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Preparation of the decision making process in ICCAT in 2020

DG MARE's consultation of Stakeholders

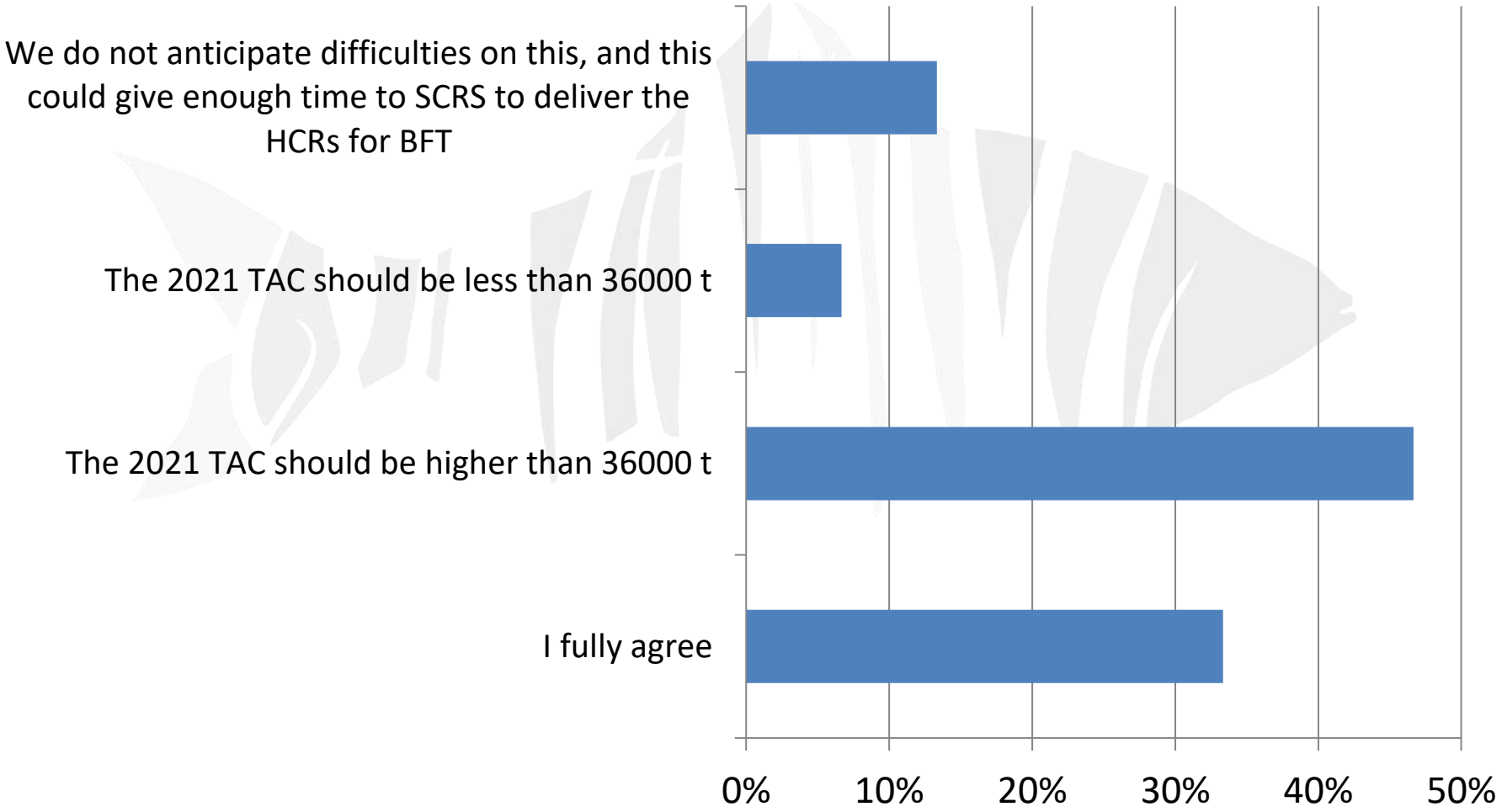
MEDAC CONTRIBUTION



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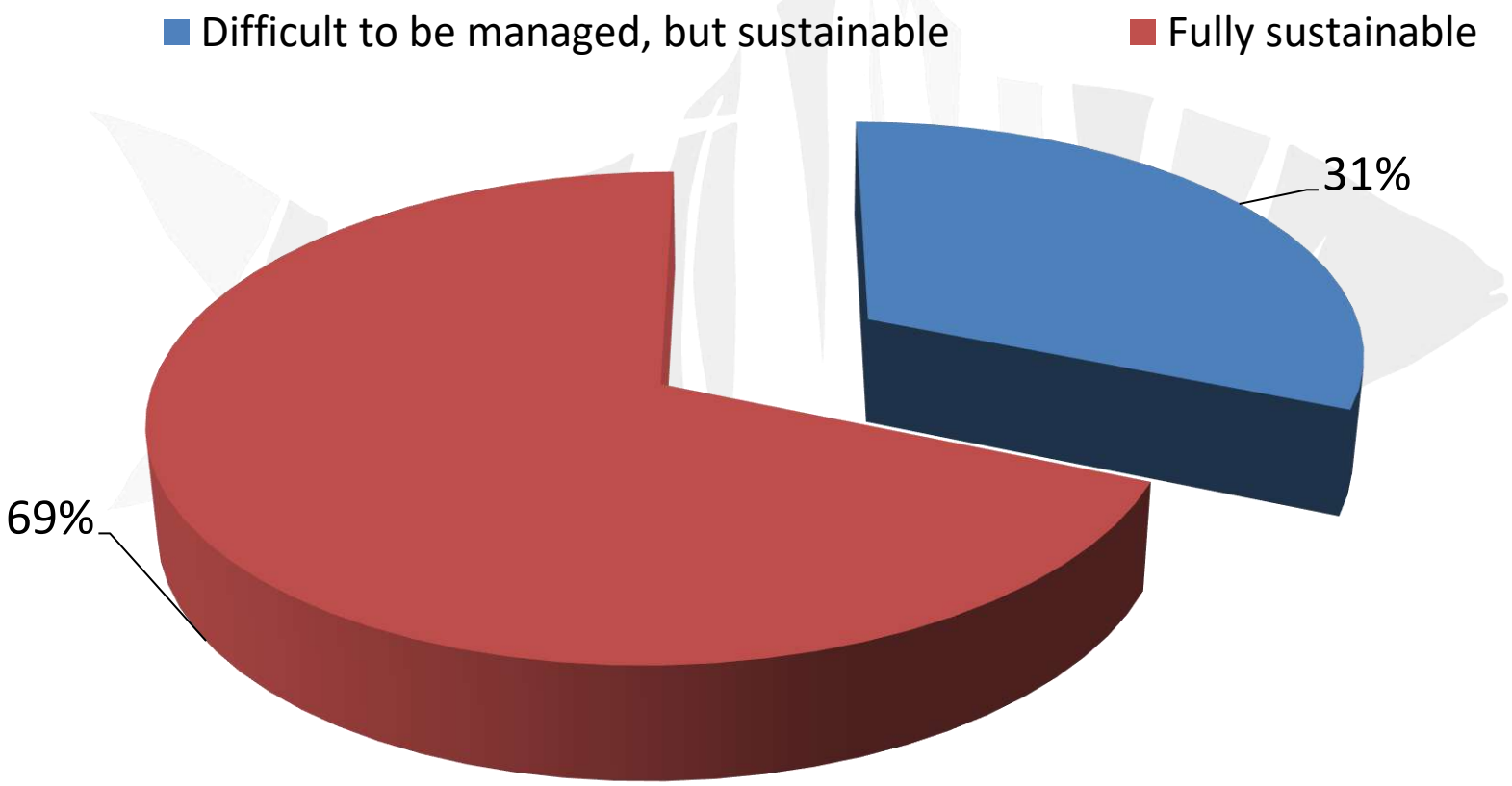
OPINION ON Eastern Bluefin tuna - Given the uncertainty associated with recruitment estimates, the Committee recommends that the 2020 TAC of 36000 t be maintained for 2021



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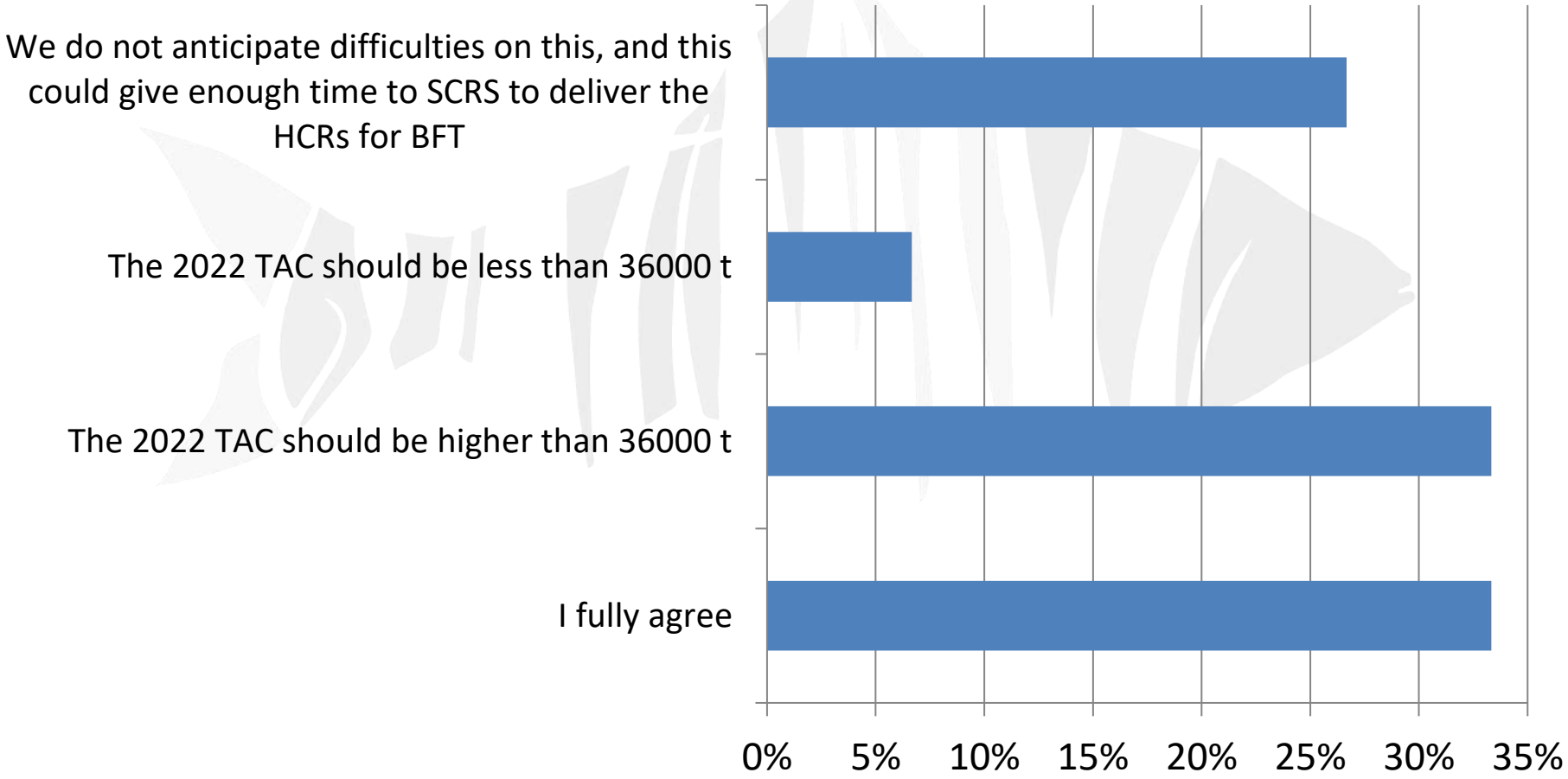
Eastern Bluefin Tuna - The socioeconomic impact of the 2021 TAC will be



Eastern Blufin tuna - Comments on the recommended 2021 TAC

- *May increase the TAC as there is over-stocking*
- *In the sea there is certainly an increase in bluefin tuna, at least close to the coast. Perhaps the affectation on sardine and anchovy is very high and leads the population of bluefin tuna to come close to the coast searching of other prey. The TACs can be increased, and open the recreational fishing of BFT.*
- *There is no consensus at the French level on the development of the bluefin tuna TAC in 2021. We encourage the Commission to continue working on the evolution of the recommendation.*
- *It appears that the available data indicate that the biomass of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean has increased since 2010 and that it has not there is no reason to fear overexploitation within the current TAC (36,000 tonnes in 2020). However, the uncertainties weighing on the estimate of recruitment mean that this TAC of 36,000 tonnes is only based on short-term production, making it impossible to estimate the reference point B0.1, i.e. - say the level of Biomass at the level of maximum sustainable yield (MSY). If we base ourselves on long-term productivity, which has resolved the problems of uncertainty in recruitment since 2008, then the catch at F01 is 33,830 tonnes, which is why we wishes to follow scientific advice allowing 'reach this goal.*
- *It must be increased in order to give more quota to the artisanal sector.*
- *Keeping the TAC unchanged from 2020, with significant positive signs of recovery, would effectively limit the possibility of resolving problems related to small-scale coastal fishing, which for years has been waiting for the recovery of the sector and it would interrupt the virtuous path of increase of the fleet concerned undertaken up to now.*
- *Uncertanties in the stock assessment are higher than i 2017. This is concerning when realizing that E-BFT is probably one of the most data-reach stock. The same data used for the stock assessment will have to be used to identify and adopt HCRs that should be the tool to adjustTAC accoring to the stock status.*
- *It is evident that bluefin tuna is everywhere in the sea and even in the ports. Often fishers have to make special maneuvers to avoid catches of bluefin tuna.*

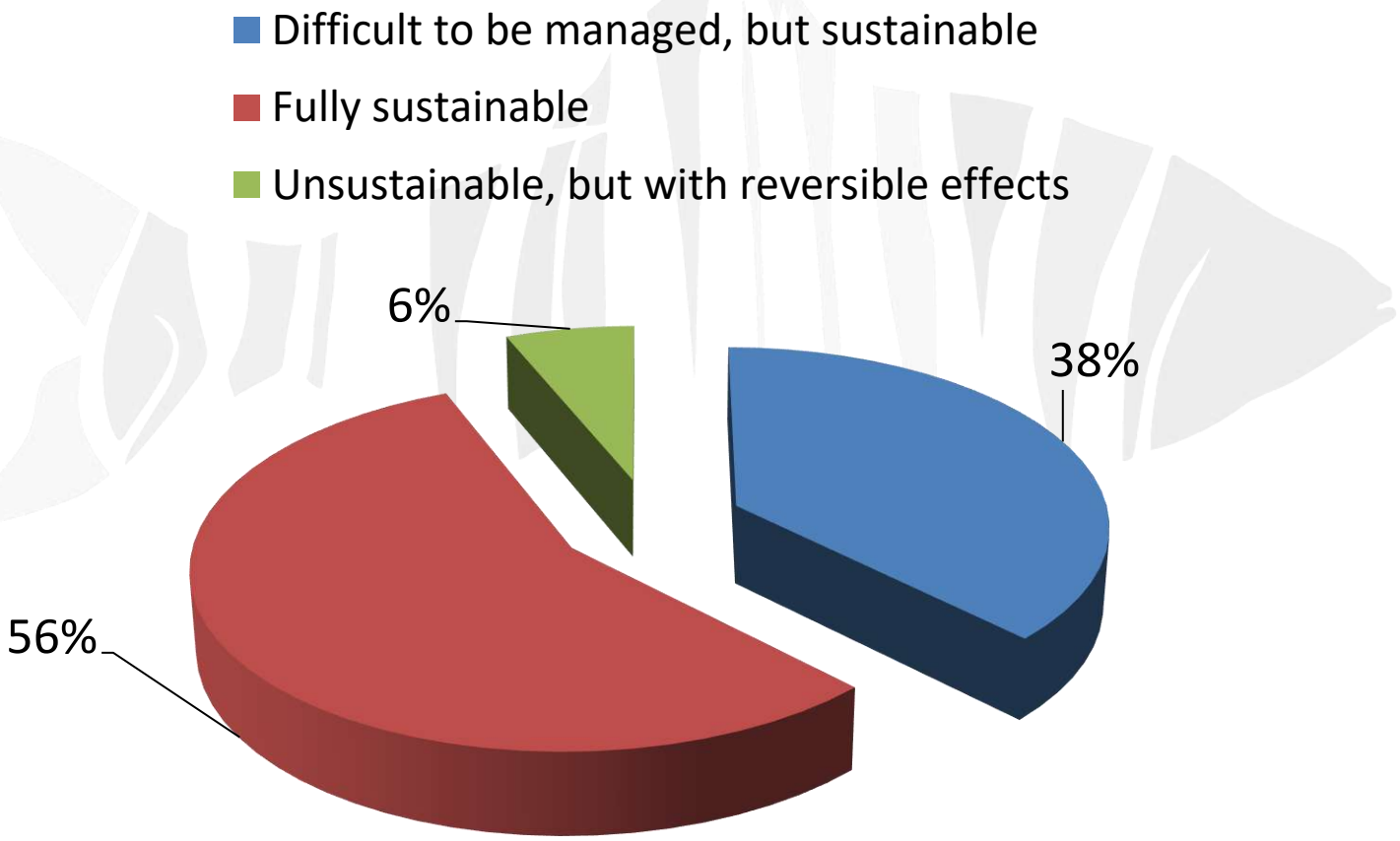
OPINION ON Eastern Bluefin tuna - Given the uncertainty associated with recruitment estimates, the Committee recommends: the 2020 TAC at 36000t also in 2022 (with revision of the 2022 in 2021)



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Eastern Bluefin Tuna - The socioeconomic impact of the 2022 TAC will be



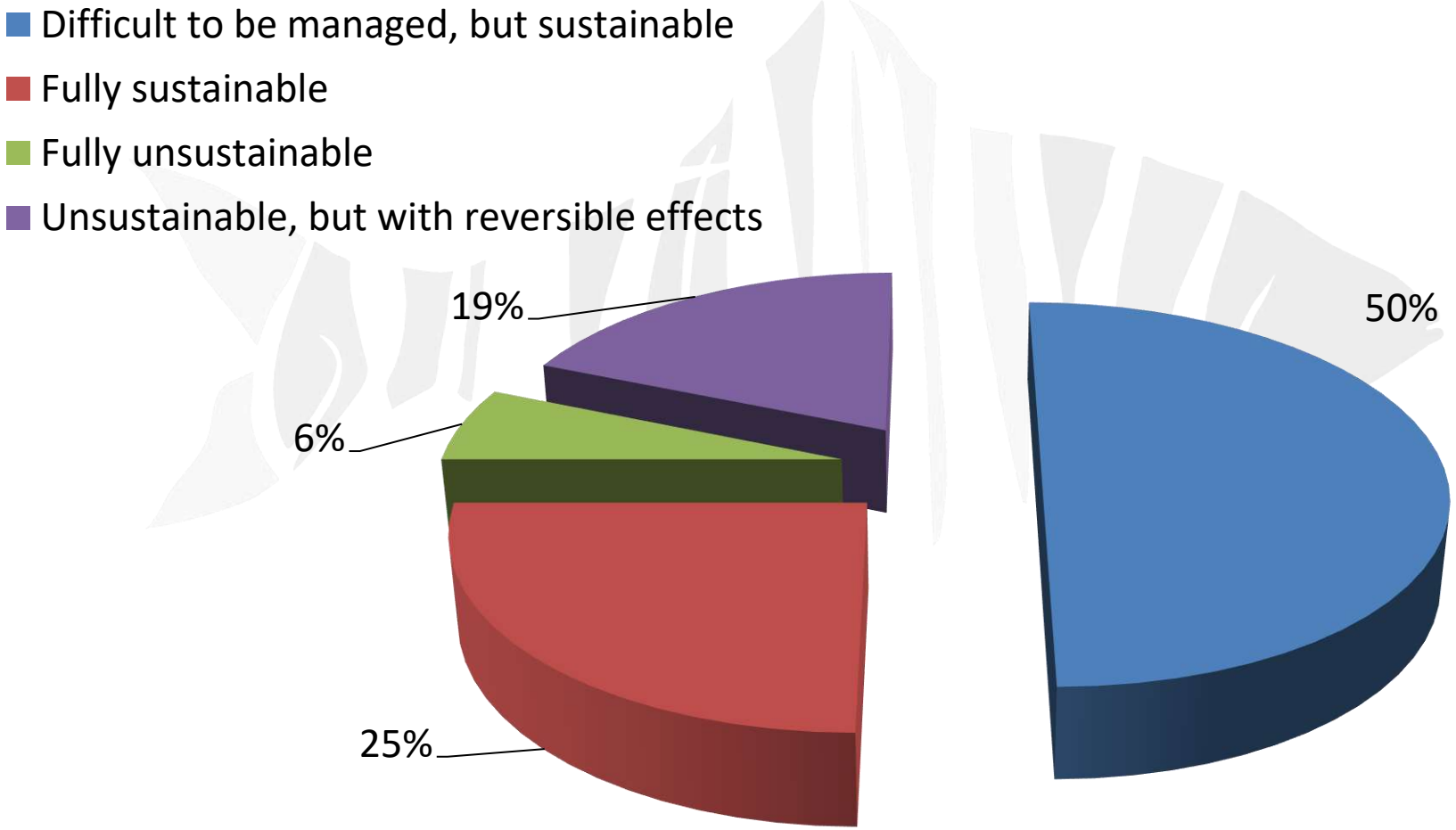
Eastern Blufin tuna - Comments on the recommended 2022 TAC

- *There is no consensus at the French level on the development of the bluefin tuna TAC in 2021. We encourage the Commission to continue working on the evolution of the recommendation.*
- *It appears that the available data indicate that the biomass of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean has increased since 2010 and that it has not there is no reason to fear overexploitation within the current TAC (36,000 tonnes in 2020). However, the uncertainties weighing on the estimate of recruitment mean that this TAC of 36,000 tonnes is only based on short-term production, making it impossible to estimate the reference point B0.1, i.e. - say the level of Biomass at the level of maximum sustainable yield (MSY). If we base ourselves on long-term productivity, which has resolved the problems of uncertainty in recruitment since 2008, then the catch at F01 is 33,830 tonnes, which is why we wishes to follow scientific advice allowing 'reach this goal.It must be increased in order to give more quota to the artisanal sector.*
- *Keeping the TAC unchanged from 2020, with significant positive signs of recovery, would effectively limit the possibility of resolving problems related to small-scale coastal fishing, which for years has been waiting for the recovery of the sector and it would interrupt the virtuous path of increase of the fleet concerned undertaken up to now.*
- *Uncertanties in the stock assessment are higher than i 2017. This is concerning when realizing that E-BFT is probably one of the most data-reach stock. The same data used for the stock assessment will have to be used to identify and adopt HCRs that should be the tool to adjust TAC according to the stock status.*
- *We believe that the best way is a constant small increase every year with a continuous monitoring activity.*

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OPINION ON Swordfish - Provisional scientific advice: The probability of stock rebuilding by the end of 2028 is 60% if a TAC equal to 10,000 t is implemented. The socioeconomic impact of the forthcoming TAC will be



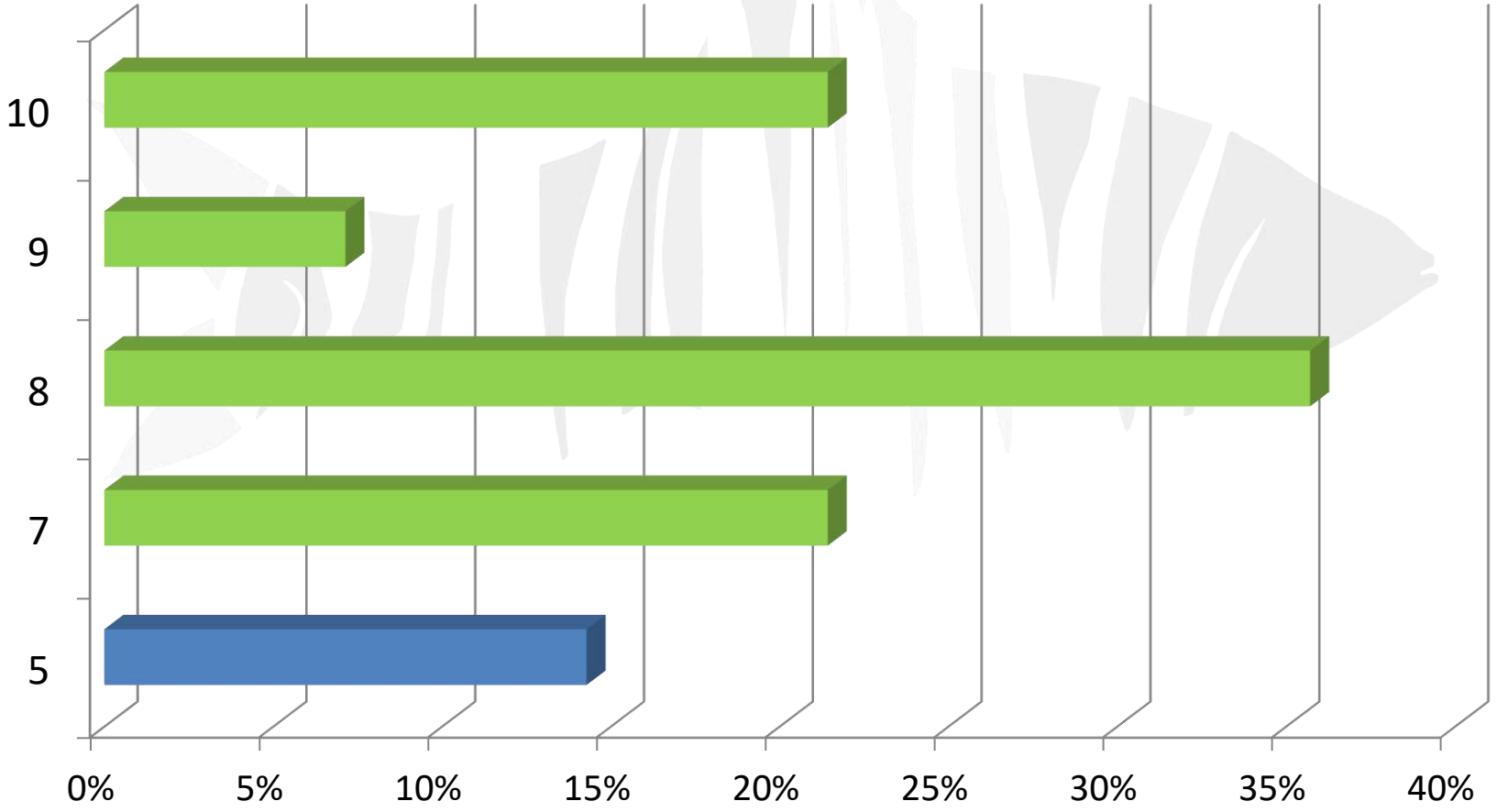
Swordfish - Comments on the TAC recommended by the provisional scientific advice

- *Possibility of increase of juvenile discards due to change of closed period.*
- *It is essential to maintain sustainable levels of exploitation, but without penalising fishing enterprises which would see the level of economic sustainability of the activity itself disappear. It is, however, essential to ensure that discards are reduced and that illegal fishing with driftnets, which is also carried out by non-EU countries in the Mediterranean, is addressed.*
- *The current TAC frame adopted in 2017 (10.500 t reducing 15% in 5 years) was sometimes difficult to meet with landings (2018). A TAC that is hard to meet for a recovery plan, does not seem to be very effective in terms of reducing fishing mortality. Last scientific advice confirmed that TAC of around 10.000 t is still aligned with the targets of the recovery plan. The most urgent issue to be addressed is the juveniles mortality (estimated to be 24% of the total catches). Concerns about under reporting of discards, especially for undersized fish (estimated about 24% of total catches). Need to work in 2021 to reinforce the recovery plan (reduce discards, increase observers' coverage and data collection).*
- *We should follow the scientific advices to rebuild the Swordfish stock.*
- *To maintain the current levels monitored.*

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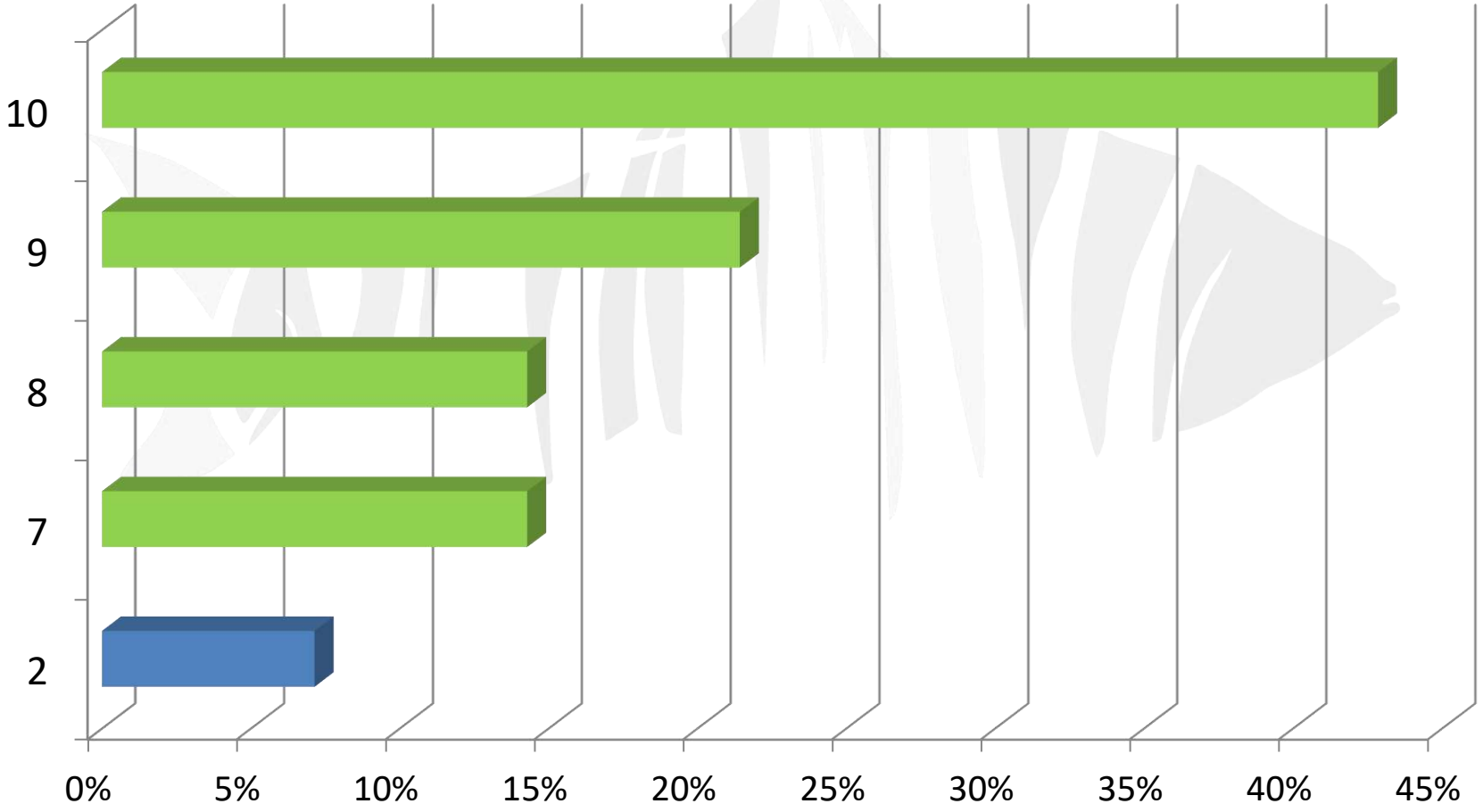
Swordfish - How high is the priority of addressing problems related to the controls in EU? (1=very low; 10= very high)



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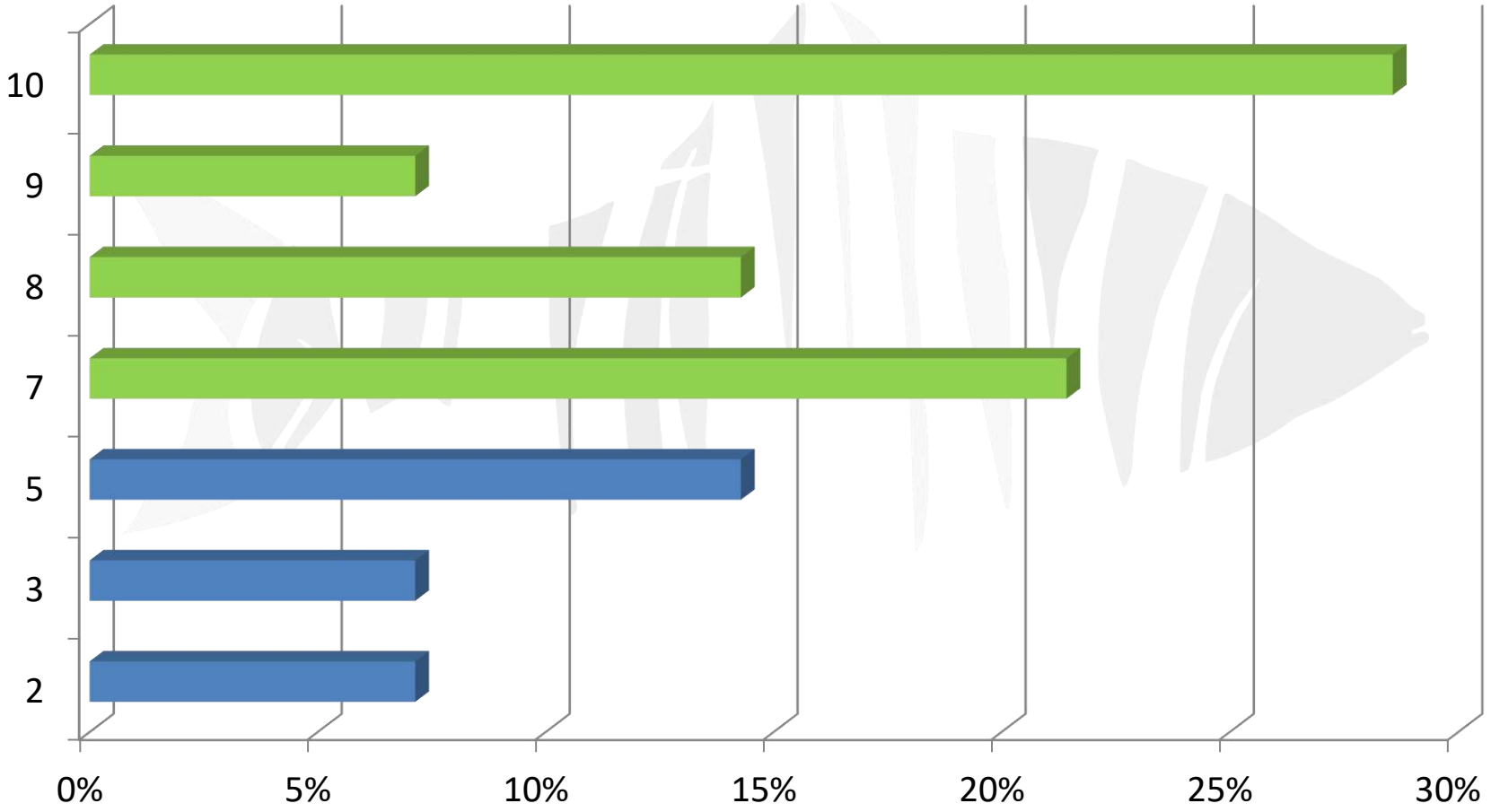
Swordfish - How high is the priority of addressing problems related to the presence of driftnets? (1=very low; 10= very high)



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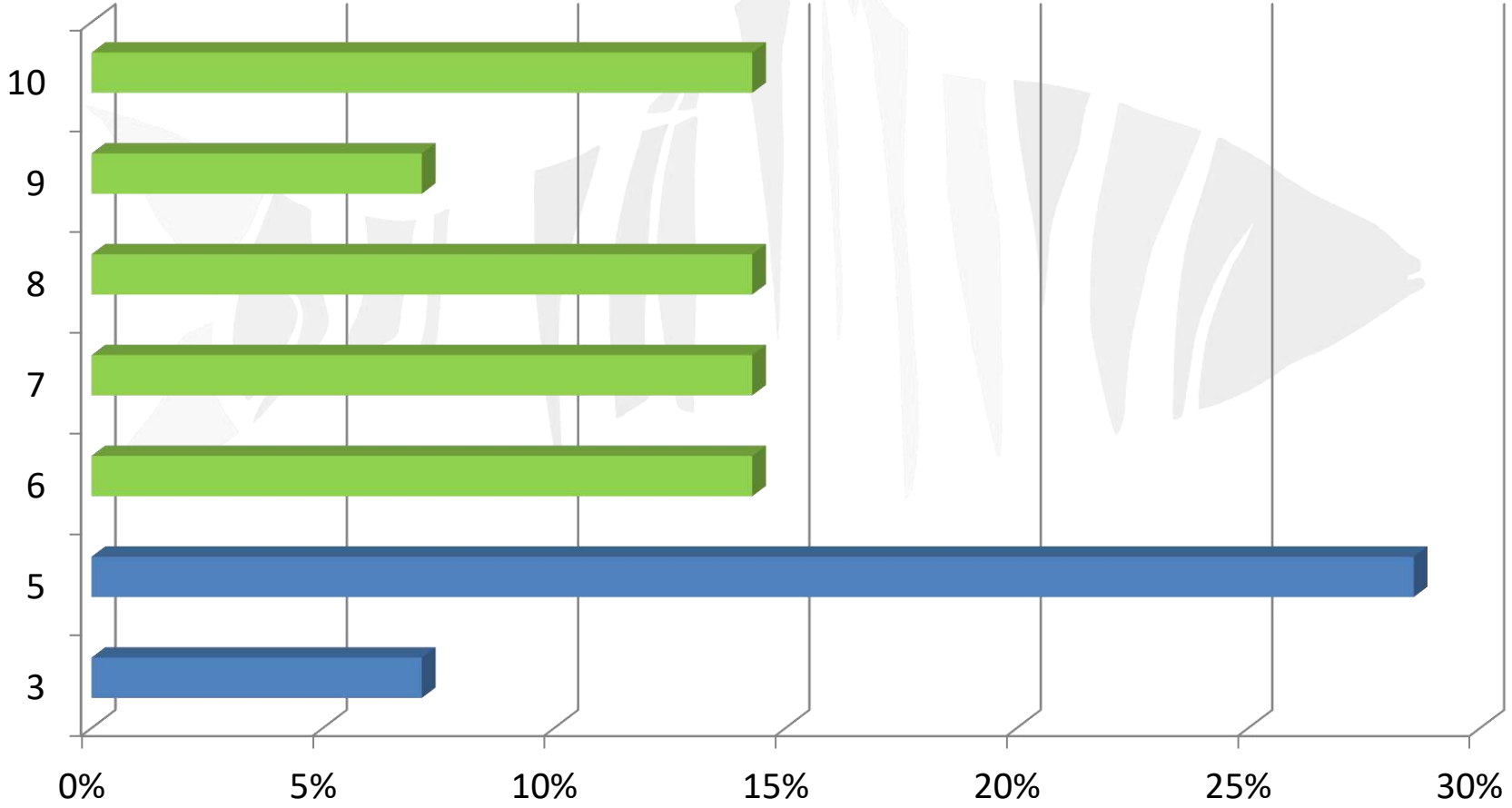
Swordfish - How high is the priority of addressing the issues of discards in EU? (1=very low; 10= very high)



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Swordfish - How high is the priority of an EU re-enforcement of the recovery plan in 2021 (this year's process in ICCAT is not conducive to making progress)? (1=very low; 10= very high)



Swordfish - Comments on the EU re-enforcement of the recovery plan in 2021

- *As already mentioned, it is essential to address and resolve the problem of discards of large pelagic species, in accordance with Reg. EU 1380/2013, by addressing the planned harmonisation of existing rules, as this principle is currently derogated from the current rules. It is essential to combat the phenomenon of illegal fishing with driftnets, carried out in the Mediterranean also by non-EU countries.*
- *Juvenile catches are flagged to be one of the most threat to the stock recovery. Reducing juvenile mortality through management/technical measures. Increase observer coverage with the aim to improve data collection. Specific joint control initiatives (EFCA and at national level) to tackle driftnets and IUU.*
- *We should reconsider all the ways to reduce the IUU and other measures to be adopted in order to rebuild the stock – i.e. the review of the ban period*





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