

Initial results of study into eel restocking practices across Europe

Wetlands International – European Association

Cy Griffin

The Council Regulation (EC) 1100/2007

- *Article 7 § 1*

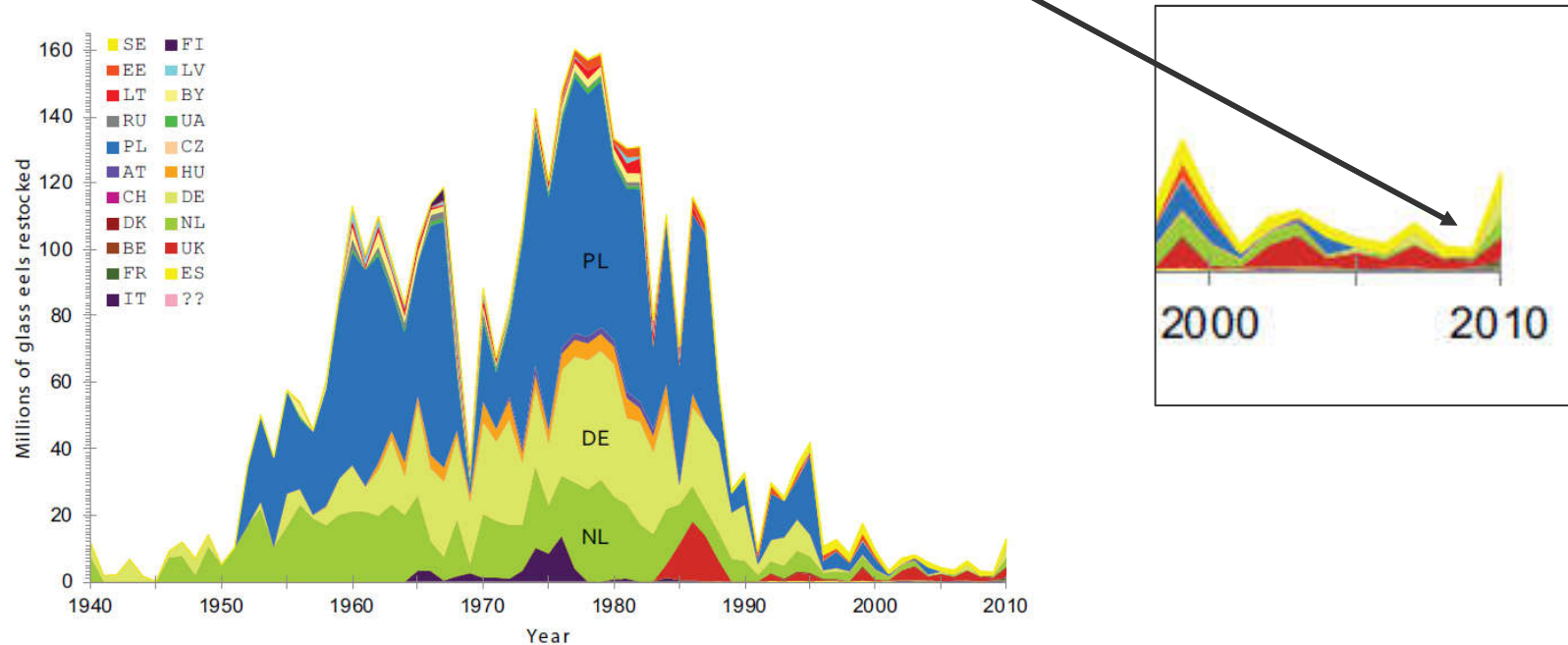
Measures concerning restocking

If a Member State permits fishing for eels less than 12 cm in length, either as part of an Eel Management Plan established in accordance with Article 2, or as part of a reduction in fishing effort in accordance with Article 4(2) or Article 5(4), it **shall reserve at least 60 % of the eels less than 12 cm in length caught by the fisheries in that Member State during each year to be marketed for use in restocking in eel river basins** as defined by Member States according to Article 2(1) for the purpose of increasing the escapement levels of silver eels

But restocking not a new idea

- Starting in 19th century until peak in 1970s
- Some renewed interest after 2009

FAIRE MIEUX QUE LA NATURE?

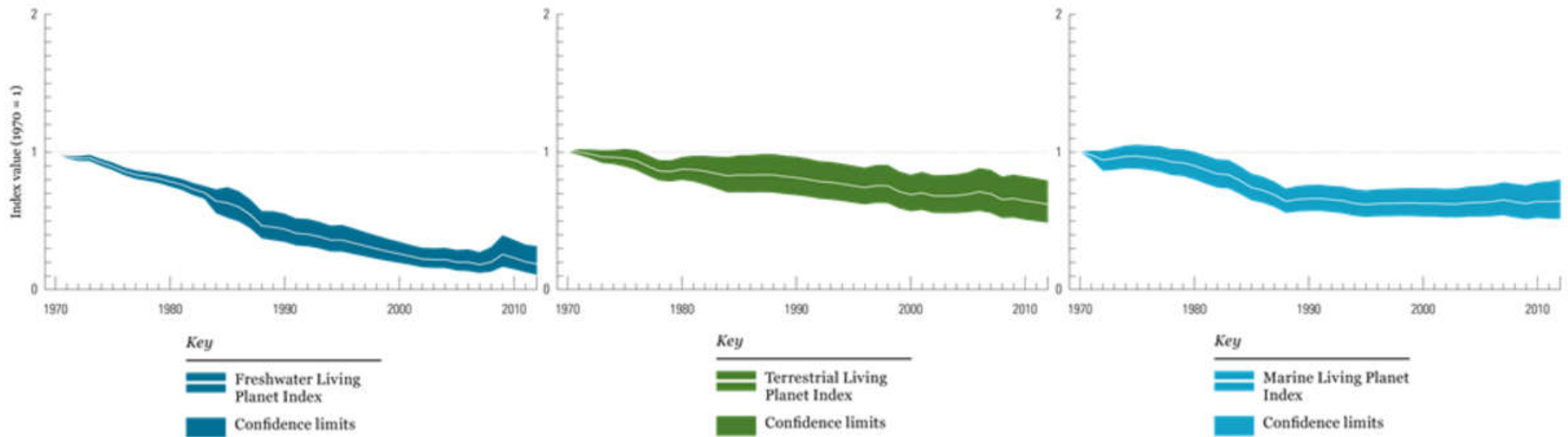


Dekker & Beaulaton 2016

The status of wetlands

Global losses of wetlands are at least 64% since 1900.

The Living Planet Index report shows that freshwater species populations have suffered an 81% decline since 1970, most commonly due to habitat loss and degradation



Reason for the study

- There is general dissatisfaction that restocking measures are not assisting Member States in meeting the objectives of the Regulation, nor the anticipated benefits for eel recovery.
- A plethora of methods have evolved across the EU some with over a considerable length of time
- It has been observed that restocking orders unfilled and quality levels not met
- The target ratio of 60% is not always attained
- What exactly is happening in the principle countries, what is going wrong and why? What are the best practices and what recommendations to improve the situation?

Response rates

- High response rate by German institutions
- Germany: divided in 16 states with on fishery legislation etc.
- Stocking institutions: Ministries,
 - Professional and recreational fisheries
 - Associations

	total	commercial	restocking institution
Belgium	1	1	
Denmark	2	1	1
Estonia	1		1
France	2	1	1
Germany	11	1	10
Greece	1		1
Italy	1		1
Latvia	1		1
Lithuania	1		1
Netherlands	1	1	1
Poland	1		1
Spain	1	1	
Sweden	1	1	
UK	1	1	
	26	8	19

Identification of problems the hamper eel restocking

Quantitative questions:

1. What is your expected glass/farmed eel demand in season 2016/2017?
2. What is your expected commercial use including stocking for fishery use (numbers of individuals or weight*) in 2016/17?
3. How many eels are you planning to use for restocking (recovery measure) (numbers of individuals or weight*) in 2016/17?
4. How many hectares will be stocked and with what densities?
5. Do you have specific rules for the water bodies that will be restocked (access to sea, limited fishing etc.)? If yes, please provide details and references.
5. What is your EMP restocking target** (number of individuals or weight*)?

Identification of problems the hamper eel restocking

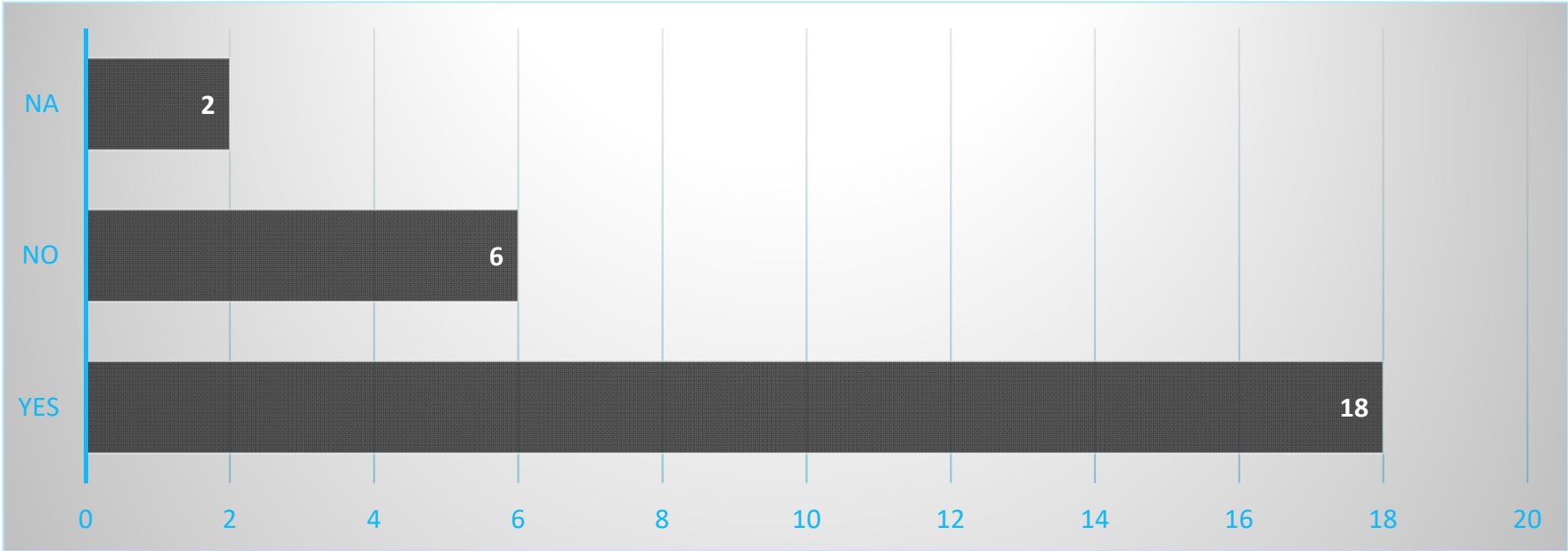
Quantitative questions:

4. How many hectares will be stocked and with what densities?

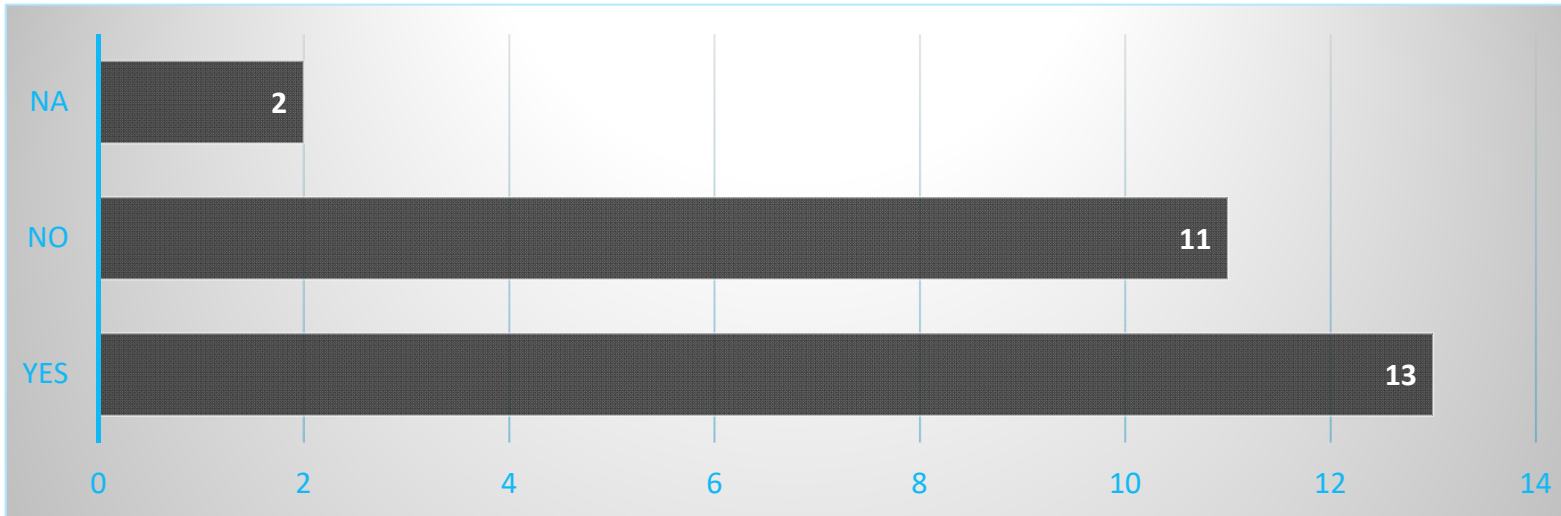
Variation in stocking densities of Glass eel restocking:

- 200 pieces per hectare → 17,000 pcs/ha (5kg/ha)

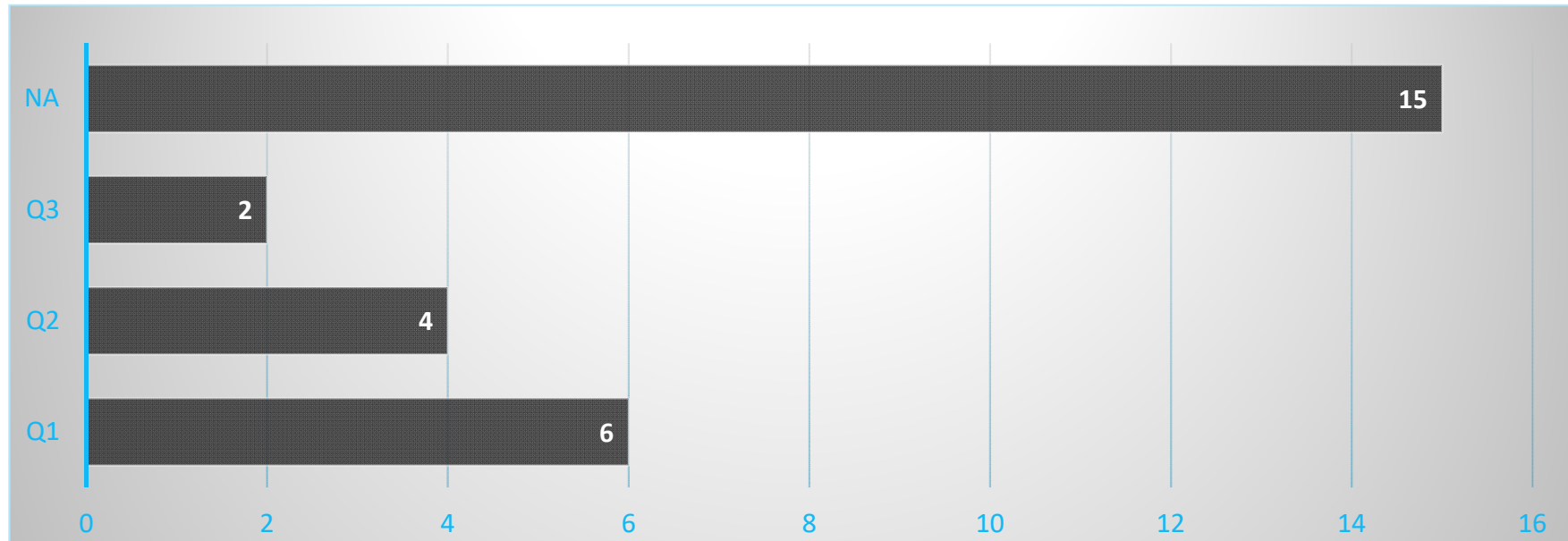
7 Are EMFF grants available in your country that support restocking measures?



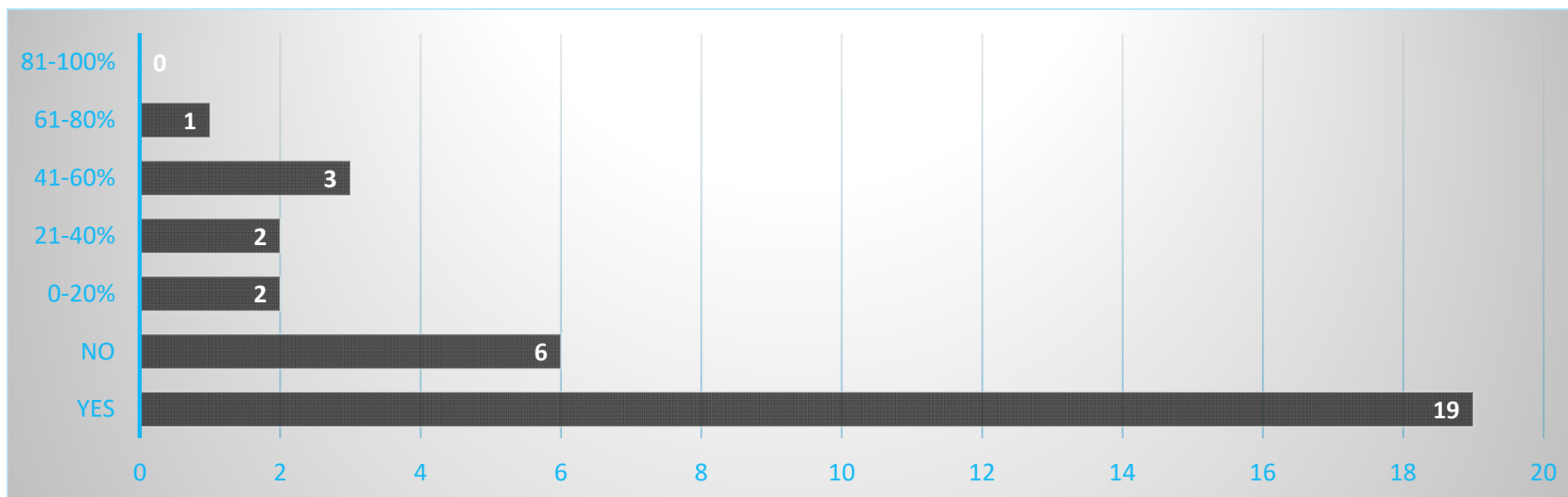
8 Do you apply for EMFF grants to support restocking?



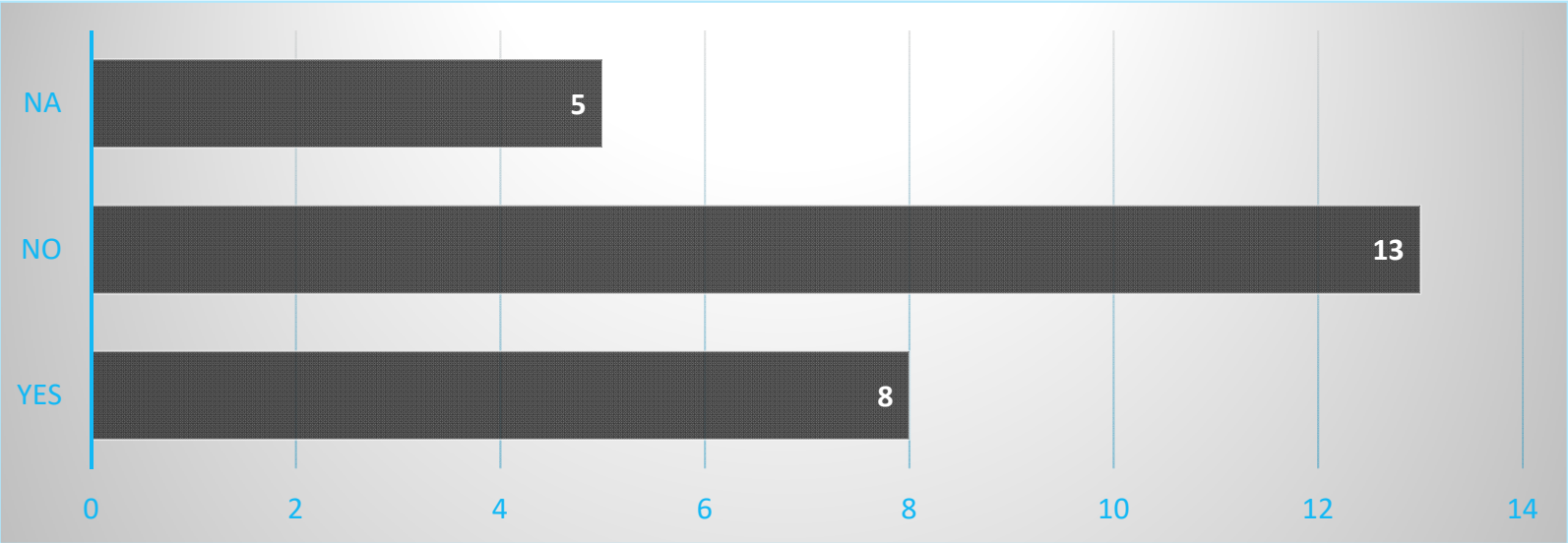
9 When are EMFF grants usually available (mm/yy)?



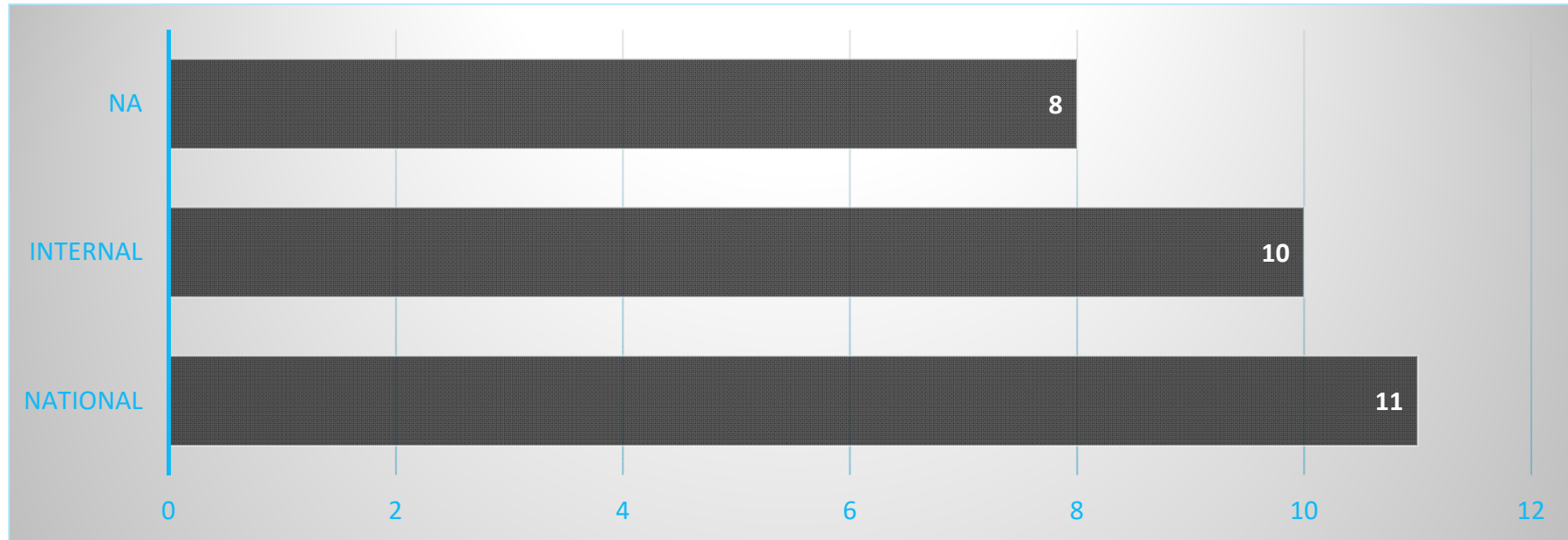
10 Do you have private restocking by fishermen? Please provide details on amounts and contact details



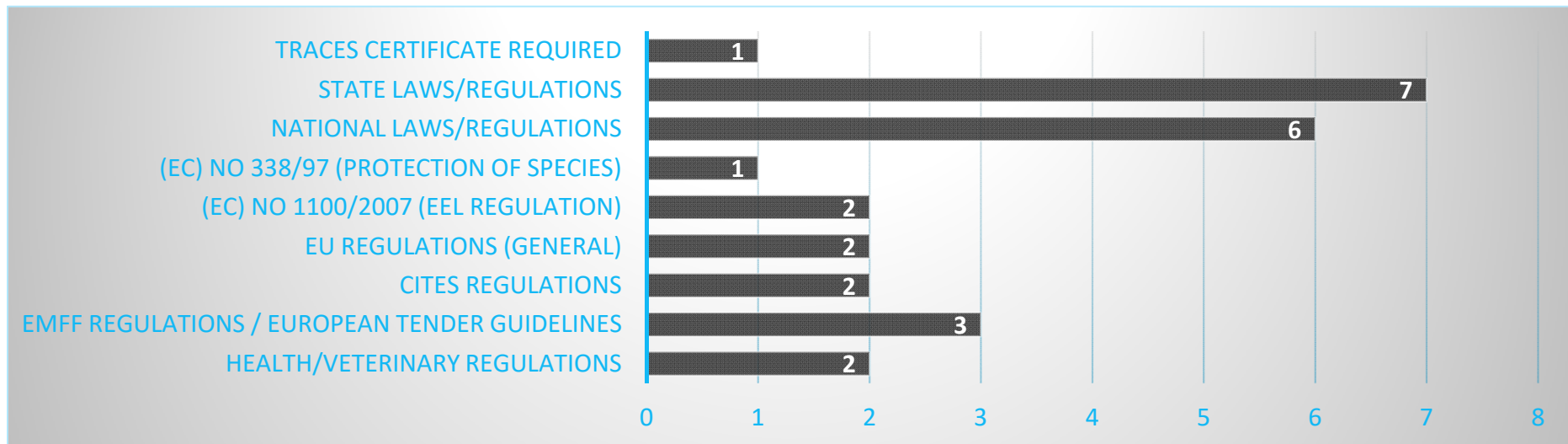
11 Do you have a system like ESF that enables funding or co-funding for restocking?



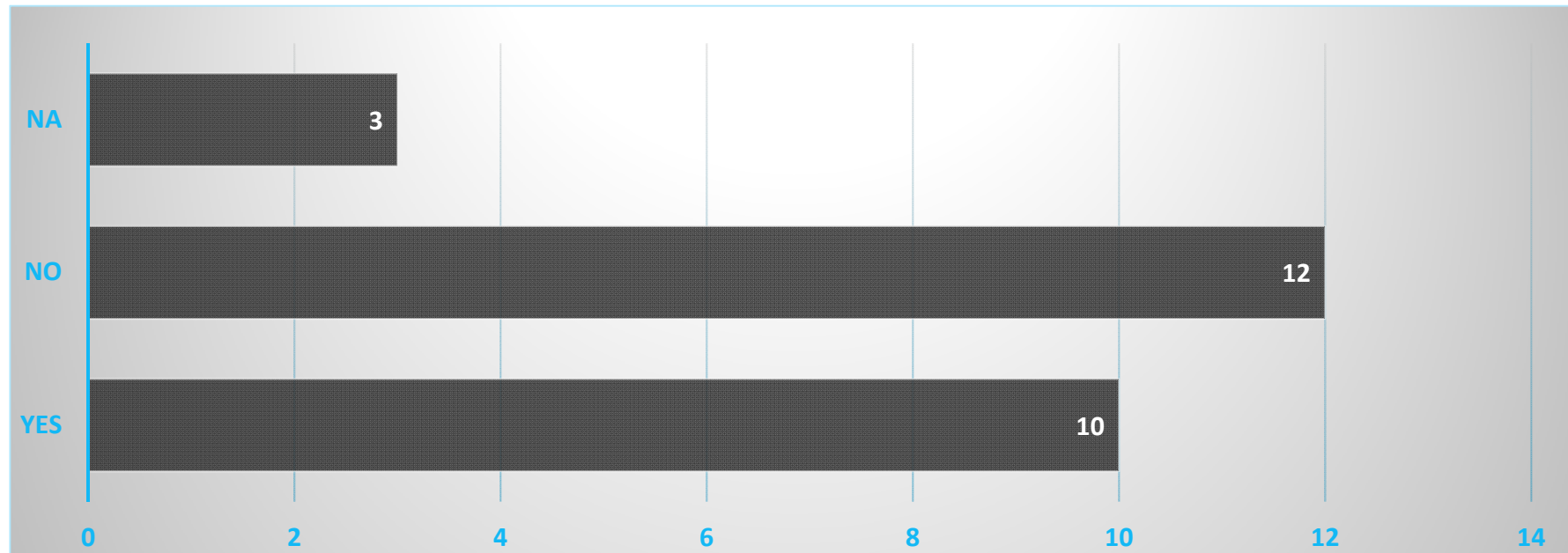
12 Do you advertise your call for tender nationally or internationally?



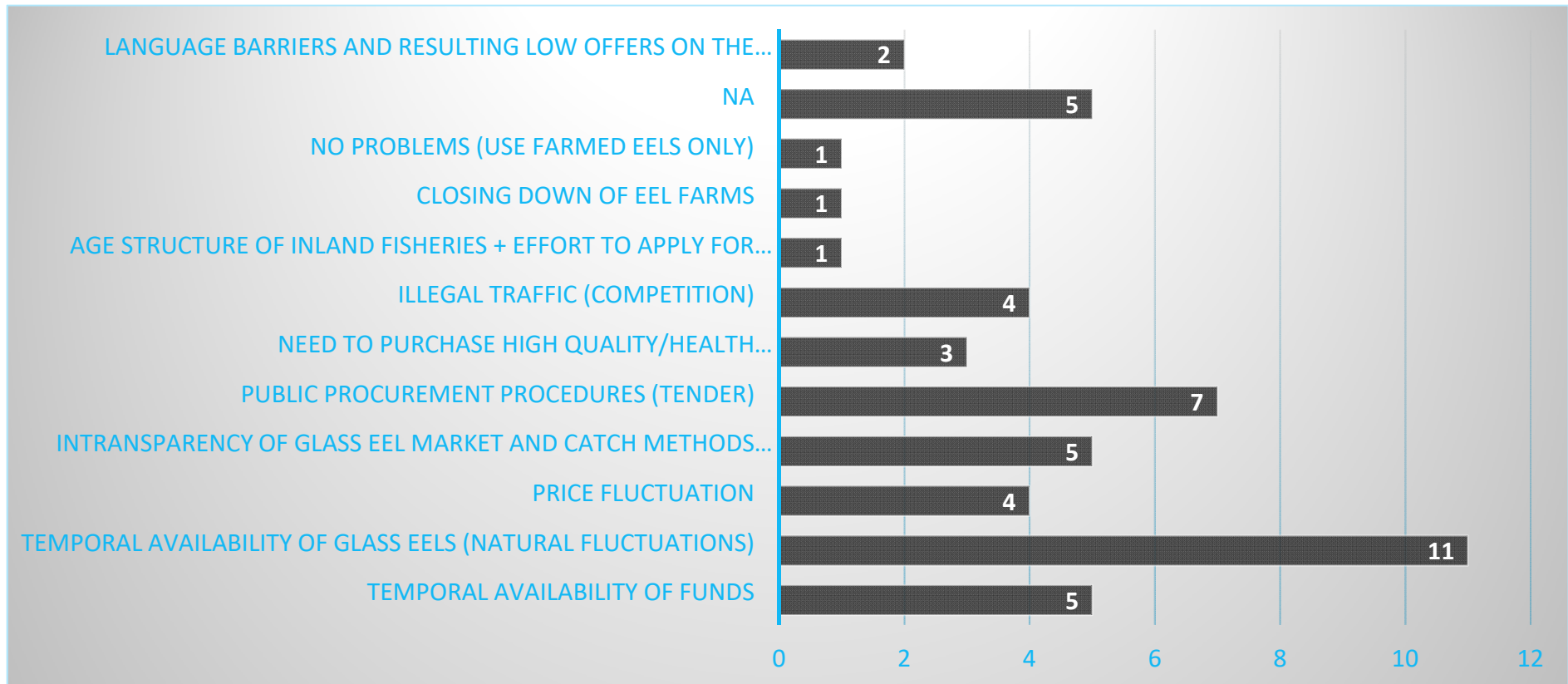
13 Do you have to consider specific national regulations when purchasing glass eels/farmed eels? If yes, please provide details and references



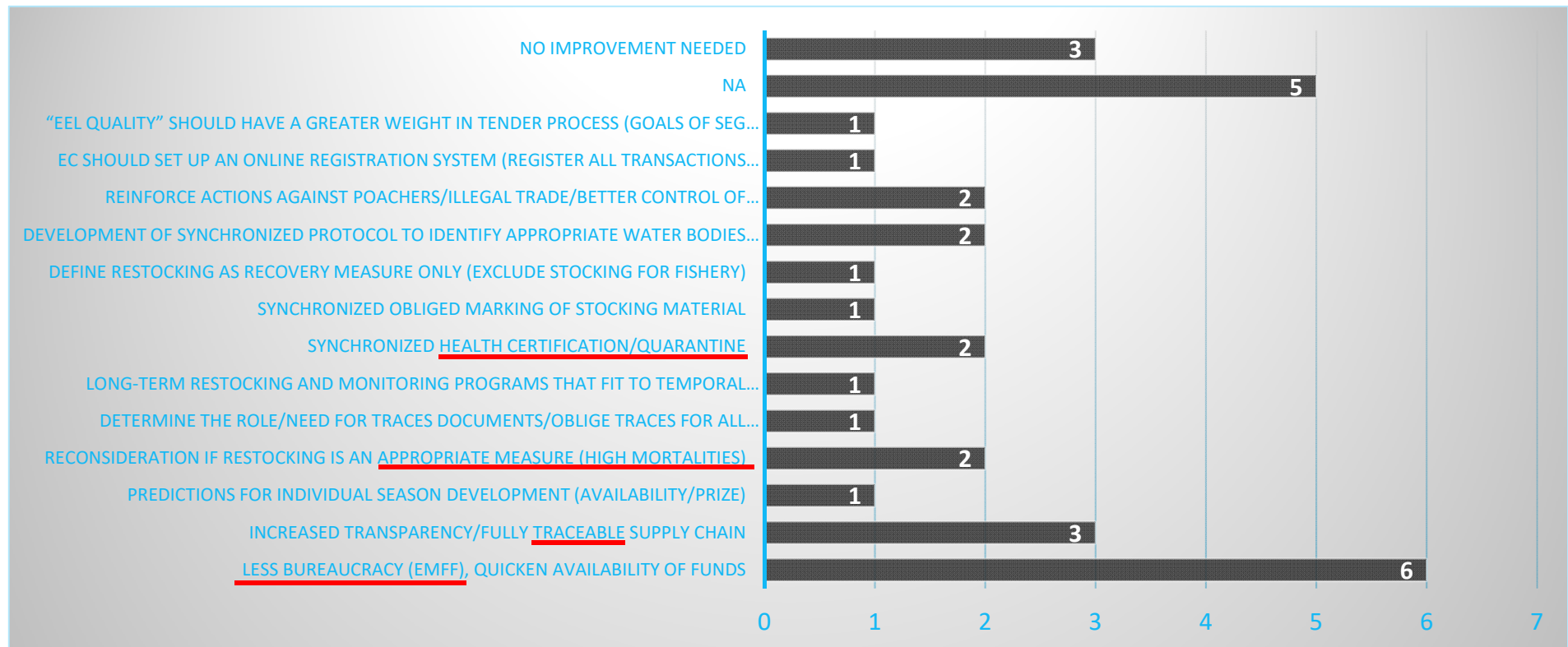
14 Were you able to purchase the required amounts of glass/farmed eels in the past years?



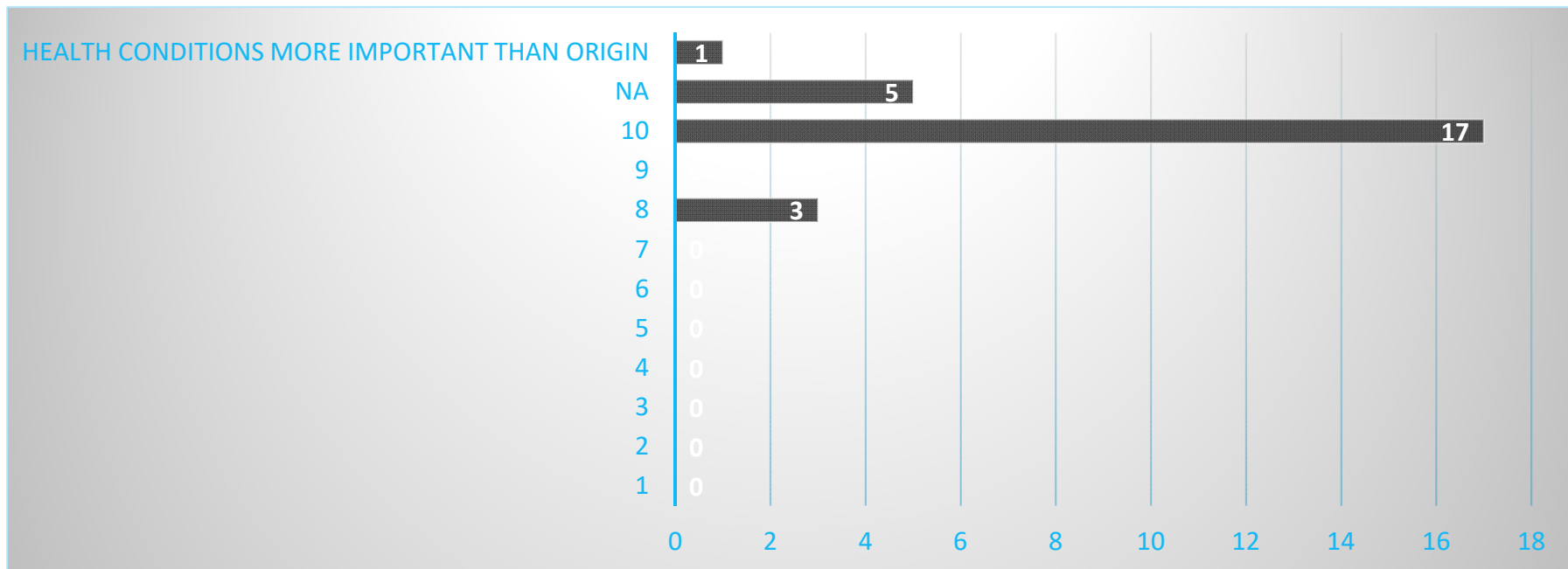
15 Were do you see the highest risks in terms of purchasing the required amounts of glass/farmed eels?



16 What are your recommendations to improve the situation?



17 What is your demand in terms of “traceability of the eels”, e.g. how important is it for you to have proof where the eels were caught? (scale from 1-10)?



More ideas of how to improve?

Thanks...

<http://europe.wetlands.org/>

cy.griffin@wetlands.org

 Wetlands International

 @WetlandsInt

 Wetlands International

