

***ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS OF THE
STAFFIN SLIPWAY AREA**

Final Report

for

Staffin Community Trust

by

Steve Westbrook, Economist

May 2015

**Steve Westbrook, Economist, Bellevue, Seafield Street, Nairn IV12 4HL
Tel / Fax: 01667 455308 E-mail: swestbrook@aol.com**



1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 This analysis was commissioned by Staffin Community Trust to assess the employment and other impacts that might be generated through the proposed developments in the Staffin Slipway area. These would comprise:

- Creating a harbour for safe access and berthing by fish farm well boats, shellfish and other fishing boats, leisure boats, and other vessels involved in marine tourism.
- A fish processing factory with ancillary facilities that would be operated by a new company, Skye Sea Harvest.
- Serviced pontoons and onshore facilities for visiting leisure boats whose crews would generate impact through onshore spending.
- Other short and longer term projects that the Trust, Skye Sea Harvest or other parties might undertake on the land adjacent to the current slipway that would be reclaimed. These might include a harbour office, business/retail units or other buildings for which space on the land to be reclaimed would be available.

1.2 Due to scale, cost and impact, the overall project is regarded as “transformational” for the currently fragile Staffin area, with benefits that should grow over the medium and longer term.

- ***Please note: The full contents of the Economic Impact Analysis cannot be published at this point in time because it contains commercially confidential information. This is standard practice for economic projects of this. A short summary of the potential benefits and outcomes are outlined below.***

Economic benefit: Skye Sea Harvest Ltd has estimated that more than 40 permanent jobs would be initially created locally through the seafood processing facility which could rise to more than 80 after the first five years. The pontoons could attract up to 400 vessel visits annually and the equivalent of six full-time jobs are forecast through leisure and marine tourism opportunities at the Slipway. At least two new local businesses would be developed as a result of these proposals creating further employment.

Conclusion: The Staffin Slipway Development has the potential to transform Staffin, an economically fragile community, and the Trotternish peninsula. Permanent quality jobs would be created which could retain and attract families, arrest the falling school roll and lower the community’s average age.