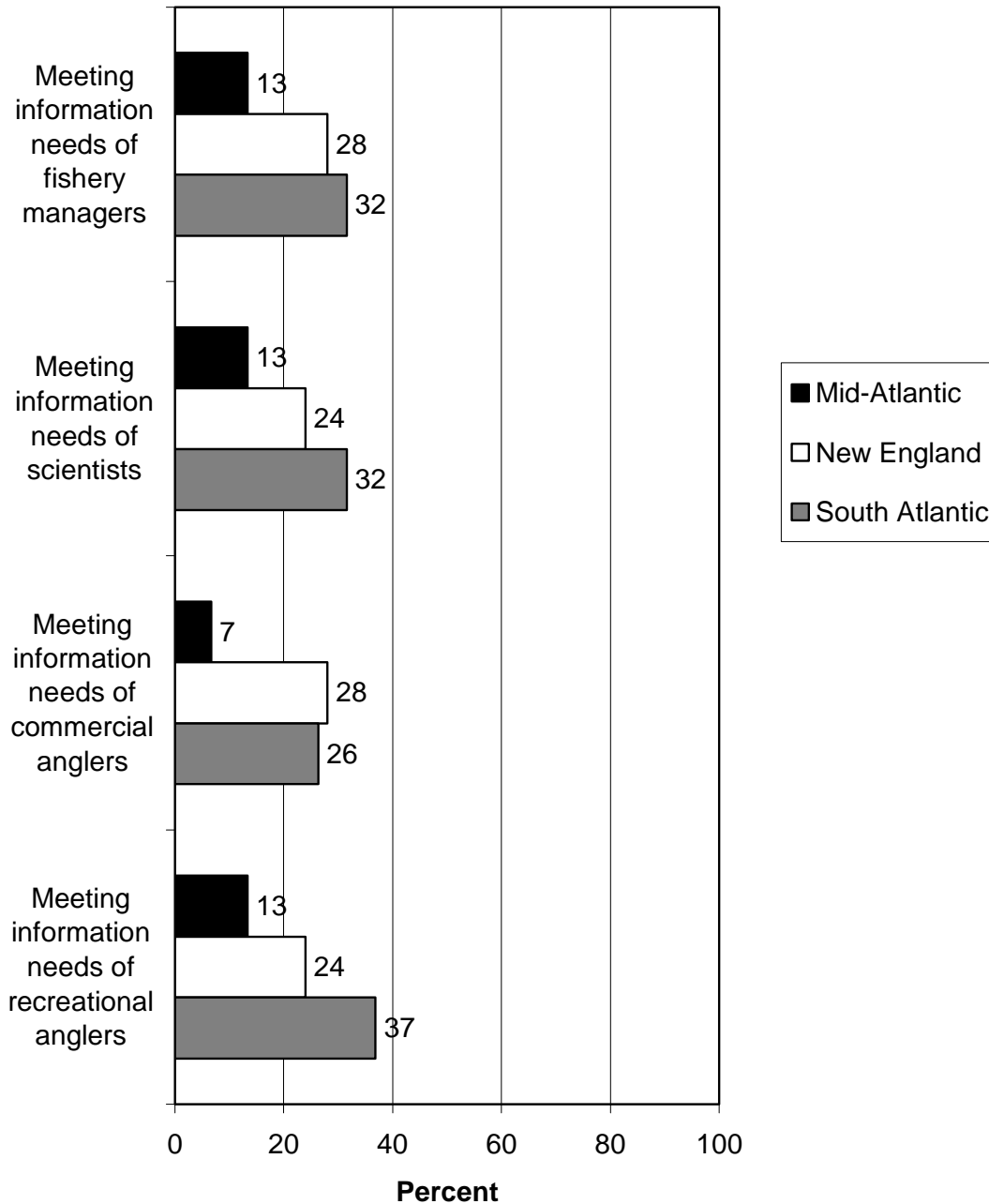
development and maintenance of active support and participation by program partners (31% gave an answer of excellent or good for both these goals).

- Recreational anglers from the Mid-Atlantic region had a three-way tie regarding how well the ACCSP meets its goals: 50% gave a rating of excellent or good for the goals of the production of complete, timely, accurate fishery data; the development and maintenance of active support and participation by program partners; and the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data.
- Recreational anglers from New England felt that the goal that was best met was the support of development and operation of a nationwide system of marine fishery data (50% gave an answer of excellent or good).
- Recreational anglers from the South Atlantic region felt that the goal that was best met was the production of complete, timely, accurate fishery data (50% gave an answer of excellent or good).

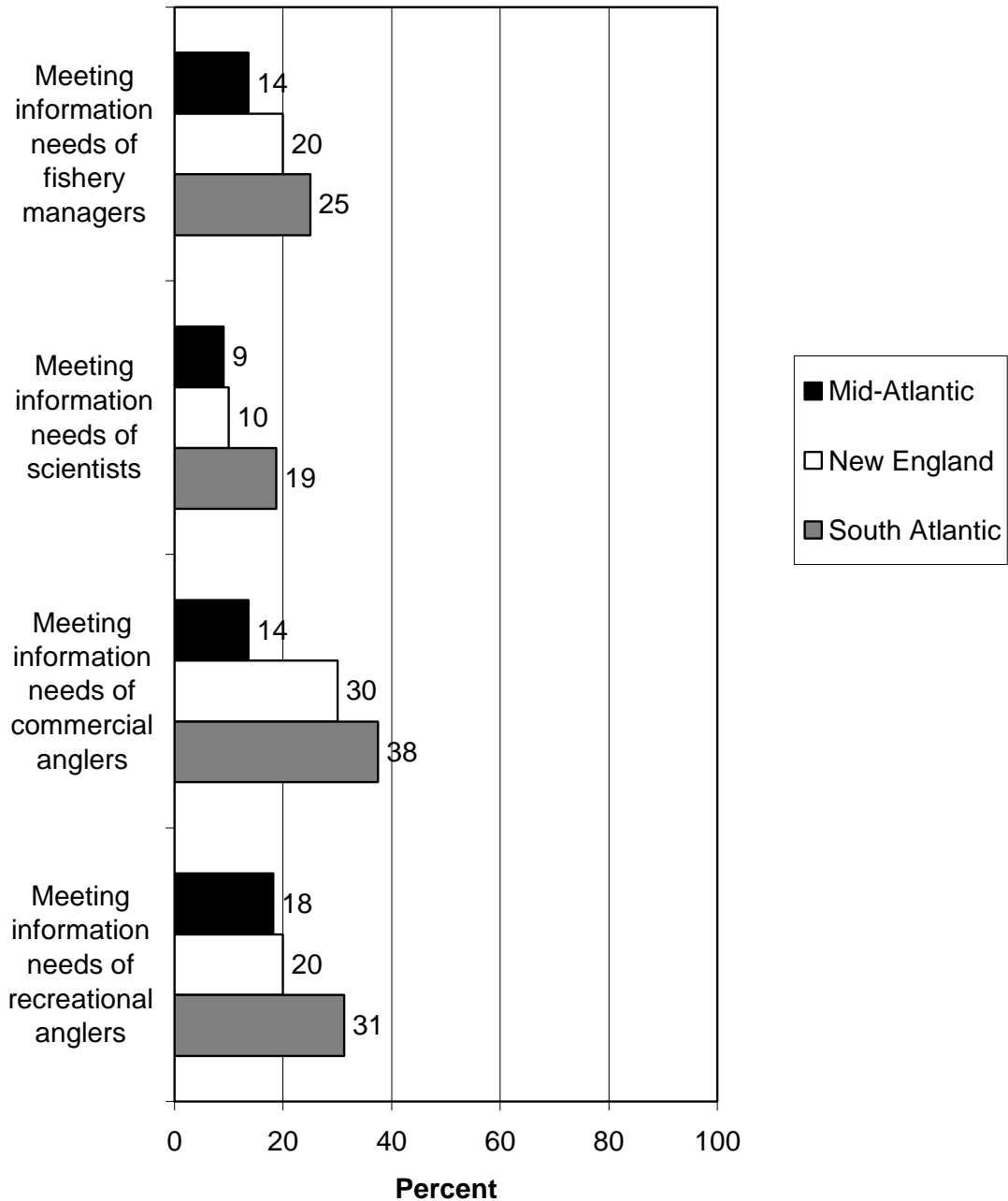
Questions 14 through 17: Percent of Domestic Seafood Dealers Giving a Rating of Excellent or Good for Meeting These Needs



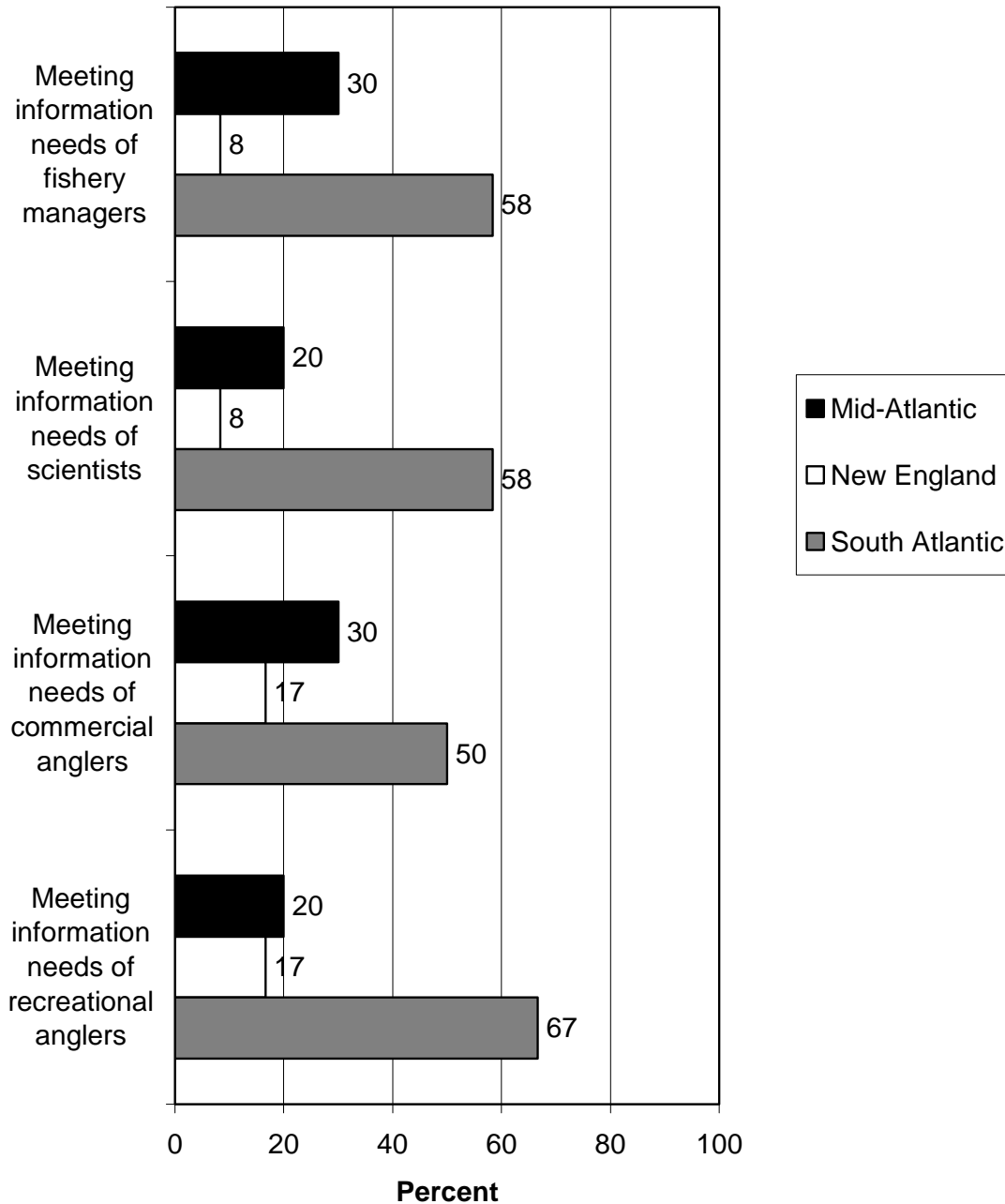
Questions 14 through 17: Percent of Commercial Fishermen Giving a Rating of Excellent or Good for Meeting These Needs



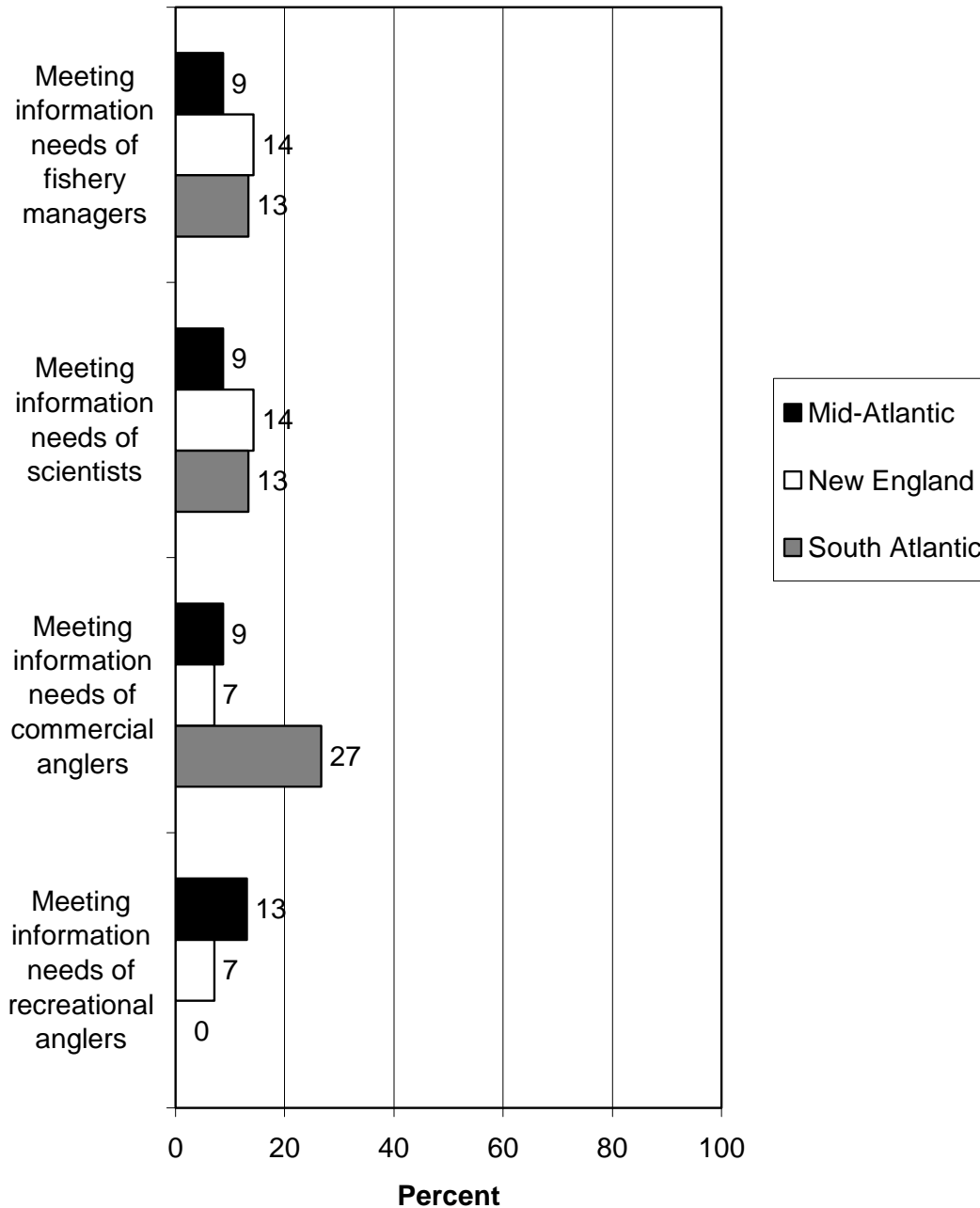
Questions 14 through 17: Percent of Charter Boat Operators Giving a Rating of Excellent or Good for Meeting These Needs



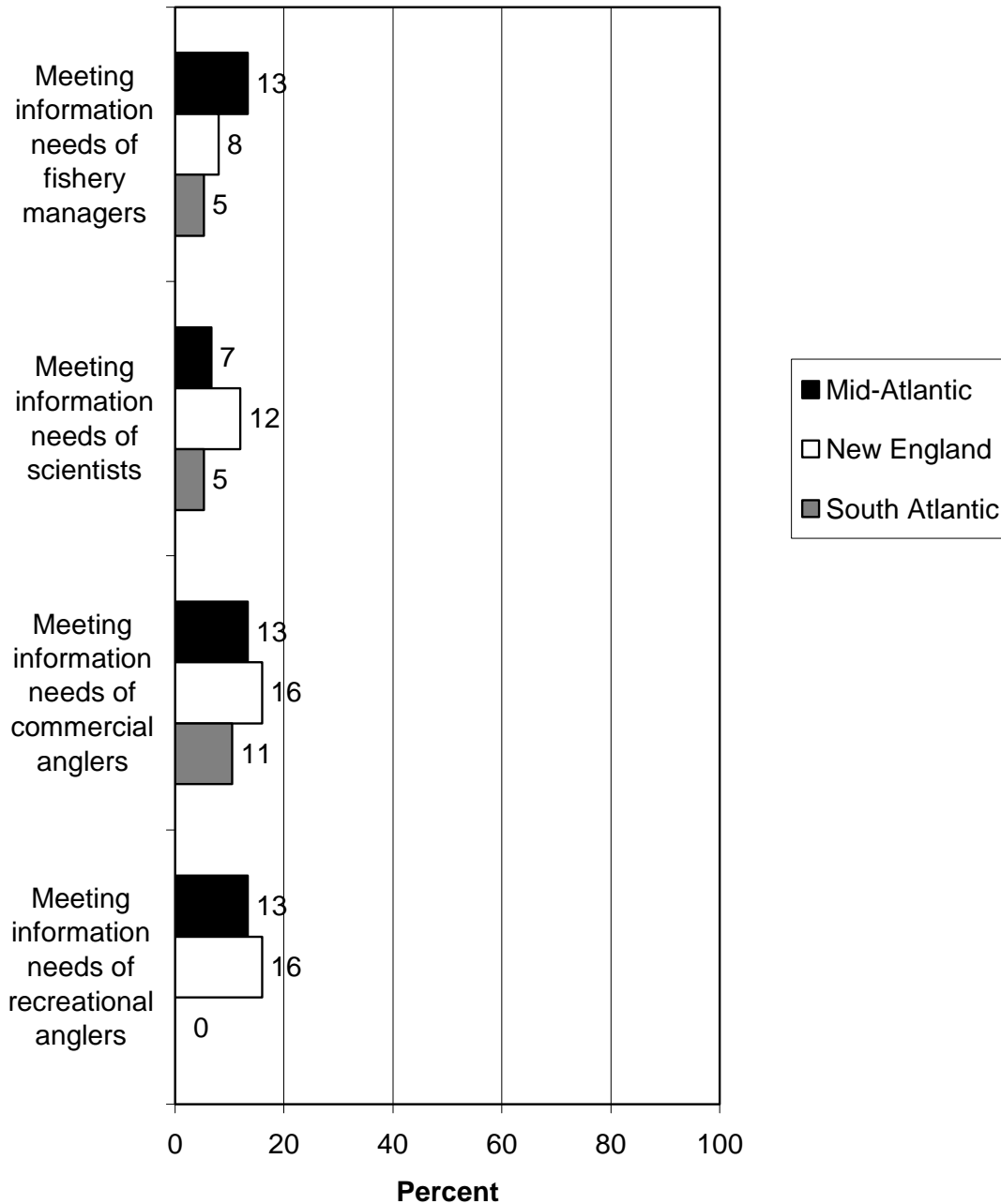
Questions 14 through 17: Percent of Recreational Anglers Giving a Rating of Excellent or Good for Meeting These Needs



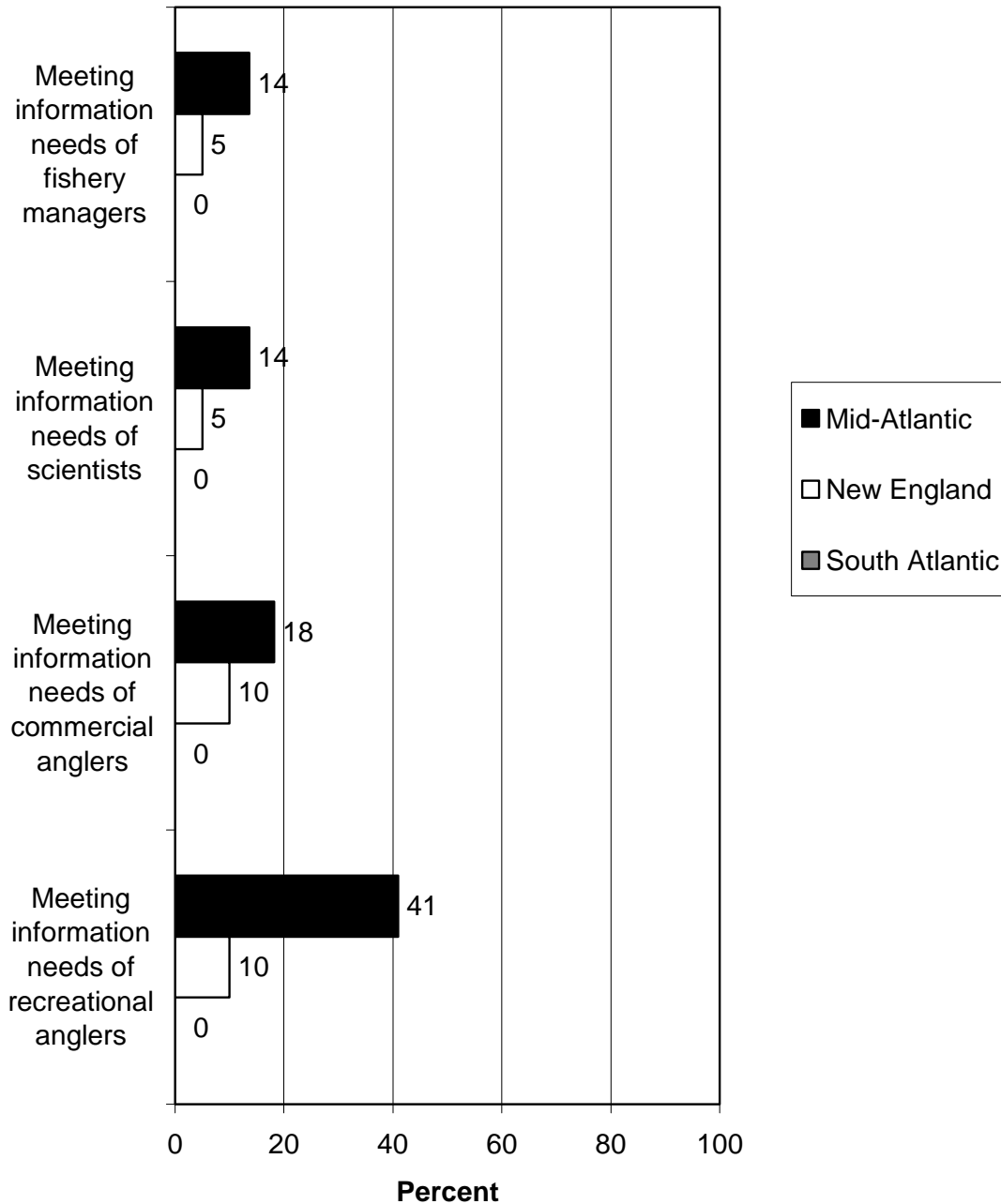
Questions 14 through 17: Percent of Domestic Seafood Dealers Giving a Rating of Poor for Meeting These Needs



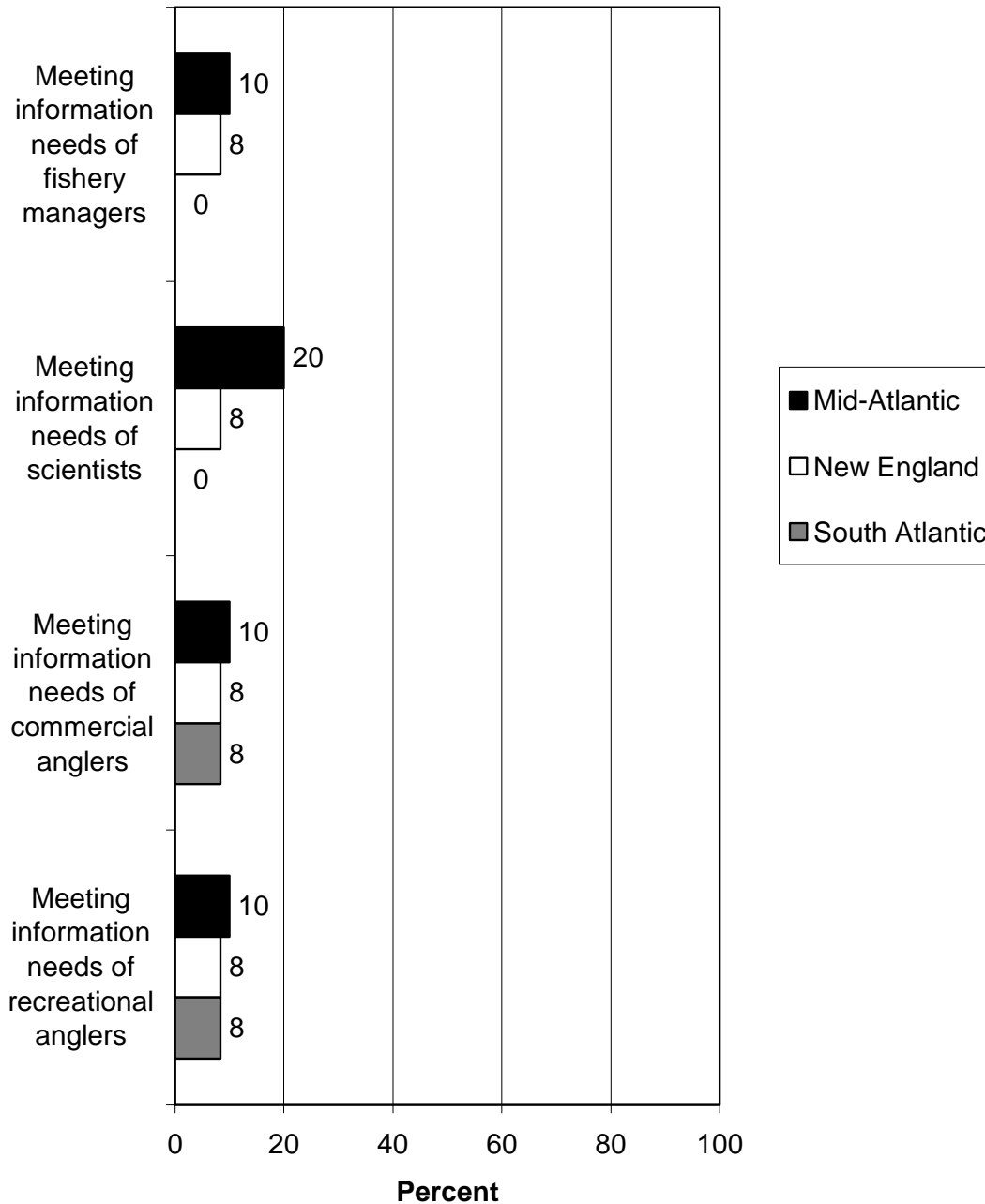
Questions 14 through 17: Percent of Commercial Fishermen Giving a Rating of Poor for Meeting These Needs



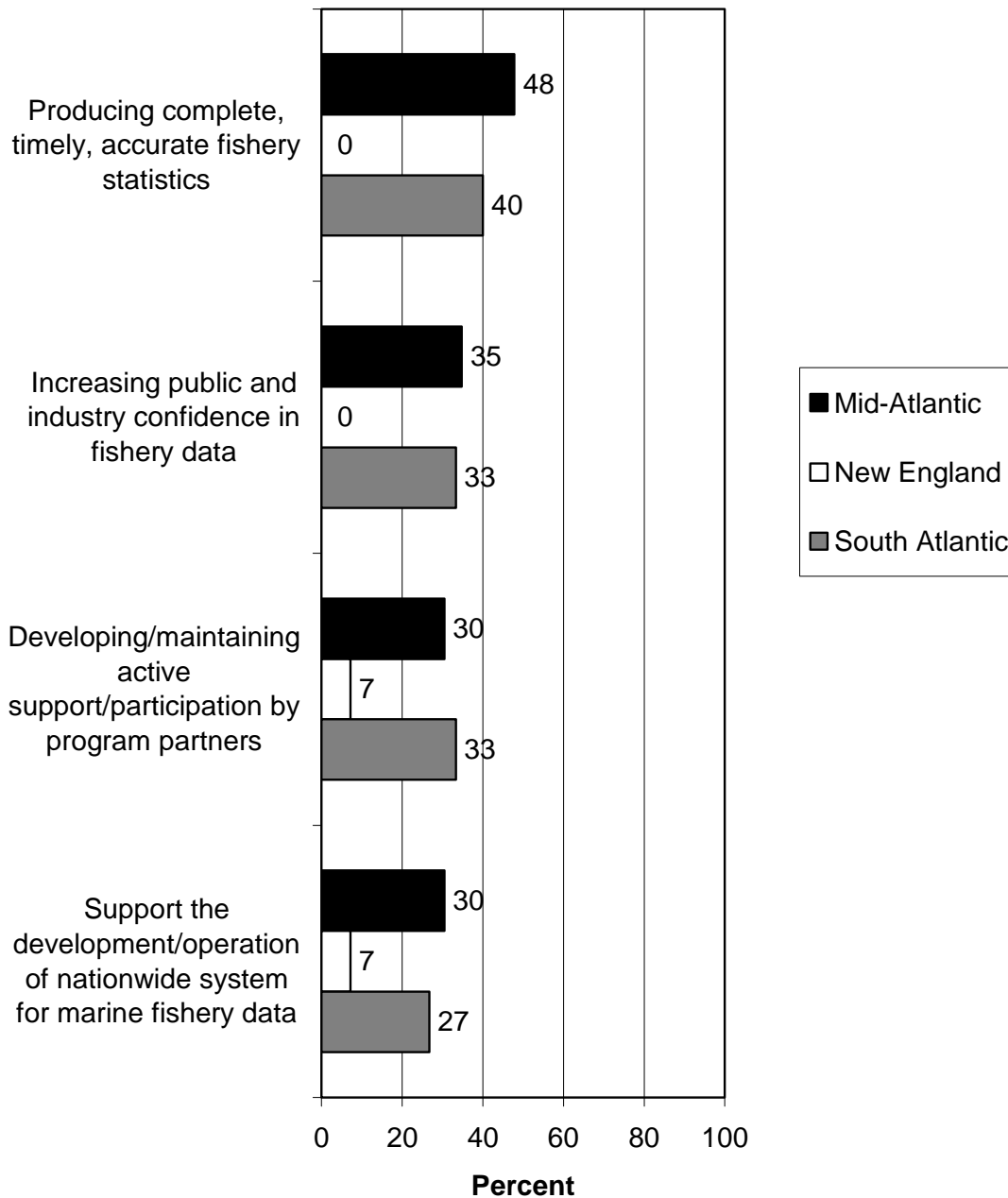
Questions 14 through 17: Percent of Charter Boat Operators Giving a Rating of Poor for Meeting These Needs



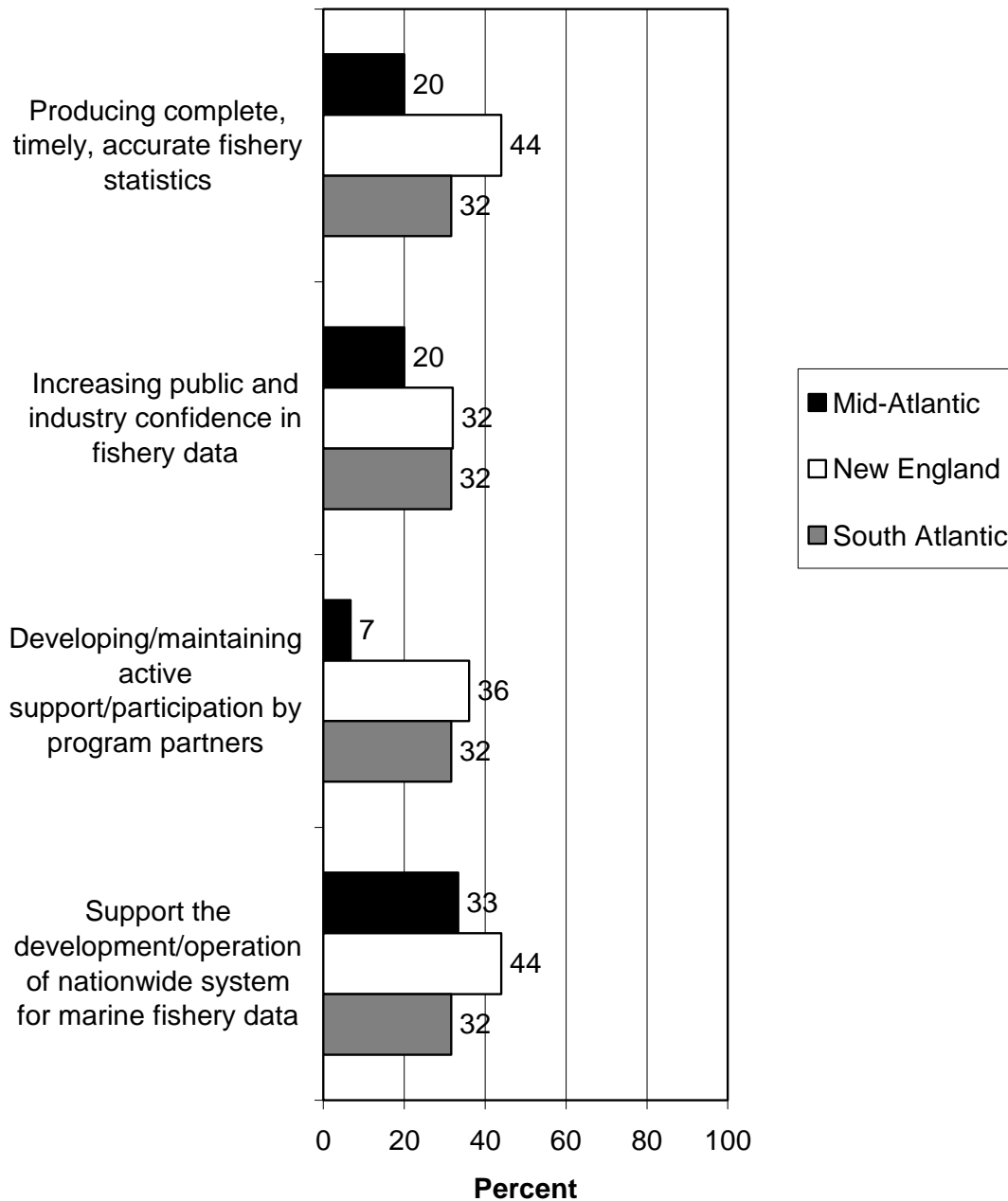
Questions 14 through 17: Percent of Recreational Anglers Giving a Rating of Poor for Meeting These Needs



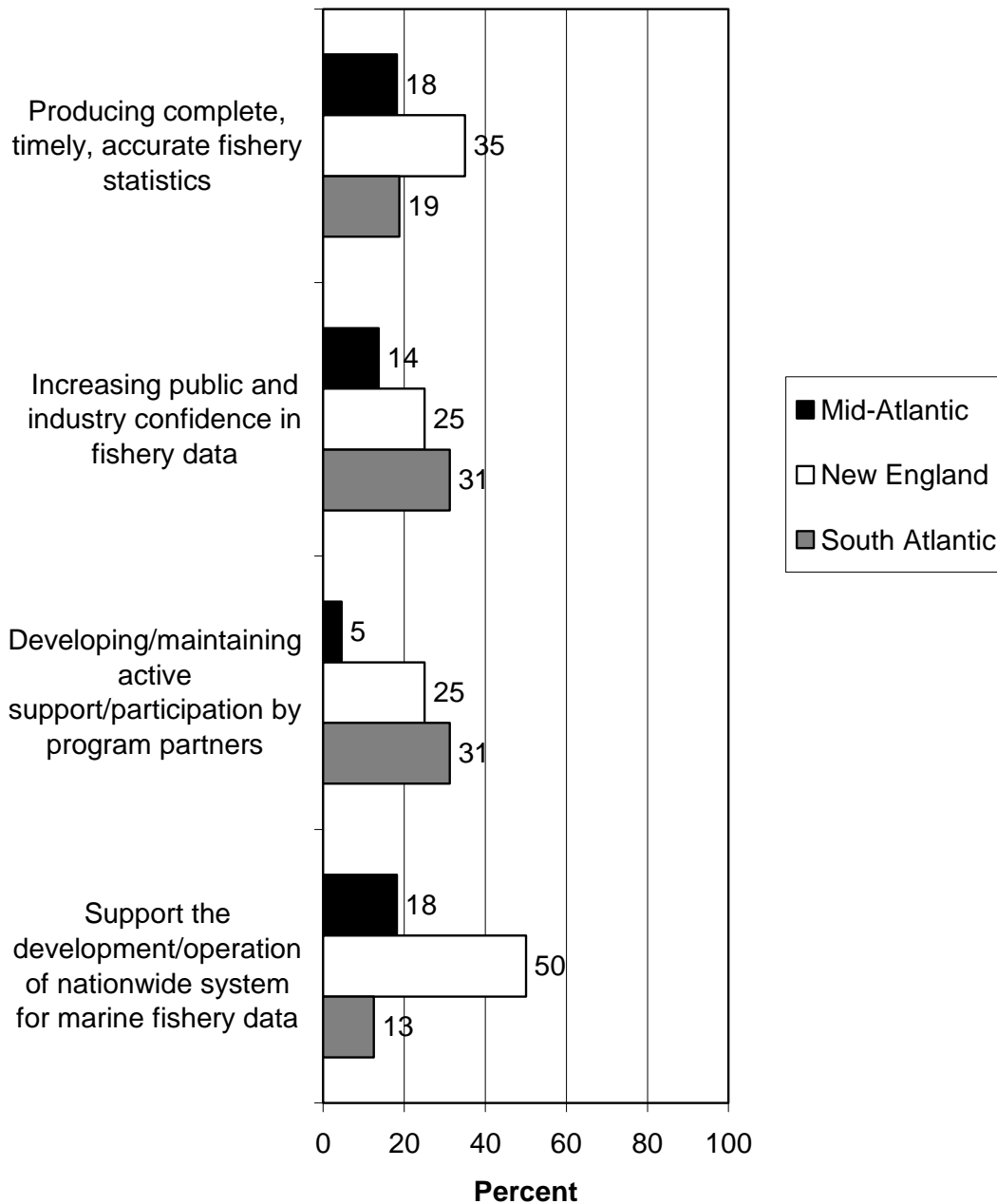
Questions 18 through 21: Percent of Domestic Seafood Dealers Giving a Rating of Excellent or Good for Meeting These Goals



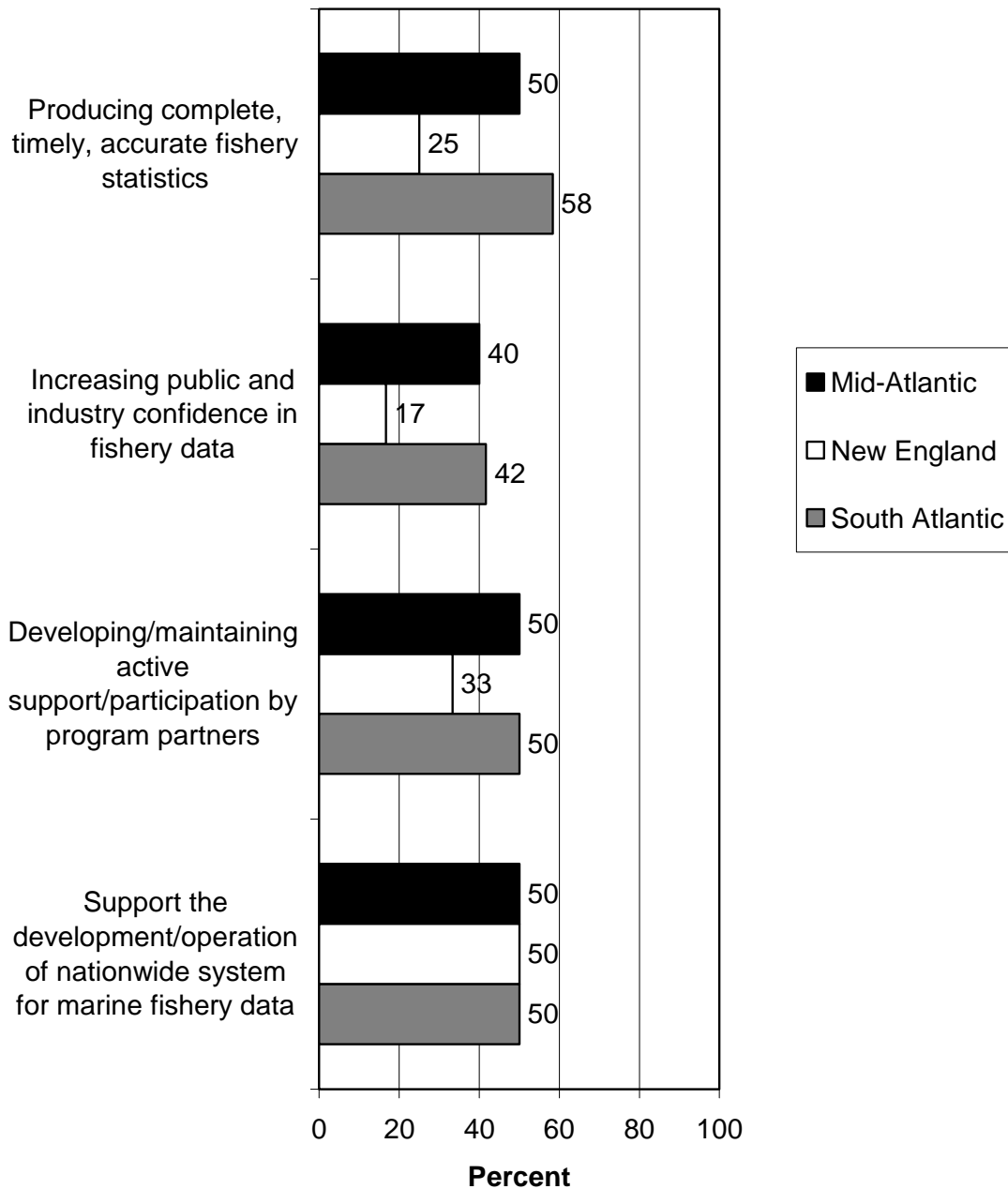
Questions 18 through 21: Percent of Commercial Fishermen Giving a Rating of Excellent or Good for Meeting These Goals



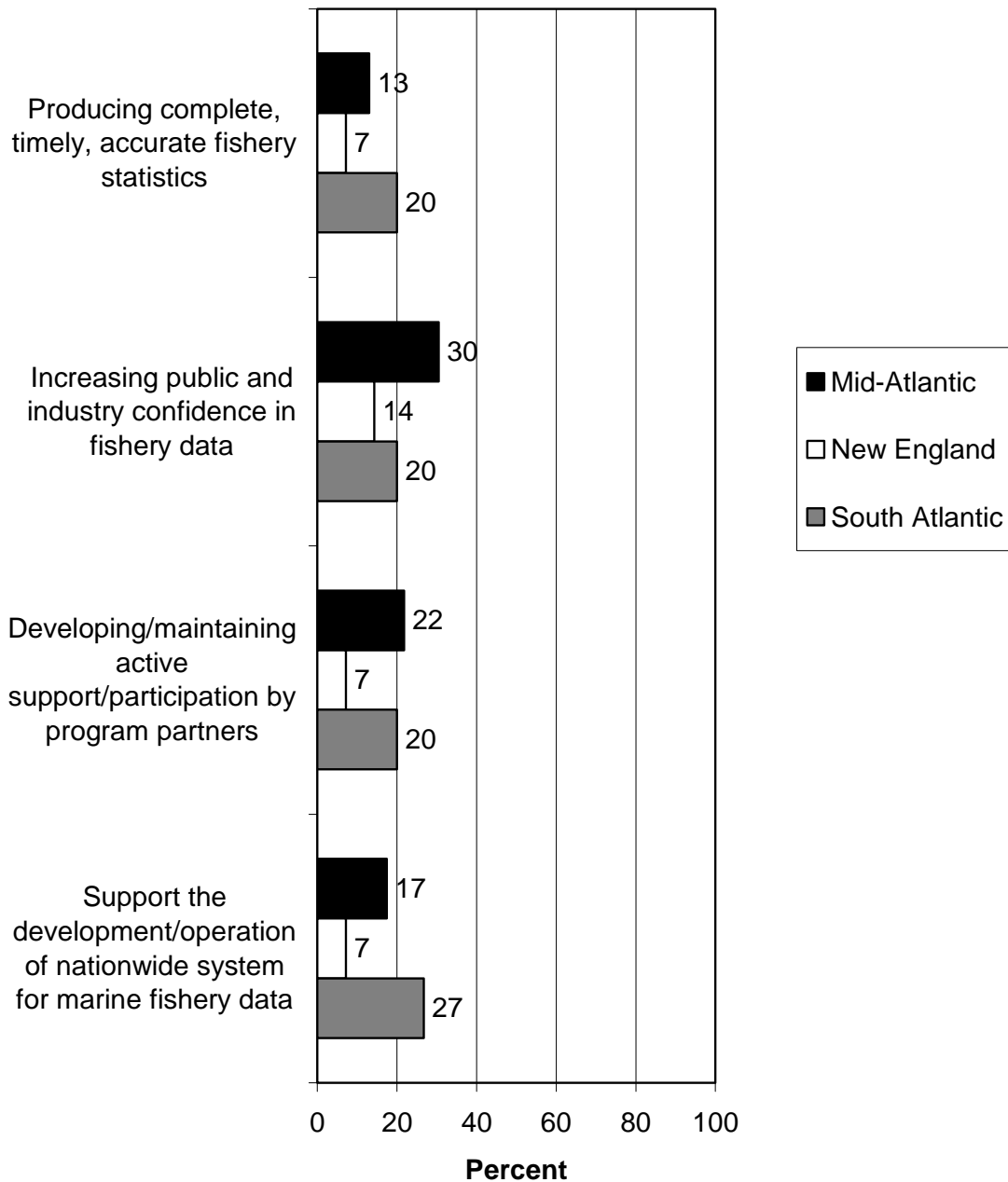
Questions 18 through 21: Percent of Charter Boat Operators Giving a Rating of Excellent or Good for Meeting These Goals



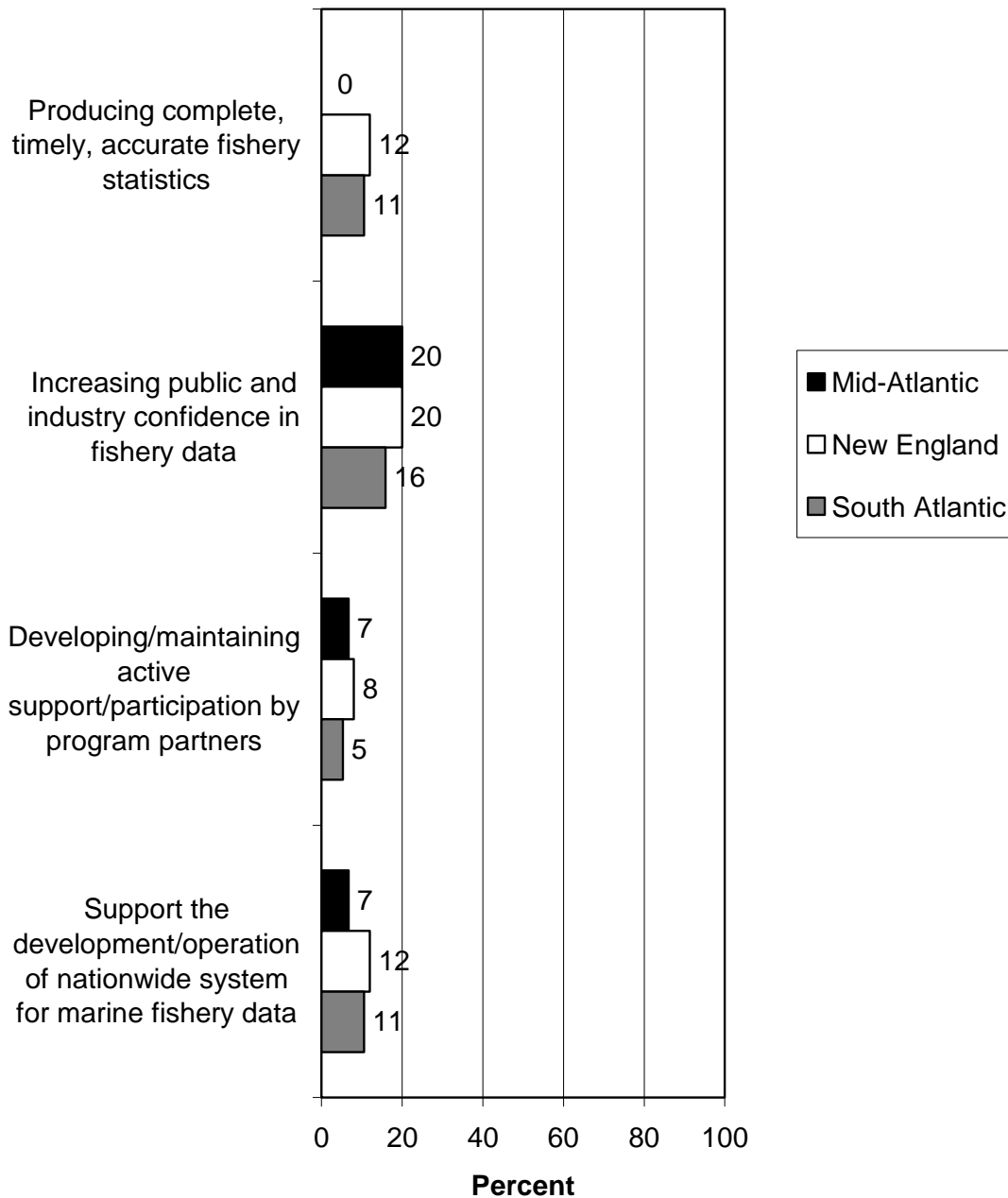
Questions 18 through 21: Percent of Recreational Anglers Giving a Rating of Excellent or Good for Meeting These Goals



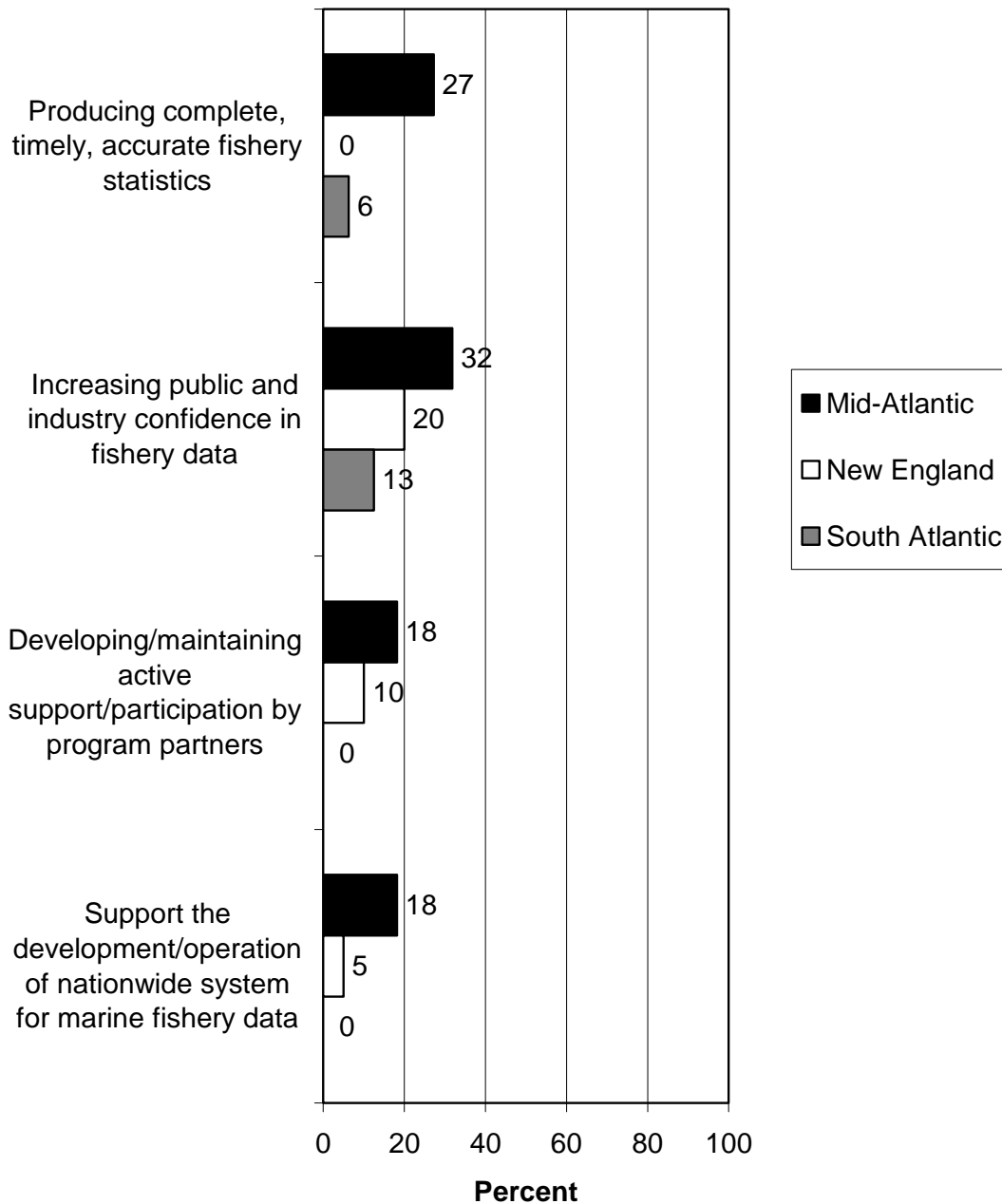
Questions 18 through 21: Percent of Domestic Seafood Dealers Giving a Rating of Poor for Meeting These Goals



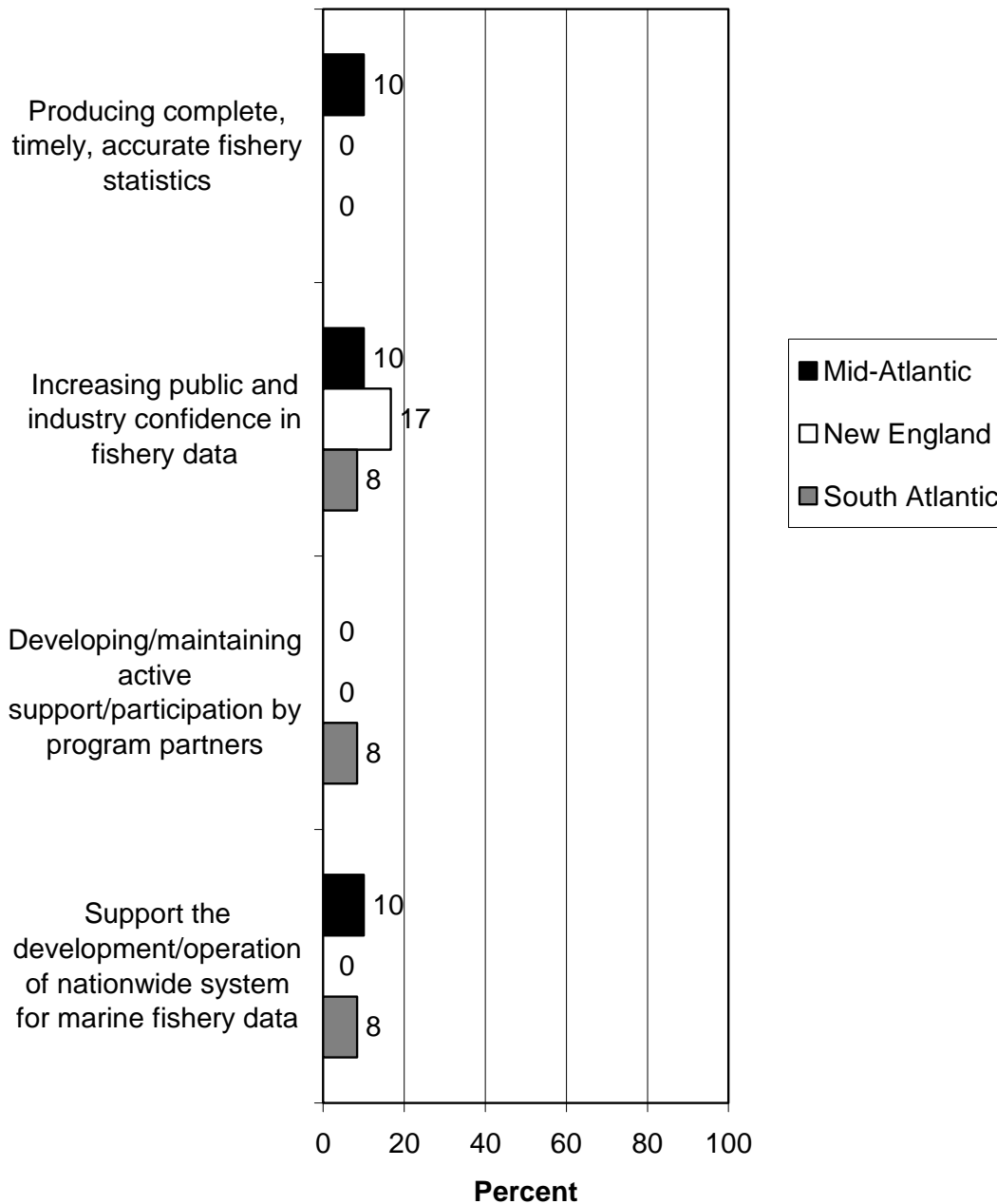
Questions 18 through 21: Percent of Commercial Fishermen Giving a Rating of Poor for Meeting These Goals



Questions 18 through 21: Percent of Charter Boat Operators Giving a Rating of Poor for Meeting These Goals



Questions 18 through 21: Percent of Recreational Anglers Giving a Rating of Poor for Meeting These Goals

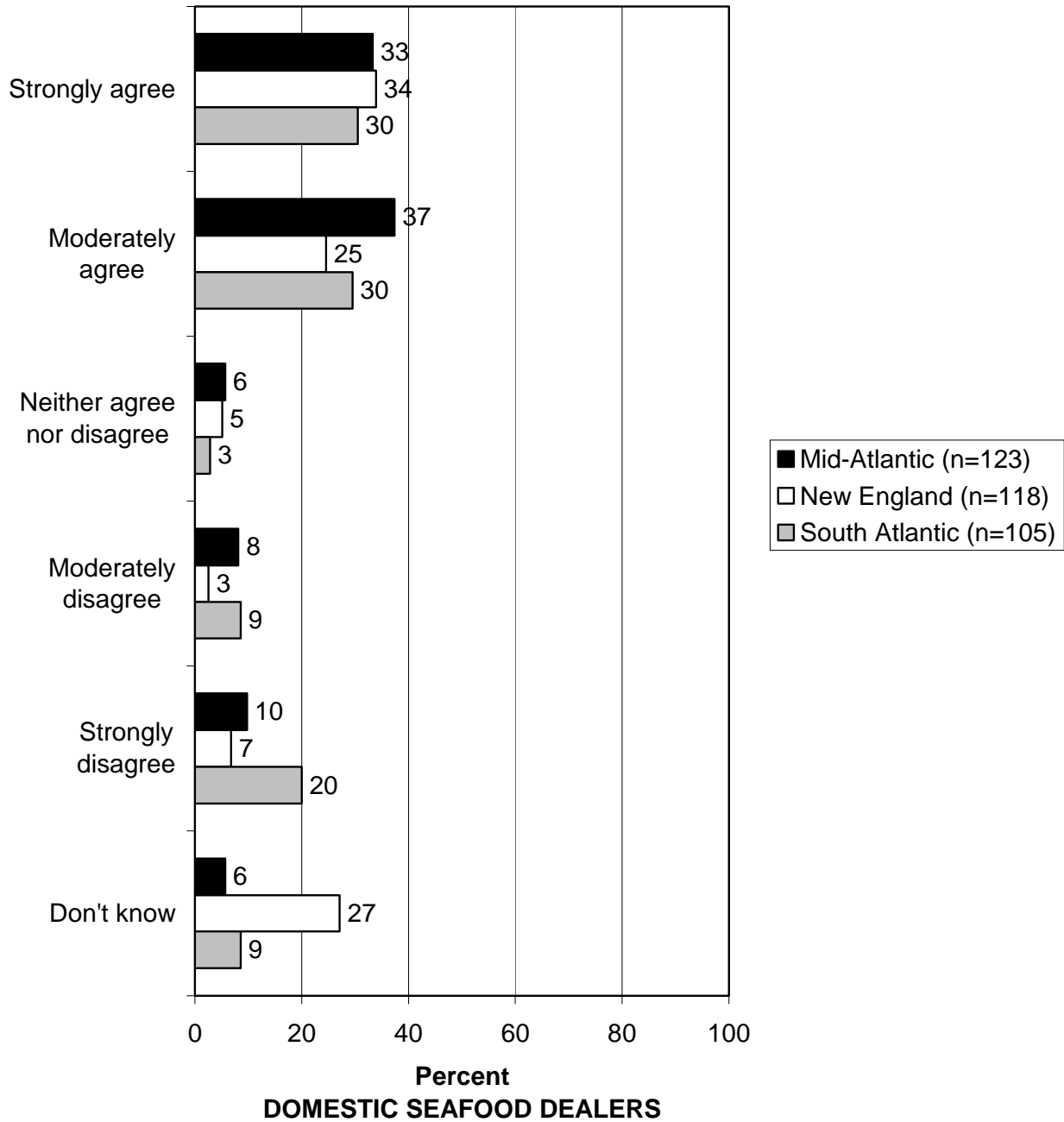


ATTITUDES TOWARD MANDATORY CATCH AND EFFORT TRIP REPORTING

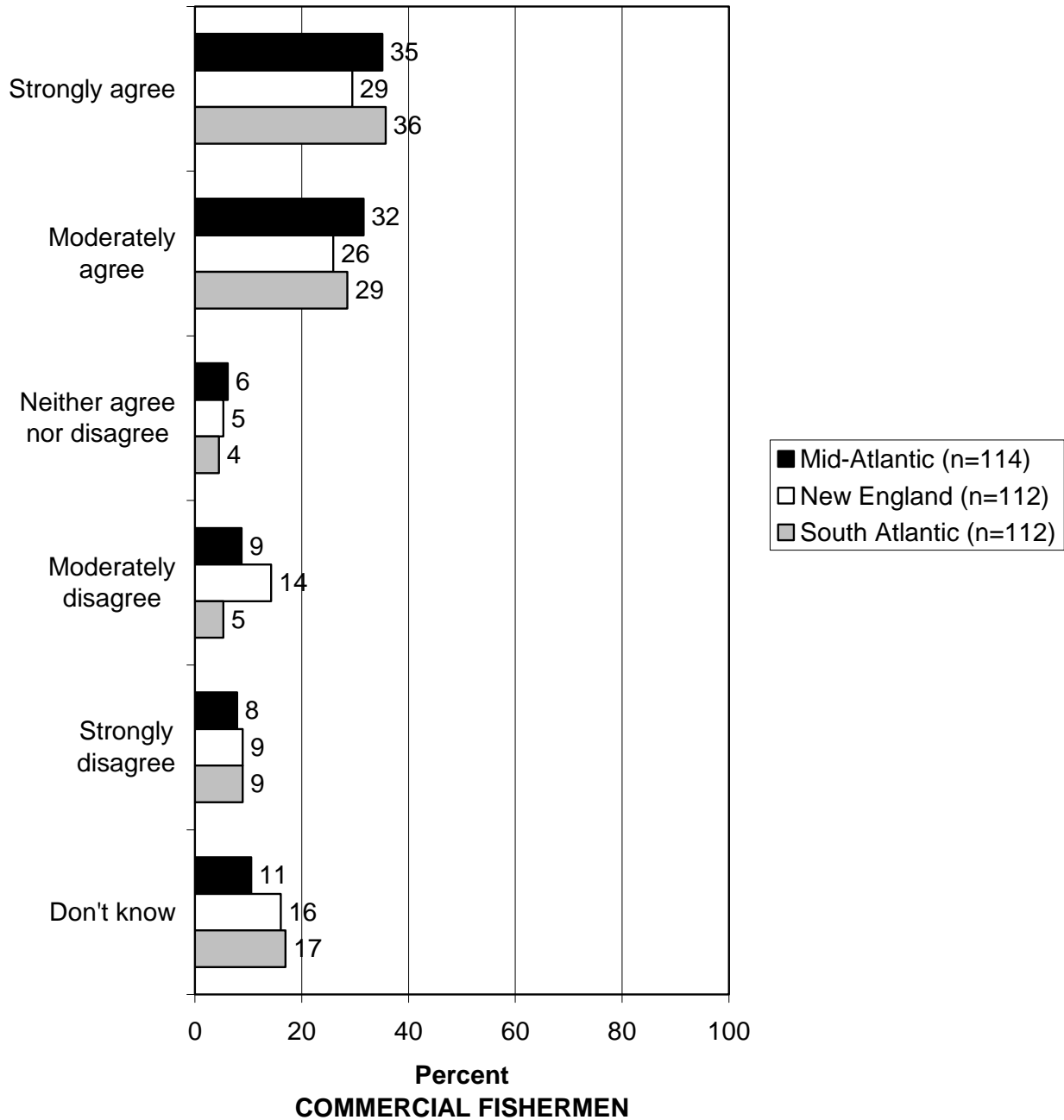
Q22. Results were fairly consistent between the two types of respondents to this question (domestic seafood dealers and commercial fishermen): from 59% to 70% of domestic seafood dealers and from 55% to 67% of commercial fishermen strongly or moderately agreed that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the management of the fishery, while from 10% to 29% of domestic seafood dealers and from 14% to 23% of commercial fishermen moderately or strongly disagreed.

Q23. Results to Question 23 were fairly consistent between the two constituent groups and closely matched the results to Question 22: from 57% to 74% of domestic seafood dealers and from 60% to 71% of commercial fishermen strongly or moderately agreed that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the fishing industry, while 8% to 23% of domestic seafood dealers and 15% to 22% of commercial fishermen moderately or strongly disagreed.

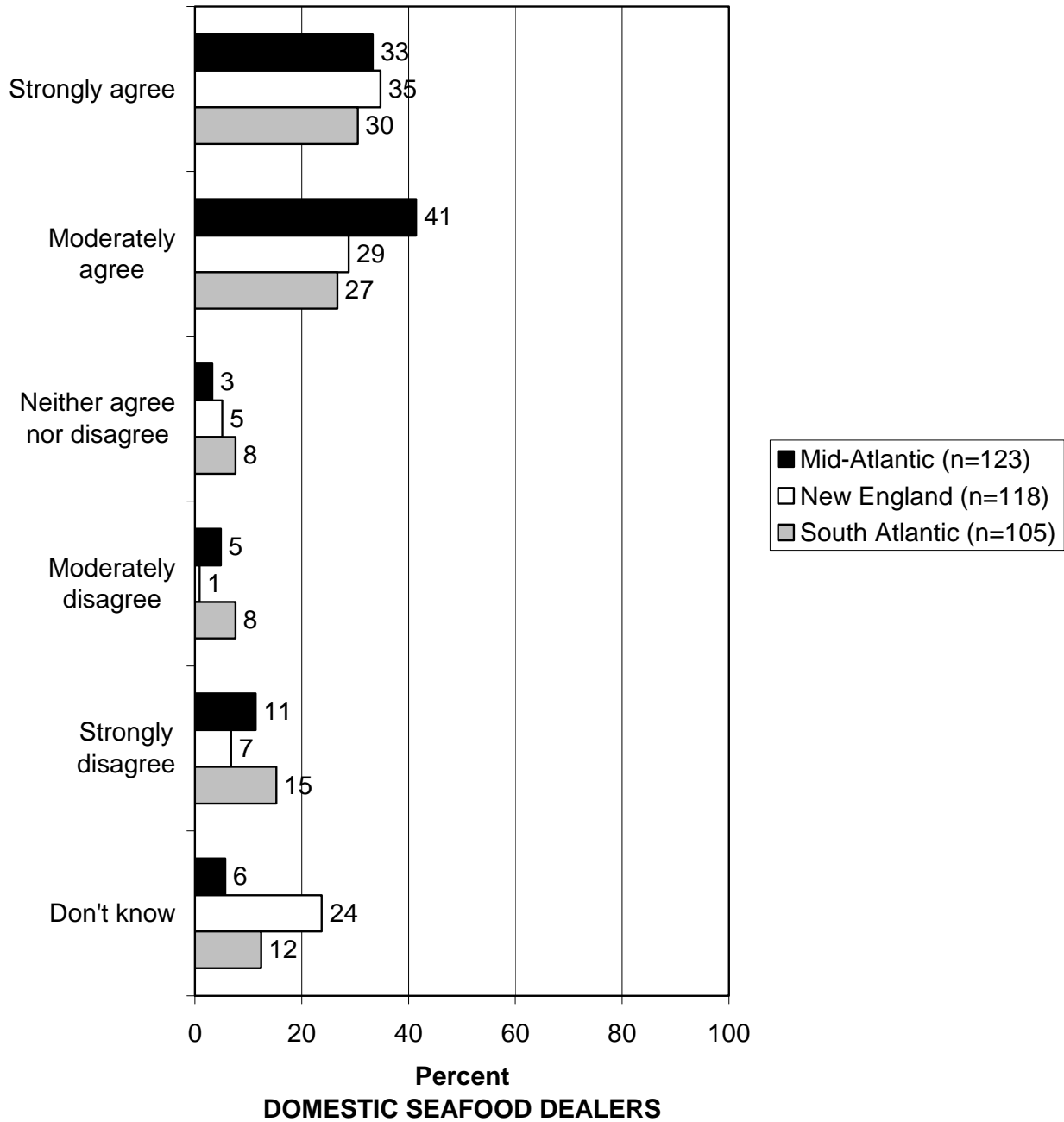
Q22. Do you agree or disagree that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the management of the fishery? (Asked of domestic seafood dealers and commercial anglers.)



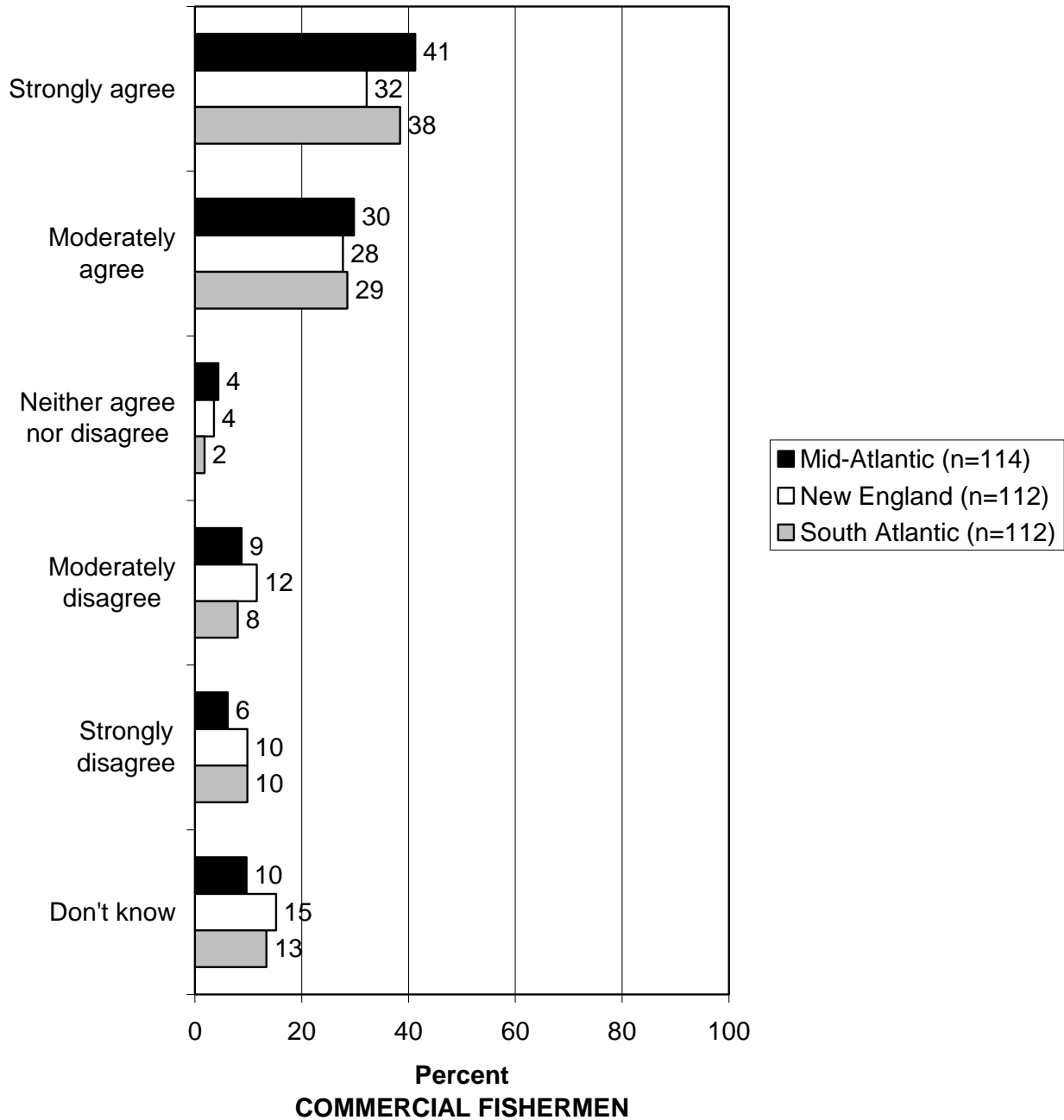
Q22. Do you agree or disagree that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the management of the fishery? (Asked of domestic seafood dealers and commercial anglers.)



Q23. Do you agree or disagree that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the fishing industry? (Asked of domestic seafood dealers and commercial anglers.)



Q23. Do you agree or disagree that mandatory catch and effort trip reporting is important to the fishing industry? (Asked of domestic seafood dealers and commercial anglers.)



AWARENESS OF THE MRFSS AND ITS OBJECTIVES, PARTICIPATION IN THE MRFSS, AND CREDIBILITY OF DATA

Q24. Awareness of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) is low, with the percentages responding “nothing” regarding awareness of the MRFSS ranging from 45% to 56% of charter boat operators and 72% to 79% of recreational anglers. Among charter boat operators, awareness of the MRFSS is higher than awareness of the ACCSP itself (compare the 45% to 56% who answered, “nothing” regarding awareness of the MRFSS to the 75% to 79% who answered, “nothing” regarding awareness of the ACCSP among charter boat operators).

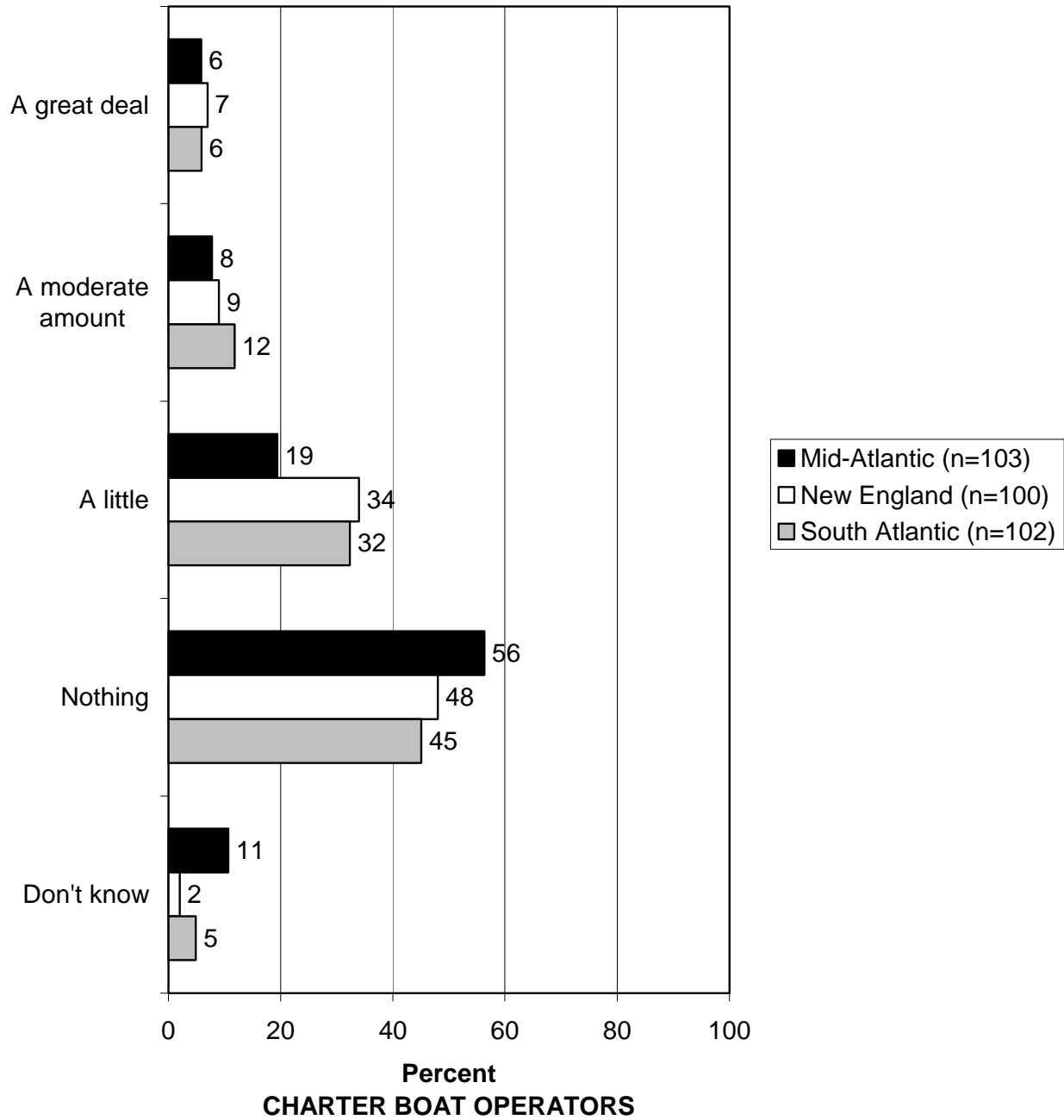
Q25. Regarding participation in the MRFSS, 14% to 16% of regional charter boat operators and 3% to 4% of regional recreational anglers had participated in the MRFSS within the previous 2 years.

Q27. When asked to name their perception of the main objectives of the MRFSS, large majorities of respondents answered, “Don’t know.” Otherwise, the top answers were to produce recreational fishing catch estimates and to produce recreational fishing effort estimates.

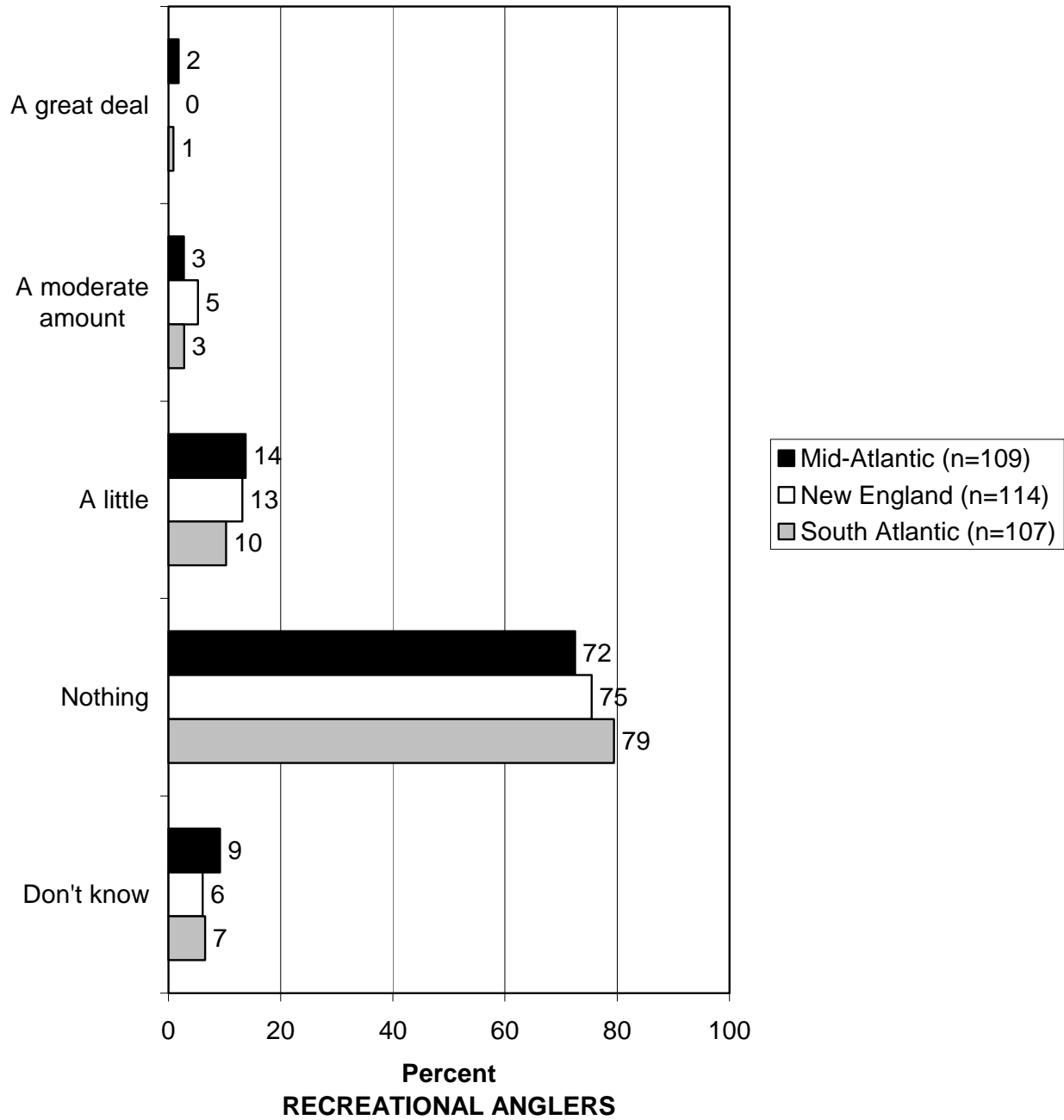
Q29. When asked how credible they thought the MRFSS data are, large majorities of respondents answered, “Don’t know.” Otherwise, more respondents among the two constituent types who were asked this question (charter boat operators and recreational anglers) within the three regions thought that the MRFSS data are very or somewhat credible than thought that the data are not at all credible, with one exception: Mid-Atlantic charter boat operators. Among this latter group, 16% thought the MRFSS data are very or somewhat credible, while 18% thought the data are not at all credible.

Q30. As with other questions in this section, Question 30 elicited many “don’t know” responses. From 88% to 90% of charter boat operators and from 91% to 94% of recreational anglers answered, “Don’t know” when asked whether the new ACCSP standards were an improvement to the MRFSS. Otherwise, slightly more respondents strongly or moderately agreed than moderately or strongly disagreed that the new ACCSP standards were an improvement to the MRFSS: among regional charter boat operators, from 6% to 8% agreed, while 2% to 4% disagreed, and among regional recreational anglers, from 4% to 6% agreed, while 1% to 3% disagreed.

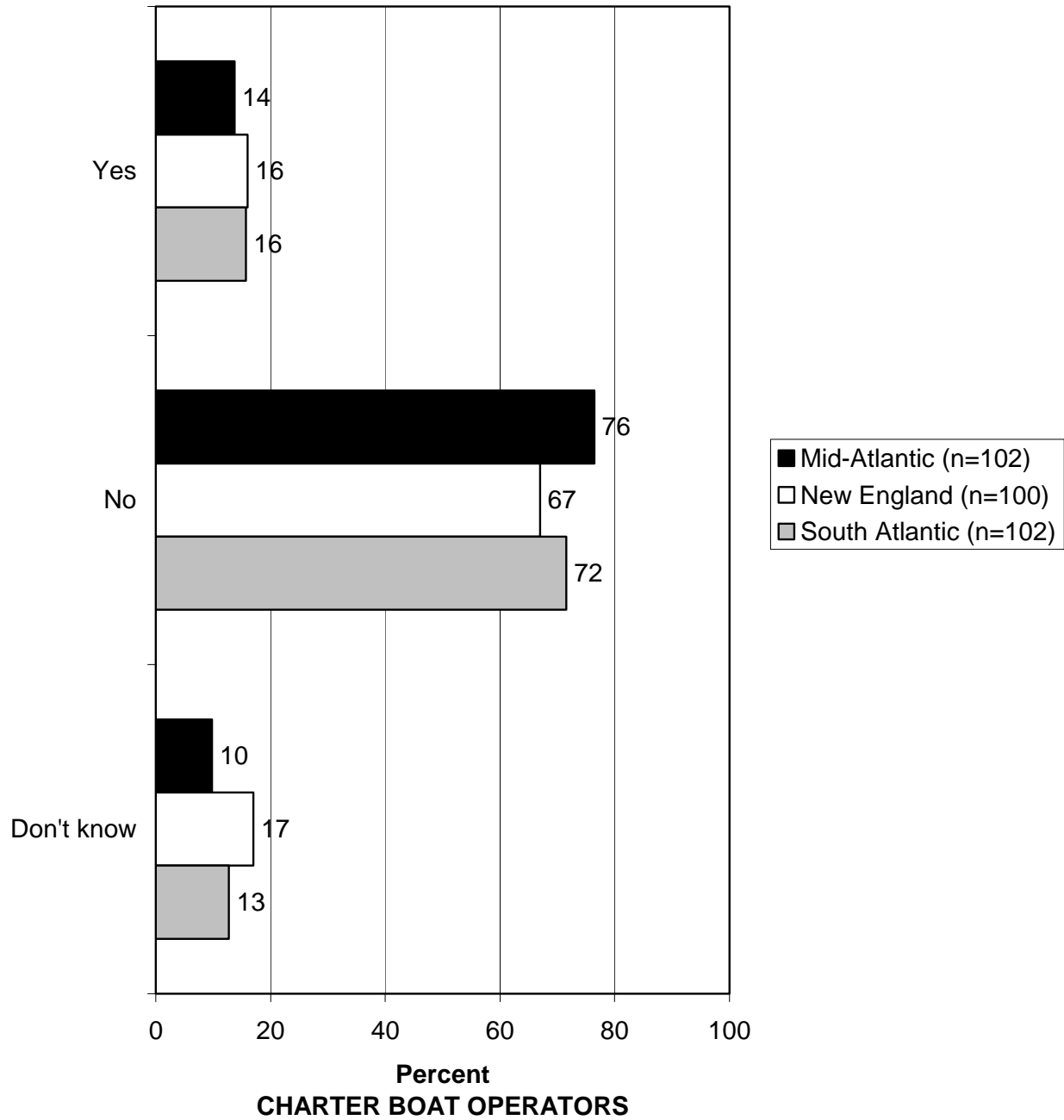
Q24. Before this survey, how much would you say you knew about the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)? (Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)



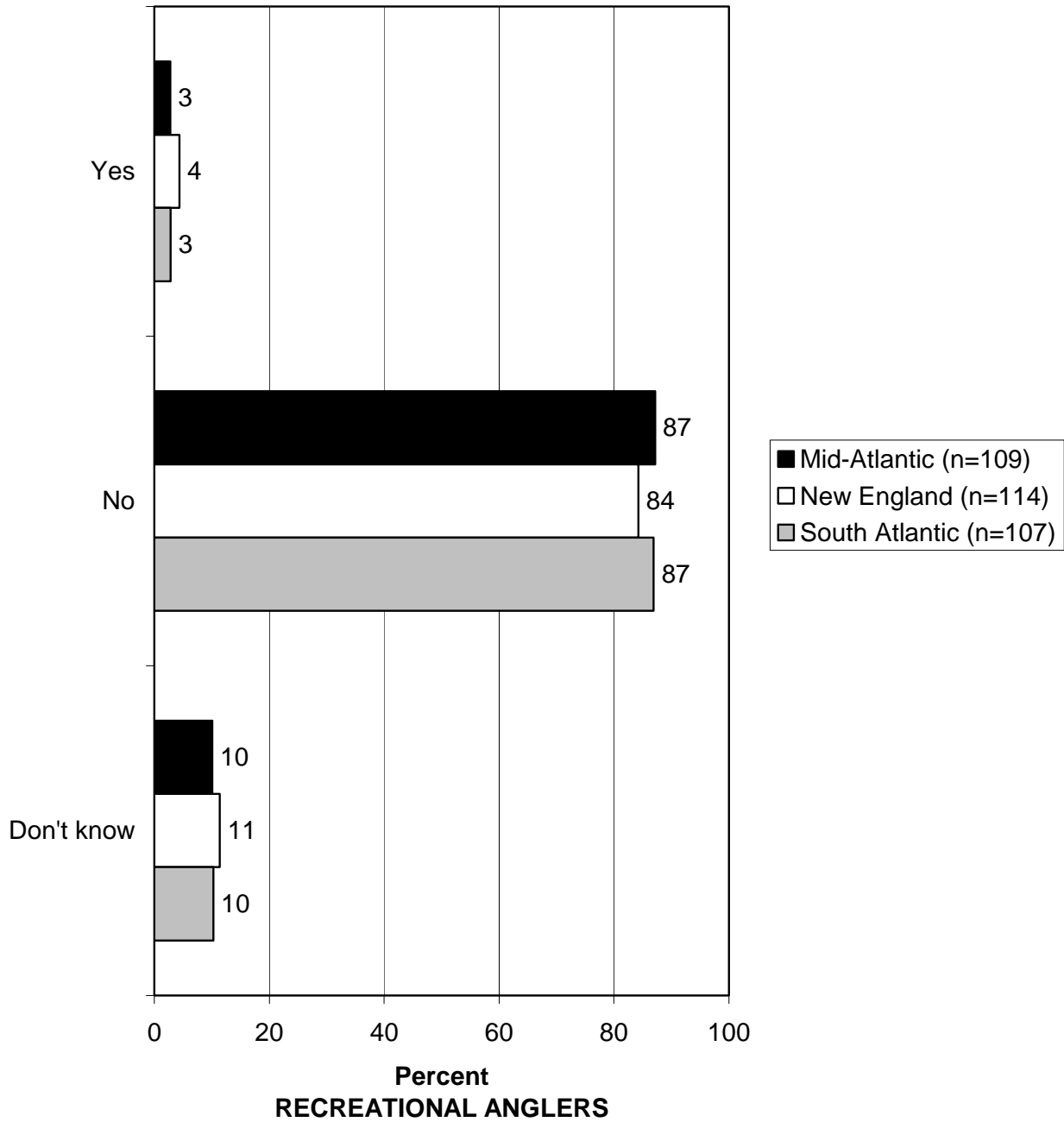
Q24. Before this survey, how much would you say you knew about the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)? (Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)



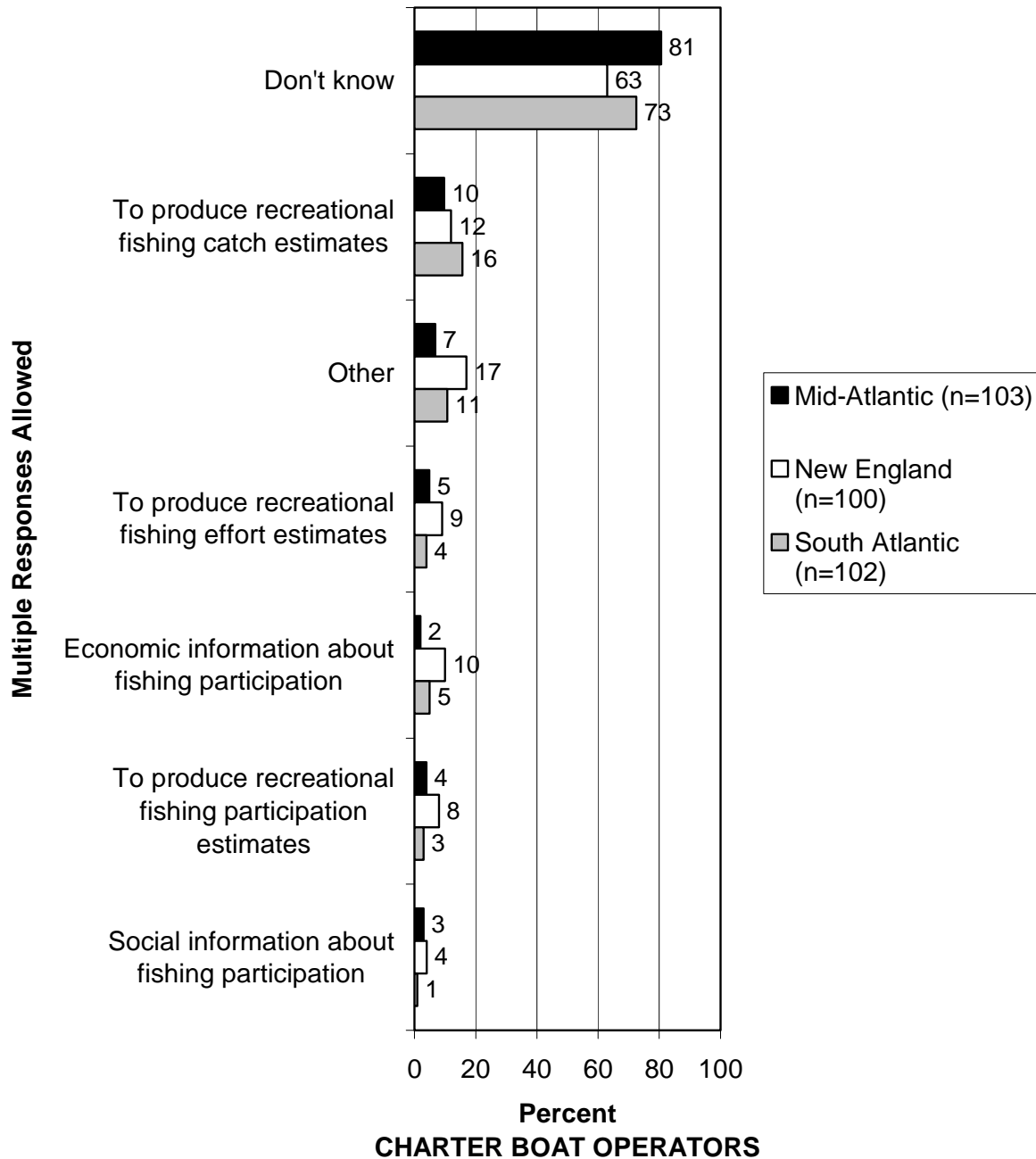
Q25. Have you participated in the MRFSS in the past 2 years? (Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)



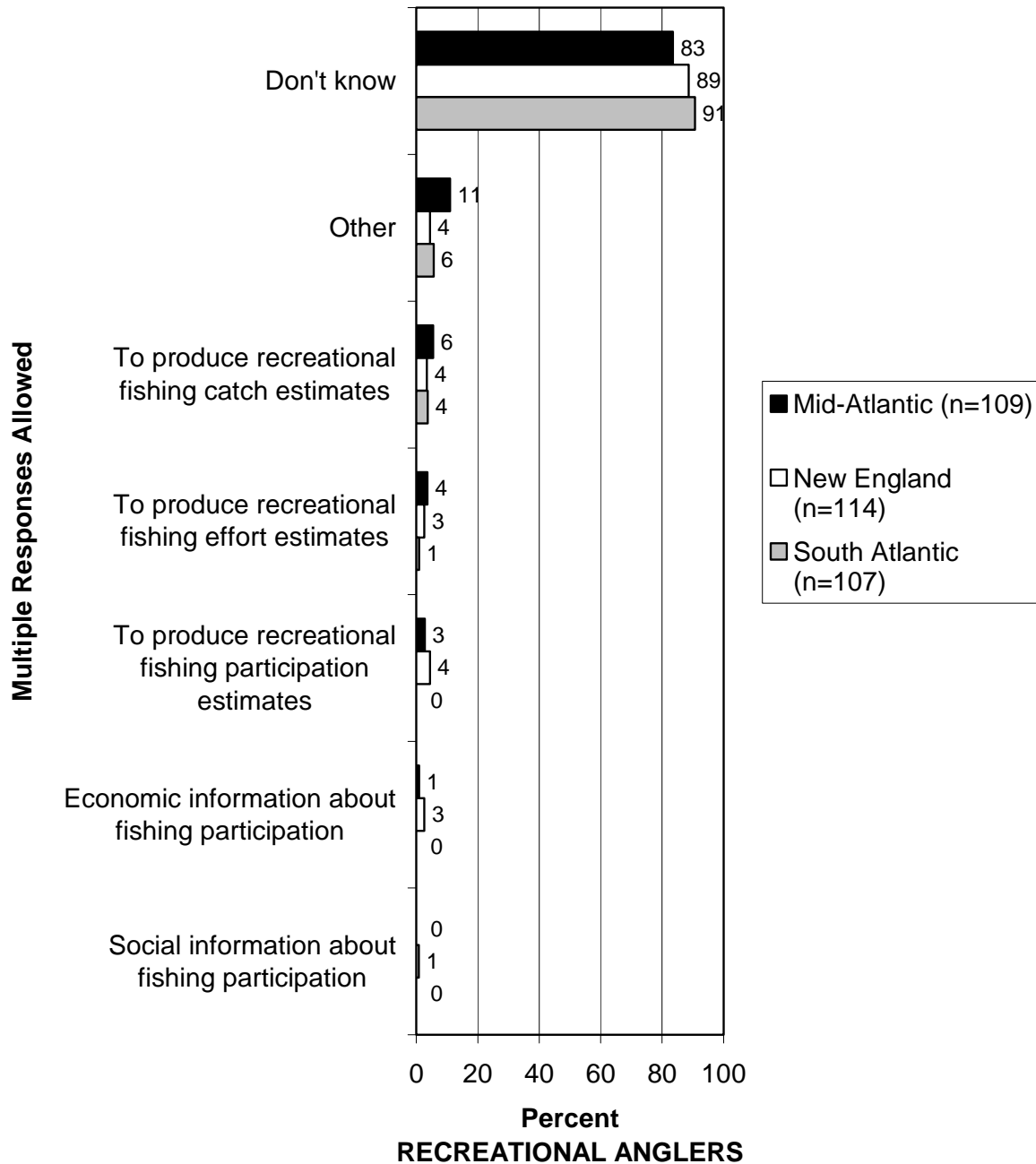
Q25. Have you participated in the MRFSS in the past 2 years? (Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)



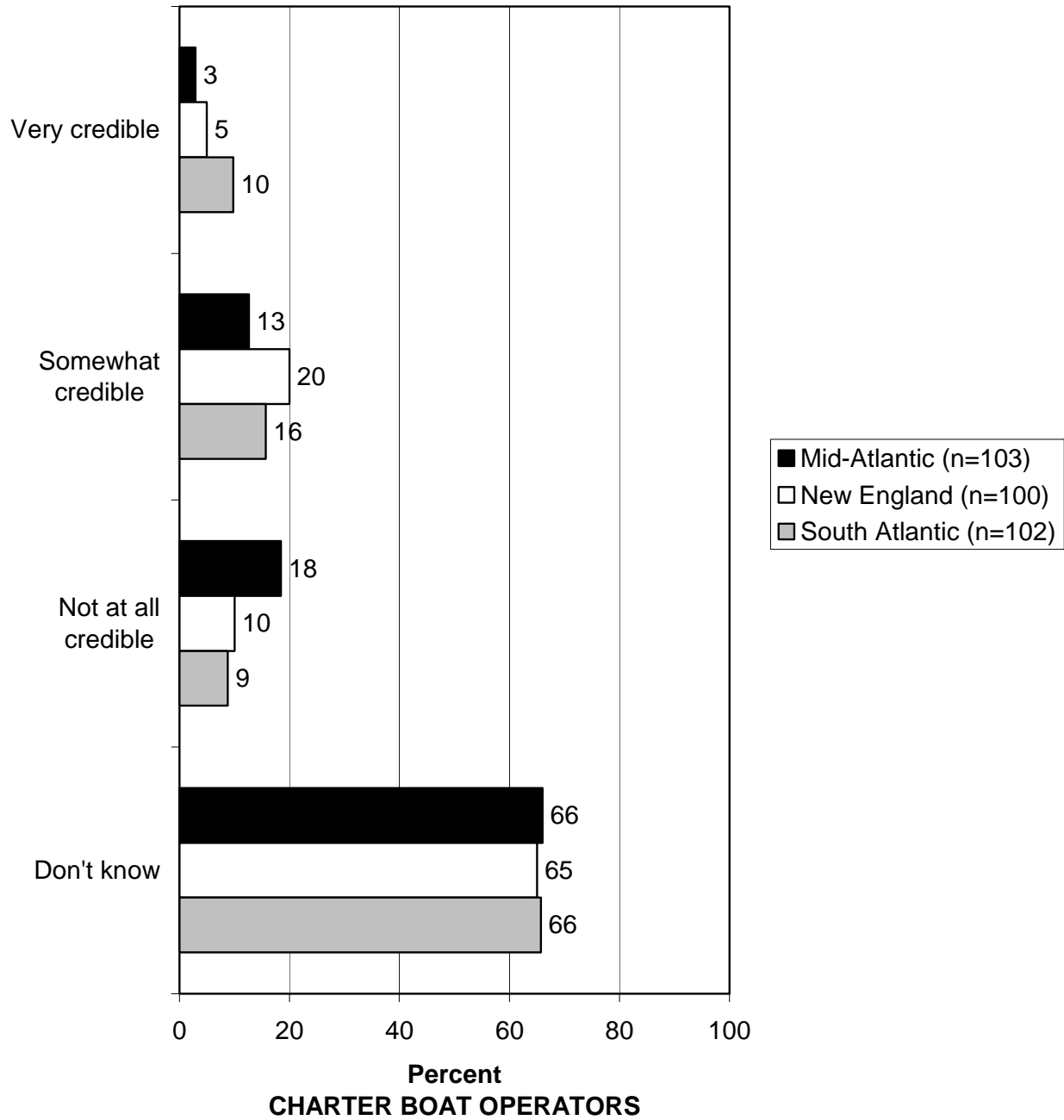
Q27. What do you perceive to be the main objectives of the MRFSS? (Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)



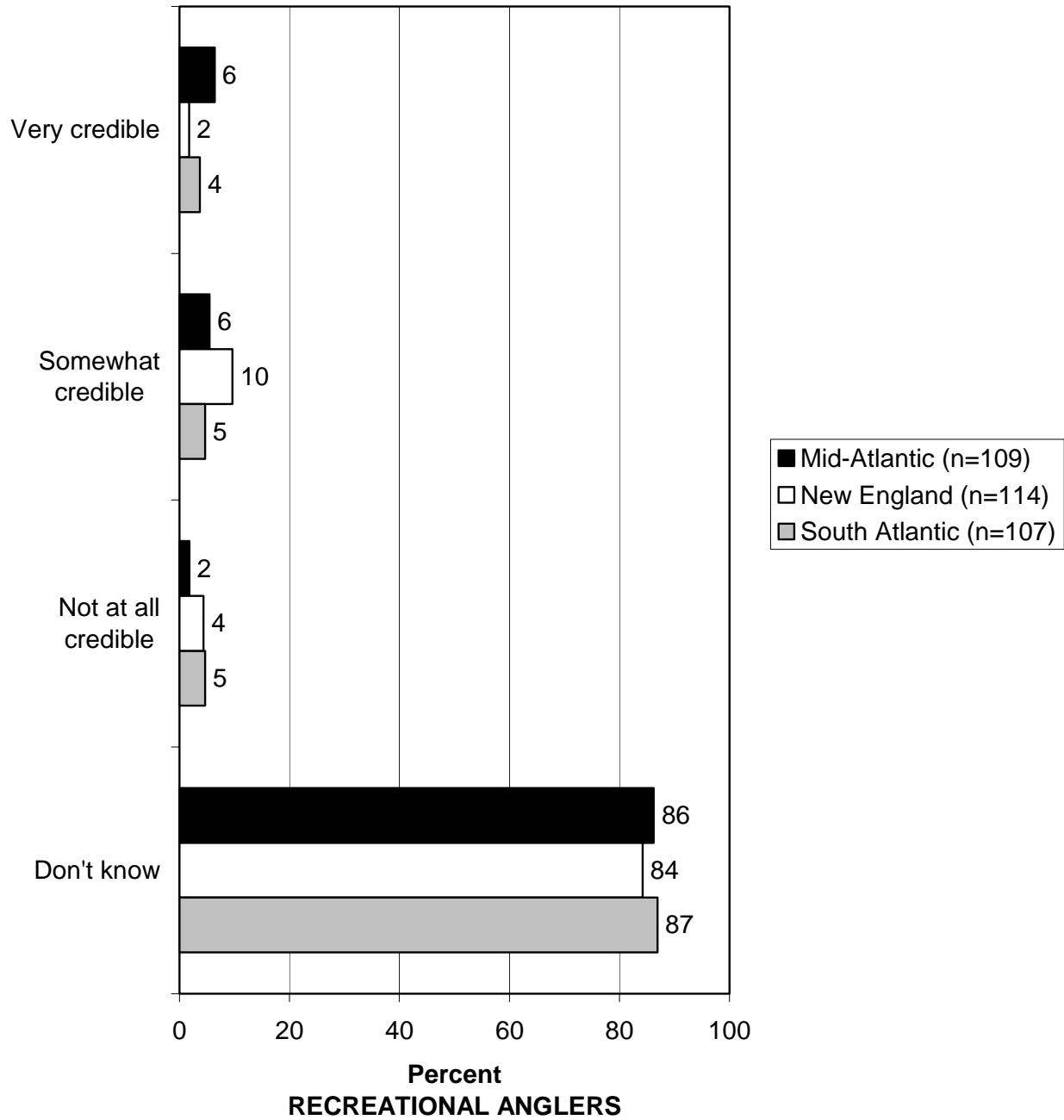
Q27. What do you perceive to be the main objectives of the MRFSS? (Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)



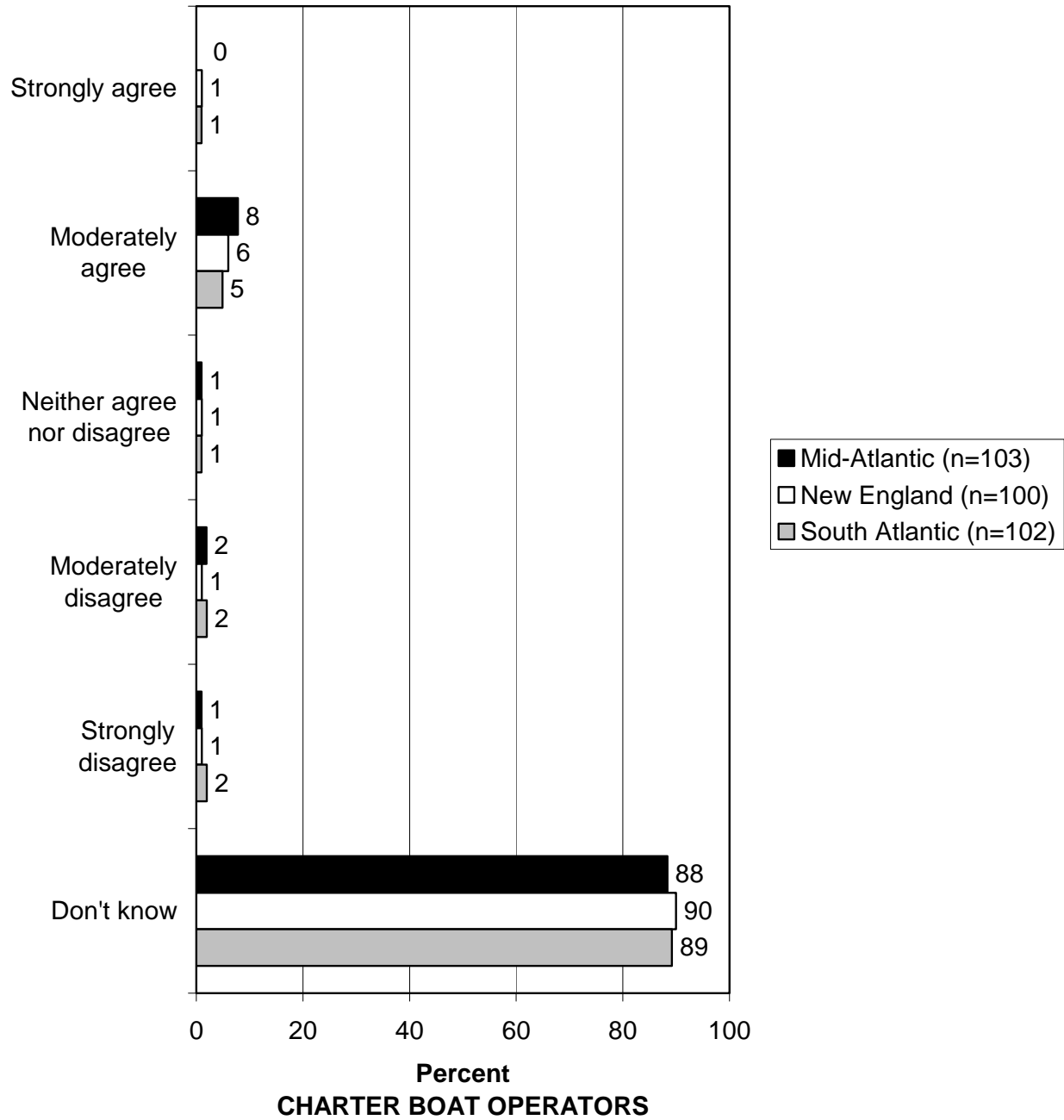
Q29. Overall, how credible do you think the MRFSS data are? (Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)



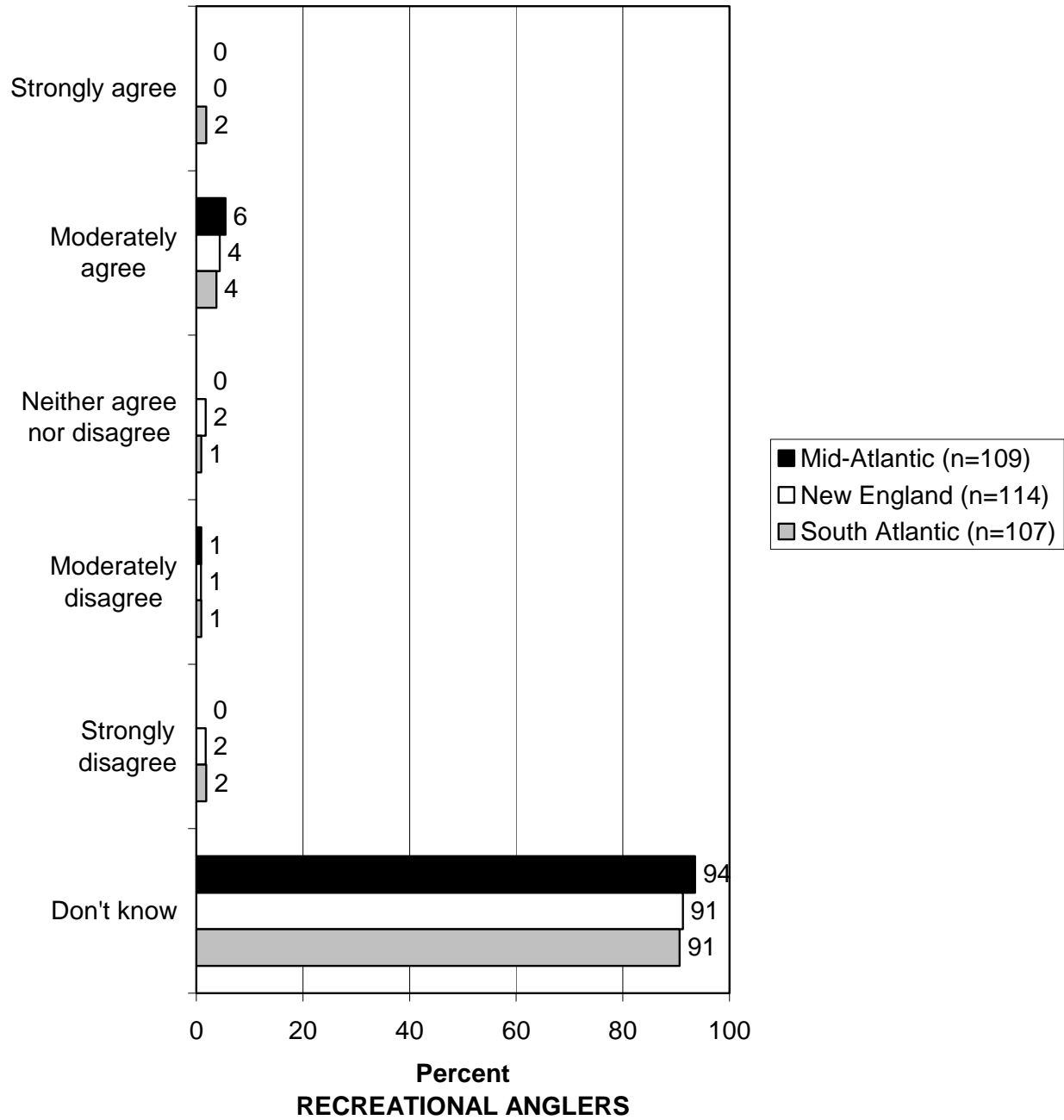
Q29. Overall, how credible do you think the MRFSS data are? (Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)



**Q30. Do you agree or disagree that the new ACCSP standards are an improvement to the MRFSS?
(Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)**



**Q30. Do you agree or disagree that the new ACCSP standards are an improvement to the MRFSS?
(Asked of charter boat operators and recreational anglers.)**



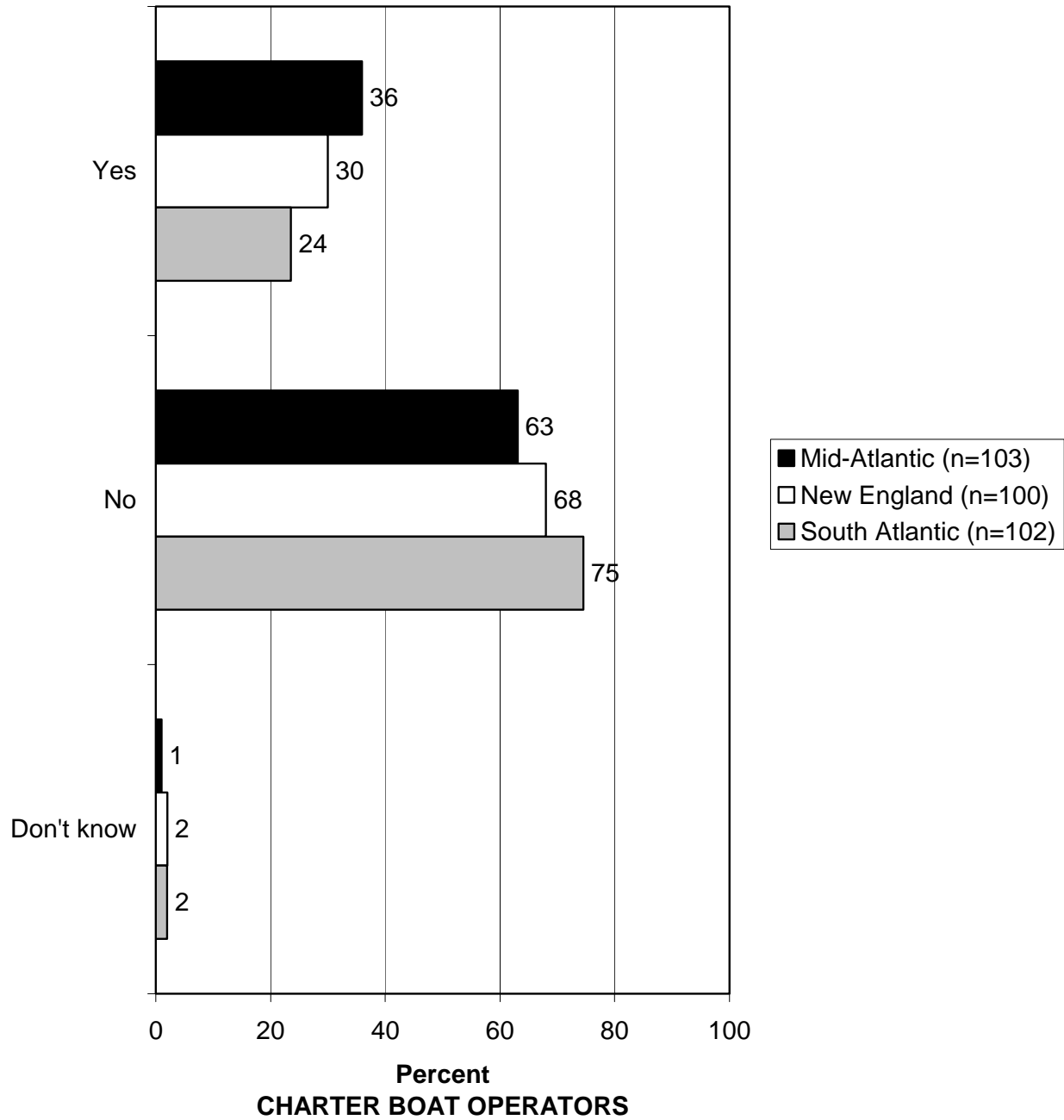
MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERBOAT OPERATORS AND LOCAL FISHING CLUBS

Q31. Large majorities of charter boat operators from all regions are *not* members of the National Association of Charterboat Operators; the percentage saying that they *are* members ranges from 24% of South Atlantic charter boat operators to 36% of Mid-Atlantic charter boat operators.

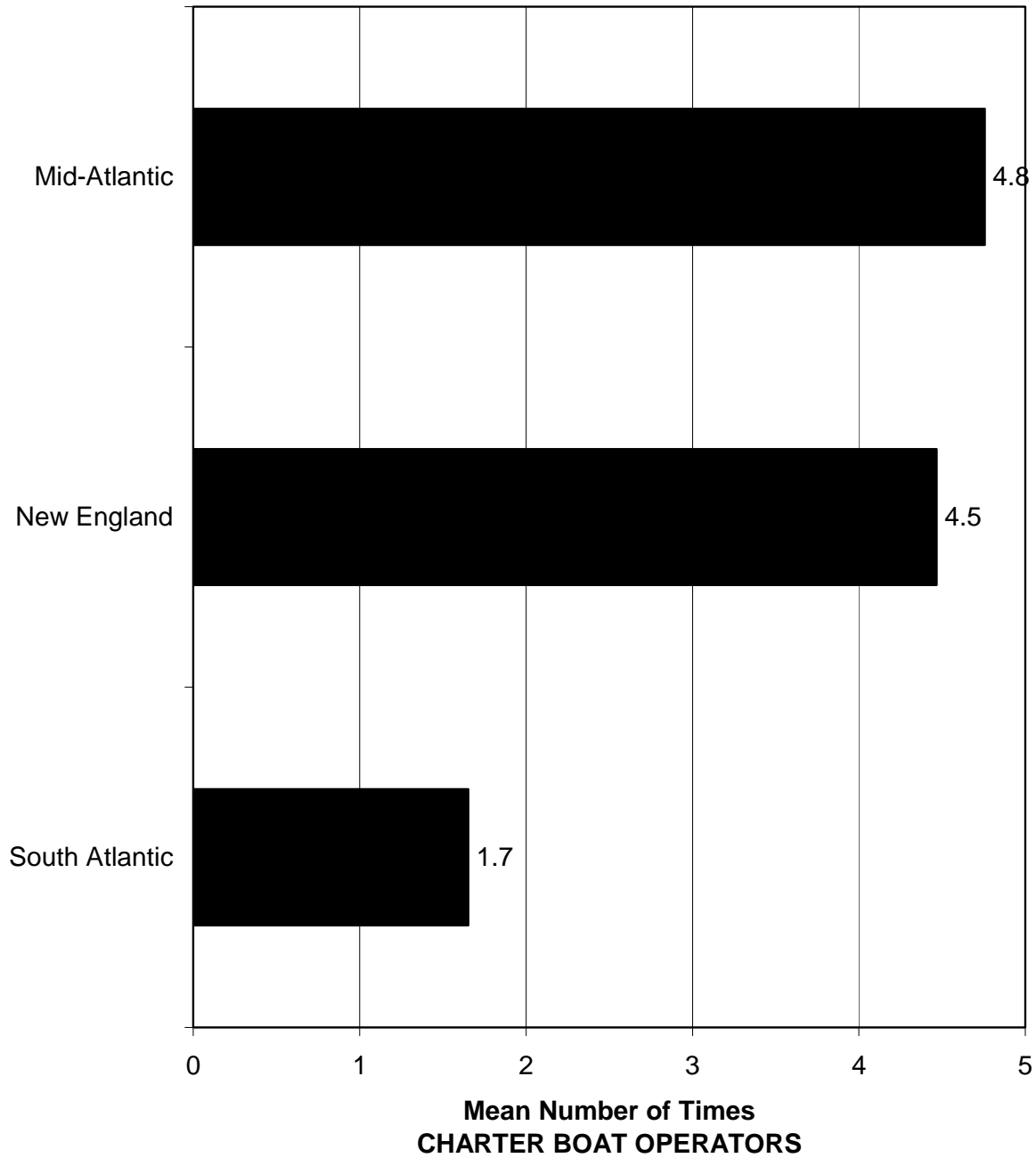
Q32. Of those charter boat operators who are members of the National Association of Charterboat Operators, those from the Mid-Atlantic region and New England are the most active, with the mean number of times they attended meetings of their local chapter being 4.8 times for Mid-Atlantic respondents and 4.5 times for New England respondents. South Atlantic respondents were considerably less active, with the mean number of times they attended meetings being only 1.7 times.

Q33. Among recreational anglers, attendance at local fishing club meetings is close to 1 meeting per year, with those from the South Atlantic region the most active. The means that are shown in the graph are among *all* recreational anglers, even those who responded that they attended no meetings (i.e., the mean included those who were not members of a fishing club and therefore attended no meetings, as well as those who were members but attended no meetings).

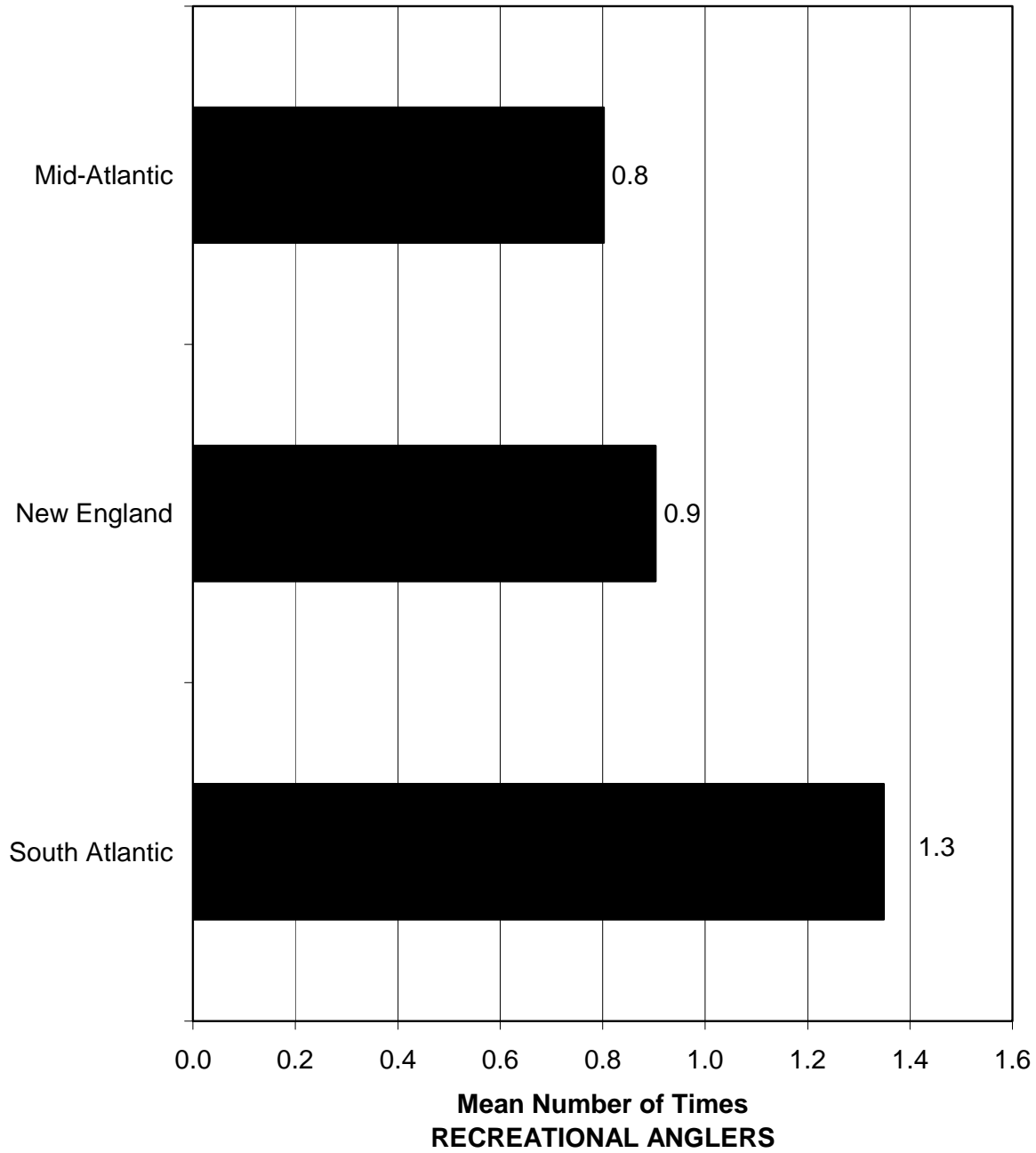
Q31. Are you a member of the National Association of Charterboat Operators? (Asked of charter boat operators.)



Q32. How many times per year do you attend meetings of your local charter operators association? (Asked of charter boat operators who are members of the National Association of Charterboat Operators.)



Q33. How many times per year do you attend meetings of any local fishing clubs? (Asked of recreational anglers.)



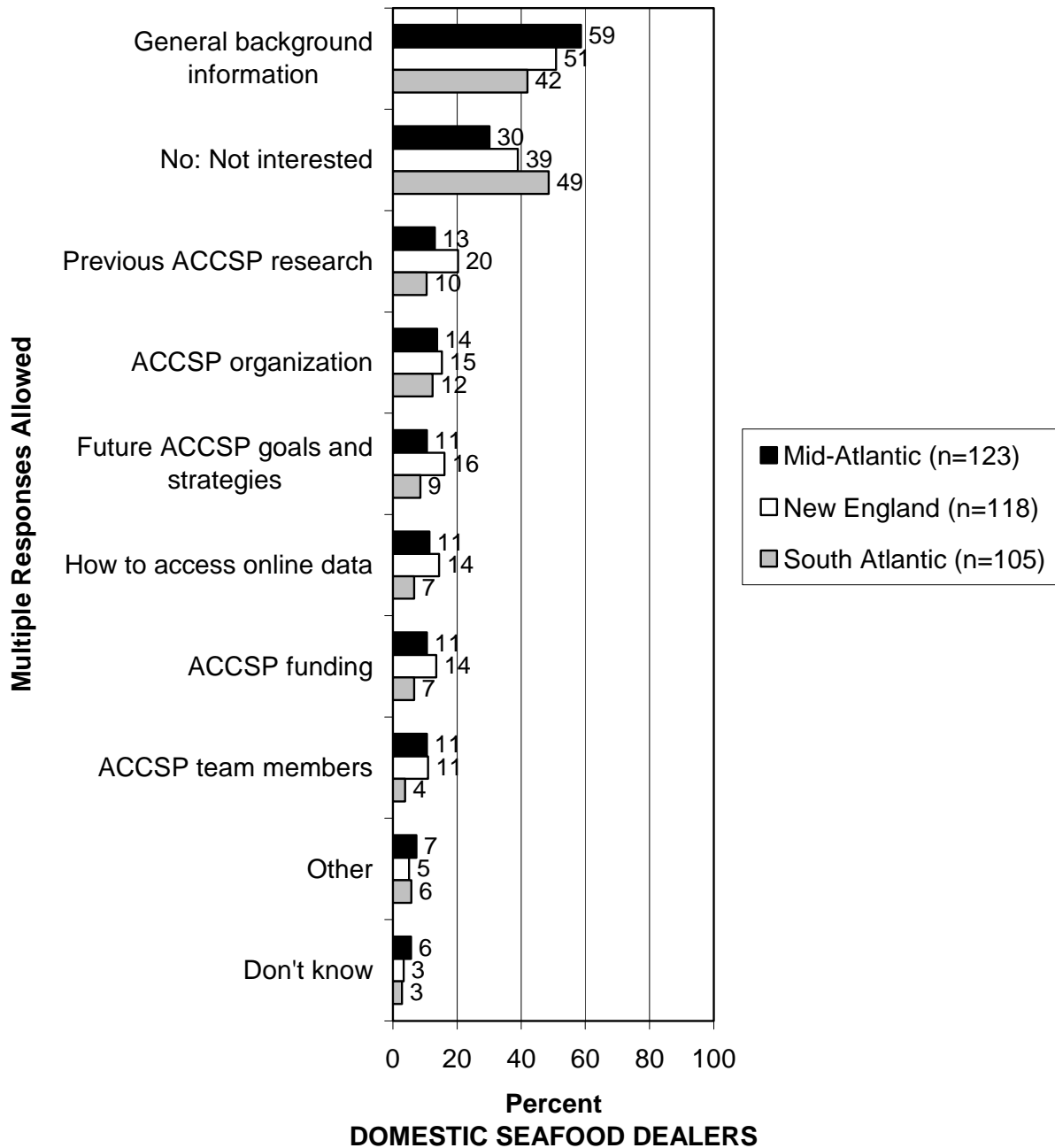
PROVIDING INFORMATION TO CONSTITUENTS AND THE NEED FOR ONLINE LANDINGS DATA

Q38. Interest was highest for general background information about the ACCSP: from 44% to 65% of respondent groups indicated that they are interested in general background information. Otherwise, information regarding the ACCSP organization and previous ACCSP research were the most desired types of information.

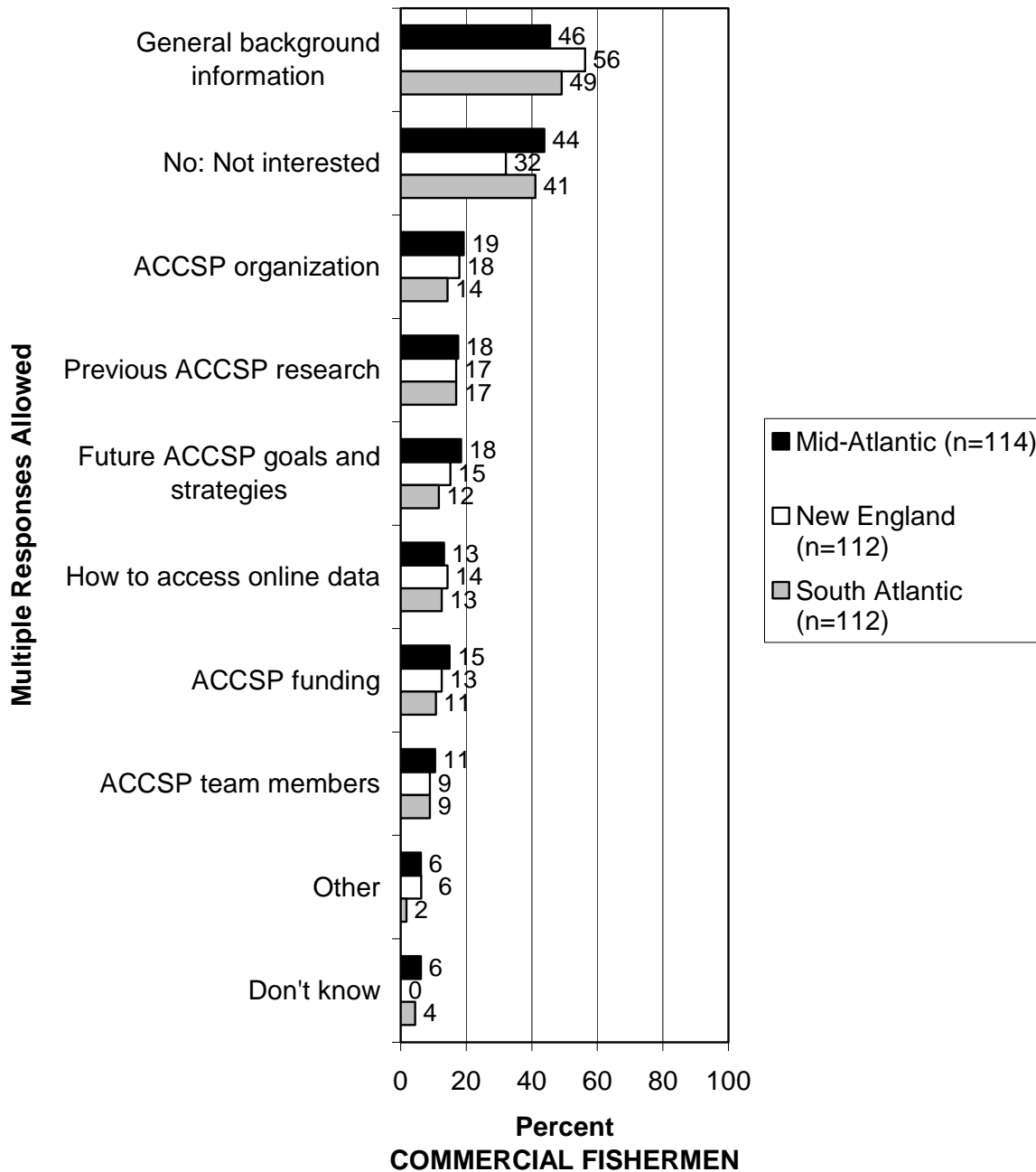
Q35. Majorities of all respondent groups said that the best way to provide them with information about the ACCSP is through ACCSP publications via direct mail. Other important ways to provide information are e-mail and the ACCSP Website.

Q40. Substantial percentages of all respondent groups said that they would be interested in accessing landings data online. Interest was highest among charter boat operators and domestic seafood dealers.

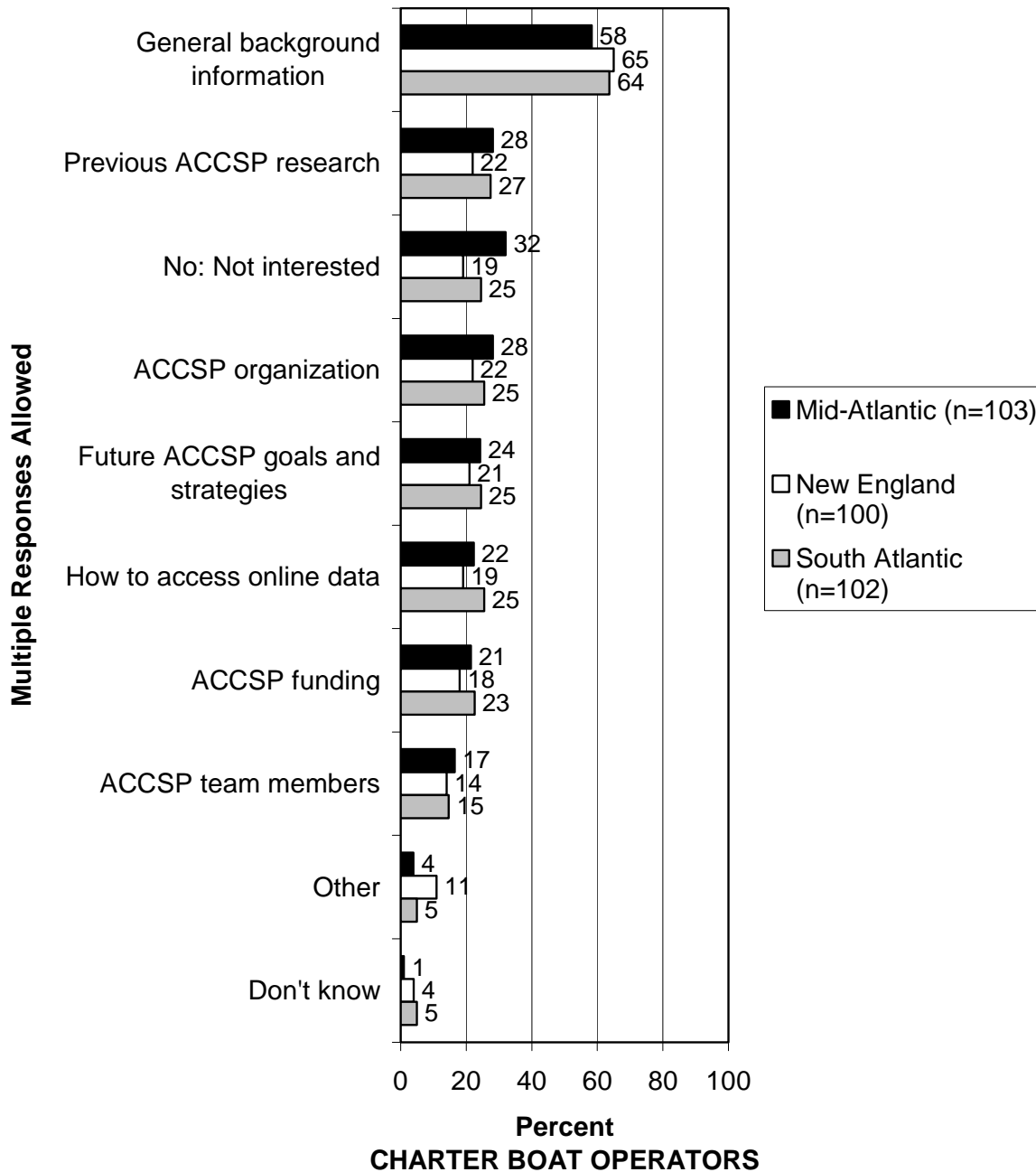
Q38. Would you be interested in more information about ACCSP? If yes: In what types?



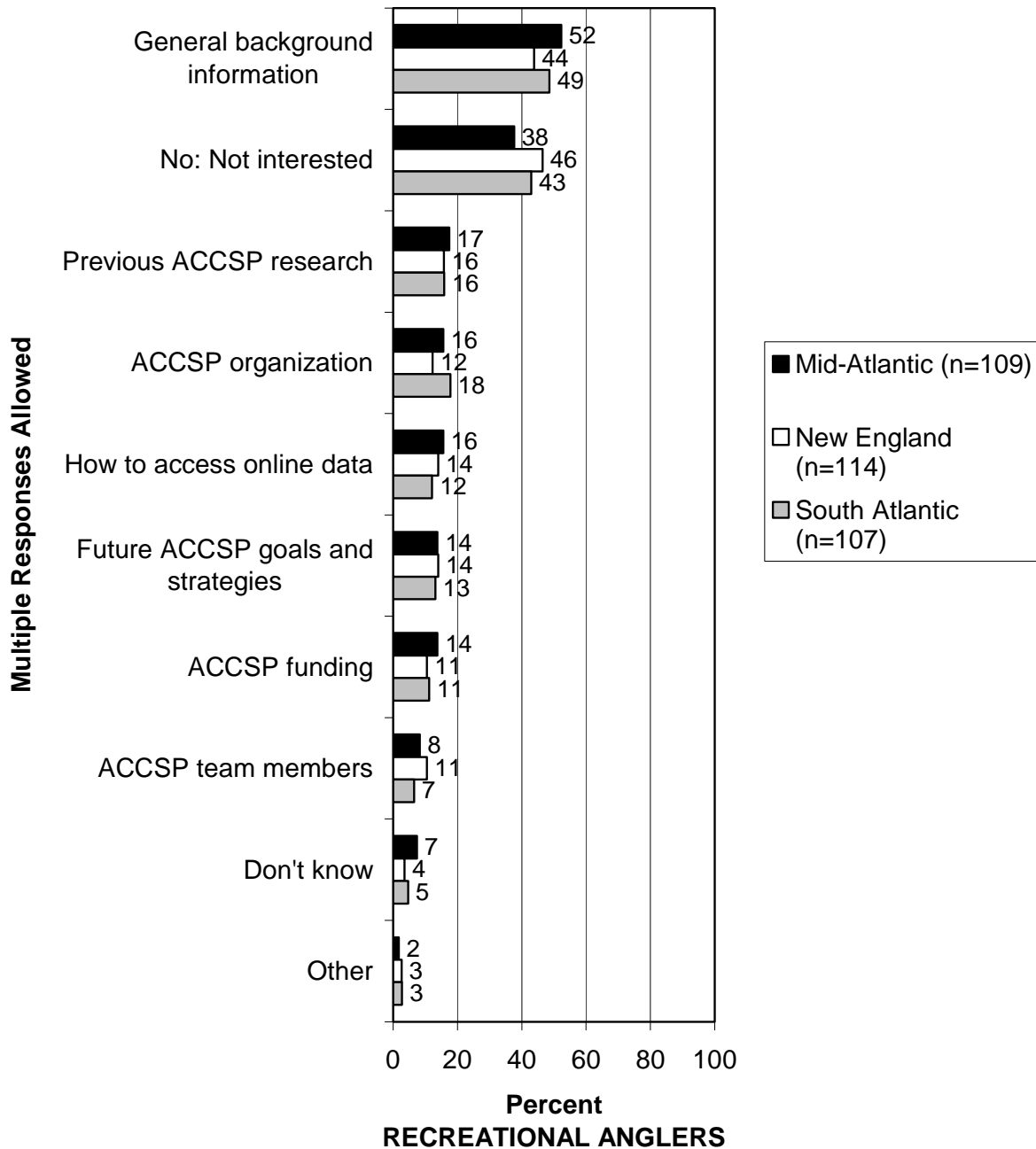
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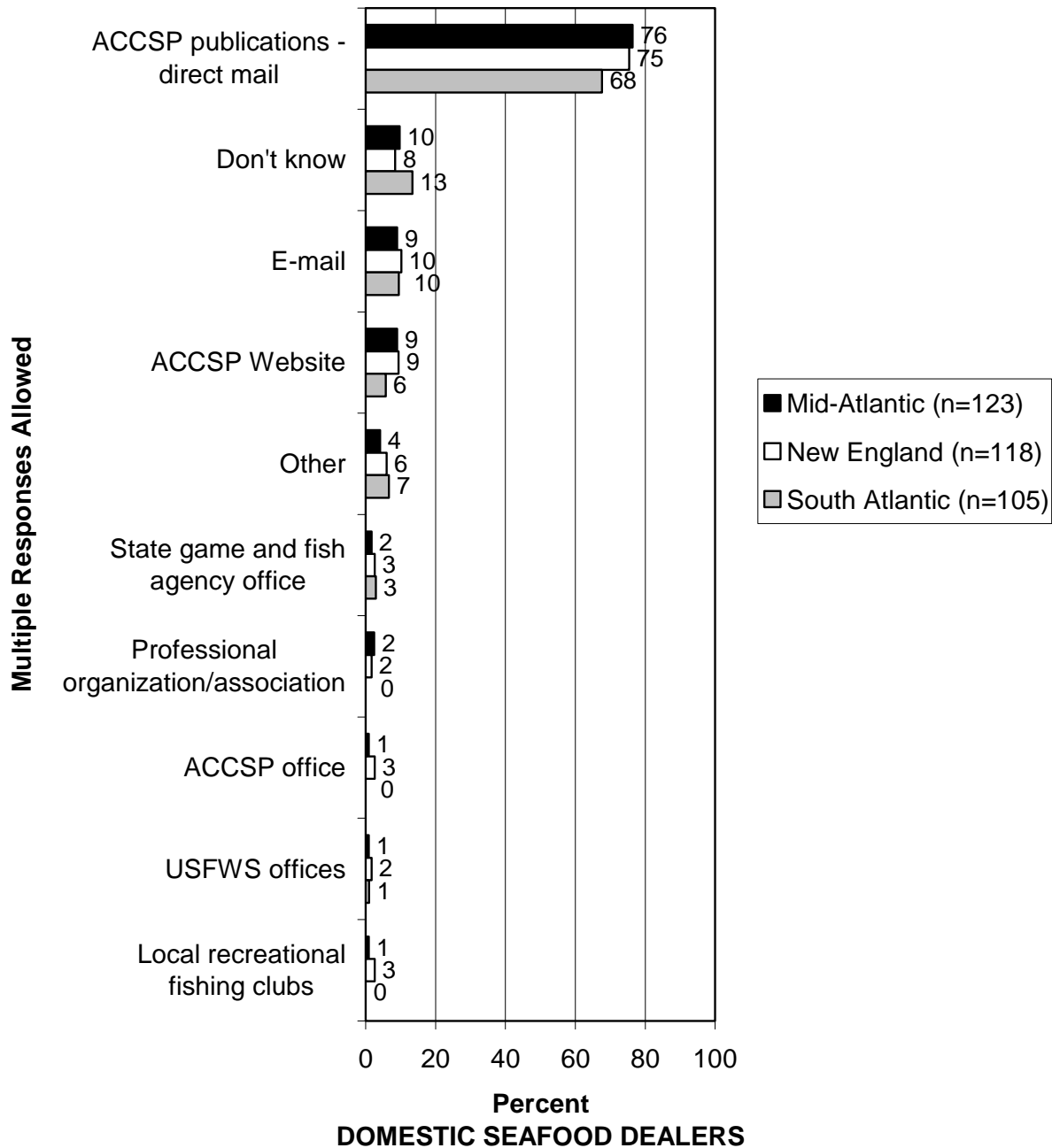
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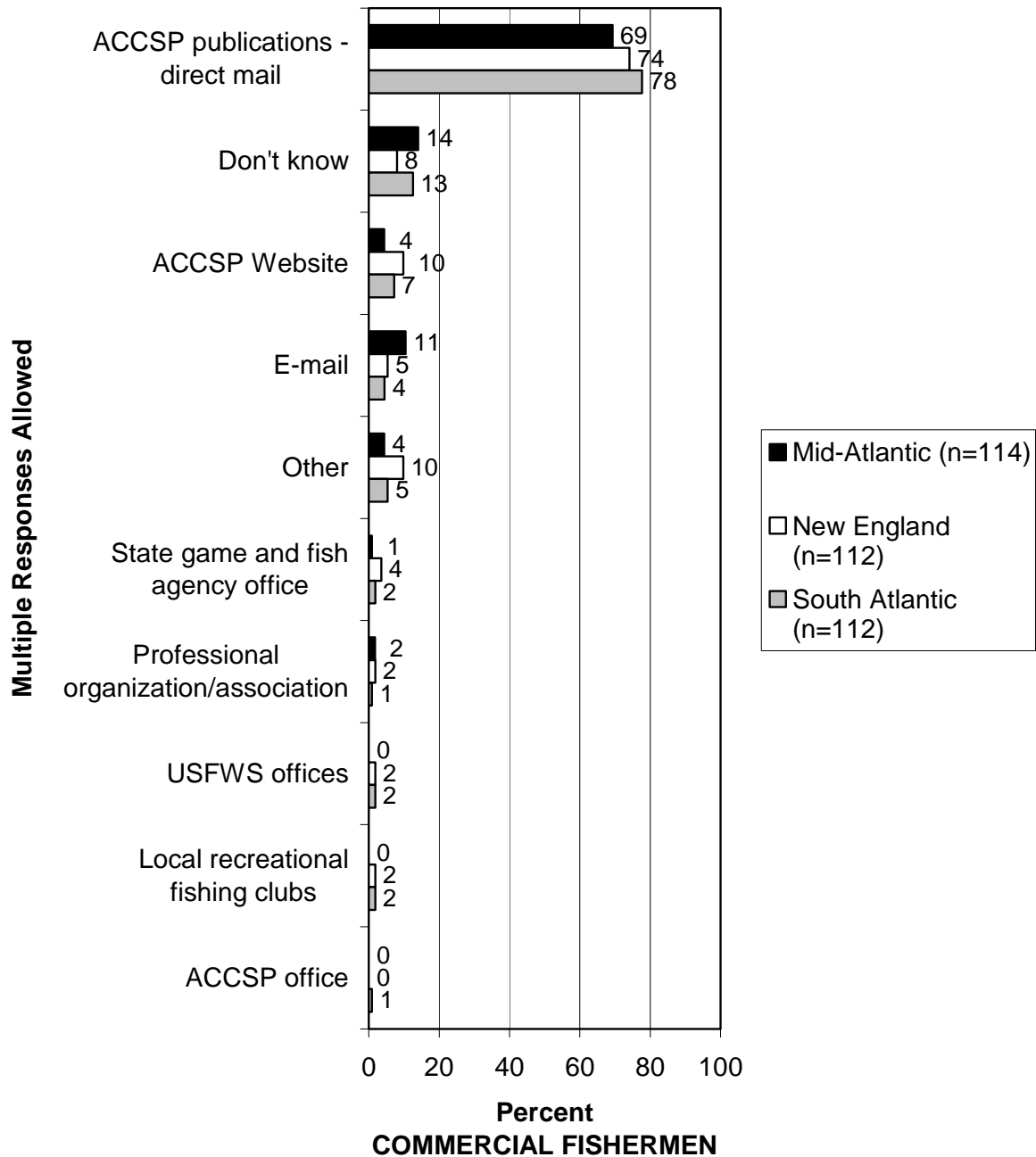
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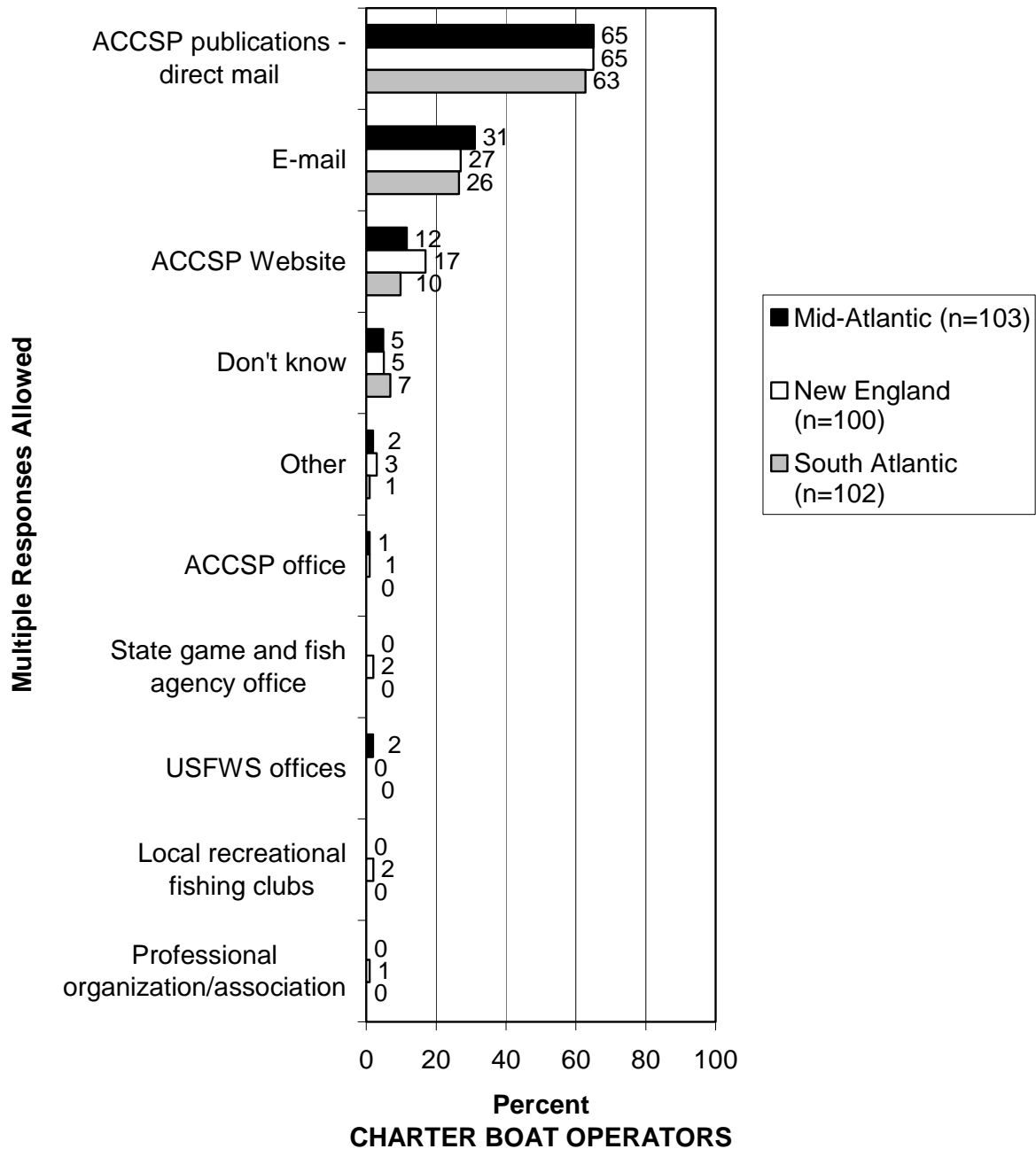
Q35. What is the best way to provide you with information about the ACCSP?



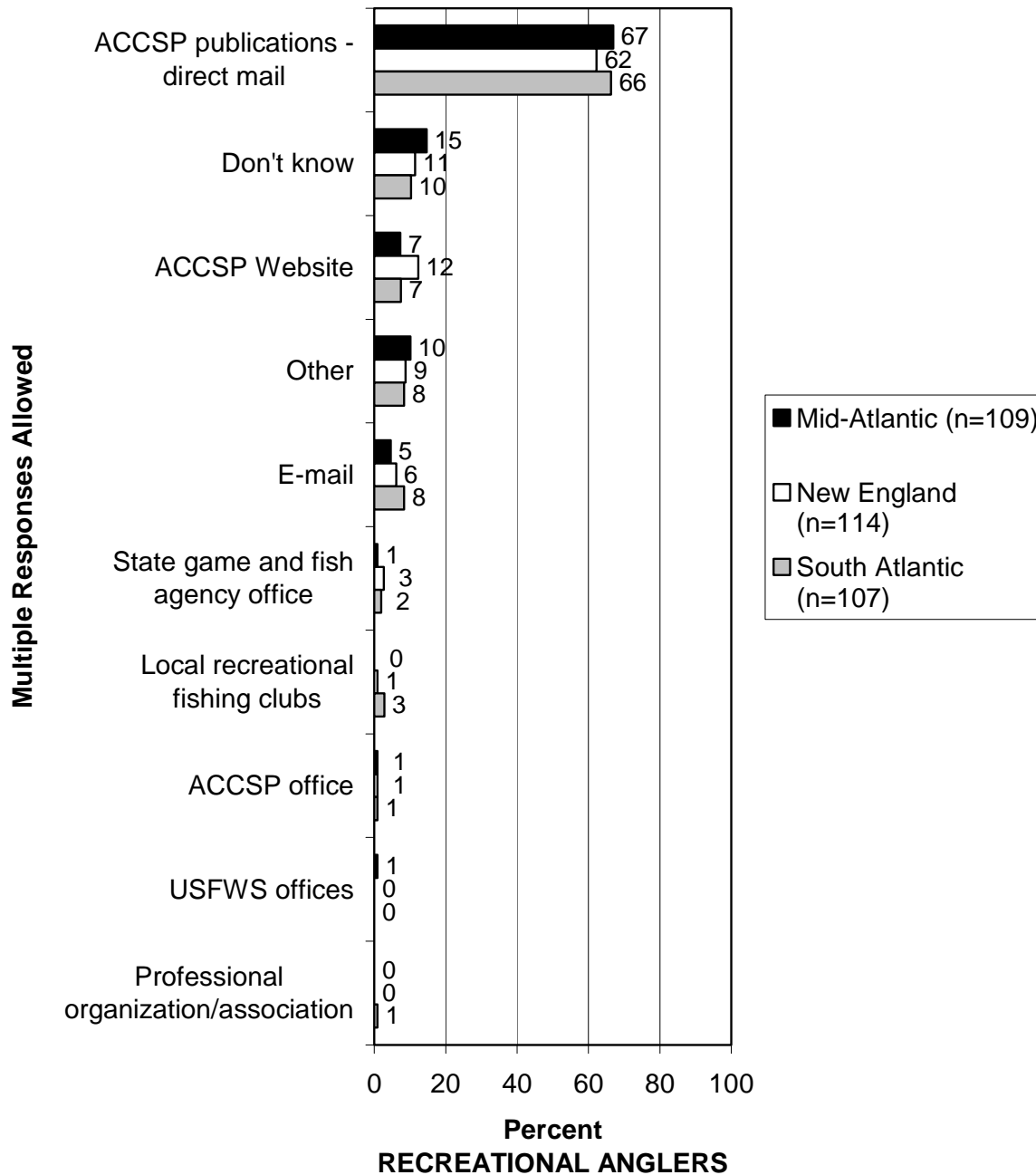
Q35. What is the best way to provide you with information about the ACCSP?



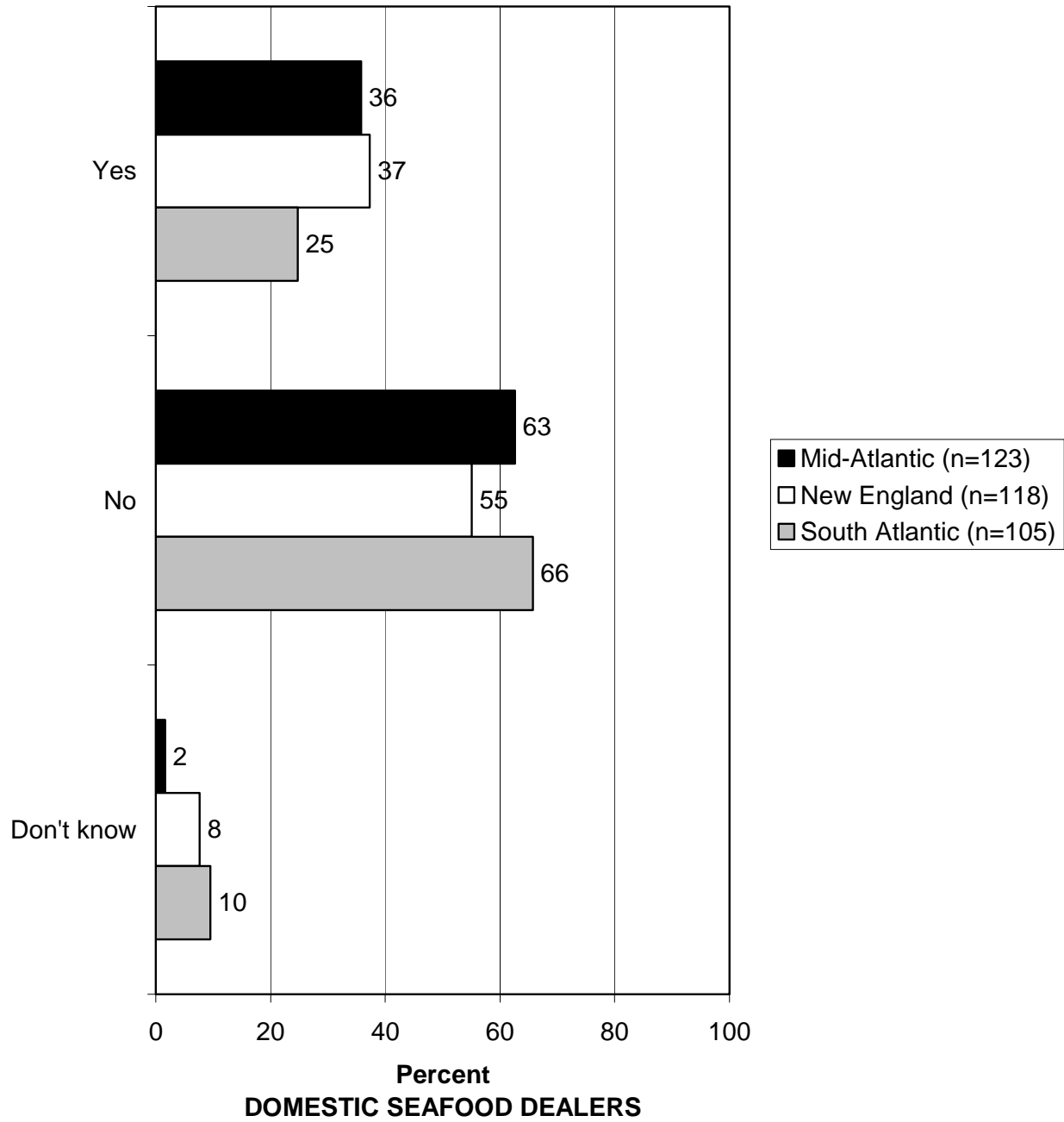
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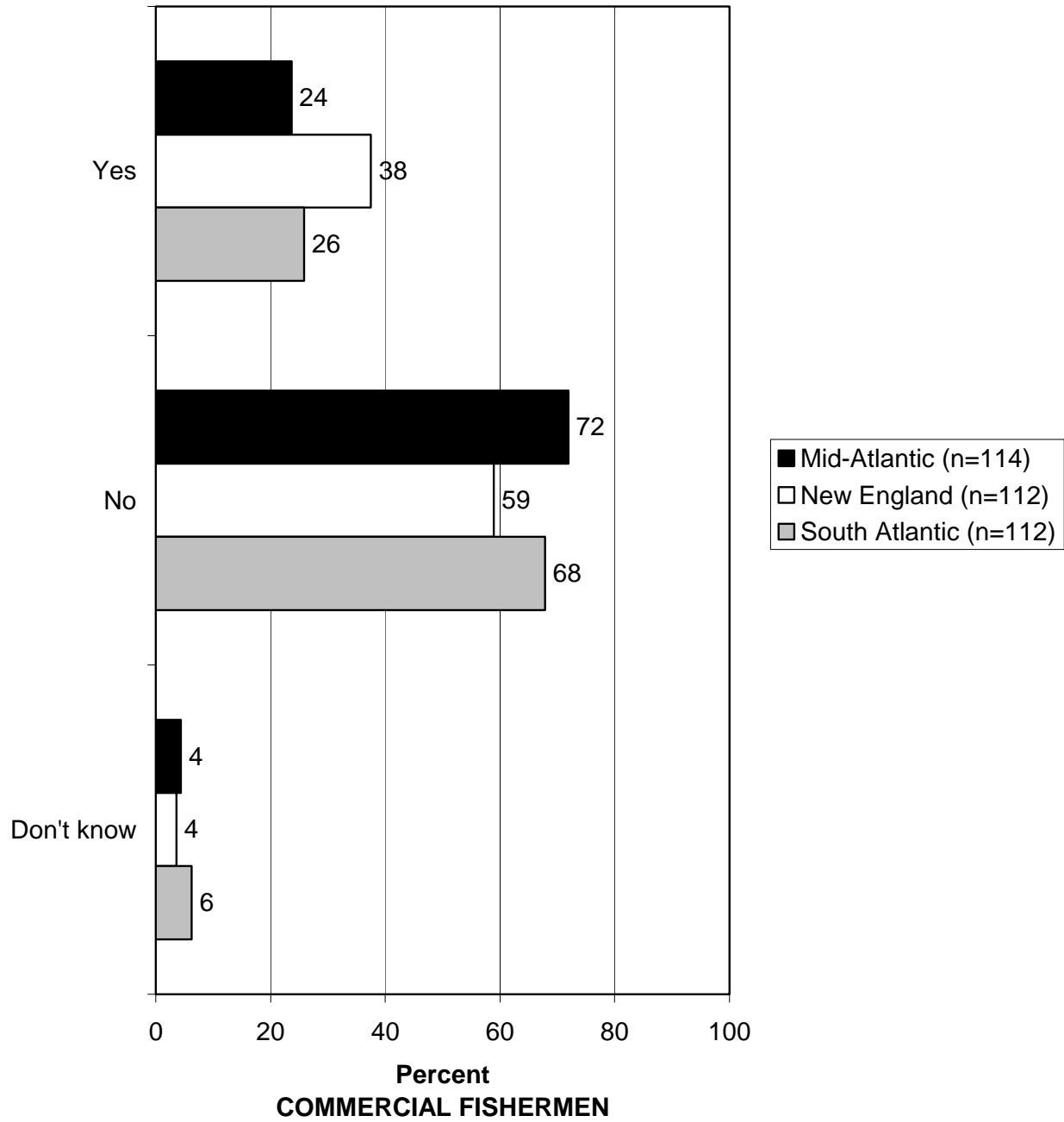
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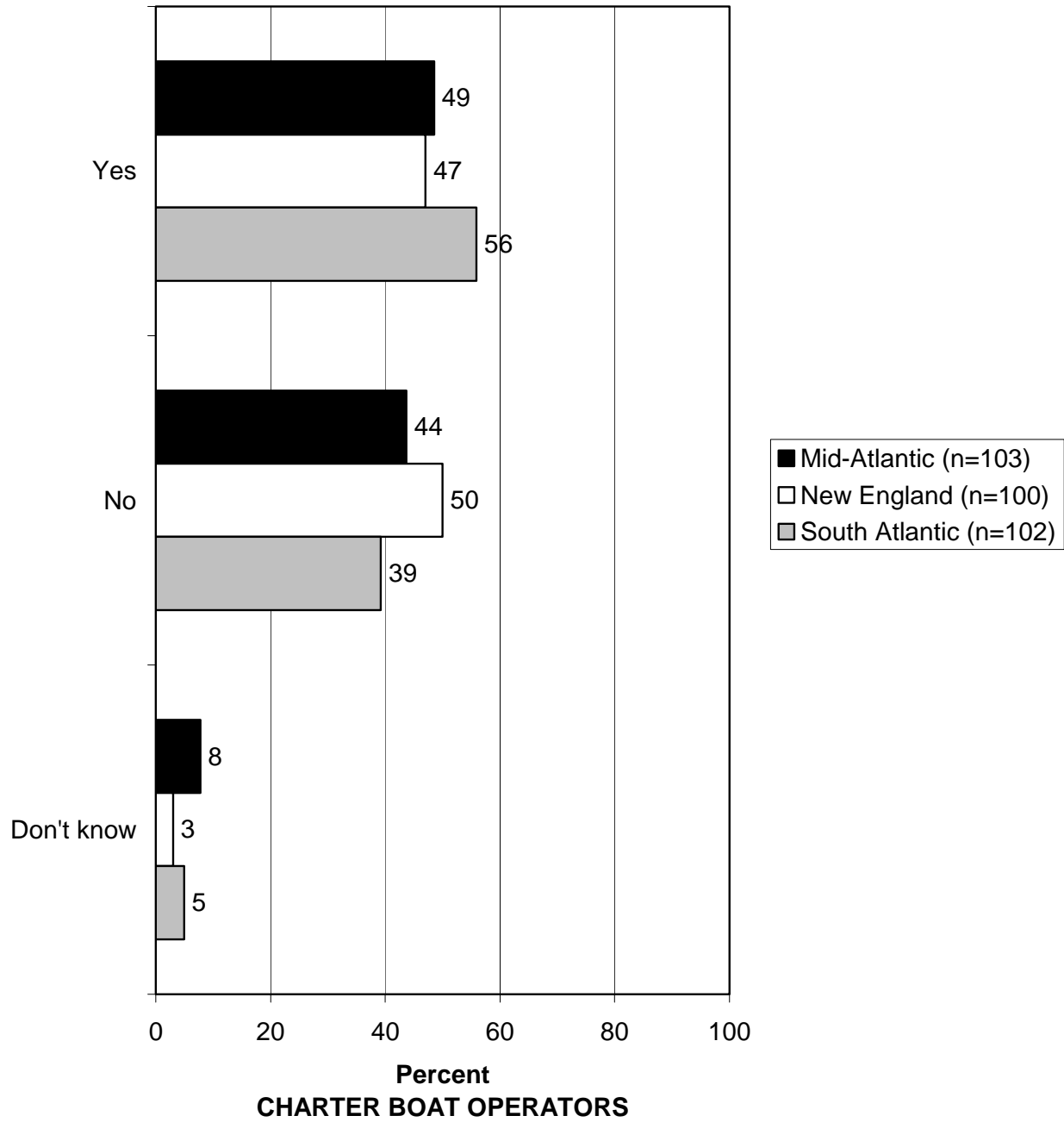
Q40. Would you be interested in accessing landings data online?



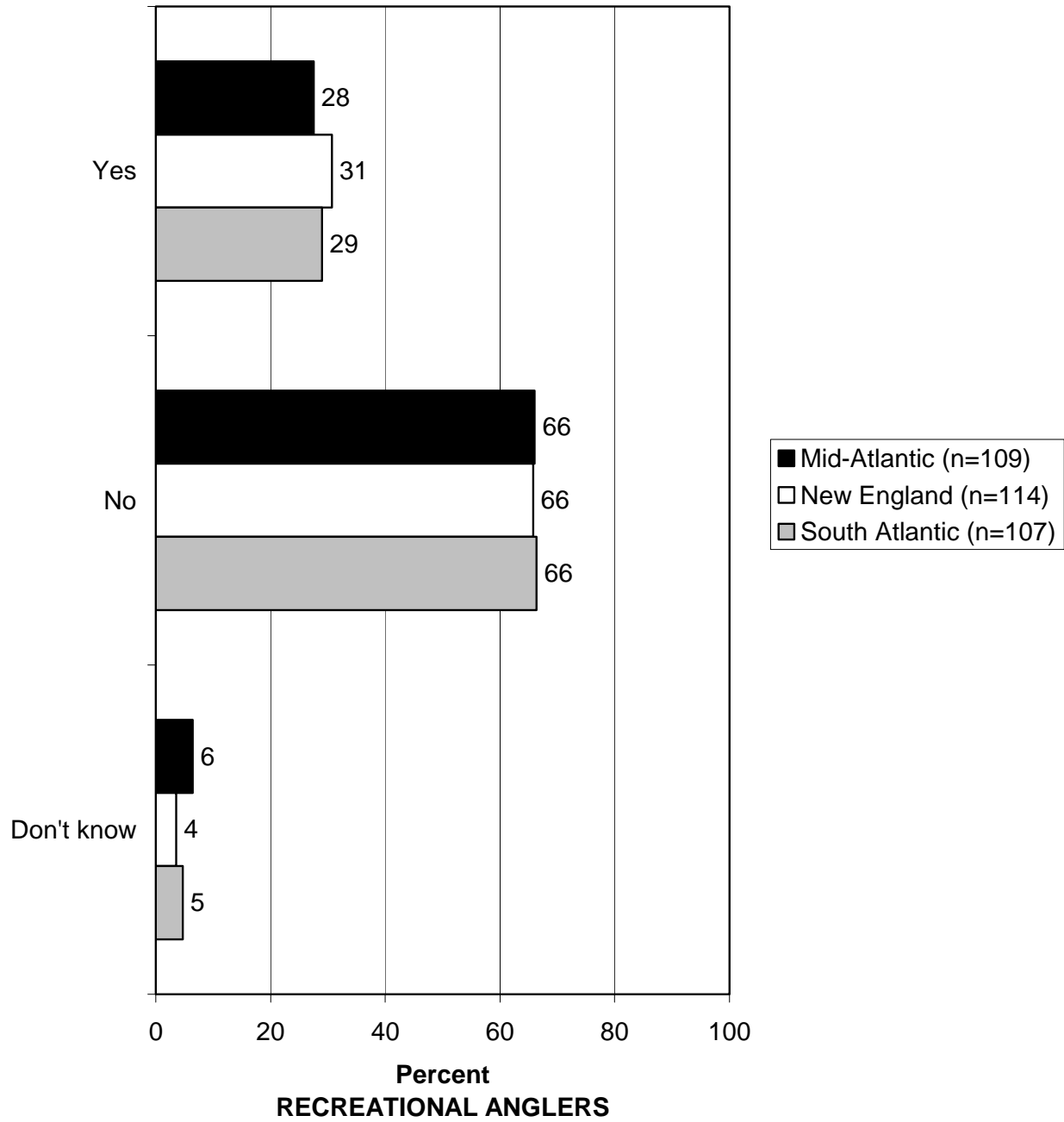
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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Q42. Residents of rural areas and small cities/towns predominate among all constituent types. Commercial fishermen were the least urban.

Q43. Among the four constituent types, charter boat operators and recreational anglers had the most college experience; commercial fishermen had the least college experience.

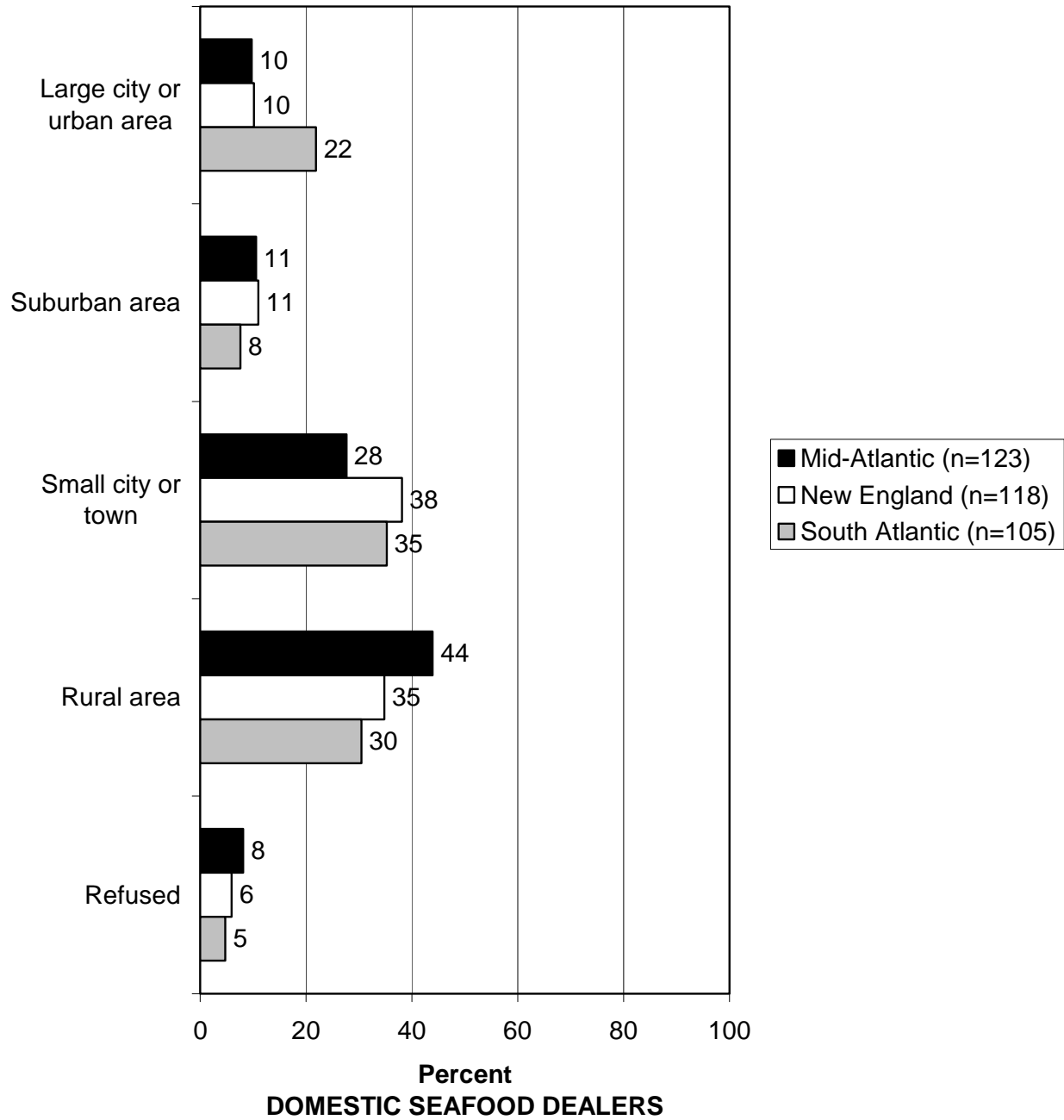
Q44 and Q45. Very few respondents answered that they are Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. Also, most respondents answered that they are white. The largest minority groups were the 6% of Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic recreational anglers who responded that they are black, African-American, or Negro, and the 5% of South Atlantic recreational anglers who responded that they are American Indian or Alaska native.

Q47. The mean incomes of respondents suggests that charter boat operators have the highest incomes, followed by domestic seafood dealers, recreational anglers, and commercial fishermen. For every constituent type except for recreational anglers, New England respondents had the highest incomes. For every constituent type except charter boat operators, South Atlantic respondents had the lowest incomes.

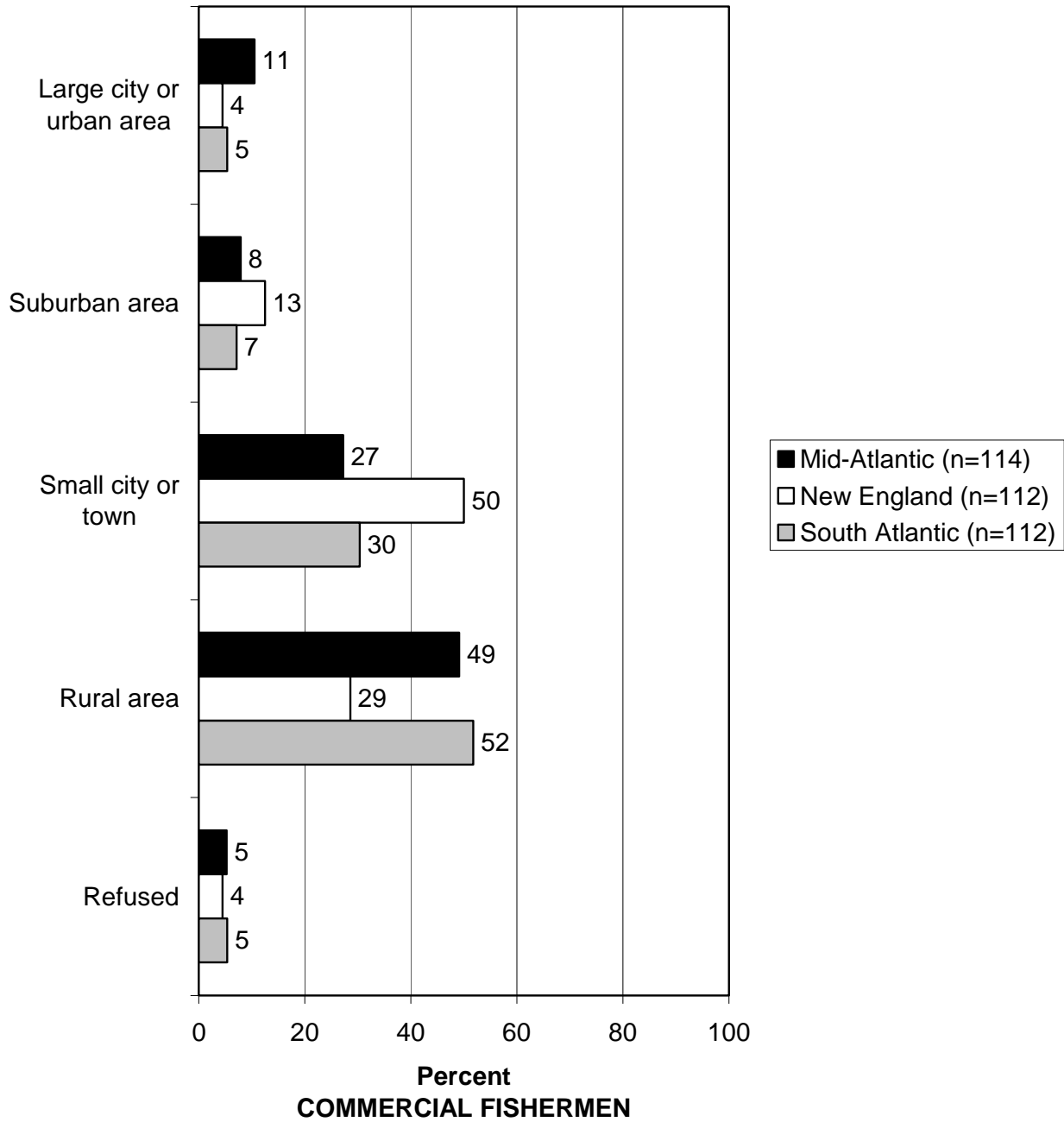
Q48. The ages of all groups follows a bell curve, with the exception of commercial fishermen, who are weighted to the older age categories.

Q50. Large majorities of all groups are male. The most male constituent type was commercial fishermen; the most female constituent type was domestic seafood dealers.

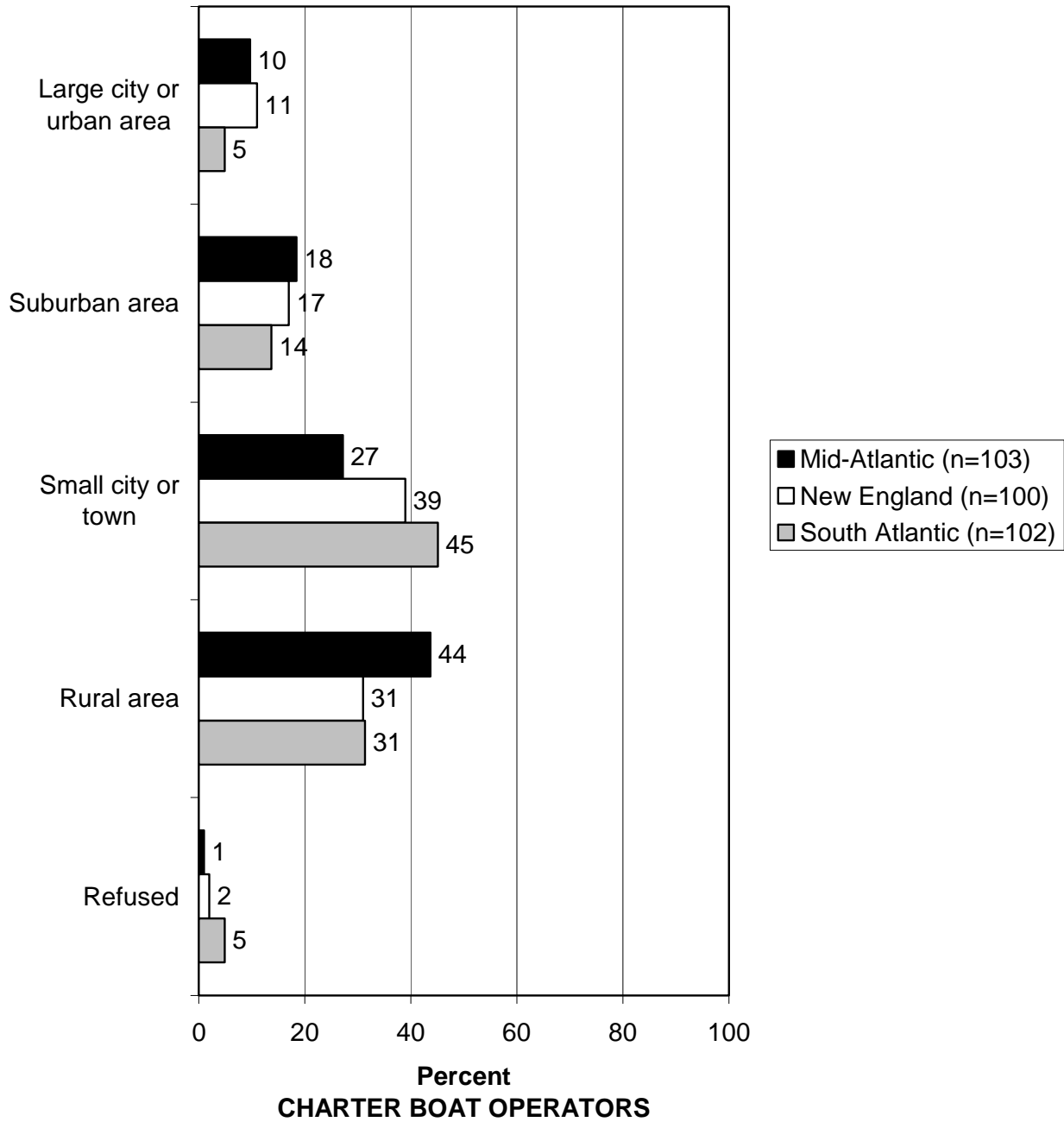
Q42. Do you consider your place of residence to be in a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city/town, or a rural area?



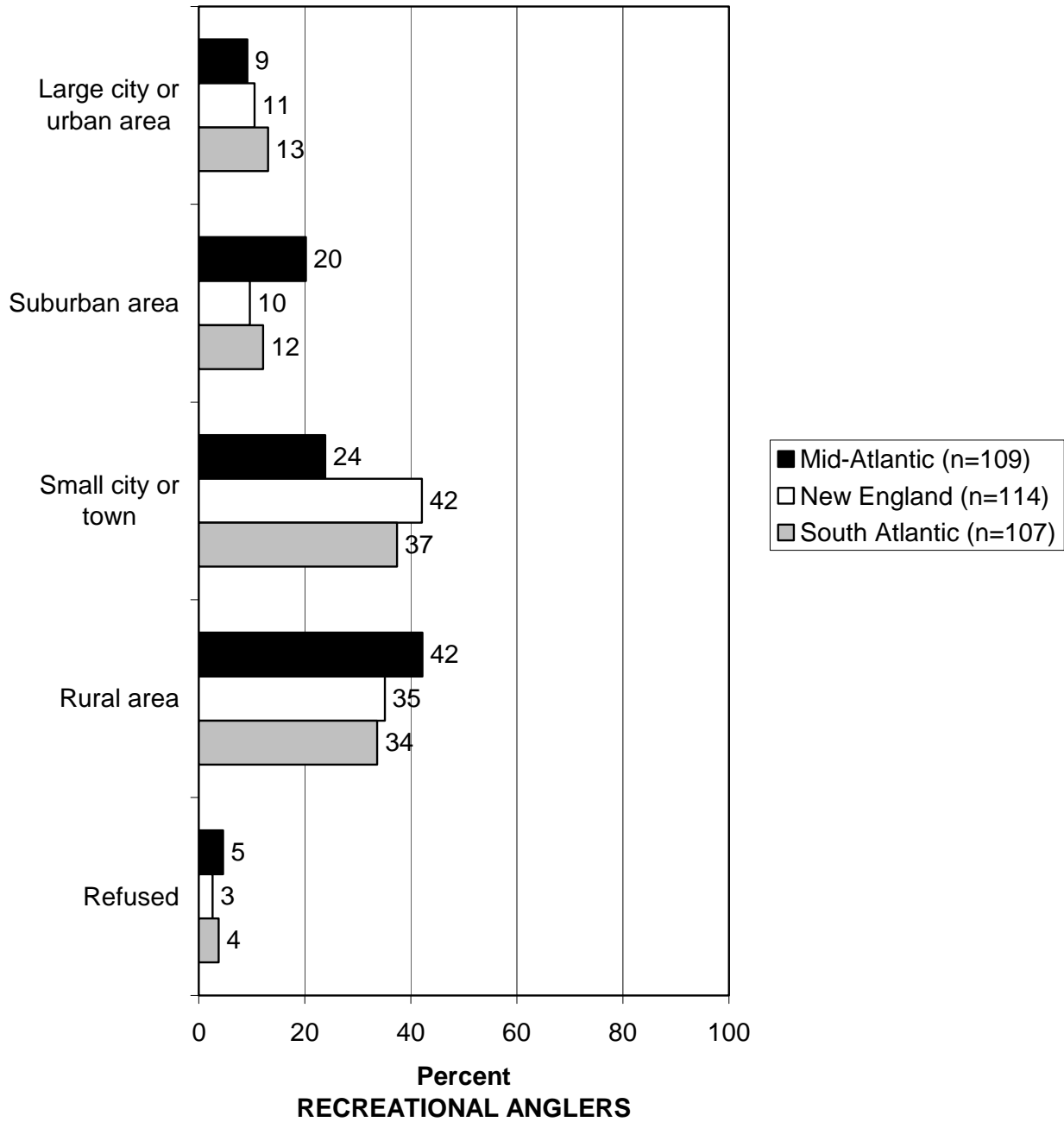
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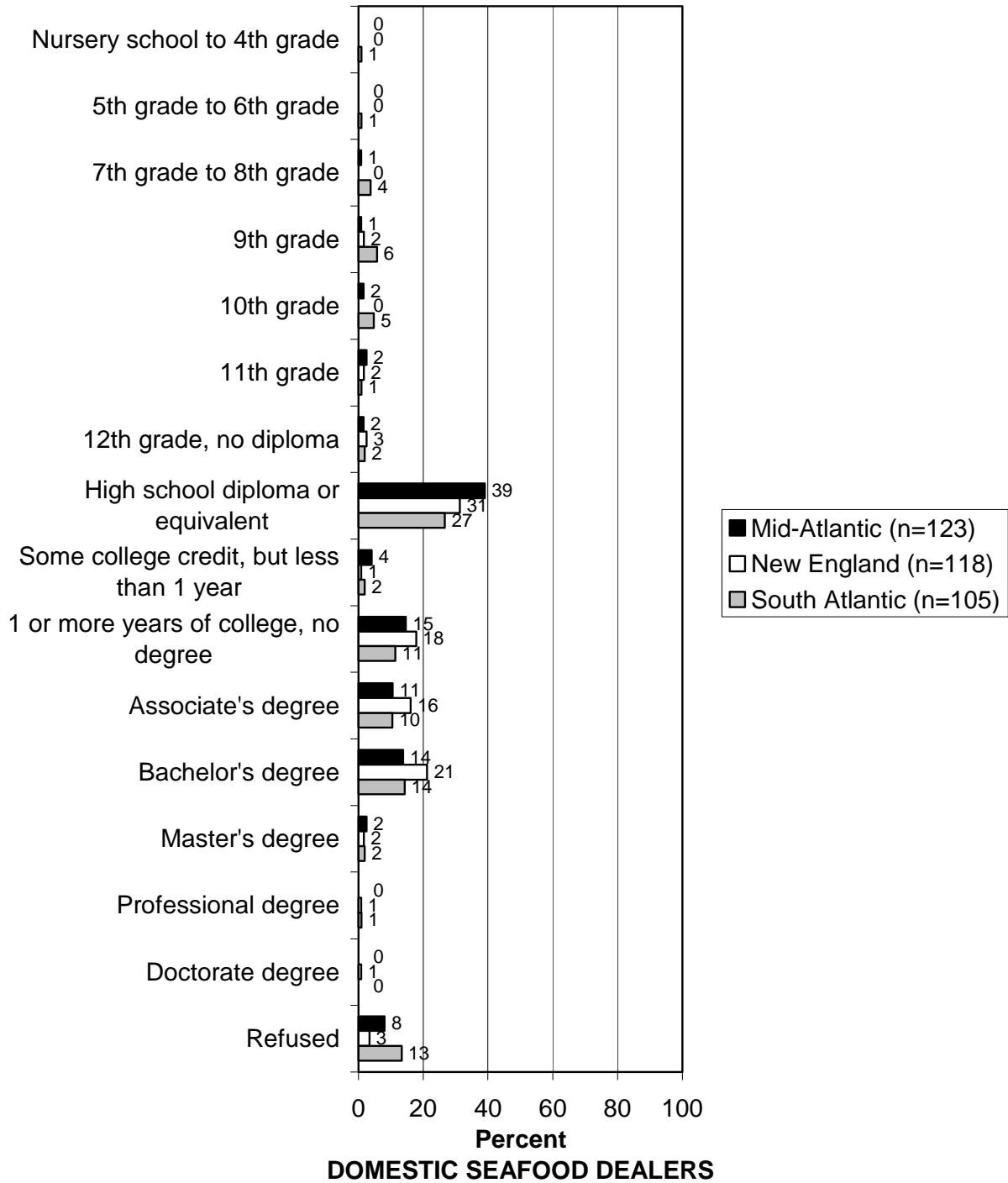
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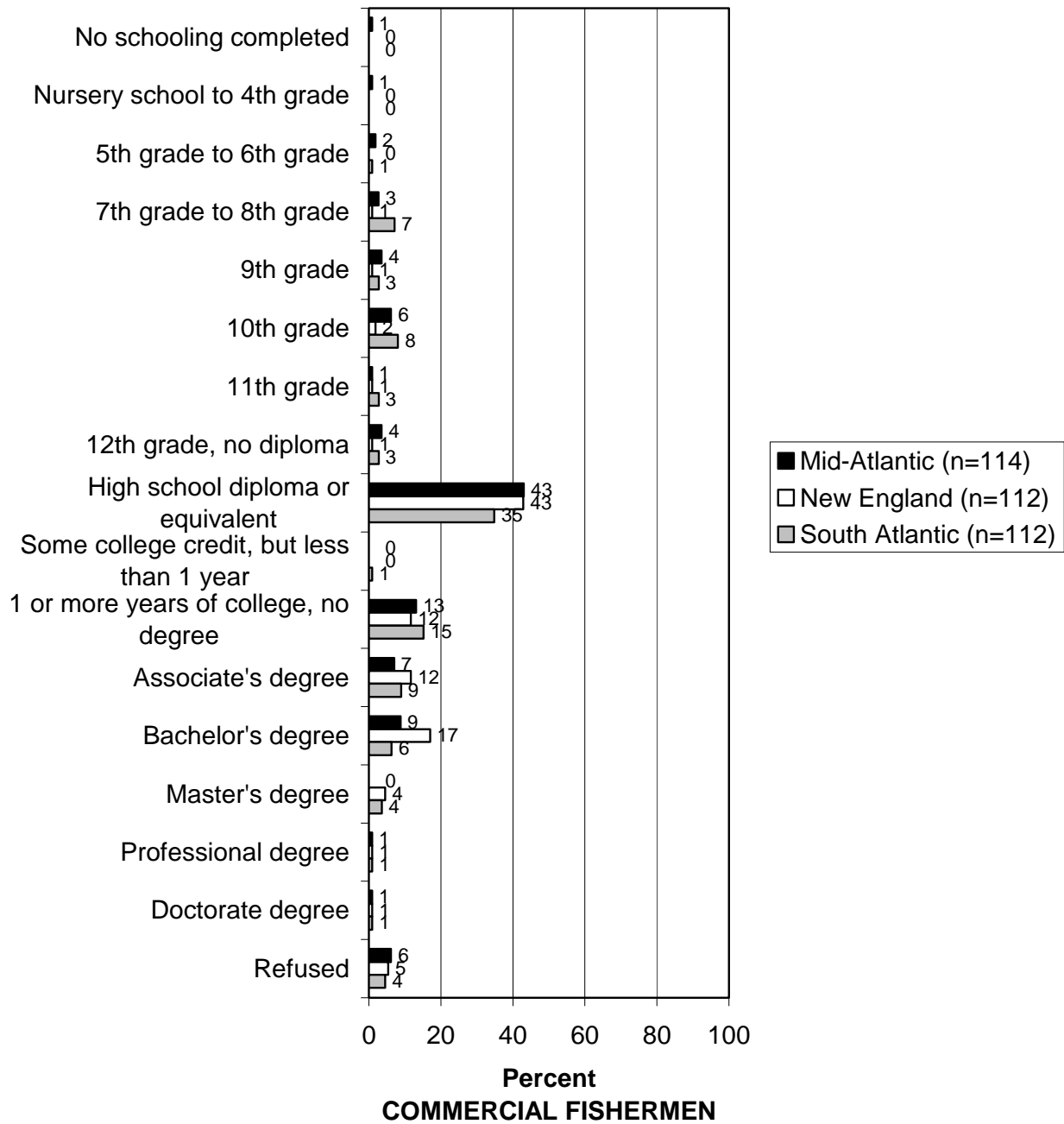
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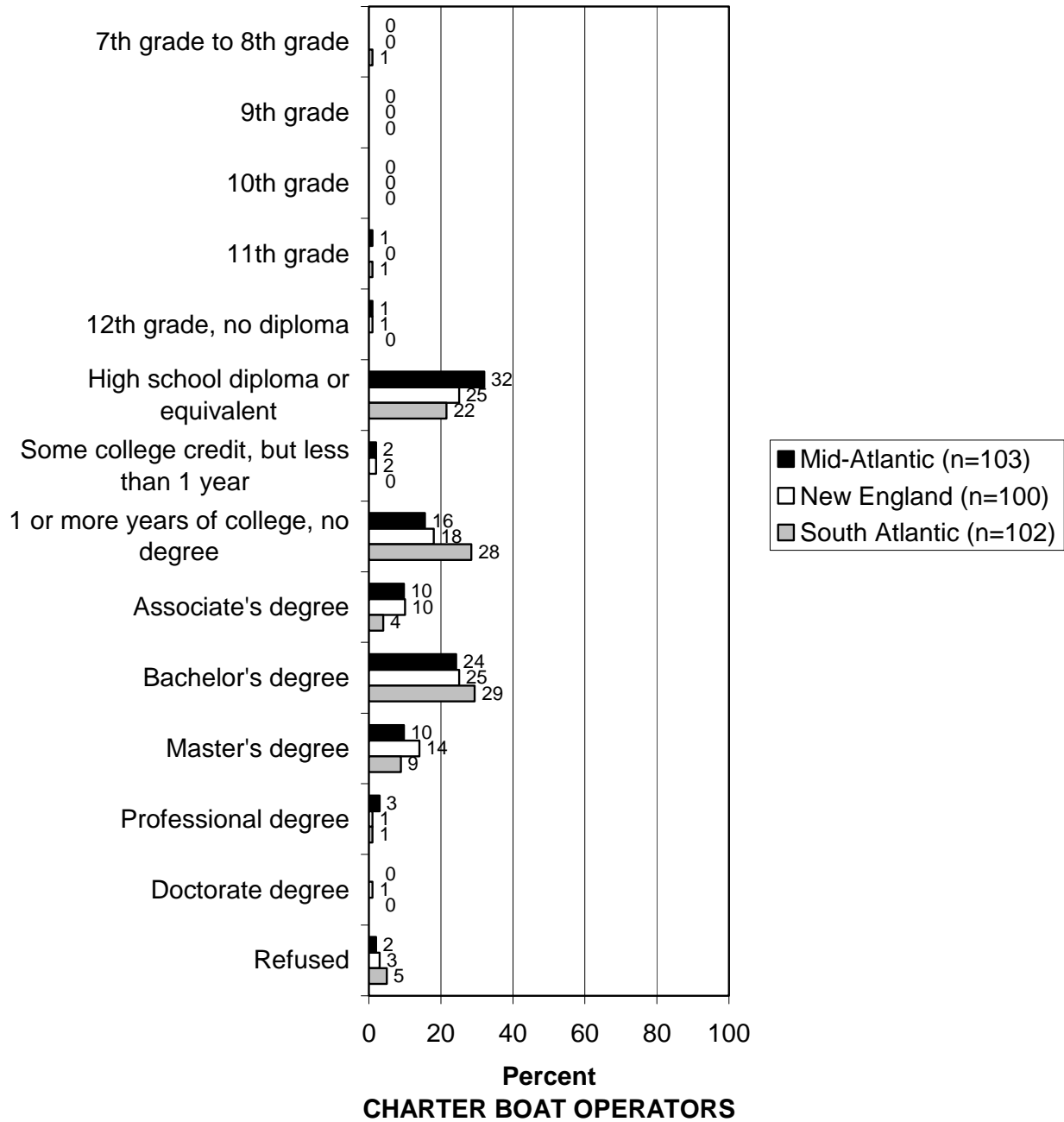
Q43. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?



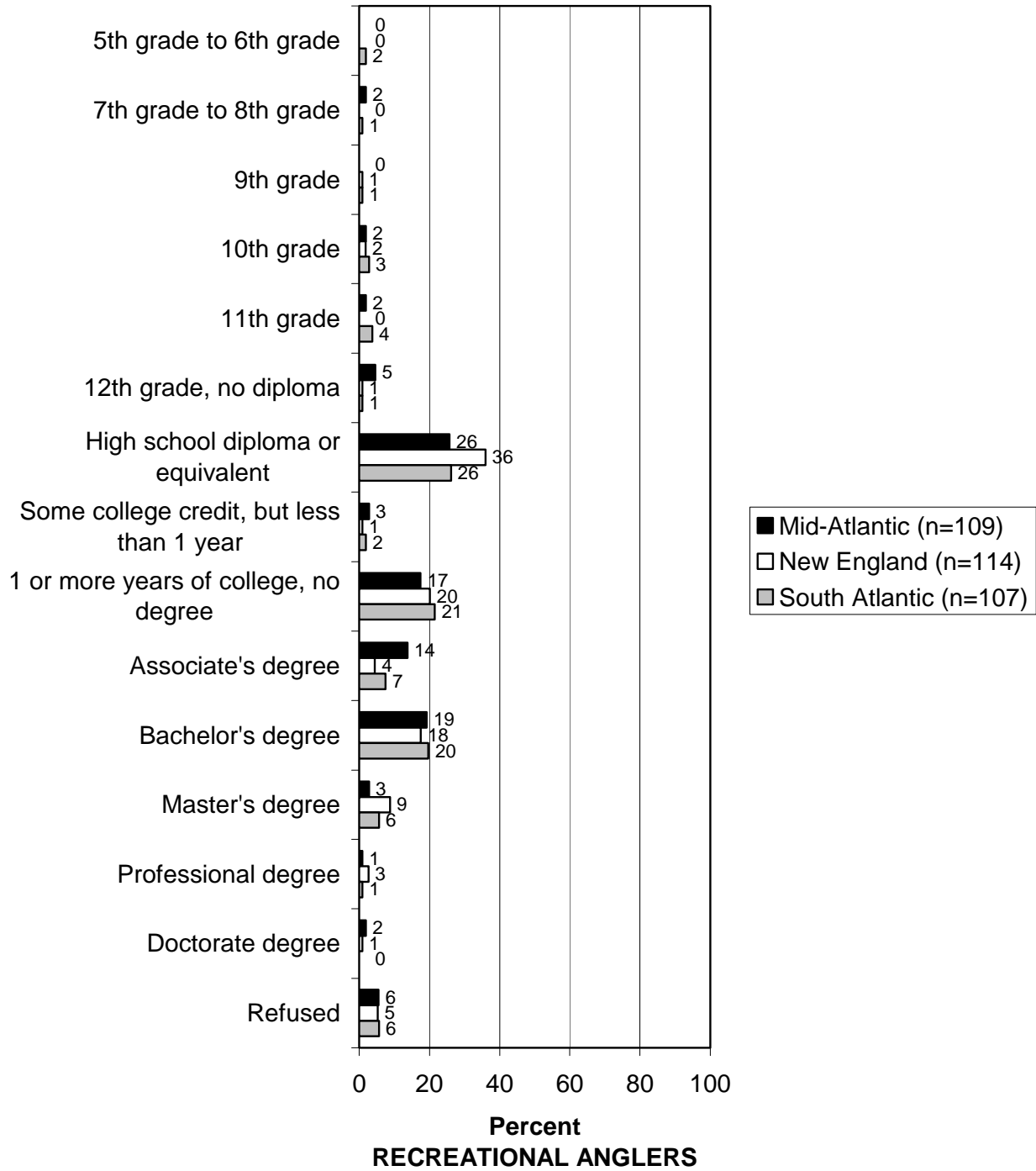
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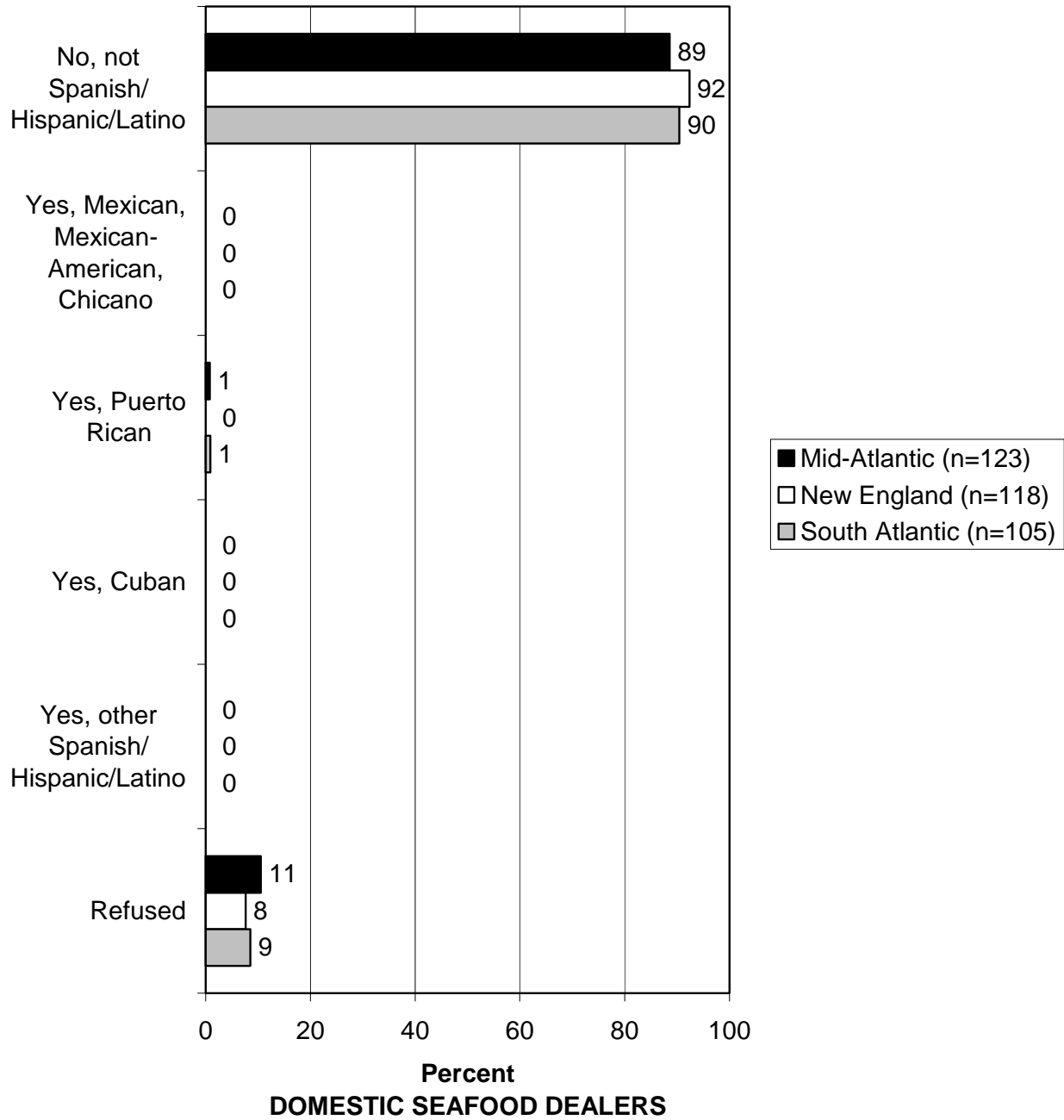
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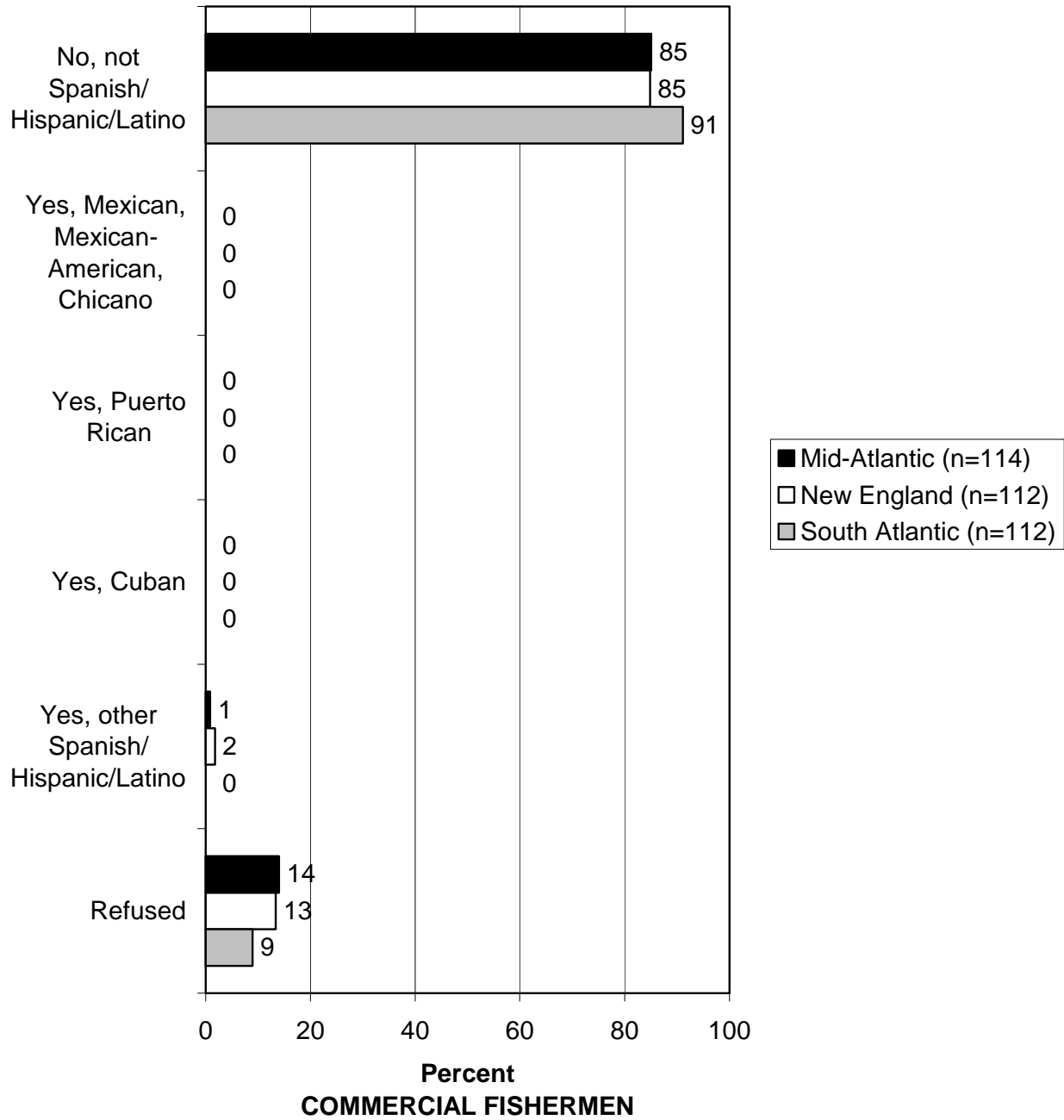
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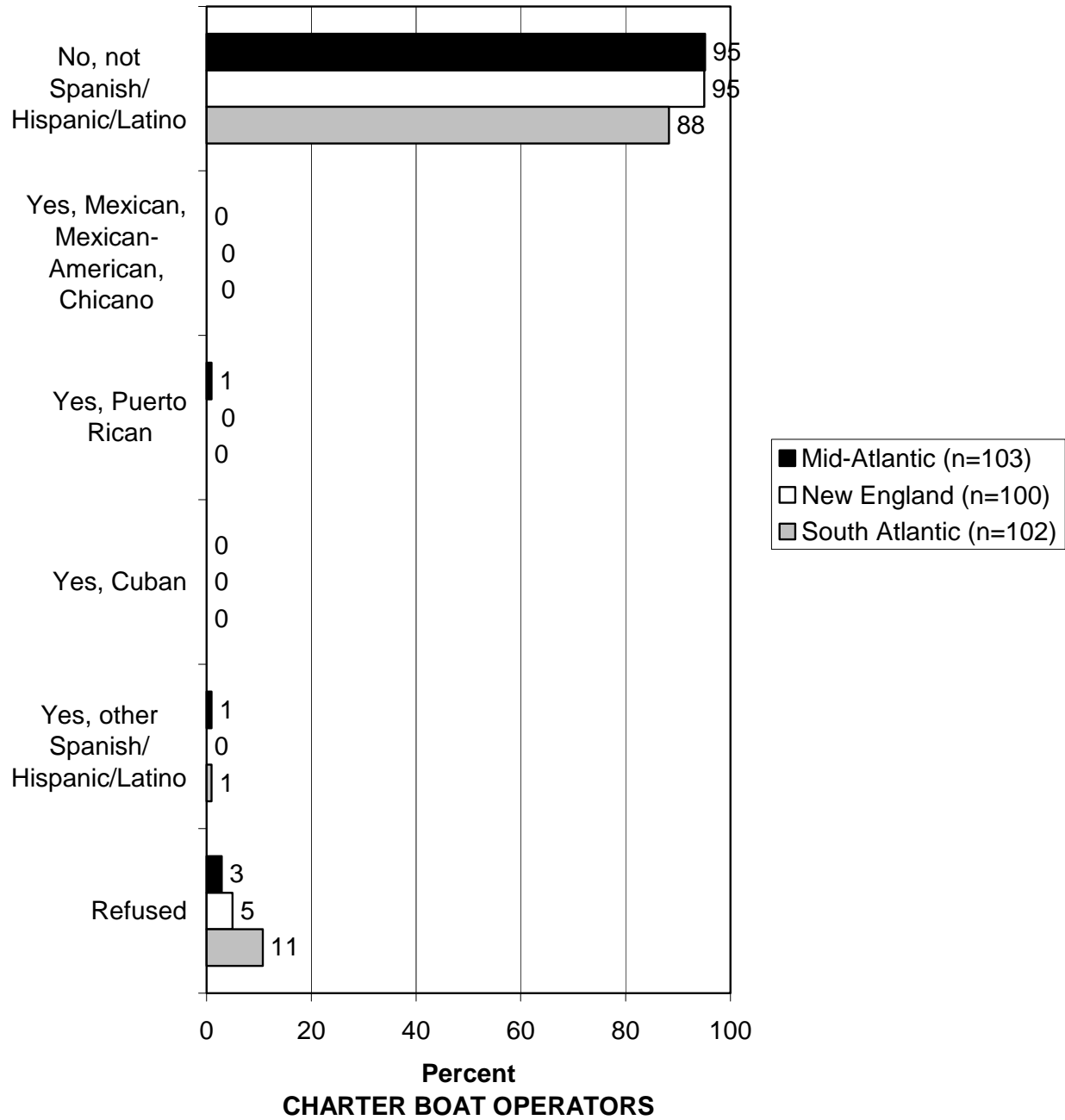
Q44. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?



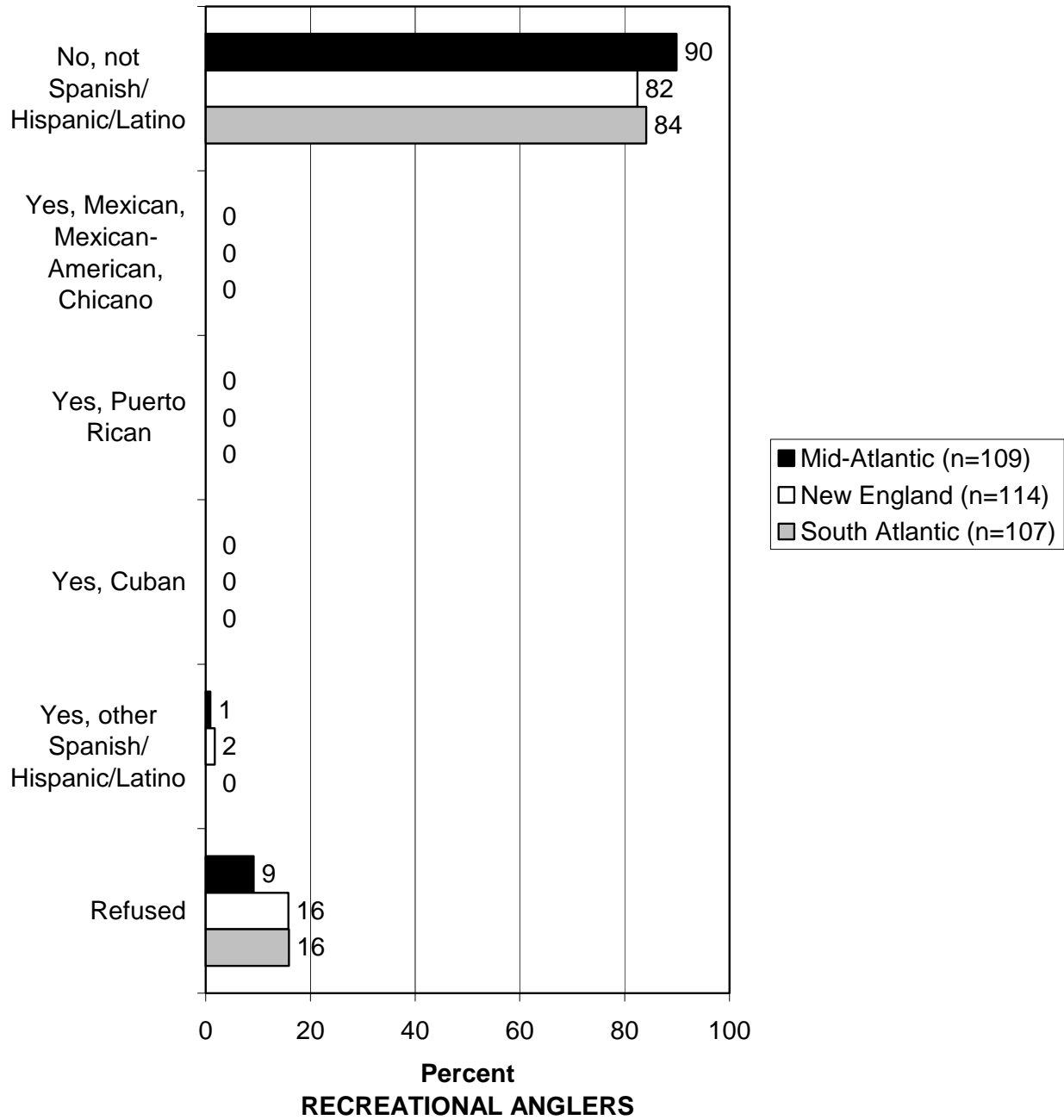
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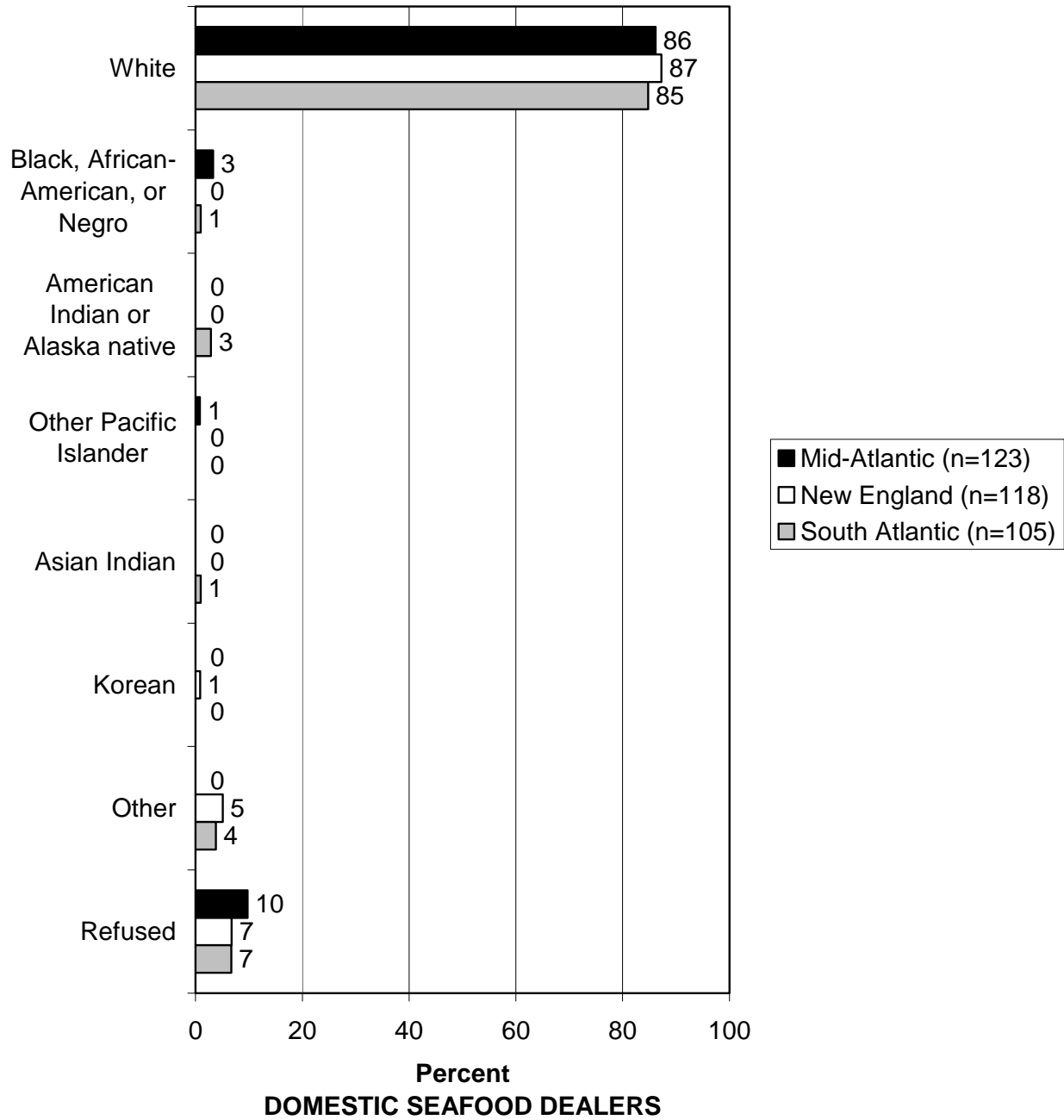
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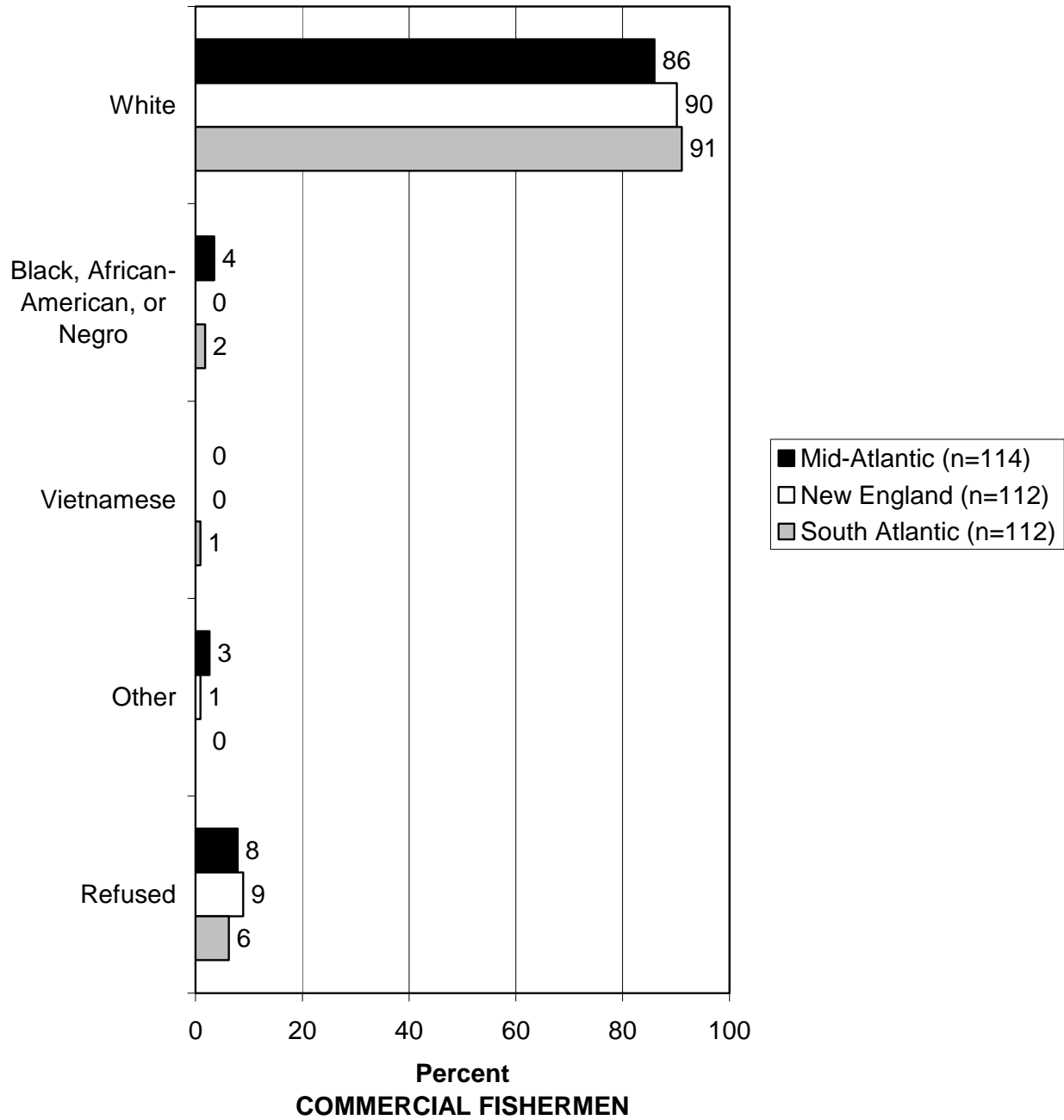
Q44. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?



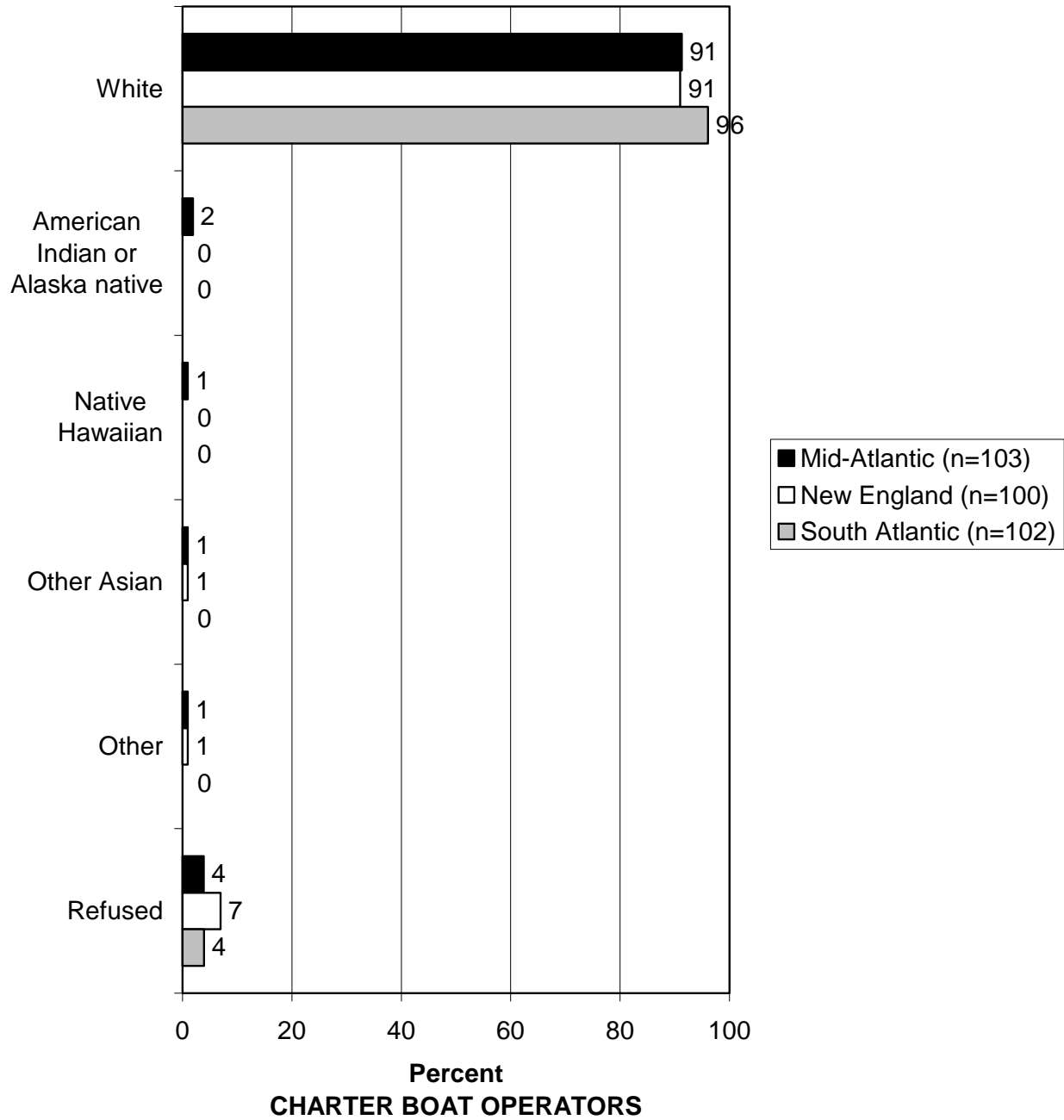
Q45. What is your race?



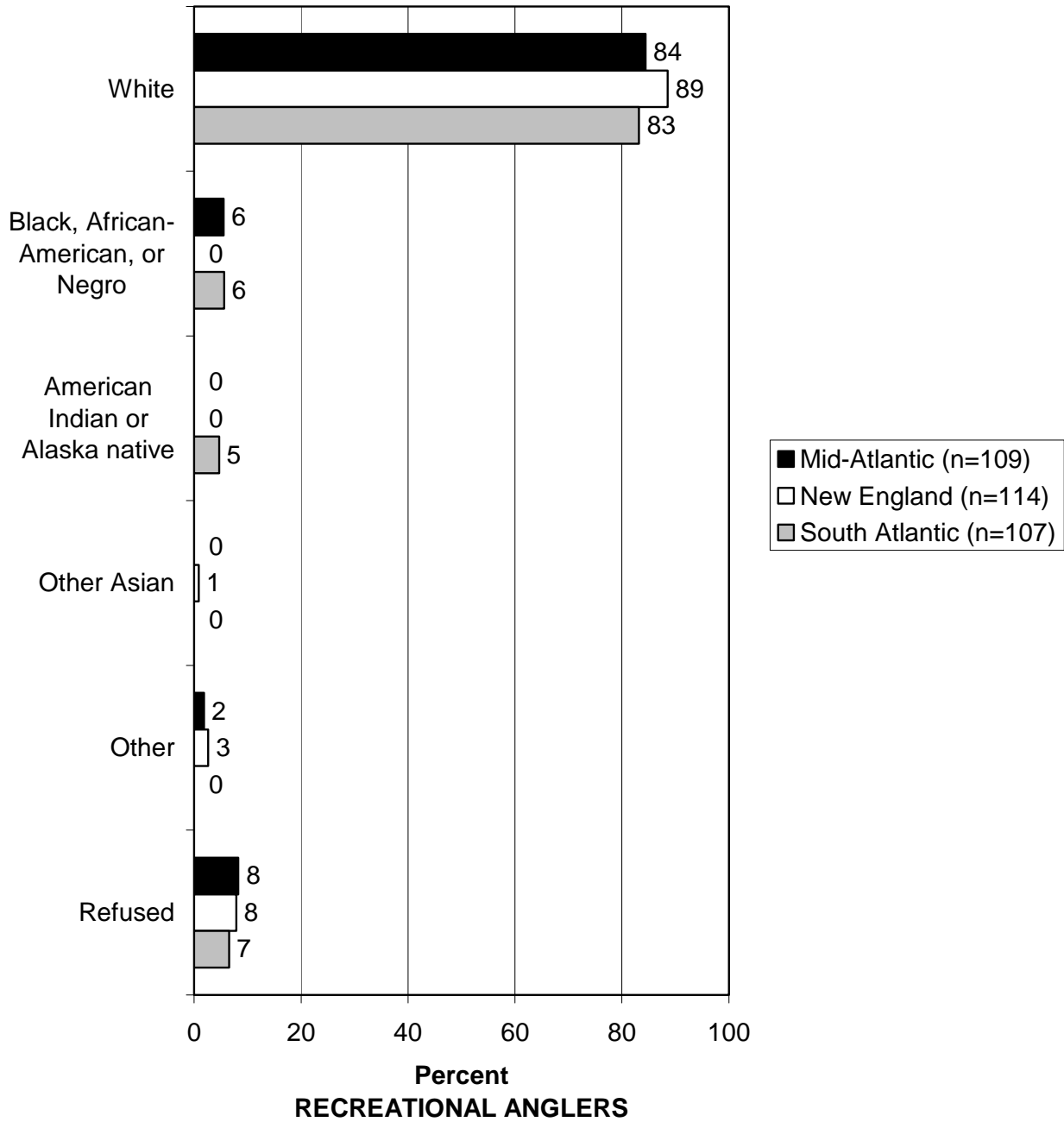
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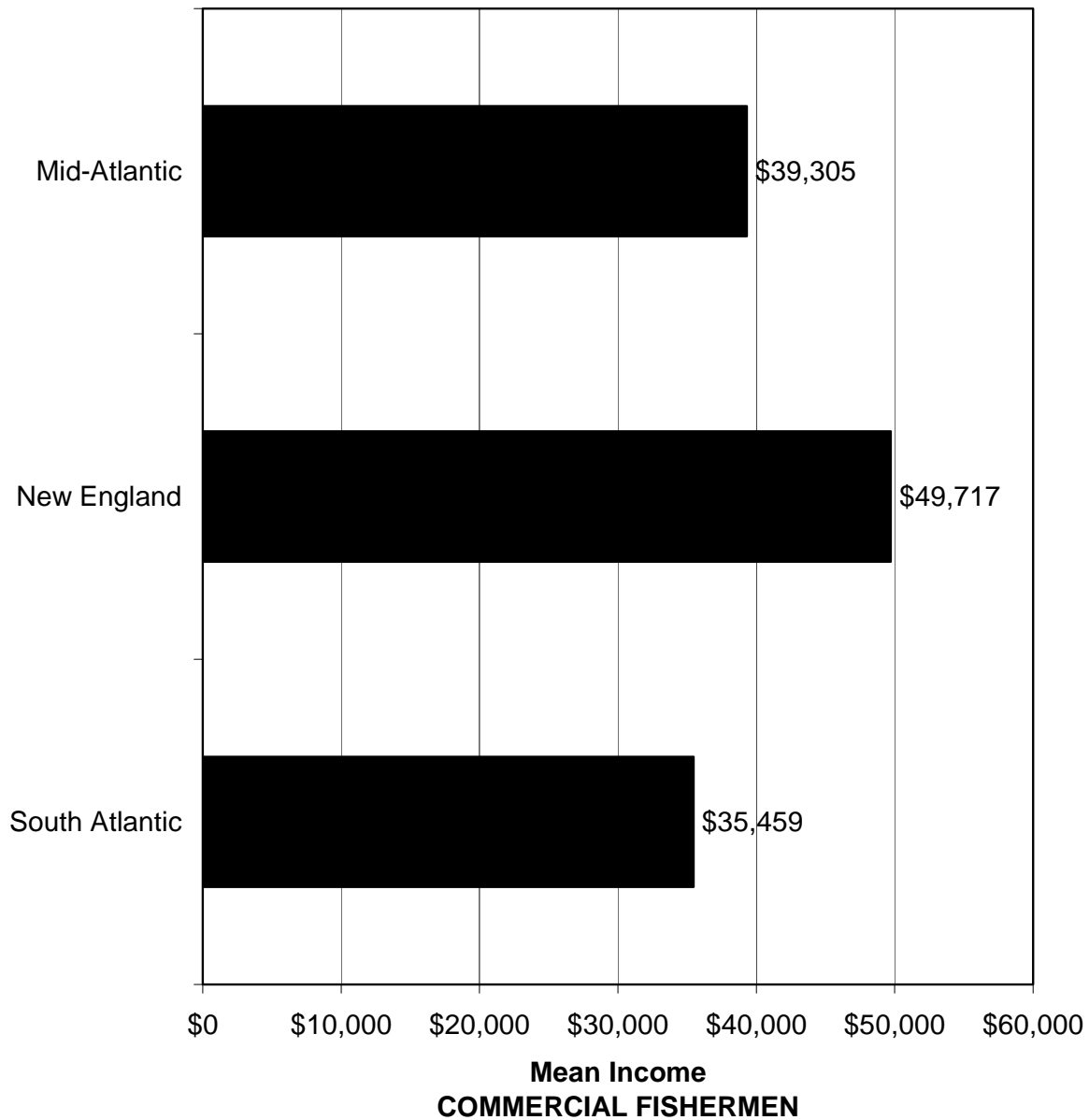
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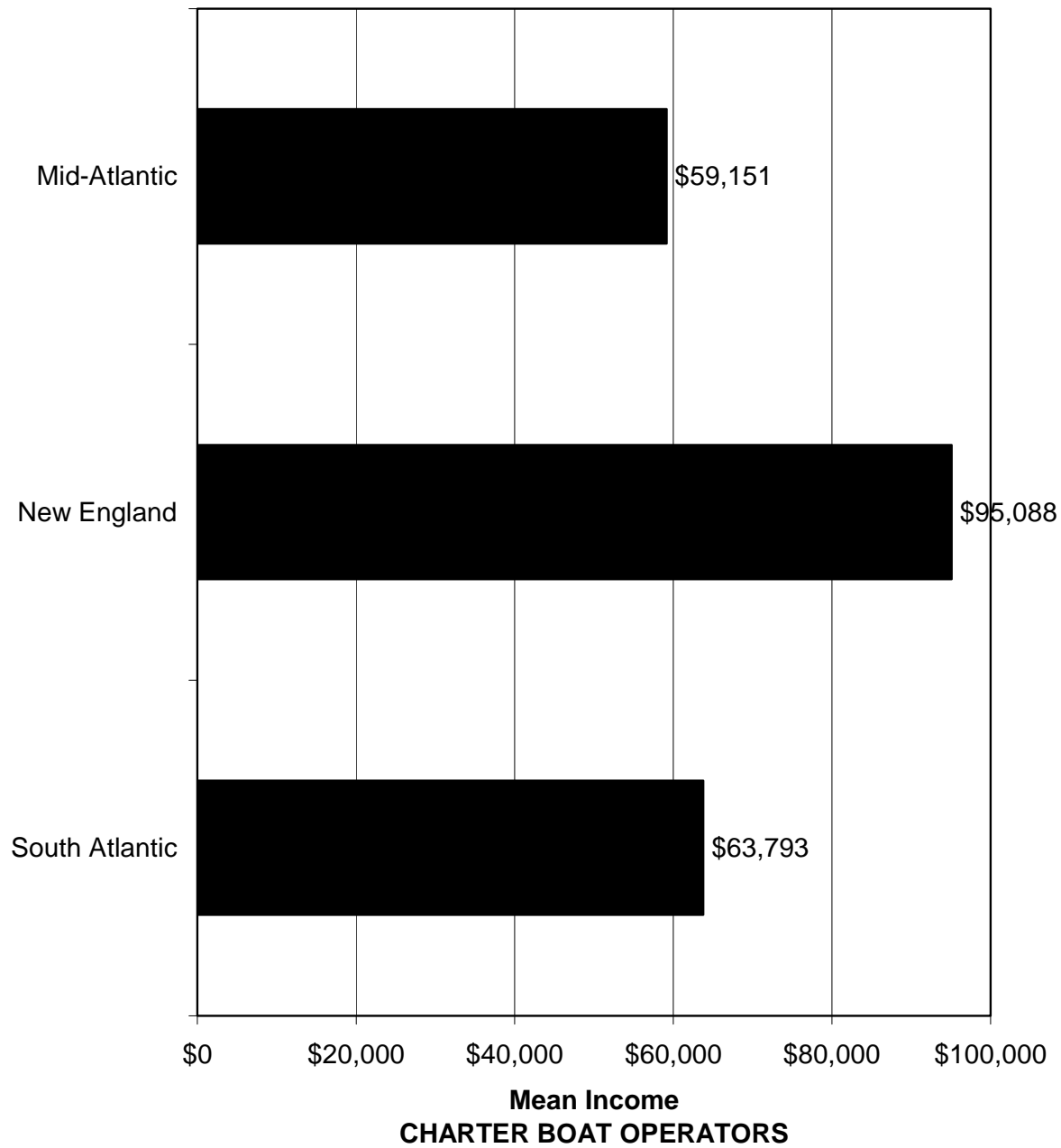
Q47. What were your wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs in 2002? Please report amount before deductions for taxes, bonds, dues, or other items.



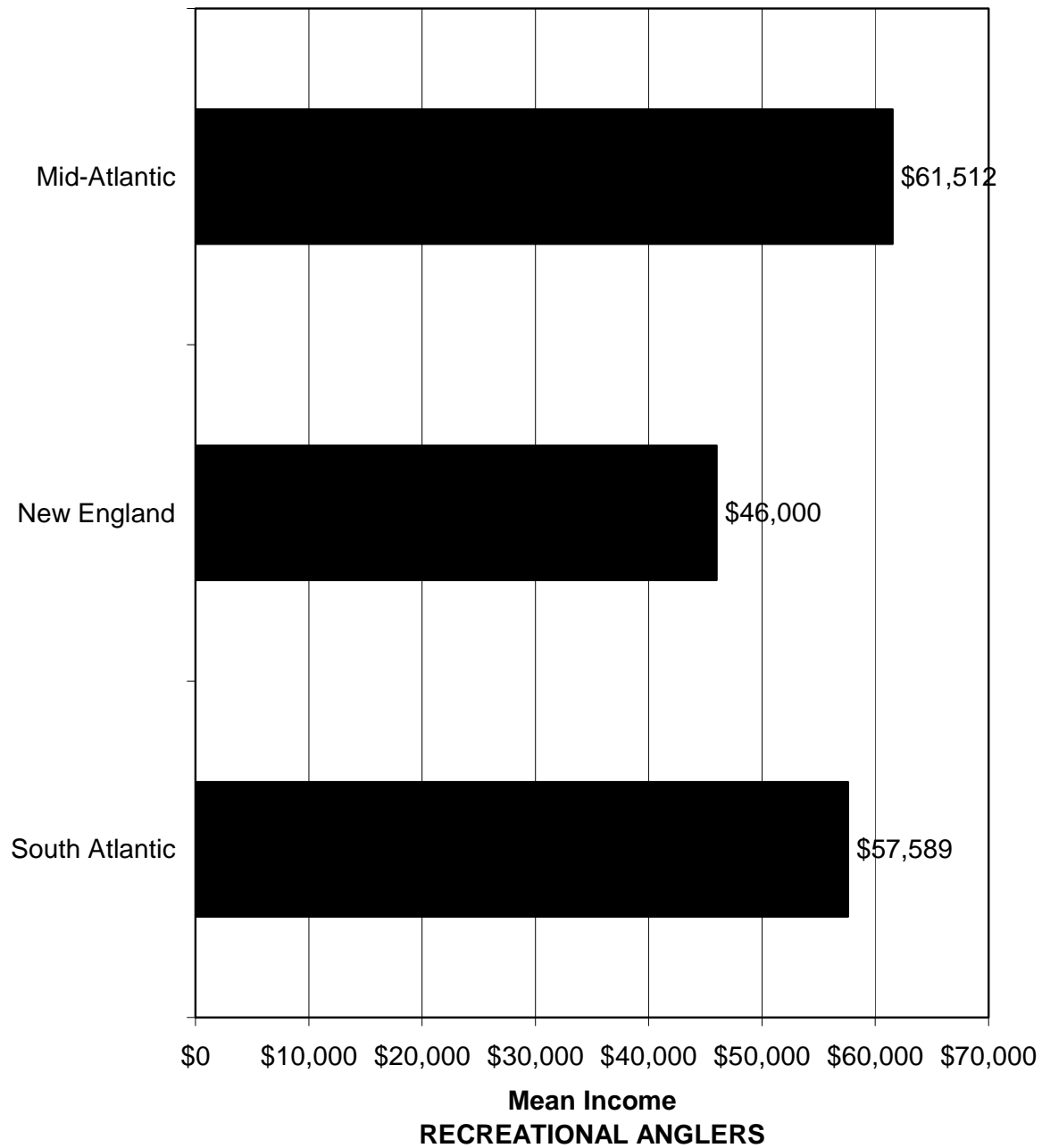
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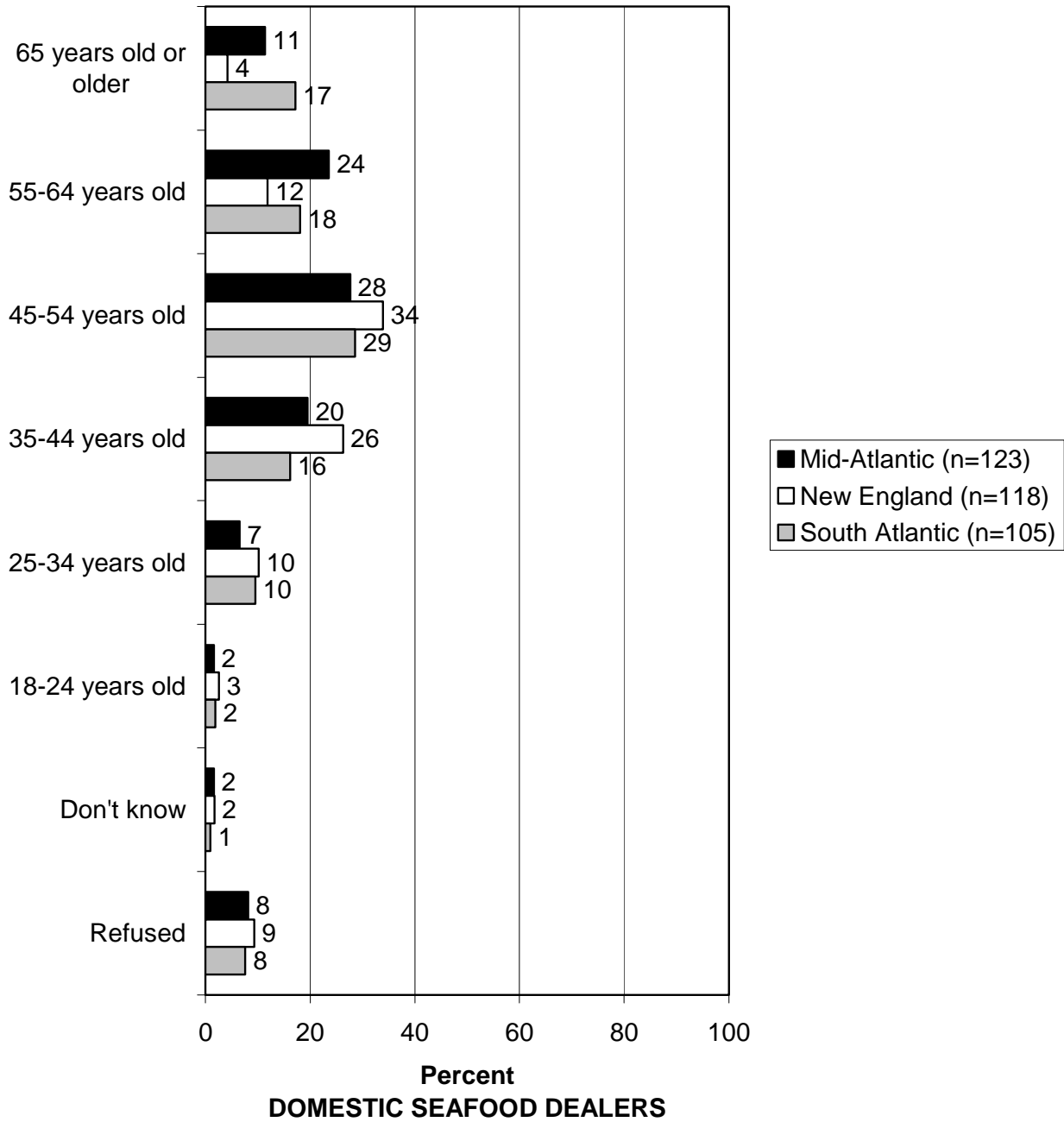
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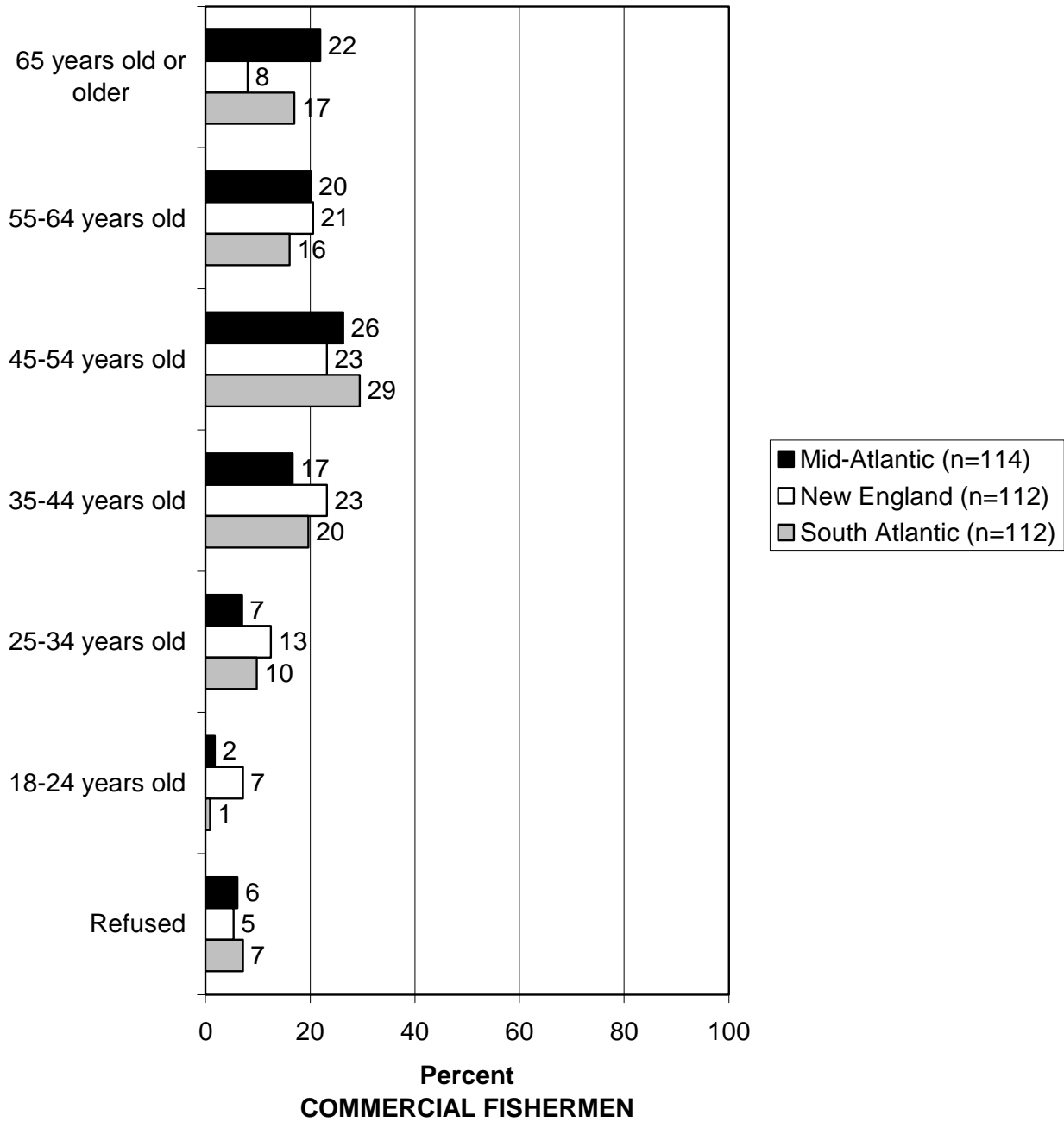
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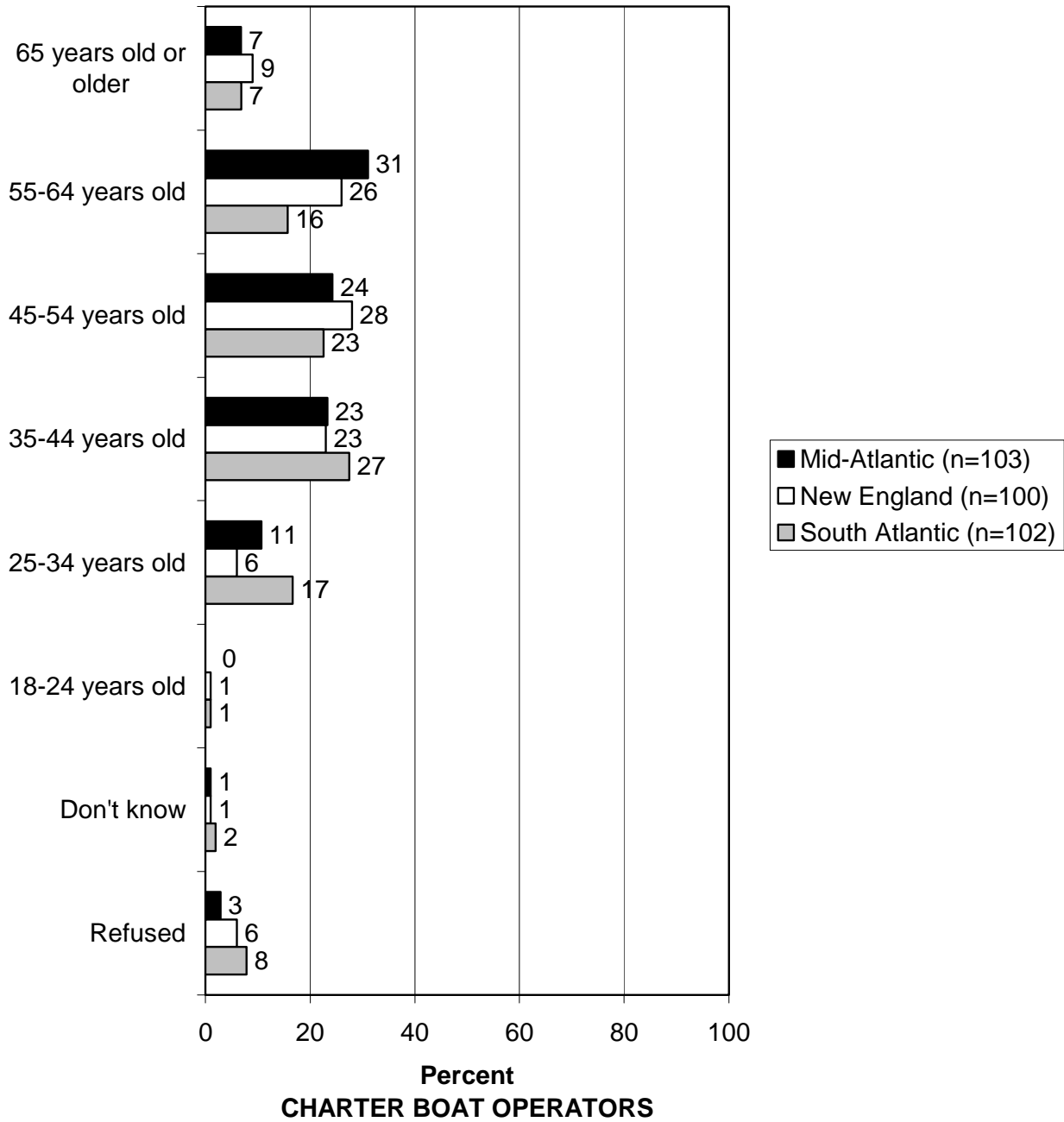
Q48. Respondent's age.



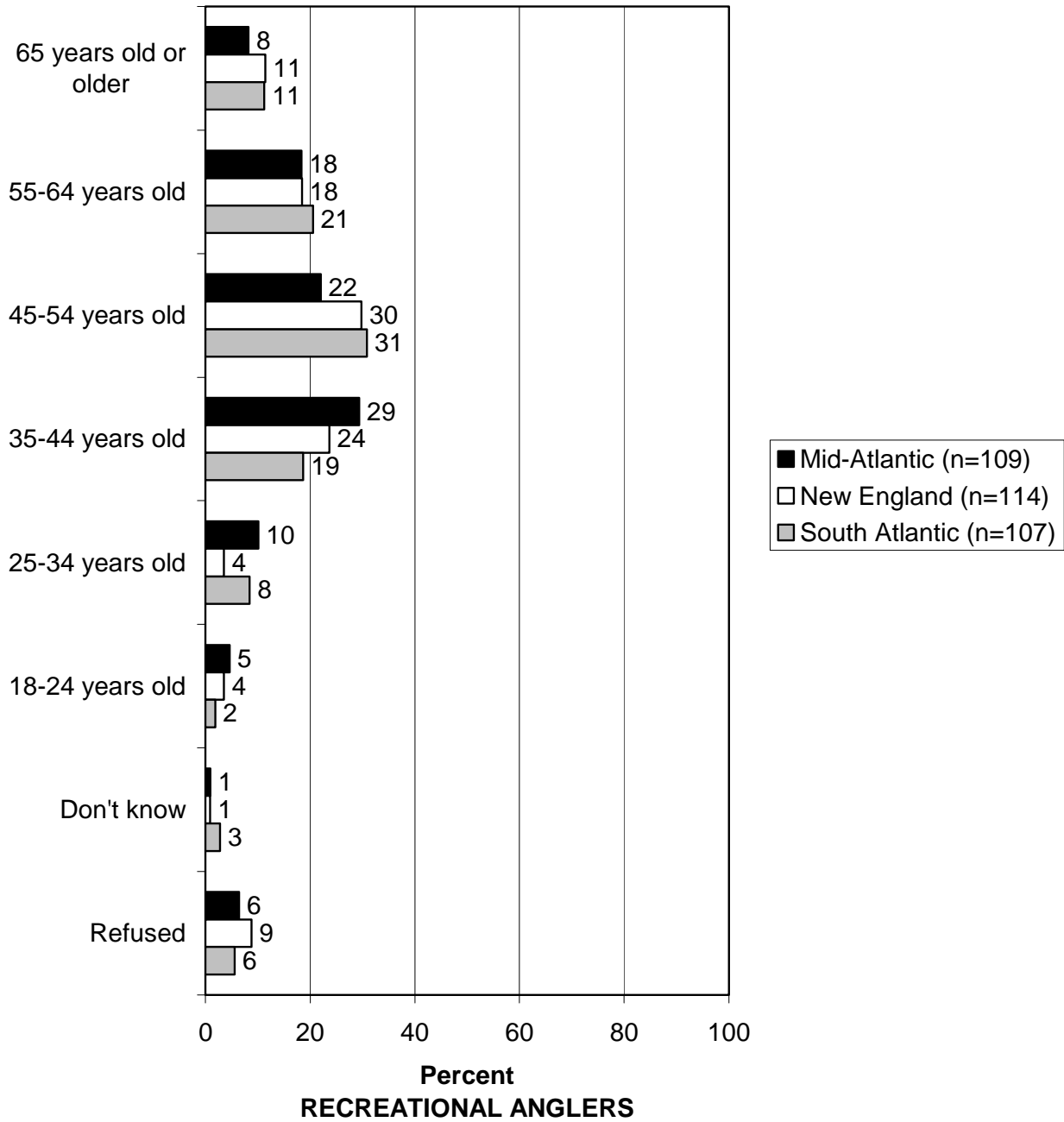
Q48. Respondent's age.



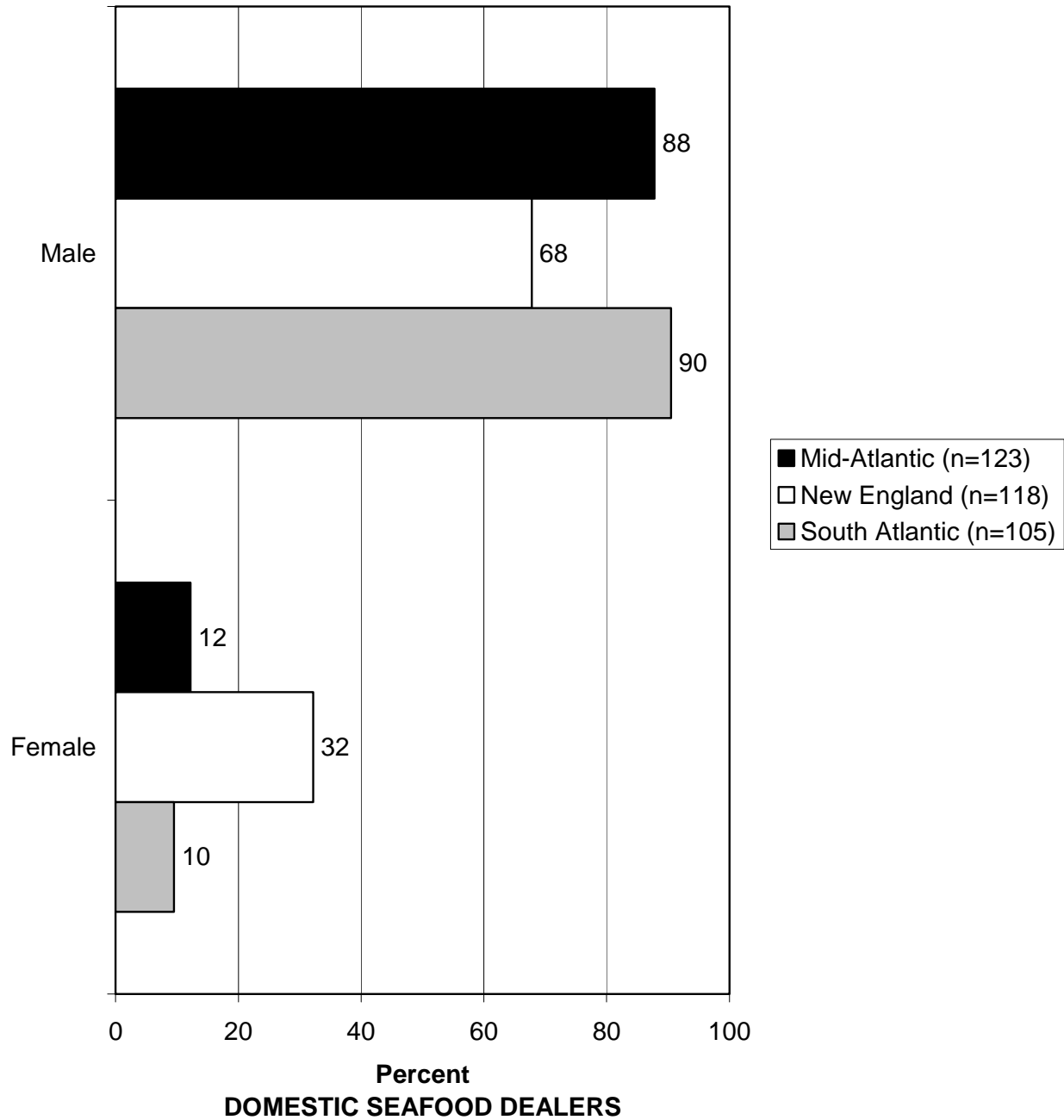
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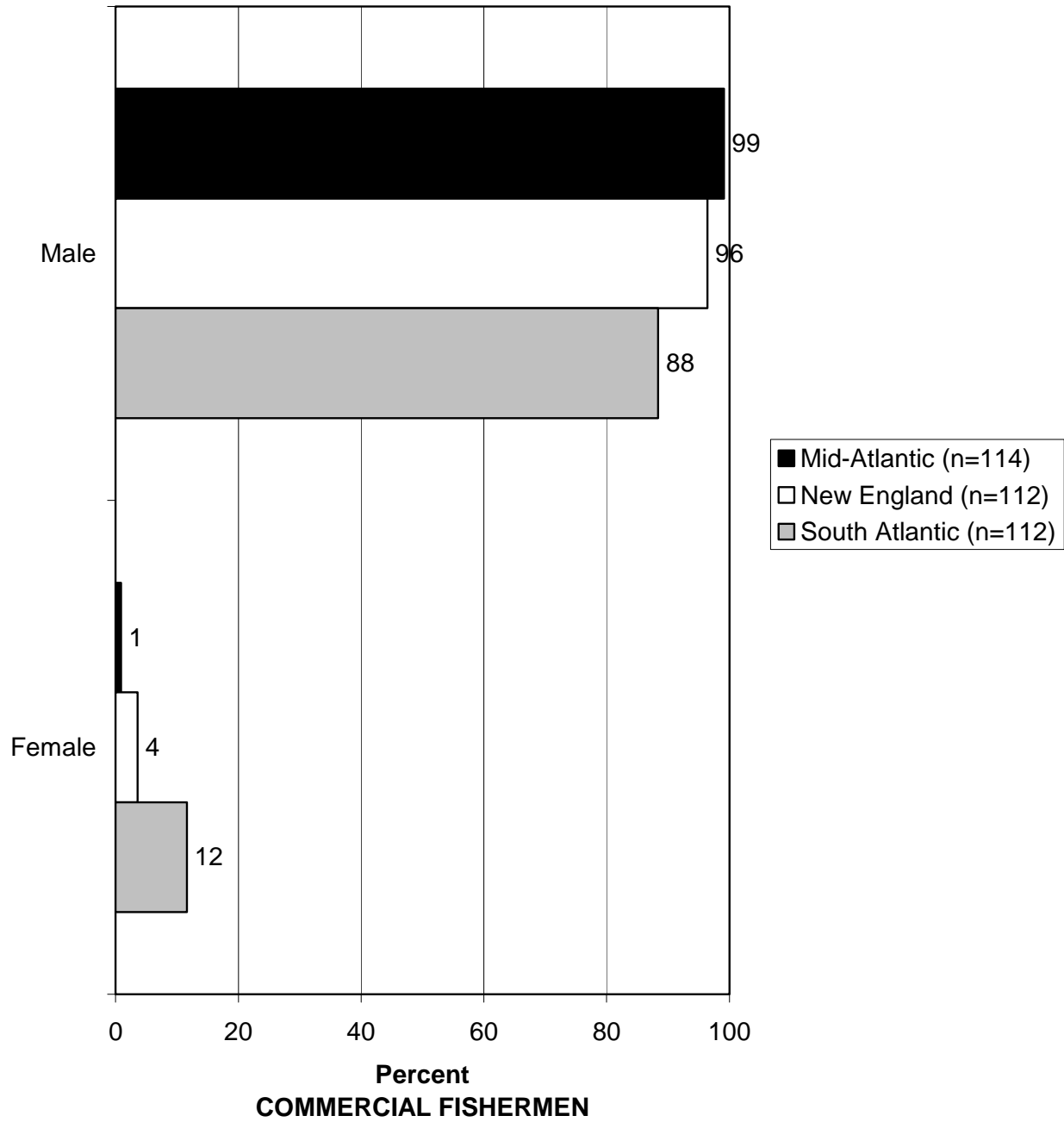
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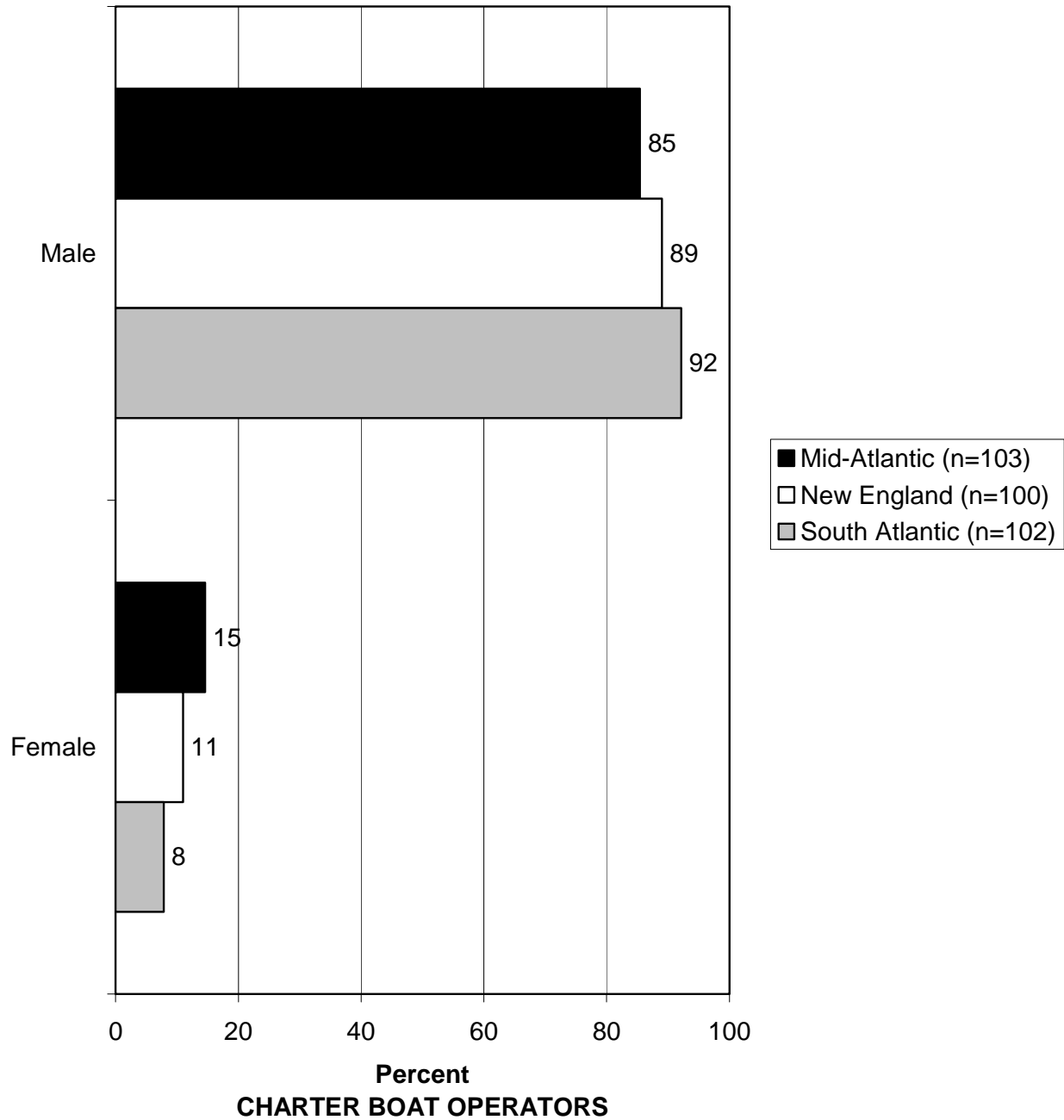
Q50. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).



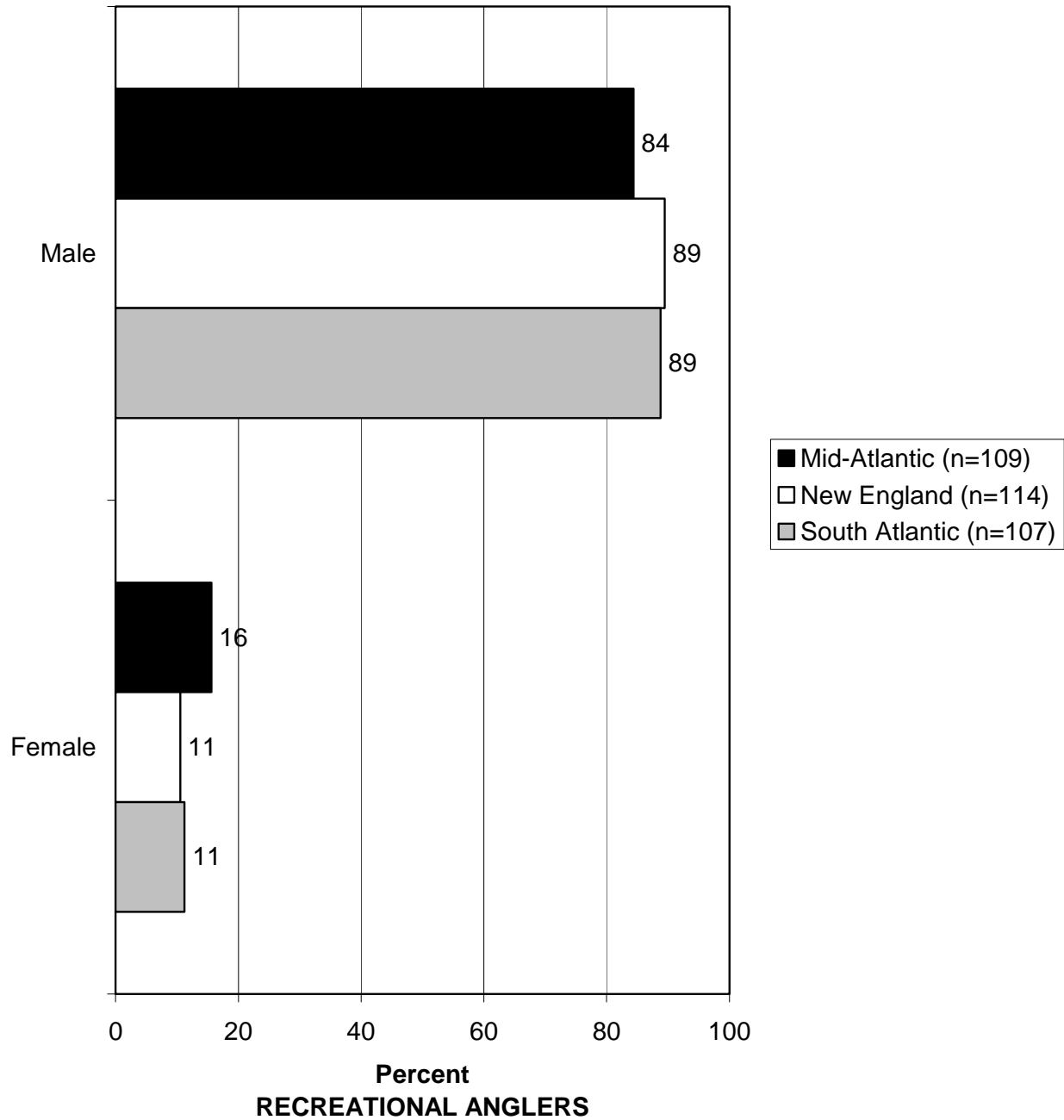
Q50. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).



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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q49. That is the end of the questionnaire. Thank you very much for your time and input! I'd be glad to record any additional comments you may have at this time.

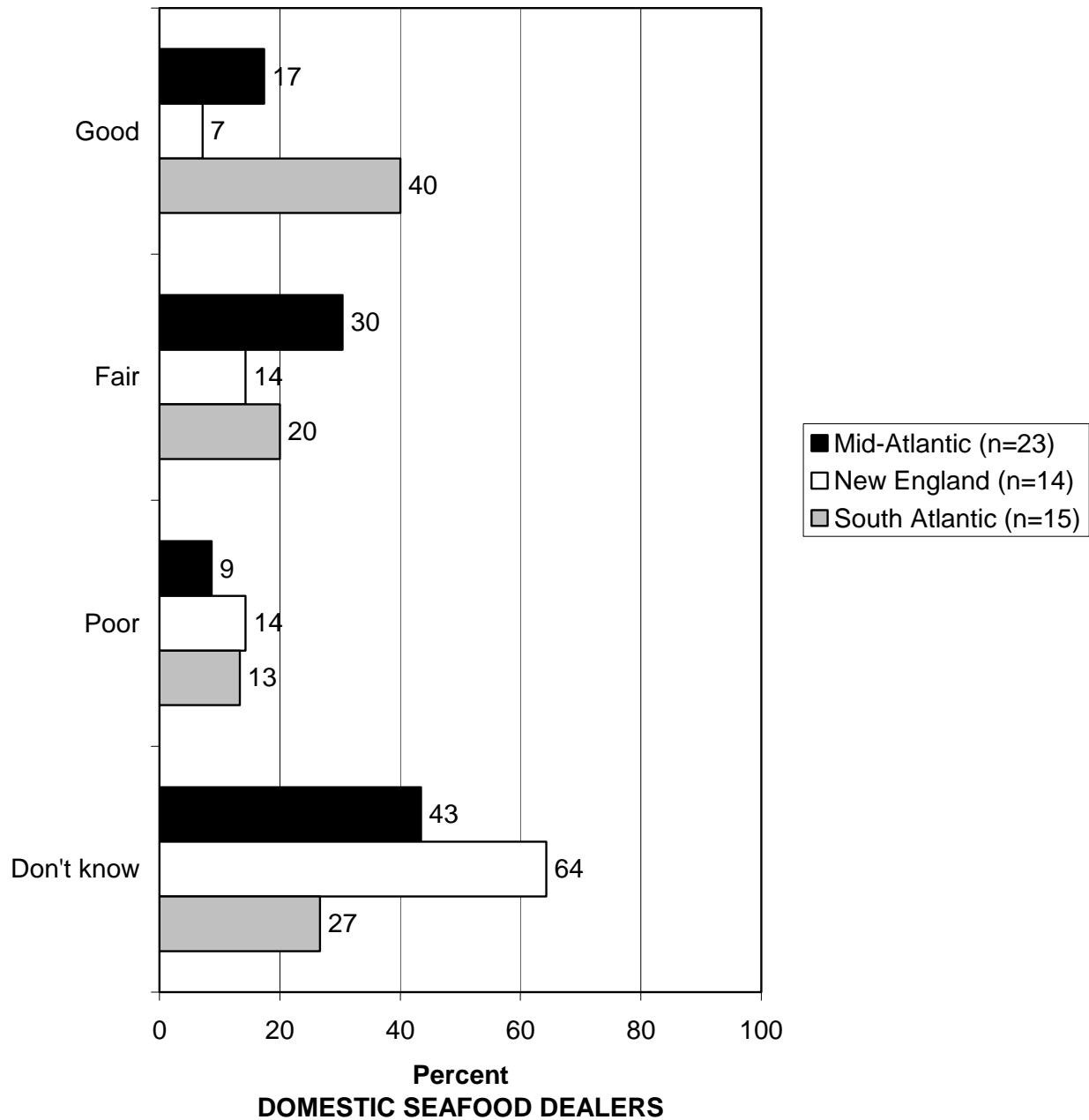
DOMESTIC SEAFOOD DEALERS
New England
I just would like to know if NMFS is getting this data and how accessible is it.
I'm not familiar at all with the ACCSP, but I will look at some brochures if sent.
Mid-Atlantic
Trip reports and commercial fisherman should all be done by electronic tracking; this would simplify paperwork.
Government has too much control, and they continue to take more and more from the local industry.
I live in the fishing community, and people sometimes don't like this data getting back to the government.
I think we get our information and data from the marine fisheries data, so I don't want anything from this organization.
Mandatory catch and trip reporting isn't working; ...[the] statistics [are used] unfairly in making regulatory changes to catch numbers.
More public fishery information [is needed], like rockfish restrictions, [and that people should not] dredge crabs.
Rotation harvest of oyster beds improves spawning success.
Should put total quota on sport fishermen, same as commercial fishermen.
They're turning small individual fishing businesses and fishers into the hands of corporate America. Too much bureaucracy.
South Atlantic
Effective management has to be long-term; contact commercial fishermen directly for input.
Hope that something good comes from this; I've noticed in the past that not all data has been accurate.
I just wish they would let us fish with nets. The old way was best without all of the regulations.
I think the industry is fine, but statistical information has been wrong, so in that regard, it hurts.
I would like some information through the mail.
Input from recreational fishermen will be hard to get; emphasize catch and release.
I am interested in the outcome.
Let the information pathway reach fisherman, not just online people, and deregulate things. It is hard to stay in the business.
Marine biologists need to pay more attention to what's really going on in the fisheries, and the fisherman run things better than any statistics program; these companies do nothing with the information they get.
The fishing industry is being over-studied and mismanaged. There is too much jealousy and corruption involved.
The industry regulates itself.
The State of Florida should let us fish.

They need clear, concise statistical data, and they need to find some way to enforce mandatory catch/effort trip reporting.
COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN
New England
Diversify types of fishing on catch reporting.
I think regulations worked for 3-4 years, but now you got so many fish that you could loosen the regulations.
I am very suspicious of government data concerning the fishing industry.
Mid-Atlantic
I've been on water all my life; I don't believe it's being over-harvested—more pollution is harmful.
Bring back the individual quotas based on history. It needs to go back to the people who have always been involved.
Just send me some information so I can read up on it.
Put information about the agency in the newspaper.
South Atlantic
Be more fair to the commercial fisherman; everything's stacked against us; it's really hard, really hard.
I hope this data won't pit commercial fishing against recreational fishing. I don't have lots of trust in data.
I think it's a right step towards conservation.
If commercial fishermen have to fill out trip reports, then so should recreational fishermen.
The net ban took away my way of life. It tricked the people who didn't understand it when it came time to vote.
They are closing areas from commercial fishing, and they don't realize that we do this for a living; we don't buy it like others.
Things are overfished with shrimping and crabbing; need regulation; it's overkill.
I would like to be on mailing list.
CHARTER BOAT OPERATORS
New England
I think MRFSS should be collecting their landing data differently.
If statistics are kept by the University of Rhode Island, then they're credible.
Mid-Atlantic
Any information about fishing would be helpful, because most of your patrons are fisherman.
Any organization that can deal with the lack of credibility in government is badly needed.
If they aren't already involved, you should send your information to Coastal Conservation

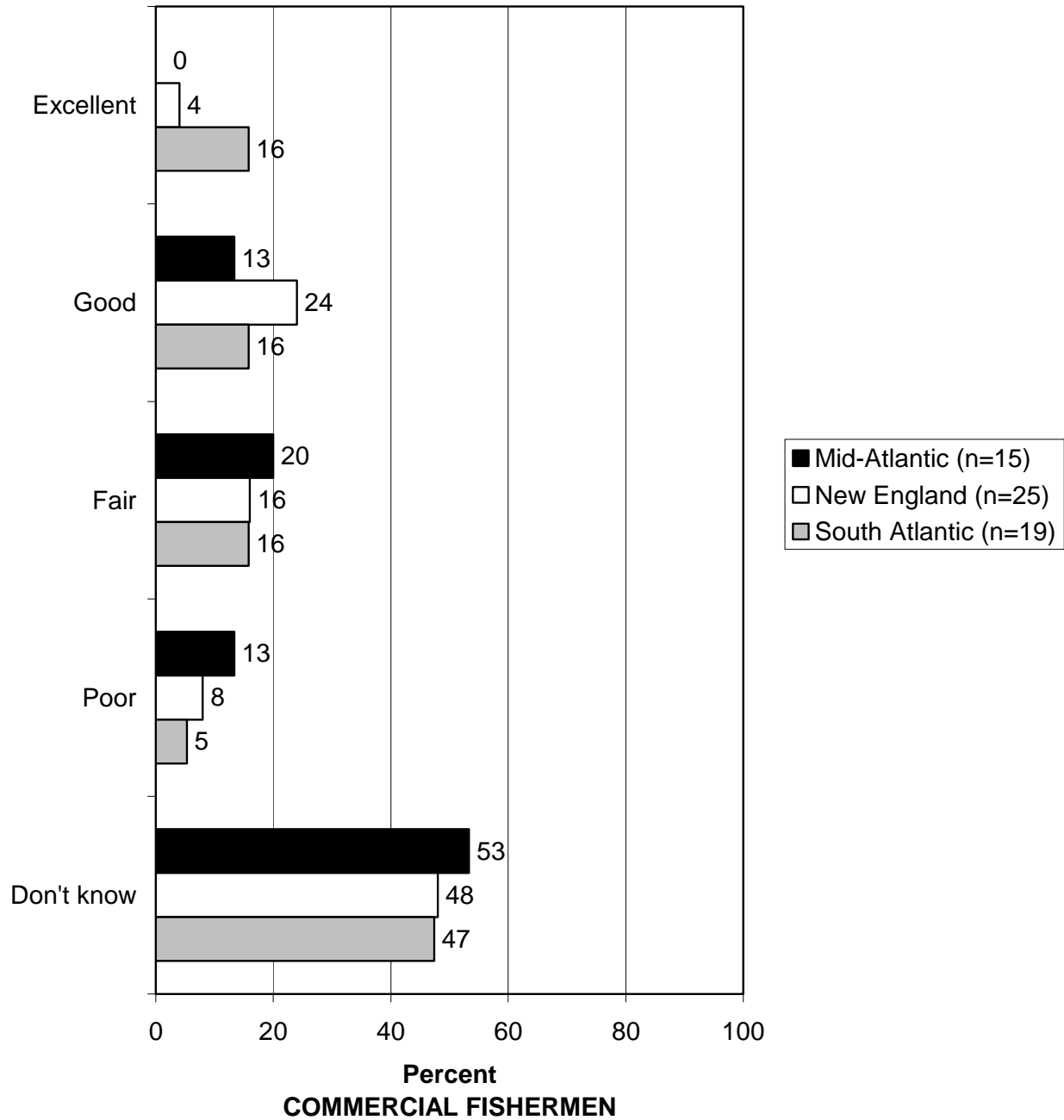
Association/Maryland Chapter.
If you are going to send any information about ACCSP out, please email me information at..scahab1@aol.com.
Recreational people need to have saltwater fishing licenses!
Send me stuff in the mail about ACCSP to show how people can financially benefit—it makes a difference, helps promote state’s recreational fishing, shows there’s economic benefit.
Why do you have to ask about income and race?
South Atlantic
I want more information sent to captwaits@aol.com.
RECREATIONAL ANGLERS
New England
Fishing is good if you know how!
I hope they continue to clean up Long Island Sound and help the fish population.
I do a lot of fishing in Canada, in the big lakes.
I’m worried about striped bass and Atlantic salmon disappearing.
Mid-Atlantic
Chesapeake Bay grasses are gone because they killed grasses from 1950s; the government has done horrible things to the ecosystem.
I love the fishing, so I hope it stays like it is.
Statistical analysis is never reliable.
South Atlantic
Commercial netting should be in the ocean, not in the inland waterways.
I would like to know why a guy like me who fishes 4 times a year can’t keep flounder I catch vs. commercial fishermen who keep everything.
The only way you’ll get good data is if the government does keep track; face it, all fishermen are liars!

ADDITIONAL GRAPHS

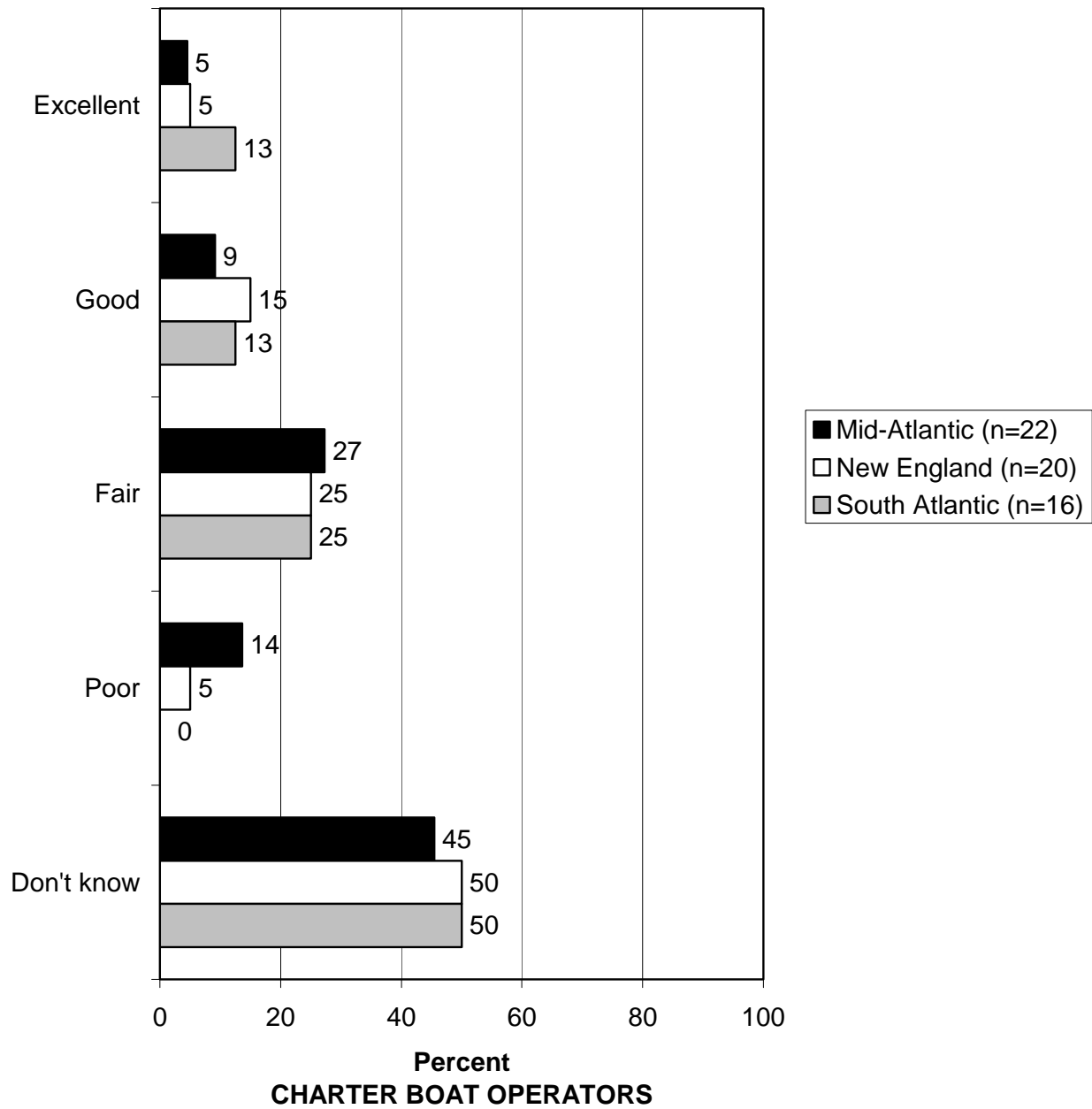
Q14. Overall, how good a job do you think the ACCSP does in meeting the information needs of fishery managers? (Asked of those who knew a great deal, a moderate amount, or a little about the ACCSP.)



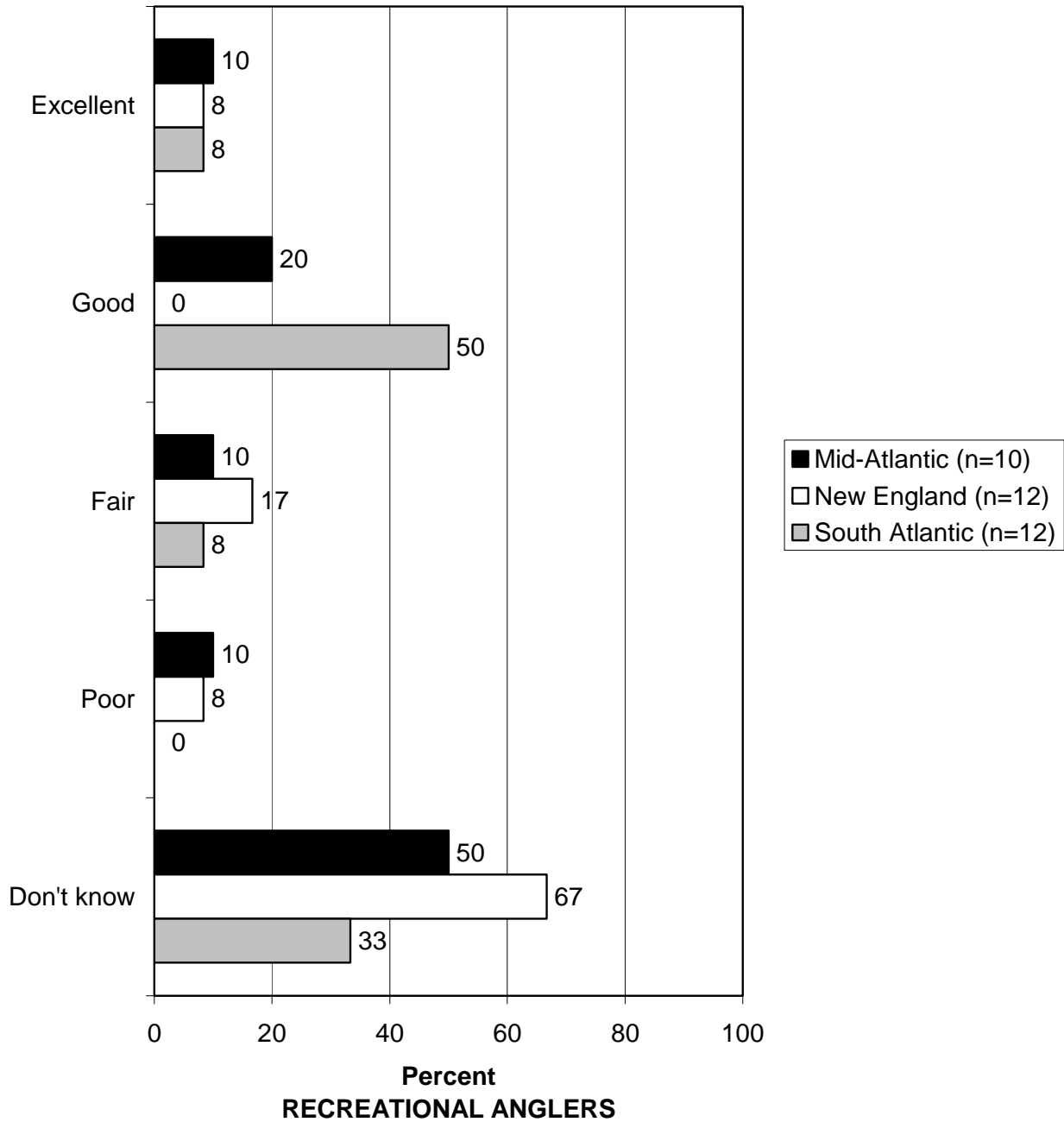
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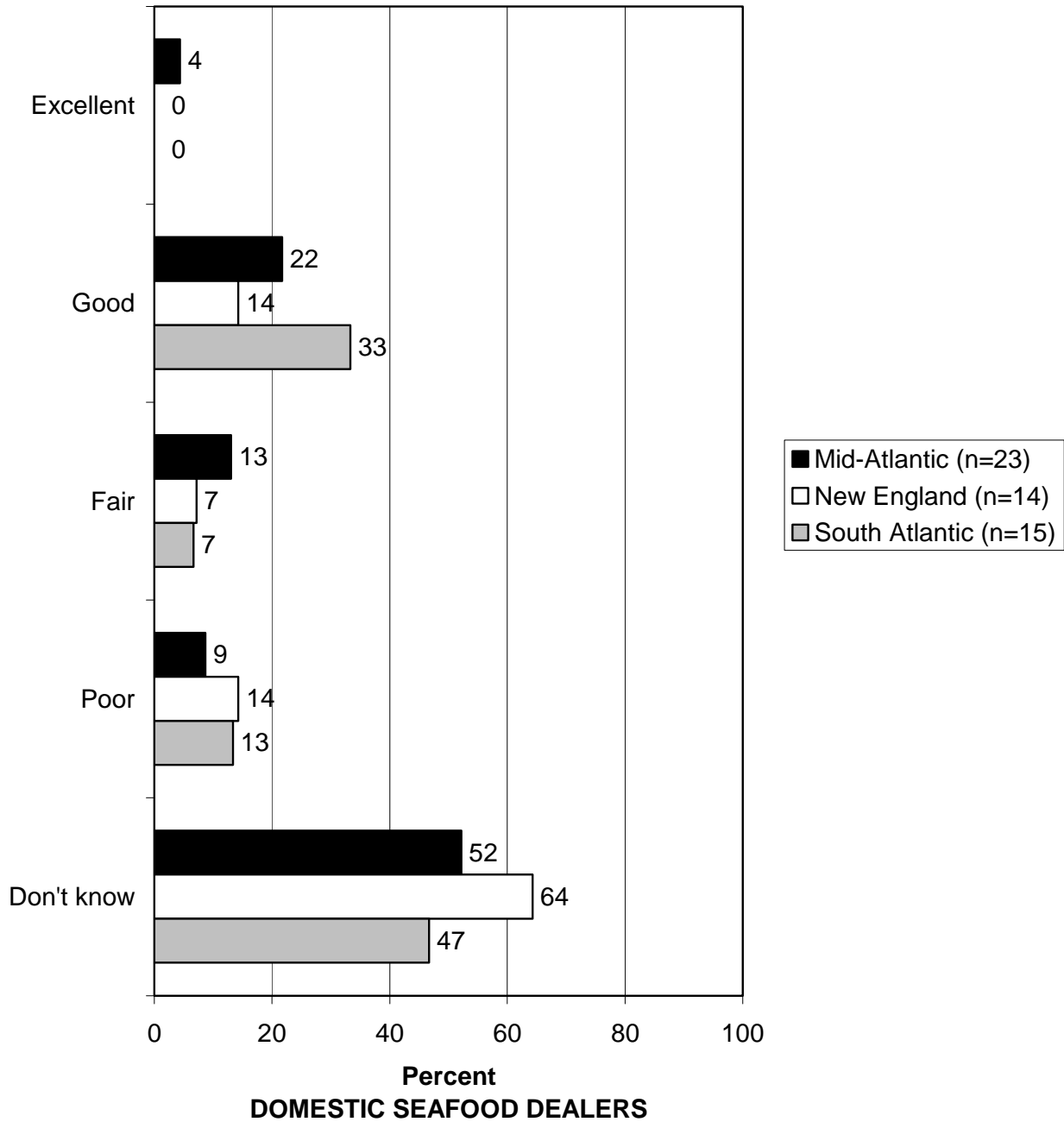
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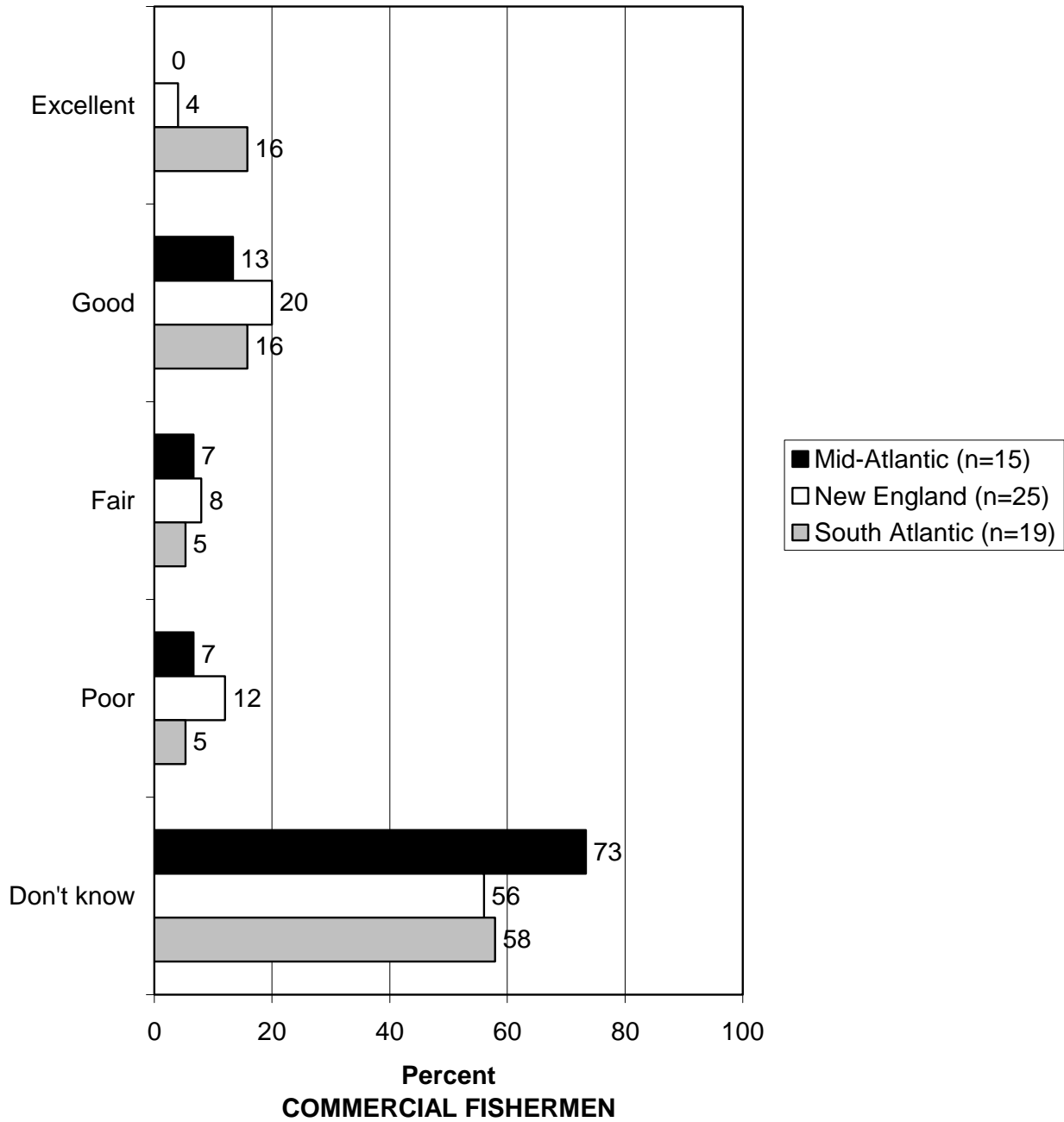
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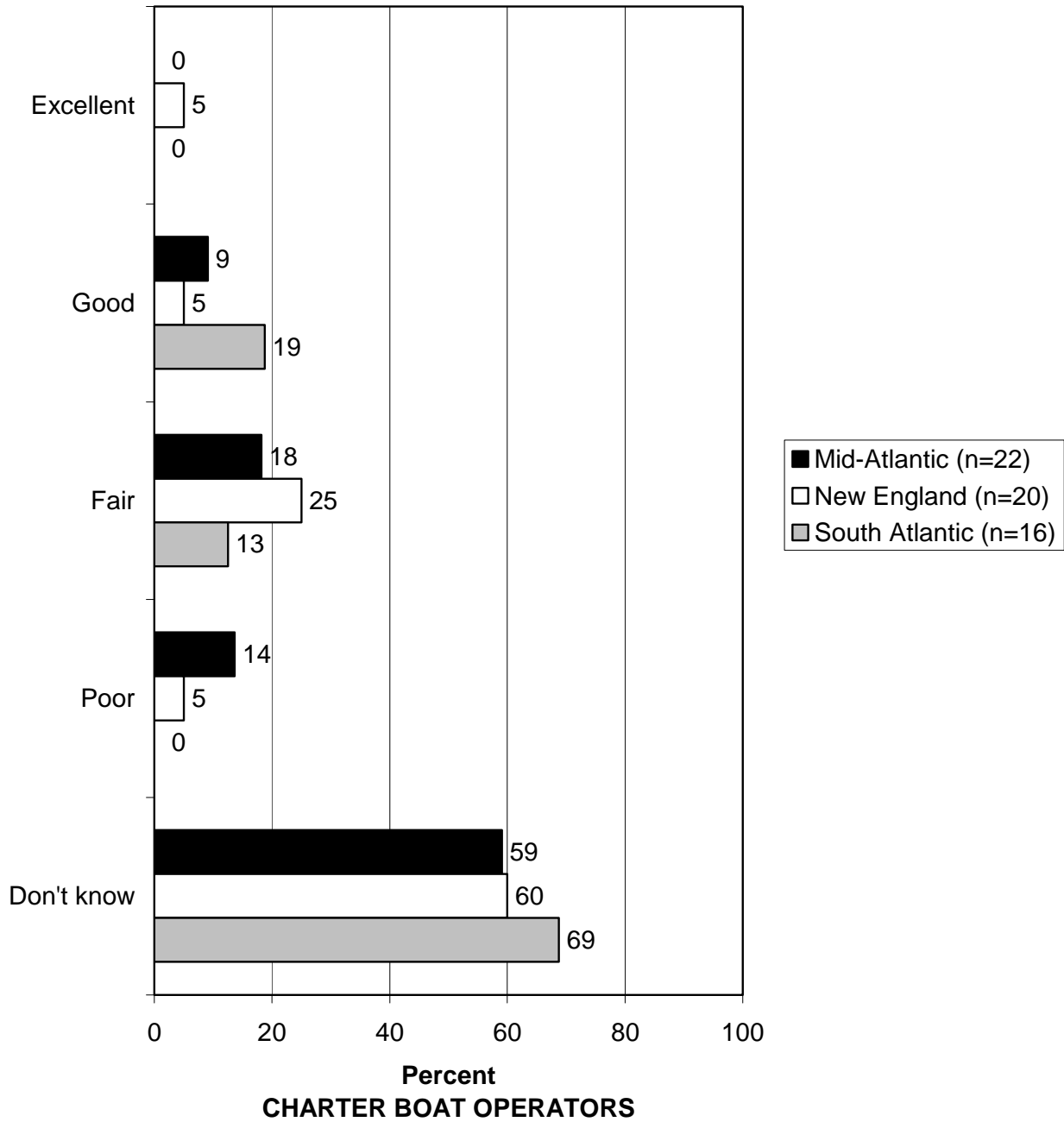
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(Asked of those who knew a great deal, a moderate amount, or a little about the ACCSP.)**



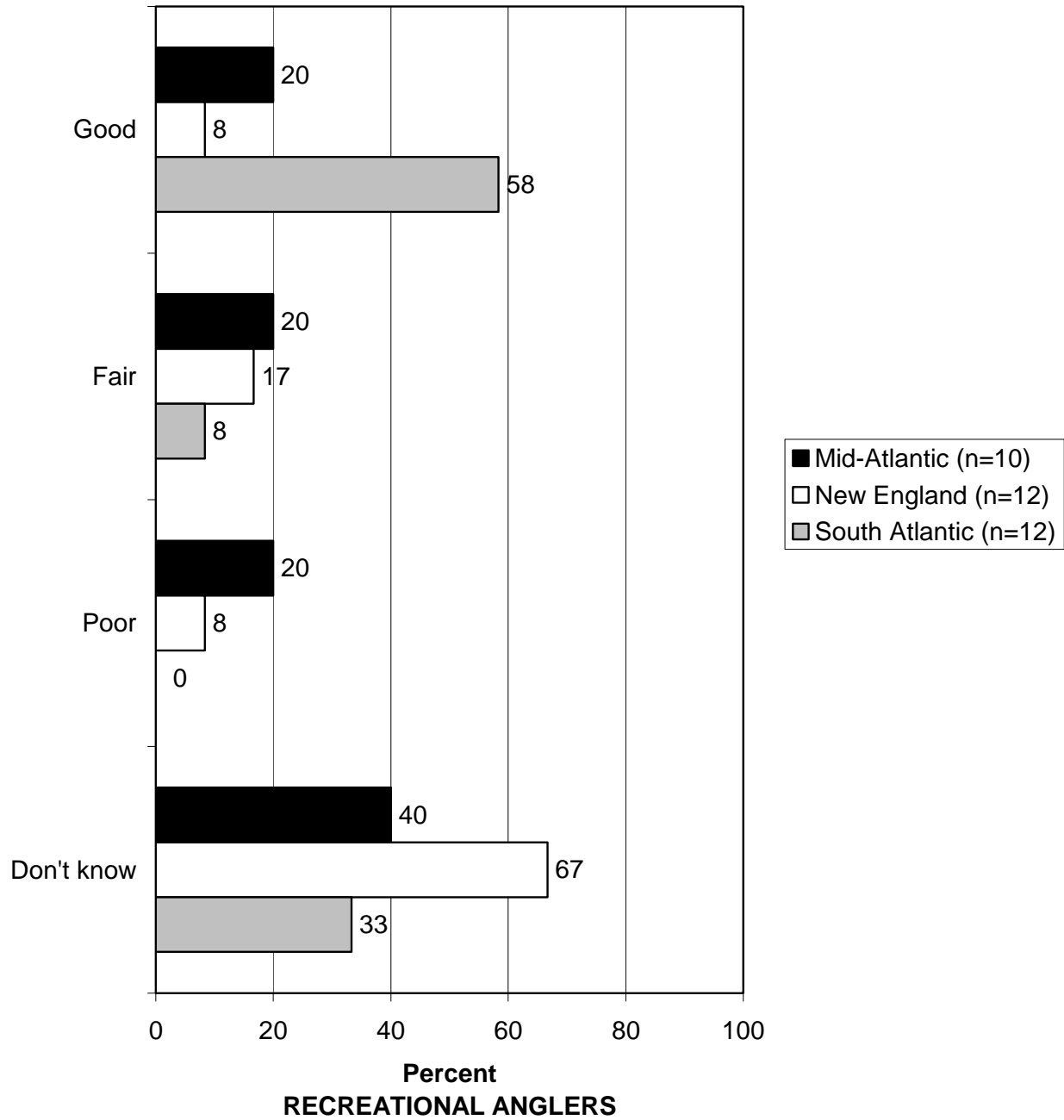
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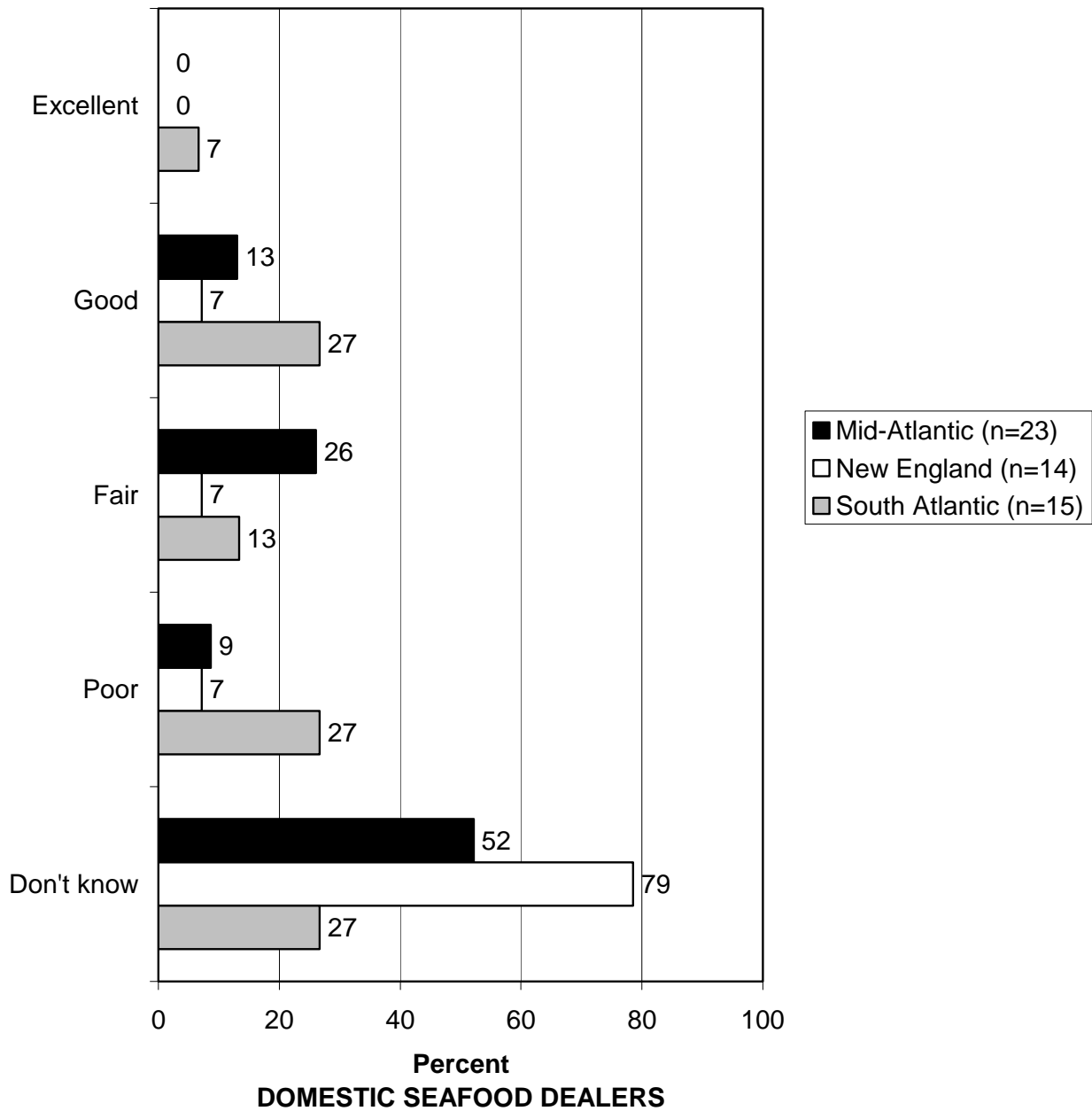
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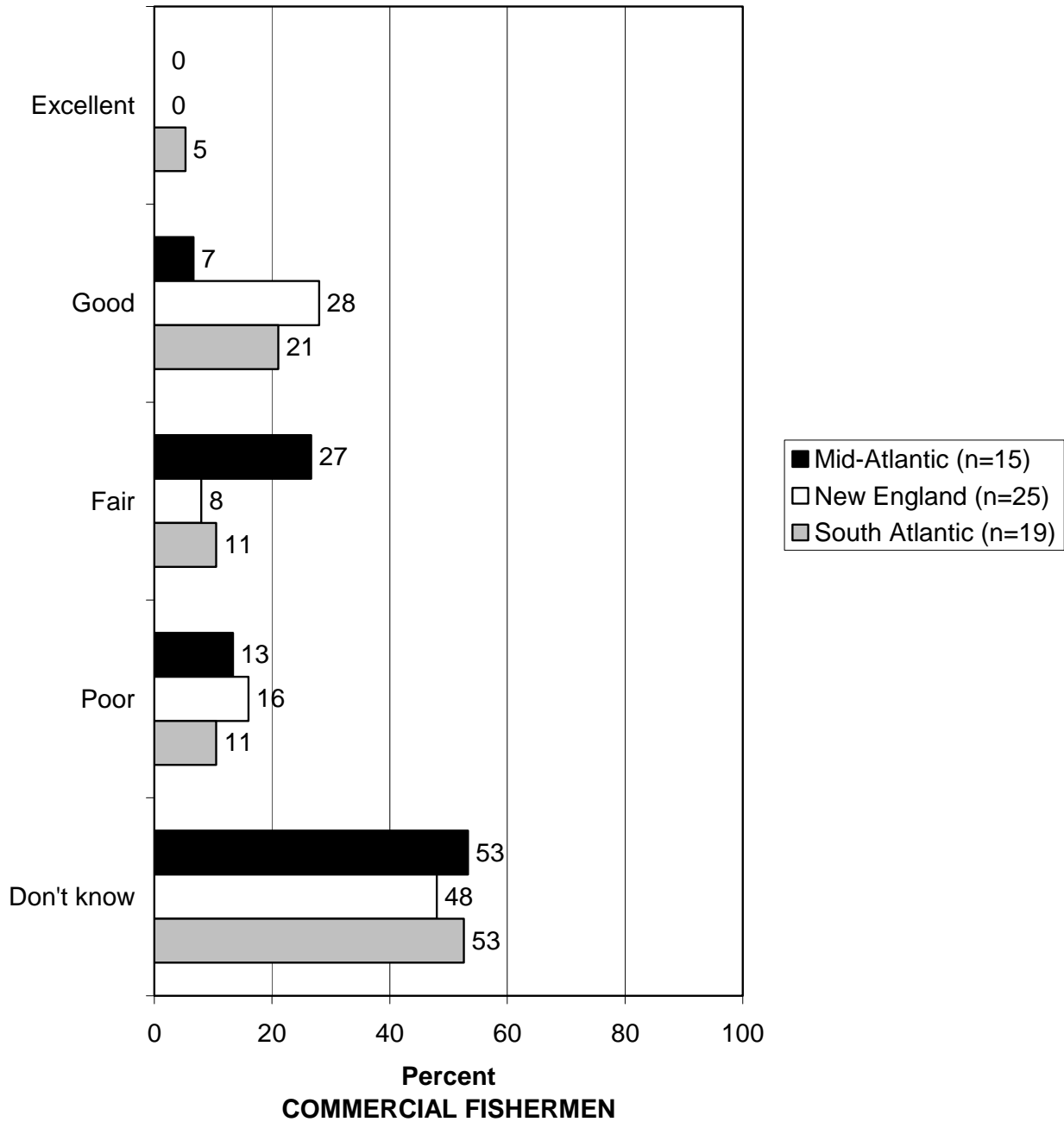
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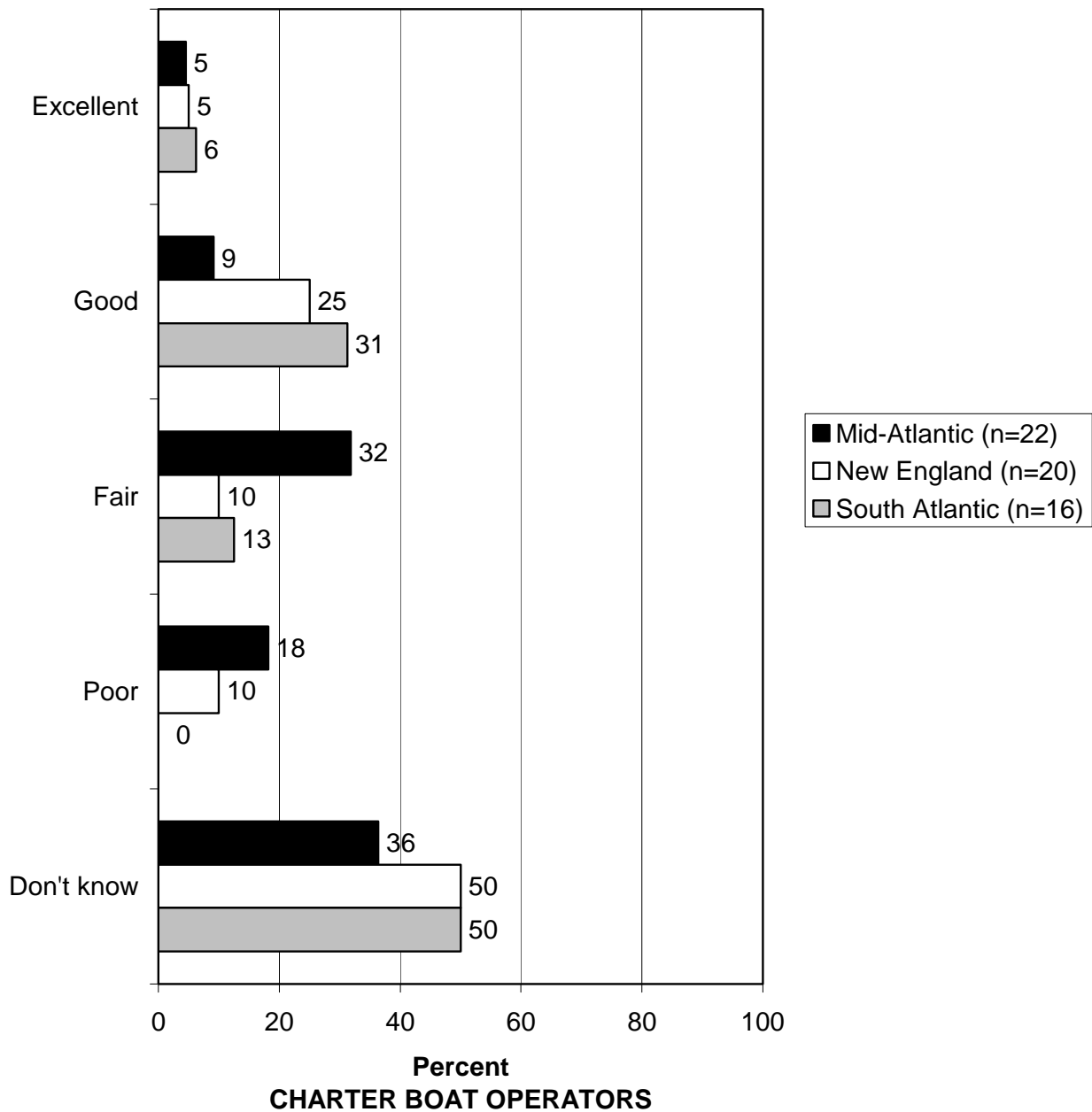
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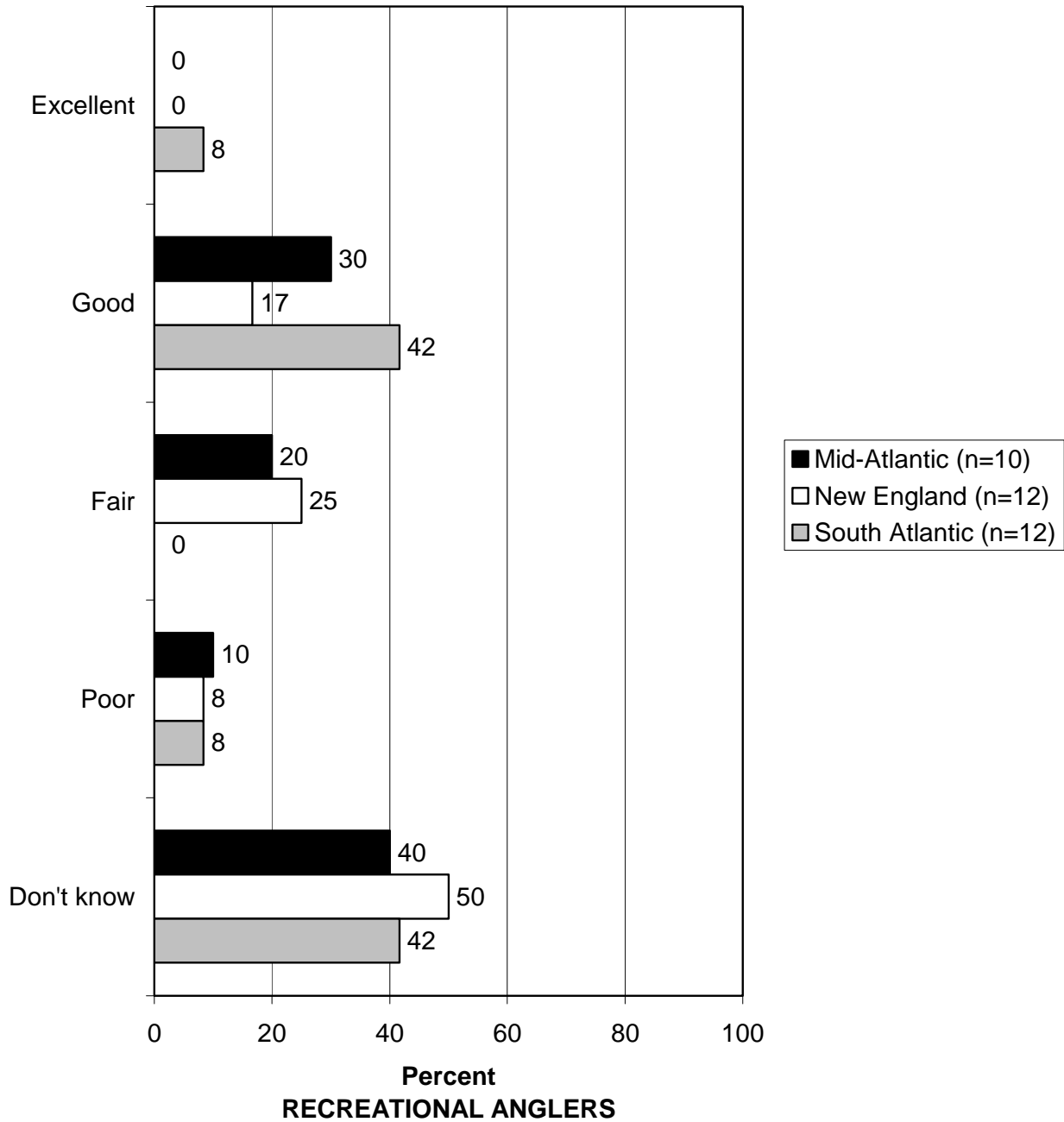
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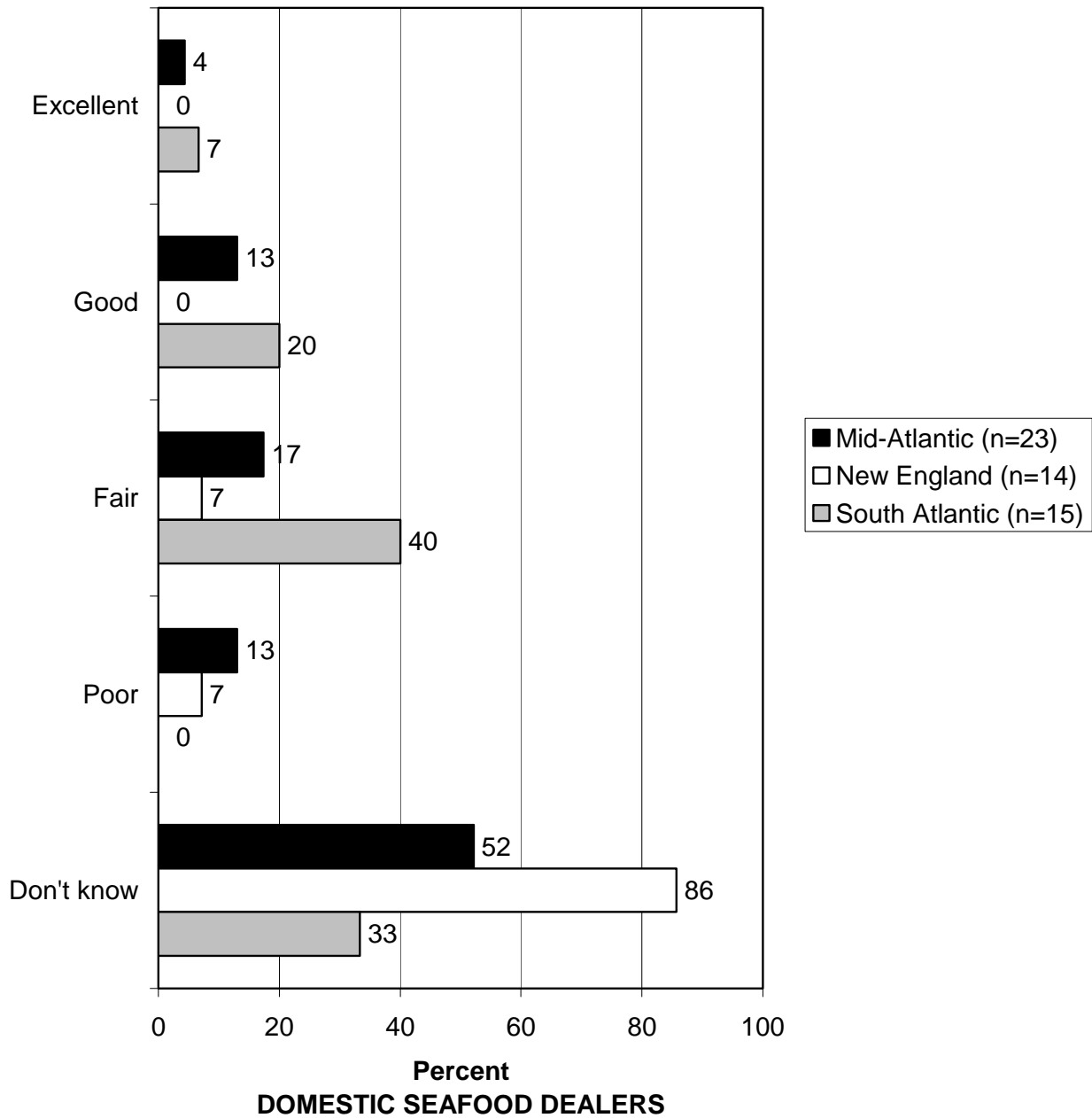
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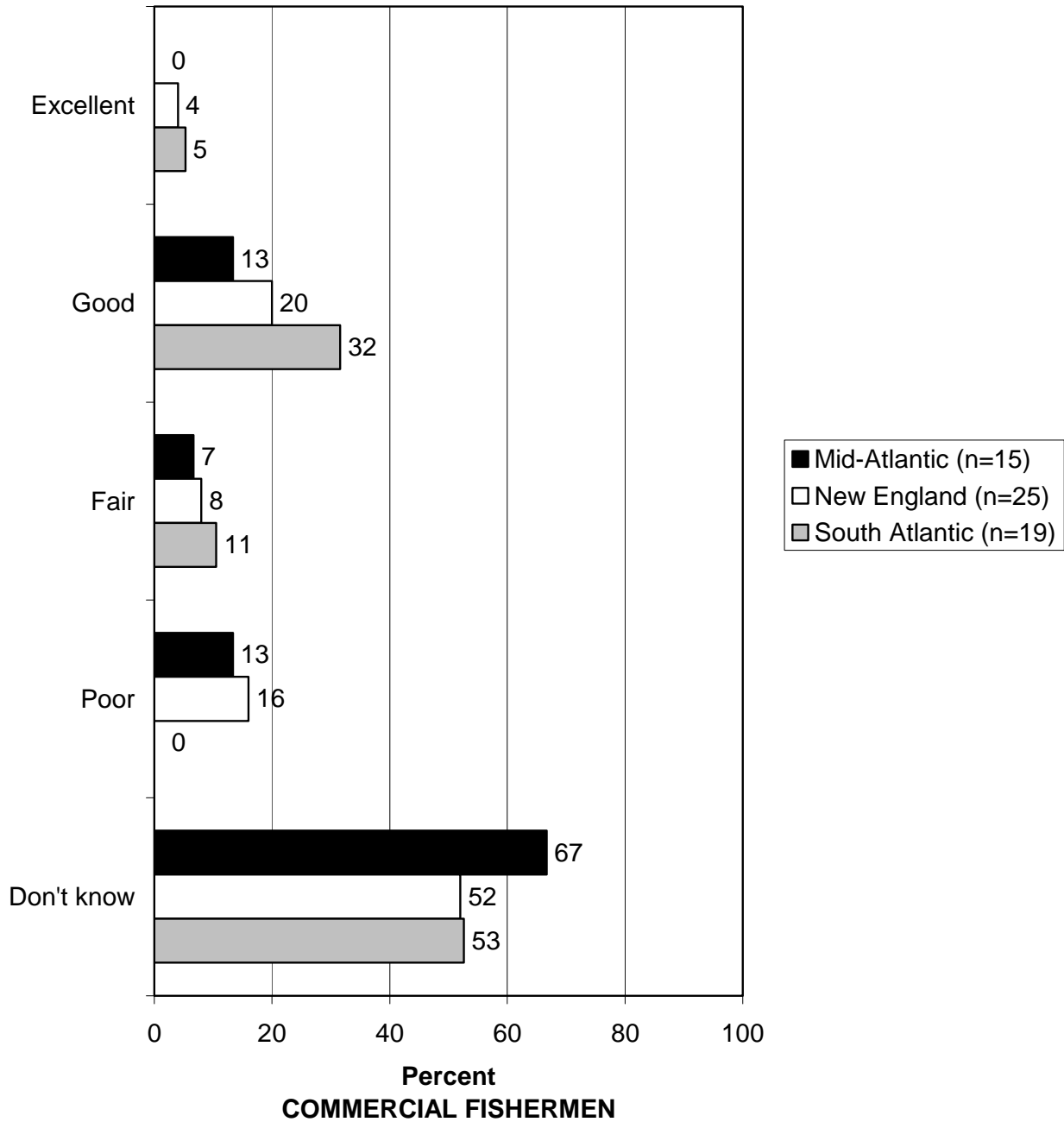
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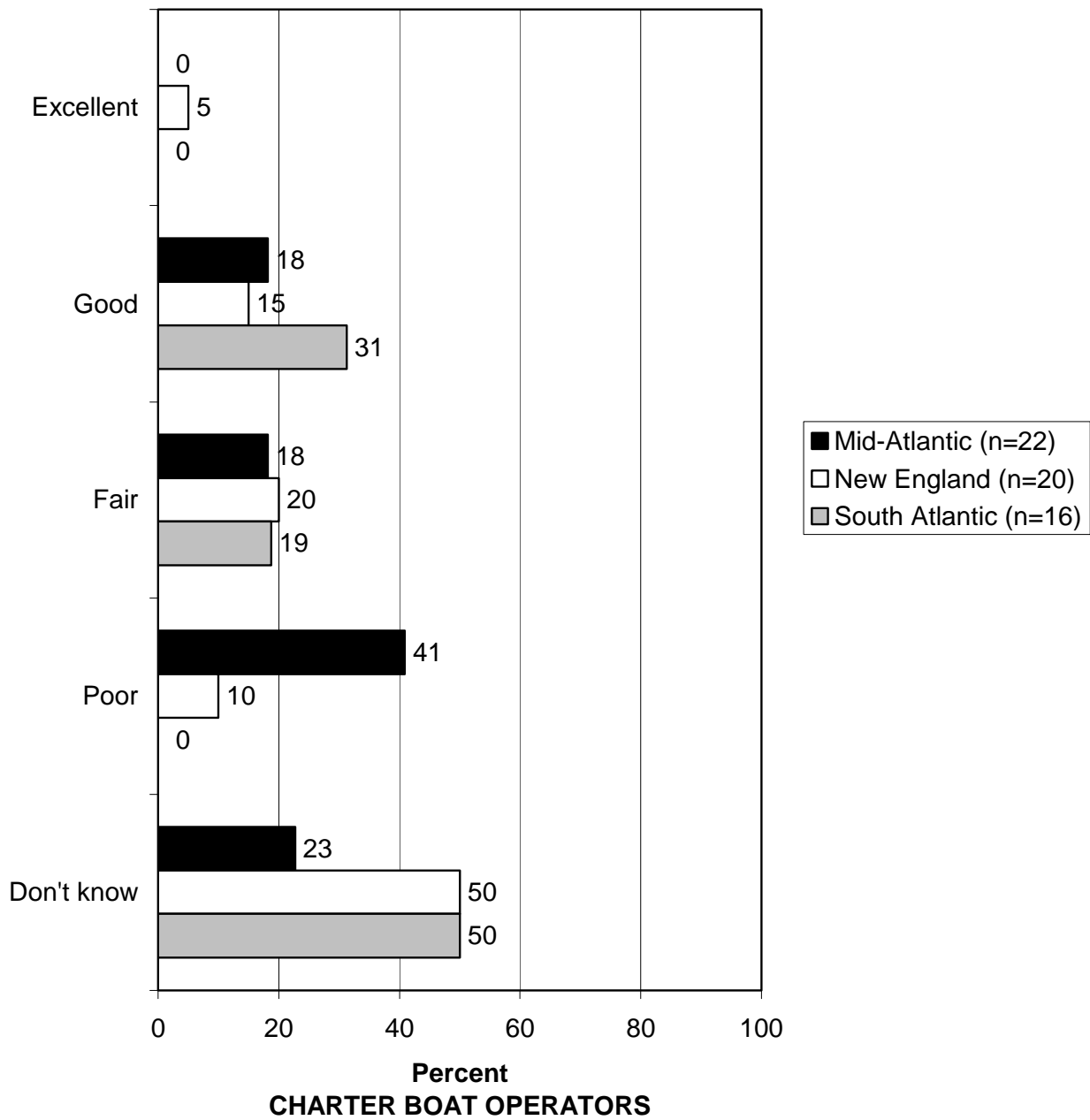
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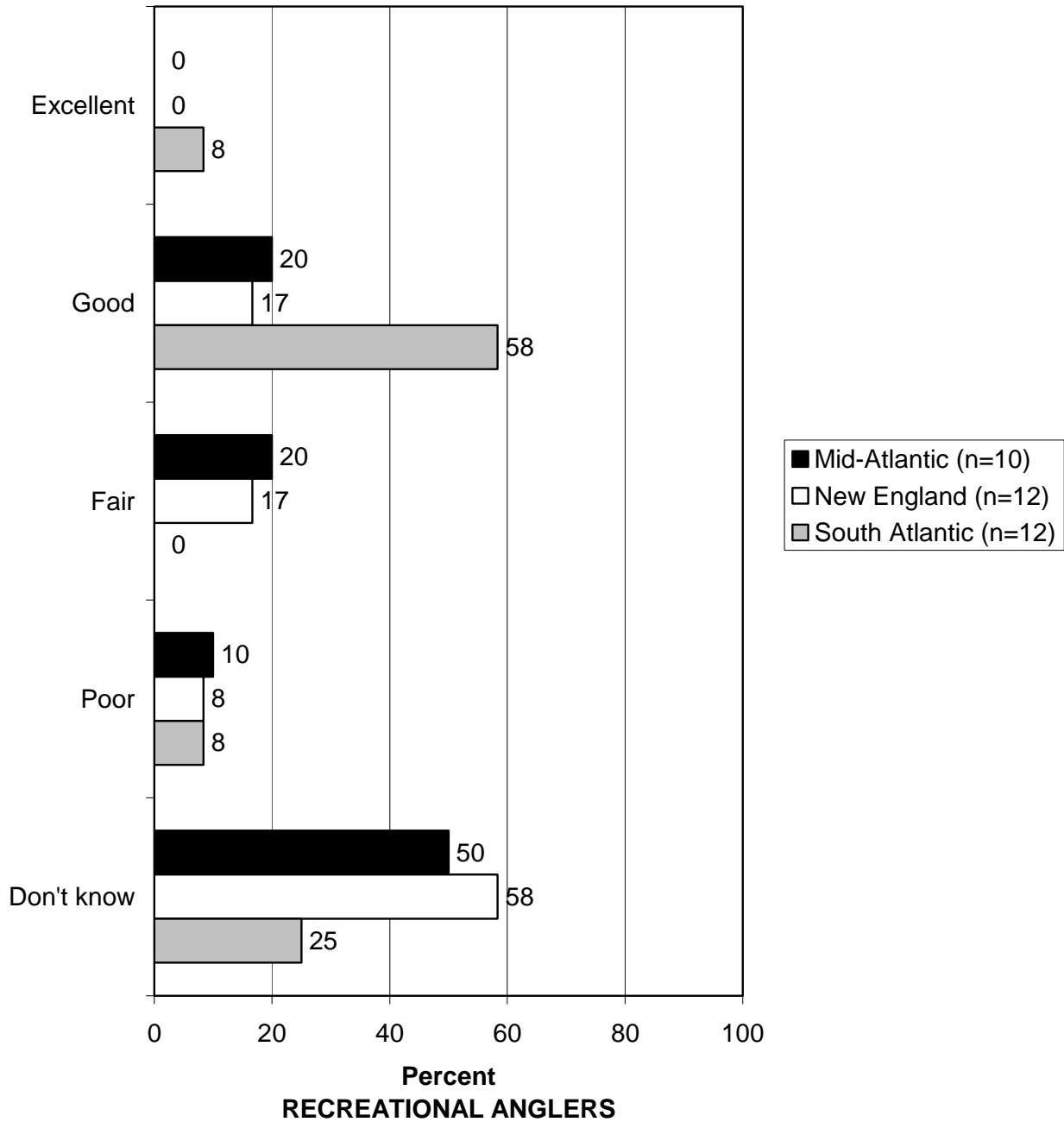
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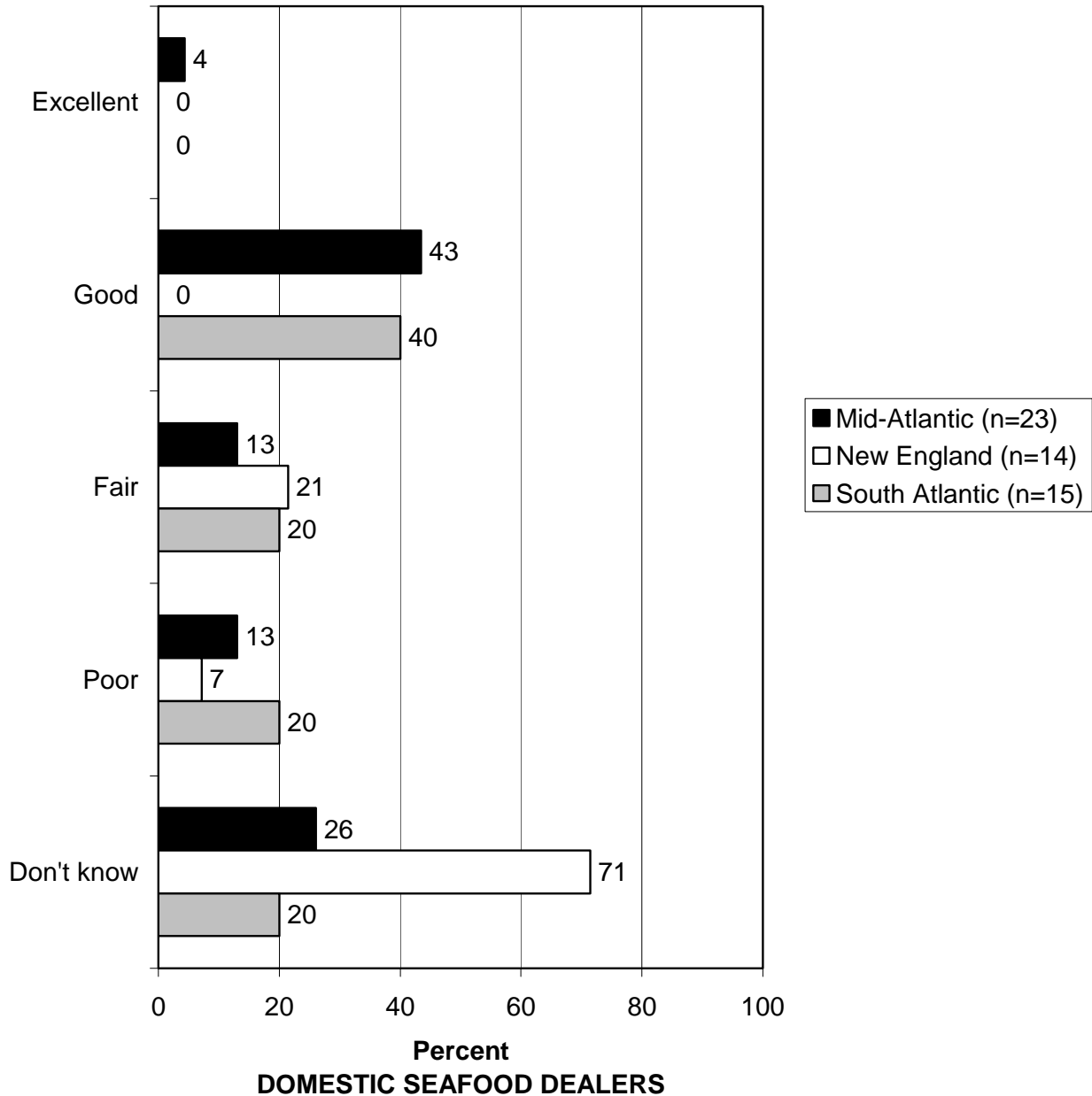
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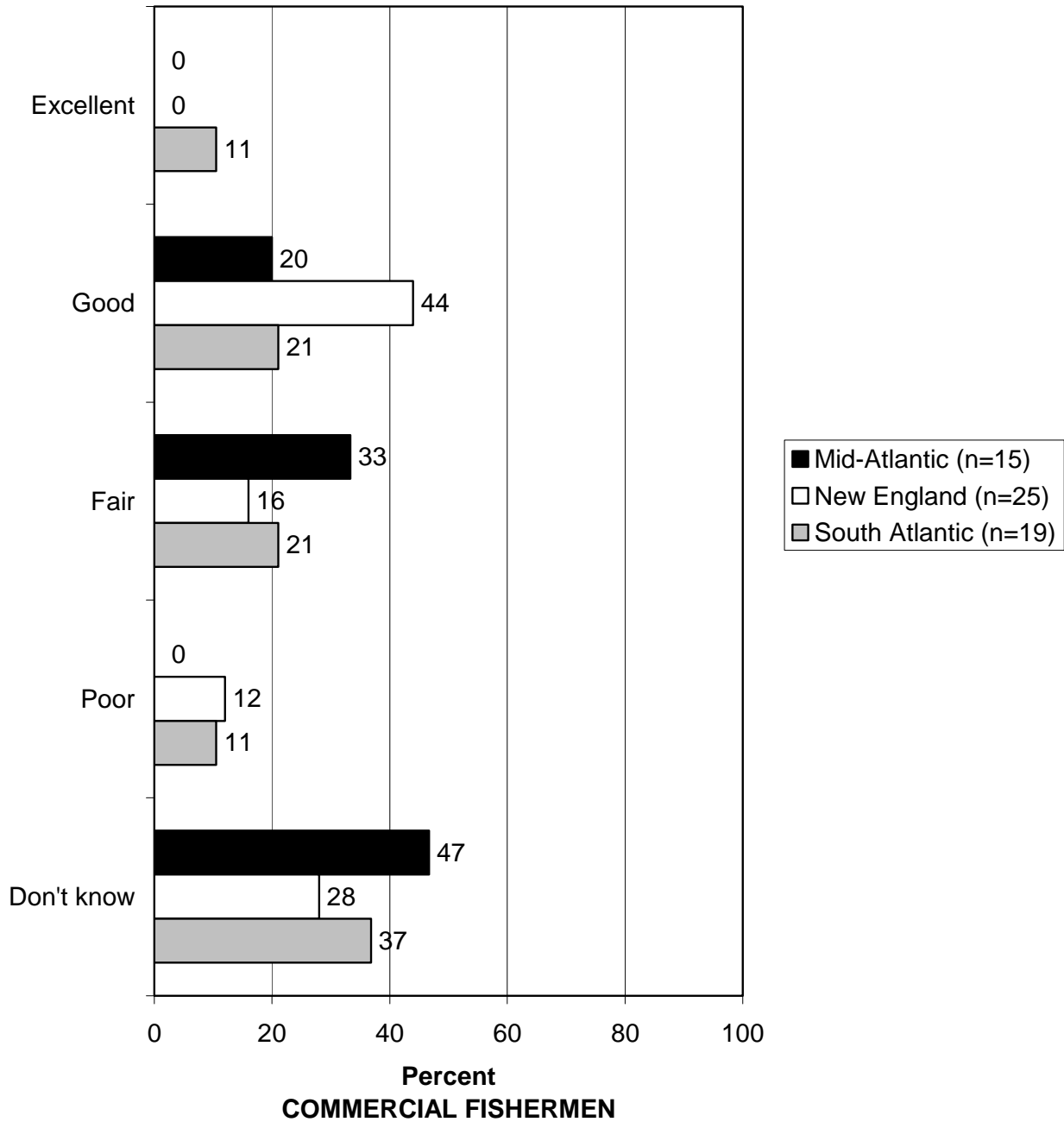
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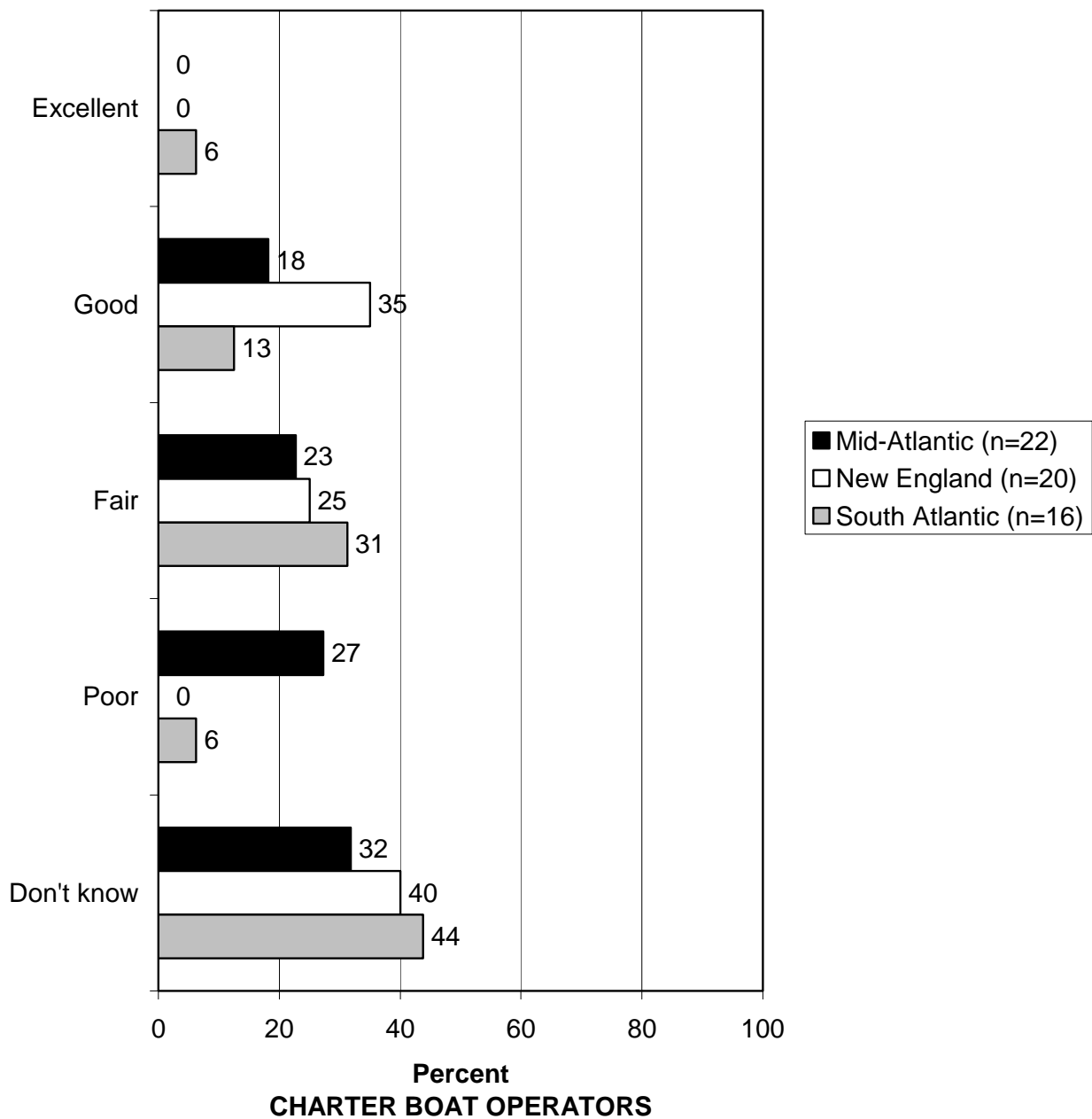
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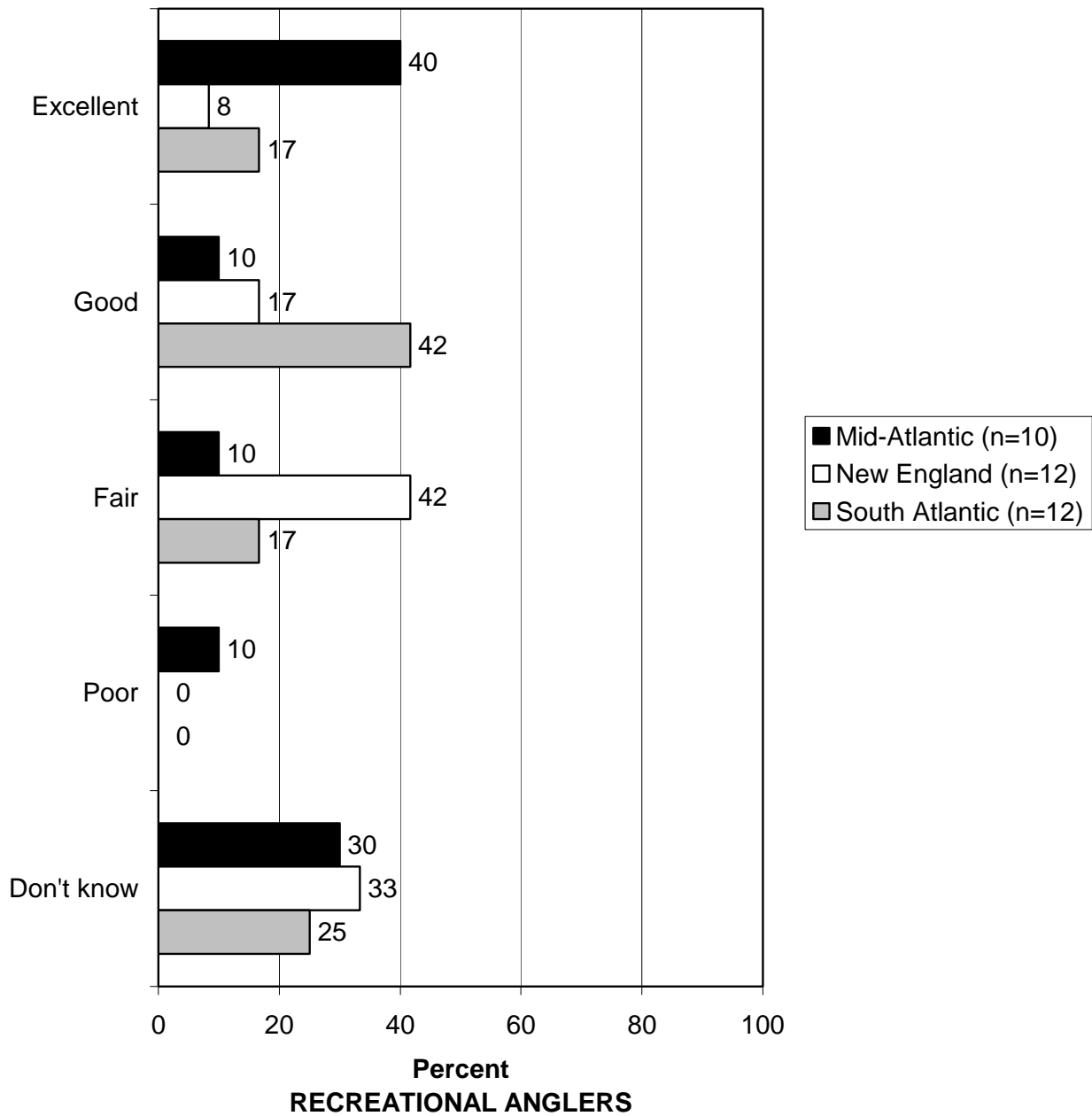
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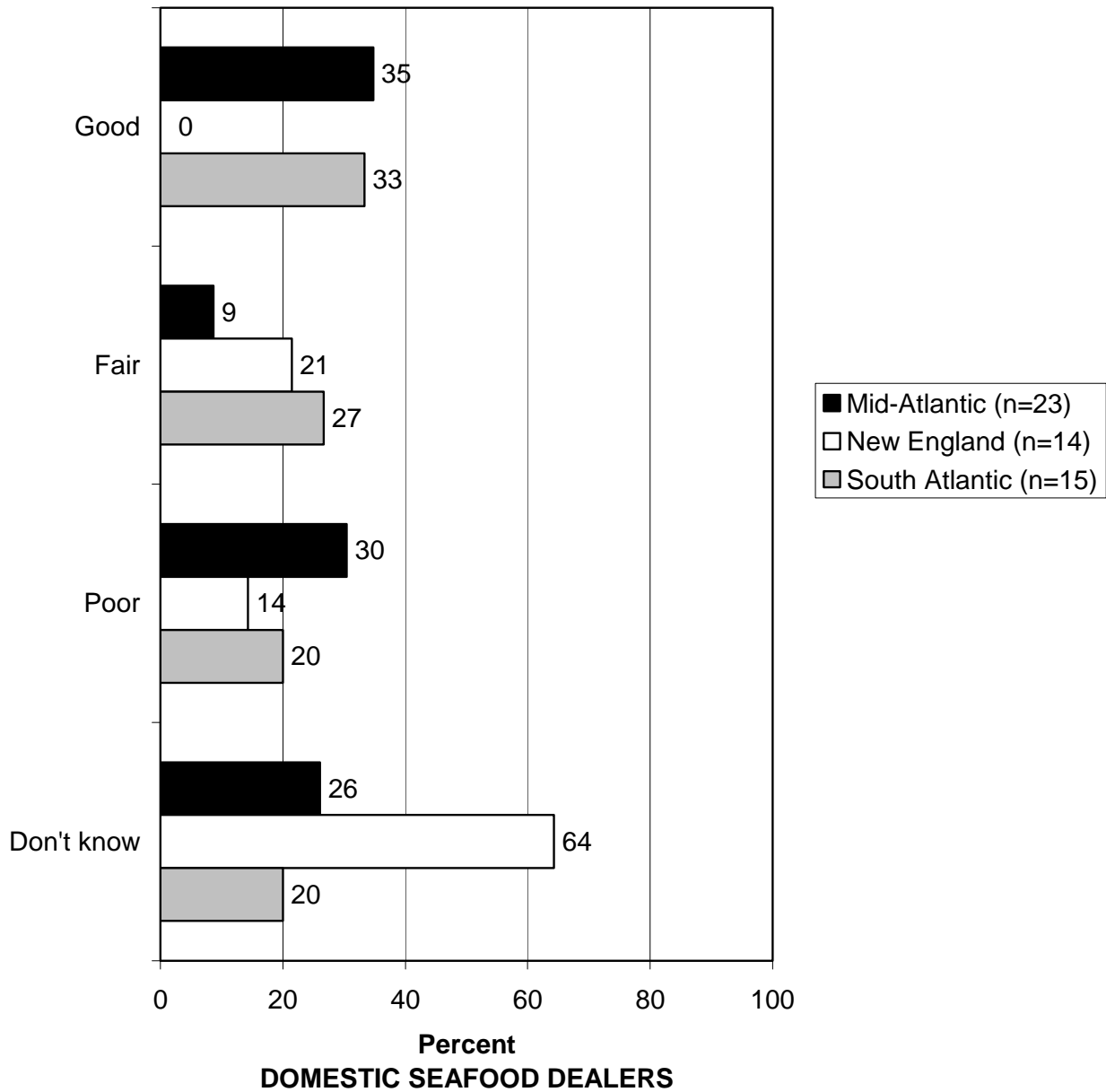
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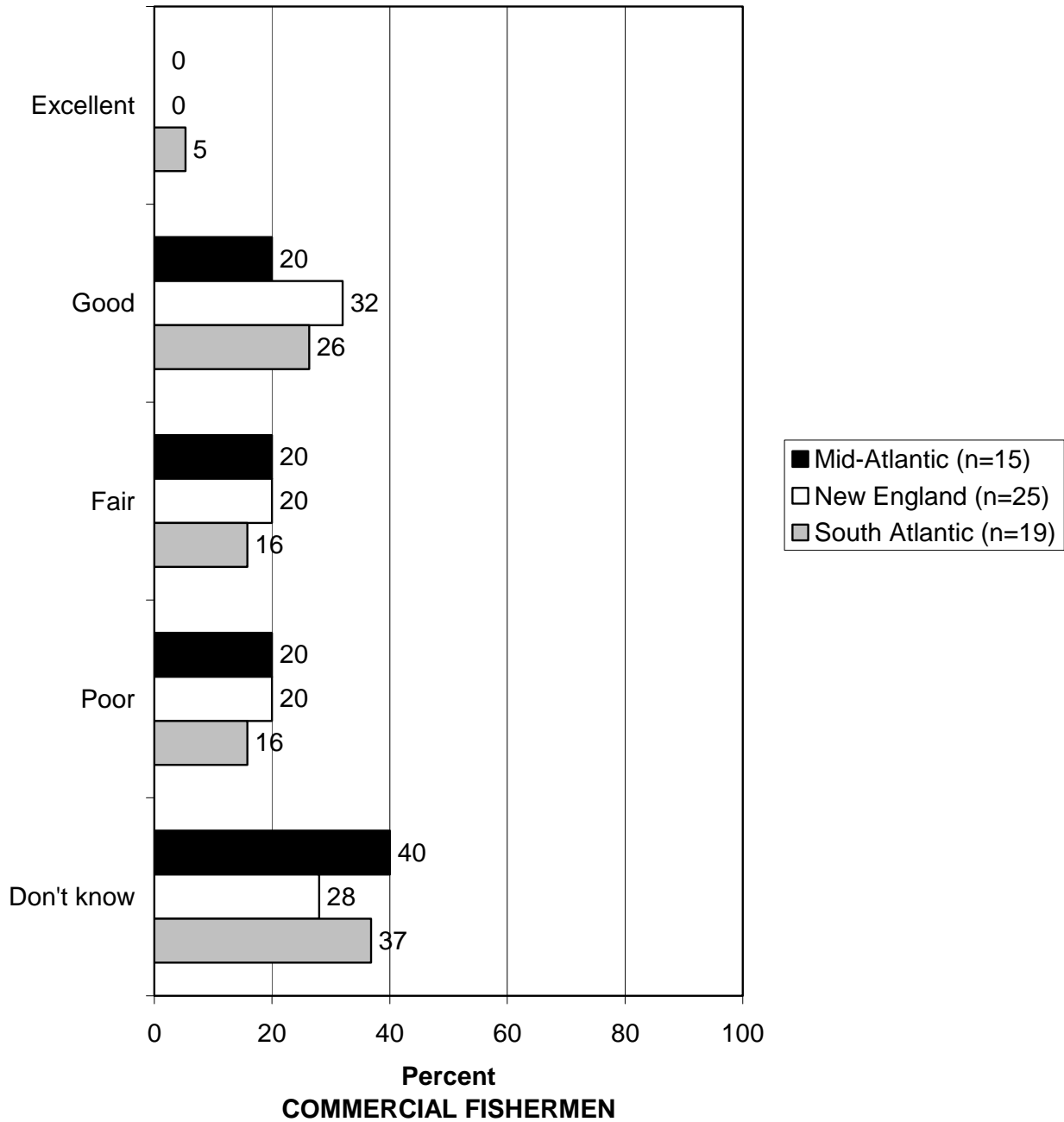
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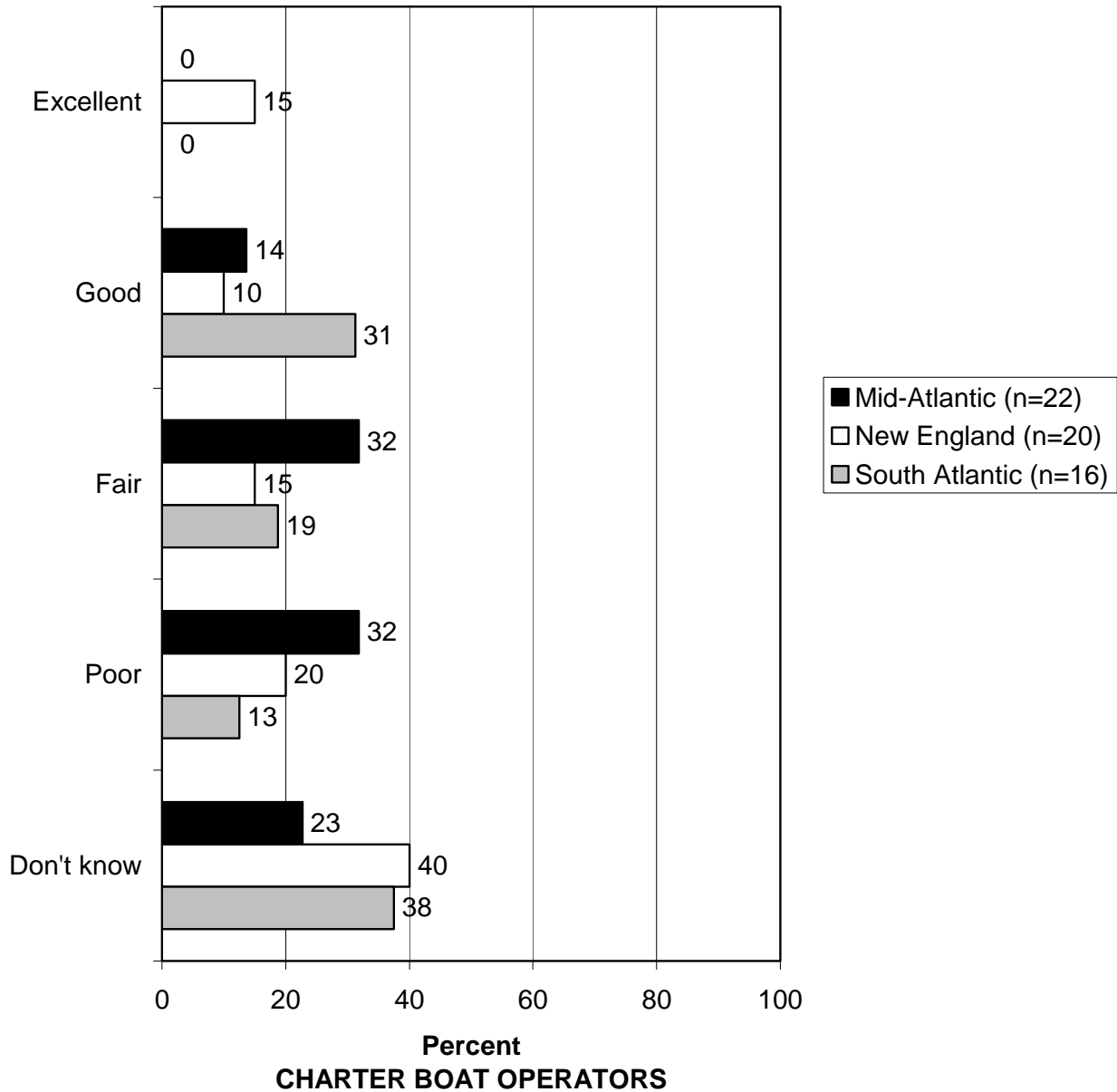
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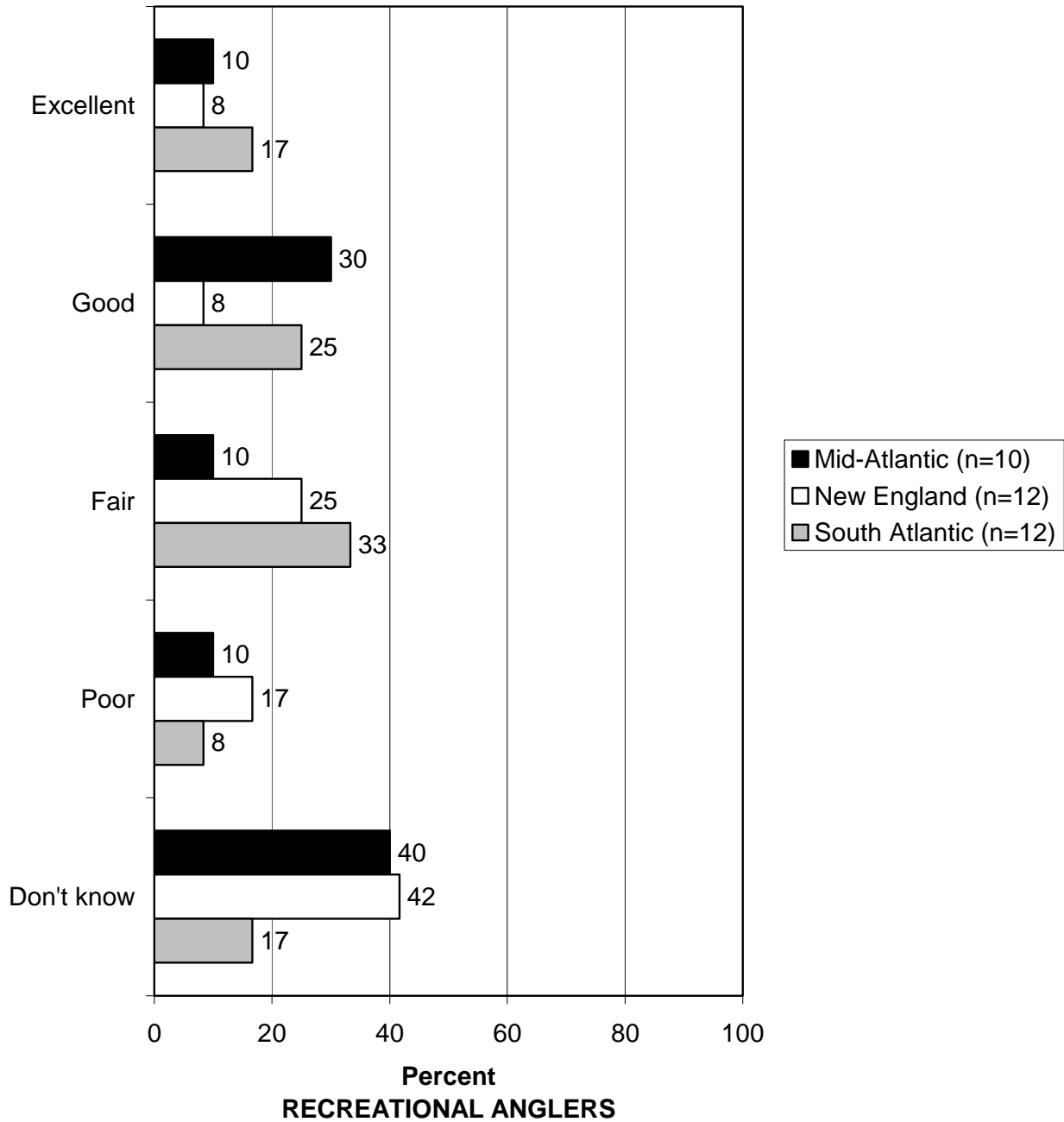
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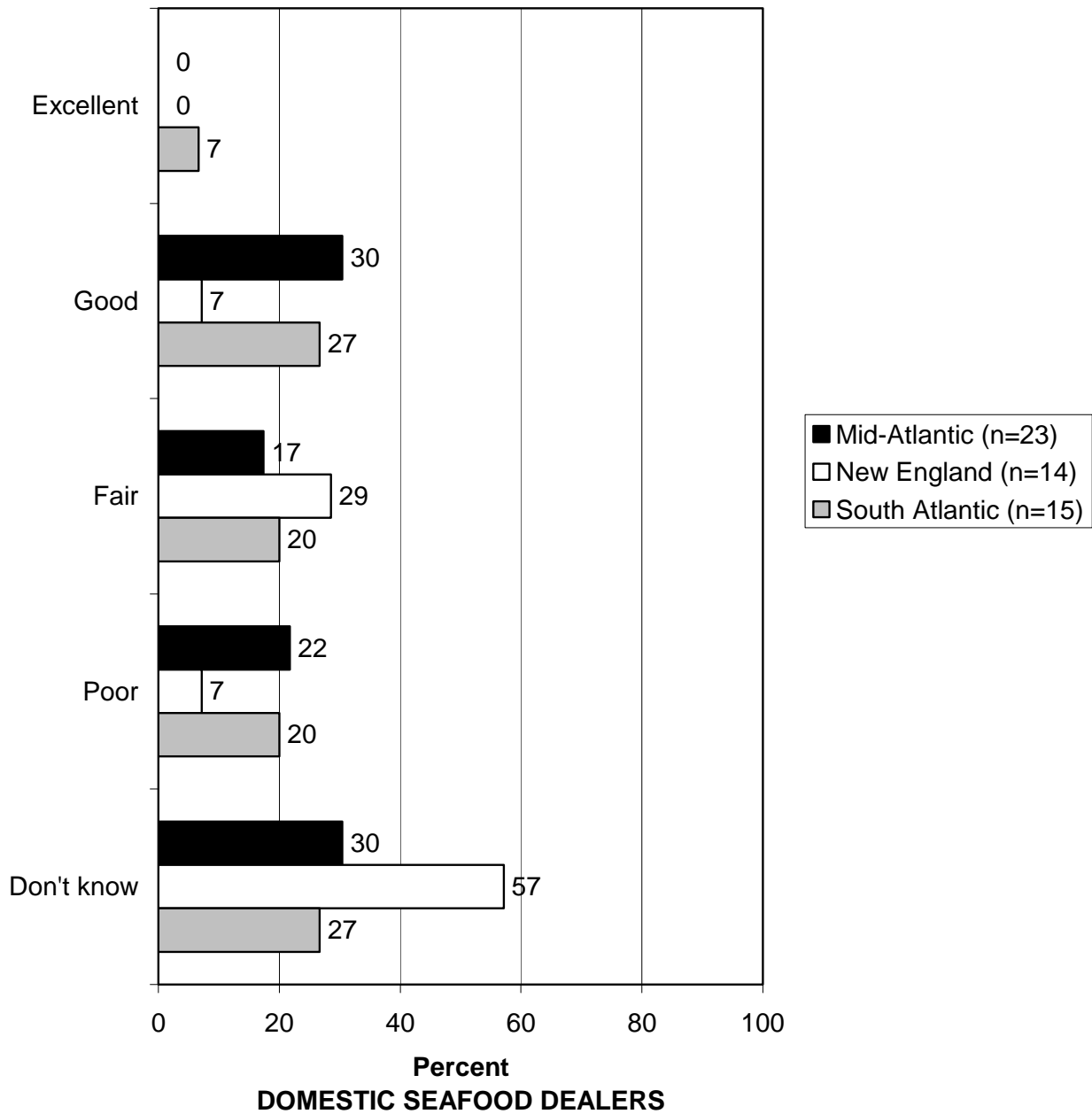
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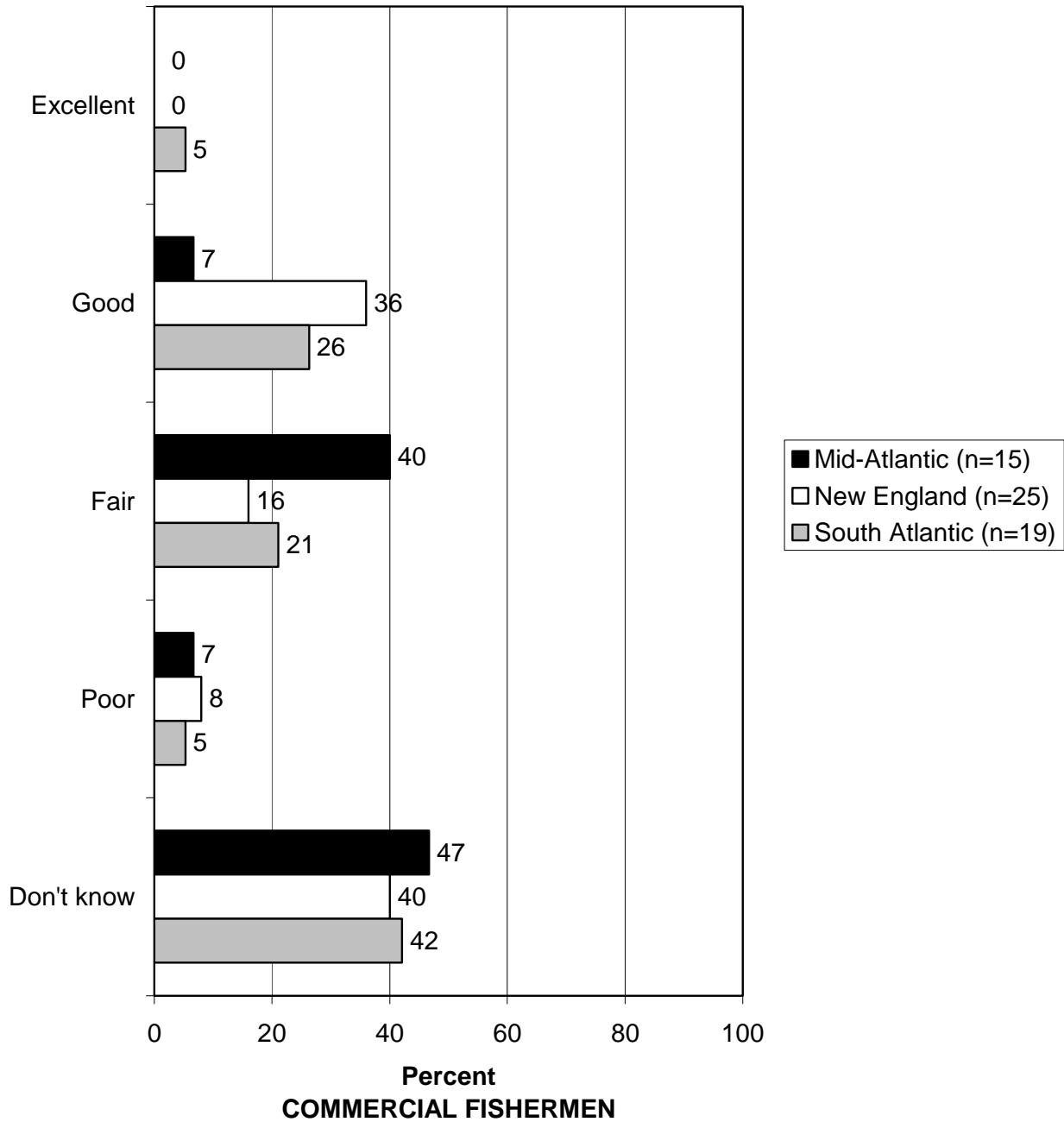
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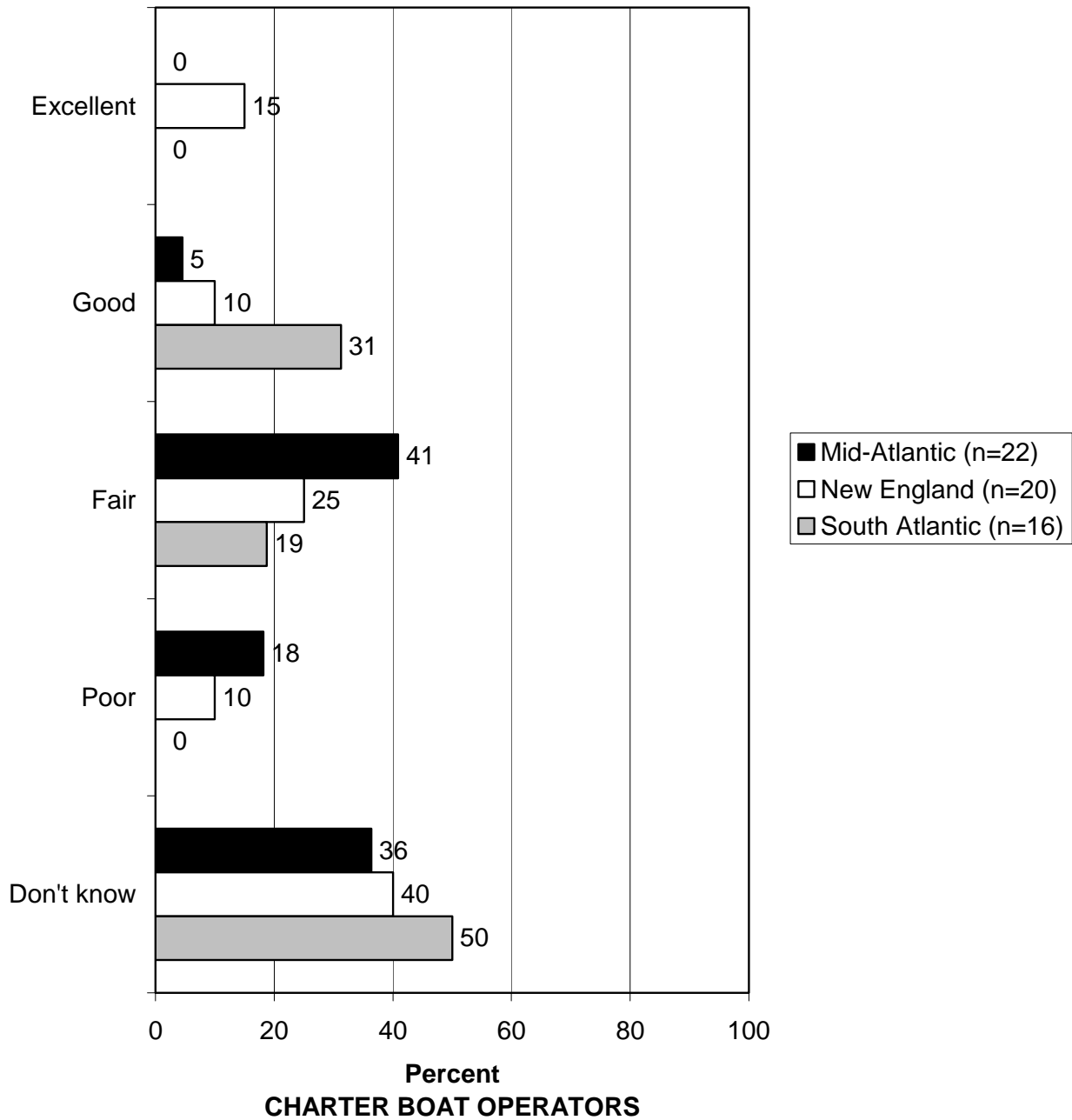
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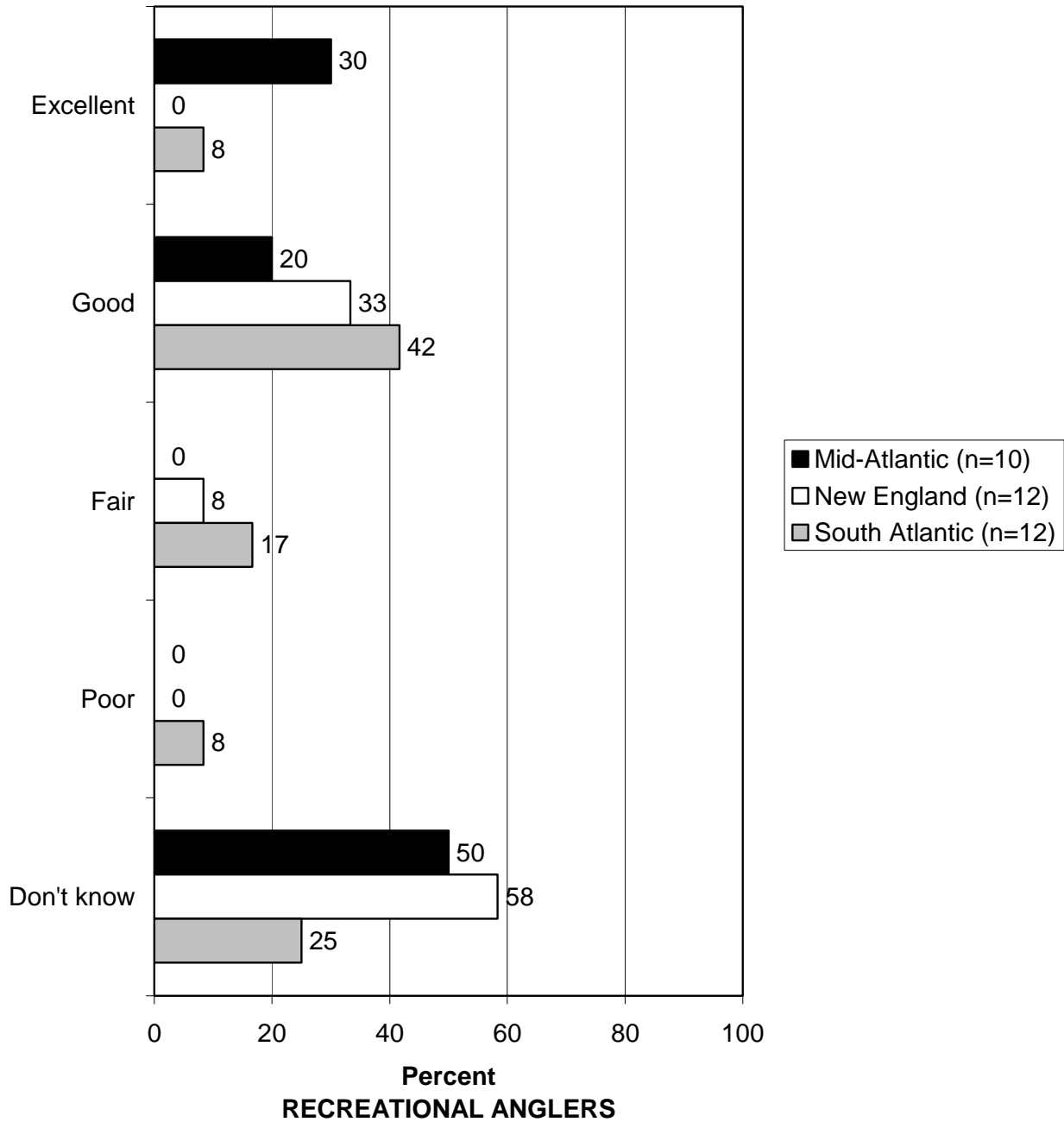
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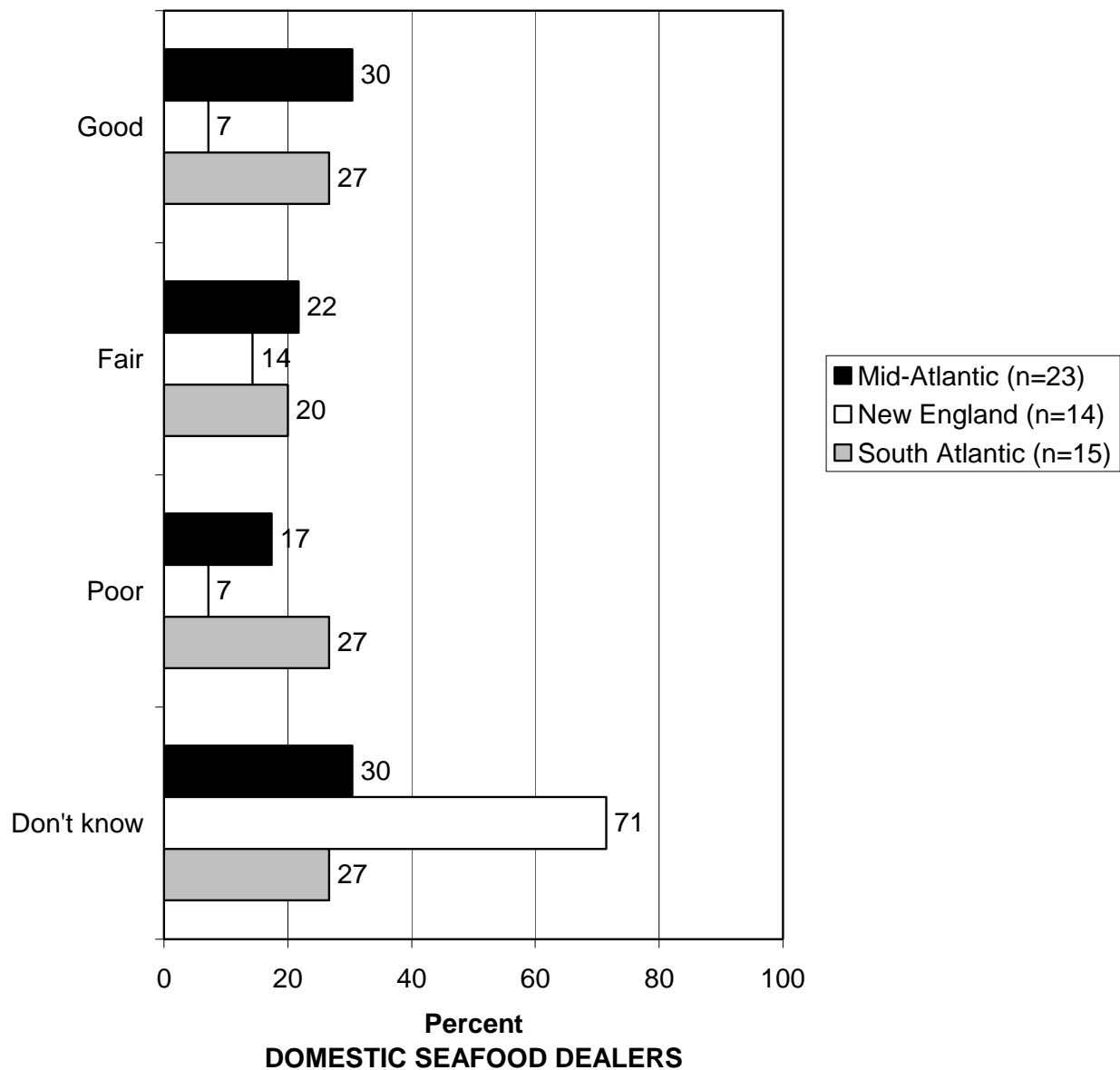
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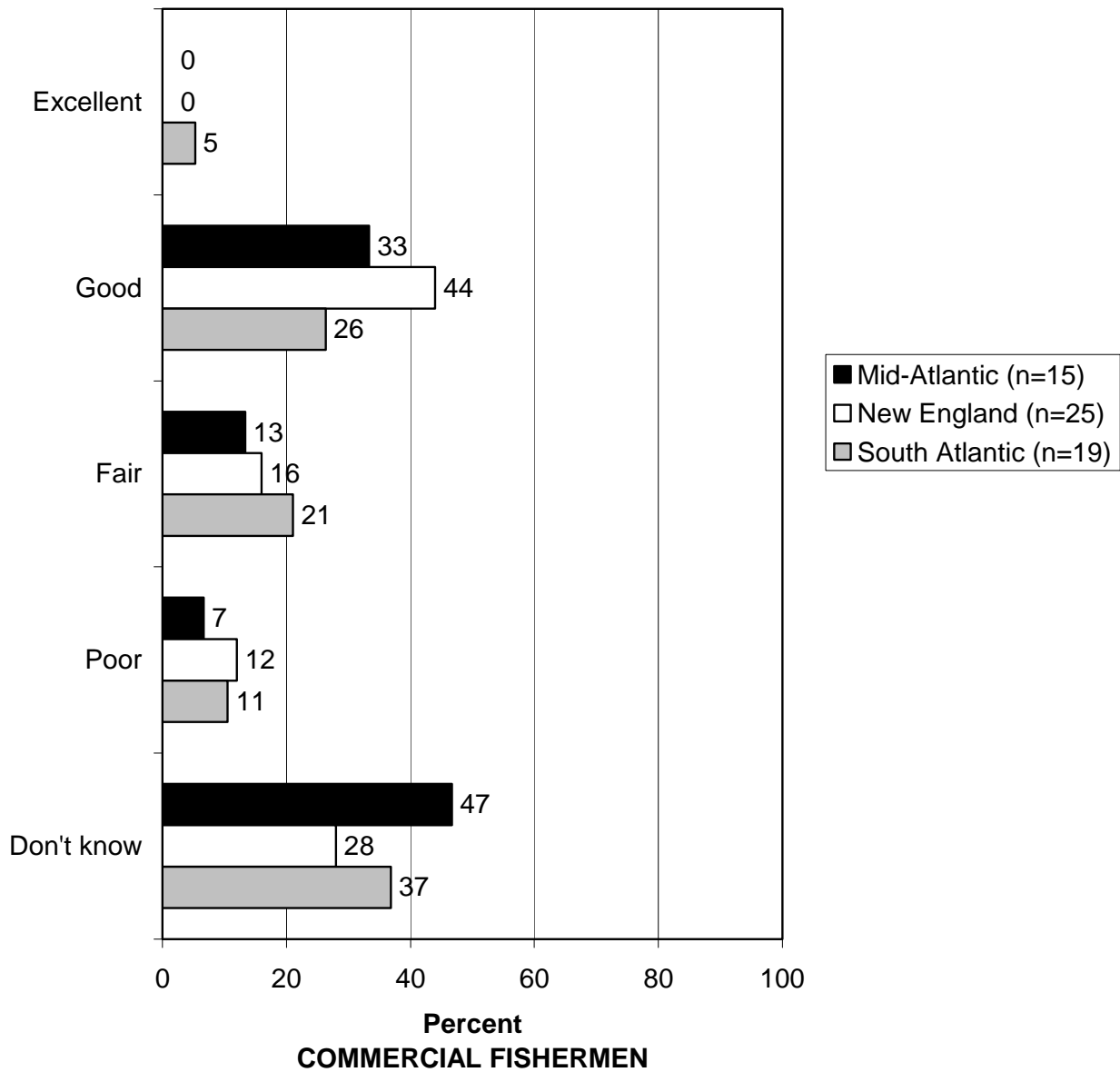
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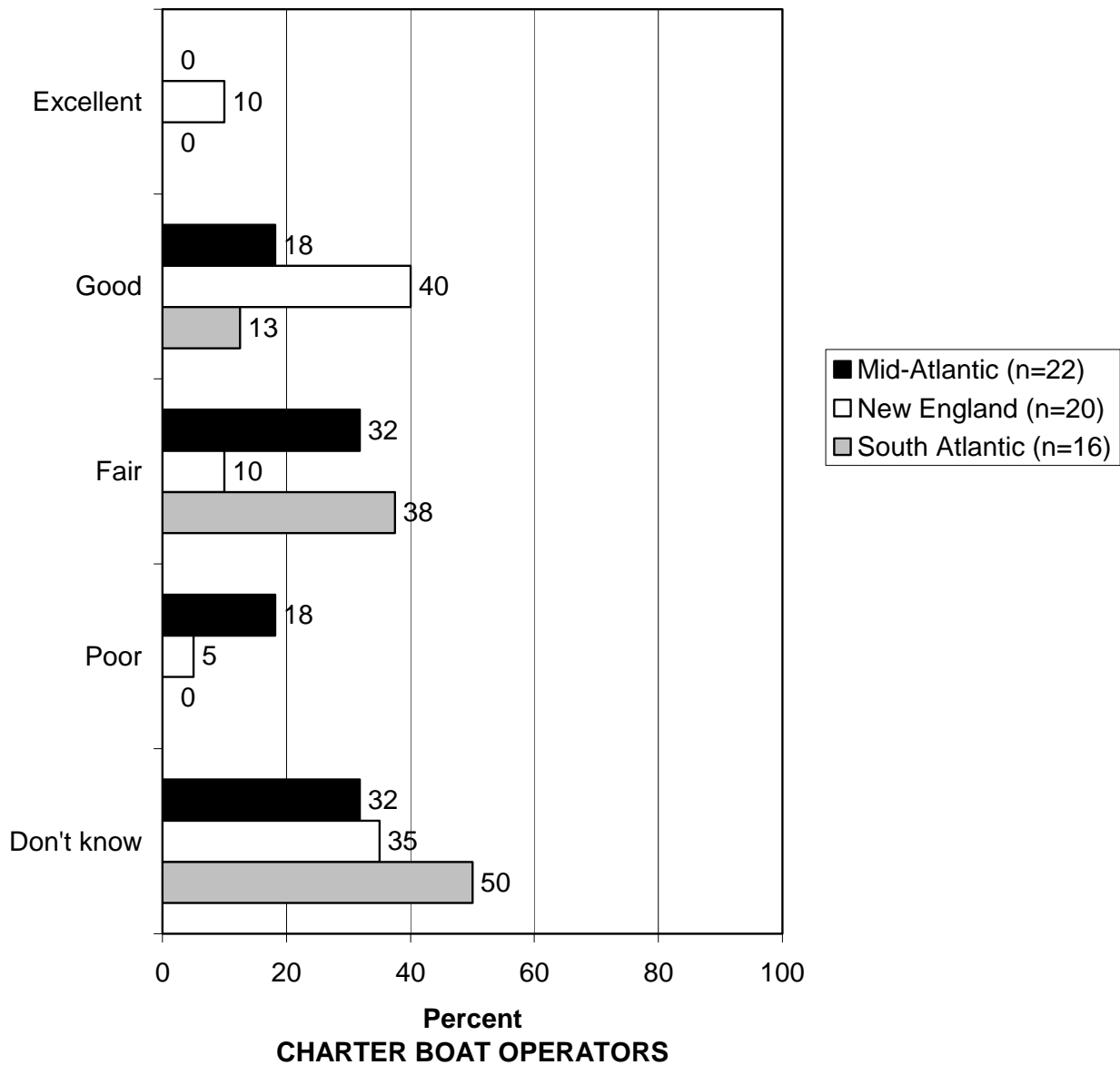
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