

NZIER Economic Contribution of Freshwater Angling Report Summary

Purpose

This report, prepared by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER), assesses the economic contribution and wellbeing benefits of recreational freshwater angling in New Zealand.

Key Findings

Economic Contribution

- **Angler Participation:** Domestic and international anglers spend around a million days on angling trips each year.
- **Expenditure** (direct spending by anglers): Anglers spend between \$113.0 million and \$138.6 million annually on their trips. This represents the actual money spent by anglers at tackle shops, accommodation, food, transport, and other related purchases.
- **Economic Output** (value of supply): This spending results in \$96.0 million to \$117.7 million in total output. This figure is lower than expenditure because it excludes taxes and imports (e.g., imported fishing equipment). Output represents the value of goods and services produced domestically as a result of angler spending.
- **GDP Contribution** (value added): Freshwater angling contributes \$66.2 million to \$81.2 million in total value added (GDP). This represents the economic value created after subtracting the cost of inputs used in production. It's the difference between the value of outputs and the cost of inputs, showing the true contribution to New Zealand's economy.
- **Employment:** The economic activity supports between 952 and 1,168 jobs across New Zealand.
- **GST Revenue:** Angling activities generate \$10.6 million to \$13.0 million in GST.

Understanding the Economic Measures

- **Expenditure vs Output:** Expenditure represents the total money spent by anglers, while output is the value of domestic supply. The difference between these figures accounts for taxes and imported goods that don't contribute to the New Zealand economy.
- **Output vs GDP:** GDP (or value added) is calculated by taking the economic output and subtracting the cost of domestic inputs used in creating those goods and services. For example, if a business produces fishing flies, the GDP

contribution is the difference between what they sell the flies for and what they spent on materials to make them.

Methodology

- **Data Sources:** The study uses tourism datasets and Fish & Game National Angler Surveys (NAS) from 2014/15 and 2021/22.
- **Spending Profiles:** Average daily spend profiles were created for domestic and international anglers.
 - Domestic anglers: \$68 per day within their home region, \$247 per day outside their home region.
 - International anglers: \$340 per day.
- **Economic Ratios:** Ratios from Stats NZ Tourism Satellite Accounts were used to estimate direct and indirect economic contributions.

Wellbeing Benefits

- **Physical and Mental Health:** Angling improves physical and mental health by providing nature-based leisure activities.
- **Social Connections:** Angling trips enhance social connections with family and friends.
- **Skill Development:** Anglers develop new skills and a sense of achievement.
- **Environmental Connection:** Angling fosters a connection to nature and supports environmental stewardship through licence sales funding conservation efforts.

Recommendations

- **Future Research:** Repeat the study when the next NAS is conducted to refine estimates and assess the long-term economic contribution of freshwater angling.
- **Data Collection:** Incorporate questions on trip-related and one-off expenditure in future surveys to better understand angler spending patterns.
- **Wellbeing Assessment:** Continue to explore the broader wellbeing impacts of recreational freshwater angling.