

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paper MSFWG0914

1. The chain of islands that forms the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides) constitutes 1.3% of the land area of the UK, but encompasses 15% of the freshwater area.
2. It is estimated that 7,500 game anglers (4.6% of all visitors) visited the Western Isles in 1999, spending approximately £3.98 million (12% of all visitors expenditure) in the Western Isles.
3. More than 77% of angling-related expenditure was made by people whose main reason for visiting the Western Isles was to go game fishing.
4. The direct expenditures of visiting anglers account for at least 185 full time equivalent jobs (1.9% of the working population). Indirect and induced impacts on the Islands' economy suggest that angling is worth £5.6 million and accounts for at least 260 full time equivalent jobs (2.7% of the working population).
5. It is estimated that the capital value of the fishery is in the order of £17 million.
6. More than 8% of the Western Isles population (2300 people) may engage in game angling.
7. Total estimated resident angler expenditure in 1999 was at least £300,000 and may have exceeded £800,000.
8. As many as 21,000 non-angling visitors to the Islands might have tried recreational angling in 1999 if the appropriate facilities had existed.
9. Detailed profiles of visiting anglers have been developed.
10. Approximately 80% of anglers had visited the Western Isles more than once - 88% of visiting anglers in 1999 indicated that they intended to return.
11. For the Western Isles in particular, the recreational fishery offers good prospects for generating sustainable levels of income and employment.
12. Assessments of access and availability to the fishery have been made.
13. More detailed analyses of three case study areas have been conducted with a view to making practical recommendations for the development of these fisheries. The results of these studies are held in-confidence by Western Isles Fisheries Trust (WIFT).
14. Recommendations for the short-term and longer-term, strategic development of the fishery have been made.
15. Key statistics and recommendations are summarised at the end of each section of the report (see Key Facts Boxes in Table of Contents)