

Survation Scottish Environment Link Survey November 2022



Scottish
Environment
LINK

Conducted by Survation on behalf of Scottish Environment Link.
Methodology: Online interviews of people aged 16+ living in Scotland.
Fieldwork: 31st October – 6th November 2022.
Sample size: 1033

Methodology

Fieldwork Dates

- 31st October – 6th November 2022

Data Collection Method

- The survey was conducted via online panel. Invitations to complete surveys were sent out to members of the panel. Differential response rates from different demographic groups were taken into account.

Population Sampled

- Residents aged 16+ living in Scotland

Sample Size

- 1,033

Data Weighting

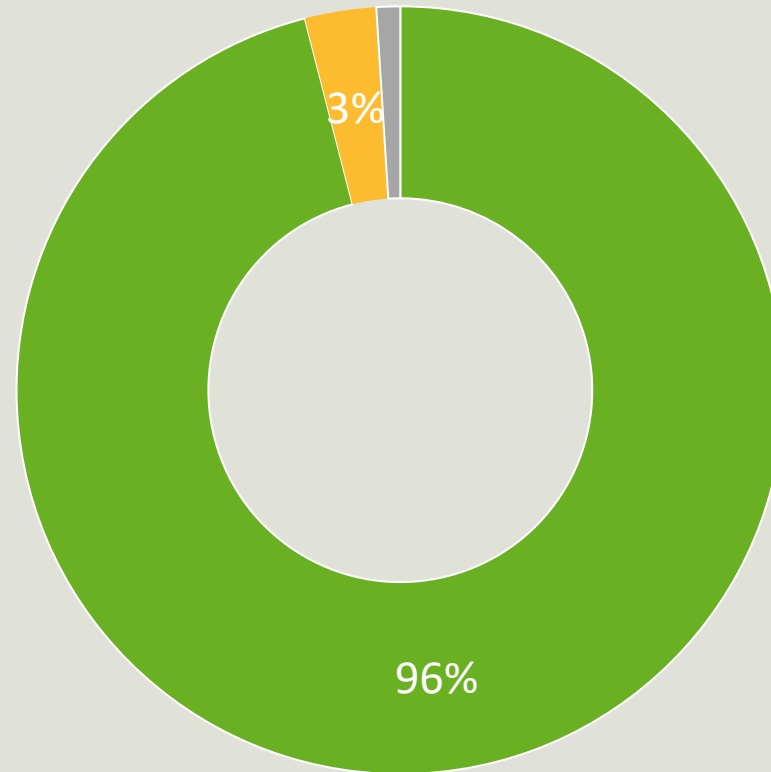
- Data were weighted to the profile of all adults in Scotland aged 18+. Data were weighted by age, sex, region, highest level of qualification, 2021 Holyrood Election Vote, 2019 General Election Vote, 2016 EU Referendum Vote, and 2014 Independence Referendum Vote, .
- Targets for the weighted data were derived from Office for National Statistics Data.

Margin of Error

- Because only a sample of the full population was interviewed, all results are subject to margin of error, meaning that not all differences are statistically significant.
- For example, in a question where 50% (the worst-case scenario as far as margin of error is concerned) gave a particular answer, with the sample of 1033 it is 95% certain that the 'true' value will fall within the range of 3% from the sample result.
- Subsamples from the cross-breaks will be subject to higher margin of error, conclusions drawn from crossbreaks with very small sub-samples should be treated with caution.

Q1) The natural environment includes Scotland's landscapes, seas, coasts and wildlife.

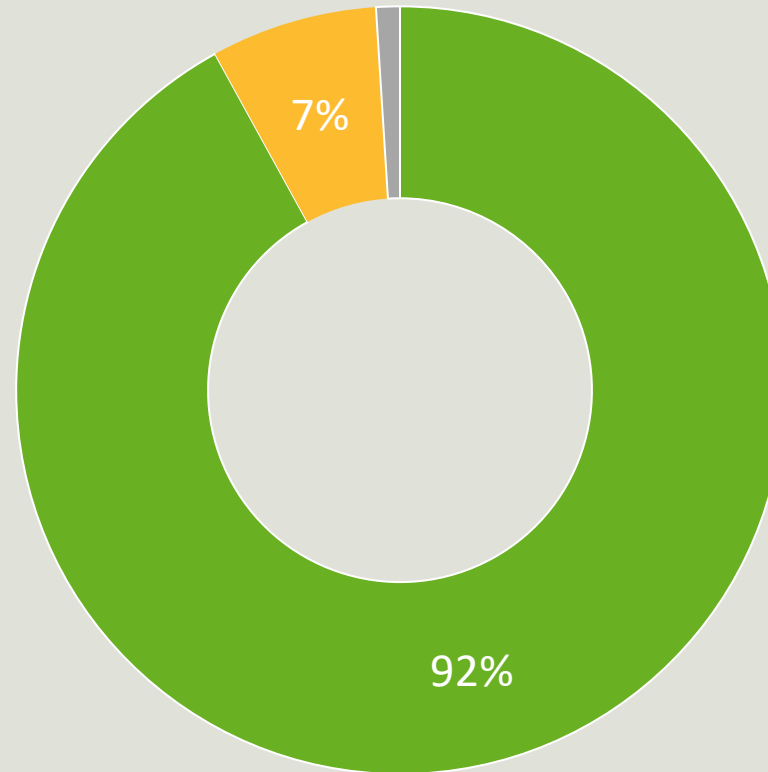
How important, if at all, do you think Scotland's natural environment is to the country as a whole?



■ NET Important ■ NET Unimportant ■ Don't Know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

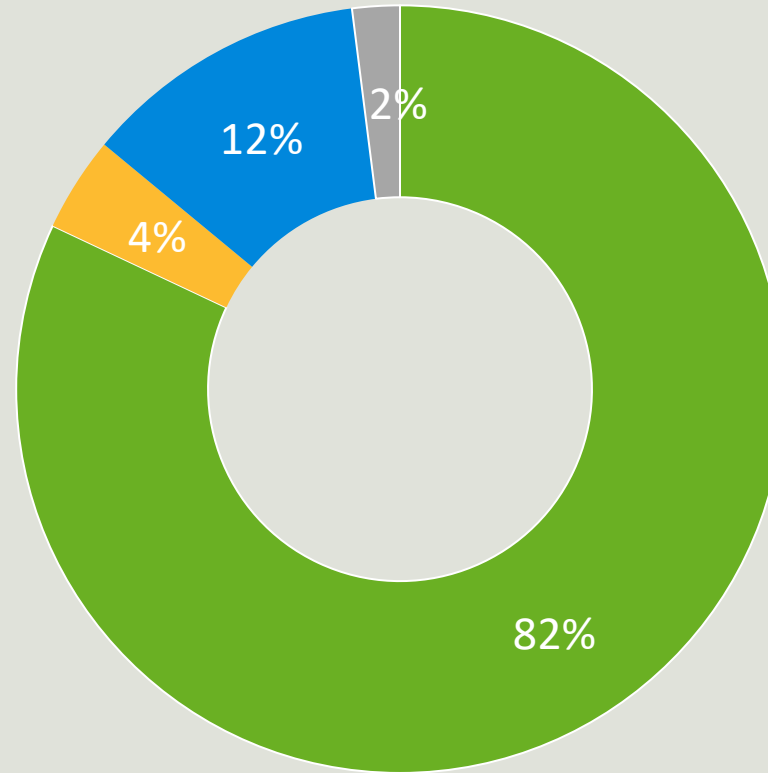
Q2) How important is the natural environment to you personally?



■ NET: Important ■ NET: Unimportant ■ Don't Know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

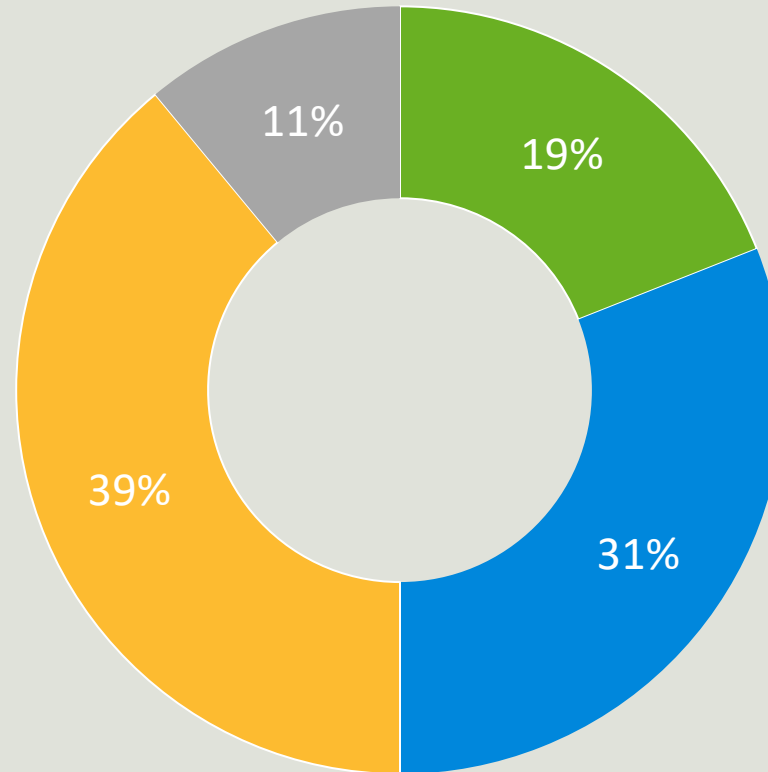
Q3) How would you rate the condition of Scotland's nature?



NET: Good NET: Bad Neither good nor bad Don't Know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

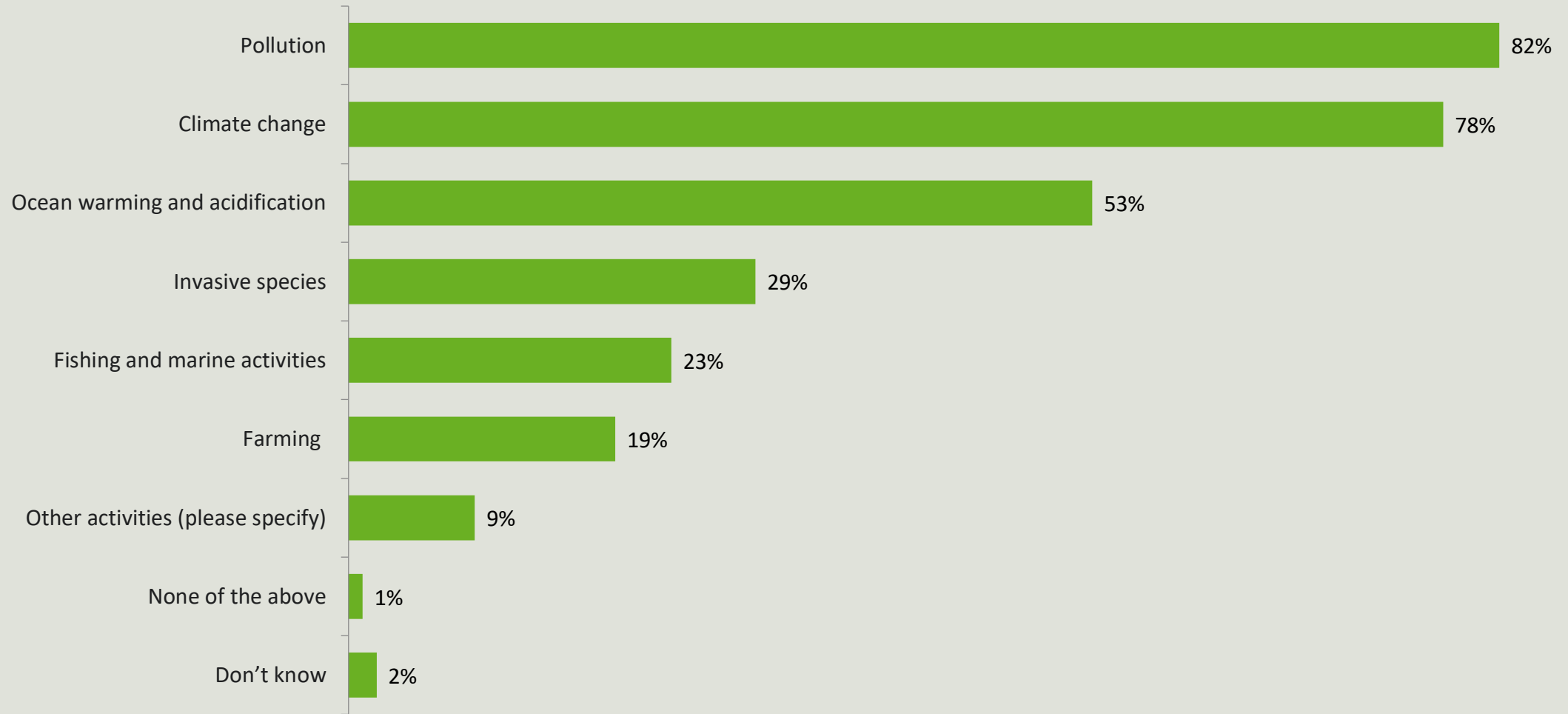
Q4) Within your lifetime, do you think the state of Scotland's natural environment has improved or worsened?



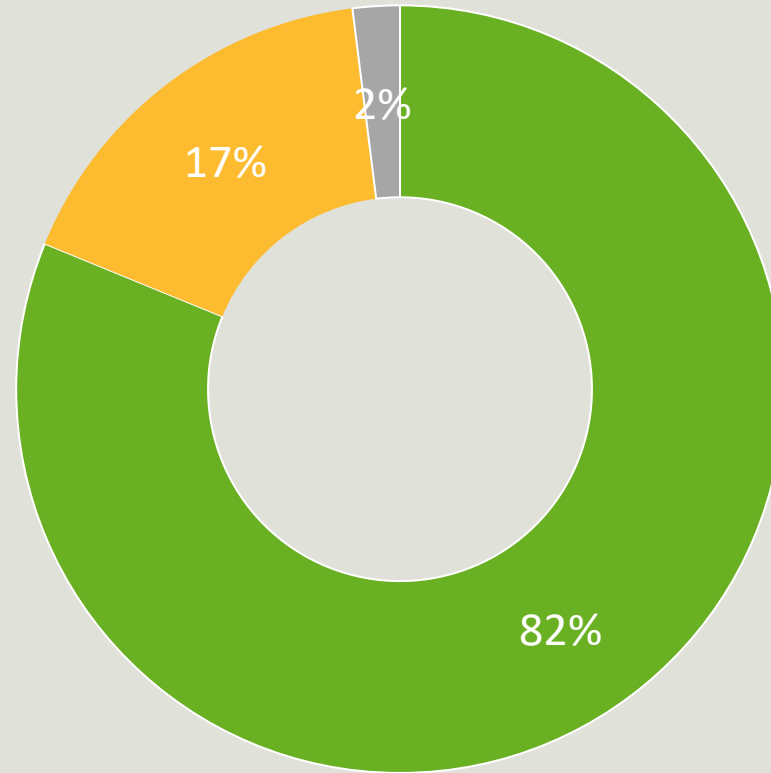
■ Improved ■ Stayed the same ■ Worsened ■ Don't know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

Q5) Which of the following, if any, do you think poses the greatest risk to Scotland's nature? Please choose three.



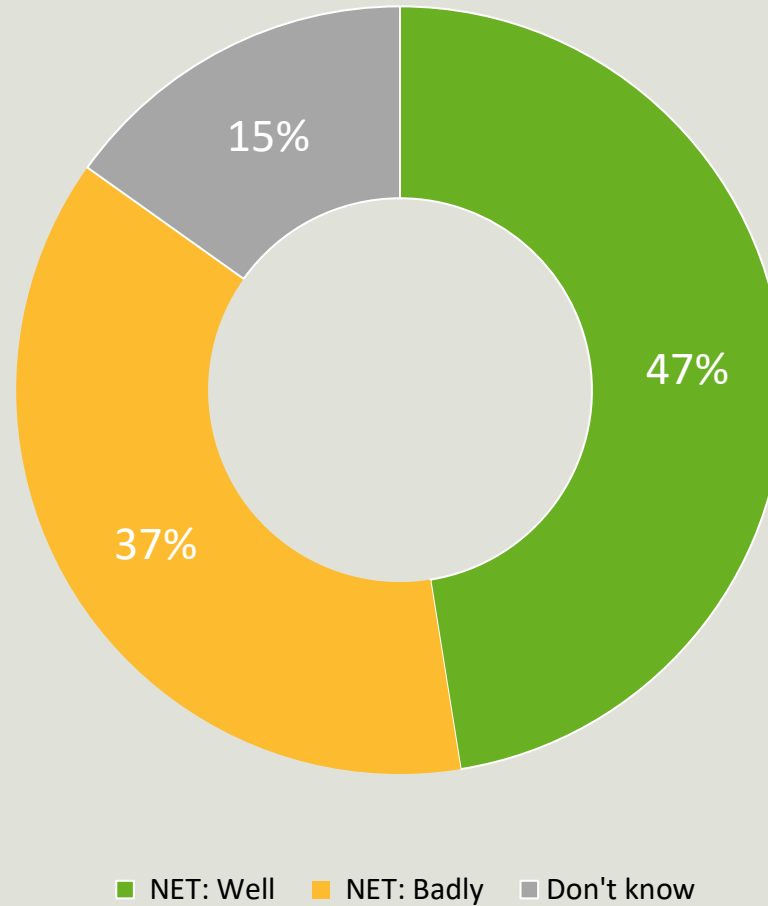
Q6) To what extent are you concerned, if at all, about the threat of climate change and human activity to Scotland's natural environment?



■ NET: Concerned ■ NET: Unconcerned ■ Don't know

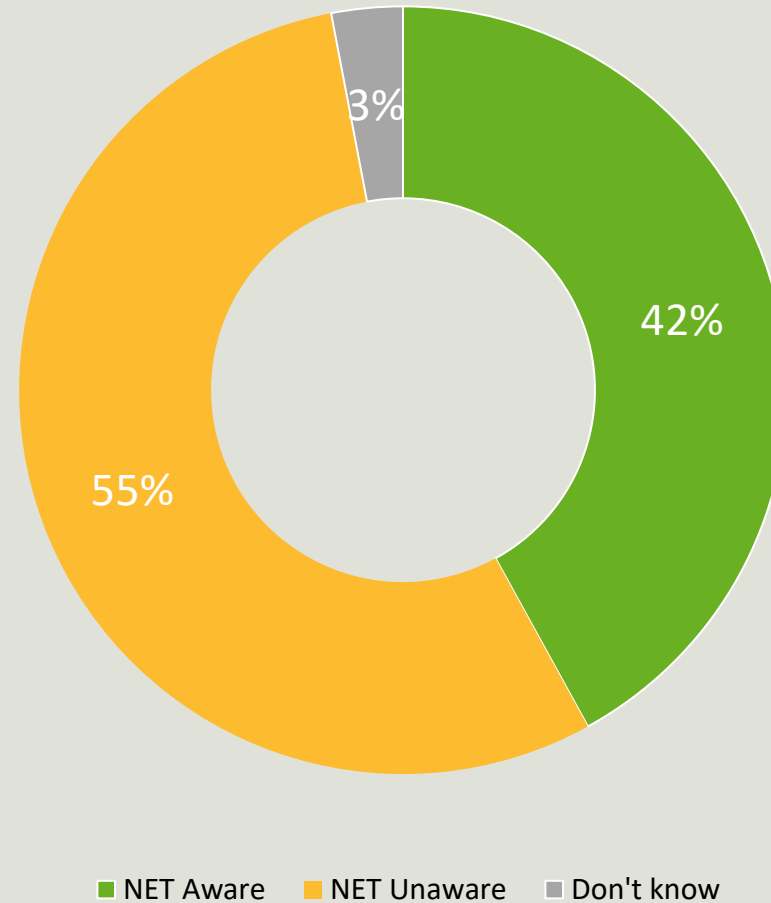
BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

Q7) How well or badly do you think the Scottish Government is doing in protecting nature?



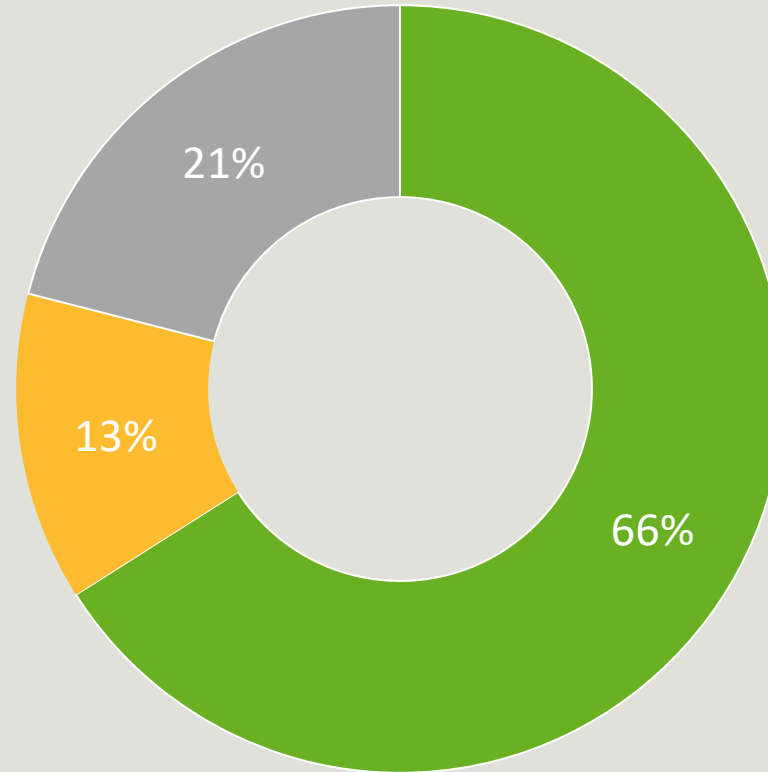
BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

Q8) Last year the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, was held in Glasgow. This December the equivalent event for nature, the UN Biodiversity conference (COP15), will take place in Montreal. To what extent, if at all, are you aware of COP15?



BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

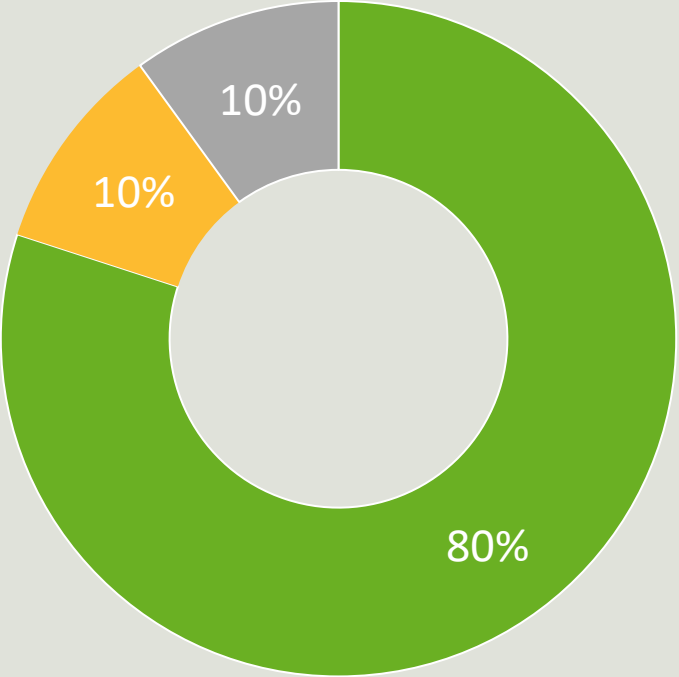
Q9) At the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference, a global target is expected to be agreed upon, working to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



■ Scotland should adopt this '30 by 30' target ■ Scotland should NOT adopt this '30 by 30' target ■ Don't know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

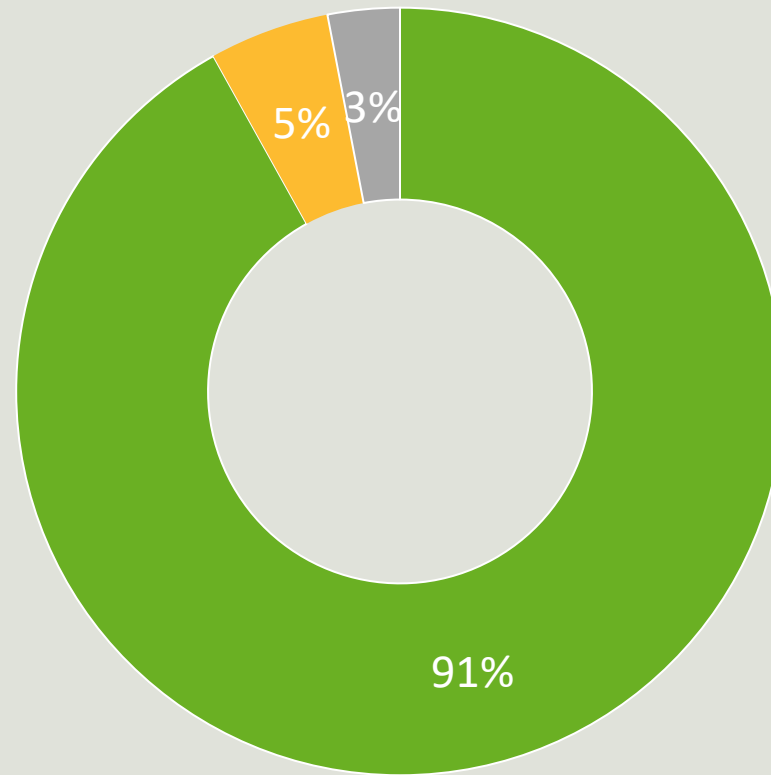
Q10) The Scottish Government has set targets to plant more trees to help tackle climate change. On the right soils and with sensitive techniques, commercial forestry usually grows quicker and involves growing non-native tree species in an area. However, growing native species in woodlands has a greater biodiversity benefit and also reduces atmospheric carbon, albeit more slowly. Which of the following is closest to your view?



- There should be a focus on growing native woodlands across Scotland's landscapes, even if it takes time to grow them
- There should be a focus on growing non-native woodlands across Scotland's landscape, even if it reduces the biodiversity of these areas
- Don't know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

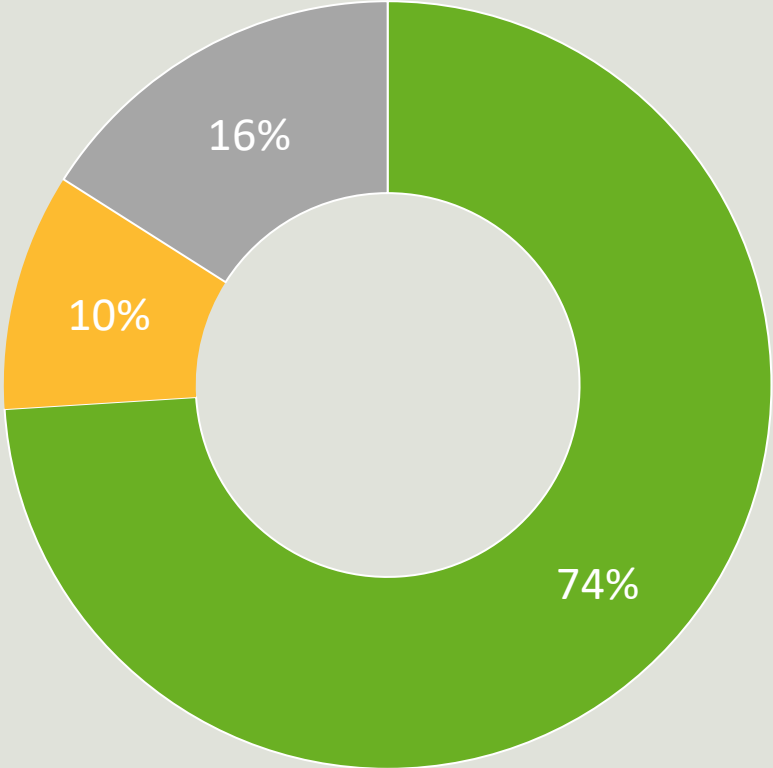
Q11) How important, if at all, is it to you personally that Scotland's seas are in a healthy state?



■ NET Important ■ NET Unimportant ■ Don't know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

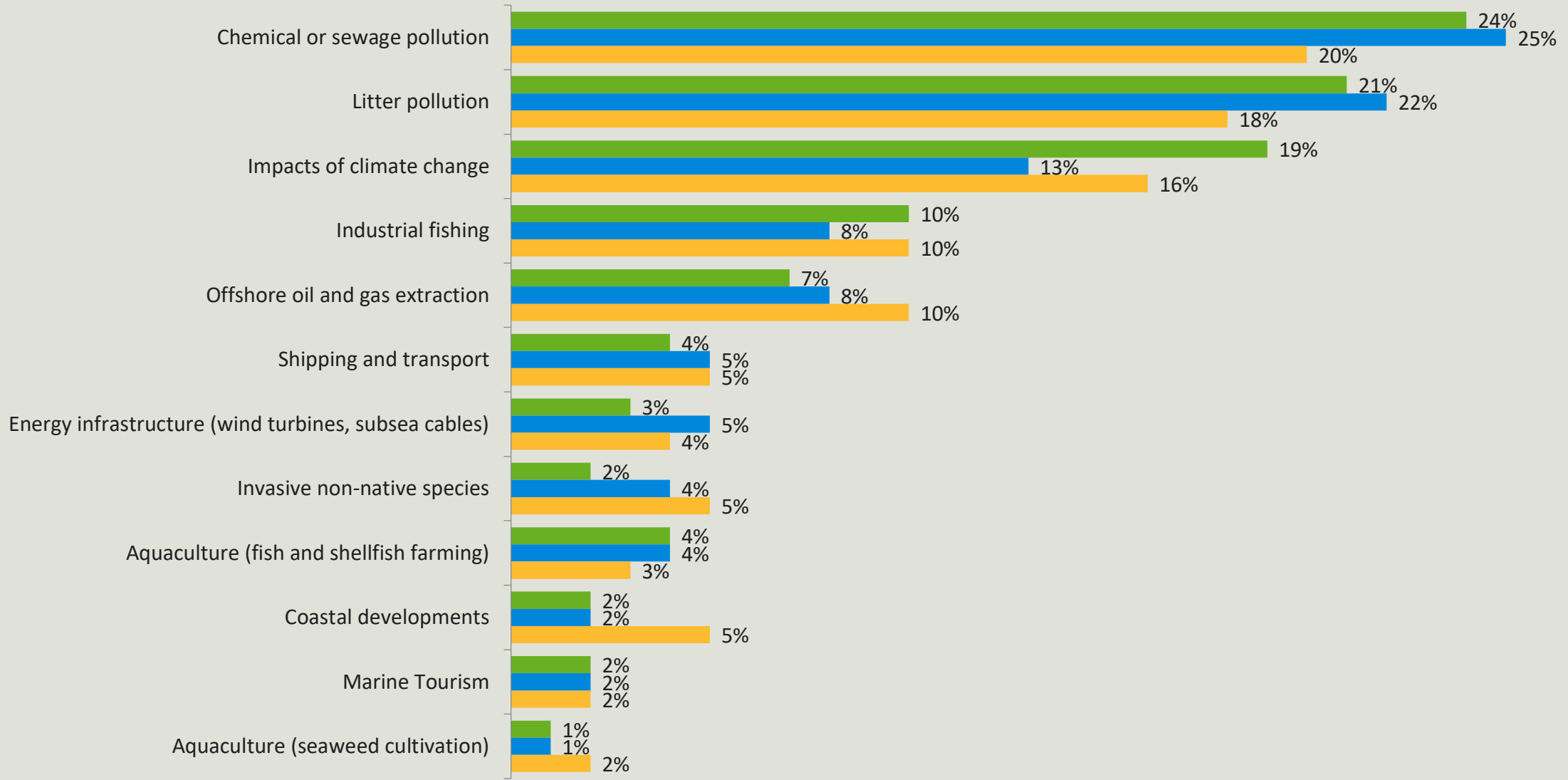
Q12) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are a section of the ocean where a government has placed limits on human activity. Currently around 20% of Scotland's seas have been designated as MPAs but still allow certain activities in specific zones within the MPAs. International best practice supports targets of 30% or more of the sea to be protected. Which statement is closest to your view?



■ Scotland should commit to the 30% or more protected target ■ Scotland should NOT commit to the 30% or more protected target ■ Don't know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

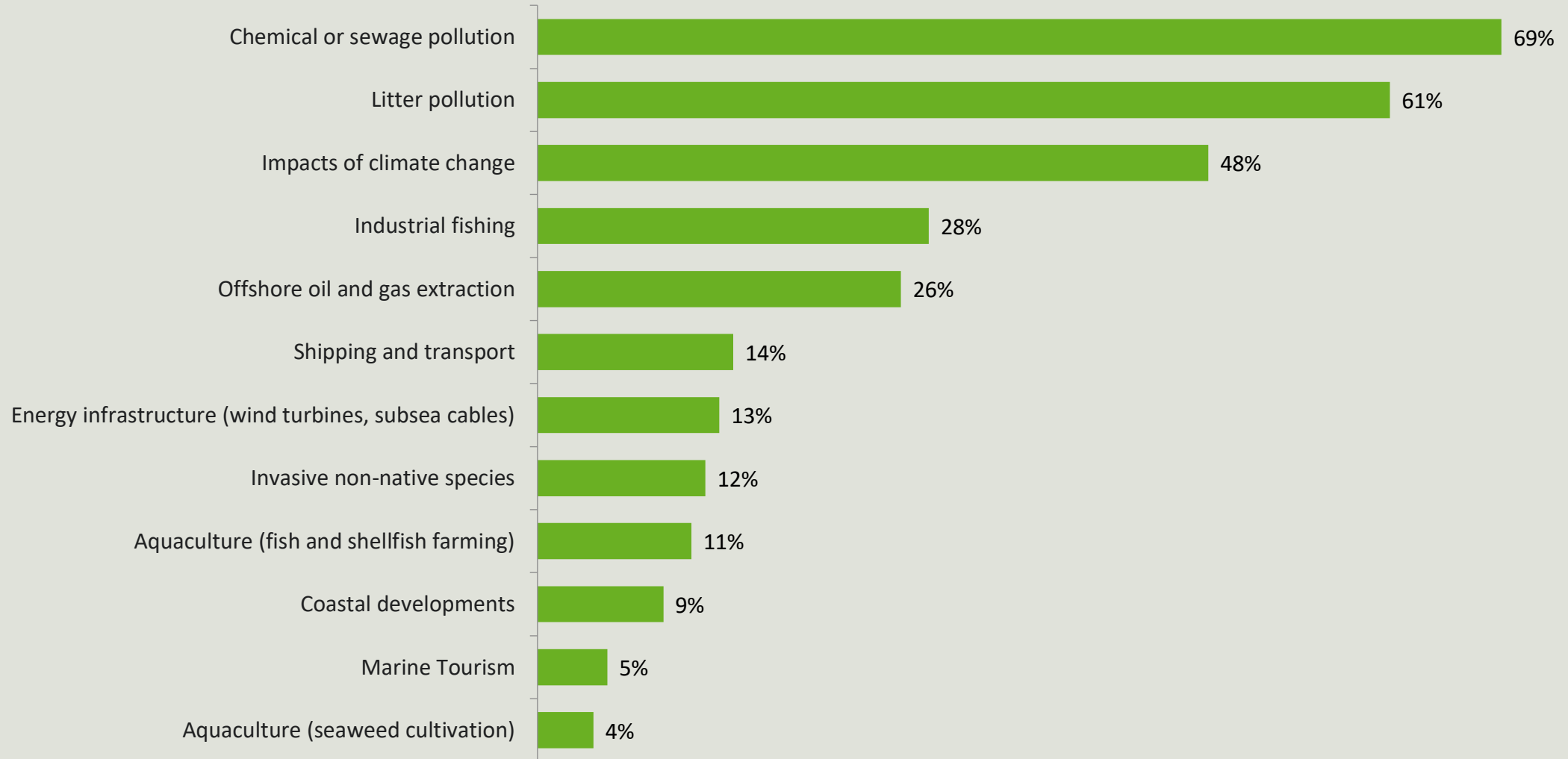
Q13_1 – 13_12) Which of the following do you think represent the greatest threat to the health of Scotland’s seas? Please rank your top 3.



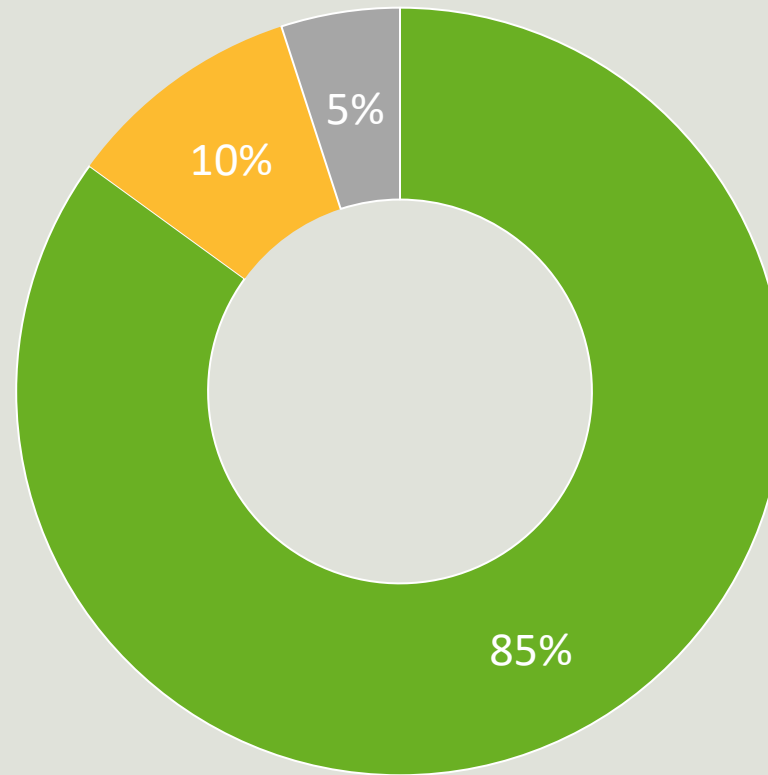
Rank 1 Rank 2 Rank 3

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033.

Q13_Rank1+2+3_Summary) Which of the following do you think represent the greatest threat to the health of Scotland's seas? Please rank your top 3. (Sum % of Rank 1,2,3)



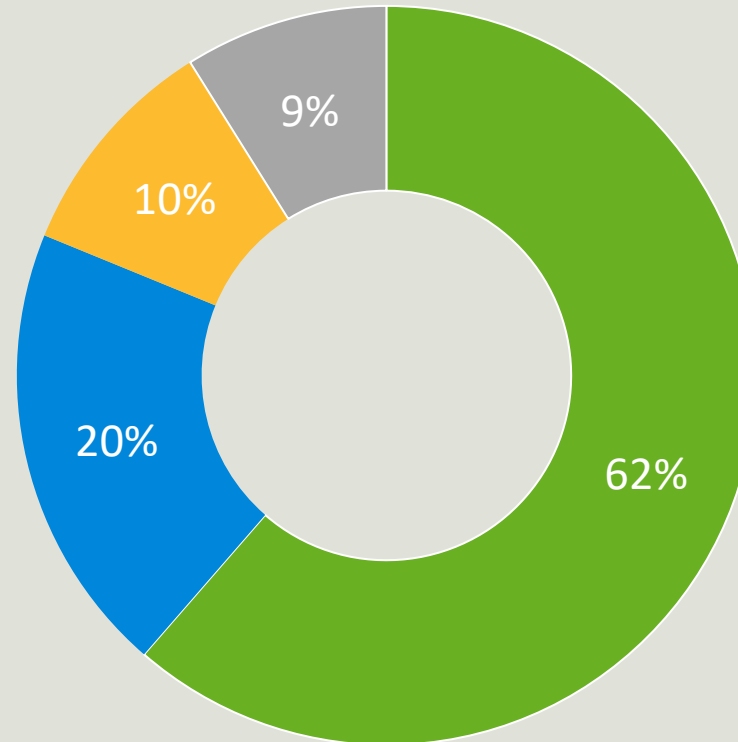
Q14) The Scottish government spends around half a billion pounds on farm funding annually. Many current farming practices cause pollution and severely deplete wildlife, as well as making farming a large source of greenhouse gas emissions. Next year the Scottish Government will create a new system of farm funding. How important is it to you that public spending on farming should support methods that restore nature and tackle climate change in addition to producing food?



■ NET Important ■ NET Unimportant ■ Don't know

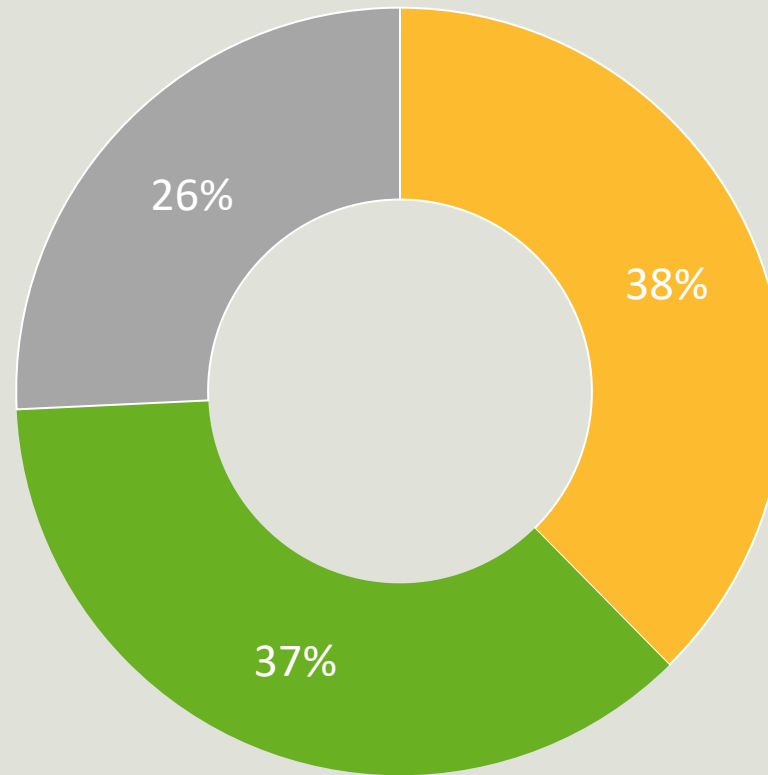
BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

Q15) Under the current system, many farms are entitled to “direct payments” from the Scottish government, based on the amount of land they own, which some argue provides a steady income away from dependence solely on food prices. Bigger farm businesses receive most of this money and there are few conditions as to how they farm the land. To what extent would you support or oppose capping direct payments available to farmers so there is more available to spend on climate and nature-friendly farming?



■ NET Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ NET Oppose ■ Don't know

Q16) The UK Government is planning to change existing planning rules, designating certain areas as “investment zones” where there will be accelerated development to try stimulating growth, as well as changing environmental protections within the zones. Some wildlife charities have called these proposals an “attack on nature”. Which statement comes closest to your view?



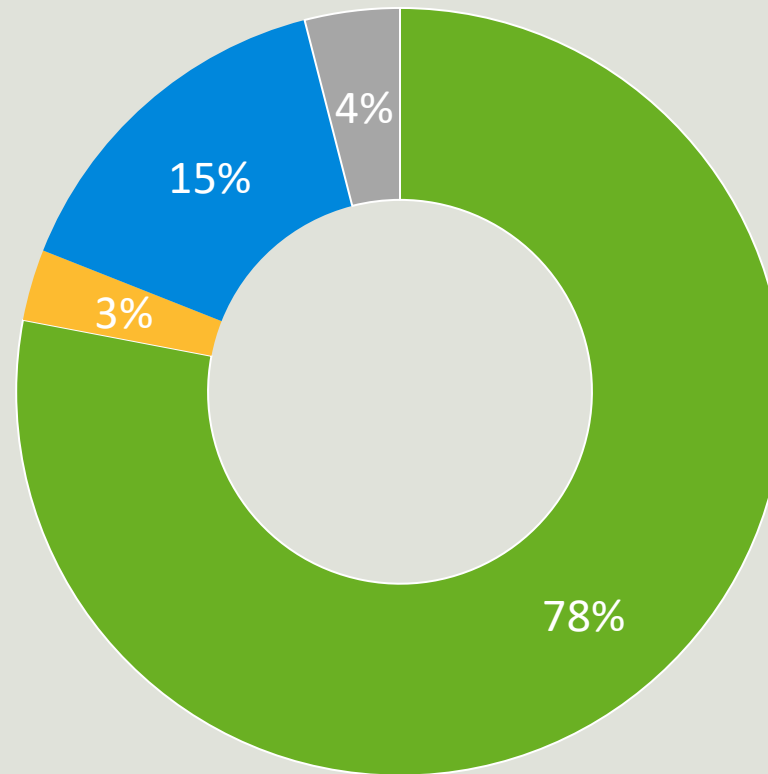
■ Investment zones should not be introduced in Scotland.

■ Investment zones should be introduced in Scotland.

■ Don't know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

Q17) Scotland currently has two National Parks, and the Scottish Government has committed to introducing at least one new National Park by 2026. To what extent do you agree that the overarching purpose of National Parks should be focused on nature recovery and tackling climate change?



■ NET Agree ■ NET Disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Don't know

BASE: All Respondents, Unweighted total: 1033

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British Polling Council