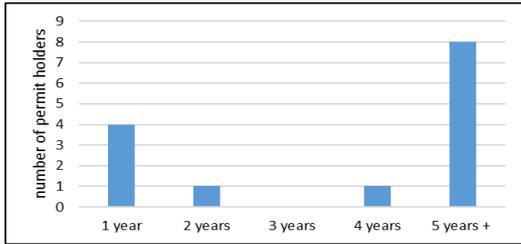


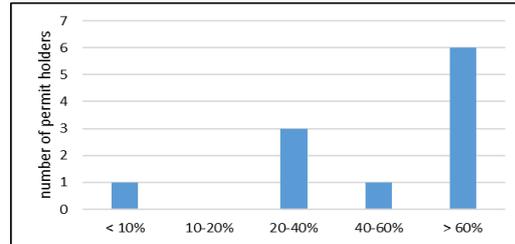
**2019 Stakeholder questionnaire results (13/62 responses)**

**A) Feedback on fishing – your vessel**

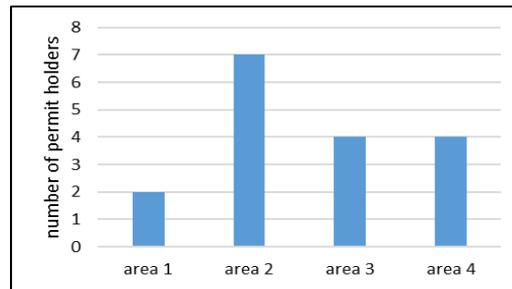
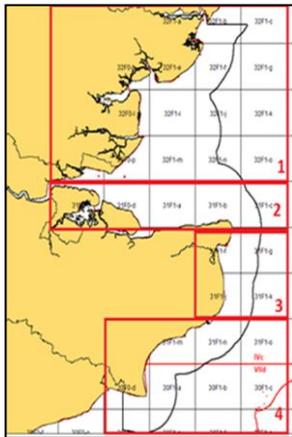
1. How long have you been fishing for whelks?



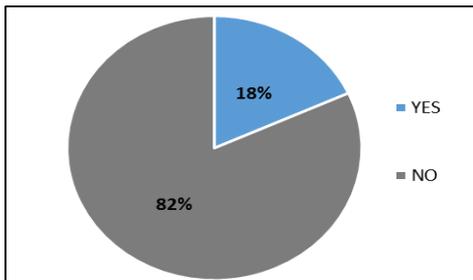
2. What percentage of your income comes from whelks?



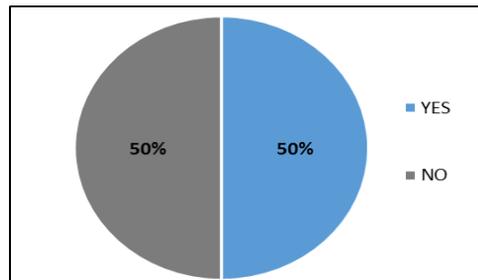
3. Please circle on the chart below the areas that you currently target to fish for whelks.



4. Since the byelaw was introduced have you seen any major changes in the stock available?



5. Are you putting more effort in to fishing for whelks than you were 4 years ago?



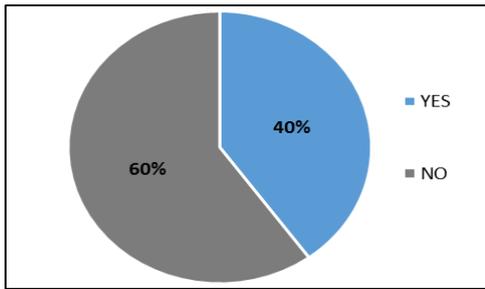
**B) Feedback on fishing - general**

6. How have you seen fishing effort change over the last 5 years, both within and outside the district? Are there problems outside the 12nm limit?

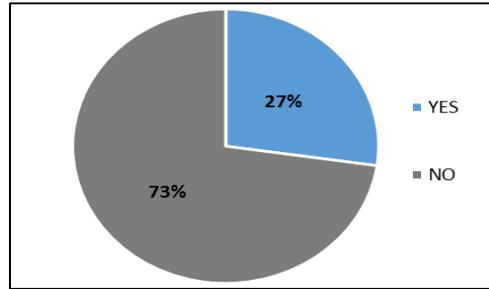
*	yes, same as q.5 more boats have been forced to go whelking due to new fishing regulations which make it hard to make a living just fishing
*	yes, pulse beamers have killed the ground completely and destroyed the sole fishery
*	more effort less fish
*	it would appear there has been more effort to obtain reasonable catches with dwindling stocks/quotas etc, especially among the pros. Always seem to be uncertainty over the quota & landing of european fishermen
*	in my opinion the sole fishery has basically collapsed in the last 5 years, could be a number of reasons for this (pulse beamers, dredging, over-fishing). With bass fishing all but banned, this has forced many to turn to whelking, where in years passed they wouldn't have needed to
*	inside - more whelkers fewer netting, outside - too many beamers and lots of tide/sea
*	more boats that used to fish other stocks have turned to it due to not being to fish other stocks
*	the problem outside the 12nm limit are too many pulse beamers and too many big scallopers with 10+ dredges aside. We should have just 6 aside in Kent & Essex
*	no
*	too many boats from outside our area chasing too few whelks with 3 times the gear we use. Outside the 12nm our gear is towed away by the French etc.
*	Dungeness 3 boats fishing 300 pots each, moving between 0-6 and 6-12. One boat outside the 12 French/Belgian

### C) Whelk riddling

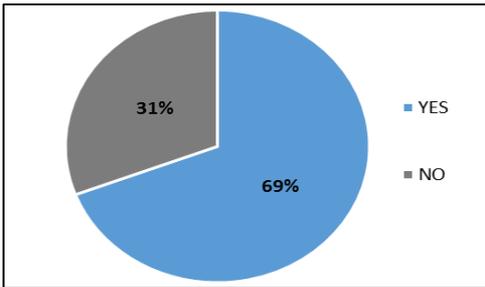
7. Do you think the riddle should be standardised?



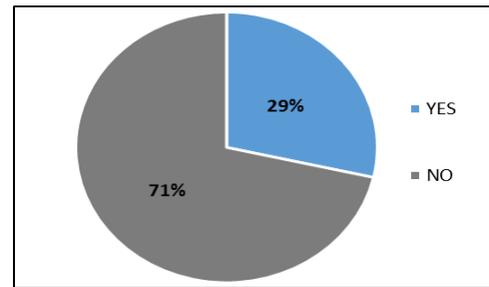
8. Do you think the riddle should be standardised depending on the size of vessel? 3 different riddle sizes could be set for 3 different size categories of boats.



9. Do you think all riddling should return caught whelks straight overboard so that all undersize whelks are evenly distributed over the bed they were caught from?



10. Do you agree that a standard way of riddling needs be enforced to stop any ambiguity on landings? How could you work with the IFCA to achieve this?



11. What is the maximum percentage of undersized whelks that could be landed with the catch?

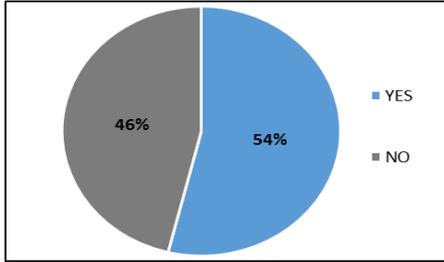
* minimal 1-2%
* 5%
* 50%
* I was lead to believe that there was a 10% dispensation but now know there isn't. There should be a percentage as it is impossible to remove every small whelk, as you well know.
* dependant on local area and how full each pot is
* for category 2 possibly quite low as more manageable. However for larger boats, this is best answered by the pros.
* 1-2% of total catch weight
* I thought it was zero?
* there are bound to be a few 5% maybe but sizeable whelks that fall through the riddle shouldn't be taken into account
* 10%
* 0%
* 15% (IFCA size limit)

12. What do you think of having a KEIFCA minimum size for whelks?

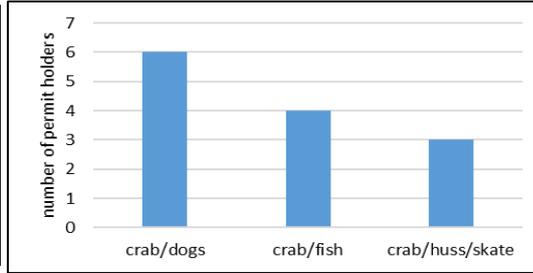
* the size is fine as it is and stocks are healthy
* we already have 45mm. The Ramsgate whelkers need the riddle size changed as from North Foreland - South 25mm is not viable. How about raising the size to 50mm whelks and a 22.5mm riddle
* it is fine as it is. Why fix something that isn't broken?
* This should be looked at. In some areas whelks never get to the 25mm size (ie Clacton, St Osyth, Walton, Harwich, Dengie, Mersea Flats)
* yes to preserve stocks
* most of what falls through our 25mm riddle is above the MLS of 45mm, upwards of 90% at times. This would suggest that possibly the local size should be slightly higher, otherwise riddling is largely a pointless exercise! I understand other areas locally yield smaller mature whelks and this obviously needs considering if KEIFCA are thinking of increasing minimum sizes
* yes, if they can breed first
* the size now is ok. Whelks recover quickly, better to leave the ground free of pots for a while as we always have done Folkestone. Few left at end of season but always plentiful when starting new season
* very good
* it's now 25mm which is a fair size for whelks in the Thames
* depends on what size they decide on
* to be discussed at meeting

## D) Bait

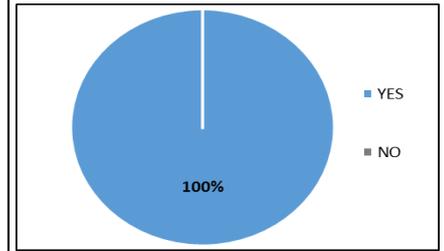
13. Do you have problems getting bait?



14. What are your preferred baits?

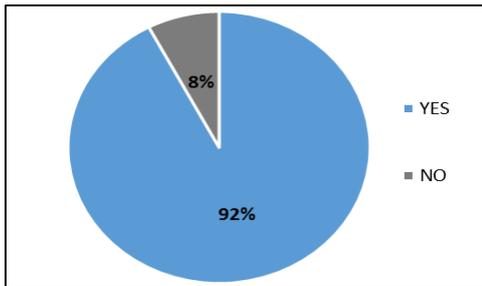


15. If local spider crabs were available would this help?

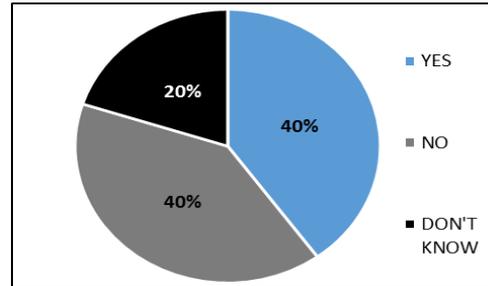


## E) Changing the current legislation

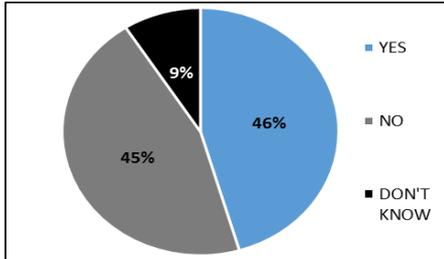
16. Do you agree the 300 pot limit is effective in maintaining the sustainability of the fishery?



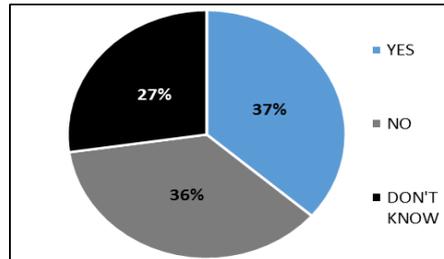
17. Is a new bylaw required? If so, would you be prepared to work with the IFCA to achieve it?



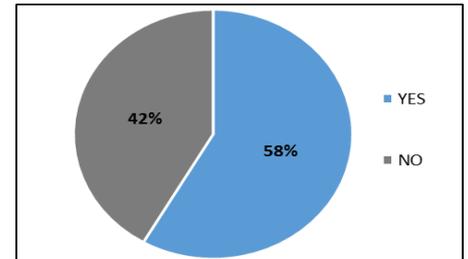
18. Should the district be sub-divided to allow for management?



19. Should there be further micro-management within the district?

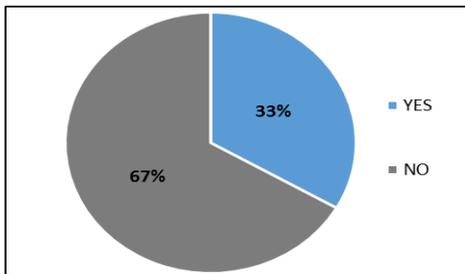


20. Should there be a closed season? If so when?

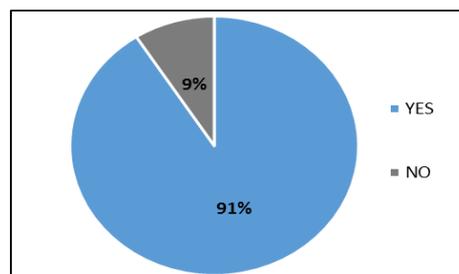


## F) Communication

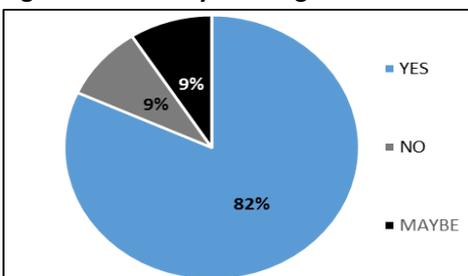
21a. Do you believe the IFCA interacts with the industry with a full understanding of the fisherman and industry?



21b. Will you consider becoming more involved with the IFCA to achieve this by attending workshops?



22. Do you think that all committee members should have training in fishing procedures in order to understand what they are voting on at Authority meetings?



### G) Improving the fishery

#### 23. What could KEIFCA and the fishing industry do to manage it better?

*	maintain good communication with fishermen before making decisions that can drastically affect our livelihoods
*	riddle size reduced to 22.5mm / 50 mm whelks
*	work and LISTEN closely with the fishermen
*	? Needs to be discussed
*	my experience to date is rather limited for an accurate reply
*	I don't really see why the whelk fishery requires better management, it seems just fine as it is. Further management measures will just worsen the relationship between fishermen and KEIFCA, this is an area for improvement maybe?
*	I think Hythe Bay should be closed to whelking October-March. Maybe inside 3 mile also would be a good idea to stop boats from away fishing while we are resting it
*	I think they manage it very well
*	close
*	lots

#### 24. Is there anything that can be done to get a higher price for whelks for our district?

*	not that I can see
*	no
*	yes, if we had a processing plant in this area
*	retail prices are pretty high in Folkestone at the moment!
*	doubful, virtually everything is exported in bulk to the Far East
*	whelk price is governed by quantity available
*	go round to schools and tell them about whelks and how to catch them and let them have a taste - start them young
*	the price is better now than years ago but wouldn't want the price to drop
*	we have to take what we are offered
*	MSC accreditation

#### 25. Would you be interested in taking part in a working group to help input into future whelk management and research?

