

Responsive Management



FISH AND WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS' OPINIONS ON THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES AND ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Conducted for
The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
and
The Management Assistance Team**

**by
Responsive Management**

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**FISH AND WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS' OPINIONS ON
THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND
WILDLIFE AGENCIES AND ITS ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to determine the opinions of two groups, (1) State fish and wildlife agency directors, chiefs, and other top management personnel (hereinafter referred to as “State fish and wildlife agency management team” on the graphs, and referred to as “Team members” in the report text) and (2) professionals who typically would attend the Southeastern Conference, even if they had not actually attended recently (hereinafter referred to as “Conference stakeholders”), regarding the Conference and the Association. The study entailed a telephone survey of 66 Team members and 210 Conference stakeholders.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. 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 statistical analysis was the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 11.5. SPSS is software specifically designed for statistical analyses of quantitative data.

PARTICIPATION IN AND FACTORS AFFECTING ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES

Participation in Southeastern Conference and Other Conferences

- Slightly less than a majority (44%) of Team members attended the Southeastern Conference in 2002, while slightly more than a majority (55%) of Conference stakeholders attended the Southeastern Conference in 2002.

- Most commonly, Team members had attended the Southeastern Conference in only 1 of the past 5 years (23% had attended once) or had not attended at all in the past 5 years (23% had not attended at all); however, Team members were spread among all the categories such that, for instance, 15% had attended 5 of the past 5 years. Conference stakeholders had most commonly attended the Southeastern Conference only 1 of the past 5 years (41%).

- Other popular conferences that Team members attend include the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference (55% attend this conference in addition to the

Southeastern Conference), the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (47%), the American Fisheries Society (22%), and the Northeastern Fish and Wildlife Conference (16%). Other popular conferences that Conference stakeholders attend include the American Fisheries Society (20%), the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (18%), the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference (15%), and the Wildlife Society Conference (15%).

- Those who had not attended the Southeastern Conference in any of the past 5 years most commonly do not attend any other conferences in lieu of the Southeastern Conference. Otherwise, the most popular conferences that respondents attend instead of the Southeastern Conference are the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference, the Midwestern Conference, and the Wildlife Society Conference.

Factors Affecting Attendance at the Southeastern Conference

- To network with other professionals is the top reason that Team members (63%) and Conference stakeholders (57%) attend the Southeastern Conference. Other important reasons are to improve skills and knowledge (43% of Team members and 28% of Conference stakeholders) and to participate in committees (20% of Team members and 27% of Conference stakeholders).
- The major constraints to attendance at the Southeastern Conference included a limit on the number of personnel from the respondent's agency who are allowed to attend the conference (47% of Team members and 32% of Conference stakeholders said this was a major constraint), funding (36% of Team members and 38% of Conference stakeholders), and travel approval (27% of Team members and 32% of Conference stakeholders).
- The top factors in Team members' decision to attend the Southeastern Conference included associated committee meetings (43% said this was a very important factor in their decision to attend), the content of the technical sessions (25%), and other social events sponsored by the Southeastern Conference (not including the banquet, which was asked about separately) (16%). The top factors in Conference stakeholders' decision to attend the Southeastern

Conference included the content of the technical sessions (34%), associated committee meetings (31%), and ancillary meetings (19%).

PROCEEDINGS OF SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCES AND OTHER CONFERENCES

- Large majorities of Team members (85%) and Conference stakeholders (82%) said that the publication of the Southeastern Conference Proceedings is very or somewhat important to their agency/organization.
- Conference stakeholders were more likely than were Team members to say that the Southeastern Conference Proceedings is very or somewhat important to their professional development (64% of Team members and 77% of Conference stakeholders), and Conference stakeholders were much more likely to say that the Southeastern Conference Proceedings is very important to their professional development (8% of Team members and 25% of Conference stakeholders).
- Very strong majorities of both groups (74% of Team members and 82% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Proceedings are a good value priced at \$22.
- Conference stakeholders make more use of the Proceedings in their job than do Team members. Team members most commonly said that they use the Proceedings rarely in performing their job duties (45%), while Conference stakeholders most commonly said that they use the Proceedings sometimes (49%) in performing their job duties.
- Majorities of both groups (65% of Team members and 76% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Southeastern Conference Proceedings is a valuable outlet for publication.
- Majorities of both groups (74% of Team members and 82% of Conference stakeholders) agree that publications in the Southeastern Conference Proceedings are a valuable resource for fish and wildlife professionals not in a university setting.

- Team members more commonly agree (43%) than disagree (26%) that papers published in the Southeastern Conference Proceedings are less valuable to university researchers than are publications in other journals. Conference stakeholders have nearly equal percentages in agreement (39%) and disagreement (38%) with this.

- Team members most commonly said that they would like to see abstracts of papers (64%), papers (48%), and peer-reviewed papers (45%) in the Southeastern Conference Proceedings. Conference stakeholders most commonly said that they would like to see peer-reviewed papers (62%), abstracts of papers (55%), and papers (52%) in the Southeastern Conference Proceedings.

- Both groups had majorities (64% of Team members and 69% of Conference stakeholders) supporting changing the format of the Proceedings to something similar to the Wildlife Society Bulletin wherein peer-reviewed and peer-edited articles are differentiated, and other sections with general information are included.

- There was more agreement than disagreement that changing the name of the Southeastern Conference Proceedings to Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Conservation, or a similar name, would help establish a more selective image for the Proceedings; however, neither group had a majority who agree.

- Large majorities of both groups support publishing the Proceedings in electronic format, if doing so will reduce the cost of publication, although Team members are slightly more likely than are Conference stakeholders to support this proposal (82% of Team members and 72% of Conference stakeholders supported this proposal).

- Large majorities of both groups (73% of Team members and 85% of Conference stakeholders) support having the Proceedings available at the following year's conference, assuming there is no change in the format of the Southeastern Conference.

- Majorities of both groups (61% of Team members and 81% of Conference stakeholders) support the hiring of a managing editor to assist Dr. Eversole in publishing the Proceedings in a timely manner.
- A very large majority of Team members (88%) and Conference stakeholders (65%) had not submitted a manuscript for presentation at the Southeastern Conference Technical Sessions in any of the past 5 years. Otherwise, most commonly, both Team members (6%) and Conference stakeholders (21%) had submitted a manuscript once in the past 5 years.
- Of those who had not submitted a manuscript to the Southeastern Conference Technical Sessions, the main reasons for not submitting a manuscript are that publication is not a priority (40% of Team members and 25% of Conference stakeholders gave this answer), that the respondent is not a researcher (9% of Team members and 22% of Conference stakeholders), and/or that the respondent is an administrator and, therefore, does not perform research (24% of Team members and 6% of Conference stakeholders).
- Majorities of both groups (63% of Team members and 57% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Southeastern Conference Proceedings has a rigorous manuscript selection process.
- There is much more support than opposition to requiring electronic submission of manuscripts that are compatible with desktop publishing software: 89% of Team members support (0% oppose) and 86% of Conference stakeholders support (6% oppose).
- There is more support than opposition to changing the due date for manuscripts from the current deadline of May 1 to January 1 so that most editorial work can be completed before each annual meeting: 70% of Team members and 61% of Conference stakeholders support this proposal; 11% of Team members and 21% of Conference stakeholders oppose this proposal.

- Majorities of Team members (74%) and Conference stakeholders (58%) had not used other publication outlets for manuscripts in the past 5 years. The most commonly used publication, other than the Proceedings, for Team members and Conference stakeholders was the Wildlife Society Bulletin (5% of Team members and 10% of Conference stakeholders had used this outlet for publication in the past 5 years).

OPINIONS ON AND RATINGS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AND SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Opinions and Ratings of the Southeastern Conference in General

- Extremely large majorities of both groups (99% of Team members and 94% of Conference stakeholders) said the Southeastern Conference is very or somewhat important to their organization.
- Very large majorities of both groups (81% of Team members and 91% of Conference stakeholders) said the Southeastern Conference is very or somewhat important for their professional development.
- A majority of Team members (61%), but slightly less than a majority of Conference stakeholders (48%), said the Southeastern Conference has remained about the same over the past 5 years in terms of meeting their needs as wildlife professionals. Otherwise, more respondents said the Conference has become worse than said it has become better.
- Majorities of both groups (59% of Team members and 66% of Conference stakeholders) said the Southeastern Conference is in the top half of the conferences that they would like to attend each year. Most commonly for both groups, the Southeastern Conference is in the top half but not the first choice of conferences (35% of Team members and 42% of Conference stakeholders). For both groups, the next most common answer is that the Southeastern Conference is their first choice (24% of both groups).

Opinions on the Technical Sessions at the Southeastern Conference

- Extremely high percentages (86% of Team members and 95% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Technical Sessions are an important aspect of the Southeastern Conference.

- Strong majorities disagree (73% of Team members and 74% of Conference stakeholders) that the Technical Sessions are too general to be important to field-level employees.
- Strong majorities of both groups (79% of Team members and 86% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Technical Sessions are an important outlet for presentation of information that otherwise would not be shared among wildlife professionals.

Opinions on Southeastern Conference Format, Potential Formats, and Conference Dates/Times

- Strong majorities of both groups (77% of Team members and 83% of Conference stakeholders) are satisfied with the current format of the Southeastern Conference.
- The potential future formats for the Southeastern Conference with the most support are to include some of the species-specific meetings at the Conference (79% of Team members and 80% of Conference stakeholders moderately or strongly support this format), the addition of panel discussions in place of some technical sessions (67% of Team members and 68% of Conference stakeholders), and combining the technical sessions with a more interdisciplinary approach to topics (61% of Team members and 60% of Conference stakeholders).
- Very strong majorities of both groups (84% of Team members and 87% of Conference stakeholders) support the addition of workshops to the current format of the Southeastern Conference.
- The top-named workshop or symposium topics that Team members would be interested in seeing are current affairs/hot topics (100% gave this answer), alternative funding mechanisms (95%), meeting the needs of changing society/changing demographics (93%), and constituency building/stakeholder identification/relationships (89%). The top-named workshop or symposium topics that Conference stakeholders would be interested in seeing are current affairs/hot topics (93%), meeting the needs of changing society/changing demographics (87%), and skills, such as GIS, statistics, and software (84%).

- Extremely high percentages of both groups (94% of Team members and 92% of Conference stakeholders) feel that past registration fees for the Southeastern Conference have been reasonable.
- Respondents were asked to say what they thought is a reasonable registration fee for the Southeastern Conference, and the means were \$134 among Team members and \$109 among Conference stakeholders.
- October is the preferred month for the Southeastern Conference among both Team members (58%) and Conference stakeholders (69%). September is the second most popular choice, but with percentages preferring September far below the percentages preferring October (14% of Team members and 9% of Conference stakeholders said September).
- A majority of Team members (52%) and a plurality of Conference stakeholders (39%) said that they prefer the current timing sequence of the Southeastern Conference (Saturday to Wednesday) over any proposed changes discussed in the survey. Otherwise, the most popular timing sequence would be having the Conference held on Monday through Friday (36% of both groups gave this answer—the second most common answer among both groups).
- While majorities of both groups (53% of Team members and 52% of Conference stakeholders) said the current Conference length, which is 5 days, is about right, relatively large percentages (41% of Team members and 45% of Conference stakeholders) said the Conference is too long.

HOW THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION AND THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE PERTAIN TO AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS, JOB DUTIES, AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Southeastern Conference as It Pertains to Agency/Organization and Job Duties

- Extremely large majorities (94% of Team members and 95% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Southeastern Conference helps them in their knowledge and performance as a wildlife professional.

- The most common ways that the Southeastern Conference helps Team members in performing their job duties are to obtain other viewpoints to help solve work-related problems (79% gave this answer) and to facilitate their networking with other professionals (73%). The most common ways that the Southeastern Conference helps Conference stakeholders in performing their job duties are to facilitate their networking with other professionals (76%) and to obtain other viewpoints to help solve work-related problems (62%).

Southeastern Conference and Professional Societies

- Majorities of both groups (57% of Team members and 68% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Southeastern Conference is important to them for their participation at a professional meeting that occurs during the Conference.
- The professional societies for which the Southeastern Conference is most important include The Wildlife Society (72% of Team members and 52% of Conference stakeholders gave this answer) and the American Fisheries Society (62% of Team members and 52% of Conference stakeholders).

Importance of the Southeastern Association to Various Groups

- The group for which the highest percentage of Team members and Conference stakeholders said the Southeastern Conference is very important is member state agencies (83% of Team members and 80% of Conference stakeholders said the conference is very important to member state agencies) distantly followed by federal agencies (32% of Team members and 45% of Conference stakeholders said the conference is very important to federal agencies).
- Very large majorities of Team members (88%) and Conference stakeholders (86%) said that the Southeastern Association as a regional association is very or somewhat important to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

- Very large majorities of both groups (76% of Team members and 78% of Conference stakeholders) strongly or moderately agree that the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in national fish and wildlife issues.

- Pluralities of both groups (45% of Team members and 48% of Conference stakeholders) say that the role the Southeastern Association has played in national fish and wildlife issues has remained about the same over the past 5 years. Otherwise, more respondents say the Southeastern Association’s role has increased (26% of Team members and 23% of Conference stakeholders) than say it has decreased (12% of Team members and 6% of Conference stakeholders).

- Large majorities of both groups (73% of Team members and 70% of Conference stakeholders) strongly or moderately agree that the Southeastern Association *should* play a greater role in national fish and wildlife issues than it currently does.

- Very large majorities of both groups (90% of Team members and 81% of Conference stakeholders) strongly or moderately agree that the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in regional fish and wildlife issues.

- A plurality (42%) of Team members and a majority of Conference stakeholders (53%) say that the role the Southeastern Association has played in regional fish and wildlife issues has remained about the same over the past 5 years. Otherwise, more respondents say it has increased (27% of Team members and 21% of Conference stakeholders) than say it has decreased (11% of Team members and 3% of Conference stakeholders).

- Large majorities of both groups (82% of Team members and 72% of Conference stakeholders) strongly or moderately agree that the Southeastern Association *should* play a greater role in regional fish and wildlife issues than it currently does.

- A comparison of Questions 93 and 98 shows that there is higher strong agreement that the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in regional fish and wildlife issues than in national fish and wildlife issues.

- A comparison of Questions 94 and 99 shows that nearly the same percentages of Team members said there has been an increase in the role the Southeastern Association has played in fish and wildlife issues both nationally and regionally (26% of Team members said the national role has increased, and 27% of Team members said the regional role has increased). The results also showed that Conference stakeholders had nearly the same results: 23% of Conference stakeholders said the national role has increased, and 21% of Conference stakeholders said the regional role has increased.

- A comparison of Questions 97 and 102 shows identical results nationally and regionally: 47% of Team members strongly agree that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in *national* fish and wildlife issues, and the same percentage agree that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in *regional* fish and wildlife issues; and 49% of Conference stakeholders strongly agree that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in *national* fish and wildlife issues, and 49% of Conference stakeholders said that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in *regional* fish and wildlife issues.

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to determine the opinions of two groups, (1) State fish and wildlife agency directors, chiefs, and other top management personnel (hereinafter referred to as “State fish and wildlife agency management team” on the graphs, and referred to as “Team members” in the report text) and (2) professionals who typically would attend the Southeastern Conference, even if they had not actually attended recently (hereinafter referred to as “Conference stakeholders”), regarding the Conference and the Association. The study entailed a telephone survey of 66 Team members and 210 Conference stakeholders.

The survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management, the Management Assistance Team, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. A pre-test of the questionnaire was conducted, and revisions were made to the questionnaire based on the pre-test. The survey was administered in April 2003.

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, 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 of which calls are monitored 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 5:00 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.

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.

PARTICIPATION IN AND FACTORS AFFECTING ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES

Participation in Southeastern Conference and Other Conferences

- Slightly less than a majority (44%) of Team members attended the Southeastern Conference in 2002, while slightly more than a majority (55%) of Conference stakeholders attended the Southeastern Conference in 2002.

- Most commonly, Team members had attended the Southeastern Conference in only 1 of the past 5 years or had not attended at all in the past 5 years; however, Team members were spread among all the categories such that, for instance, 15% had attended 5 of the past 5 years. Conference stakeholders had most commonly attended the Southeastern Conference only 1 of the past 5 years.
 - Among Team members, 23% had attended 1 of the past 5 years, and 23% had attended none of the past 5 years.
 - Among Conference stakeholders, 41% had attended 1 of the past 5 years.

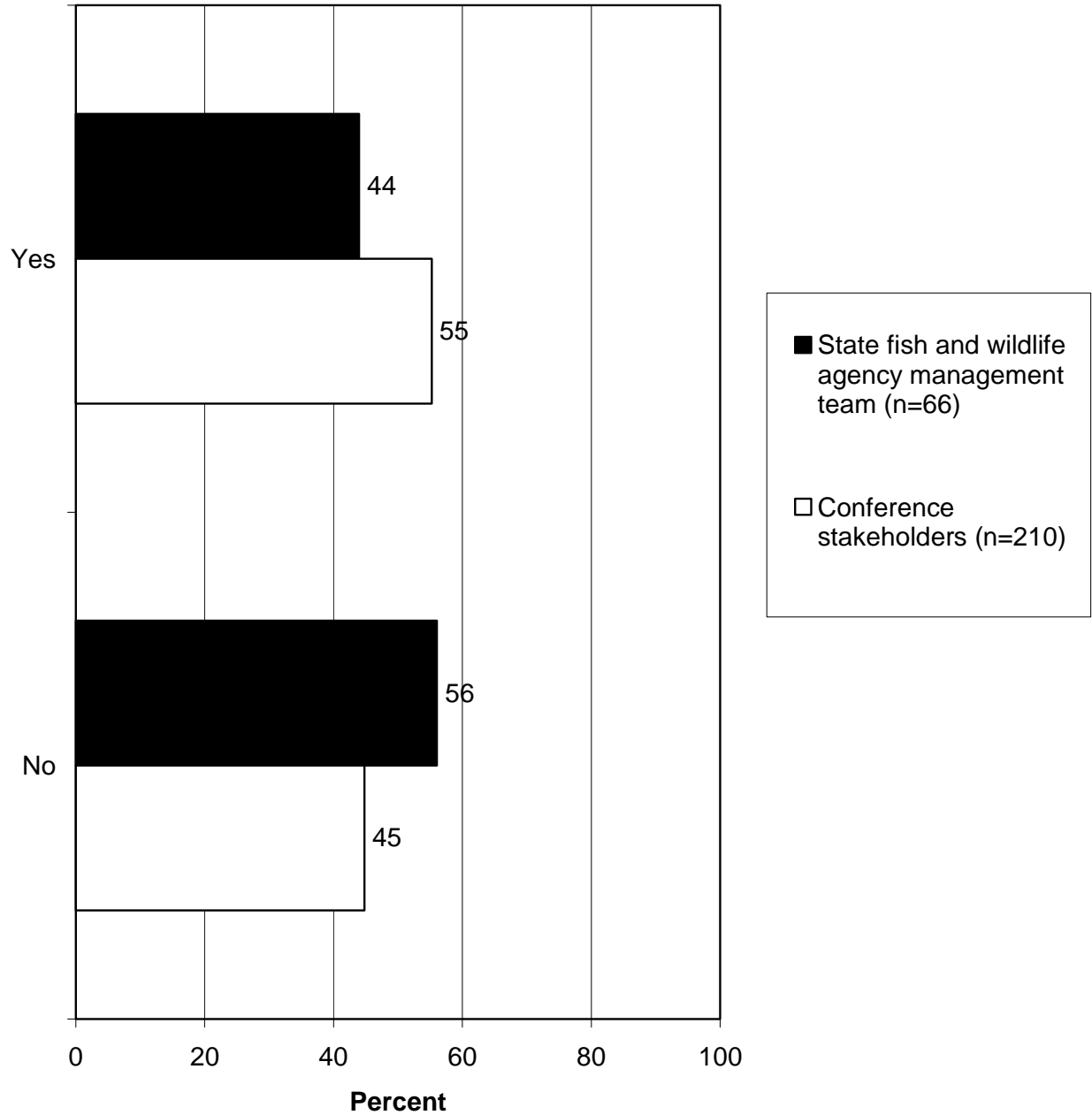
- Other popular conferences that Team members attend include the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference (55% attend this conference in addition to the Southeastern Conference), the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (47%), the American Fisheries Society (22%), and the Northeastern Fish and Wildlife Conference (16%). Other popular conferences that Conference stakeholders attend include the American Fisheries Society (20%), the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (18%), the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference (15%), and the Wildlife Society Conference (15%).

- Those who had not attended the Southeastern Conference in any of the past 5 years most commonly do not attend any other conferences in lieu of the Southeastern Conference. Otherwise, the most popular conferences that respondents attend instead of the Southeastern Conference are the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference (13% of Team members and 12% of Conference stakeholders), the Midwestern Conference (13%

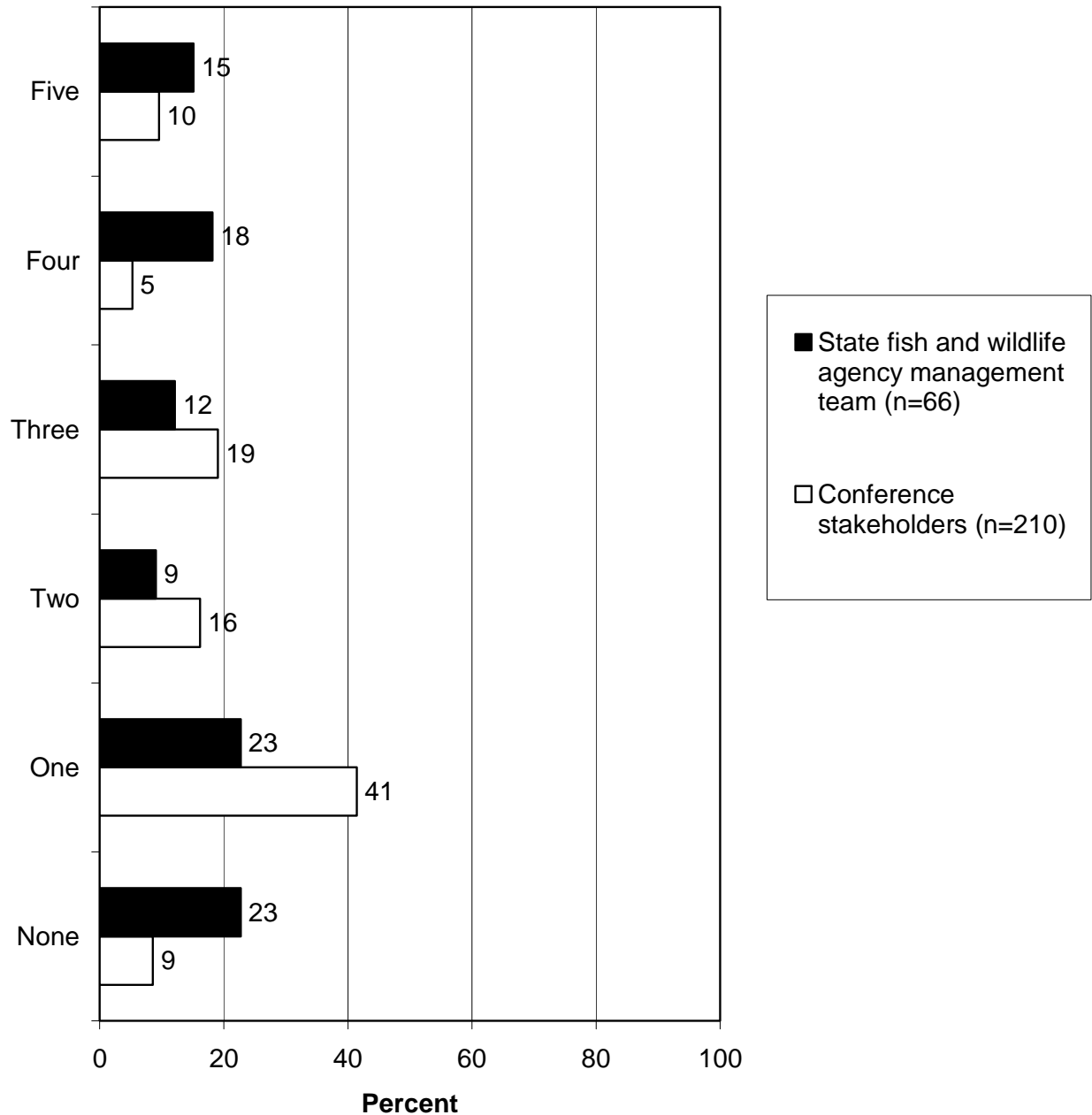
of Team members and 8% of Conference stakeholders), and the Wildlife Society Conference (0% of Team members, but 12% of Conference stakeholders).

- 40% of Team members and 35% of Conference stakeholders answered that they attend no other conferences.
- A very large majority of Team members (75%) and a slight majority of Conference stakeholders (55%) had not given a presentation at the Southeastern Conference in any of the past 5 years. Otherwise, most commonly, Team members (20%) and Conference stakeholders (30%) had presented once in the past 5 years.

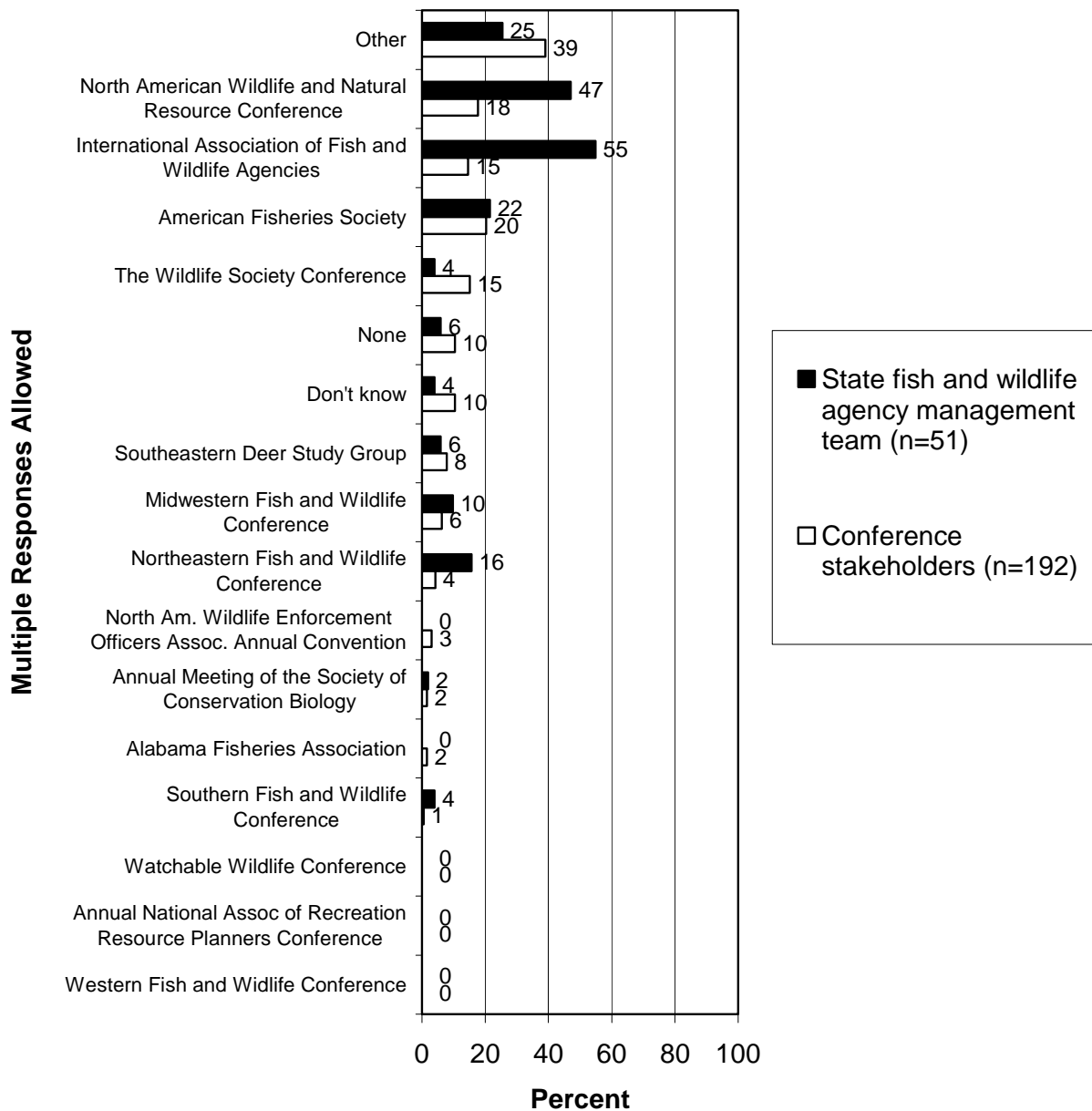
Q6. Did you attend the Southeastern Conference last year, in 2002?



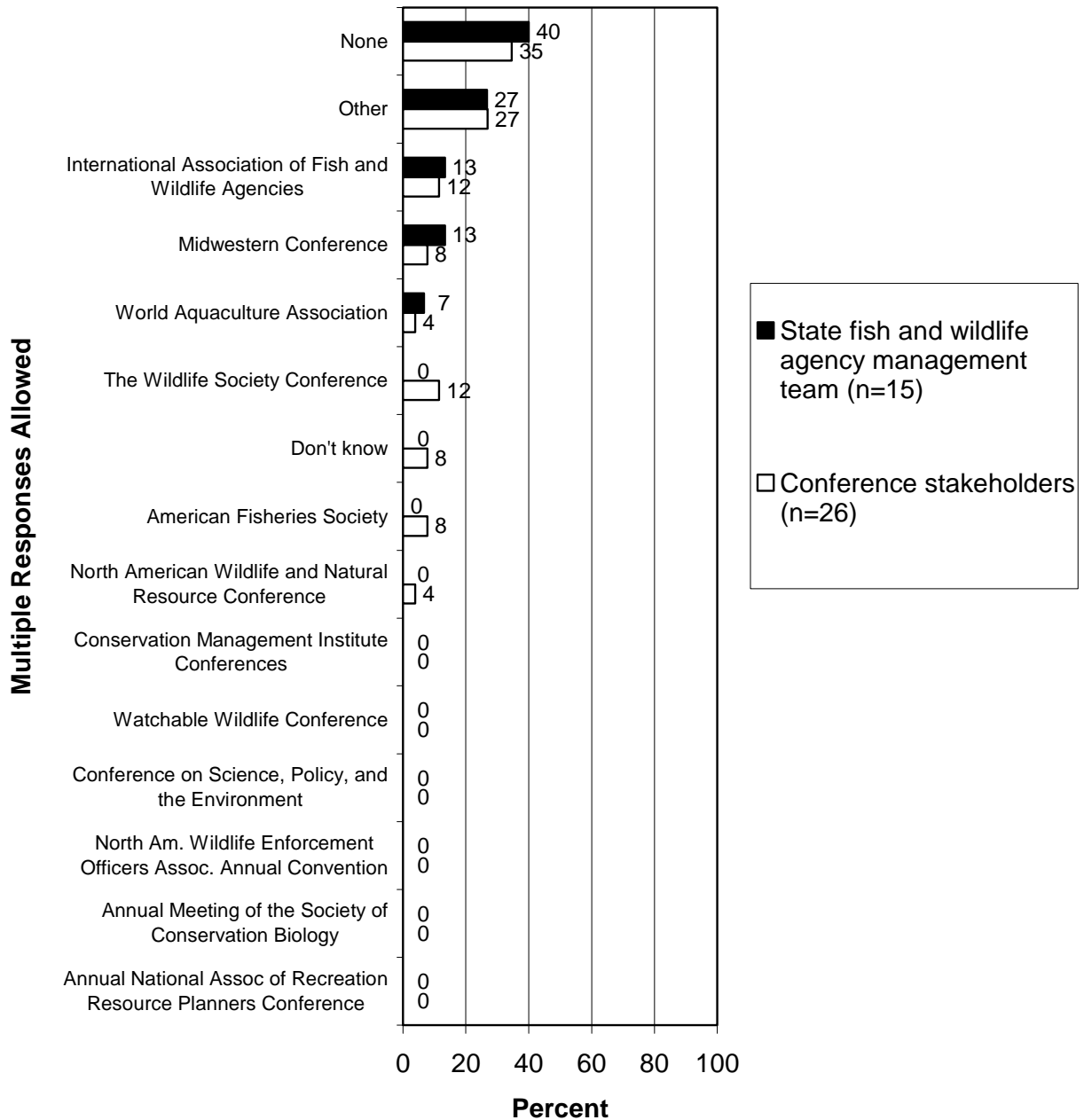
Q7. Out of the past 5 years, how many years have you attended the Southeastern Conference?



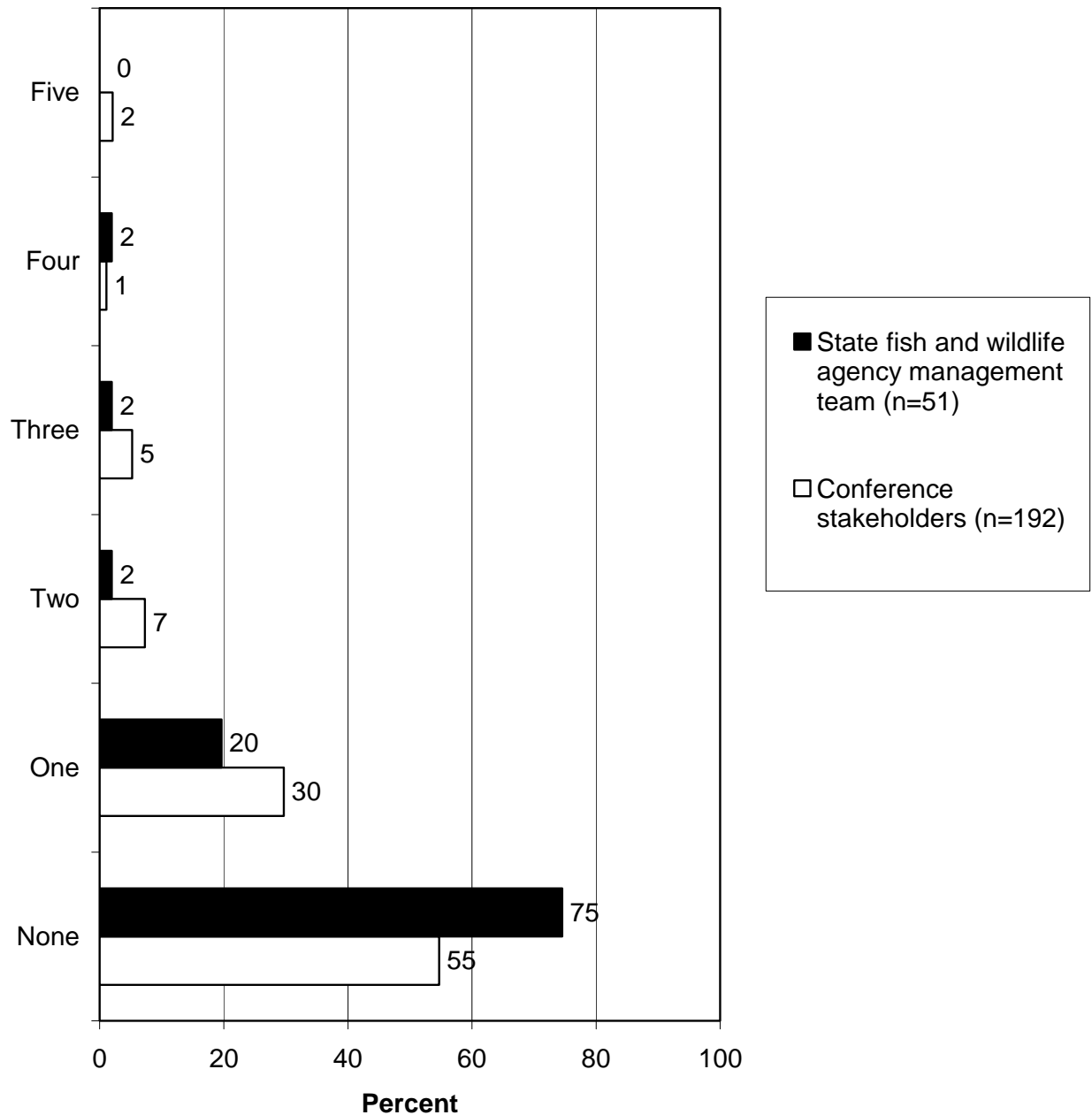
Q10. Which other fish and wildlife and/or natural resource conferences do you attend in addition to the Southeastern Conference? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Q24. Which other conferences do you attend instead of the Southeastern? (Asked of those who answered that they had not attended or did not know if they had attended the conference in the past 5 years.)



Q33. Out of the past 5 years, how many years have you given a presentation at the Southeastern Conference? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



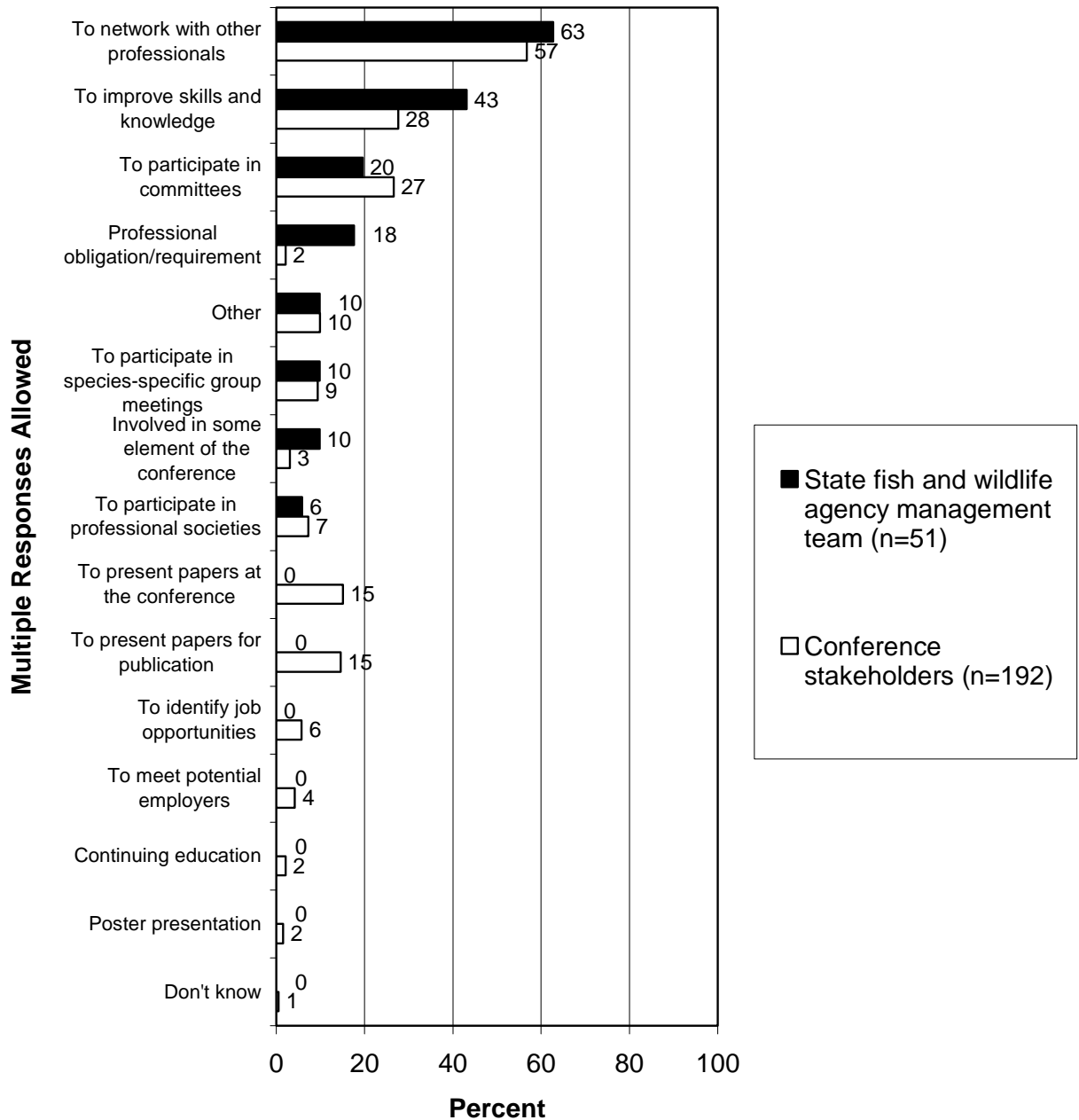
Factors Affecting Attendance at the Southeastern Conference

- To network with other professionals is the top reason that Team members (63%) and Conference stakeholders (57%) attend the Southeastern Conference. Other important reasons are to improve skills and knowledge (43% of Team members and 28% of Conference stakeholders) and to participate in committees (20% of Team members and 27% of Conference stakeholders).

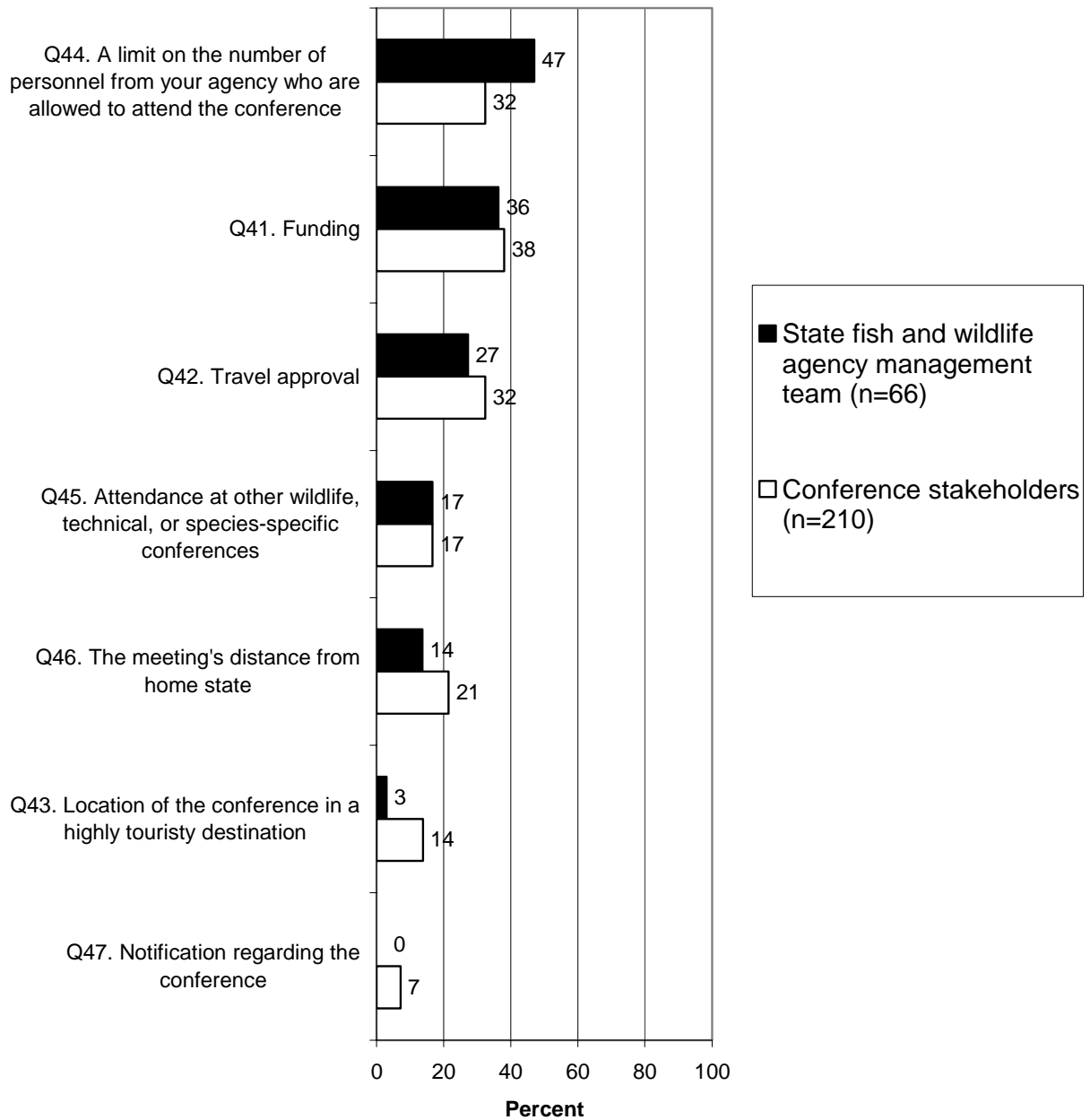
- The major constraints to attendance at the Southeastern Conference included a limit on the number of personnel from the respondent's agency who are allowed to attend the conference (47% of Team members and 32% of Conference stakeholders said this was a major constraint), funding (36% of Team members and 38% of Conference stakeholders), and travel approval (27% of Team members and 32% of Conference stakeholders).
 - The factors that were most commonly said to *not* be constraints were notification regarding the conference (82% of Team members and 69% of Conference stakeholders said this is not a constraint) and the location of the conference in a highly touristy location (52% of Team members and 50% of Conference stakeholders).

- The top factors in Team members' decision to attend the Southeastern Conference included associated committee meetings (43% said this was a very important factor in their decision to attend), the content of the technical sessions (25%), and other social events sponsored by the Southeastern Conference (not including the banquet, which was asked about separately) (16%). The top factors in Conference stakeholders' decision to attend the Southeastern Conference included the content of the technical sessions (34%), associated committee meetings (31%), and ancillary meetings (19%).
 - Those things that were most commonly said *not* to be factors in the decision to attend the Southeastern Conference included the banquet (73% of Team members, the top answer for that group; 62% of Conference stakeholders) and the Minorities in Natural Resources events (61% of Team members; 73% of Conference stakeholders, the top answer among Conference stakeholders).

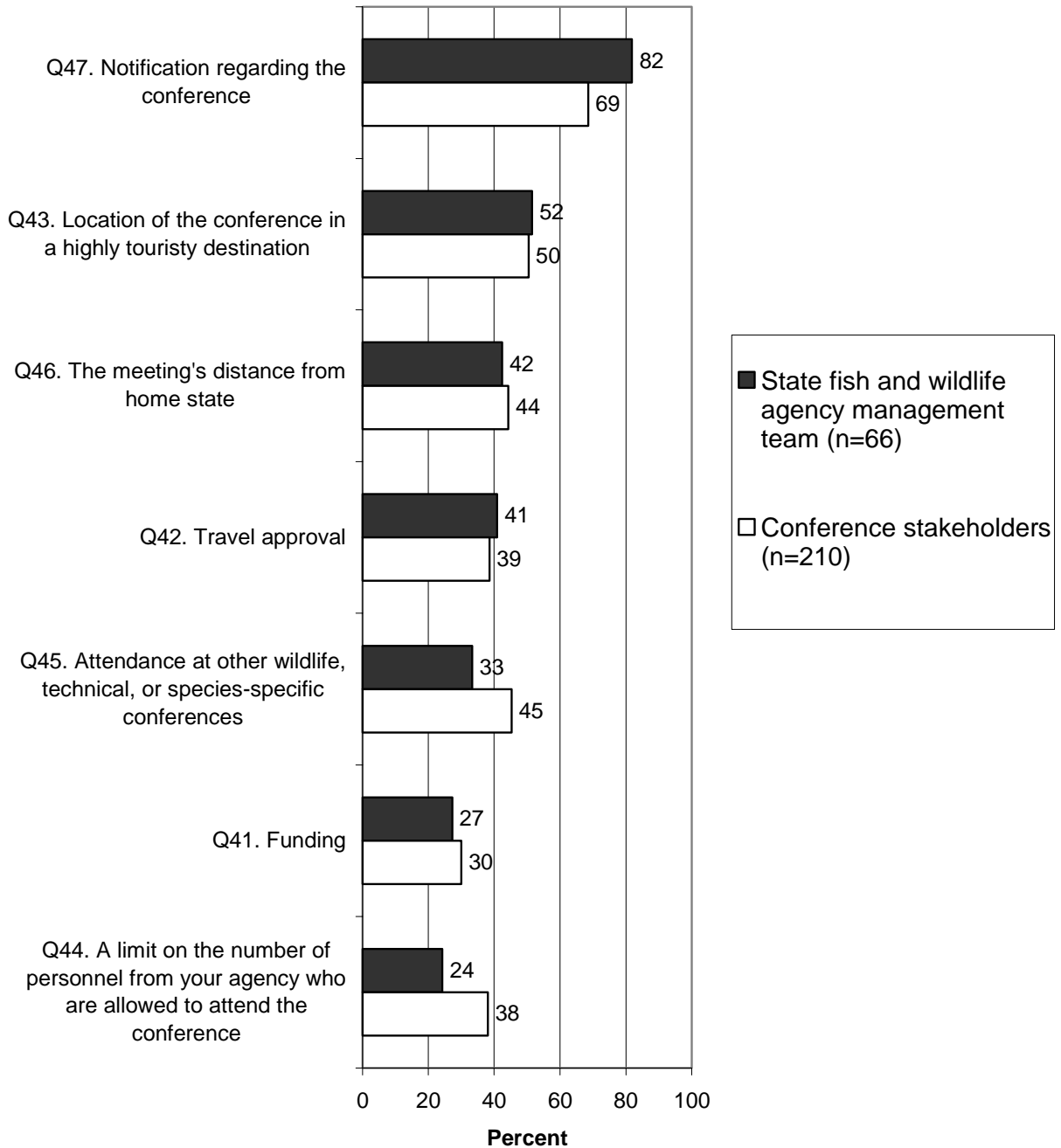
Q13. What are your main reasons for attending the Southeastern's Annual Conference? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



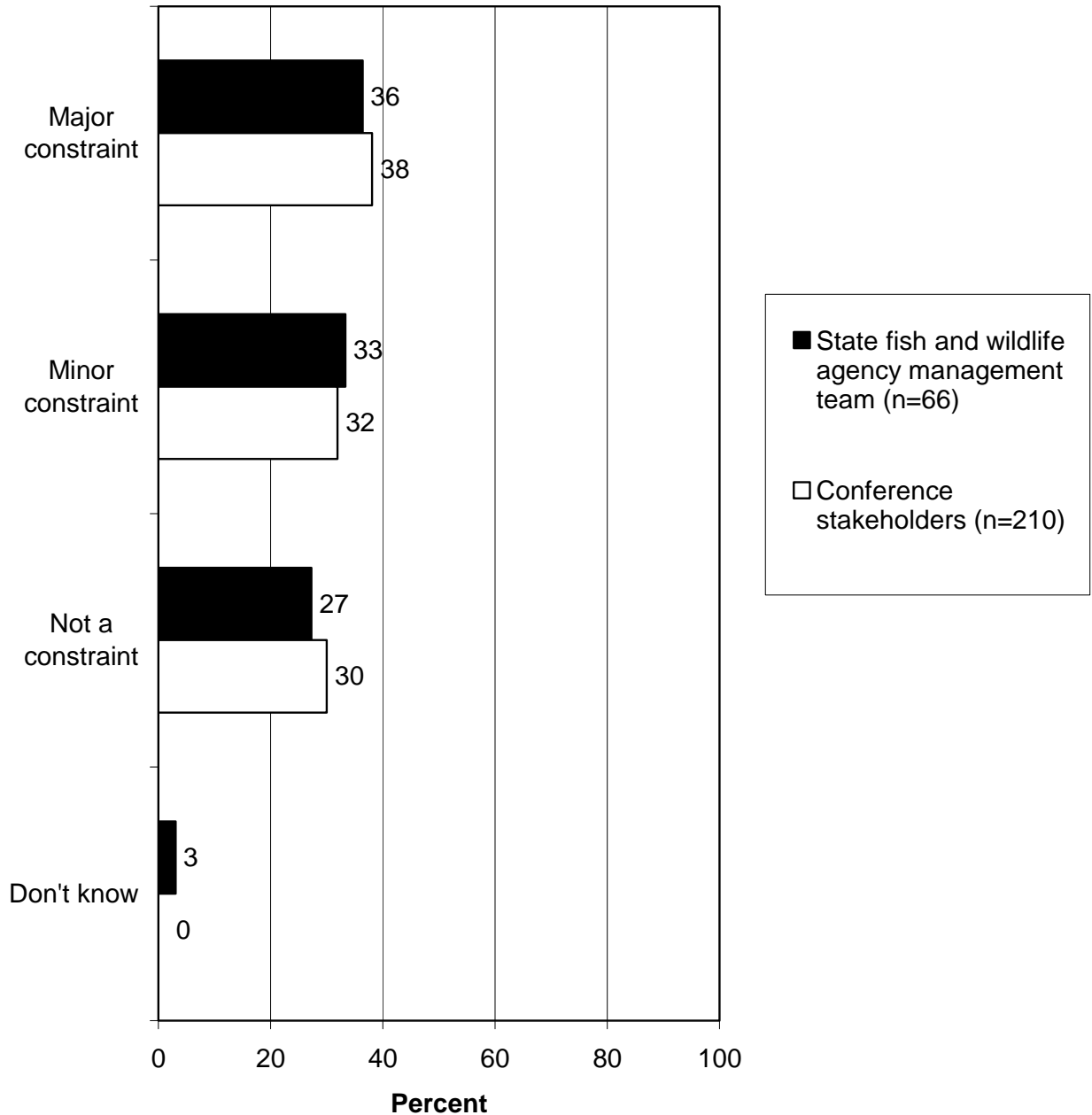
Q41-47. Factors that may have affected attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years. (Percentages saying that the following factors were major constraints.)



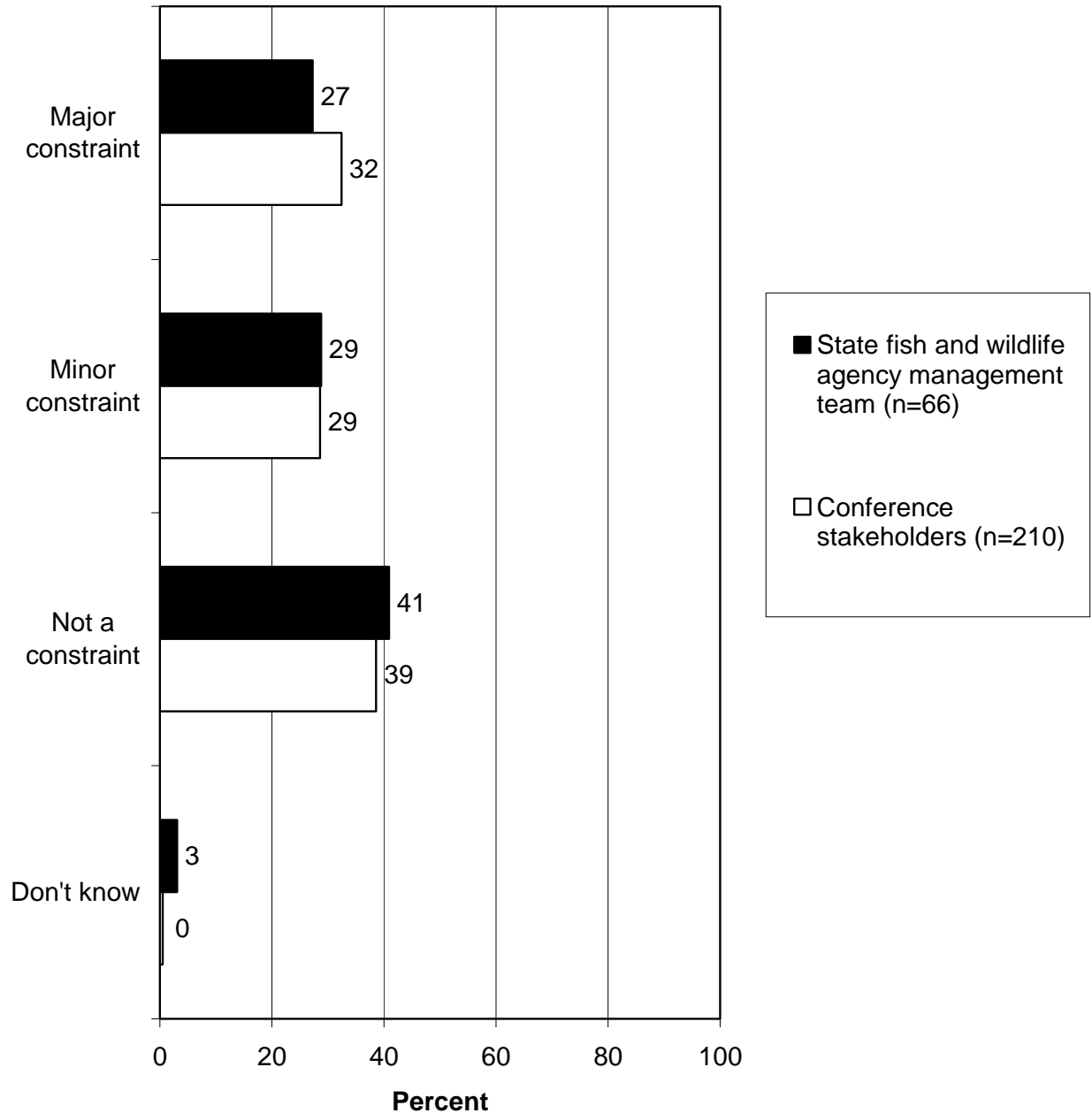
Q41-47. Factors that may have affected attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years. (Percentages saying that the following factors were not constraints.)



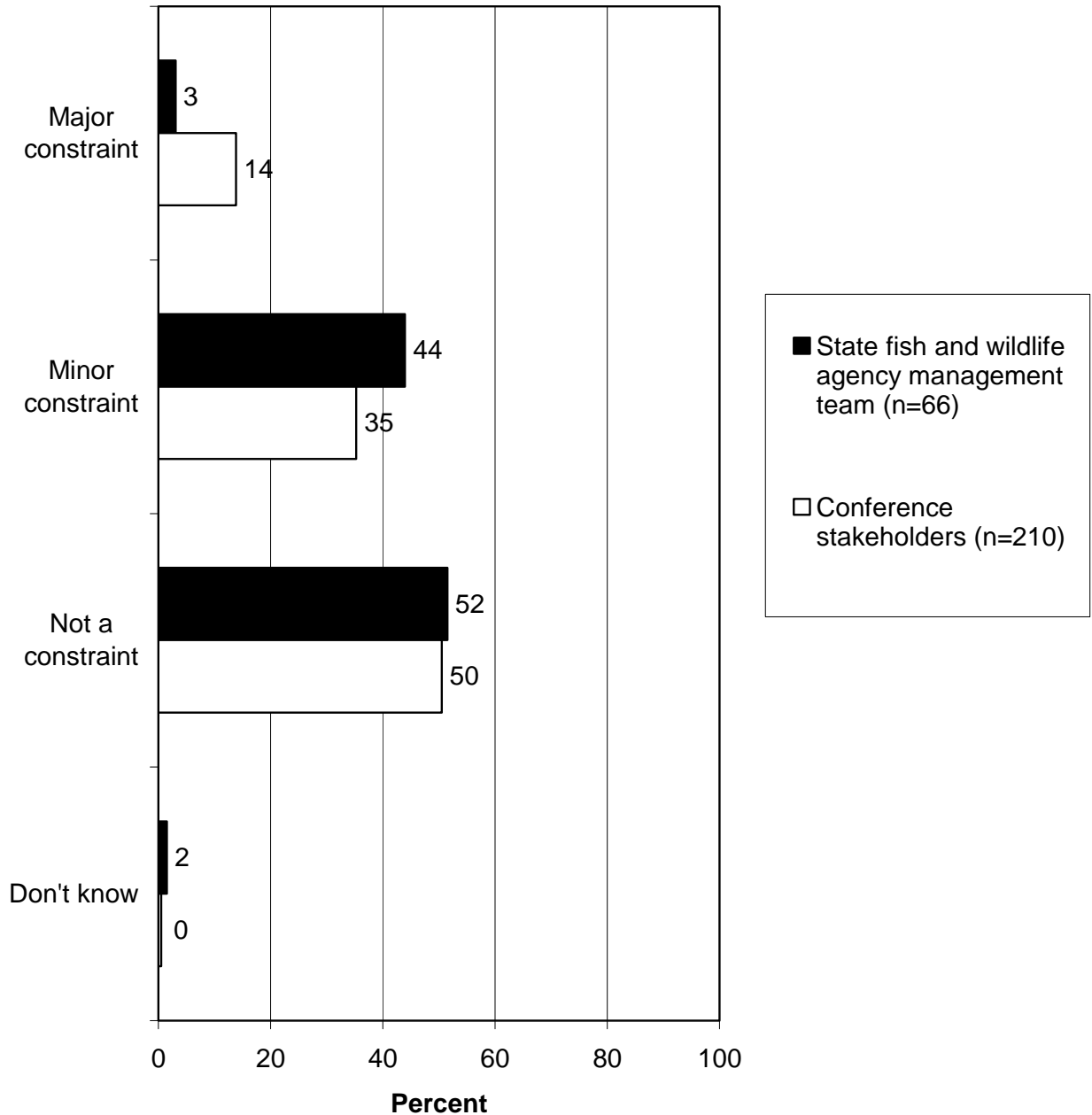
Q41. Has funding been a major constraint, a minor constraint, or not a constraint regarding your attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years?



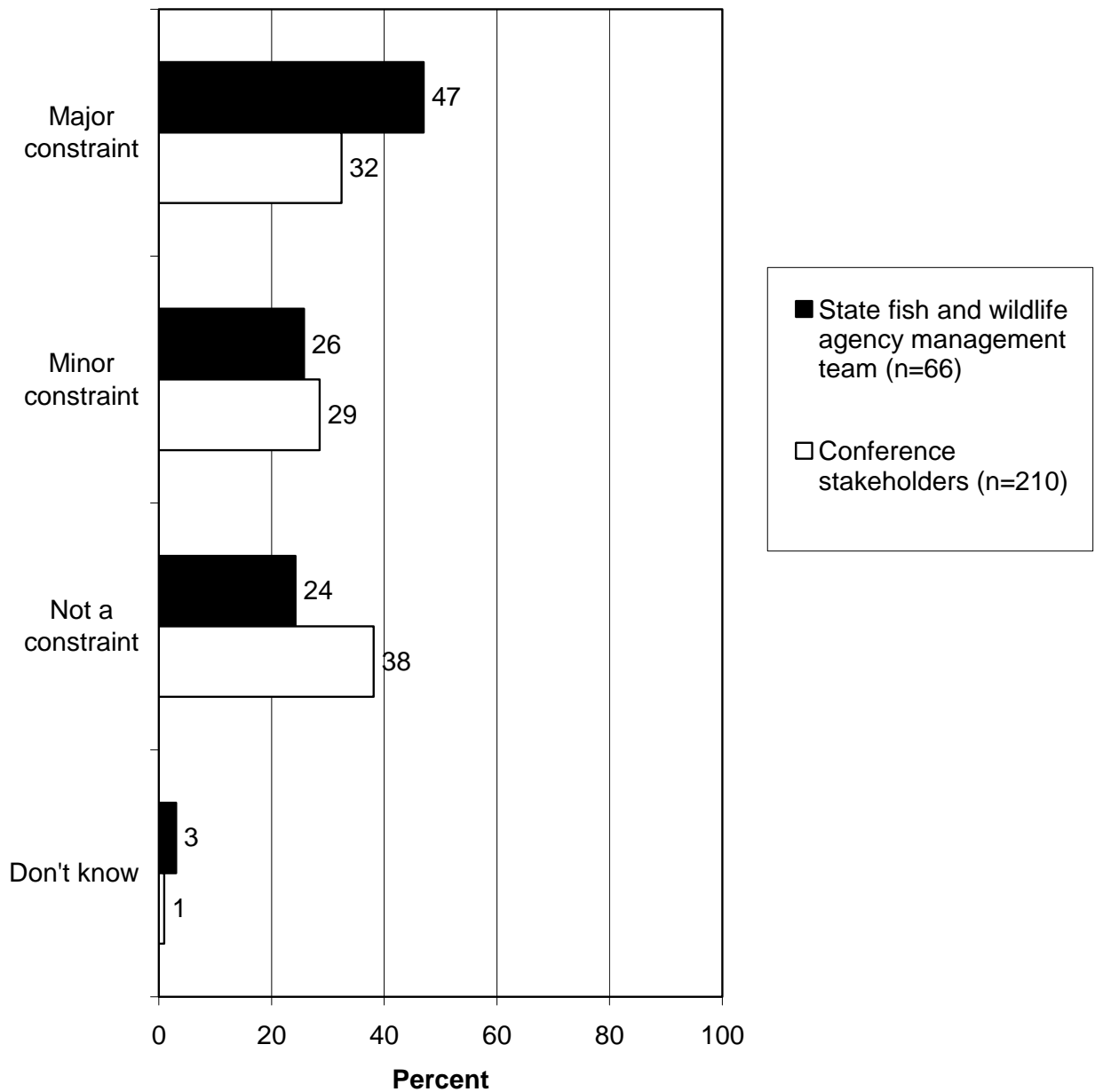
Q42. Has travel approval been a major constraint, a minor constraint, or not a constraint regarding your attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years?



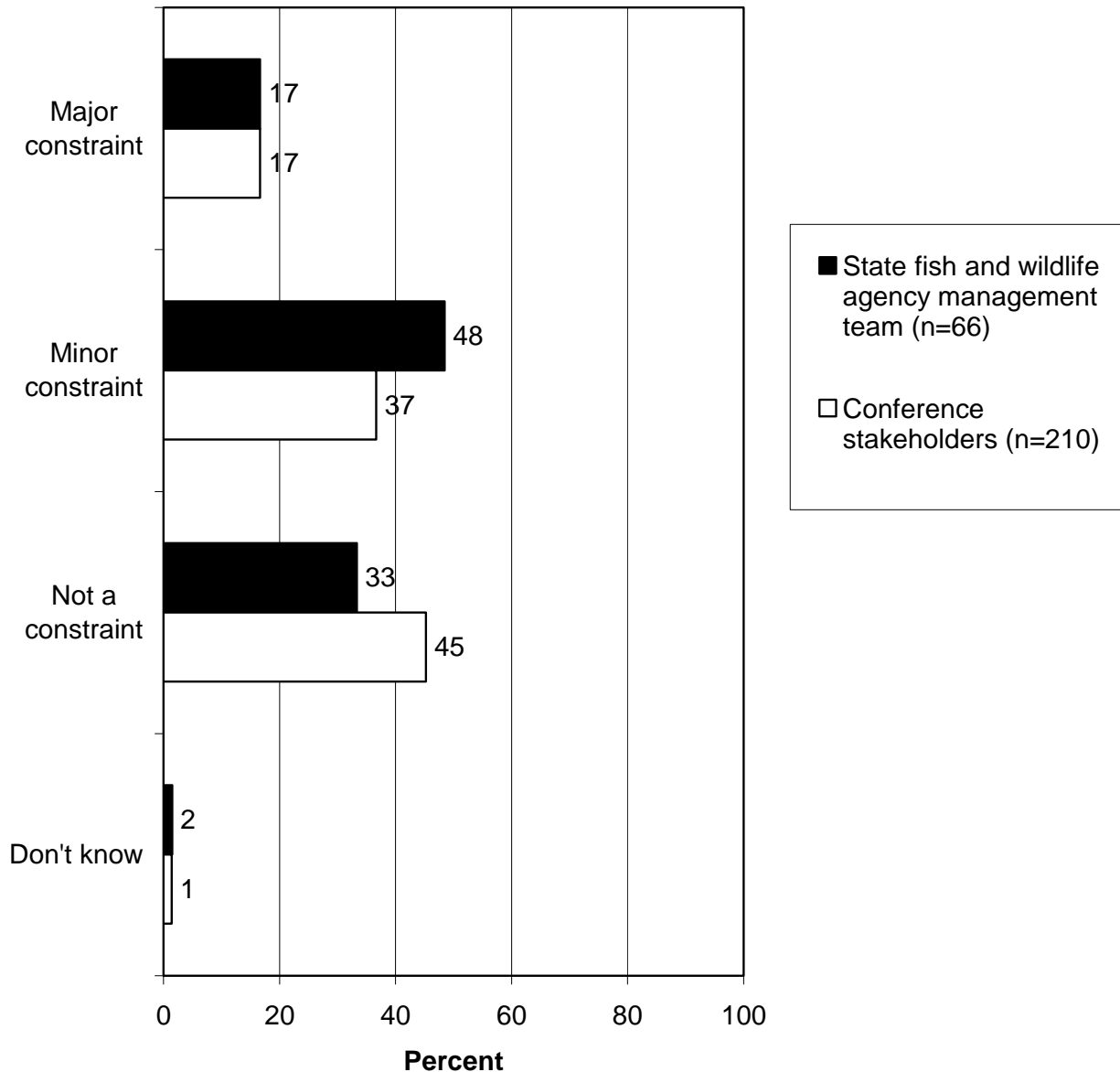
Q43. Has the location of the conference in a highly touristy destination been a major constraint, a minor constraint, or not a constraint regarding your attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years?



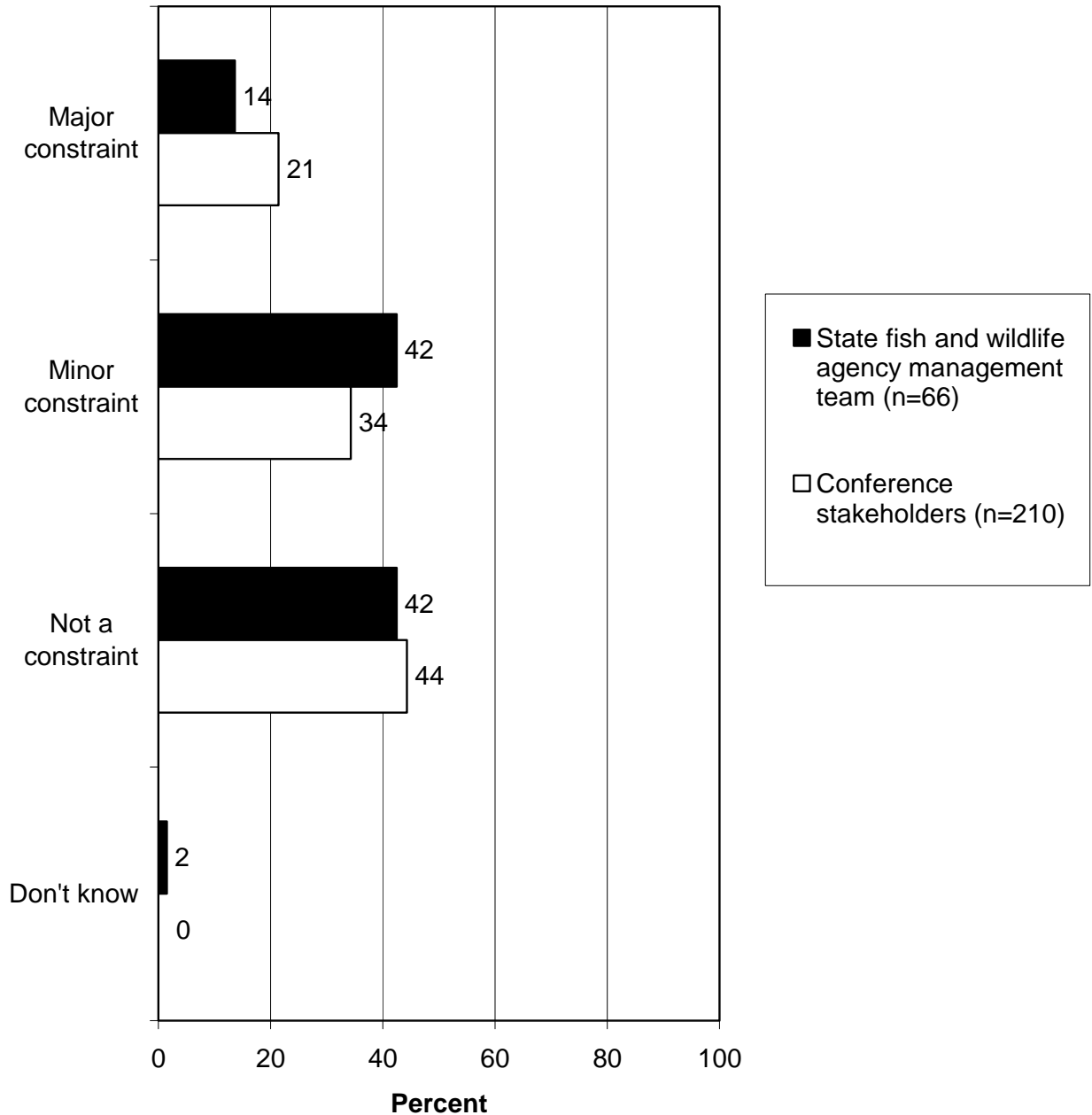
Q44. Has a limit on the number of personnel from your agency who are allowed to attend the conference been a major constraint, a minor constraint, or not a constraint regarding your attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years?



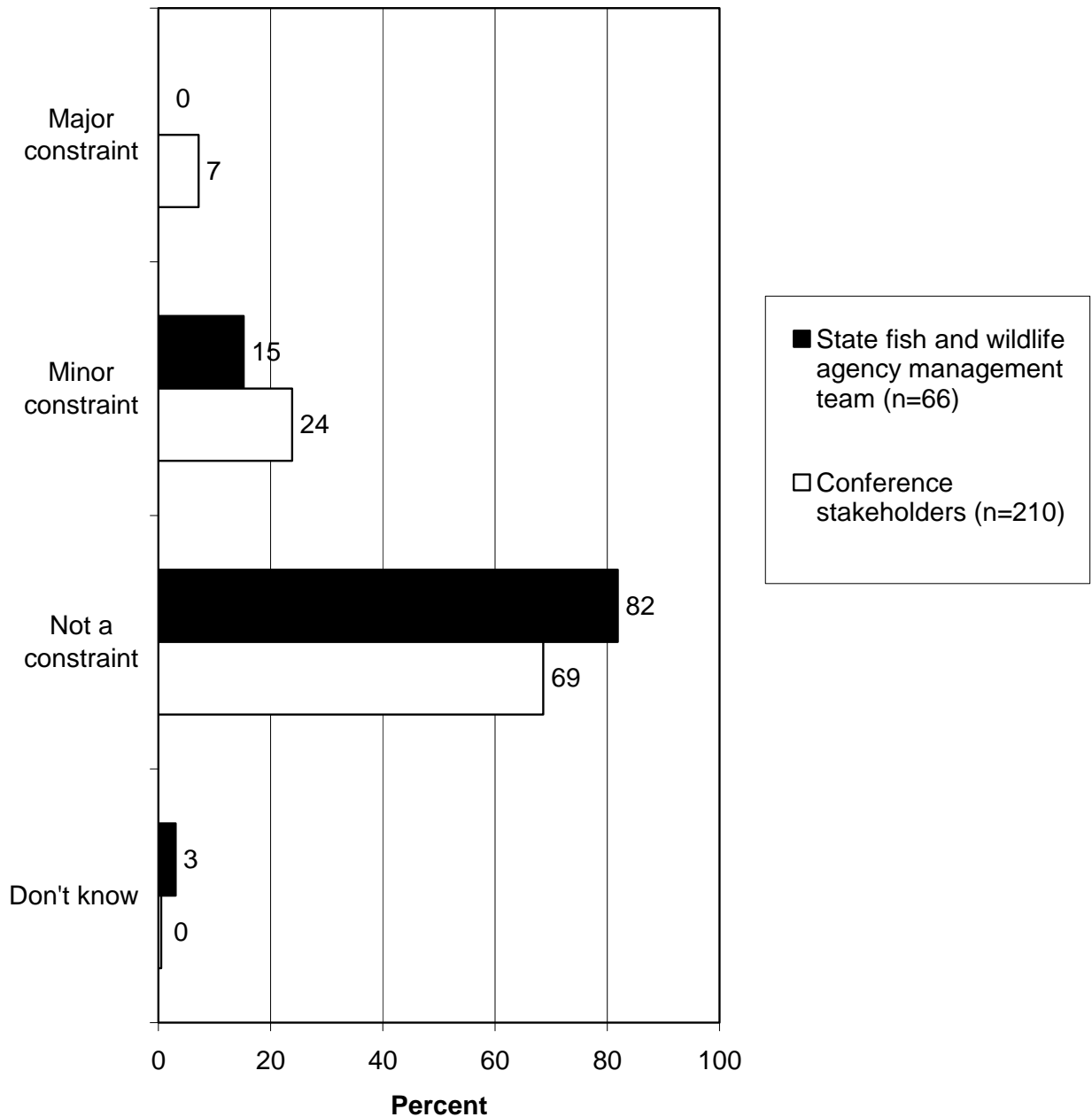
Q45. Has your attendance at other wildlife, technical, or species-specific conferences (SE Deer Study Group, SE Quail Study Group, etc.) been a major constraint, a minor constraint, or not a constraint regarding your attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years?



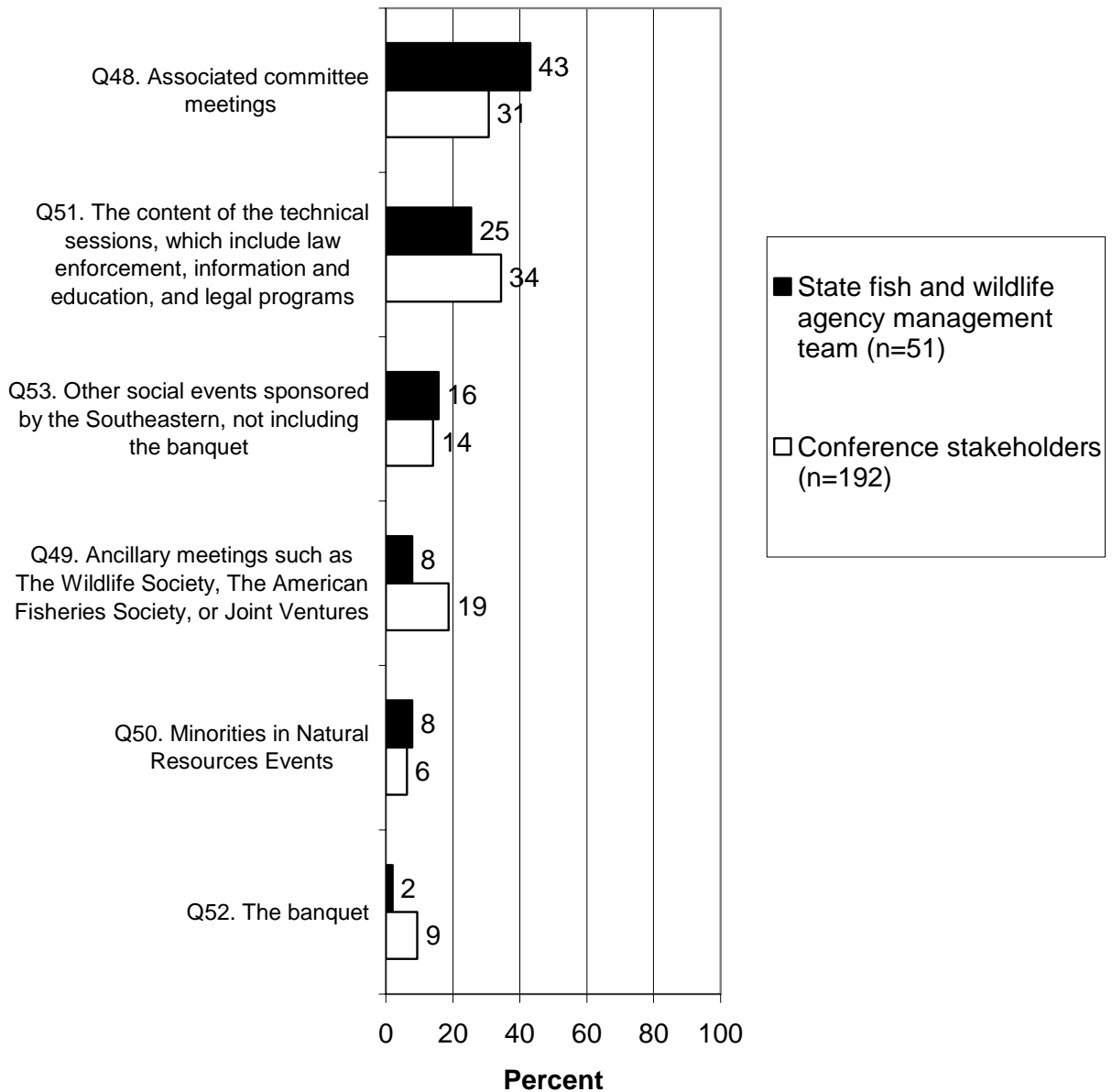
Q46. Has the meeting's distance from your home state been a major constraint, a minor constraint, or not a constraint regarding your attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years?



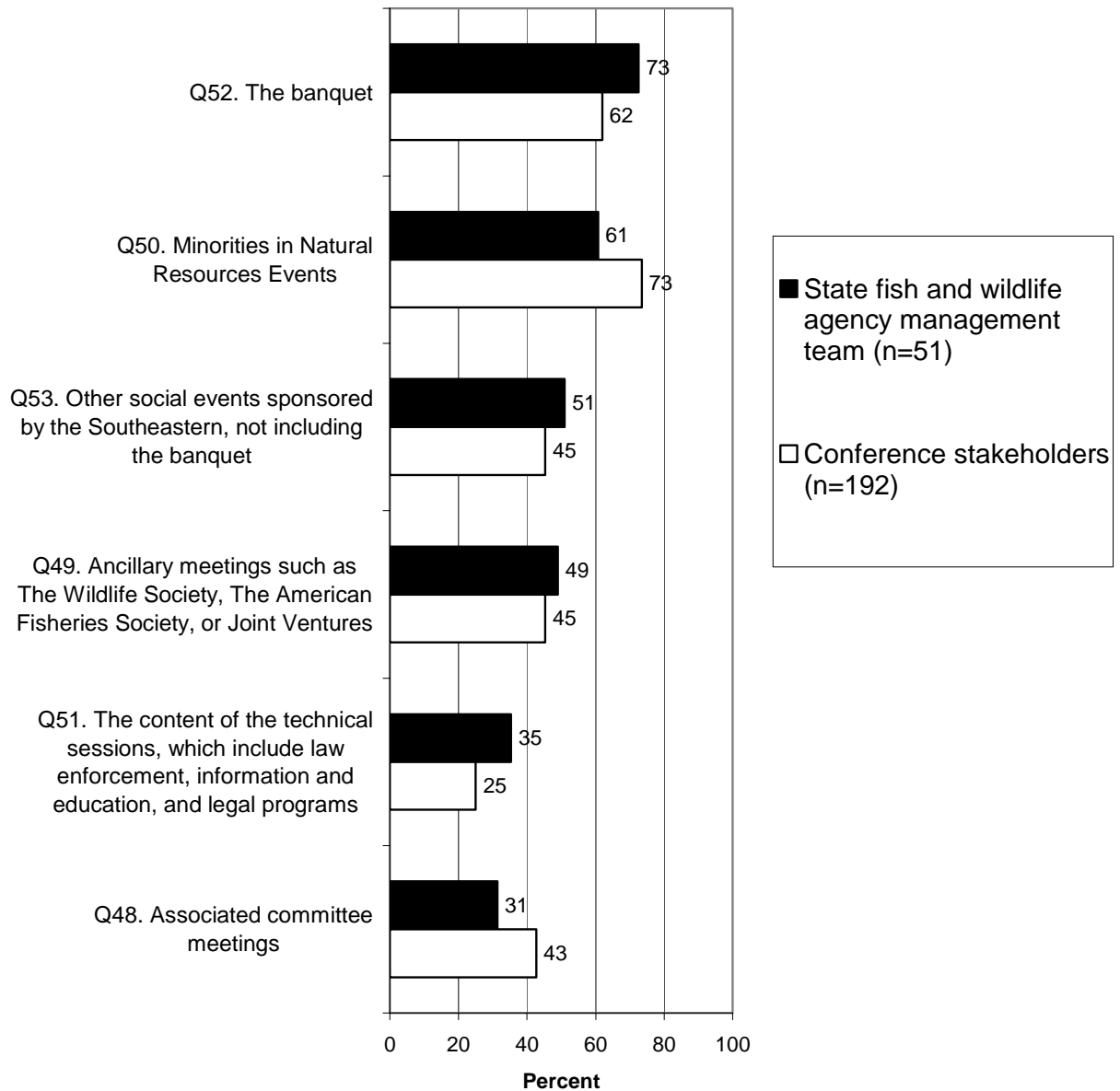
Q47. Has notification regarding the conference been a major constraint, a minor constraint, or not a constraint regarding your attendance at the Southeastern Conference in the past 5 years?



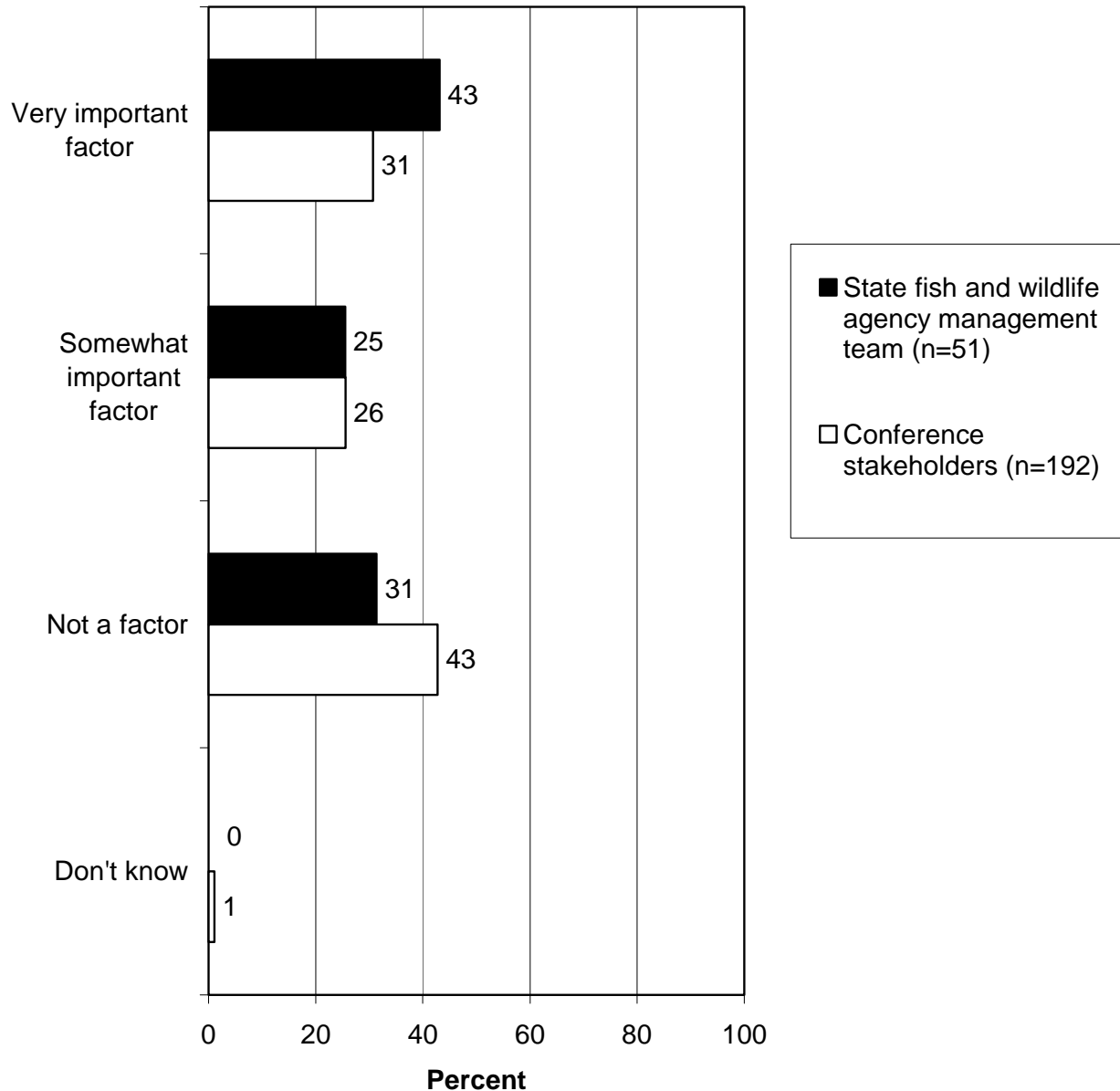
Q48-53. Factors in the decision to attend the conference over the past 5 years. (Percentages answering that the following factors are very important.) (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



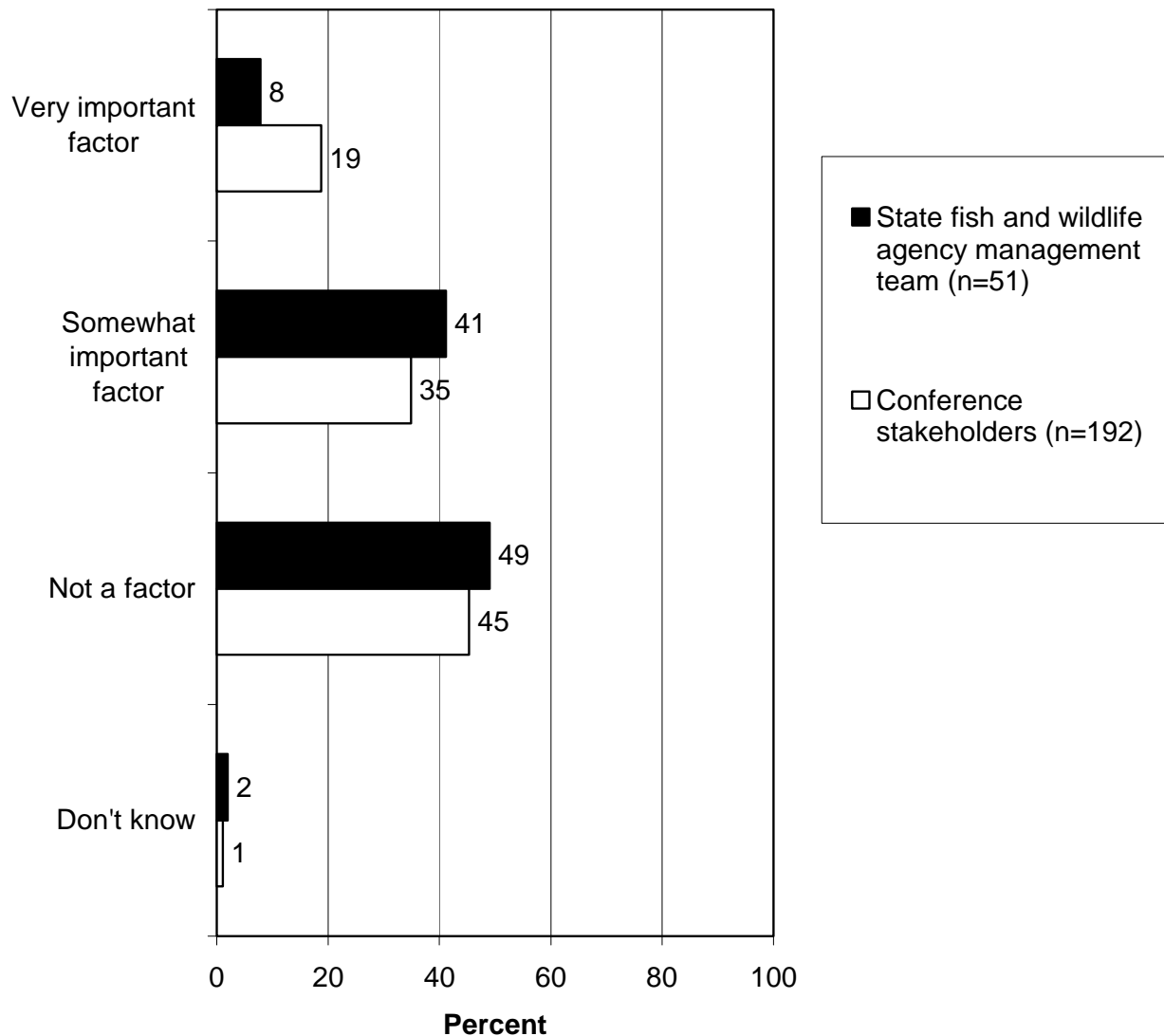
Q48-53. Factors in the decision to attend the conference over the past 5 years. (Percentages answering that the following are not factors in their decision to attend.) (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



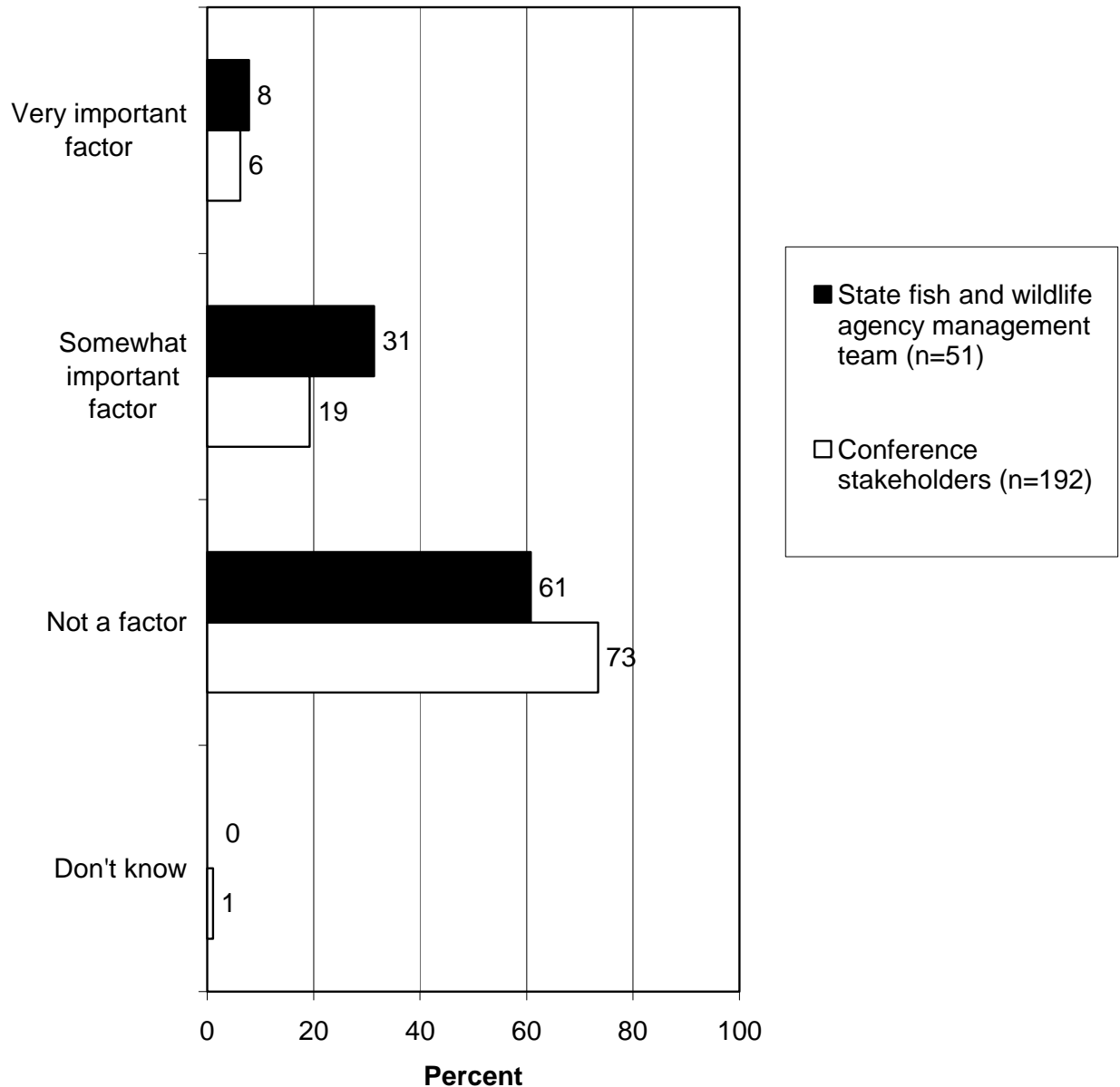
Q48. Were associated committee meetings a very important factor, a somewhat important factor, or not a factor in your decision to attend the Southeastern Conference over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



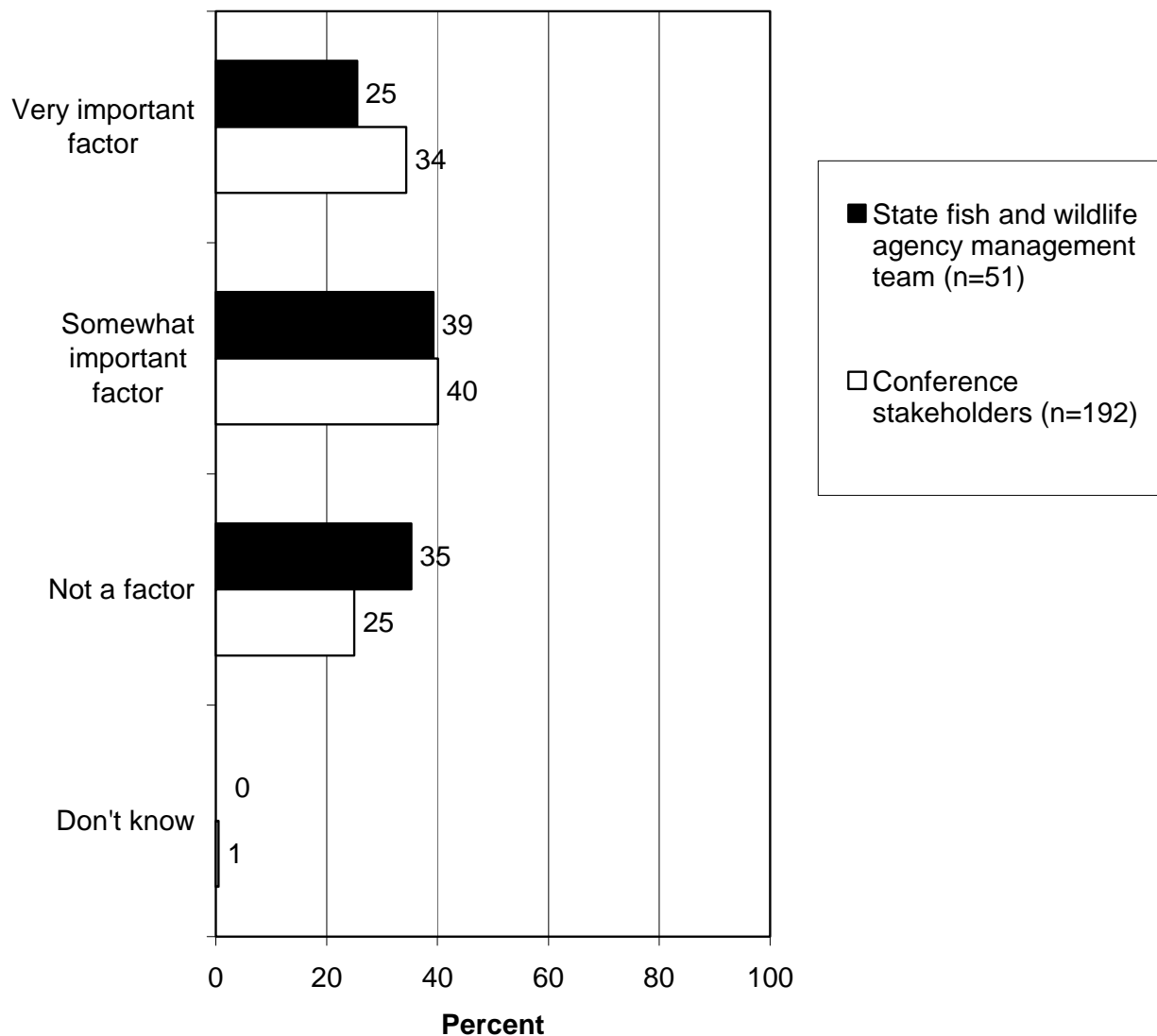
Q49. Were ancillary meetings such as The Wildlife Society, The American Fisheries Society, or Joint Ventures, a very important factor, a somewhat important factor, or not a factor in your decision to attend the Southeastern Conference over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



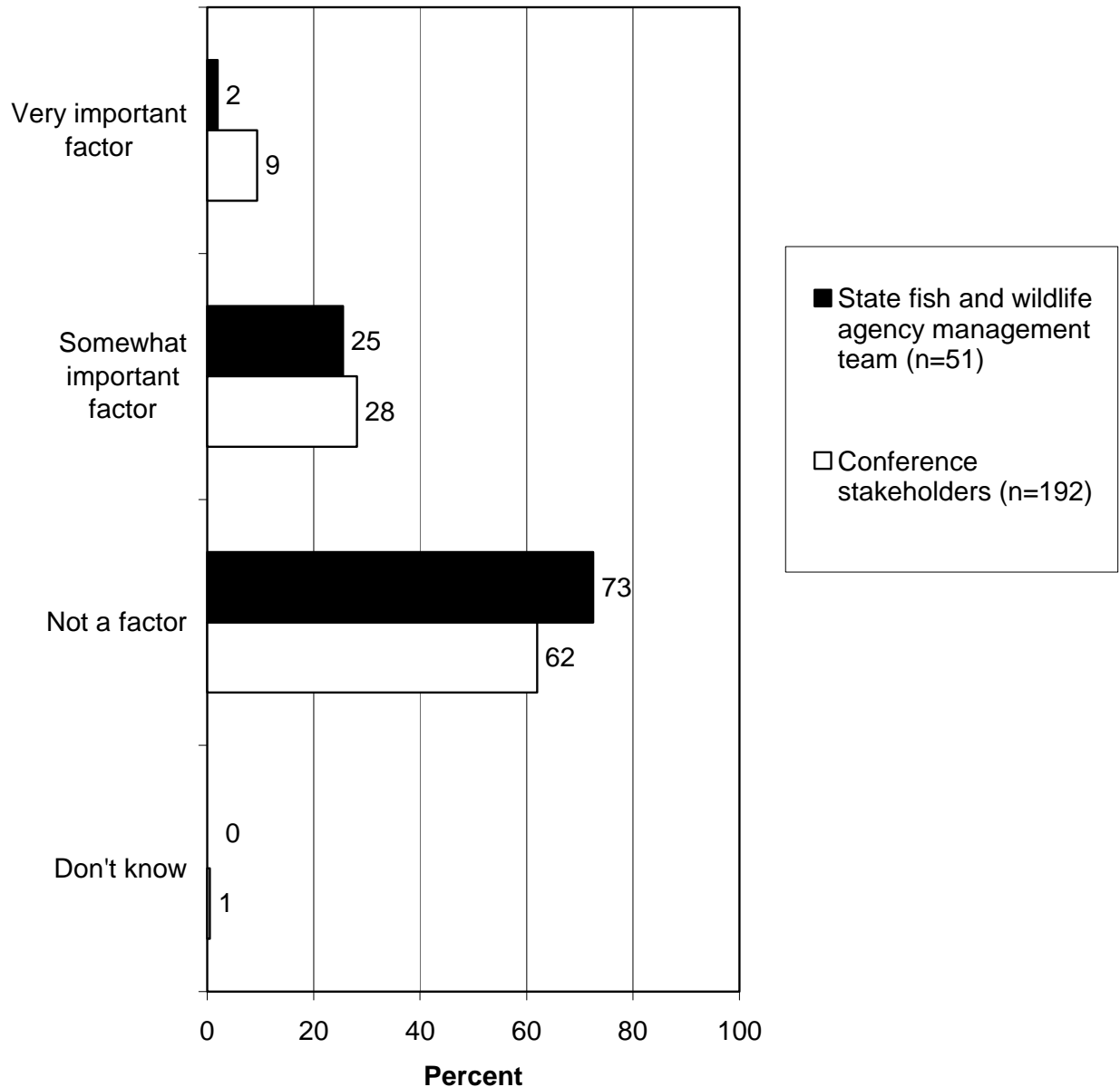
Q50. Were Minorities in Natural Resources events a very important factor, a somewhat important factor, or not a factor in your decision to attend the Southeastern Conference over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



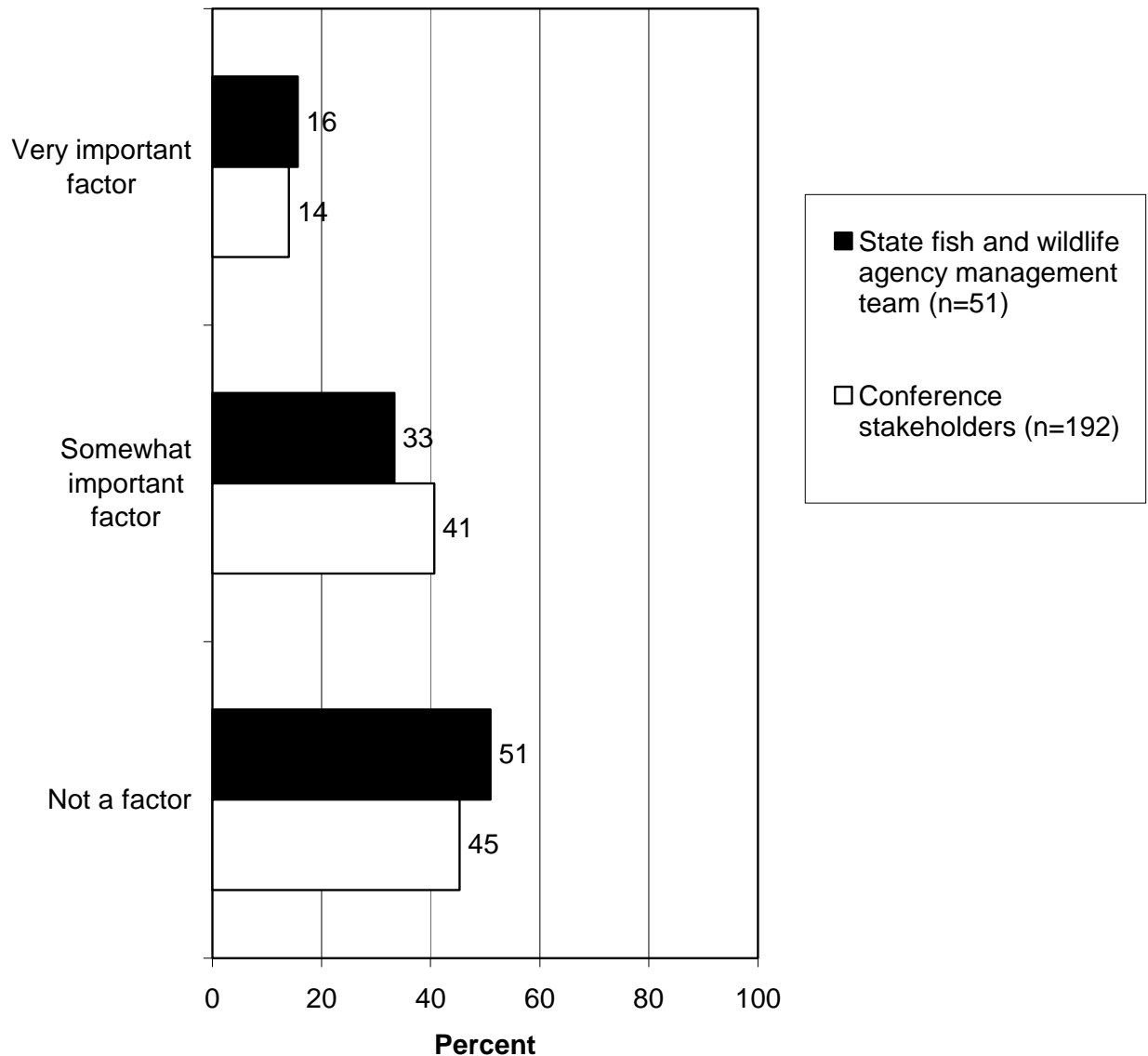
Q51. Was the content of the technical sessions, which includes law enforcement, information and education, and legal programs, a very important factor, a somewhat important factor, or not a factor in your decision to attend the Southeastern Conference over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Q52. Was the banquet a very important factor, a somewhat important factor, or not a factor in your decision to attend the Southeastern Conference over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Q53. Were other social events sponsored by the Southeastern Conference, not including the banquet, a very important factor, a somewhat important factor, or not a factor in your decision to attend the Southeastern Conference over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AND OTHER CONFERENCES

- Large majorities of Team members (85%) and Conference stakeholders (82%) said that the publication of the Southeastern Conference Proceedings is very or somewhat important.
 - While Team members were slightly more likely overall to say the publication of the Proceedings is important, they were less likely than Conference stakeholders to say that the publication of the Proceedings is very important (18% of Team members and 30% of Conference stakeholders said the publication of the Proceedings is very important).

- Conference stakeholders were more likely than were Team members to say that the Southeastern Conference Proceedings is important to their professional development (64% of Team members and 77% of Conference stakeholders), and Conference stakeholders were much more likely to say that the Southeastern Conference Proceedings is very important to their professional development (8% of Team members and 25% of Conference stakeholders).

- Very strong majorities of both groups (74% of Team members and 82% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Proceedings are a good value priced at \$22.
 - 13% of Team members and 5% of Conference stakeholders disagree.

- Conference stakeholders make more use of the Proceedings in their job than do Team members. Team members most commonly said that they use the Proceedings rarely in performing their job duties (45%), while Conference stakeholders most commonly said that they use the Proceedings sometimes (49%) in performing their job duties.
 - Among Team members, 32% use the Proceedings in performing their job duties always or sometimes, while 68% rarely or never use the Proceedings.
 - Among Conference stakeholders, 52% use the Proceedings in performing their job duties always or sometimes, while 45% rarely or never use the Proceedings.
 - Both groups had a higher percentage saying that they use the Proceedings never (23% of Team members and 14% of Conference stakeholders) than said they use the Proceedings always (3% of both groups).

- Majorities of both groups (65% of Team members and 76% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Southeastern Conference Proceedings is a valuable outlet for publication.
 - 17% of Team members and 9% of Conference stakeholders disagree.

- Majorities of both groups (74% of Team members and 82% of Conference stakeholders) agree that publications in the Southeastern Conference Proceedings are a valuable resource for fish and wildlife professionals not in a university setting.

- Team members more commonly agree (43%) than disagree (26%) that papers published in the Southeastern Conference Proceedings are less valuable to university researchers than are publications in other journals. Conference stakeholders have nearly equal percentages in agreement (39%) and disagreement (38%) with this.

- Team members most commonly said that they would like to see abstracts of papers (64%), papers (48%), and peer-reviewed papers (45%) in the Southeastern Conference Proceedings. Conference stakeholders most commonly said that they would like to see peer-reviewed papers (62%), abstracts of papers (55%), and papers (52%) in the Southeastern Conference Proceedings.

- Both groups had majorities (64% of Team members and 69% of Conference stakeholders) supporting changing the format of the Proceedings to something similar to the Wildlife Society Bulletin wherein peer-reviewed and peer-edited articles are differentiated, and other sections with general information are included.
 - 8% of Team members and 9% of Conference stakeholders oppose.

- There was more agreement than disagreement that changing the name of the Southeastern Conference Proceedings to Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Conservation, or a similar name, would help establish a more selective image for the Proceedings; however, neither group had a majority who agree.
 - 40% of Team members agree, while 32% disagree.
 - 49% of Conference stakeholders agree, while 27% disagree.

- Large majorities of both groups support publishing the Proceedings in electronic format, if doing so will reduce the cost of publication, although Team members are slightly more likely than are Conference stakeholders to support this proposal (82% of Team members and 72% of Conference stakeholders support this proposal).
 - 8% of Team members and 18% of Conference stakeholders oppose this proposal.

- Large majorities of both groups (73% of Team members and 85% of Conference stakeholders) support having the Proceedings available at the following year's conference, assuming there is no change in the format of the Southeastern Conference.

- Majorities of both groups (61% of Team members and 81% of Conference stakeholders) support the hiring of a managing editor to assist Dr. Eversole in publishing the Proceedings in a timely manner.
 - 19% of Team members oppose, and 7% of Conference stakeholders oppose.

- A very large majority of Team members (88%) and Conference stakeholders (65%) had not submitted a manuscript for presentation at the Southeastern Conference Technical Sessions in any of the past 5 years. Otherwise, most commonly, both Team members (6%) and Conference stakeholders (21%) had submitted a manuscript once in the past 5 years.

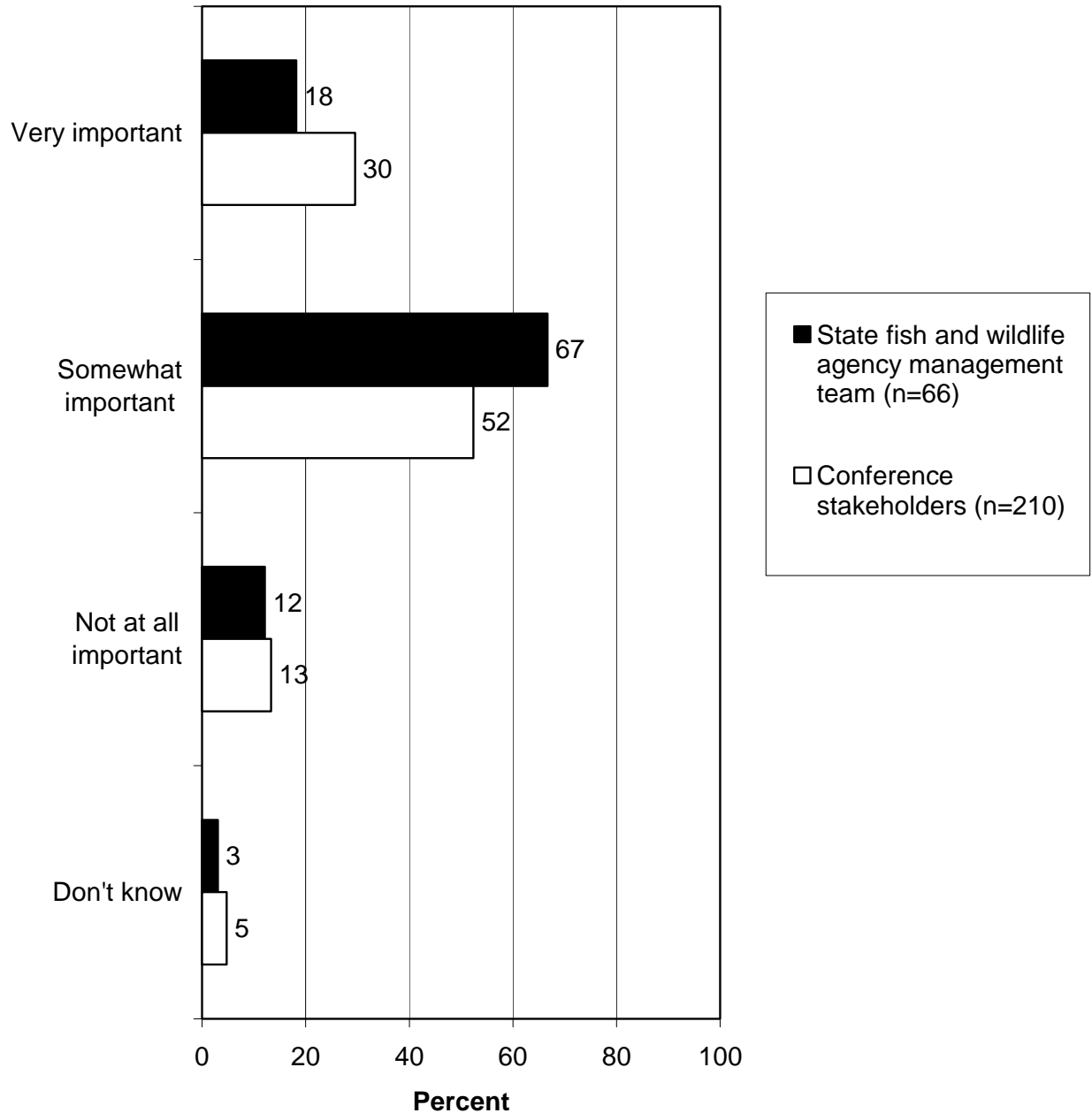
- Recall that in Question 33 on page 9 (from the chapter titled, "Participation in and Factors Affecting Attendance at Conferences") that a very large majority of Team members (75%) and a slight majority of Conference stakeholders (55%) had not given a presentation at the Southeastern Conference in any of the past 5 years. Otherwise, most commonly, Team members (20%) and Conference stakeholders (30%) had presented once in the past 5 years.

- Of those who had not submitted a manuscript to the Southeastern Conference Technical Sessions, the main reasons for not submitting a manuscript are that publication is not a priority (40% of Team members and 25% of Conference stakeholders gave this answer), that the respondent is not a researcher (9% of Team members and 22% of Conference

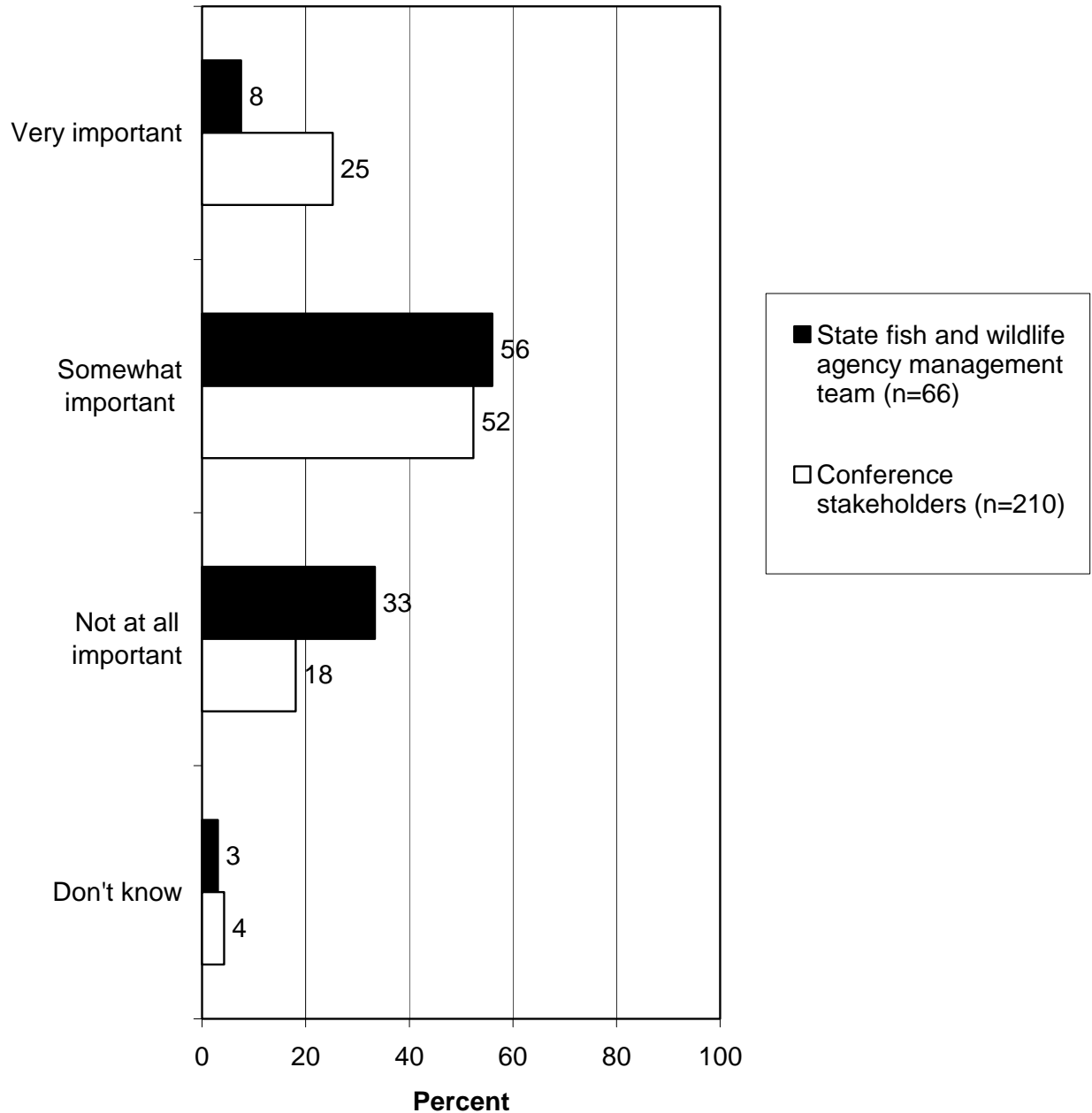
stakeholders), and/or that the respondent is an administrator and, therefore, does not perform research (24% of Team members and 6% of Conference stakeholders).

- Lack of materials is another important reason that Team members had not submitted a manuscript (11%). Lack of time is another important reason that Conference stakeholders had not submitted a manuscript (13%).
- Majorities of both groups (63% of Team members and 57% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Southeastern Conference Proceedings has a rigorous manuscript selection process.
- 11% of Team members and 14% of Conference stakeholders disagree.
- There is much more support than opposition to requiring electronic submission of manuscripts that are compatible with desktop publishing software: 89% of Team members support (0% oppose) and 86% of Conference stakeholders support (6% oppose).
- There is more support than opposition to changing the due date for manuscripts from the current deadline of May 1 to January 1 so that most editorial work can be completed before each annual meeting: 70% of Team members and 61% of Conference stakeholders support this proposal; 11% of Team members and 21% of Conference stakeholders oppose this proposal.
- Majorities of Team members (74%) and Conference stakeholders (58%) had not used other publication outlets for manuscripts in the past 5 years. The most commonly used publication, other than the Proceedings, for Team members and Conference stakeholders was the Wildlife Society Bulletin (5% of Team members and 10% of Conference stakeholders had used this outlet for publication in the past 5 years).

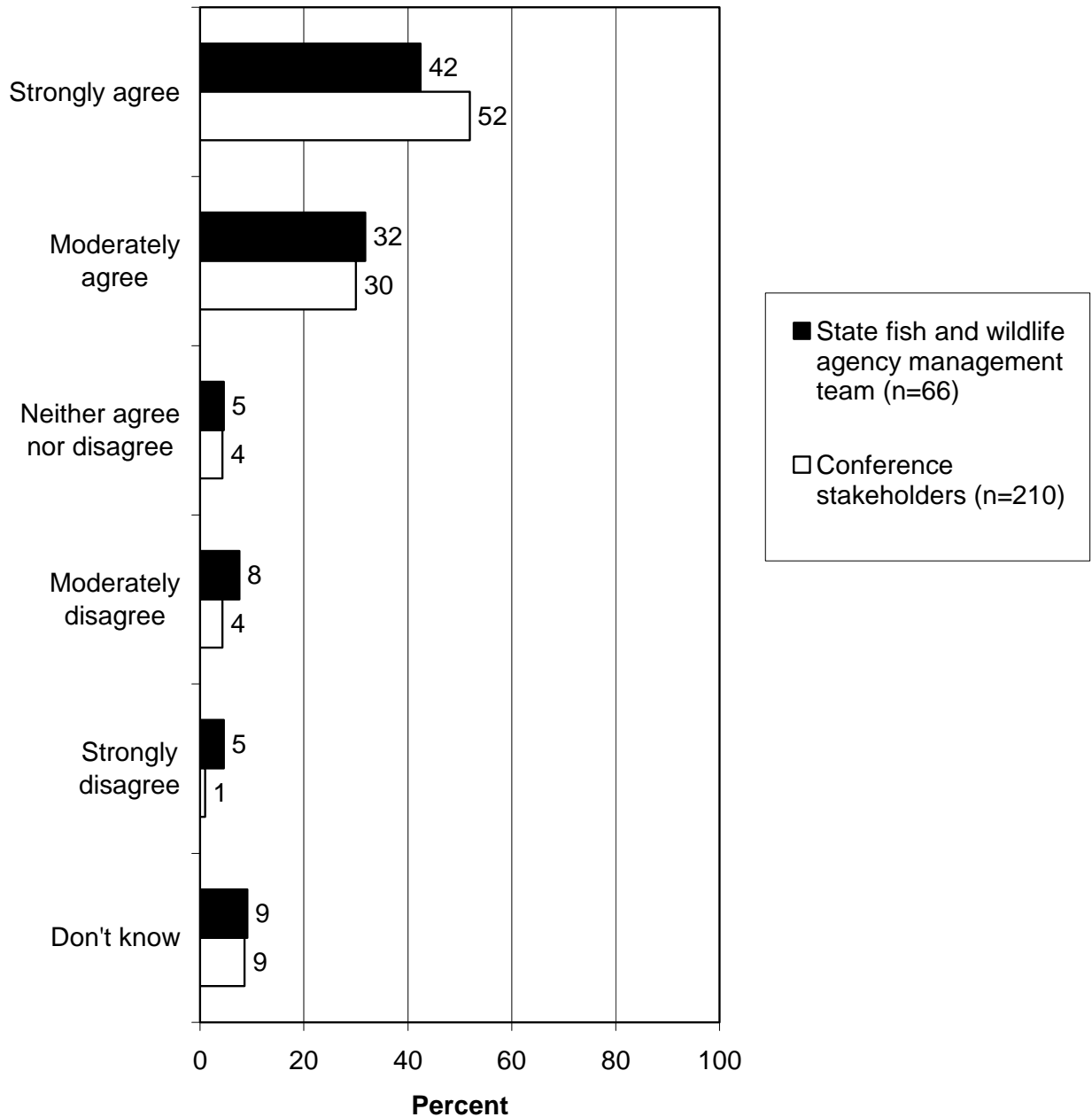
Q29. Overall, how important is the publication of the Southeastern's Proceedings of the Conference to your organization? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?



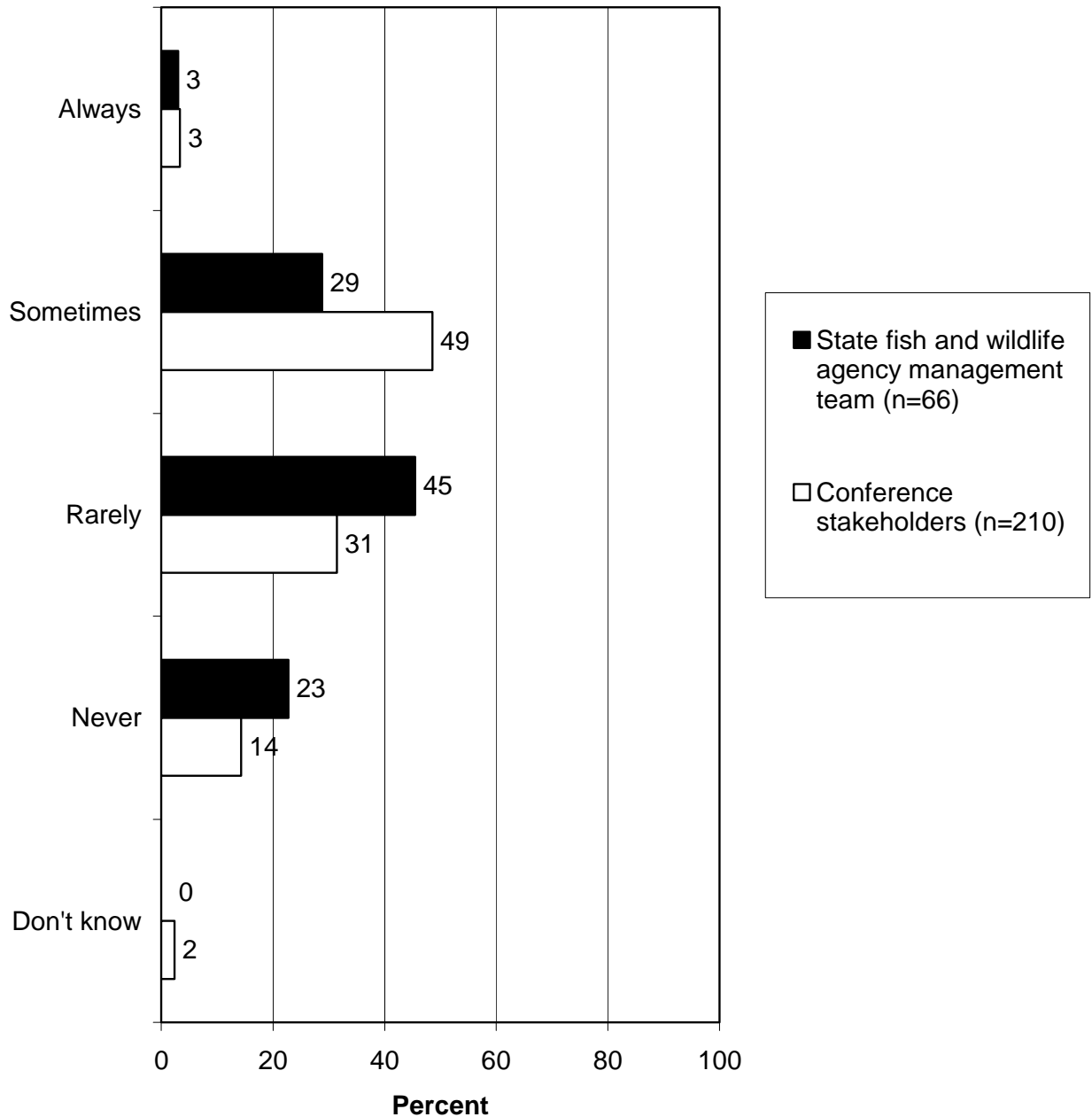
**Q30. Overall, how important is the Southeastern Proceedings to your professional development?
Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?**



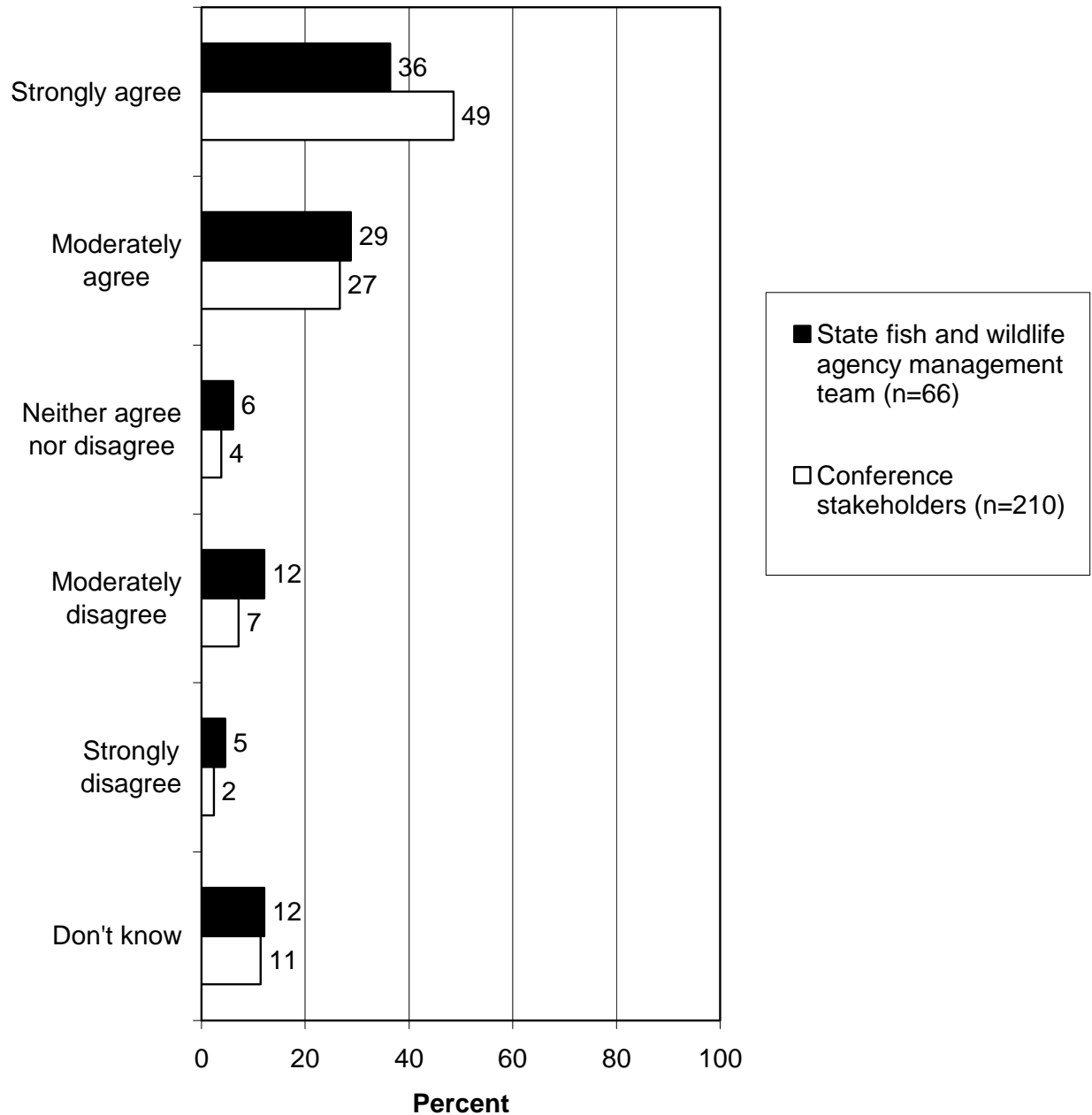
Q77. The Proceedings currently cost a total of \$22 for individual purchases. Do you agree or disagree that this is a good value?



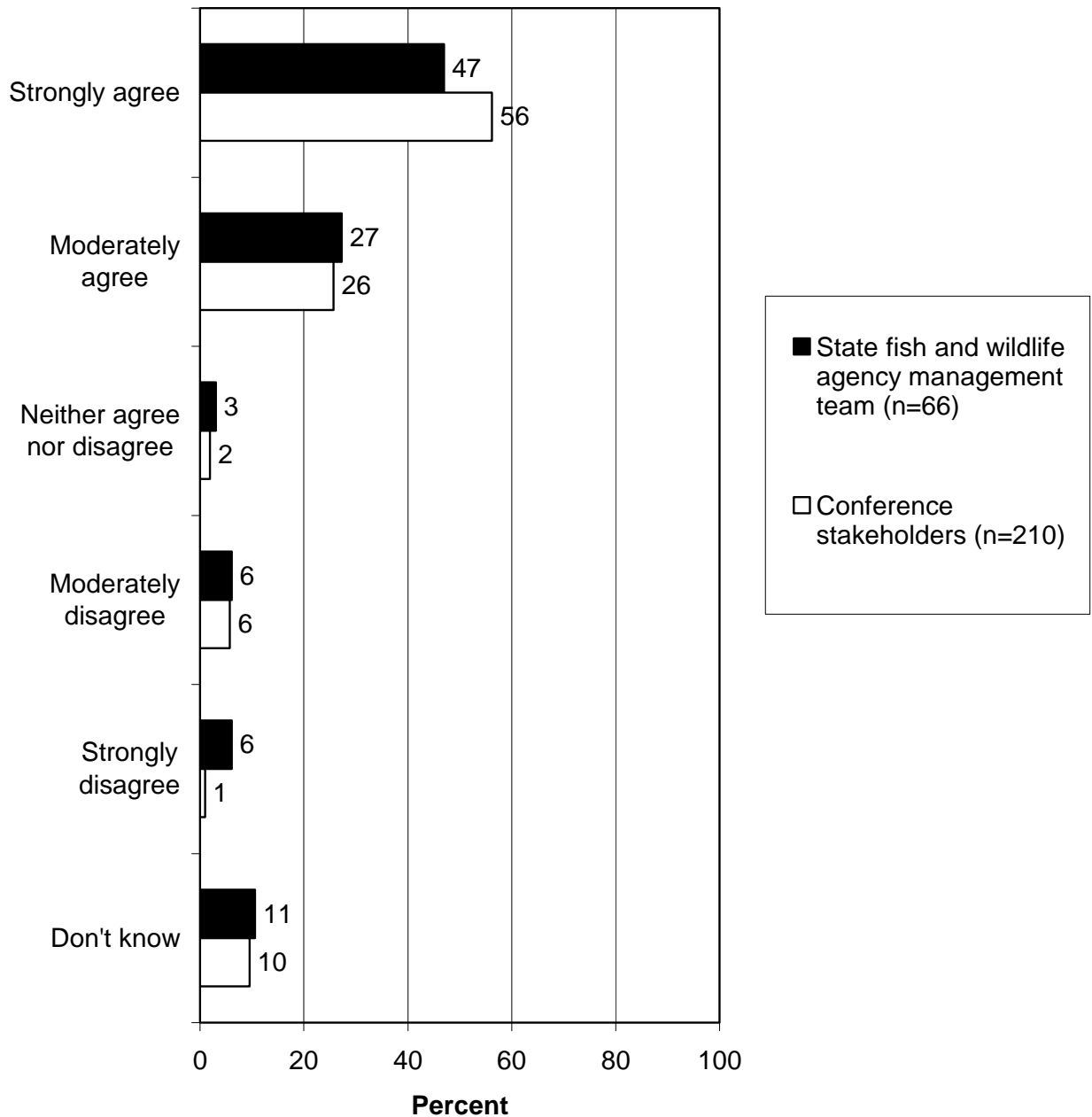
Q31. How often do you use the Proceedings in performing your job duties? Would you say you use it always, sometimes, rarely, or never?



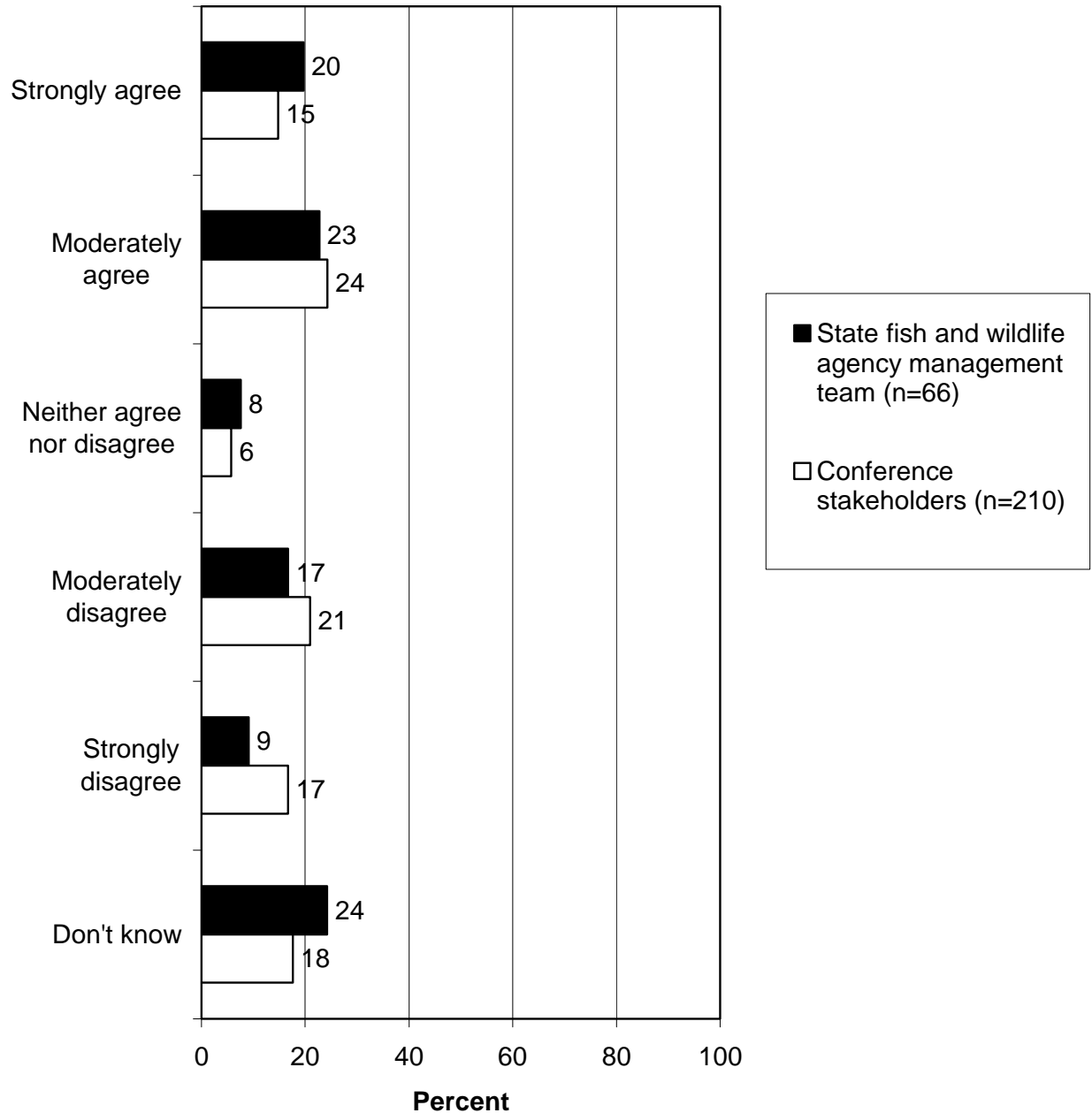
Q68. Overall, do you agree or disagree that the Southeastern Conference's Proceedings is a valuable outlet for publication?



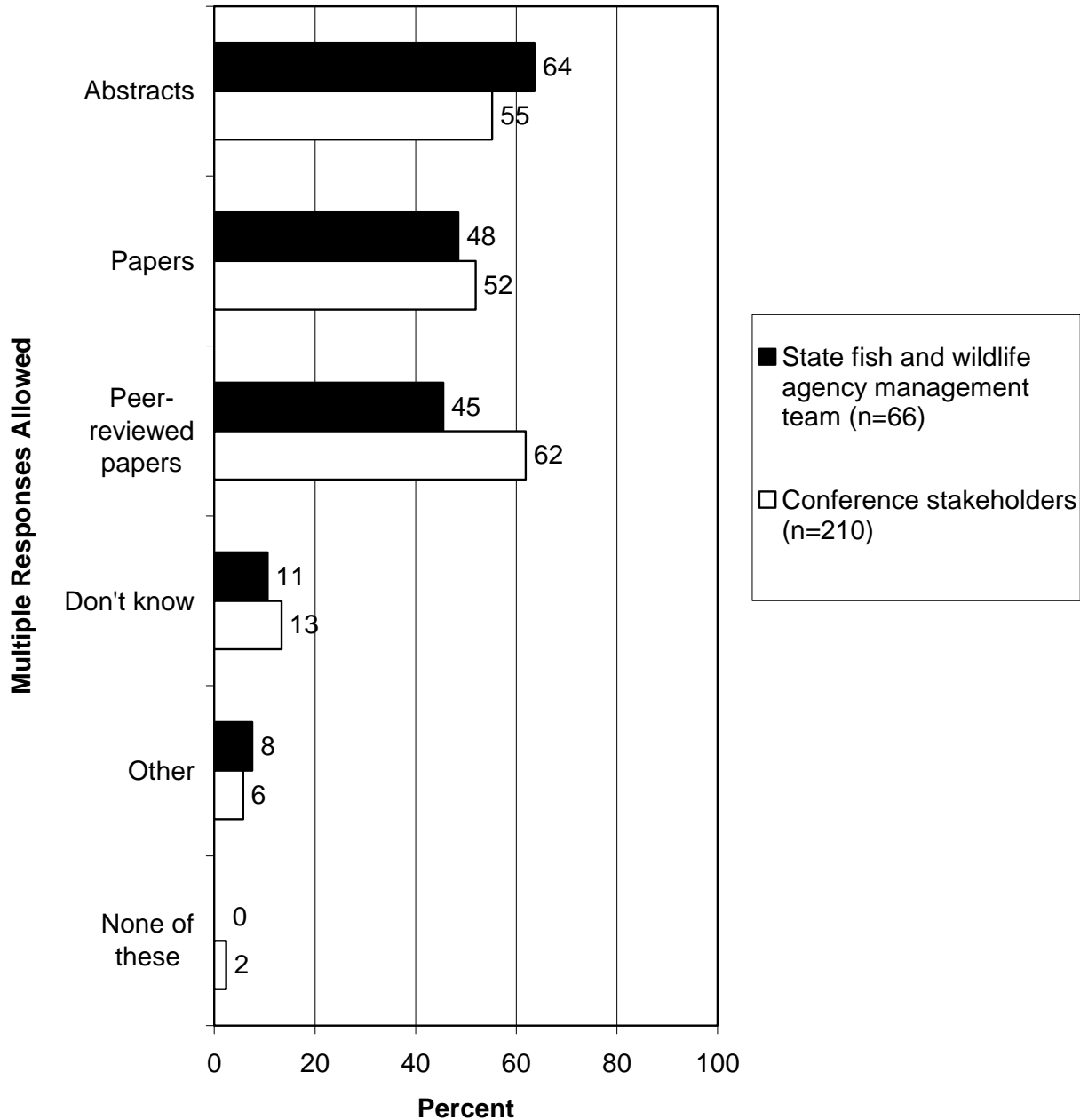
Q69. Do you agree or disagree that the publications in the Southeastern Conference's Proceedings are a valuable resource for fish and wildlife professionals not in a university setting?



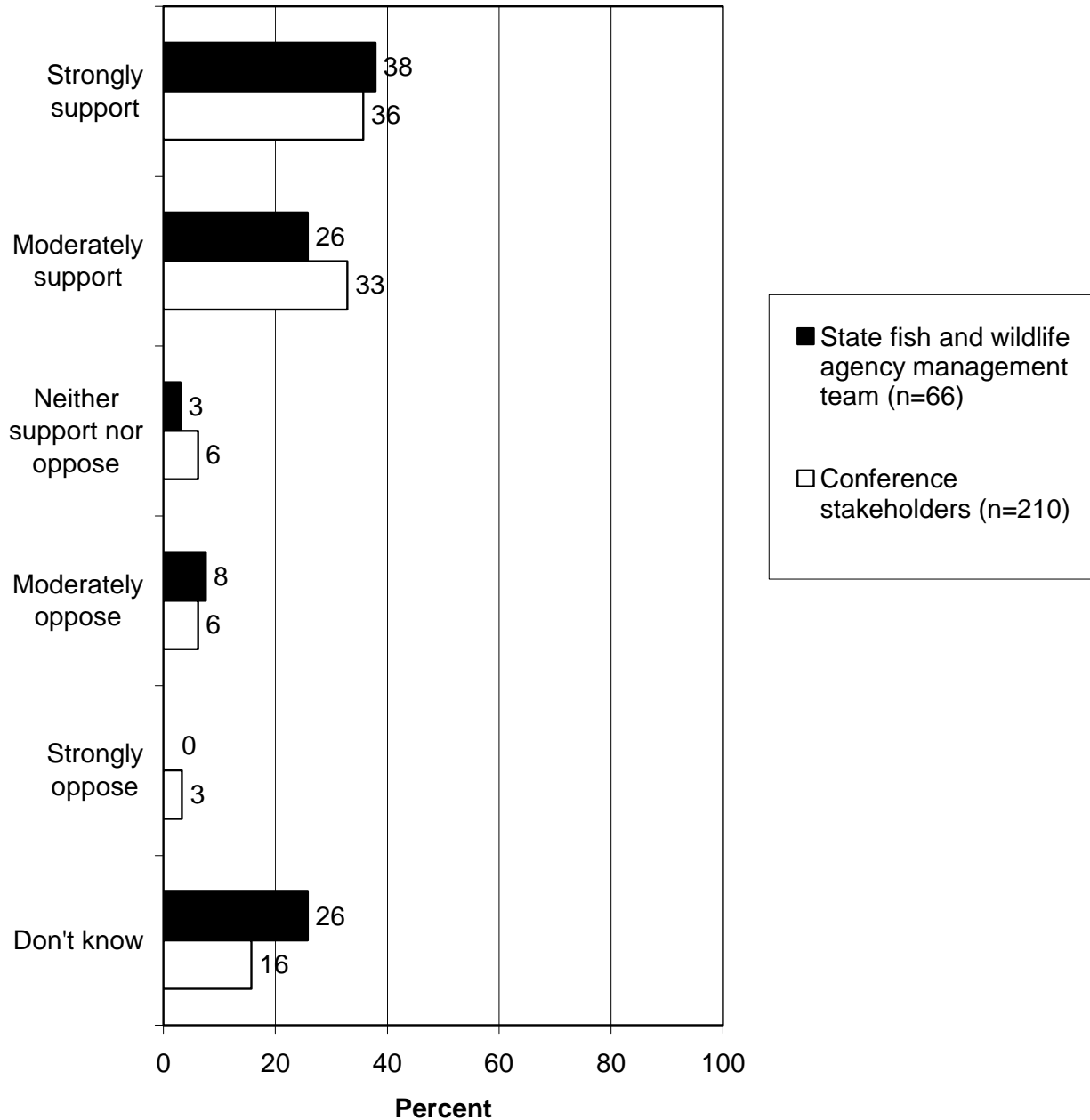
Q70. Do you agree or disagree that papers published in the Southeastern Conference's Proceedings are a less valuable resource to university researchers than are publications in other journals?



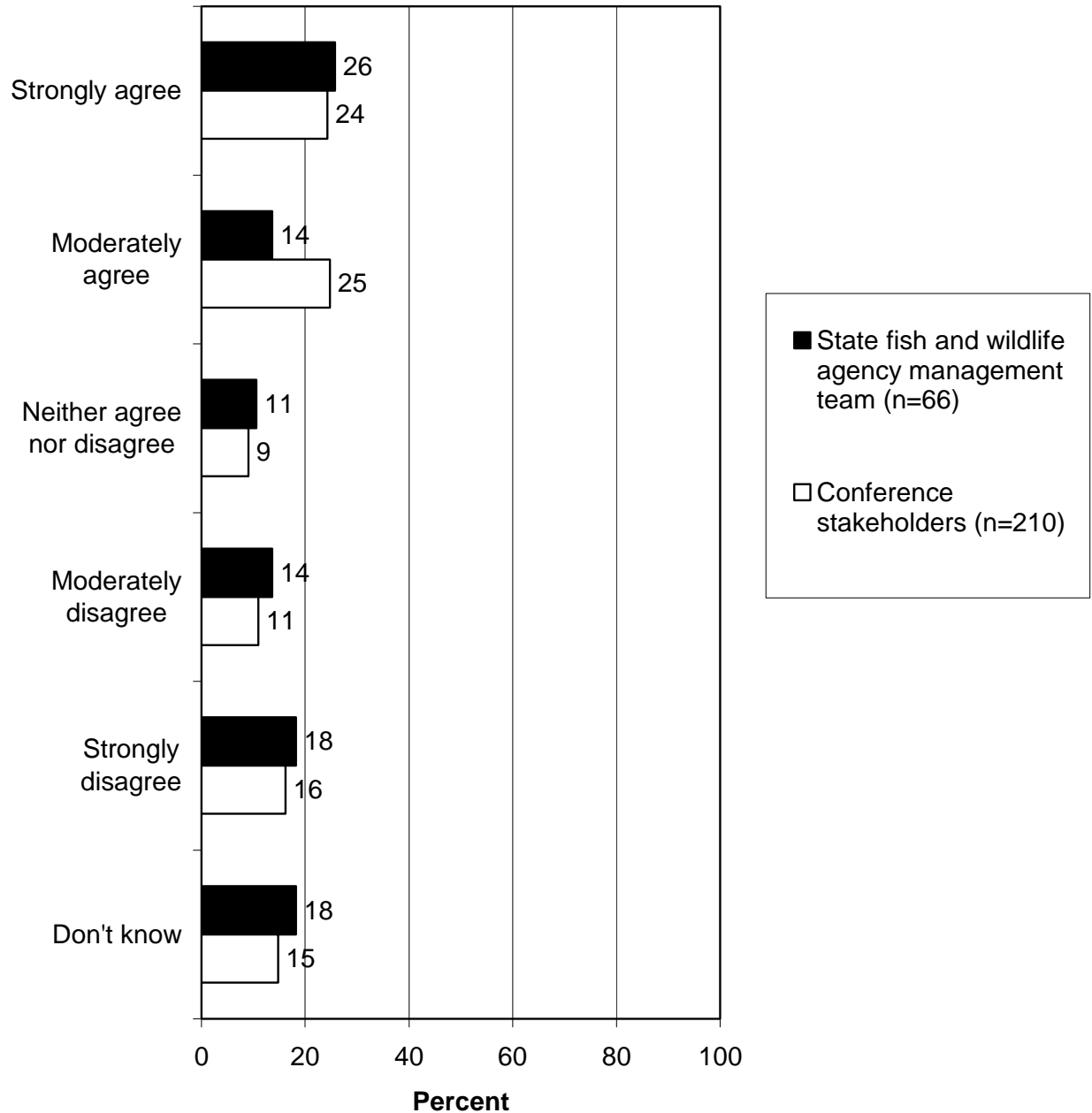
Q65. Which of the following components would you like to see in the Southeastern's Proceedings?



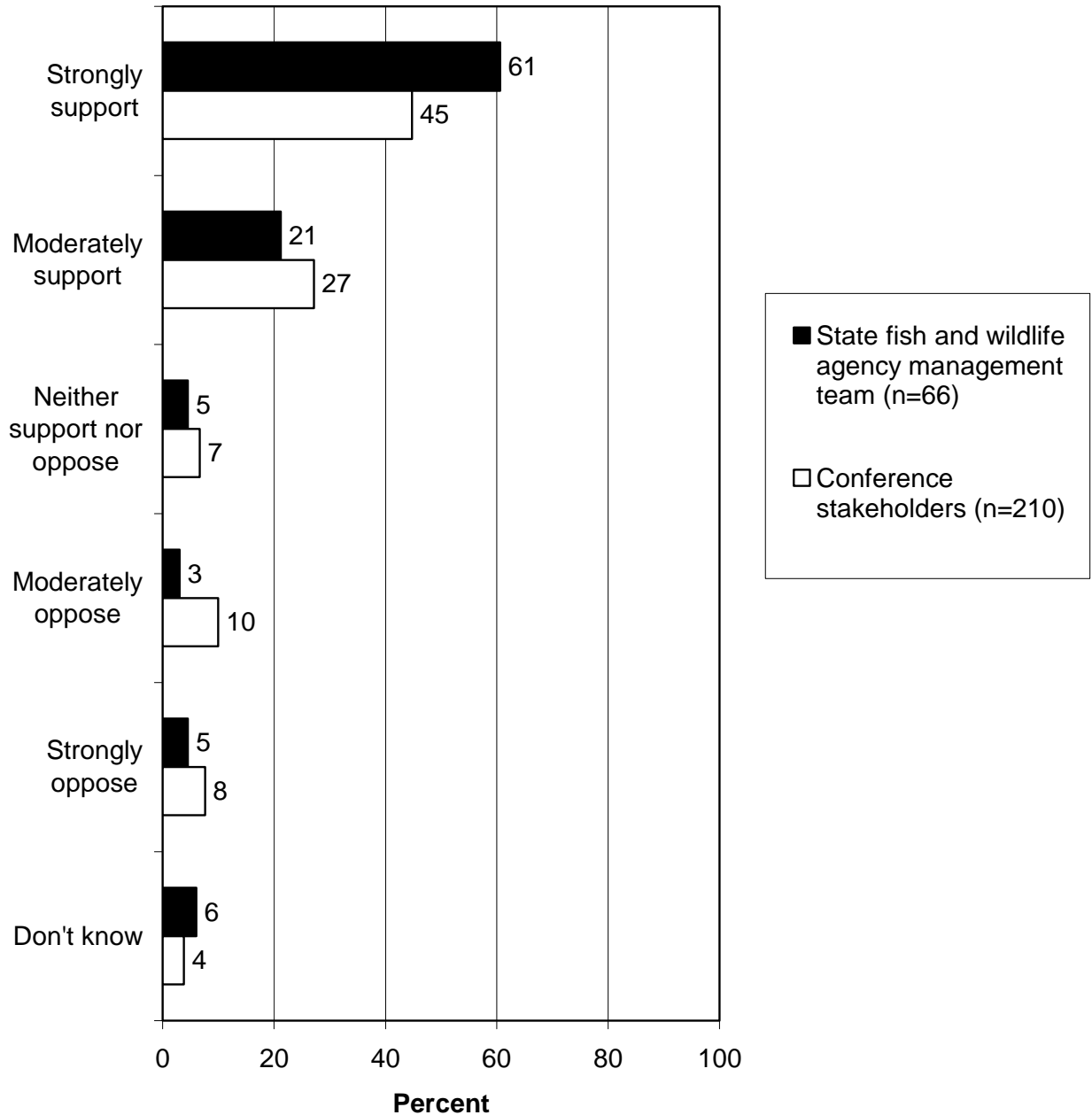
Q71. Would you support or oppose changing the format of the Proceedings to something similar to the Wildlife Society Bulletin, wherein peer-reviewed and peer-edited articles are differentiated, and other sections with general information are included?



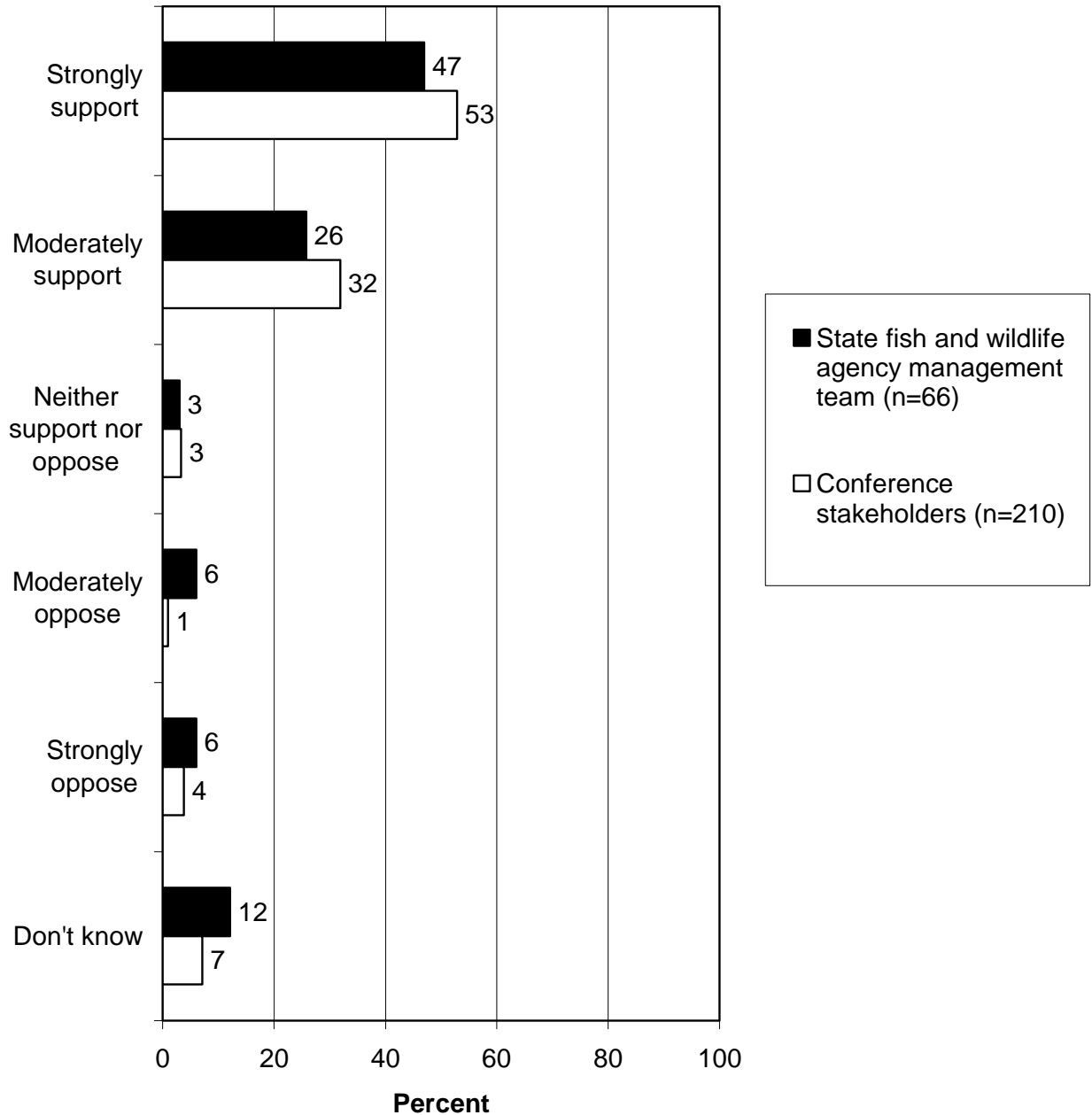
Q72. Do you agree or disagree that changing the name of the Southeastern Conference's Proceedings to the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Conservation, or a similar name, would help establish a more selective image for the Proceedings?



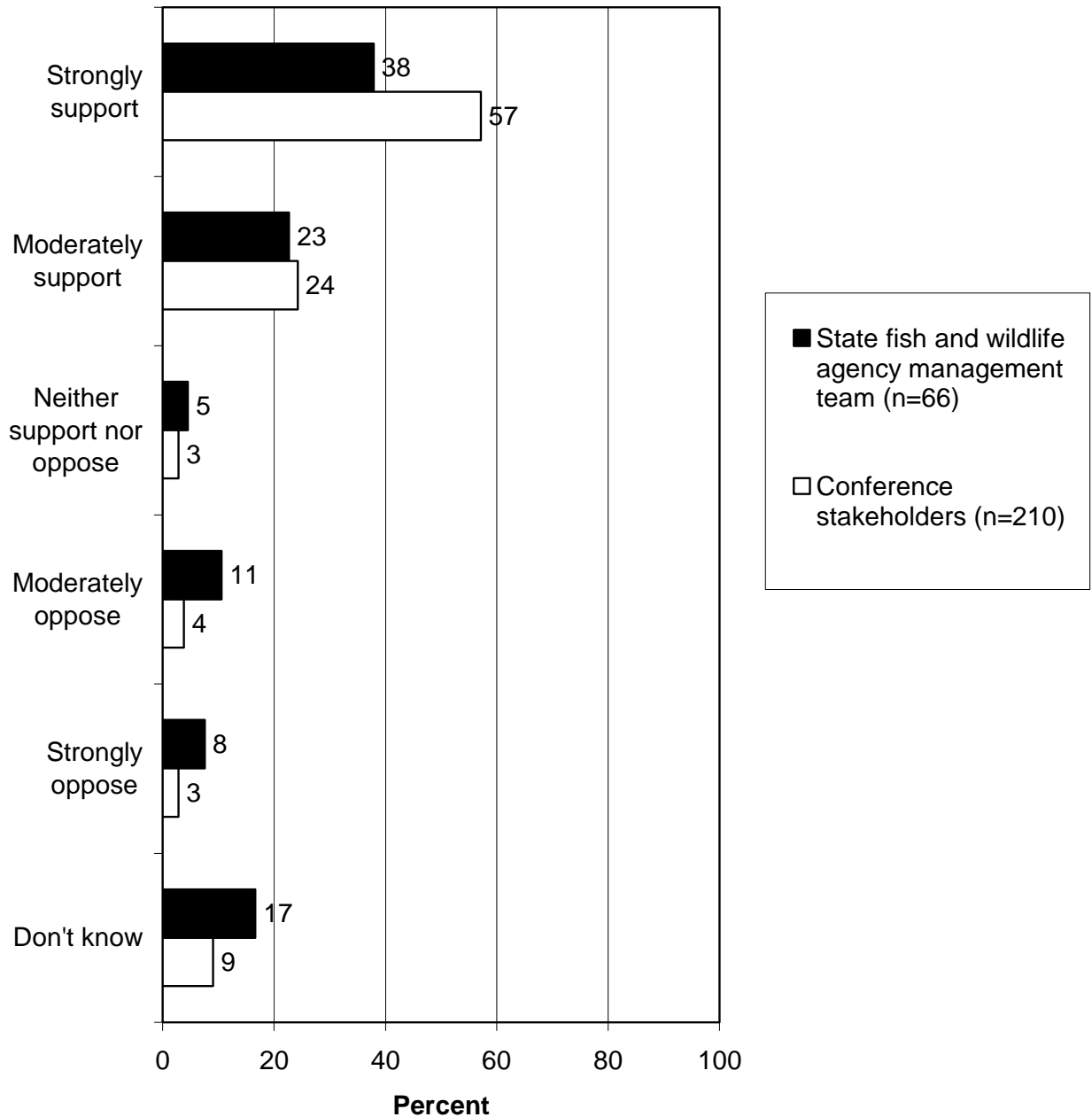
Q32. Do you support or oppose publishing the Proceedings in an electronic format only, if it means the cost of publishing would be significantly less than the current amount?



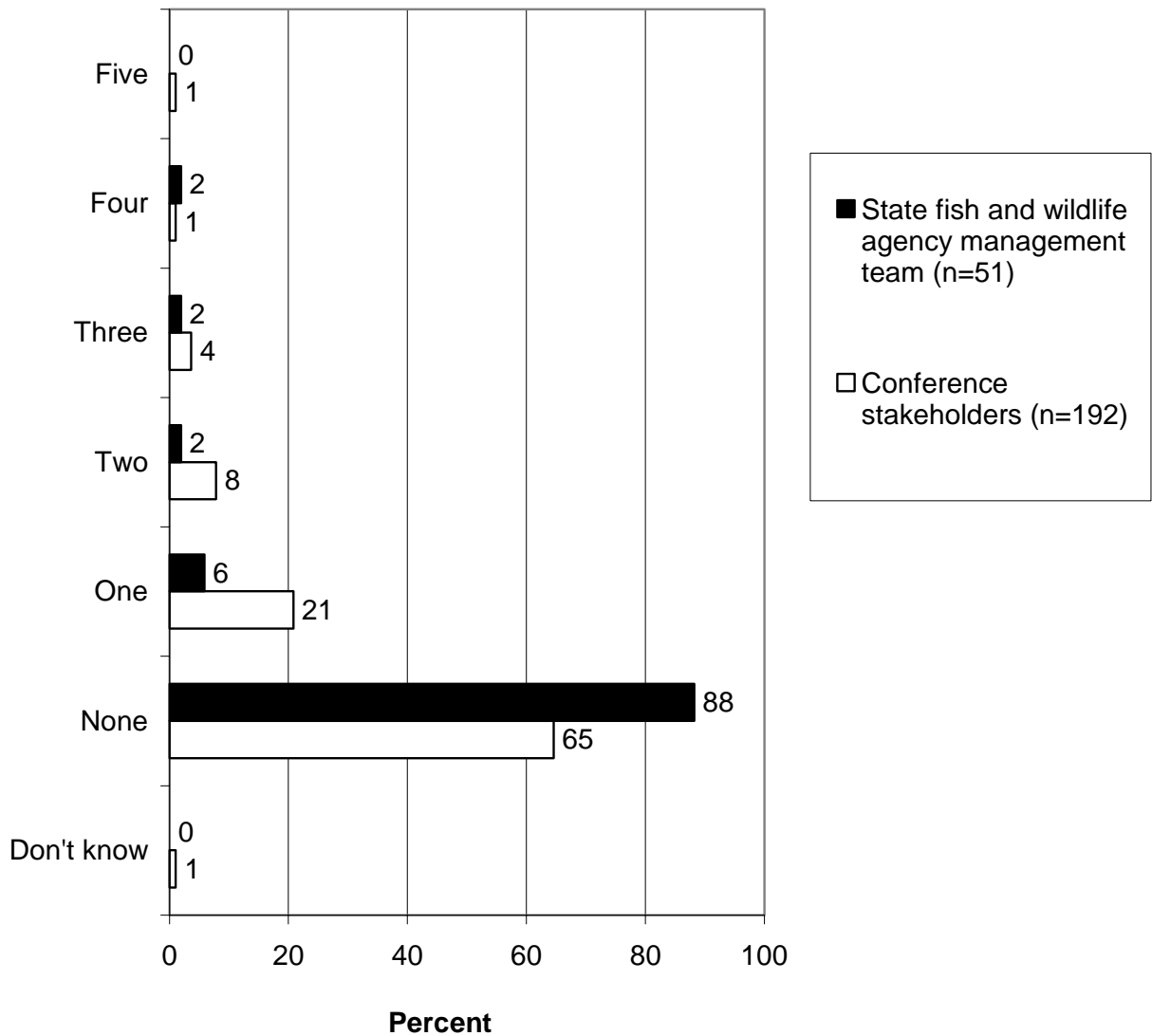
Q73. Assuming there is no change to the format of the Southeastern Conference, would you support or oppose having the Proceedings be available at the following year's conference?



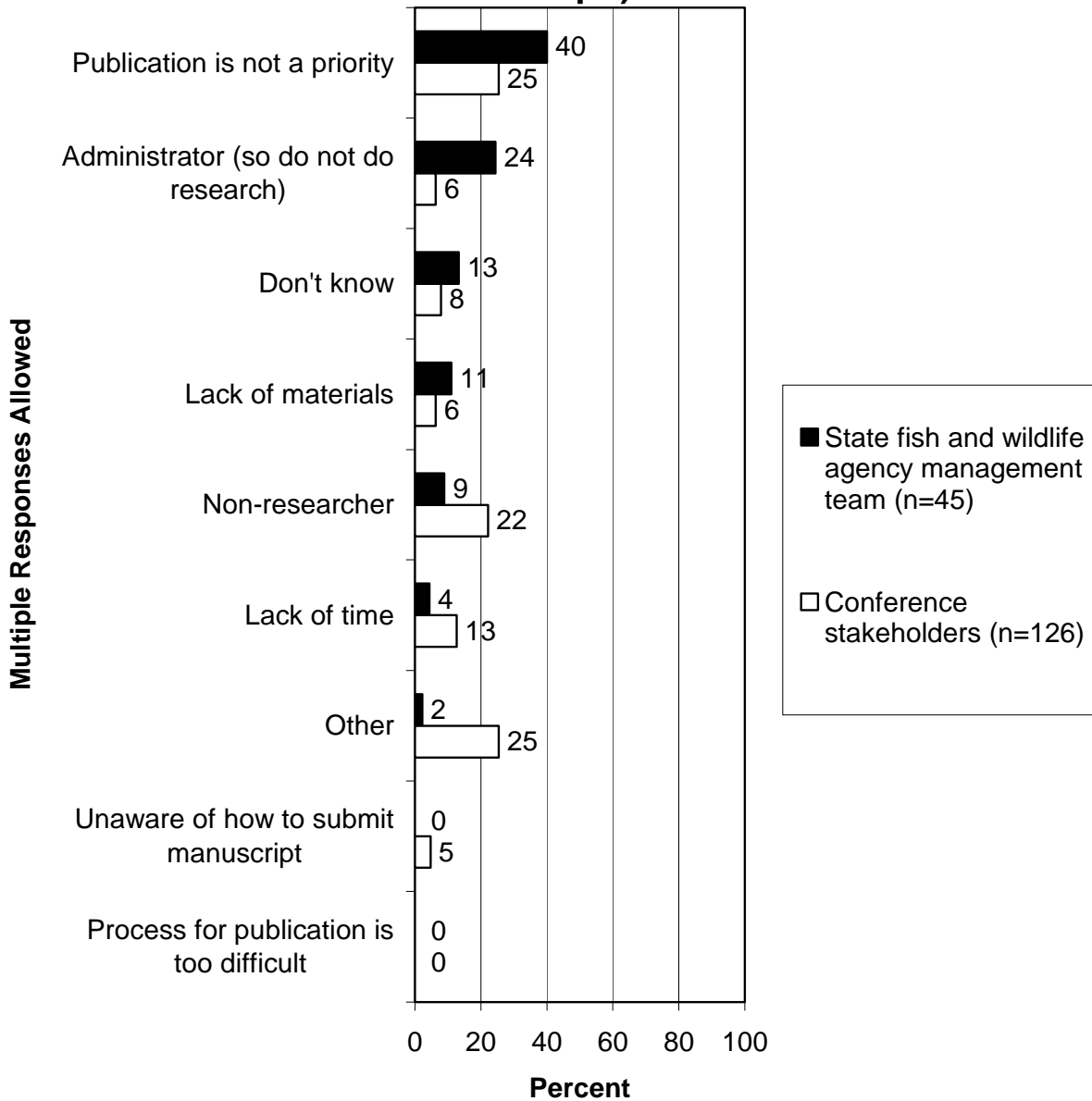
Q74. Would you support or oppose hiring a part-time managing editor to assist Dr. Eversole in publishing the Proceedings in a timely manner?



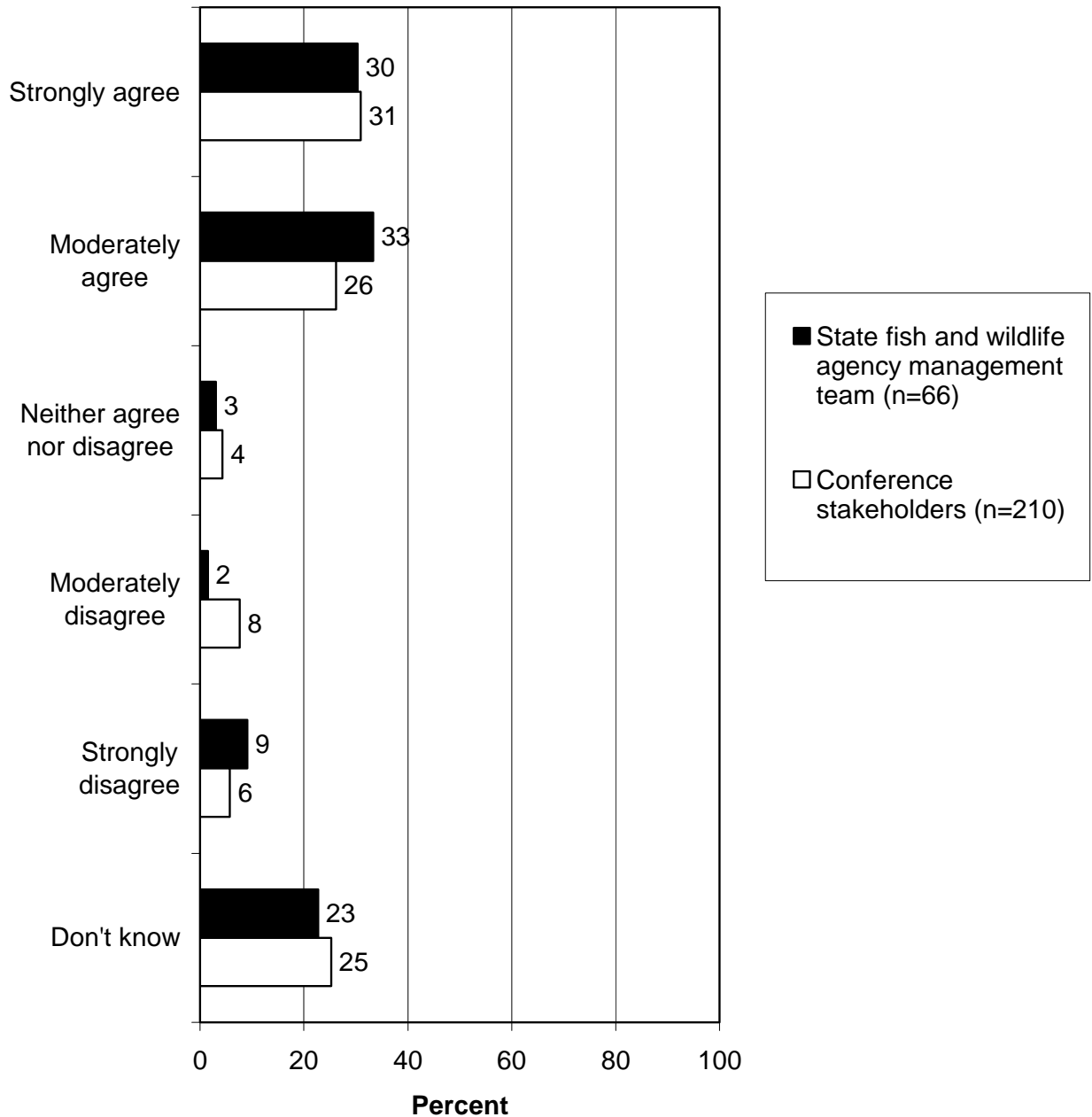
Q34. Out of the past 5 years, how many years have you submitted manuscripts for presentation and publication to the Southeastern Technical Sessions? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



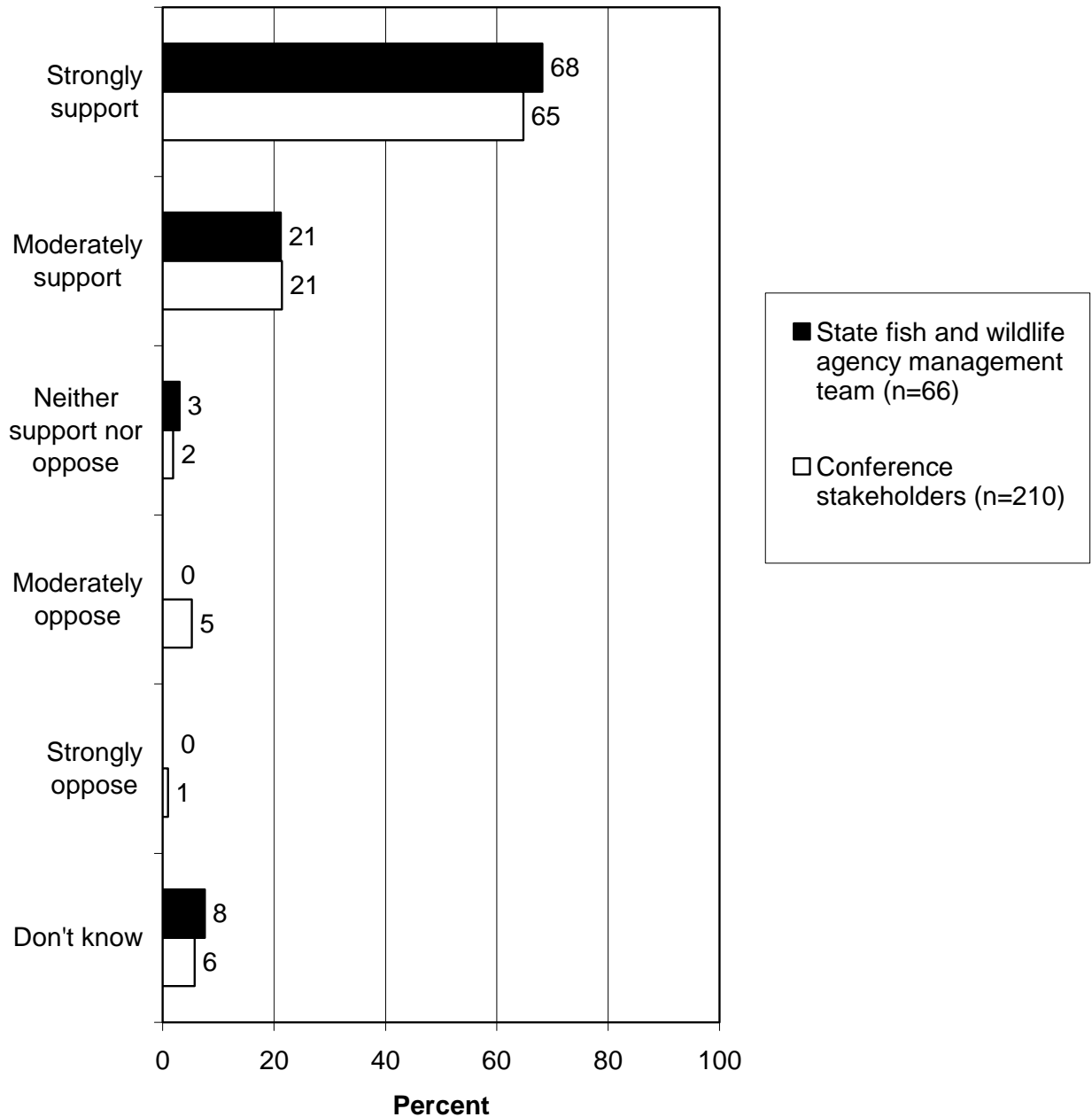
Q36. What are the main reasons you have not submitted manuscripts to the Southeastern Technical Sessions in the past 5 years? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years but have not submitted a manuscript.)



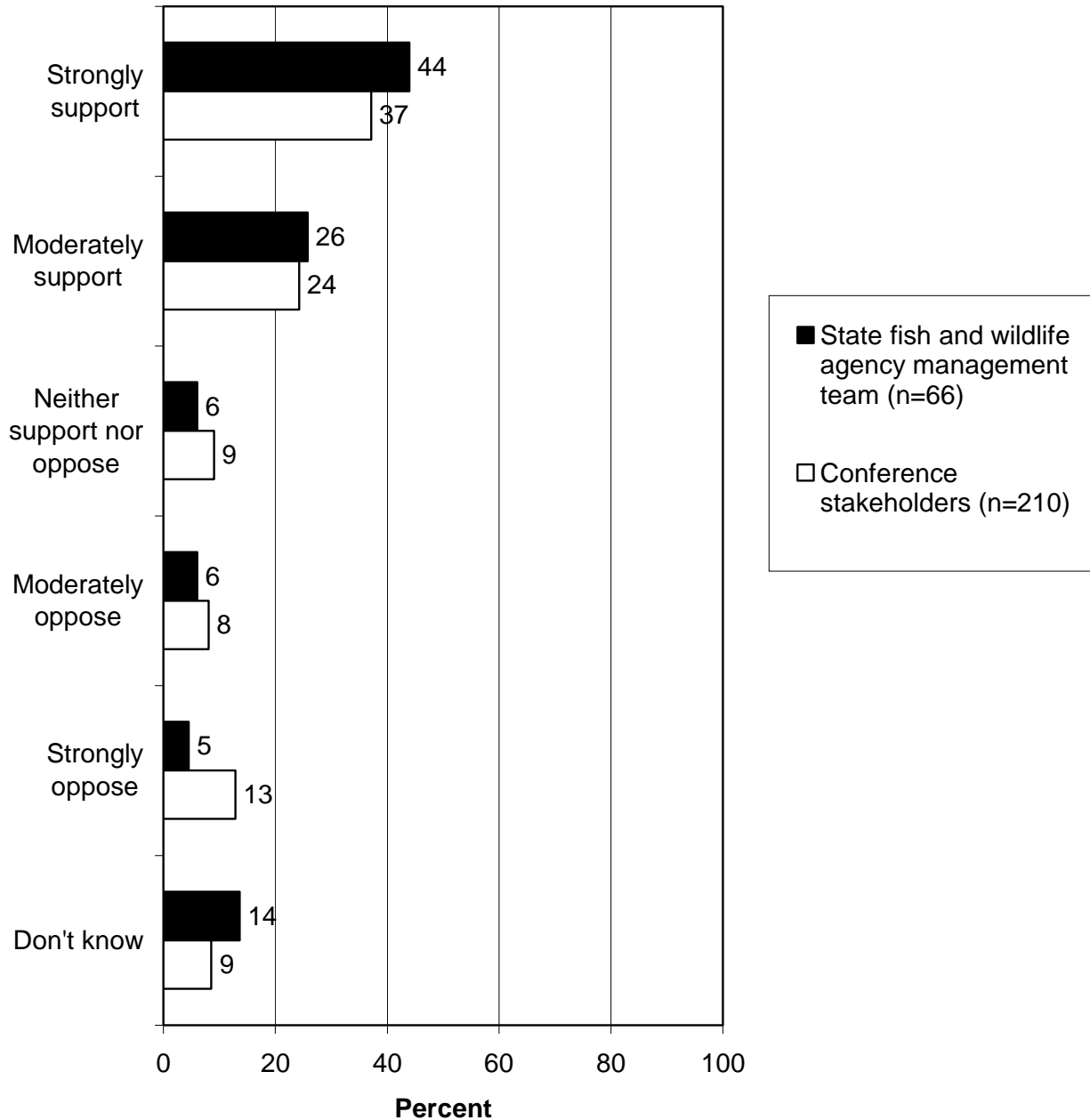
Q67. Do you agree or disagree that the Southeastern Conference's Proceedings has a rigorous manuscript selection process?



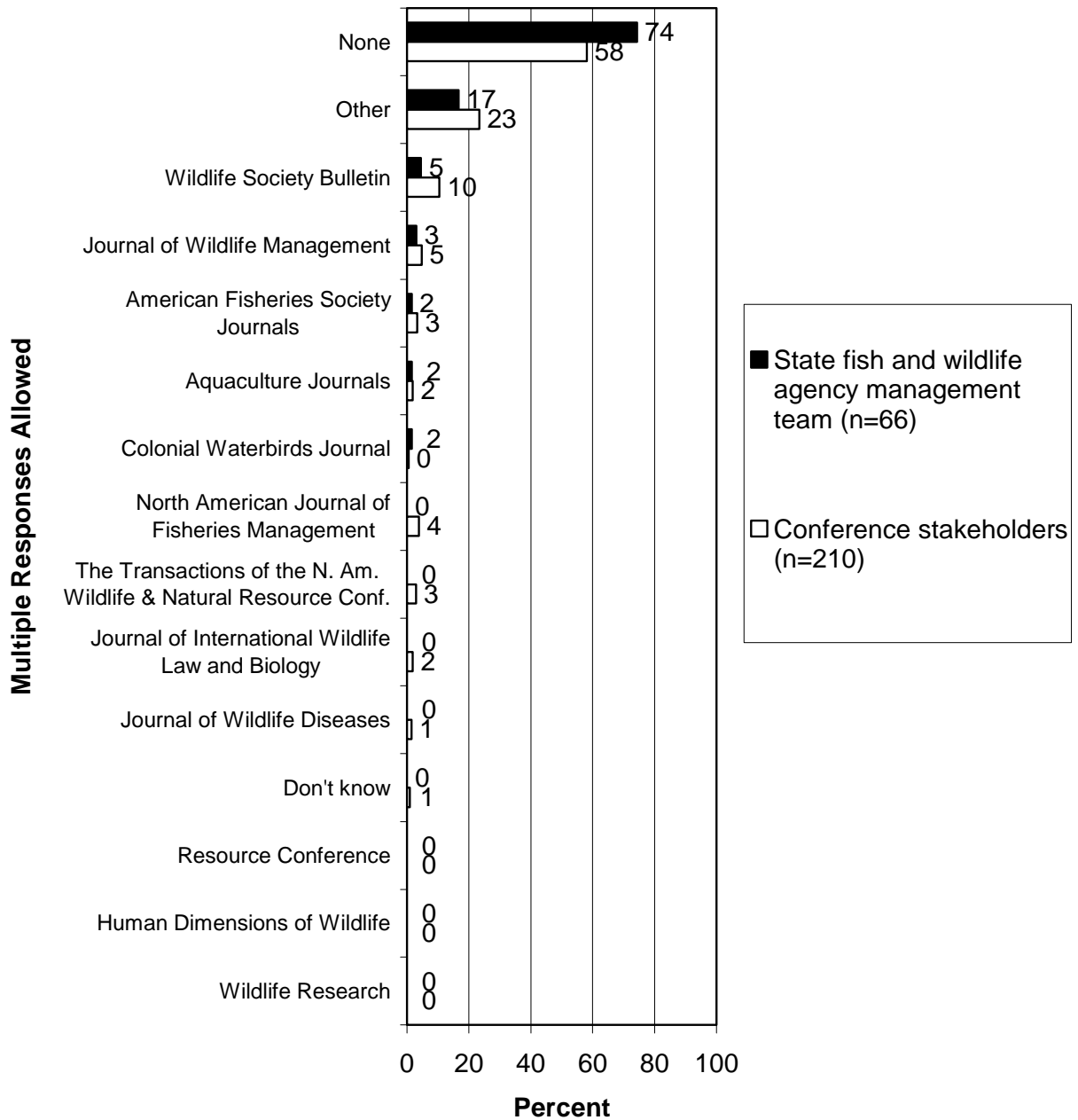
Q75. Would you support or oppose requiring electronic submission of manuscripts that are compatible with desktop publishing software?



Q76. Would you support or oppose, over a 2-year period, changing the due date for manuscripts for the Proceedings from the current deadline of May 1 to January 1 of each year, so that most editorial work can be completed before each annual meeting?



Q39. What other publication outlets have you utilized to publish manuscripts during the past 5 years?



OPINIONS ON AND RATINGS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AND SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Opinions and Ratings of the Southeastern Conference in General

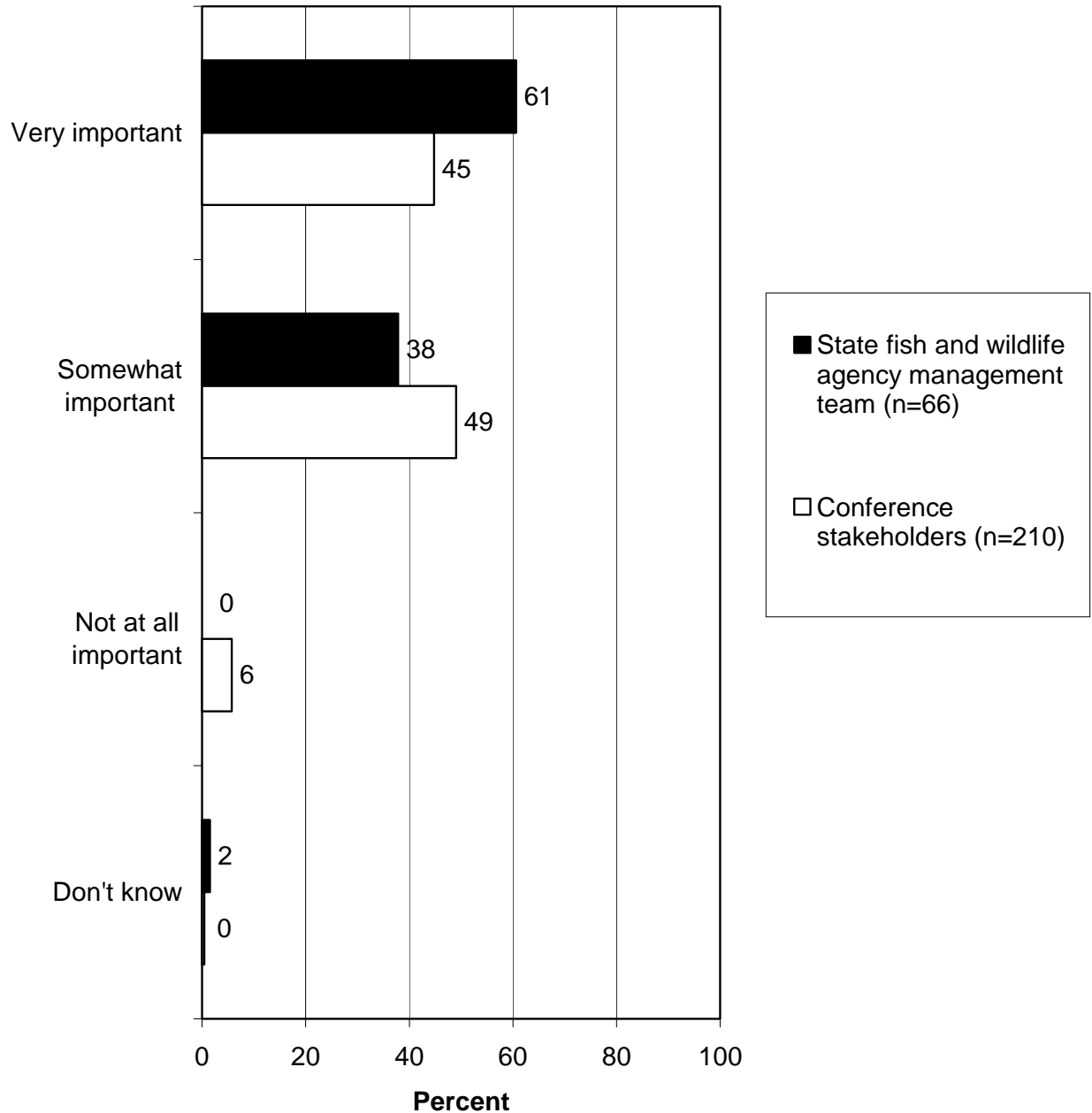
- Extremely large majorities of both groups (99% of Team members and 94% of Conference stakeholders) said the Southeastern Conference is very or somewhat important to their organization.
 - 61% of Team members and 45% of Conference stakeholders said the Conference is *very* important.

- Very large majorities of both groups (81% of Team members and 91% of Conference stakeholders) said the Southeastern Conference is very or somewhat important for their professional development.
 - Somewhat important was the top answer, with majorities of both groups (64% of Team members and 63% of Conference stakeholders) giving this answer.

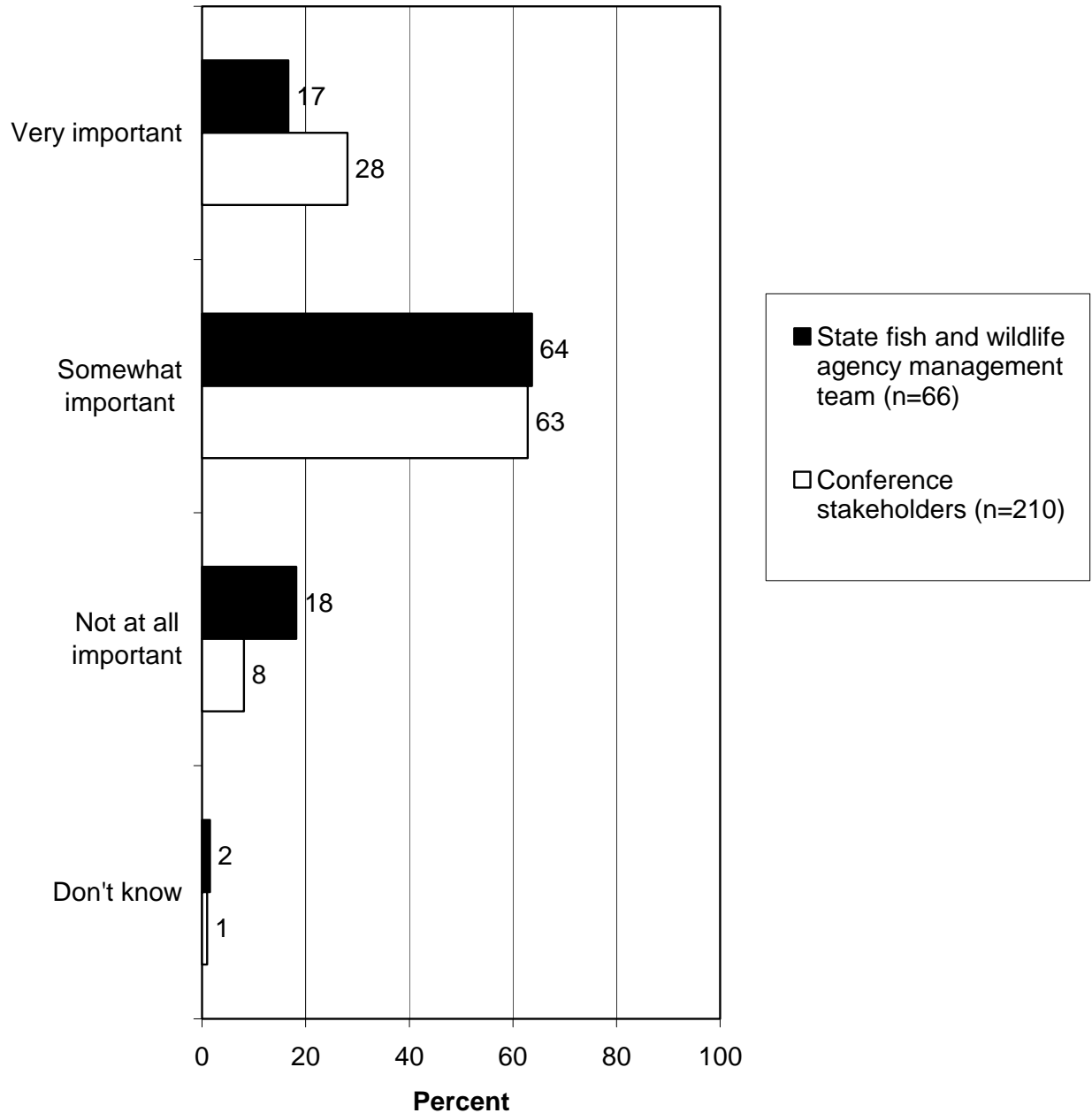
- A majority of Team members (61%), but slightly less than a majority of Conference stakeholders (48%), said the Southeastern Conference has remained about the same over the past 5 years in terms of meeting their needs as wildlife professionals. Otherwise, more respondents said it has become worse than said it has become better.
 - Among Team members, 2% said it has become better, while 14% said it has become worse.
 - Among Conference stakeholders, 12% said it has become better, while 14% said it has become worse.

- Majorities of both groups (59% of Team members and 66% of Conference stakeholders) said the Southeastern Conference is in the top half of the conferences that they would like to attend each year. Most commonly for both groups, the Southeastern Conference is in the top half but not the first choice of conferences (35% of Team members and 42% of Conference stakeholders). For both groups, the next most common answer is that the Southeastern Conference is their first choice (24% of both groups).

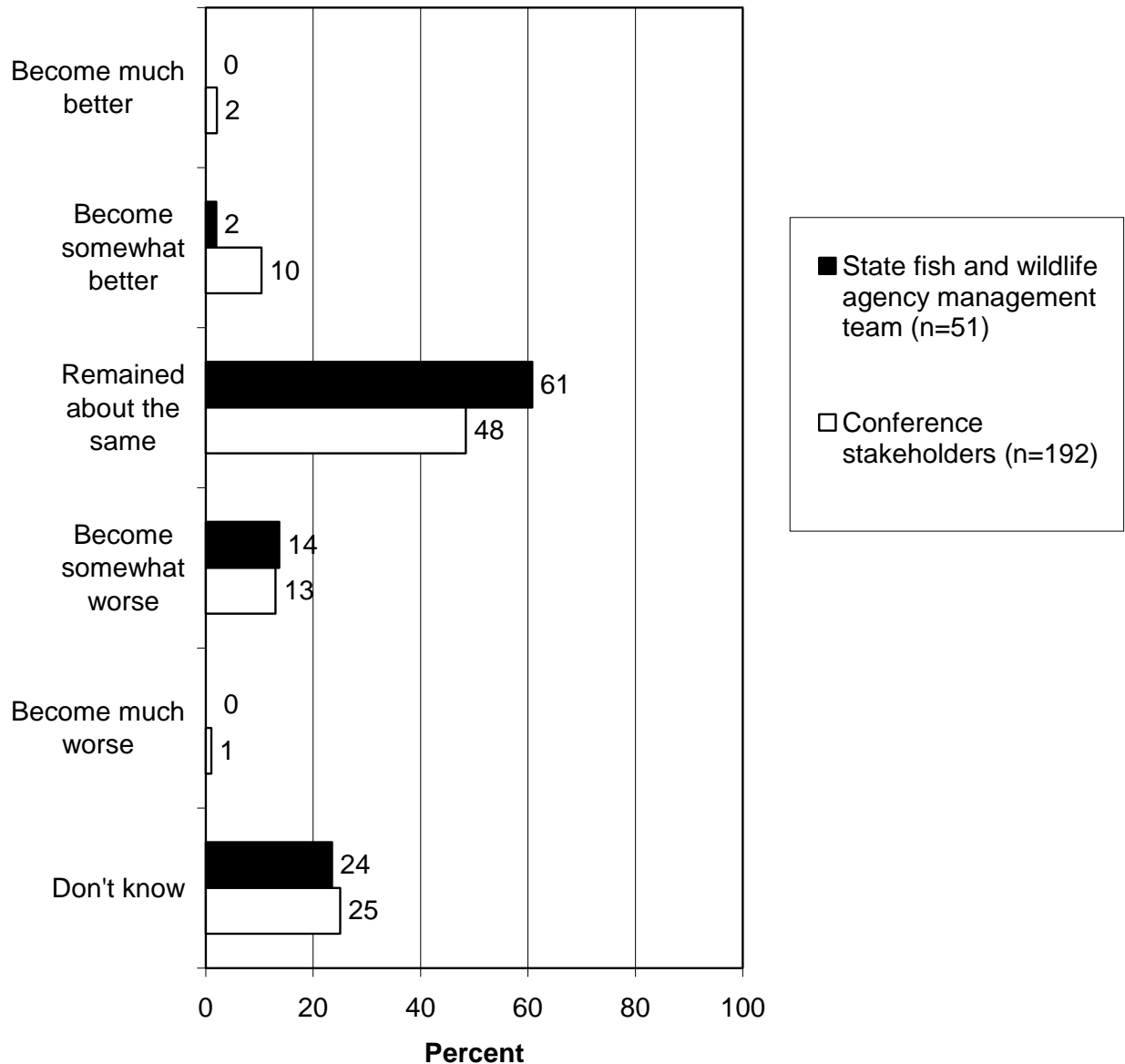
Q27. Overall, how important is the Southeastern Conference to your organization? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?



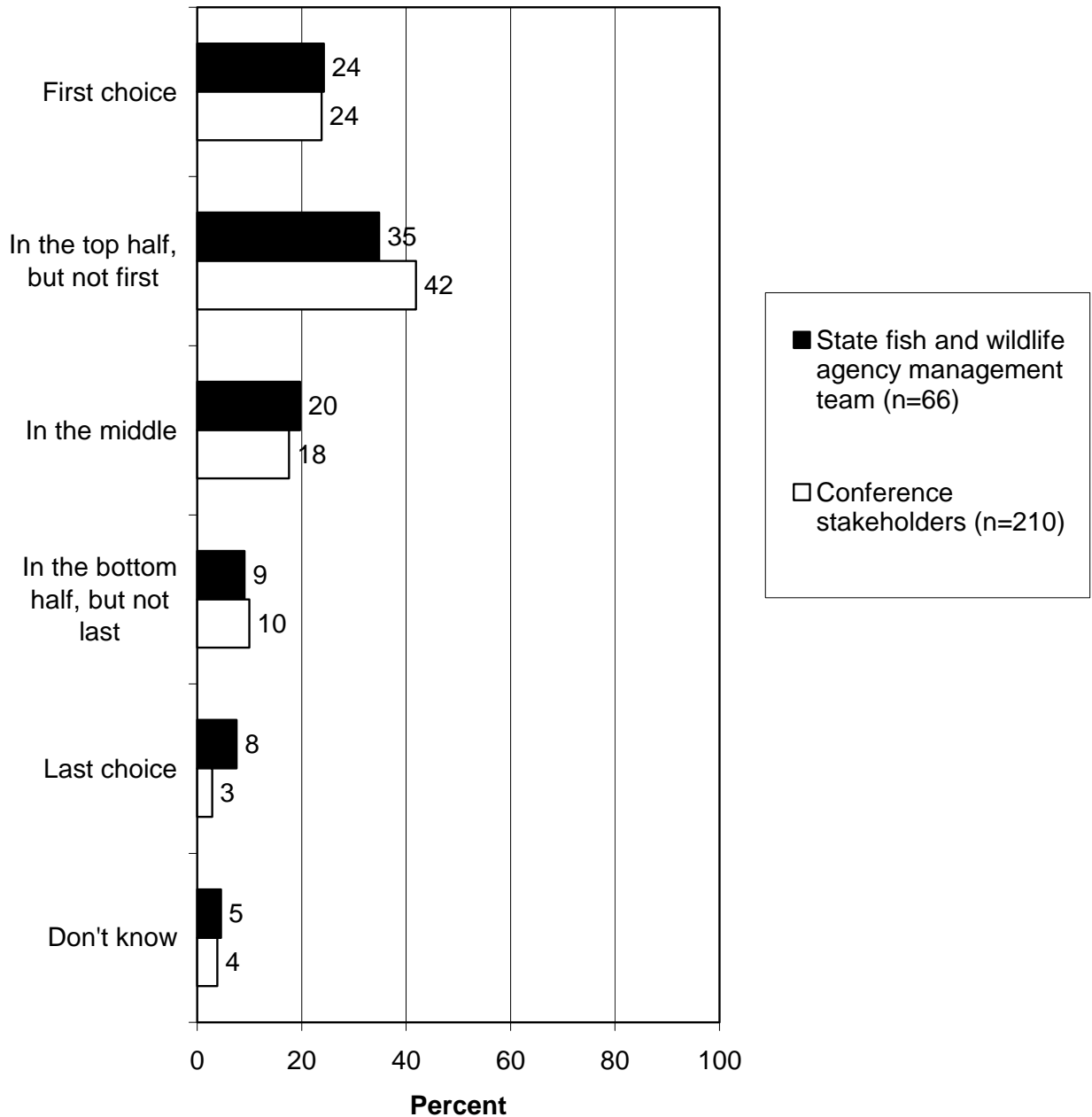
Q28. Overall, how important is the Southeastern Conference for your professional development? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?



Q8. In the past 5 years, do you think the Southeastern Conference has become better, become worse, or remained about the same, in terms of meeting your needs as a fish and wildlife professional? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Q26. In terms of prioritizing which conferences you would like to attend each year, where would you rank the Southeastern Conference overall?



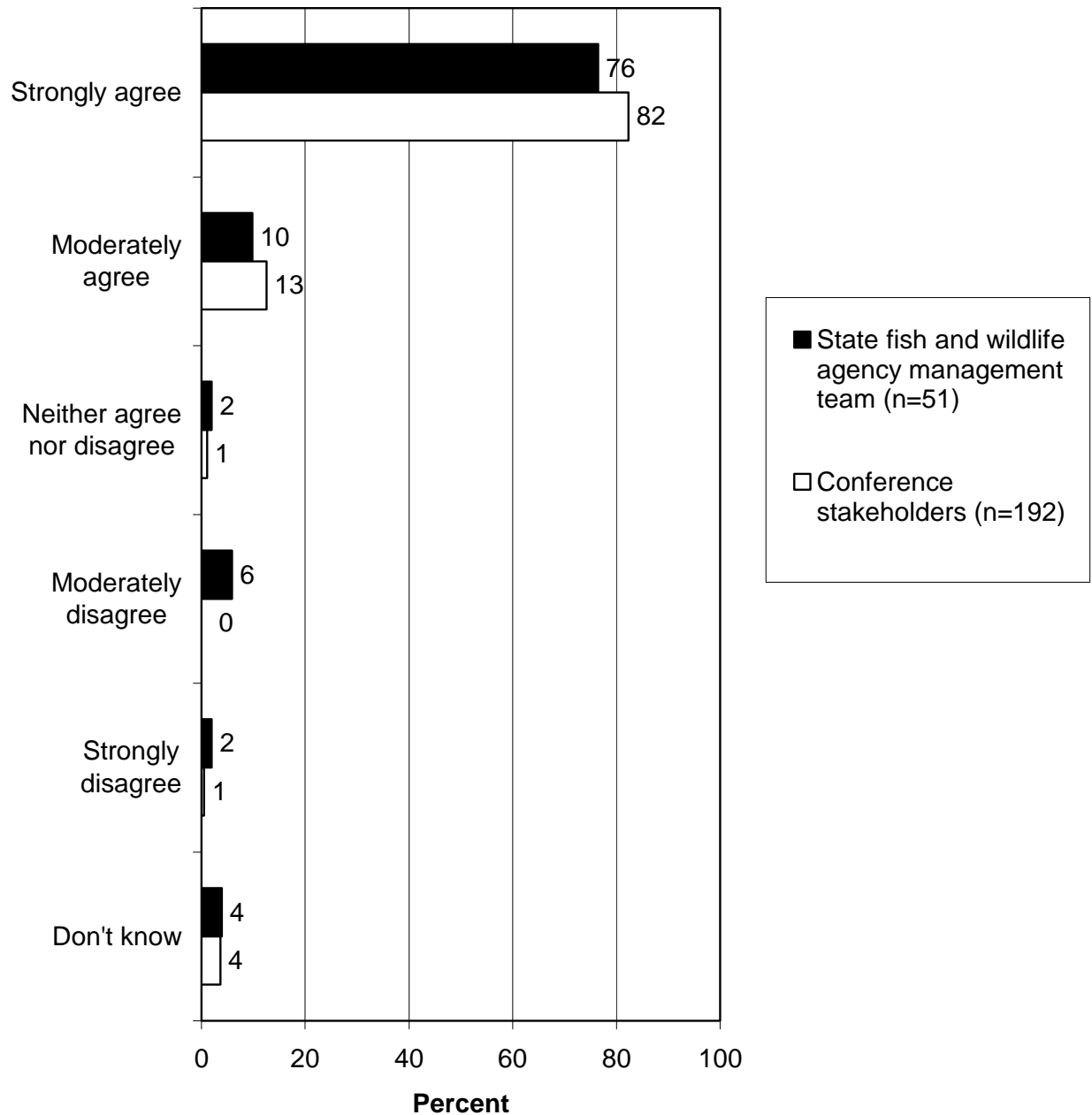
Opinions on the Technical Sessions at the Southeastern Conference

- Extremely high percentages (86% of Team members and 95% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Technical Sessions are an important aspect of the Southeastern Conference.

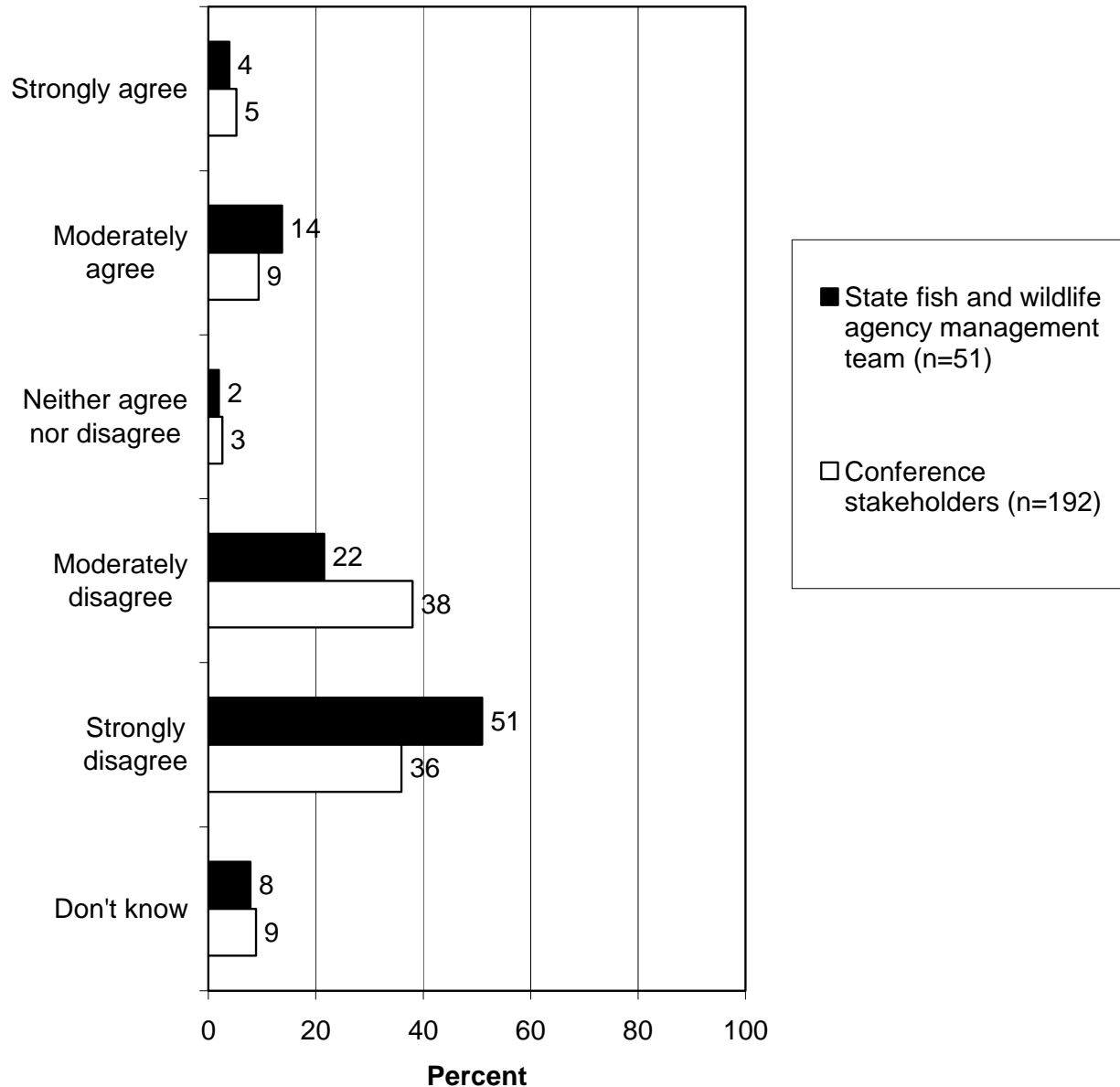
- Strong majorities disagree (73% of Team members and 74% of Conference stakeholders) that the Technical Sessions are too general to be important to field-level employees.
 - 18% of Team members and 14% of Conference stakeholders agree.

- Strong majorities of both groups (79% of Team members and 86% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Technical Sessions are an important outlet for presentation of information that otherwise would not be shared among wildlife professionals.

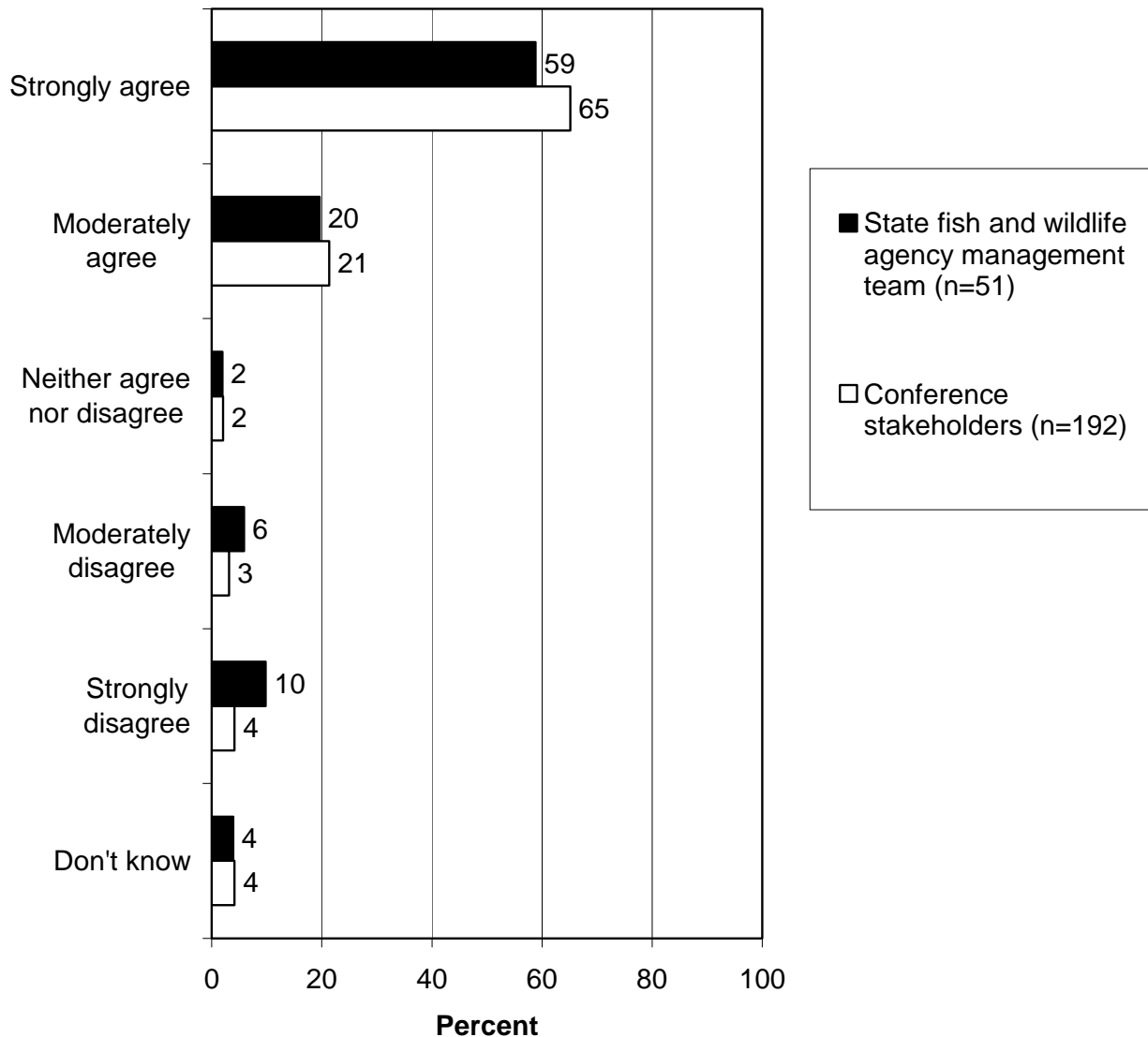
Q56. Overall, do you agree or disagree that the Technical Sessions are an important aspect of the Southeastern Conference? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Q57. Do you agree or disagree that the Technical Sessions, which include law enforcement, information and education, and legal programs, are too general to be important to field-level employees? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Q58. Do you agree or disagree that the Technical Sessions, which include law enforcement, information and education, and legal programs, are an important outlet for the presentation of information that would otherwise not be shared with wildlife professionals? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Opinions on the Southeastern Conference Format, Potential Formats, and Conference Dates/Times

- Strong majorities of both groups (77% of Team members and 83% of Conference stakeholders) are satisfied with the current format of the Southeastern Conference.
 - 22% of Team members and 14% of Conference stakeholders are dissatisfied.

- The potential future formats for the Southeastern Conference with the most support are to include some of the species-specific meetings at the Conference (79% of Team members and 80% of Conference stakeholders moderately or strongly support this format), the addition of panel discussions in place of some technical sessions (67% of Team members and 68% of Conference stakeholders), and combining the technical sessions with a more interdisciplinary approach to topics (61% of Team members and 60% of Conference stakeholders).
 - In looking at only the *strong* support, the top potential format changes are to include some of the species-specific meetings at the Conference (53% of Team members and 51% of Conference stakeholders strongly support), the addition of panel discussions in place of some technical sessions (42% of Team members and 32% of Conference stakeholders strongly support), a more committee-driven style format (30% of Team members and 18% of Conference stakeholders strongly support), and combining the technical sessions with a more interdisciplinary approach to topics (29% of Team members and 30% of Conference stakeholders strongly support).

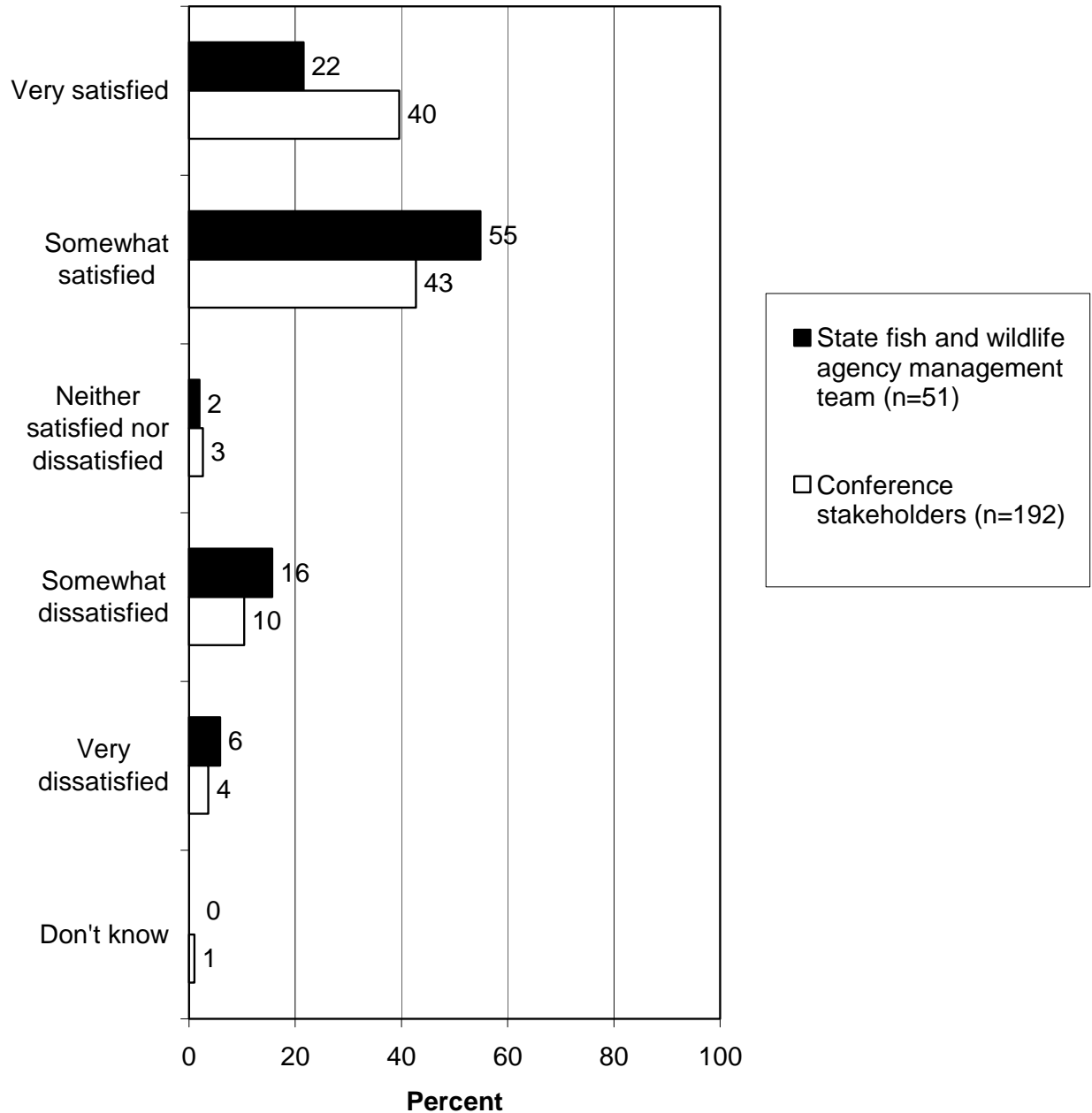
- Very strong majorities of both groups (84% of Team members and 87% of Conference stakeholders) support the addition of workshops to the current format of the Southeastern Conference.

- The top-named workshop or symposium topics that Team members would be interested in seeing are current affairs/hot topics (100% gave this answer), alternative funding mechanisms (95%), meeting the needs of changing society/changing demographics (93%), and constituency building/stakeholder identification/relationships (89%). The top-named workshop or symposium topics that Conference stakeholders would be interested in seeing

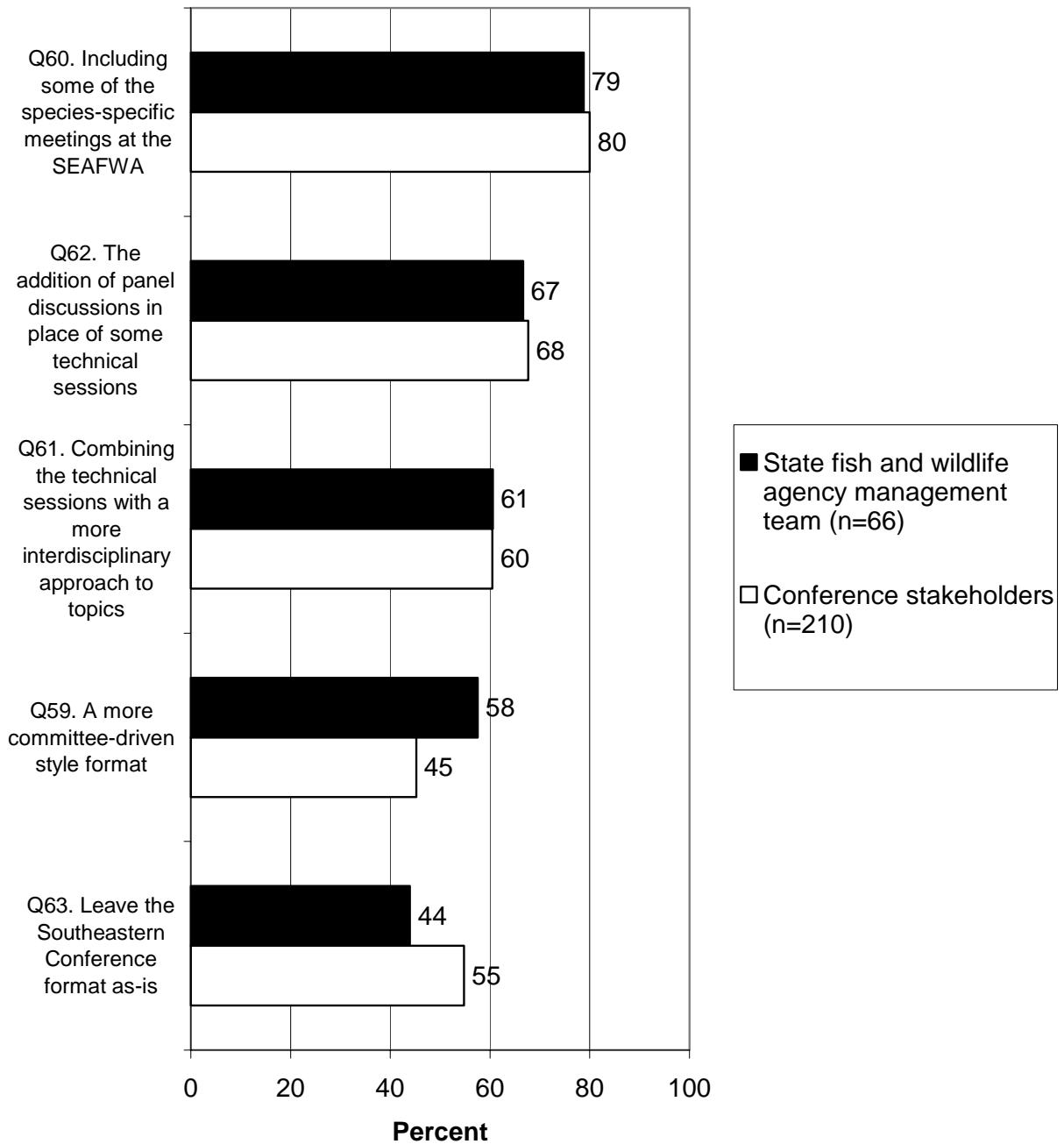
are current affairs/hot topics (93%), meeting the needs of changing society/changing demographics (87%), and skills, such as GIS, statistics, and software (84%).

- Extremely high percentages of both groups (94% of Team members and 92% of Conference stakeholders) feel that past registration fees for the Southeastern Conference have been reasonable.
- Respondents were asked to say what they thought is a reasonable registration fee for the Southeastern Conference, and the means were \$134 among Team members and \$109 among Conference stakeholders.
- October is the preferred month for the Southeastern Conference among both Team members (58%) and Conference stakeholders (69%). September is the second most popular choice, but with percentages preferring September far below the percentages preferring October (14% of Team members and 9% of Conference stakeholders said September).
 - 11% of Team members and 8% of Conference stakeholders said no preference.
- A majority of Team members (52%) and a plurality of Conference stakeholders (39%) said that they prefer the current timing sequence of the Southeastern Conference (Saturday to Wednesday) over any proposed changes discussed in the survey. Otherwise, the most popular timing sequence would be having the Conference held on Monday through Friday (36% of both groups gave this answer—the second most common answer among both groups).
- While majorities of both groups (53% of Team members and 52% of Conference stakeholders) said the current Conference length, which is 5 days, is about right, relatively large percentages (41% of Team members and 45% of Conference stakeholders) said the Conference is too long.
 - Only 2% of Team members and 0% of Conference stakeholders said the Conference is too short.

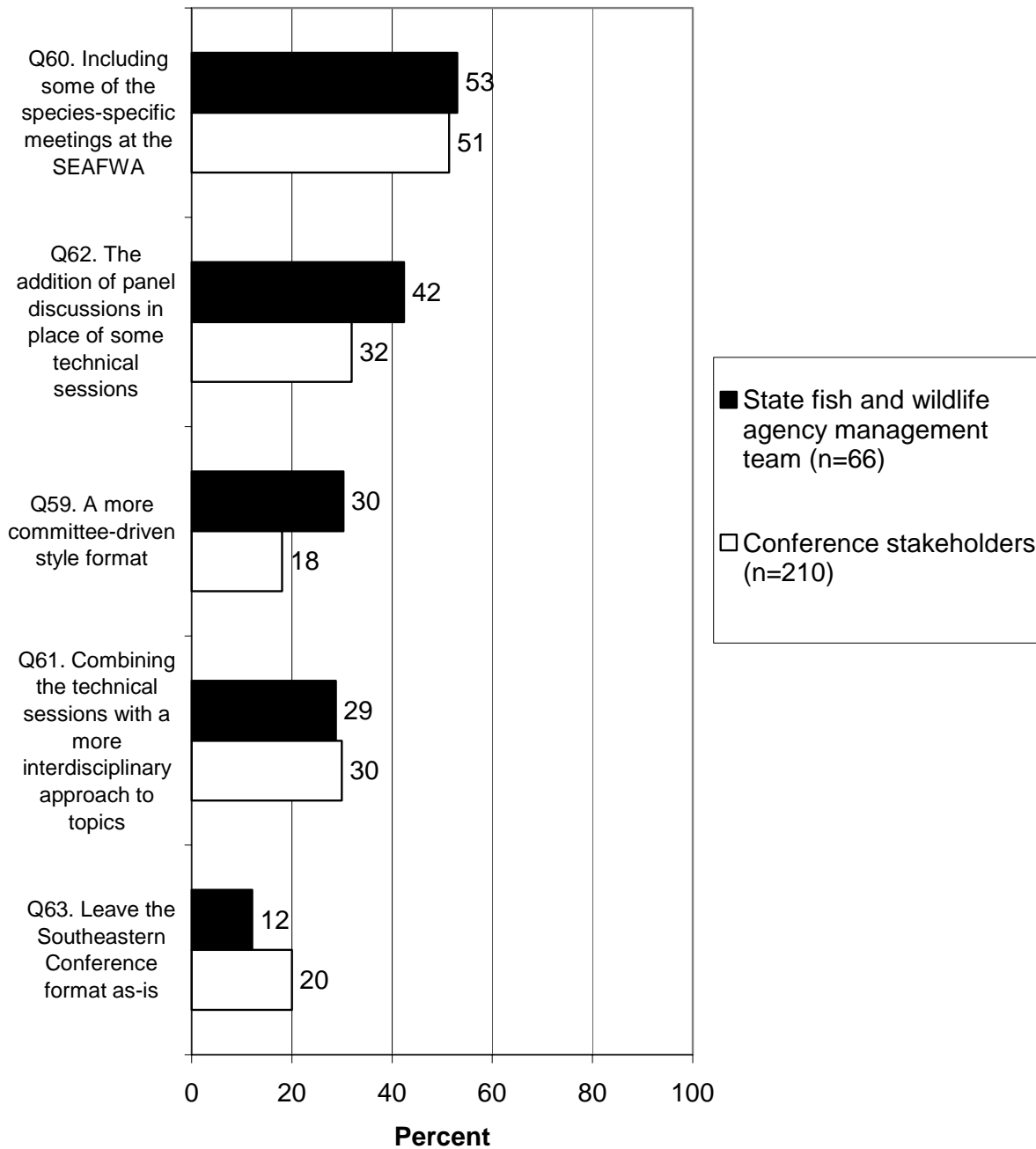
Q54. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the current Southeastern Conference format? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



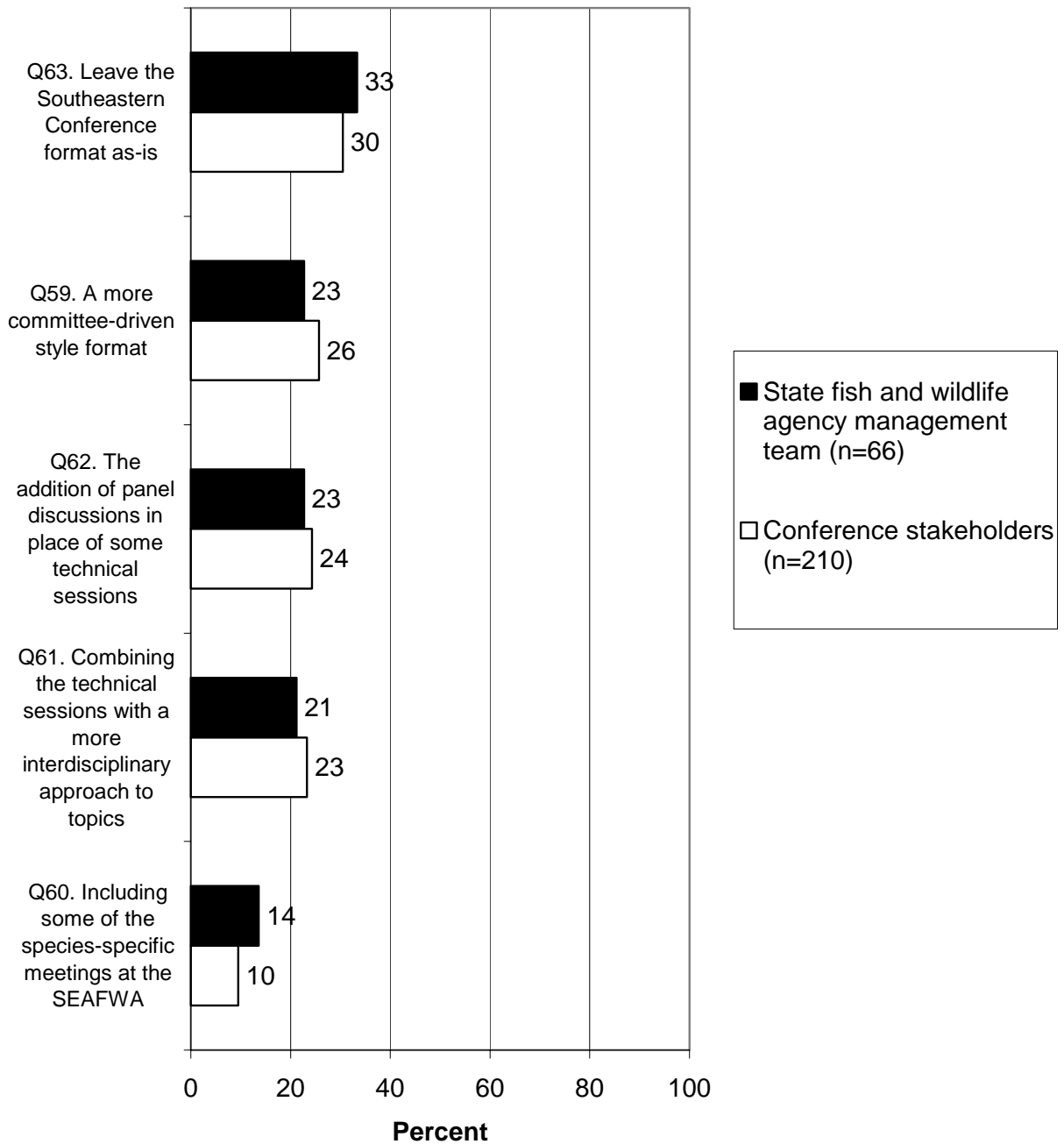
Q59-63. Future potential formats for the Southeastern Conference that are strongly or moderately supported.



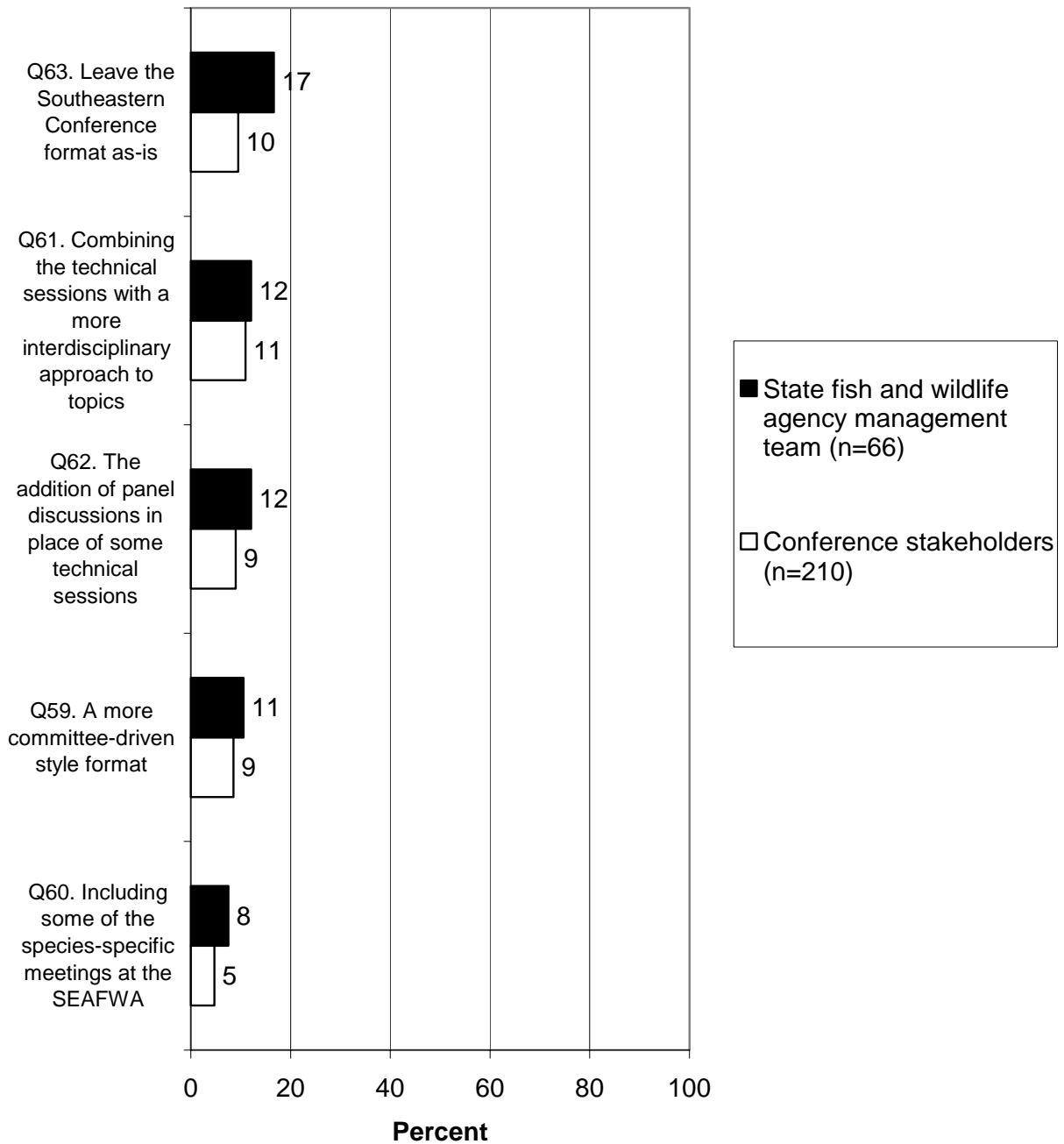
Q59-63. Future potential formats for the Southeastern Conference that are strongly supported.



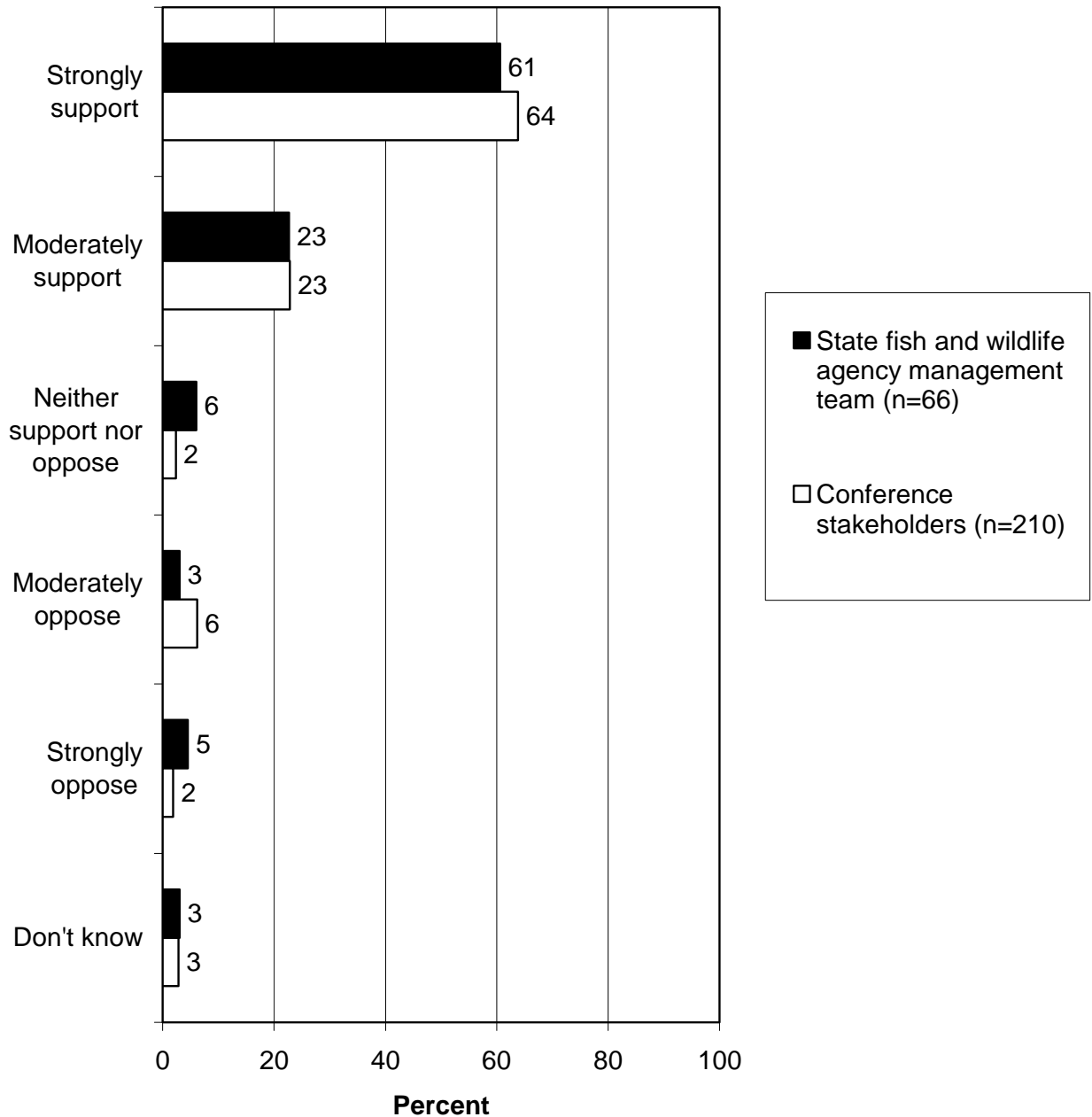
Q59-63. Future potential formats for the Southeastern Conference that are strongly or moderately opposed.



Q59-63. Future potential formats for the Southeastern Conference that are strongly opposed.

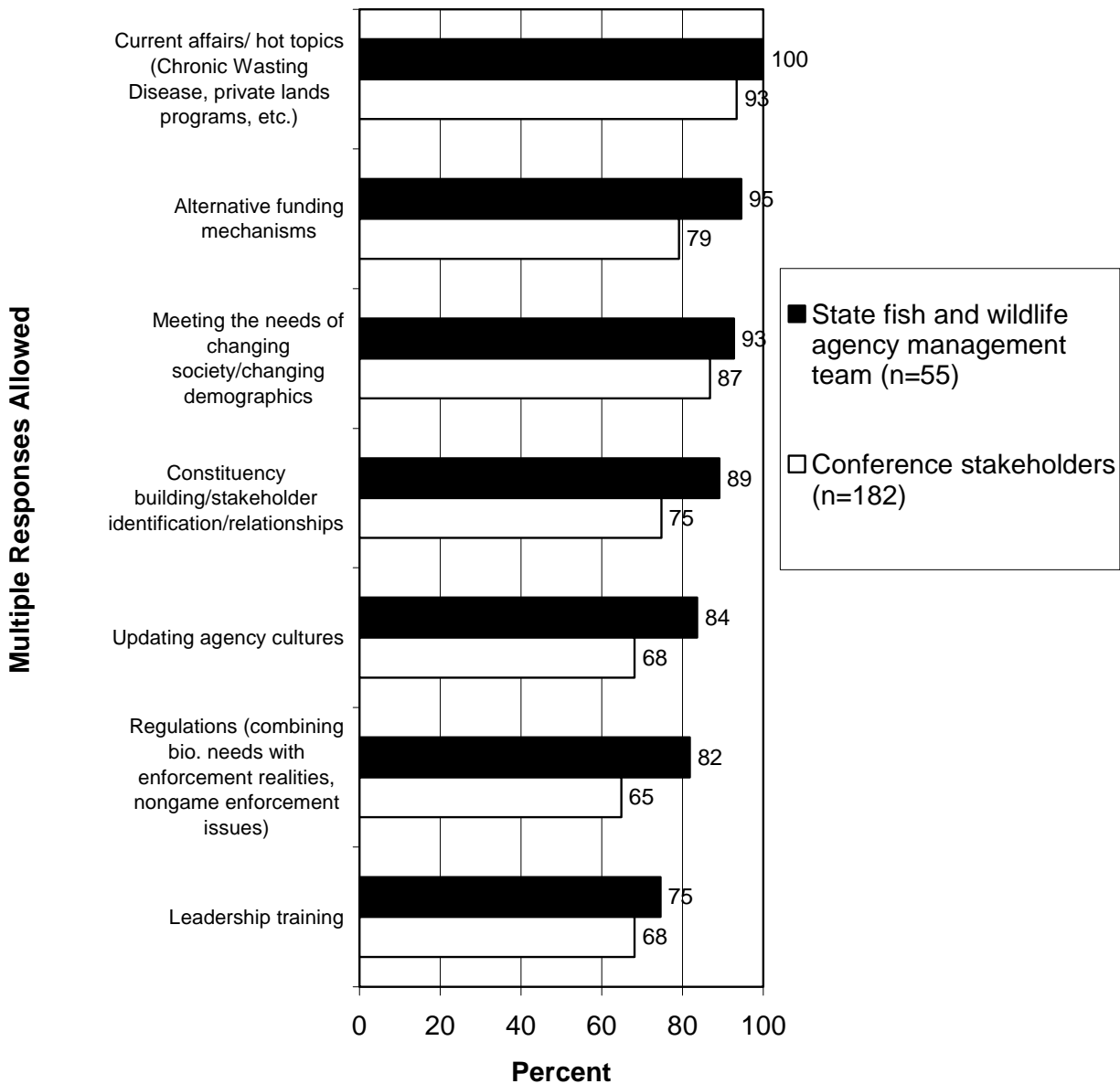


Q80. Would you support or oppose the addition of workshops to the current format of the Southeastern Conference?



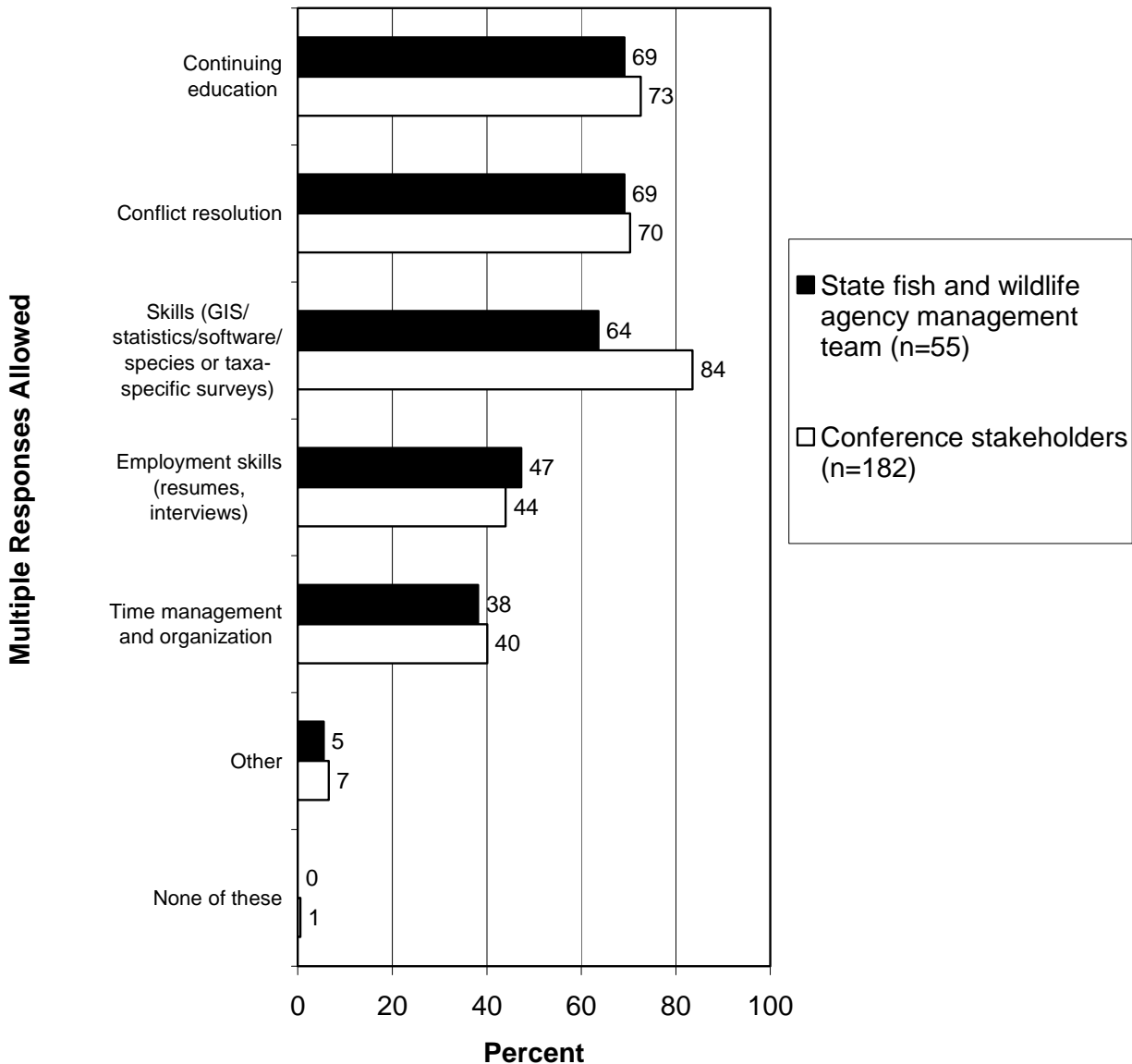
Q82. Please tell me if you would be interested in seeing each of the following workshop or symposium topics incorporated into the Conference. (Asked of those who supported the addition of workshops to the current format of the conference.)

Part 1

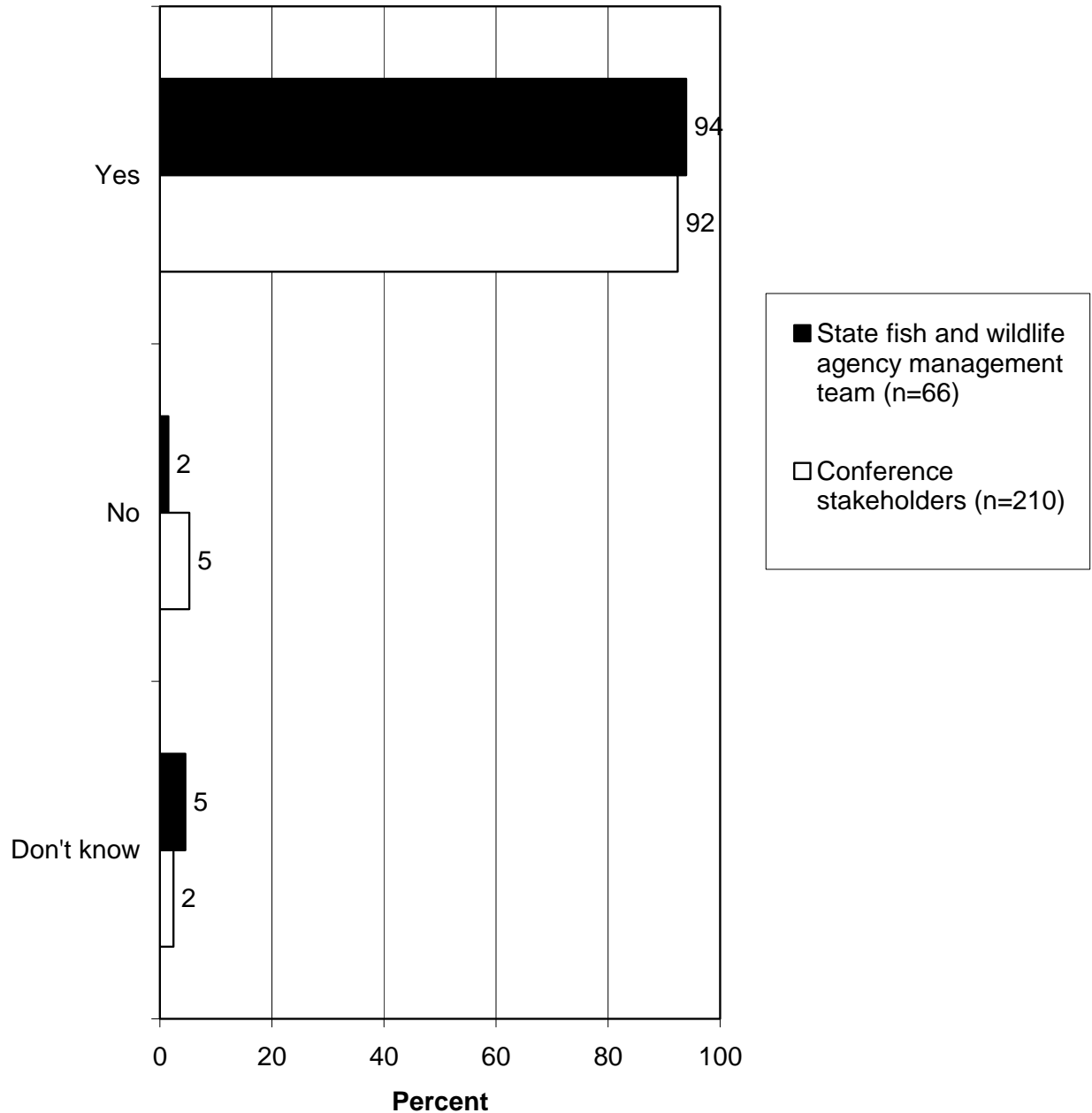


Q82. Please tell me if you would be interested in seeing each of the following workshop or symposium topics incorporated into the Conference. (Asked of those who supported the addition of workshops to the current format of the conference.)

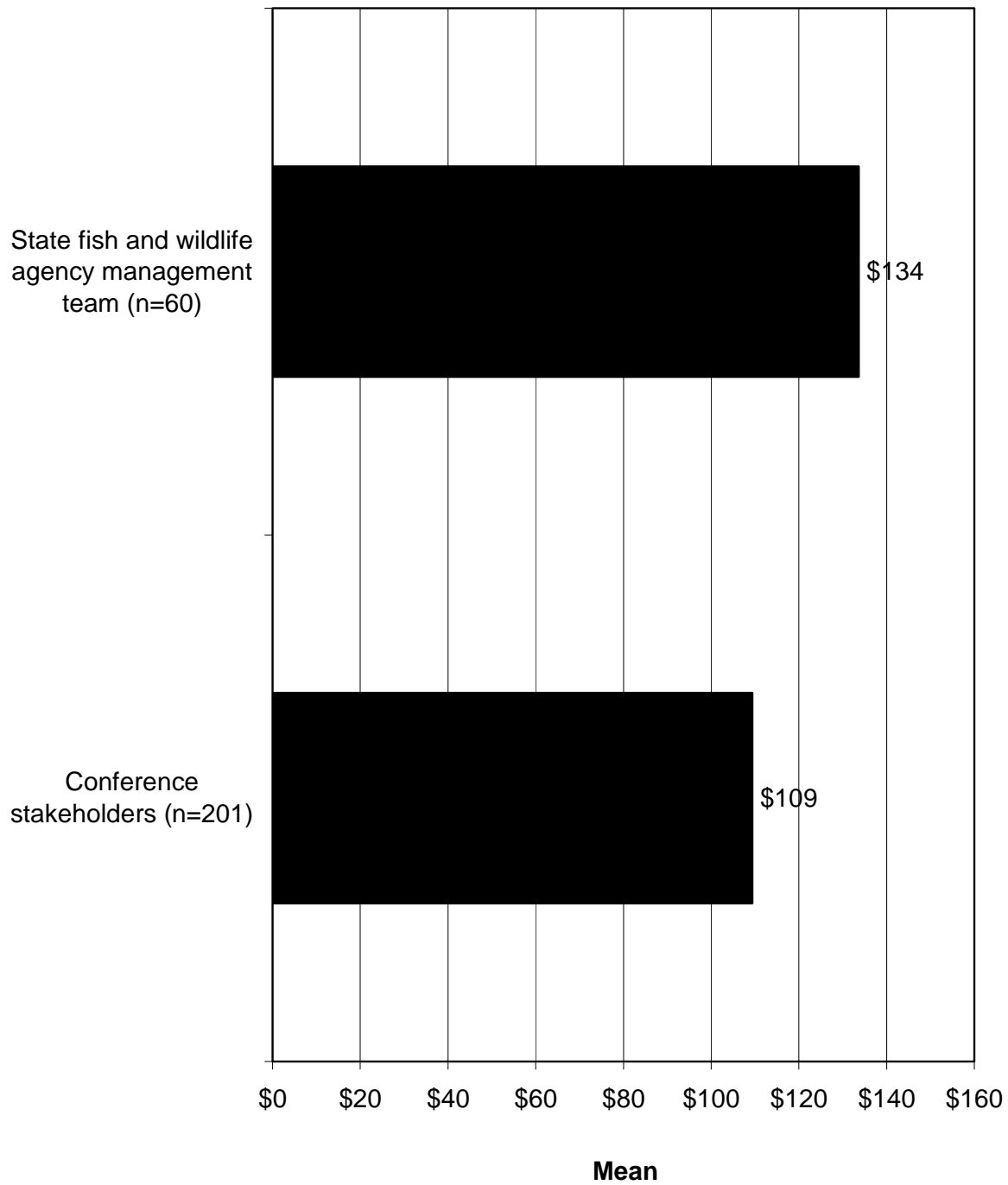
Part 2



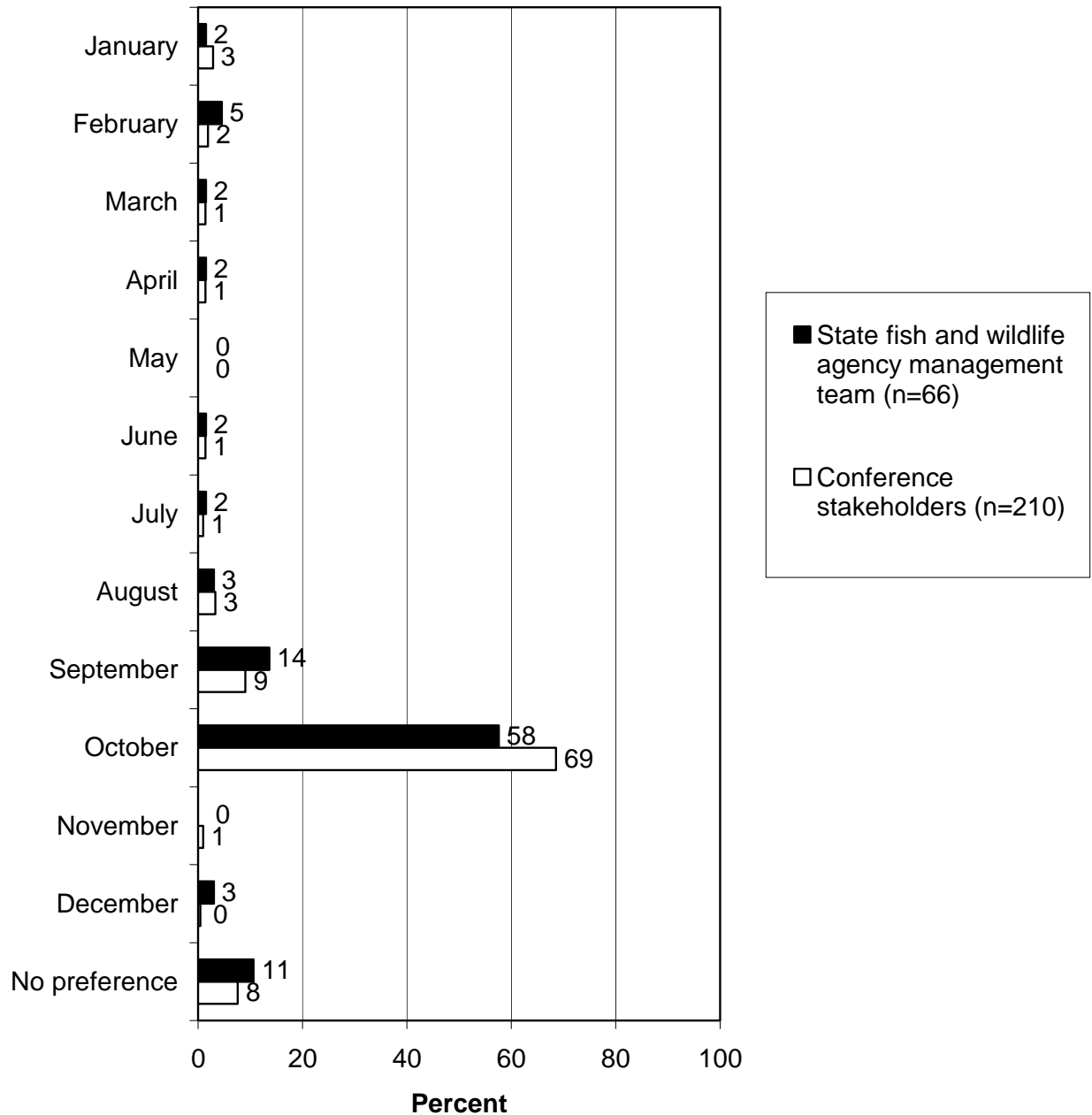
Q78. In past years, registration fees have ranged from \$50 - \$140. Do you feel the past registration fees for the Southeastern Conference have been reasonable?



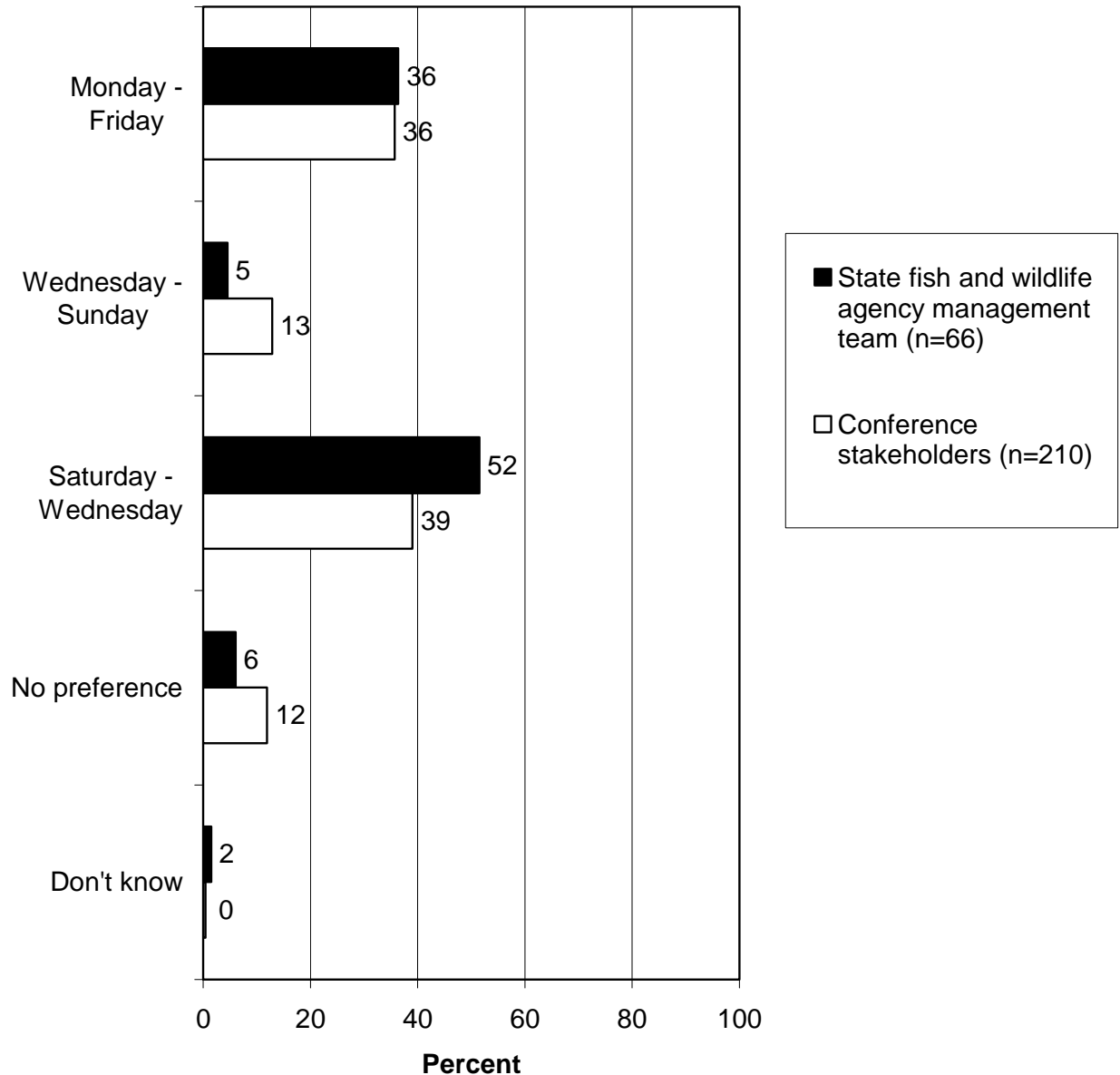
Q79. What do you think is a reasonable registration fee for the Southeastern Conference?



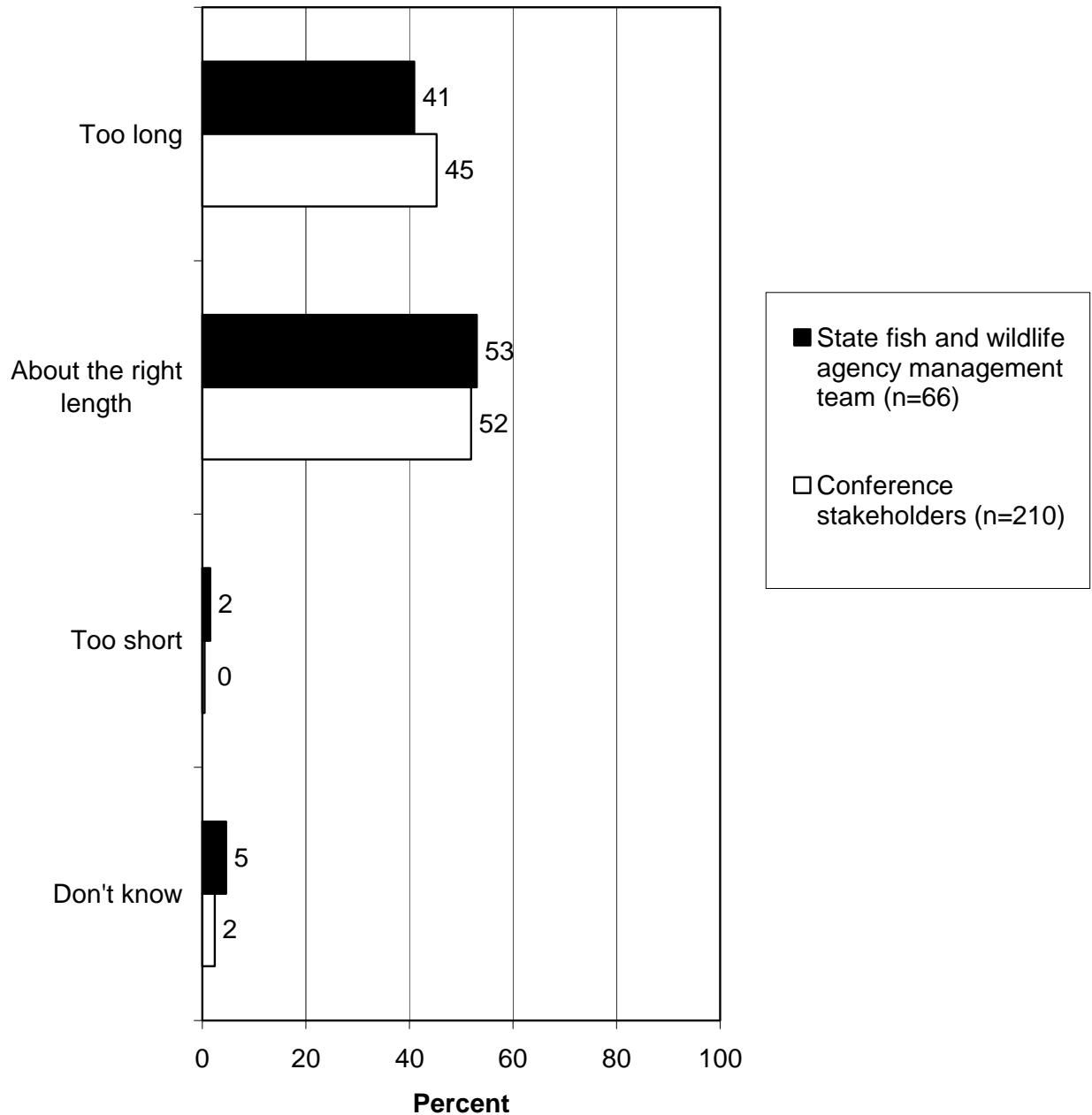
Q84. Currently, the Southeastern Conference is held in October. In what month of the year would you prefer the Southeastern meeting?



Q85. Would you prefer the Southeastern Conference to be held on weekdays only (M-F), would you prefer the conference to begin on a Wednesday and end on a Sunday, or would you prefer the current format where the conference begins on a Saturday and ends on a Wednesday?



Q86. Currently, the Southeastern Conference is 5 days long. Do you think the conference length is too long, too short, or about the right length?



HOW THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION AND THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE PERTAIN TO AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS, JOB DUTIES, AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

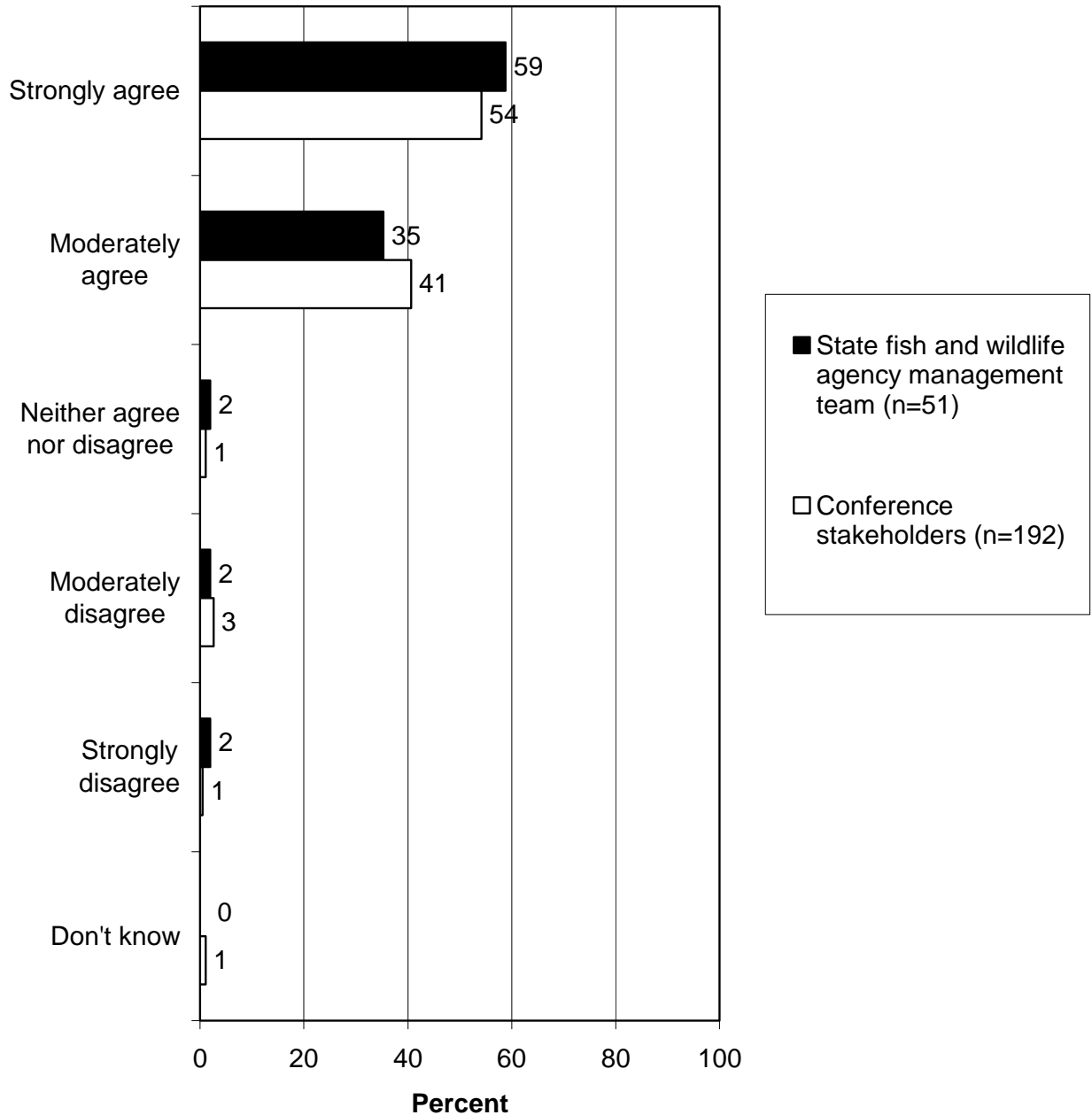
Southeastern Conference as It Pertains to Agency/Organization and Job Duties

- Remember from previous graphs that large majorities of both groups (99% of Team members and 94% of Conference stakeholders) said the Southeastern Conference is very or somewhat important to their organization, and that large majorities of both groups (81% of Team members and 91% of Conference stakeholders) said the Southeastern Conference is very or somewhat important for their professional development. (The graphs for these are in the chapter titled, “Opinions on and Ratings of the Southeastern Conference and Specific Aspects of the Conference”—Questions 27 and 28 on pages 53 and 54.)

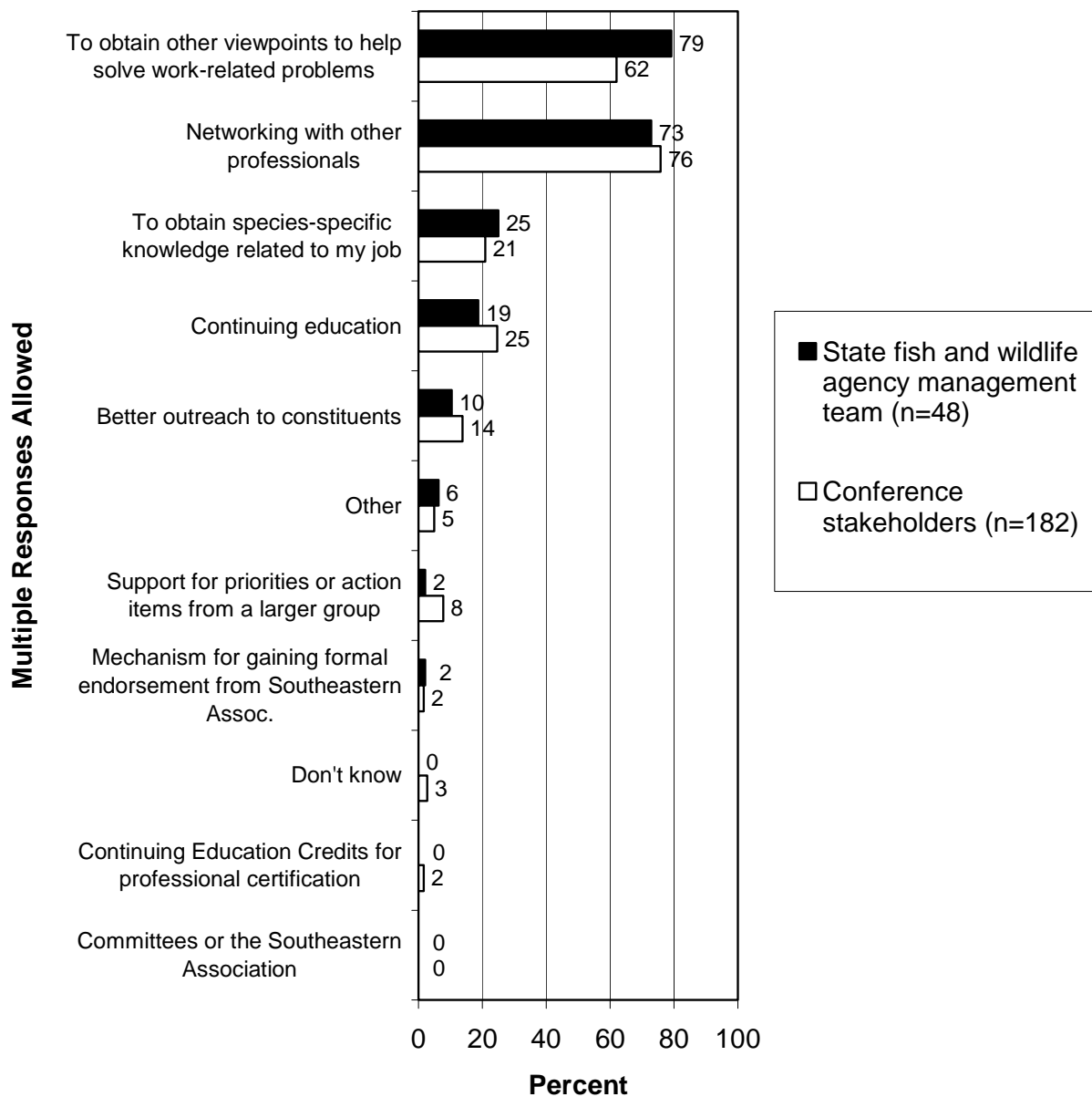
- Extremely large majorities (94% of Team members and 95% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Southeastern Conference helps them in their knowledge and performance as a wildlife professional.
 - Only 4% of both groups disagree.

- The most common ways that the Southeastern Conference helps Team members in performing their job duties are to obtain other viewpoints to help solve work-related problems (79% gave this answer) and to facilitate their networking with other professionals (73%). The most common ways that the Southeastern Conference helps Conference stakeholders in performing their job duties are to facilitate their networking with other professionals (76%) and to obtain other viewpoints to help solve work-related problems (62%).
 - Other important ways the Southeastern Conference helps attendees in performing their job duties include continuing education (19% of Team members and 25% of Conference stakeholders), to obtain species-specific knowledge related to their job (25% of Team members and 21% of Conference stakeholders), and better outreach to constituents (10% of Team members and 14% of Conference stakeholders).

Q15. Do you agree or disagree that the Southeastern Conference helps you in your knowledge and performance as a wildlife professional? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Q17. How does the Southeastern Conference help you in performing your job duties? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years and who agree that the Southeastern Conference helps them professionally.)

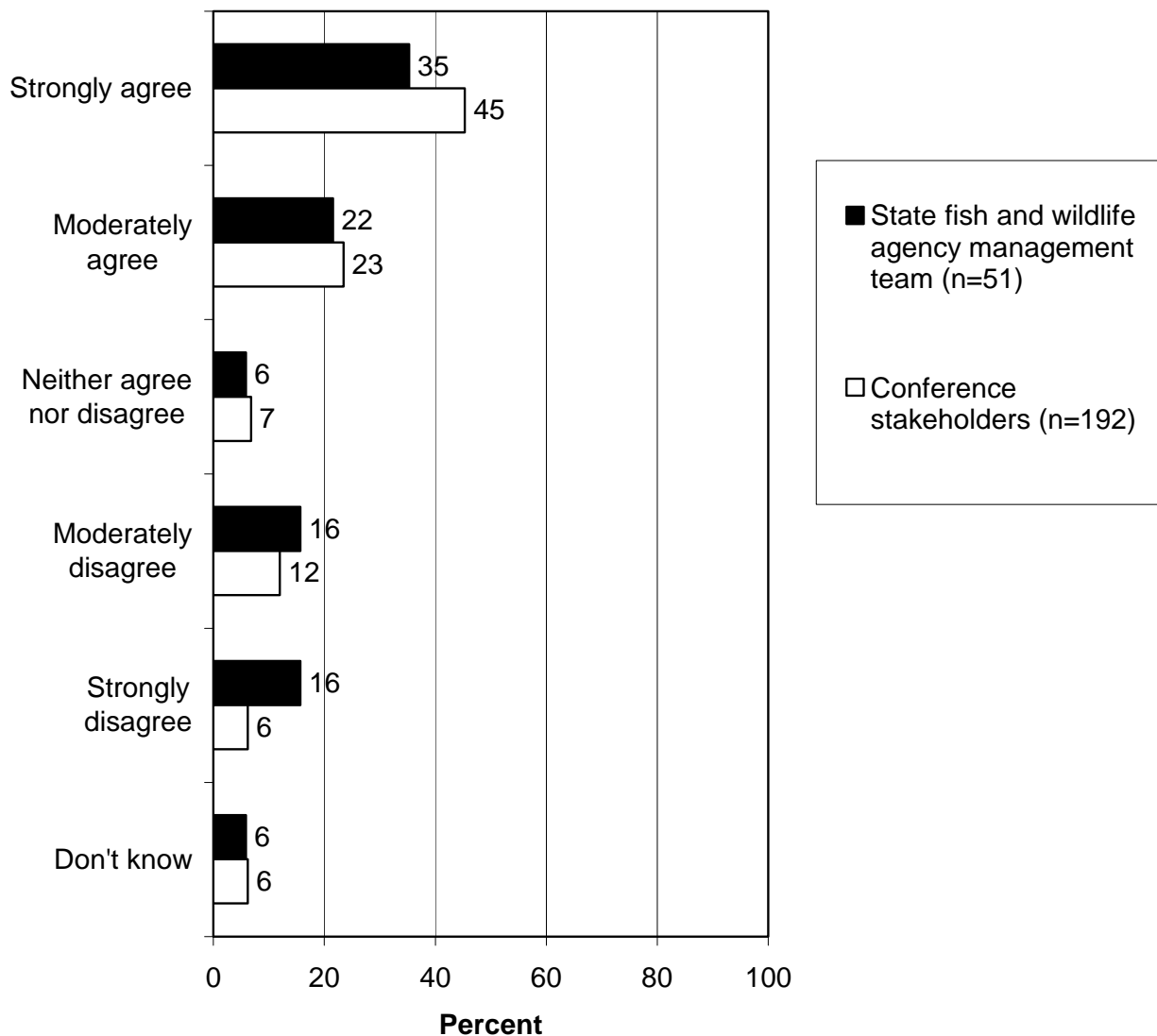


Southeastern Conference and Professional Societies

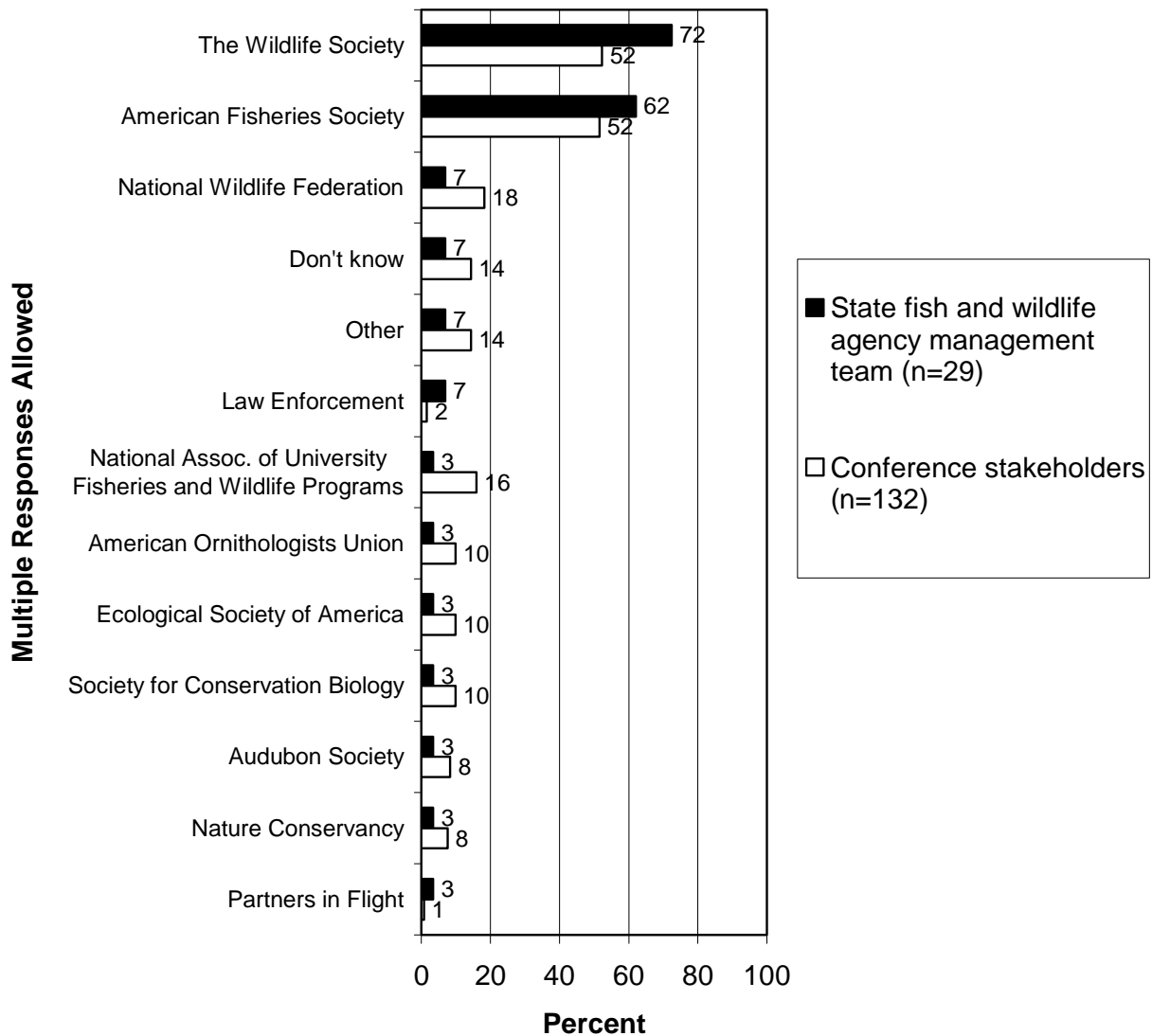
- Majorities of both groups (57% of Team members and 68% of Conference stakeholders) agree that the Southeastern Conference is important to them for their participation at a professional meeting that occurs during the Conference.
 - A relatively high percentage of Team members (32%) disagree.
 - 18% of Conference stakeholders disagree.

- The professional societies for which the Southeastern Conference is most important include The Wildlife Society (72% of Team members and 52% of Conference stakeholders gave this answer) and the American Fisheries Society (62% of Team members and 52% of Conference stakeholders).

Q19. Do you agree or disagree that the Southeastern Conference is important for your participation at a professional meeting, such as a meeting of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, and/or other professional societies, which meet during the Southeastern Conference? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years.)



Q21. For which professional societies do you feel that the Southeastern Conference is important? (Asked of those who answered that they have attended the conference from 1 to 5 of the past 5 years and who agree that the conference is important for the professional meetings that are held during the conference.)



Importance of the Southeastern Association to Various Groups

- The group for which the highest percentage of Team members and Conference stakeholders said the Southeastern Conference is very important is member state agencies (83% of Team members and 80% of Conference stakeholders said the conference is very important to member state agencies) distantly followed by federal agencies (32% of Team members and 45% of Conference stakeholders said the conference is very important to federal agencies).
- Very large majorities of Team members (88%) and Conference stakeholders (86%) said that the Southeastern Association as a regional association is very or somewhat important to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
 - Majorities of both groups (64% of Team members and 54% of Conference stakeholders) answered *very* important.
- Very large majorities of both groups (76% of Team members and 78% of Conference stakeholders) strongly or moderately agree that the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in national fish and wildlife issues.
- Pluralities of both groups (45% of Team members and 48% of Conference stakeholders) said that the role the Southeastern Association has played in national fish and wildlife issues has remained about the same over the past 5 years. Otherwise, more respondents said the Southeastern Association's role has increased (26% of Team members and 23% of Conference stakeholders) than said it has decreased (12% of Team members and 6% of Conference stakeholders).
- Large majorities of both groups (73% of Team members and 70% of Conference stakeholders) strongly or moderately agree that the Southeastern Association *should* play a greater role in national fish and wildlife issues than it currently does.
 - For both groups, the most common answer was strongly agree.

- Very large majorities of both groups (90% of Team members and 81% of Conference stakeholders) strongly or moderately agree that the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in regional fish and wildlife issues.
 - Majorities of both groups strongly agree (67% of Team members and 51% of Conference stakeholders).

- A plurality (42%) of Team members and a majority of Conference stakeholders (53%) said that the role the Southeastern Association has played in regional fish and wildlife issues has remained about the same over the past 5 years. Otherwise, more respondents said it has increased (27% of Team members and 21% of Conference stakeholders) than said it has decreased (11% of Team members and 3% of Conference stakeholders).

- Large majorities of both groups (82% of Team members and 72% of Conference stakeholders) strongly or moderately agree that the Southeastern Association *should* play a greater role in regional fish and wildlife issues than it currently does.
 - For both groups, the most common answer was strongly agree.

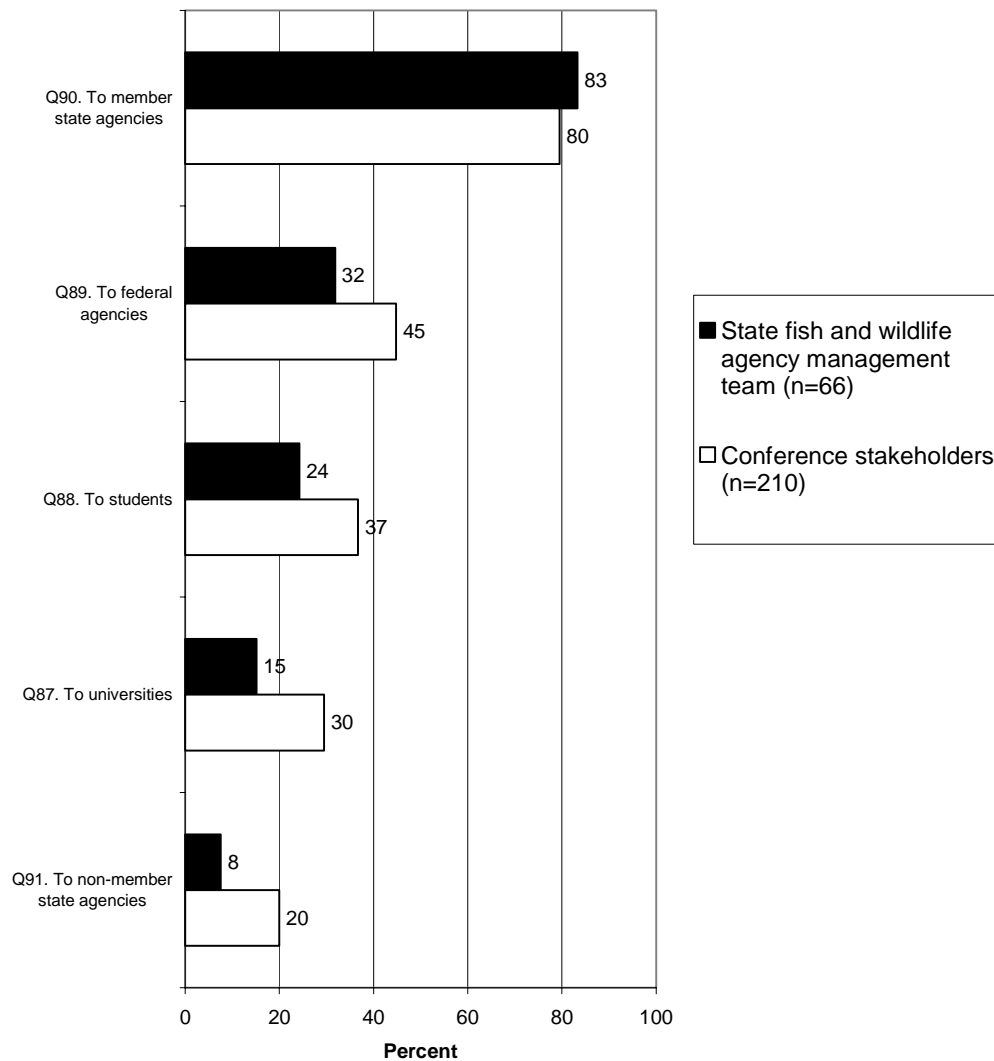
- A comparison of Questions 93 and 98 shows that there is higher strong agreement that the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in regional fish and wildlife issues than in national fish and wildlife issues.

- A comparison of Questions 94 and 99 shows that nearly the same percentages of Team members said there has been an increase in the role the Southeastern Association has played in fish and wildlife issues both nationally and regionally (26% of Team members said the national role has increased, and 27% of Team members said the regional role has increased). The results also showed that Conference stakeholders had nearly the same results: 23% of Conference stakeholders said the national role has increased, and 21% of Conference stakeholders said the regional role has increased.

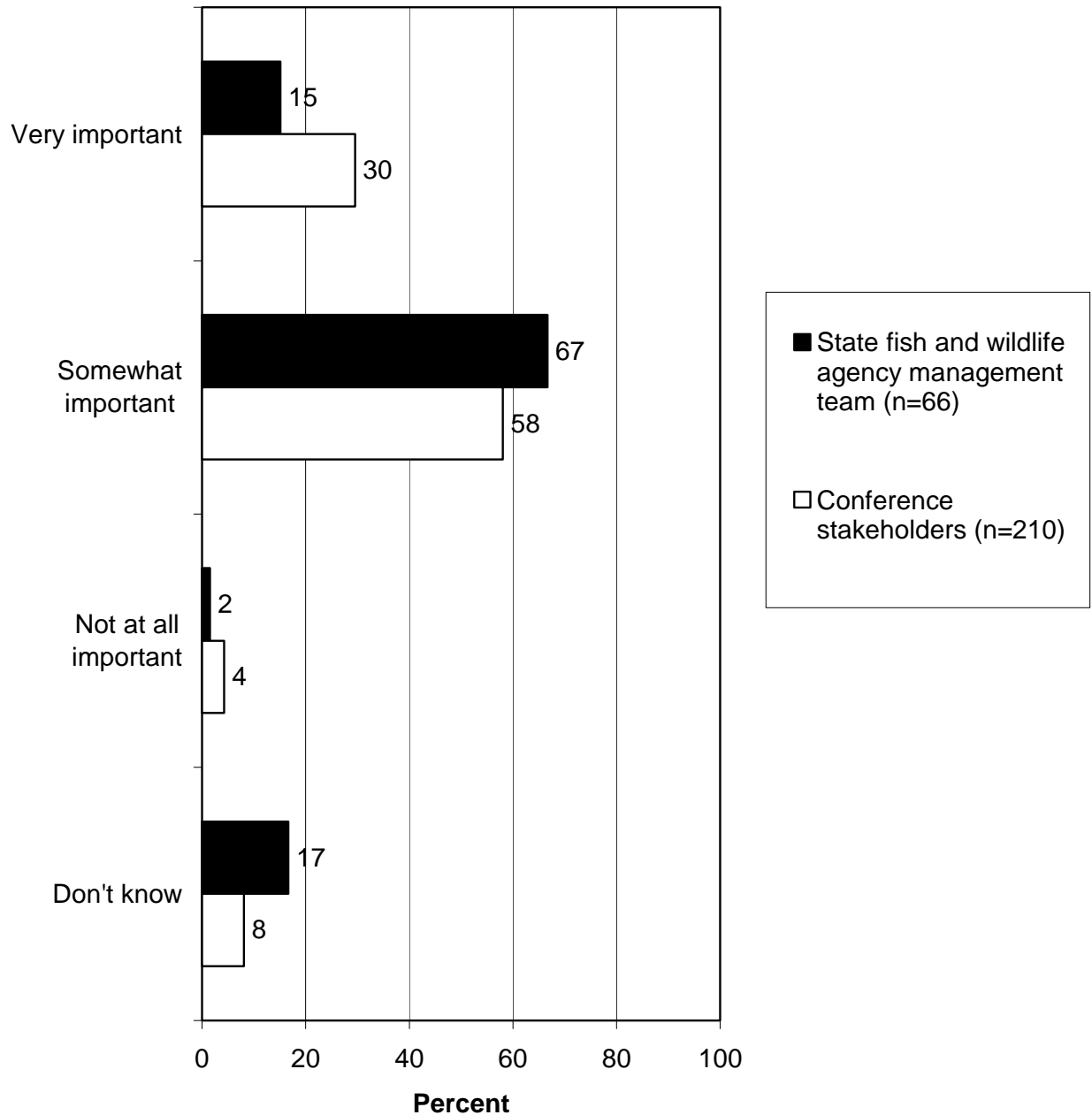
- A comparison of Questions 97 and 102 shows identical results nationally and regionally: 47% of Team members strongly agree that the Southeastern Association should play a

greater role in *national* fish and wildlife issues, and the same percentage agree that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in *regional* fish and wildlife issues; and 49% of Conference stakeholders strongly agree that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in *national* fish and wildlife issues, and 49% of Conference stakeholders said that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in *regional* fish and wildlife issues.

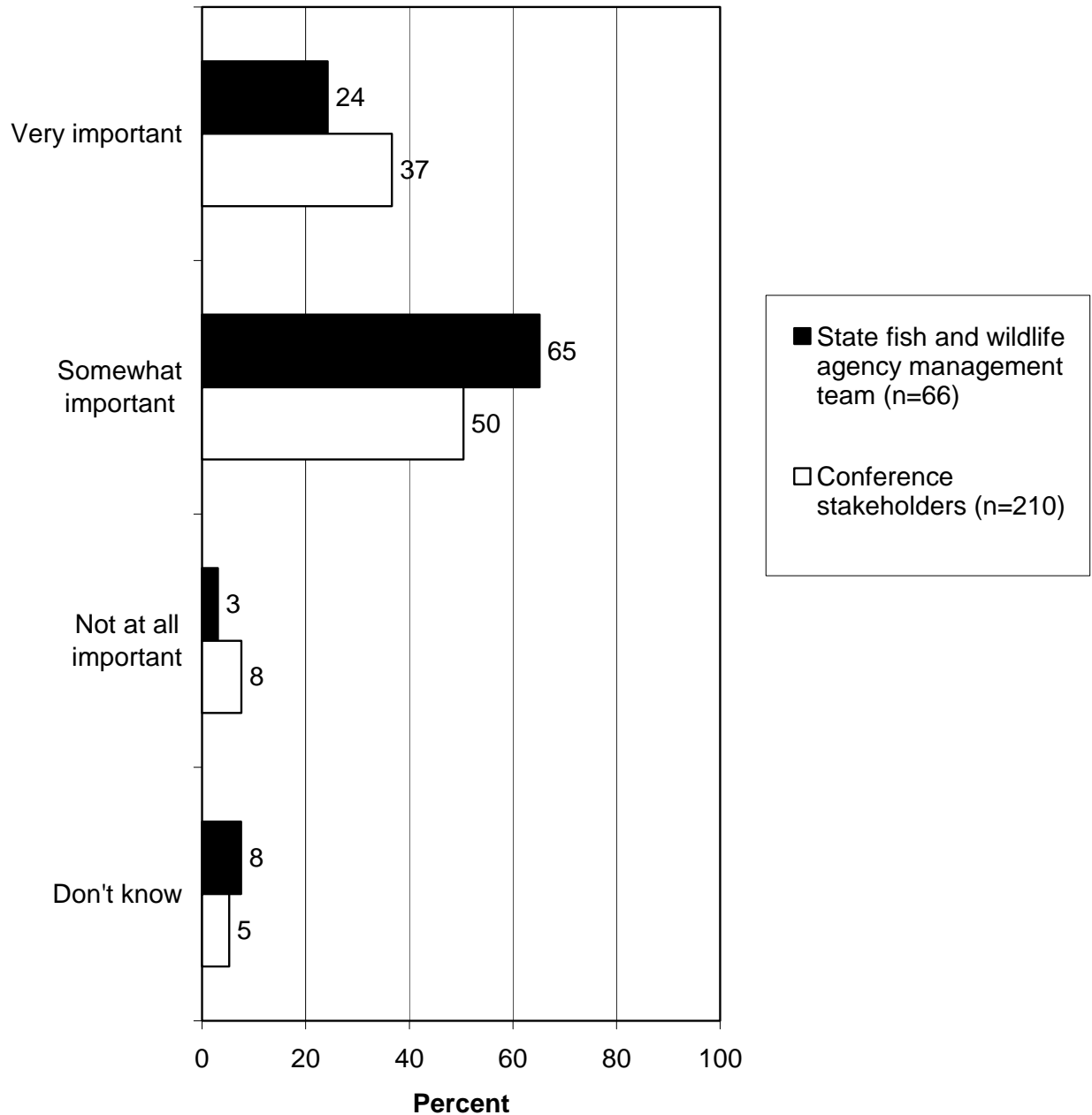
Q87-91. Ratings of the importance of the Southeastern Association to the following groups. (Percent who said the Southeastern Association is very important to the following groups.)



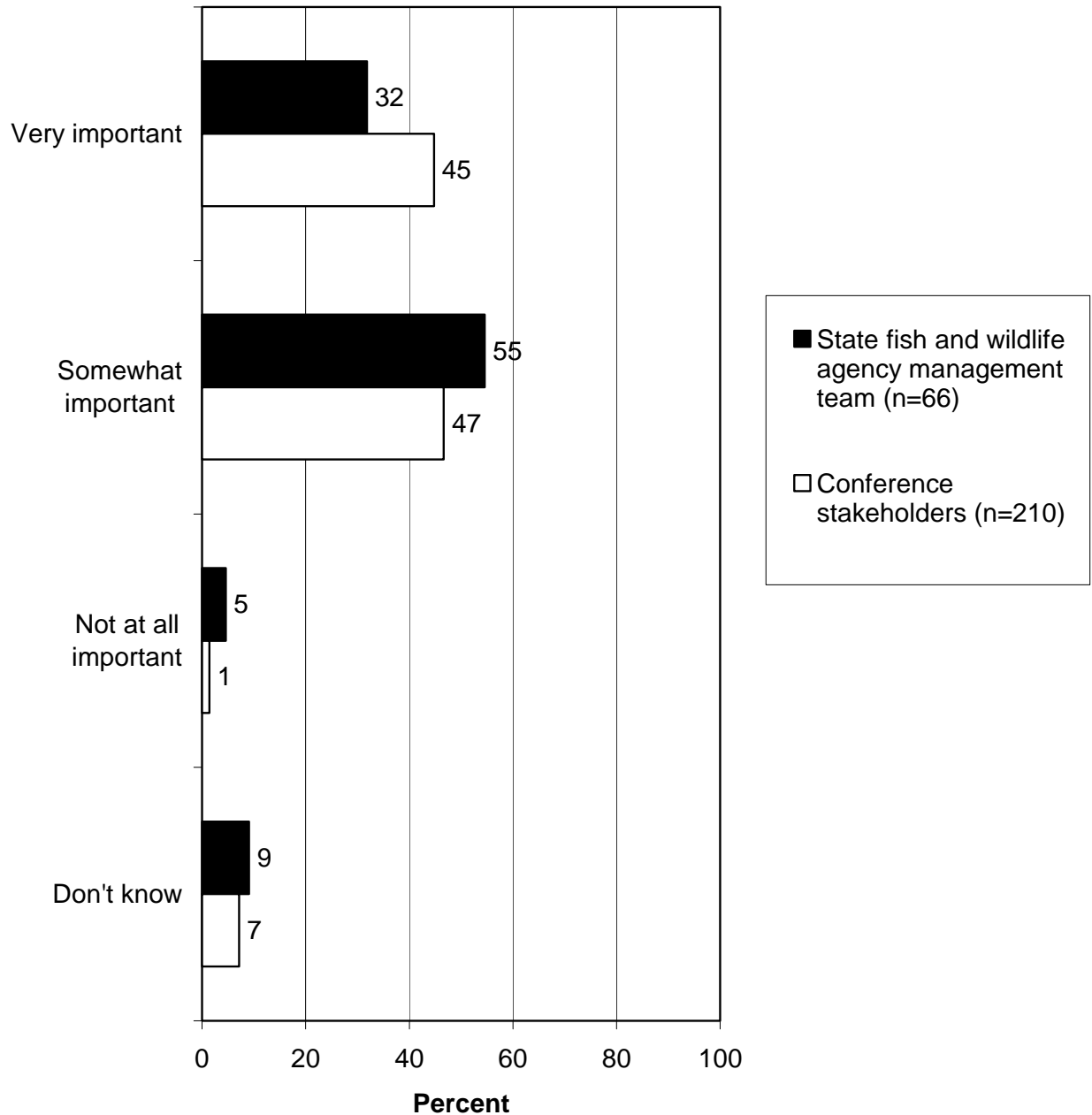
Q87. Do you feel the Southeastern Association is very important, somewhat important, or not at all important to universities?



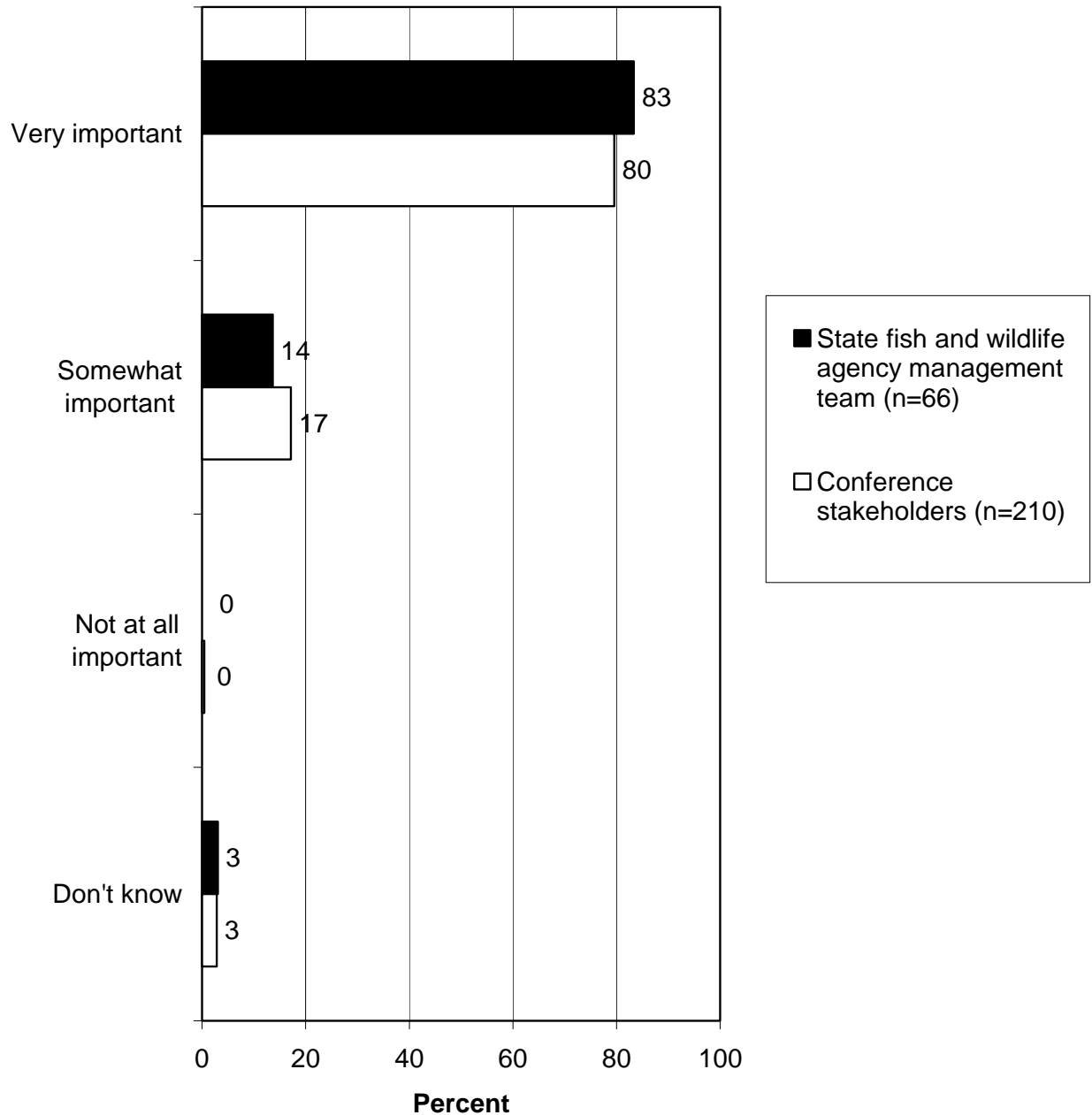
Q88. How important do you feel the Southeastern Association is to students?



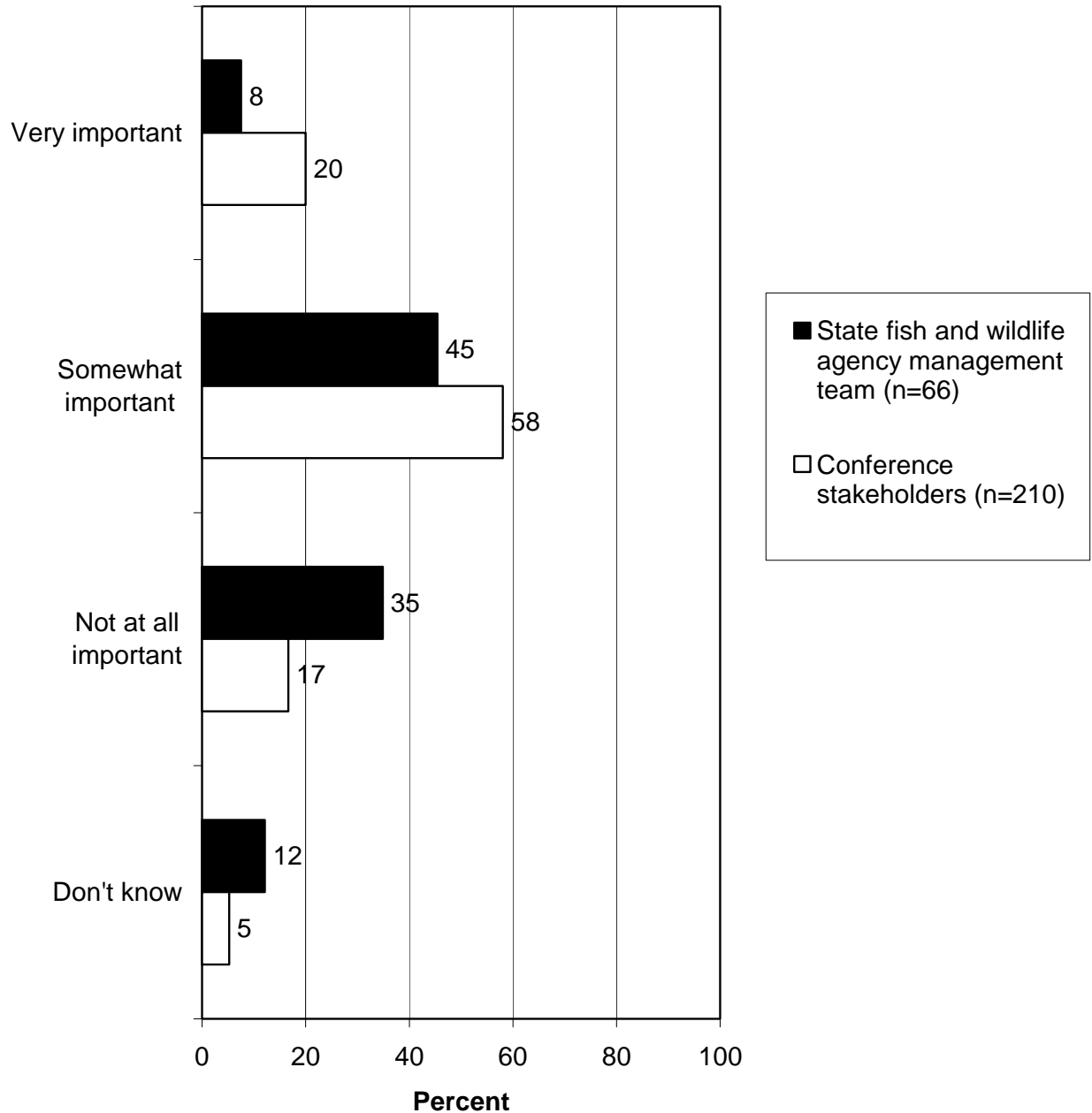
Q89. How important do you feel the Southeastern Association is to federal agencies?



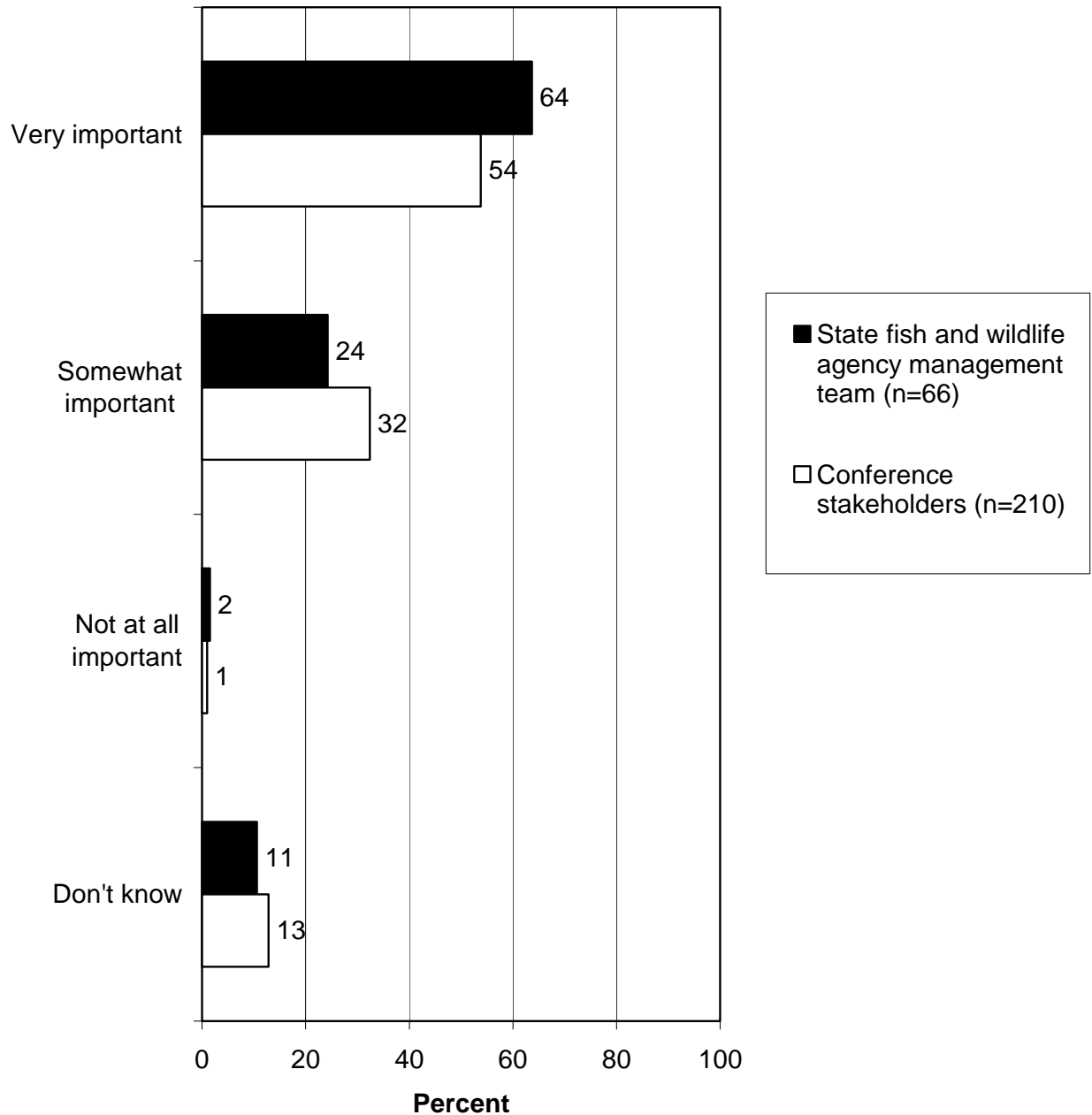
Q90. How important do you feel the Southeastern Association is to member state agencies?



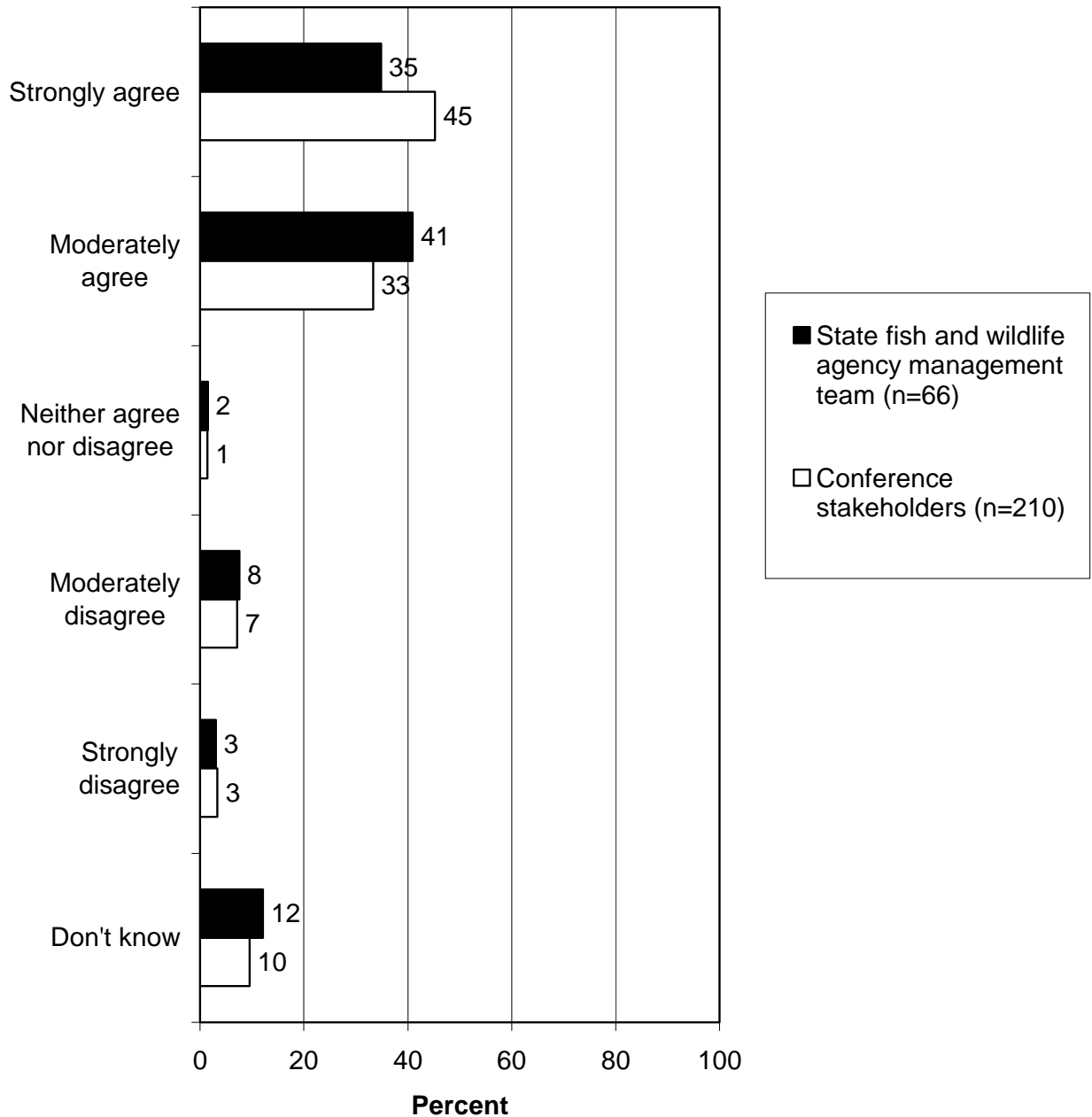
Q91. How important do you feel the Southeastern Association is to non-member state agencies, such as state parks departments and departments of environmental quality?



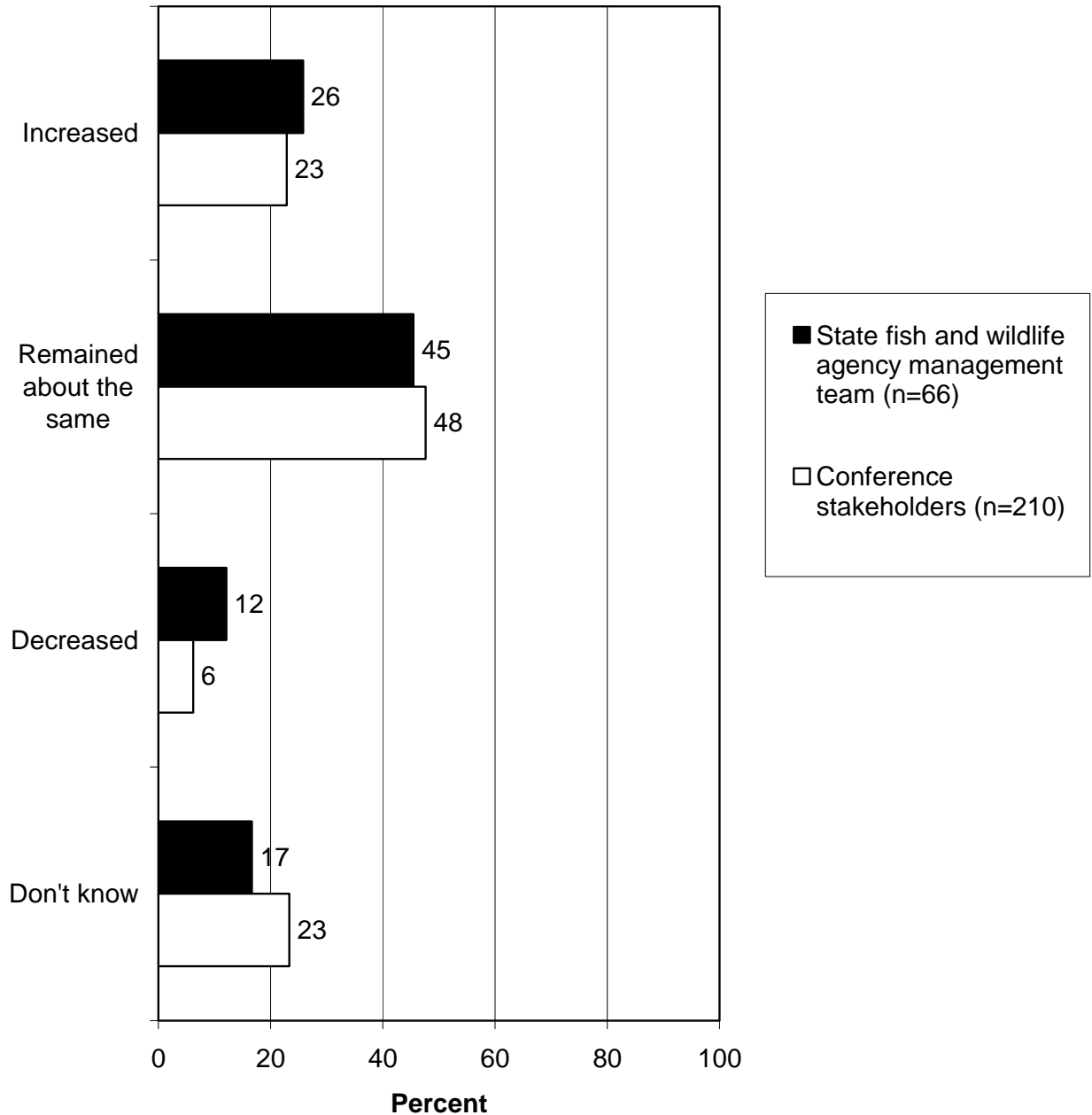
Q92. How important do you feel the Southeastern Association is as a regional association to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies?



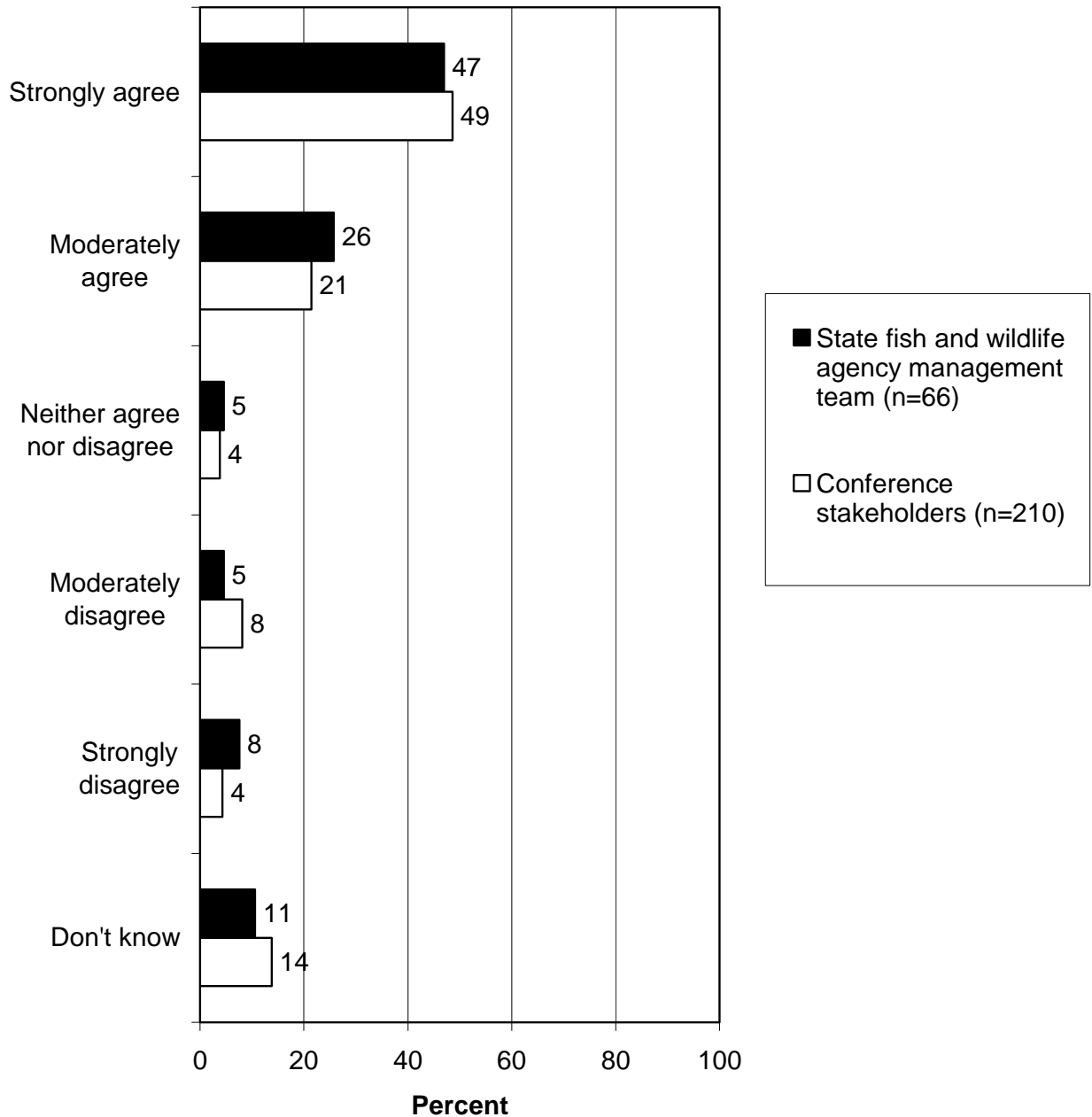
Q93. Currently, do you agree or disagree that the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in national fish and wildlife issues?



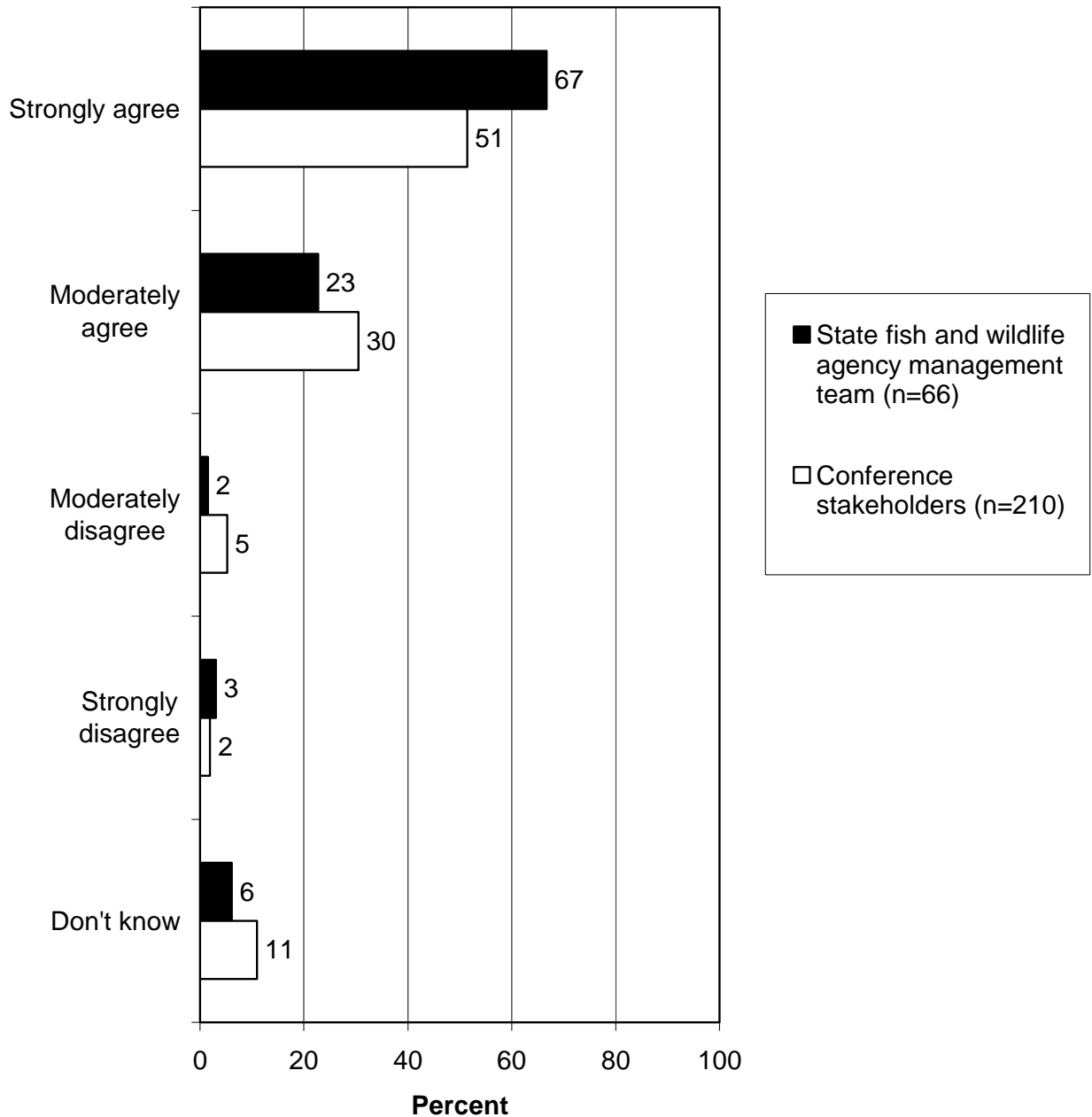
Q94. In the past 5 years, would you say the role the Southeastern Association has played in national fish and wildlife issues has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?



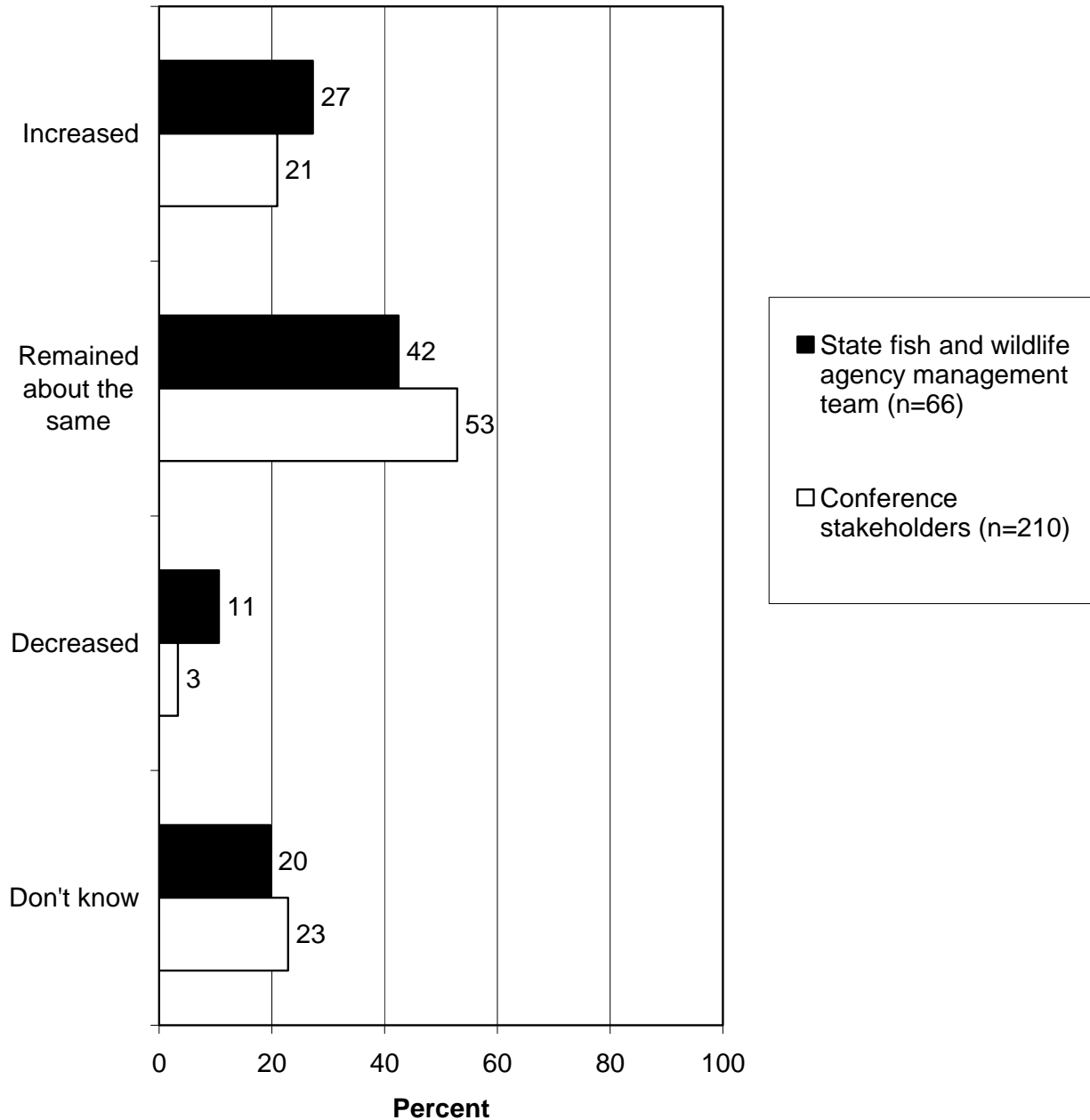
Q97. Do agree or disagree that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in national fish and wildlife issues than it currently does?



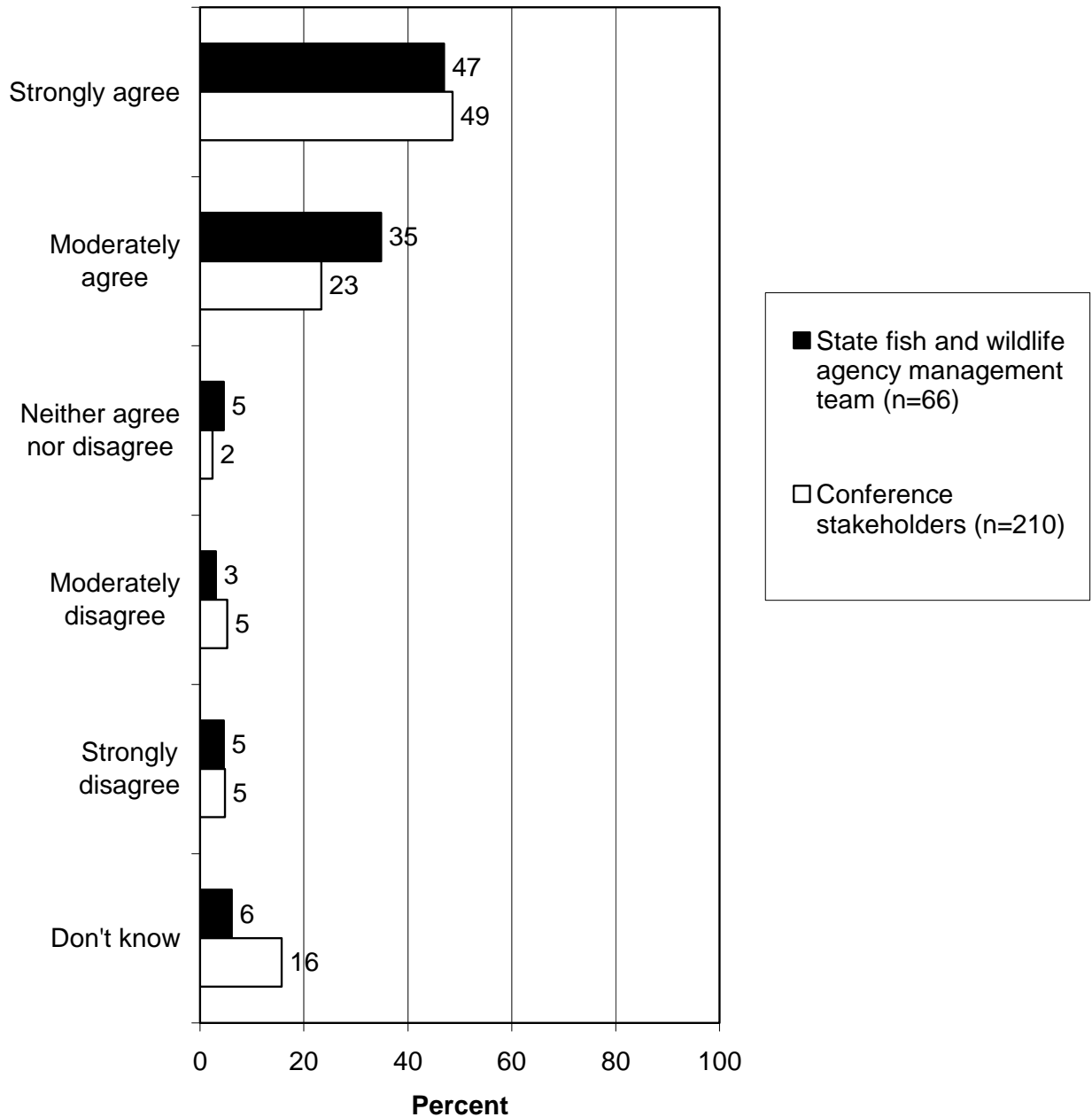
Q98. Currently, do you agree or disagree that the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in regional fish and wildlife issues?



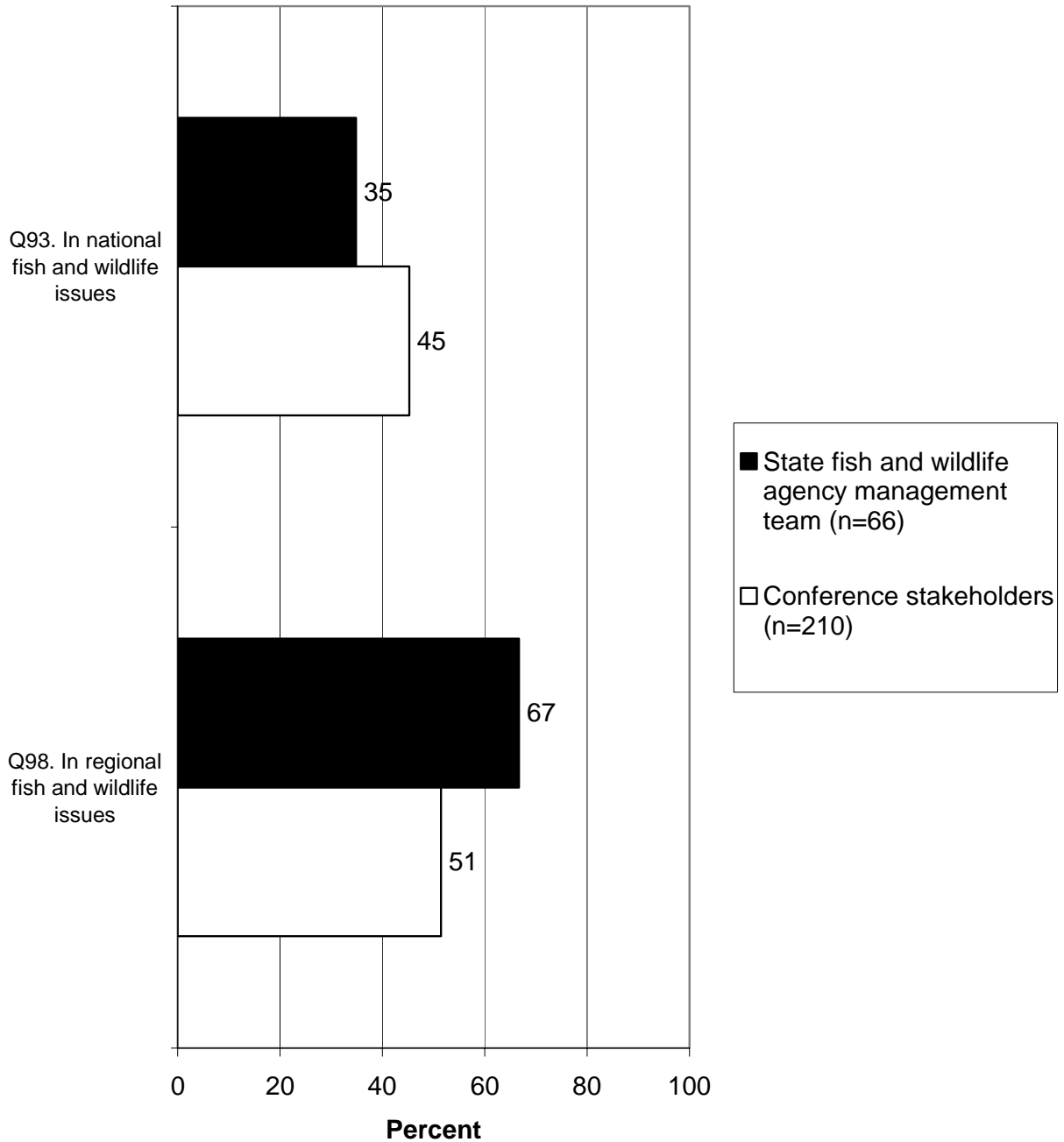
Q99. In the past 5 years, would you say the role the Southeastern Association has played in regional fish and wildlife issues has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?



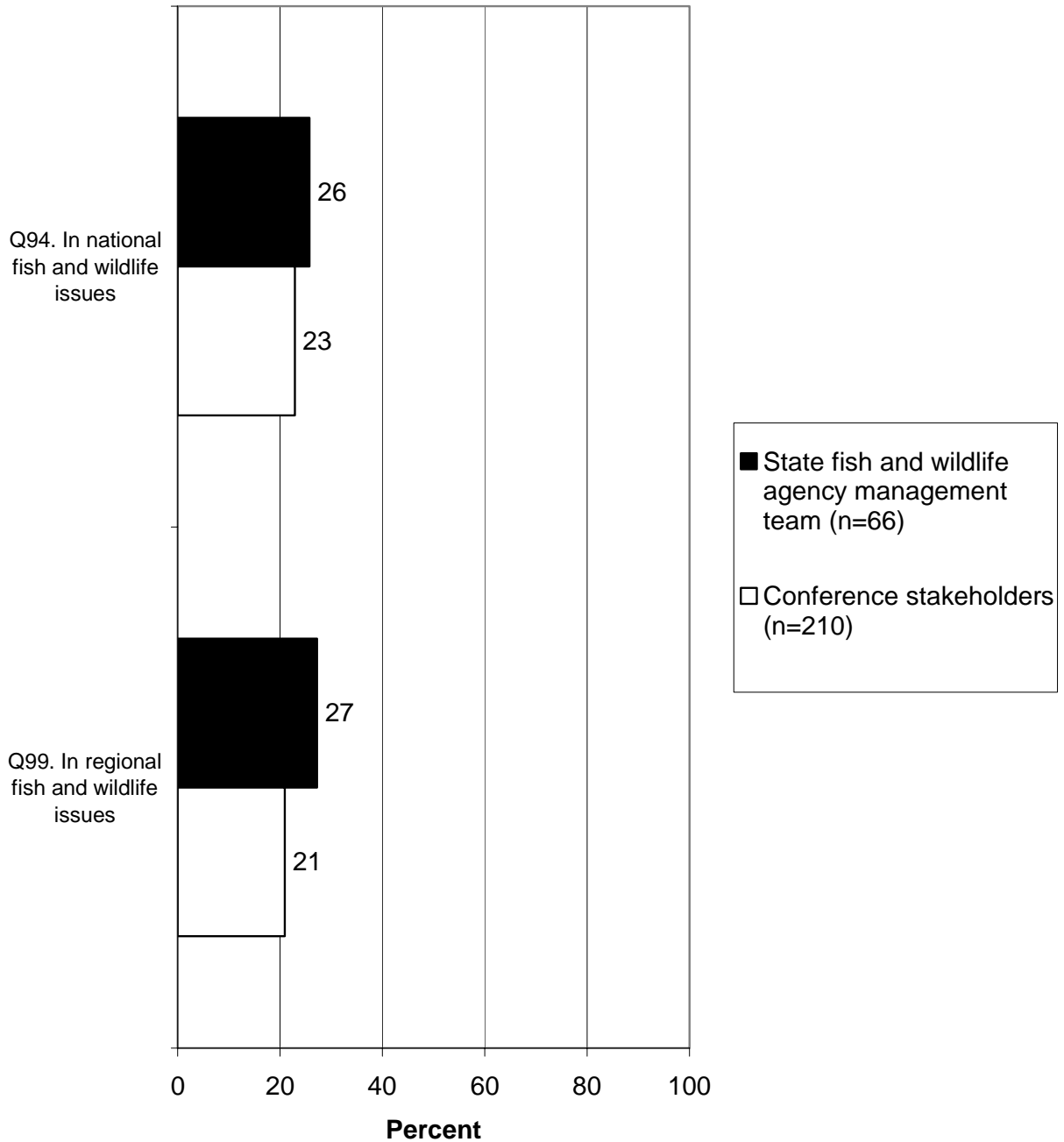
Q102. Do you agree or disagree that the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in regional fish and wildlife issues than it currently does?



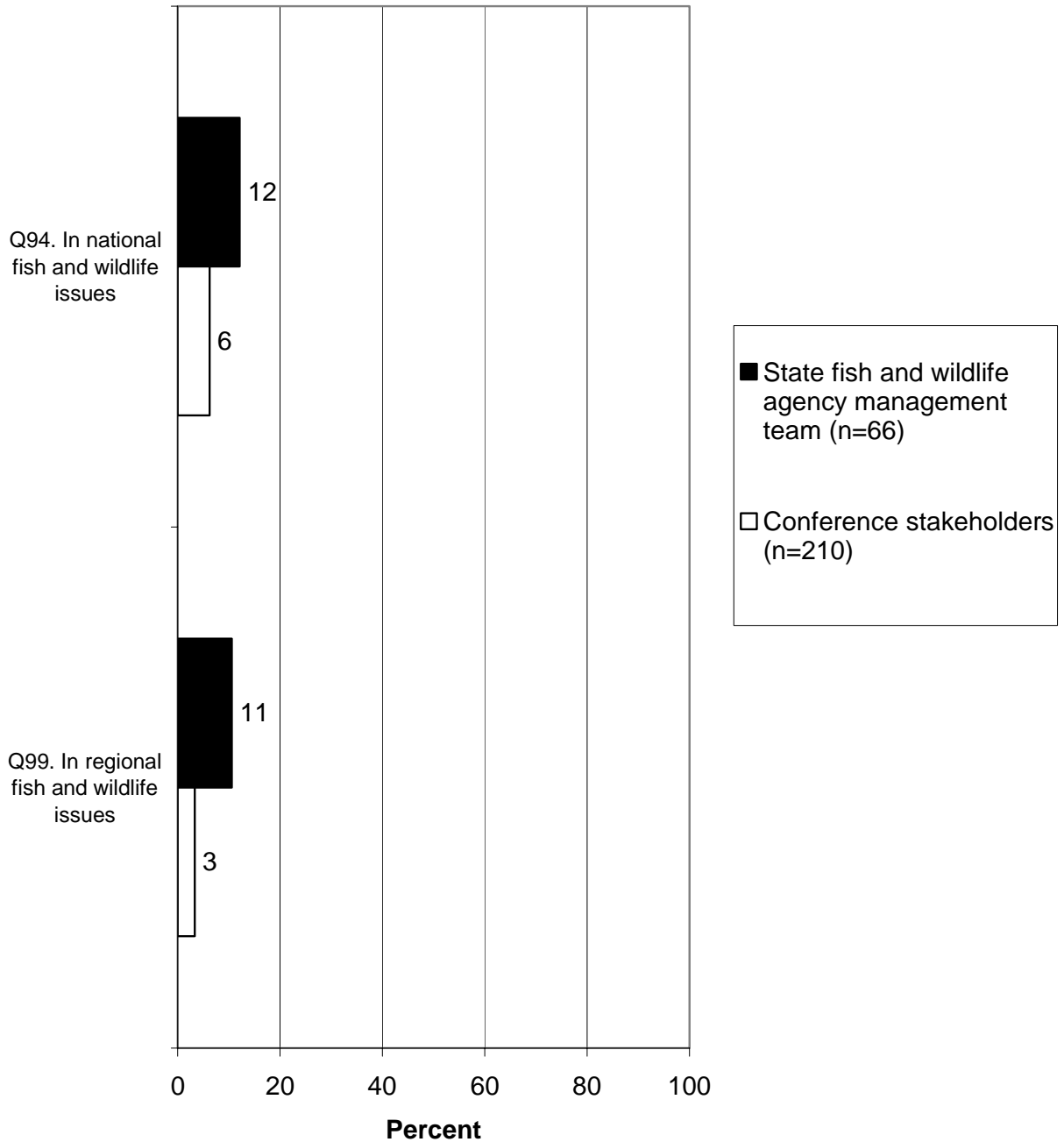
Q93 and 98. Strongly agrees the Southeastern Association plays a significant role in fish and wildlife issues nationally and regionally.



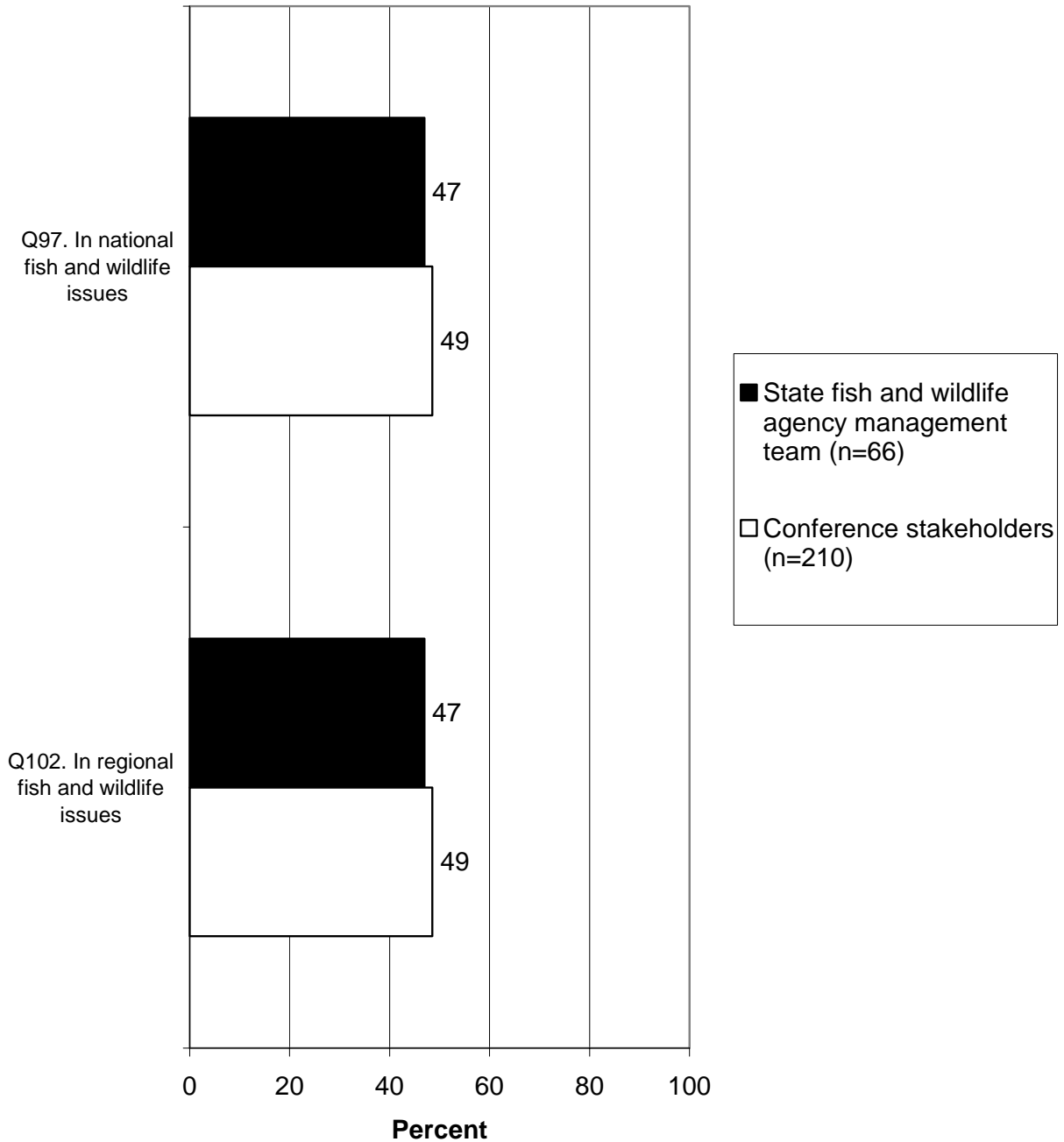
Q94 and 99. Says the role the Southeastern Association plays in fish and wildlife issues has increased nationally and regionally.



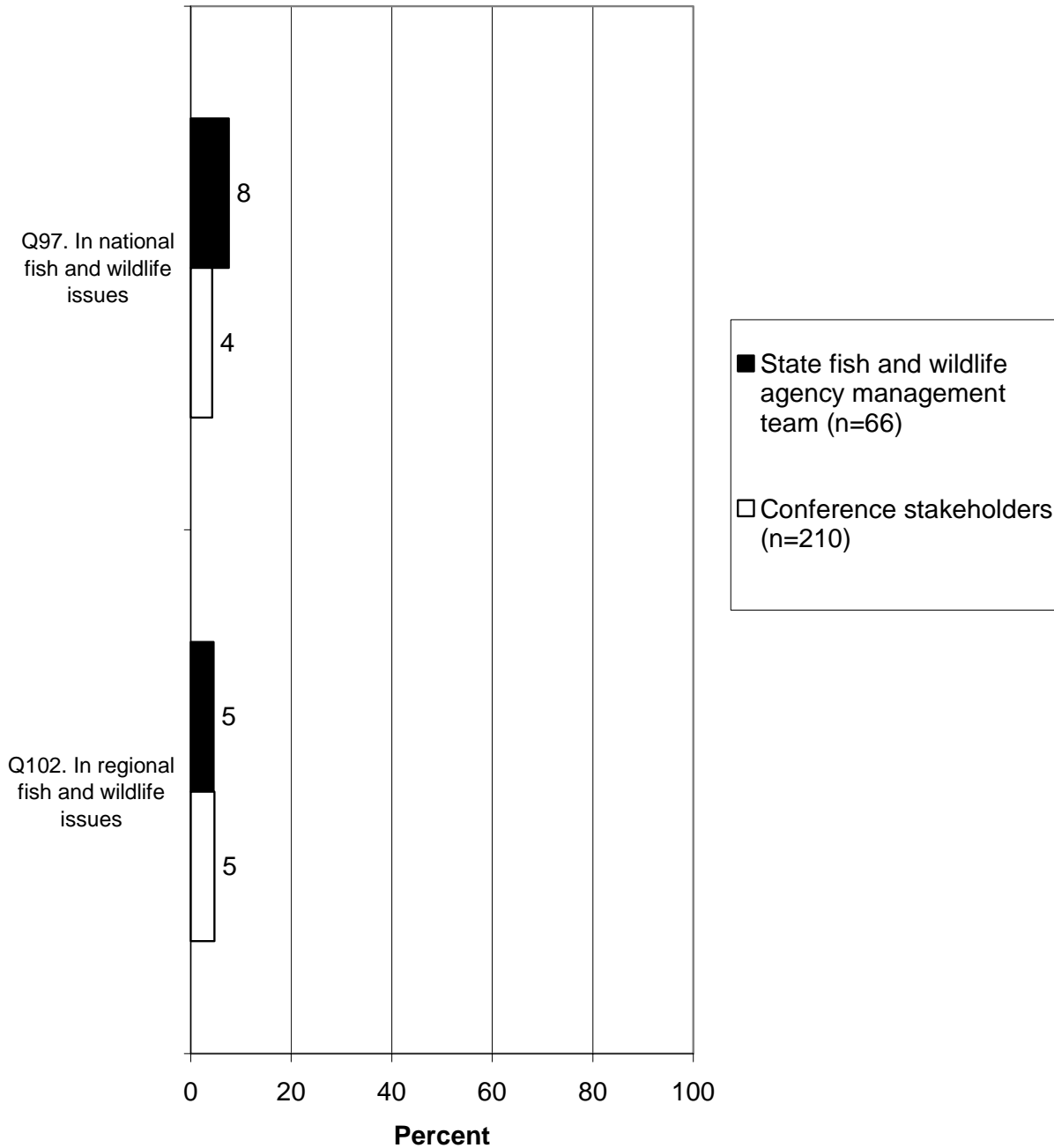
Q94 and 99. Says the role the Southeastern Association plays in fish and wildlife issues has decreased nationally and regionally.



Q97 and 102. Strongly agrees the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in fish and wildlife issues nationally and regionally.



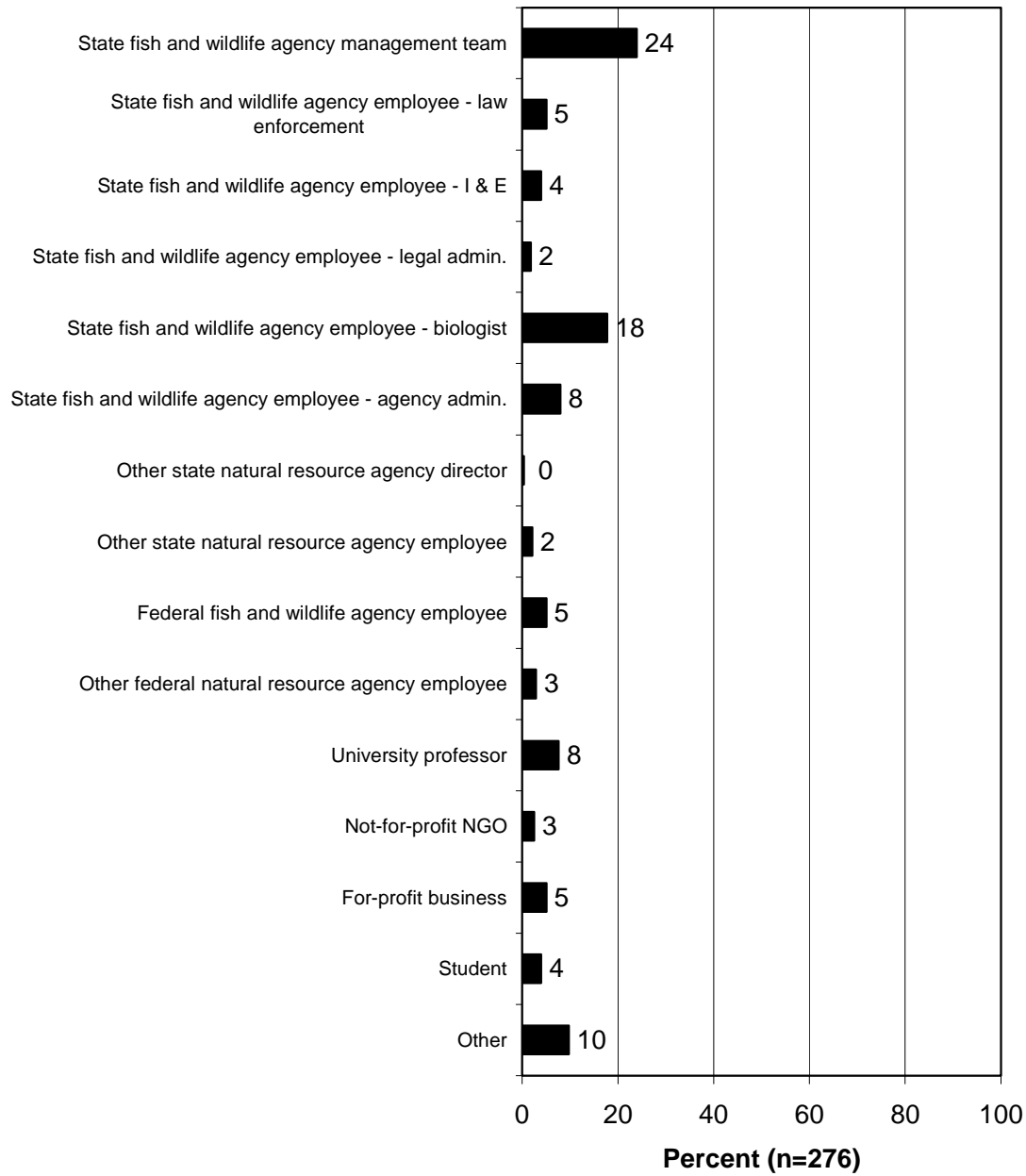
Q97 and 102. Strongly disagrees the Southeastern Association should play a greater role in fish and wildlife issues nationally and regionally.



RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

➤ The professional roles of respondents are shown in the graph below.

Q103. Which of the following best describes your professional role?



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

<p>Agencies need to watch budgets; registration fees should be kept as low as possible to allow more people to go; expenses for professional meetings can easily consume budgets.</p>
<p>Eliminate technical sessions! Technical sessions not relevant. Shorten conference; prefer less scientific approach.</p>
<p>I think the conferences should be held every 2 years instead of annually.</p>
<p>I didn't attend last year because, as a new director, I have found time management difficult and found myself choosing in-state matters over attending the conference, and I think you can find the same trend in other states.</p>
<p>Format of Southeastern Conference is a little stiff, with no significant change in many years. We need to be current, so change is necessary. Concern of committee-format; need change, but need specific agendas to stay aboard; [in setting the] fee, need to consider students and young personnel. We need youth.</p>
<p>Good survey; I look forward to seeing what the results are!</p>
<p>Human resources and administrative issues are virtually untapped. They need to be addressed.</p>
<p>About the proceedings, it would be nice if its format could be consistent with American Fisheries Society; also need concurrent fishery sessions, and if we had it in March, we could have crayfish!</p>
<p>I couldn't give a good evaluation because I was only there for licensing information; I'm not a "wildlife professional."</p>
<p>I didn't think there were enough activities for support professionals like INS and licensing.</p>
<p>I think changing the manuscript due date is good if the publication of the proceedings was sped up.</p>
<p>I don't attend because they have very little marine environment issues. They're missing groups. It used to be useful because of abstracts that universities wouldn't touch; dealt with real management issues.</p>
<p>I enjoy the meetings when I go. Change the name of the journal and the timing of when it comes out; it's important for publications to turn around quickly.</p>
<p>I think it's been a very good meeting, and our students seem to really benefit from being able to attend and interact with wildlife professionals.</p>
<p>Southeastern Association may explore whether the state pays members to attend workshops prior to annual meeting—this would build in philosophical mentality to produce valuable information or products that would support the meeting.</p>
<p>I think that notification of the conference, they seem to assume that state agencies employees know the due dates for submission and we just don't—we're missing opportunities because we don't know what's going on unless we actively do it.</p>
<p>I think they did a really good job, and I really enjoyed the conference.</p>
<p>I want to point out that some of my comments would undermine the value the Southeastern Conference has because I'm currently I&E, but I was a field biologist.</p>
<p>I wish the Southeastern Association well; they have great folks. I hope participation can be increased.</p>
<p>I think the Southeastern directors are failing to recognize and become personally involved with the opportunity to put fish and wildlife habitat on private lands via the farm bill. The potential money dwarfs the state money received; most states are failing.</p>

<p>I wish there was some way we could get the fiscal thing in there. It is so important, but so neglected.</p>
<p>I would like to see the Southeastern Conference Proceedings more applicable to others outside the southeast area.</p>
<p>I would like to see it a 3-day conference in the middle of the week; the opening ceremonies to be more general. The conference is too long, too slow, very technical, and should be more general.</p>
<p>I had a great time and learned a lot.</p>
<p>I'm too new to the area to be fully aware of all the conferences; however, I have used the proceedings and am familiar with it. I think anything less than \$250 for registration would have merit; any amount more would have to be reviewed carefully for merit.</p>
<p>It's important to understand the role that the funding most states have been going through. It's a very important factor.</p>
<p>I've only been with the agency 7 months, so I'm just not informed on a lot of issues.</p>
<p>I've only been with the agency for 7 months, so I'm not real familiar with conference. I plan on going, and I hope we're on the mailing list.</p>
<p>Last year's conference was more disorganized than most.</p>
<p>Manuscripts are...not published in a timely manner. A paper submitted in 2001 has not yet been received.</p>
<p>My attendance is geographic; I only have one state in my region in Southeastern Association; I would support changes to format if topics were of specific interest; also I think topics for students important if not generally a part of conference format.</p>
<p>My feelings about the national role the Southeastern Association plays is that it is important that we play a role in national issues, but it should be done through the National and International Associations.</p>
<p>I would like to see the Southeastern Conference to be more oriented to students.</p>
<p>If something isn't done soon, it's basically dead; some restructuring is necessary.</p>
<p>I'm a new employee, so I don't know that much about it. I think it is a good conference though.</p>
<p>I'm sorry I couldn't offer more information, but I'm an engineer, so I've never been to the conference.</p>
<p>I'm the chairman from the host state this year.</p>
<p>Proceedings should be available via the Internet for free. The planning committee needs to be aware of the needs of the member states as far as getting travel approved; focus on that, if it's at a fancy-looking place, they might not get approval.</p>
<p>October may be a time when many states agencies are involved in hunting, which could keep attendance down; focus of Southeastern Conference should continue on management of fish and wildlife.</p>
<p>Paper selection format—not enough papers presented at the meeting. It's mandatory to publish, it should not be mandatory; it would help improve the quality and quantity of the papers; papers not selected for publication should be presented.</p>
<p>Proceeding are not relevant to a lot of my needs anymore. The upper management office people are the ones at the conference a lot now, leaving the field people out of the conference when they are the ones that need to be there.</p>
<p>I had a great time, and it was nice to see that the students were welcomed, and it was a great opportunity.</p>

I think that SEAFWA is a vibrant organization and advocate for conservation based on consensus of state agencies. It's a good avenue for showing students what the needs are for conservation officials.
Proceedings not attractive to universities and students because of time-lag of publication; new information needs to get out in a timely manner. I would also support lengthening the conference if enough good and new information was made available.
Publishing: I personally have not published; however, I'm responsible for the publication of items from our department and I oversee those. Several have been presented and published as department publications.
Proceedings are not as valuable to university researchers as they could be if we improved a couple of items.
I think the quality of the technical papers has decreased; I think that hurts the attendance of the technical sessions. I think more special events/workshops would be stimulating.
Registration fee could not be less than \$150 [for the Conference to be] self supporting; important to charge enough to support a worthwhile conference.
Southeastern Association has not played a large role recently in fisheries; therefore, they have not been an important factor in our work.
I would like there to be an Internet cafe at the conference.
Southeastern Association has been a strong force, recognized in national issues.
Southeastern Association is ahead of the ballgame in fisheries. Quail problem is of national significance. We are doing some good things.
Thank you for calling me and letting me comment; the Southeastern Conference is an important event as an award for agency personnel; it should give significant attention to awards, etc.
The attendance of state directors is important to me; if they do not come, my role is changed. Networking is important.
The conference did a good job; I learned a lot.
The directors need to step up and create a sense of vision for SEAFWA.
The meeting is for directors; important for directors to decide how important it is for their people and encourage their people to attend. Directors need to make decisions whether or not they want a director's meeting or have a meeting to discuss issues.
I used to attend the meeting in a previous job; the conferences tend to be technically oriented, dominated by mainline agencies involved. The content is only 10% to 15% interest to me; in the job I'm in, not a lot for us.
The Southeastern Conference is relevant to about 1/4 of the state of Texas, so many of the issues that are relevant to the other southeastern states are important to only 1/4 of Texas.
We need a combination of the mid-year and annual, with concurrent sessions and abstracts only.
They need to recover some of the value and attractiveness they once had. I commend the association on doing this survey to try and do that.
I think that they are doing a super job; I wish that I could be more involved, but too many meetings, too little time.
This is not the directors' meeting; this is a meeting to do a better job of managing of resources in the South East.

This organization is probably more appropriate for agencies and department personnel rather than commissioners; however, it probably has significance for commissioners, and we use the proceedings. Some with references from directors during our meetings I have not read.

We would like to find out where some of the other meetings are. You people are our lifeline.

I am willing to pay registration fee for quality conference; more emphasis placed on non-game species. I would be willing to see a change in Proceedings publication if it meant quality papers and resources.

I work for state agency, but I also teach landscape ecology at a university part time.

