

Survey: Coastal area wreck diving in Finland

By Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

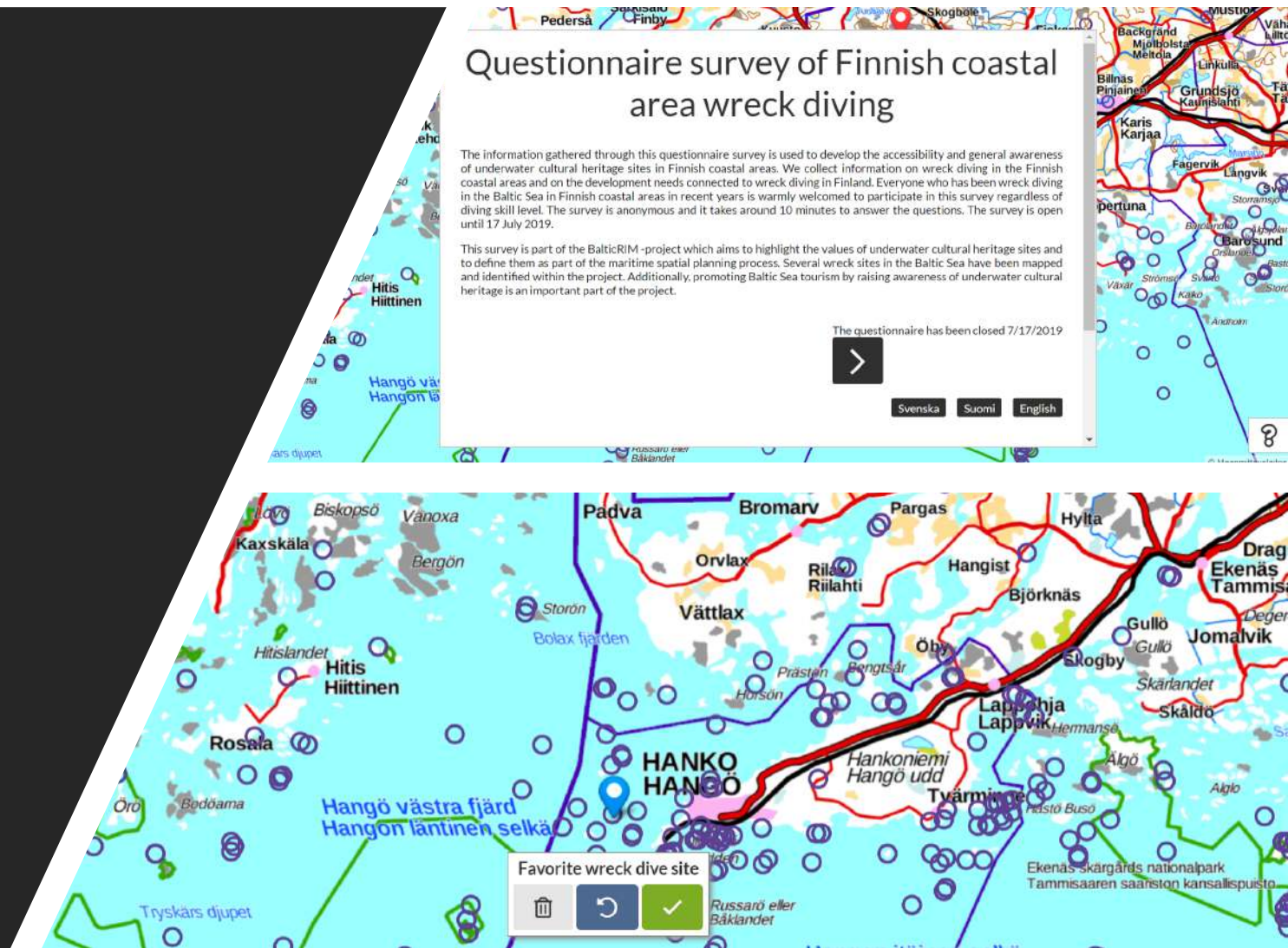


About the survey

- Information on wreck diving and its development needs in the Finnish coastal areas were collected in a questionnaire survey aimed at wreck divers.
- The object of the survey was to develop the accessibility and general awareness of underwater cultural heritage sites in the Finnish coastal areas.
- Report of the survey is available for BalticRIM partners.

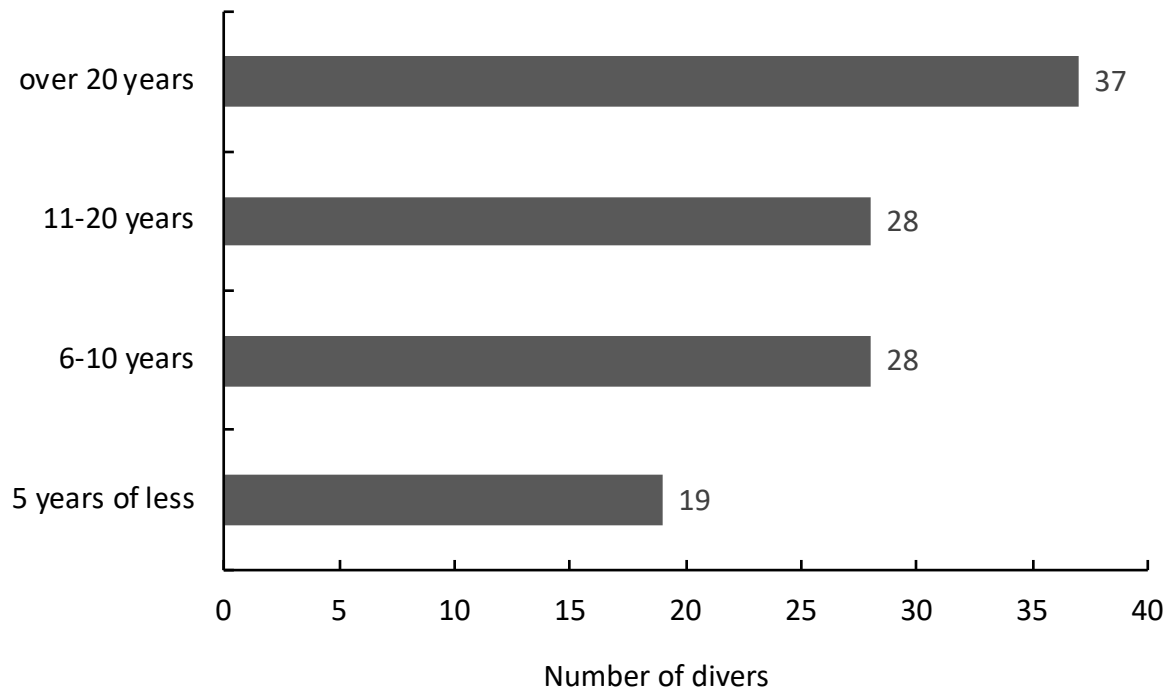
Methods

- Maptionnaire.com
- Open for 2 months for participation
- Advertised by Metsähallitus and the Finnish Divers' Federation Sukehtajaliitto ry
- Questions included:
 - Background questions
 - Diving related questions
 - Map-based section

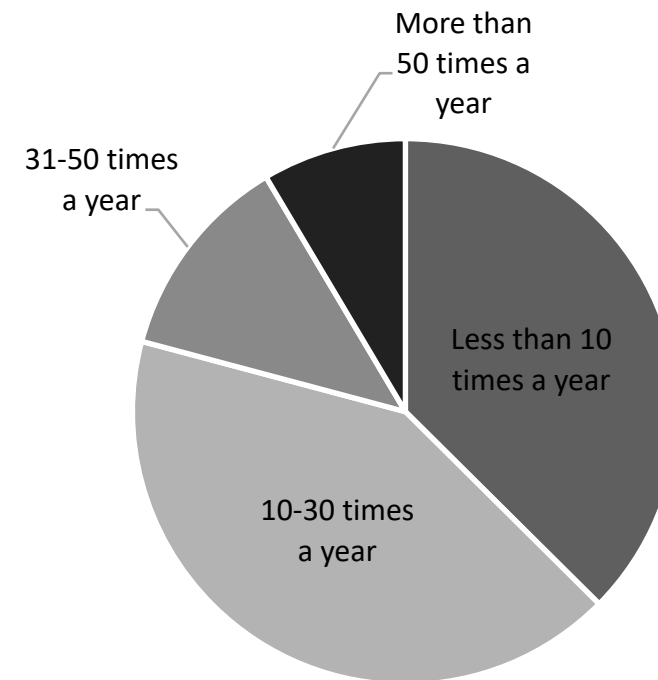


Results –diving habits

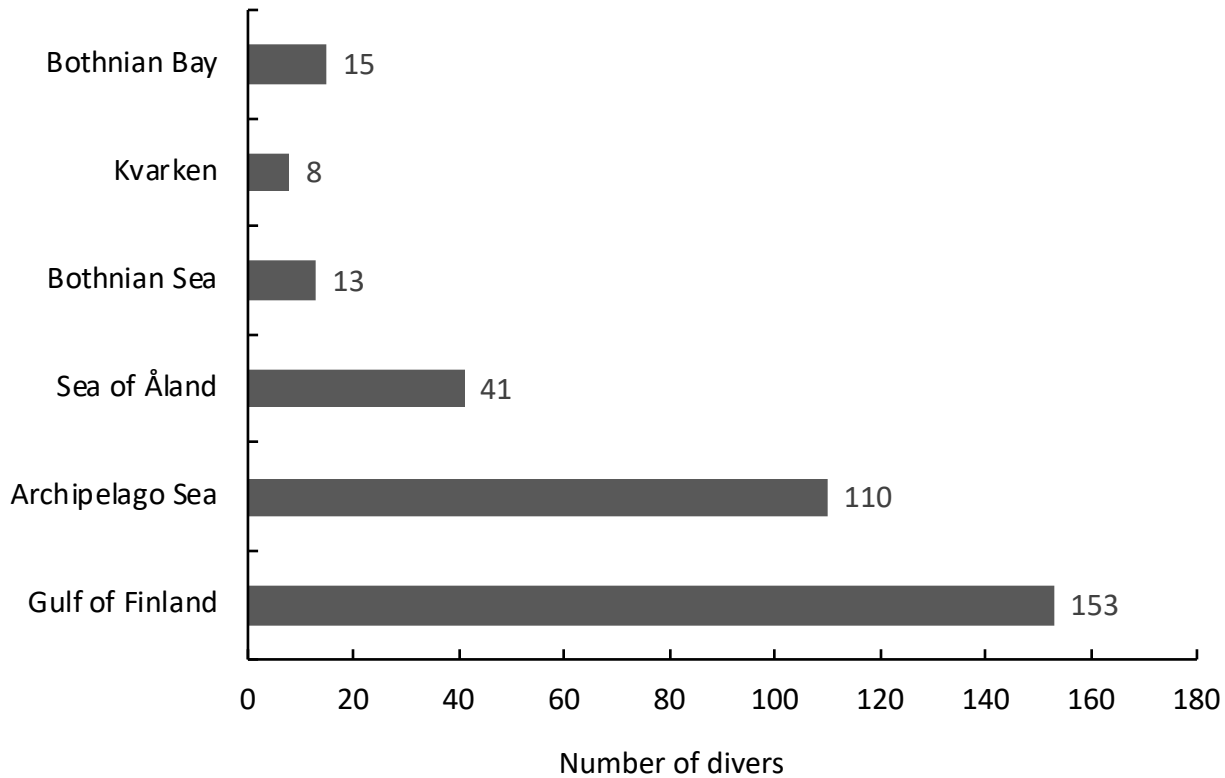
- 211 participants and 223 map answers (86 % men, 13 % women, 1 % other).
- The average age of the participants was 47 years (SD \pm 10,7 years).



Diving experience of participants in years. 'Numer of divers' denotes the frequencies, n=112.

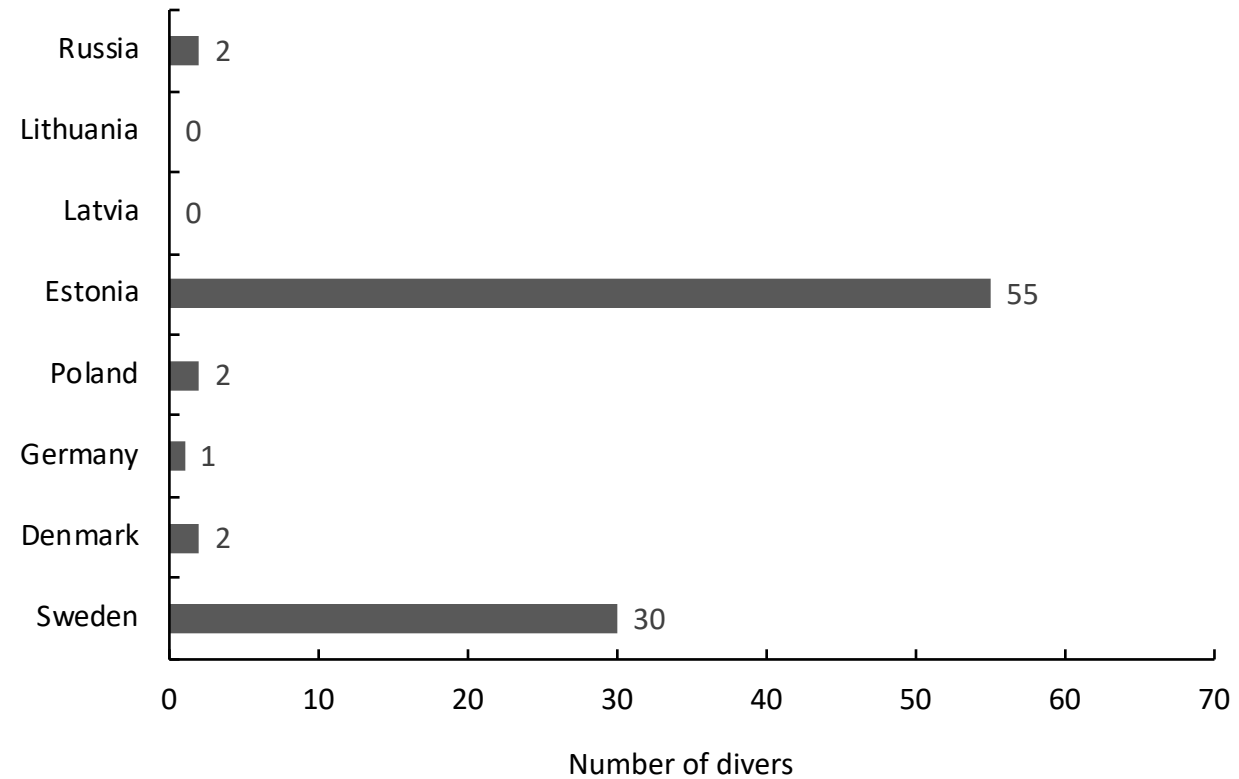


The average amount of dives on wrecks or other underwater cultural heritage sites per year. Less than 10 times a year (37 %), 10-30 times a year (42 %), 31-50 times a year (12 %) and more than 50 times a year (9 %), n=211.



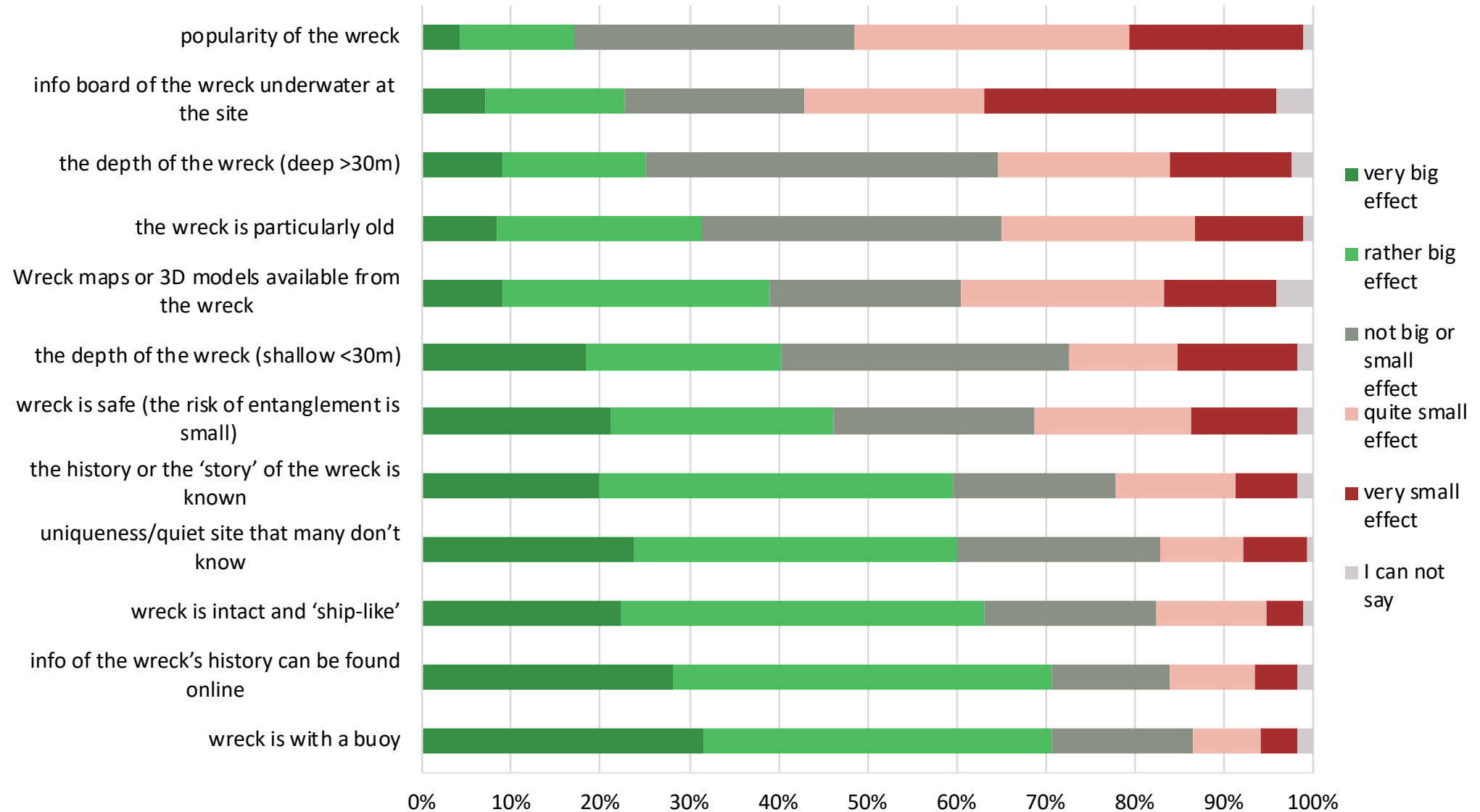
Sea areas where participants dive on wrecks or other underwater cultural heritage sites on the Finnish coastal area. Participants could mark more than one sea area.

Diving habits

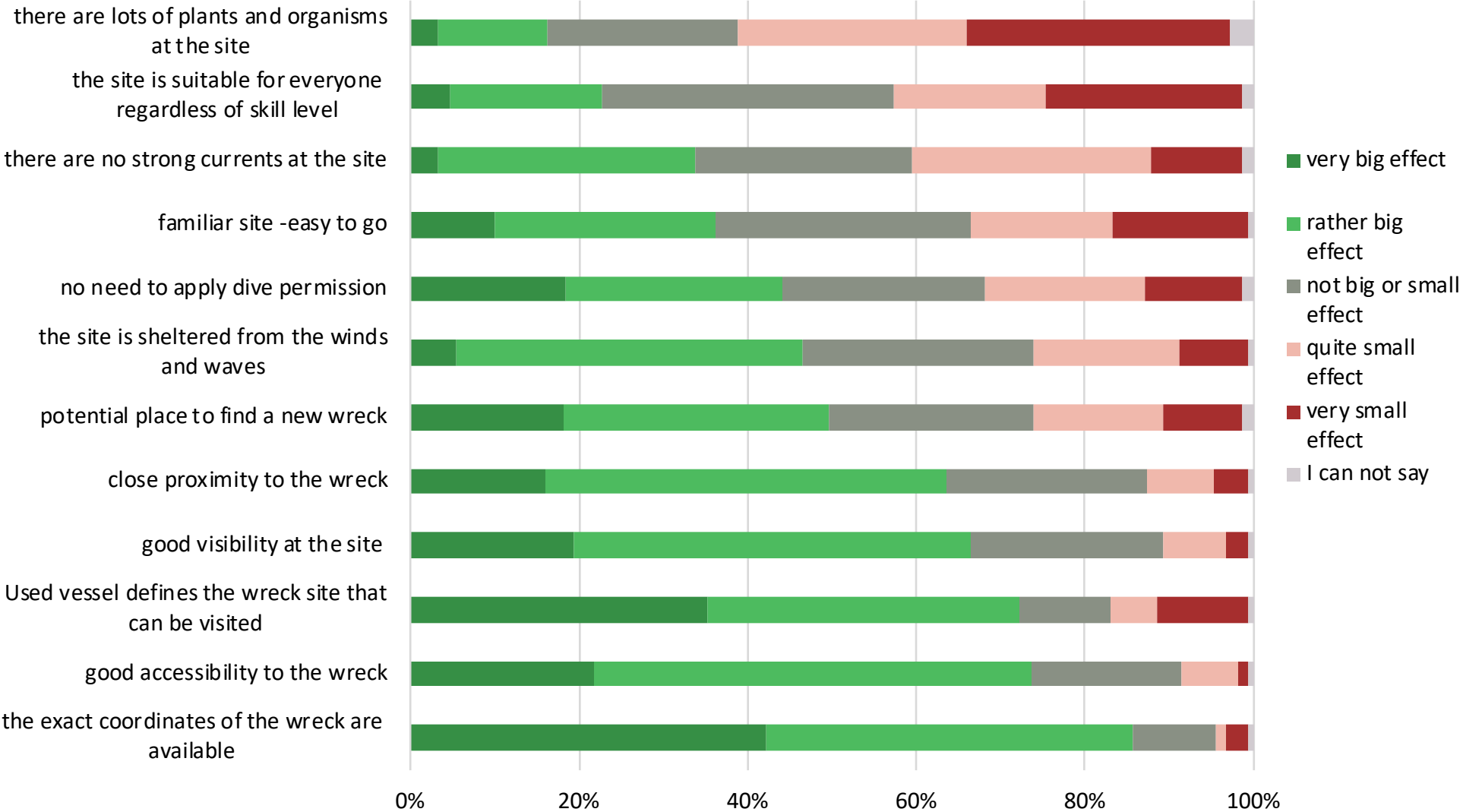


Other sea areas in the Baltic Sea where participants had been wreck diving in the past five years. Participants could mark more than one sea area.

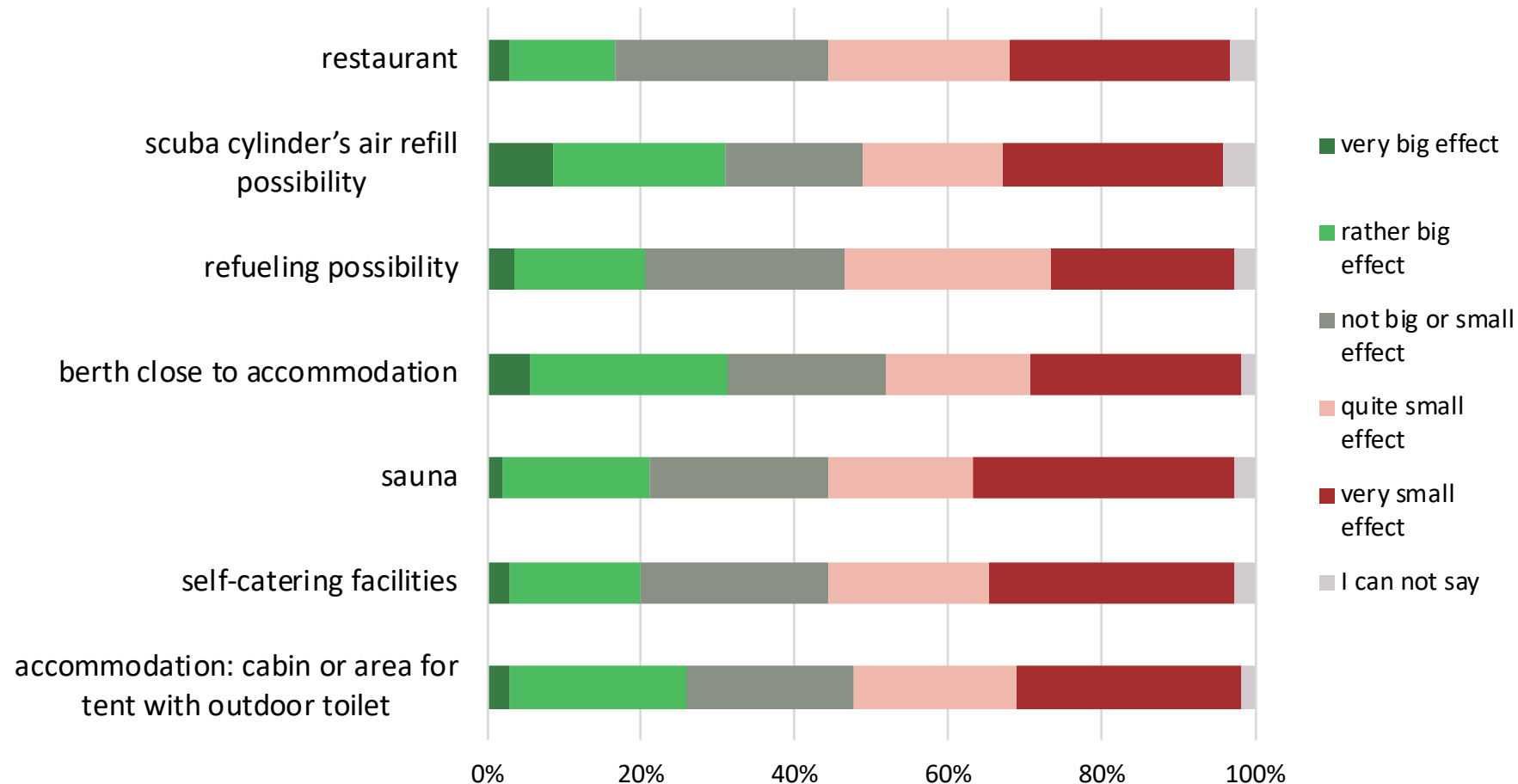
Factors affecting wreck choice –factors related to wreck itself



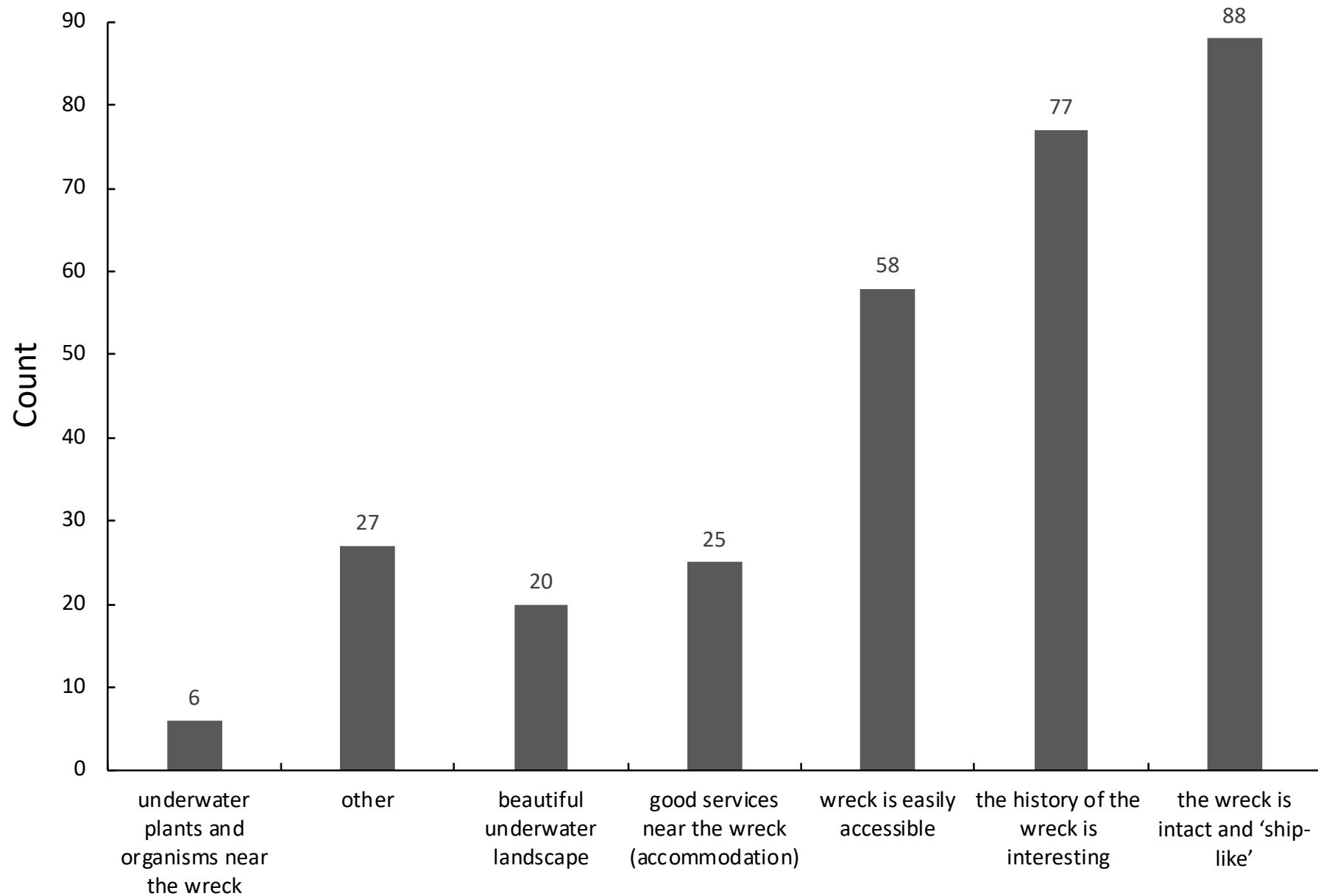
Factors affecting wreck choice –Factors related to the location and surroundings of a wreck



Factors affecting wreck choice –Factors related to the nearby services

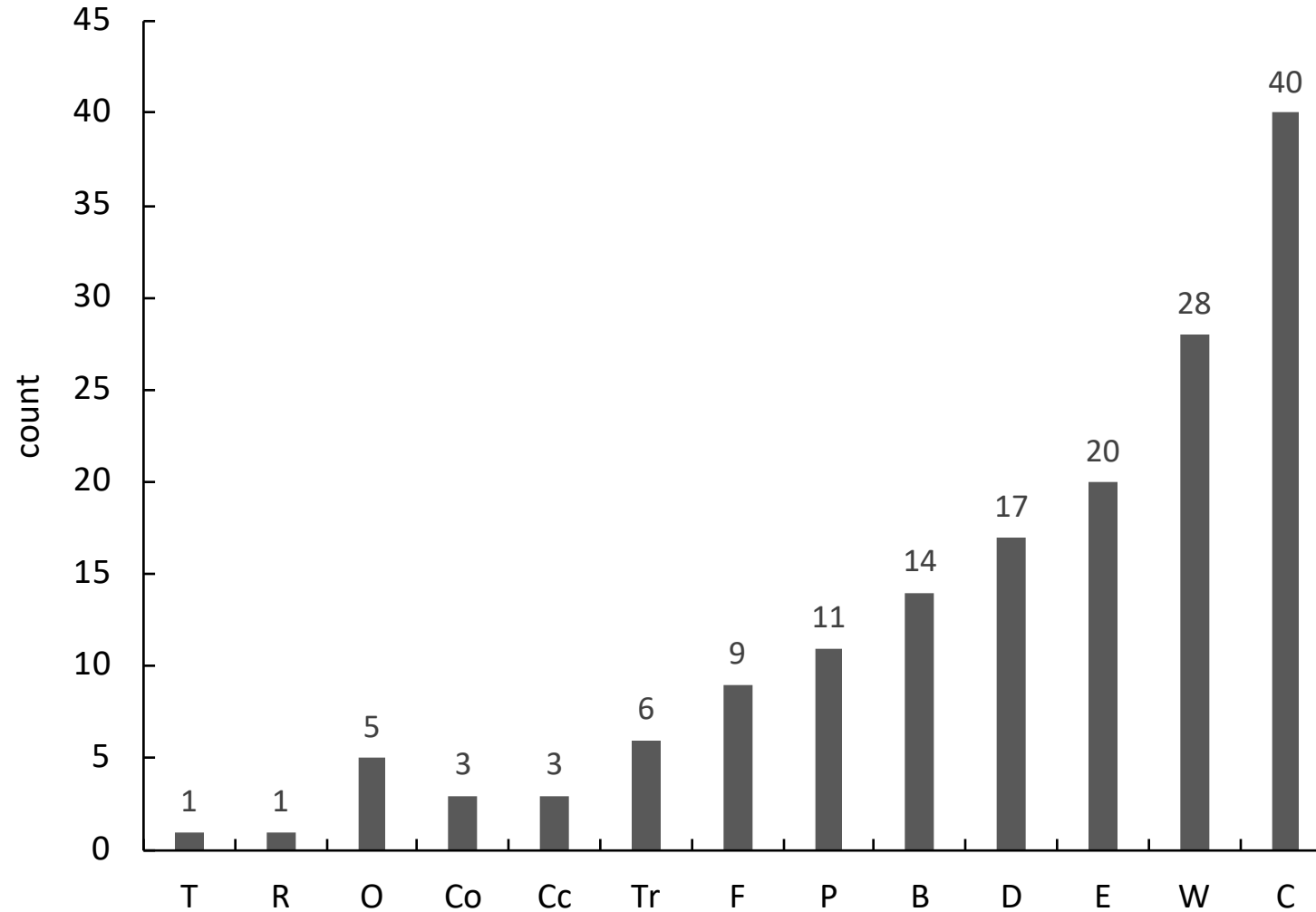






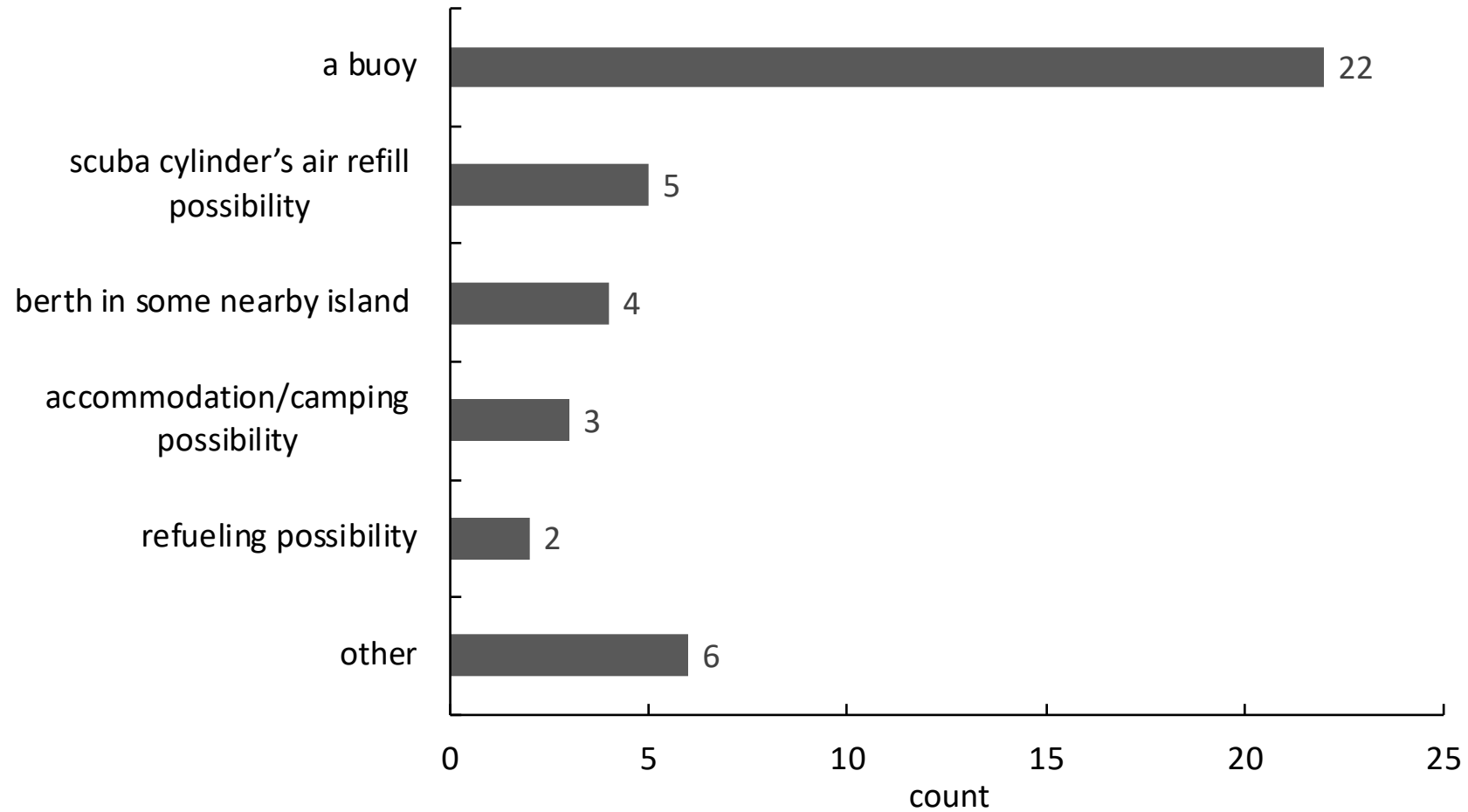
Reasons that make the favorite wreck diving sites good diving destinations. Participants could mark more than one reason.

Perceived threats to favorite wreck diving sites. Participants could mark more than one threat.

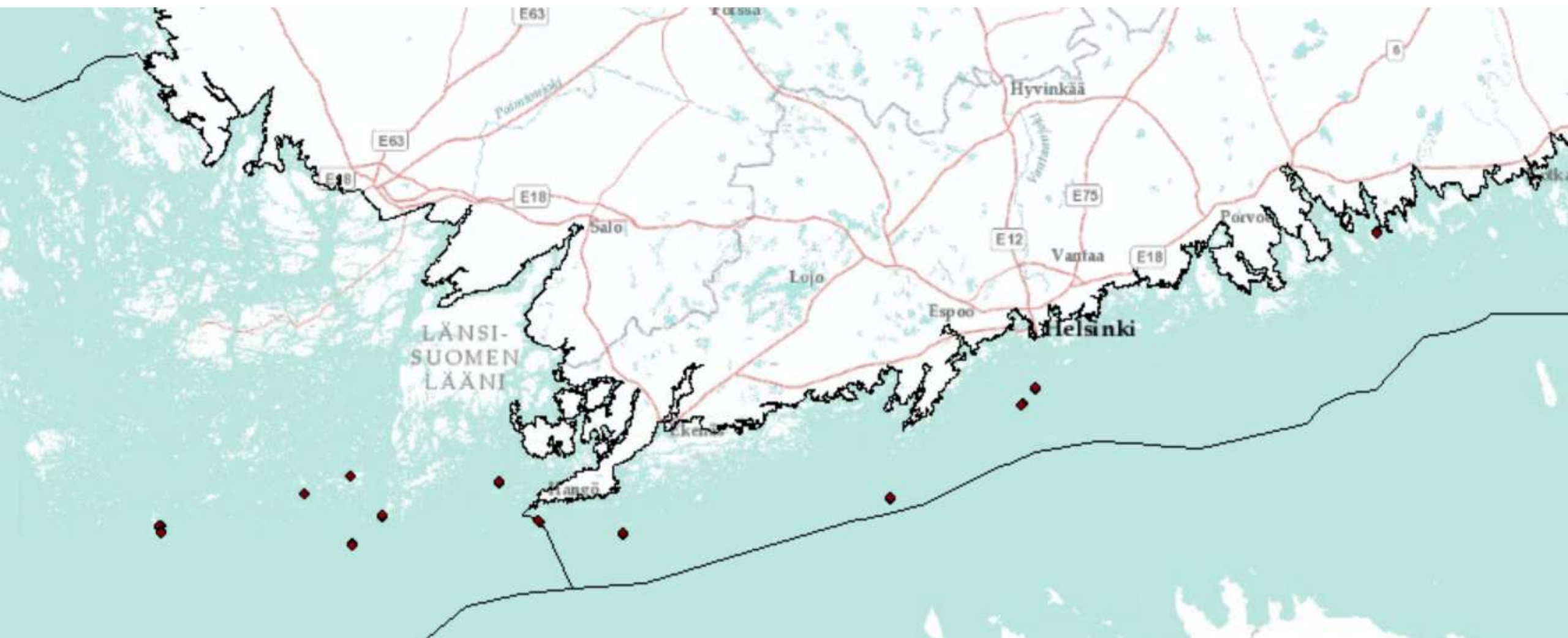


T=tourism,
R=renewable energy facilities,
O=other,
Co=construction or dredging,
Cc=climate change,
Tr=trash,
F=fishing,
P=pollution,
B=boat traffic or ports,
D=too many divers,
E=eutrophication,
W=wreck-robbing,
C=careless behavior of divers.

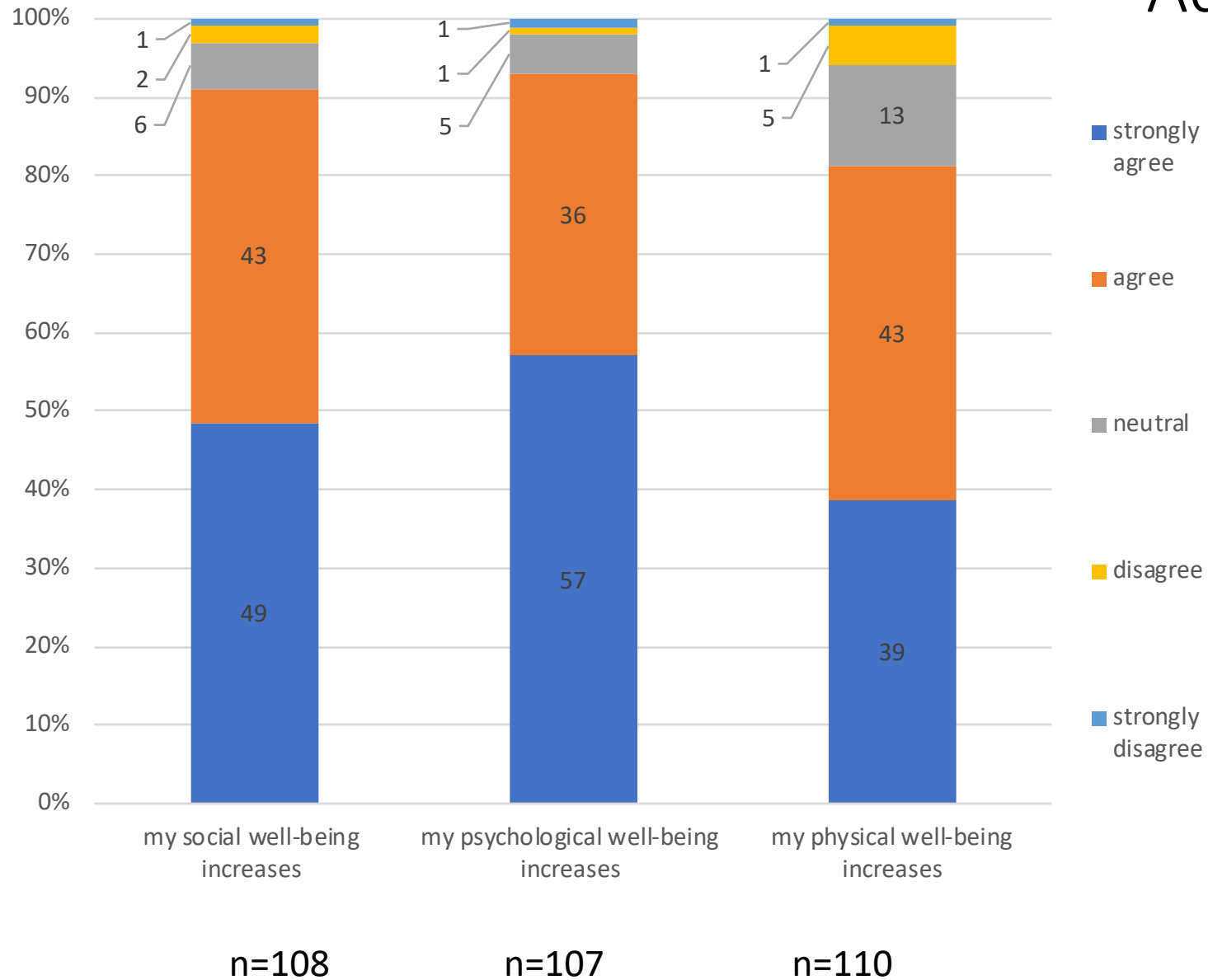
Wreck diving sites that need development



Development needs in marked wrecks (34 wrecks in total). Participants could mark more than one development need per wreck.



Advantages in wreck diving



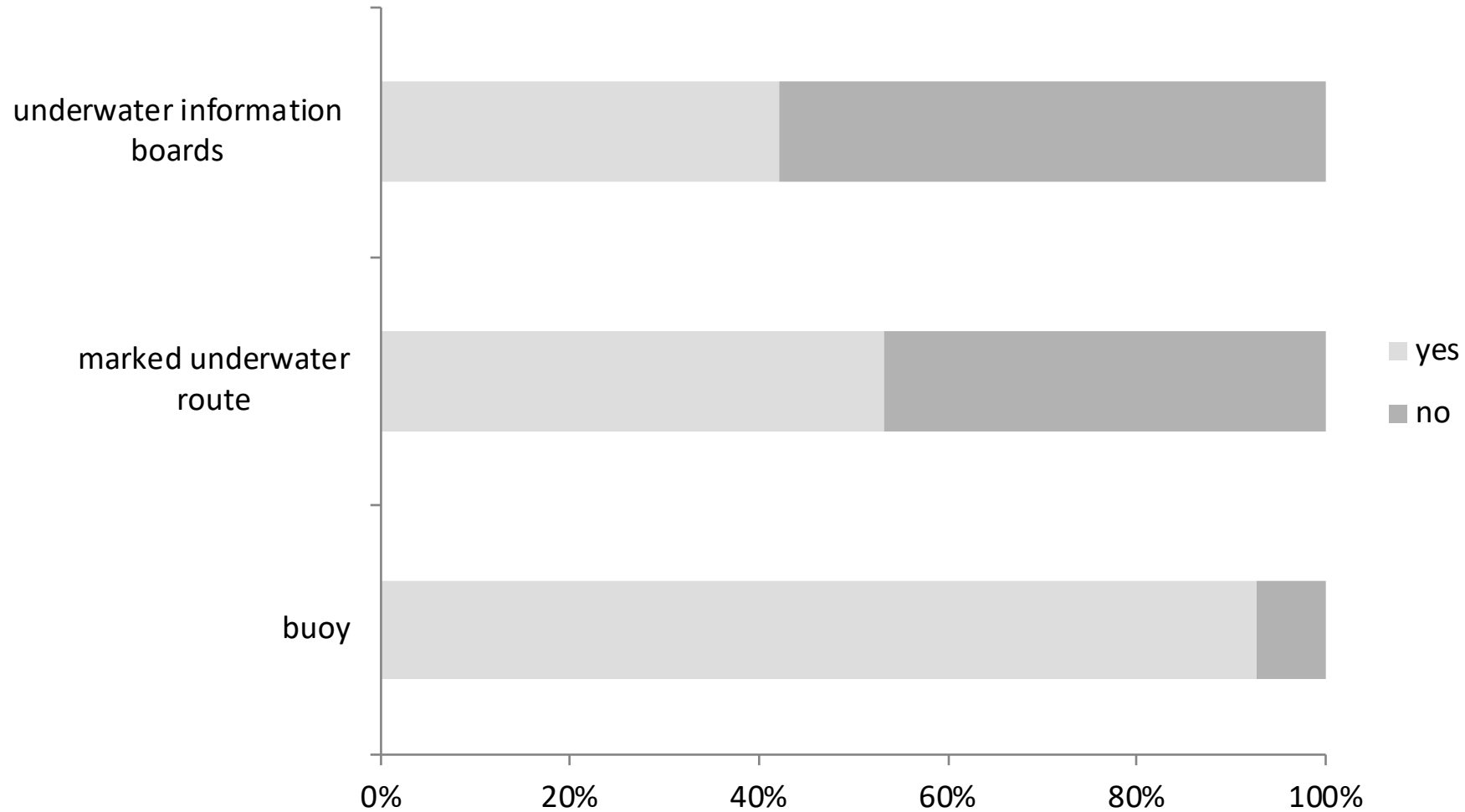
Transportation, commercial services, artificial reefs

- Dive clubs seem to be the most common provider for transportation to wrecks as 63 % (72) of the participants use dive club's boat, 24 % (27) use own or friend's boat and 13 % (15) use commercial operator's boat.
- 77 % (85, n=111) would be willing to use services provided by a commercial dive company.
- More artificial reefs were hoped for by roughly half of the participants while the other half were against them, n=114.



Picture: Petri Puromies/Museovirasto

General development needs





What does this all tell us?

Thank you!



Main findings

- Most wreck divers are middle-aged men from Southern Finland and have many years of diving experience and rather high diving intensity.
- Factors that most affect wreck site selection are a buoy, uniqueness of the dive site, wreck's known history, ship-like wreck, info of the wreck's history is found online, good visibility, available vessel, exact coordinates, accessibility and close proximity of the wreck, and differences were detected in the answers between genders and diving intensity.
- Services near the wreck are not important for most of the wreck divers in Finland in dive site selection and there was no strong wish for better services concerning the development needs of Finnish coastal areas.

Main findings

- The need for more buoys was the most important development need and it was further emphasized by many participants throughout the survey.
- The biggest threats to wrecks were seen in careless behavior of divers and in wreck-robbing.