



Department of
**Culture, Arts
and Leisure**

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Angling and usage of inland waterways by adults in Northern Ireland



Findings from the Continuous Household Survey
2011/12

DCAL Findings 10/2012-13



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Further information

In keeping with government policy, no hard copies of this report have been published, but they are available on request. Requests or enquiries concerning this publication should be directed to:

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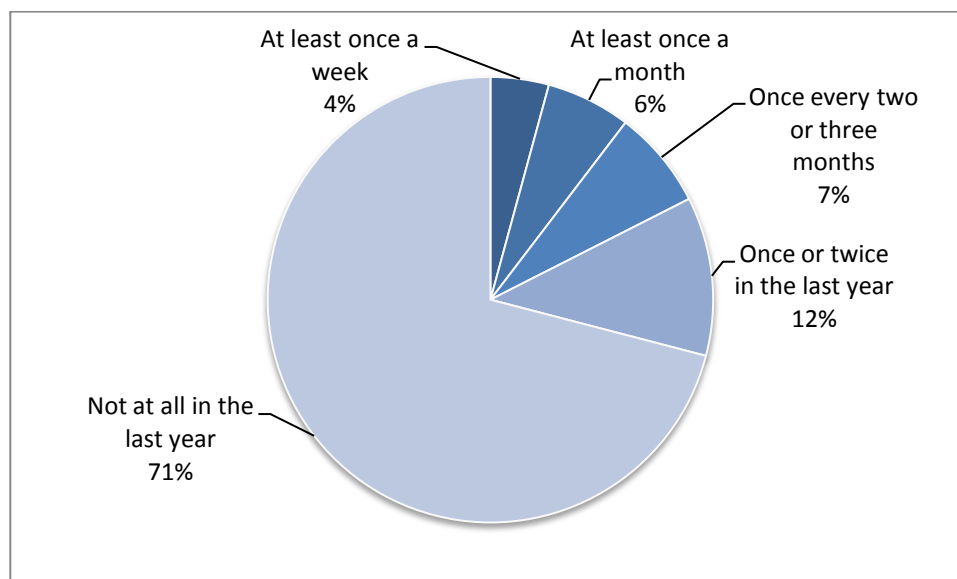
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Key Findings

- Just under one in twenty (4%) of the population had taken part in angling on any waters where a DCAL or Loughs Agency permit was required in the last 12 months.
- Gender, marital status, age and whether a respondent lives in an urban or rural area were all related to the likelihood of a respondent having taken part in angling.
- Almost three in ten respondents (29%) had visited an inland waterway at least once or twice in the last 12 months.
- Gender, age, marital status, whether the respondent has a limiting long term illness and whether they live in a deprived area were all related to the likelihood of a respondent having visited an inland waterway.
- Just over four-fifths of respondents (81%) indicated that they went 'Walking' while visiting an inland waterway, while more than a fifth (22%) had a 'Picnic'.

How often visited NI Inland Waterways



Introduction

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is responsible for inland fisheries and inland waterways.

Inland Fisheries

DCAL is responsible, under the provisions of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, for the salmon and inland fisheries of Northern Ireland, apart from the Foyle and Carlingford areas covered by the Loughs Agency. The Department provides advice and guidance on matters relating to the conservation, protection, development and improvement of salmon and inland fisheries to angling clubs, fishery owners, and a range of other water users and interested parties.

The Department has the power under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 to acquire and improve facilities for angling for local and visiting anglers, with a total of 63 fisheries available to the public. The DCAL Public Angling Estate includes salmon and wild brown trout angling, with some providing exclusive beat fishing, stocked brown and rainbow trout fisheries. There are a range of coarse fisheries for species including pike, perch, bream and roach.

DCAL, through cooperation with Loughs Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, aims to ensure sustainable management of the fishery resource. Priority areas currently are conservation and protection of wild salmon.

Inland waterways

DCAL is committed to developing the recreational potential of inland waterways through the Water Recreation Programme. Applicants, such as Local Authorities, are encouraged to work in partnership with the Department in providing and promoting water recreation facilities such as riverside paths and boat moorings for public use.

The Department also has ownership of, and custodial responsibility for, those sections of the Lagan and Coalisland Canals that remain in Government ownership following abandonment of navigation in the 1950s. An ongoing programme is in place for each of these highly popular towpaths to upgrade access for pedestrians, cyclists and disabled access.

Findings from the Continuous Household Survey

For the first time in 2011/12, the Continuous Household Survey (CHS) included questions on the use of inland waterways and the types of activities participated in when using the waterways, as well as a question on frequency of angling in Northern Ireland waters. This report presents the findings from these questions.

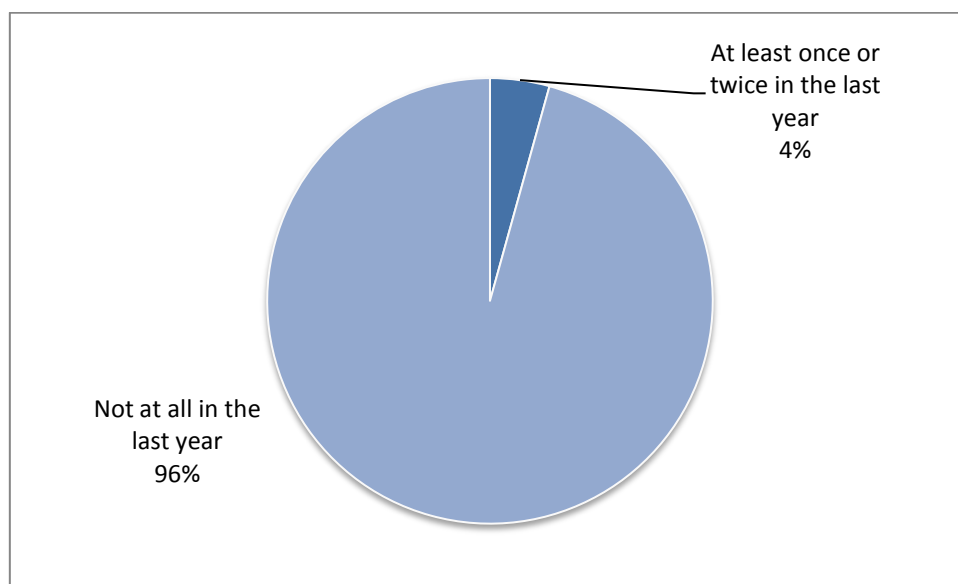
More information relating to the CHS, methodology and the interpretation of the figures can be found in Appendix 1 Technical notes.

The data tables are included in Appendix 2 and the inland waterways and angling questions, which were asked in the CHS 2011/12, are included in Appendix 3.

Angling

Just under one in twenty (4%) of the population had taken part in angling in Northern Ireland on any waters where a DCAL or Loughs Agency permit was required in the last 12 months. Further analysis of frequency of angling shows that 1% had taken part in angling at least once a week, with 1% at least once a month, 1% once every two or three months and the final 1% once or twice a year.

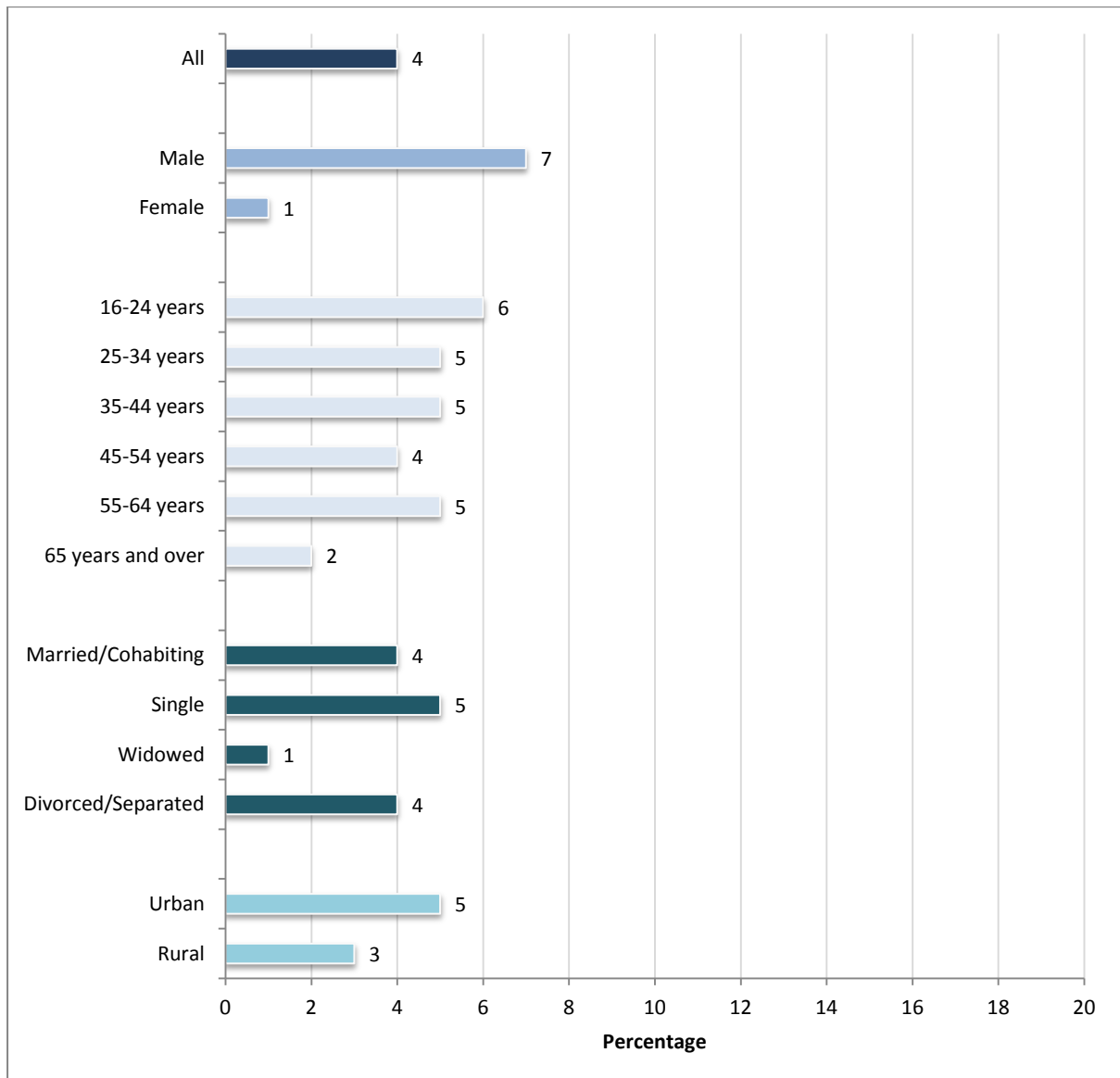
Figure 1 Angling in Northern Ireland waters¹



Gender, marital status, age and whether a respondent lives in an urban or rural area were all related to the likelihood of a respondent having taken part in angling. Females, those who are widowed, those aged 65 years and over, and those who live in rural areas were less likely to have taken part in angling.

¹ Where a DCAL or Loughs Agency permit was required.

Figure 2 Angling in Northern Ireland waters² at least once in the previous 12 months

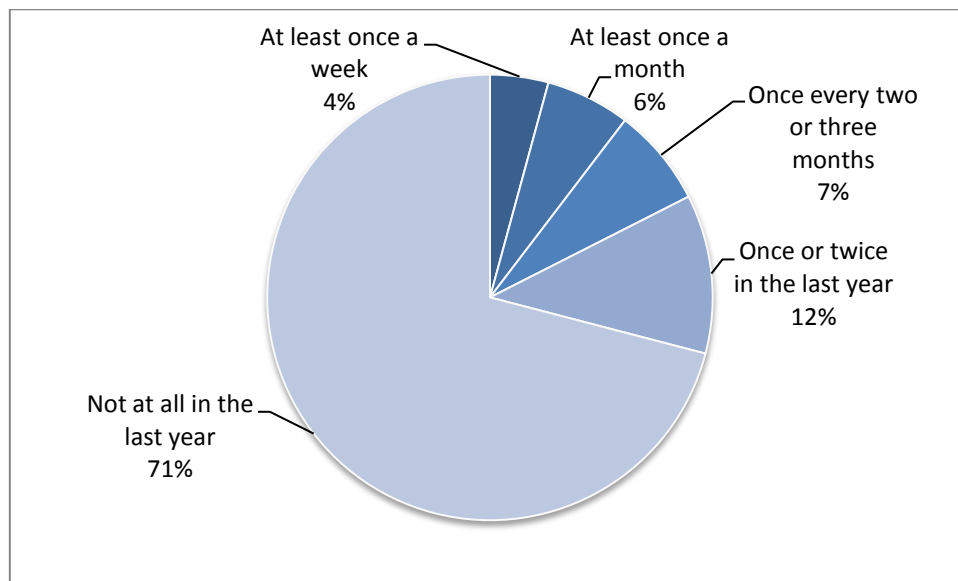


² Where a DCAL or Loughs Agency permit was required.

Usage of inland waterways

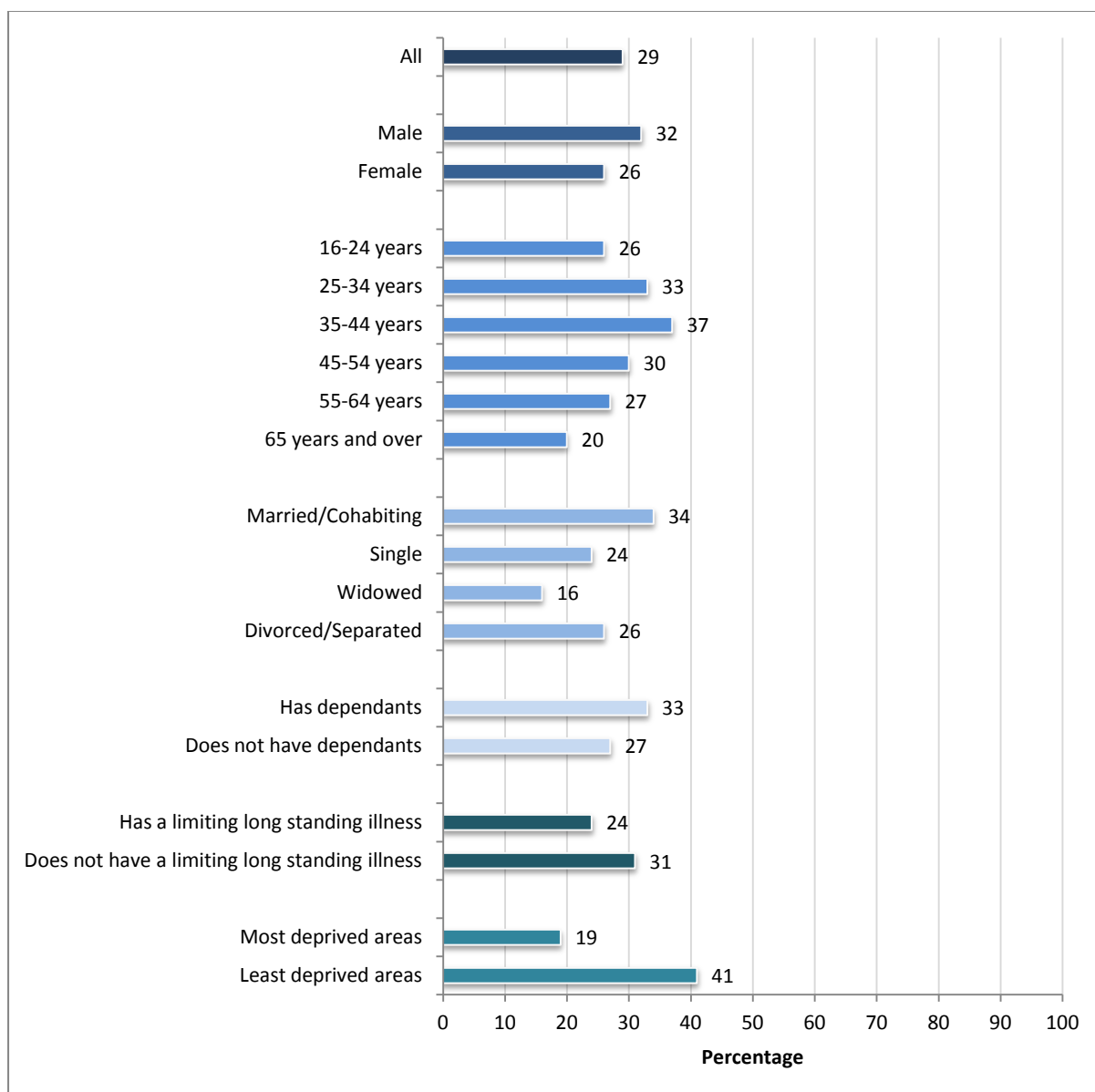
When asked how often they had visited inland waterways in Northern Ireland in the past 12 months, just under three in ten respondents (29%) had visited at least once or twice, with four per cent having visited at least once a week.

Figure 3 How often visited inland waterways



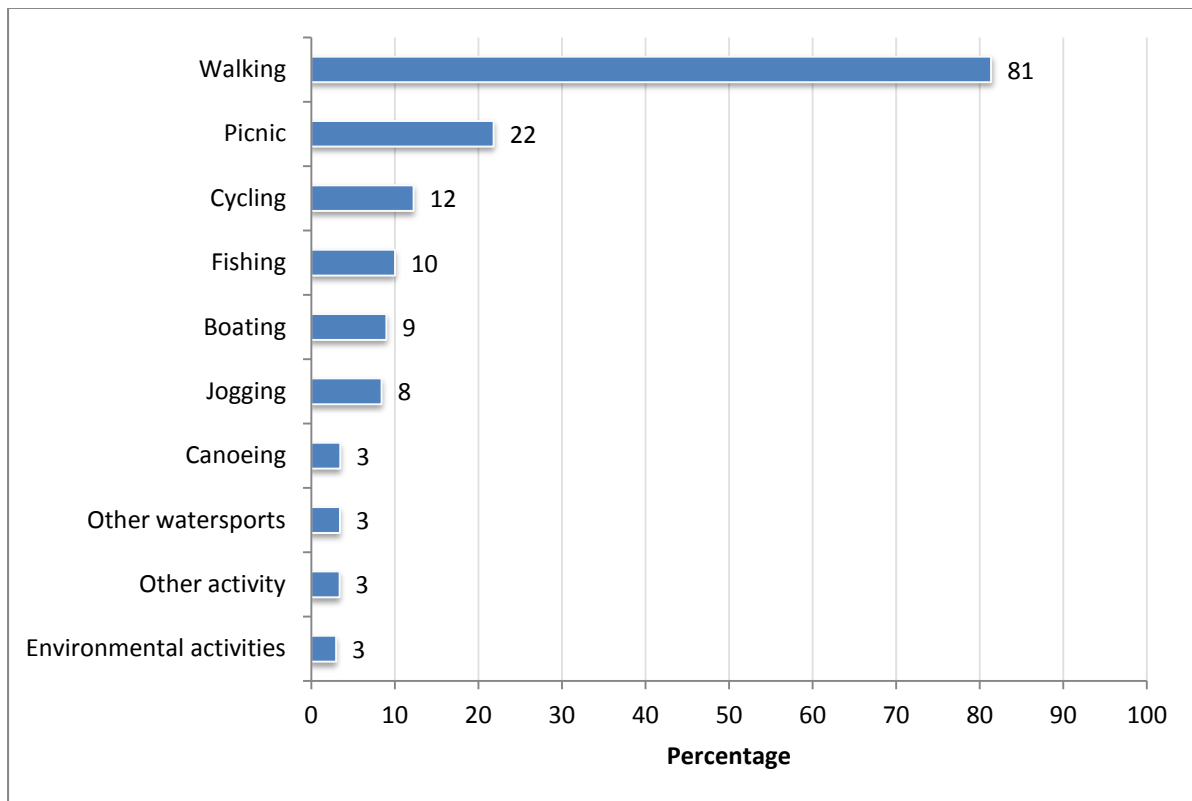
Analysis shows that gender, age, marital status, whether the respondent has a limiting long term illness and whether they live in a deprived area were all related to the likelihood of a respondent having visited an inland waterway in the last 12 months. The groups more likely to have visited include males, those who are married, those with dependants and those living in the least deprived areas.

Figure 4 Visited inland waterways in last 12 months



For those who had visited an inland waterway in the last year, a follow-up question was asked about the activities undertaken when visiting. Just over four-fifths of respondents (81%) indicated that they went 'Walking' while visiting an inland waterway, while more than a fifth (22%) had a 'Picnic'. Around a tenth of respondents had been cycling, fishing, boating and jogging while visiting the waterway (12%, 10%, 9% and 8% respectively).

Figure 5 **Activities participated in while visiting an inland waterway**



Note: Percentages sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses.

Appendix 1: Technical notes

Continuous Household Survey (CHS)

The Continuous Household Survey is a Northern Ireland wide household survey administered by Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The sample for this survey in 2011/12 consisted of a systematic random sample of 4,500 addresses selected from the Land and Property Services' list of private addresses.

The findings reported in this bulletin are based on 3,689 respondents, aged 16 and over, who answered the waterways and fisheries modules of the survey. The questions relating to usage of the waterways and fisheries are included in Appendix 3.

Weighting the DCAL module of the Continuous Household Survey (CHS)

Analysis of the DCAL module of the CHS has been weighted for non-response for the first time in 2011/12. A chi square goodness-of-fit test showed that the CHS sample was not representative of the population by age and sex when compared with the Census 2011. As a result, three separate weights were produced for age, sex and age and sex combined.

Non-response weighting sometimes increases standard errors and sometimes decreases them, although the impact tends to be fairly small, i.e. the adjustment may be less or greater than 1, but will generally be reasonably close to 1. In the case of the DCAL module of CHS, the values of the adjustment for all three weighting systems are so close to one, it is not necessary to take account of this in the calculation of standard error and confidence intervals.

While weighting for non-response (also called post-stratification) should reduce bias, it must be acknowledged that it will not eliminate bias. The reasons individuals choose to take part in surveys are complex and depend on lots of factors specific to the individual. As a result, the non-response biases in surveys are likely to be complex. Post-stratification works on the assumption that, by aligning the survey to

the population along a small number of dimensions, such as age and gender, many of these complex biases will be reduced. However, it would be misleading to suggest that they will be eliminated.

Comparisons with other countries

It is not possible to compare the CHS findings in relation to angling and usage of inland waterways in Northern Ireland with other parts of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, due to differences in both definitions and methodologies.

Other notes

Any statements in this report regarding differences between groups such as males and females, different age groups, religion, etc., are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. The base number has an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant if the base is smaller.

The data have also been analysed by whether respondents are living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs)³ or in the 20% least deprived SOAs. This is estimated using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 which is a weighted combination of seven domains of deprivation. Rank 1 indicates the most deprived SOA, while rank 890 denotes the least deprived SOA.

³ At the time of publication, Northern Ireland is made up of 890 SOAs with an average population of 2,000 people. SOAs are the optimal small area geography for reporting the results of the NIMDM 2010 as they have been designed to be as similar as possible in population size.

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Percentages less than 0.5% are denoted by '0' and where there are no responses, they are denoted by '-'.
- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- Percentages may not add to 100% for questions where multiple responses are allowed.
- Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.
- The base number of responses to each question, which is shown in each table, may vary due to some respondents not answering certain questions.

Appendix 2: Data tables

Table A1: Taken part in angling in the last 12 months

	Percentage of respondents who had taken part in angling	Base
All	4	3,689
Male	7	1,608
Female	1	2,081
16-24 years	6	323
25-34 years	5	615
35-44 years	5	695
45-54 years	4	680
55-64 years	5	589
65 years and over	2	787
Married/Cohabiting	4	2,191
Single	5	828
Widowed	1	320
Divorced/Separated	4	350
Has dependants ⁴	4	1,441
Does not have dependants	4	2,245
Catholic	4	1,461
Protestant	4	1,875
Other/None	5	316
Has a limiting long standing illness	4	1,004
Does not have a limiting long	4	2,683
Most deprived areas ⁵	4	709
Least deprived areas	5	699
Urban	5	2,334
Rural	3	1,342

⁴ Has responsibility for the care of a child or a person with a disability.

⁵ The most deprived areas are the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) as identified by the NISRA Multiple Deprivation Measure. Similarly, the least deprived areas are the 20% least deprived SOAs.

Table A2 Visited an inland waterway in the last 12 months

	Percentage of respondents who visited an inland waterway	Base
All	29	3,688
Male	32	1,608
Female	26	2,080
16-24 years	26	323
25-34 years	33	615
35-44 years	37	695
45-54 years	30	680
55-64 years	27	588
65 years and over	20	787
Married/Cohabiting	34	2,190
Single	24	828
Widowed	16	320
Divorced/Separated	26	350
Has dependants ⁶	33	1,441
Does not have dependants	27	2,244
Catholic	27	1,461
Protestant	30	1,875
Other/None	37	316
Has a limiting long standing illness	24	1,004
Does not have a limiting long	31	2,682
Most deprived areas ⁷	19	709
Least deprived areas	41	699
Urban	30	2,333
Rural	27	1,342

⁶ Has responsibility for the care of a child or a person with a disability.

⁷ The most deprived areas are the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) as identified by the NISRA Multiple Deprivation Measure. Similarly, the least deprived areas are the 20% least deprived SOAs.

Table A3 Activities participated in while visiting an inland waterway

	Percentage of respondents taking part in activities while visiting an inland waterway
Walking	81
Picnic	22
Cycling	12
Fishing	10
Boating	9
Jogging	8
Canoeing	3
Other watersports	3
Other activity	3
Environmental activities	3
Base	1,057

Note: Percentages sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses.

Appendix 3: Angling and inland waterways questions

Ask all

[FISHERIES]

In the last 12 months – that is since DATE – how often, if at all, have you taken part in angling in Northern Ireland on any waters where a DCAL or Loughs Agency permit was required?

1. At least once a week
2. At least once a month
3. Once every two or three months
4. Once or twice in the last year
5. Not at all in the last year

Ask all

[INLAND WATERWAYS]

In the last 12 months – that is since DATE – how often, if at all, have you been to any of Northern Ireland's inland waterways – rivers, lakes, canal towpaths, etc – for sport, leisure or recreation?

1. At least once a week
2. At least once a month
3. Once every two or three months
4. Once or twice in the last year
5. Not at all in the last year

Ask those who visited an inland waterway in the last 12 months

[WATE2] SHOWCARD 26 (INLAND WATERWAY ACTIVITIES)

Thinking of the times you go to an inland waterway, which, if any of these activities do you do? CODE ALL THAT APPLY

1. Boating
2. Canoeing
3. Other watersports
4. Fishing
5. Cycling
6. Walking
7. Jogging
8. Picnic
9. Environmental activities
10. Other activity

[WATE3]

Please specify other