

# Summer Flounder

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

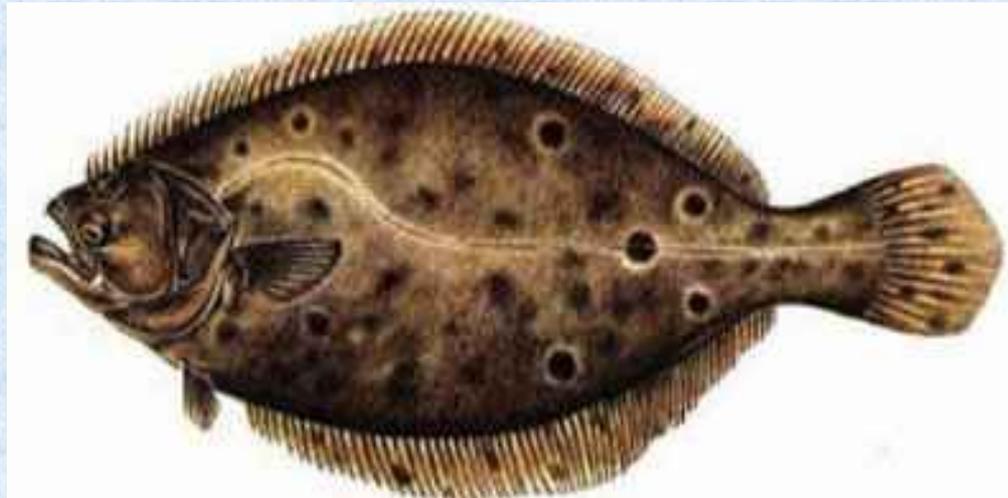
On February 2, 2017, the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board, part of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), approved changes to this coming year's summer flounder quota for New Jersey. It mandated a one-inch size increase to New Jersey's current recreational summer flounder minimum size limit (from 18 inches to 19 inches) and decreased the possession limit from 5 fish to 3 fish. New Jersey is appealing this change.

In reaching its decision the Board did not determine or consider the potential economic impact of the new quota on the summer flounder industry in New Jersey. This survey was designed to help estimate the extent of the economic impact of these recently approved summer flounder management regulations on recreational fishing. Responses about recent trends in harvest size, abundance, and throwback mortality will help inform future decisions that promote conservation while minimizing adverse economic impacts.

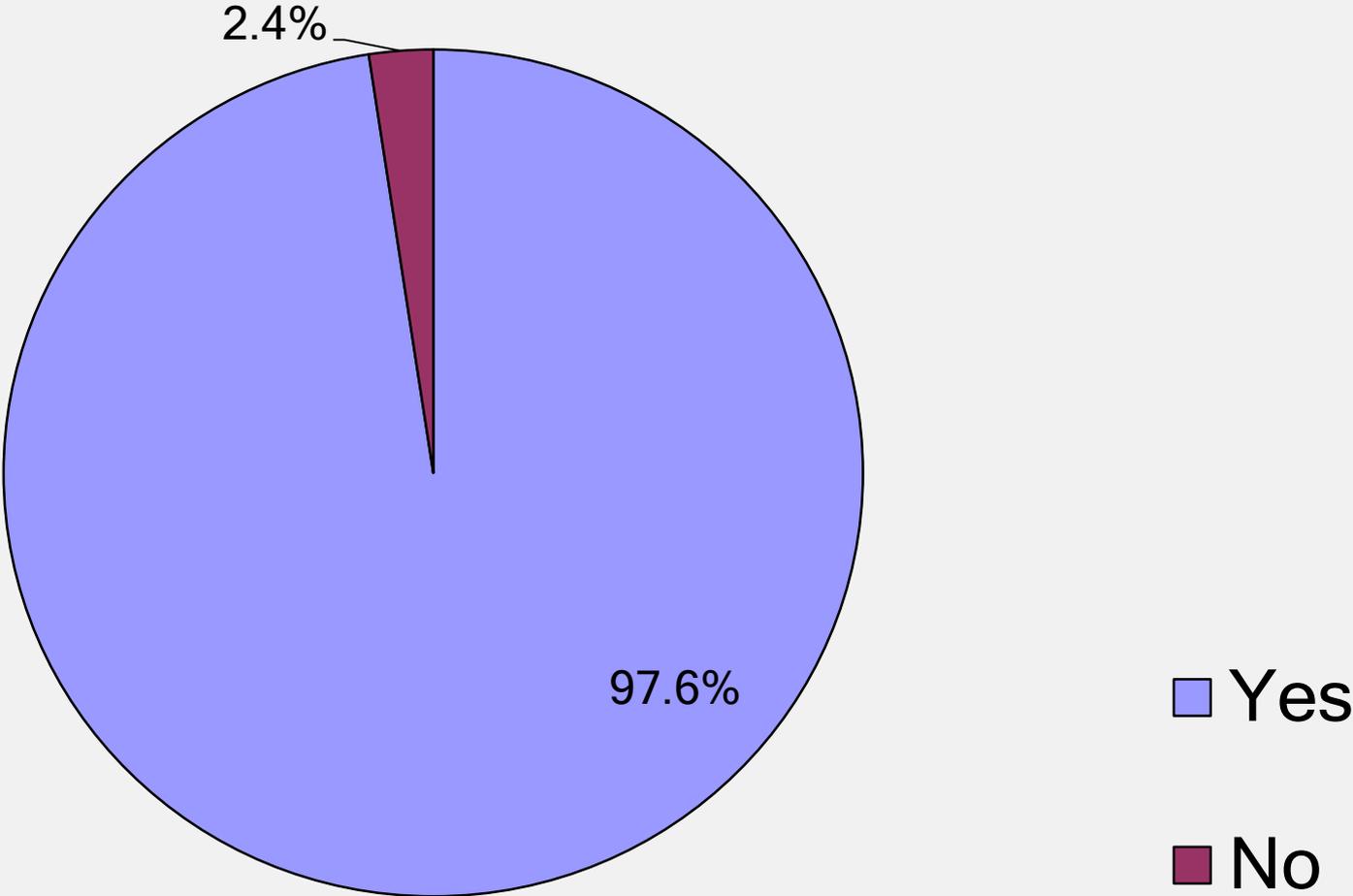
The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection invited 138,356 members of NJ Fish and Wildlife saltwater registry to complete the survey as thoroughly and accurately as possible. The survey took about 15 minutes to complete. Participation in this survey was voluntary and the identity of respondents remained anonymous. 16,697 respondents completed the survey in the first phase. The results shown graphically below are from this first phase. In the end, more than 26,000 individuals completed the survey. Analysis of the additional responses is on-going and will be summarized at a later date.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection thanks everyone who participated in this survey for their time and support.

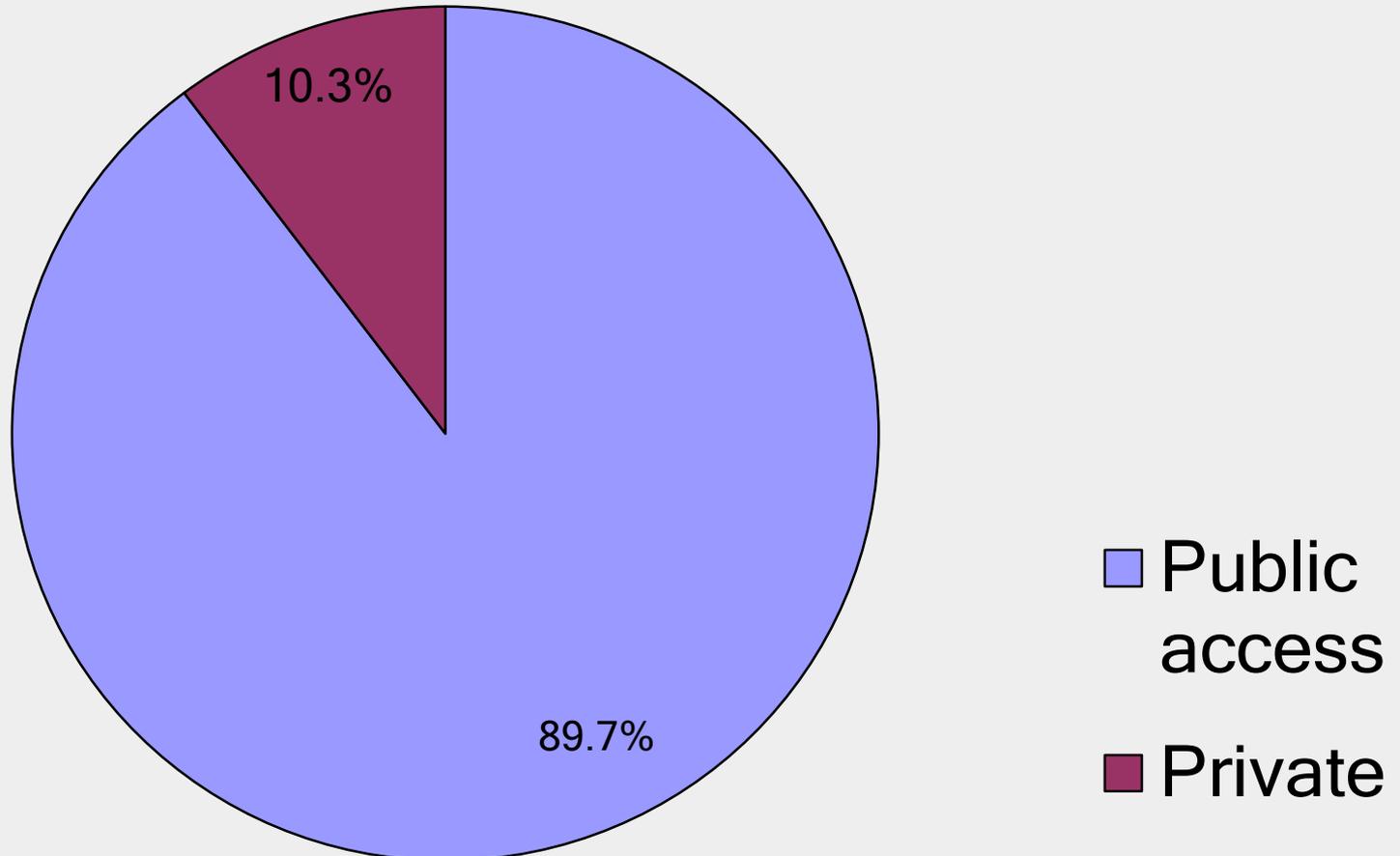
Preliminary results are summarized below.



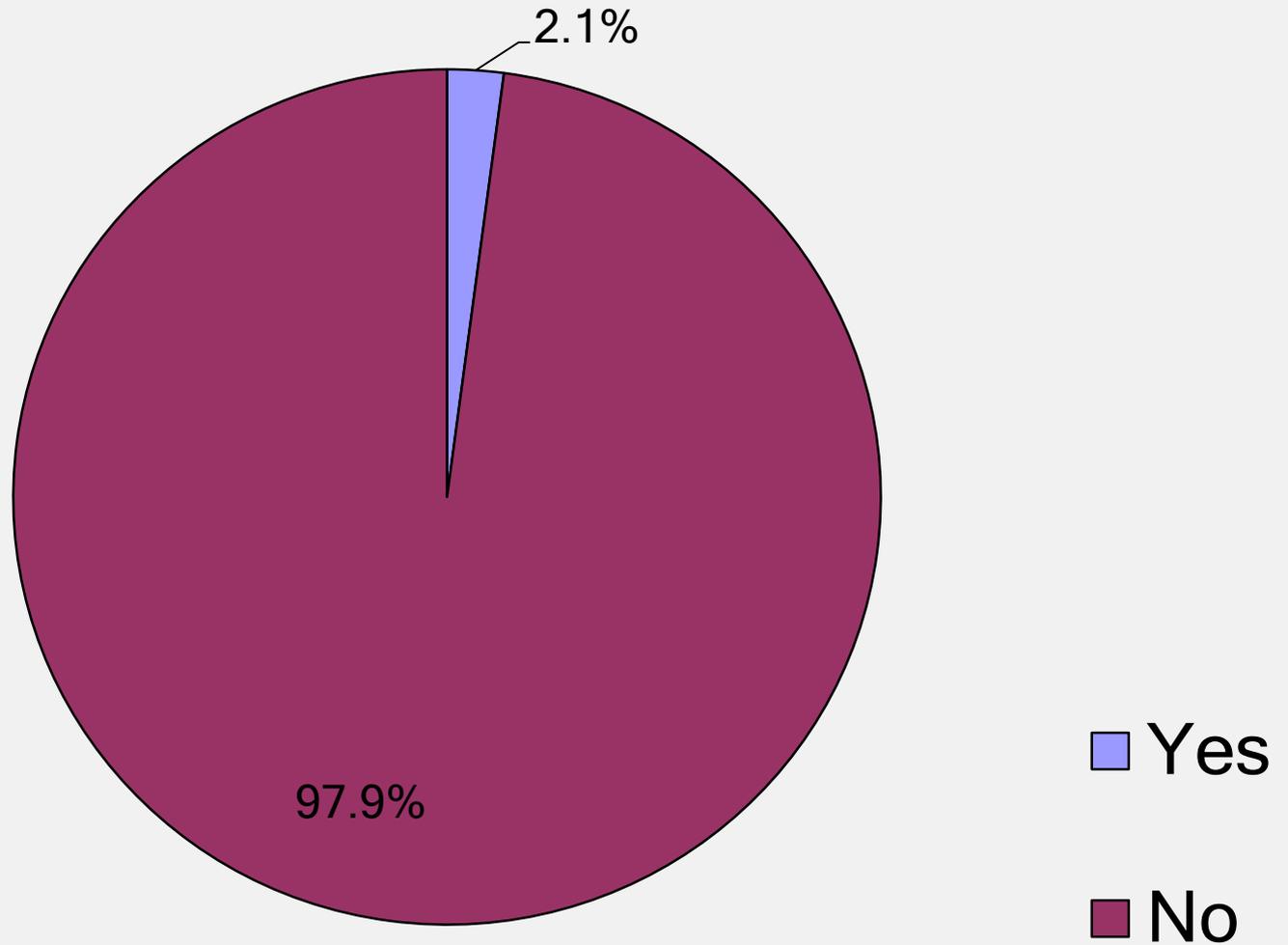
# Have you recreationally fished in the past 12 months?



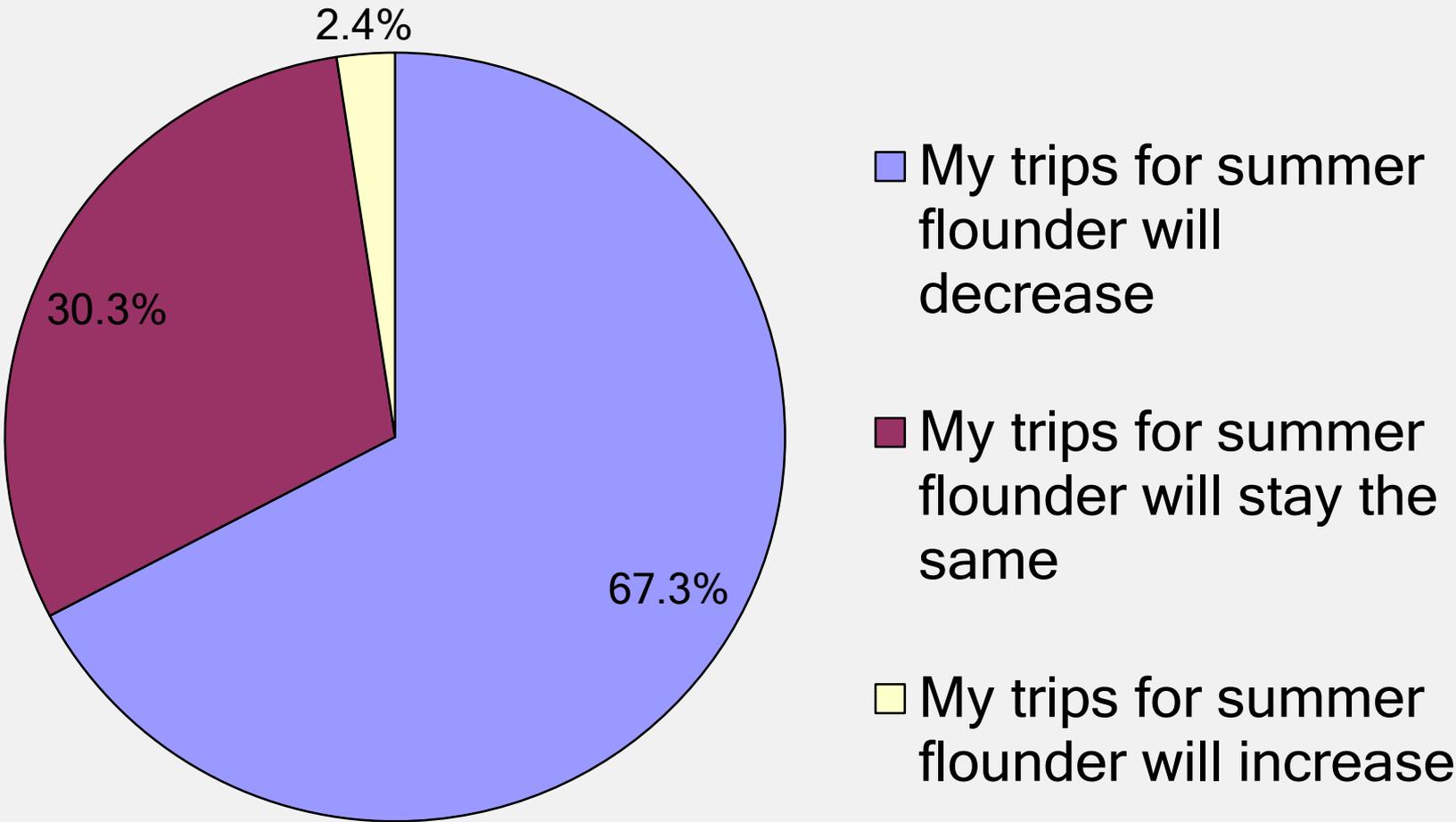
Did your last fishing site have public access (open to everyone, although fees may apply) or was it private (restricted access)?



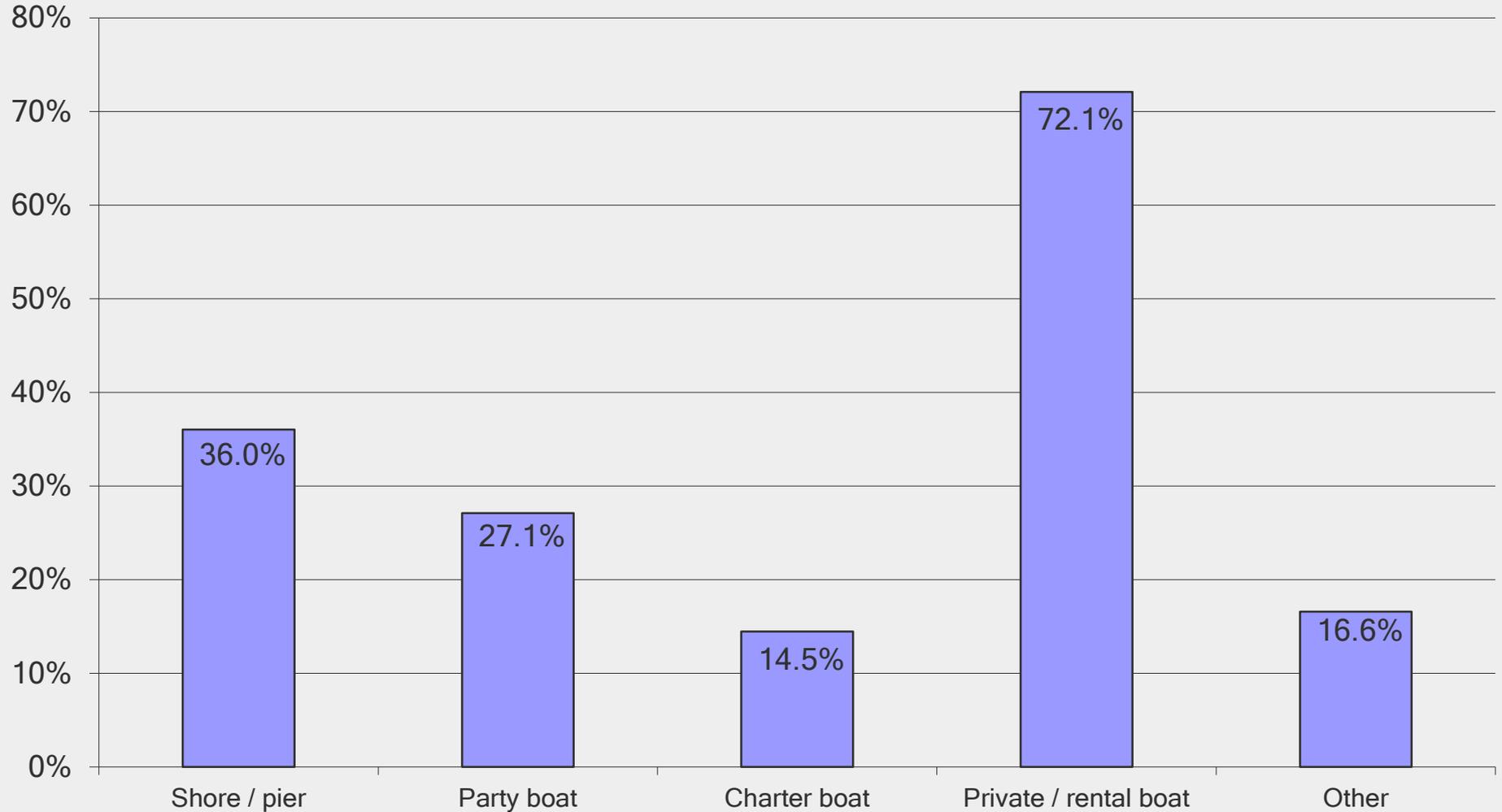
# Do you also fish commercially?



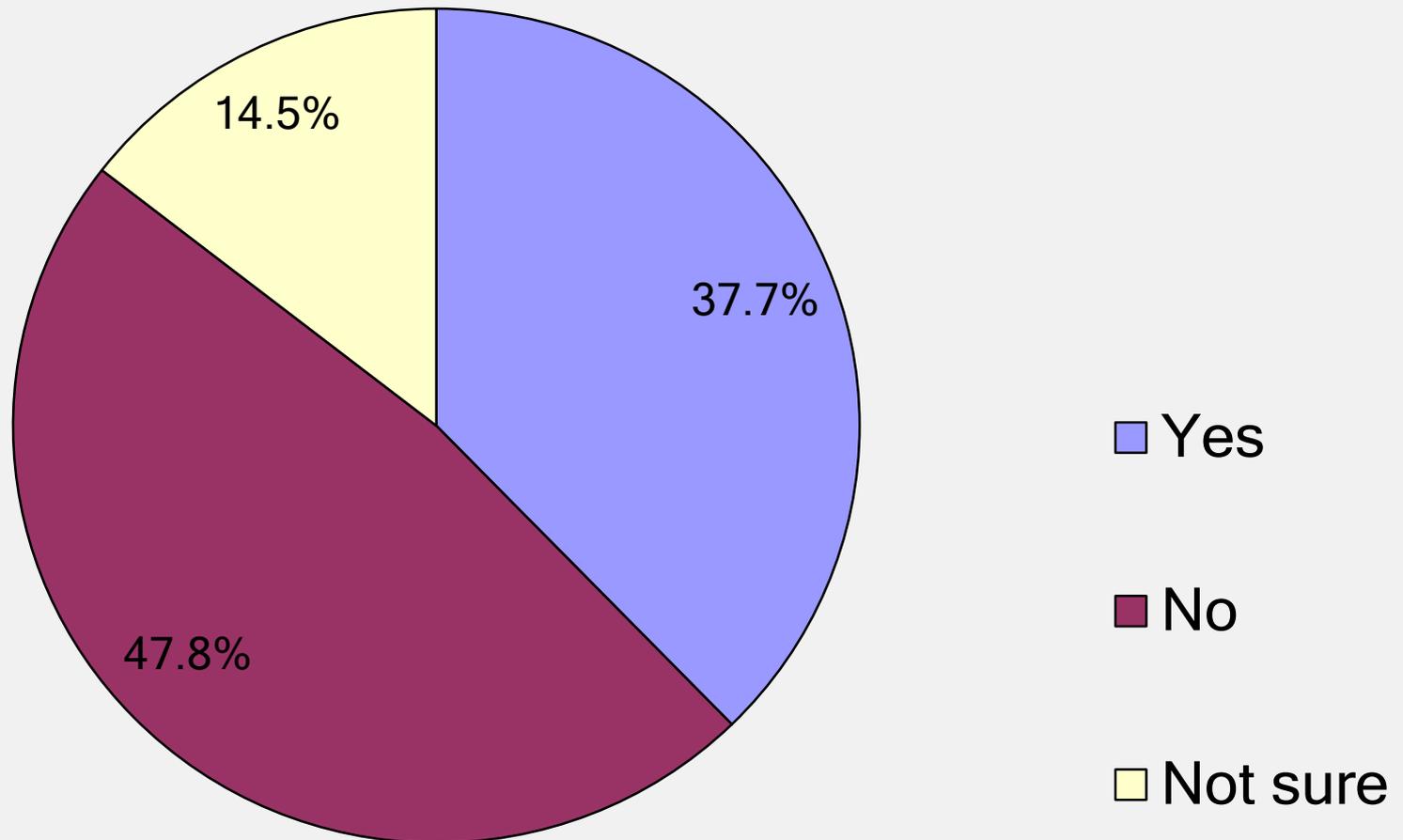
When thinking only about summer flounder, how will the new regulations affect the number of your directed trips?



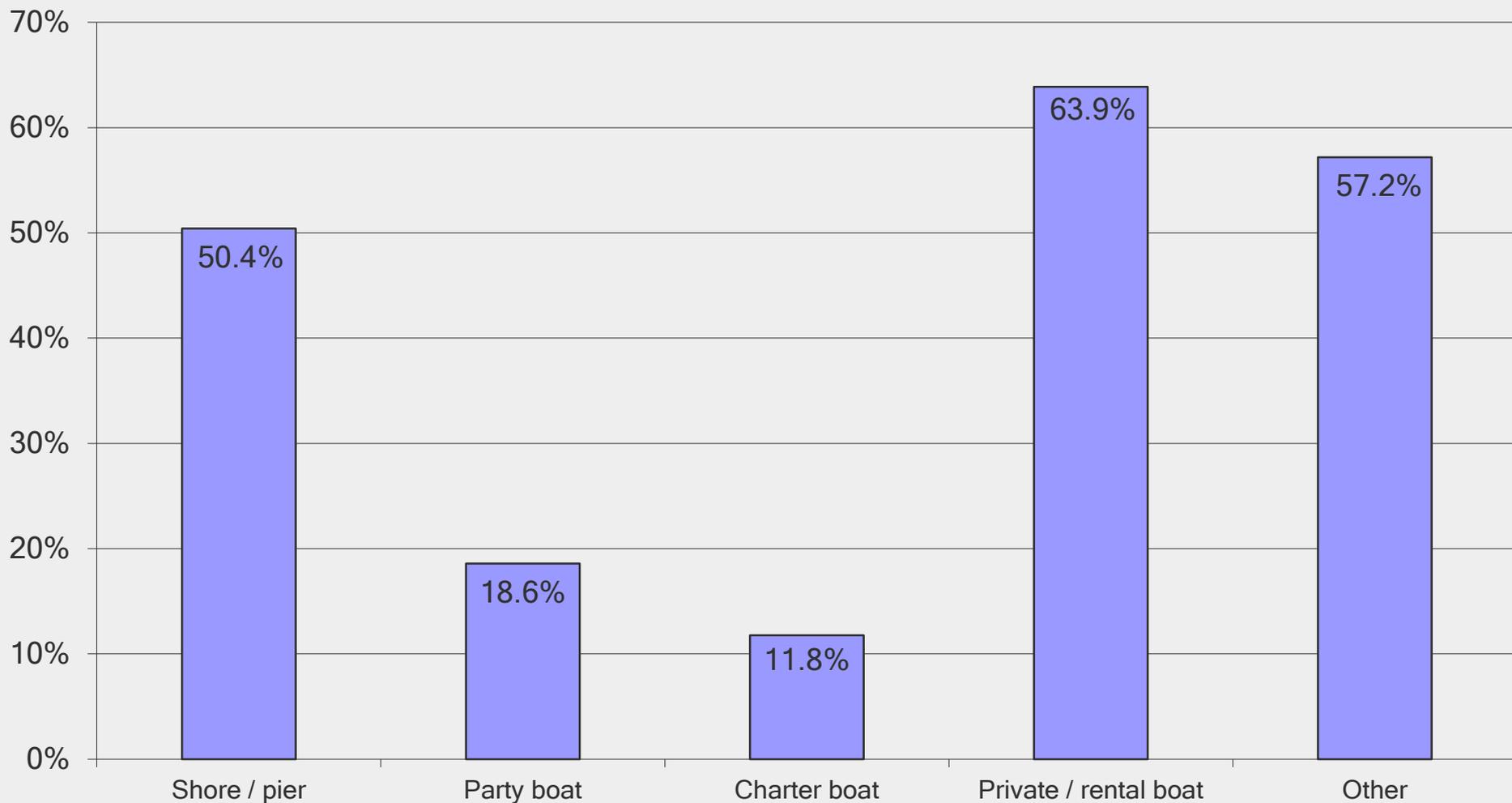
# About what percent of time spent fishing summer flounder do you use each of the following modes?



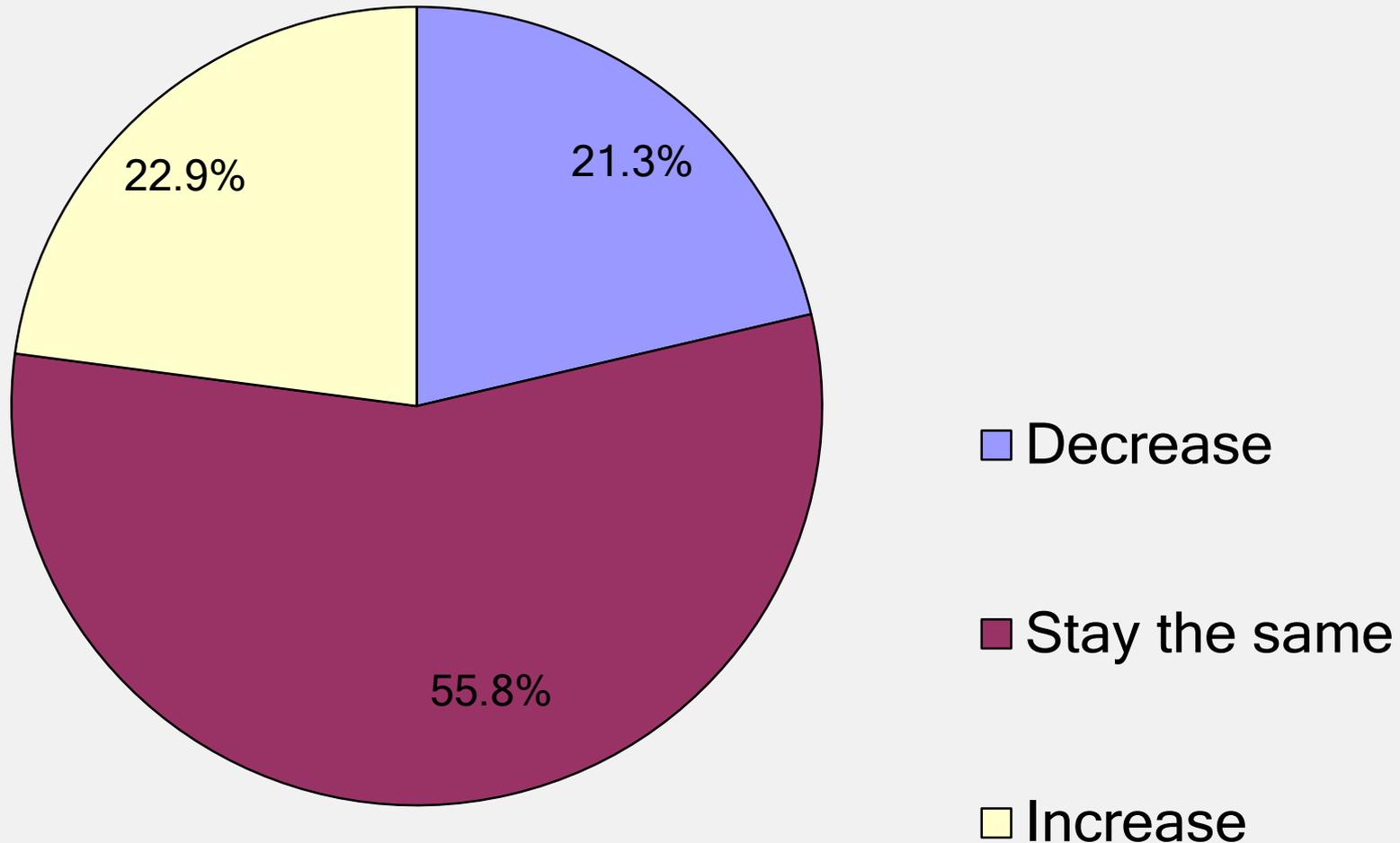
Is it likely that your usual mode of fishing summer flounder will change as a result of these new regulations?



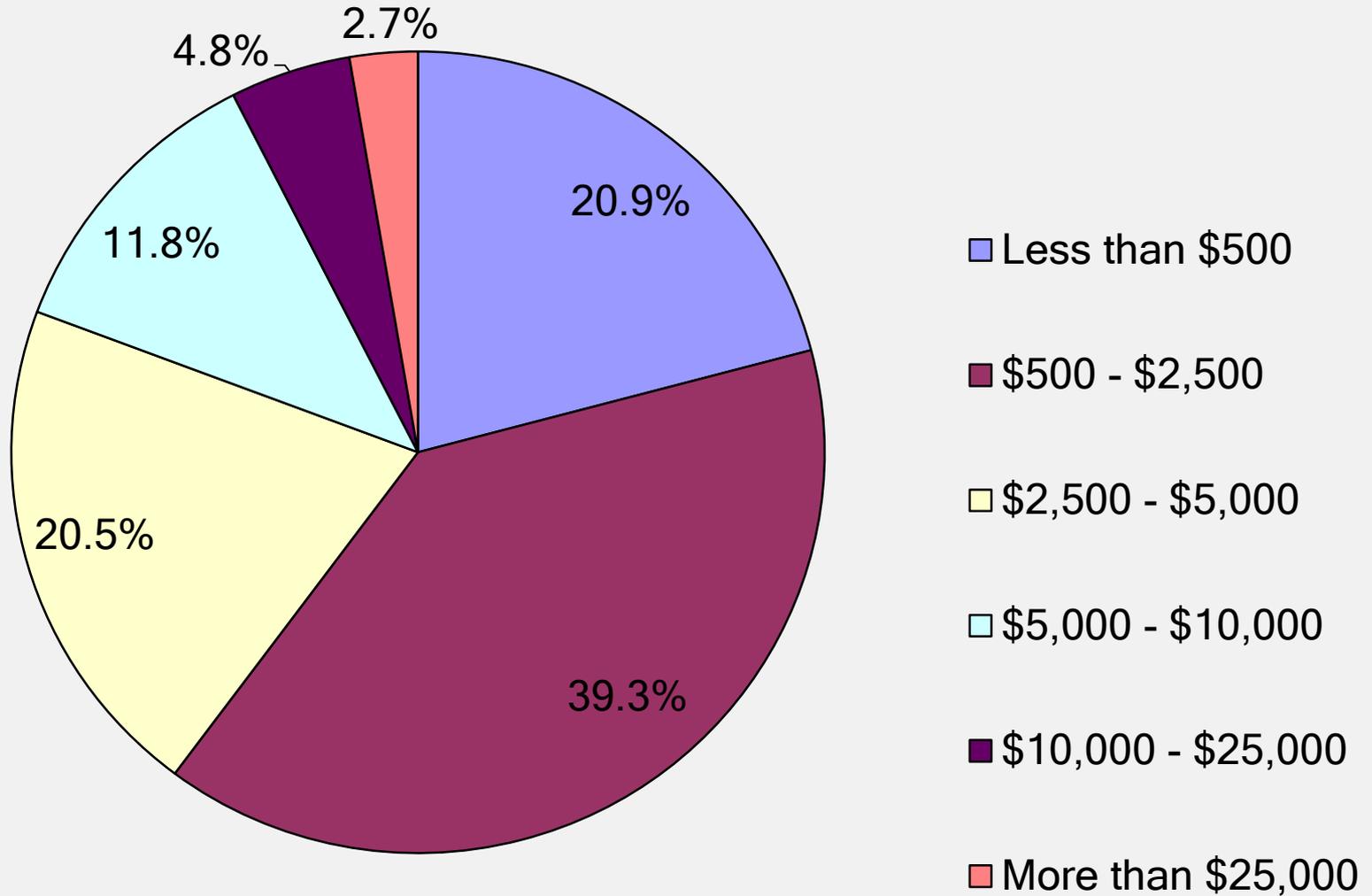
As a result of these new regulations, what percent of time spent fishing summer flounder would you use for each of the following modes?



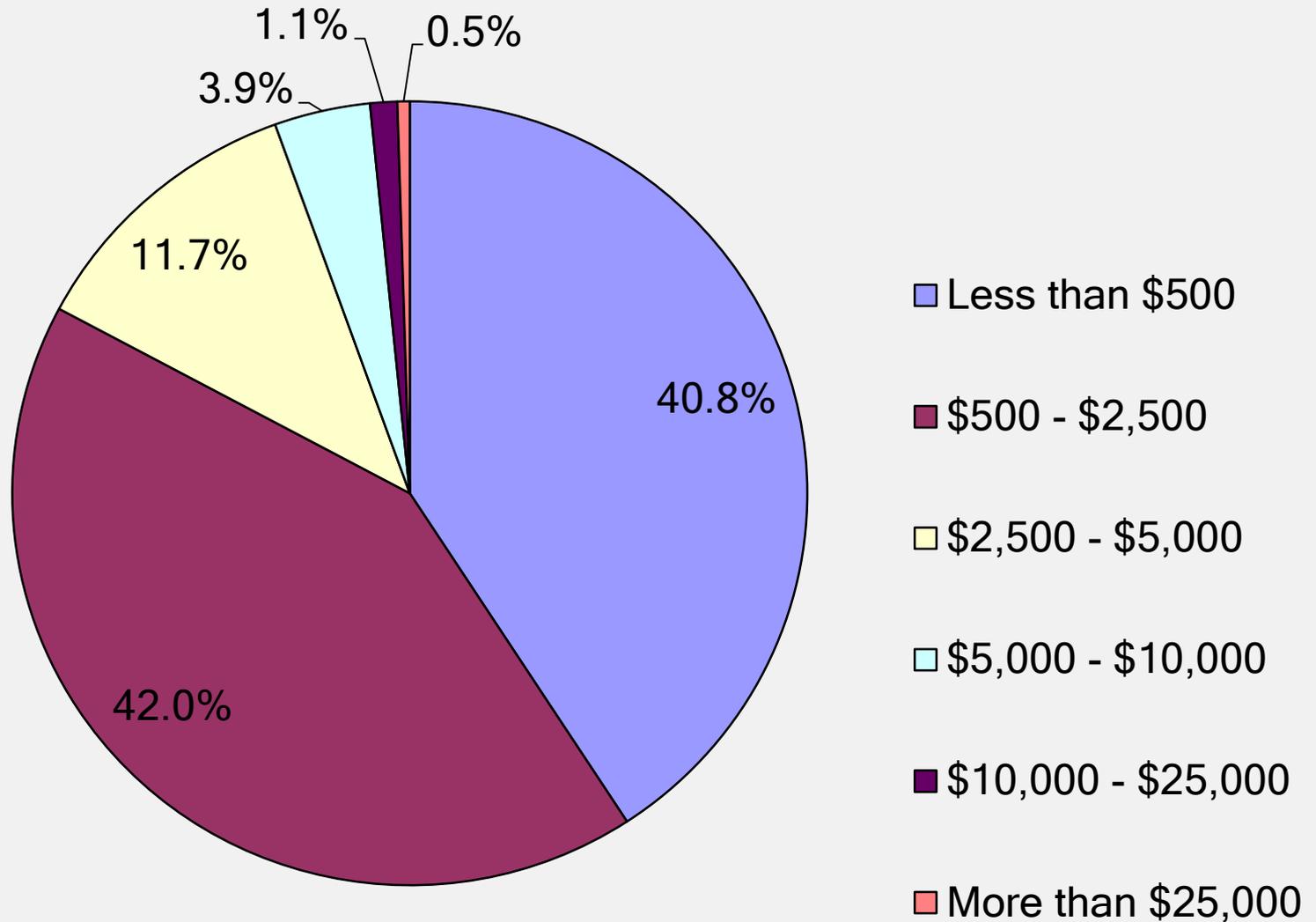
# How will the new regulations affect the number of your recreational directed trips for other fish species?



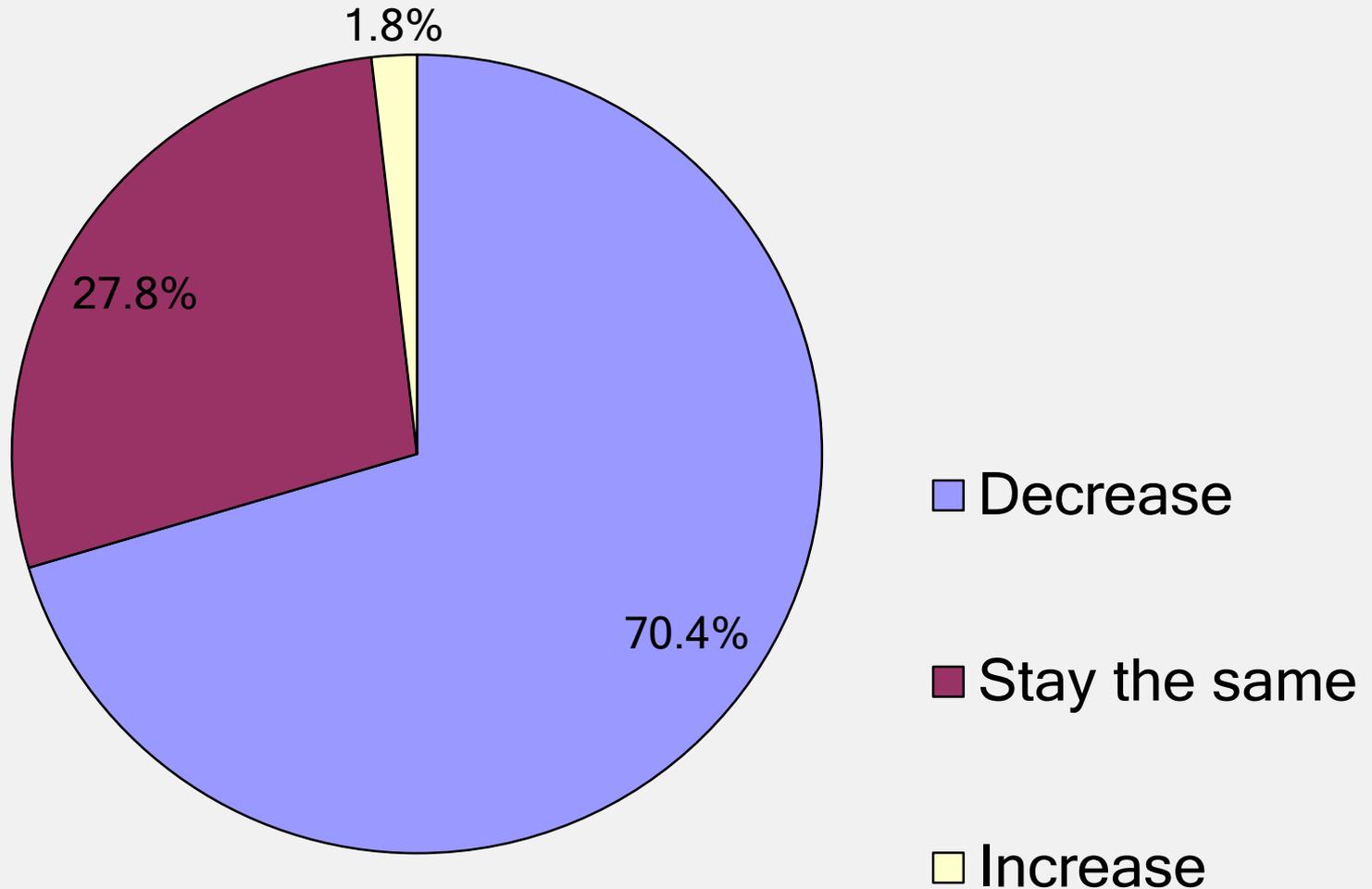
# In the past 12 months, how much money have you spent on all recreational fishing?



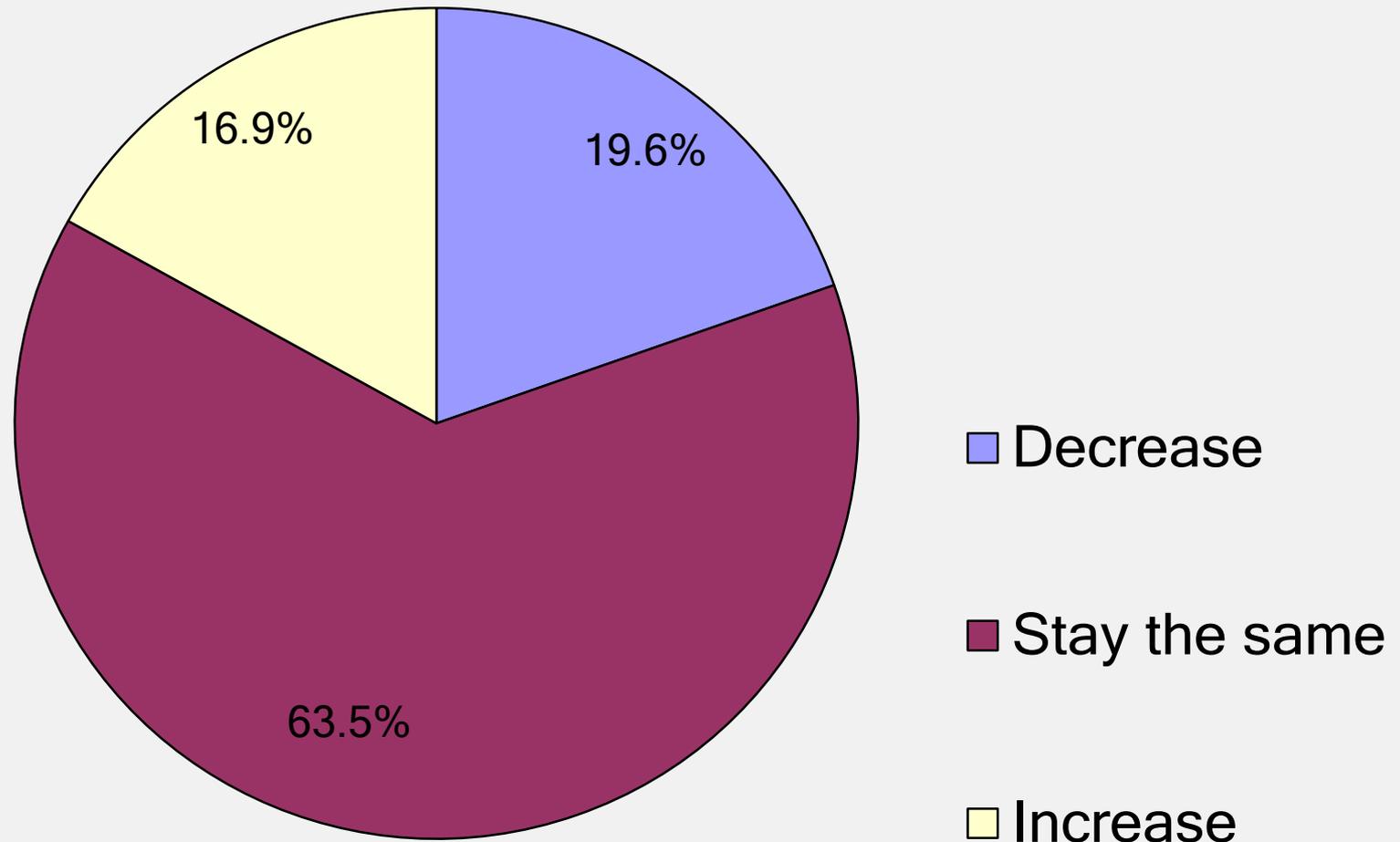
In the past 12 months, how much money have you spent on recreational summer flounder fishing alone?



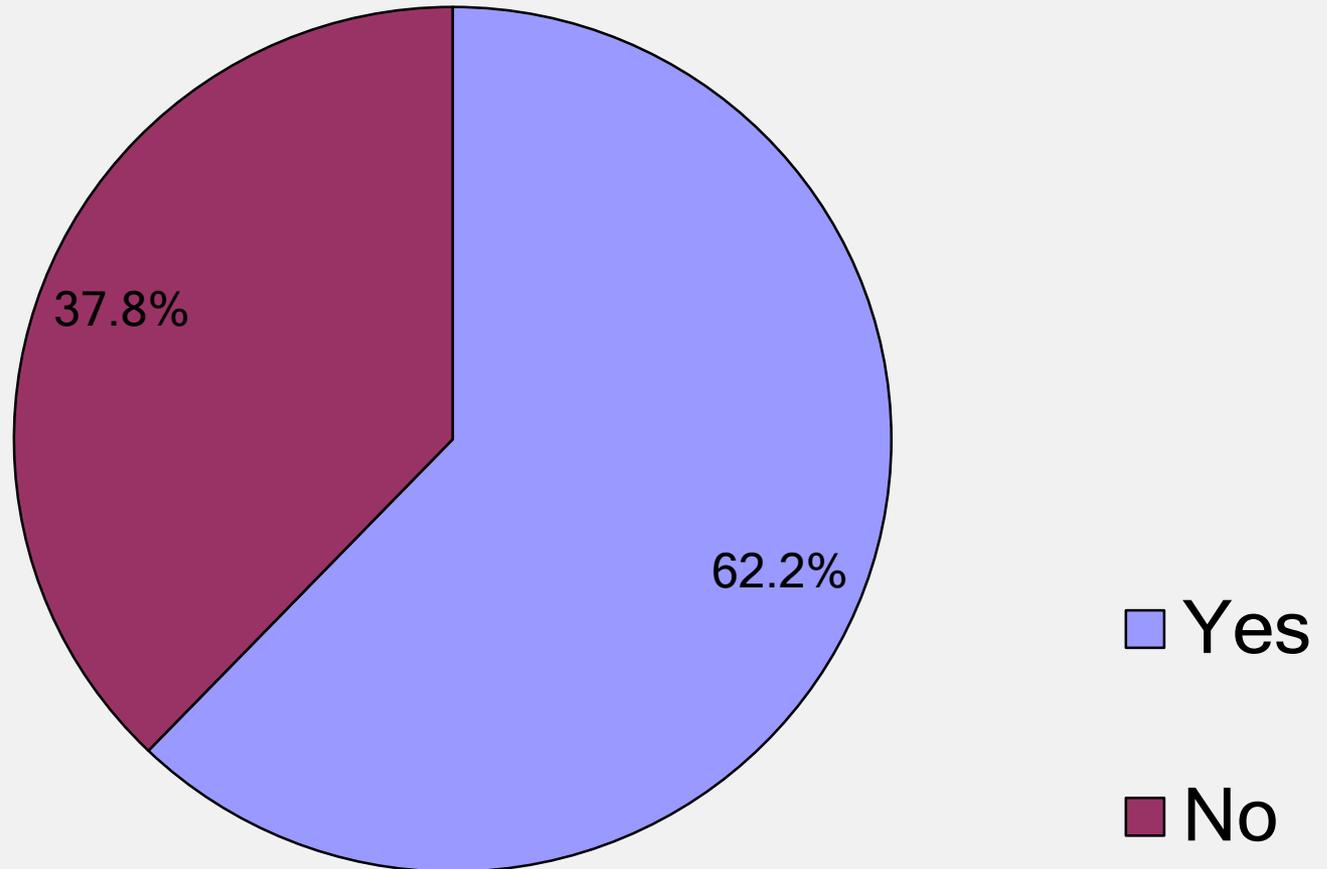
# How will the new regulations affect your recreational fishing spending for summer flounder?



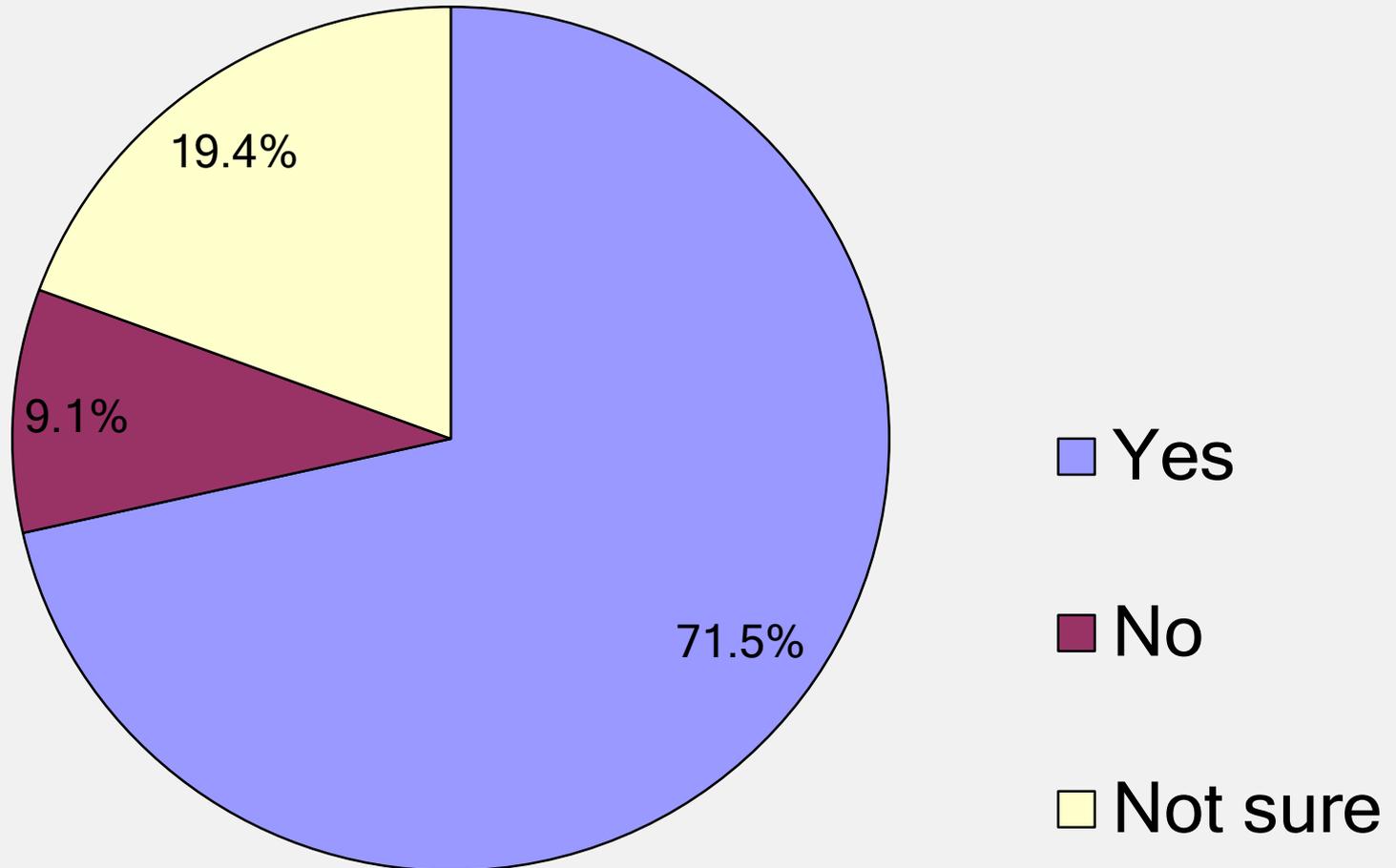
# How will the new regulations affect your recreational fishing spending for other fish species?



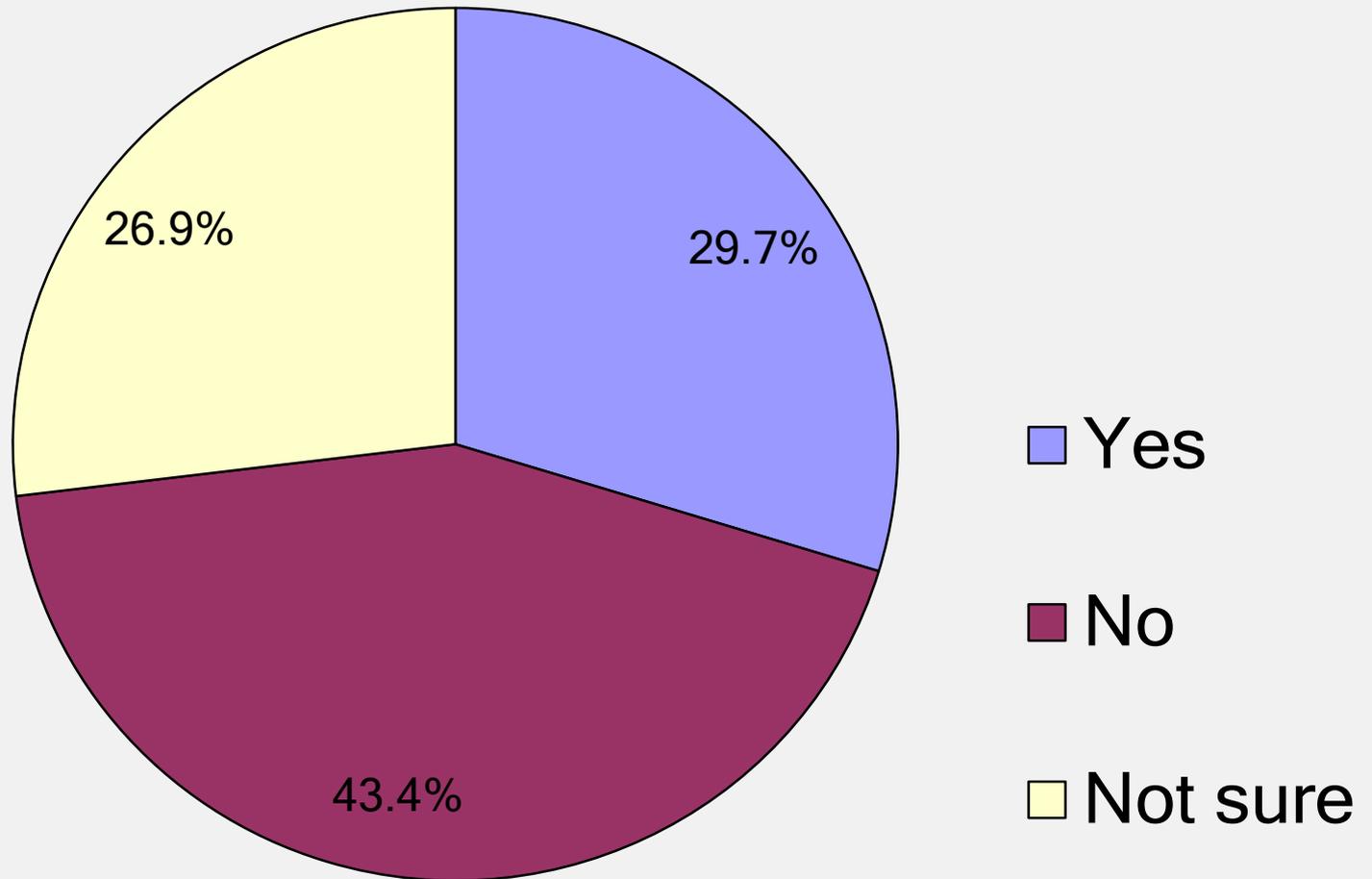
Do you harvest summer flounder even when it is not the primary targeted species of a trip?



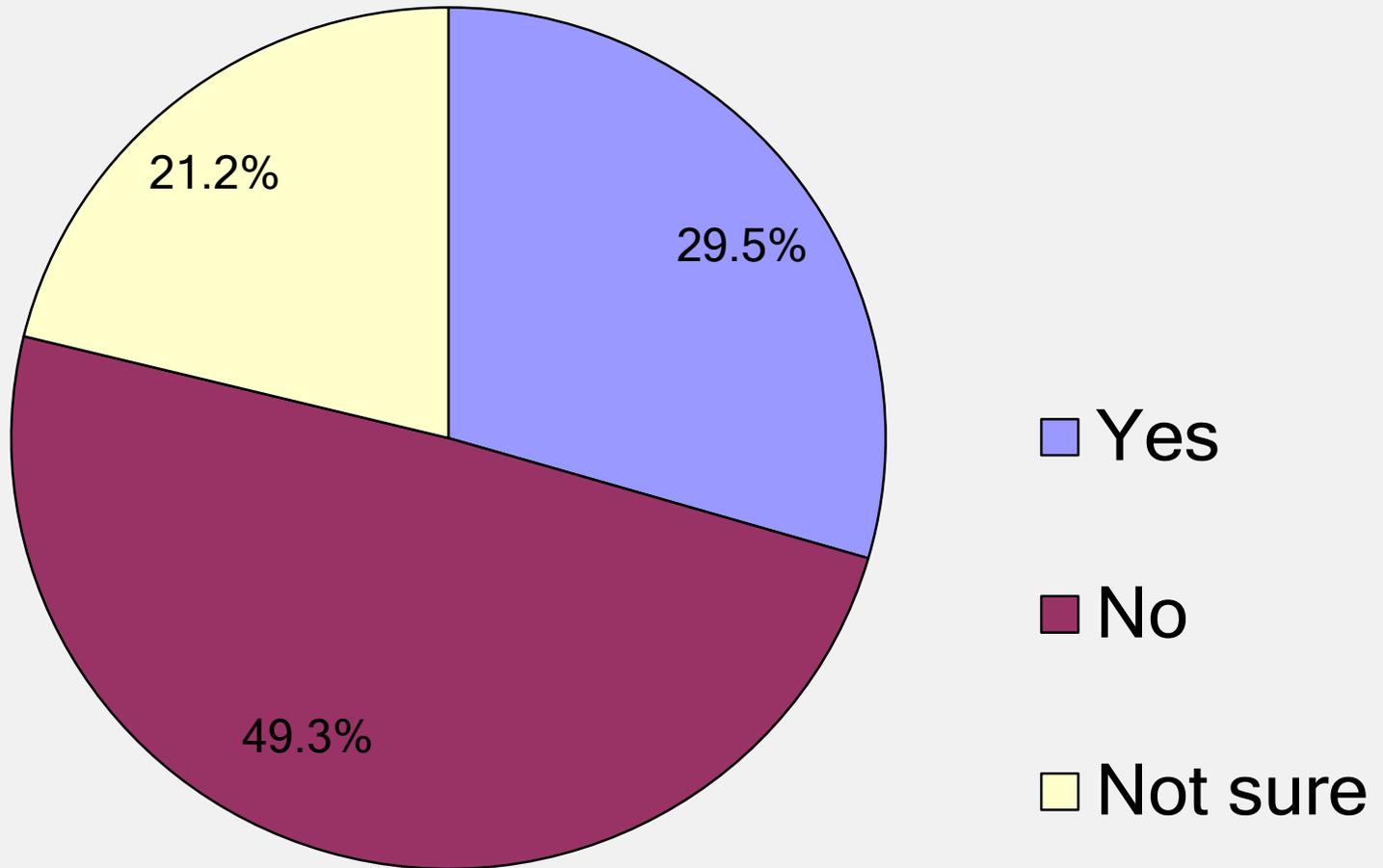
Do you think the new 2017 regulations will encourage non-compliant behavior?



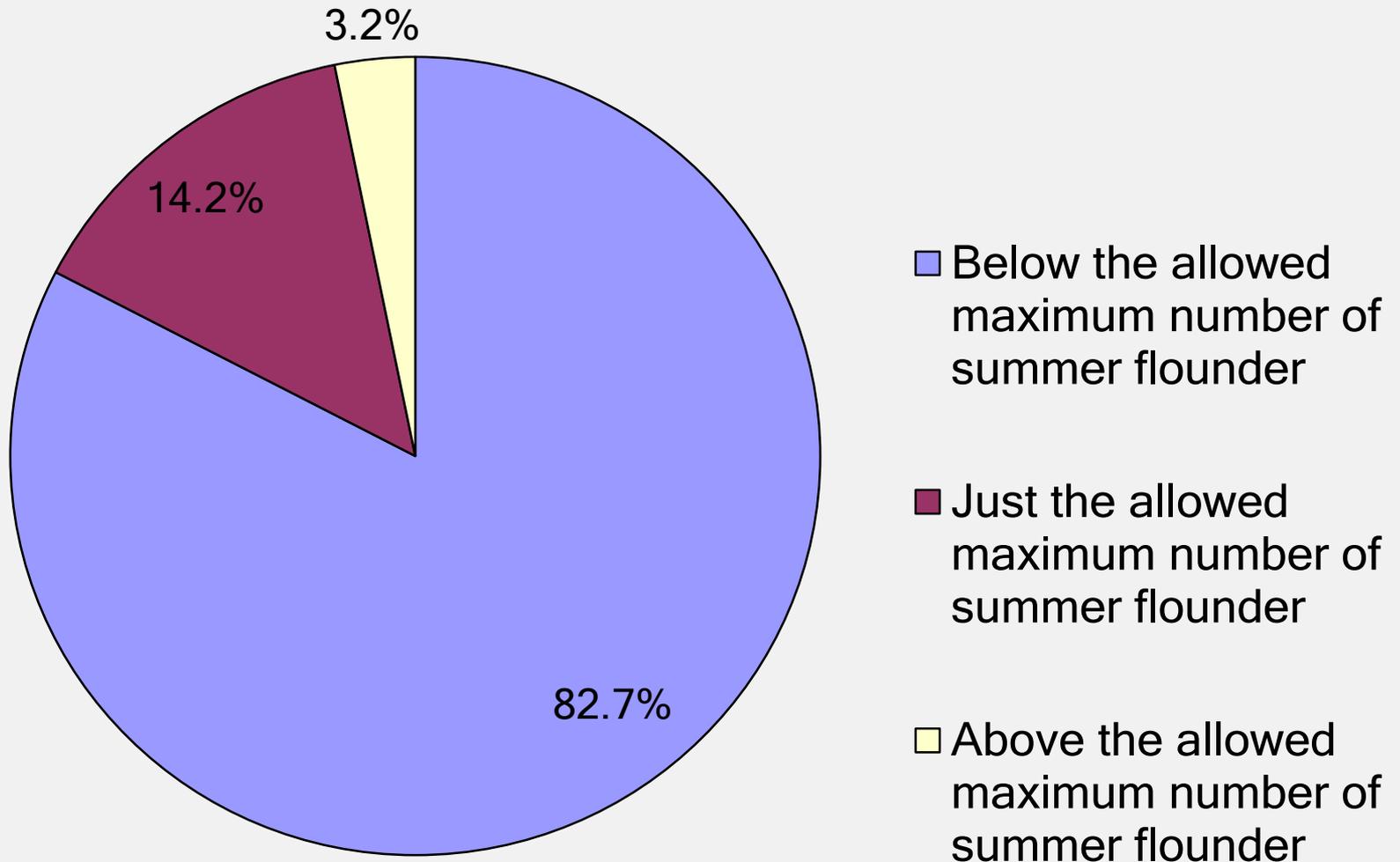
Will you fish for other fish species to make up for the reduced allowable summer flounder harvest levels?



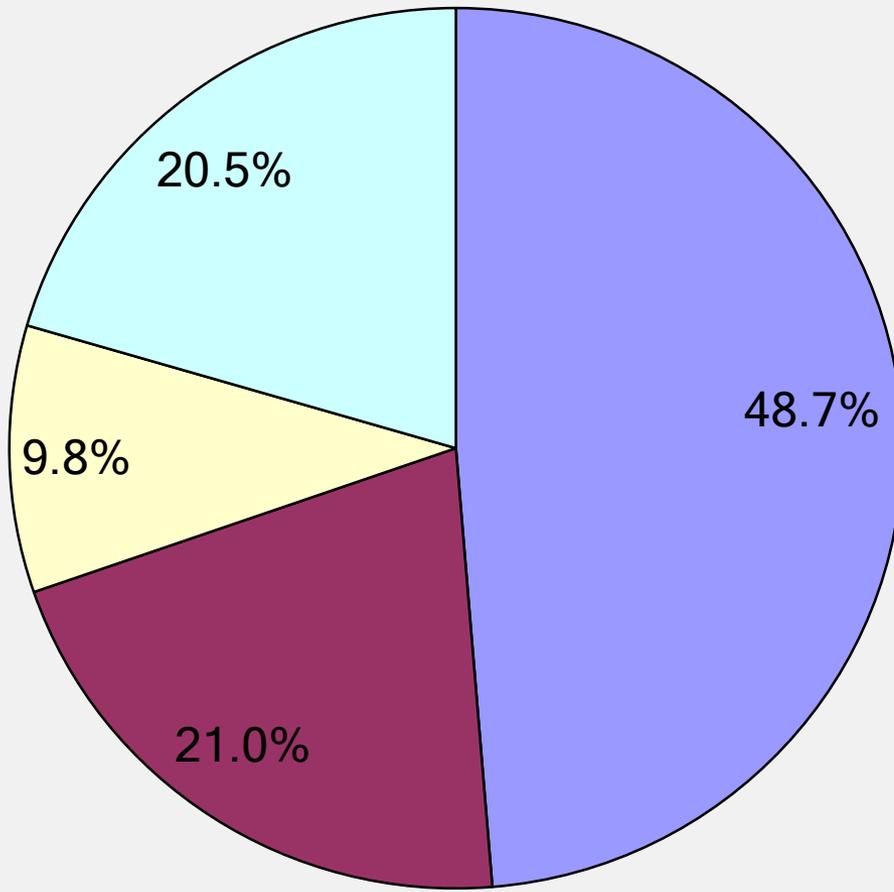
# Will you fish summer flounder outside New Jersey instead?



# How many fish did you catch in 2016 relative to the allowable maximum harvest limit (18" and 5 fish) for summer flounder?

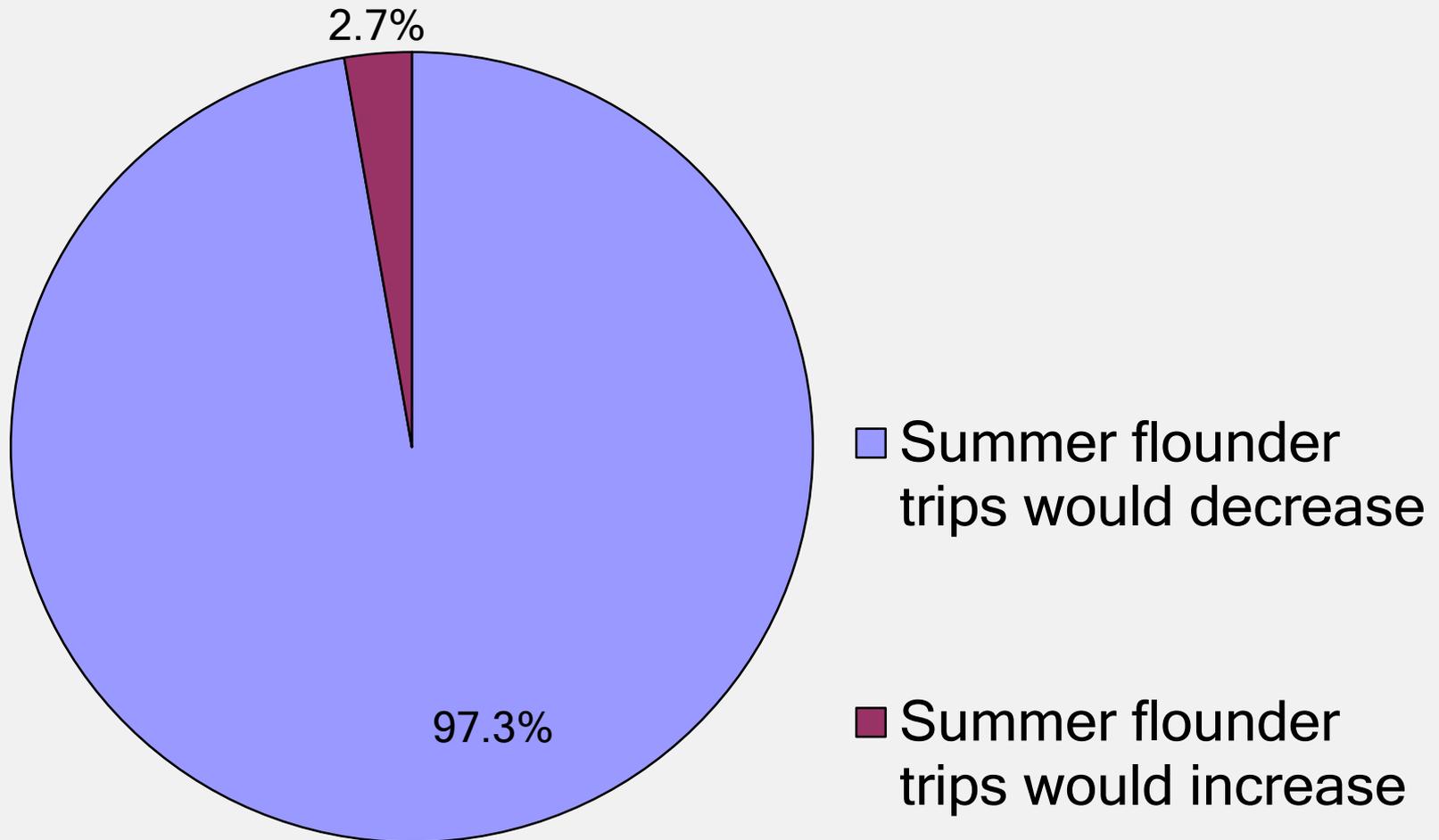


# Which of the following reactions to the new regulations best applies to you:

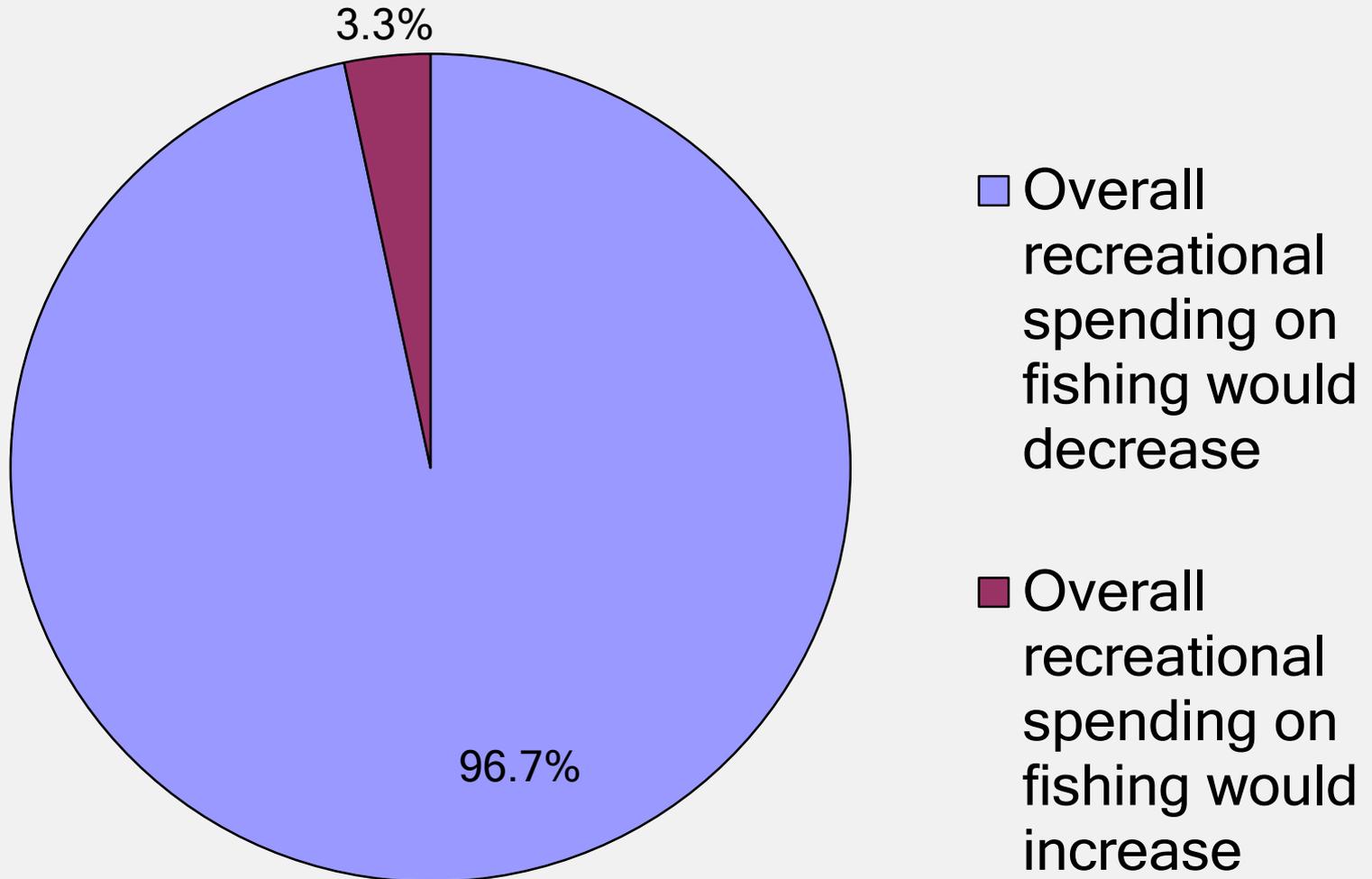


- A: It would affect both the number of my directed trips for summer flounder (spending on other trips and all else remaining the same) and my overall recreational fishing spending (number of other directed trips and all else remaining the same).
- B: It would affect only the number of my directed trips for summer flounder (spending on other trips and all else remaining the same).
- C: It would affect only my overall recreational spending on fishing (number of other directed trips and all else remaining the same).
- D: It would affect neither the number of my directed trips for summer flounder nor my overall recreational fishing spending.

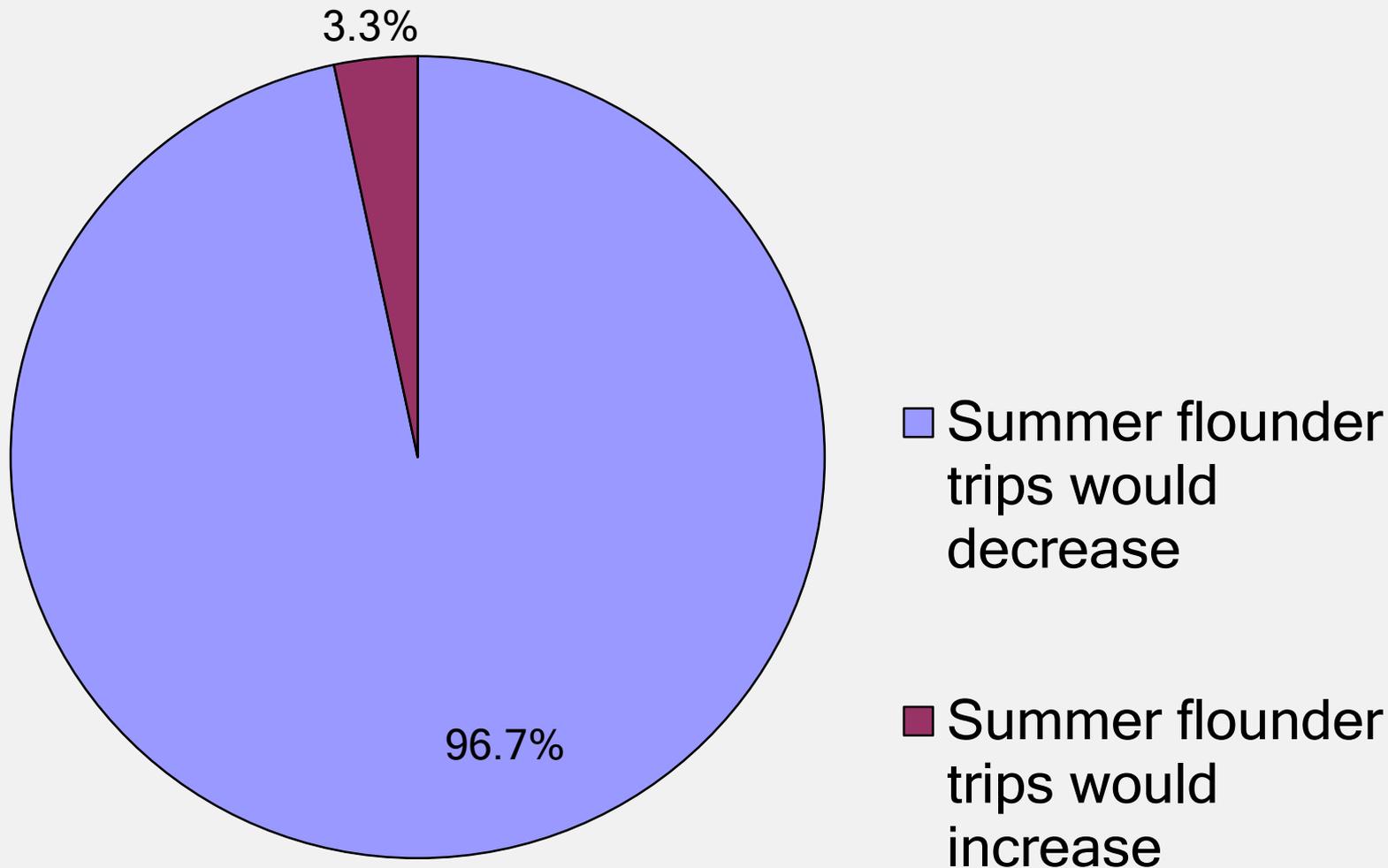
If you selected A above, how would your number of directed trips for summer flounder change?



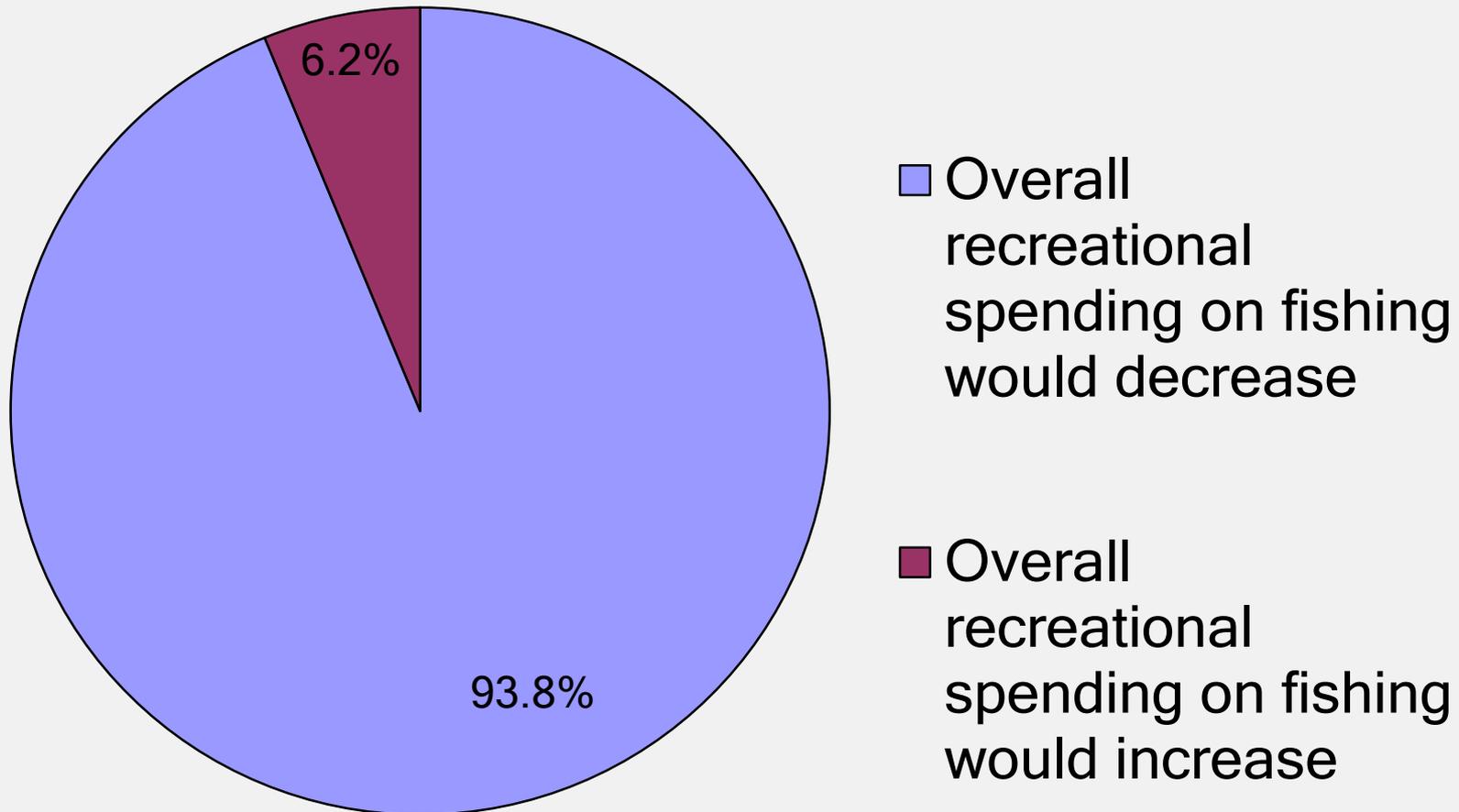
If you selected A above, how would your overall recreational fishing spending change?



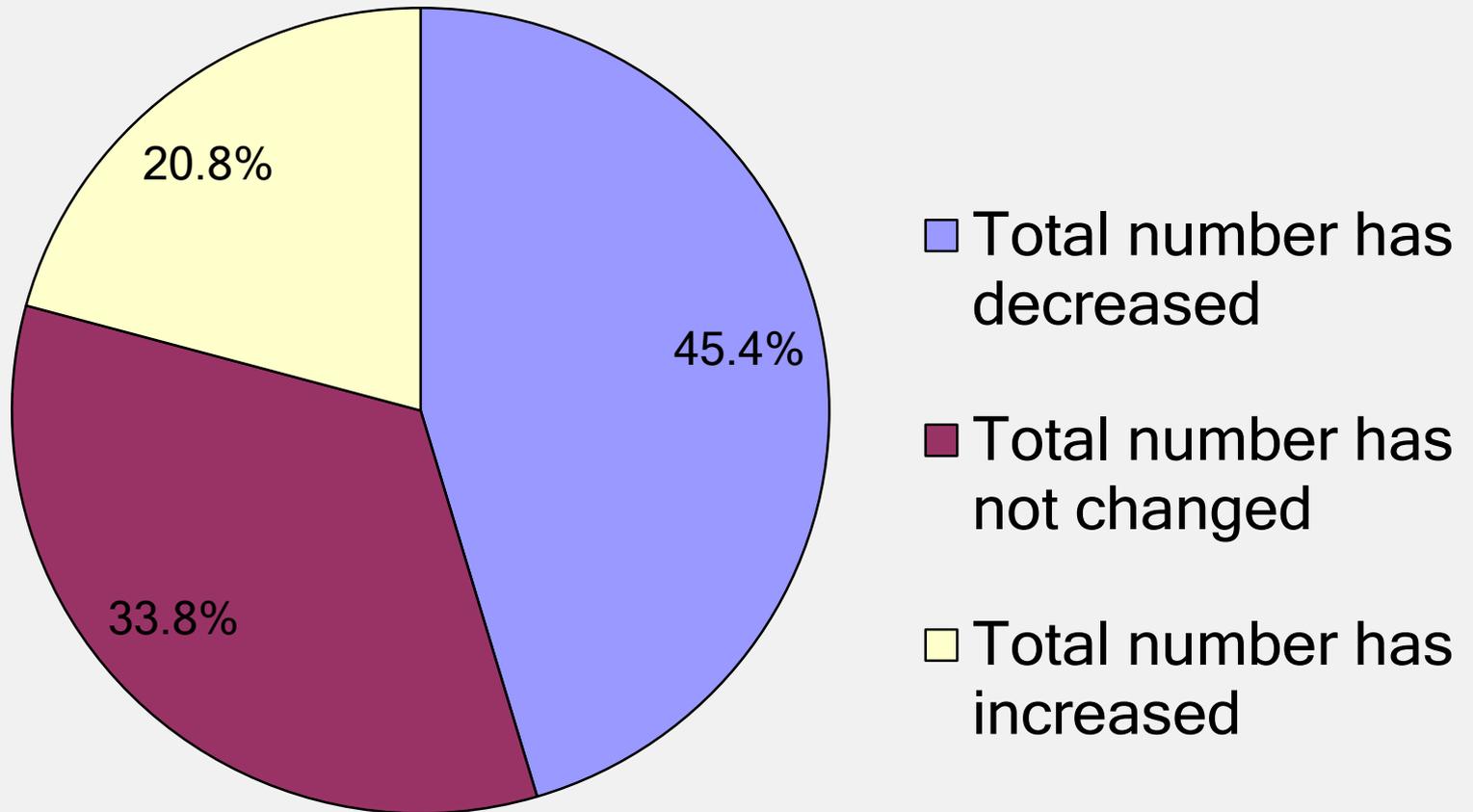
If you selected B above, how would your directed trips for summer flounder change?



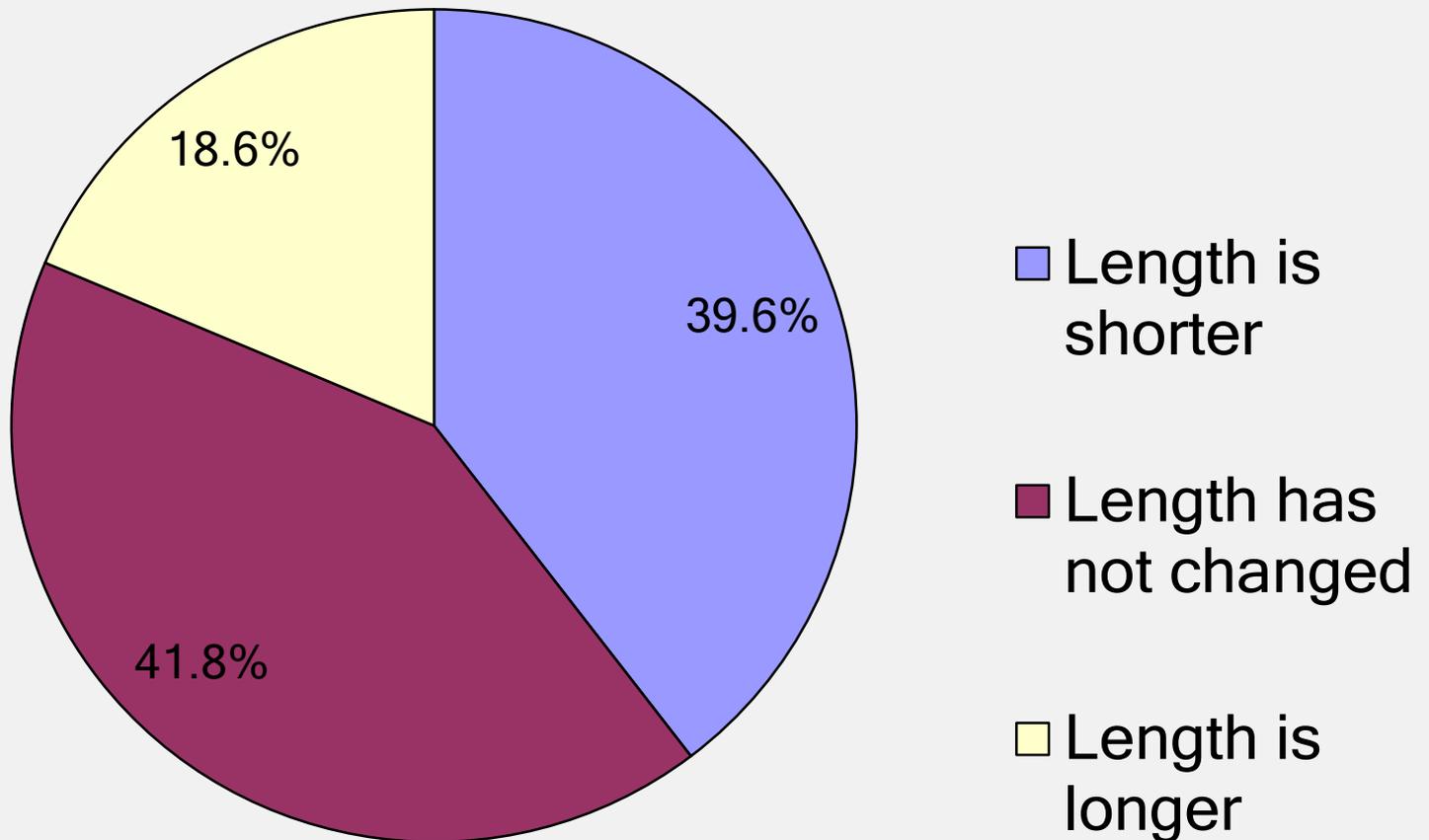
If you selected C above, how would your overall recreational fishing spending change?



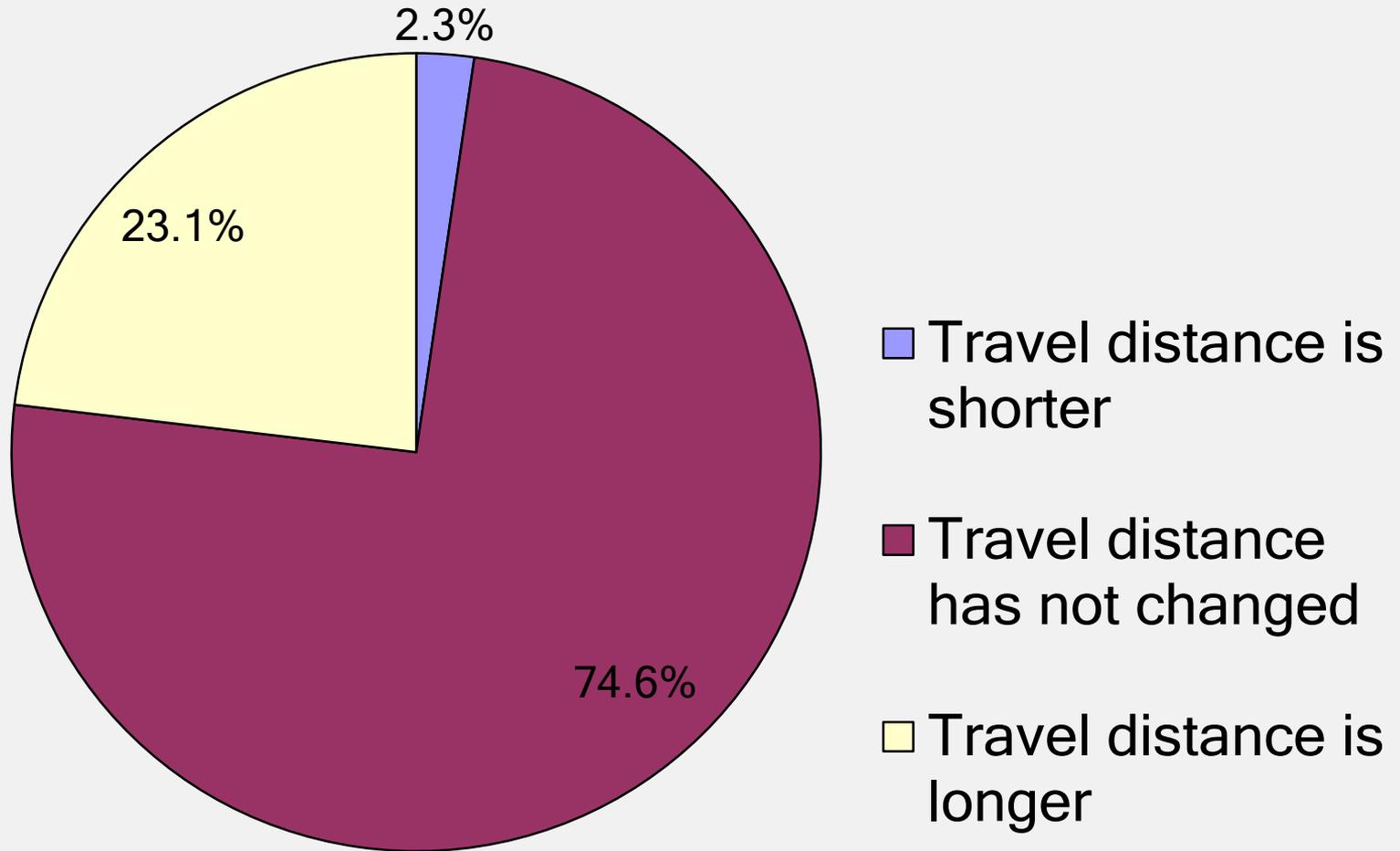
In New Jersey has the total number of summer flounder you caught (including throwbacks) changed over the past 5 years in the areas you fish?



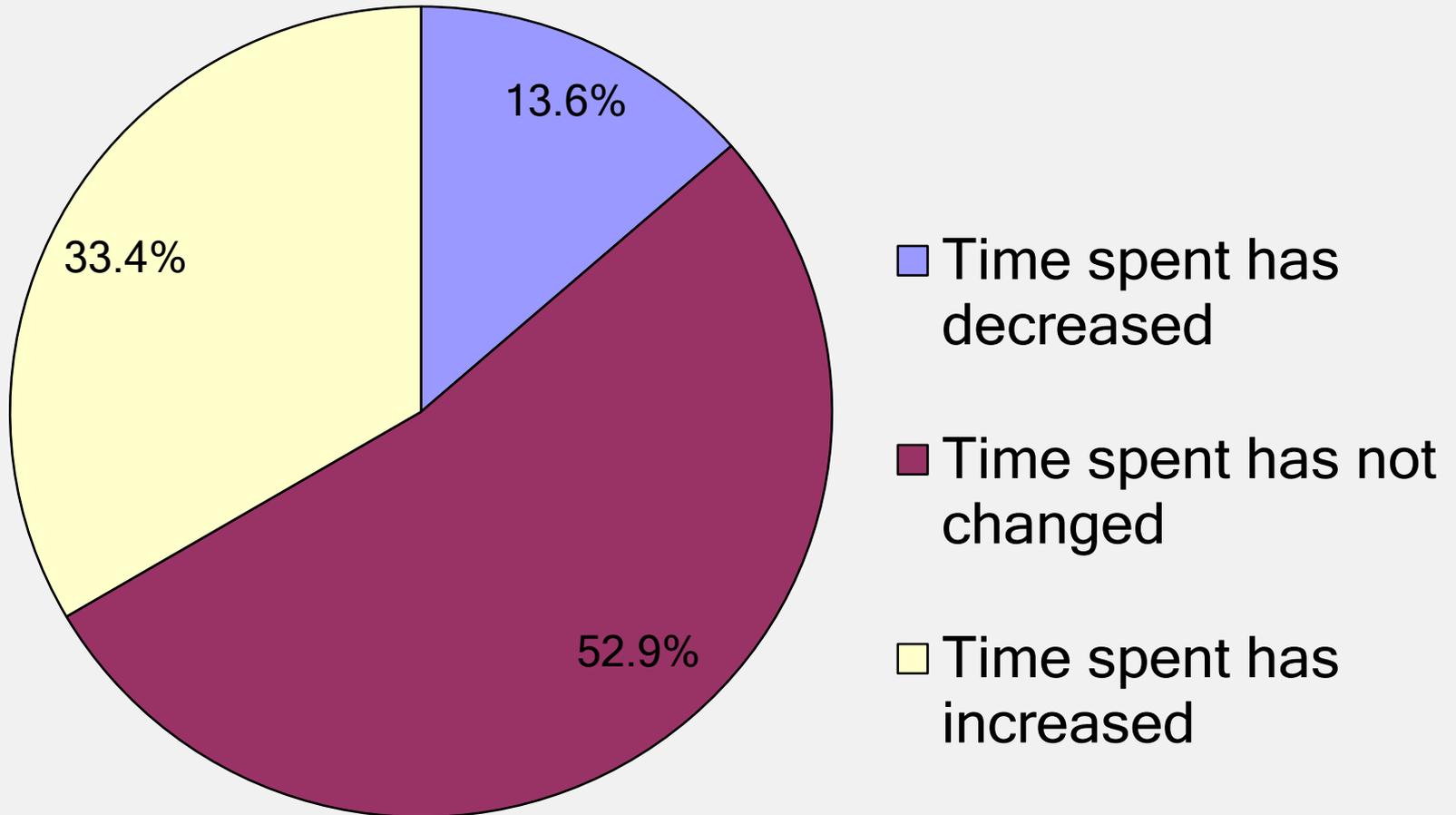
In New Jersey, has the length of all summer flounder you caught each year (including throwbacks) changed over the past 5 years?



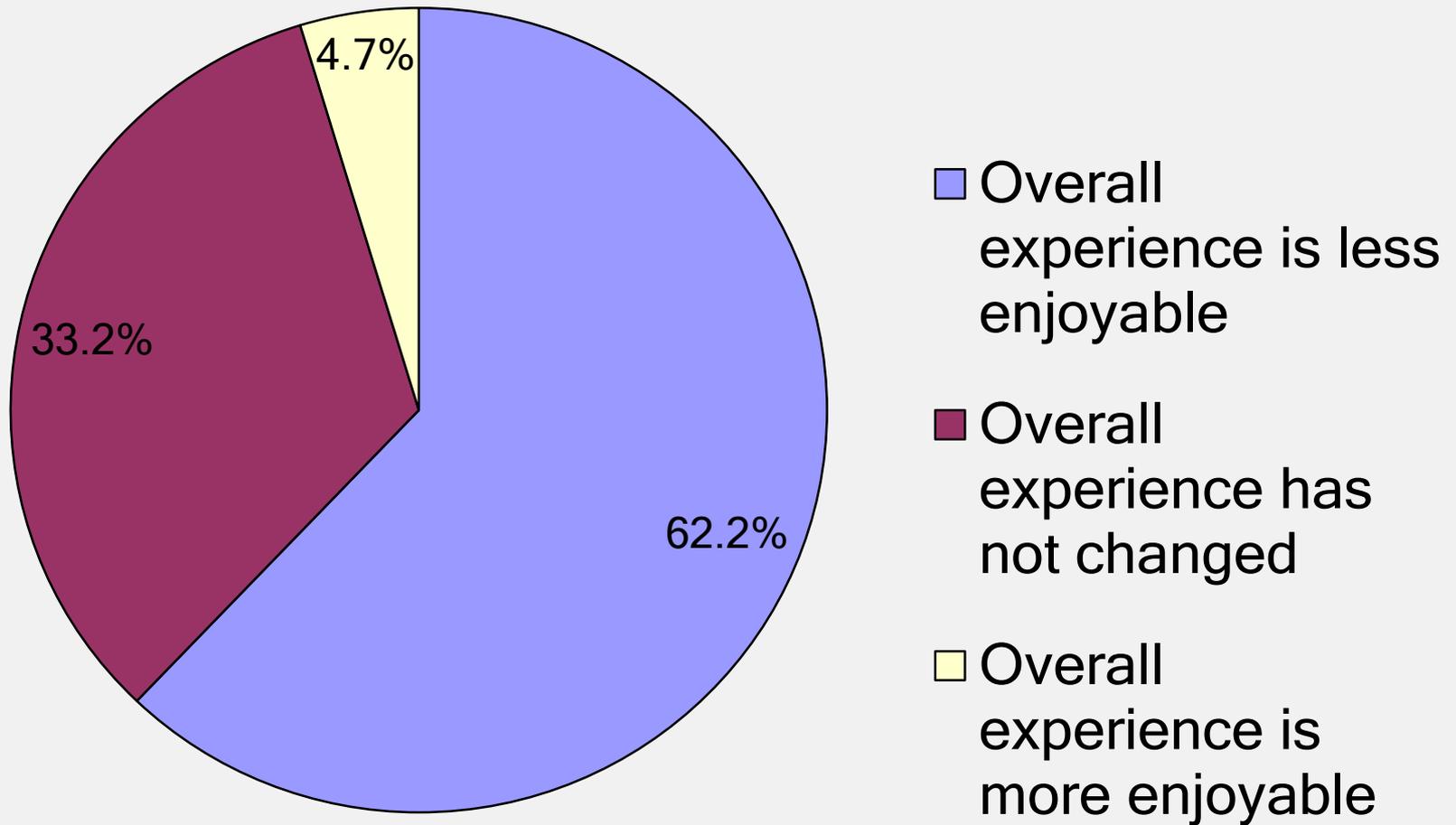
# Has the distance you travel to fish for summer flounder changed over the past 5 years?



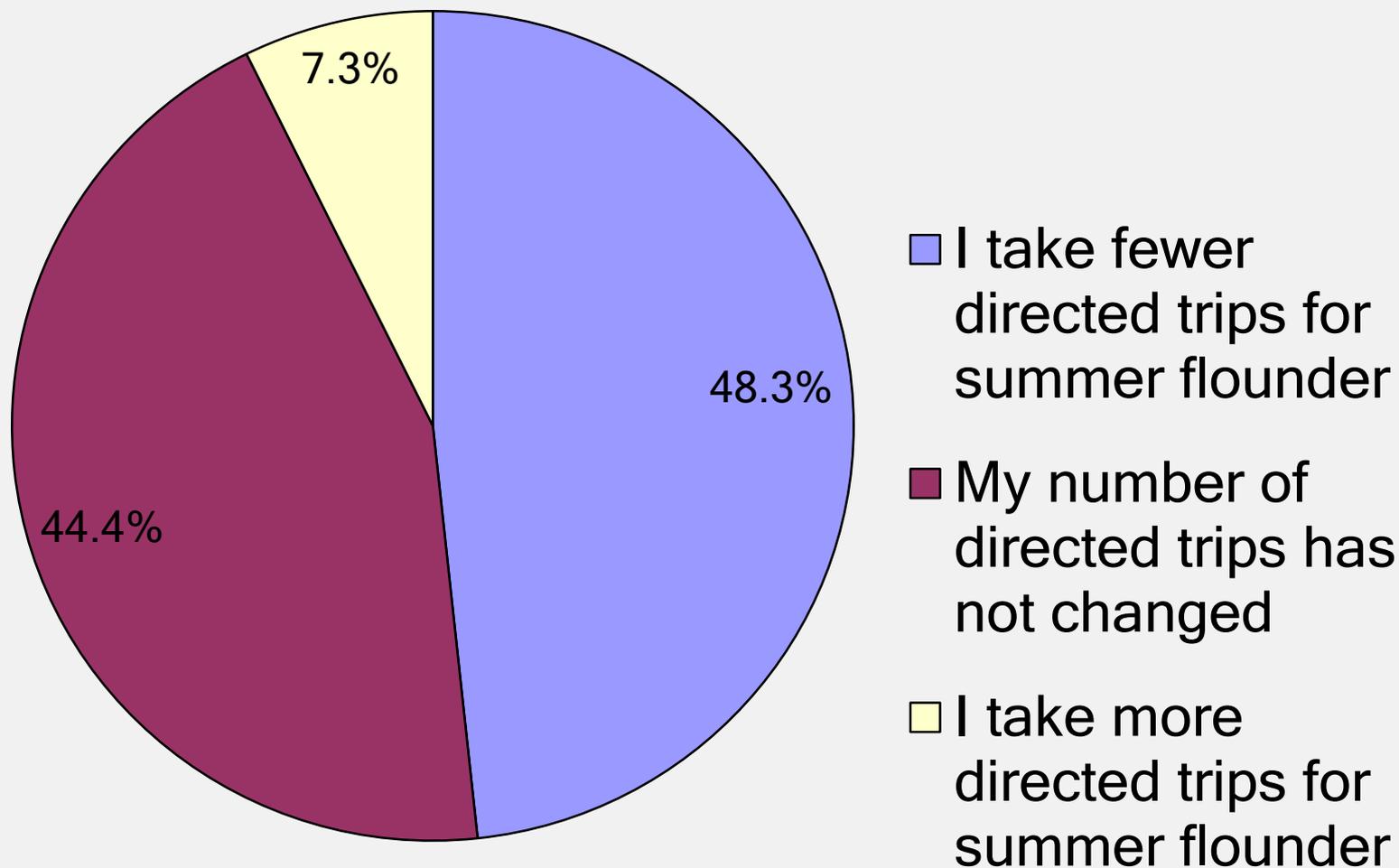
Has the time that you have spent to catch the same number of summer flounder changed over the past 5 years?



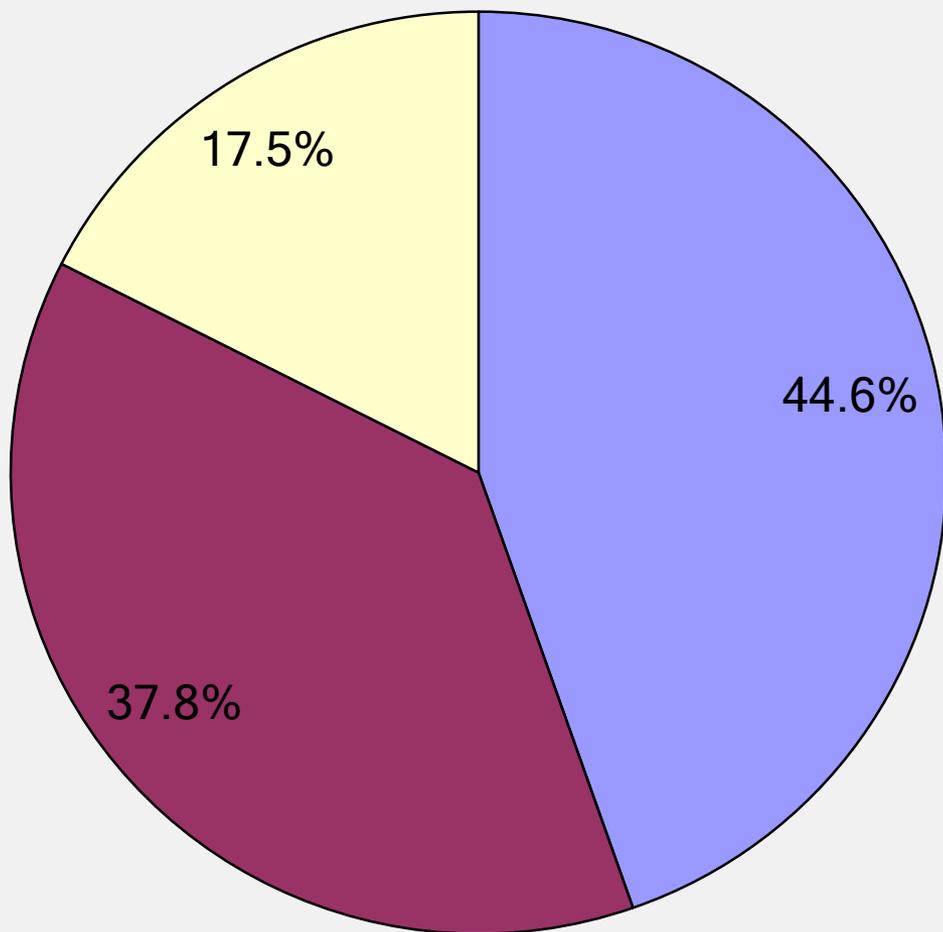
# How has your overall experience fishing summer flounder changed over the last 5 years?



# Has your number of directed trips for summer flounder changed over the past 5 years?

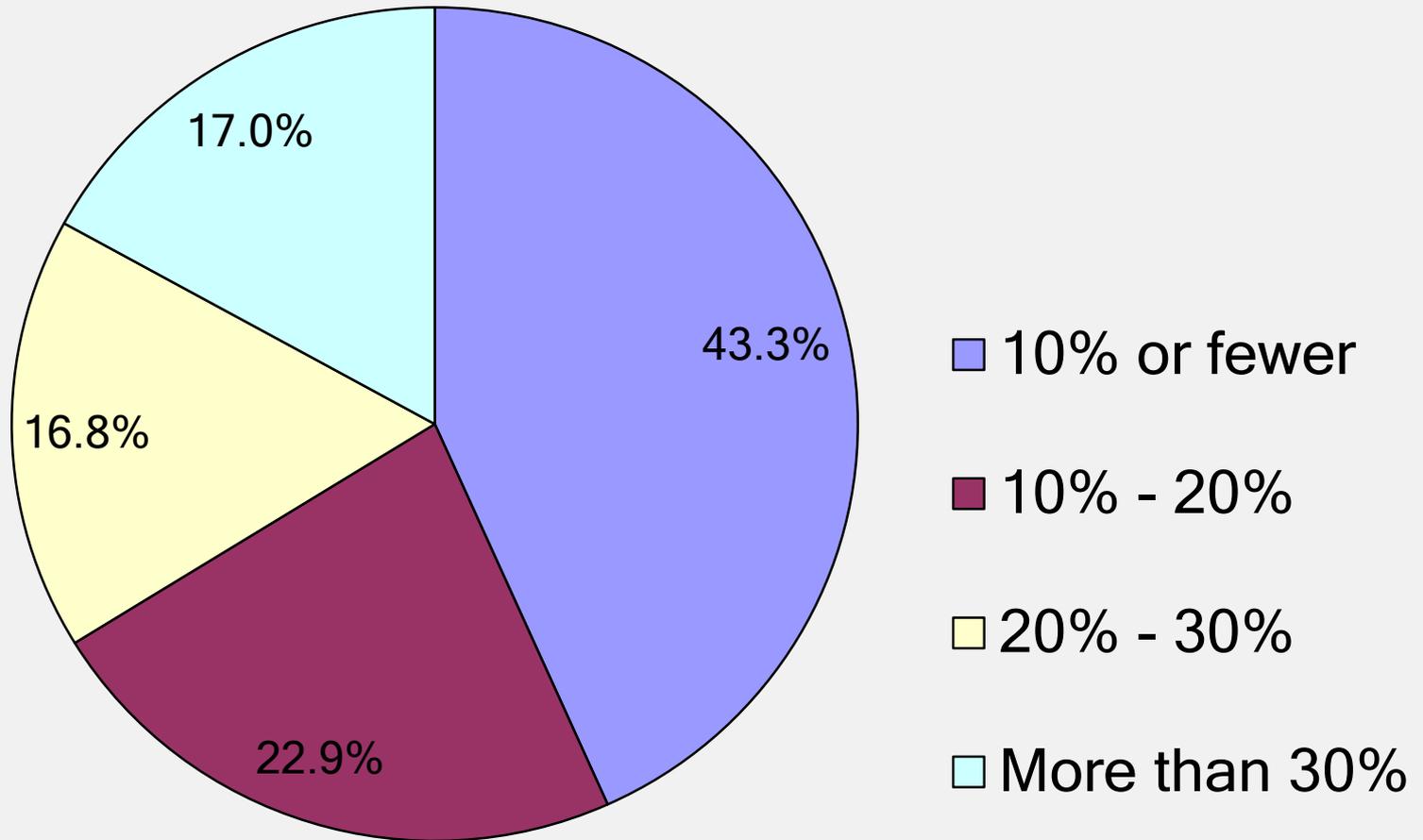


# Has your recreational spending on summer flounder changed over the past 5 years?

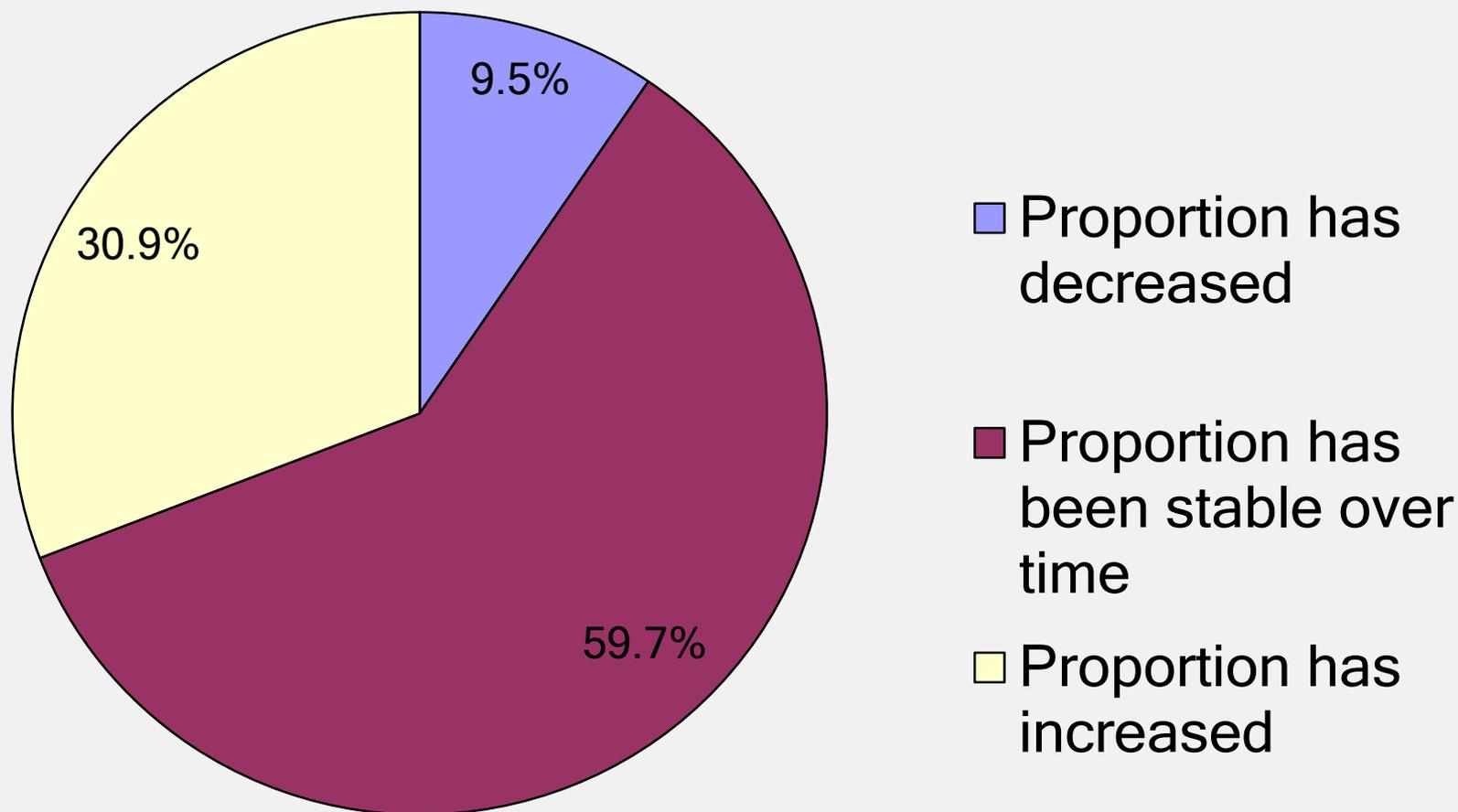


- My recreational spending on summer flounder has decreased
- My recreational spending on summer flounder has not changed
- My recreational spending on summer flounder has increased

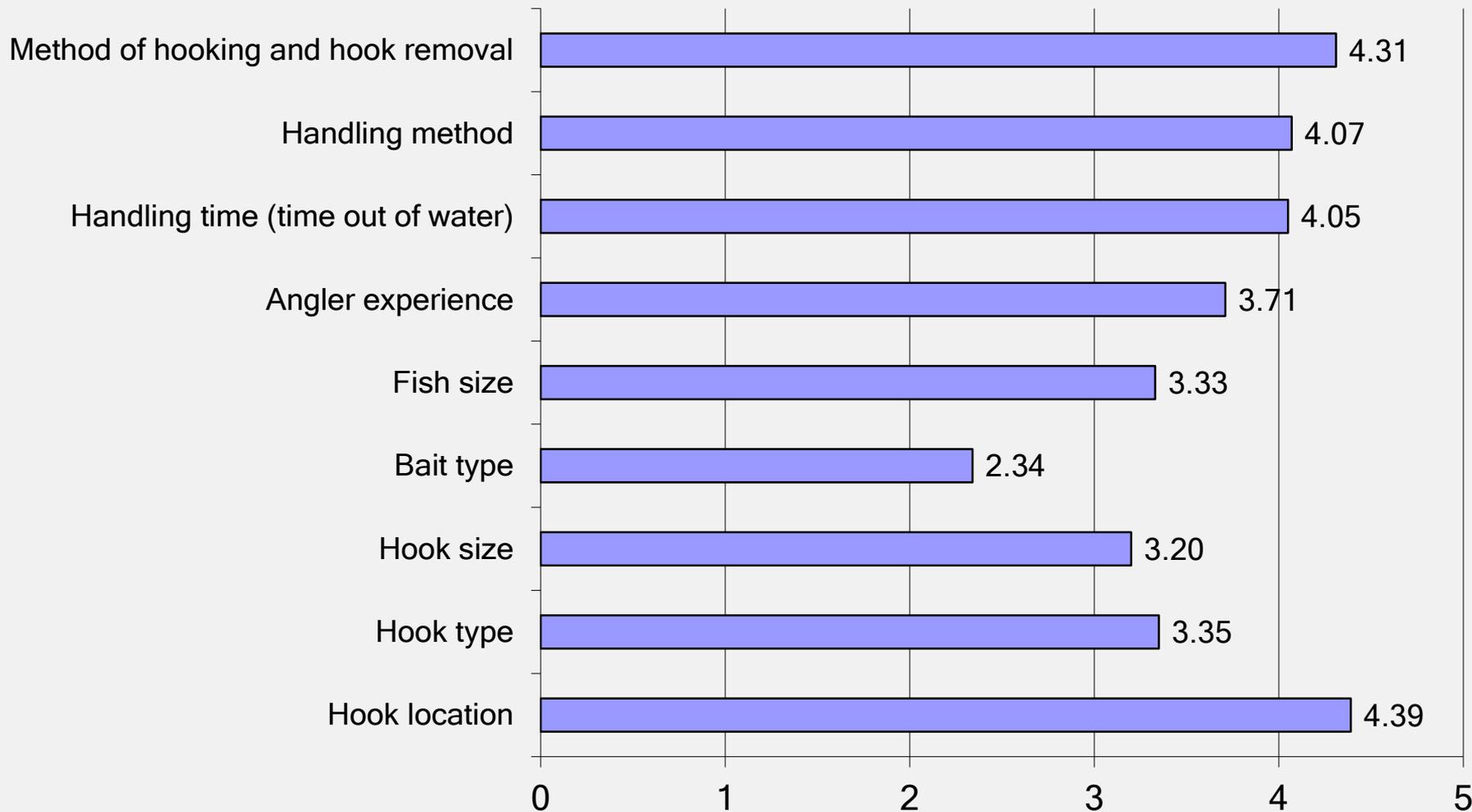
Of the summer flounder that are thrown back, what proportion do you think die before or shortly after being returned to the water?



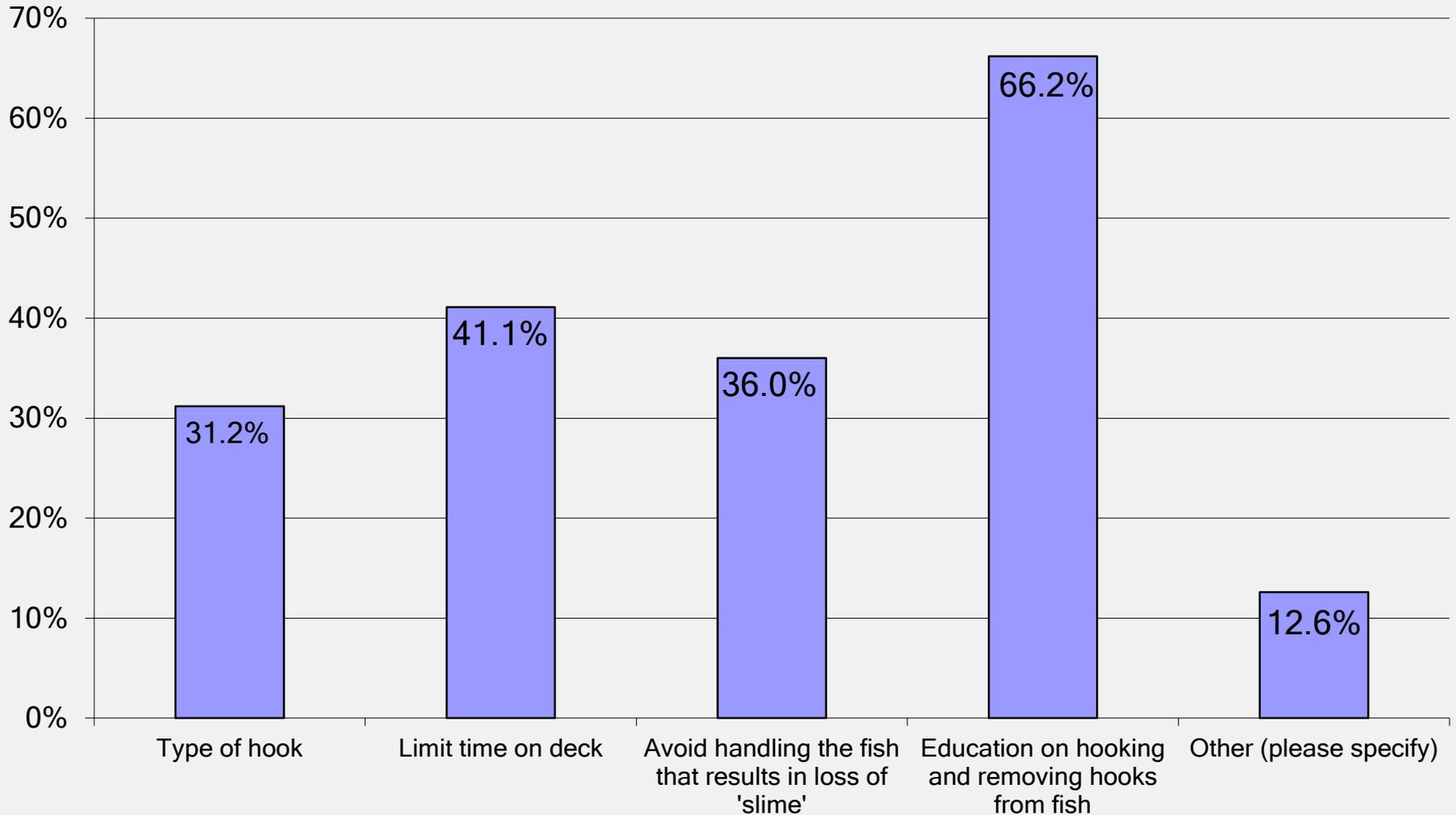
How has the proportion of throwback summer flounder that die changed in the last 5 years?



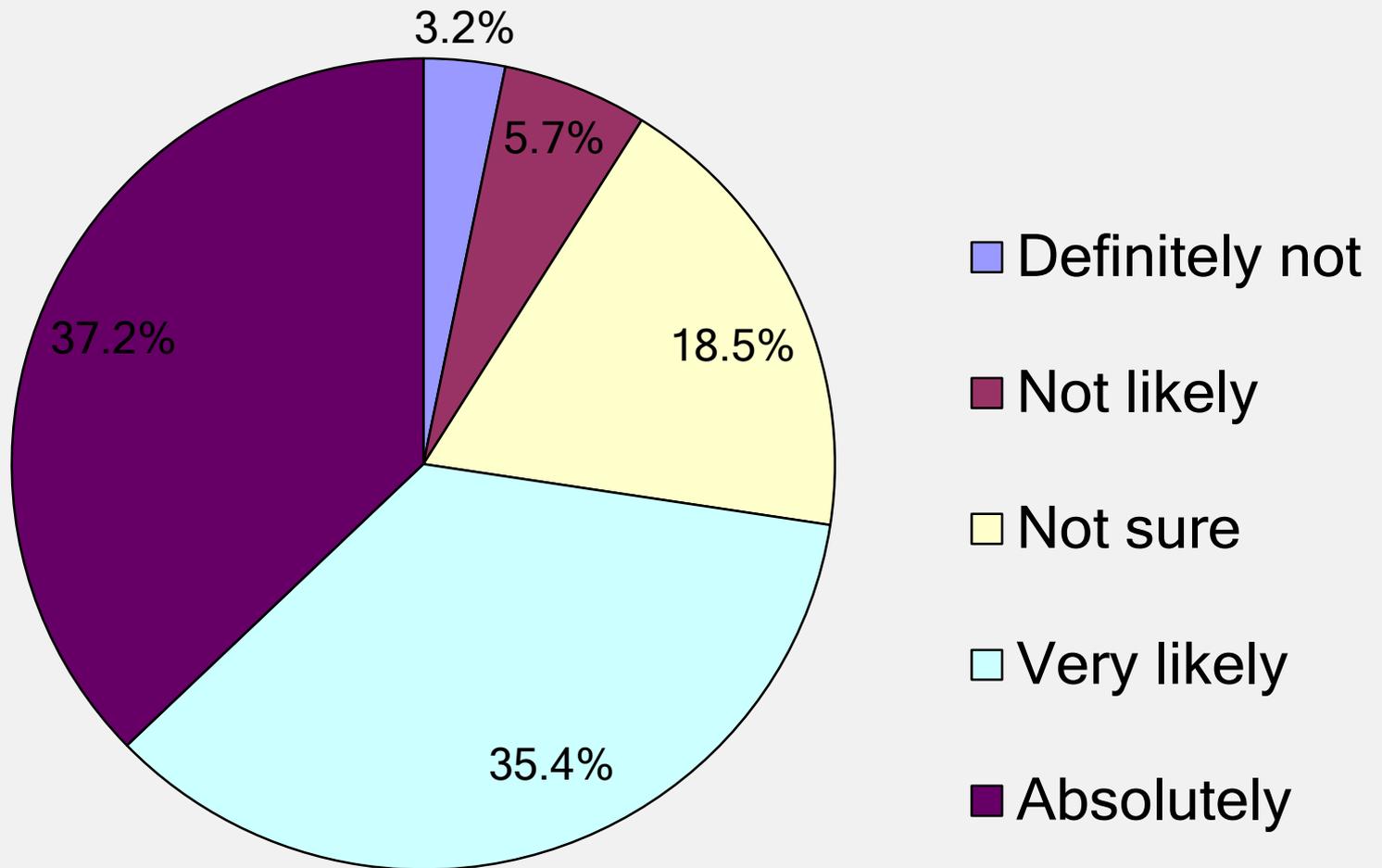
On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being “not at all important” and 5 being “very important”) how important are the following factors affecting summer flounder throwback mortality?



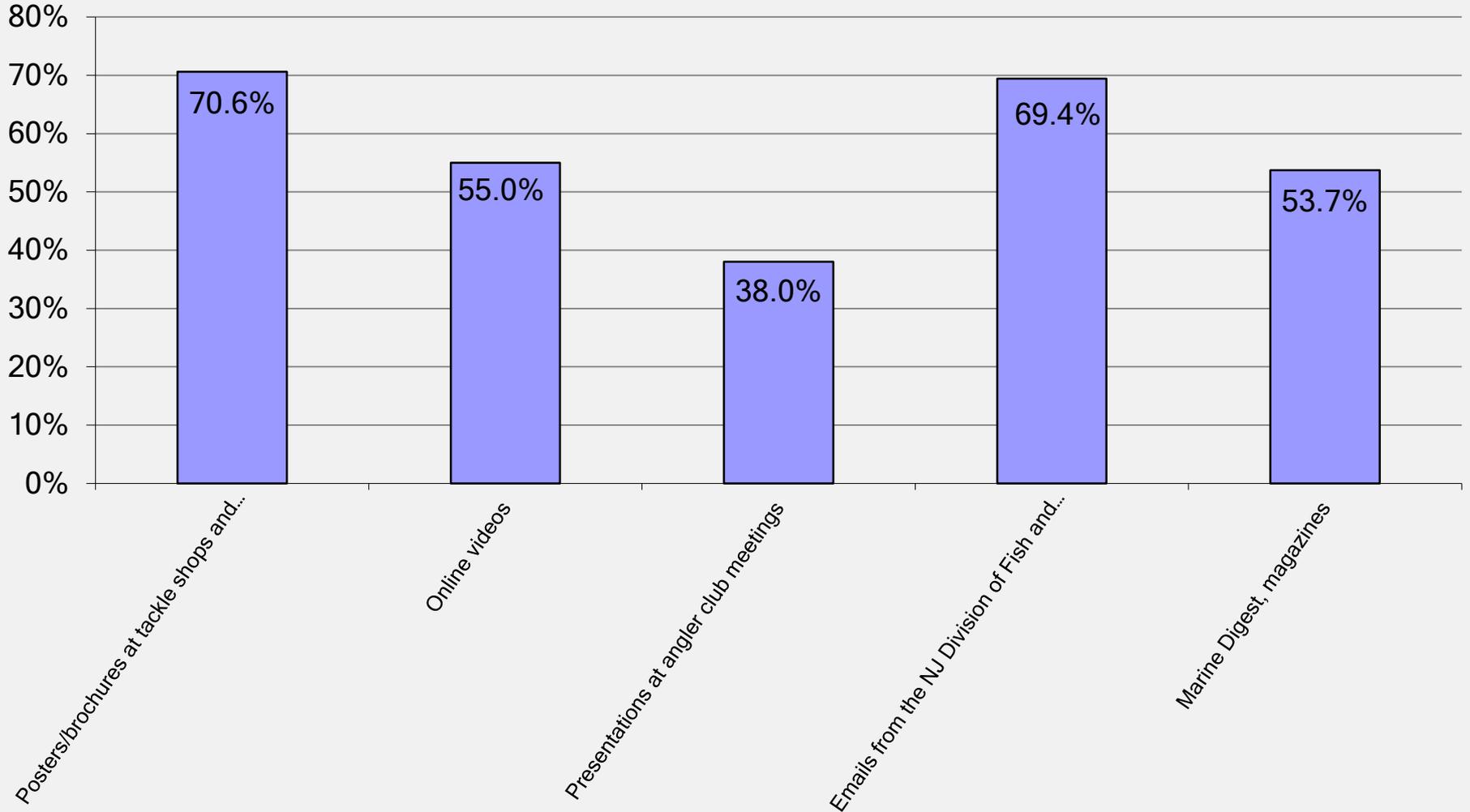
# Which method do you think would work best to reduce throwback mortality?



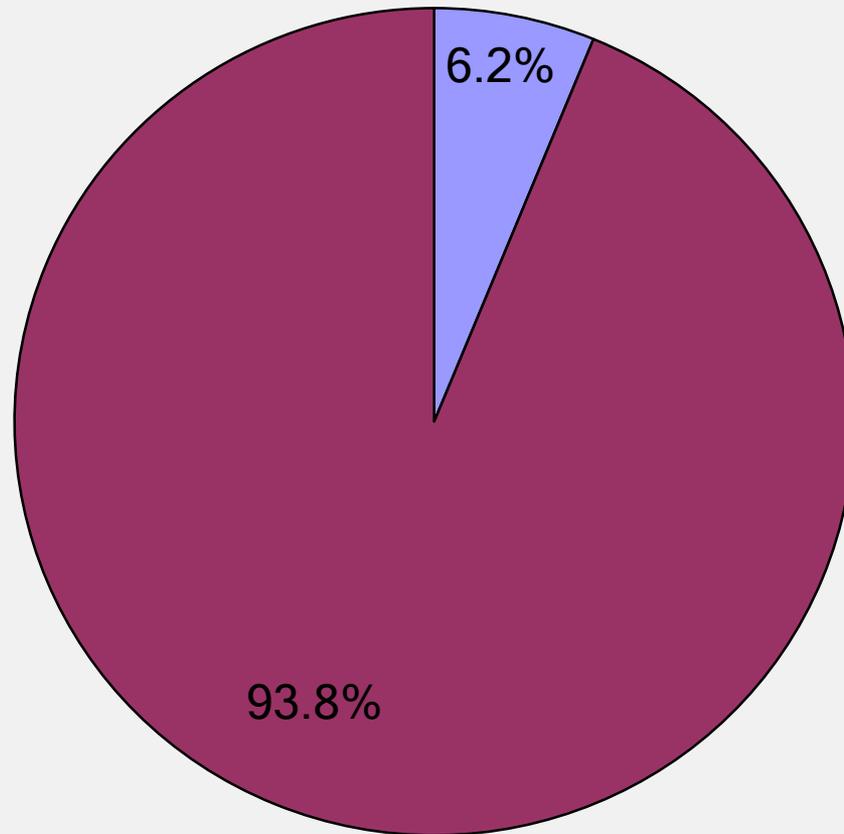
If certain fishing/handling practices were found to lower summer flounder throwback mortality, how likely would you be to voluntarily implement those practices, even if it incurred some cost to you?



# What are the best methods to communicate to recreational anglers about ways to reduce summer flounder throwback mortality?



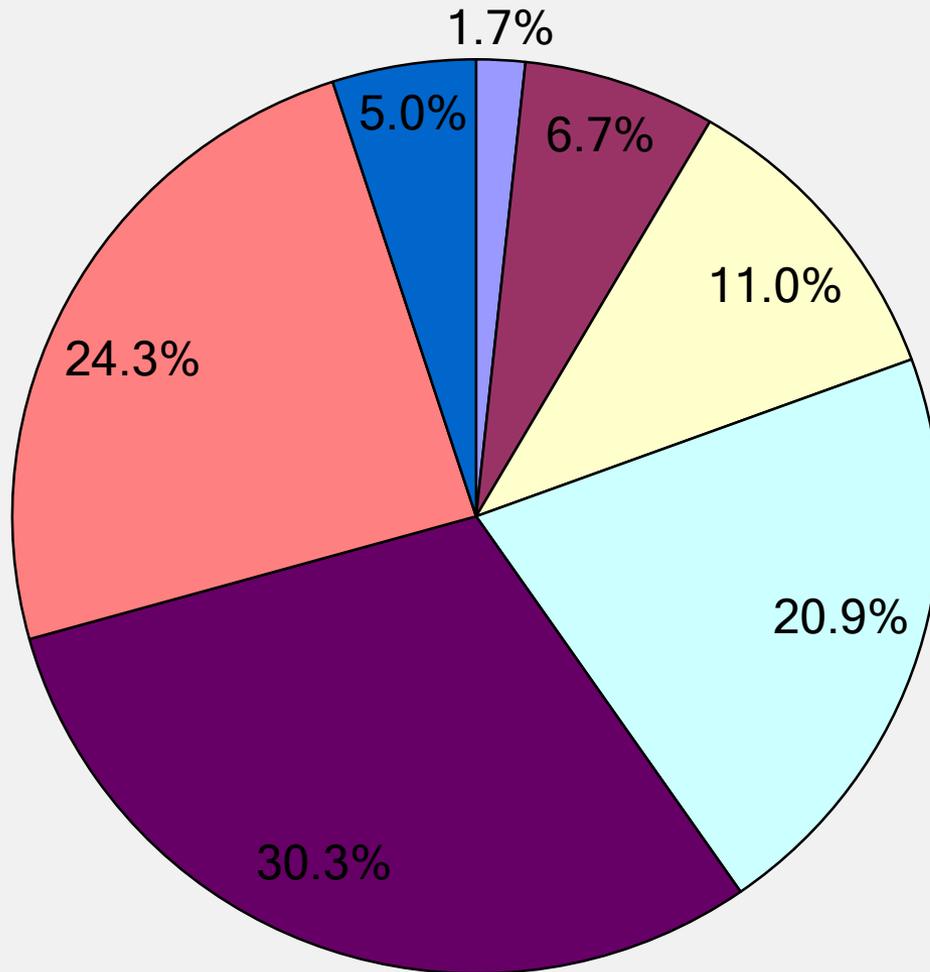
# What is your gender?



Female

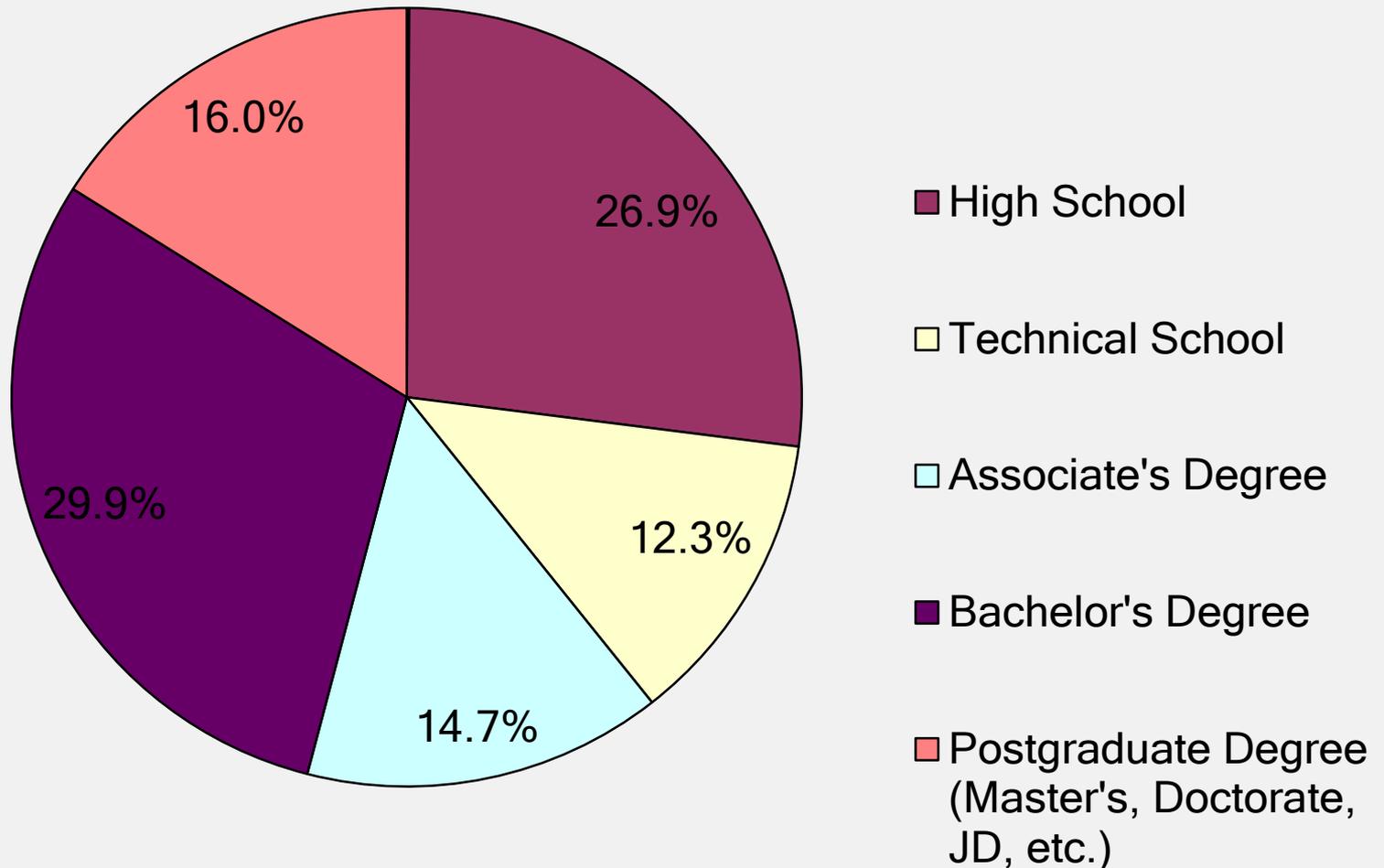
Male

# What is your age?

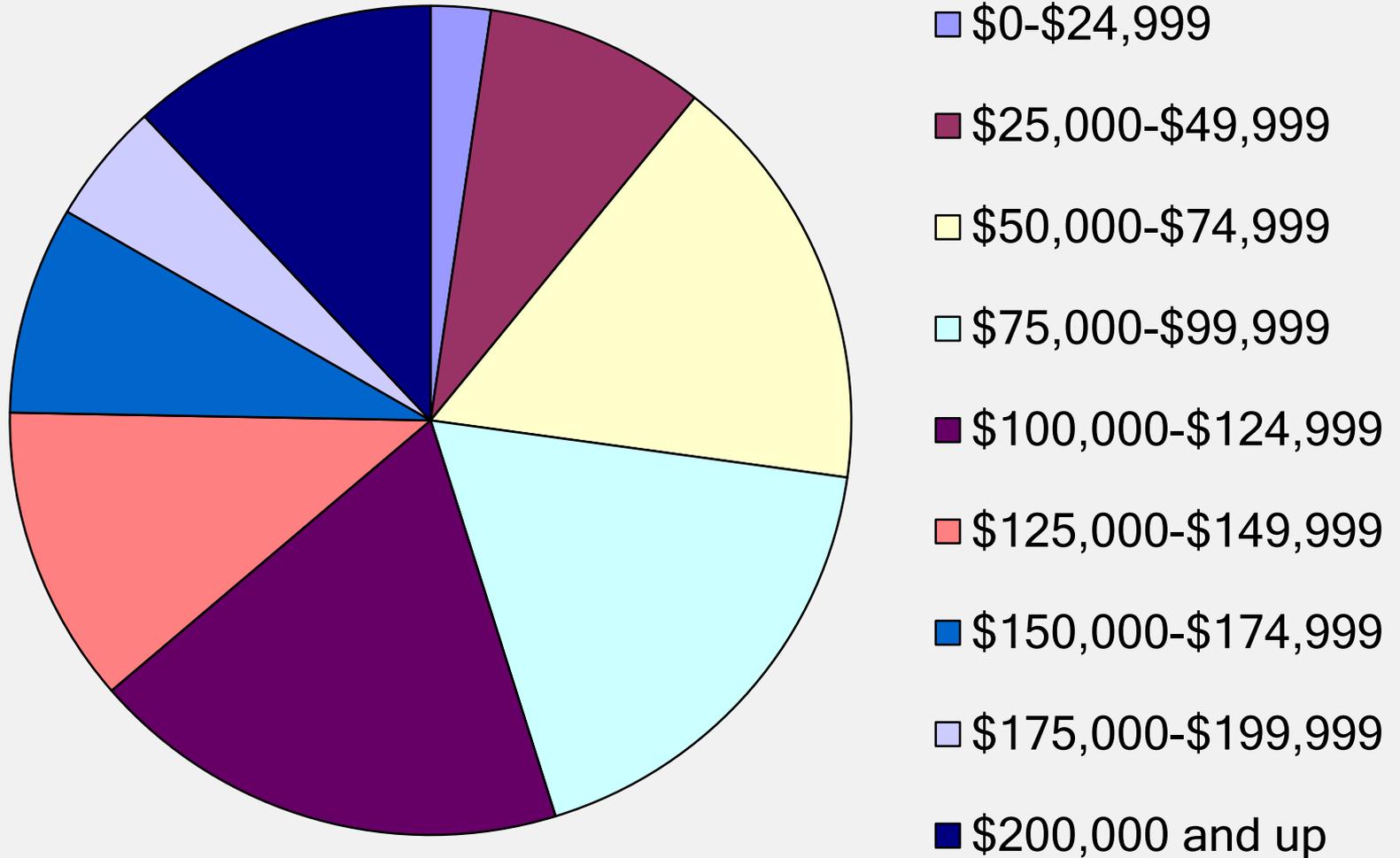


- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 or older

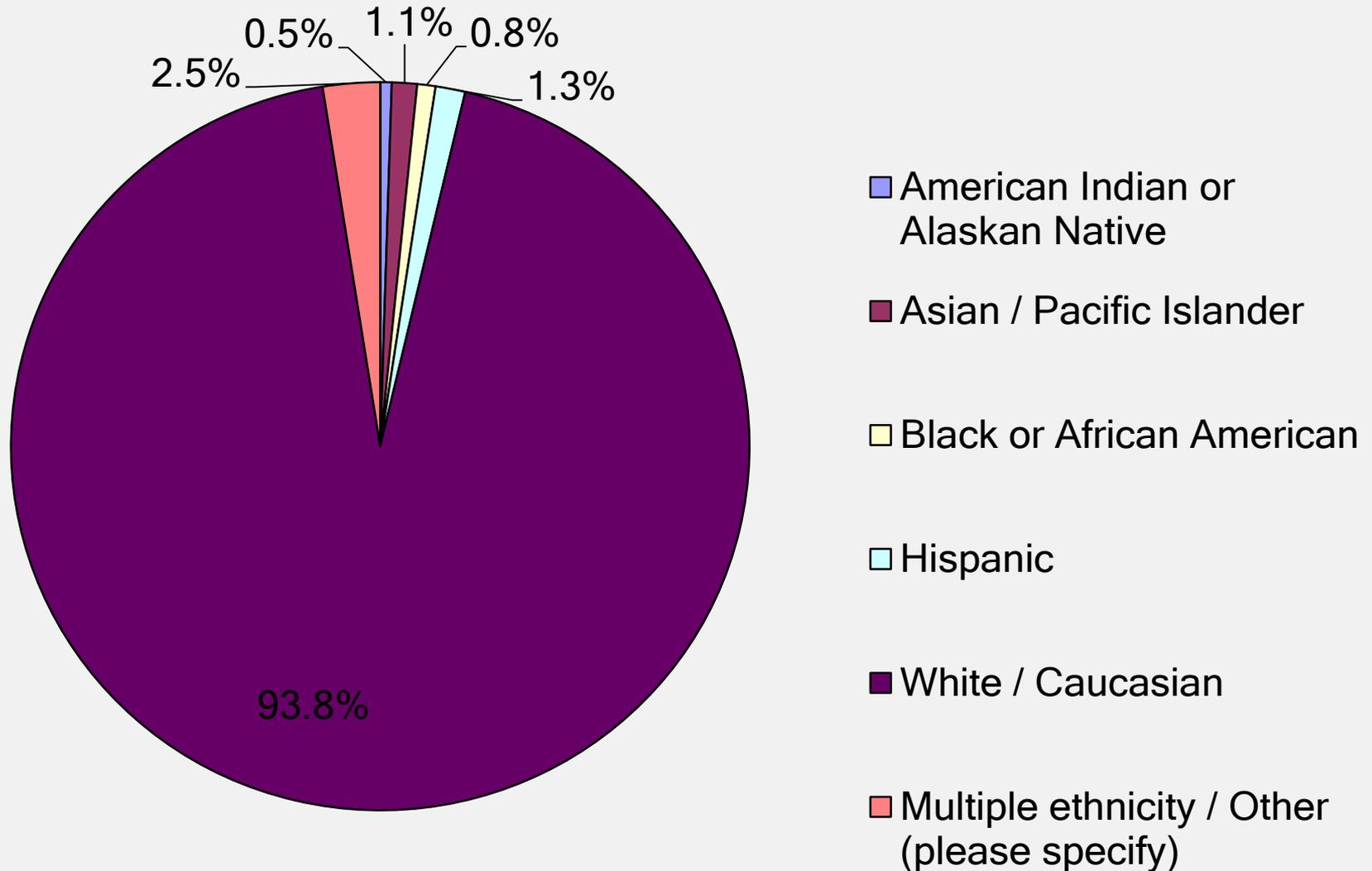
# What is the highest level of education you have completed?



# What is your approximate average household income?



# Which race/ethnicity best describes you?



**We appreciate your participation in this survey!**

**Thanks for your help!**

