



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 2012/13

DCAL Findings 8/2013-14



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Further information

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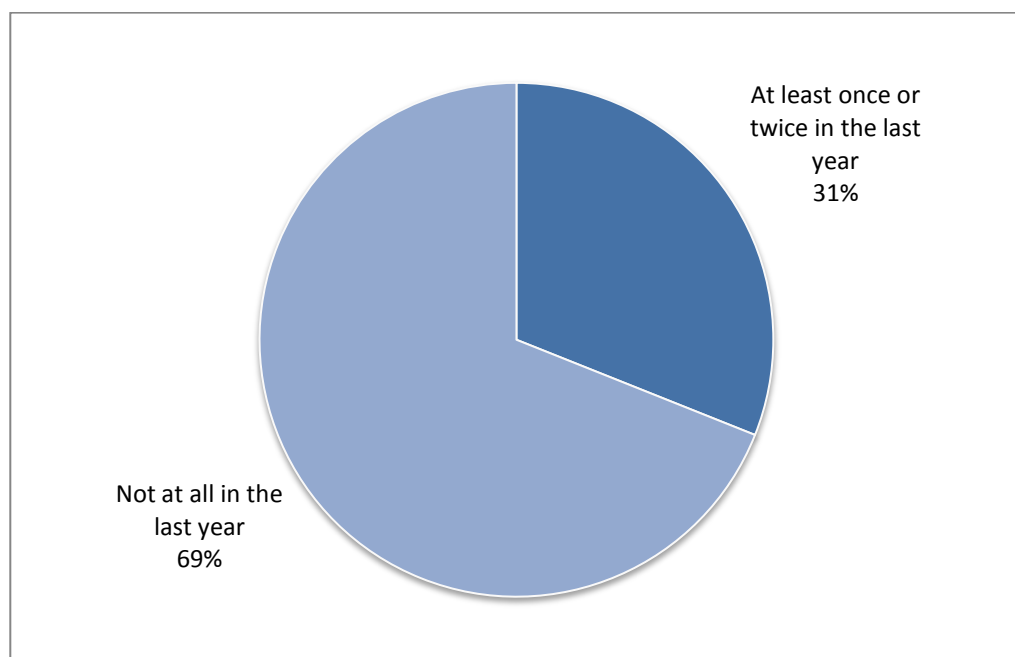
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Key findings

- One in twenty (5%) of the population had taken part in angling in the last 12 months on any waters where a DCAL or Loughs Agency permit was required, an increase of one percentage point on the previous year.
- Gender, marital status and age were all related to the likelihood of having taken part in angling, with females, those who are widowed and those aged 65 years and over less likely to have taken part.
- Over three in ten (31%) of the population had visited an inland waterway at least once or twice in the last 12 months.
- Females, those who are single, those who do not have a disability and those who live in the most deprived areas were more likely to have visited inland waterways in 2012/13 than in 2011/12.
- More than four-fifths of respondents (84%) indicated that they went 'Walking' while visiting an inland waterway, while just under a fifth (18%) had a 'Picnic'.

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 conservation and protection of salmon and inland fisheries of Northern Ireland, apart from the Foyle and Carlingford areas, which are covered by the Loughs Agency. The Department provides advice and guidance on matters relating to the 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

The 2012/13 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.

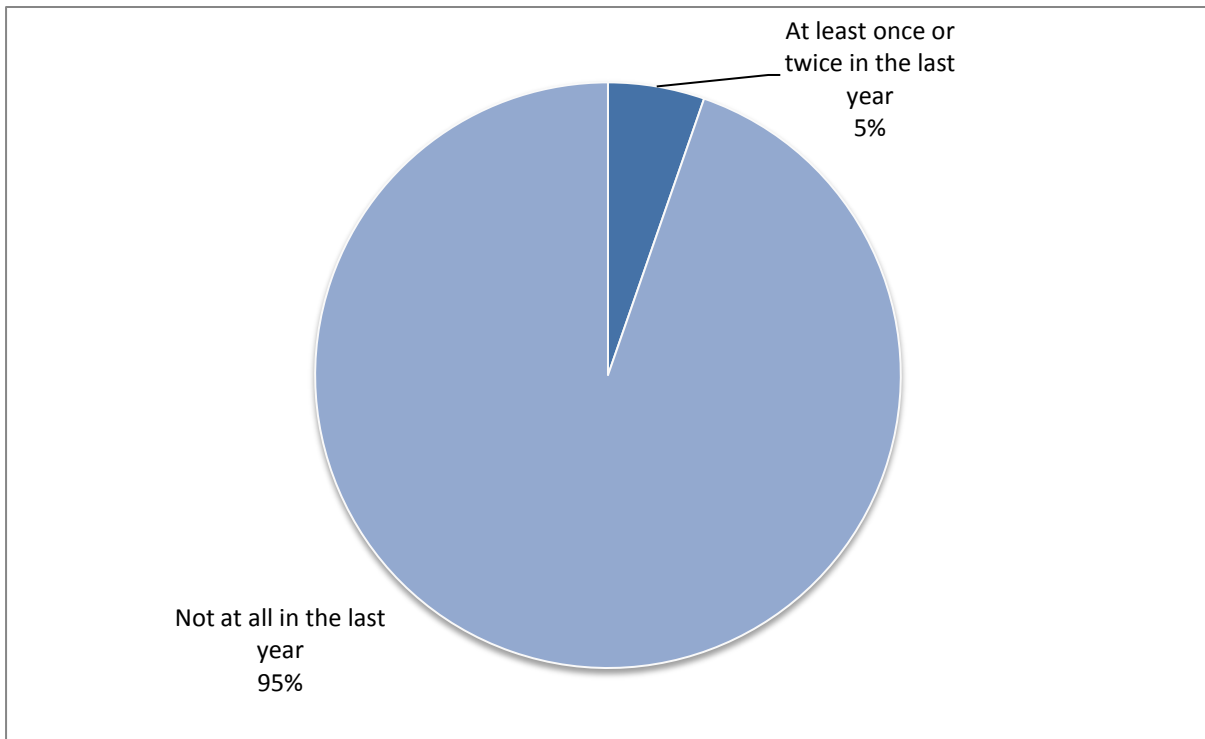
More information relating to the CHS, methodology and the interpretation of the figures can be found in Appendix 1 Technical notes.

The data tables are included in Appendix 2 and the inland waterways and angling questions, which were asked in the 2012/13 CHS, are included in Appendix 3.

Angling

In 2012/13, one in twenty (5%) of the population had taken part in angling in the last 12 months in Northern Ireland on any waters where a DCAL or Loughs Agency permit was required. This was an increase of one percentage point on the previous year. Further analysis of frequency of angling shows that 1% had taken part in angling at least once a week, 1% at least once a month, 1% once every two or three months and the final 2% once or twice a year.

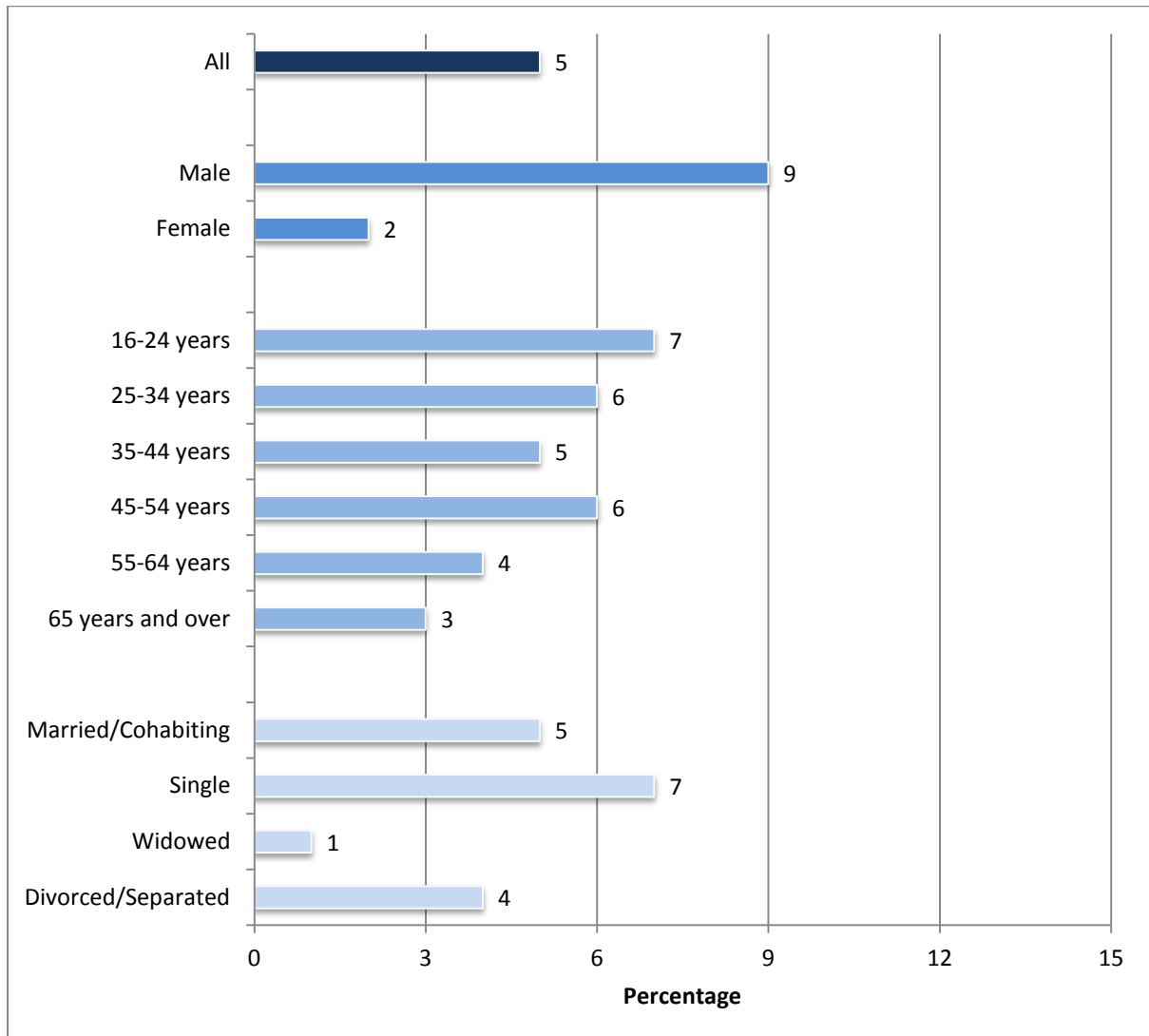
Figure 1 Angling in Northern Ireland waters¹



In 2012/13, gender, marital status, and age were all related to the likelihood of a respondent having taken part in angling. Females, those who are widowed and those aged 65 years and over were less likely to have taken part in angling. Year-on-year comparisons show that higher proportions of those from a Catholic community background, those who do not have a disability and those from rural areas participated in angling in 2012/13 compared with 2011/12.

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

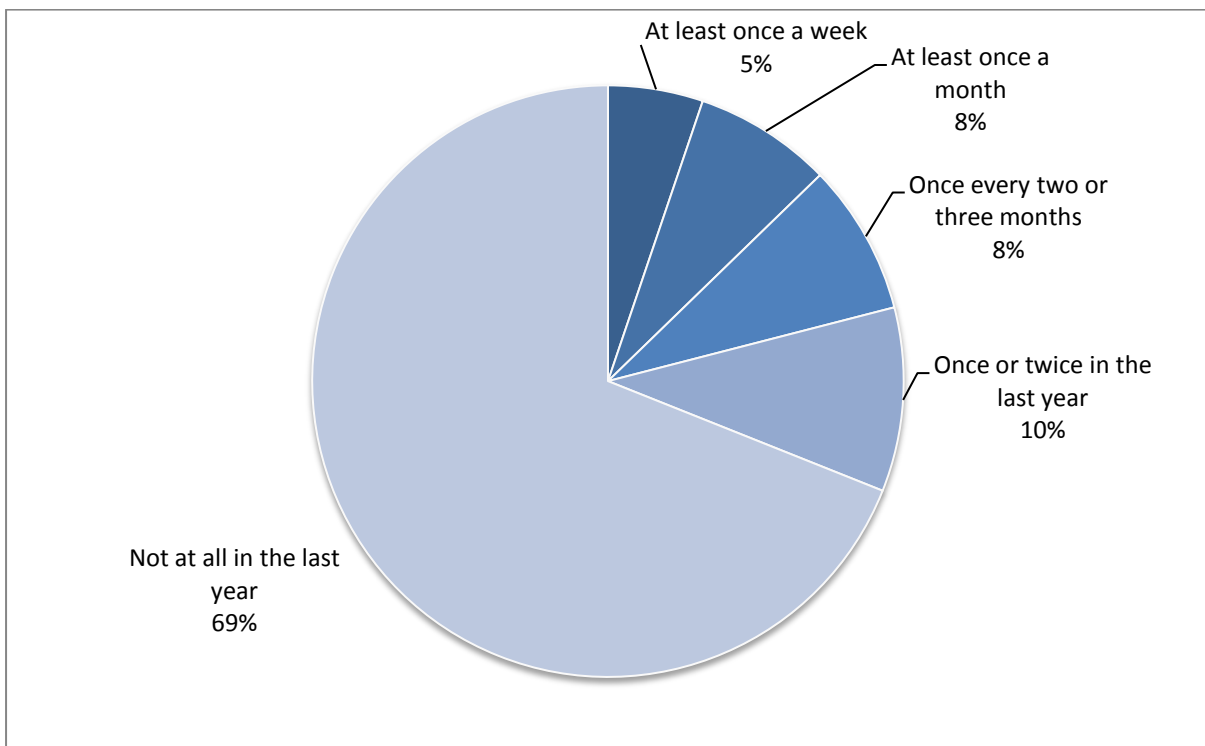


² Where a DCAL or Loughs Agency permit was required.

Usage of inland waterways

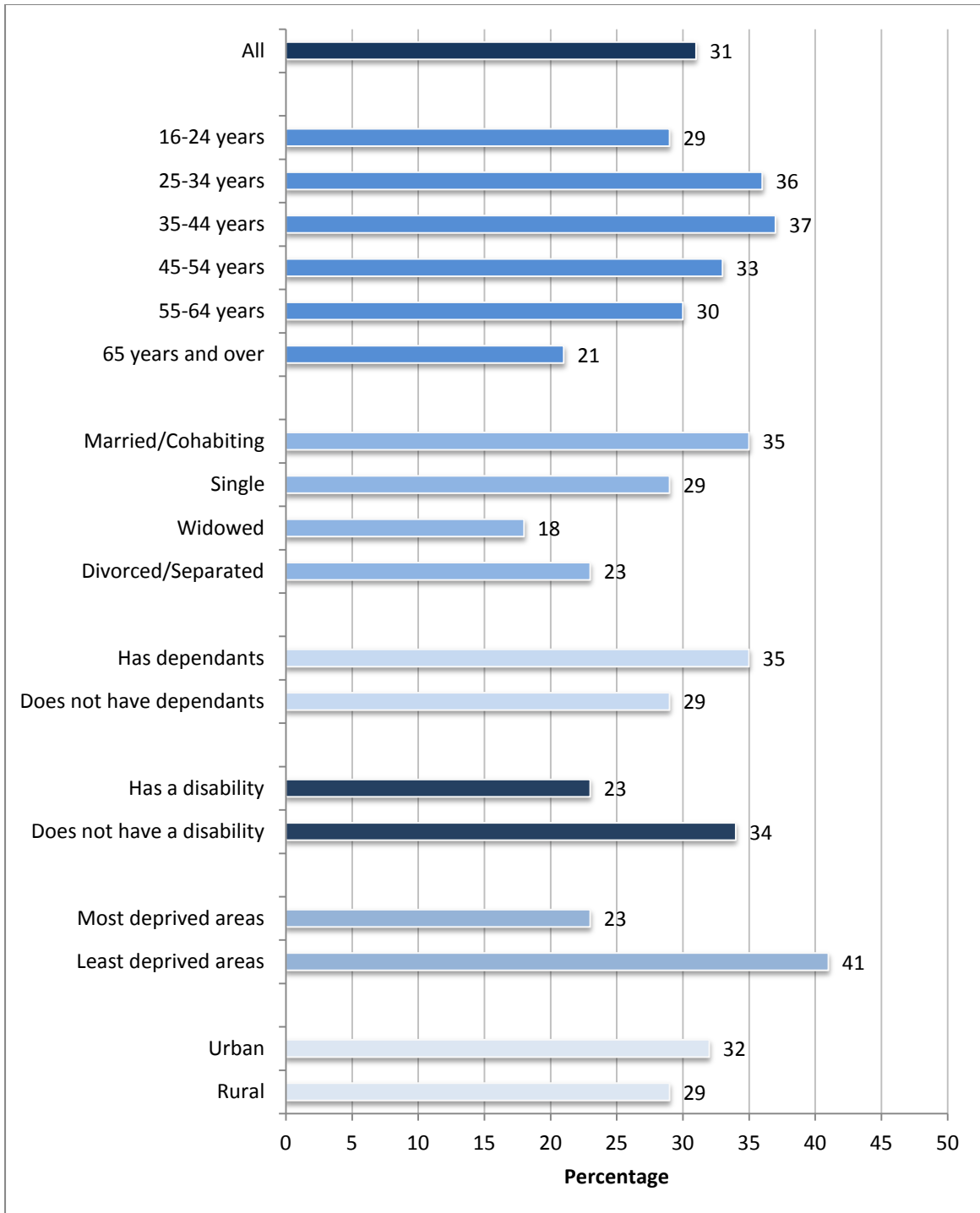
Just over three in ten (31%) of the population had visited inland waterways in Northern Ireland in the past 12 months, a similar proportion to that in 2011/12 (29%). Further analysis of the frequency of visits showed that one in twenty (5%) had visited an inland waterway at least once a week.

Figure 3 How often visited inland waterways



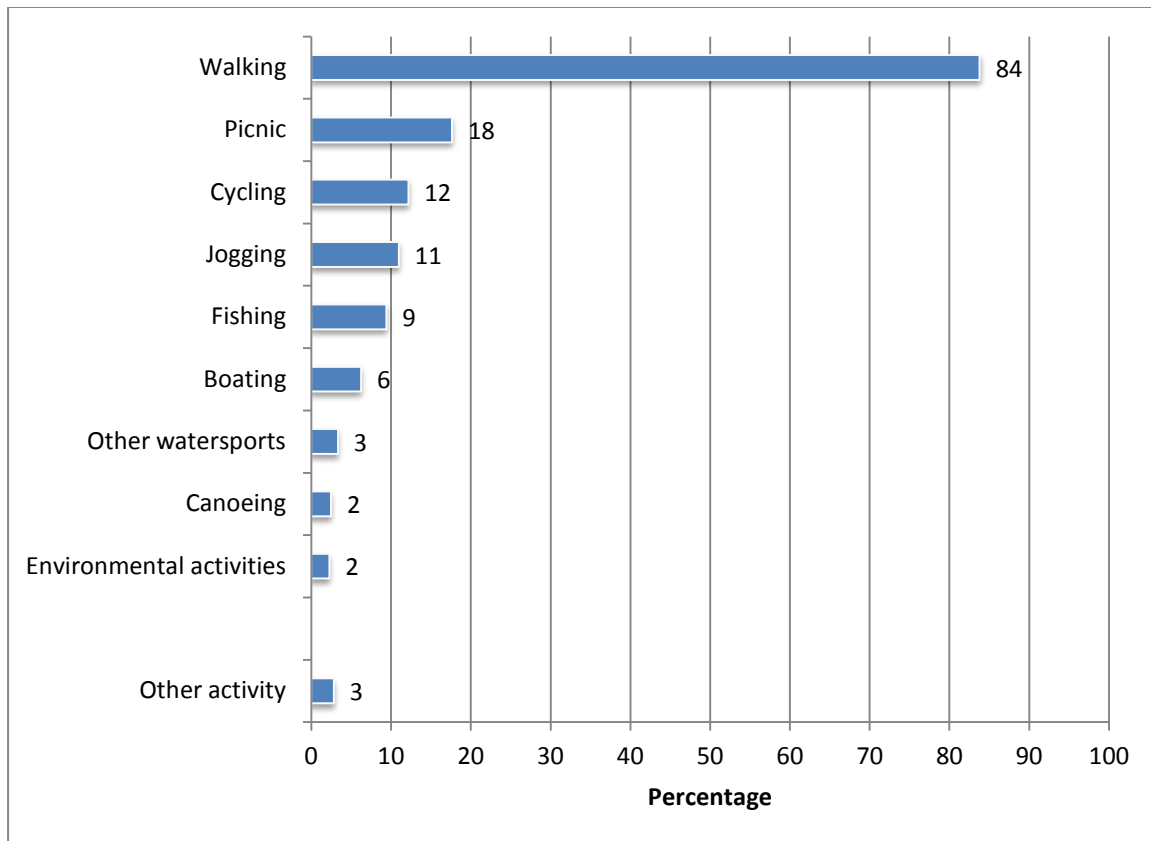
Analysis shows that a number of demographic characteristics influence the likelihood of an individual visiting an inland waterway. The groups more likely to have visited include those who are married, those who have dependants, those who do not have a disability and those living in the least deprived areas. Year-on-year comparisons show that females, those who are single, those who do not have a disability and those who live in the most deprived areas were more likely to visit inland waterways in 2012/13 than in 2011/12.

Figure 4 Visited inland waterways in last 12 months



Over four-fifths (84%) of respondents who had visited an inland waterway indicated that they went 'Walking' while visiting, while almost a fifth (18%) had a 'Picnic'. Around a tenth of respondents had been cycling, jogging and fishing while visiting the waterway (12%, 11% and 9% 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 2012/13 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 3,624 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. 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.

Statistical significance in this report

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. Both the base numbers and the sizes of the percentages have 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. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

Definition of disability

The questions used to ascertain whether or not a person has a disability were revised in the 2012/13 CHS in order to harmonise with the definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010. This states that a disabled population is classified on the basis of having a long-lasting physical or mental health condition or illness which restricts day-to-day activities. The disabled population in this report are those who have answered yes to both the questions below:

- Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?
- Does your condition or illness / do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?

In previous surveys, the disabled population was classified as those answering yes to the questions below:

- Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? By long-standing I mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time.
- Does this illness or disability limit your activities in any way?

Although there are subtle differences between the two sets of questions, comparative analysis between years can be made.

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, 2010

The data have been analysed by whether respondents are living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) or in the 20% least deprived SOAs. This is estimated using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010³ 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.

Urban/ rural classification of Super Output Areas

The data have also been analysed by whether respondents are living in SOAs that have been categorised as either urban or rural as set out in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements report (2005)⁴. This report classified each settlement in Northern Ireland into one of eight bands (A-H) and recommended that Government and other users should consider defining "urban" and "rural" areas in ways which are appropriate for different programmes and projects. In the absence of a programme-specific definition, Bands A-E can be defined as urban and Bands F-H as rural. This definition was applied in the analysis in this bulletin.

³ Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Report 2010

⁴ Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements 2005 Report

Other notes

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 1 Taken part in angling in the last 12 months**

Profile of respondent	2012/13		2011/12		Significant difference?
	Percentage	Base	Percentage	Base	
All	5	3,623	4	3,689	Significant
Gender					
Male	9	1,570	7	1,608	Not significant
Female	2	2,053	1	2,081	Not significant
Age bands					
16-24	7	323	6	323	Not significant
25-34	6	583	5	615	Not significant
35-44	5	685	5	695	Not significant
45-54	6	655	4	680	Not significant
55-64	4	533	5	589	Not significant
65 and over	3	844	2	787	Not significant
Religious background					
Catholic	6	1,457	4	1,461	Significant
Protestant	5	1,835	4	1,875	Not significant
Other / None	6	305	5	316	Not significant
Marital status					
Married / Cohabiting	5	2,134	4	2,191	Not significant
Single	7	833	5	828	Not significant
Widowed	1	297	1	320	Not significant
Separated / Divorced	4	359	4	350	Not significant
Disability					
Have a disability	5	1,025	4	1,004	Not significant
Do not have a disability	6	2,593	4	2,683	Significant
Dependants					
Have dependants	5	1,469	4	1,441	Not significant
Do not have dependants	5	2,149	4	2,245	Not significant
Level of deprivation					
Living in most deprived areas	5	733	4	709	Not significant
Living in least deprived areas	4	685	5	699	Not significant
Urban or rural					
Living in urban area	5	2,424	5	2,334	Not significant
Living in rural area	5	1,199	3	1,342	Significant

Table 2 Visited an inland waterway in the last 12 months

Profile of respondent	2012/13		2011/12		Significant difference?
	Percentage	Base	Percentage	Base	
All	31	3,624	29	3,688	Not significant
Gender					
Male	32	1,571	32	1,608	Not significant
Female	30	2,053	26	2,080	Significant
Age bands					
16-24	29	323	26	323	Not significant
25-34	36	584	33	615	Not significant
35-44	37	685	37	695	Not significant
45-54	33	655	30	680	Not significant
55-64	30	533	27	588	Not significant
65 and over	21	844	20	787	Not significant
Religious background					
Catholic	29	1,457	27	1,461	Not significant
Protestant	31	1,836	30	1,875	Not significant
Other / None	39	305	37	316	Not significant
Marital status					
Married / Cohabiting	35	2,135	34	2,190	Not significant
Single	29	833	24	828	Significant
Widowed	18	297	16	320	Not significant
Separated / Divorced	23	359	26	350	Not significant
Disability					
Have a disability	23	1,025	24	1,004	Not significant
Do not have a disability	34	2,594	31	2,682	Significant
Dependants					
Have dependants	35	1,469	33	1,441	Not significant
Do not have dependants	29	2,150	27	2,244	Not significant
Level of deprivation					
Living in most deprived areas	23	733	19	709	Significant
Living in least deprived areas	41	685	41	699	Not significant
Urban or rural					
Living in urban area	32	2,424	30	2,333	Not significant
Living in rural area	29	1,200	27	1,342	Not significant

Table 3 Activities participated in while visiting an inland waterway

	All
	%
Walking	84
Picnic	18
Cycling	12
Jogging	11
Fishing	9
Boating	6
Other water sports	3
Canoeing	2
Environmental activities	2
Other activity	3
Base	1,109

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

Appendix 3: Angling and inland waterways questions

Ask all

[FISHY]

In the last 12 months, that is since (*date insert*), how often, if at all, have you taken part in angling in Northern Ireland on any waters where a DCAL or Lough's Agency permit was required?

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

Ask all

[WATER]

In the last 12 months, that is since (*date insert*), 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?

Examples of inland waterways include The Lakelands, Lagan towpath, Lough Neagh. Exclude things like Bangor Marina.

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

If WATER = 5 then do not ask

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

[WATE3]

Please specify other