



Alaska's Next Generation of Fishermen School Survey Findings

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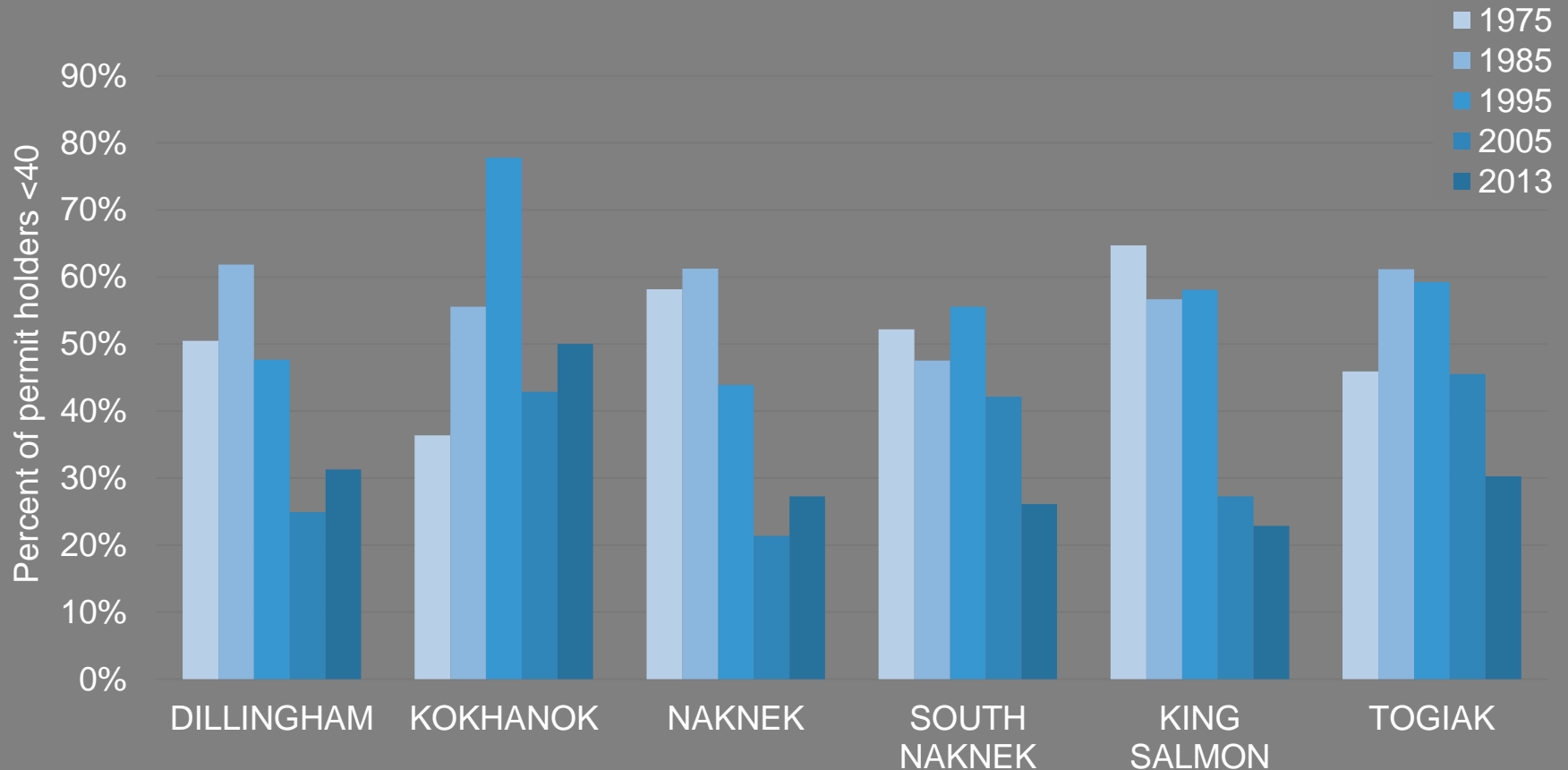
What does “graying of the fleet” mean?

- Commercial fishermen are growing older, retiring but young fishermen aren't taking their places



Permit holders under 40 in Bristol Bay

By community, 1975-2013





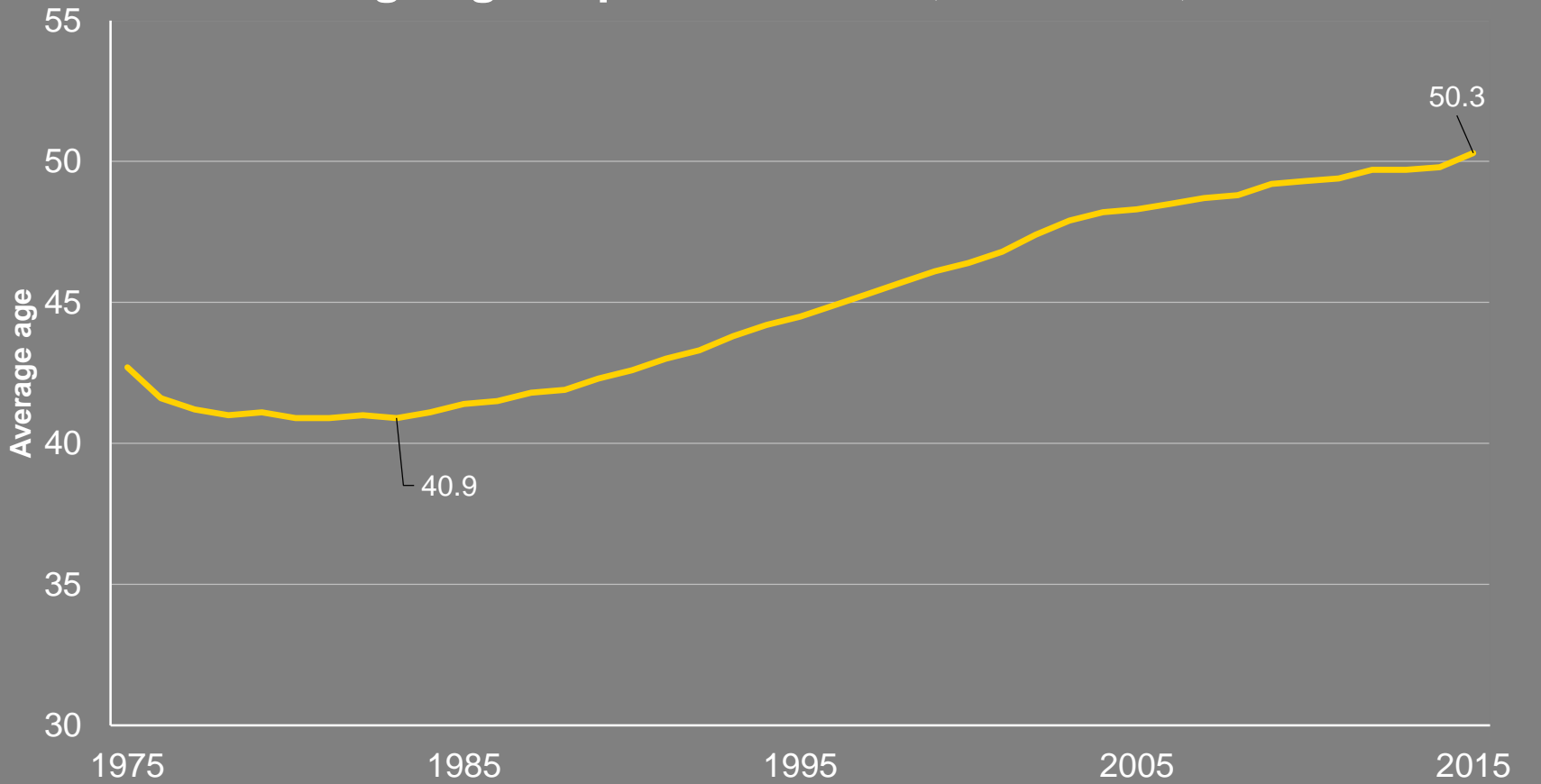
What does “graying of the fleet” mean?

- Fewer young fishermen in the fleet = older average age of fishermen
- *What is the average age of a permit holder in Alaska’s commercial fisheries?*



Aging Fleet

Average age of permit holders, statewide, 1975-2015



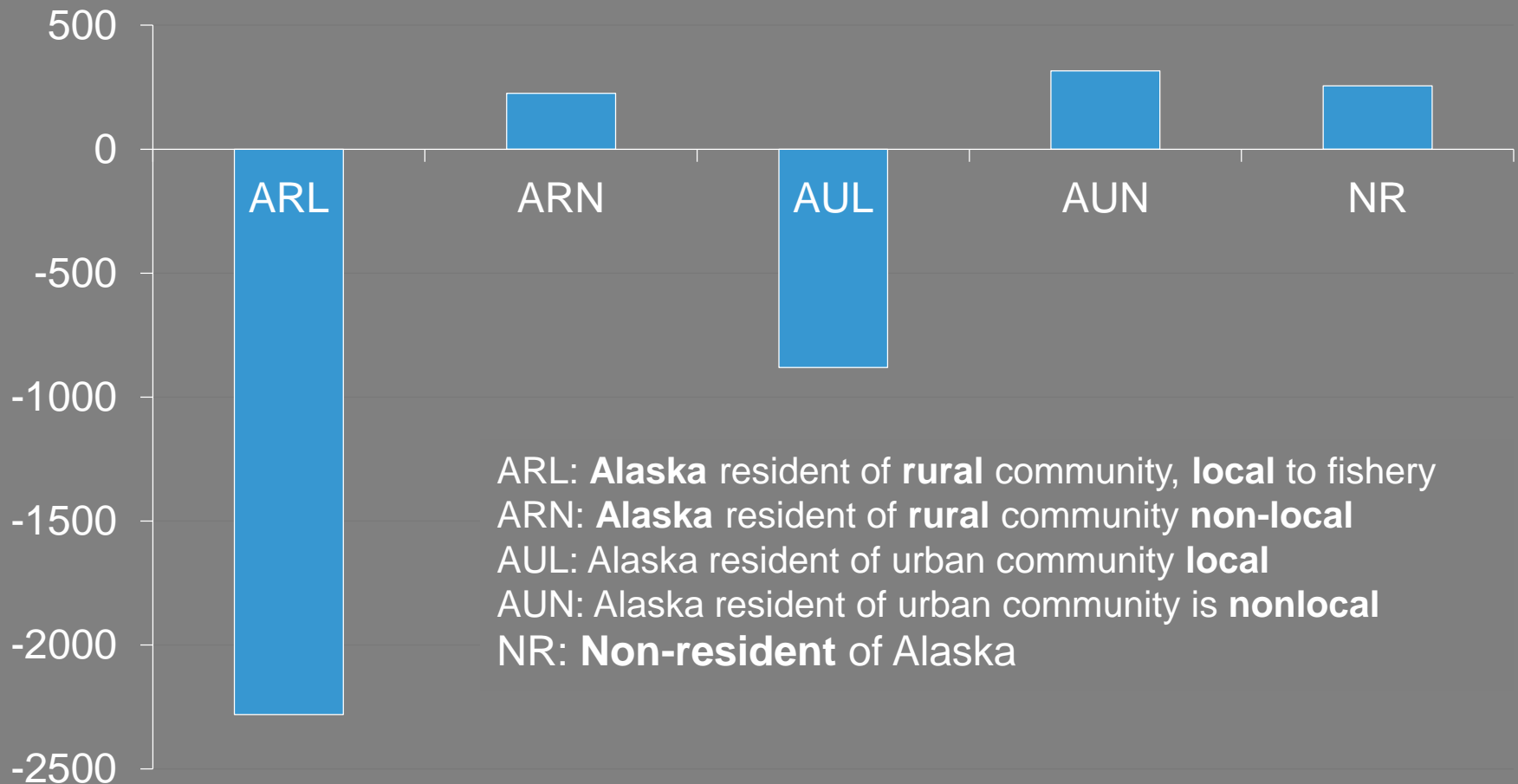


Permit outmigration

- 2 ways permits leave local communities
- Permits are bought by people that live outside Bristol Bay
 - Other places in Alaska
 - Other states
- People that have permits move outside Bristol Bay



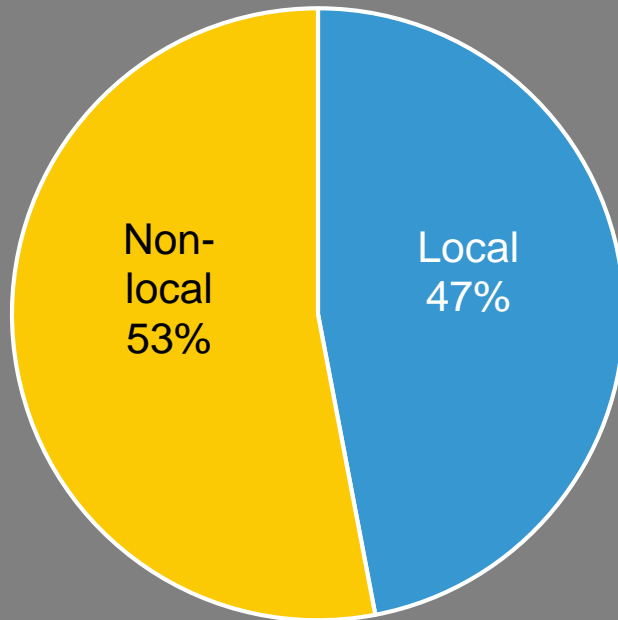
Loss of permits from rural villages, statewide



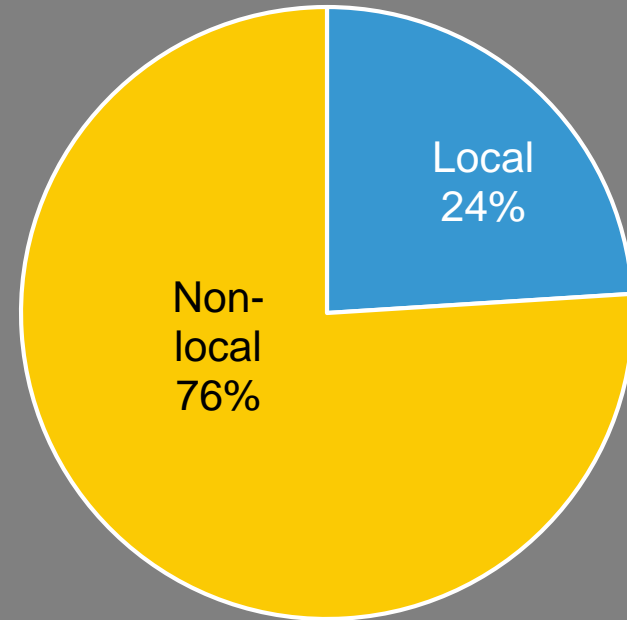


Loss of local permits in Bristol Bay

1975



2015





So why are we here?

- We are trying to understand how young people in Bristol Bay feel about commercial fishing and their communities, and how they are connected to fishing
- We are going to
 - Share survey results
 - Ask you for your ideas/thoughts
- *Do you think it's important for young people in Bristol Bay to have opportunities to fish?*



Who completed this survey?

A vertical poster for a school survey. At the top is the 'ALASKA'S NEXT GENERATION OF FISHERMEN' logo and a colorful illustration of a sailboat, fish, and crab. Below this, it says 'a school survey for' followed by 'BRISTOL BAY + KODIAK ARCHIPELAGO' in large bold letters. Underneath is the subtitle 'experiences and opinions about fishing and your community'. The middle section contains a grid of eight small photographs showing coastal scenes, a boat, and fishing equipment. At the bottom, there are two columns of logos: 'RESEARCH PARTNERS' with logos for 'Alaska Marine Conservation Council' and 'UAF Alaska Fisheries Center', and 'FUNDERS' with logos for 'Sea Grant Alaska' and a globe icon.

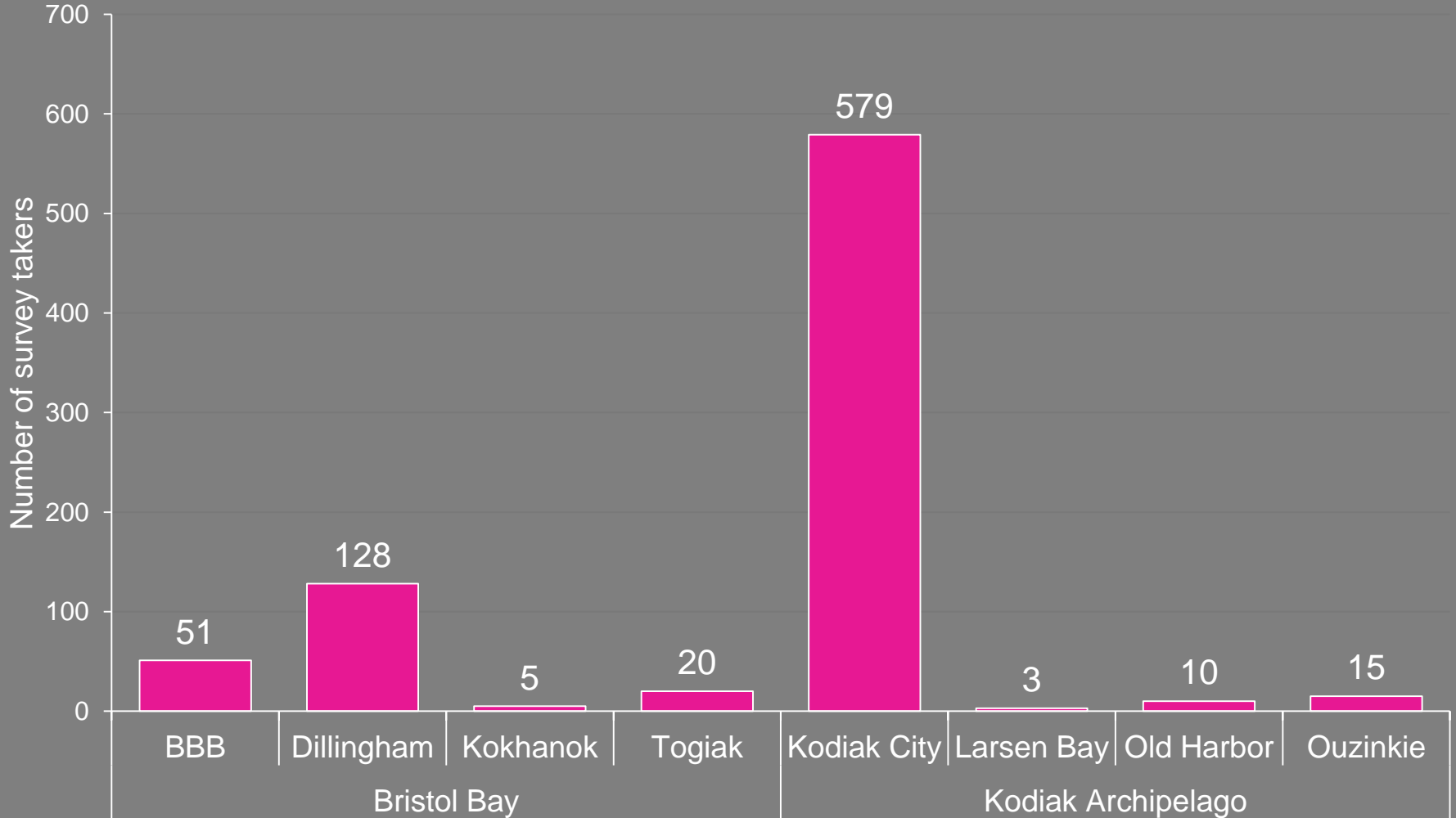


Who completed this survey?



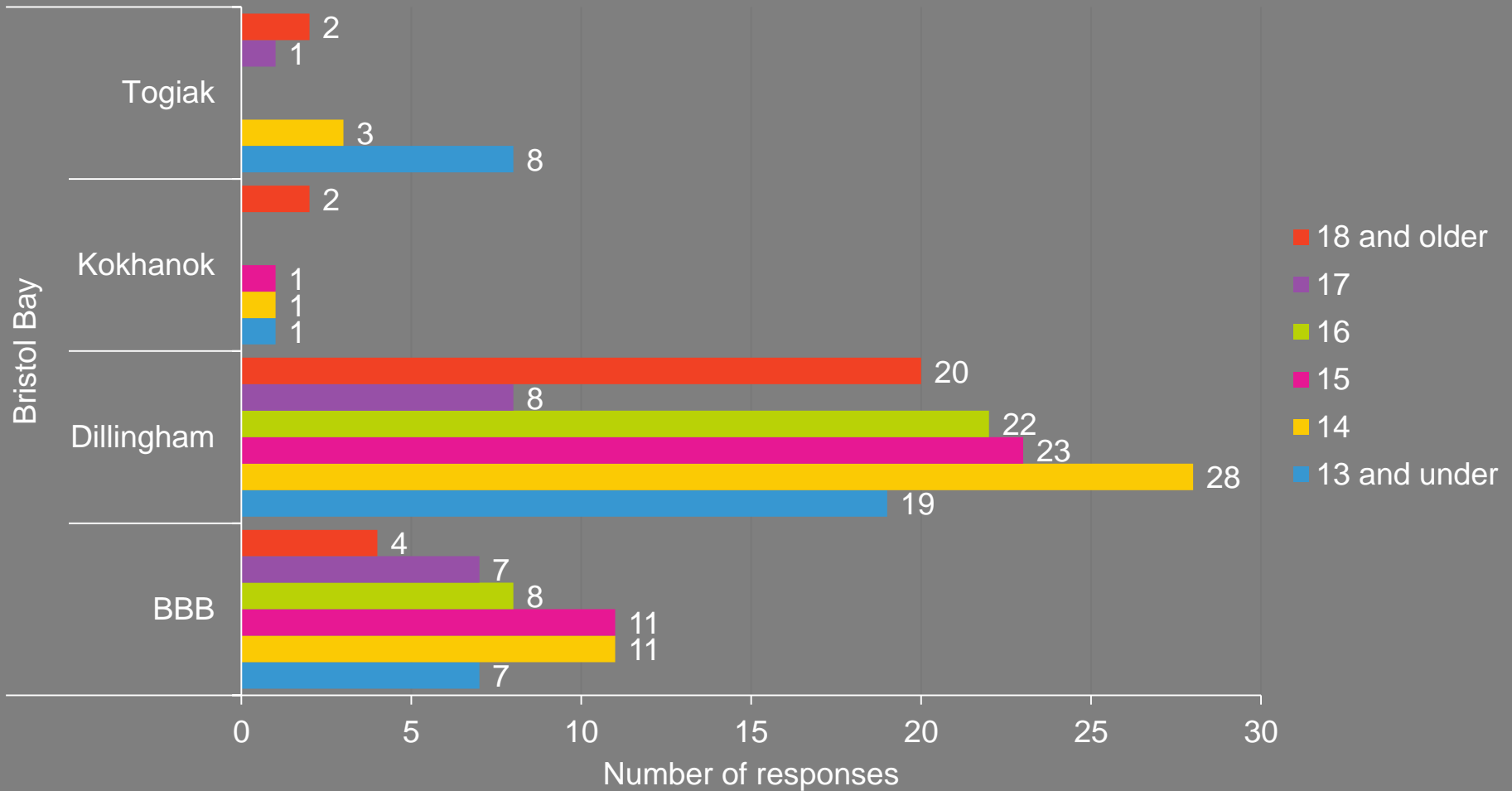


Survey distribution by community



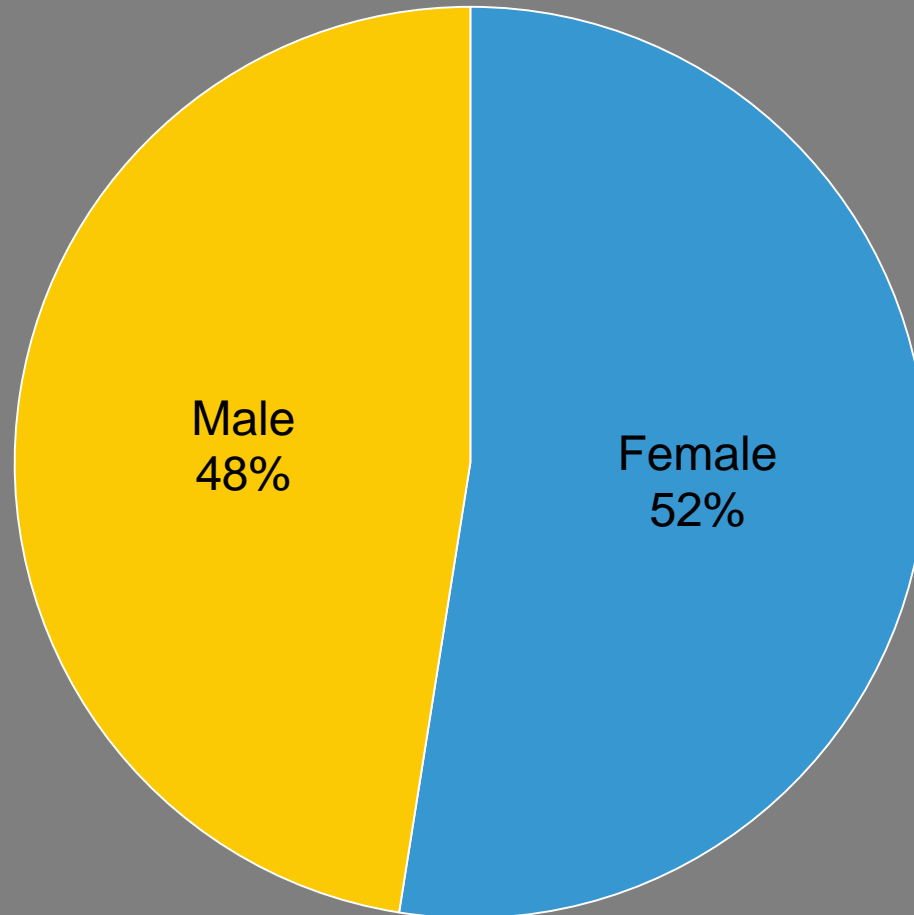


Age of survey respondents: Bristol Bay





Survey respondents by gender: Dillingham



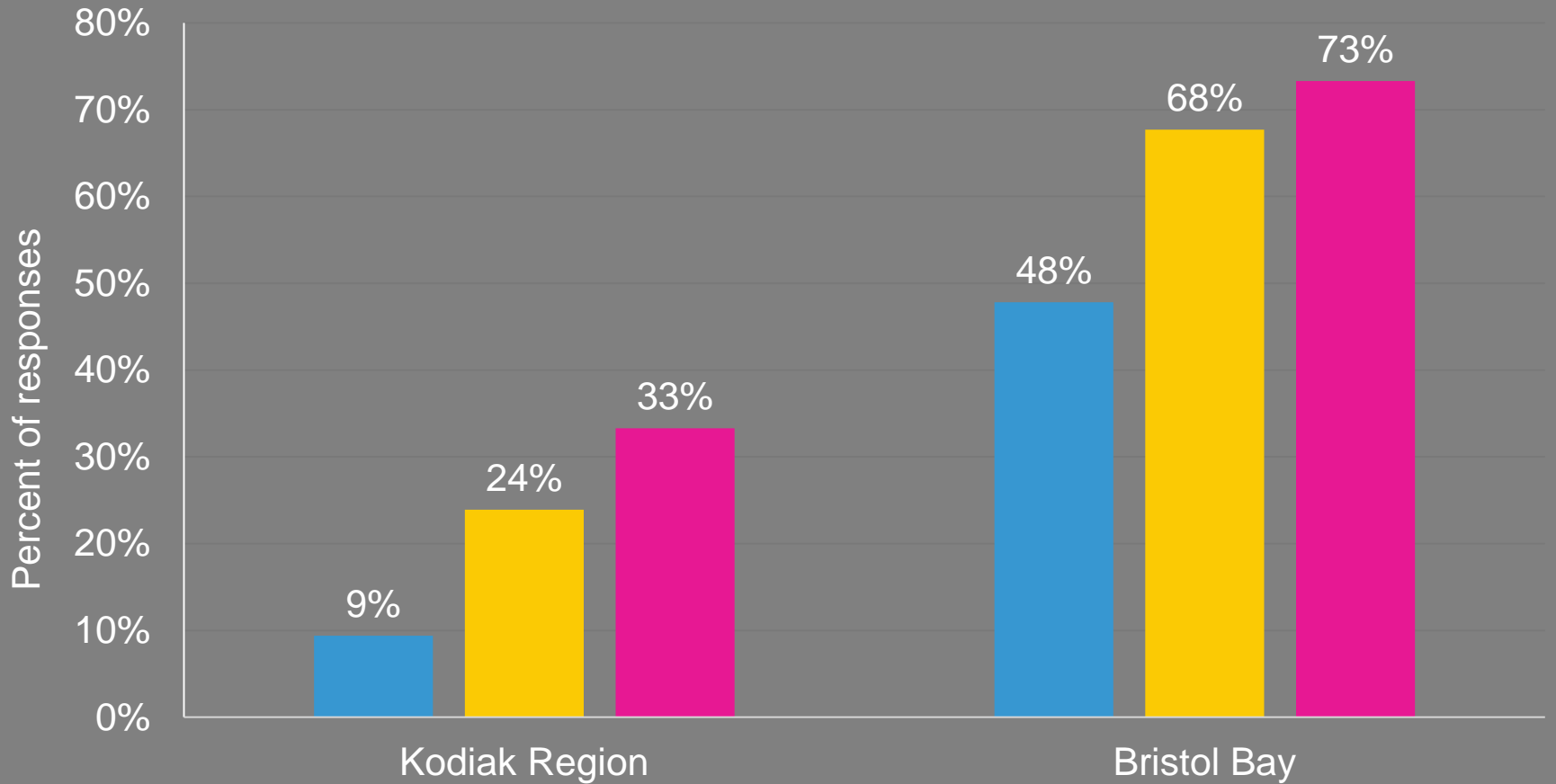


Key questions about fishing and community

- Raise hand if:
 - Anyone in your family used to fish
- Keep it raised if:
 - Anyone in your family fishes now
- Keep it raised if:
 - You have ever fished before or fish now



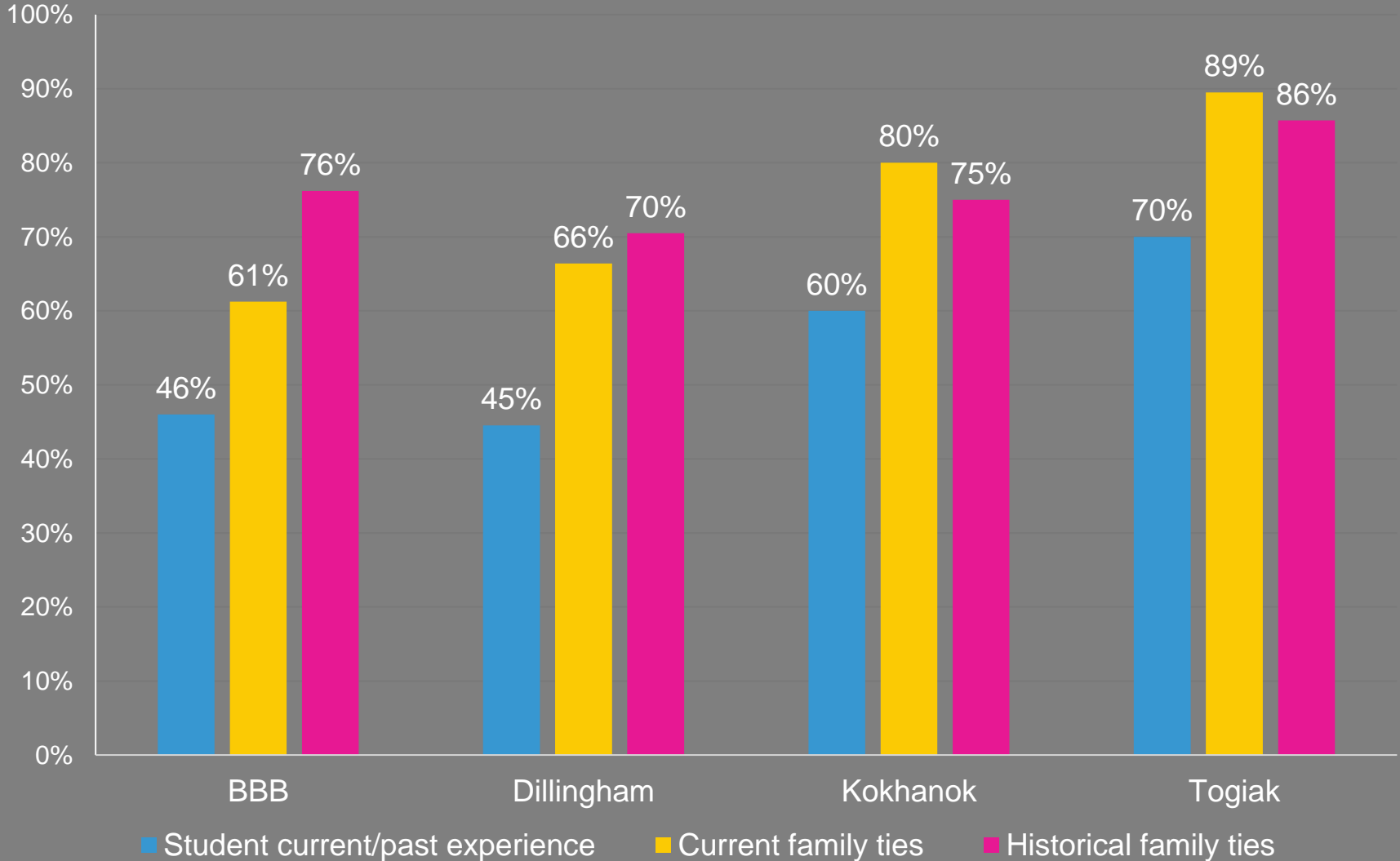
Ties to fishing



■ Youth engaged in fishing ■ Current family ties to fishing ■ Historic family ties to fishing
Student Survey Data: Kodiak n=609; Bristol Bay n=204

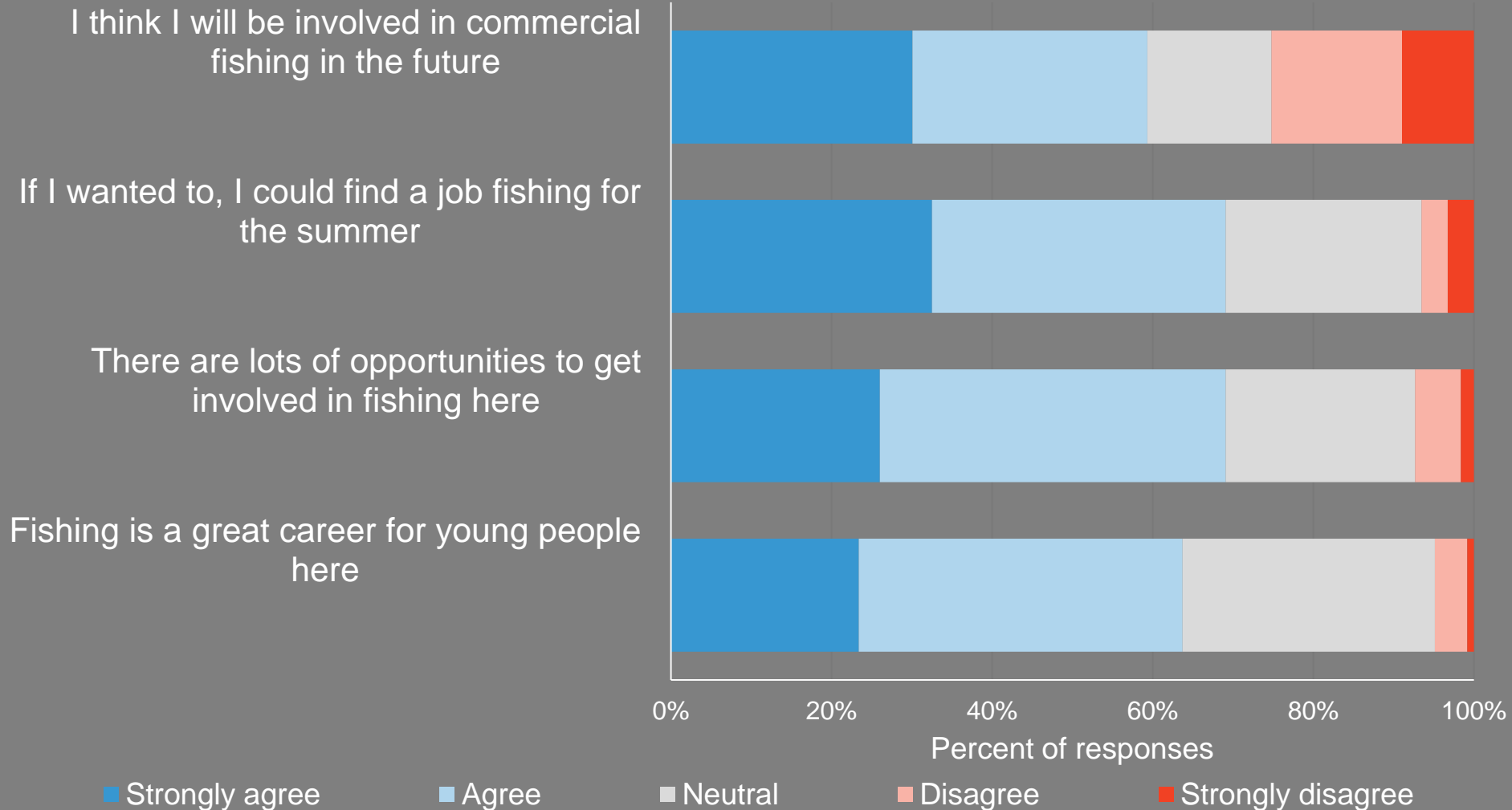


Ties to fishing by community: Bristol Bay Region





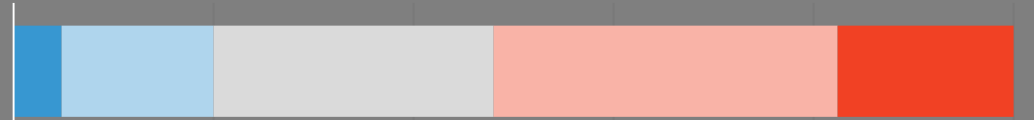
Fishing attitudes: Dillingham



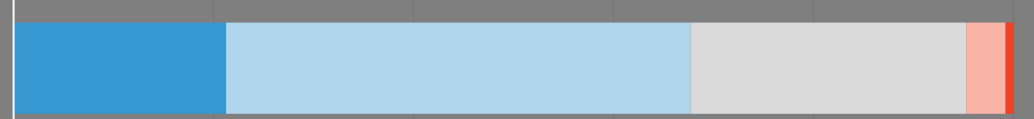


Community attitudes: Dillingham

There are good opportunities to learn fishing skills at school



Young people can learn fishing and marine-related skills here



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Percent of responses

■ Strongly agree

■ Agree

■ Neutral

■ Disagree

■ Strongly disagree



Your turn to choose!

Top concern about community in DLG

What percent of DLG students want to fish in the future?

Agree or disagree: I'm happy living here

Are girls or boys more likely to have fishing experience?

Agree or disagree: fishing is too hard

Best things about DLG

Agree or disagree: fishing is fun

Which BB community had the most community pride?

Reasons why DLG students don't want to fish commercially

Carry on!

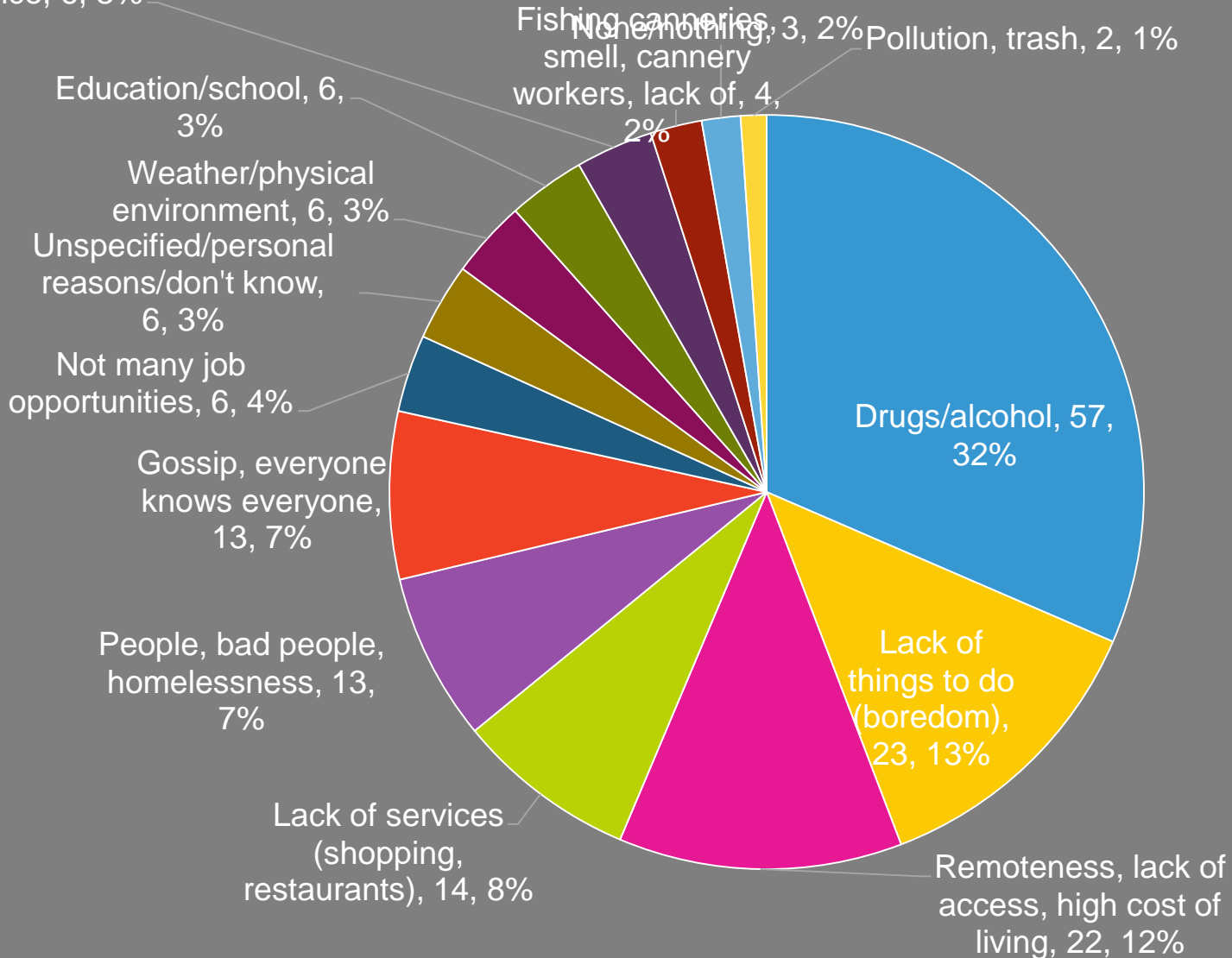


We asked: “what are your biggest concerns about your community?”

What was the number one answer that students gave?



What are your biggest concerns about your community? Dillingham



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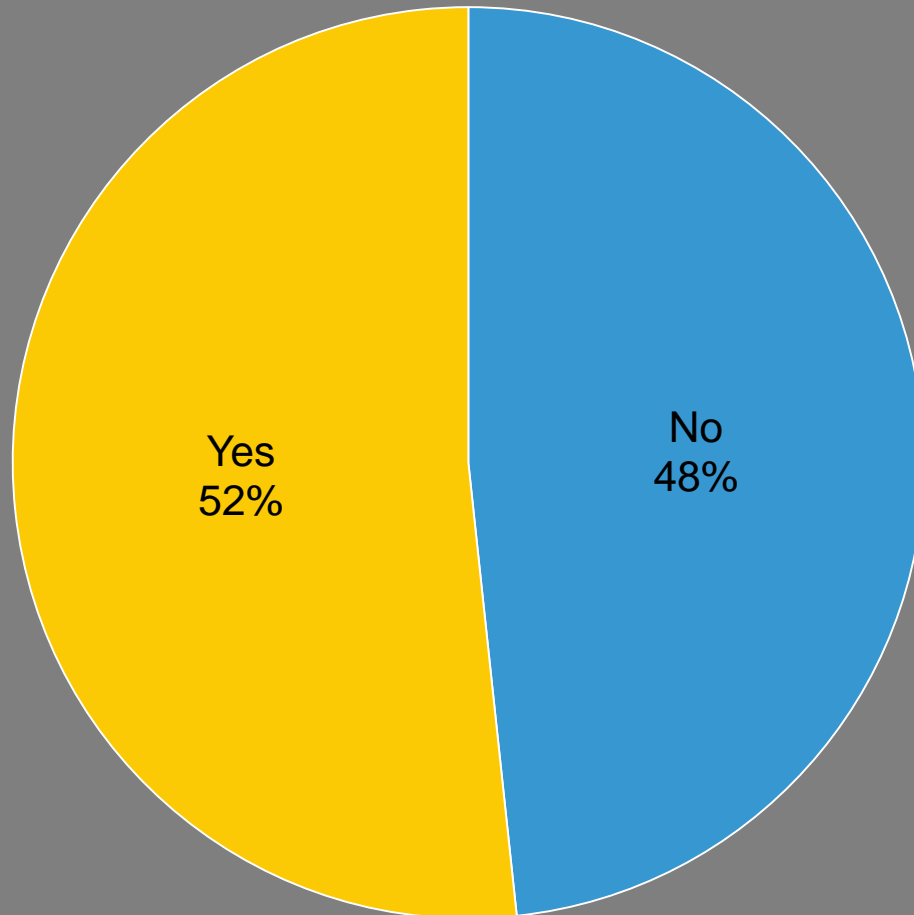


What percent of DLG students want to fish commercially in the future?

- a) 52%
- b) 7%
- c) 89%



Are you interested in getting more involved in commercial fishing?
Dillingham



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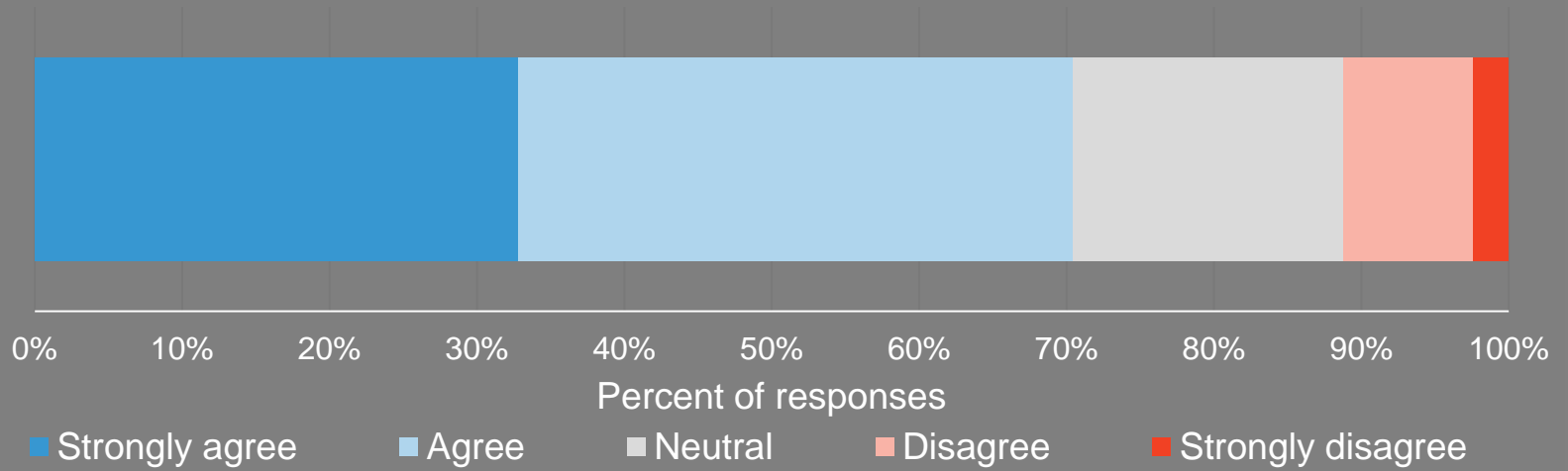


We asked DLG students if they agreed or disagreed with the statement: “I’m happy living here”

Did more students agree with or disagree with this statement?



I'm happy living here





Were boys or girls in DLG more likely to have fishing experience?



Gender	# with fishing experience	Total #	Percent
Male	29	57	51%
Female	24	63	38%

Boys were 33% more likely to have fishing experience than girls.

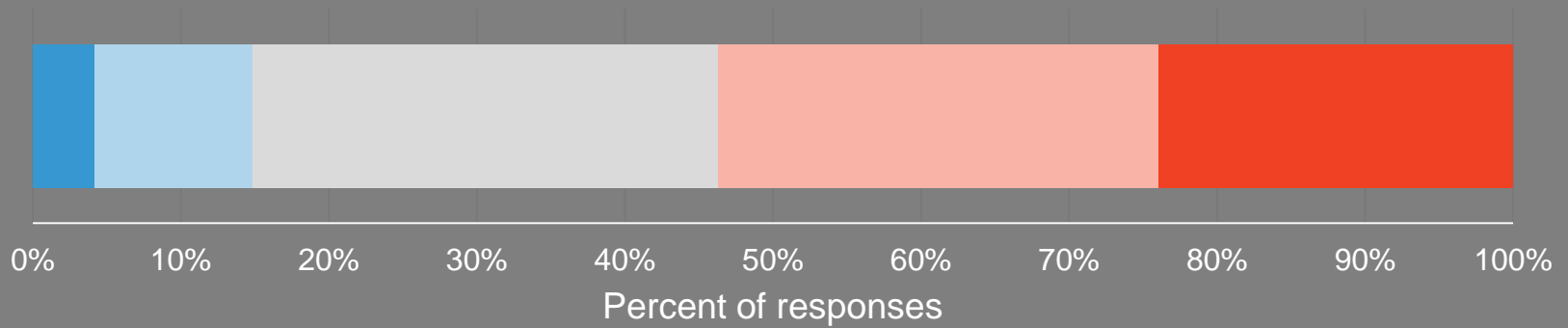


We asked DLG students if they agreed or disagreed with the statement: “fishing is too hard”

Did more students agree with or disagree with this statement?



Fishing is too hard (tiring, painful, cold, etc.)



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

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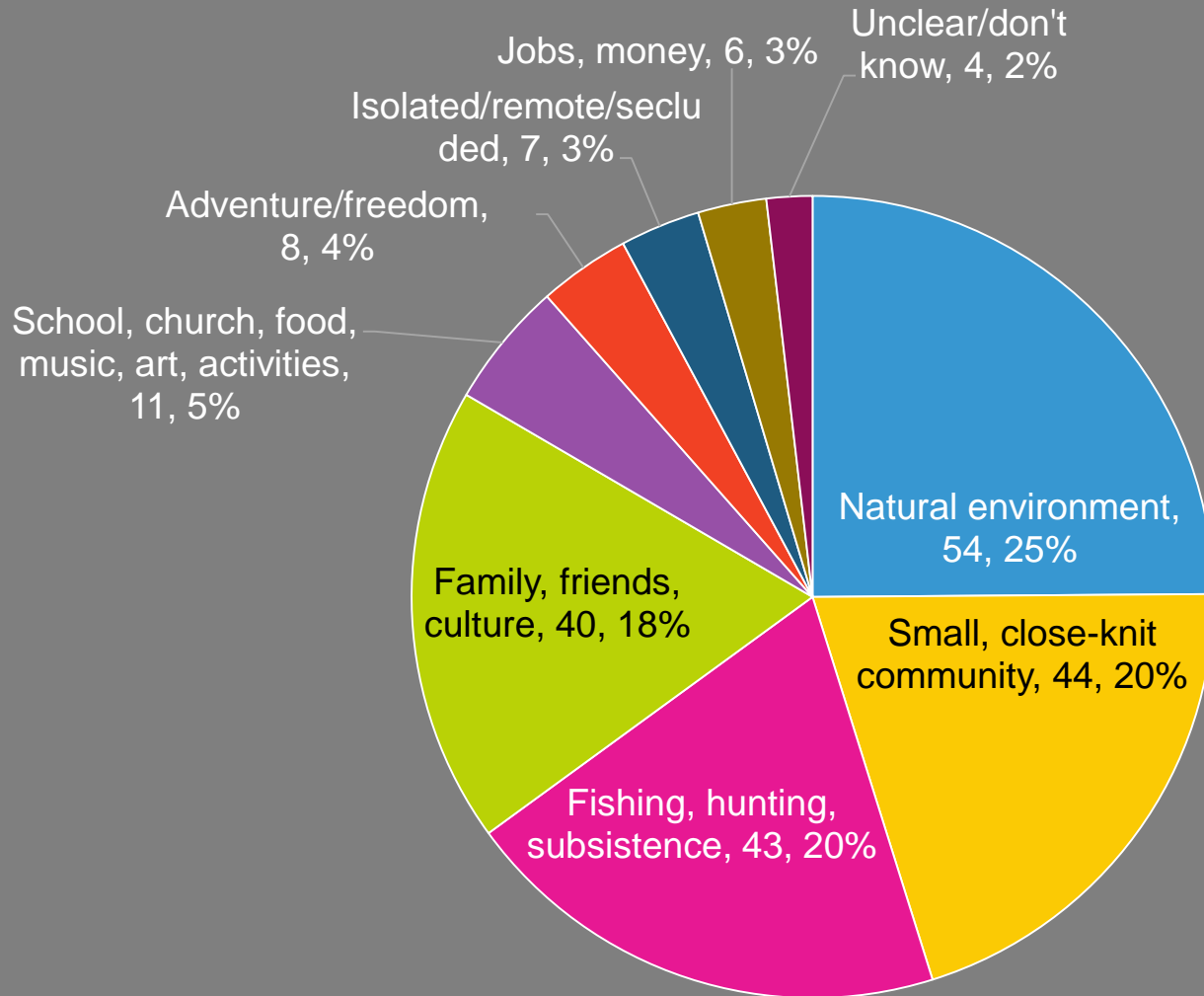


We asked DLG students: “what are the best things about your community?”

What was the number one answer?



What are the best things about your community? Dillingham



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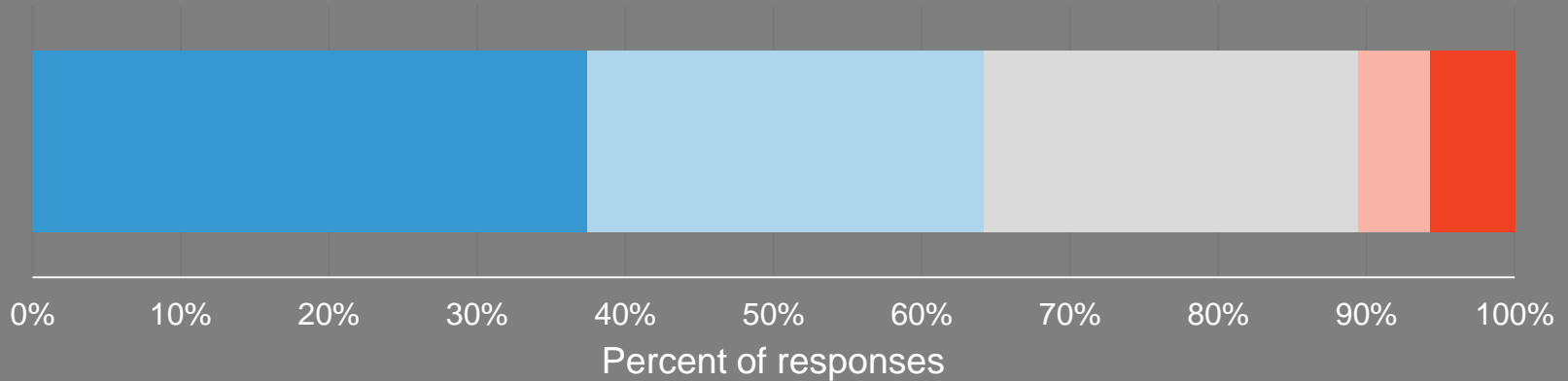


We asked DLG students if they agreed or disagreed with the statement: “fishing is fun”

Did more students agree with or disagree with this statement?



Fishing is fun



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

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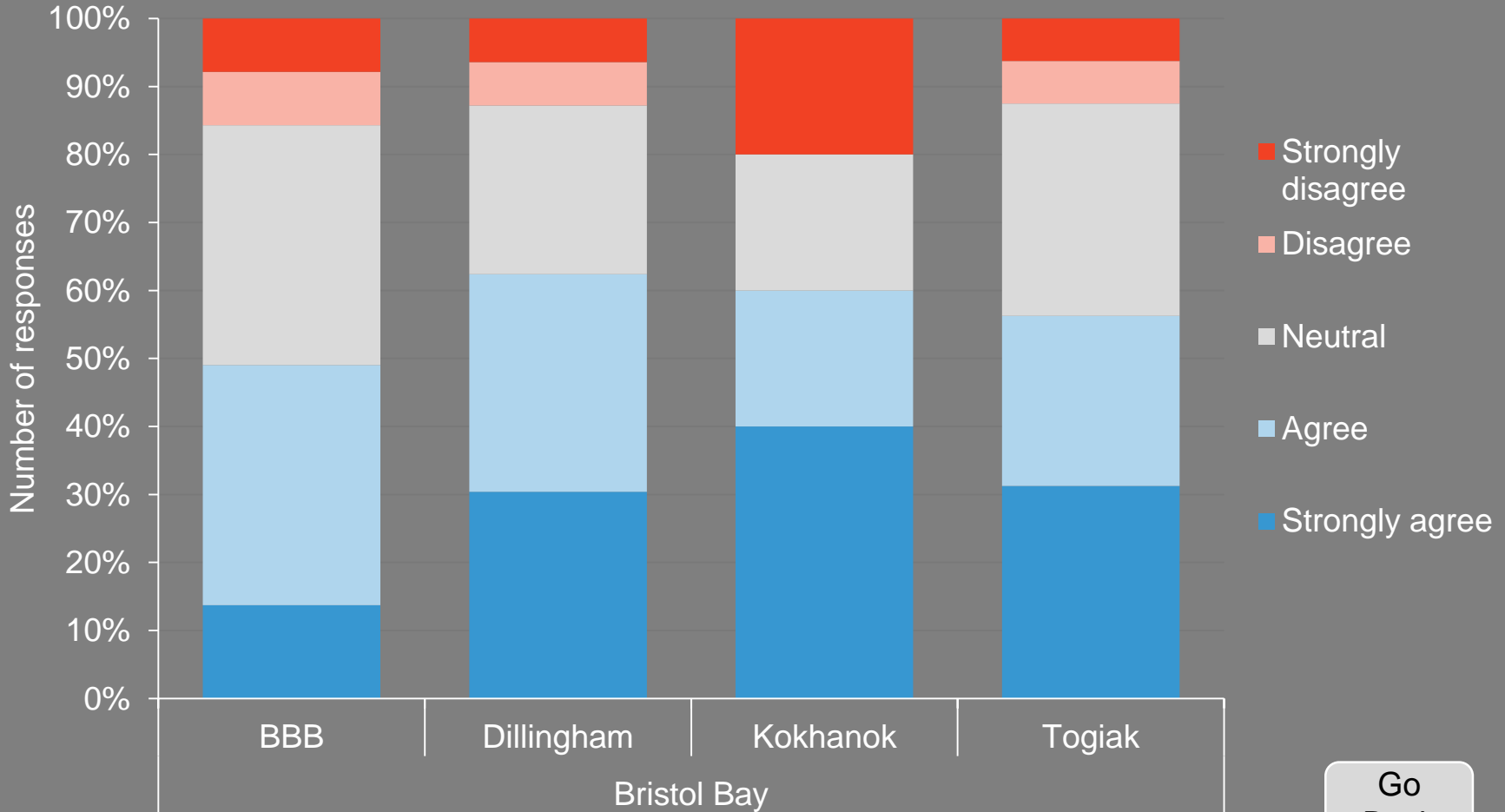


Which Bristol Bay community had the most community pride?

- a) Kokhanok
- b) Togiak
- c) Dillingham
- d) Bristol Bay Borough



I'm proud to live in this community



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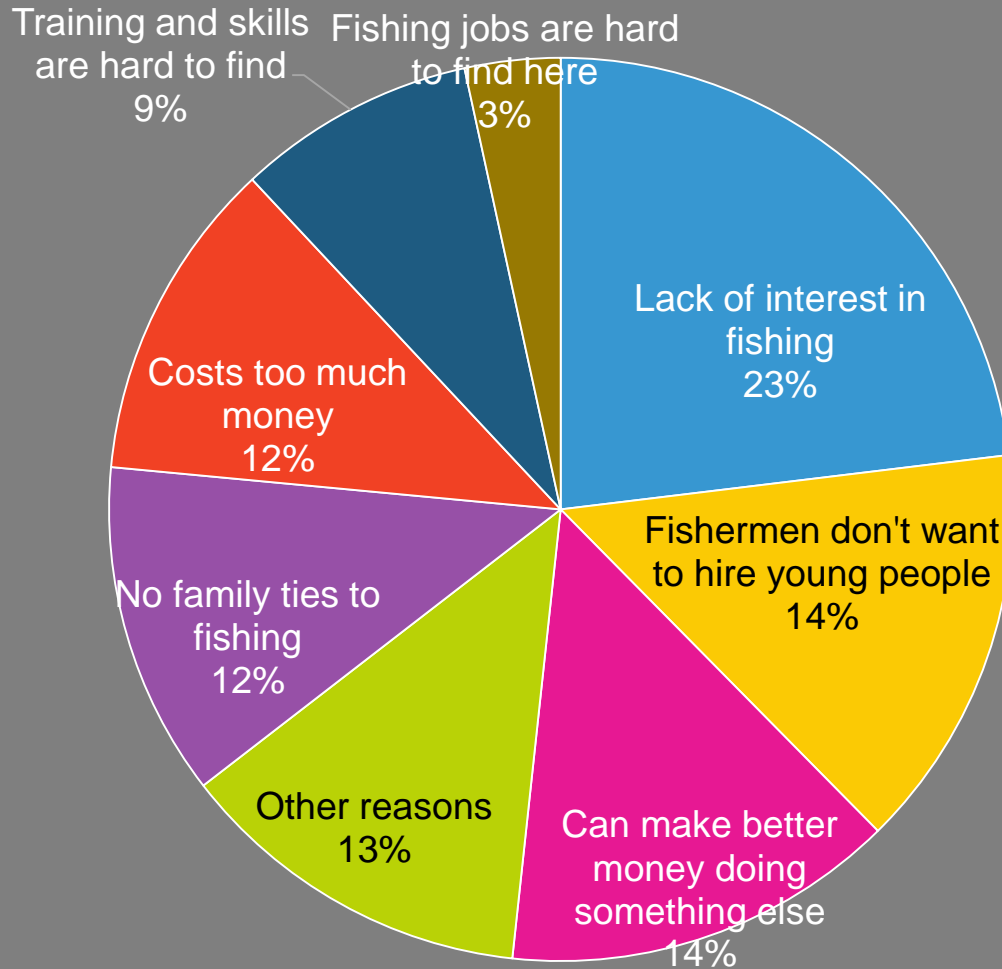


We asked students: “why might you or another young person not want to enter commercial fishing?”

Name a reason that was given.



Why might you or another young person not enter commercial fishing? Dillingham



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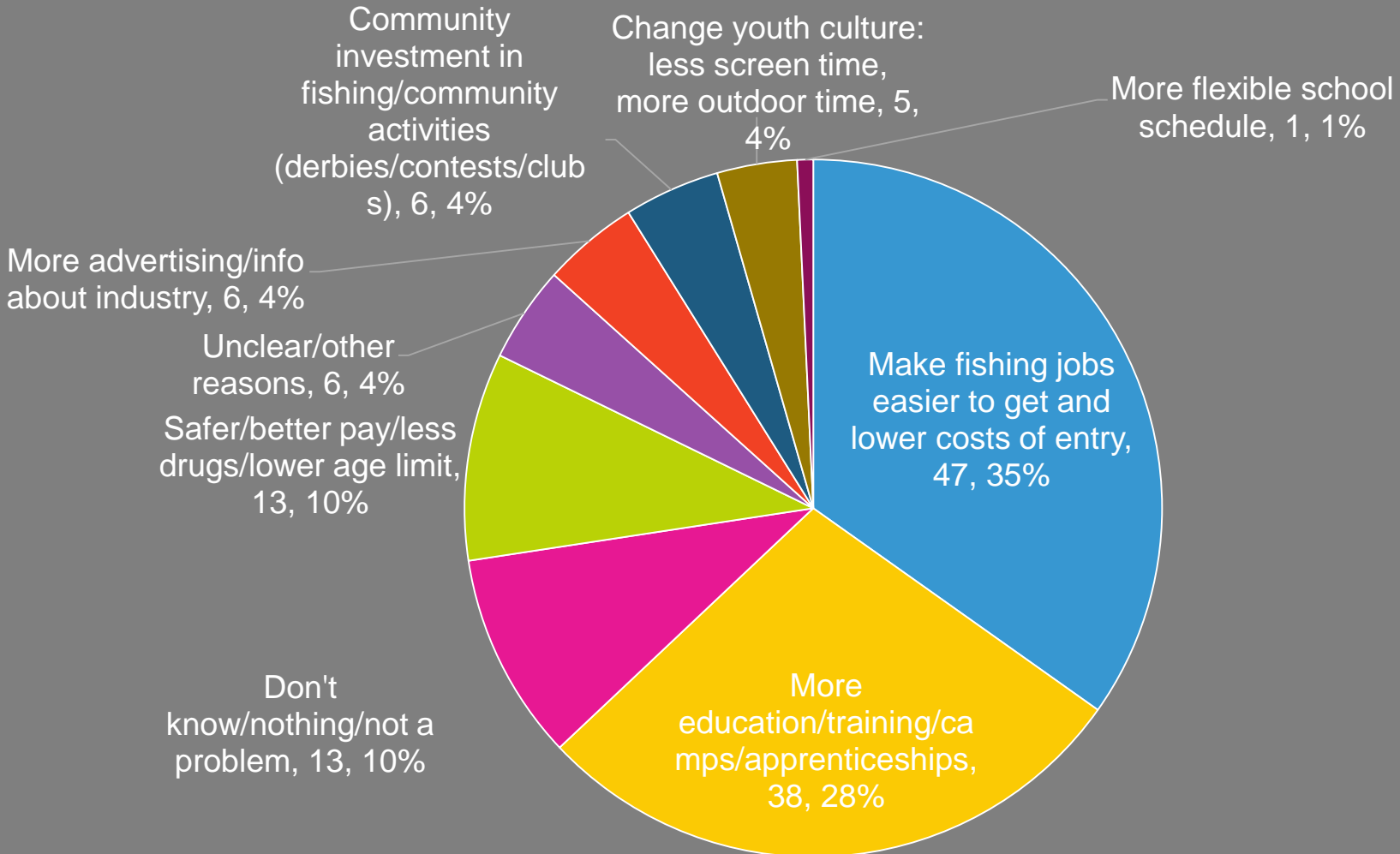


One more thing

- Do you think that the graying of the fleet is a problem?
- If you do, what are some suggestions that might make it better for young people trying to get into commercial fishing?
- What are some changes you would like to see in your community?



What changes could be made in your community or region to help young people get into fishing? Dillingham





Thanks! Please keep in touch!

fishermen.alaska.edu/

Facebook #AKNextGenFishermen

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