

Public attitudes towards fishing quota allocation in France

For  OCEANA

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Background

The present poll aimed to find out French citizens' views about the importance of preserving a healthy ocean and how they feel about current fishing quota allocation practices and criteria and if they would support or not more quotas to fleets with a lower environmental impact and offering more societal benefits for coastal communities.

Objectives

The study focused around 4 main objectives:

- 1) Do French citizens care about the marine environment and want it to be in a better state?
- 2) Do they think that the impact of the fishing boat on the ocean and the amount of jobs the boat creates are important factors to consider when allocating fishing quotas to fishers?
- 3) Do French citizens think that certain fishers should get more quotas over others, and if so, what factors are important?
- 4) Do they want their government to grant them more access to information on how they distribute fishing quotas to their fleets?

METHODOLOGY



FIELDWORK

Format: Online interviews,
conducted on YouGov's
panel

Dates: 4th – 7th April



QUESTIONNAIRE

11 closed questions

The duration was on
average 6 min.

The same questionnaire
was also conducted in
Spain.



TARGET

Men and women, of legal
age (18+), residents



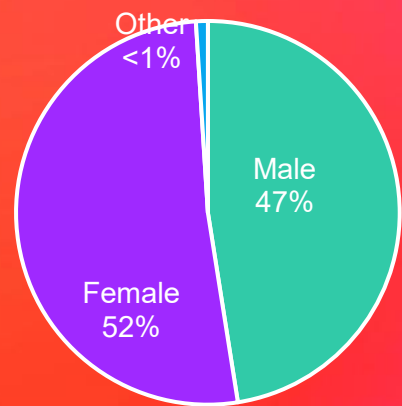
SAMPLE

1015 size sample.
National Representative
data, with gender & age
quota

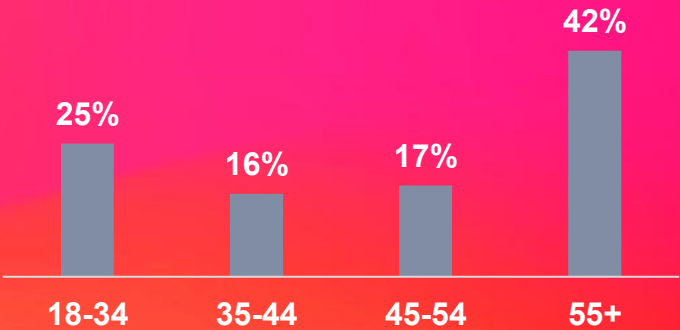
FRANCE DISTRIBUTION

The sample of 1015 people, representative of the French population in terms of gender and age, is distributed as follows:

Gender

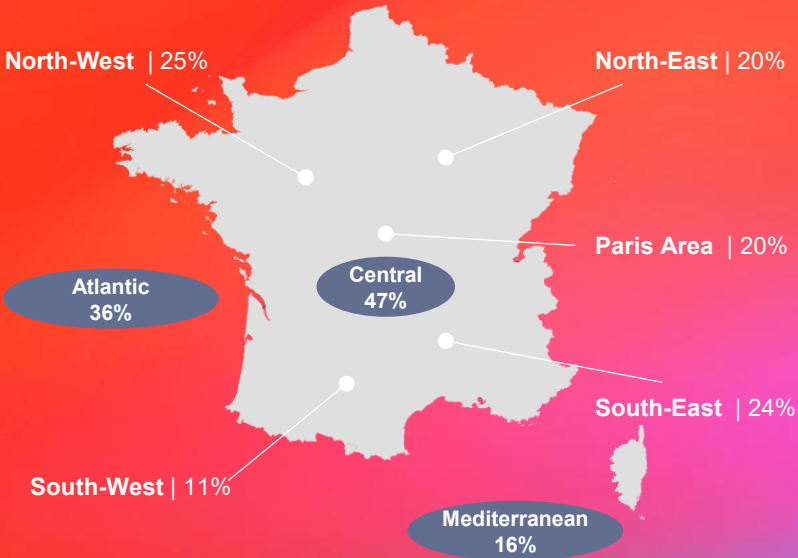


Age



Education

Low	9%
Medium	43%
High	48%

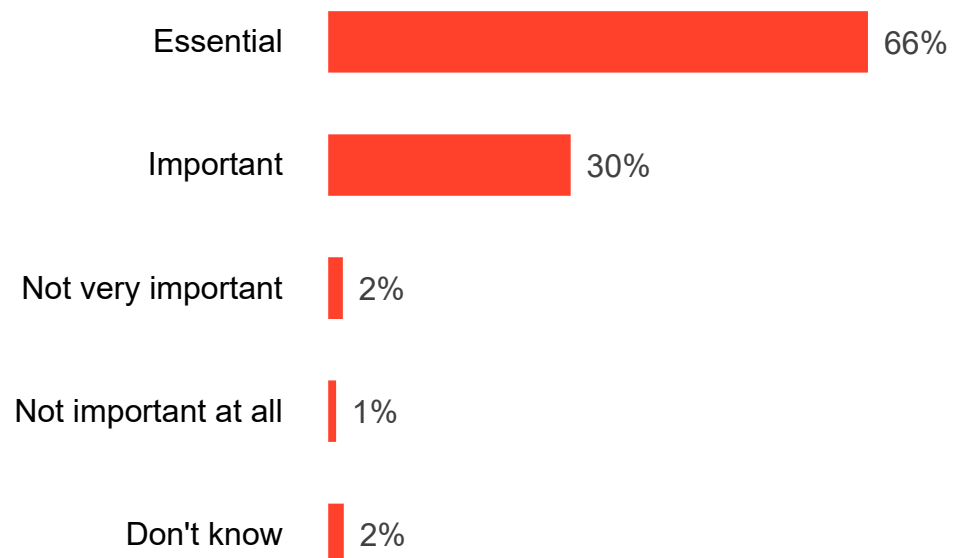


Key highlights & Results

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

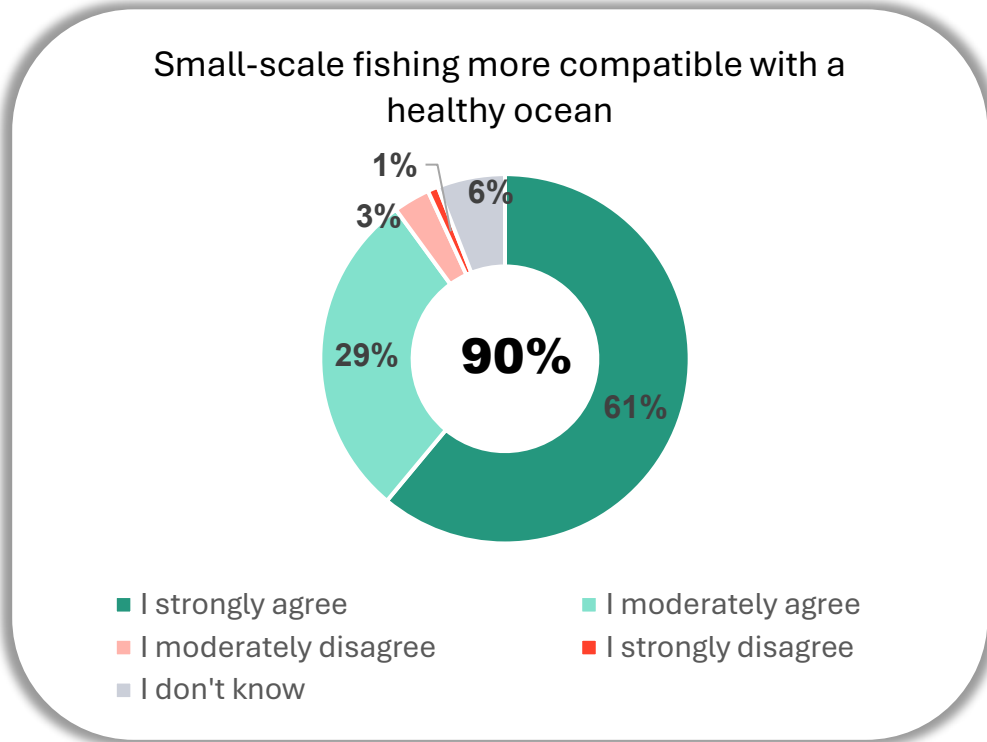
- The vast majority of French citizens believe that the government should give **more quotas to small-scale fishers (86%)** and **fewer to industrial vessels (85%)** to better support coastal communities and local economies.
- Citizens support such a re-distribution of quotas because it would **support local seafood, protect jobs and protect the ocean**.
- **83%** of French citizens want their government to **provide easier access to clear information** about the criteria, methodology, and decisions regarding fishing quota distribution. **83%** of French citizens also believe that **small-scale fishers** should have a **greater role in decision-making** regarding government quota distribution.
- The overwhelming majority (**96%**) of French citizens believe it is **important to protect the ocean**, with 66% considering it essential.
- **90%** of French citizens also acknowledge that **small-scale traditional fishing** is more **compatible with a healthy ocean** while **86%** consider **unselective and destructive fishing methods** like bottom trawling to be **incompatible with preserving the ocean's health**.
- **83%** believe that the **impact of fishing boats** on ocean habitats and **the amount of unwanted fish caught** should be **prioritized** when distributing fishing quotas and **65%** believe that the amount of **jobs the boat creates** and the **importance of the fishing activity for the coastal community** should also be a priority.

96% OF FRENCH CITIZENS THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE OCEAN, and 66% would even say it's essential





90% of French citizens think that small-scale fishing is more compatible with a healthy ocean than industrial fishing.

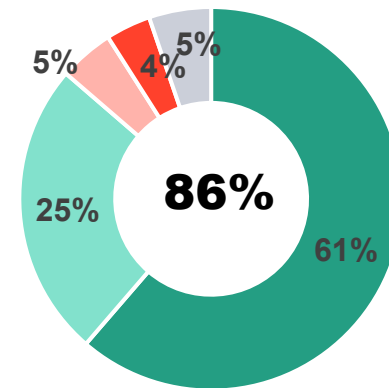


To what extent do you agree or disagree that small-scale fishing is more compatible with a healthy ocean than industrial fishing, like bottom trawling?
Base (1015)



86% of French citizens consider unselective and destructive fishing to be incompatible with ocean preservation

Unselective & destructive fishing is incompatible with a healthy ocean



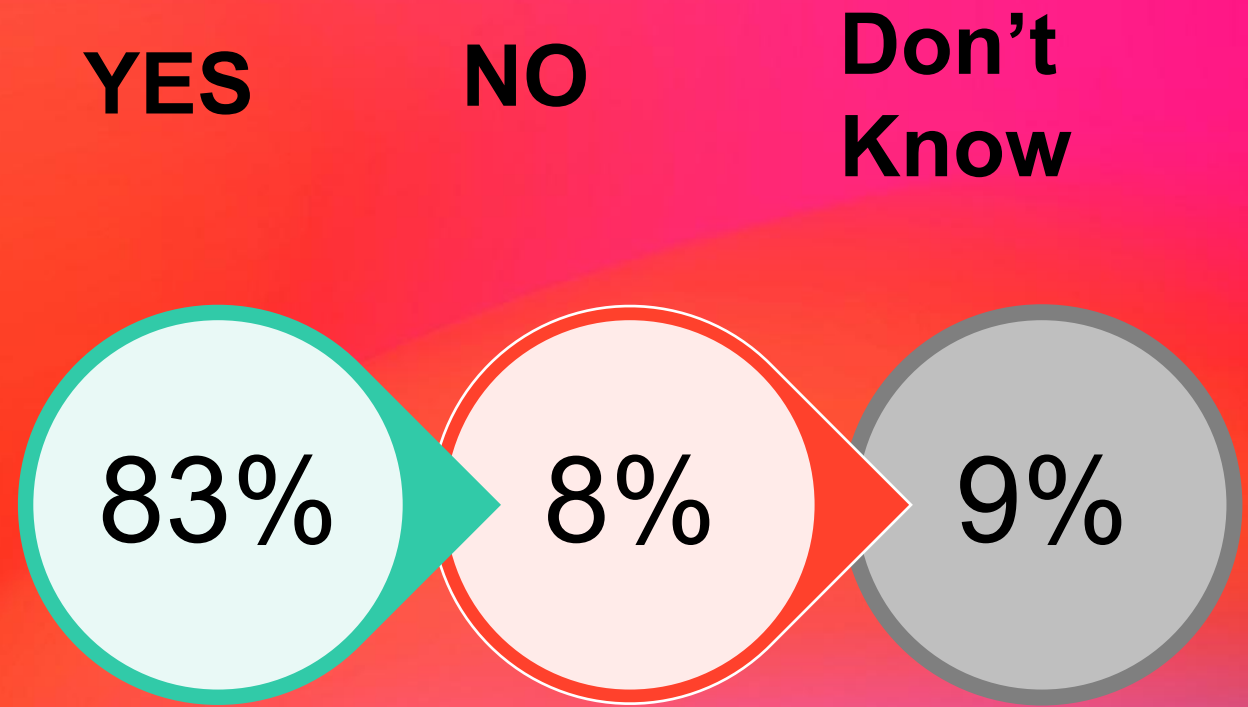
- I strongly agree
- I moderately agree
- I moderately disagree
- I strongly disagree
- I don't know

To what extent do you agree or disagree that destructive and unselective fishing methods, like bottom trawling, are incompatible with preserving a healthy ocean?
Base (1015)

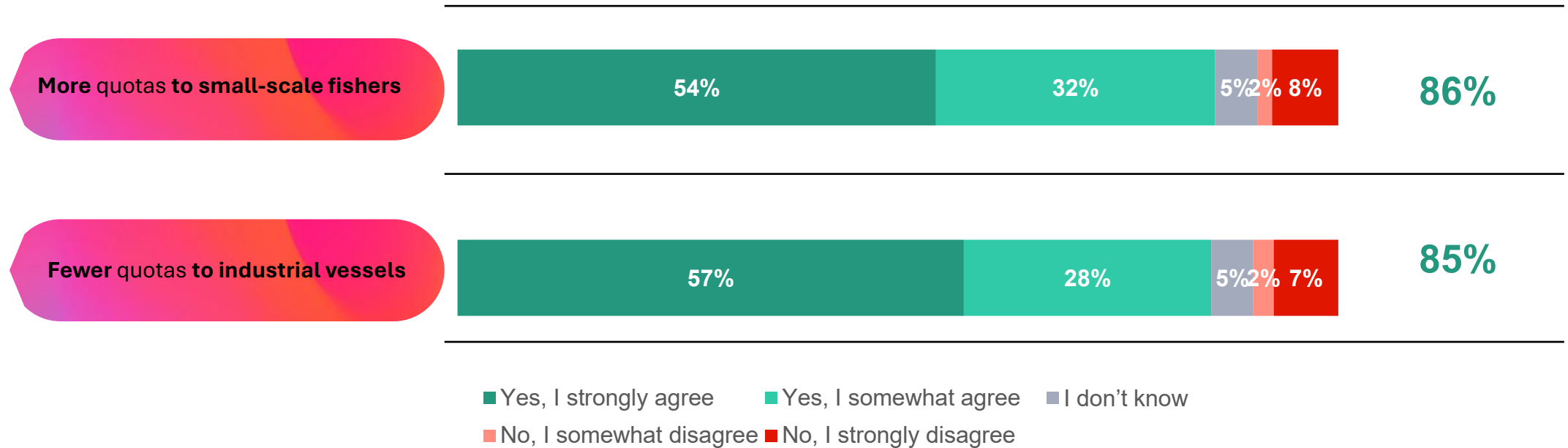
83% of French citizens believe that the impact of the boat on ocean habitats and how much unwanted fish it catches **SHOULD BE a priority when deciding how much fishing quotas to give out.**

Do you believe that criteria, such as the impact of the boat on ocean habitats and how much unwanted fish it catches, should or should not be a priority when deciding how much fishing quotas to give to out?

Base (1015)



The vast majority of French citizens believe that the government should give more quotas to small-scale fishers and fewer to industrial vessels.



Do you agree or disagree that the French government should give more quotas to small-scale fishers to better support coastal communities and local economies?

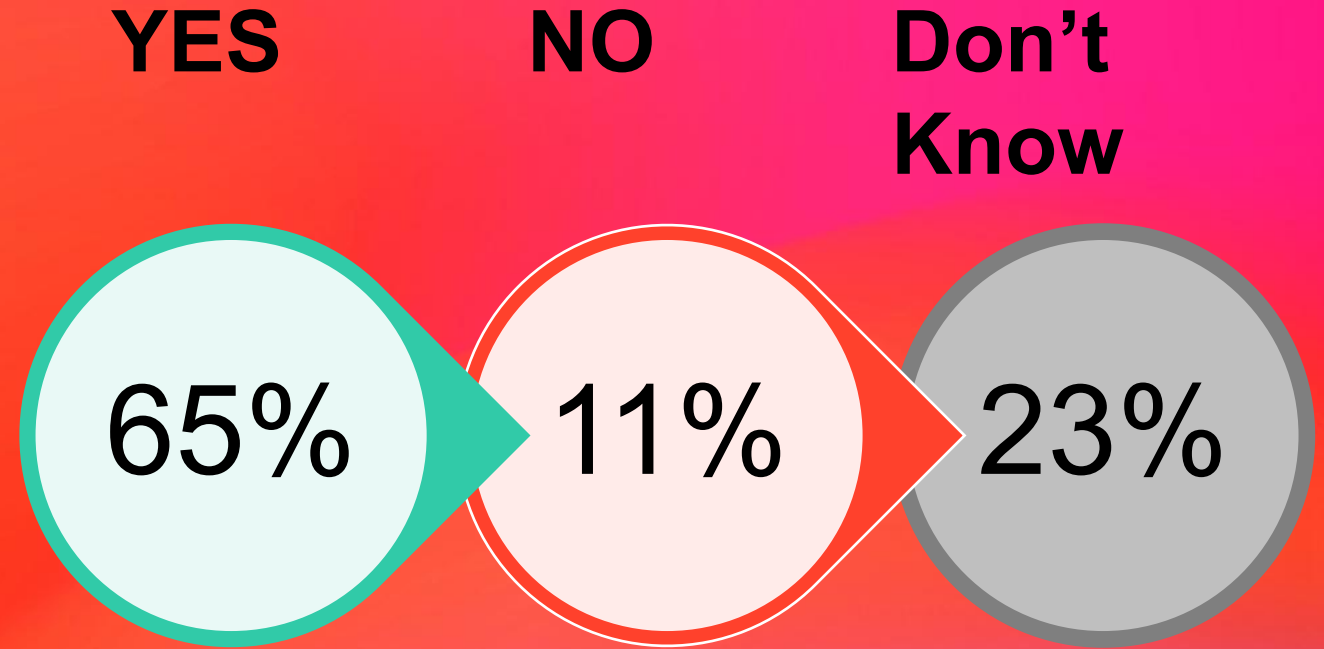
Do you agree or disagree that the French government should give fewer quotas to industrial vessels, like bottom trawlers to better support coastal communities and local economies?

Base (1015)

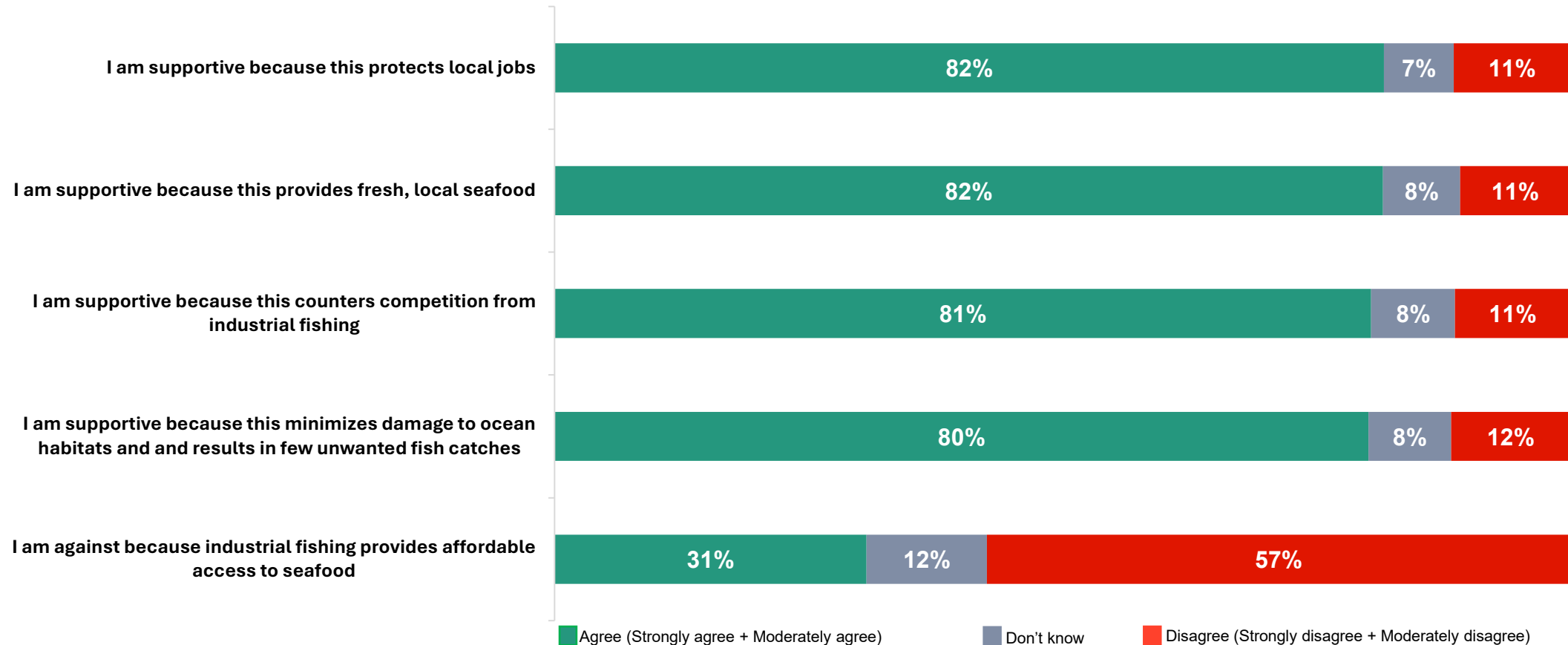
65% of French citizens believe that the amount of jobs the boat creates and the importance of the fishing activity for the coastal community **SHOULD be a priority when deciding about fishing quota distribution.**

Do you believe that criteria such as the amount of people the boat employs and the importance of the fishing activity for the coastal community should or should not be a priority when deciding how much fishing quotas to give out?

Base (1015)



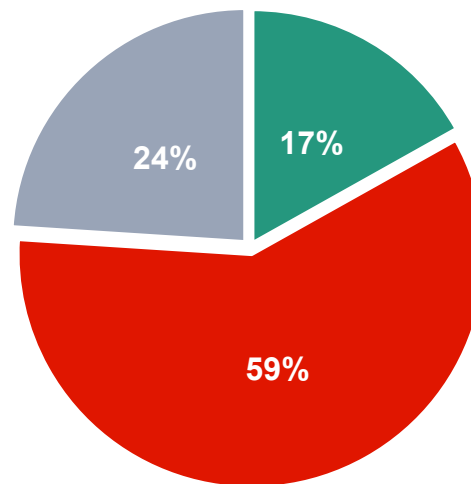
Providing local seafood, protecting local jobs, and protecting the ocean are reasons why the vast majority of French citizens support more quotas for small-scale fishers.



Concerning redistributing quotas in favour of small-scale fishers, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

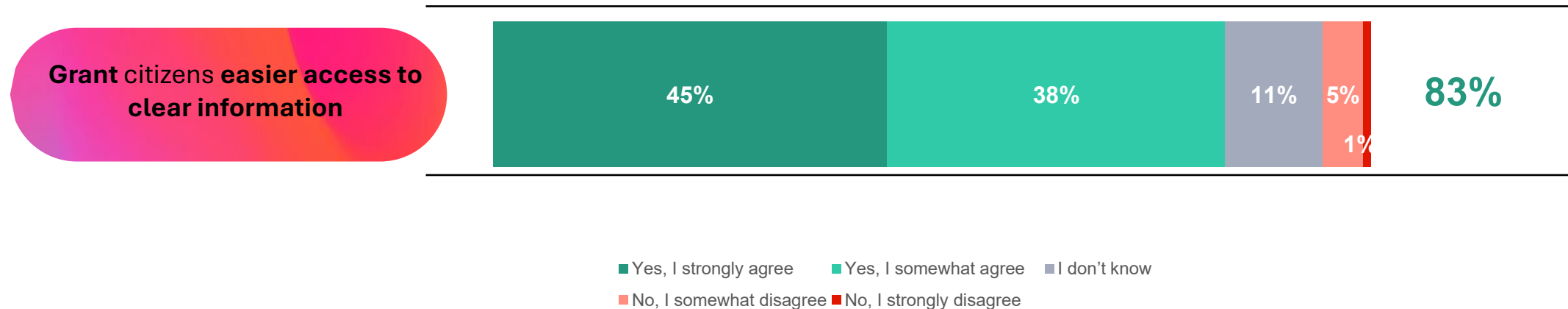
Base (1015)

Most French citizens believe that the way the government gives out fishing quotas is not fair



- Yes, it is fair - past catch history should remain the main criteria
- No, it is not fair - France should give more priority to environmental, social, and economic criteria
- I don't know

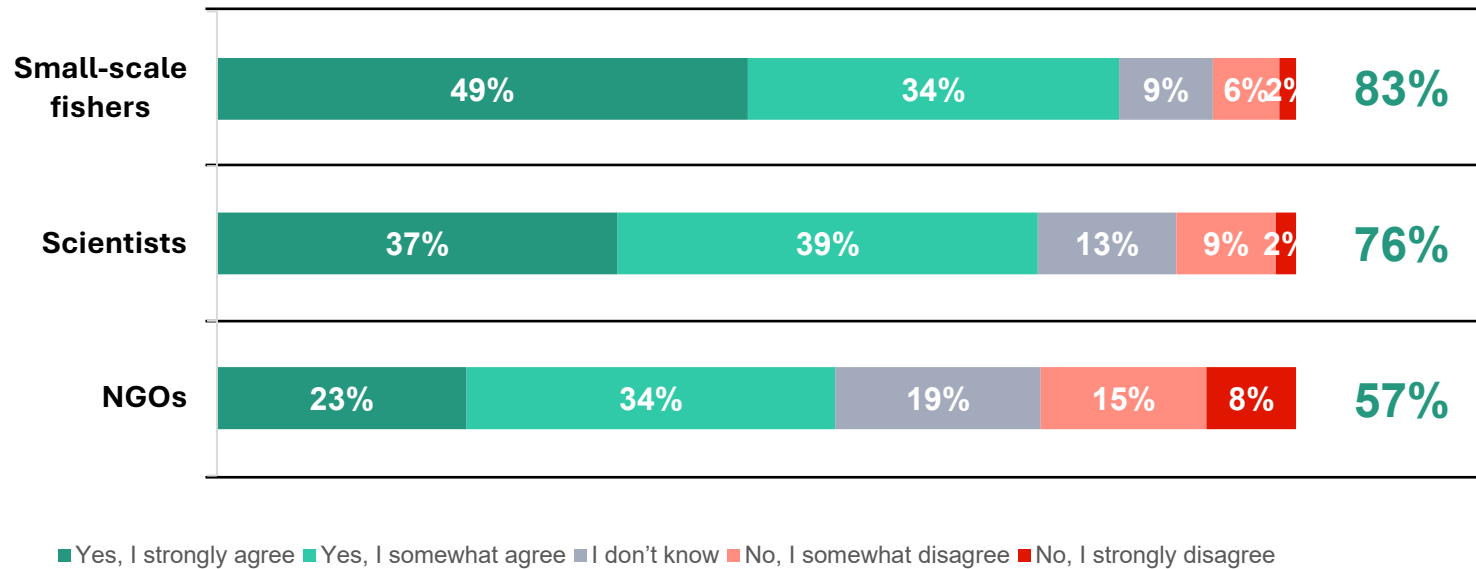
83% of French citizens are keen for their government to grant them more access to information on how they distribute fishing quotas to their fleets



To what extent do you agree or disagree that the French government should grant citizens easier access to clear information about the criteria, methodology and final decisions concerning how it gives out fishing quotas to its fleets?

Base (1015)

83% of French citizens agree that small-scale fishers should have a greater role in decision-making regarding government quota distribution



To what extent do you agree or disagree that other partners should have a greater role in decision-making processes regarding how the government gives out fishing quotas?

Base (1015)

Thank you

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