



*European Communities  
Commission  
Press Release*

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COMMUNITY HELP FOR RECREATION STUDY IN SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

The European Commission and the Highlands and Islands Development Board have jointly commissioned a major study of recreational provision in the areas of the Highlands and Islands affected by oil development.

The study will take a detailed look at the recreational provision in oil-affected parts of the Moray Firth, Shetland, South Argyll, Lewis, Orkney and the Loch Carron area and will indicate where improvements are needed. Oil-related developments and the population increases which go with them clearly put great pressure on existing facilities. The study will also assess the situation in Lochabar, a long-standing industrial growth area which offers some readily observed examples of recreational need.

The study, whose estimated cost of £50,000 will be shared equally between the Commission and the Highlands and Islands Development Board, is to be carried out by Edinburgh University Tourism and Recreation Research Unit, which will produce a final report in 1976. A liaison group has been set up to provide contact between the unit, the two sponsoring bodies, other interested bodies including regional and island councils, Argyll District Council, the Federation of Highlands and Islands Councils of Social Service, the Scottish Office, and various national recreation bodies.

The Commission's contribution comes from the section of its budget reserved for regional studies.

The Commission has already made a number of other research grants to Scotland, including, for example, a grant for a study of the redevelopment potential of Cambuslang Industrial Estate, near Glasgow, where closures in the steel sector have threatened redundancies grants for research into water pollution at the Institute of Marine Biochemistry, Aberdeen and Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory, Oban, a grant to study the training of deep-sea divers at Rosyth; and several grants to the Institute of Occupational Medicine, Edinburgh, for research into respiratory diseases in the coal and steel industries.

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