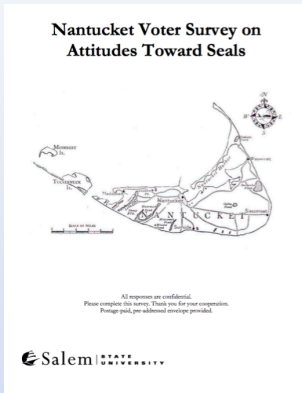


Stakeholder Views of Seals, Conflicts and Public Policy



Preliminary Findings from a Pilot Survey of Attitudes Toward Seals
Among Voters, Anglers and Tourists on Nantucket Island, MA

Human Dimensions of Wildlife Unit of the Bates Center for Public Affairs
Salem State University

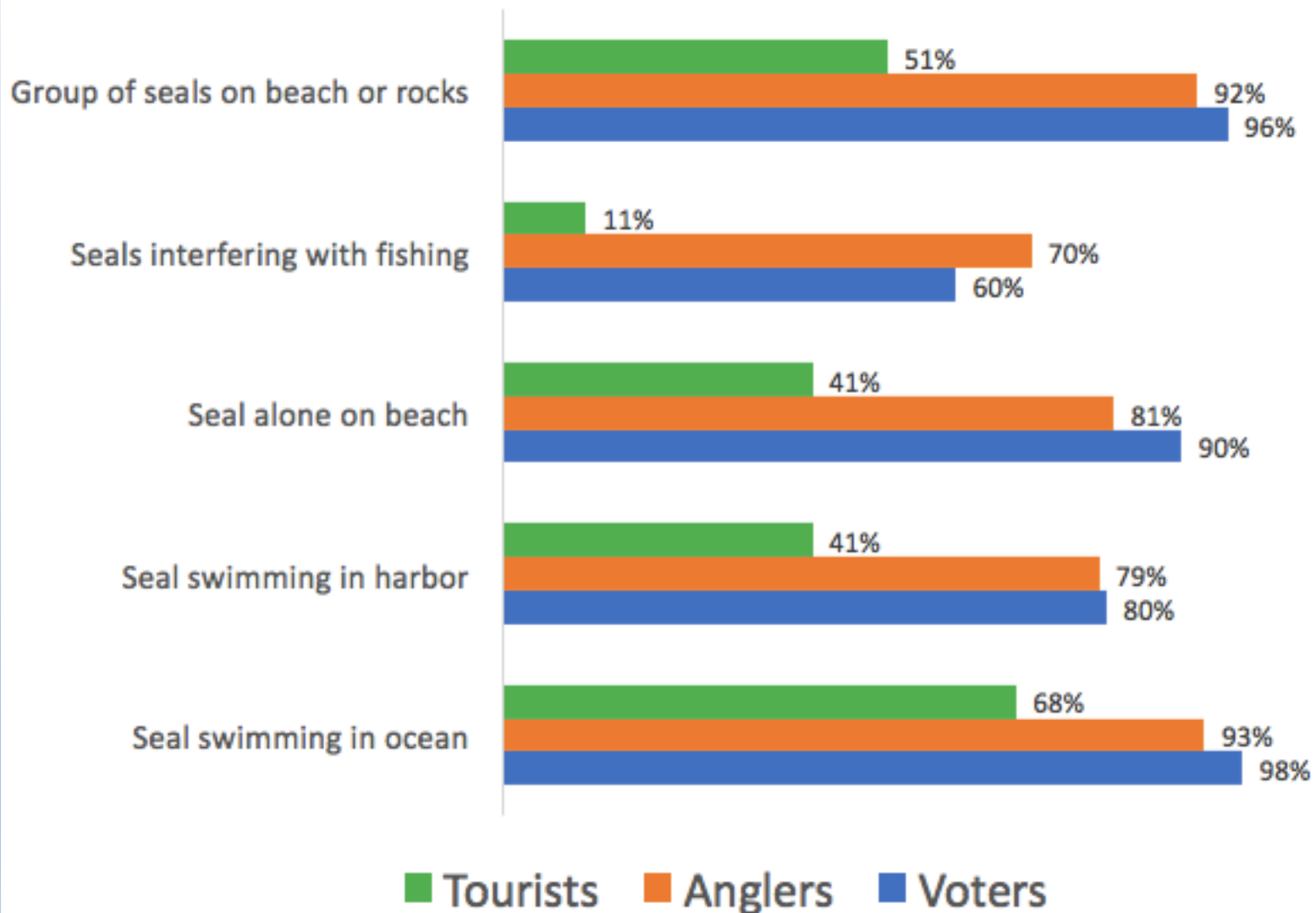


Methodology

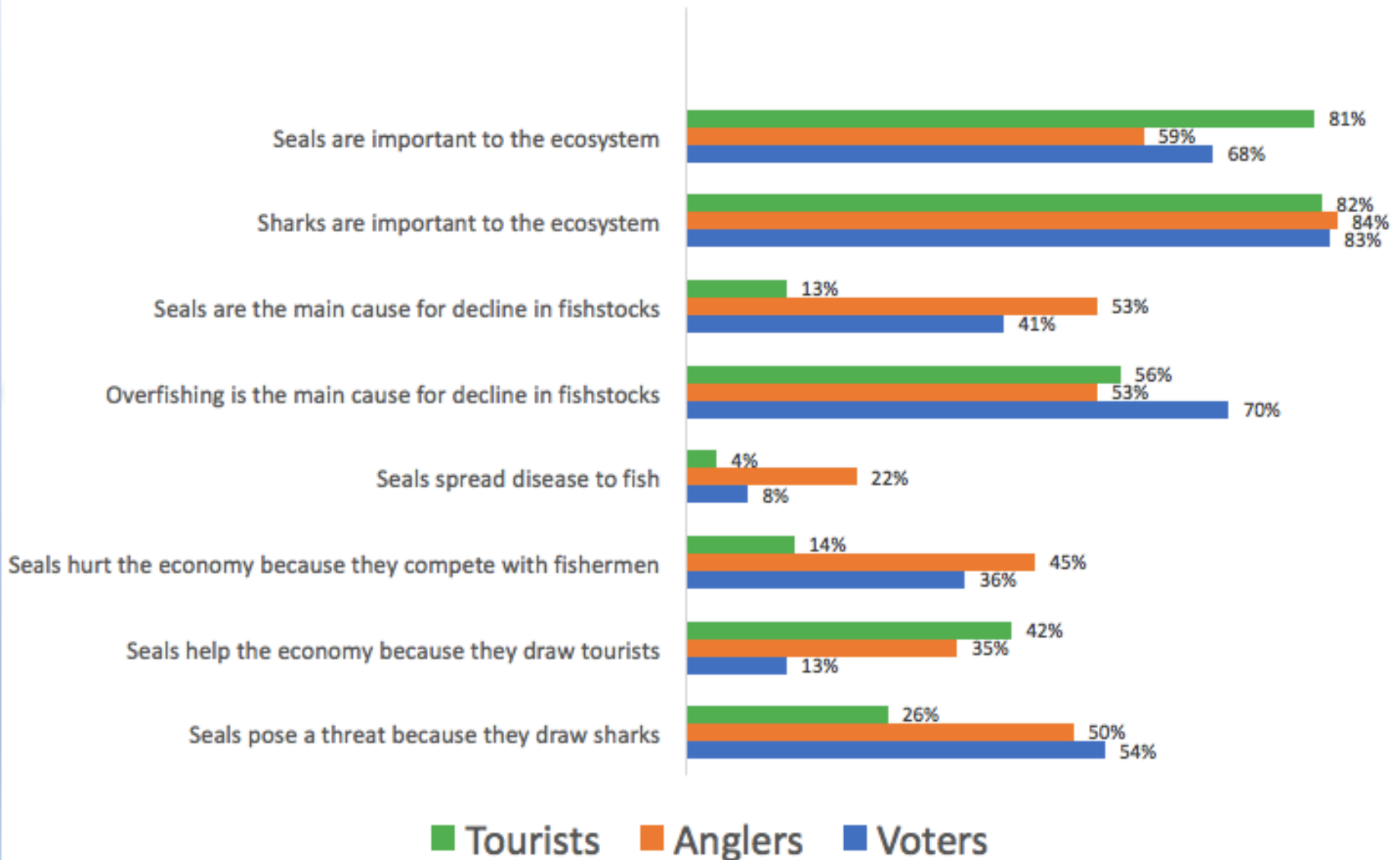


- Survey administration June - September 2016
- Voters
 - Survey mailed to systematic, random sample of Nantucket registered voters
 - Dillman 5-contact method
 - 350 voters (34% response rate)
- Anglers
 - Intercept survey administered to 125 anglers on beaches, docks and other locations frequented by anglers
- Tourists
 - Intercept survey administered to 372 tourists on ferries and at beaches and other tourist locations

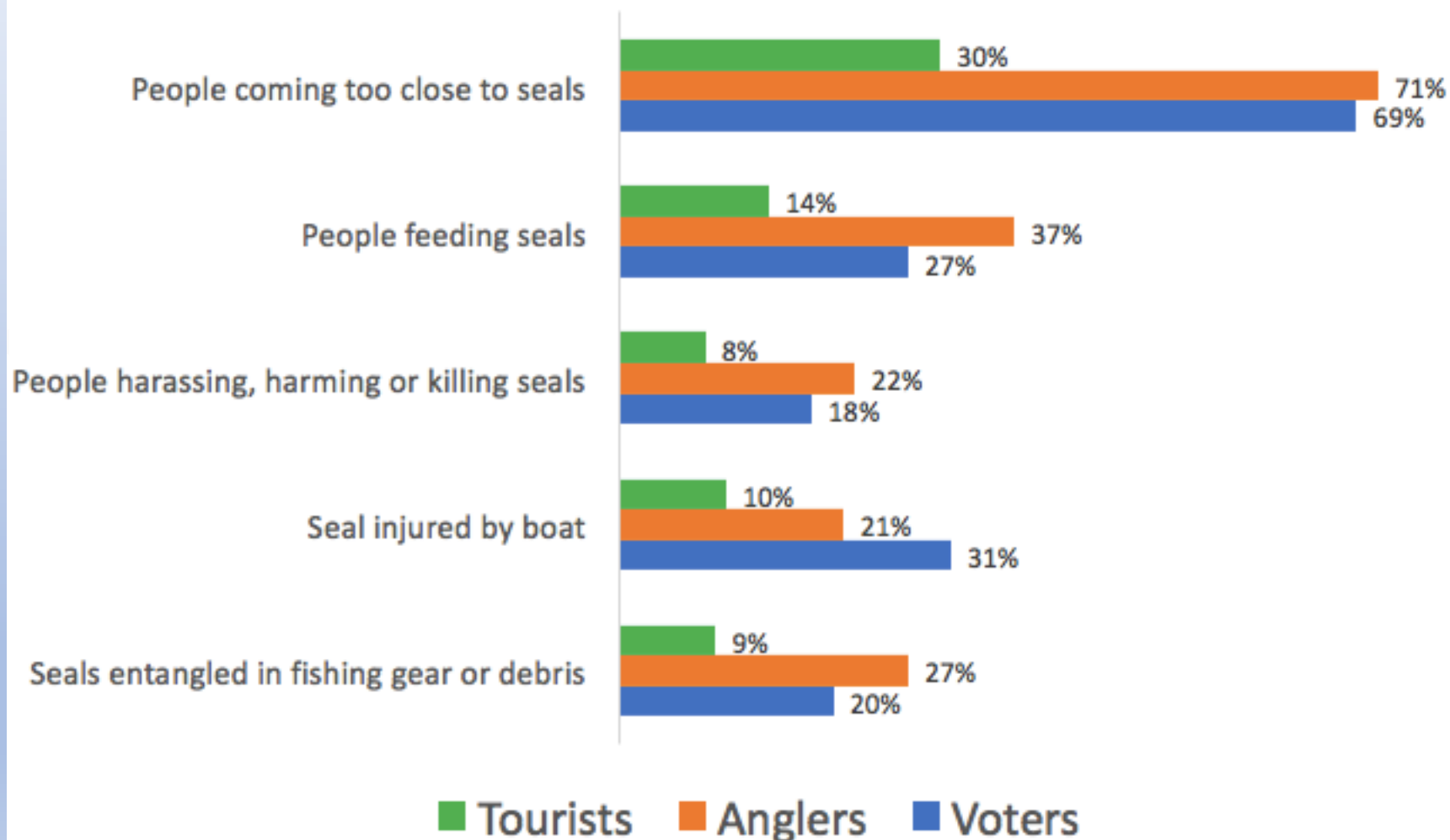
Observations of seals (% saw)



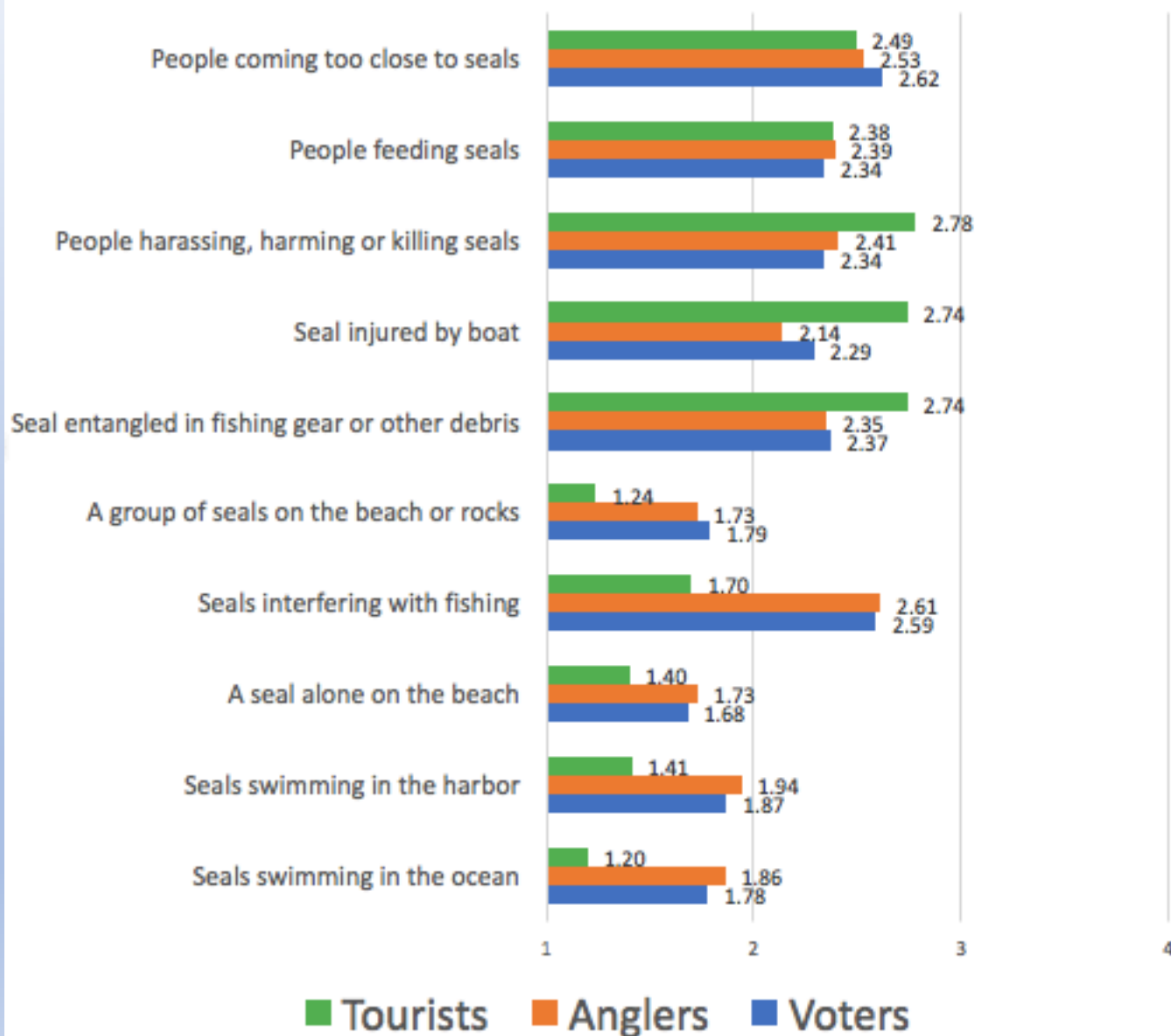
Impacts of Seal-Human Interactions (% agree)



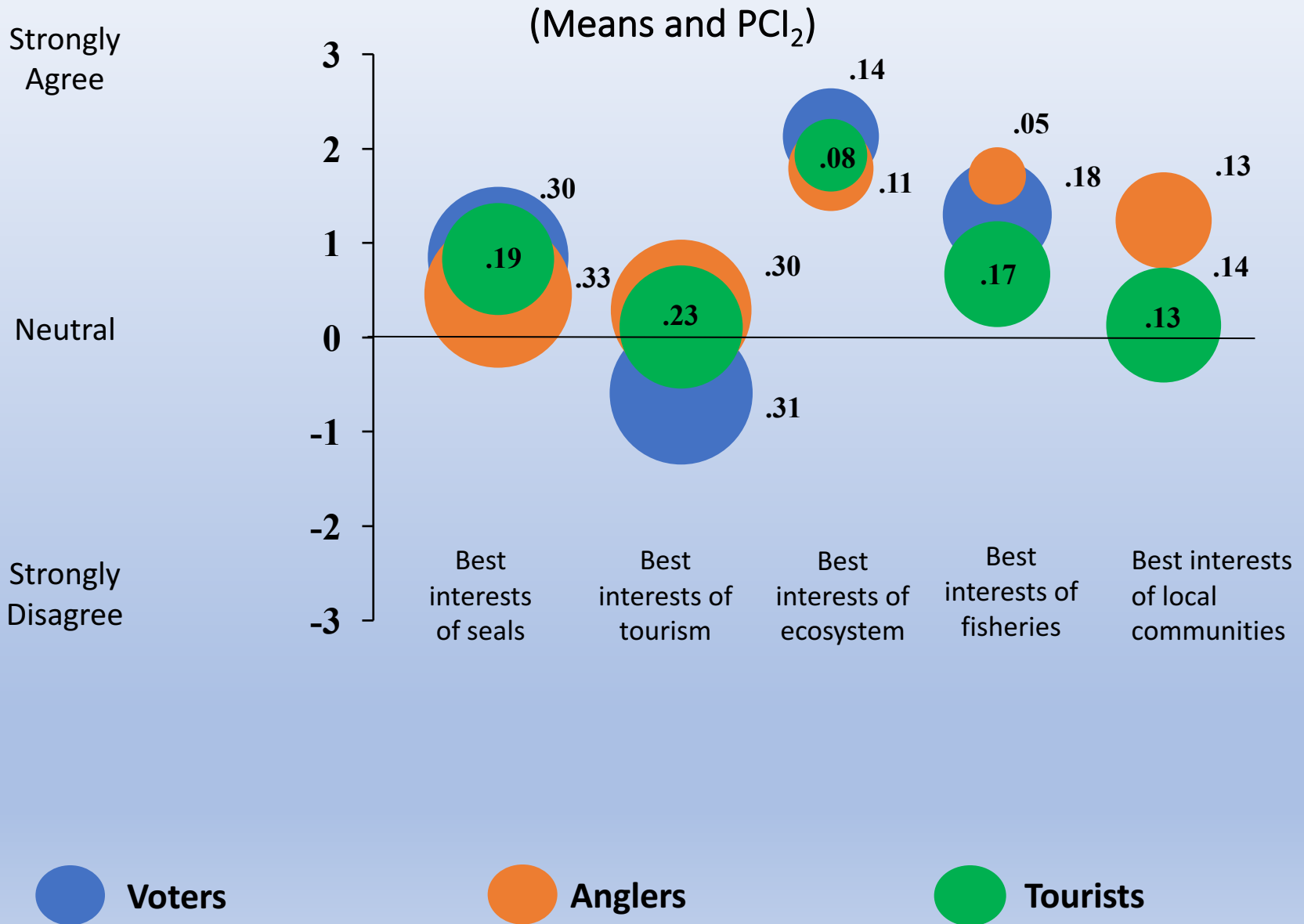
Observation of human interactions with seals (% saw)



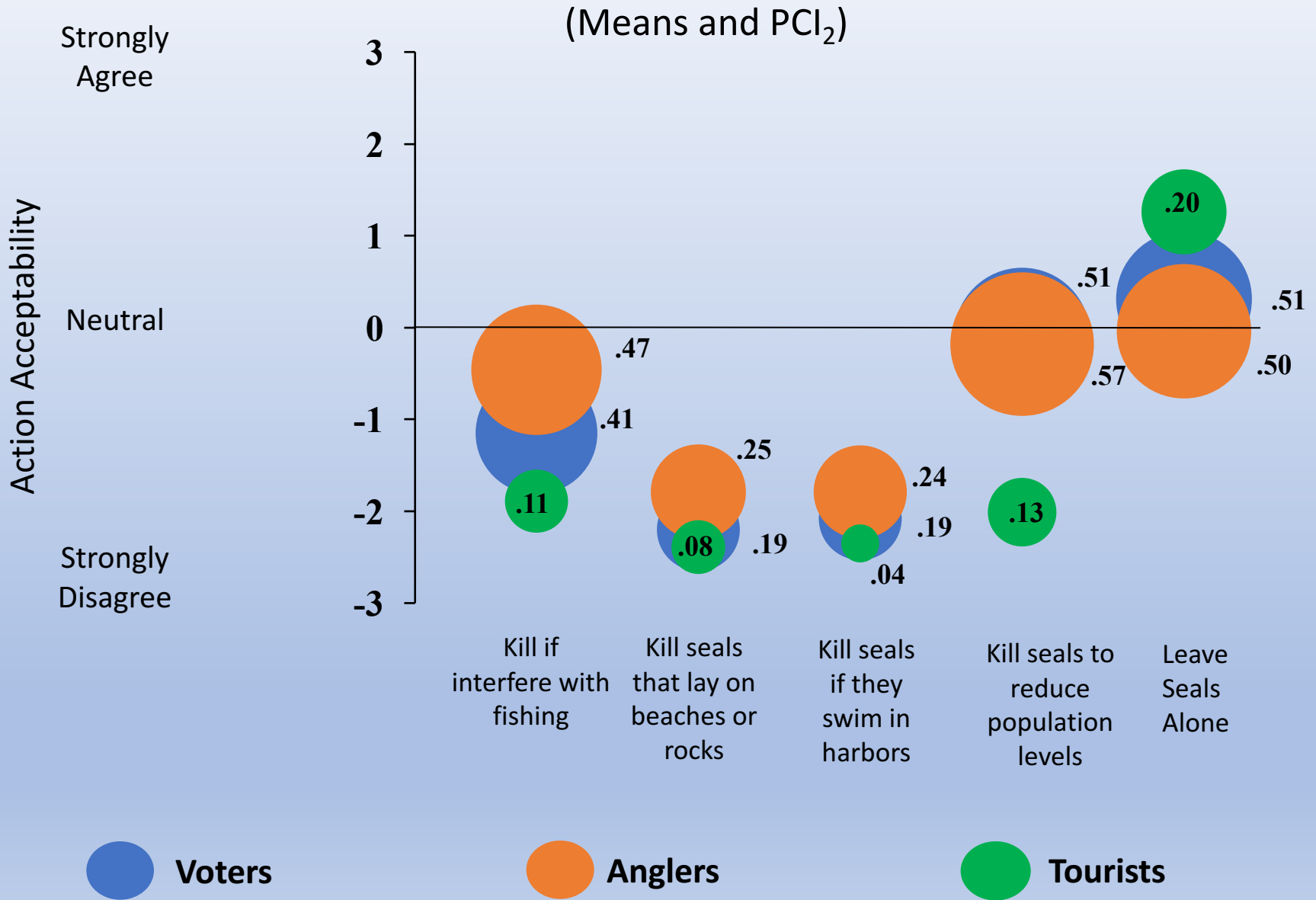
Perceptions of problems related to seal-human interactions (means)



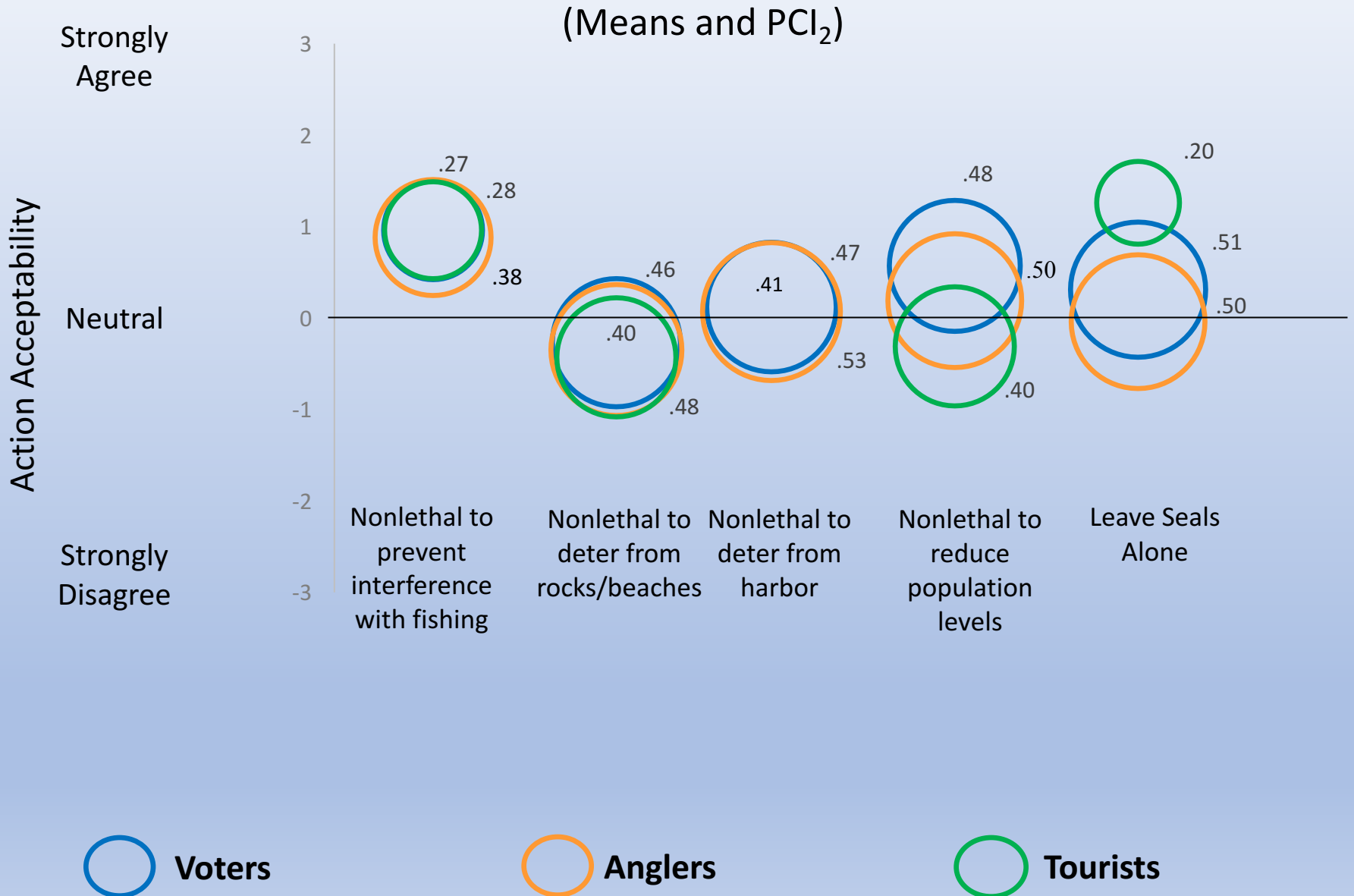
Considerations for Management of Seals



Acceptability of Lethal Management of Seals

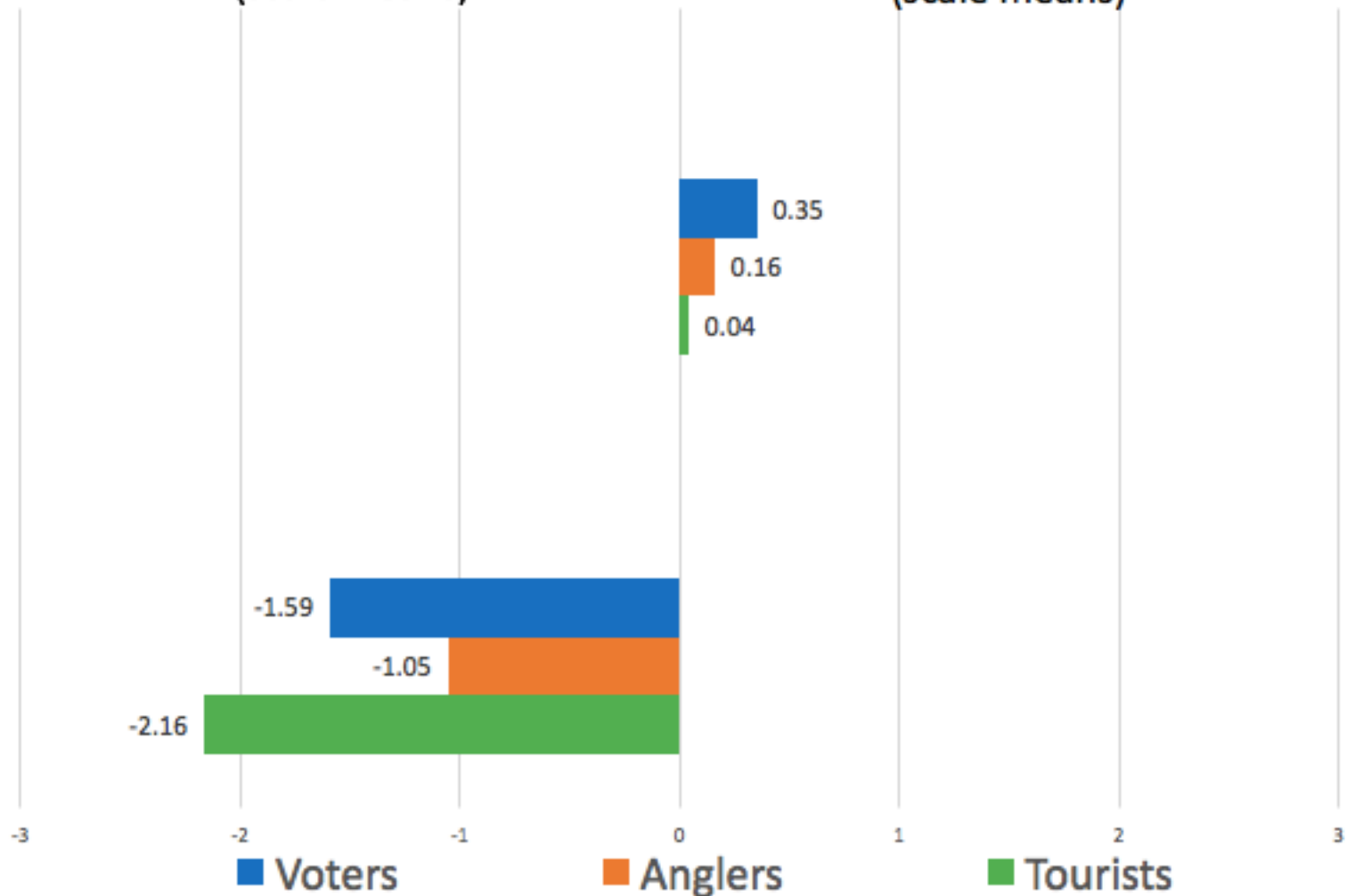


Acceptability of Non-lethal Management of Seals



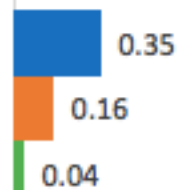
Lethal Management Acceptability

(scale means)

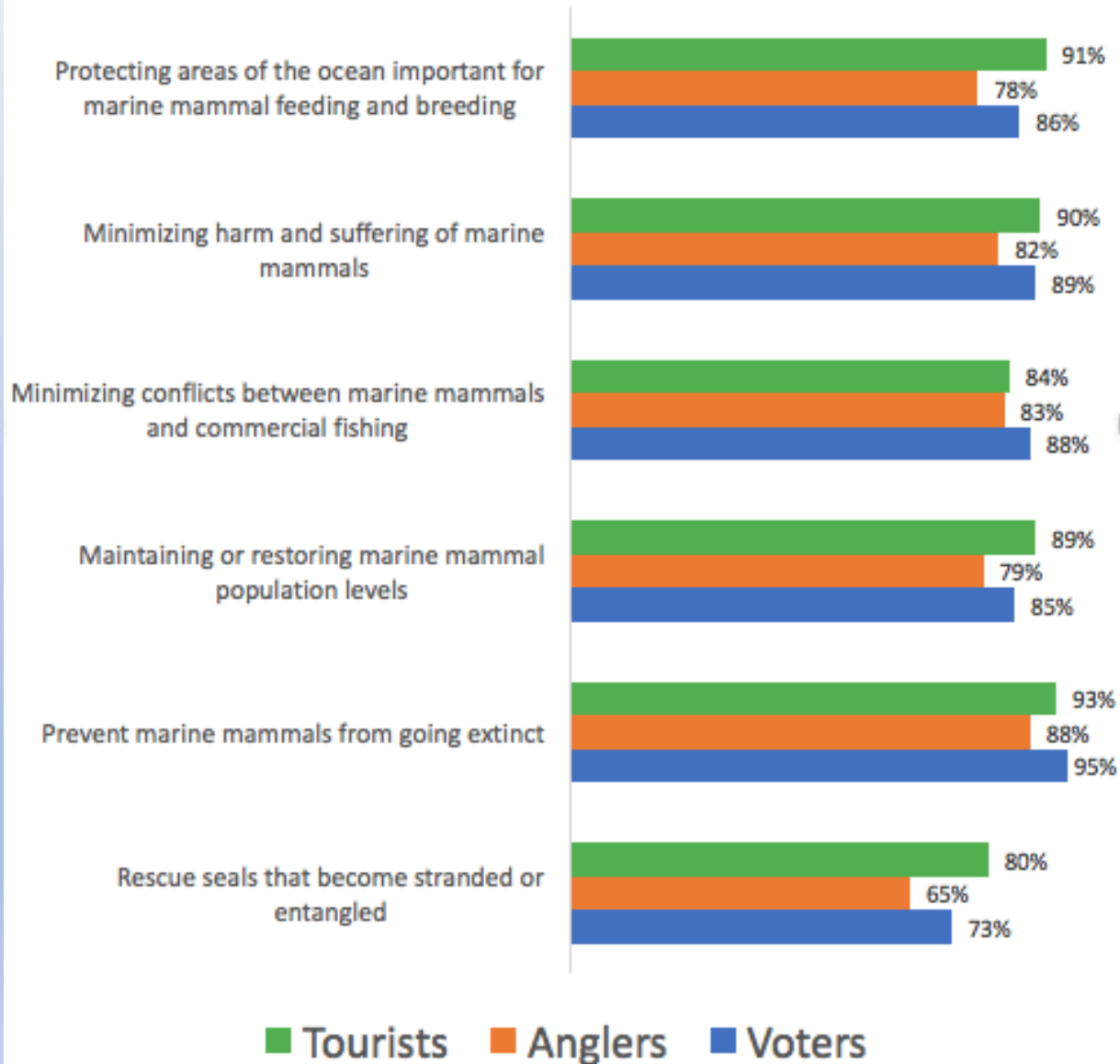


Non-lethal Management Acceptability

(scale means)

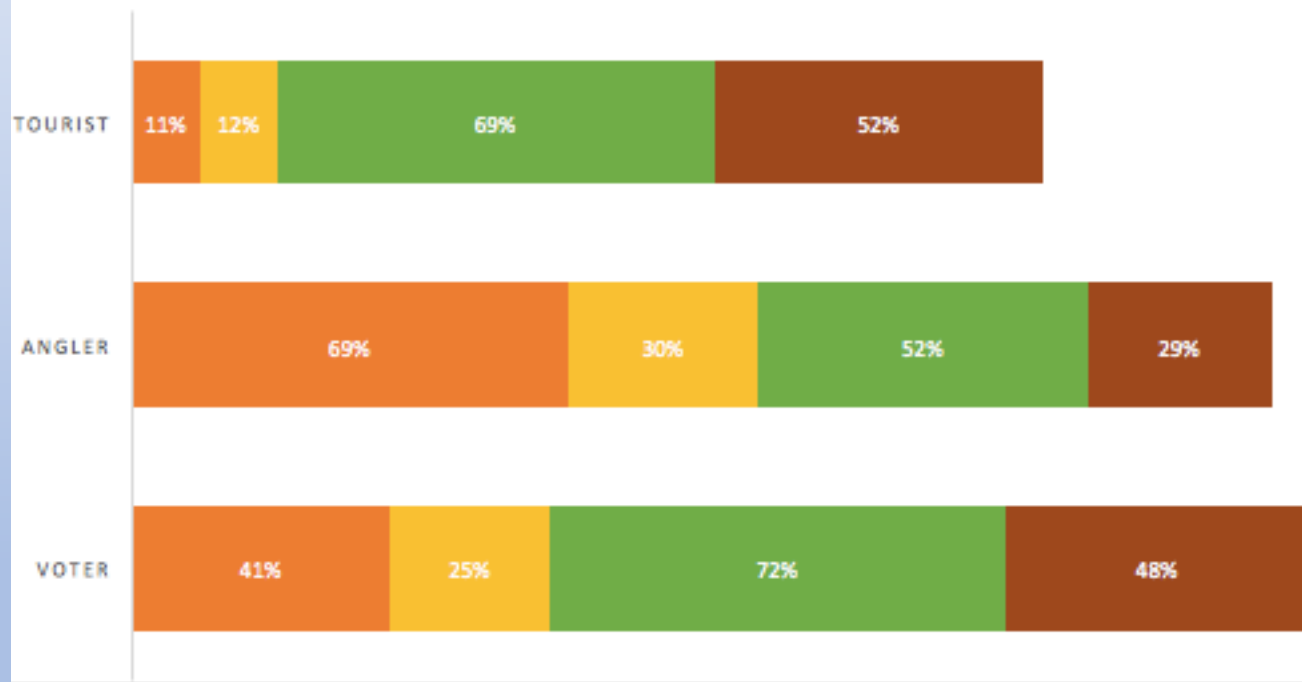


Support for Marine Mammal Protection Act Goals and Seal Rescue (% agree)



RESPONDENT ALIGNMENT WITH INTEREST GROUPS

- Angler Interest Groups
- Commercial Fisheries Interest Groups
- Environmental Interest Groups
- Animal Protection Interest Groups



Conclusions

- Agreement on importance of the ecosystem
- Shift framework from “management of seals” to “management of conflict”
- Voters and anglers have concerns about seal interactions with fisheries and about the proximity of shark predation on seals, but oppose lethal management
- Voters, anglers and tourists have concerns about seal welfare with high support for seal rescue and MMPA goals
- Strong support for seals among tourists – an opportunity and cautionary note

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