

Environmental Enhancements and Navigation Infrastructure (EENI)

A Study of Existing Practices, Innovative Ideas, Impediments, and Research Needs

Thomas J. Fredette, PhD, Christy Foran, PhD,
Burton Suedel, PhD, Sandra Brasfield, PhD, Cynthia
Banks, and James Lindsay, III
**Engineer Research & Development Center
Environmental Laboratory**

EENI Project Concept

Identify opportunities to increase environmental enhancements of navigation infrastructure projects

[Focus is on infrastructure (channels, anchorages, jetties, locks, etc.) and not beneficial use of sediment]

Possibilities for Jetties?



**Enhance
for
molluscs,
crabs, or
lobsters?**

Add oyster shell to encourage settlement? Create a sinuous toe?
Add caverns?

EENI Project Concept (2)

Initially based on PIANC* Paper



PIANC Position Paper

‘Working with Nature’

October 2008

What do we mean by ‘Working with Nature’?

Maximising opportunities; reducing frustrations. Working with Nature is an integrated process which involves working to identify and exploit win-win solutions which respect nature and are acceptable to both project proponents and environmental stakeholders. It is an approach which needs to be applied early in a project¹ when flexibility is still possible. By adopting a determined and proactive approach from conception through to project completion, opportunities can be maximised and - importantly - frustrations, delays and associated extra costs can be reduced.

EENI Project Concept (3)

Builds on USACE Goals



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING PRINCIPLES

One Corps Serving The Army and the Nation

Further information is available at: <http://www.usace.army.mil>



*Environmental
Sustainable Housing
Fort Lee, VA*



*Wetlands at Melvin Price
Lock and Dam*

*Endangered Whooping Crane
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas*

1

Strive to achieve Environmental Sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse, and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.

2

Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.

3

Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.

Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that

EOPs especially relevant to the concept

2009 US Army Corps of Engineers' Campaign Plan

Campaign Plan
goals especially
relevant to the
concept

Goal 2: Deliver enduring and essential water resource solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

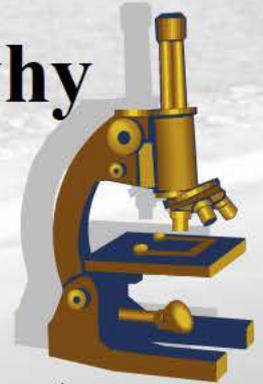
Objective 2a: Deliver integrated, sustainable, water resources solutions.

Objective 2b: Implement collaborative approaches to effectively solve water resource problems.

Objective 2c: Implement Streamlined and Transparent Regulatory Processes to Sustain Aquatic Resources.

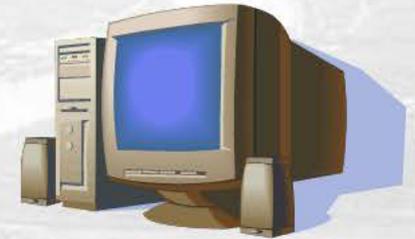
Information Needs

- **Key policies, regulations, & laws**
- **Things we already do**
- **Ideas for new possibilities**
- **Things tried that haven't worked and why**
- **Impediments to improvement**
- **Potential solutions to impediments**
- **Items needing further *research* to support use**
- **Case studies and relevant reports**



Project Approach

- **Webinars**
- **On-line Survey***
- **Telephone Follow-up**
- **Meeting/Conference Presentations**
- **Data Summary**
- **Report**



*Initial Target Group: US Federal Agencies (USACE, USEPA, etc.)

EENI Survey Sections

- **Environmental Enhancements: Present and Potential (13 Qs)**
- **Laws, Policies, and Regulations (6 Qs)**
- **Impediments to Use (12 Qs)**
- **Research Needs (8 Qs)**
- **Is There Anything We Missed? (3 Qs)**
- **Invite Others (2 Qs)**
- **Information About You (9 Qs)**

EENI Survey Sample

DOER EENI Survey

4. Impediments to Use

A number of potential impediments to incorporating environmental enhancements into USACE navigation features have been identified. These include (1) non-federal cost sharing requirements, (2) institutional resistance within the USACE, and (3) concerns about future maintenance on "enhanced" infrastructure.

* 1. How high of an impediment do you believe cost sharing is to EENI?

- Very high
- High
- Neither High nor Low
- Low
- Very Low
- No Opinion

2. Can you describe an experience in which cost sharing was the reason an enhancement was not considered?

<http://www.surveymonkey.com>

Environmental Enhancements: Present and Potential

1	Do you believe there are opportunities to improve the environmental attributes of existing or future navigation infrastructure projects?
2	Are you familiar with any projects in which environmental enhancements have been considered or incorporated?
3	Please identify any relevant project(s), the environmental enhancement(s) and provide links to references as appropriate.
4	How did you find out about designing and implementing these features? What process(es) enabled their consideration?
5	At what stage of the project(s) were these enhancements considered and why? (e.g. problem formulation, reconnaissance study, generation of alternatives, feasibility study, comparison of alternatives, selection of a plan)
6	In cases where these features were incorporated, what were the ultimate benefits to the project? Was there any post-construction monitoring and reporting? Please describe and cite, where possible.
7	In cases where these features were not incorporated, what was the reason?
8	What agencies and stakeholder groups were involved in the investigation and evaluation of these features? How did you work with them? What expertise did they contribute? Was it a collaborative effort?
9	What other specific projects would be helpful to investigate for this survey?
10	Are there (other) environmental enhancements that you believe might be possible to incorporate into existing or future navigation infrastructure projects?
11	If Yes, please describe any environmental enhancements that you envision and on what type of project. Be creative.
12	What information/training would facilitate incorporating these or other environmental enhancements?
13	What training/information or programs have we tried that didn't work? Why do you think it didn't work?

Yes/No

Yes/No

Narrative

Narrative

Narrative

Narrative

Narrative

Narrative

Narrative

Yes/No

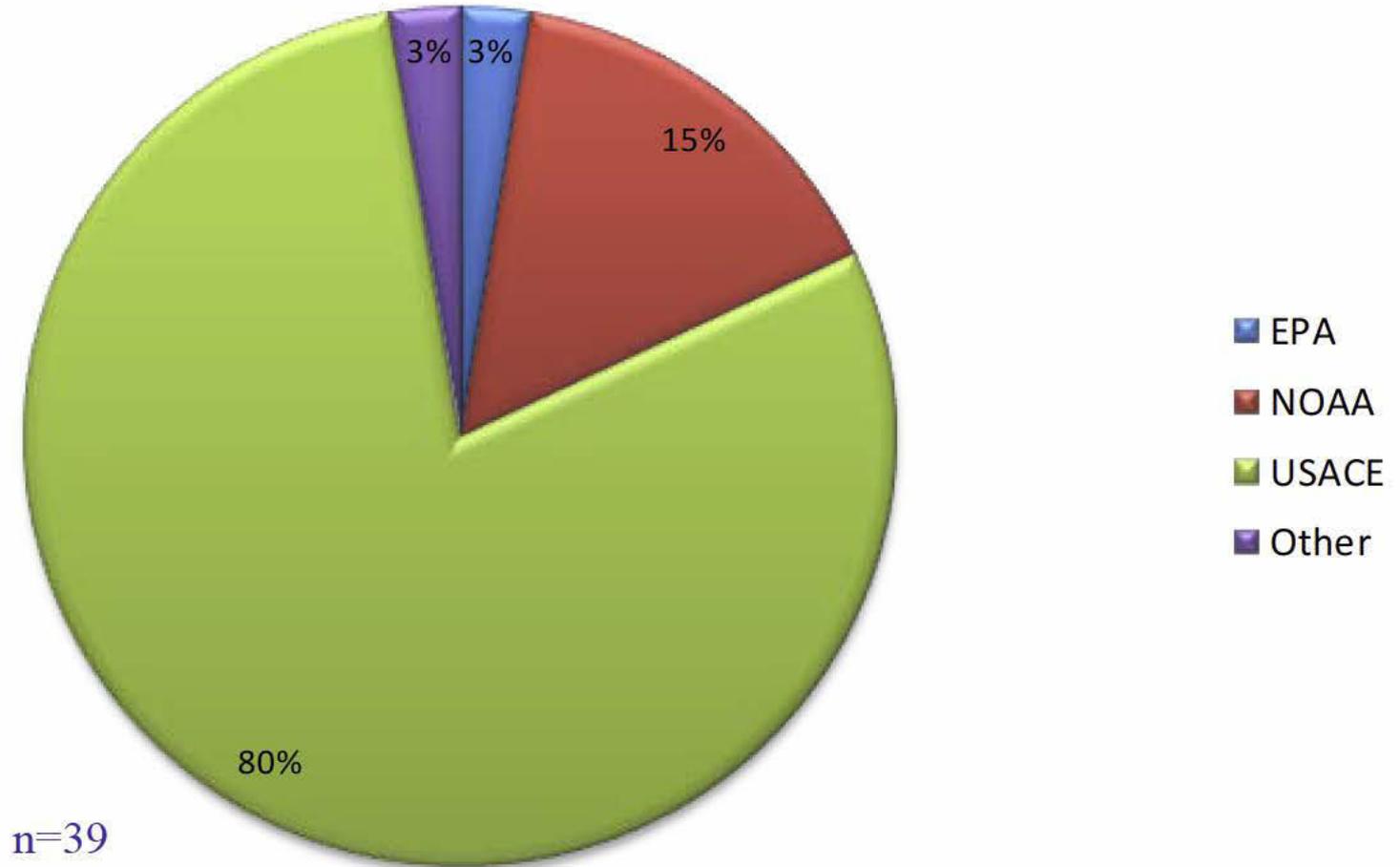
Narrative

Narrative

Narrative

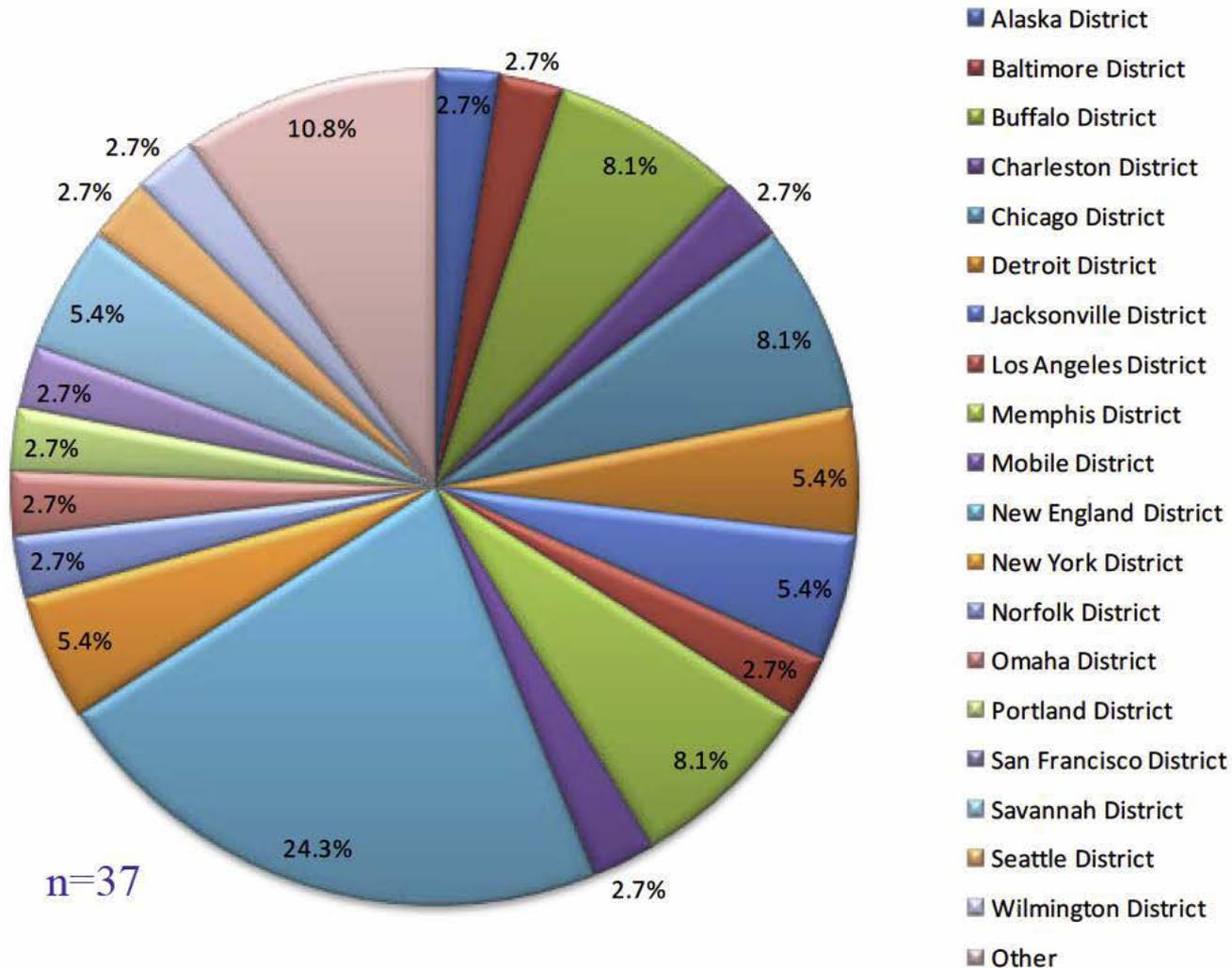
Who Took the Survey?

Agency



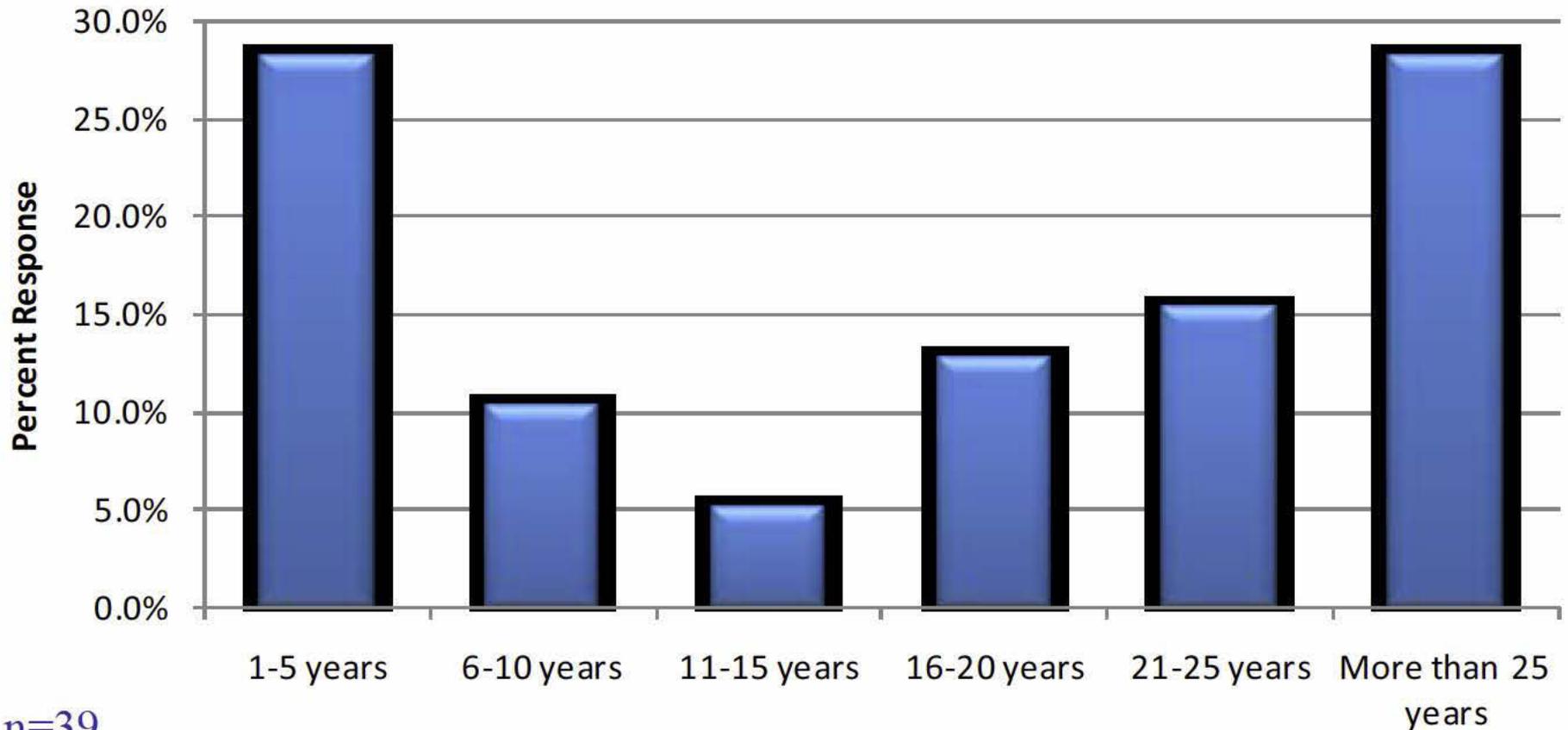
Who Took the Survey?

What USACE district do you primarily work with?



Who Took the Survey?

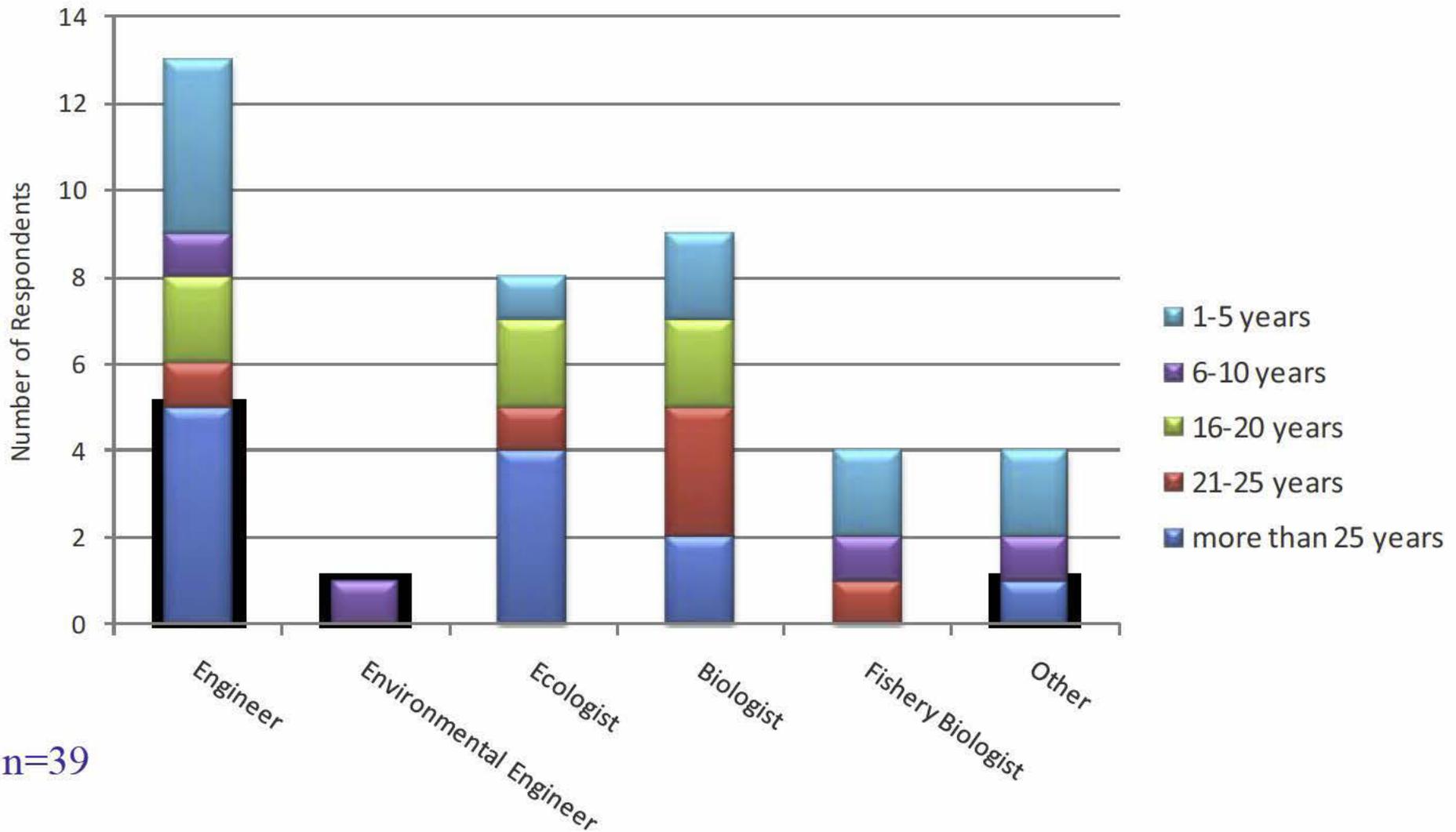
How many years of experience do you have with navigational infrastructure projects?



n=39

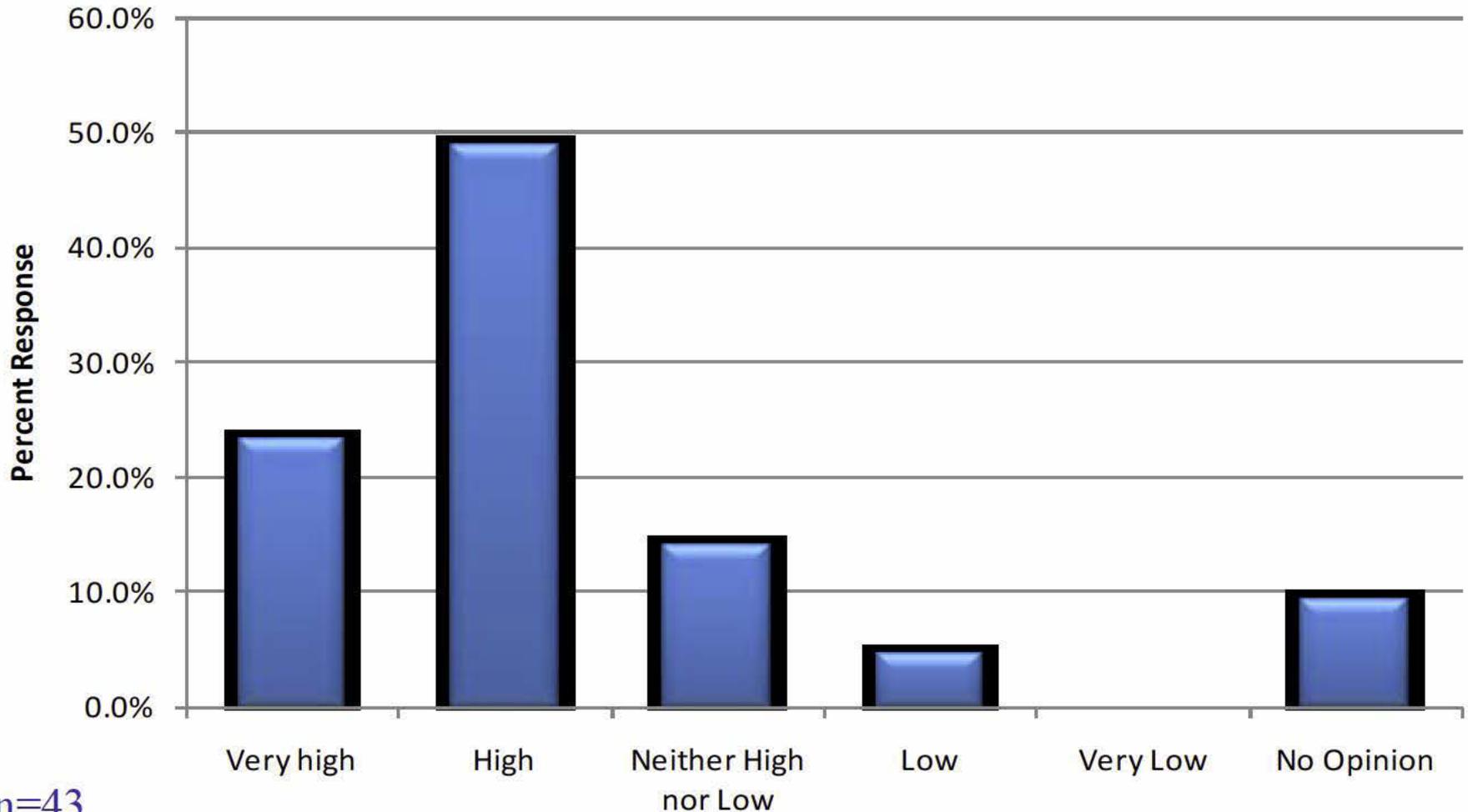
Who Took the Survey?

Experience vs. Discipline



Views on Impediments

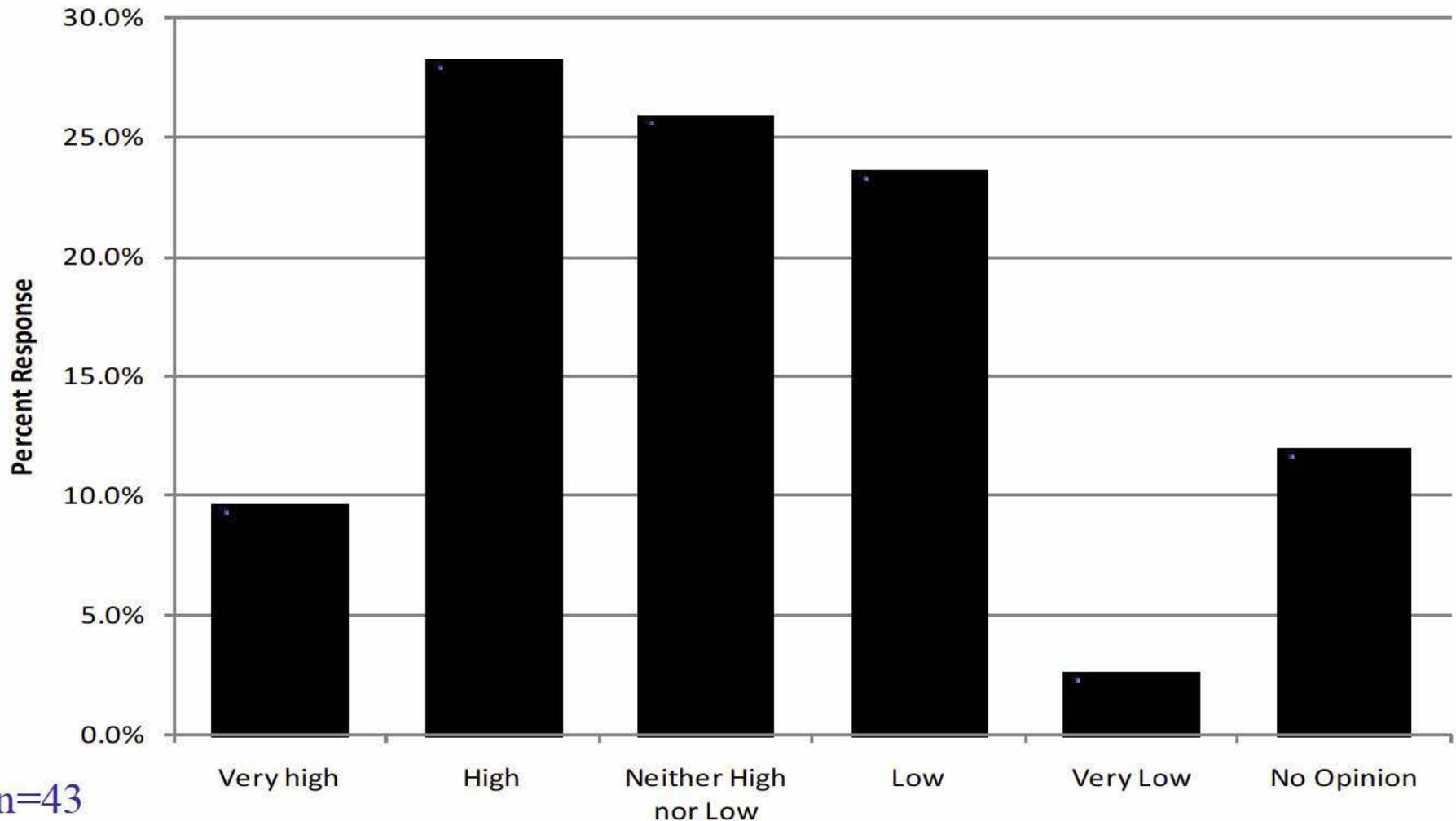
How high of an impediment do you believe cost sharing is to EENI?



n=43

Views on Impediments

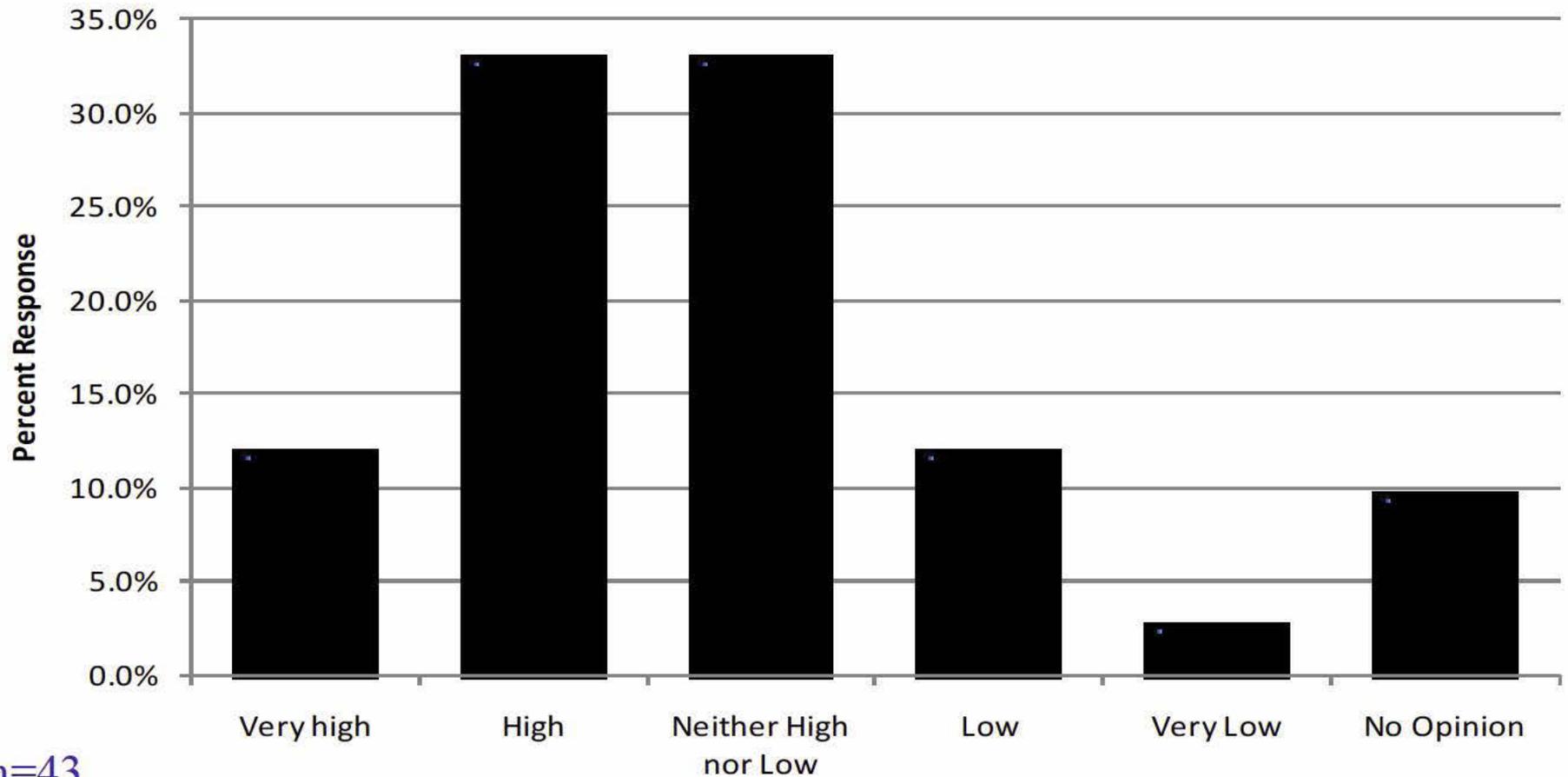
How high of an impediment do you believe institutional resistance is to EENI?



n=43

Views on Impediments

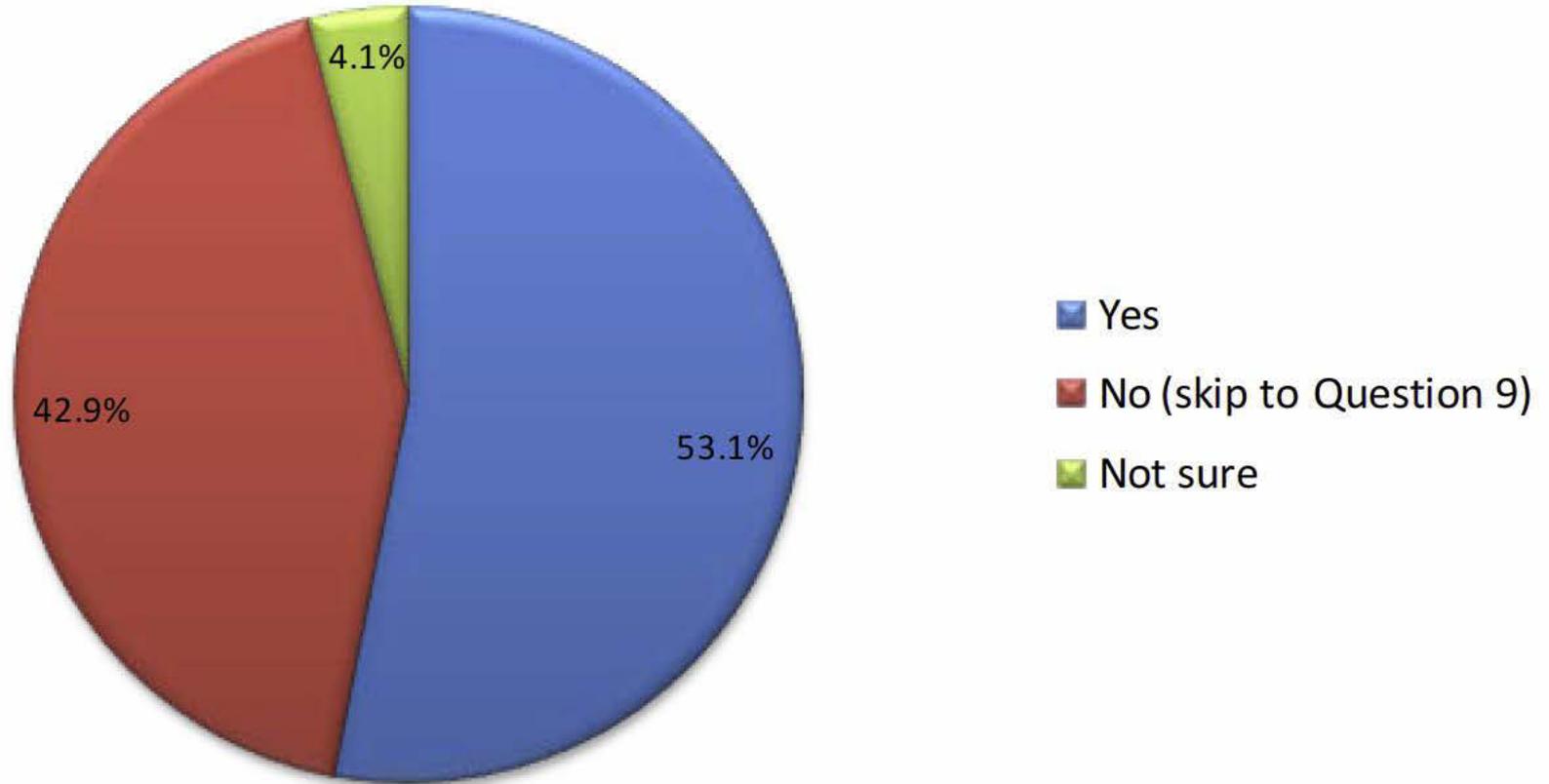
Inclusion of environmental enhancements may be believed to constrain/complicate future maintenance operations of navigational infrastructure. How important of an impediment do you think this belief may be to consideration of EENI?



Suggestions to Reduce Impediments

- **Greater stakeholder interaction**
- **Interagency agreements**
- **Special program funding**
- **Promote the EENI concept**
- **Document case studies**
- **Develop agency goals/metrics**

Are you familiar with any projects in which environmental enhancements have been considered or incorporated?



n=49

Selected Existing EENI

Inland River Systems

- **Dike notching/chutes**
- **Nature-inspired fish ladders**
- **Groove articulated concrete mats**
- **Chevron notching**

Upper Mississippi River
Restoration Environmental
Management Program (UMRR-
EMP)

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/EMP/default.htm>



River Training Structures

Off-Bankline Revetment

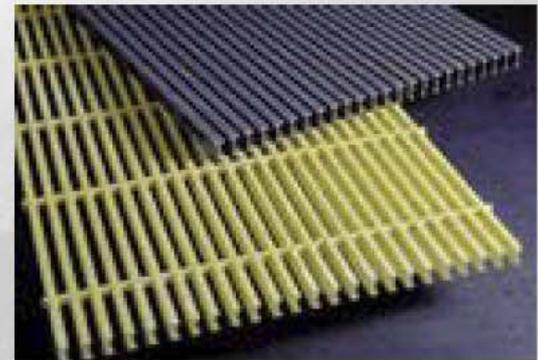


Figure 5.11. Off-Bankline Revetment

Selected Existing EENI

Coastal Systems

- **Pea gravel around toe of breakwater for fish spawning**
- **Eelgrass planting in anchorage**
- **Shaped breakwater to create habitat variety**
- **Light transmitting dock materials**
- **Dredged material island topped with oyster shell for tern habitat**

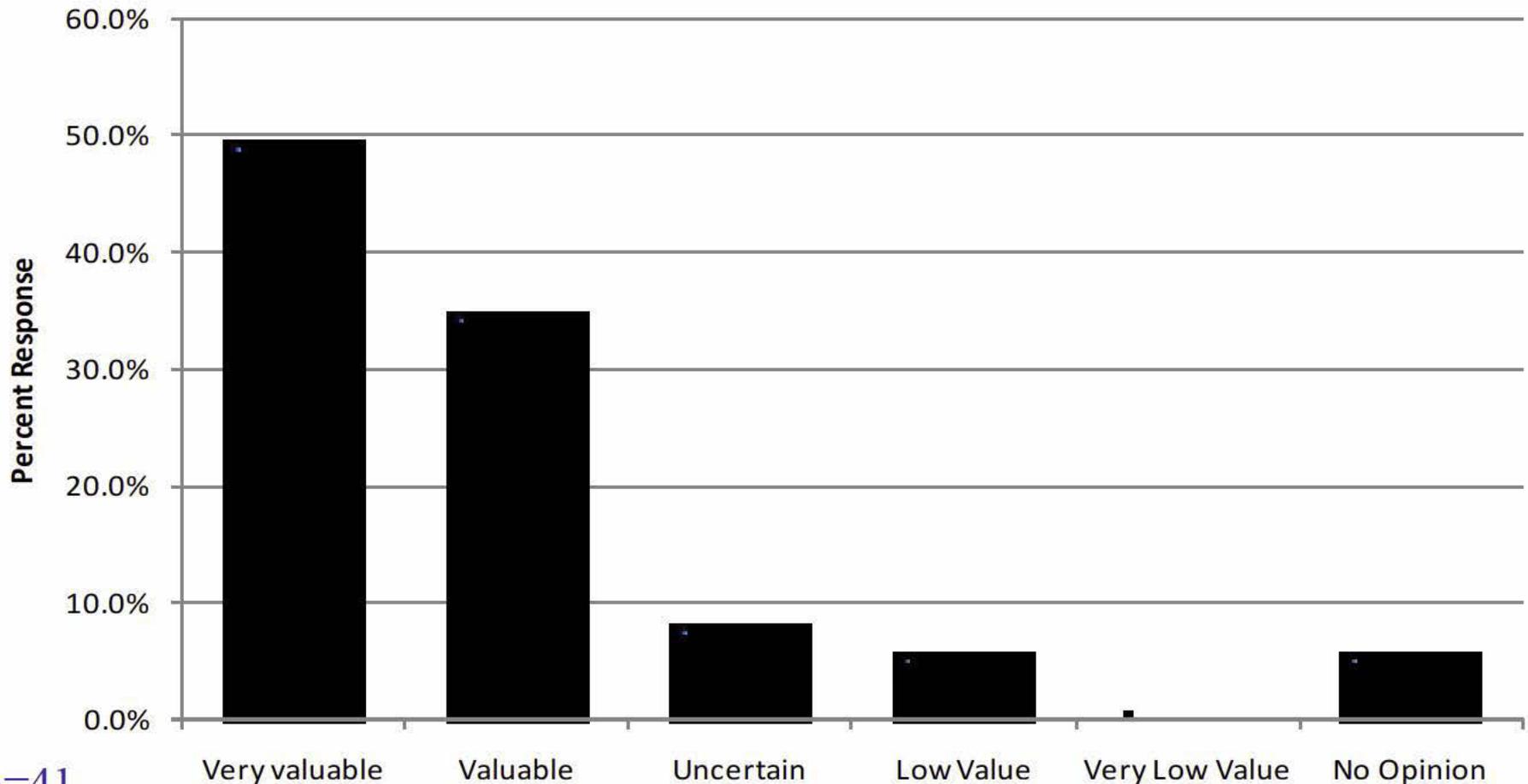


Selected EENI Ideas

- **Modify breakwater toe, rock sizes, cross section, etc. to create habitat variety**
- **Glue oyster shell to hard structures to encourage colonization**
- **Create terraces in channel side slopes for sea grass**
- **Add marine mammal haul-out shelves to jetties**
- **Add osprey nesting platforms to structures**

Research Needs

How valuable are measured or predicted benefits for considering the incorporation of an environmental enhancement in infrastructure design?



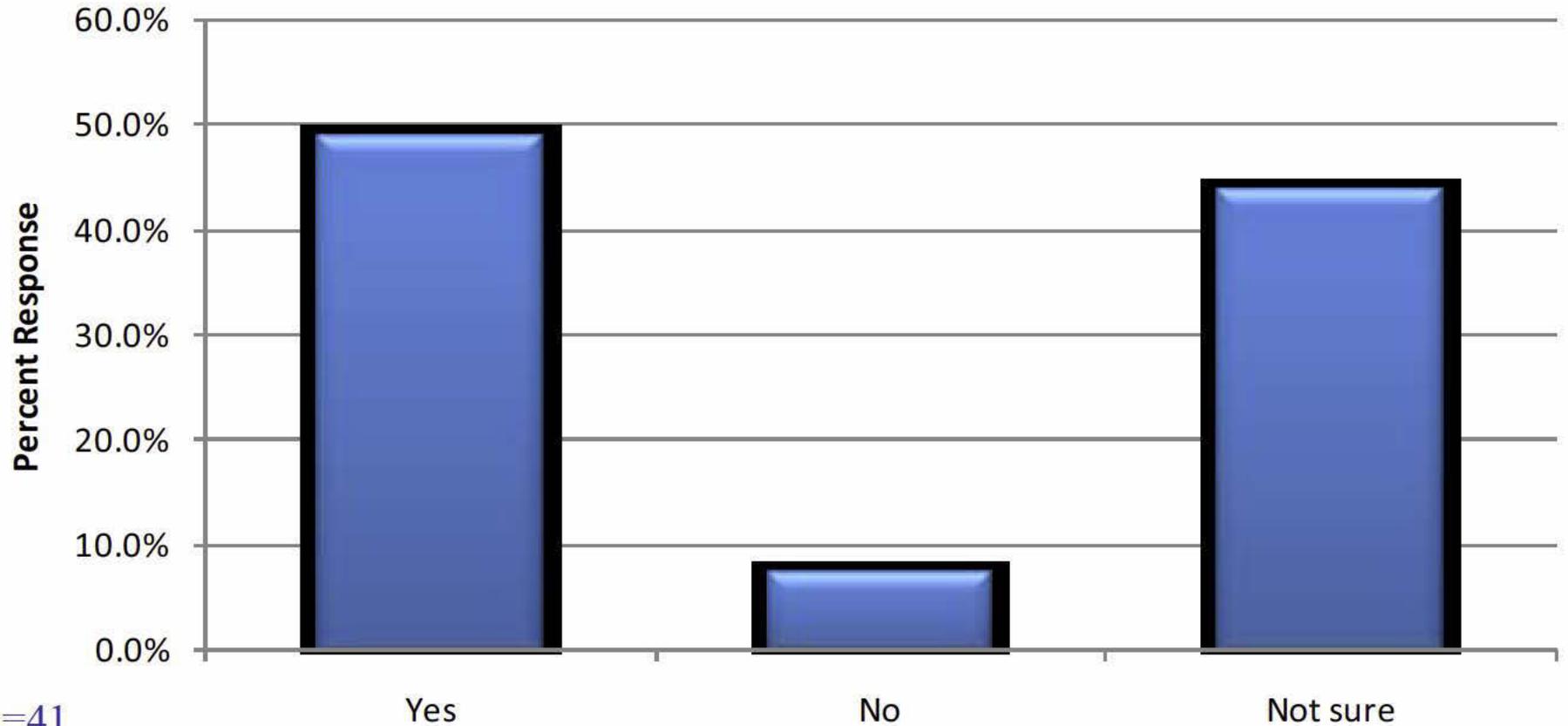
n=41

Top Research Needs

- **Document case studies and benefits**
- **Conduct demonstration projects**
- **Develop success assessment tools**
- **Prioritization of sites where EENI might work**



Do you think we have covered all of the major issues related to this topic?



n=41

Information Dissemination (2)

- ***Meetings*** – NDT, NERDT, Env. Planning Chiefs, 2011 DMAM, US/Dutch WwN
- ***Conferences*** – Battelle, SETAC-MS, NCER, CZ11, SETAC, USACE R&D
- ***Webinars*** - EENI (4)
- ***Webinars*** - Green Breakwaters (3)
- ***Brochure/Website*** – Green Breakwaters

