



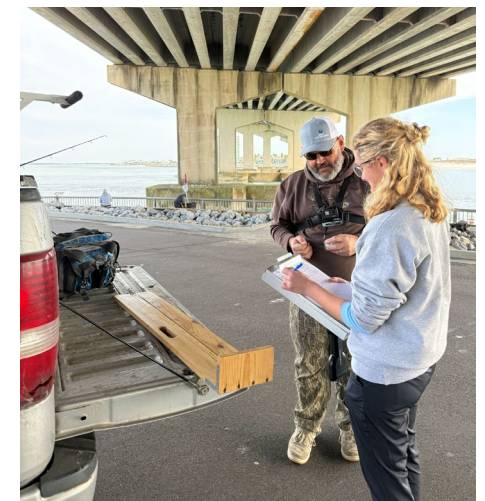
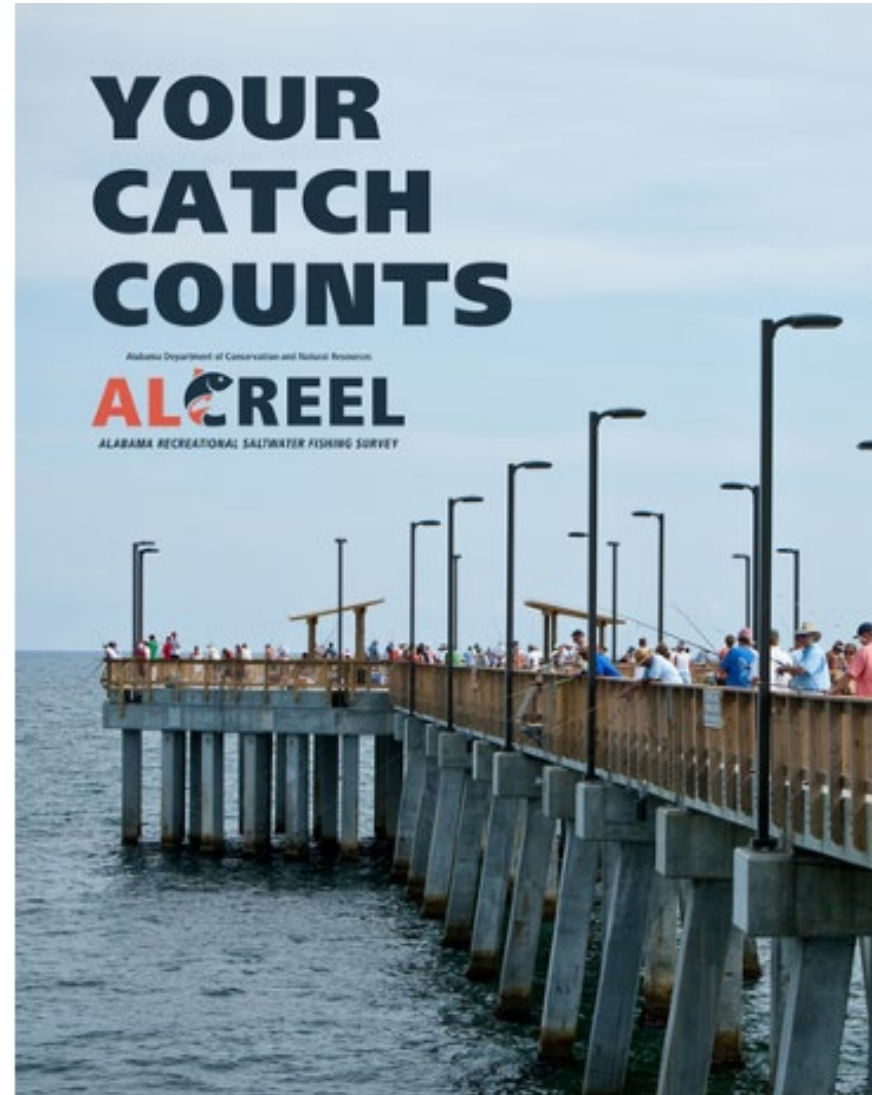
ALABAMA RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING SURVEY

Survey Implementation, Progress, and Findings

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About the program

- State specific survey program designed to replace MRIP
- Effort Program began in 2024
- Dockside sampling began in 2025
- Although AMRD adopted the LA creel methodology alongside with MS Creel, AMRD adapted LA creel survey methodology and design of a catch and effort components to cater our state needs.
- AL Creel became officially certified in April of 2026 and currently working with staff at NOAA's OST and SESC for calibration.



Effort Survey

Phone surveys for both private recreational anglers (email option) and state for-hire vessel owner operator are conducted weekly to capture information about fishing activity, area fished, time of fishing trip and access site during a sampling period.

Sample Frame:

- Includes all Alabama saltwater fishing license holders or registered anglers.
- Alabama license database updated at the beginning of each week.

Call List Selection:

Private recreational angler

- ~900 license holders randomly selected weekly
- Target of 50% are contacted
- Strata includes 4 regions; Coastal, Non-Coastal, Non-Resident and GRFE (Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement)
 - 300 contacts for GRFE region increased to 600 during peak season (May-August)
 - 200 contacts per remaining regions

State For-Hire Charter vessel owner/operators

- Stratified into 2 groups: GRFE and non-GRFE license
- ~ 30% of GRFE and 10% non-GRFE license holders are randomly selected each week
- Five attempts are made for each vessel

Area Fished

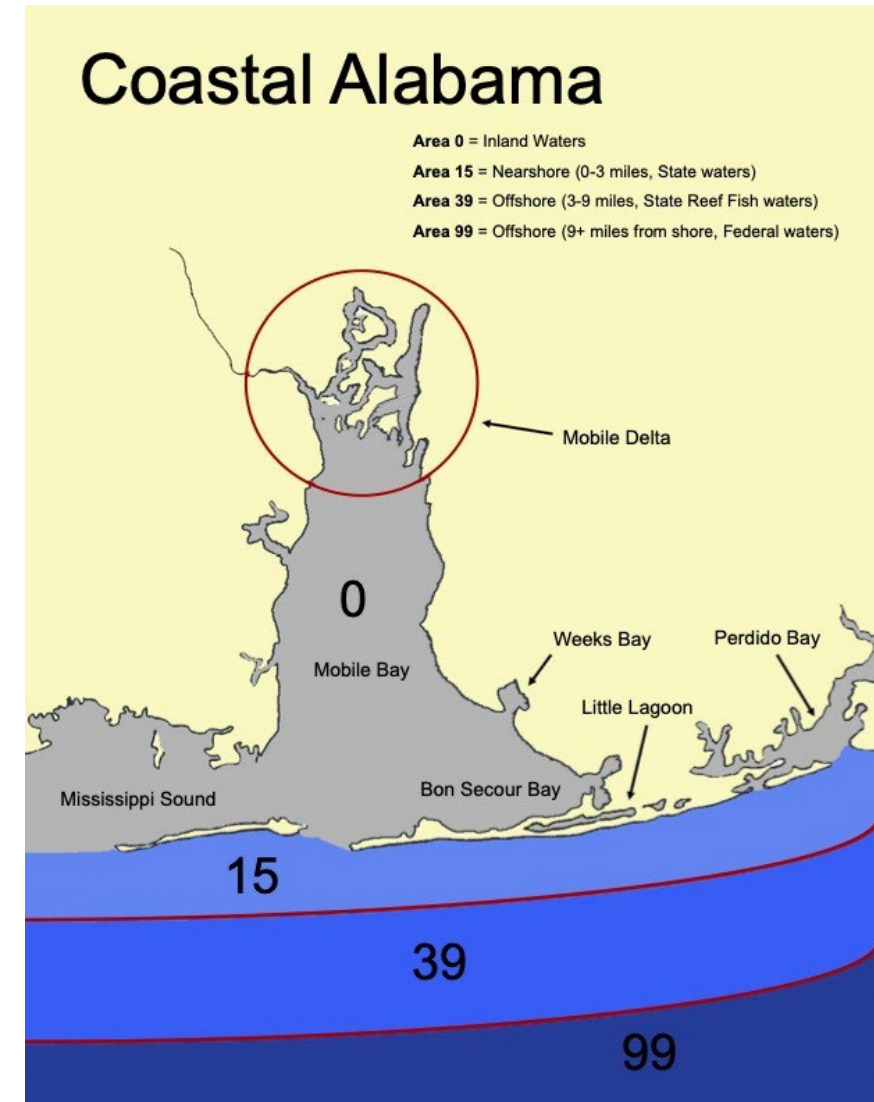
Area (basin) where fishing effort occurred for Private and Charter effort surveys :

For the private effort:

- In 2024 and 2025, private effort survey only 3 fishing areas were included: 0- Inland waters, 15 – STS (0-3 mi.) , 99 – Offshore (> 3 mi.).
- In 2026, all four areas are collected

For state for-hire charter effort:

- In 2024, state for-hire charter effort survey included: 0- Inland waters, 15 – STS (0-3 mi.) , 99 – Offshore (> 3 mi.)
- In June of 2025, state for-hire charter effort survey included the four fishing areas 0, 15, 39 and 99



Dockside Survey

Site Selection

- Dockside sampling survey assignments conducted at randomly selected public access fishing points.
- ~ 60% of assignments are scheduled on the weekend (Friday-Sunday) and 40% are scheduled on the weekday (Monday-Thursday).
- The number of assignments per month are determined on probabilities of each day-type and mode. Assignment distribution vary by season. Table 1 and 2 show the mode distribution changed from year 2025 to 2026 to capture more shore angler activity on dockside.

Table 1: 2025 weekly assignment distributions by day and mode

Season	Weekly Assignment Distribution		Weekly Assignment Mode Distribution		
	Weekdays	Weekends	Private	Shore	Charter
Off peak (Sep – April)	3	5	6	1	1
Peak (May– August)	4	6	7	1	2

Table 2: 2026 weekly assignment distributions by day and mode

Season	Weekly Assignment Distribution		Weekly Assignment Mode Distribution		
	Weekdays	Weekends	Private	Shore	Charter
Off peak (Sep – April)	3	5	5	2	1
Peak (May– August)	4	6	6	2	2

- Assignment are randomly selected using a probability proportional to size (PPS) methodology with replacement using average proportional probabilities for each site as the weighting factor.

Dockside Survey

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AL Creel Assignment Summary Form

Sampler ID

Name:

Year Month Day

Site

Start Time End Time

Control #

() A.M. () P.M.

A.M. = 0800-1400
P.M. = 1400-Sunset

Assignment Status

(1=Complete 2=Incomplete)

Comment

Assignment Returning Vessel Activity Summary:

# of Interviewed Rec Fishing Vessels	# of Missed Rec Fishing Vessels	# of Rec Fishing Vessel Refusals	# of Rec Non-Finfish Vessels	# of Commercial Fishing Vessels	# of Non-Fishing Vessels

Assignment Shore Party Activity Summary:

# of Interviewed Rec Shore Parties	# of Missed Rec Shore Parties	# of Rec Shore Party Refusals	# of Rec Non-Finfish Shore Parties	# of Commercial Shore Parties	# of Non-Fishing Shore Parties

Trip Tally Notes:

Comment Codes:

06 - Couldn't Find Site
08 - Asked to Leave
12 - Site Closed After Hours (time in comments)
13 - Site Closed Other (specify in comments)
14 - Site Unsafe During Sampling Period
15 - No Activity, Darkness
16 - Departed Early (severe illness, injury, other)
17 - Inclement Weather

Comments:

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AL Creel Dockside Form

1. Year 2. Sampler ID 3. Control # 4. Site 5. Time 6. # of Anglers

7. Mode fished? () Private # of Licensed SW Anglers () Shore # of GRFE () Charter Vessel Registration Licensed? () Yes () No GRFE? () Yes () No	8. Tournament? () Yes () No 9. Was the majority of your fishing effort today..... () Inshore - Bay, River, Sound, ICW () 0 to 3 miles - Gulf () 3 to 9 miles - Gulf () more than 9 miles - Gulf 11. Target Species 1. 2.	10. Bottom Type? () Artificial Reef () Oil/Natural Gas Platform () Natural Hard Bottom () Flat Bottom () Don't Know
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Type Codes : 4. Used for bait/plan to use for bait 6. Thrown back alive 8. Eaten/plan to eat
5. Other 7. Thrown back dead/plan to throw away 9. Eaten by predator

Unavailable Catch	Species Code	# of Fish	Type	Species Code	# of Fish	Type
1.				6.		
2.				7.		
3.				8.		
4.				9.		
5.				10.		

Available Harvest	Species Code	# of Fish	Length (MM)	Weight (KG)	Type

Estimation Overview

Telephone Survey (Effort):

$$\text{Expanded Total \# of Angler Trips} = \frac{\text{Observed Total \# of Angler Trips}}{\text{License Compliance Rate}}$$

Dockside Survey (Catch):

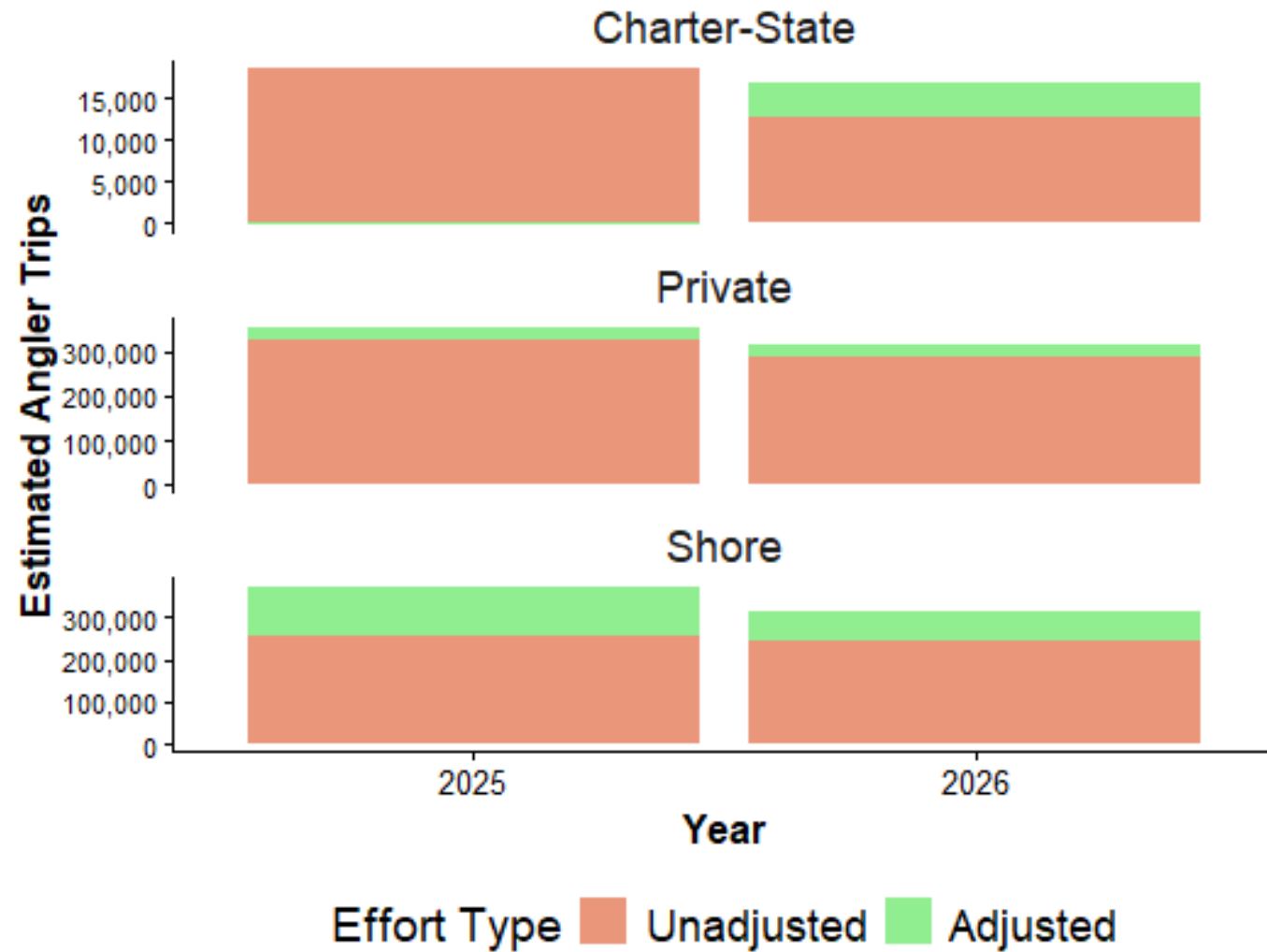
$$\text{Mean Angler Harvest Rate} = \frac{\text{Total \# of Fish Harvested by Party}}{\text{Total \# of Anglers in Party}}$$

Data from the completed interviews is used to calculate average catch and harvest per angler. The effort data (angler trips) is multiplied by the mean catch data to determine state-wide estimates of catch and harvest.

$$\text{Total Landings} = \text{Effort} * \text{Harvest Rate}$$

Monthly or weekly estimates for harvest rate, effort, and total landings can be calculated for any saltwater finfish species within a particular fishing activity (PR, CH, SH).

Effort Estimates by Mode



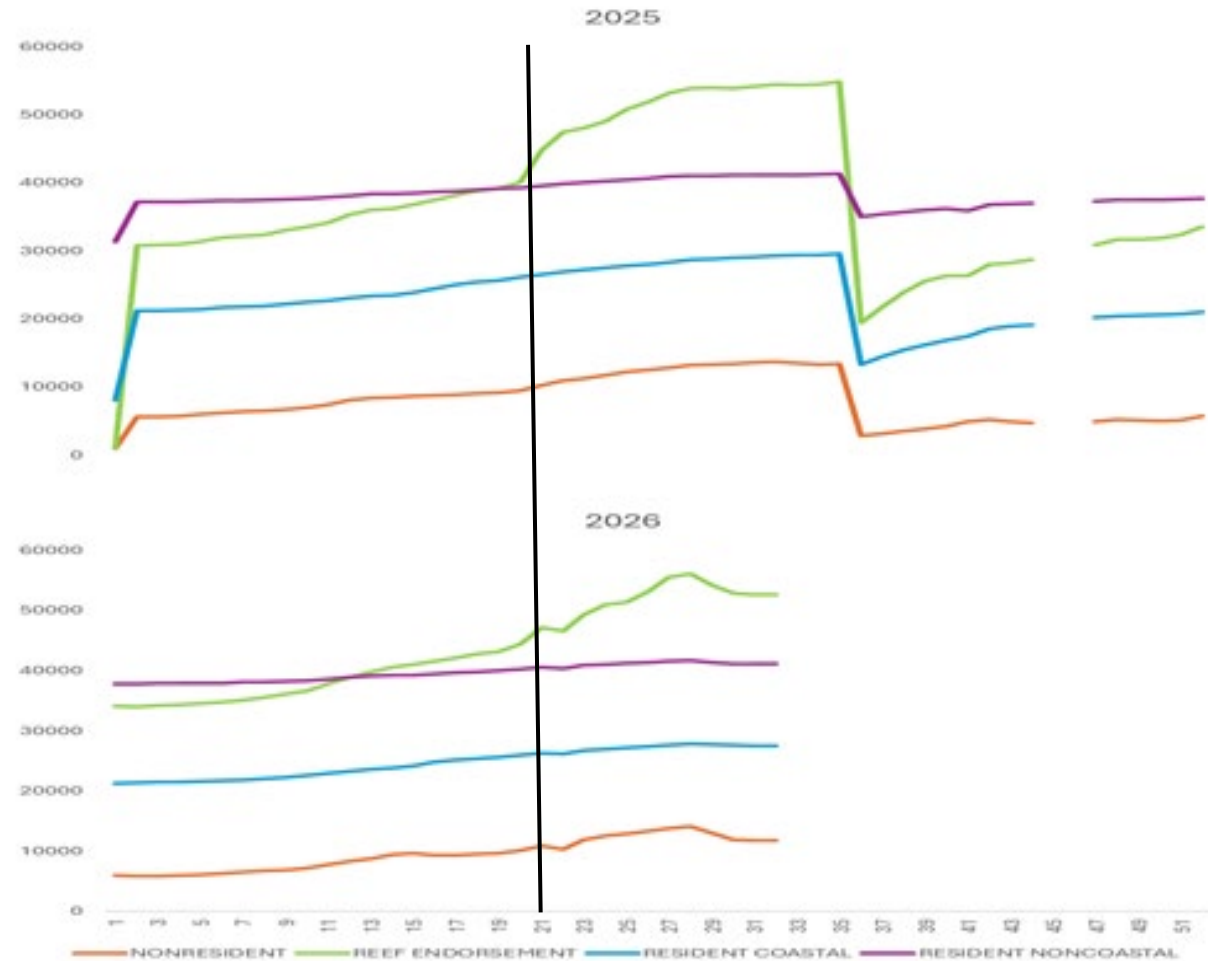
Estimates for 2026 through Week 32 (Aug. 9th)



Survey Progress & Results: 2025–2026 YTD

Fishing Effort

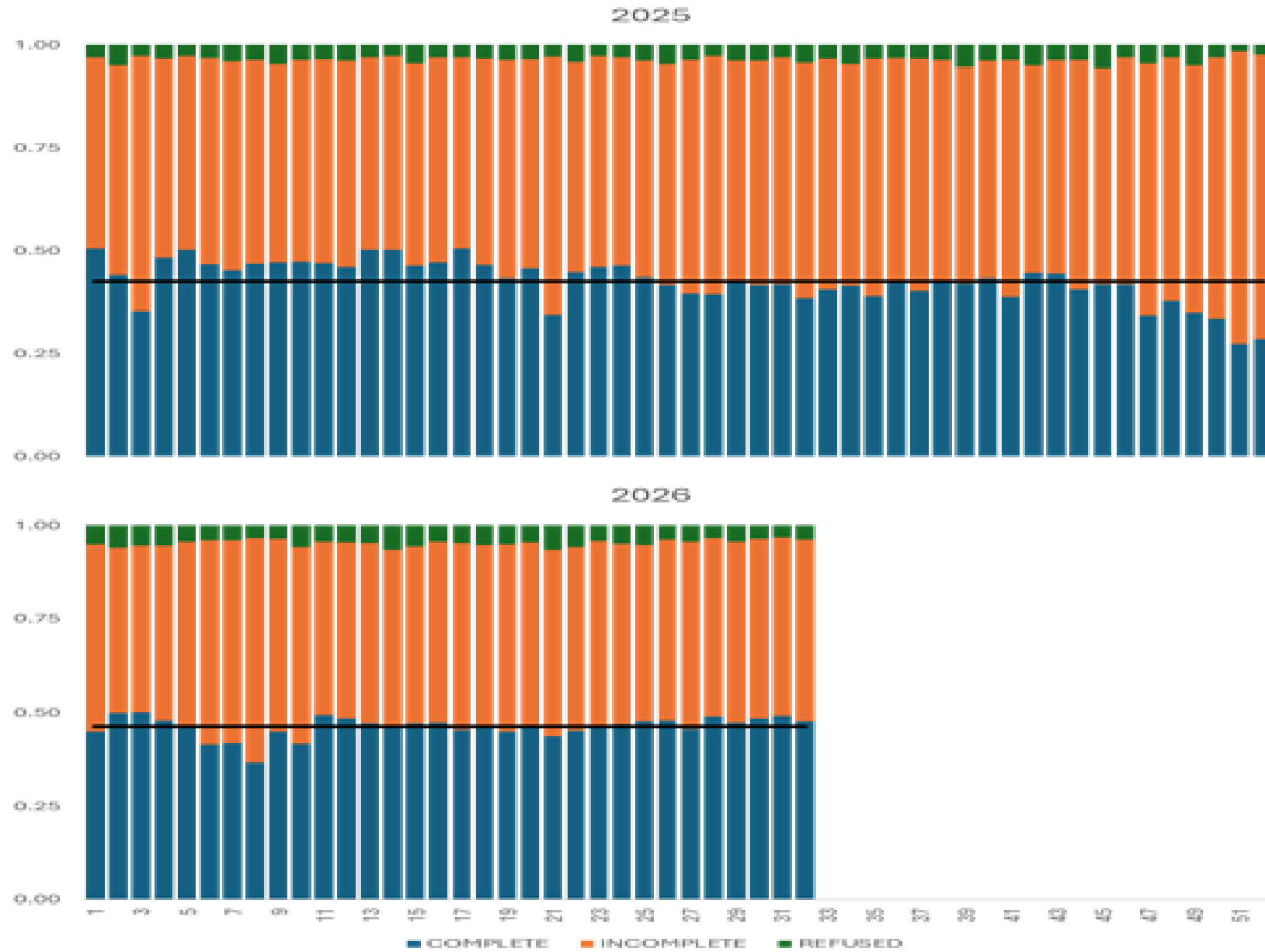
Alabama Saltwater License Totals by Strata



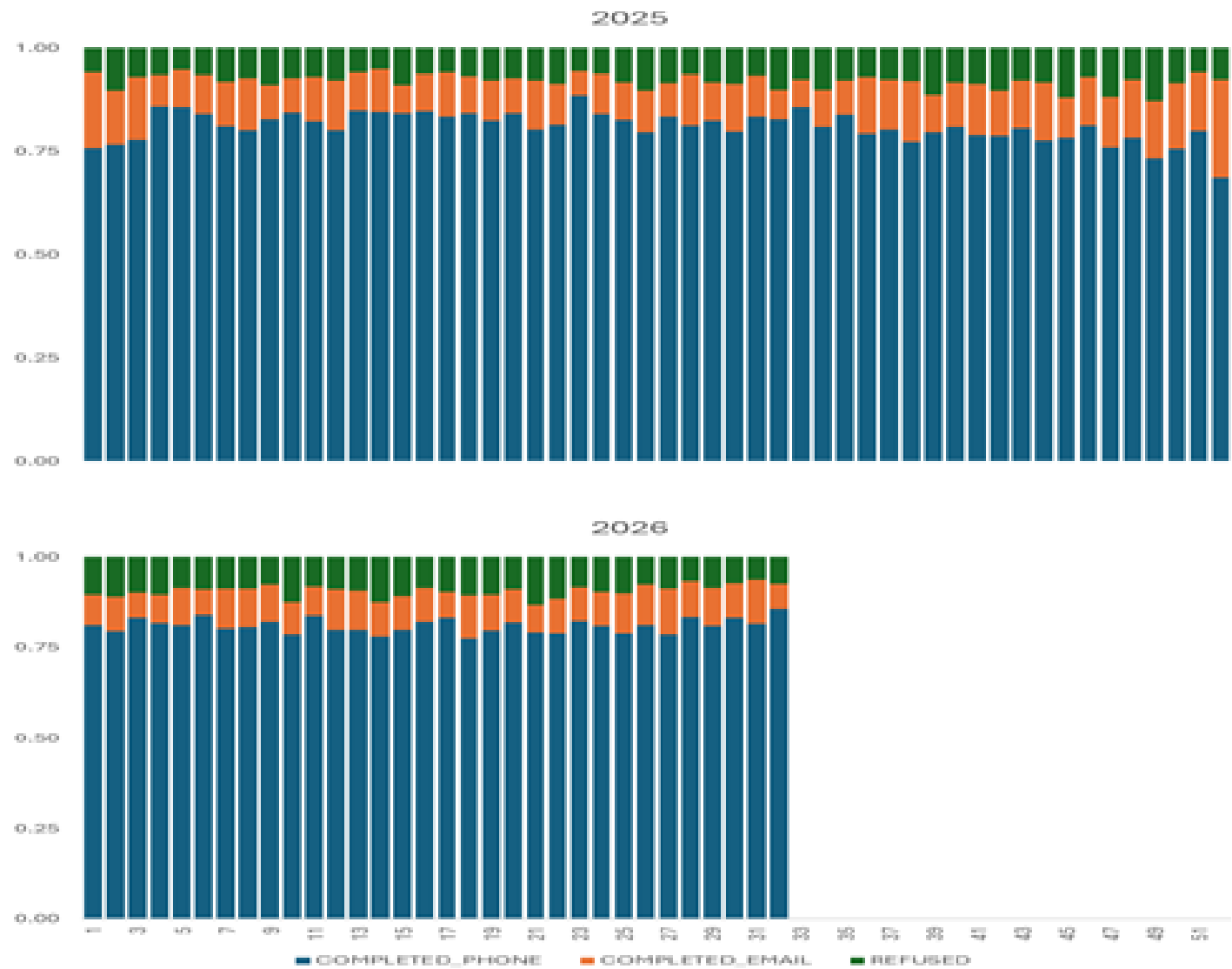
Proportion of all licensed anglers, anglers selected for weekly call lists and angler responses by age for 2025 through week 32 of 2026.

Age Category	Sample Frame	Sample Frame %	Call List	Call List %	Response	Response %
UNDER 16	3,361	0.53%	512	0.77%	258	0.69%
16-25	104,987	16.67%	7,924	11.86%	4,487	11.99%
26-35	100,704	15.99%	8,343	12.48%	4,753	12.70%
36-45	112,345	17.84%	10,379	15.53%	5,814	15.54%
46-55	108,069	17.16%	12,706	19.01%	7,147	19.10%
56-65	103,122	16.37%	14,252	21.32%	8,139	21.75%
66-75	67,654	10.74%	9,584	14.34%	5,376	14.37%
76 and Over	29,544	4.69%	3,136	4.69%	1,448	3.87%
Totals	629,786	100.00%	66,836	100.00%	37,422	100.00%

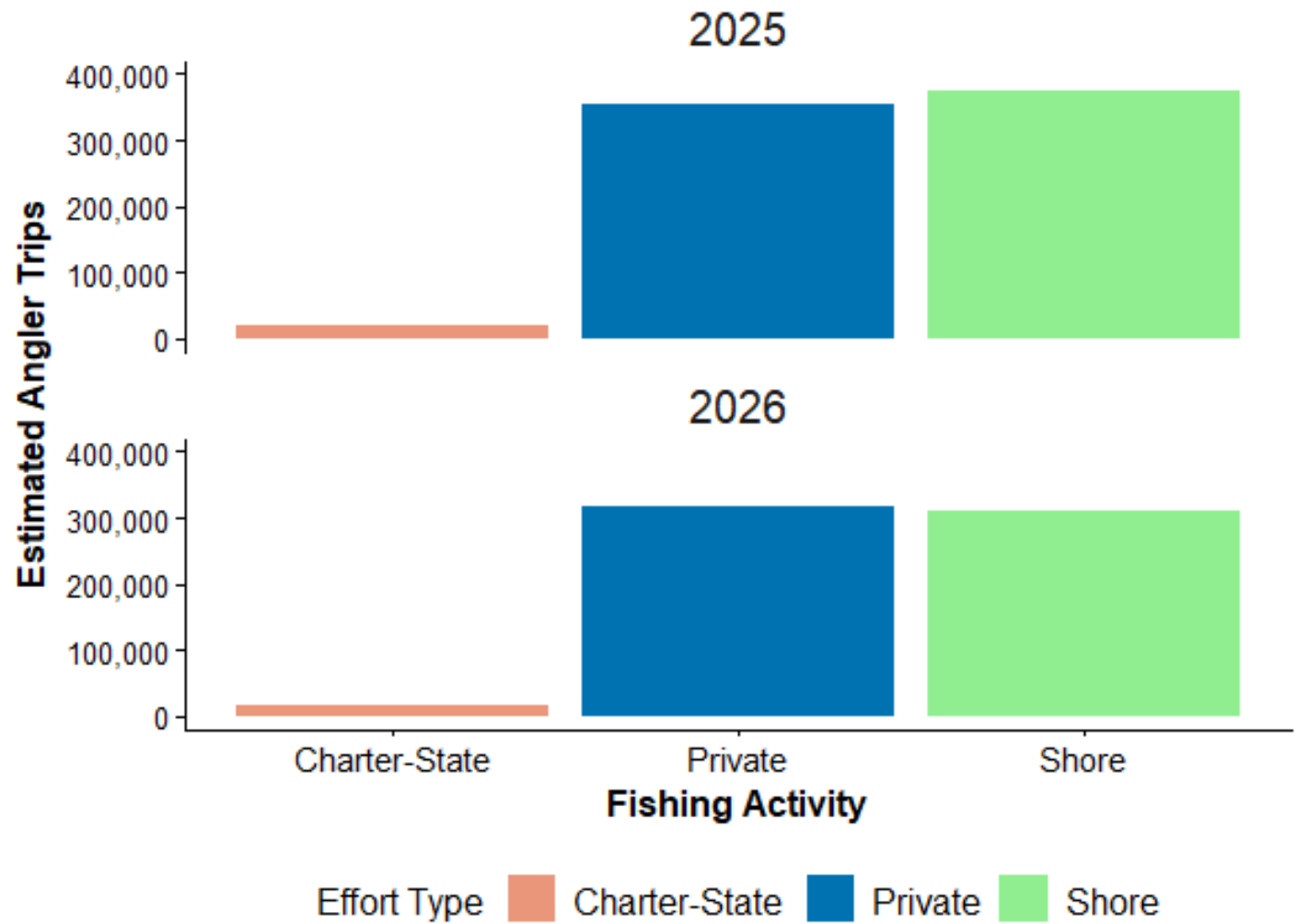
Proportion of Responses



Summary of private effort survey contact methods, 2025 – week 32 , 2026

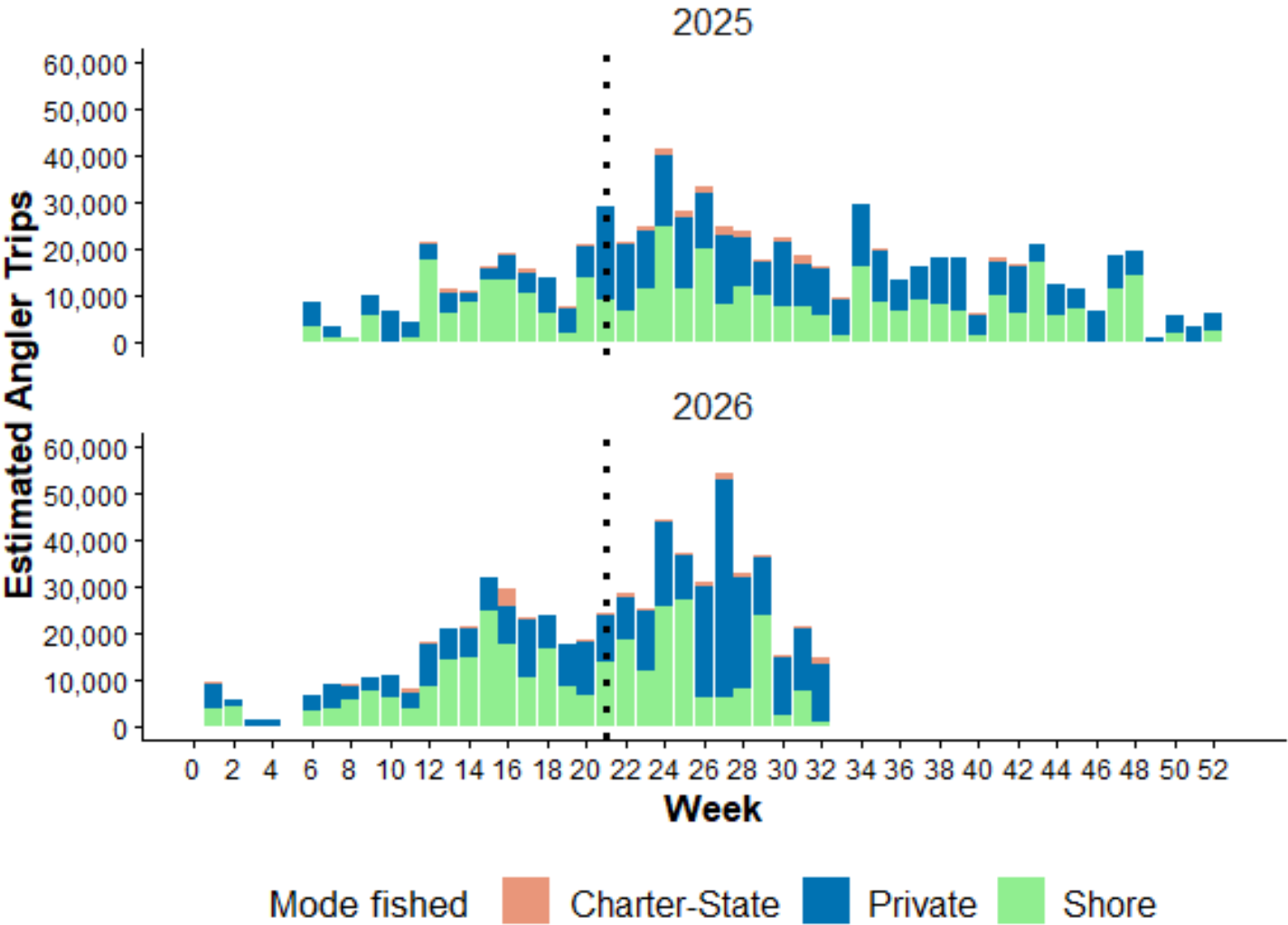


Estimated Angler Trips by Mode, 2025 and through Week 32 of 2026



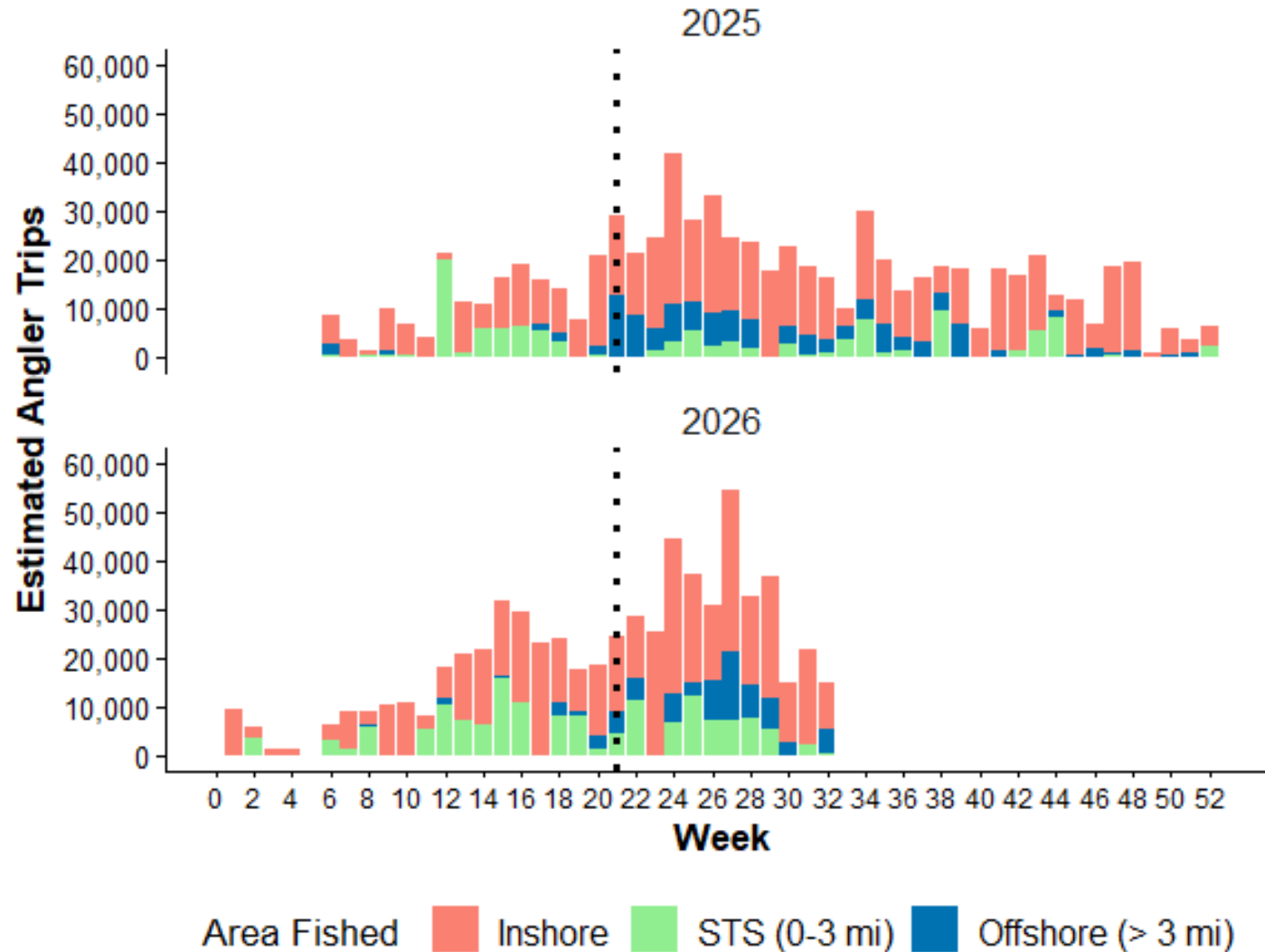
Estimates include an adjustment for out-of-frame trips
Estimates for 2026 through Week 32 (Aug. 9th)

Estimated Weekly Angler Trips by Week and Mode for 2025 and through Week 32 of 2026



Dotted line indicates beginning of AL Private Recreational Red Snapper season
Estimates for 2026 through Week 32 (Aug. 9th)

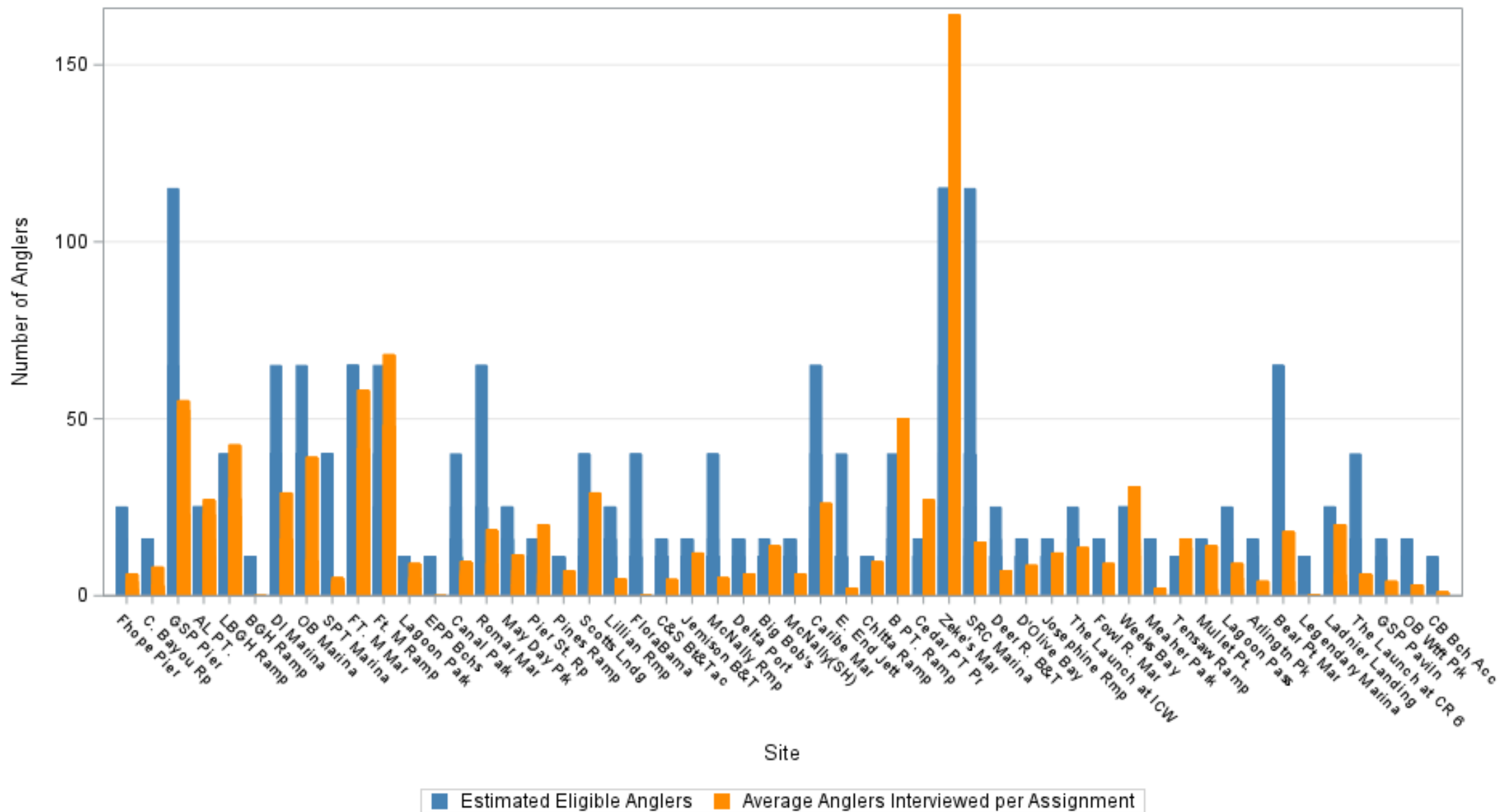
Estimated Weekly Angler Trips by Week and Area for 2025 and through Week 32 of 2026



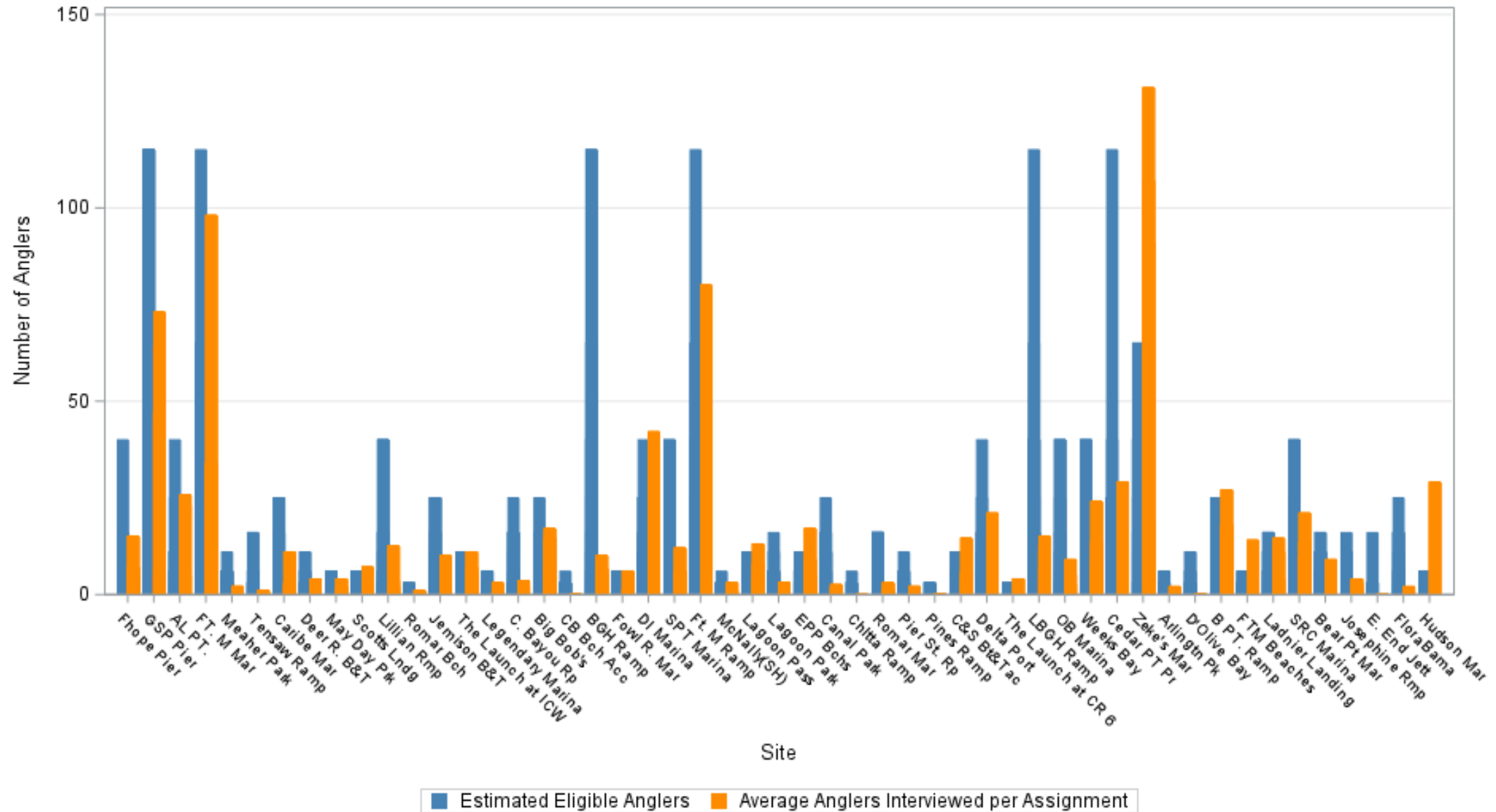
Dotted line indicates beginning of AL Private Recreational Red Snapper season

Survey Progress & Results: 2025–2026 YTD Catch

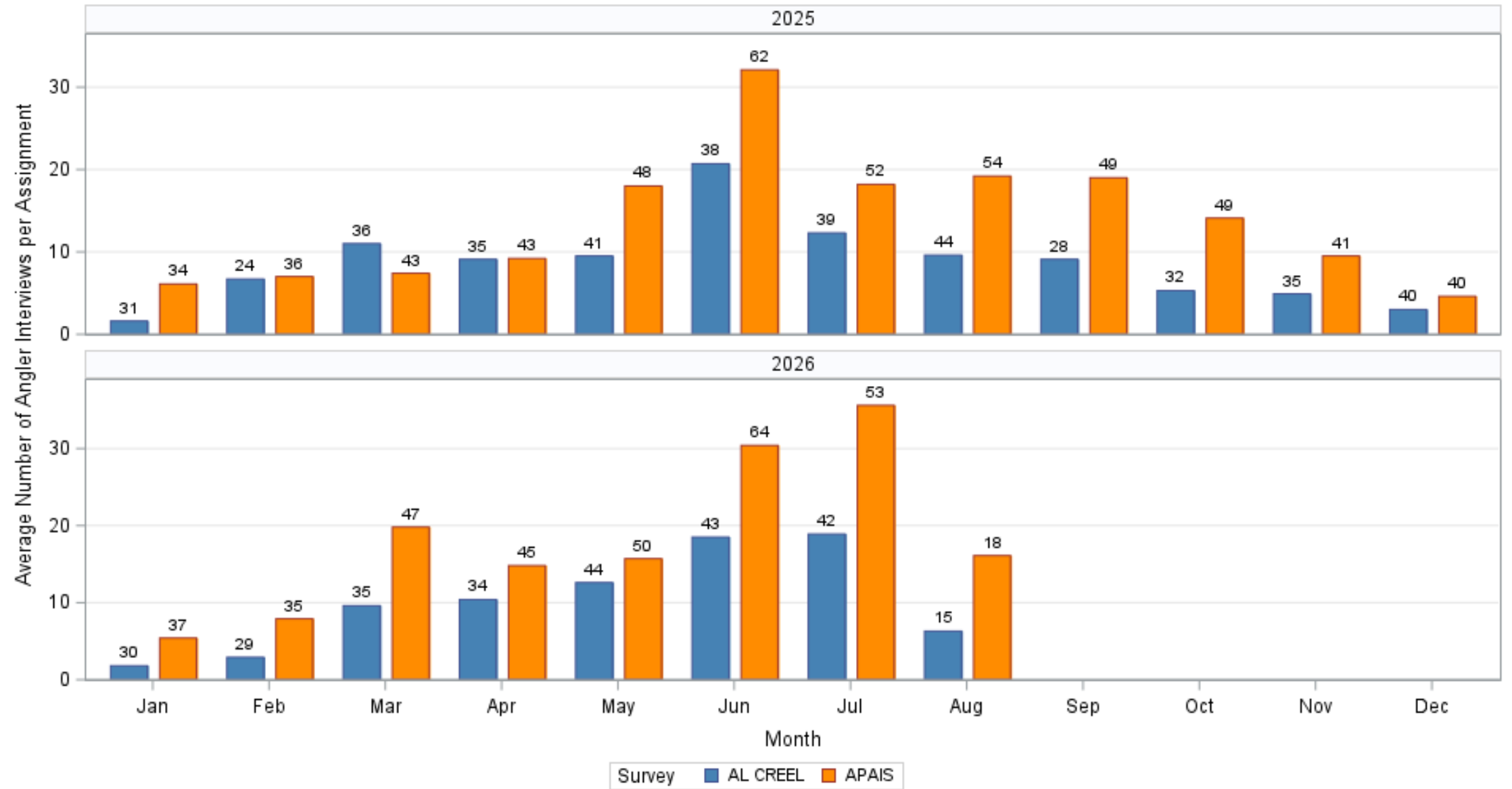
Estimated Angler Availability vs. Average Anglers Interviewed by Site January 1 through December 28, 2025



Estimated Angler Availability vs. Average Anglers Interviewed by Site
January 1, 2026 thru August 9, 2026



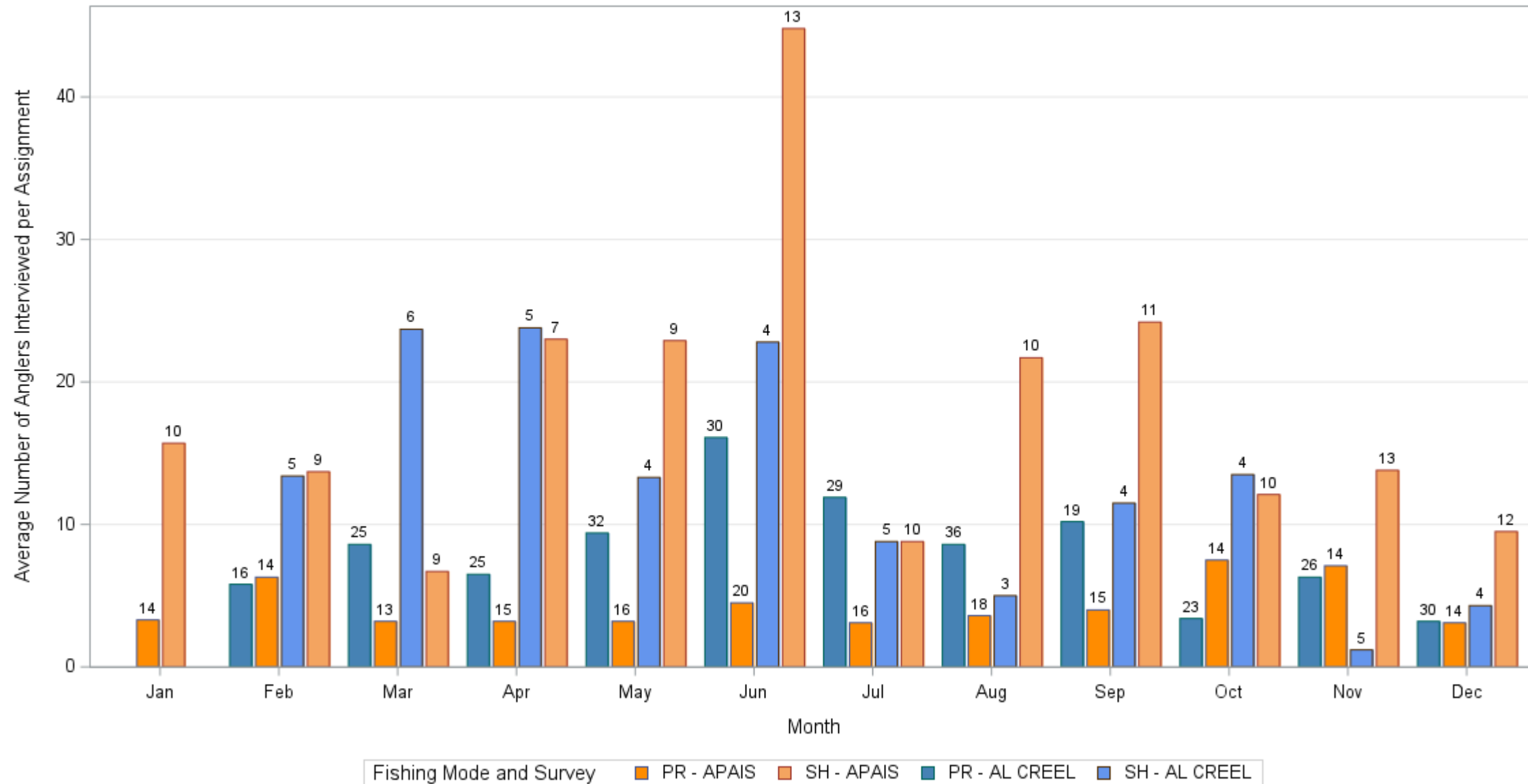
Average Number of Anglers Interviewed per Assignment by Month AL Creel and APAIS, 2025-2026



Number of completed assignments shown above each bar.



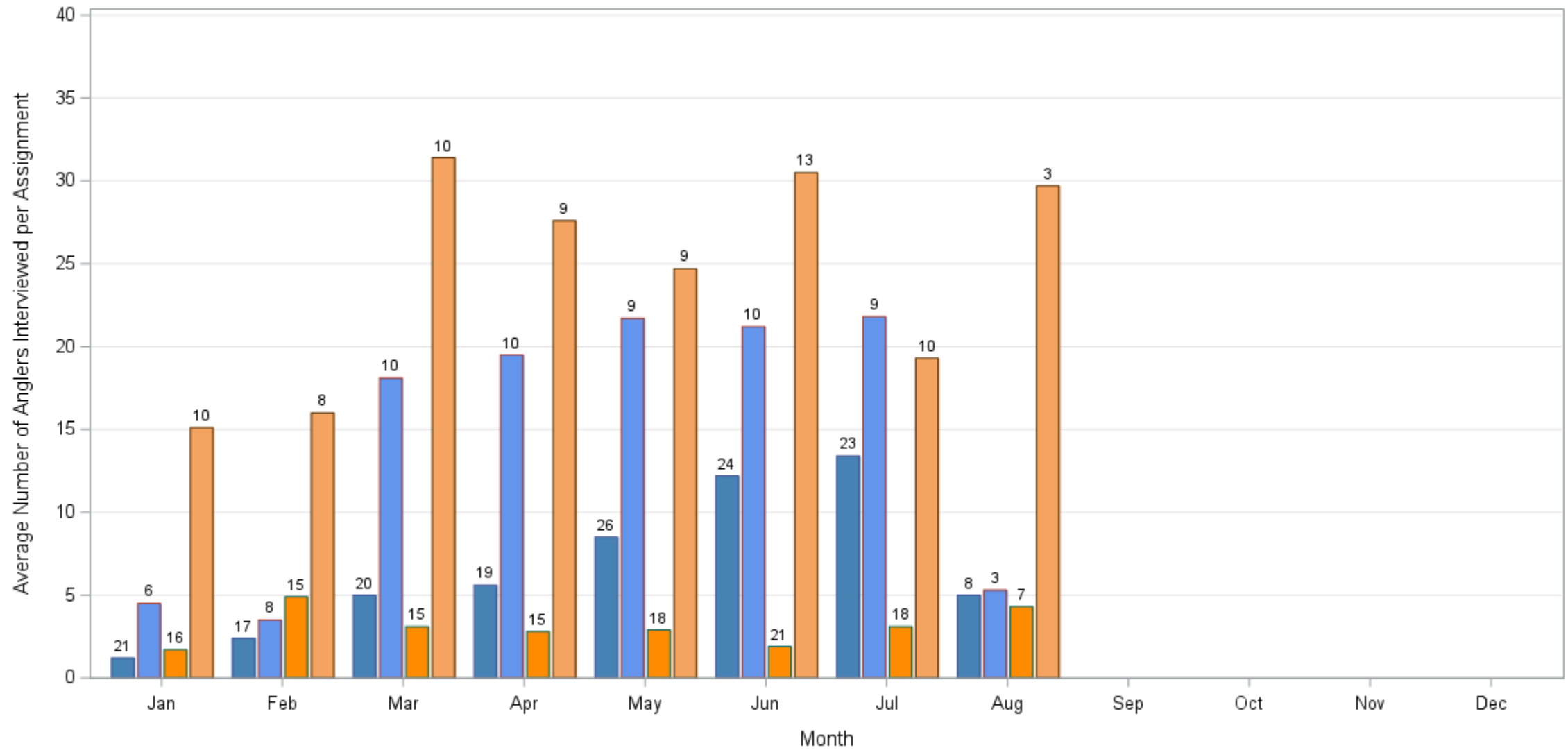
Average Number of Anglers Interviewed per Assignment by Month and Fishing Mode
AL Creel and APAIS — 2025



Number of completed assignments shown above each bar.



Average Number of Anglers Interviewed per Assignment by Month and Fishing Mode
AL Creel and APAIS - 2026 YTD

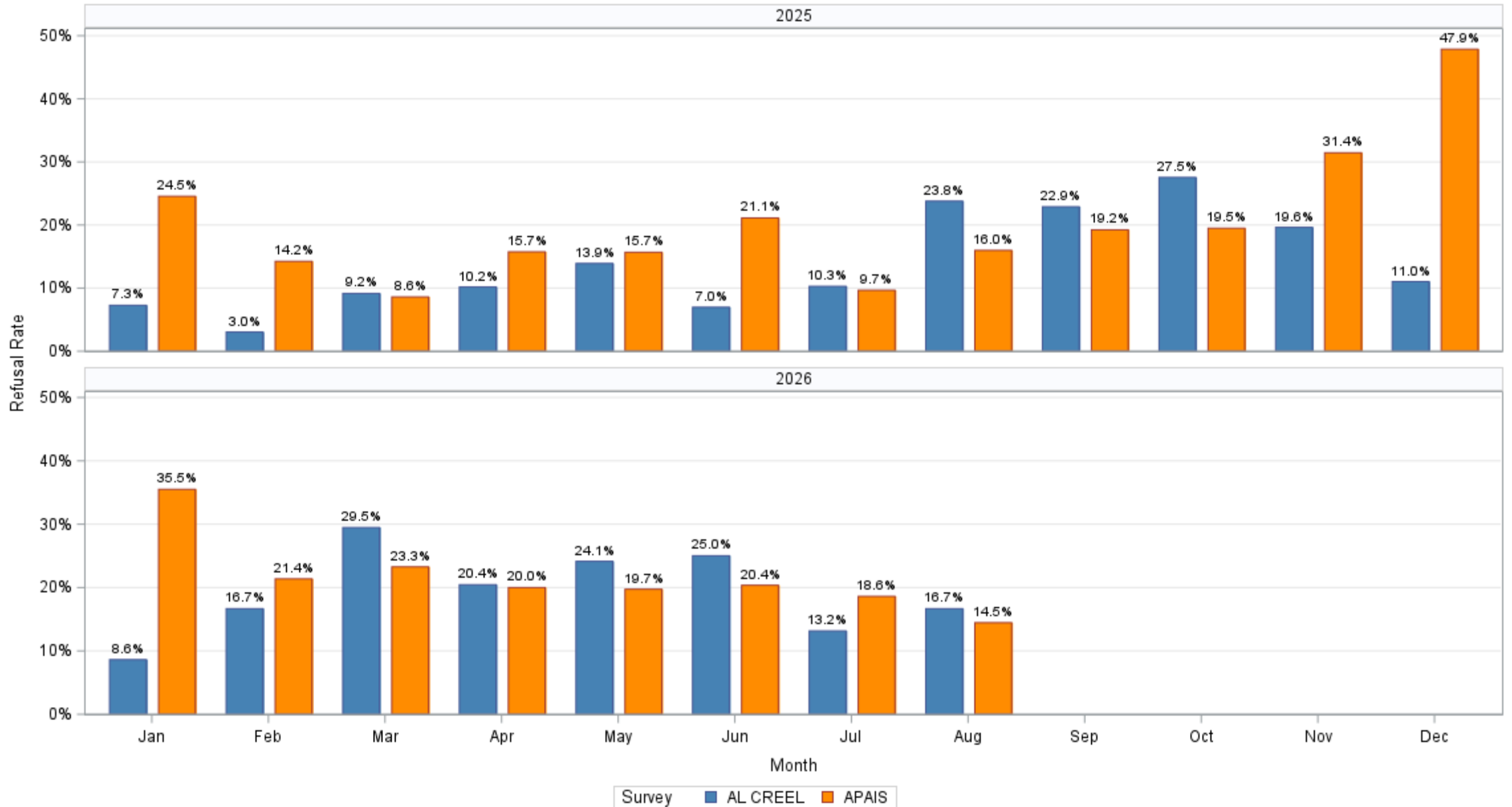


Fishing Mode and Survey PR - AL CREEL SH - AL CREEL PR - APAIS SH - APAIS

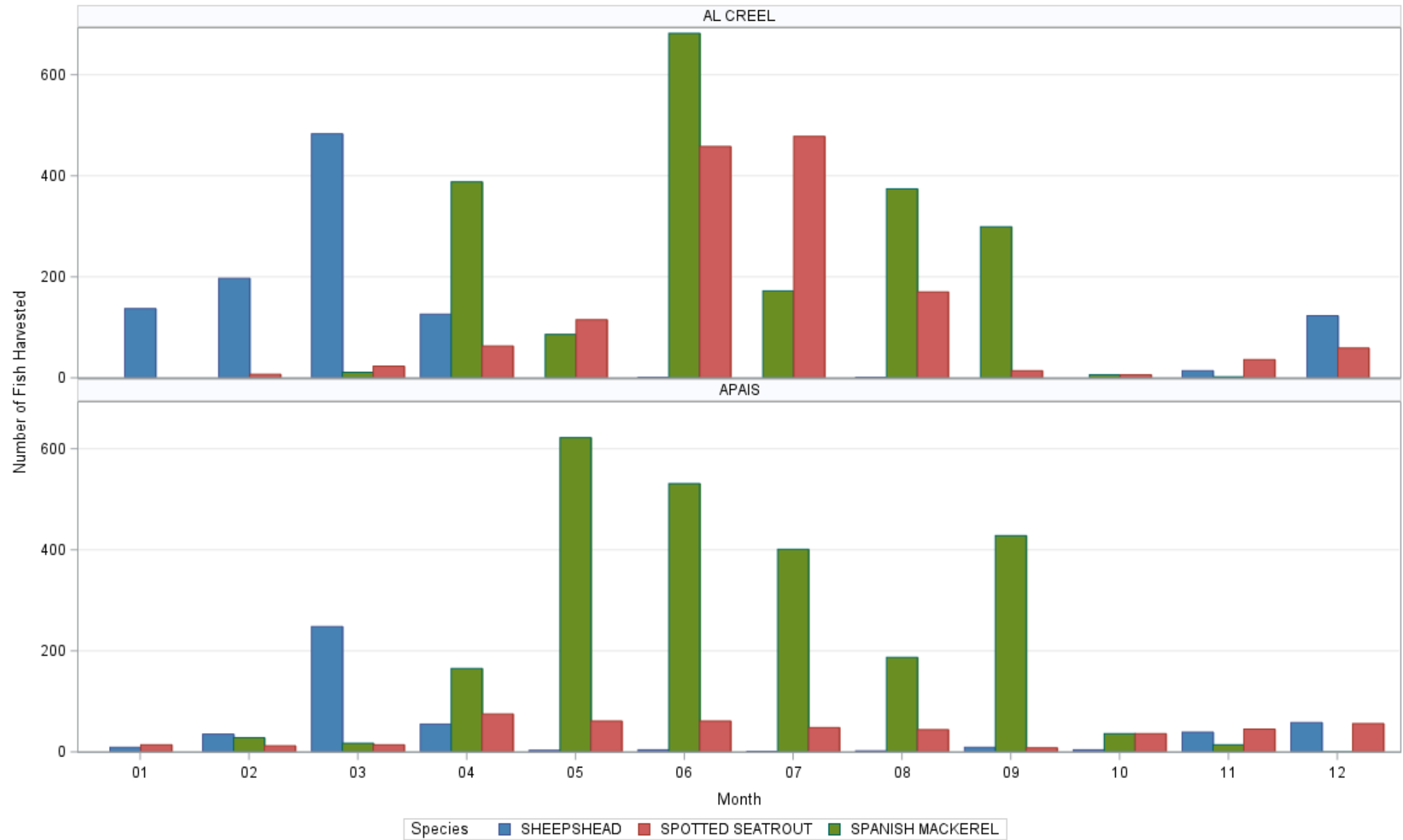
Number of completed assignments shown above each bar.



Dockside Survey Refusal Rate by Month AL Creel and APAIS, 2025–2026



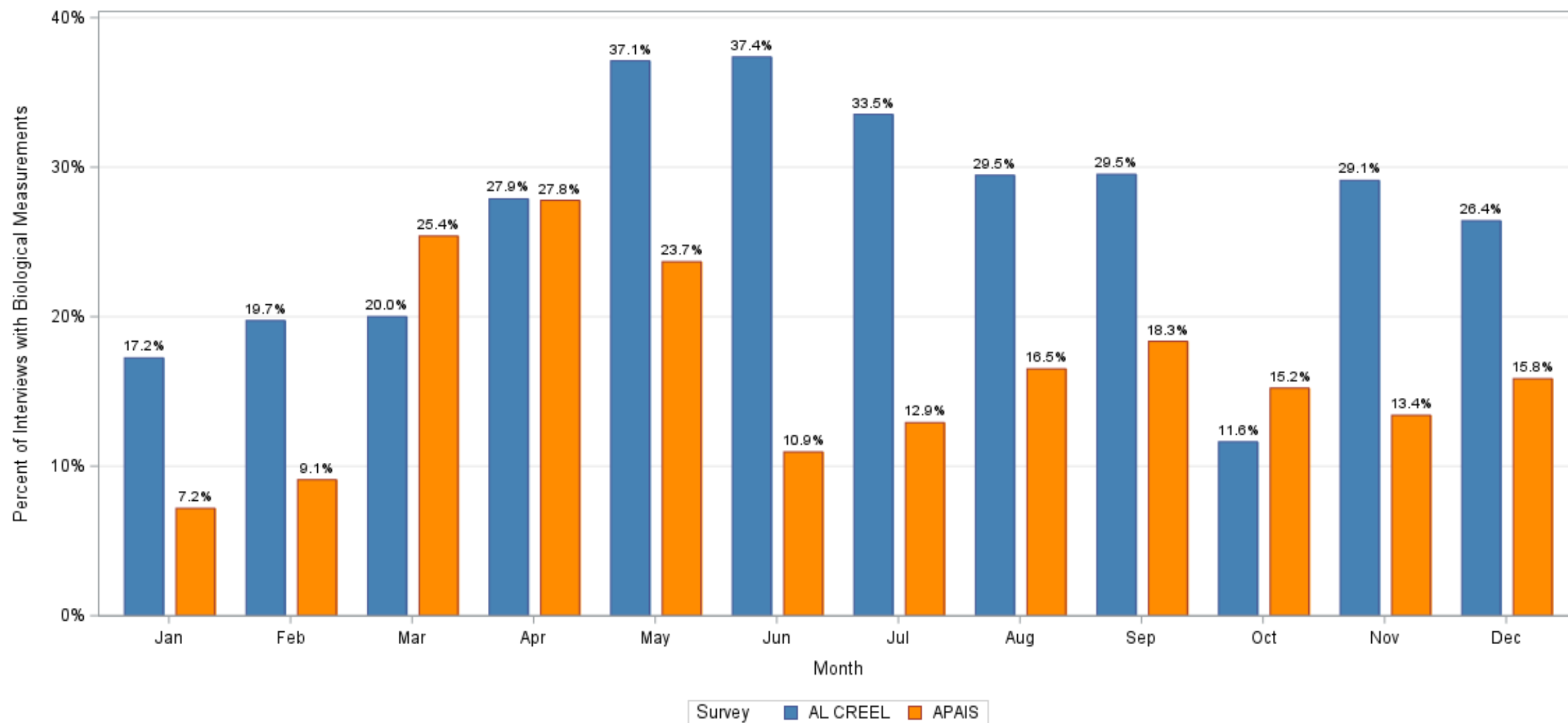
Observed and Reported Dockside Harvest of Key Fish Species by Month January 1 through December 27, 2025



Number of completed assignments shown above each bar.



Proportion of Interviews with Biological Measurements AL Creel and APAIS, 2025



Questions ?