

PRESS RELEASE

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Loch Duart helps Uist angling clubs buy new accessible Wheelyboat

Funding of boat for disabled people will support North and South Uist clubs

Independent Scottish salmon farm, Loch Duart, has donated over £7,300 through its Salmon Pool fund, to the North Uist and South Uist Angling Clubs to help purchase a brand-new, accessible boat. National charity, The Wheelyboat Trust, in partnership with the Angling Trust, will supply the new boat, giving disabled anglers and boating enthusiasts throughout the Uists the chance to enjoy the stunning waters of the islands.

The Salmon Pool Fund is a partnership between the independent Scottish salmon farm and its feed supplier, Cargill Aqua Nutrition. By providing funding to support projects which benefit communities across Sutherland and the Outer Hebrides, the Salmon Pool has already kickstarted projects to the tune of over £74,500.

The Uists' new C16 Wheelyboat is one of seven part-funded accessible boats hand-built and fitted out to order by Jim Coulam of boatbuilders Coulam Ltd, thanks to a UK-wide initiative led by The Wheelyboat Trust and the Angling Trust. Primarily used to fish on the island's lochs for salmon, sea trout and trout, the boat will also be used for pleasure boating and nature watching in this stunning part of north west Scotland. Hydraulic platforms give disabled anglers access to the entire body of water no matter how inaccessible the banks are, or how low the water level is. The boat will also be an important facility for the Uists' flourishing accessible tourism industry.

Mark Warrington, Managing Director of Loch Duart, said:

"Working as part of isolated communities across North West Scotland and with many keen anglers within our employment, including myself, we know just how important fishing is to local residents and visitors alike. We are proud that this funding will provide accessibility for all angling enthusiasts on the Uists and will allow for equality of experience for anyone wishing to take part in angling in the spectacular setting provided by the islands."

Alastair Macleod (North Uist Angling Club), who applied for the funding, said:

“Angling is an important part of our community and is hugely popular with people of all ages across the Uists, with our clubs bringing together over 100 adults and juniors from the islands and further afield. We are thrilled that with the support of Loch Duart and Cargill Aqua Nutrition, we will be able to welcome many more local residents and new visitors who have not been able to go out fishing before in the Uists.”

The Wheelyboat supplied to the North and South Uist angling clubs is to be named in memory of Elizabeth Macdonald Buchanan, who was a trustee of the Wheelyboat Trust and lived on the island of Eriskay.

Andy Beadsley, Director of The Wheelyboat Trust, said:

“We’re enormously grateful to Loch Duart for their tremendous generosity in helping bring this project to fruition. As a wheelchair user and angler, I have first-hand experience of how our specially designed roll-on, roll-off wheelchair accessible boats enable disabled people like myself to get on the water and fully participate in angling and other activities. We’ve supplied more than 200 Wheelyboats across the UK for some glorious locations, but few can be as stunning as North and South Uist.”

Loch Duart currently produces 6,000 tonnes of high-quality salmon each year from its farms in Sutherland and the Outer Hebrides and employs 100 people.

For more information on Loch Duart Salmon visit www.lochduart.com

To find out more about The Wheelyboat Trust, visit www.wheelyboats.org

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Notes to editors:

Loch Duart Ltd is an independent Scottish salmon farm based in North West Scotland. Producing more than 6,000 tonnes per year, it employs 100 people in the Hebrides and Sutherland. The salmon is supplied to leading hotels, restaurants and retailers at home and across the world.



About The Wheelyboat Trust

- The Wheelyboat Trust is a registered charity, dedicated to providing mobility impaired people, young and old, with the opportunity and freedom to participate in waterborne activities all over the UK. Its role is to help and encourage venues open to the public to acquire Wheelyboats for their disabled visitors and to help groups and organisations acquire Wheelyboats for their own use.
- The Wheelyboat Trust was founded in 1984 when it was originally called the Handicapped Anglers Trust. The first Wheelyboat built received its official launch from HRH Prince Charles at Fishmongers' Hall in London. In 2004, the charity was renamed The Wheelyboat Trust to reflect its broader aims and the clear need for Wheelyboats beyond the fishing lake for disabled, elderly and infirm, families and community groups for recreation and sporting pursuits.
- The Trust has designed 8 different Wheelyboat models since its work began in 1984: Mk I, Mk II, Mk III, Mk IV, Coulam 15, Coulam 16, Coulam Wheelyboat V20 and their latest model Coulam Wheelyboat V17.
- To date, the Trust has built and supplied over 200 Wheelyboats across UK and Europe.
- For more information, visit www.wheelyboats.org



About the Angling Trust

- The Angling Trust is the representative body for game, coarse and sea anglers in England and Wales. Its members support the campaigns and legal action they carry out to protect fish and fishing, and its participation programmes to increase the number of anglers fishing for fun and in competitions.
- The Angling Trust is united in a collaborative relationship with Fish Legal, a separate membership association that uses the law to protect fish stocks and the rights of its members throughout the UK.
- Membership packages of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal are available for individuals, clubs, fisheries, riparian owners, trade and other categories.
- For more information about the Angling Trust visit: www.joinanglingtrust.net