

Marine Tourism: Friend or foe?



Environmental Impact of Tourism

- Multifaceted relationship
- Based on man's desire to get out and see and experience nature
- Exceeding carrying capacity leads to :
 - Depletion natural resources
 - Pollution
 - Physical impacts
 - Loss of biological diversity
- Careless mismanagement leads to irreversible consequences



Environmental Impact of Tourism

- Overuse of water
- Pressures on local and regional food, energy and raw materials
- Pollution – transportation – tourism accounts for more than 60% of air travel
- Waste generation and disposal
- Extraction of building materials and tourism-related activities

(Boyd *et al.*, 2003)



The Caledonian Sky, a British operated cruise liner runs aground destroying a pristine Indonesian reef (March 2017)



**Harmony of the Seas – 6780 passengers; 2100 crew.
Burns 150 tonnes fuel per day and emits more sulphur
than a million cars and more NO₂ than a medium-sized
town**



Princess Cruise Liners Ltd - \$40 million fine for illegal dumping of oil contaminated waste.



Marine menace

- 7,000 species carried in ballast water every day
- Comb Jellyfish *Mnemiopsis leidyi* – Black Sea
- Freshwater zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha* (US) – \$750 million – 1 billion 1989-2000





Crayfish covered with zebra mussels.



Worker removing zebra mussels from water intake pipes.



Carpet sea squirt *Didemnum vexillum*



Invasive Impacts

- **Loss of native biodiversity**
- **Changes to ecosystem function**
- **Reduced water quality**
- **Reduced recreation**
- **Interference with fisheries**
- **Fouling of pipes/buoys**
- **Economic cost of clean-up**

Red Sea Jellyfish *Rhopilema nomadica*



Environmental Impact of Tourism

- **Beneficial impacts – raised awareness has contributed to environmental protection and conservation movement**

Facts About UK Domestic Tourism

- Job opportunities
- Access to leisure
- 208 million holidays in the UK, spending £19 billion (Office for National Statistics, 2013)
- UK coast: 36 million seaside holidays (ONS, 2008), spending £6.3 billion
- In Wales, coastal holidays: 47% of all holiday trips (British Resorts Association, 2008)
- Tourism - £4.2 billion to the Welsh economy (BBC, 2014)

Tourism is predicted to grow...

...and be worth



£257.4bn
by 2025



providing...

+6%

international
demand
growth p.a.

+1.5%

outbound
demand
growth p.a.

+3%

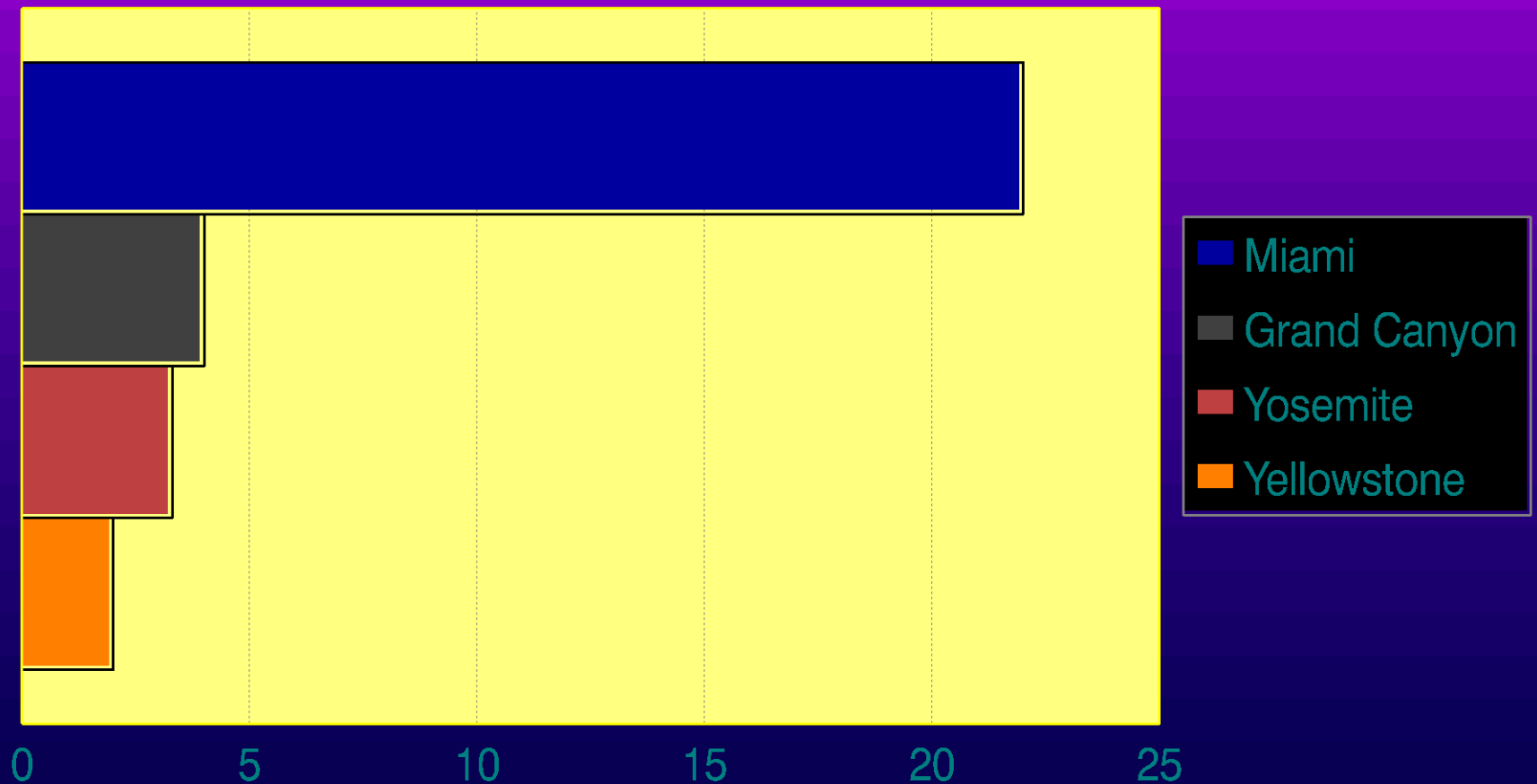
domestic
demand
growth p.a.



Global Tourism

- Key economic activity
- Largest global creator of jobs, wealth and investment (1 in 11 jobs) (World Travel and Tourism Council, 2016)
- In 2016, Travel and Tourism Economy (TTE) contributed \$7.2 trillion to the world's GDP (9.8%) and exceeded the GDP of all countries except Japan and USA

Annual tourist visits (millions)

















Everybody has the right to
see nature in all its glory!



'To the ends of the earth'

- But at what cost?

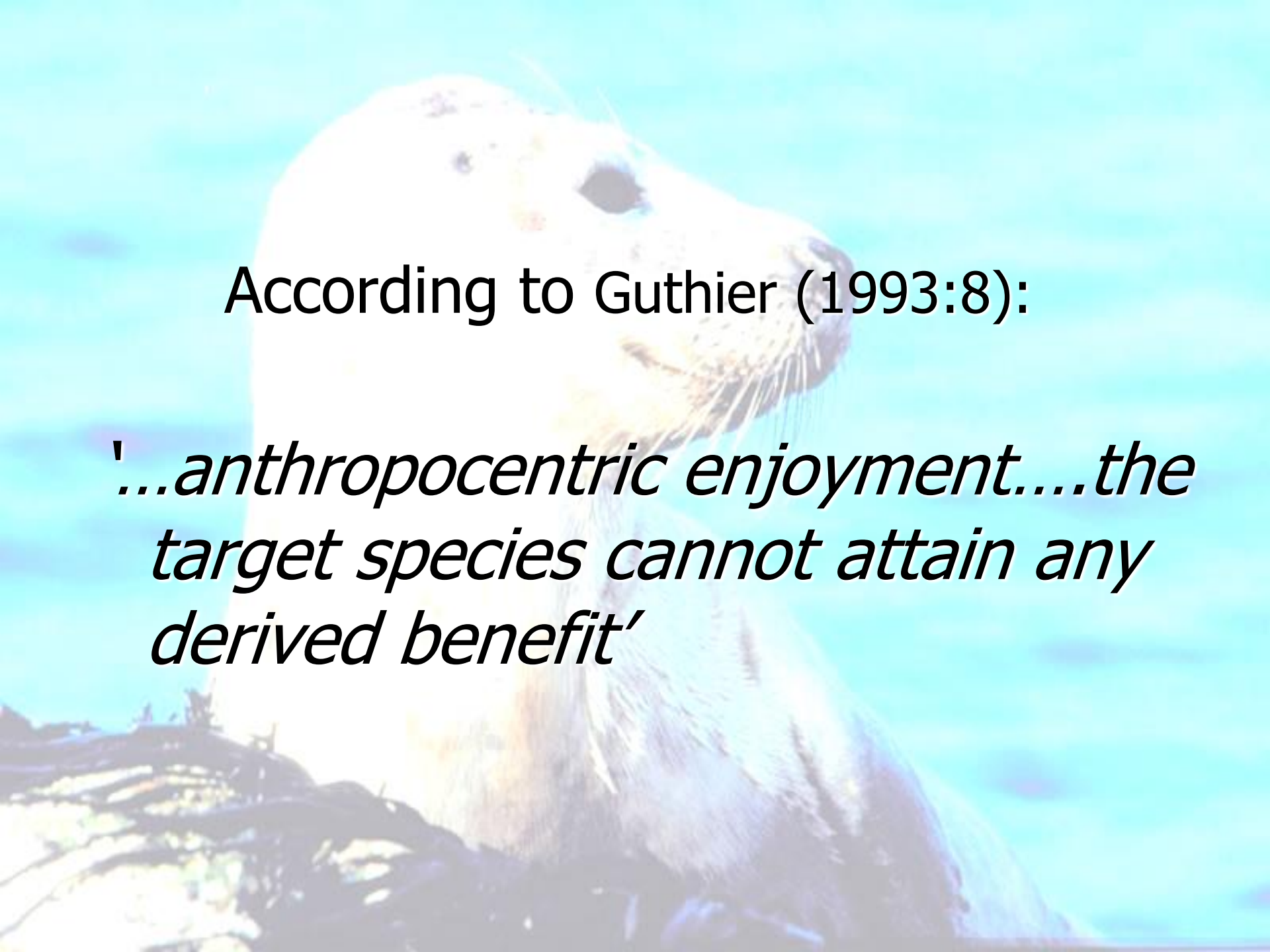


Marine Tourism: Friend or foe?



Domestic Tourism

- **£113 billion direct visitor spending (Deloitte, 2014)**
- **9% national economy – 3.1 m jobs**
- **Growth in conservation membership (TEF, 2000)**
- **IWC acknowledge growth in whale watching industry**
- **Seal watching worth £4.67 million direct revenue, £36million indirect services (Young, 1998)**



According to Guthier (1993:8):

'...anthropocentric enjoyment....the target species cannot attain any derived benefit'

Ecotourism

- According to Goodwin (1996:124):
 - *'instils an environmental and cultural consciousness to the tourist while providing long term stability and returns to the host community'*
- Not profit first and foremost

Is Ecotourism beneficial?

- Seals habituate to noise (Bonner, 1982)
- Sperm whales – behavioural changes (Herman, 1980; Cockeron, 1995)
- Debate
- Disturbance must be given due consideration

Swansea - History

- Baglan Industrial Estate
- Port Talbot Steel Works
- Neath Valley mining contamination
- Poor water quality



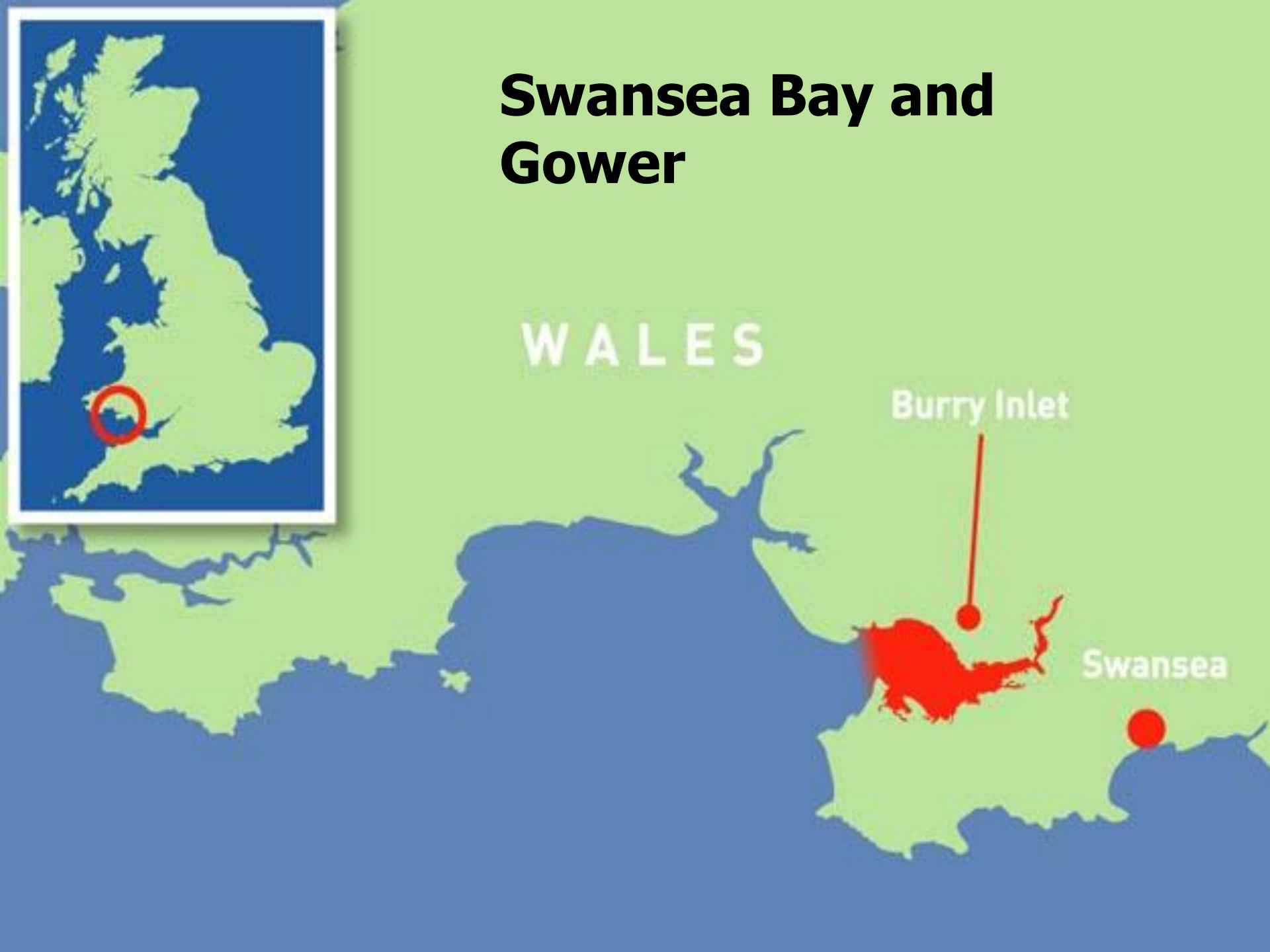
Swansea Bay and Gower



W A L E S

Burry Inlet

Swansea



Rhossili Bay



Pwll Du



Three Cliffs Bay

- Swansea and Gower – 4.56 million visitors in 2015
- £401.68 mill direct spend
- 5,718 jobs



Mumbles



County Kerry, Ireland

*'Minke whales are seen on 90% of trips;
Sei Whales on 70% of occasions'*
(Berrow & Whooley 1999:6)

- 1.5 million overseas visitors
- £245million (CKDB, 2015)



Outer Hebrides, Scotland

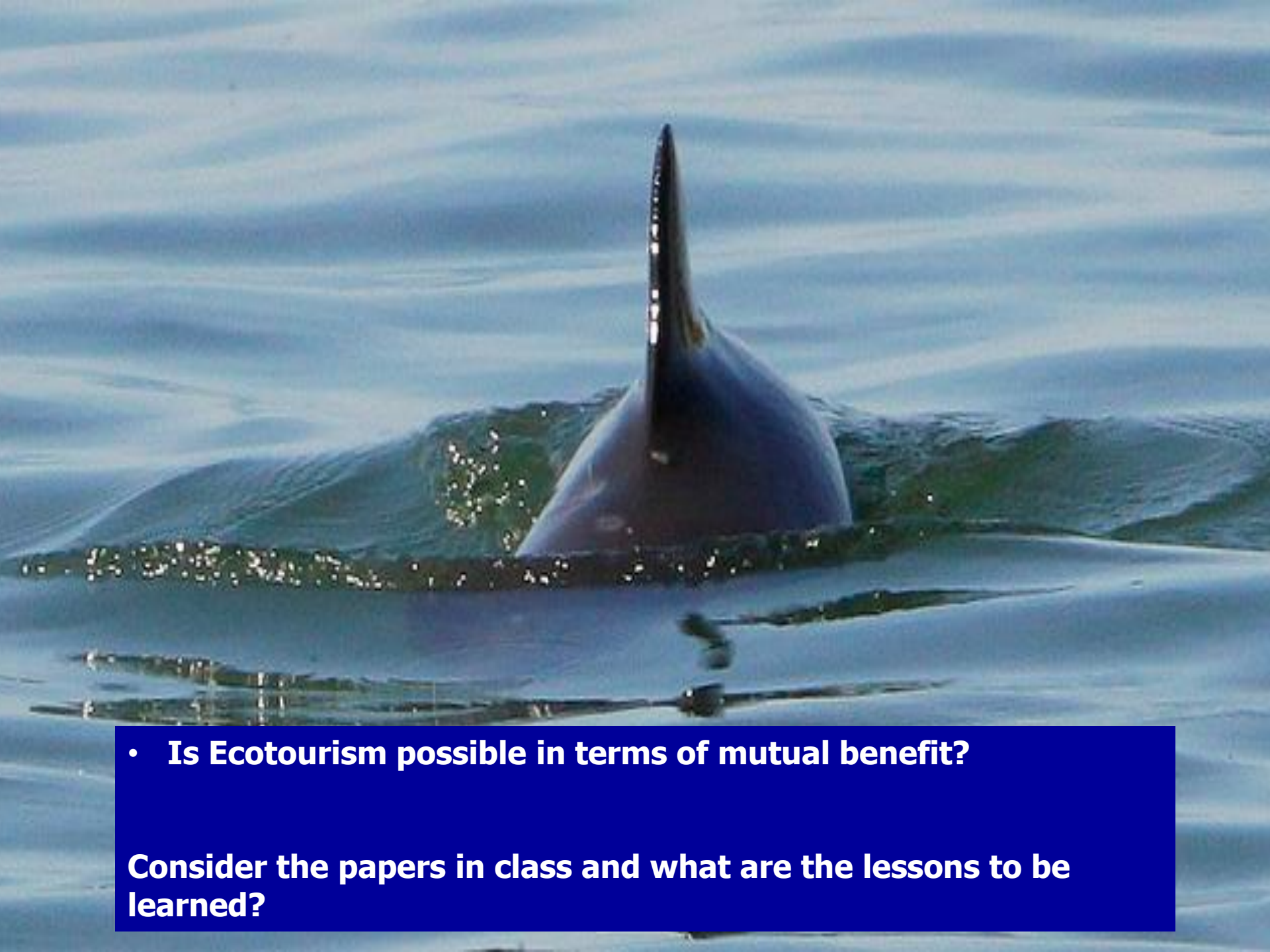


- £2.5 billion (Woods-Ballard, 2003)
- 12% income rural areas
- Weather dependent
- Shore-based alternatives (Warburton *et al.*, 2000)

Cardigan Bay, Wales

- **£272 million (WTB, 2002)**
- **Return visits high**
- **Satisfaction not linked to observation numbers (Price, 2002)**
- **Extensive cetacean research**
- **Strong, positive marketing**





- **Is Ecotourism possible in terms of mutual benefit?**

Consider the papers in class and what are the lessons to be learned?