

FLAG NORTH WEST

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
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Ireland's
Seafood
Development
Agency

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1. Overview of FLAG

1. Overview of FLAG

1.1 Introduction to FLAG North West

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



Source: RSM

The FLAG North West area comprises the coastal zone of County Mayo, County Sligo and County Leitrim, as highlighted by the map in Figure 1 above. A total of 63 District Electoral Divisions, which typically lie within 10km of the coastal strip, have been analysed to provide a snapshot of the nature of the region.

In 2022, the FLAG North West area had a total population of 70,338, which encompassed 29% of the populations living across the three counties; Sligo, Mayo and Leitrim. The largest electoral division in the FLAG region is Sligo West, with a population of 7,788 in 2022. In accumulation, the counties of Sligo, Mayo and Leitrim had an overall population of 243,367 in 2022, having grown by 6.7% overall since the previous Census in 2016 and by 7.1%, 5.7% and 9.8%, respectively.

It is estimated that 4.2% of all coastal employment in FLAG North West was in direct seafood employment, with a further 7.3% being in downstream seafood employment. In particular, the aquaculture industry employed 222 persons in FLAG North West, in 2021, accounting for 11% of the total number employed in the industry, across all of the coastal regions.

Employment in aquaculture is mainly full time while fishing is predominantly seasonal (April to end of October) and part-time due to its location and weather influencing the number of days at sea.

Salmon farming is significant in the North West region, producing the second highest output (7,717 tonnes) across the FLAG regions on the western seaboard. Oyster farming is also a large component of the aquaculture industry in FLAG North West and is located in in Clew Bay, Achill and Killala Bay, producing a volume of 1,777 tonnes valued at €6,568 in 2022. There is some clam cultivation in Sligo and mussel culture in Clew Bay. Aquaculture sales in the North West region generated €37.7 million in 2021, accounting for 21% of the sales value across the seven coastal regions. In 2022, 2,777

landings¹ were recorded in ports located in FLAG North West, bringing in a total of 1,196 tonnes valued at €6.4 million.

There were 9 seafood processing companies recorded in the three North West counties (Sligo, Mayo and Leitrim) who had 322 employees in 2022. In comparison to the other six regions, each of these industries have proven to be large employers in proportion to the number of companies in the area.

The mainstay of the population is part time agriculture and fishing with involvement in tourism. Fishing and tourism activities are prominent within the coastal towns of Westport, Ballina and Sligo whilst areas such as Achill Island, Erris, Mullaghmore, Enniscrone and Louisburgh have a shorter tourism season, driven by holiday and rental homes in the areas.

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 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 EMFAF² 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

¹ 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.

² European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund Programme for Ireland (EMFAF Seafood Development Programme) 2021-2027

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"

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 scheme (CLLD). 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 (LDS) 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”

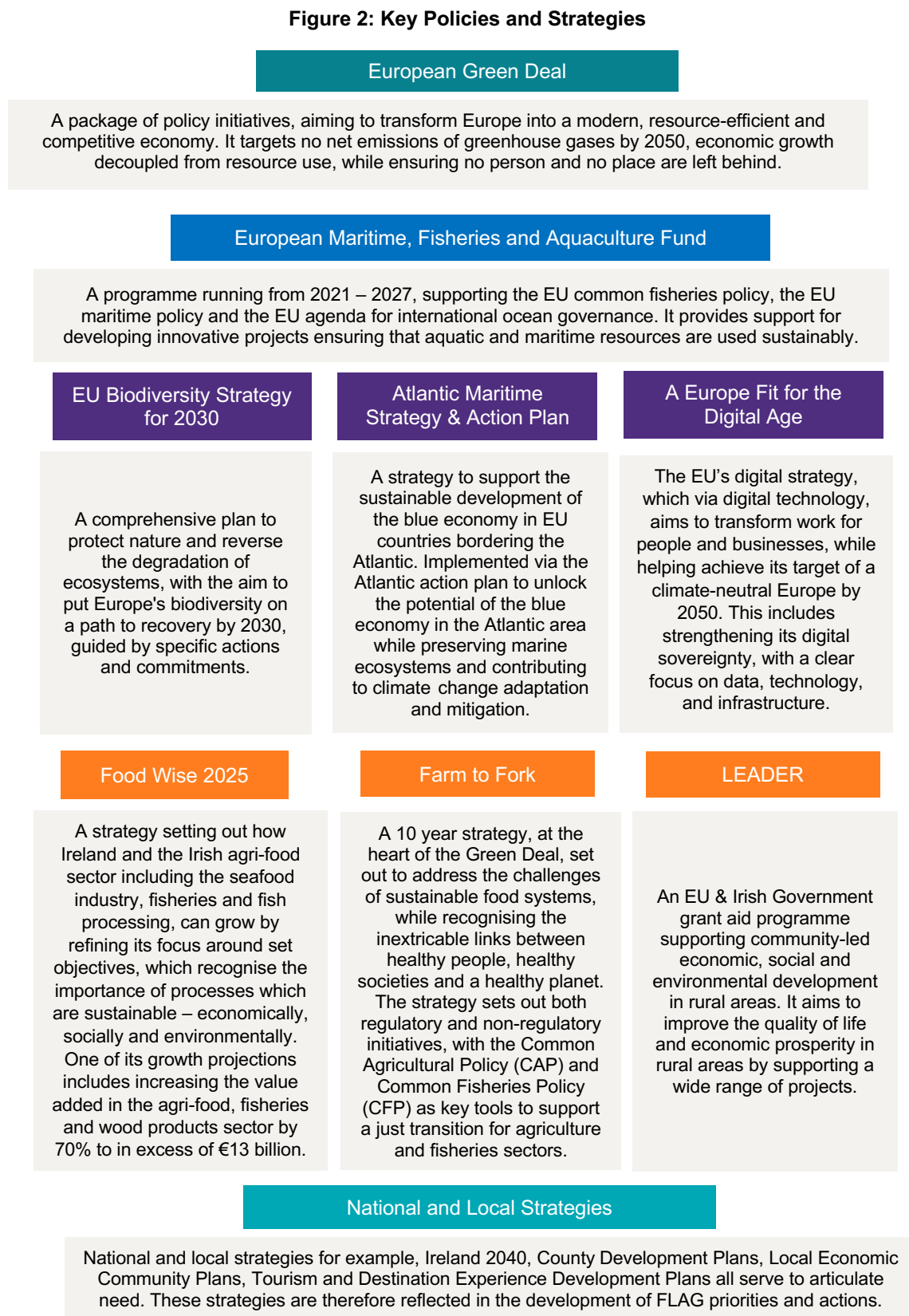
The key themes to deliver this Priority are:

- 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 West 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.

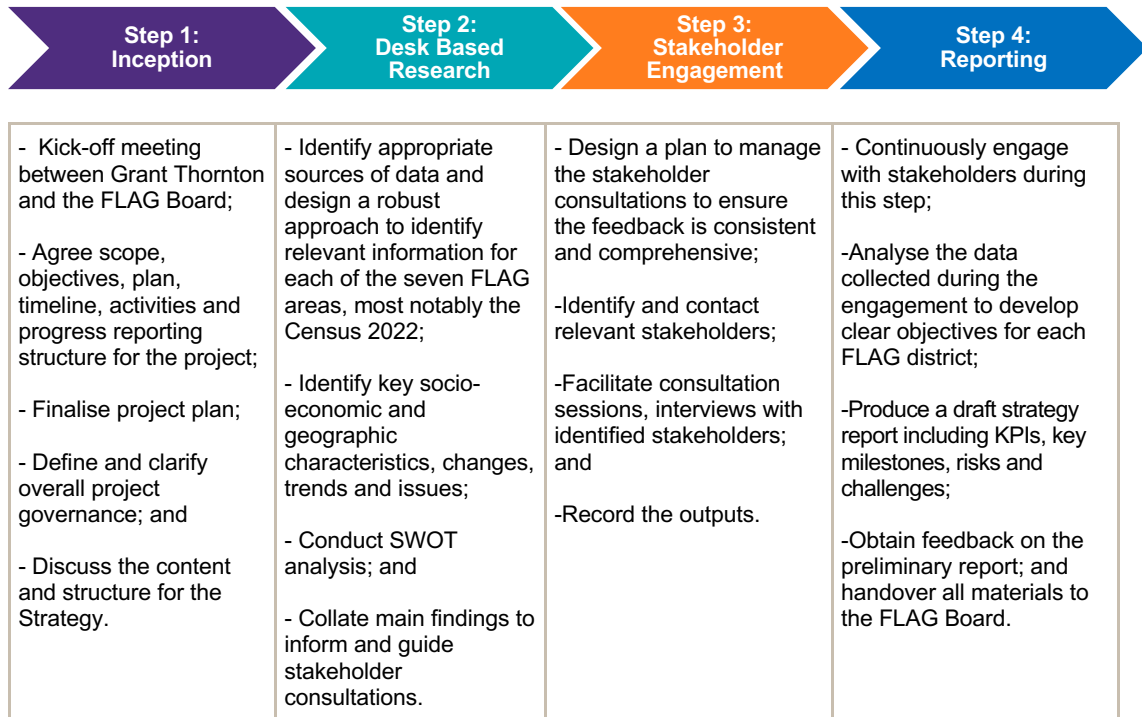
The Commission is determined to make this Europe's "Digital Decade"¹ and recognises that Europe needs to strengthen its digital sovereignty and set standards, rather than following those of others – with a clear focus on data, technology, and infrastructure. All EU funding programmes will reflect this 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**³. The methodology is outline below in Figure 3.

³ 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

2. Analysis of the Development Needs

2.1 Introduction

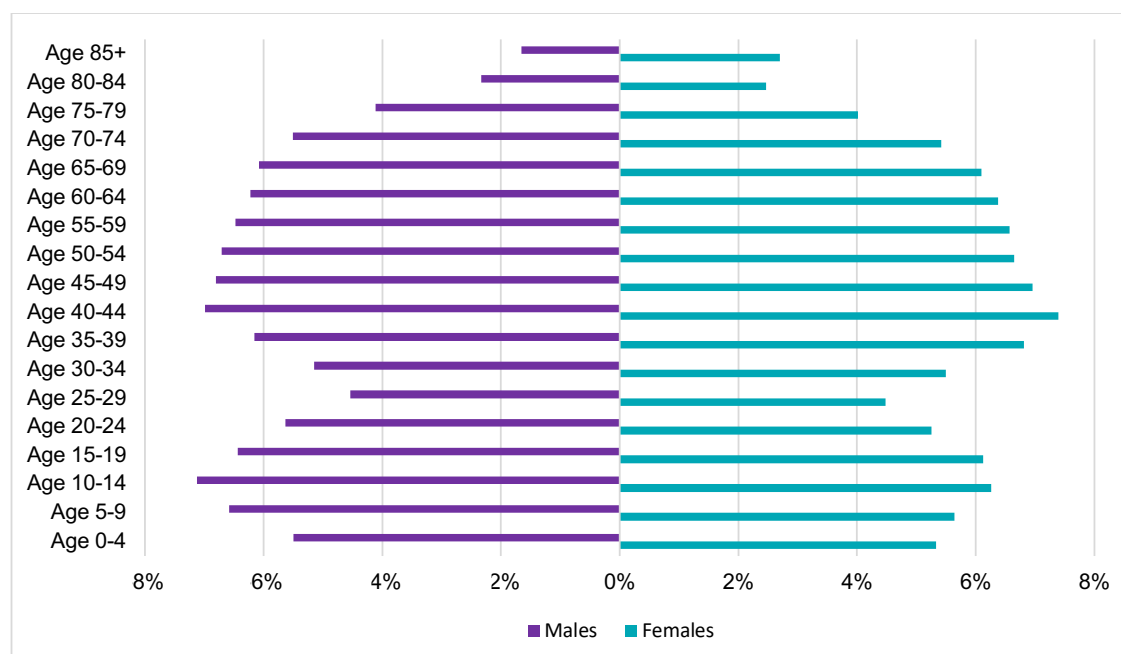
The following sections provide analysis of the development needs of the FLAG area through both qualitative and quantitative data. It has been developed through a combination of desk-based research, survey results and consultation findings.

2.2 Socio-Economic Profile

Population

- The counties of Sligo, Mayo and Leitrim had an overall population of 243,367 in 2022, reaching 70,198 in County Sligo, 137,970 in County Mayo and 35,199 in County Leitrim.
- Within the FLAG North West area, the population has increased to 70,338, following a similar pattern to that of the counties, having grown by 6.4% since 2016. The area accounts for 1.4% of Ireland's population.
- In 2022, 29% of the population of these 3 counties lived within the FLAG North West area, of which 1.1% were from an Electoral Division in County Leitrim, 54.5% from County Sligo and 44.4% from County Mayo.

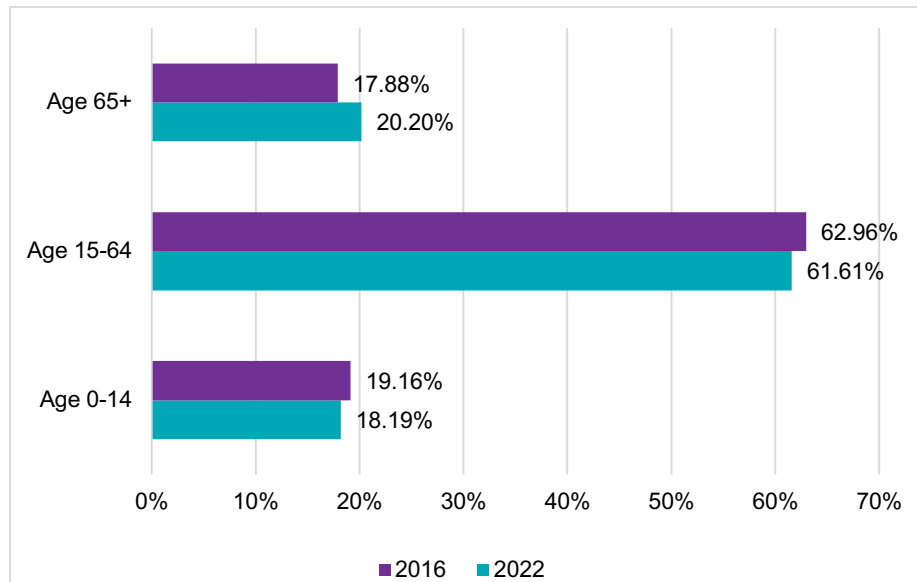
Figure 4: Percentage of Population by Age and Sex in FLAG North, 2022



Source: CSO

- The FLAG North West area has an almost equal gender split, with 48.8% of males and 51.2% of females residing in the area.

Figure 5: Age Profile, 2022

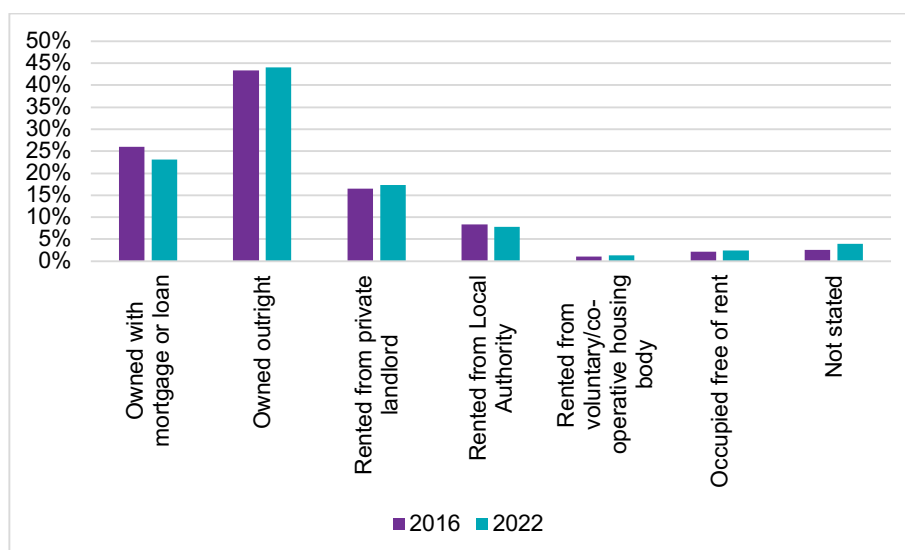


Source: CSO

- There is an older population in FLAG North West area, with 20.2% of the population aged 65 or over, compared with the other FLAGs and the Irish average of 14.3%. In 2016 17.9% of the FLAG North West area was aged 65 or over highlighting the increasing ageing population in the region.
- Some 18.2% of people in FLAG North West area were born outside of Ireland, compared to 17% in 2016. Of this, 9.2% were born in the UK and 6.6% were born in the EU and Rest of the World.
- Of the total population of the area, 16,267 (23.1%) people had a disability of any kind. This compares with 21.5% nationally.
- There is a strong sense of cultural awareness with 42.7% of the population able to speak Irish in 2022, 1% lower than its 2016 proportion.

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 67.1%, compared to 69.4% in 2016. This was potentially a result of rising house prices and supply/demand imbalance seen across Ireland.
- In contrast, the number of households rented from a private landlord or rented from local authority increased by 12.8% and 0.2% respectively since 2016.
- Some 44% of the population having owned their house outright in 2022, compared to 43.3% in 2016.
- In the Flag North West area 74% of permanent dwellings were occupied according to the 2022 Census compared to 70.8% in 2016.
- 14% of properties in the FLAG North West region are holiday homes, which are unoccupied for a larger portion of the year. This is significantly higher than the national average of 3.2%.
- The number of vacant dwellings has decreased from 13.8% in 2016 to 10.7% in 2022, however it is still higher than the national average of 7.7%.
- One person households accounted for the largest proportion of households (28.8%) in the FLAG North West area, followed by households with a married couple and children (25.9%).

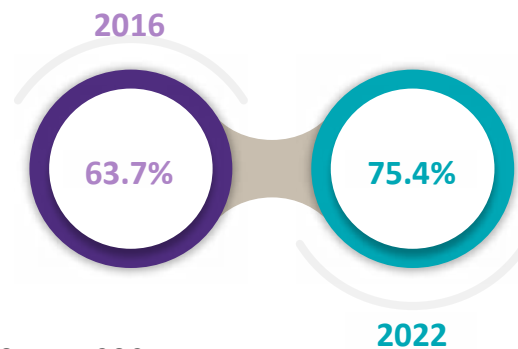
Figure 7: Map of Deprivation Index by Electoral Division, 2022



Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2022

- Of the 63 electoral districts analysed, 61.9% were classed as having “varying levels of deprivation” and 38.1% were classed as having “various levels of affluence”.⁴
- The ED coastal areas tend to have higher levels of deprivation as shown in figure 7.

Figure 8: Broadband Internet



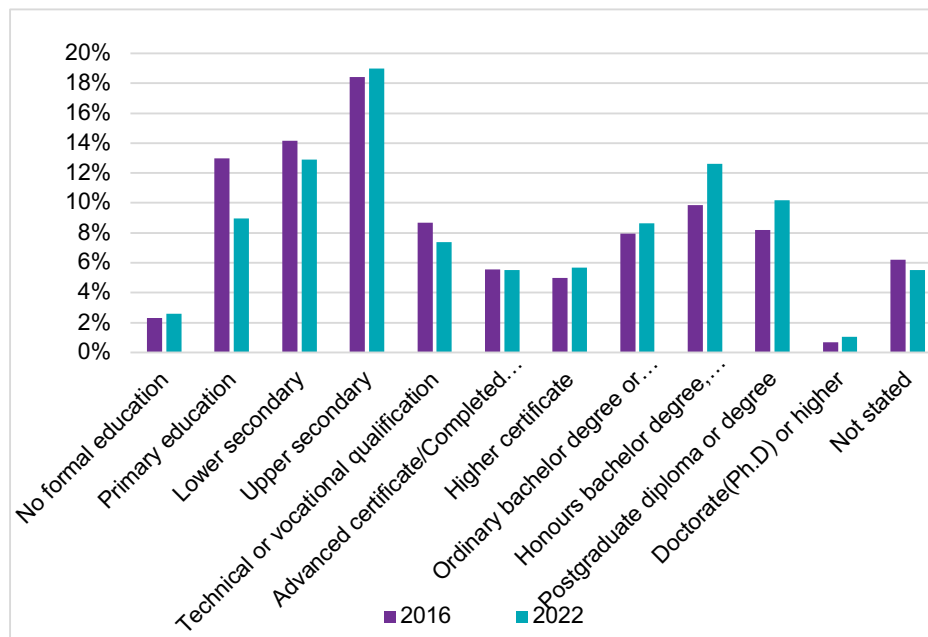
Source: CSO

- The number of households with access to broadband internet has increased 27% since 2016.
- In 2016, 63.7% of households had access to broadband internet, with this figure growing to 75.4% in 2022.

⁴ 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.

Labour market

Figure 9: Level of Education as a Percentage of Total Persons Educated, 2016-2022



Source: CSO

- The level of education attainment in the FLAG North West area has been improving over recent years, with 48,132 persons having completed their education in 2022.
- Almost a third (32.5) of people were educated to degree level or higher in 2022, compared to 26.7% in 2016.
- Those with an honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by 37.2%, 33.4% and 66.2% respectively from 2016.
- Of those educated, 9% were educated to primary level only, compared to 13% in 2016.
- The number of people educated to ordinary degree level increased by 16.5% from 2016.
- Those with no formal education remained at 2.6% in 2022.

Figure 10: Socio-Economic Groups by Percentage of Total, 2022



Source: CSO

- Managerial and Technical Workers (30%) accounted for the largest proportion of the workforce in the FLAG North West area, in 2022, having increased by 18.8% since 2016 from 17,605 workers to 20,918.
- The proportion of the population (aged 15 and over) at work has increased from 48.2% in 2016 to 51.8% in 2022, however it remains below the national average of 56.1%.
- The unemployment rate has declined from 14.5% in 2016 to 8.5% in 2022, only slightly above the national average of 8.3%.
- In 2022 male unemployment stood at 9.7%, with female unemployment lower at 7.2%.
- The proportion of those retired has increased from 19.7% of the population in 2016 to 21.4% in 2022.
- The proportion of the FLAG North West population (4.7%) who are unable to work due to health problems, almost equals that of the national average (4.6%).
- With a quarter of persons at work employed in professional services, those who are employed in the Commerce and Trade industry account for the second largest proportion of workers (18%) in the FLAG North West area.
- This is followed by 14% of persons at work in the manufacturing industry, the third largest proportion of workers in the FLAG North West region.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry employed 5% of persons at work in 2022.
- An estimated 4.2% of all coastal employment in FLAG North West was in direct seafood employment, with a further 7.3% being in downstream seafood employment.

FLAG North West Seafood Economy

- In the North West area in 2022, the number of landings⁵ recorded was 2,777, bringing a total of 1,196 tonnes at a value of €6.4 million.

⁵ 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.

- A total of 241 vessels were registered in the area in 2022 compared to 219⁶ in 2016.
- The region had 9 seafood processing companies in 2022 that employed 322 people.

Aquaculture

- The North West area generated €37.7 million of aquaculture sales in 2021, accounting for 21% of the sales value generated across the seven coastal regions.
- The value of Aquaculture in FLAG North West area was €21m in 2016.
- The area generated output of 6,214 tonnes, 15% of the coastal regions output.
- In 2021, the North West employed 222 persons in aquaculture, 11% of the total employed across the coastal regions.
- The area had 41 total production units for aquaculture in 2021.

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.

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.

⁶ Based on BIM FLAG North West Local Development Strategy 2016

- 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 North West FLAG area there is a significant reliance on inshore fishing as there is no National Fisheries harbour. These inshore fishing boats are deemed to be at higher risk of decline as they typically comprise an owner plus 2 crew. The larger vessels, with crews of 10/12 are better able to recruit from a pool of foreign nationals.
- 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	70,338 Total population: +6.4% from 2016	20.2% Aged 65 and over compared to 14.3% nationally	 18.2% of residents born outside of Ireland
	Housing	67.1% Private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan	 14% of properties were holiday homes.	74% Permanent dwellings were occupied compared to 70.8% in 2016
	Education	 26.6% of residents aged 15+ educated to degree level or higher	Residents holding honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by 37.2% , 33.4% and 66.2% respectively	2.6% of residents have no formal education
	Labour Market	45.7% residents in employment compared to 42.4% in 2016	 Unemployment rate has fallen from 14.5% in 2016 to 8.5% in 2022.	21.4% of the population were retired compared to 19.7% in 2016
	Economy	5% of labour force employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry	 18% employed in the commerce and trade industry.	 Estimated 4.2% of all coastal employment was in direct seafood employment
	Society	 Of the 63 electoral districts analysed, 61.9% were classed as having "varying levels of deprivation"	 75.4% of households have access to broadband compared to 63.7% in 2016	28.8% One person households
	Marine and Seafood Sector	 241 vessels registered in the area	 1,196 tonnes of seafood at a value of €6.4 million	 2,777 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 area community in Counties Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim 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 trade publications including the Connaught Telegraph, Mayo News, Marine Times and The Skipper. FLAG Board members also undertook to share meeting details among their networks.

Public Meetings	
Number of Events	Five
Location of Events	Westport, Sligo, Belmullet and two online consultations.
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	Westport and Castlebar.

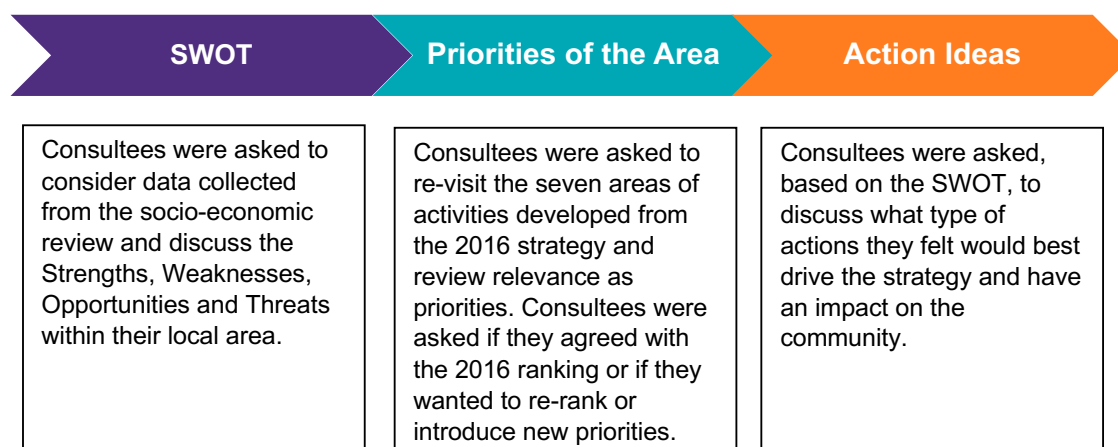
A bespoke email inbox was set up to receive input from interested parties. This FLAG.Strategies@ie.gt.com inbox was communicated at all meetings and across all advertising and attracted 30 responses or inputs from various interested parties.

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 66 participants.

The engagement had 3 main components consisting of a SWOT, ranking of priorities⁷ and action ideas as shown in figure 10 below.

⁷ 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.

Figure 10: Methodology of Consultation



2.5 Feedback from Consultation

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 West 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 42.7% of the population able to speak Irish. - Strong maritime and boating culture and heritage. - Almost a third (32.5%) of people were educated to degree level or higher in 2022, compared to 26.7% in 2016. - Strong skills in fishing and aquaculture, with many lifelong skills embedded within the local community. - Well-established research community within the area, including the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (Castlebar), and IT Sligo. - The area is highly regarded for its fishing catch, crab and lobster, high quality farmed salmon, oyster and mussel products on the national and international level. - Strong tourism offering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An ageing population, with 20.2% of persons aged 65 and over, compared to 14% nationally. - 14% of properties are holiday homes and generally unoccupied for large portions of the year. - Proportion of those retired increased from 19.7% of the population in 2016 to 21.4% in 2022. - A quarter of households are still without access to broadband internet. - Lack of knowledge and interest from young people in the area in the marine sector. - Incomes can be susceptible to seasonality, with strong summer months for tourism and fishing and aquaculture and poor winter months. - Many of the harbours and piers are considered not suitable for either multi-purpose usage, or lack suitable health and safety requirements or facilities and amenities.

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant tourism opportunities to utilise the scenic landscape including water sports and initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way route. - Seafood tourism opportunities to build on the area's tourism & fishing strengths, including the expansion of festivals, catch and cook experiences and direct selling of catches on piers. - Additional seafood offerings in restaurants in association with upskilling chefs to include more seafood presents an opportunity to link local produce to the area. - The fishing industry in the area is substantial and provides significant employment opportunities, boasting strong infrastructure to support the industry. - Upskilling and reskilling to encourage young people to stay in the area and encourage diversification and innovation. - Development of historical and physical assets and knowledge sharing could provide an enhanced sense of activity and offer further tourism and heritage succession opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proportion of persons aged 0-14 declined to 18.2% in 2022, combined with an ageing population could indicate potential future strain on resources. - Limited opportunities to encourage young people to stay in the area and attract them to employment opportunities in the marine sector. - Some small harbours are falling into disrepair, resulting in permanent loss or increasing repair bills. - Lack of knowledge transfer to ensure the legacy of the area. - Health and safety regulations if not implemented could negatively affect the sector. - Environmental threats including global warming, pollution and coastal erosion threaten the physical infrastructure and coastal way of life. - Reduced access to quota, stock decline, competition from other sectors such as ORE, potential MPAs restricting access to fishing grounds and regulatory impediments to fishing vessels diversifying outside fishing.

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
Creating/ maintaining jobs in coastal areas.	1	1
Promoting the environmental assets of the fisheries and aquaculture areas and mitigation of climate change.	2	7
Strengthening the role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in local development.	3	6
Adding value to fishery and aquaculture products.	4	3
Promoting innovation in fisheries & aquaculture and supporting diversification inside & outside commercial fisheries	5	4
Lifelong learning and attracting young people in fisheries and aquaculture areas.	6	2
Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas	7	5

Table 3 highlights that creating/ maintaining jobs in coastal areas was the top priority for the FLAG North West area. Promoting the environmental assets of the fisheries and aquaculture areas and

mitigation of climate change ranked second, followed by strengthening the role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in local development.

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 West 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.



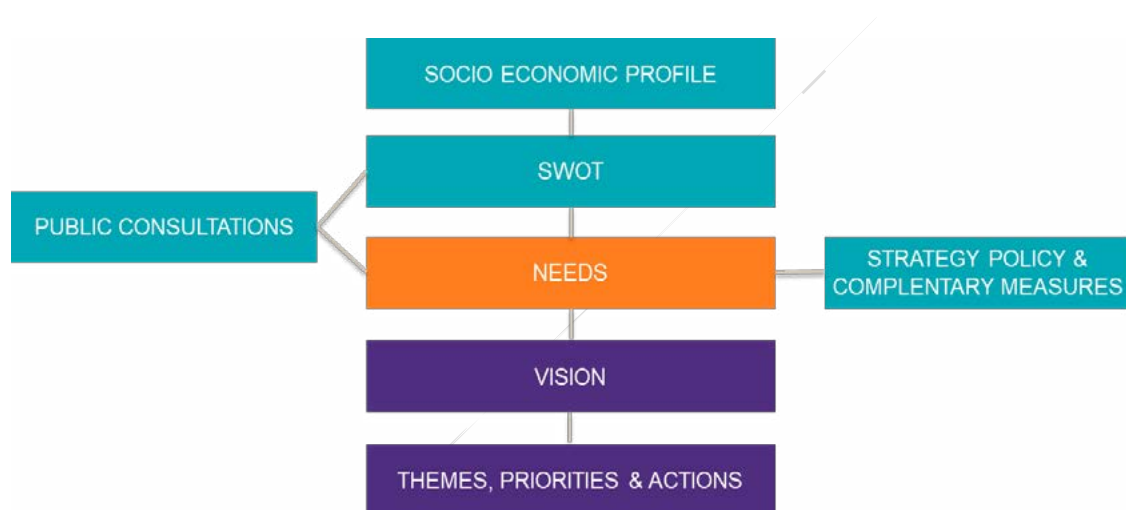
3. Strategy and Objectives

3. Strategy and Objectives

3.1 Introduction

The FLAG North West strategy comprises the Vision and an integrated framework of 6 themes, 7 priorities and 23 actions.

The Intervention Logic has been arrived at as follows:



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

“The FLAG North West area will have a resilient and growing fishery and aquaculture dependent communities with strong sense of area’s rich maritime, culture and heritage.”

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.	Creating and maintaining jobs in coastal areas.
2.	Promoting the environmental assets of the fisheries and aquaculture areas and mitigation of climate change
3.	Strengthening the role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in local development
4.	Adding value to fishery and aquaculture products
5.	Promoting innovation in fisheries & aquaculture and supporting diversification inside & outside commercial fisheries
6.	Lifelong learning and attracting young people in fisheries and aquaculture areas
7.	Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas

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 diversify and enhance the income of individual's dependant on seafood and the blue economy in the coastal community.

Rationale for theme

Many of the coastal areas in Counties Letrim, Mayo and Sligo and mayo 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. 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	2. Environmental assets	3. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities	4. Adding Value
5. Innovation & Diversification	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Social well-being and cultural heritage	

	Action	Description
1.1	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. - Training and support specific to safety in the coastal areas and on the water. - Training and support for chefs to gain specialisation and expertise in cooking seafood. - Training specific to biodiversity sustainability practices and processes in the Blue Economy. <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>
1.2	Develop and encourage artisan food production and selling.	Develop and encourage artisan food production and selling through training, knowledge building and promotion and the development of links between artisan food producers and local hospitality.
1.3	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.
1.4	Increase local sales of local catches	Support projects that increase direct sales of seafood and increased use of seafood in local restaurants.

1.5	To support minor coastal infrastructure projects.	To support the enhancement of coastal infrastructure. This will exclude projects covered by the DAFM Harbours Scheme.
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Key theme 2: Actions to develop and promote niche tourism.

Rationale

Tourism is one of the largest growth sectors for the FLAG North West economy. Regional and national strategies including the Wild Atlantic Way, have created an opportunity for coastal tourism. Continuing to increase visitor numbers, alongside protecting the coastal environment is vital. The development and growth of the sector continues to be a key economic development driver for the area and the support under this objective aims to promote the development of the marine and coastal tourism in the area.

Priorities addressed under this theme

1. Job Creation	2. Environmental assets	3. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities	4. Adding Value
5. Innovation & Diversification	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Social well-being and cultural heritage	

	Action	Description
2.1	Developing marine and coastal tourism in the FLAG North West area.	Support the development of the marine and coastal tourism offering and encouraging the development of the visitor experiences, including through seafood (e.g. catch and cook experiences, food trails etc.)
2.2	Develop and extend the tourism offering through festivals and coastal community activities.	Support the development of the regions tourism offering through festivals and coastal community festivals. This can include activities, which extend the tourism season within the local area beyond traditional summer months.
2.3	Improving the marketing, co-ordination and connections of the marine and coastal tourism industry.	Support the marketing, advertising and branding of marine and coastal tourism and to improve the linkages between the tourism based industries (i.e. tour operators, hotels and restaurants) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

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 to drive forward the development of coastal communities, new enterprises and product development are 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, and to improve the economic conditions for those working within the coastal community. 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	2. Environmental assets	3. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities	4. Adding Value
5. Innovation & Diversification	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Social well-being and cultural heritage	

	Action	Description
3.1	To support new enterprises and new product development.	Support the development of new enterprises and new products in the blue economy and maritime sector including fisheries, aquaculture and maritime enterprises, micro enterprises through pilot programmes, feasibility studies, improved incubation facilities, market testing and product development and adoption of or use of new technologies.
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.
3.5	Support Smart villages	Support to encourage coastal service provision and access through digital innovation.

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

	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, key stakeholder groups and local communities.	Support the creation of opportunities for knowledge sharing to support innovations and diversification to develop thriving coastal areas.
4.3	Support and encourage networking and cooperation projects within the FAMENET area	Support the creation of opportunities for knowledge sharing to support innovations and diversification to develop thriving coastal areas across the EU FAMENET area.

Key theme 5: 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 beaches, scenery and wildlife across the FLAG North West area are some of the finest in Ireland and as such, significant resource has been used to improve the natural environment sites for visitors, 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	2. Environmental assets	3. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities	4. Adding Value
5. Innovation & Diversification	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Social well-being and cultural heritage	

	Action	Description
5.1	Protecting and enhancing the marine environment.	Support the protection and enhancement of the environment in coastal areas.
5.2	Increase awareness and knowledge on the coastal natural environment.	Supports to further develop local environmental knowledge through nature trails, wildlife signage, and conservation information including education material and programmes and other environmental protections.
5.3	To support sustainable processes that have a positive impact on the coast.	Support the research and development of sustainable practices and processes that promote environmental protections for example waste management and water quality.

Key theme 6: 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 West 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	2. Environmental assets	3. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities	4. Adding Value
5. Innovation & Diversification	6. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	7. Social well-being and cultural heritage	

	Action	Description
6.1	Develop and grow maritime and coastal heritage.	Support to develop and grow local coastal heritage for example through trails, signage, information and story boards to share knowledge and identify points of interest and events and exhibitions.
6.2	To support and improve access to services in coastal areas.	Support for the development and enhancement of existing coastal community assets and services to improve quality of life in the area. Targeted initiatives would address and support community health and well-being projects, isolation, deprivation and coastal activities.
6.3	To support the development of coastal infrastructure to allow access for all.	Support for the development of coastal infrastructure to allow access for all persons to key coastal sites, ensuring inclusivity for the coastal community.
6.4	Support new communities to thrive	Support to encourage the newly/recently arrived to play an active and productive role in the FLAG area.



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 West
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 West 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
2	Call for proposals	FLAGS will periodically invite applications⁸

⁸ The FLAG Board believes that an open call multiannual programme is essential to the successful delivery of the FLAG programme

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 in writing on eligibility of all 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	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 Technical Evaluation Sub-Committee
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 date. 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.

Appeals: An applicant may appeal decisions by BIM with respect to project eligibility or grant aid rate or the respective FLAG Board to refuse grant aid. An applicant has two weeks from the date on which they are notified of the decision to submit an appeal to BIM. All appeals must be made to BIM in writing clearly stating the grounds of the appeal. With respect to decisions made by BIM during the project review process, the decision will be reviewed by the members of the BIM appeals committee and a decision to allow or deny the appeal made. The BIM appeals committee will comprise a minimum of two directors. All appeals on decisions made by the FLAG Board will be reviewed in the first instance by the BIM appeals committee to determine whether appropriate procedures and the rules of the scheme been applied correctly. If the BIM appeals committee determines that due process has not been followed by the FLAG Board the project will be returned to that FLAG Board for reconsideration. If it is determined that the FLAG Board has followed appropriate procedures and the rules of the scheme the appeal will be passed to an appropriately constituted FLAG Board appeals committee. The FLAG Board appeals committee should consist of one member from each regional FLAG Board. While the

member from the FLAG Board that made the original decision may participate in the hearing of the appeal they will not participate in the vote on whether to allow or deny the appeal.

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	Organisation/ Nominating Body
Gerard Hassett	Industry	Keem Bay Seafoods
Sean Carolan	Local Government, Agencies, Others	Southwest Mayo Development Company
Terence Dever	Community	Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla
Eva Costelloe	Local Government, Agencies, Others	Fáilte Ireland
Sean O Coisdealbha	Local Government, Agencies, Others	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Michael O' Boyle	Local Government, Agencies, Others	Mayo County Council

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-making⁹.

It is recommended that membership of the FLAG should have a maximum of 40% representation from the Statutory/Public Sector¹⁰ and a minimum of 60% representation from the fishing, seafood, coastal communities sector¹¹. The balance of organisational representation will be retained throughout the replacement/ rotation process.

The proposed representation of actors in FLAG North West 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 FLAG Committee is:

- **Pillar 1 (Community/Environment)**
 1. Mayo Coastal Community
 2. Sligo Coastal Community
 3. Leitrim Coastal Community
 4. Off-Shore Islands
 5. Environmental Nominee

⁹ 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"

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ This can include representatives or individuals within the fishery, aquaculture or processing sectors; as well as representatives from the community and voluntary sector

- **Pillar 2 (Industry)**
 1. Seafood Industry
 2. Fisherman Representative
 3. Aquaculture Representative
 4. Marine Tourism
 5. Community Fisheries Group
- **Pillar 3 (Local Government, Agencies, Others)**
 1. Údarás na Gaeltachta
 2. Mayo County Council
 3. Sligo County Council
 4. Fáilte Ireland
 5. BIM Representative
 6. ATU
 7. LEADER

It will be considered important that some person with an environmental background would participate as a member of the FLAG Board. A position on the FLAG would also be available for any interest group who would wish to be involved.

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 democratic accountability 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 and diversity: 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. Ideally, during the lifetime of the strategy, if at any stage the gender balance does not reflect at least 40% female, the FLAG Board will actively try to recruit suitably qualified female volunteers. To help to achieve this, all nominating bodies 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 and re-nomination: 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 years¹². 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.'

¹² 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.

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.

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 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 - Composition of the FLAG Board

Member	Pillar	Experience
Gerard Hassett	Fishing & community	Gerard is former chairman of NWFLAG, Runs a very successful Seafood Business Keem Bay Seafoods, is a Fisherman and is involved in Community Development in Achill running a very successful Seafood/Maritime festival each year.
Eamon Dixon	Fishing	Vessel owner from Erris, Secretary/Director of Cumann Iascairi Chos Costa Iorrais which has 60 members who own vessels that are active and licenced in the Fishing Industry in the FLAG Region. Long time representative of Fishing Industry at Regional and National level, Chairman of NWRIFF Vice chair NWFLAG, and chair of NIFF, sits on consultative committee for SFPA representing Inshore Industry.
Terence Dever	Community	CEO of Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla / Community Development Achill, lifetime involved in Tourism industry, Member of NWFLAG 2012--2015 Micheal Kelly -- Active licenced vessel owner, NWFLAG/NWRIFF member, representing Sligo Fishermen at Regional and National level over 40 years, Fishing Rep for Sligo Fishermen involved in trans-Atlantic fiber optic cable Project, Jacqui Monaghan - Manager of Ionad Deirbhile Aughlea, Community Development in Blacksod. Worked in Marine Leisure.
William Walker	Fishing	Chairman of Erris Lobster Conservation and restocking Association, active licenced registered vessel owner, long time industry representative for Fishing Industry in Mayo at Local, Regional and National level, member of NWRIFF and NIFF.
Mary Gavin	Fishing & community	Active licenced charter vessel skipper, Lifetime of representation in the Angling/Marine tourism

		Industry, member of NWRIFF/NWFLAG.
David Downes	Fishing	Sligo based fisherman and licensed vessel owner, member of NWRIFF. Coordinator of the BIM V notching programme to conserve lobsters.
Michael Kelly	Fishing	Sligo based fisherman and licensed vessel owner, member of NWRIFF, fisheries liaison officer for communications companies, including communications cables. Coordinator of the BIM V notching programme to conserve lobsters.

5.3 Appendix 3 – 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.

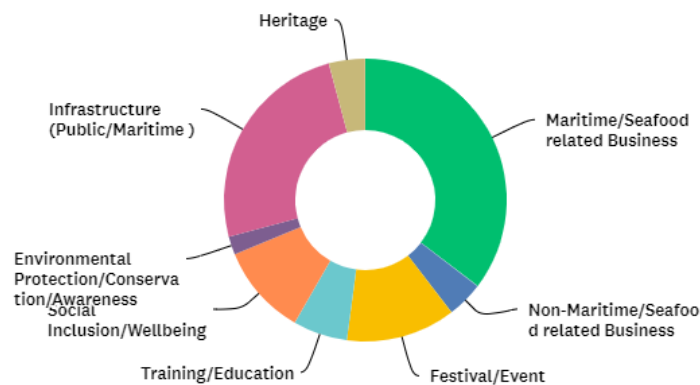
Some items to note when reading these results

- 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 West are highlighted below.

FLAG Northwest Results 2016-2021 Operational Programme under the EMFF:

- **Current Spend:** €1,037,416.59
- **Response rate:** Surveys sent 61, responses 48, response rate 79%
- **Project Type Breakdown:**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Maritime/Seafood related Business	35.42%	17
▼ Non-Maritime/Seafood related Business	4.17%	2
▼ Festival/Event	12.50%	6
▼ Training/Education	6.25%	3
▼ Social Inclusion/Wellbeing	10.42%	5
▼ Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness	2.08%	1
▼ Infrastructure (Public/Maritime)	25.00%	12
▼ Heritage	4.17%	2
TOTAL		48

Enterprise Projects

- 17 Maritime or Seafood enterprises and 2 Non-Maritime/Seafood enterprises received support from FLAG South.
- These enterprises report the creation of 23.5 new FTE jobs as a result of the funded projects, with 69.5 existing jobs being maintained
- FLAG Funding resulted in the development of new products for 9 of these enterprises
- 11 enterprises report access to new markets due to FLAG funding

Festivals

- 6 Festivals received funding
- FLAG Funding resulted in an additional 8211 visitors to these events
- According to Fáile 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 Northwest region of € 886,788

Training & Education

- 3 projects received funding for Training/Education
- All were for Group training
- At least 22 individuals receiving Accredited Training

Social Inclusion/Wellbeing

- 5 projects funded
- Family Resource Centre
- Equipment Upgrade
- Outdoor Gym equipment
- Community Gym
- Upgrade of Scouts Den.

Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness

- 1 Project Funded
Removal of litter and larger objects from river bed and banks.

Infrastructure

- 12 Infrastructure projects funded
- Side scan sonar
- Upgrade to community centre.
- Information/ heritage boards
- Construction of new concrete footpath & stainless-steel railing
- New concrete footpaths & stainless-steel railing along Shore road, in front of Tidal Pool
- Telecommunication and power cable Installation
- Safety Boat Improvements
- Lifejackets for club members
- Marine Hardstand Area
- Search & Recovery vessel

Heritage

- 2 Heritage Projects supported
- Works to Erect bi-lingual Street signs
- Development of children's books to encourage knowledge of Irish heritage

5.4 Appendix 4 – Projects Supported by North West FLAG 2016-2022

Ref	Applicant	Project Title	Grant Aid
201NW.6	Clew Bay Garden Trail	Clew Bay Garden Trail	€3,020.80
191NW.44	Comharchumann Forbartha Cill tSéadhna Teo	Equipment Upgrade	€17,531.44
191NW.49	Pullathomas Graveyard Committee	Pullathomas Graveyard Shelter	€4,208.00
201NW.30	Newport and District Development Company (NADDCo.)	Newport 300	€21,634.40
201NW.42	Mayo North Destination Steering Group	Support for Mayo North Tourism promotion and development plan 2020 - 2023	€8,095.55
201NW.48	Grainne Uaile Sac Search & Recovery Unit	Drysuits & surface suits for diving & surface searching	€9,718.56
201NW.64	Ceide Coast Community Company (CCCC)	Feasibility study for Ceide Coast Incubation Hub	€15,488.00
201NW.68	Muintir a' Chorrain Teo	Currane Our Place, Our Home	€8,041.15
201NW.77	Sligo Yacht Club Limited	Replacement and Upgrade Works	€30,503.76
191NW.38	Discover Enniscrone	Tourist Information Point	€1,600.00
191NW.49	Pullathomas Graveyard Committee	Pullathomas Graveyard Shelter	€3,408.00
191NW.41	Gesala Community Council & Development Ltd	Gesala Community Gym	€10,690.51
191NW.24	Tullaghan Development Association	Outdoor Gym Equipment	€11,255.83
191NW.4	Belmullet Sea Angling Club	CCTV for Clubhouse	€1,089.60
191NW.1	Kilmeena Foróige Club	Primary Coastal Training	€3,360.00
191NW.6	Muintir a'Chorráin Teo	Erection of information boards, purchase of life jackets	€3,568.38
191NW.14	Mayo North Destination Steering Group	Mayo North Tourist Information Map	€4,993.80
191NW.19	Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile Teo	Developing Blacksod Lighthouse & Heritage Centre, Eachléim	€18,319.68
191NW.25	Tullaghan Development Association	Marine History Group Project	€1,238.40
191NW.35	West Sligo Family Resource Centre CLG	Relocation/New Premises for West Sligo Family Resource Centre	€30,011.72
191NW.41	Gesala Community Council & Development Ltd	Gesala Community Gym	€4,100.00
191NW.46	River Moy Search & Rescue Ballina CLG	Removal of litter from the River Moy catchment area	€1,818.43
181NW.18	Belderig Development Committee Limited	Refurbishment and restoration of carport in Belderig Harbour	€11,306.27
181NW.9	River Moy Search and Rescue Ballina	Removal of Litter from the Moy Catchment Area Underwater Search Sonar	€35,705.40
181NW.10	Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile Eachleim Teo	Marina & Breakwater at Blacksod Bay NATURA Assessment	€20,664.00
181NW.15	Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile Teo	Blacksod and Marine Heritage Trail	€10,224.00
181NW.16	Achill Tourism CLG	Heritage Trail	€2,056.00
181NW.31	Bellacragher Boat Club	Promotion of Claggan Ferry and provision of two boat shore dollies	€2,419.05
181NW.33	St Colman's Care Centre CLG	St Colman's Care Centre Garden Fete	€3,870.89
171NW.1	Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla Teo	The Achill Experience Aquarium Phase 2	€100,000.00
171NW.10	Maugherow Community Development Company Ltd	Marine Hardstand Area at Raghly Harbour	€34,400.00
171NW.11	River Moy Search & Rescue Ballina CLG	Removal of litter from the River Moy and its Rural Environments	€13,159.92

171NW.26	Rosses Point Development Association CLG	Community Centre Development	€14,607.91
171NW.28	Achill Tourism CLG	Maritime History Trail	€8,605.60
171NW.33	Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile Eachleim Teo	Feasibility Study	€29,076.01
171NW.8	Purteen Harbour Fishermans Group	Purteen Harbour Cold Stores	€9,212.70
191NW.16	Purteen Harbour Fishermens Group	Purteen Harbour Maritime Festival	€3,676.44
191NW.5	Wild Atlantic Shanty Festival	Festival	€2,419.80
191NW.7	Clare Island Regatta	Clare Island Regatta 2019	€2,349.20
191NW.9	Pure Magic Achill	Battle for the Lake Watersports and Music Festival	€3,882.00
191NW.29	Achill Tourism GLG	Achill Féile na Mara	€1,482.00
191NW.39	Enniscrone Events Committee & Black Pig Festival	Black Pig Festival 2019	€1,000.00
191NW.50	Go Explore Hostel/Sailor's Bar Restaurant	Festival Canopy	€1,000.00
171NW.32	Club Ramhaiocht Tullachain	Festival	€878.51
181NW.3	Wild Atlantic Shanty Festival Sligo-Bay RNLI	Festival	€2,000.00
181NW.11	Muintir Chill Damhait	Féile Chill Damhnait	€2,644.76
181NW.17	Achill Tourism CLG	Festival	€1,138.08
181NW.22	Inishturk Community Club CLG	Inishturk Wild Atlantic Festival	€10,204.65
171NW.7	Wild Atlantic Shanty Festival RNLI-Branch Sligo-Bay	Wild Atlantic Shanty Festival	€1,599.25
171NW.29	Achill Tourism CLG	Achill Feile na Mara	€1,000.00
201NW.1	Marine Cabel Services Ltd	Sea survival, first aid, telescopic/forklift training	€1,450.00
201NW.2	Seirbhisi Cabla Teoranta	MCS Equipment Procurement	€27,904.14
201NW.76	Galway Outdoor Education Centre Ltd	Achill Surf Centre Development	€71,822.44
201NW.16	Clare Island Whiskey Ltd	Clare Island Whiskey Phase 2 - Branding / Marketing / Point of Sale	€15,499.95
201NW.18	Sligo Bay SUP (Niall Harte)	New stand up paddle boards	€2,750.00
201NW.52	Peadar Cawley	PC Marine Welding & Fabrication Services	€4,262.91
201NW.56	Wild West Sailing	Wild West Sailing - Safety Equipment	€1,162.50
201NW.59	Blackshell Ltd	Biopolymer Mesh Knitting Factory Setup Project	€27,310.00
191NW.13	Wavesweeper Sea Adventures Limited	Purchase of a Trailer	€2,926.83
191NW.3	Sligo Bay SUP	New Enclosed Trailer	€2,724.14
191NW.26	Galway Outdoor Education Centre Limited	Achill Surf & Adventure Centre renewal of equipment capital investment	€9,614.61
191NW.18	Harper Manufacturing Limited	Coastal Marine Board Manufacture	€17,400.00
191NW.27	Blue Flag Media	Creating High Quality Video Content	€2,231.26
191NW.33	Peadar Cawley	PC Marine Welding & Fabrication Services	€1,707.25
171NW.4	Achill Island Sea Salt	Achill Island Sea Salt Visitor Experience	€6,410.35
181NW.7	Individual Applicant	Dive lift for the safe recovery of divers for sea search projects	€2,900.00
181NW.13	Peadar Cawley	PC Marine Welding & Fabrication Services	€13,390.00
171NW.13	Sligo Bay Sup	Monster Stand Up Paddle Board	€1,000.00
201NW.13	Individual Applicant	Cré Clare Island Pottery Shop	€1,631.17
191NW.37	EC AUTO Diagnostics	Remote Assisted Diagnostic Experts	€10,863.78
201NW.17	Eachtraí UISCE Teoranta T/A UISCE	U.I.S.C.E. Business Development Plan 2020/21	€13,976.81

191NW.12	Mayo Sailing Club	Safety Boat Improvements	€7,945.64
191NW.23	Sligo Yacht Club Limited	Restoring and upgrading water safety equipment	€12,292.30
191NW.8	Eachtraí UISCE Teoranta T/A UISCE	Training	€8,970.00
191NW.30	Mammy Red Head - Publications	Little Red Head, Books	€689.00
171NW.24	Club Rámhaíocht Tullachain	Boat and equipment	€2,423.00
181NW.8	Eachtraí UISCE Teoranta T/A UISCE	Togra na hEachléime = Coláiste UISCE Eachléim	€36,066.29
171NW.6	Newport Sea Angling Club	Purchase of capital items for Newport Sea Angling Club	€564.50
171NW.17	Bellacragher Boat Club	Wheelchair Accessible Safety Boat & VHF Marine Radio Communication	€11,968.58
171NW.19	UISCE	Feasibility Study Mullet Peninsula	€6,377.00
171NW.20	St Patricks National School	Sailing for Children	€13,098.00
191NW.36	Mayo County Council	Shore Road Refurbishment/safety improvement projects	€49,501.08
181NW.23	Iascairí Chois Chósta Iorrais Teoranta	Ballyglass Pier & Harbour Development Natura Impact Study	€24,600.00
191NW.32	Roscahill Seafood Limited	Extending Shellfish Grading Operations	€12,100.00
191NW.40	West Coast Crab Sales Ltd	Forklift	€14,450.00
181NW.2	WB's Coffee House	Oyster Experience and Gift Shop	€24,535.86
181NW.4	Roscahill Seafood Ltd	Shellfish Grading System	€9,735.00
181NW.26	Roscahill Seafoods Limited	Renewal & extension of the size of the holding facility for lobsters	€2,825.00
201NW.25	Individual Applicant	Purchase of refrigeration unit to upgrade existing facilities	€1,740.00
201NW.36	Individual Applicant	Enlargement of freezer unit at Purteen Harbour, Keel, Achill	€1,952.80
181NW.29	Individual Applicant	Value added sales (Van insulation and trailer)	€5,093.66



