

**Outdoor and
Environmental
Education**



An Assessment of the Economic Impact of Water-Related Recreation and Tourism in the Spey Catchment in 2003

Research Report

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COMMISSIONED REPORT

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WATER BASED RECREATION IN THE SPEY CATCHMENT IN 2003

BACKGROUND

The River Spey Catchment Management Plan identified a need for an up to date objective assessment of the volume and economic impact of water related tourism to the local area and employment, either directly or indirectly.

MAIN FINDINGS

In 2003

- The number of **angling** activity days was estimated to be **54,746** with a total expenditure by participants of **£11.8m**. Salmon angling by visitors was the most popular sub-sector with 40,543 days (81.4%) and total expenditure of £10.7m (94.5%).
- After allowing for substitution of activity within the study area the direct impact of angling was found to be £7.2m. Indirect and Induced effects were estimated to give a total local (MBSE) annual output of **£10.9m**, an annual income to households in the MBSE of **£6m** and **367 jobs**.
- The number of **water-sports** activity days was estimated to be **38,190** with a total expenditure by participants of **£1.7m**. Placid water activity on Lochs Morlich and Insh by visitors was the most popular sub-sector with 31,246 days (82%) and total expenditure of £1.46m (87%). The main stem of the Spey had 5607 days of paddler (kayaker and canoeists) activity.
- After allowing for substitution of activity within the study area the direct impact of water-sports was found to be £1.1m. Indirect and Induced effects were estimated to give a total local (MBSE) annual output of **£1.7m**, household income of **£0.8m** and **48 jobs**. The direct impact of these activities upon the environment is very small.
- Commercial development should be concentrated on adding value or exploiting under-utilised areas. "Quality" down river descents, wildlife canoe tours and promotion of non-salmon angling are suggested.
- Co-ordinated marketing and management for the whole catchment are required. The partners should determine how this could best be achieved.

Foreword

This research was undertaken by the following team:

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*Estimates of indirect and induced expenditure were provide by
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CogentSI can provide estimates of input-output and trade tables for any unitary authority or local enterprise company area in Scotland, or combinations thereof. If the distribution of expenditure is known then multipliers for any type of tourist activity in any area can be calculated. We are grateful for their cooperation.

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