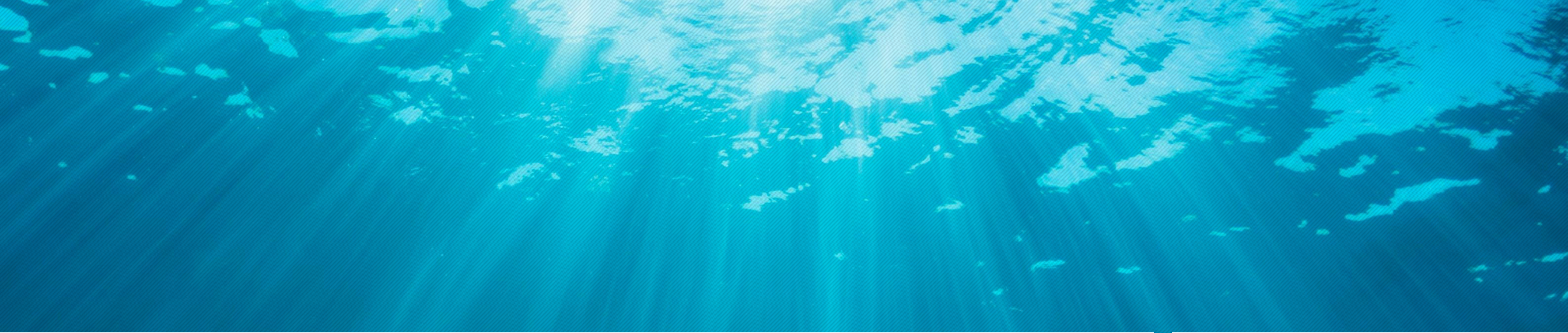

Fisherman Feedback: Red Snapper

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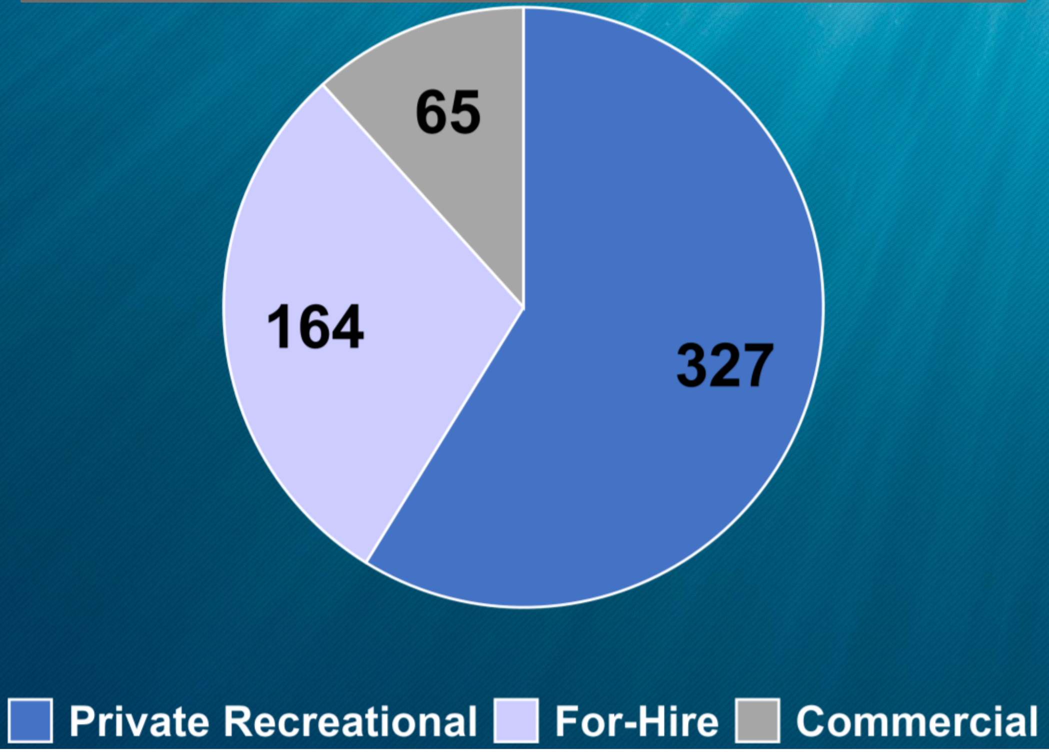
What is Fisherman Feedback?

An online tool used to gather information on a fish stock from active fishermen on trends or unusual occurrence's that scientists and managers may not have observed.

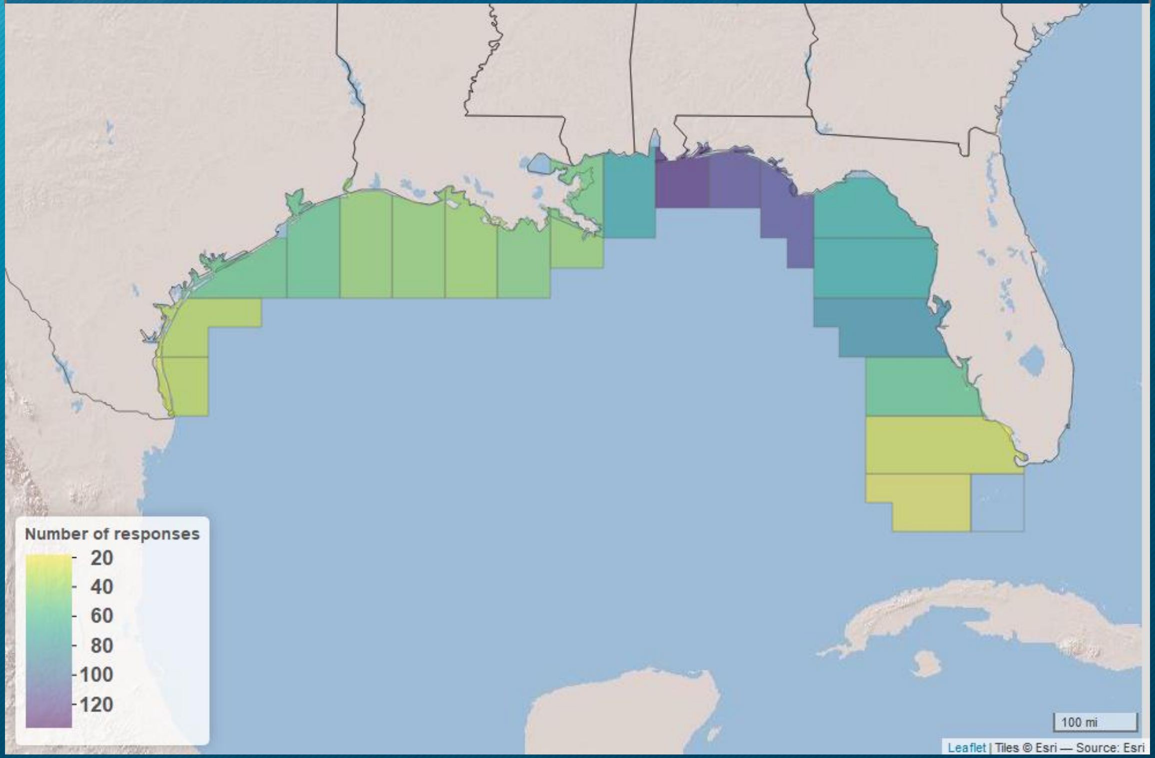
- Respondents are voluntary
- The tool is advertised via press release, social media, and the Council's website

Respondents

Respondents by Sector
Not limited to a singular response (n=556)

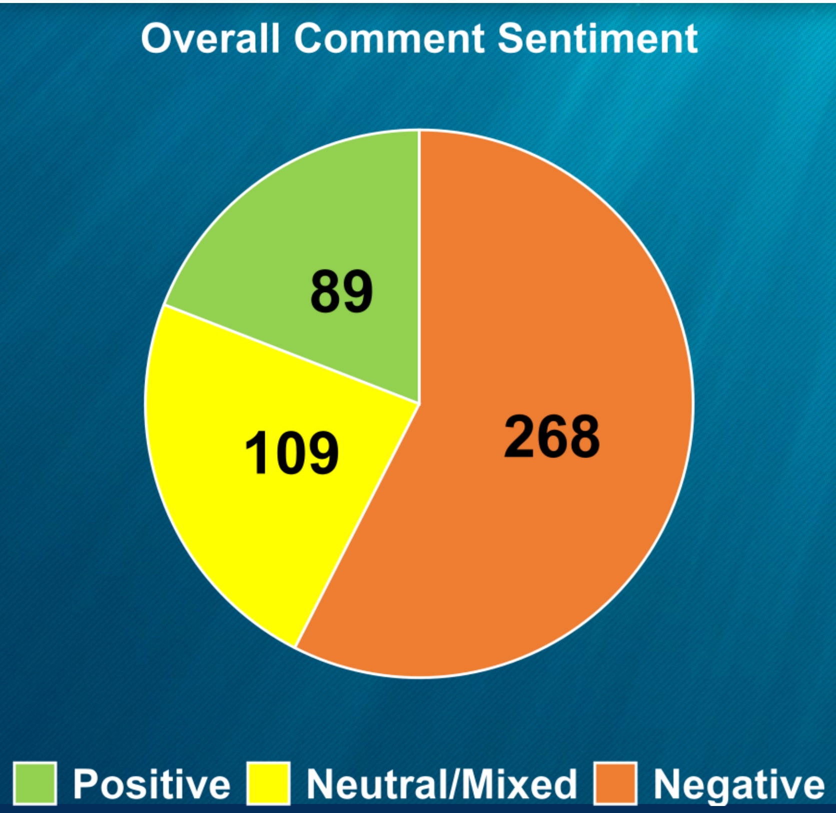


Respondents by Area
Not limited to a single area (n=853)

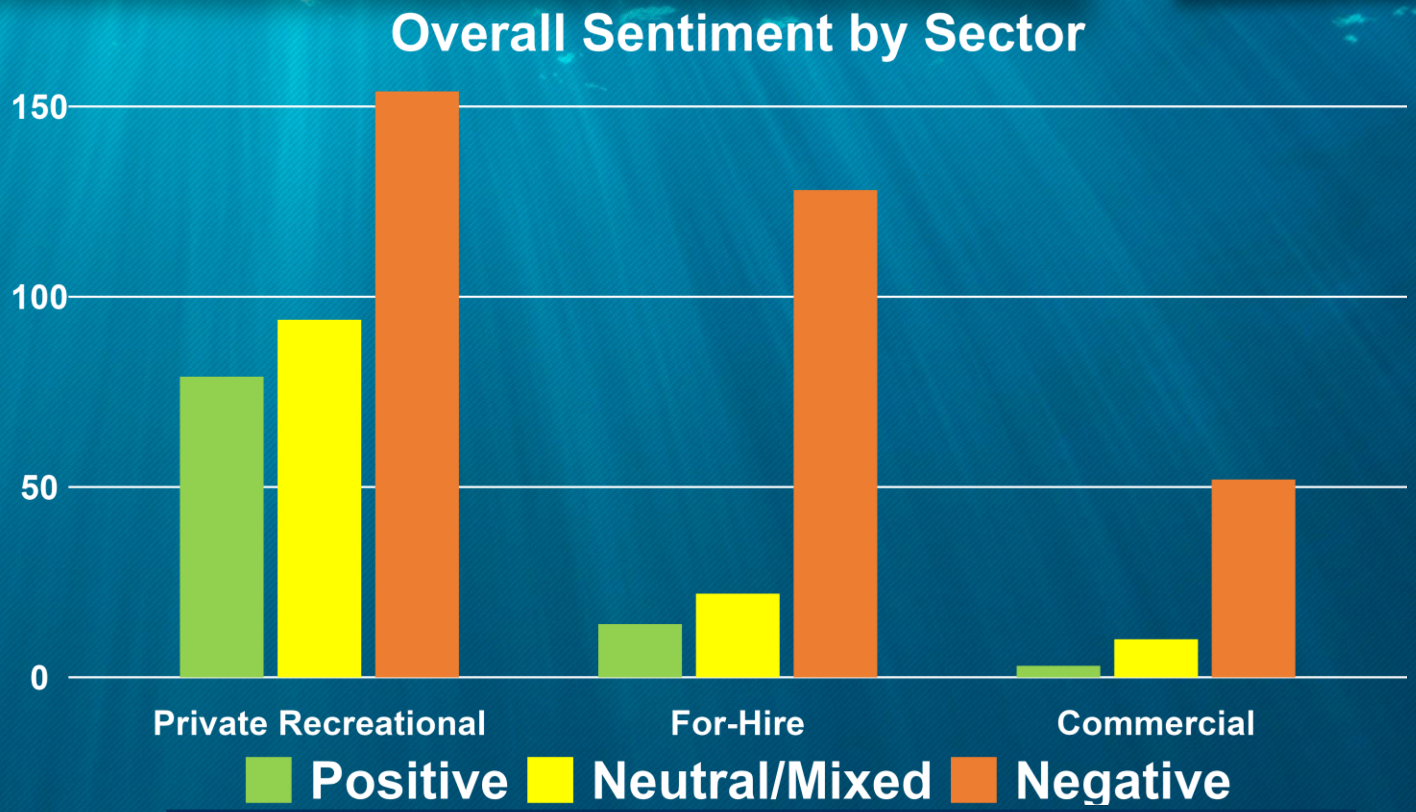


466 Unique responses received between July 21 – August 21, 2026

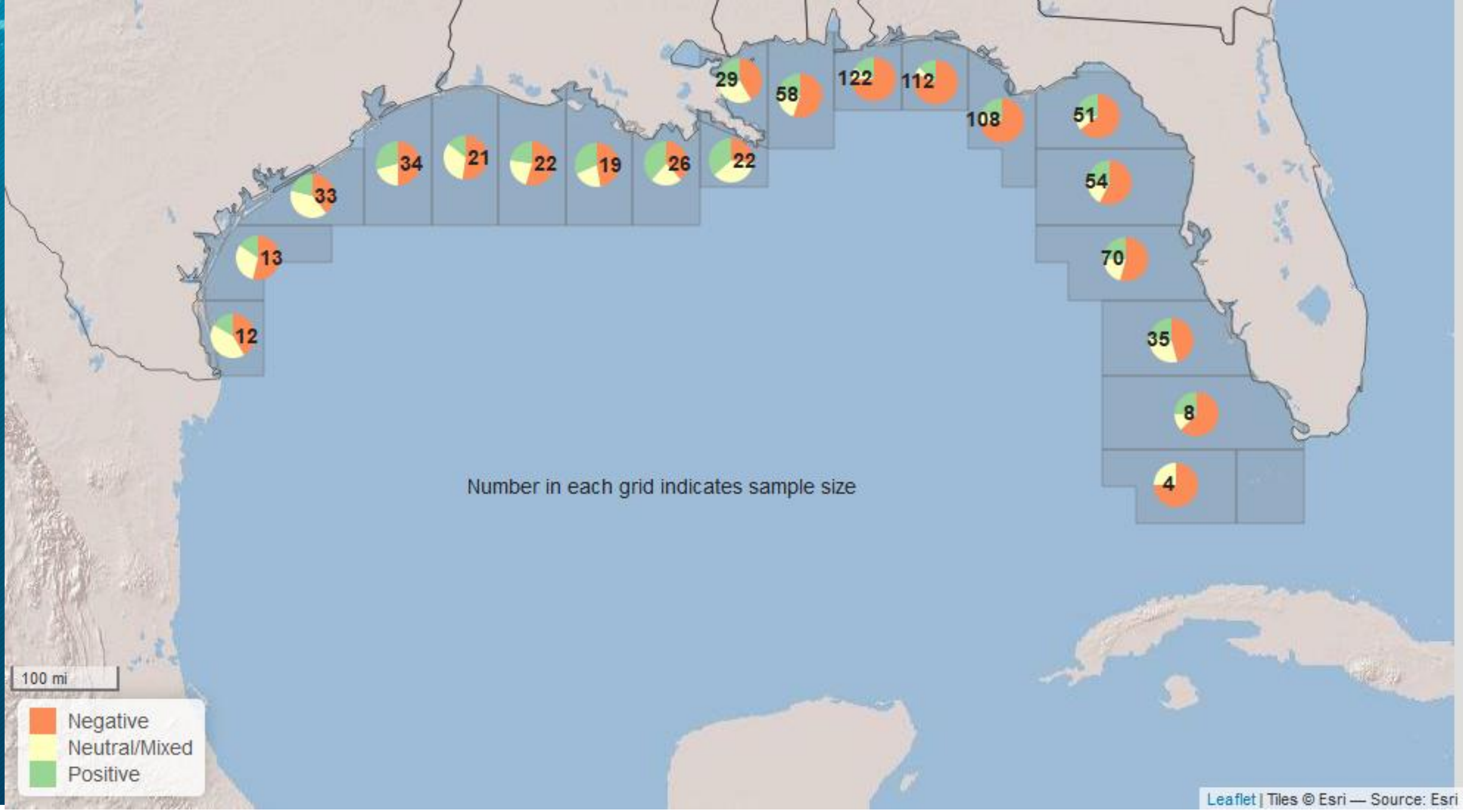
Overall Response Sentiment



Number of responses indicating positive, negative, or neutral sentiment (n=466) classified by manual analysis



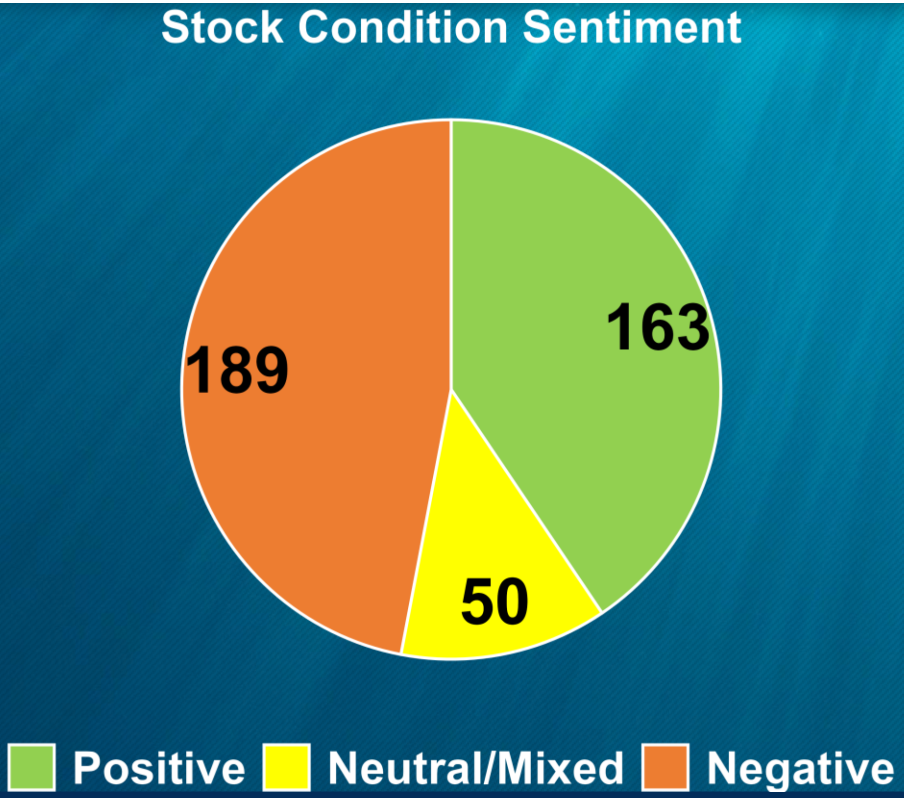
Number of responses indicating positive, negative, or neutral sentiment sorted by self-selected sector (n=556)



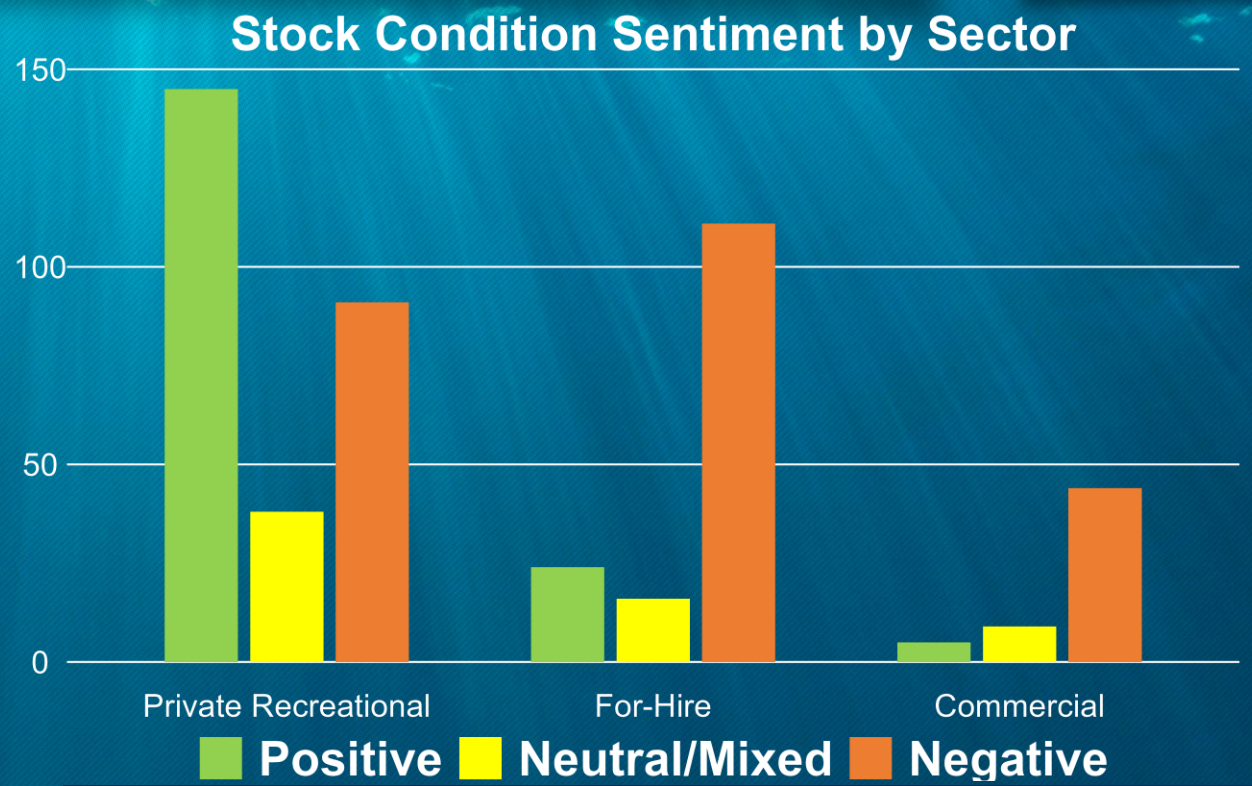
Overall Response Sentiment

Each comment was analyzed for sentiment (n=466) and linked to self-selected areas (n=853)

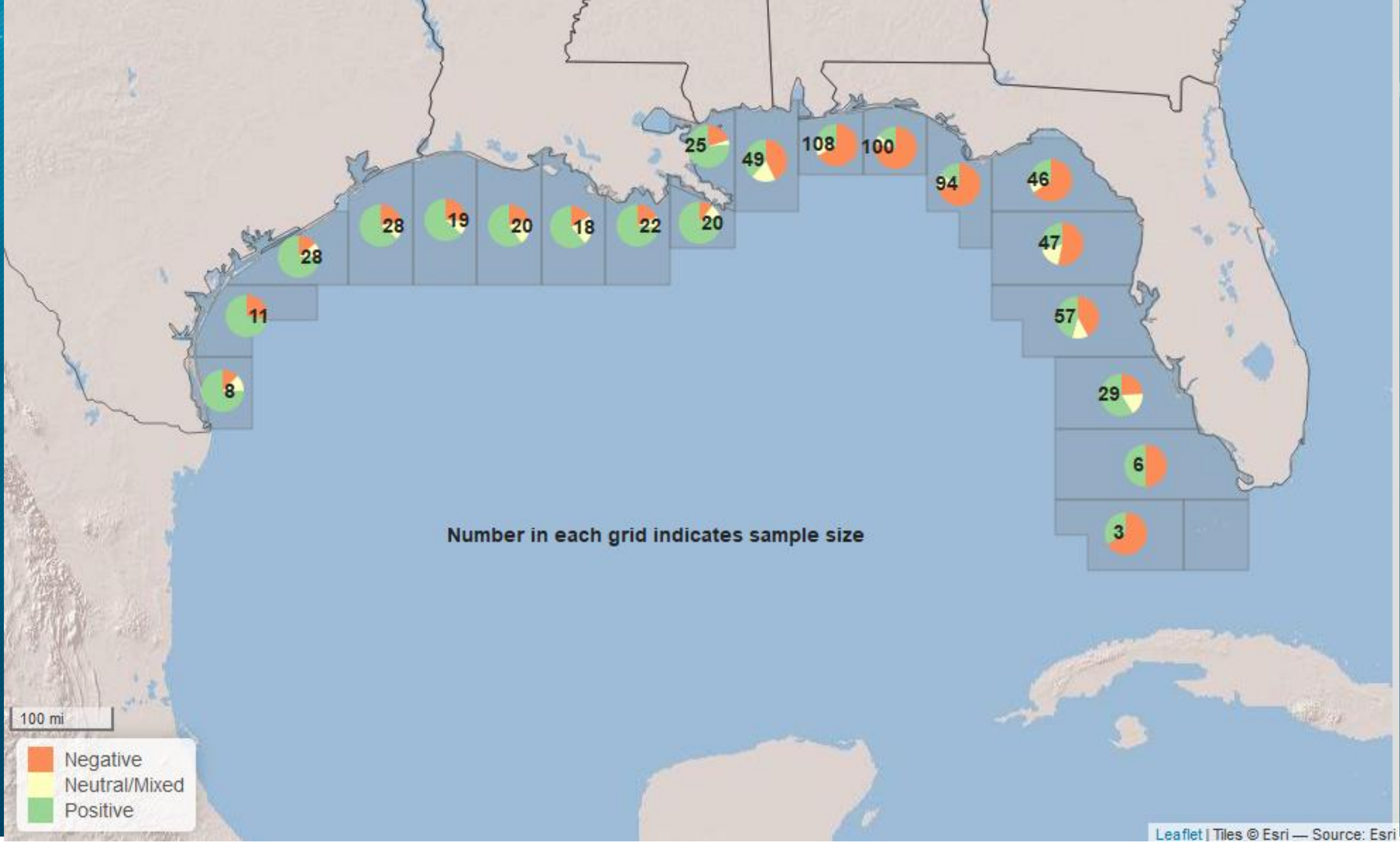
Stock Condition Sentiment



Number of comments indicating positive, negative, or neutral sentiment regarding stock condition (n=402)



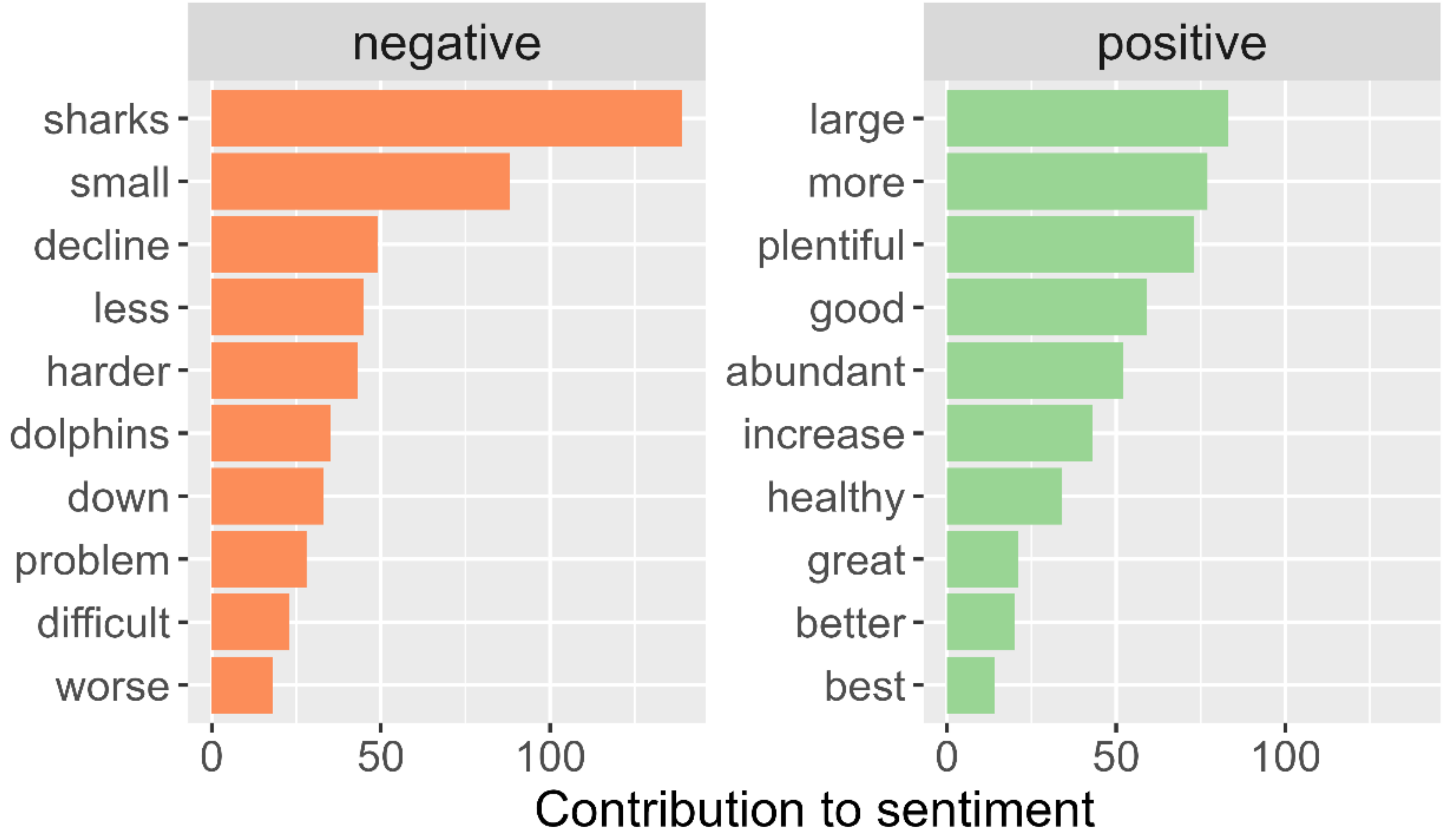
Number of responses indicating positive, negative or neutral sentiment (n=402) sorted by self-selected sector (n=483)

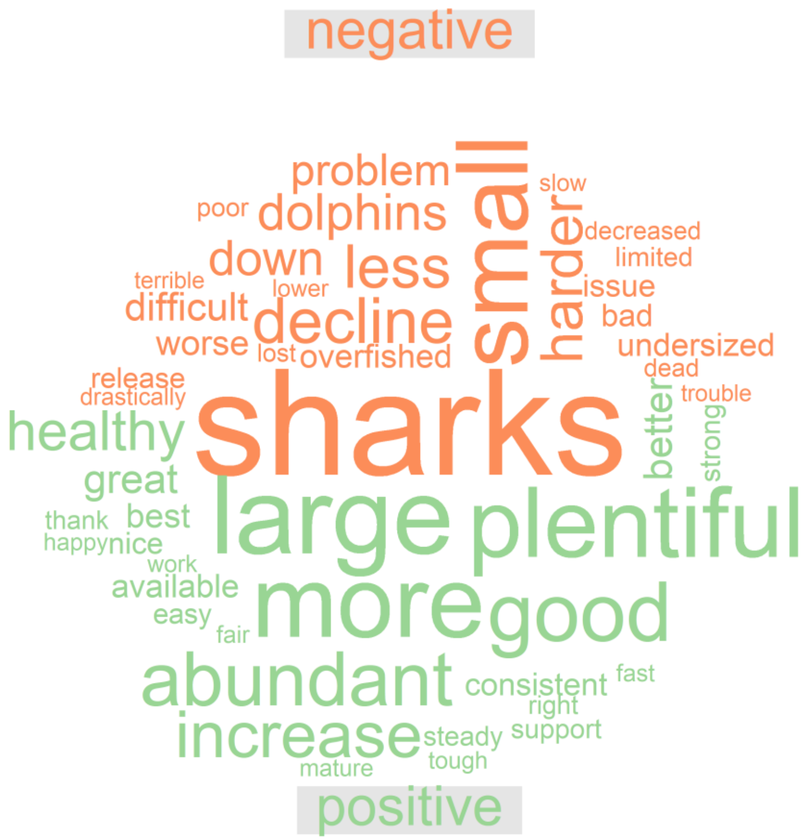


Stock Condition Sentiment

Each comment related to the condition of the stock was analyzed for sentiment (n=402) and linked to self-selected areas (n=738)

Automated Analysis





Positive Themes

- Stock has rebounded and red snapper are abundant
- No issue catching a limit of red snapper
- Happy with current season structure
- Shrimp BRDs have improved snapper population
- Small decrease in abundance allows for increased catch of other species

Neutral/Mixed Themes

- High abundance of juveniles, not as many large fish
- High abundance but
  - had to go out deeper
  - they’re reluctant to bite
  - smaller red snapper more aggressive, which is why big ones aren’t being caught
  - little snapper drove the big ones off the reefs
  - not enough oil rigs to fish for them
- Population is sustainable
- Thankful for longer seasons but seeing a decline

Negative Themes

Catalog/Season/Abundance

- Localized depletion
- Average size of catch declining
- Harder to catch as season progresses
    - Have to go deeper
- Red snapper being outcompeted
    - Triggerfish
    - Red grouper eat the fry
- Red snapper eat all the triggerfish and groupers
- Seasons are too long
- Slow bite/less fish/discolored water affecting bite
- So many red snapper you can't catch anything else

Discard Mortality

- Shark depredation
- Goliath/Dolphin depredation
- Regulatory discards
- High grading
- Venting and descending not working

Other sectors

- Too much commercial fishing
    - Longliners
- Charters harvest too much
- State charter boats running illegal trips in federal waters

Other Themes

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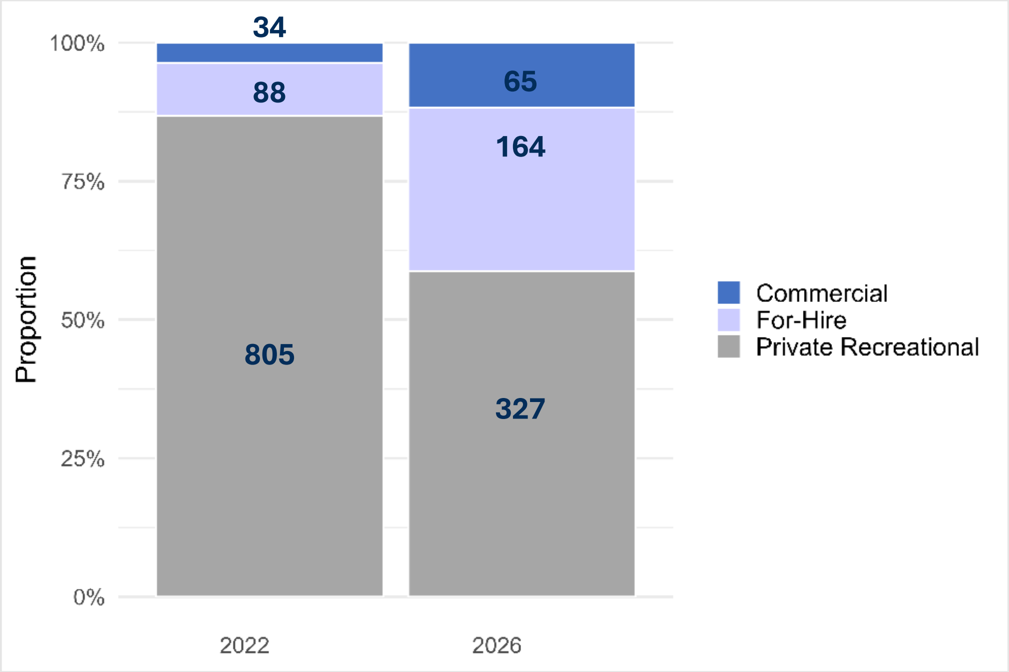
Observational

- Not many private recreational boats
  - mostly charters
- Too many boats
- Less pressure with high fuel costs
- More red snapper caught at night than ever
- Menhaden boats exacerbating shark issue
- Descending devices reduce discard mortality
- Stock moves east and then back west
- More yellow/orange color than normal
- Spawn was earlier than usual

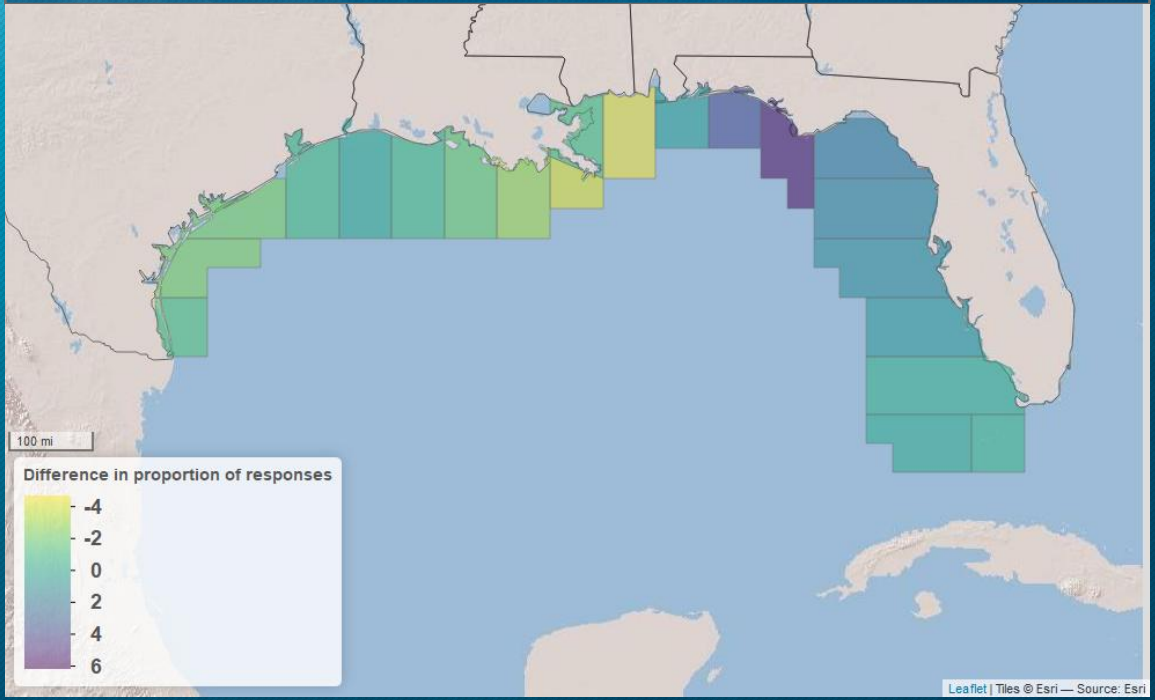
Management

- Should be open year-round
- Season should be longer
- Season should be shorter
- Consider slot size to release breeders
- Bag limit should be 4 fish in MS
- LA 4 fish bag limit is too high
- Bag limit should be 1 per person
- Tag system
- Private recreational needs to report
- Season break in late summer
- Should be fall season
- Overlap season with GAJ and GTF
- Reduce ACL for everyone
- Immediate closure necessary

Respondents by Sector
Not limited to a singular response
(n=927) (n=556)



Difference in respondents by Area
Not limited to a single area
(2022 n=1594) (2026 n=853)



Comparing to 2022 - Respondents

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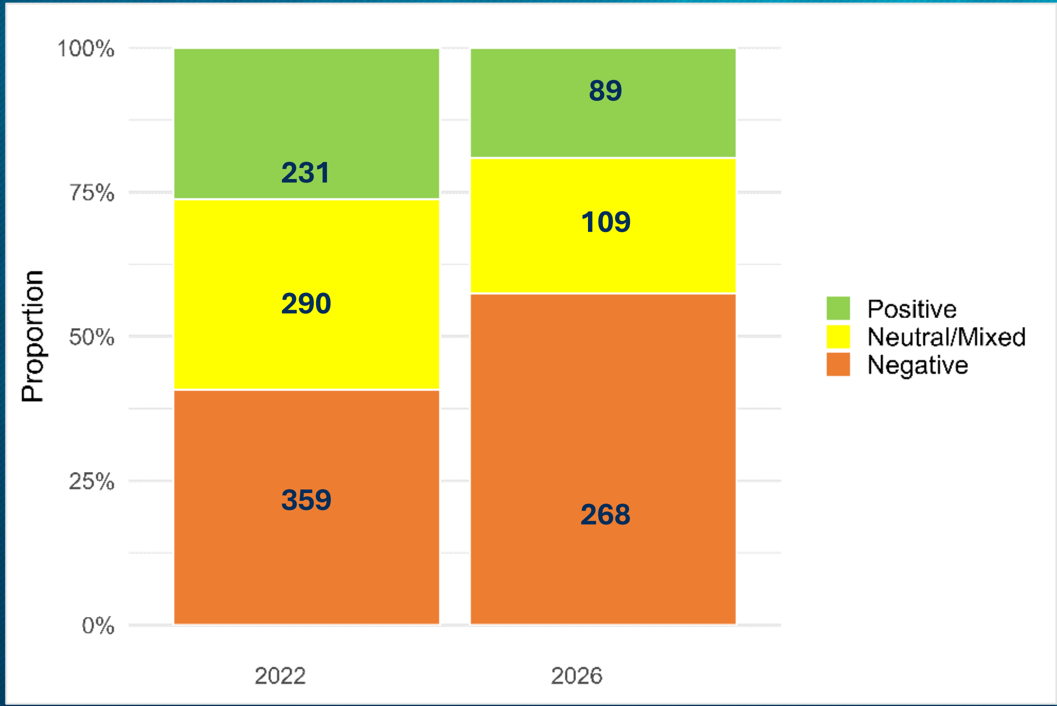
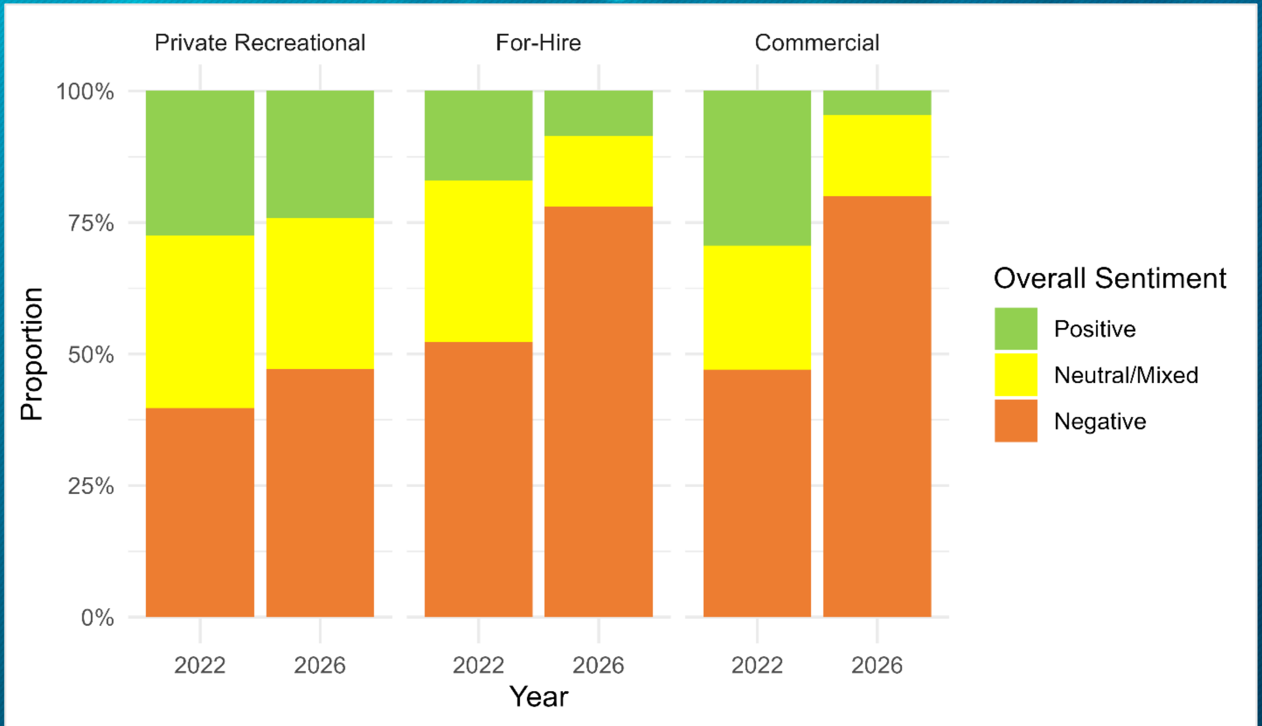
880 Unique responses received between February 17, 2022 – March 21, 2022
466 Unique responses received between July 21 – August 21, 2026

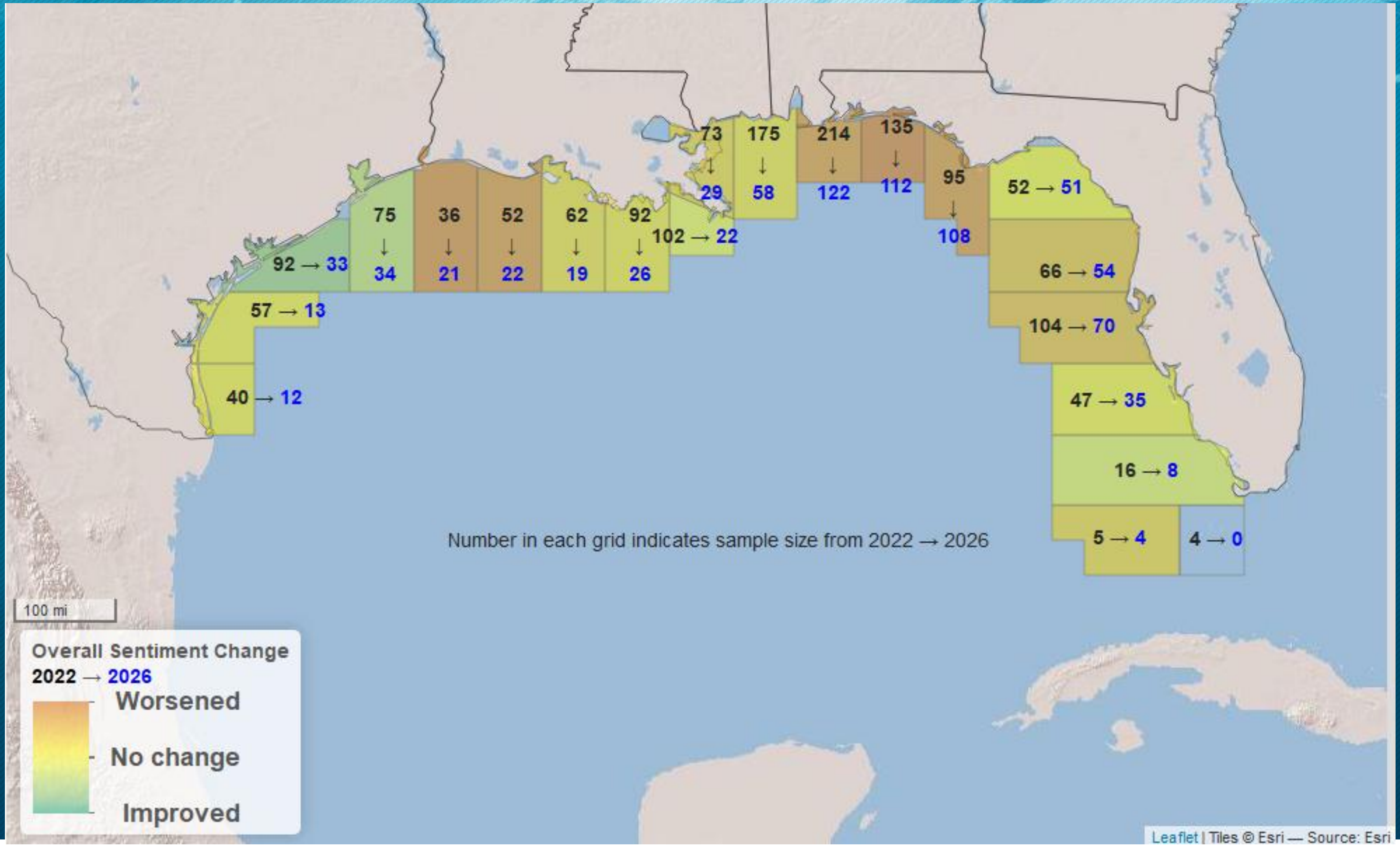
Comparing to 2022 - Overall Response Sentiment



Proportion of responses in 2022 and 2026 indicating positive, negative, or neutral/mixed sentiment (n= 880 and 466 respectively) classified by manual analysis.



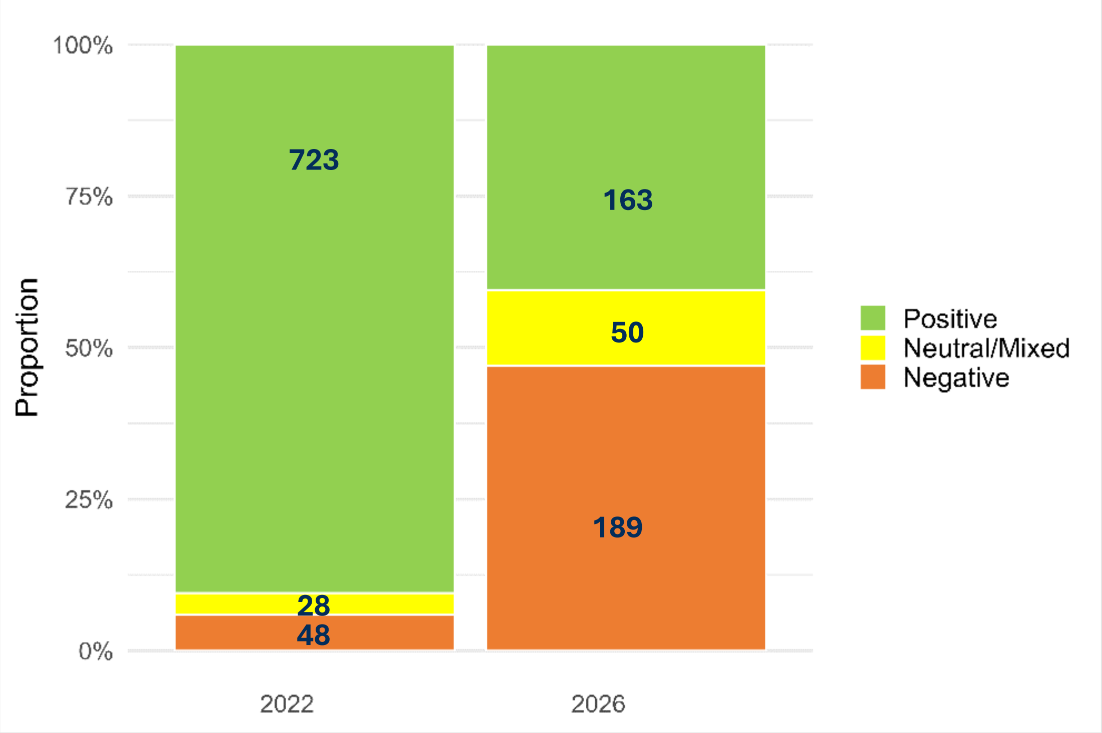
Proportion of responses indicating positive, negative, or neutral/mixed sentiment sorted by self-selected sector for 2022 and 2026 (n= 921 and 556, respectively)



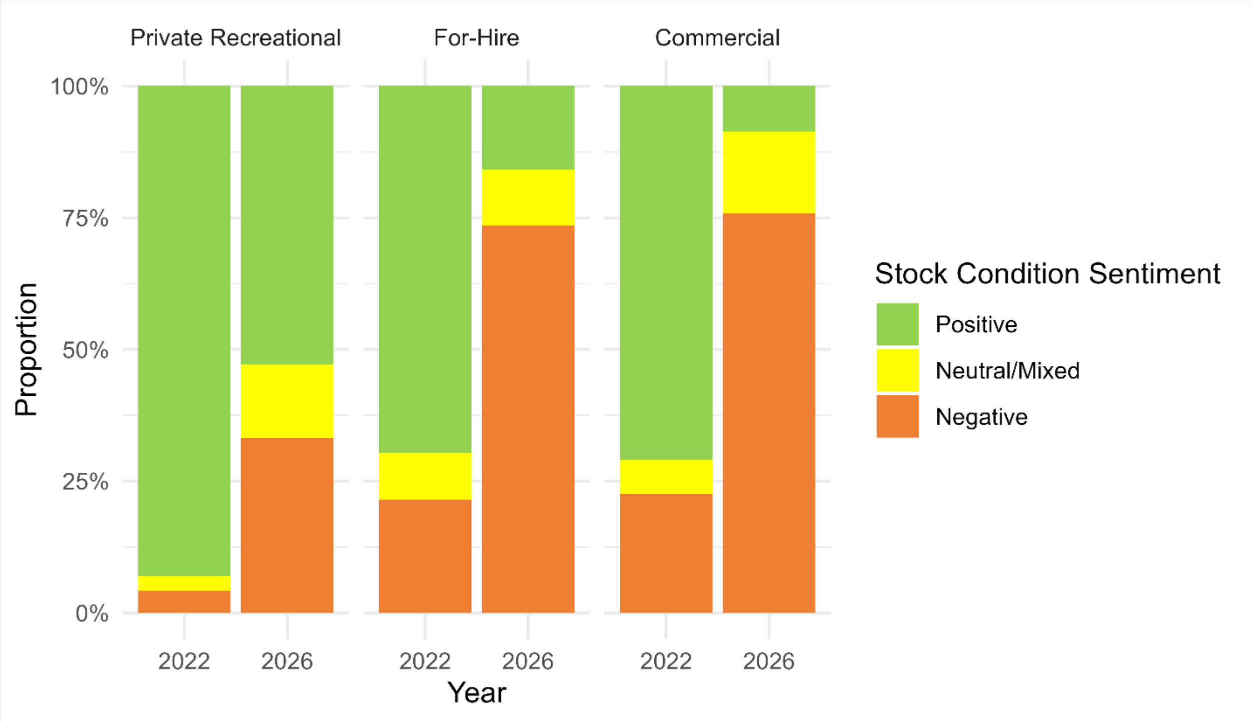
Comparing to 2022 - Overall Response Sentiment

Each comment was analyzed for sentiment (n=880 and 466, respectively) and linked to self-selected areas (n=1594 and 853, respectively)

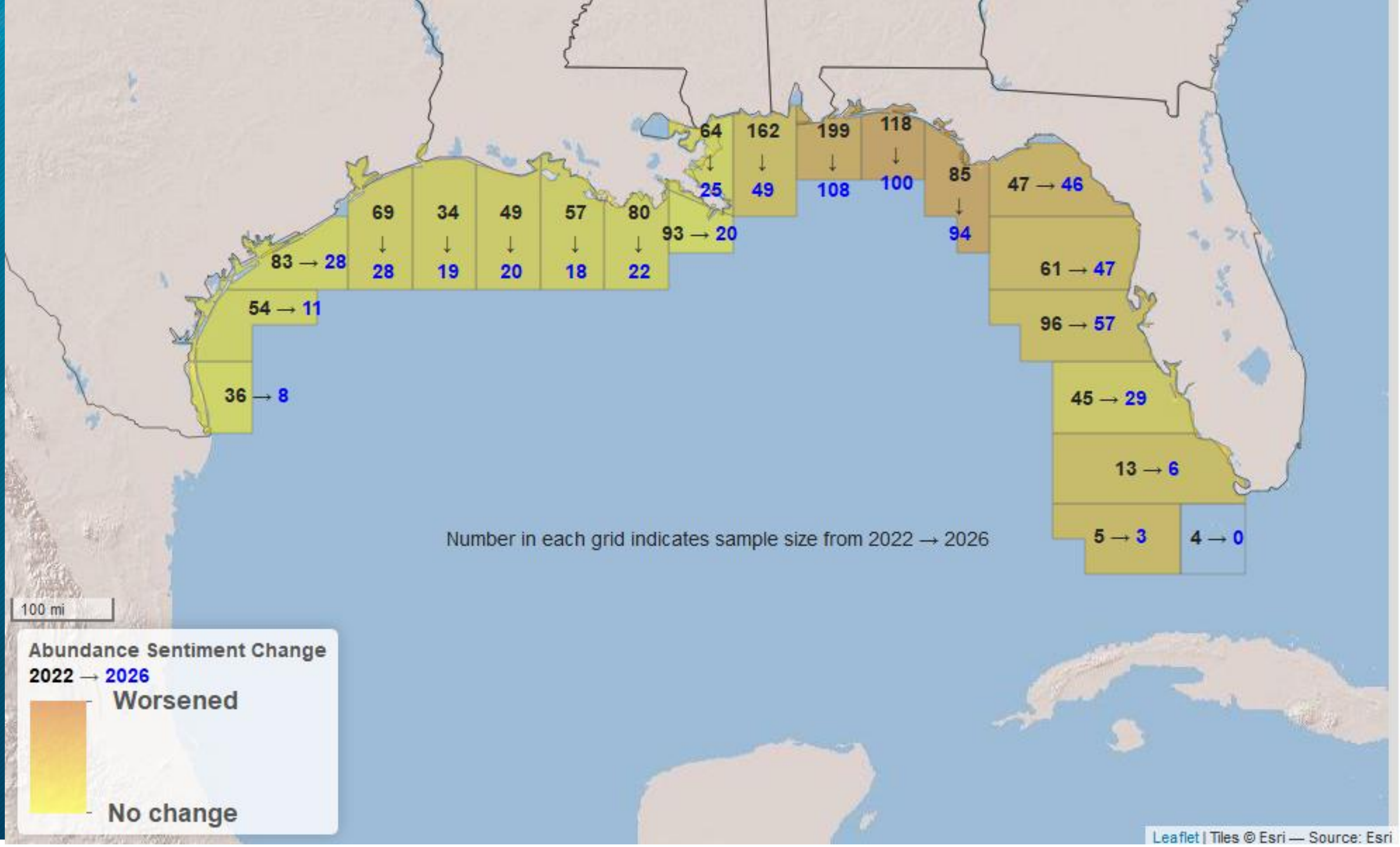
Comparing to 2022 - Stock Condition Sentiment



Proportion of comments in 2022 and 2026 indicating positive, negative, or neutral/mixed sentiment regarding stock condition (n= 799 and 402, respectively).



Proportions of responses indicating positive, negative or neutral/mixed sentiment (n=799 and 402, respectively) sorted by self-selected sector (n=846 and 483, respectively)



Comparing to 2022 - Stock Condition Sentiment

Each comment related to the condition of the stock was analyzed for sentiment (n=799 and 402, respectively) and linked to self-selected areas (n=1454 and 738, respectively)

Comparing to 2022 - Who did both?

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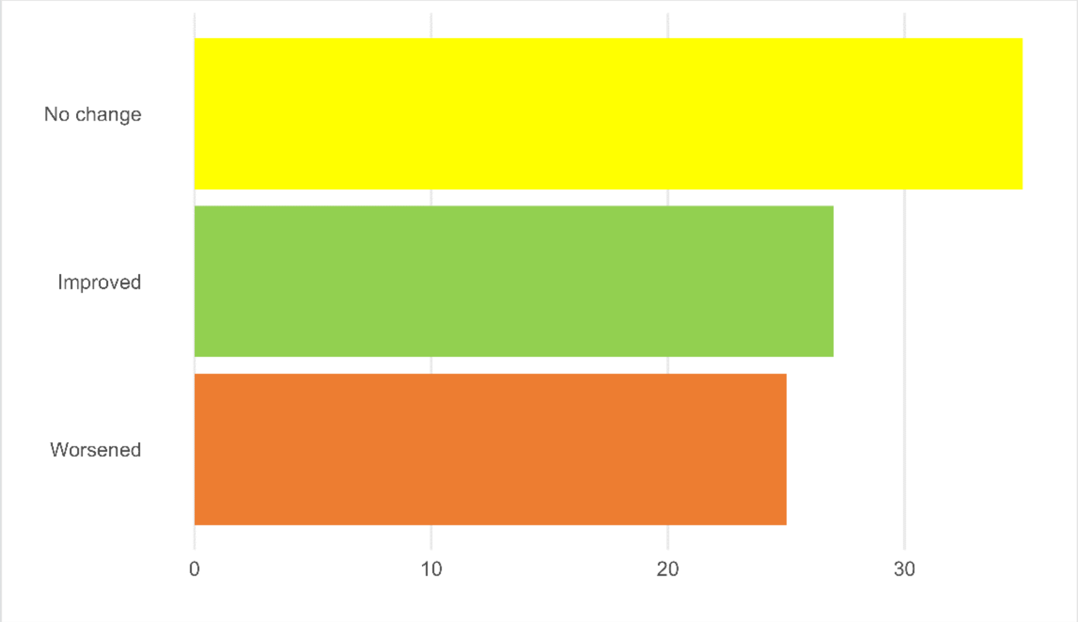
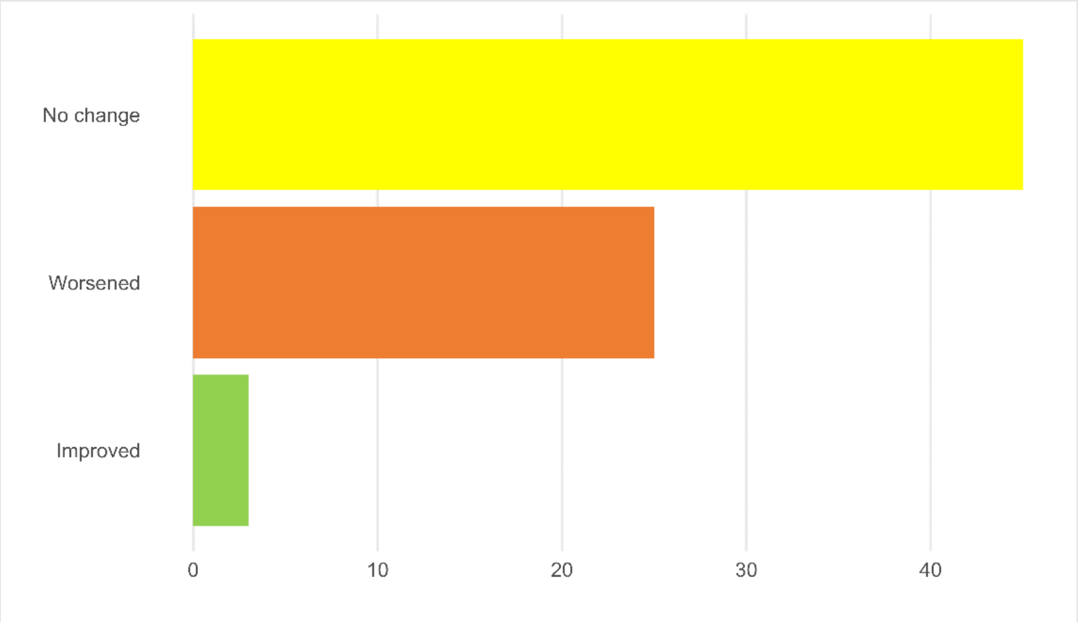
Overall Comment Sentiment



Overall sentiment comparison between respondents who completed both the 2022 and 2026 surveys (n=87).

Stock Condition Sentiment



Stock sentiment comparison between respondents who completed both the 2022 and 2026 surveys and indicated something about the health of the stock (n=73).

Questions?