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LOTTERY HOOKS UP WITH ANGLING RESEARCH TO TACKLE SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The part angling plays in fighting social exclusion and improving community relations is the focus of new research being funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

Social research cooperative **Substance** has received good cause funding of £284,151 to look into how angling helps socially excluded young people in England and Scotland and contributes to sustainable rural communities. It will examine how these benefits can be tapped into on a larger scale.

The three-year study is one of 24 initiatives across the UK that have just been awarded a share in **£7,742,550** of new research funding from BIG to support high quality medical and social research.

Dr Adam Brown, Director of Substance, who will lead the project, said: “We are one of the few organisations to look at angling’s benefit to communities and this grant means we can take that to another level. We at Substance are absolutely thrilled with the Big Lottery Fund award and we are really looking forward to getting the project underway.

“Angling is an often misunderstood activity. This research will focus in particular on the different benefits that people get from participation in angling in all its forms. That could be from physical activity, education, training, volunteering, improving the environment, increasing well-being and health, or other aspects. We will be working closely with statutory organisations, angling bodies, charities and community groups to ensure that we can achieve relevant, meaningful and effecting change.”

Sir Clive Booth, Chair of the Big Lottery Fund, said: “It is estimated that 3.9 million people fish in the UK. However, not much is known about angling within policy or the wider public as a result of a lack of research.

“Our Research programme is all about looking at tackling exclusion and building local communities, and providing an evidence base of the potential and actual social benefits of angling is a very creative way of doing this.”

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Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website:

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- The UK wide Research programme is awarding grants to voluntary organisations that work with researchers to run high quality medical and social research projects. Grants for up to five years of between £10,000 and £500,000 are available to charities and voluntary sector organisations, with up to £1 million for exceptional projects.
- The programme is being administered by Momenta and supported by Third Sector First. Momenta works for the public sector to turn policy into practice by offering a range of programme management services, including research management, knowledge transfer, best practice, fund management and behaviour change programmes. Its programmes reach businesses, public sector organisations, the third sector, stakeholders and the general public. Third Sector First is a collaboration of specialists in research and social policy, working primarily in the public and 'third' sectors. It is linked through past or current membership to several of the UK's leading university research centres and has conducted project evaluations in many subject areas, including health, social care, community safety, childcare and addictions.
- The **Big Lottery Fund (BIG)**, the largest distributor of National Lottery good cause funding, is responsible for giving out half the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery.
- BIG is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since June 2004. The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.
- Since the National Lottery began in 1994, 28p from every pound spent by the public has gone to good causes. As a result, over £22 billion has now been raised and more than 300,500 grants awarded across arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment.

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