

FLAG
NORTH EAST

Fisheries Local Action Groups
Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta Iascaigh Áitiúla



Supporting Coastal Communities

Fisheries Local Action Group
Local Development Strategy 2024 - 2029



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Ireland's
Seafood
Development
Agency

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1. Overview of FLAG

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1.1 Introduction to FLAG North East

Figure 1: Map of the FLAG North East Area of Operation



Source: RSM

The FLAG North East area comprises the coastal zones of Counties Louth, Meath and the wider Dublin counties, as highlighted in the map in Figure 1 above. A total of 44 District Electoral Divisions, which typically lie 10km from the coastal strip, have been analysed to provide a snapshot of the nature of the region. This encompasses a total population of 223,454 with 31.3% in Louth, 7.6% in Meath, 45% in Fingal and 16.7% in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown. The largest electoral division in FLAG North East area is Balbriggan Rural, based in Fingal, with a population of 19,347. Of the overall North East region of Ireland in 2022, 43% were coastal employed, with 614 people in direct seafood employment and 1,238 in downstream seafood employment.¹

Major ports in the area include Howth, Clogherhead, Balbriggan and Skerries. Across all of the ports regionally, Clogherhead and Howth handled 2% of the volume of Irish landings² in 2022 and accounted for 5% of the overall value. There are 17 seafood processing companies in the Northeast region employing the second highest number of people across the seven FLAG areas, after the FLAG South

¹ The Business of Seafood 2022

² Recorded 'landings' is used to describe volume of fish but does not include those from under 10m vessels.

region. The region has significant oyster farming activity including Carlingford Lough, a shallow glacial fjord or sea inlet that forms part of the border to Northern Ireland. The main inshore fishery in the NE RIFF area is the razor clam fishery, which has been operating in the north Irish Sea since 1997. The fishery occurs in shallow water from the low water mark to a depth of approximately 14m but usually between 5- 10m. The value of the fishery has increased in recent years due to increased market demand and price. The region's greatest output of seabed cultured mussels was observed in the North East, accounting for 43% (2,512 tonnes) of the national output across 5 production units. The regions overall aquaculture output in 2021 was valued at €8.4 million and employed 93 people across 9 production units.

The FLAG North East's coastline has a growing tourist sector, for example the Louth Heritage Trail and marine tourism in Carlingford.

The extensive coastline, estuaries and islands are home to numerous biodiversity sites including the Baldoyle, Rogerstown and Malahide estuaries, with mudflats and salt meadows that host a range of breeding and migratory birds. These also include a number of islands that support marine mammals and an abundance of aquatic life. The FLAG North East areas includes 21 County Geological Heritage Sites, 27 European sites, 13 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 14 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) along the North East coast, including Howth Head and Lambay Island.

Major ports in the area include Howth, Clogherhead, Balbriggan and Skerries. Across all of the ports regionally, Clogherhead and Howth handled 2% of the volume of landings³ in 2022 and accounted for 5% of the overall value. There were 17 seafood processing companies in the Northeast region, who employed the second highest number of people, across the seven FLAG areas, after the FLAG South region. The region is also home to oyster farming conditions including the Carlingford Lough, a glacial fjord or sea inlet situated that forms part of the border to Northern Ireland. The main fishery in the NE RIFF area is a razor clam fishery, which has been operating in the north Irish Sea since 1997. The fishery occurs in shallow water from the low water mark to a depth of approximately 14m but usually between 5- 10m. The value of the fishery has increased in recent years due to increased market demand and price. The region's greatest output of seabed cultured mussels was observed in the North East, accounting for 43% (2,512 tonnes) of the national output across 5 production units. The regions overall aquaculture output in 2021 was valued at €8.4 million and employed 93 people across 9 production units.

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1.2 Introduction to the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund Programme for Ireland (EMFAF)

With over 8,000 kilometres of coastland and responsibility for one of the largest marine areas in Europe, Ireland's economy, culture, and society are inextricably linked to the sea. The marine environment is a

³ Recorded 'landings' is used to describe volume of fish but does not include those from under 10m vessels.

national asset that yields multiple commercial and non-commercial benefits in terms, of, for example, fisheries, aquaculture, seafood, tourism, recreation, renewable energy, cultural heritage, and biodiversity. Forty percent of Ireland's population lives within 5km of the coast, made up of urban, rural and island coastal communities. However, it is those in remote coastal communities which are most dependent on the benefits generated by the marine environment and economy. Ireland's coastline is remarkable and a key enabler of regional development, but also a fragile resource that needs to be carefully managed to sustain its character, environment and biodiversity.

The seafood sector is a critical element of the coastal economy. Ireland has a rich tradition in fishing and aquaculture, with its coastal communities at the forefront of ensuring the sustainable development of its natural resource while generating significant economic activity and contributing to national, EU and global food security and supply.

Despite the buoyant seafood sector and strong coastal communities and economies, an unprecedented convergence of global and European events threatens its continued development. Covid, Brexit, and more recently the invasion of Ukraine has presented a volatile market for key inputs and exposed the fragility of the seafood sector to shocks. Furthermore, inflationary pressures are squeezing margins and have the capacity to drive down much needed investment for its development.

Ireland's seafood sector and coastal communities also face more localised challenges and market pressures. Segments of the fishing fleet are ageing, as is the workforce and the communities in which it resides, as earnings and opportunities are less attractive for potential younger fishers' career choices. Within the processing and aquaculture segments, there are many shared challenges including limited R&D and technological advancement, reduced market access and poor access to finance. Areas for improvement can also be seen in control and enforcement, data gathering and scientific knowledge.

The volatile operating environment for the industry and the state's responsibility for protecting the marine environment has led to the focus of the Irish EMFAF⁴ 2021-2027 programme being crafted to take account of all the challenges that the Irish seafood sector will face over the coming years.

EMFAF at the EU level

REGULATION (EU) 2021/1139 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 established the EMFAF programme for the period 2021-2027. This Regulation notes that the EMFAF should be based on four priorities:

1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources;
2. Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union;
3. Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities;
4. Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed.

Those priorities have been reflected in the EMFAF Programme for Ireland.

EMFAF – Programme for Ireland

Based on the challenges identified above for the seafood sector and coastal communities, Ireland's Programme states an ambitious vision to:

"To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities"

⁴ European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund Programme for Ireland (EMFAF Seafood Development Programme) 2021-2027

In order for Ireland to achieve this vision, 4 missions were identified which are intended as a response to medium and long-term structural issues and challenges that have been highlighted in the SWOT but also taking account of potential possibility of crises that may present themselves over the lifetime of the programme.

The missions are as follows:

Mission 1 - A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Seafood Sector

- Dealing with climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Minimising the impact of fishing/aquaculture activities on the marine environments including implementation of NATURA 2000, MPAs, MSFD and WFD.
- Managing the fisheries/aquaculture resources in a sustainable manner
- Reduction of waste in the marine environment and promoting the circular economy
- Effective control & enforcement
- Enhance knowledge and data to deal with climate change and impacts on marine biodiversity

Mission 2 - An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Seafood Sector, driven by Technology and Talent

- Support innovation in all sectors
- Promote generational renewal and the health and safety of all seafood sector workers
- Support small scale coastal fisheries
- Support sustainable economic development and resiliency in all seafood sectors
- Promote knowledge transfer and the development of lifelong skills (including digital literacy in all sectors)

Mission 3 - Vibrant and sustainable coastal communities driven to implement creative community-based strategies to enhance economic opportunity and ensure a dynamic framework for quality growth and development

- Support the Community Led Local Development approach to economic development in coastal communities by building capacity and developing greater co-operation between all relevant stakeholders in coastal communities
- Support diversification into areas such as tourism and the blue economy within coastal communities.

Mission 4 – Ensure effective management and implementation of the EMFAF programme

- This mission is framed to ensure support is provided to ensure that the EMFAF programme has an effective management and control system in place to allow for the effective implementation and management of the EMFAF programme over its lifetime.

1.3 What is FLAG?

Fisheries Local Action Group Programme (FLAG) is a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) scheme. It was first established in Ireland in 2013 under the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) with six FLAG Regions. In 2016, under the “European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), this increased to seven FLAG Regions. It is currently funded under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), which is operational between 2021 and 2027.

Local community development is a key instrument within the new European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF, Regulation 2021/1139) to support the sustainable development of coastal communities. One of the priorities noted in EMFAF regulations is that it seeks to enable a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and foster the development of coastal communities in fishing and aquaculture dependant areas.

For the purpose of fulfilling this priority, each FLAG design and implement a Local Development Strategy to address their area's needs, be they economic, social and/or environmental. The FLAG Local Development Strategy is developed on behalf of the respective FLAG Board and must meet the requirements set out in the EMFAF and the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR). Based on this strategy, the FLAG can select and provide funding to local projects that contribute to local development in their areas.

Operationally, the area covered by this FLAG Local Development Strategy is defined as any location located 10km from the mean high water mark, however enterprises or initiatives located further inland that have a direct impact on the coast may also be supported.

. The strategy aims to support sustainable coastal communities through actions that are complementary to other supports including, inter alia, the EMFAF and LEADER.

1.4 Where does FLAG fit?

FLAG activities come under **EU Priority 3**, defined as:

“Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities”

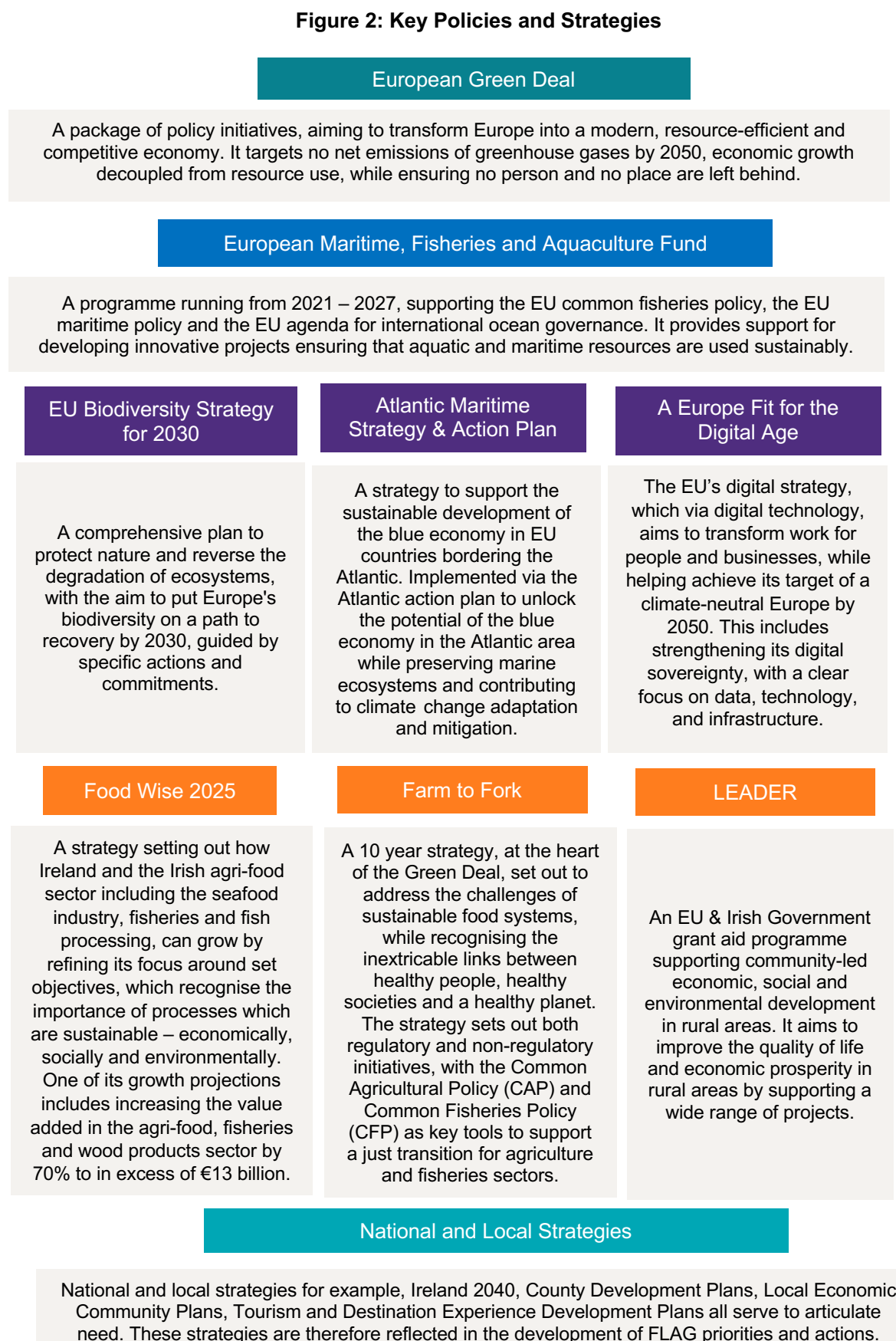
The key themes to deliver this Priority are:

- 1 Actions to diversify and enhance the income of individuals dependant on seafood and the blue economy in the coastal community.
- 2 Actions that identify innovations that can lead to a transition towards smarter growth in coastal areas.
- 3 Actions to develop and promote niche tourism.
- 4 Actions to build capacity to develop greater co-operation between all relevant stakeholders in coastal communities.
- 5 Actions to support community involvement in the management of Ireland's coastal resource to sustain its physical character and environmental quality.
- 6 Actions to protect and promote the sense of place and culture and the quality, character and distinctiveness of the Irish coastal communities.

1.5 Key Policies

The FLAG Strategy which follows was constructed having regard to the policies and strategies that relate to the designated FLAG area, defined as any area located 10km from the high water mark. This process was followed so as to ensure that the actions proposed in this Plan would be congruent and complementary to those at European level.

Figure 2 outlines the policies and strategies which were considered.



1.6 Consideration of Complementary Measures

The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027 is a successor to the European Maritime, Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020 and support the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance. It provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably.

The Marine Programmes Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) will be responsible for the development and implementation of the Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027. Ireland is to receive €142 million of EU funds from the new EMFAF which will be combined with co-funding from the Government of Ireland.

These funds will be allocated for the management of fisheries, aquaculture and fishing fleets, and also cover measures such as scientific advice, controls and checks, market intelligence, maritime surveillance and security.

The EMFAF seeks to prioritise support for small-scale coastal fisheries, vessels up to 24 metres and promote aquaculture. For the first time, the fund also includes provisions on strengthening international ocean governance, and includes provisions to help respond to exceptional crises that cause market disruptions e.g. temporary storage measures or compensation for additional costs.

In addition to EMFAF, there are a range of complementary measures which exist or are forthcoming that address other key areas of need, relevant to coastal communities. These include other EU initiatives such as ERDF and ESF; National plans and County Council plans such as Local Economic Community Plans and Economic Strategies/ Village and Town masterplan.

Given the similar subject matter, it is worth noting the key elements of the LEADER programme 2023 – 2027 which aims to improve rural locations in areas such as:

Economic Development and Job Creation

- Green Economy
- Agri Diversification
- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Food Production
- Community and Co-operative Enterprise

Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

- Rural Infrastructure
- Accessible Services
- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Rural Youth

Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

- Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment
- Climate Change Capacity Building
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

There is also a strategic emphasis on environmental sustainability, renewables and marine innovation across local strategies which cover the FLAG North East area. These strategies recognise the potential of the coastal and island communities, in particular to generate tourism and enterprise development. These strategies are being implemented in conjunction with support from other agencies such as BIM, LYIT, Fáilte Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices and local County Councils.

It is important to note that FLAG actions will be complementary to these initiatives.

Further, FLAG activities will be required to reflect the EMFAF horizontal principles of climate change mitigation, biodiversity, digital and gender equality.

Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the EU's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, and the commitment to the United Nations' SDGs, the initiatives under the EMFAF should contribute to achieving the target of 30% of all multiannual financial framework expenditure being spent on mainstreaming climate objectives. The fund should also contribute to the ambition of providing 7.5% of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives in 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals. The contribution of the EMFAF to EU climate and environmental objectives is tracked through the application of environmental and climate markers and reported on regularly within the monitoring framework of the fund.

Regarding gender, although the gender equality dimension is not present in the EMFAF in the form of gender-specific objectives and measurable gender commitments, the fund covers broader gender-related aspects in line with the equality provisions set out in the common provisions regulation.

The EU Commission recognises that digital technology is changing people's lives. The EU's digital strategy aims to make this transformation work for people and businesses, while helping to achieve its target of a climate-neutral Europe by 2050.

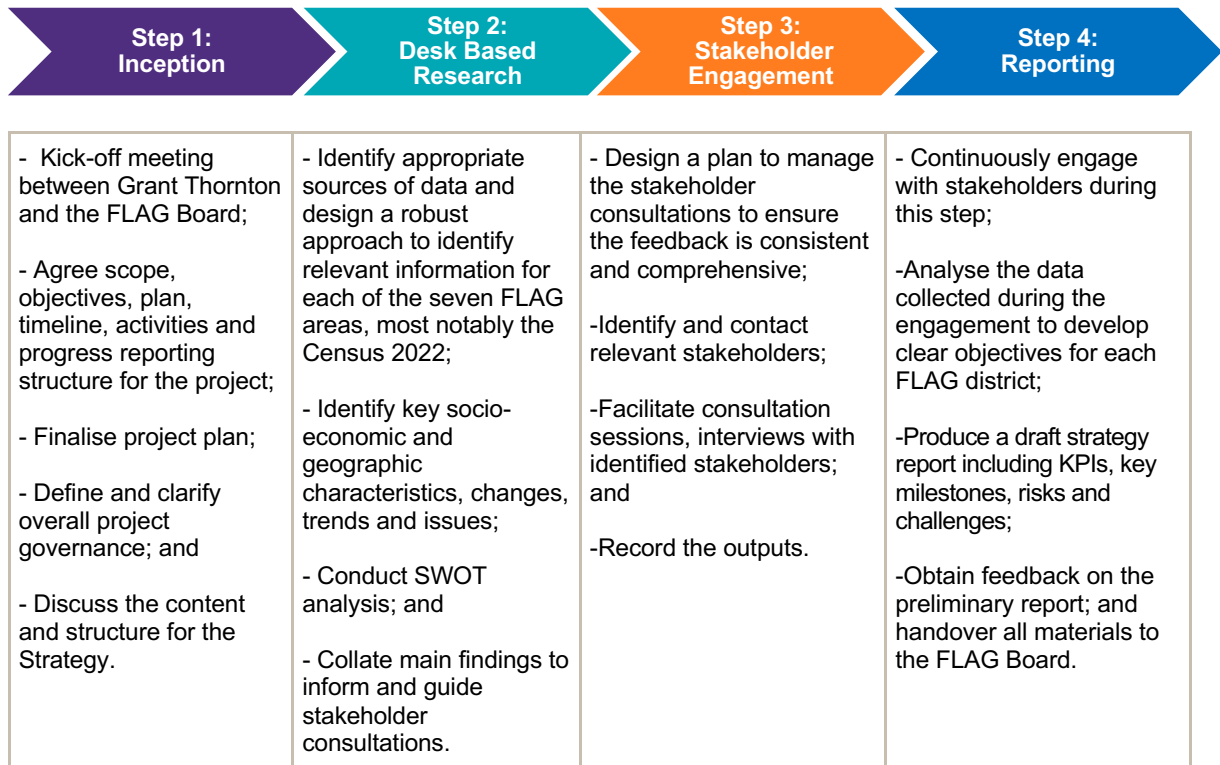
The Commission is determined to make this Europe's "Digital Decade"¹ and recognises that Europe needs to strengthen its digital sovereignty and set standards, rather than following those of others – with a clear focus on data, technology, and infrastructure. All EU funding programmes will reflect this digital ambition.

1.7 Methodology

To compile the Local Development Strategy report, Grant Thornton prepared a four-phased planning approach to ensure the specific requirements of the FLAG were met. This approach ensured a 'bottom-up' process with input by local people and partners following the principles of **Community Led Local Development**⁵. The methodology is outline below in Figure 3.

⁵ Community Led Local Development (CCLD) is a bottom-up approach to development that encourages local people to be involved in developing responses to the social, environmental and economic challenges.

Figure 3: Methodology Approach



With a focus on Priority 3 of the EMFAF Programme and the guidelines established, the needs and priorities of differing areas of the FLAG were considered, as part of the development of the strategy. These needs and priorities were identified through a socio-economic review, public consultations and a public survey. The findings identified from all aspects of the FLAG community aided in the development of the strategy and were the basis for driving the actions.



2. Analysis of the Development Needs

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2.1 Introduction

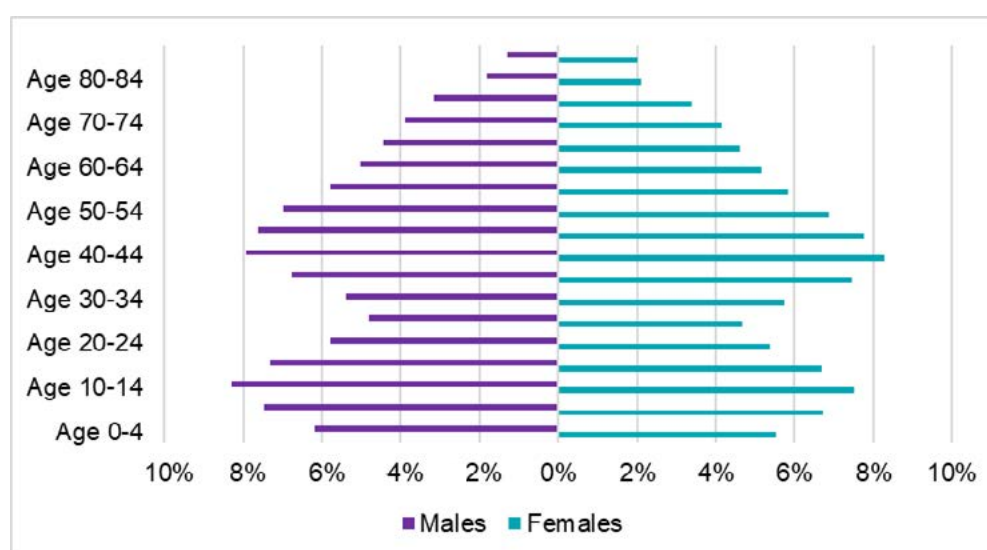
The following sections provide analysis of the development needs of the FLAG area through both qualitative and quantitative data. It has been developed through a combination of desk-based research, survey results and consultation findings.

2.2 Socio-Economic Profile

Population

- Population in the FLAG North East area has increased 6.4%, growing from 209,996 in 2016 to 223,454 in 2022.
- Ireland's population increased 8.1% in 2022 to 5,149,139. The FLAG North East region accounted for 4.3% of Ireland's population.
- All counties covered by the North East Flag area witnessed growth in population in 2022. The population of Louth increased 8.4%, Meath increased 13.2%, Dublin City increased 6.9%, Fingal increased 11.6% and Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown increased 7.3%

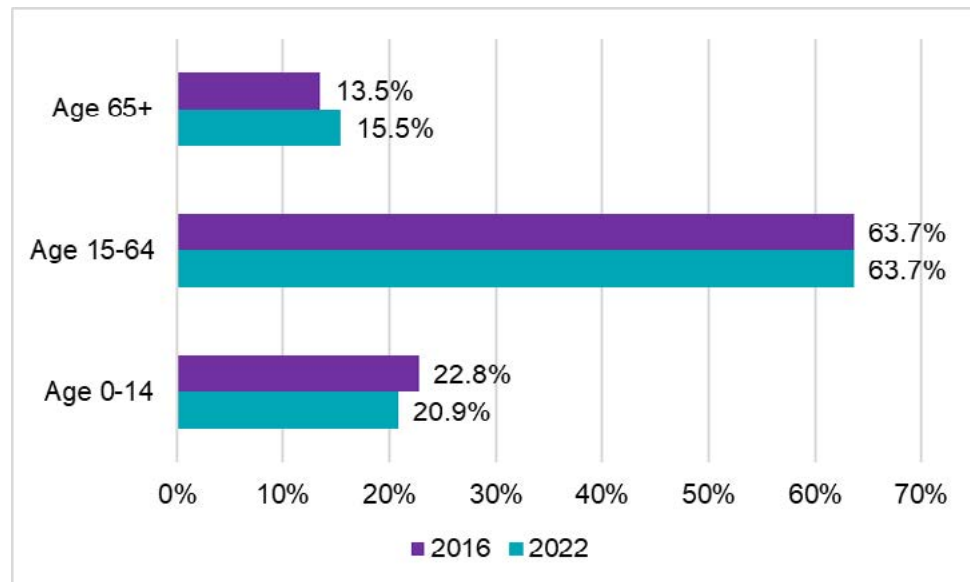
Figure 4: Percentage of Population by Age and Sex in FLAG North East, 2022



Source: CSO

- Males accounted for 48.7% of the FLAG North East area and females accounted for 51.3% in 2022.

Figure 5: Age Profile, 2022

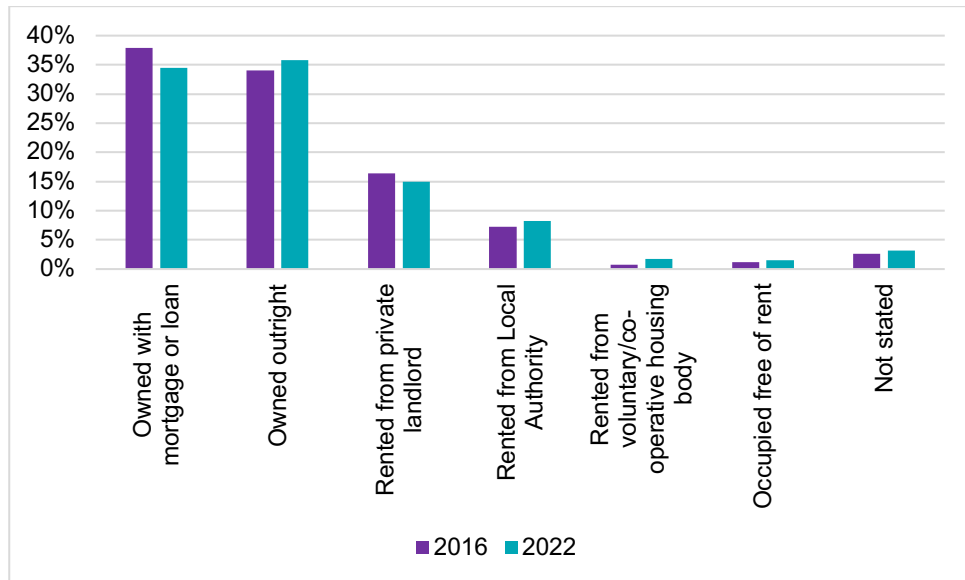


Source: CSO

- In 2022 the percentage of the population aged 65 and over increased from 13.5% in 2016 to 15.5% in 2022, increasing by 5,955 persons. The national average of proportion of the population ages 65+ was 14.3% in 2022.
- The number of persons aged 0-14 declined to 20.9% in 2022. This could indicate potential future strain on resources with an ageing population and the number of young persons declining.
- Some 86% of the population of the FLAG North East area were born in Ireland, in 2022, having declined 2 percentage points since 2016.
- The number of people residing in the FLAG North East Area who were born in the UK has increased 3.7% since 2016. Those born in Poland and Lithuania however declined 2.5% and 1.4% respectively.
- The number of people who can speak Irish in the area increased 7% in 2022 to 81,558, from 2016. The proportion of population has however remained stable at 38% in 2016 and 2022.
- Of the total population of the area, 48,270 (21.8%) of people had a disability of any kind. This compares with 21.5% nationally.

Place

Figure 6: Home Ownership by Type, 2016-2022



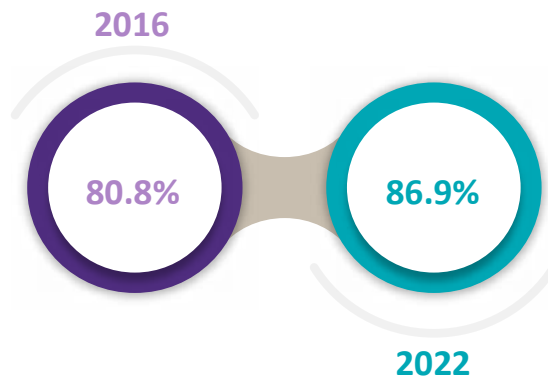
Source: CSO

- In 2022, the number of private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan declined to 70.3%, compared to 71.9% in 2016. This was driven by a decline in private households owned with a mortgage/ loan which fell 2.5% from 2016, as a potential result of rising house prices and supply/demand imbalance seen across Ireland. Nationally, in 2022, 69.5% of private households were owner occupied.
- In 2022, 91% of permanent dwellings were occupied, compared to 89% in 2016.
- While unoccupied holiday homes only accounted for 1% (1216 properties) of permanent dwellings in the region, the number has increased 12.2% from 1084 properties in 2016.
- The number of vacant dwellings declined 12.5% since 2016 and accounted for 5% of total permanent dwellings in 2022.
- Households with a married couple and children (32.2%) accounted for the largest proportion of households in the North East area in 2022, followed by one person households (21%).
- Of the 43⁶ electoral districts analysed, 33% were classed as having “varying levels of deprivation” and 67% were classed as having “various levels of affluence”.⁷

⁶ One of the ED's included in the defined FLAG North East region for the purpose of the strategy has been excluded from the Pobal HP Deprivation Index and therefore cannot be included for analysis.

⁷ The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is a series of indicators measuring the relative affluence or disadvantage of a particular geographical area in Ireland, using data compiled from various censuses. Relative scores are based on an average of 0. Scores above 0 indicate levels of affluence and scores below 0 indicate levels of deprivation. While the index provides a guide, there are some areas of weakness to this indicator. The index doesn't highlight that there may be areas of deprivation within affluent areas, or vice versa, and therefore the overall outcomes may be misleading for some ED's.

Figure 7: Broadband Internet

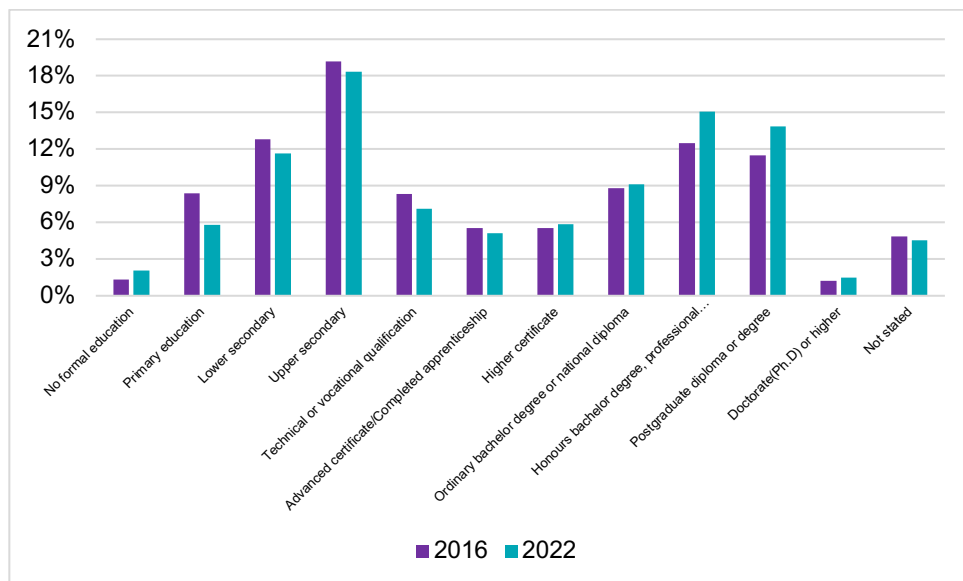


Source: CSO

- The number of households with access to broadband internet has increased 15% since 2016.
- In 2016, 80.8% of households had access to broadband internet, with this figure growing to 86.9% in 2022.

Labour market

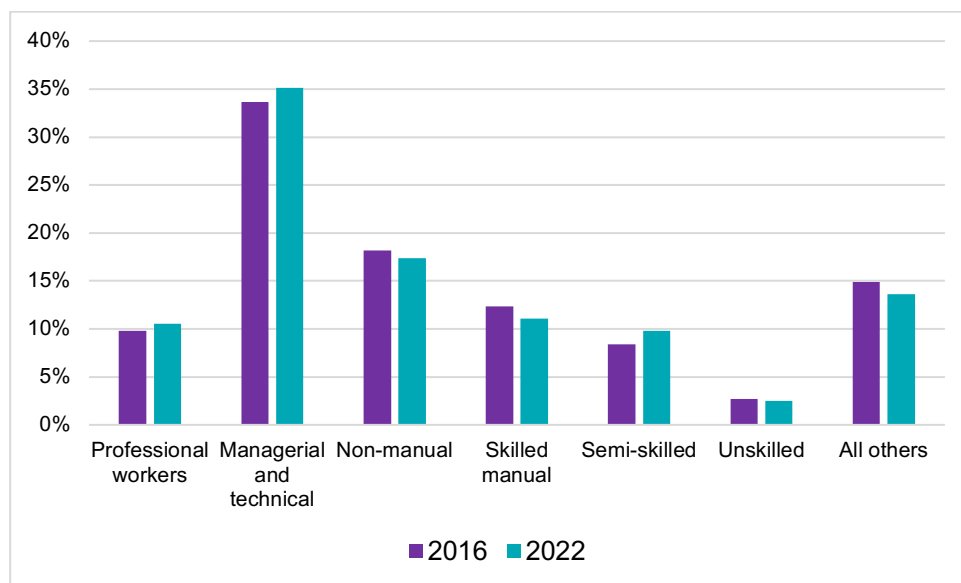
Figure 8: Level of Education as a Percentage of Total Persons Educated, 2016-2022



Source: CSO

- The level of education attainment in the FLAG North East area has been improving over recent years, with 144,431 persons having completed their education in 2022.
- The area has a high level of education attainment with 40% of people who completed their education educated to degree level or higher in 2022, compared to 34% in 2016.
- Those with an honours bachelor degree and postgraduate degree increased by 15% and 13.8% respectively from 2016.
- Of those educated, 5.8% were educated to primary level only, compared to 8.4% in 2016.
- The number of people educated to ordinary degree level increased by 11.3% from 2016.
- Those with no formal education increased from 1.3% to 2% in 2022.

Figure 9: Socio-Economic Groups by Percentage of Total, 2022



Source: CSO

- Managerial and technical workers account for the largest proportion (35.1%) of the workforce in the FLAG North East area, having increased 11.1% since 2016 from 70,625 workers to 78,468.
- The proportion of the population (aged 15 and over) at work has increased from 53.3% in 2016 to 54.8% in 2022, compared to the national average of 56.1%.
- The unemployment rate has declined from 11.7% in 2016 to 8.6% in 2022, slightly above the national average of 8.3%.
- In 2022 male unemployment stood at 8.8%, with female unemployment lower at 8.4%.
- The proportion of those retired has increased from 15.6% of the population in 2016 to 17.1% in 2022.
- The proportion of the FLAG North East population (3.9%) who are unable to work due to health problems, is below that of the national average (4.6%). However, in 2016 in the FLAG North East area it stood at 3.7%.
- Over a half of persons at work were employed in the commerce and trade industry (28.7%) and professional services industry (24.6%) in the FLAG North East area in 2022. The proportion of people employed in these industries has remained stable since 2016.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry employed 1.1% of persons at work in 2022, having fallen from 1.4% in 2016.
- An estimated 1.7% of all coastal employment in FLAG North East was in direct seafood employment, with a further 3.4% being in downstream seafood employment.

FLAG North East Seafood Economy

- In the North East area, in 2022, the number of landings⁸ recorded was 5,630, bringing a total of 6,706 tonnes at a value of €35.3 million. This was the highest value across all FLAG areas.
- A total of 157 vessels were registered in the area, an increase from the 123⁹ vessels registered in 2016.
- The FLAG North East region had 17 seafood processing companies that employ 651 people in 2022.
- In 2022, Howth Port recorded 3,400 tonnes of landings, accounting for 1.3% of all tonnes landed in Irish Ports, and 2.6% (€13 million) of the total value of landings. Howth Port was one of only 3 ports to see an increase in volume of landings in 2022.
- In 2016, this value was €16m, with a recorded 6,000 tonnes of landings.
- In 2022, Clogherhead Port recorded 1,800 tonnes of landings, accounting for 0.7% of all tonnes landed in Irish Ports, and 3.0% (€15 million) of the total value of landings.
- In 2016, this value was €9m, with a recorded 1,900 tonnes of landings.

Aquaculture

- The North East generated €8.4million of aquaculture sales in 2021, accounting for 5% of the sales value generated across the seven coastal regions.
- The value of Aquaculture in the FLAG North East area was €4m in 2016.
- The area generated 3,284 tonnes of output, 8% of the coastal regions output.
- In 2021, the North East employed 93 persons in aquaculture, 5% of the total employed across the coastal regions and had 9 production units for aquaculture.

Irish Seafood Economy

- The Irish Seafood economy in 2022 contributed an estimated €1.3 billion in GDP, an increase of 4% on 2021. The value of seafood increased 13% to €703 million, aquaculture increased 10% in value to €196 million and the value of seafood landings increased 14%.
- Some €507 million of seafood was landed into Irish ports in 2022, an increase of 14% from 2021. Of this, Irish landings contributed €336 million, accounting for two thirds of output.
- The top selling species in 2022 was farmed salmon with €119 million in sales, despite a 3% fall on the previous year. Cod ranked second with €44 million in revenue, a value growth of 5% since 2021.
- The Irish seafood sector is a low carbon-emitting sector, generating less than 2% of the total Irish agri-food greenhouse gas emissions.

Exports

- The value of Irish seafood exports increased by 4% to €696 million in 2022.
- In 2016, the value of Irish seafood exports were €559m.
- Exports to the EU, Ireland's main export markets, continued to grow with levels in 2022 being €407 million up 4% from €393 million in 2021.
- Exports to the UK however decreased for the third consecutive year to €80 million (-1%), driven by the impact of Brexit and its trading regulations. Exports to Asia also declined 1% to €79m.

⁸ Data is sourced from the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority 2022 Landings Report. <https://www.sfpa.ie/Statistics/Annual-statistics/Annual-Statistics/2022-Annual-Statistics>. It is recognised that 'landings' only reflects larger vessels, and not those of less than 10m.

⁹ Based on BIM FLAG North East Local Development Strategy 2016.

Table 1: Top 10 Export Markets for Irish Seafood

Country	Value €m	% Change
France	159	-1%
United Kingdom	80	-1%
Italy	71	25%
Spain	69	2%
Nigeria	37	-2%
Egypt	29	47%
China	25	-11%
Germany	25	1%
Poland	25	-3%
Japan	19	7%

Source: *BIM-The-Business-of-Seafood-2022*

- Volume of exports declined by 13% in 2022 with both reductions in pelagic quotas and rising inflation globally having an adverse effect on demand.
- Irish organic farmed salmon remained the most valuable export species in 2022 for the Irish seafood sector. This is despite a 2% decline in value to €120m, whereas volumes increased by 6%.
- Export volumes of mackerel declined 31% and value declined by 12% in 2022. Export volumes of blue whiting also declined by 20%. Conversely, shrimps, lobsters, mussels and whelks witnessed strong export growth by both volume and value.

Imports

- Imports of seafood showed a similar trend, with volumes decreasing by 12% (-20,000 tonnes). The cost of imported seafood increased by 24%, leading to an increase in value to €312 million, compared to €287 million in 2021.
- In comparison, Ireland imported €276m worth of seafood in 2016, with €376m of seafood landed by Irish and foreign vessels.
- Volumes of farmed salmon, prawns and tuna imports, traditional major import species all declined but value increased by an average of 9%. Imports of species such as tilapia, pangasius and seabass all increased significantly in 2022, reflecting a shift in the retail market towards lower value species
- The decline in imports from the UK seen in 2020 and 2021, driven by the challenges of Brexit, continued, with both volume and value of UK imports declining by 37% and 8% respectively.

Employment












- In 2022 employment in the Irish seafood industry declined by 8% compared to 2021 levels. In 2022 a total of 15,373 people were employed via a combination of 8,218 direct employees and 7,155 indirect employees.
- In 2016, 11,000 people were employed, directly and indirectly, around the coast.

Table 2: Breakdown of Direct Employment 2022

Total Direct Employment	Sector	No. of Employees	% Share
8,218	Fish processing	3,425	41.68%
	Fisheries	2,774	33.76%
	Aquaculture	2,019	24.57%

Source: *BIM-The-Business-of-Seafood-2022*

2.3 Summary – Infographic

Marine and Seafood Sector	Demographics	223,454 Total population: +5.8% from 2016	15.5% Aged 65 and over compared to 14.3% nationally	 14% of residents were born outside of Ireland
	Housing	70.3% Private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan	 12.2% of properties were holiday homes.	91% Permanent dwellings were occupied
	Education	 40% of residents aged 15+ educated to degree level or higher	Residents holding honours and bachelor degree increased by 15% and 14% respectively	2% of residents have no formal education
	Labour Market	54.8% residents in employment compared to 53.3% in 2016	 Unemployment rate has fallen from 11.7% in 2016 to 8.6% in 2022	17.1% of the population were retired compared to 15.6% in 2016
	Economy	1.1% of labour force employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry	 28.7% employed in the commerce and trade industry	 Estimated 1.7% of all coastal employment was in direct seafood employment
	Society	 Of the 43 electoral districts analysed, 33% were classed as having "varying levels of deprivation"	 86.9% of households have access to broadband compared to 80.8% in 2016	21% One person households
		 157 vessels registered in the area	 6,706 tonnes of seafood at a value of €35.3 million	 5,630 landings in 2022

The key needs that have been identified from socio-economic profile are reflected in the SWOT.

2.4 Overview of Consultation Process

Consultations with the FLAG North East area community were a key component of this strategy development and were held to capture key insights and opinions of those with an in-depth knowledge of the FLAG area. These built on the engagement processes undertaken in developing the 2016 strategy. These consultations helped Grant Thornton to form the basis of the strategy by identifying areas of improvement, opportunity or risk to the FLAG area economy. Consultations consisted of in person public meetings, online meetings and a survey.

Public meetings sought to attract attendees from:

- Tourism and other sectors of the Blue Economy
- Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Community Groups
- Heritage and Culture Groups

Dates, times and locations were advertised across local media and FLAG Board members also

Public Meetings	
Number of Events	Three public meetings
Location of Events	Dundalk, Dun Laoghaire and Balbriggan
Representation	Representation from community groups, local authorities, economic and social groups including those engaged in the blue economy.
Board Meetings	
Number of Meetings	Two board meetings as well as continuous engagement throughout the process.
Location of Meetings	Meath

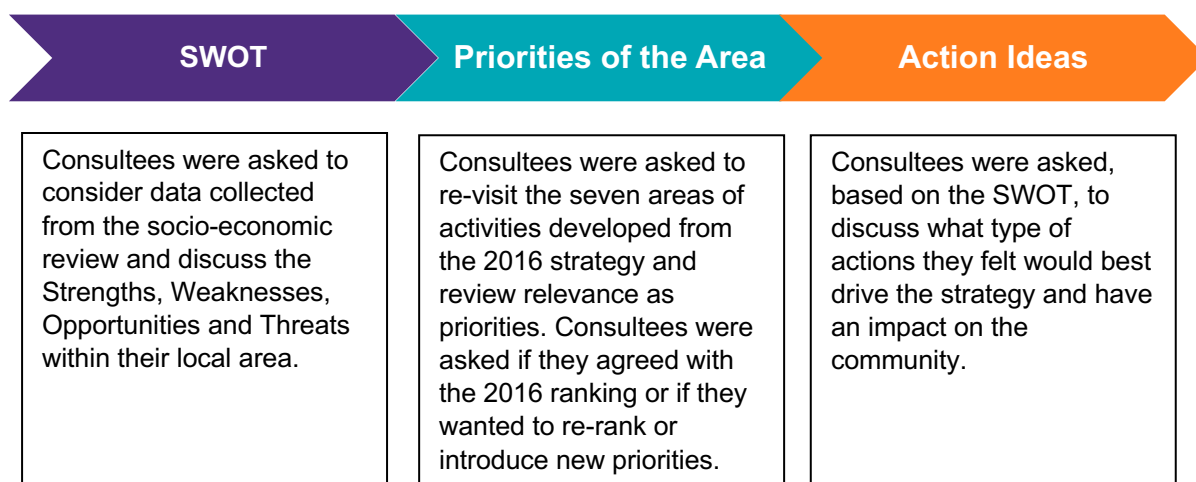
undertook to share meeting details among their networks.

A bespoke email inbox was set up to receive input from interested parties. This FLAG.Strategies@ie.gt.com inbox was communicated at all meetings and across all advertising and attracted 30 responses or inputs from various interested parties.

The survey was shared using a “snowball” approach which included circulating at each public meeting, inclusion in public consultation promotional material and circulation by email among the LCDCs, PPNs and other key stakeholders. This ensured as broad a response level as possible from among the coastal community. The survey was completed by 35 participants.

The engagement had 3 main components consisting of a SWOT, ranking of priorities¹⁰ and action ideas as shown in figure 10 below.

Figure 10: Methodology of Consultation



2.5 Feedback from Consultation

¹⁰ In 2016, as part of the strategy development, seven areas of activity were developed from the Union Priority 4 of the EMFF Regulation, Article 63 of the Common Provision Regulation and the EMFF OP, and ranked by order of prioritisation. These priorities have been carried through to the 2023 strategy.

2.5.1 SWOT Analysis

Based on a combination of desk research, data analysis, public consultations and a public survey, the following SWOT has been compiled for the FLAG North East area. The strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats identified are those which apply specifically to the area, as opposed to national factors e.g. rising living costs and are hence not within the remit of the area.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strong cultural awareness in the area, with 38% of the population able to speak Irish, accompanied by a strong maritime history. - Some 40% of the population are educated to degree level or higher. - Significant contributor to the Irish seafood sector. - Tourism is a major industry in the area. - Good public transport available e.g. DART - Plenty of marine activities including sea tours, sailing clubs, paddle boarding etc. - Village atmosphere along the coastal areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An ageing population, with 15.5% of persons aged 65 and over, compared to 14% nationally. - Proportion of those retired increased from 15.6% of the population in 2016 to 17.1% in 2022. - Lack of entertainment facilities in some areas, which reduces the appeal of those areas to both residents and visitors. - Water quality can be an issue in some parts of the FLAG area. - Limited accommodation in some areas and proximity to Dublin City centre which results in
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant tourism opportunities for the area due to the scenic landscape and high quality beaches. - Opportunity for FLAG to build on the collaboration and good working relationship with Councils and other key stakeholders to help navigate regulations. - The seafood industry in the FLAG North East area is substantial and provides significant employment opportunities due to the existing infrastructure in the area to support the industry - Potential to develop a Marina in some harbours, which could lead to, increased visitors. - Potential for growth in water sports in areas where there is available or potential infrastructure. - Increase selling of seafood through shops, vans, selling to restaurants. - Potential to further market the area and local activities including available catch from the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proportion of persons aged 0-14 declined to 20.9% in 2022, combined with an ageing population could indicate potential future strain on resources. - Lack of opportunities for young people in the area to encourage them to stay in the coastal region. - Lack of local supply opportunities – fishermen aren't selling to local restaurants / shops - Lack of financial support for small fishery businesses and a lack of mentoring or advice. - Lack of infrastructure can limit the potential of added value for fishermen and also for tourism related activities. - A number of the small harbours are falling into disrepair leading to higher maintenance and operating costs for both councils and users. - Environmental designations and Special Area of Conservation status seen as being restrictive to economic development - Global warming, beach and water pollution and coastal erosion are all threats to the physical infrastructure and way of life.

2.5.2 Ranking of Areas of Activity

A key element of the survey exercise was the ranking of the Areas of Activity in order of importance and priority for the FLAG area. The table below details the overall assessment of the ranking of activities based on feedback from the consultation process.

Table 3: A Ranking of Areas of Activity

Areas of Activity	2023 Rank	2016 Rank
Job creation/ maintenance	=1	1
Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas	=1	=4
Promoting environmental assets and mitigation of climate change	3	7
Strengthening the role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in local development	4	6
Adding value to fisheries and aquaculture products	5	3
Lifelong learning & attracting young people to remain/come to live in the coastal region	6	=4
Supporting innovation and diversification	7	2

Table 3 highlights that job creation/ maintenance and promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas both ranked jointly as the top priority for the FLAG North East area. This was followed by promoting environmental assets and mitigation of climate change.

2.6 Conclusion

This chapter presents the desk based, survey and consultation data collected and analysed, which will form the basis of the strategy. The socio-economic review considered the data and statistical evidence in relation to the FLAG North East region. Additionally, the consultations and survey provided community led evidence of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the region, priorities for the FLAG Programme and project ideas.

Using this information, the next chapter of the strategy turns the data into thematic areas and actions.



3. Strategy and Objectives

3. Strategy and Objectives

3.1 Introduction

The FLAG North East strategy comprises the Vision and an integrated framework of 6 themes, 7 priorities and 18 actions.

The Intervention Logic has been arrived at as follows:



The strategy describes the economy and community which FLAG North East seeks to build, with the ambition to further improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of coastal communities in the FLAG North East area. This is in line with the strategy vision:

“The FLAG North East will have a sustainable economy through the capitalisation of existing, and newly created opportunities.”

3.2 Themes and Priorities

As previously addressed, the activities of the FLAG Strategy fall under EU **Priority 3**, defined as **“Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities”**

The below table lists the key themes to deliver this priority:

Table 4: Themes

1.	Actions to diversify and enhance the income of individuals dependant on seafood and the blue economy in the coastal community.
2.	Actions that identify innovations that can lead to a transition towards smarter growth in coastal area.
3.	Actions to develop and promote niche tourism.
4.	Actions to build capacity to develop greater co-operation between all relevant stakeholders in coastal communities.
5.	Actions to support community involvement in the management of Ireland's coastal resource to sustain its physical character and environmental quality.
6.	Actions to protect and promote the sense of place and culture and the quality, character and distinctiveness of the Irish coastal communities.

Further, to develop the actions of the strategy, the key priorities identified based on community led local development process, discussed in section 2, will be also be reflected in the proposed actions.

The below table lists the key priorities to deliver the actions:

Table 5: Priorities

=1.	Job creation/ maintenance
=1.	Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas
3.	Promoting environmental assets and mitigation of climate change
4.	Strengthening the role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in local development
5.	Adding value to fisheries and aquaculture products
6.	Lifelong learning & attracting young people to remain/come to live in the coastal region
7.	Supporting innovation and diversification

Each theme in the action plan below has been ranked by order of importance, based on the extent to which they are addressing priorities.

Further, proposals for funding under each of the actions listed below will be required to reflect contribution to the horizontal themes of climate change mitigation, biodiversity, digital and gender equality.

Engagement with BIM and FLAG at project pre-application stage will be important to ensure the proposed actions do not overlap with other existing schemes. FLAG will consider supporting projects that are not being funded elsewhere.

3.3 Actions

Key theme 1: Actions to develop and promote niche tourism.

Rationale

Tourism is one of the largest growth sectors for the economy of FLAG North East. Regional and national strategies including the Wild Atlantic Way, have proven the potential and opportunity for coastal tourism. 'Ireland's Ancient East' is the branding associated with the area covered by FLAG North East but consultations suggested that this is significantly behind the Wild Atlantic Way in terms of brand awareness and success. The North East area has historically been identified as a daytrip location due to its proximity to Dublin City centre and therefore actions are required to develop the tourism offering in a way that gains visitors for longer. The development and growth of the sector continues to be a key economic development driver for the area. The support under this objective aims to promote the development of the marine, coastal and estuary tourism in coastal areas.

Priorities addressed under this theme

1. Job Creation	1. Social well-being and cultural heritage	3. Environmental assets	4. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities
5. Adding Value	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Innovation & Diversification	

	Action	Description
1.1	Developing the coastal tourism offering.	Support the development of the marine and coastal tourism offering.
1.2	Improving marine tourism infrastructure and supporting the multi-use of marine facilities.	Support for infrastructure improvements to improve marine tourism infrastructure and supporting the multi-use of marine facilities. This could include improving the safety, accessibility and functionality of areas and infrastructure (e.g. parking, changing, toilet, mooring, storage) that can be shared across the community.
1.3	Development of the tourism offering through marketing, festivals and events.	Support the development of the tourism offering through marketing programmes, festivals and events. This could include a uniform marketing campaign for the whole North East FLAG area, to encourage increases in visitor numbers, longer trips and an extension of the core tourist season.

Key theme 2: Actions to diversify and enhance the income of individuals dependant on seafood and the blue economy in the coastal community.

Rationale for theme

Many of the coastal areas in the FLAG North East area have experienced outward migration of young people who leave the predominantly rural coastal areas seeking further education and employment opportunities. The area is also facing an ageing population and decline in fishing. To support the survival of fisheries and the coastal community economy, skills development, training and lifelong learning will be key. Advancements in technology skills are paramount in today's society and therefore promoting employment opportunities alongside innovation and diversification within the coastal community will also play a vital role. Adding value and diversification to the fishing and aquaculture activities currently being undertaken in the area as well as promoting synergies can also led to further development. Support under this theme aims to rejuvenate the marine sector and promote it as a viable employment options for people.

Priorities addressed under this theme

1. Job Creation	1. Social well-being and cultural heritage	3. Environmental assets	4. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities
5. Adding Value	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Innovation & Diversification	

	Action	Description
2.1	To support the future of coastal communities through learning and skills development.	<p>Developing the skills in local coastal communities including training and upskilling. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training courses (excluding those already delivered by existing providers), knowledge exchange, basic skills training, governance and business management. Training supported by the FLAG should complement / not duplicate training already provided by BIM. - A digital literacy programme to ensure access to services in an increasingly digital age. - Training and support to encourage entry into marine sectors. <p>Bringing the marine environment to life for young people, promoting the interaction and experience of the marine environment and to support the development of information that encourages young people into marine sector careers.</p>
2.2	Developing the capacity of fishermen for diversification and innovation	To support fishermen who are considering diversifying into a new area. This could include business start-up training and/or mentoring for applying for funding, not offered elsewhere and legal advice.
2.3	Improving product quality, appearance and marketing.	Support to improve the appearance, marketing, packaging and traceability of local products, promoting sustainable supply chains and conscious consumerism, which is leading to an increased focus on buying locally and ethically.
2.4	Improving pier and harbour and broader coastal infrastructure in order to improve work and leisure conditions.	Support to improve pier and harbour infrastructure to aid in the diversification and growth of incomes for fishers and the wider coastal community. For example, supports to improve landing facilities, storage facilities and general amenities. This will exclude projects covered by the DAFM Harbours Scheme.
2.5	Development of artisan food production.	Develop and encourage artisan food production. Build links with artisan food producers and the local hospitality sector, encouraging cooperation and promoting the two industries collectively.

Key theme 3: Actions that identify innovations that can lead to a transition towards smarter growth in coastal areas.

Rationale

To transition towards smarter growth and drive forward the development of coastal communities, new product development is key to ensure the economy can adapt to the demands of society. Whilst support for the development of new coastal businesses is important, there is also significant need for support for existing businesses. Further, technology is advancing at a faster pace than ever and data is paramount to all technology developments highlighting the importance of data to drive innovations. This objective aims to support coastal businesses through a range of supports to encourage diversification and innovation.

Priorities addressed under this theme

1. Job Creation	1. Social well-being and cultural heritage	3. Environmental assets	4. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities
5. Adding Value	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Innovation & Diversification	

	Action	Description
3.1	To support new product and process development.	Support the development of new products and processes, typically small scale projects, within the blue economy and maritime sector.
3.2	To support existing coastal businesses.	Support the development and growth of existing coastal businesses, including those within the blue economy and maritime sector. This could include but isn't limited to support for new equipment or facilities, feasibility studies and business plans.
3.3	Data collection.	Support for the development of data initiatives and data collection projects to advance innovations.
3.4	To support the diversification of catch from underutilised species.	Support to encourage more responsible and sustainable fishing and to support the launch of new seafood products of underutilised species.

Key theme 4: Actions to build capacity to develop greater co-operation between all relevant stakeholders in coastal communities.

Rationale for theme

Collaboration across the FLAGs and with other relevant stakeholders is key to implementing development initiatives. The theme is constant across all aspects of development, ranging from skills development, innovation initiatives to sustainability projects and tourism promotion, which are achieved by building relationships where all parties collaborate and work collectively to reach a common goal. Collaborations across FLAG boards and other key stakeholders can support the success of the FLAG strategy.

Priorities addressed under this theme

1. Job Creation	1. Social well-being and cultural heritage	3. Environmental assets	4. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities
5. Adding Value	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Innovation & Diversification	

	Action	Description
4.1	To support networking and co-operation between FLAGs and other relevant stakeholders at a regional, national and international level.	Support networking and co-operation within and between FLAGs and other relevant stakeholders at a regional, national and international level. Encourage forms of collaboration across key parties to implement development initiatives, building relationships where all parties collaborate and work collectively to reach a common goal.
4.2	Encourage knowledge sharing and transfer across FLAG boards and key local and national stakeholder groups.	Support the creation of opportunities for knowledge sharing to support innovations and diversification to develop thriving coastal areas.
4.3	Encourage cooperation between fishers, businesses and other local stakeholders to boost economic opportunity	Support the creation of facilities that could be used on a shared basis by fishery/aquaculture and related businesses.

Key theme 5: Actions to protect and promote the sense of place and culture and the quality, character and distinctiveness of the Irish coastal communities.

Rationale for theme

The FLAG North East area has a strong coastal and maritime history and heritage. This theme aims to support the survival and development of local heritage. Further, given its coastal location, access to services and supports can be underdeveloped leading to social isolation and as such this theme aims to also support improve the quality of life and social wellbeing of coastal residents.

Priorities addressed under this theme

1. Job Creation	1. Social well-being and cultural heritage	3. Environmental assets	4. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities
5. Adding Value	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Innovation & Diversification	

	Action	Description
5.1	Ensuring the survival of coastal heritage.	Support for projects, which aim to promote and sustain the coastal heritage of the region. This could include but isn't limited to; events and exhibitions; the development of heritage centres; research into local history; interpretative signage in relation to points of interest and of coastal heritage trails / coastal walks and actions to promote the heritage of the Irish language.
5.2	Improving access to services in coastal areas.	Support for the development and enhancement of existing coastal community assets. Targeted initiatives to address isolation and supports for accessible coastal activities and community health and well-being projects.

Key theme 6: Actions to support community involvement in the management of Ireland's coastal resource to sustain its physical character and environmental quality.

Rationale for theme

The FLAG North East area offers an array of beaches, scenery and wildlife and as such, improving the natural environment for the local community and visitors is imperative, whilst aiming to protect them for future generations. While main environmental measures are deemed to be the responsibility of other supports including those from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), the support under this objective looks at smaller projects in relation to developing and maintaining the physical character and environmental quality of the coast.

Priorities addressed under this theme

1. Job Creation	1. Social well-being and cultural heritage	3. Environmental assets	4. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities
5. Adding Value	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Innovation & Diversification	

	Action	Description
6.1	Protecting and Enhancing the Marine Environment	Support of, and education about, protection and enhancement of the environment in coastal areas.



4. The Fisheries Local Action Group Rules of Procedure

4. The Fisheries Local Action Group Rules of Procedure

4.1 Organisation Details

Element	Detail
Organisation Details	Fisheries Local Action Group North East
Primary Contact Details	Contact Name: Paul Downes Role: FLAG Coordinator Email: Paul.Downes@bim.ie
Date of FLAG Establishment	
Legal Structure	The Fisheries Local Action Group is the North East Fisheries Local Action Group with Bord Iascaigh Mhara fulfilling the role of Financial Partner and Implementation Partner.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities of the FLAG Board

Unlike the previous strategy, where budget allocations were attributed to each theme, this strategy is designed to be more flexible. This reduces the risk of oversubscription in one area and undersubscription in others. Applications across all themes will be assessed on their merits. The FLAG will support local projects that contribute to the aims and objectives outlined in this Local Development Strategy. Article 33 of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR 2021/1060) outlines the mandatory tasks of a FLAG for the purposes of delivering Union Priority 3. These are:

- building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations;
- drawing up a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and criteria, which avoids conflicts of interest
- and ensures that no single interest group controls selection decisions;
- preparing and publishing calls for proposals;
- selecting operations and fixing the amount of support and presenting the proposals to the body responsible for final verification of eligibility before approval;
- monitoring progress towards the achievement of objectives of the strategy;
- evaluating the implementation of the strategy.

These tasks will be carried out by the FLAG under the administration of BIM, the designated intermediate body for Union Priority 3. Specifically BIM will have overall responsibility for the administration of grant aid, including information and publicity, grant administration, financial management and control, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

BIM will provide administrative and animation support to FLAGs. BIM's specific responsibilities to FLAGs include

- Provision of preparatory support to FLAGs
- Information and publicity
- Assessment of eligibility and appropriate grant aid rate of all projects submitted to FLAGs
- Provision of administrative and animation support for FLAGs

- Verification of beneficiary grant claims
- Ensuring that a clear audit trail exists
- Co-Operation with the Operating Programme level evaluations

FLAGs will be supported at a local level by BIM National Network Officers who will act as secretary to the FLAG and will be responsible for:

- Facilitating LDS revision/development
- Preparing project summaries in advance of project assessment meetings
- Arranging project assessment meetings
- Arranging and developing agendas for project selection and other FLAG Board meetings
- Formalising project selection decisions for approval by BIM
- Drawing up meeting notes, processing meeting expenses and corresponding with BIM and other groups as required on behalf of the FLAG.
- Providing guidance and assistance with the project application process.
- Animation of the FLAG programme in their FLAG region.

It should be noted that while a budget for the period 2024-2029 will be allocated to a successful FLAG to support its LDS, no funds will be handled by the FLAG. It is anticipated that administration and animation costs will be borne by BIM through the provision of staff in support of the FLAG. All other funds will be administered and disbursed centrally by BIM.

4.2.1 FLAG Boards and GDPR

It is essential that members respect the confidential nature of the funding applications. These will contain personal data that is protected under GDPR. BIM will be the Data Controller with regards to the applicant and Grantee's personal data involved in this scheme. FLAG Boards are data processors/handlers and are bound by a Data Sharing Agreement between the FLAG Board and BIM.

Applicant personal data will be processed in accordance with "Data Protection Legislation". Data Protection Legislation shall mean the data protection and information privacy laws of Ireland and the European Union including but not limited to the Data Protection Acts 1988 -2018 and any legislation from time to time which implements or amends the GDPR or Directive 2002/58/EC all as amended or replaced from time to time, and any other legislation, codes of practice, guidance, guidelines and/or opinions regarding data protection produced by the European Data Protection Board and the Data Protection Commission.

Applicant personal data will be processed only to the extent, and in such a manner, as is necessary for the purposes of applying for FLAG funding and any evaluation or legal reporting requirements.

4.2.2 Role of the FLAG Board in funding applications

The FLAG board's role in the funding process is as follows:

	Step	Description	Carried out by...
1	Animation	Animation and public information campaign, targeted within the areas of need as per the LDS	FLAGs
2	Call for proposals	FLAGs will periodically invite applications	FLAGs
3	Application Submitted	Application submitted by the applicant	Applicant
4	Written Acknowledgement	Written acknowledgement of application to the applicant within one week of application	BIM Head Office
5	Completeness Check	Completeness check of the application (including supporting information) carried out	BIM Head Office
6	Eligibility Check	To advise FLAGs on eligibility of applications	FLAG Eligibility Committee (FEC)
7	Environmental Assessment	Consider potential for environmental impacts, and in particular, any potential impact on sites designated under the Natura 2000 framework	Fisheries Evaluation Committee (FEC)
8	Preliminary review	To allow the Board to identify any issues that may need to be brought to the Sub Committee's attention	FLAG Board
9	Evaluation and scoring	To appraise and score applications and provide narrative to the FLAG Board	FLAG Board
10	Project Selection/ Recommendation	To select eligible projects for funding and decide grant amounts and grant rates. To put forward FLAG Board recommendations for funding to BIM	FLAG Board
11	BIM Review	BIM will assess all FLAG board decisions for consistency with findings from the FEC and to reconfirm eligibility and grant rate levels. An application can be referred back to FLAG Board where FLAG Board decisions are at variance with FEC or other eligibility matters.	BIM Head Office
12	Approval - Grant Offer	Approved Applications: BIM will issue letters of offer awarding funding	BIM Head Office
	Rejection	Rejected Applications: BIM will issue letter of rejection	BIM Head Office

It is expected that the process will typically take up to 2 months from application to outcome and all applications will be assessed within 6-8 weeks of the call close date¹¹¹². A decision on an application will be notified no later than 3 months from the receipt date. For unsuccessful applications, an appeal process will be available, the details of which will be laid out in funding application packs.

¹¹ The FLAG Board wishes to see a Service Level Agreement adopted to ensure a speed of response is maintained during the programme.

¹² The FLAG Board is of the opinion that multiannual rolling calls are essential to the success of the FLAG strategy.

4.3 FLAG Membership

The composition of the FLAG board is set out below. Other individuals may be invited by the Chairperson to attend meetings, in relation to specific agenda items for the purpose of providing advice to the FLAG Board.

Member	Pillar
Garret O'Brian	Coastal communities and environmental (PPN)
Tracey Floyd	Seafood Industry (Aquaculture)
Nadia Ferguson	Seafood Industry (Processing)
Johnny Woodlock	Coastal communities and environmental (PPN)
Sadie Ward McDermot	Statutory Bodies (ETB)

Sectoral Representation: The FLAG comprises public and private partners from the defined geographical areas and includes representatives from different sectors of the local economy/community that reflect the main focus of the strategy and the socio-economic composition of the area through a balanced representation of the main stakeholders, including private sector, public sector and civil society (the pillars) and ensure a significant representation of the fisheries and/or aquaculture sectors. In keeping with Article 31 (2) (b) of the Common Provisions Regulation, it is important that no single interest group controls the decision-making¹³.

It is recommended that membership of the FLAG should have a maximum of 40% representation from the Statutory/Public Sector¹⁴ and a minimum of 60% representation from the fishing, seafood, coastal communities sector¹⁵. The balance of organisational representation will be retained throughout the replacement/ rotation process.

The proposed representation of actors in FLAG North East will include participation from a broad range of Fishing and Rural & Community Development sectors to fit all three pillars, Industry, Community, State/Agency's. Consideration will be given to ensure good governance and experience from this representation to help ensure a strong FLAG Board is achieved. Those considerations will include, geographical spread, sector background/interests Fisheries, Aquaculture, Fish Processing, Tourism, Ethnic Diversity, Gender Balance, experience and general funding governance experience. The structure of the FLAG Committee is:

- **Pillar 1 (Public/Fishing)**
- **Pillar 2 (Community)**
- **Pillar 3 (Local Government, Agencies, Others)**

Number of Members: At any given time, it is expected that overall board membership will not be less than ten and not more than seventeen members, but may evolve to ensure that there is appropriate representation from across the programme area. Where a member resigns or is removed from the board, a nomination will be sought from the relevant Pillar. For clarity, where a FLAG board member is nominated as a representative of an organisation, should they cease to represent that organisation, they must resign from the FLAG board and a new nomination will be sought from the nominating body.

Gender Balance: Gender is a horizontal priority in EU Programmes. In line with Government Policy, the gender balance on FLAG boards is to be at least 40% female. During the lifetime of the strategy the FLAG Board will actively try to recruit suitably qualified female volunteers should the gender balance

¹³ ¹³ Article 31 (2) (b) of the CPR 2021/1060: "2. The Member State shall ensure that community-led local development is: (b) led by local action groups composed of representatives of public and private local socioeconomic interests, in which no single interest group controls the decision-making"

¹⁴ These are likely to include Údarás na Gaeltachta, County Councils including LEOs, Education and Training Boards, LEADER LAGs, Fáilte Ireland, and Enterprise Ireland, among others deemed as statutory.

¹⁵ This can include representatives or individuals within the fishery, aquaculture or processing sectors; as well as representatives from the community and voluntary sector

fail to reflect gender balance. To help to achieve this, all nominating bodies (i.e. bodies under each of the membership Pillars) will, in future, be asked to nominate two candidates, one male and one female, to the FLAG for any vacant position; in addition, assistance will be sought from respective Public Participation Networks (PPN) in identifying appropriate female candidates for any relevant vacancy on the FLAG. This commitment to gender balance will also apply to relevant sub-committees. The FLAG board endeavours to reflect the coastal community it represents and will be endeavour to attract members from diverse and minority groups.

Term Limits:

It is recommended that no member of a FLAG Board should serve more than three terms of appointment on that Board. In this context, a full term is regarded as three years¹⁶. If exceptionally it is decided that a Board member should serve an additional Board term, this requires BIM approval. At an Annual General Meeting of FLAG Boards, one third of the members (normally the longest serving) should resign from the Board. These members will be eligible to be re-appointed to the Board with a proposer, seconder and board agreement, subject to term limits.

Declaration of Interests: All FLAG members will, on appointment, declare their employment status, all business interests, community and voluntary involvement which might involve a conflict of interest or might materially influence the FLAG member in relation to the performance of their duties.

Annual Review of Membership: The FLAG shall carry out an annual internal review of the membership to account for any change to FLAG objectives or actions, where this is appropriate e.g. where the strategic need for member organisations has been satisfied or new member organisations are required to meet a specific Local Development Strategy need or member organisations are not attending on a regular basis.'

4.4 FLAG Meetings

FLAG Board Meeting Frequency: The frequency of meetings will be based on the needs of the programme. Times of meetings will be organised with due regard to professional and caring roles of members. The notice given of meetings, and the transmission of the related documents, shall not be less than 10 working days other than in exceptional circumstances.

Quorum: A quorum of one third of the Board members will be required in order for each meeting to proceed. Further, at least one representative from each of the membership pillars is required to be in attendance.

Venue: The venue for meetings will be accessible to all members and may take place in different locations throughout the eligible area. Where necessary, hybrid or online meetings will be facilitated.

Meeting times: Times of meetings will be organised with due regard to professional and caring roles of members.

Confidentiality: In order to promote objectivity and the exchange of frank and impartial views and comments, it is essential that members respect the confidential nature of the FLAG Board Meetings. Accordingly, members must not report the content of any part of an application or report any detailed discussions to a third party. In particular, members must not attribute any discussion, score or comment to an individual member(s) of the FLAG Board. The outcome of the FLAG Board should only be communicated to applicants by BIM.

¹⁶ The Charities Governance Code 2021 notes that 'Standard 5.5 of the Charities Governance Code recommends that charities should consider introducing term limits for all charity trustees, with a suggested maximum of nine years in total. This is a suggestion based on generally accepted standards of good practice.' While FLAGs are not charities, this generally accepted good practice is adopted here.

Minutes of Meetings: A record of the business conducted at FLAG Board meetings will be circulated to members in advance of the following meeting. The Chair will ask for corrections and additions at the next regular meeting, and seeks a proposer, seconder (and a vote if required).

Decision Log: Applications for funding which have passed through the eligibility criteria will be assessed and scored using the following criteria:

- Compatibility with and contribution to the LDS (30%);
- Robustness of proposed project and applicant capacity (30%); and
- Appropriateness of finance, cost effectiveness and value for money (30%).

A further 10% of marks are available for the following different types of application:

- General Applications – Sustainability (10%)
- Festival Applications – Appropriateness of the focus of the festival (5%) and Sustainability (5%)
- Training Applications – Complementarity and outcome of training (5%) and Sustainability (5%).

Scoring is conducted by members of the FLAG Board Technical and Investment Sub-Committee (a sub-committee of the FLAG Board), membership of which may be supplemented by independent expert external evaluators if required. A majority of members must pass a project for it to proceed. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the FLAG Technical and Investment Sub Committee will have a casting vote. Scores and narrative from the sub-committee members will be collated and forwarded to the FLAG Board.

Note: Where a member of the FLAG Board has a personal or professional interest in any project that comes before the Board, that member will take no part in evaluating or approving that project.

Dignity and respect: FLAG members have a right to operate in an environment free from any form of harassment, sexual harassment or bullying and to be treated with dignity and respect. Harassment, sexual harassment and bullying will not be tolerated by the FLAG. If any FLAG member experiences such behaviour, they should refer the matter to the Chair. If unable to refer the matter to the Chair, the matter should be referred to BIM. Complaints will be treated with fairness and sensitivity and in as confidential a manner as is consistent with a fair investigation. However, the complainant cannot be promised anonymity.

Sanctions: The Board may remove any person from any Board sub-committee for any reason, including (but not limited to) bullying, harassment, breaches of confidentiality, non-attendance etc.

When any person has been removed from the Board, the Board will promptly initiate a process to recruit a new Board member.

Board Effectiveness review: Board Effectiveness Reviews can also provide key insights around board functioning and board culture. An effectiveness review will be carried out at the mid-point and end point of the FLAG programme. The review will cover (at a minimum): Board composition, skills and capabilities, roles and responsibilities, processes and board relations.

4.5 Interpretation of the Rules of Procedure

Where clarity on the interpretation of the rules of procedure is required, in the first instance BIM, as the Intermediate Body responsible for administrative and financial matters, shall make a determination as required. Should the issue remain contested BIM shall refer the matter to the Managing Authority for final decision.



5. Appendix

5. Appendix

5.1 5.1 Appendix 1 - EMFAF – Programme for Ireland

Based on the challenges identified for the seafood sector and coastal communities and the policy context, Ireland's Programme states an ambitious vision to:

"To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities"

In order for Ireland to achieve this vision, 4 missions were identified which are intended as a response to medium and long-term structural issues and challenges that have been highlighted in the SWOT but also taking account of potential possibility of crises that may present themselves over the lifetime of the programme.

Mission 1 - A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Seafood Sector

- **1 - Dealing with climate change adaptation and mitigation**
 - This includes supports for advisory services, studies and research to reduce carbon emissions, replacement or modernisation of engines of fishing vessels to increase energy efficiency, data collection, evaluation studies and research to tackle climate actions, knowledge sharing, development of process innovation to support operational optimisation in the processing sector, research to quantify the potential of coastal habitats as carbon sinks and improvements to fishing and aquaculture resilience to climate change. Activity in this area will be carried out in the context of identified complementarities with ERDF Climate Change Investment.
- **2 – Minimising the impact of fishing/aquaculture activities on the marine environments including implementation of NATURA 2000, MPAs, MSFD and WFD.**
 - This will include continued support for the designation and management Natura sites and MPAs, development and use of more selective fishing gear, restoration of habitats and species, appropriate Control and Enforcement, management measures related to Natura/MPA sites, control of invasive marine species, expansion of the Clean Oceans Initiative to address plastic pollution, increased stakeholder awareness of the Natura/MPA network and conservation measures, and improvement of information-sharing across decision-making bodies
- **3 – Managing the fisheries/aquaculture resources in a sustainable manner**
 - The EMFAF will support improvements to gear and processes to reduce by-catch, interference with protected and endangered species and damage to marine habitats and the seabed. Actions in this area will contribute to the implementation of measures of Multi-annual Management Plans adopted under Articles 9 and 10 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. Data analysis and evaluation are core to guiding the policy in these areas and so EMFAF will also support data collection and knowledge generation in respect of protecting our marine resource and its biodiversity.
- **4 – Reduction of waste in the marine environment and promoting the circular economy**
 - The EMFAF programme will support various initiatives aimed at innovating to reduce marine litter and waste through better management of fishing gear and also support initiatives to recover, collect and process marine litter as a resource. In doing so it will create entrepreneurial opportunities within the blue economy and protect the biodiversity within Irish and international waters.

- **5 – Effective Control & Enforcement**
 - The EMFAF programme will help the control authorities to strengthen the control and inspection procedures with actions to: Support control supervised weighing on landing; provide training and investigations software; and support initiatives for electronic capture and recording of suspected infringements.
- **6 – Enhance knowledge and data to deal with climate change and impacts on marine biodiversity**
 - The EMFAF programme will support a fit for purpose data collection programme in line with new EUMAP legislation

Mission 2 - An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Seafood Sector, driven by Technology and Talent

- **1 - Support innovation in all sectors**
 - The EMFAF will provide support to addressing an innovation deficit. Within the fleet, investment will be supported in achieving greater engine efficiency, in gear and technology to minimise fuel use and unwanted catch.
 - Within the aquaculture and processing segments, support to innovation and production efficiency will also aim at increasing organic aquaculture and increasing its competitiveness in relation to imported organic aquaculture products. Capital investment through EMFAF intervention will support greater production efficiency and a lower environmental impact through modernising equipment and processes, new product development and marketing innovations.
 - EMFAF sponsored investment through CLLD will support innovative enterprises in areas such as seafood tech and ancillary services for the seafood sector.
 - EMFAF will support investment in innovative technologies in respect of data collection and analysis, scientific research, and control and enforcement technologies.
- **2 – Promote generational renewal and the health and safety of all seafood sector workers**
 - EMFAF will assist younger fishers in acquiring a vessel. It will support skills development for fishers to ensure they can operate in a viable yet sustainable manner.
 - It will also provide new opportunities in both aquaculture and processing through diversification, increased value-added and market development, generating careers in R&D and innovation, marketing, and food and environmental science.
 - In terms of the blue economy, EMFAF will support entrepreneurial opportunities, enhancing the career prospects within coastal communities.
- **3 – Support small scale coastal fisheries**
 - EMFAF will assist younger generations acquire a vessel, capital investment on board their vessel to enhance fish quality and improve energy efficiency, and training to improve access to markets and promotion of seafood through supporting producer organisations, and ensure sustainability of the sector through management of stocks, gathering and assessment of data and investment of control and enforcement.
 - It will also assist fishers in reducing their environmental impact through investment in vessels to reduce carbon footprint, working in partnership with scientists to assess the economic and biological impacts of changes to fisheries, working in partnership with agencies to develop and adopt more selective fishing gear and developing skills and practices to protect our shared coastal resources.
- **4 – Support sustainable economic development and resiliency in all seafood sectors**
 - Capital investment, training and innovation within the processing and aquaculture (including organic aquaculture) spheres will allow operators to do more with less, increase the value of their outputs, diversify and reach new markets, thereby increasing profitability and increasing prices on the quay side and increasing their competitiveness.
- **5 – Promote knowledge transfer and the development of lifelong skills (including digital literacy in all sectors)**

- There is a need to develop newer, younger fishers and at the same time up-skill existing fishers to embrace new technologies and new practices. The EMFAF programme will facilitate training, industry collaboration and collaboration with public bodies to ensure seafood enterprises and their work forces have the knowledge and expertise to grow in an innovative and sustainable manner.

Mission 3 - Vibrant and sustainable coastal communities driven to implement creative community-based strategies to enhance economic opportunity and ensure a dynamic framework for quality growth and development

- **1 – Support the Community Led Local Development approach to economic development in coastal communities by building capacity and developing greater co-operation between all relevant stakeholders in coastal communities**
 - The EMFAF programme will provide supports to FLAGs to implement their local development strategy. The EMFAF will also provide supports like training, animation, capacity building where required to ensure that FLAGs can implement their LDS in an effective manner.
- **2 – Support diversification into areas such as tourism and the blue economy within coastal communities.**
 - The EMFAF with its limited amount of funding cannot address all sectors of the blue economy but what it can do is support fisheries and aquaculture communities to expand their activities into other areas of the blue economy. As part of the CLLD approach coastal communities can take account of the blue economy in the LDS and where required provide supports to community members to diversify into other areas.

Mission 4 – Ensure effective management and implementation of the EMFAF programme

This mission is framed to ensure support is provided to ensure that the EMFAF programme has an effective management and control system in place to allow for the effective implementation and management of the EMFAF programme over its lifetime.

5.2 Appendix 2 – Review of FLAG 2016-2022 Scheme

An electronic survey was undertaken up to April 2021, designed to assess the impact of funding distributed by the FLAG 2016-2021 scheme. The survey was distributed via email, directly to the promoters of 682 FLAG funded projects. Some 409 responses were received giving an overall response rate of 60%.

The data required were decided upon at the beginning of the programme and adopted by the FLAGs, the Implementing Body and the Managing authority at that point. These data were quantitative in nature, however, the use of the electronic platform allowed for the collection of some qualitative responses also.

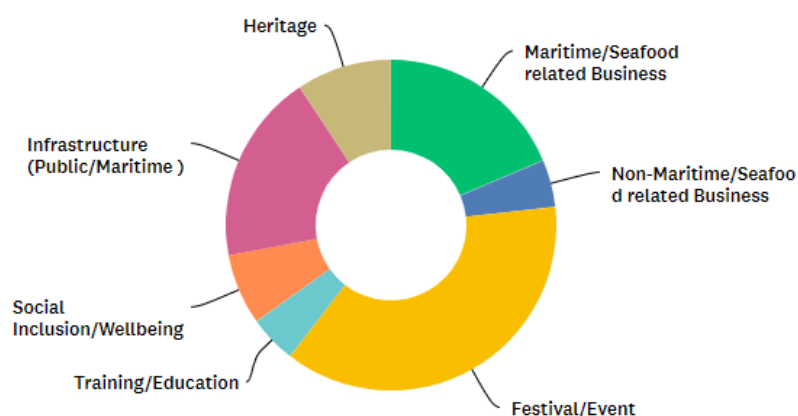
Some items to note when reading these results

- i. The target audience for this survey are those FLAG Applicants who have completed their project, or those who have completed a project phase, and have drawn down their approved grant
- ii. The response rate to this survey is high but not 100%, therefore the figures provided for Jobs created/maintained etc. are likely to be lower than the numbers actually achieved.

The results of the scheme for FLAG North East are highlighted below.

FLAG North East Results 2016-2021 Operational Programme under the EMFF:

- **Current Spend:** €1,568,522.36
- **Response rate:** Surveys sent 61, responses 43, response rate 70%
- **Project Type Breakdown:**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Maritime/Seafood related Business	18.60%	8
▼ Non-Maritime/Seafood related Business	4.65%	2
▼ Festival/Event	37.21%	16
▼ Training/Education	4.65%	2
▼ Social Inclusion/Wellbeing	6.98%	3
▼ Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness	0.00%	0
▼ Infrastructure (Public/Maritime)	18.60%	8
▼ Heritage	9.30%	4
TOTAL		43

Enterprise Projects

- 8 Maritime or Seafood enterprises and 2 Non-Maritime/Seafood enterprises received support from FLAG Northeast.
- These enterprises report the creation of 39 new FTE jobs as a result of the funded projects, with 29 existing jobs being maintained
- FLAG Funding resulted in the development of new products for 4 of these enterprises
- 8 enterprises report access to new markets due to FLAG funding

Festivals

- 16 Festivals received funding
- FLAG Funding resulted in an additional 89,080 visitors to these events

- According to Fáilte Ireland, the average spent by overnight trip visitors is €72 per day with an economic multiplier effect of 1.5. This gives a potential economic benefit from these visitors to the Northeast region of €9,620,640
(it should be noted that FLAGNE does not have a cap on festival applications and can support events at a higher level than other FLAG regions)

Training & Education

- 2 projects received funding for Training/Education
- All were group training projects
- Funded training resulting in at least 64 individuals receiving Accredited Training

Social Inclusion/Wellbeing

- 3 projects funded
- Search & Recovery vessel
- Search & Rescue Vessel

Infrastructure

- 8 projects funded
- Boats & Trailer & Specialist Equipment
- Village/Town Enhancement (Flower planters etc.)
- Boathouse for a coastal rowing club
- Refurbishment of Beach Toilets
- Provision of services for 4 Fingal County Council harbour
- Creation of a Seafood trail for Co. Louth

Heritage

- 4 Heritage Projects supported
- Recording of oral testimony, local histories and lived experience of the fishing community in Clogherhead, Termonfeckin and surrounding townlands
- Feasibility study to explore viable options for Martello Tower to operate as a tourist attraction.
- Touch screens developed for Maritime Museum as educational tools for heritage projects and to display archived materials to the public

5.3 Appendix 3 – Projects Supported by North East FLAG 2016-2022

Ref	Applicant	Project Title	Grant Aid
201NE.4	Boyne Fishermans Rescue & Recovery Service	BFRRS 2020 Upgrade Project	€70,421.38
201NE.14	Skerries Rowing Club	Design Team Fees for Skerries Rowing Club Boathouse	€18,991.36
201NE.15	Irish Underwater Search & Recovery Unit	Purchase of new Rigid inflatable Boat.	€55,373.26
201NE.16	Dalkey Tidy Towns	Essential Project Equipment / Dalkey Tidy Towns	€5,605.62
191NE.14	Malahide Sea Scouts (9th Port of Dublin)	Training	€1,344.00
191NE.28	Irish Seal Sanctuary	Biodiversity Schools Educational Walks	€3,840.00
191NE.4	Irish Youth Sailing Club	Sailing Fleet Replacement Project	€5,640.00
191NE.7	8ú Calafort Gasóga Mara	Replacement of Support Craft and National Powerboat Certificate training for 15 adult scooters	€12,761.00
191NE.18	Cooley Community Alert	Cooley Peninsula Marine Litter Project	€7,039.20
191NE.20	Rush Tourism	Rush in Bloom	€10,364.00
181NE.16	Clogherhead Development Group	Upgrade of toilet facilities at Little Strand Beach in Clogherhead	€10,623.60
181NE.22	The Irish Seal Sanctuary Company Limited by Guarantee	Biodiversity Schools Educational Walks	€4,000.00
181NE.9	Skerries Rowing Club	Feasibility Study	€5,315.10
171NE.23	Clogherhead Development Group	Improving Waste Efficiency in the Community	€11,756.83
181NE.4	National Maritime Museum	Expanding touch screen capabilities for the Museum	€3,000.89
181NE.7	Howth Scout Group	Kayak Instructor Training Programme	€1,044.00
181NE.8	Howth Scout Group	Kayak and Sailing Equipment Programme	€28,454.41
181NE.13	Discover Dalkey Promotions Limited	Dalkey Town Marketing Plan	€6,252.48
181NE.16	Clogherhead Development Group	Upgrade of toilet facilities at Little Strand Beach in Clogherhead	€10,623.60
181NE.21	Clean Coasts Donabate Portrane	Logistics support for clean ups in Donabate and Portrane beaches	€5,600.00
181NE.24	Upstate Theatre Project	Waterways is developing a project focussed on working with coastal communities to develop responses to their lived cultural experiences	€6,081.66
181NE.26	Mail boat Leinster Centenary Committee	Commemoration events	€27,531.20
171NE.6	National Maritime Museum of Ireland	Developing touch screen capacity	€6,349.70
171NE.7	Friends of Howth Maritime Museum	Howth Maritime Experience	€6,000.00
191NE.27	Discover Dalkey Promotion Vinyl	The Dun Laoghaire Vinyl Festival	€8,880.75
191NE.16	Skerries Tourism Limited	Skerries Mid Summer Festival	€22,074.77
201NE.38	Individual Applicant	National Sandcastle, Sand Sculpture and Beach Cricket Competition	€6,460.13
191NE.35	Volleyball Ireland	Beach Volleyball Festival Inspiring the Future	€24,470.84
191NE.38	The Sandycove & Glashule Traders Association	Bloomsday Street Festival - A Celebration of Ulysses and our Coastal Waters	€20,208.93

191NE.3 7	Dalkey Book Festival	Filming of Dalkey Book Festival	€6,012.80
191NE.3 6	Dalkey Book Festival	Dalkey Book Festival	€15,421.34
191NE.6	Skerries Rowing Club	Skerries Rowing Regatta 2019	€1,958.28
191NE.1	Donabate Portrane Summer Festival	Festival	€24,225.99
191NE.1 3	Rush Tourism	Rush Air Display 2019	€40,358.77
191NE.3 0	Fingal Tourism Festival	The Dublin Bay Prawn Festival rebranding	€8,860.46
191NE.2 6	Discover Dalkey Promotion Lobster	Dalkey Lobster Festival	€55,000.00
191NE.2 7	Discover Dalkey Promotion Vinyl	The Dun Laoghaire Vinyl Festival	€5,304.80
191NE.2 5	Discover Dalkey Promotions	Dalkey Village Festival	€10,454.06
191NE.2 3	Pure Magic	Battle for the Lake Watersports and Music Festival	€15,570.27
191NE.3 1	Dalkey Irish Heritage Town Co T/A Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre	ECHOES Maeve Binchy and Irish Writers	€26,834.79
191NE.3 3	Meath East Sandcastles	National Sandcastle, Sand Sculpture and Beach Cricket Competition	€3,632.12
181NE.1 7	Clogherhead Development Group	Clogherhead Seaside 10K	€4,079.70
181NE.2	Redfish Events	Seafood Rocks Festival	€40,892.29
181NE.1 0	Skerries Rowing Club	Regatta	€3,203.70
181NE.1 4	Discover Dalkey Promotions Limited (Festival)	Dalkey Lobster Festival	€58,774.05
181NE.2 0	National Sandcastle & Sculptural Competition/Beach Cricket	National Sandcastle & Sculptural Competition/Beach Cricket	€1,494.54
171NE.4	Red Fish Event	Summer Fair	€13,889.34
171NE.8	Irish Power Kite & Sandyacht Association	Festival	€5,033.60
171NE.9	National Sand Sculpture & Sandcastle	Festival	€272.11
171NE.2. 1	Discover Dalkey Promotions Ltd	Dalkey Lobster & Jazz Festival (From Pot to Plate)	€6,628.40
201NE.6 3	Irish Commercial Charter Boats	Purchase of new workboat	€30,000.00
181NE.3	Redfish Events	The Smugglers Rest	€3,834.48
191NE.2 1	Oriel Sea Salt Co Ltd A	Project A: Upgrade and increased output of plant equipment	€18,212.84
191NE.2 1	Oriel Sea Salt Co Ltd A	Project A: Upgrade and increased output of plant equipment	€5,009.48
181NE.3	Redfish Events	The Smugglers Rest	€96,165.52
171NE.3	Lambay Estate Company	Lambay Island Water Infrastructure	€49,882.66
171NE.1 0	Fingal Adventure Centre Rush	Adventure Centre North Beach Rush	€4,685.11
171NE.1 1	Dorans Seafood	Feasibility Plan	€2,425.00
191NE.2 4	Humble Pilgrim Ltd	Shanes Howth Bikes	€9,301.80
191NE.1 1	Irish Sailing	Team Racing Development Program	€10,725.30
191NE.1 1	Irish Sailing	Team Racing Development Program	€33,821.13

191NE.3 9	Sutton Dinghy Club	Sutton Dinghy Club Engine Replacement	€3,750.00
181NE.2 3	Food Educators	Boyne Valley Coastal Tours	€2,775.00
171NE.2	Food Educators	Ancient East Coastal Tours	€878.30
201NE.4 0	Louth County Council	Phase 2 - Sea Louth Scenic Seafood Trail	€29,982.44
201NE.5 5	Fingal County Council	Fingal Operational and Technical Harbour Marine Supports Pilot Project	€28,539.23
191NE.1 0	Fingal County Council	Refurbishment of Howth Court House as publicly accessible tourist office and Community Space	€12,062.34
191NE.1 9	Louth County Council	Louth Seafood Trail (working title)	€44,992.80
191NE.1 9	Louth County Council	Louth Seafood Trail (working title)	€29,457.40
191NE.1 7	Fingal County Council	Feasibility Study - Red Island Martello Tower, Skerries	€19,200.00
181NE.5	Fingal County Council	Feasibility Study	€16,321.80
191NE.4 1	Cooley Oysters Limited	Asian Market Development Programme	€5,000.00
191NE.3	Cooley Oysters Limited	Finalising the Asian Market Development Project (Equipment)	€21,201.60
191NE.3 4	Carlingford Oysters Company	Building works provision of a cold store	€100,000.00
191NE.3	Cooley Oysters Limited	Finalising the Asian Market Development Project (Equipment)	€23,942.22
191NE.4 1	Cooley Oysters Limited	Asian Market Development Programme	€42,475.00
181NE.1 1	Cooley Oyster Limited	Equipment	€35,147.50
181NE.1 8	Simon Gell t/a Simon's	New Packaging Equipment	€9,217.89
171NE.5	Egan's Ocean Fresh	Dublin Fish Market	€64,363.07
171NE.1 3	Fisherman's Catch	Expansion of capacity at Fishermans Catch	€7,875.00
171NE.2. 2	Dorans Seafood	Expansion of Dorans	€58,276.81

