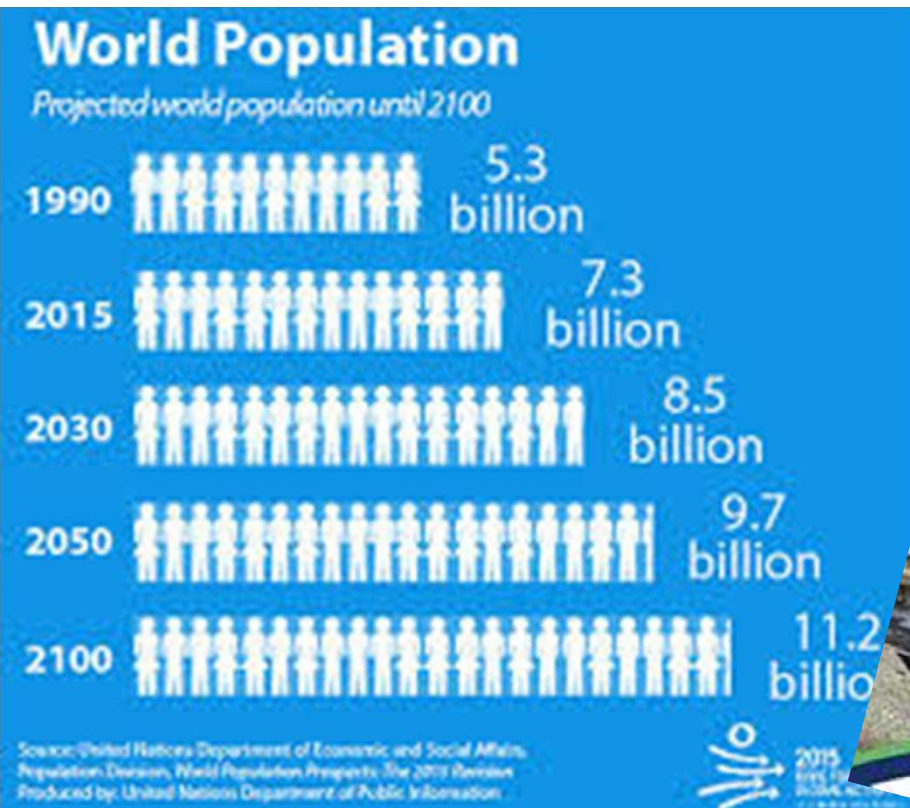


ATTITUDES TO AQUACULTURE AND OTHER MARINE ACTIVITIES IN CONNEMARA

*10th Annual Marine Economics and Policy Research
Symposium*

29/11/2019



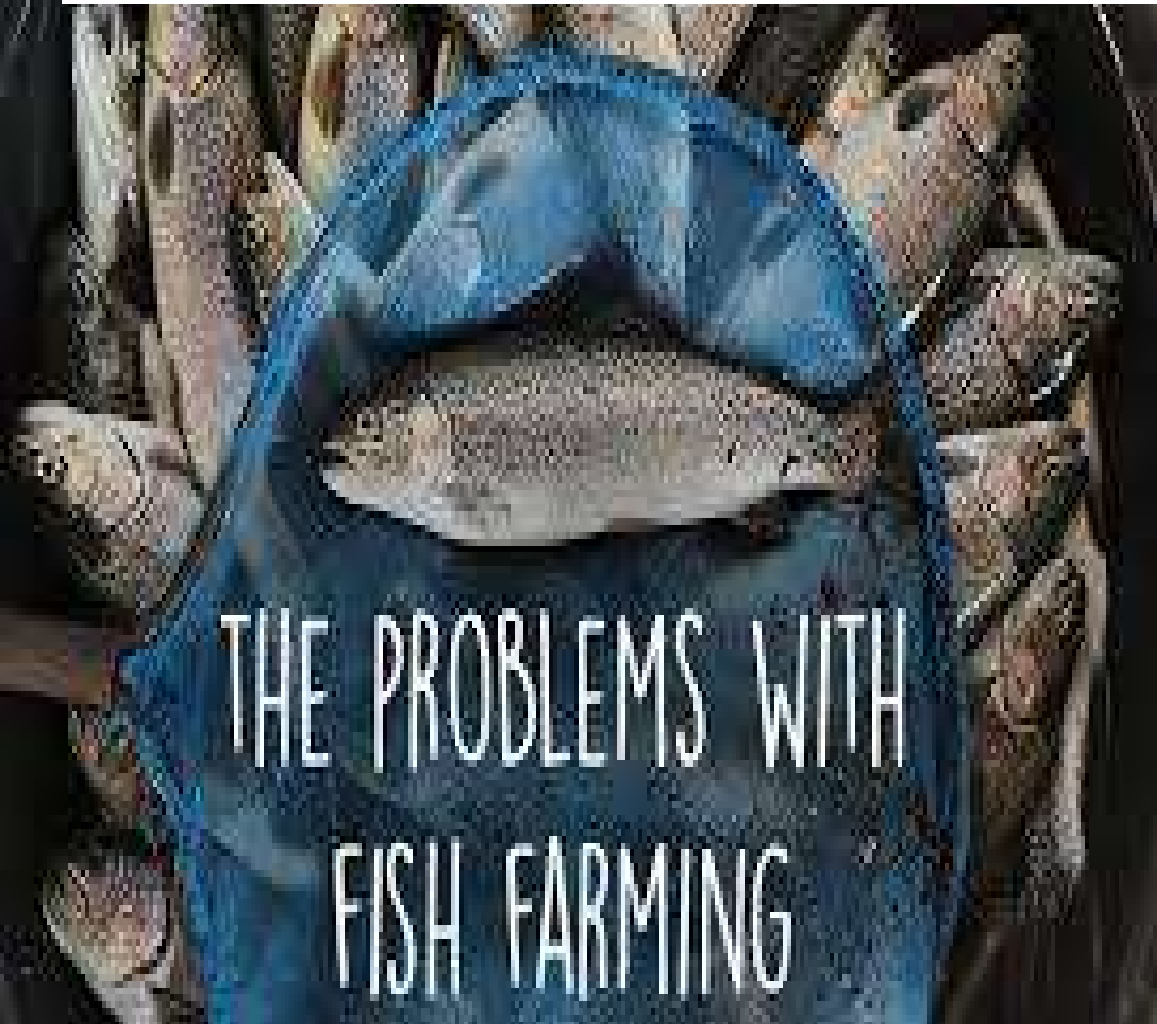
WHY THIS RESEARCH?

Pressure from Gaeltacht Communities to create sustainable employment based on Natural Resources in their areas and we needed to measure the support for developments of these resources

“Aquaculture only way to meet future demand for fish” – UN agency

“EU's aquaculture industry is lagging behind strong growth compared to other regions of the world” (Grealis, et al., 2017).

PUBLIC CONCERNS: THE DEBATE



Among these concerns has been :

- Issues of sea lice on farmed fish,
- The sourcing of fish feed,
- Waste accumulation on the seafloor and
- Potential impacts of escaped farm fish on wild stock (Hynes, et al., 2018)

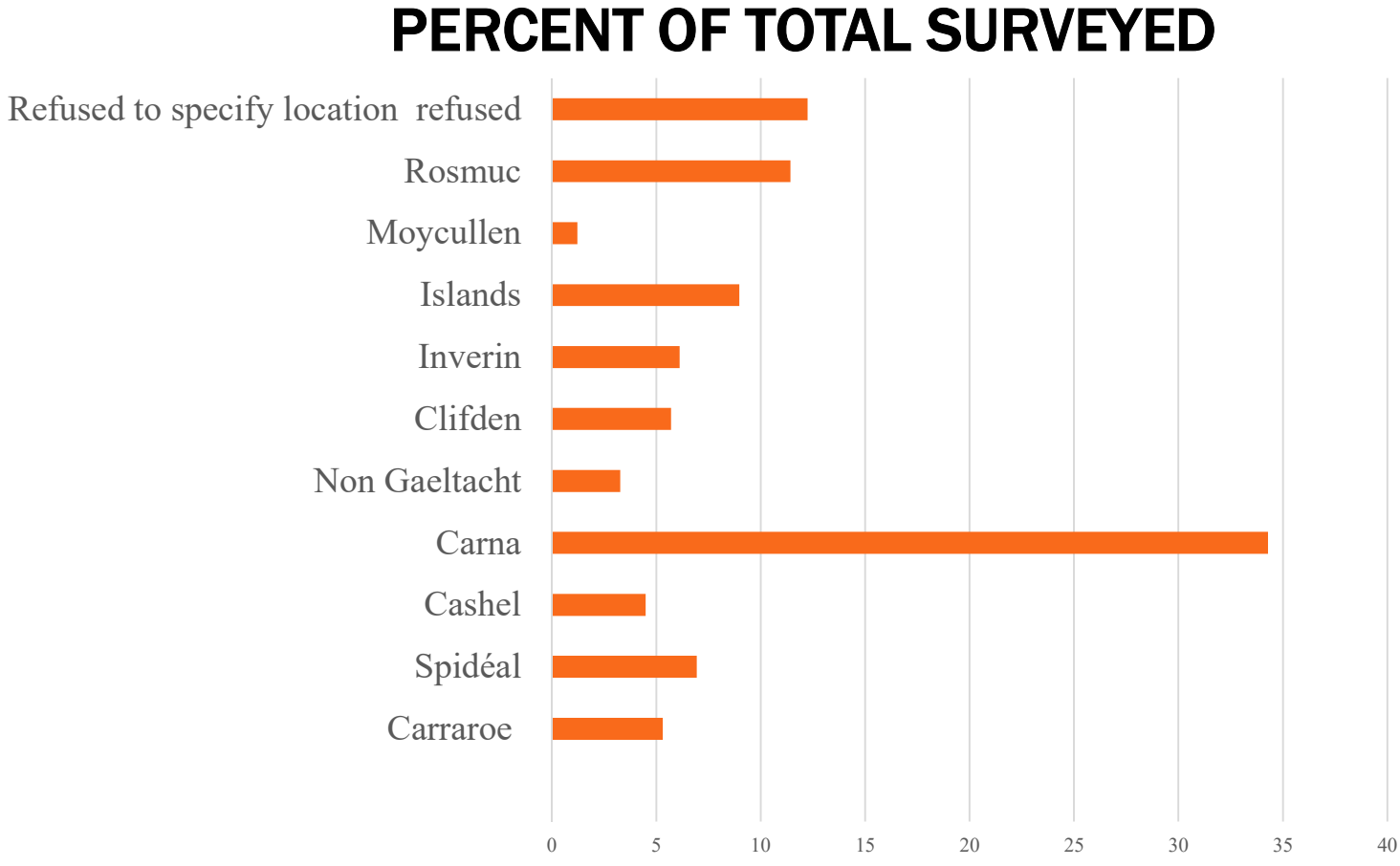
OBJECTIVES

1. To gather information on the attitudes
2. To identify the perceived impacts and opportunities

SURVEYS

- Their attitudes toward aquaculture and
- Their attitudes and behaviours relating to:
 - Employment,
 - Governance institutions for planning,
 - Environment and ownership,
 - Industry involvement.
 - Marine spatial planning,

N = 245
Response rate = 67%



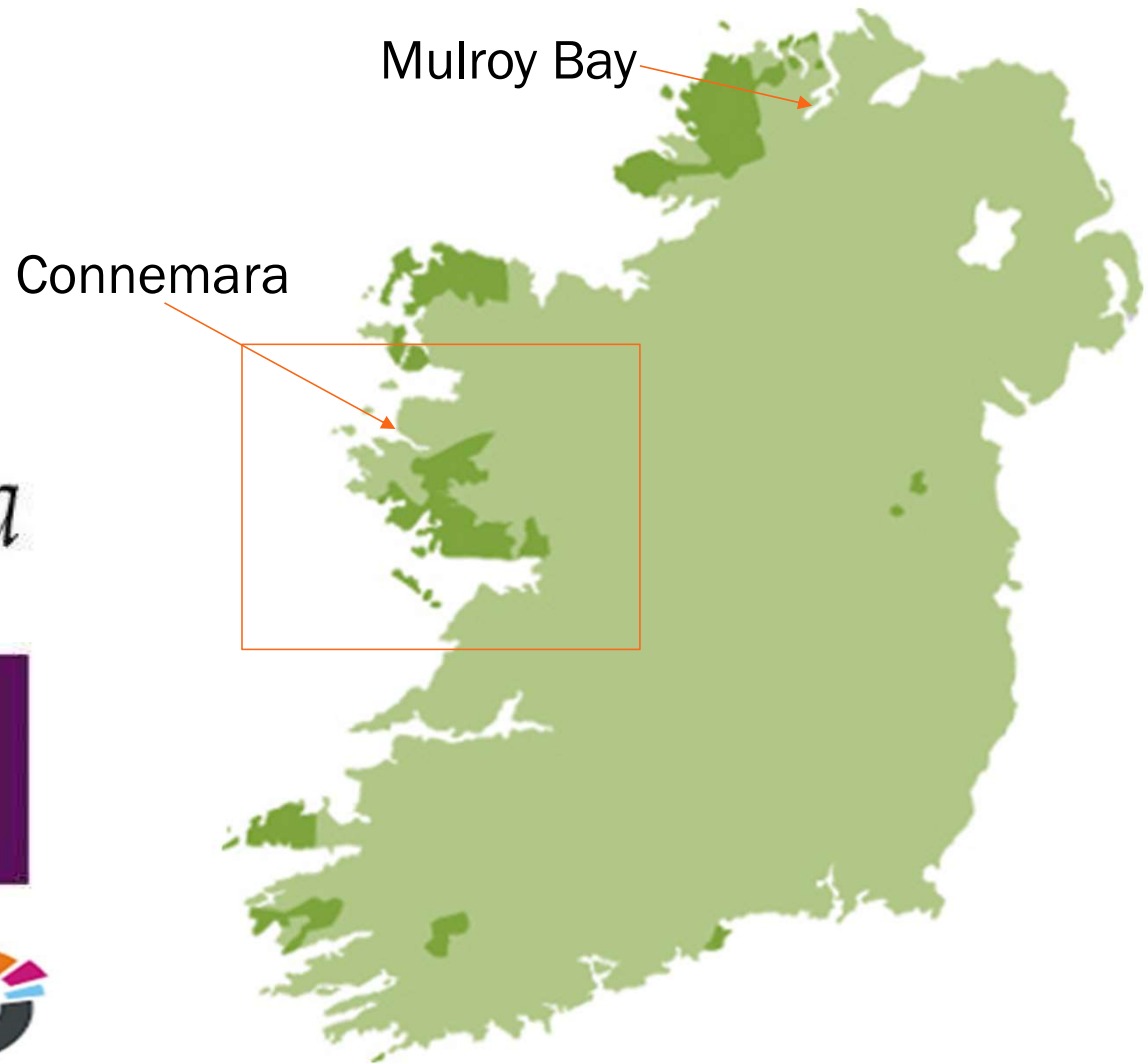
DATA COLLECTED



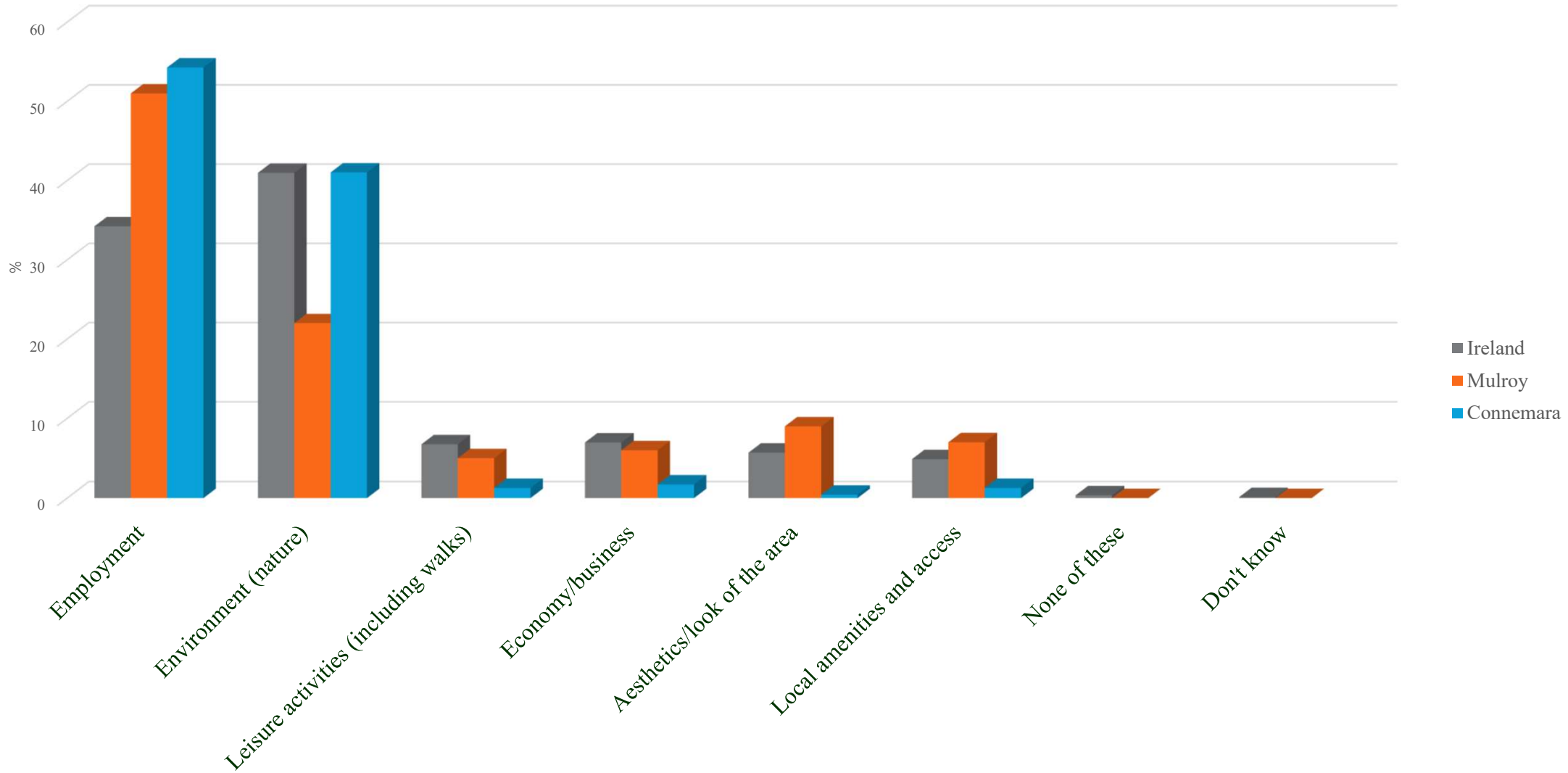
Údarás na Gaeltachta



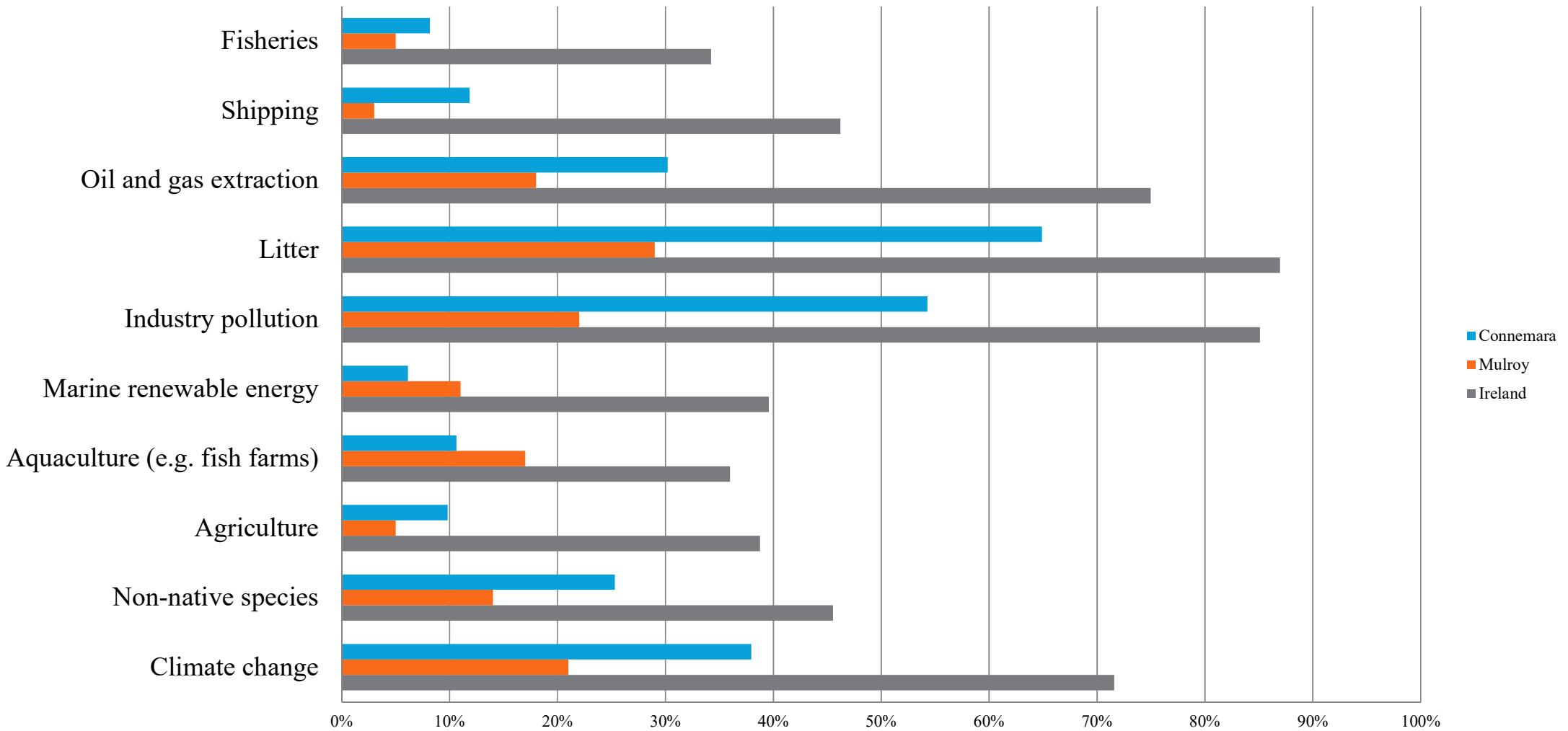
NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



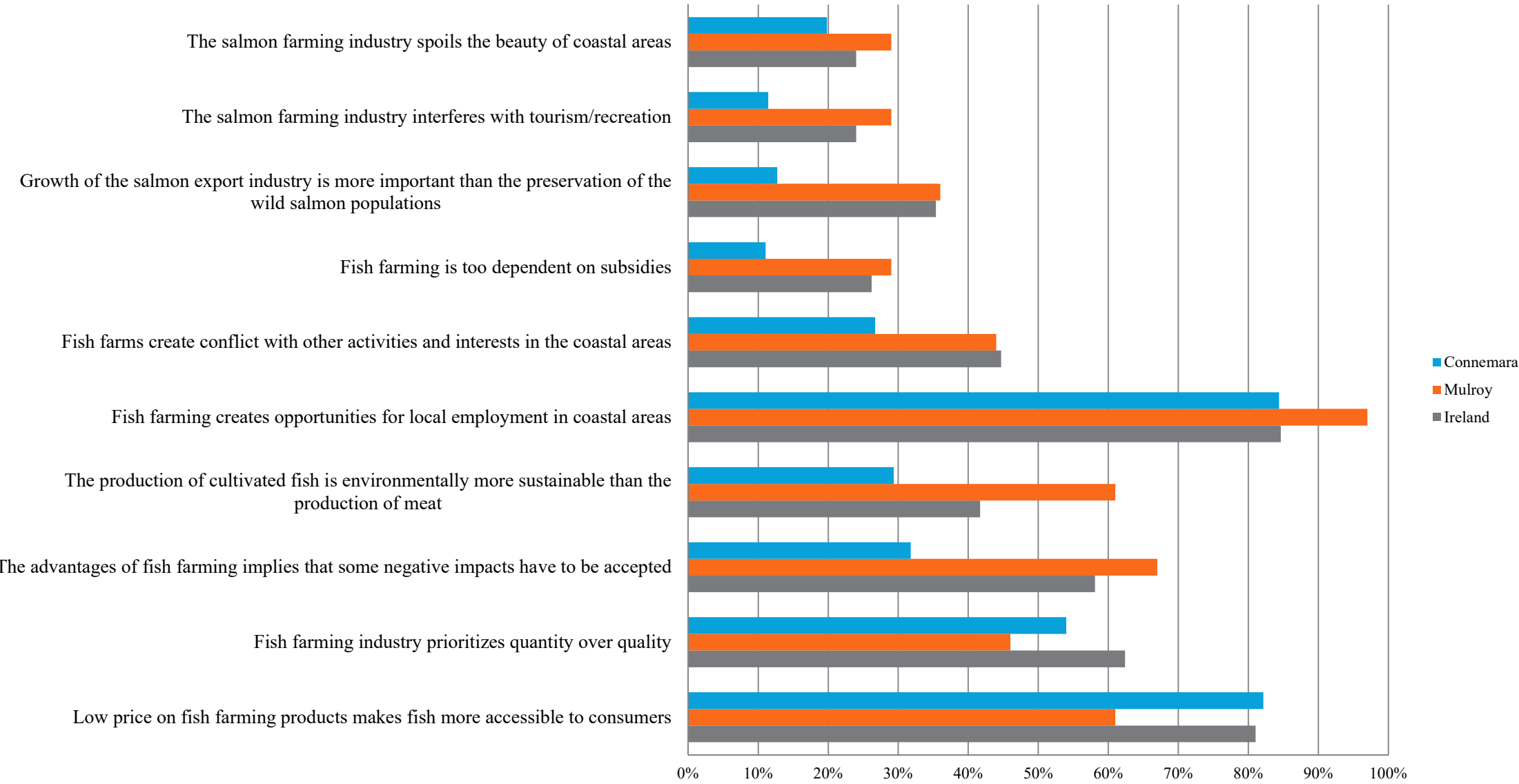
TOP PRIORITIES



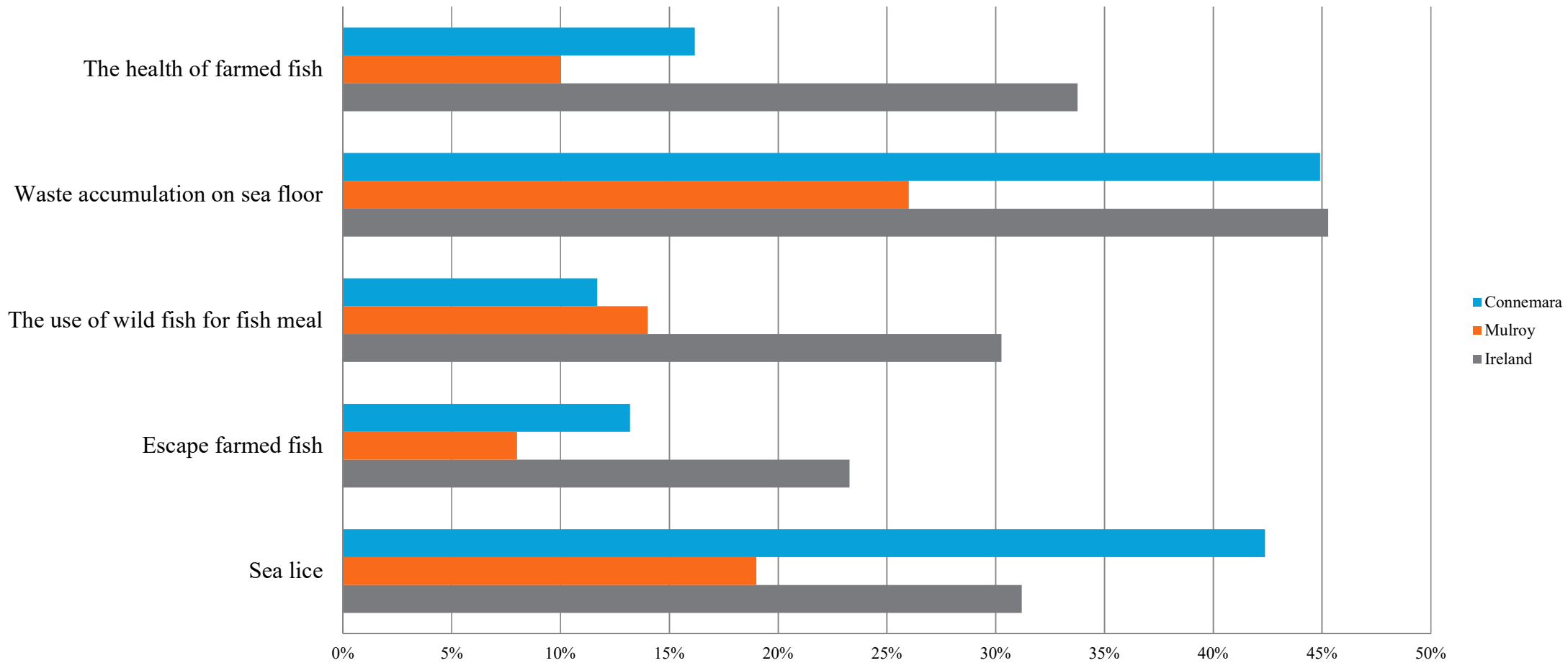
POSES A THREAT OR SEVERE THREAT TO MARINE ENVIRONMENT



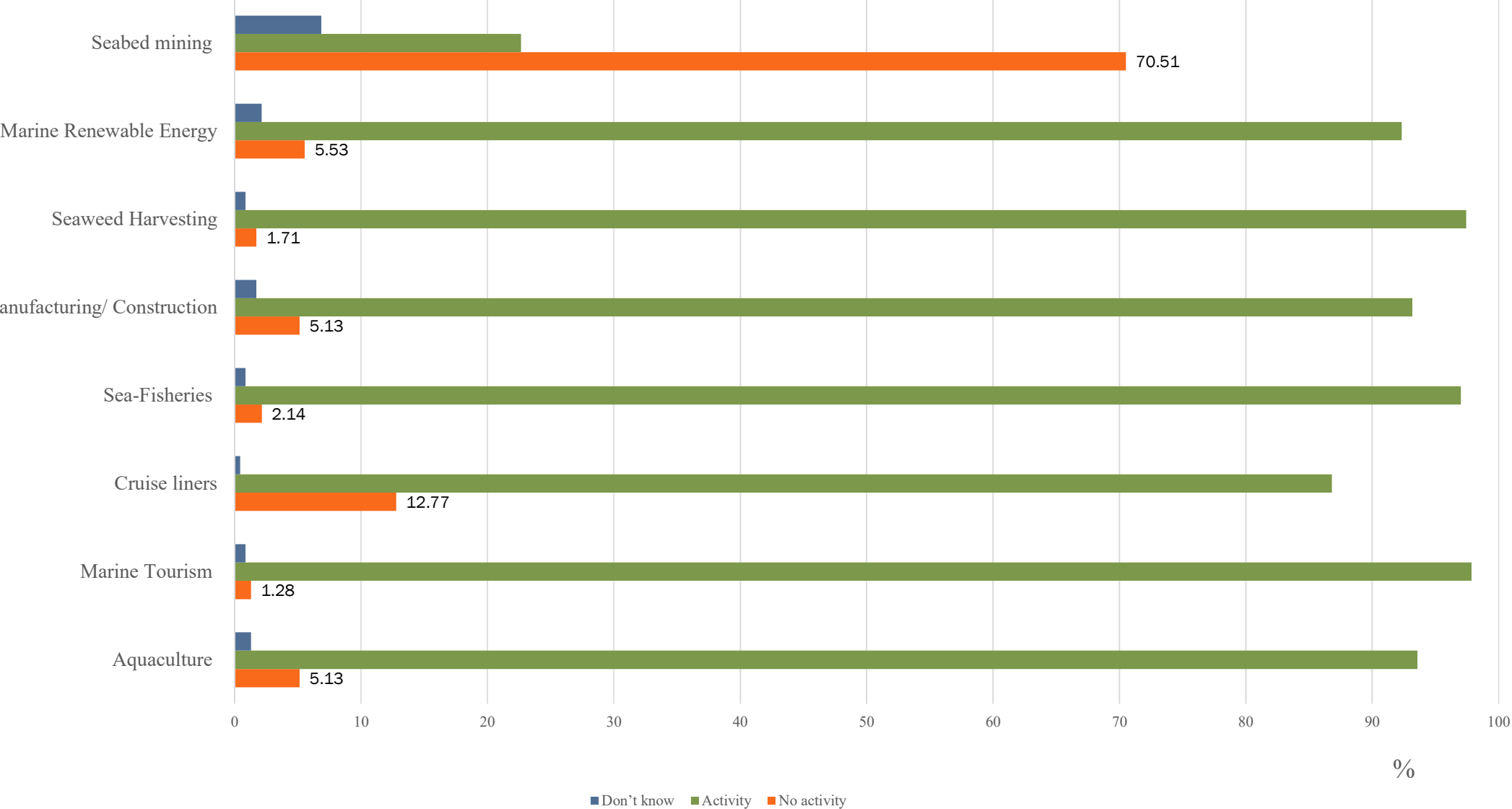
OPINIONS ON FISH FARMS



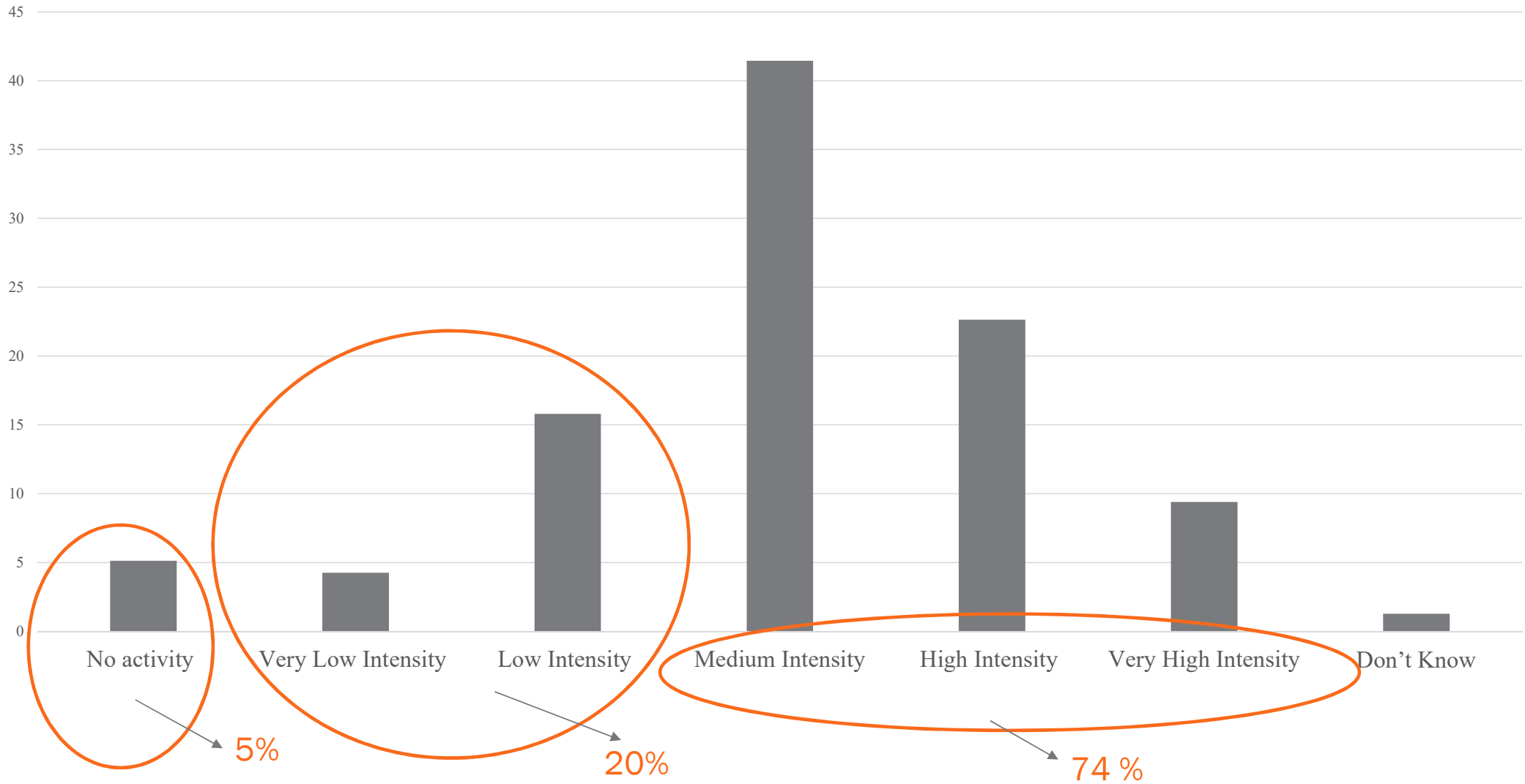
TO WHAT EXTENT TO THESE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH AQUACULTURE/FISH FARMING HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT



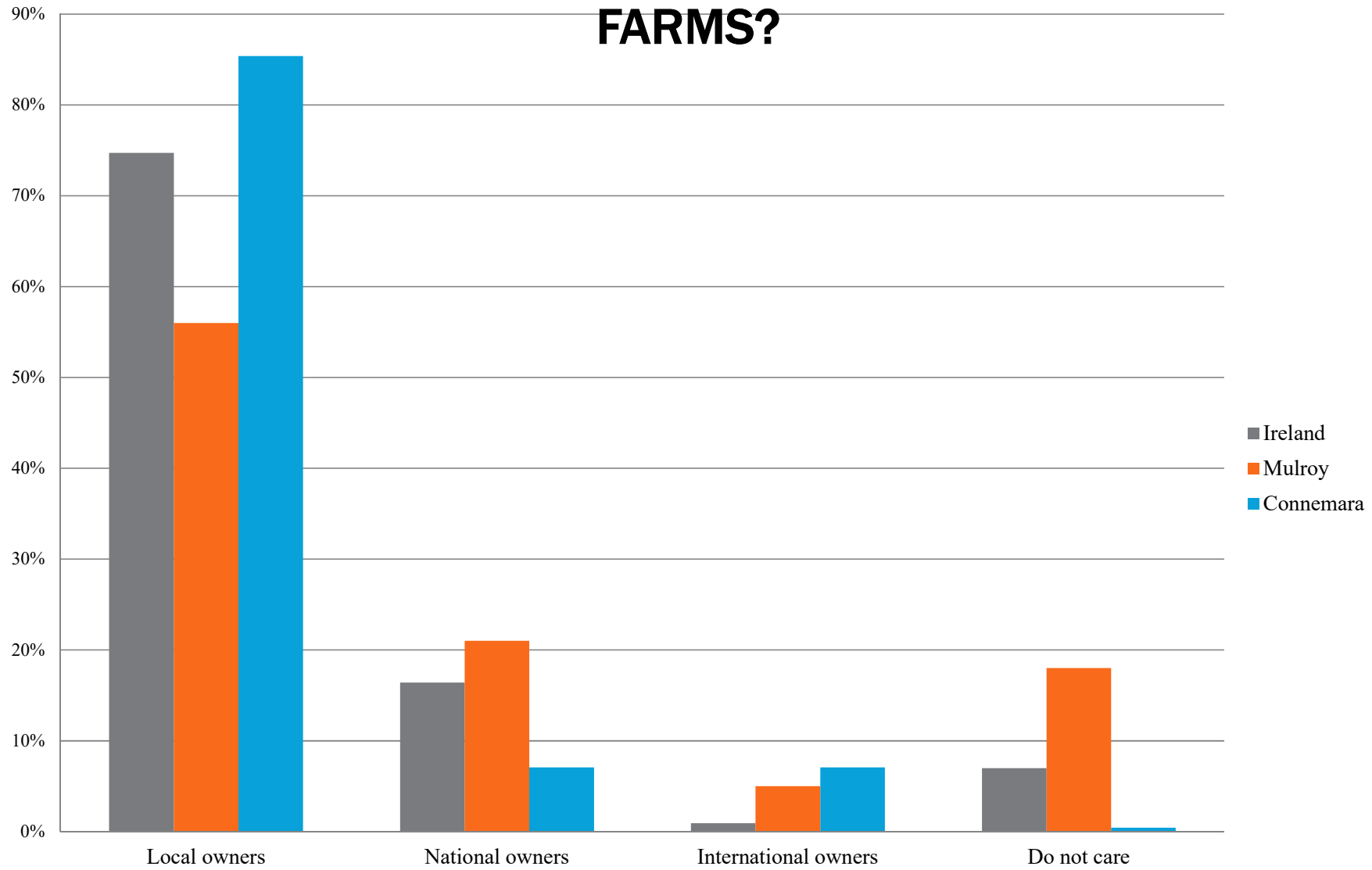
ACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES IN THE BAY



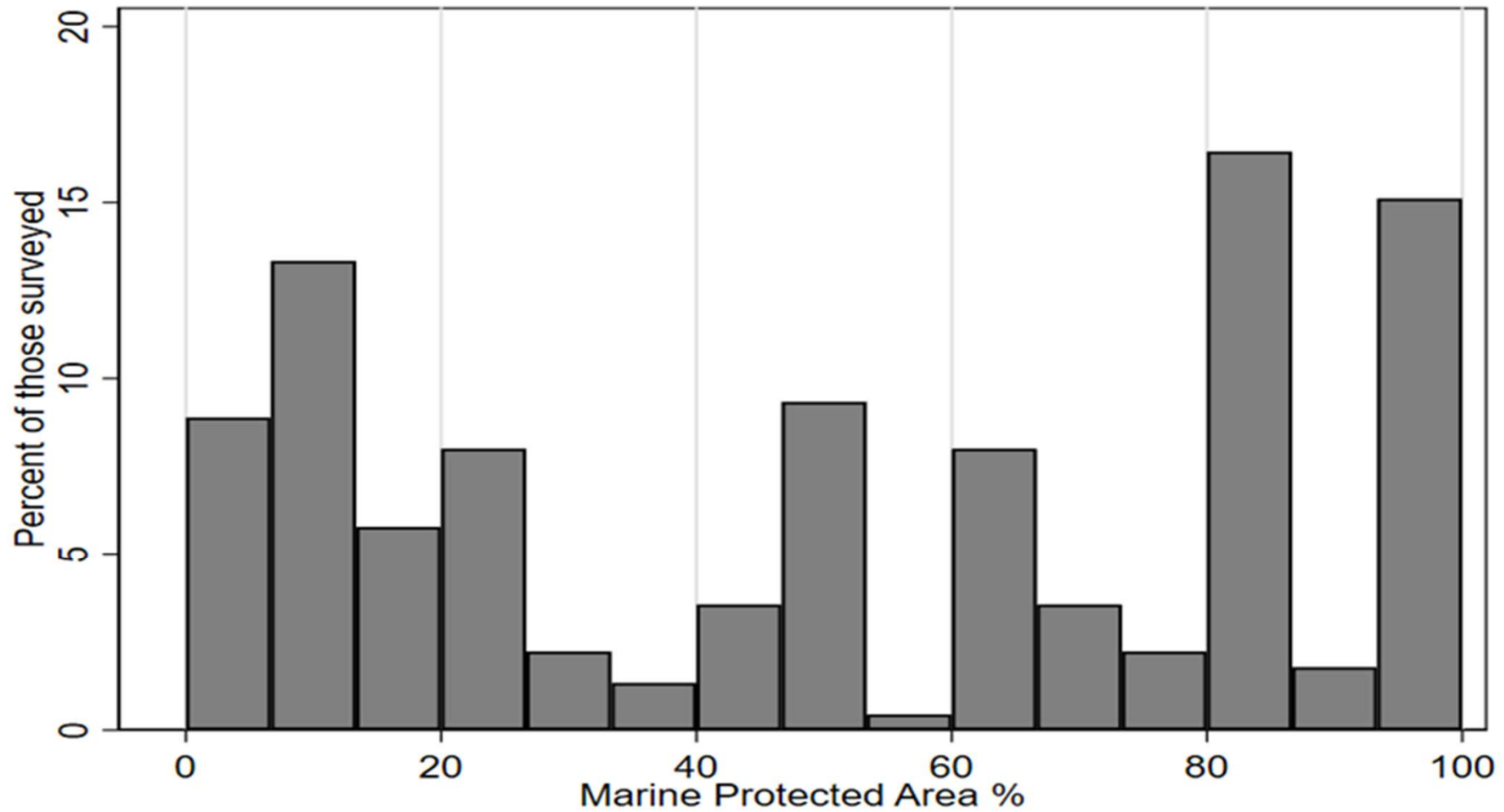
AQUACULTURE



WHO WOULD YOU PREFER TO SEE OWNING FISH FARMS?



WHAT PERCENTAGE, IF ANY, WOULD THEY LIKE TO SEE PROTECTED FROM ALL FORMS OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY?



	MPA	
Carraroe	20.023	(2.04)*
Spideal	35.549	(4.20)**
Cashel	13.93	-1.35
Carna	4.417	-0.83
Clifden	45.852	(4.70)**
Inverin	10.254	-1.11
Female	4.5	-1.01
Age	-4.156	(2.03)*
Seaview	1.217	-0.19
Third level Education	8.141	-1.68
Retired	2.857	-0.34
Student	-0.371	-0.03
Emp	-3.37	-0.53
_cons	51.663	(4.31)**

Standard errors in parenthesis.

*indicates significance at 10%.

** indicates significance at 5%

*** indicates significance at 1%.



RESULTS

- Aquaculture, on average, will be accepted up to very high intensities in Connemara regions (5%= no activities)
- Activities can co-exist with other marine related activities
- Areas currently not exposed to marine activities >higher percentage desire of MPA vs the base case.
- Further investigation :
 1. Why individuals in these regions have such strong views?
 2. Roll out in other Gaeltacht areas



GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH



Údarás na Gaeltachta

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