FLAG
NORTH

Fisheries Local Action Groups
Grupaí Gníomhaíochta Iascaigh Áitiúla

Supporting Coastal Communities

Fisheries Local Action Group
Local Development Strategy 2024 - 2029

Contents

1. Overview of FLAG

1. Overview of FLAG

1.1   Introduction to FLAG North

Figure 1: Map of the FLAG North Area of Operation

Source: RSM
Note: The FLAG North Area includes all the islands of County Donegal.

The FLAG North area comprises of the coastal zone of County Donegal, as highlighted in the map in Figure 1 above. A total of 81 District Electoral Divisions have been used to define the FLAG North area, with the areas of inclusion typically lying 10km from the coastal strip. These 81 areas have been analysed to provide an economic snapshot of the region, encompassing a total population of 95,059.

Donegal hosts the largest electoral division in the FLAG North area, with a population of 4,179. The county lies in the FLAG North area, with an overall population of 167,084 and is home to almost a quarter (23.4%) of the Gaeltacht region (23,346 in 2022). The region has a land mass of 485,951 hectares and in 2022, Donegal County had a population density of 34.4 persons per km. The labour force participation rate was 57.2%, in 2022, with 6.1% of the number of people employed in Donegal, focussed in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. In 2021, FLAG North was the largest regional aquaculture employer (652 persons employed) and accounted for 33% of total employment across all coastal regions. Locally, the region hosts two training institutes. The National Fisheries College in Greencastle promotes careers in the fishing sector by training new entrants and up-skilling existing practitioners in catching, fish farming and seafood processing. The offshore training college in Falcarragh, Effective Offshore, specialises in offshore training and skills necessary for exploration and development in oil, gas and renewable industries including health and safety, rope access, accident and emergency procedures.

To the south of Donegal, the FLAG North region hosts the largest fishing port in Ireland, Killybegs Harbour. It is the only deep water port between Belfast and Foynes, and is a hub for logistics, cargo

handling, manufacturing, engineering, vessel support and leisure cruising operations andis home to the most sophisticated pelagic fleet in Western Europe. The fleet itself supports employment, however the processing sector supplied by the fleet employ also many people from within the North FLAG Region. In 2022, the harbour accounted for 61.8% of the total tonnes landed in Ireland, as well as 26.7% (€135 million) of the total value of landings[1]. Overall, the area covered by the FLAG North LDS recorded the highest value of seafood landings across all FLAG areas, with 5,799 recorded landings bringing a total of 193,990 tonnes of seafood, at a value of €155.1 million.

Aquaculture also plays a significant role in the FLAG North area, which includes the farming of finfish, oysters and mussels. The region boasts 73 production units and employed 33% of aquaculture employees across the coastal regions in 2021. Seaweed production is also a growing industry in Donegal's coastal communities with a significant export market.

Donegal's strategic location, its island communities and fishing industry have all contributed to an extensive network of marine infrastructure around the County comprising some 154 piers, jetties and slipways. This resource provides a great opportunity across a range of other rural development sectors such as servicing the islands, marine tourism, ecological tours, fishing development, accessing shipwrecks, water sports etc. Donegal is also part of the Wild Atlantic Way tourism initiative, which stretches 2,500 km along Ireland's western seaboard, of which 500km is located in Donegal County.

There are 46 designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive that are also designated as Natural Heritage Areas, in Donegal. There are also 21 Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive. This network of conservation areas, while supporting a significant tourism draw, do also bring restrictions on particular activities within their site boundaries.

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

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[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.

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 EMFAF[2] 2021-2027 programme being crafted to take account of all the challenges that the Irish seafood sector will face over the coming years.

EMFAF at the EU level

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

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

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

EMFAF – Programme for Ireland

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

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

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

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

- Support sustainable economic development and resiliency in all seafood sectors
- Promote knowledge transfer and the development of lifelong skills (including digital literacy in all sectors)

Mission 3 - Vibrant and sustainable coastal communities driven to implement creative community-based strategies to enhance economic opportunity and ensure a dynamic framework for quality growth and development
- Support the Community Led Local Development approach to economic development in coastal communities by building capacity and developing greater co-operation between all relevant stakeholders in coastal communities
- Support diversification into areas such as tourism and the blue economy within coastal communities.

Mission 4 – Ensure effective management and implementation of the EMFAF programme
- This mission is framed to ensure support is provided to ensure that the EMFAF programme has an effective management and control system in place to allow for the effective implementation and management of the EMFAF programme over its lifetime.

1.3   What is FLAG

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

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

For the purpose of fulfilling this priority, each FLAG design and implement a Local Development Strategy (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"
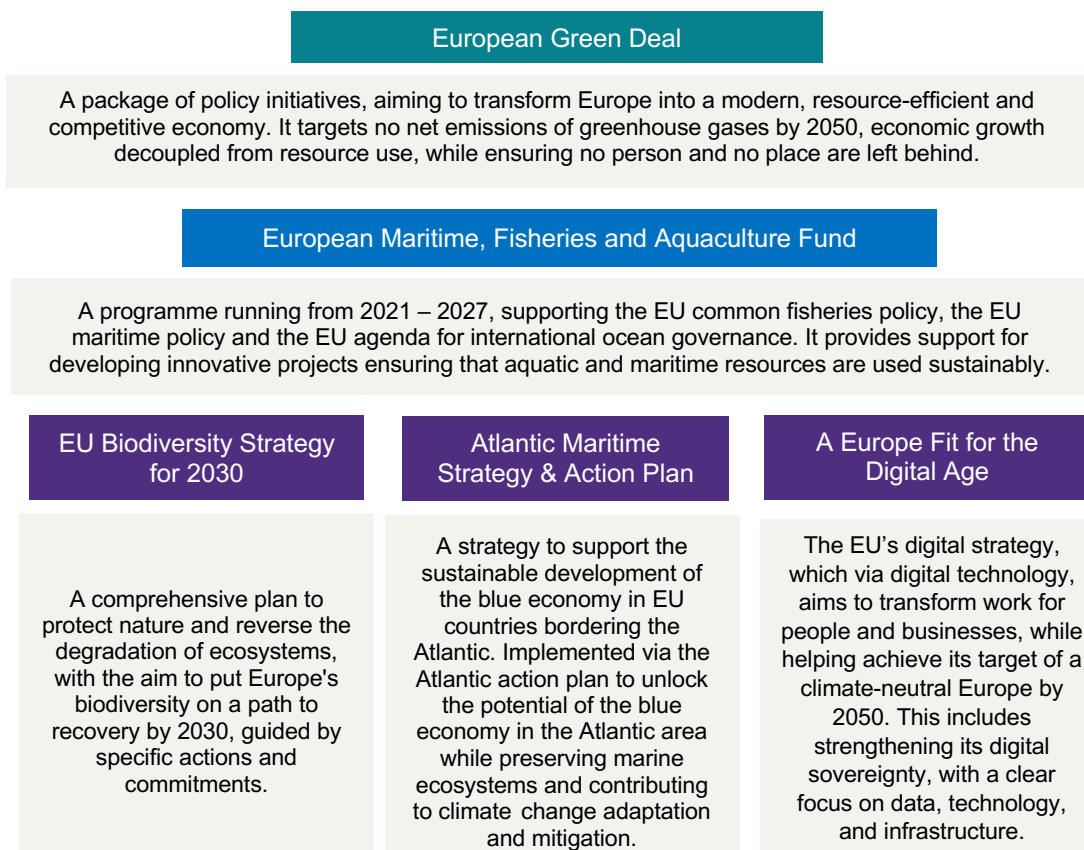
The key themes to deliver this Priority are:

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.

Figure 2: Key Policies and Strategies

European Green Deal
A package of policy initiatives, aiming to transform Europe into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. It targets no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth decoupled from resource use, while ensuring no person and no place are left behind.

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
A programme running from 2021 – 2027, supporting the EU common fisheries policy, 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.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	Atlantic Maritime Strategy & Action Plan	A Europe Fit for the Digital Age
A comprehensive plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, with the aim to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, guided by specific actions and commitments.	A strategy to support the sustainable development of the blue economy in EU countries bordering the Atlantic. Implemented via the Atlantic action plan to unlock the potential of the blue economy in the Atlantic area while preserving marine ecosystems and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.	The EU's digital strategy, which via digital technology, aims to transform work for people and businesses, while helping achieve its target of a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. This includes strengthening its digital sovereignty, with a clear focus on data, technology, and infrastructure.

Food Wise 2025	Farm to Fork	LEADER
A strategy setting out how Ireland and the Irish agri-food sector including the seafood industry, fisheries and fish processing, can grow by refining its focus around set objectives, which recognise the importance of processes which are sustainable – economically, socially and environmentally. One of its growth projections includes increasing the value added in the agri-food, fisheries and wood products sector by 70% to in excess of €13 billion.	A 10 year strategy, at the heart of the Green Deal, set out to address the challenges of sustainable food systems, while recognising the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet. The strategy sets out both regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives, with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) as key tools to support a just transition for agriculture and fisheries sectors.	An EU & Irish Government grant aid programme supporting community-led economic, social and environmental development in rural areas. It aims to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in rural areas by supporting a wide range of projects.

National and Local Strategies
National and local strategies for example, Ireland 2040, County Development Plans, Local Economic Community Plans, Tourism and Destination Experience Development Plans all serve to articulate need. These strategies are therefore reflected in the development of FLAG priorities and actions.

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

In Donegal, there is also a strategic emphasis on environmental sustainability, renewables and marine innovation across local strategies. 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, the Local Enterprise Office and Donegal County Council.

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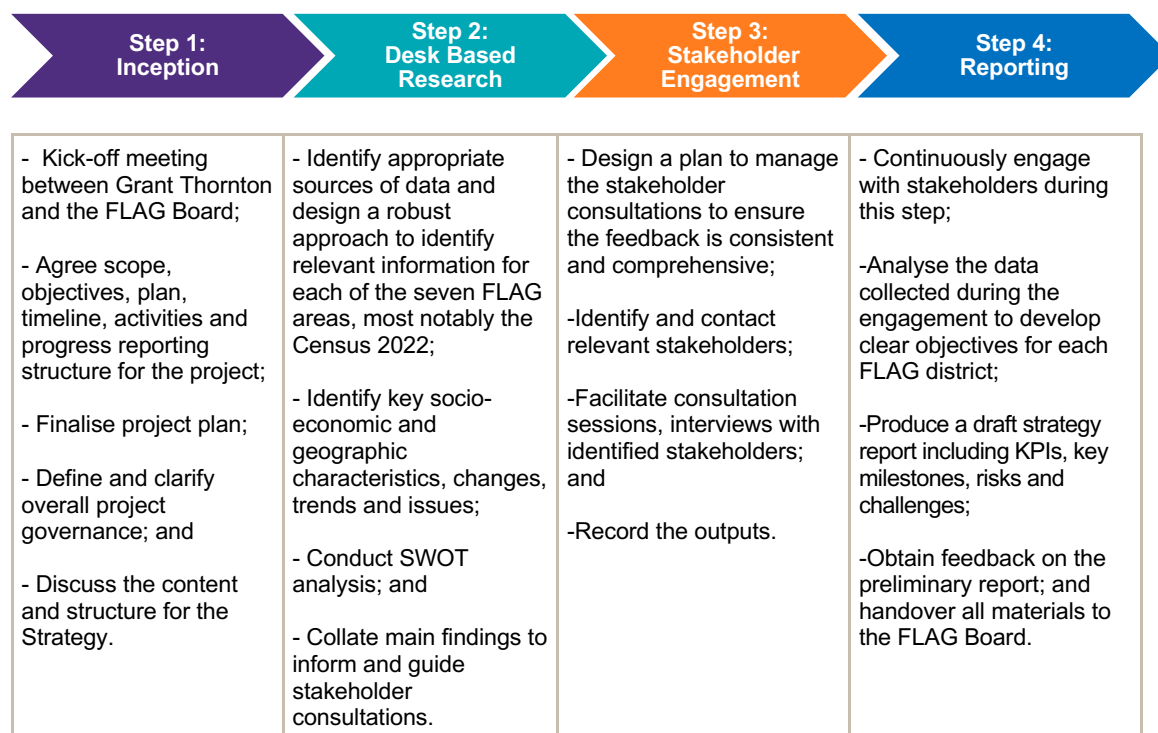
The Commission is determined to make this Europe's "Digital Decade"[1] and recognises that Europe needs to strengthen its digital sovereignty and set standards, rather than following those of others – with a clear focus on data, technology, and infrastructure. All EU funding programmes will reflect this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

Figure 3: Methodology Approach

Step 1: Inception	Step 2: Desk Based Research	Step 3: Stakeholder Engagement	Step 4: Reporting
- Kick-off meeting between Grant Thornton and the FLAG Board; - Agree scope, objectives, plan, timeline, activities and progress reporting structure for the project; - Finalise project plan; - Define and clarify overall project governance; and - Discuss the content and structure for the Strategy.	- Identify appropriate sources of data and design a robust approach to identify relevant information for each of the seven FLAG areas, most notably the Census 2022; - Identify key socio-economic and geographic characteristics, changes, trends and issues; - Conduct SWOT analysis; and - Collate main findings to inform and guide stakeholder consultations.	- Design a plan to manage the stakeholder consultations to ensure the feedback is consistent and comprehensive; -Identify and contact relevant stakeholders; -Facilitate consultation sessions, interviews with identified stakeholders; and -Record the outputs.	- Continuously engage with stakeholders during this step; -Analyse the data collected during the engagement to develop clear objectives for each FLAG district; -Produce a draft strategy report including KPIs, key milestones, risks and challenges; -Obtain feedback on the preliminary report; and handover all materials to the FLAG Board.

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.

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[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.

2. Analysis of the Development Needs

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2.1   Introduction

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

2.2   Socio-Economic Profile

Population

- The population of Donegal reached 167,084 in 2022 – representing growth of 5% from the previous Census in 2016.
- Within the FLAG North area the population increased to 95,059 in 2022, an increase of 5.4% since 2016 and in line with county growth.
- Ireland's population increased 8.1% in 2022 to 5,149,139. Of this, the FLAG North area accounted for 1.9% of Ireland's population in 2022.
- In 2022, 57% of the population of Donegal County lived within the FLAG area, equalling its 2016 proportion.

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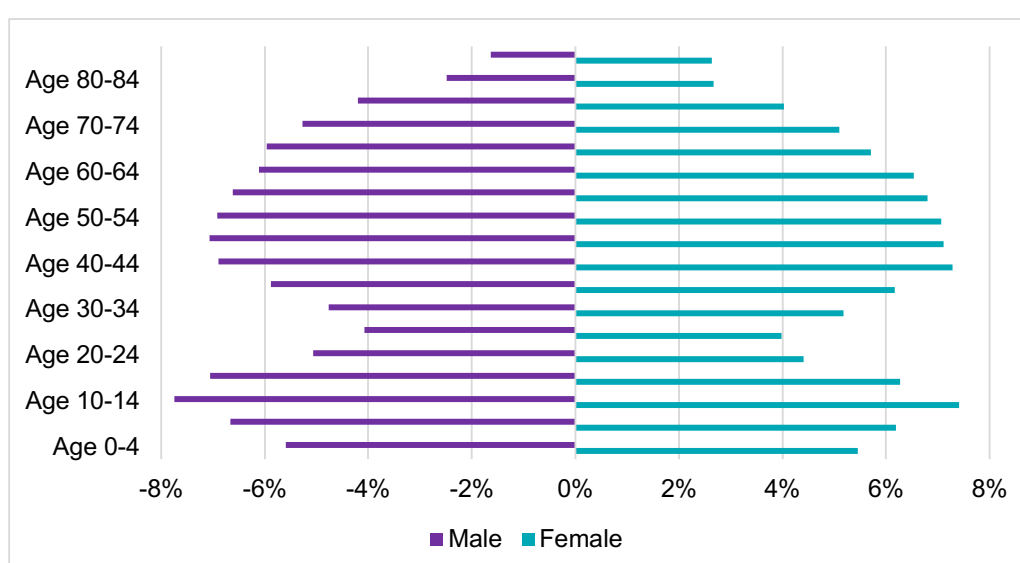
Source: CSO

- The FLAG North area has an almost equal gender split, with 49.4% of the population male and 50.6% female.

Figure 5: Age Profile, 2022
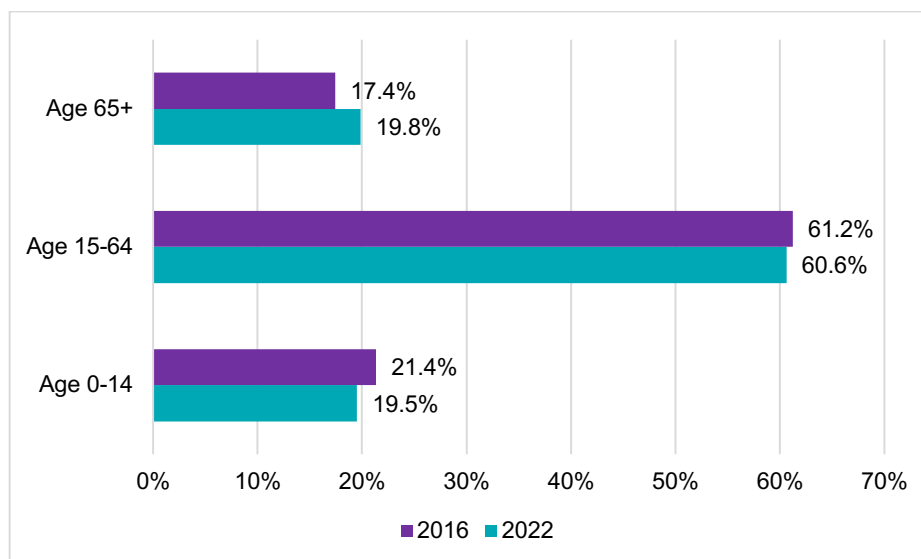
Source: CSO

- There is an older population in the FLAG North area, with 19.8% of the population aged 65 or over, compared to the Irish average of 14.3%. In 2016, 17.4% of the FLAG North area was aged 65 or over, highlighting the area is facing an ageing population issue.
- The proportion of persons aged 0-14 declined to 19.5% in 2022. This could indicate potential future strain on resources with an ageing population and falling number of young persons.
- 22.2% of people in the FLAG North area were born outside of Ireland, compared to 21% in 2016. Of this, 17.4% were born in the UK and just less than 1% were born in Poland.
- The area demonstrates a strong sense of cultural awareness with 40% of the population able to speak Irish in 2022, matching its 2016 proportion.
- Of the total population of the FLAG North area, 21,799 (23%) of people had a disability of any kind compared to 21.5% nationally.

Place

Figure 6: Home Ownership by Type, 2016-2022
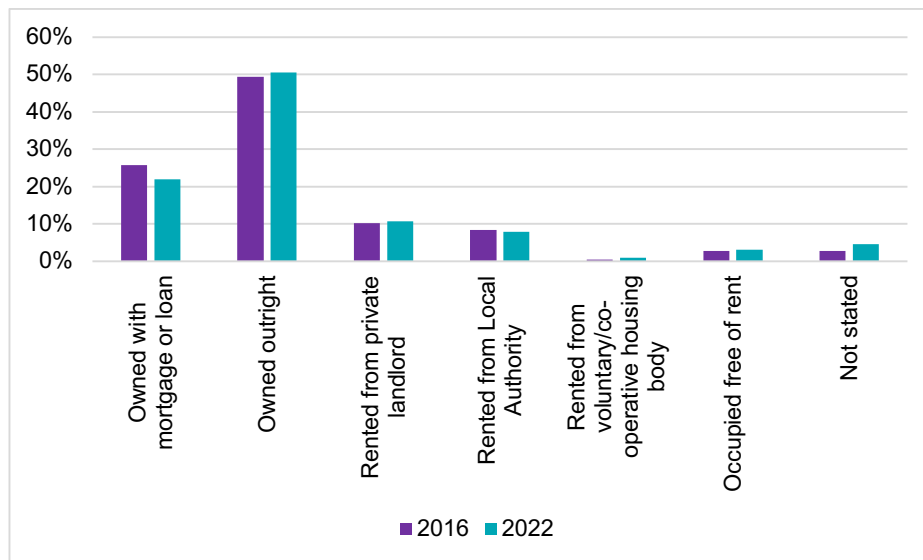
Source: CSO

- In 2022, the number of private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan declined to 72.6%, compared to 75.2% in 2016. This was driven by a decline in private households owned with a mortgage/loan which fell 11.1% from 2016, as a potential result of rising house prices and supply/demand imbalance seen across Ireland. In comparison, 69.5% of private households were owner occupied nationally in 2022.
- In the FLAG North area, half the number of private households were owned outright in 2022.
- In contrast, the proportion of households rented from a private landlord or rented from the local authority increased by 13.8% and 0.9% respectively.
- The largest proportion of households in 2022, were married couples who have children (29.7%). Followed by one person households (27.6%).
- In the Flag North area 66.5% of permanent dwellings were occupied compared to 64.5% in 2016.
- A fifth (20.9%) of properties in the FLAG North area were holiday homes, with these being generally unoccupied for large portions of the year. This is significantly higher than the national average of 3.2%.
- The number of vacant dwellings decreased from 13.8% in 2016 to 10.9% in 2022, however it is still higher than the national average of 7.7%.
- Of the 81 electoral districts analysed, 86.4% were classed as having "varying levels of deprivation" and 13.6% were classed as having "various levels of affluence".[4]

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[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.

Figure 7: Proportion of Households with Access to Broadband Internet
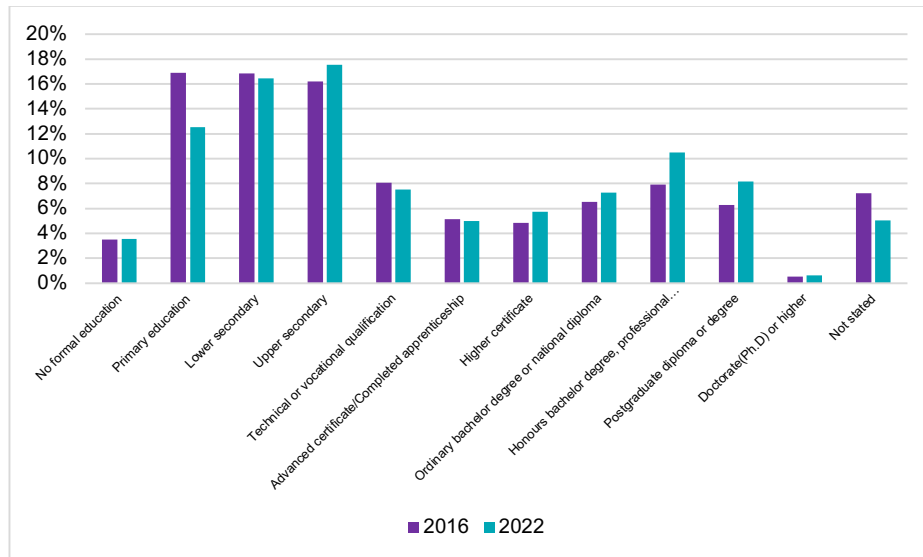
2016

62.5%

76.3%
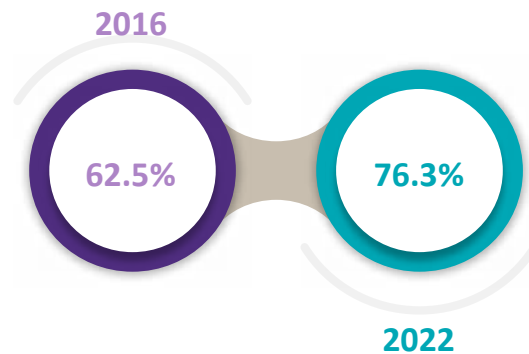
2022

Source: CSO

- The number of households with access to broadband internet increased by 30% since 2016.
- In 2016, 62.5% of households had access to broadband internet, this compares to 76.3% of households having access to broadband in 2022.

Labour market

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

Source: CSO

- The level of education attainment in the FLAG North area has been improving over recent years, with 65,519 persons having completed their education in 2022.
- Over a quarter (26.6%) of these were educated to degree level or higher in 2022, with this being higher than in 2016 (21.3%).
- Overall, those with an undergraduate or postgraduate degree increased from 2016. The number of those with an honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by 43.1%, 39.6% and 36.4% respectively.
- Of those educated, 12.5% were educated to primary level only, compared to 16.9% in 2016.
- The number of people educated to ordinary degree level increased by 20.3% since 2016.

- Those with no formal education remained at 3.5% in 2022.

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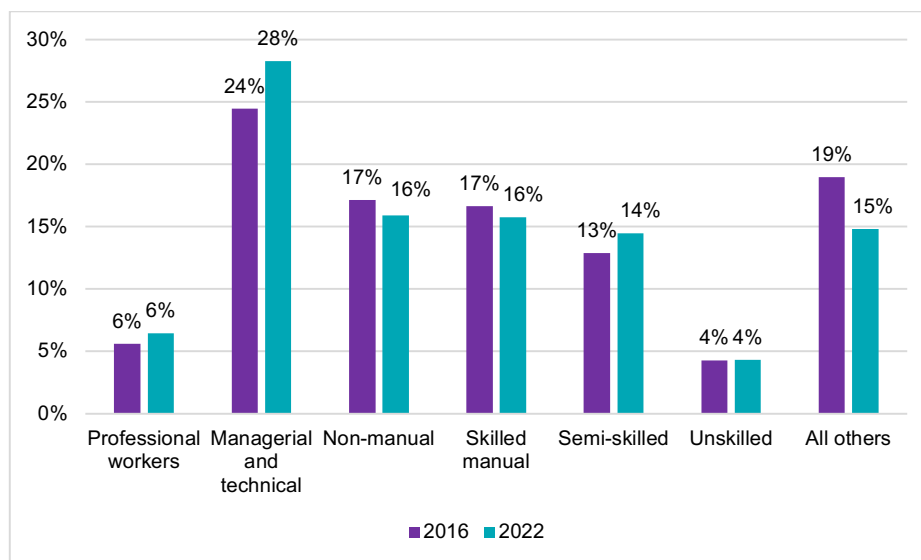
Source: CSO

- Managerial and technical workers account for the largest proportion (28.3%) of the workforce in the FLAG North area, having increased 21.8% since 2016 from 22,074 workers to 26,883.
- The proportion of those at work (aged 15 and over) has increased from 46.2% in 2016 to 50% in 2022, however this remains below the national average of 56.1%.
- The unemployment rate declined from 17.7% in 2016 to 10.3% in 2022, with this being higher than national average of 8.3%.
- The unemployment rate varied by gender with a male unemployment rate of 11.4%, while female unemployment stood at 9% in 2022.
- The proportion of those retired increased from 19.9% of the population in 2016 to 21.7% in 2022 mirroring the rise in the population of those aged 65 and over.
- The proportion of the FLAG North population (5.1%) who were unable to work due to health problems was higher than the national average (4.6%).
- Over a quarter (26.2%) of persons at work were employed in the Professional services industry in the FLAG North area in 2022, a slight increase from the 25.6% in 2016.
- Employment in the commerce and trade industry accounted for almost a fifth (19.6%) of persons at work.
- The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry employed 5.7% of persons at work in 2022 falling from 7.1% in 2016.
- An estimated 6.1% of all coastal employment in FLAG North was in direct seafood employment, with a further 13.6% being in downstream seafood employment.

FLAG North Seafood Economy

- In 2022 FLAG North recorded 5,799 landings[5], bringing a total of 193,990 tonnes of seafood at a value of €155.1 million, the highest value recorded across all FLAG areas.

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[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 365 vessels were registered in the area in 2022 compared to 372[6] in 2016.
- In 2022, Killybegs Harbour recorded 160,800 tonnes of landings, accounting for 61.8% of total tonnes landed in Ireland, as well as 26.7% (€135 million) of the total value of landings. In 2016 the total value of landings in the port was €85m. This almost 60% rise in value highlights the significance of the fishing industry to the FLAG North area and the impact it has on the local economy both in terms of output and employment opportunities. Despite volumes declining by 18%, the value of landings into Killybegs increased by 12% driven by strong price growth for mackerel and other pelagic species.
- Most ports saw a decline in landing volumes in 2022 however, Greencastle Port recorded 3,700 tonnes of landings, with value growing by 36% to €12 million.

Aquaculture

- The North FLAG area generated the largest value of aquaculture sales (€39.9 million) in 2021, accounting for 22% of sales value generated across the seven coastal regions, with this being up on 2016 levels (€29m).
- Further, it generated the second largest output from aquaculture, with 8,021 tonnes or 19% of all coastal region output.
- Similarly in 2021 FLAG North was the largest regional aquaculture employer (652 persons employed) accounting for 33% of the total employed across the coastal regions as well as being home to 73 production units.

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%

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[6] Based on BIM FLAG North Local Development Strategy 2016

Italy	71	25%
Spain	69	2%
Nigeria	37	-2%
Egypt	29	47%
China	25	-11%
Germany	25	1%
Poland	25	-3%
Japan	19	7%

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

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

Imports

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

Employment

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

Table 2: Breakdown of Direct Employment 2022

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

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

2.3   Summary – Infographic

Demographics	**95,059** Total population: +5.4% from 2016	**19.8%** Aged 65 and over compared to 14.3% nationally	22.2% of residents born outside of Ireland
Housing	**72.6%** Private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan	20.9% of properties were holiday homes	**66.5%** Permanent dwellings were occupied compared to 64.5% 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 **43.1%, 39.6%** and **36.4%** respectively	**3.5%** of residents had no formal education
Labour Market	**51.8%** residents in employment compared to 48.2% in 2016	Unemployment rate has fallen from 17.7% in 2016 to 10.3% in 2022	**21.4%** of the population were retired compared to 19.7% in 2016
Economy	**5.7%** of labour force employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry	19.6% employed in the commerce and trade industry	Estimated 6.1% of all coastal employment was in direct seafood employment
Society	Of the 81 electoral districts analysed, 86.4% were classed as having "varying levels of deprivation"	76.3% of households have access to broadband compared to 62.5% in 2016	**27.6%** One person households
Marine and Seafood Sector	365 vessels registered in the area	193,990 tonnes of seafood at a value of €155 million	5,799 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 Donegal 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. Radio advertisements for the meetings played out 12 times over a weekend and an interview took place on the mid-morning Highland Radio show. FLAG Board members also undertook to share meeting details among their networks.
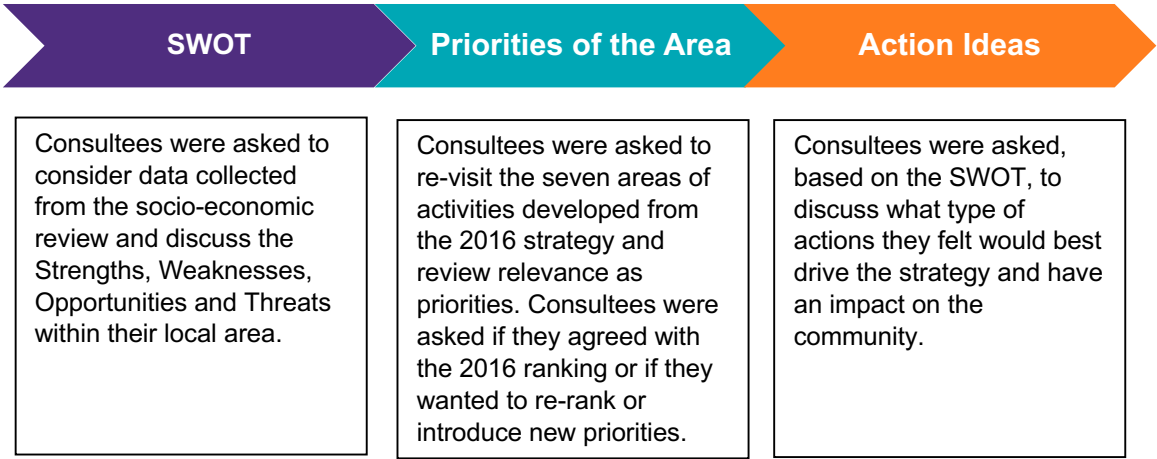
Public Meetings	
Number of Events	Two public meetings
Location of Events	Letterkenny and Killybegs
Representation	Representation from community groups, local authorities, economic and social groups including those engaged in the blue economy.
Board Meetings	
Number of Meetings	Two board meetings as well as continuous engagement throughout the process.
Location of Meetings	Letterkenny

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 37 participants.

The engagement had 3 main components consisting of a SWOT, ranking of priorities[7] and action ideas as shown in figure 10 below.

Figure 10: Methodology of Consultation

SWOT	Priorities of the Area	Action Ideas
Consultees were asked to consider data collected from the socio-economic review and discuss the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats within their local area.	Consultees were asked to re-visit the seven areas of activities developed from the 2016 strategy and review relevance as priorities. Consultees were asked if they agreed with the 2016 ranking or if they wanted to re-rank or introduce new priorities.	Consultees were asked, based on the SWOT, to discuss what type of actions they felt would best drive the strategy and have an impact on the community.

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 area. The strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats identified are those which apply specifically to the area, as opposed to national factors eg. rising living costs and are hence not within the remit of the area.

Strengths	Weaknesses
- A strong cultural awareness in the area, with 40% of the population able to speak Irish, accompanied by a strong maritime history. - Over a quarter (26.6%) of the population are educated to degree level or higher. - Significant contributor to the Irish seafood sector by volume and value of landings. - National Fisheries College located in Greencastle encouraging skills development in fishing, fish farming and seafood processing. - Strong tourism offering	- An ageing population, with 20% of persons aged 65 and over, compared to 14% nationally. - A fifth (20.9%) 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. - 24% of the population are still without access to broadband internet. - Poor infrastructure in the area for roads and no active rail routes leading to high levels of isolation and deprivation in the region. - Limited access to education from the National Fisheries College for those outside the fishing and marine industry.

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[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.

Opportunities	Threats
- Significant tourism opportunities to utilise the scenic landscape and initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way route. - Seafood tourism opportunities to build on the areas tourism & fishing strengths. - 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. - Potential to further develop smaller ports in the area.	- Proportion of persons aged 0-14 declined to 19.5% in 2022, combined with an ageing population could indicate potential future strain on resources. - Lack of opportunities for young people in the area to encourage them to stay in the region. - High levels of deprivation with some 86.4% of ED's classed as having "varying levels of deprivation. - 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. - A lack of local community development officers around some areas of the FLAG region. - Fishing is the FLAG North area is primarily concentrated towards Killybegs and Greencastle which can be at the detriment to other ports in the area.

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

Table 3 highlights that lifelong learning and attracting young people was the top priority for the FLAG North area. Job creation and maintenance ranked second, followed by supporting innovation and diversification.

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 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

4. Strategy and Objectives

3.1 Introduction

The FLAG North strategy comprises the Vision and an integrated framework of 6 themes, 7 priorities and 16 actions.

The Intervention Logic has been arrived at as follows:

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

"The FLAG North will have regenerated, robust, sustainable local coastal communities"

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

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 individuals dependant on seafood and the blue economy in the coastal community.

Rationale for theme

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

	Action	**Description**
1.1	To support the future of coastal communities through learning and skills development	Developing the skills in local coastal communities including training and upskilling. This could include: - 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 for heritage skills. 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.
1.2	Development of artisan food and drink production	Develop and encourage artisan food and drink production. Build links with artisan food producers and the local hospitality sector, encouraging cooperation and promoting the two industries collectively.
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.

Key theme 2: Actions that identify innovations that can lead to a transition towards smarter growth in coastal areas

Rationale

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

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
2.1	New product development	Support the development of new products including market testing, incubation space development (fit out and access of space not new build), applications to aid in the direct selling of produce to customers and exploration of new export markets, including within the blue economy and maritime/ aquaculture sectors.
2.2	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. This will exclude processing operations.
2.3	Data collection	Support for the development of data initiatives and data collection projects to advance innovations.
2.4	To support actions on how to identify the diversification of catch from underutilised species.	Support to encourage more responsible and sustainable fishing and to support the launch of new seafood products of underutilised species.

Key theme 3: Actions to develop and promote niche tourism.

Rationale

Tourism is one of the largest growth sectors for the economy of County Donegal. Regional and national strategies including the Wild Atlantic Way, have created an opportunity for coastal tourism. The development and growth of the sector continues to be a key economic development driver for the area. The support under this objective aims to promote the development of the marine, coastal and estuary tourism in coastal areas.

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
3.1	Developing the coastal tourism offering.	Support the development of the marine, coastal and estuary tourism offering.
3.2	Improving pier and harbour infrastructure and supporting the multi-use of marine facilities.	Support for harbour management plans, development of information points and small scale infrastructure improvements to improve facilities at smaller piers and harbours. This will exclude projects covered by the DAFM Harbours Scheme.
3.3	Development of tourism offering through seafood festivals and coastal community festivals.	Support the development of tourism offering through seafood festivals and coastal community festivals, with a specific focus on extending the core tourist season This could include festivals which promote the Irish language, local music, local culture and local traditions.

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

	Action	Description
4.1	To support networking and co-operation between FLAGs and other relevant stakeholders at a regional, national and international level.	Support networking and co-operation within and between FLAGs and other relevant stakeholders at a regional, national and international level. Encourage forms of collaboration across key parties to implement development initiatives, building relationships where all parties collaborate and work collectively to reach a common goal.
4.2	Encourage knowledge sharing and transfer across FLAG Boards and key stakeholder groups.	Support the creation of opportunities for knowledge sharing to support innovations and diversification to develop thriving coastal areas.

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

Rationale for theme

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

	Action	Description
5.1	Ensuring the survival of coastal heritage	Support for projects, which aim to promote and sustain the coastal heritage of the region. This could include but isn't limited to; historical events and exhibitions; the development of heritage centres; research into local history; interpretative signage in relation to points of interest and of coastal heritage trails / coastal walks and actions to promote the heritage of the Irish language.
5.2	Marine Heritage / Coastal Festivals and Events	Support for festivals and events, which contribute to the promotion of marine or coastal heritage. A particular emphasis will be placed on festivals and events that extend the core tourism season.
5.3	Improving access to services in coastal areas	Support for the development and enhancement of existing coastal community assets. Targeted initiatives to address isolation and supports for accessible coastal activities and community health and well-being projects.

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

Rationale for theme

The beaches, scenery and wildlife across the FLAG North 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. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	2. Job Creation	3. Innovation & Diversification	4. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities
5. Adding Value	6. Social well-being and cultural heritage	7. Environmental assets	

	Action	Description
6.1	Protecting and Enhancing the Marine Environment	Actions to support the protection and enhancement of the environment in coastal areas.

4. The Fisheries Local Action Group

4. The Fisheries Local Action Group Rules of Procedure

4.1   Organisation Details

Element	Detail
Organisation Details	Fisheries Local Action Group North
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 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 support. All other funds will be administered and disbursed centrally by BIM.

4.2.1 FLAG Boards and GDPR

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

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

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

4.2.2 Role of the FLAG Board in funding applications

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

	Step	Description	Carried out by…
1	**Animation**	**Animation and public information campaign, targeted within the areas of need as per the LDS**	**FLAGs**
2	**Call for proposals**	**FLAGs will periodically invite applications**	**FLAGs**
3	Application Submitted	Application submitted by the applicant	Applicant
4	Written Acknowledgement	Written acknowledgement of application to the applicant within one week of application	BIM Head Office
5	Completeness Check	Completeness check of the application (including supporting information) carried out	BIM Head Office
6	Eligibility Check	To advise FLAGs 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 Board Technical and Investment 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	Area of Interest/ Expertise
Stephen McCahill	Community	Glenard Fish Common Fisheries Policy (Former) Chair of the North Board	Fishing
Eddie Kelly	Private	Malin Head Fisherman's Co-op	Fishing
Andrew Ward	Private and Community	Local Community Development Committee Loughs Agency Inishowen Leader Company Former FLAG Member	Fishing
Norah Parke MSc	Community	RIFF Member Killybegs Fisherman's Organisation Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) Consultative Committee	Fishing
Máirín Uí Fhearraigh	Community	Donegal Small Islands Co-op, Comharchumann na nOileán Beaga. Heritage Linkage Group PPN Secretariat Former FLAG Member	Sustainable Development
Michael O'Donnell	Private and Community	Killybegs Regeneration Group Killybegs Information centre	Seafood Processing Renewable Energy
Jerry Early	Private and Community	RIFF Vice Chair Former FLAG Member	Fishing

		Arranmore Co-op Chairman	
		Deputy Launching Officer of Arranmore RNLI lifeboat	
		Vice Chair of the Parish Committee	
		Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada	
		PRO and Spokesperson Arranmore Island Council	
		Chair of Donegal Island Marine Resource Organisation (DIMRO) and the National body (IIMRO)	
		Fisherman representative for Comhar na nOilean.	
Jerry Gallagher	Private and Community	RIFF member

Former FLAG Chair

Irish Shellfish Association | Aquaculture |
| Tony Boyle | Private and Community | Former RIFF Member

Former FLAG Member | Fishing |
| Charles Sweeney | Community | Local Government Community

Donegal and Galway island community development co-operatives

Donegal County Council | State Agency |
| Seán ó Gallchóir | Community | Údarás na Gaeltachta

Development Executive with Údarás | State Agency |
| Seamus Bovaird | Private and Community | Foyle Fisherman's Co-op

Former chairman for Greencastle Community Centre

Board member of Greencastle Maritime Museum | Maritime |
| Joy Harron | Private and Community | Donegal Tourism Ltd. | Public Marine Tourism |
| Frank Kelly | Community | FLAG Board Member

Project Management: LEADER, the Salmon Hardship Fund, the Rural Recreation Programme and the Walks Programme etc. | Rural Development |
| Conor McCourt | Private and Community | Former FLAG member

Foyle Fishermen's Co-op | Fishing |
| Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill | Community | Community development manager for the Tory Island Community Development Organisation, Comharchumann Thoraí Teo | Civic Community Development |

38.

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-making[8].

It is recommended that membership of the FLAG should have a maximum of 40% representation from the Statutory bodies/Public Sector[9] and a minimum of 60% representation from the fishing, seafood, coastal communities sector[10]. The balance of organisational representation will be retained throughout the replacement/ rotation process.

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

- **Pillar 1 (Public/Fishing)**
  - ○ Fishing Representatives. Anticipated geographical spread across the region
  - ○ Aquaculture Representative. Anticipated agreed candidate representing sector
  - ○ Processing Representative. Anticipated agreed candidate representing sector
- **Pillar 2 (Community)**
  - ○ Community Representatives (It is anticipated that the selection of community Reps will have an understanding/experience of fishing community interests and or CLLD initiatives and that they would have a geographical spread across the region.
- **Pillar 3 (Local Government, Agencies, Others)**
  - ○ County Council Representative
  - ○ UDARAS Representative
  - ○ LCDC Representative (It is paramount that Local Government and the above agencies are involved as FLAG is complimentary to the functions aspirations and programs of the above listed.)
  - ○ Environmental NGO Representative
  - ○ Tourism Representative
  - ○ Other (available to interest group/party) Representative

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.

Total 16 representatives to be on the proposed FLAG Committee.

Number of Members: At any given time, it is expected that overall board membership will not be less than ten and not more than seventeen members, but may evolve to ensure that there is appropriate representation from across the programme area. Where a member resigns or is removed from the board, a nomination will be sought from the relevant Pillar. For clarity, where a FLAG Board member is

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[8] 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"
[9] 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.
[10] This can include representatives or individuals within the fishery, aquaculture or processing sectors; as well as representatives from the community and voluntary sector

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. During the lifetime of the strategy the FLAG Board will actively try to recruit suitably qualified female volunteers should the gender balance fail to reflect gender balance. To help to achieve this, all nominating bodies (i.e. bodies under each of the membership Pillars) will, in future, be asked to nominate two candidates, one male and one female, to the FLAG Board 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 years[11]. If exceptionally it is decided that a Board member should serve an additional Board term, this requires BIM approval. At an Annual General Meeting of FLAG Boards, one third of the members (normally the longest serving) should resign from the Board. These members will be eligible to be re-appointed to the Board with a proposer, seconder and board agreement, subject to term limits.

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

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

4.4   FLAG Meetings

FLAG Board Meeting Frequency: The frequency of meetings will be based on the needs of the programme. Times of meetings will be organised with due regard to professional and caring roles of members. The notice given of meetings, and the transmission of the related documents, should 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

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[11] 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.

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	Organisation / Nominating Body	Area of Interest/ Expertise	Experience
Stephen McCahill	Community	Glenard Fish Common Fisheries Policy (Former) Chair of the North Board	Fishing	Stephen has been involved in both community life and in the fishing industry for many years. A former member of the government committee to review the Common Fisheries Policy. Stephen has been a production manager in the Pelagic Sector for ten years before becoming involved in the White Fish Sector later setting up his own marketing company to market fresh white fish (Glenard Fish) for many years. He is the recognised voice of fishing capacity being for many years the sole voice on fishing capacity in the Irish Fishing Vessel Register. Stephen has been involved for in excess of thirty years in the community sector. Known for his work in all aspects of community life in the Ardara/Glenties/Killybegs area. In 2006 Stephen received the Rehab Donegal Person of the Year for his services to the community and then in January, 2017, he was to receive the Donegal Association Donegal person of the Year for his services to community work. Stephen is presently Chair of the North Board.
Eddie Kelly	Private	Malin Head Fisherman's Co-op	Fishing	Before retiring, Eddie was involved in commercial fishing for 31 years where he built his own boat in 201 with support under the BIM Fishery Renewal Scheme. After retiring in 2008, he continued relief working the industry before taken up the position as General Manager of Malin Head Fisherman's Co-op in 2015, where he still works in 2023. The co-op has gone on to be largest supplier of Browne Crab in the Island of Ireland.

Andrew Ward	Private and Community	Local Community Development Committee Loughs Agency Inishowen Leader Company Former FLAG Member	Fishing	Andrew's working career started in the fishing industry, where he crewed of a verity of vessels in the whitefish and pelagic sector. He purchased his own vessel the Marie Angelique which he skippered successfully of 20 years. He was a founder member of Foyle Fisherman's Co-op, was appointed to the Board of BIM and served a term on the Board of the Loughs Agency. He later did a degree in Economics and Business at the University of Ulster. He became the Manager of IRDL, the Inishowen Leader Company. He now has many years of experience in the delivery of local development projects to communities in Donegal.
Norah Parke MSc	Community	RIFF Member Killybegs Fisherman's Organisation Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) Consultative Committee	Fishing	Norah has been working as Crab/Project Coordinator with the Killybegs Fisherman's Organisation (KFO) since 2005. Role is largely communication and dissemination of information to sectors within KFO (crustacean, whitefish, pelagic). Play a key role in KFO's partnership in several EU funded projects: current being MYFISH (www.myfish.eu), Efficient Ship (www.efficientship.eu), ACRUNET (www.acrunet.eu). Represent KFO on several WGs e.g. Future Marine Skills Steering Group. Work closely with BIM regarding quality issues, seafood standard etc... Currently a member of the SFPA Consultative Committee.
Máirín Uí Fhearraigh	Community	Donegal Small Islands Co-op, Comharchumann na nOileán Beaga. Heritage Linkage Group PPN Secretariat Former FLAG Member	Sustainable Development	Máirín is the Co-op Manager for the Donegal Small Islands, Comharchumann na nOileán Beaga. The Comharchumann promotes sustainable development on the islands and its aims are development of the islands and empowerment of the islanders. Máirin is an islander and a native Irish speaker and has promoted the preservation of

				Irish marine heritage through projects she has organised for the small Islands of Donegal. She has qualifications in rural development, cultural tourism and business studies. She currently serves as a member of the PPN Secretariat and is convenor of the Heritage Linkage Group. Tá sí ina Rúnaí ar Mheitheal Pleanála Teanga an Iar Thuaiscirt agus ina ball boird ar Choiste Stiúrtha Ghael Linn.
Michael O'Donnell	Private and Community	Killybegs Regeneration Group Killybegs Information centre	Seafood Processing Renewable Energy	Michael has been involved in the fish processing industry for 20+ years and has worked in many sub sectors of it including pelagic, whitefish and aquaculture. He has a master's in marketing and has launched brands into retail & foodservice in Ireland and export markets. He has a background in renewable energy having launched a hydroelectric plant and a wind turbine at his site. Michael is a member of the Killybegs Regeneration group and the Killybegs Information centre and has worked privately with many SME's on their marketing initiatives and new product development.
Jerry Early	Private and Community	RIFF Vice Chair Former FLAG Member Arranmore Co-op Chairman Deputy Launching Officer of Arranmore RNLI lifeboat Vice Chair of the Parish Committee Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada PRO and Spokesperson	Fishing	Jerry is a fisherman from Arranmore Island whose fishing activity is concentrated mostly on lobster since the cessation of salmon fishing and restrictions introduced which ended fishing for dogfish (shark). He also runs a public house on the island. He is chairman of the Arranmore Co-op. He is deputy launching officer for the Arranmore RNLI lifeboat. Vice Chair of the Parish Committee. Parent representative Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada. Manager of Arranmore UTD football team. PRO and Spokesperson Arranmore Island Council. Chair of Donegal Island Marine

48.

		Arranmore Island Council Chair of Donegal Island Marine Resource Organisation (DIMRO) and the National body (IIMRO) Fisherman representative for Comhar na nOilean.		Resource Organisation (DIMRO) and Chair of its affiliated National body (IIMRO) he is also a fisherman's representative on Comhar na nOilean. He is a native Irish speaker and has represented fishing and peripheral coastal communities at National and EU level in their fight against draconian Irish and EU legislative regulations which continue to impoverish coastal communities.
Jerry Gallagher	Private and Community	RIFF member Former FLAG Chair Irish Shellfish Association	Aquaculture	Jerry was involved in commercial fishing for 20 years which included potting, trawling, gill netting, drift netting and charter angling. He formed a family company in 1992 north west shellfish with the sole aim to produce scallops. He is Chair of the Irish Shellfish Association for the past 4 years. He is Chair of FLAG North.
Tony Boyle	Private and Community	Former RIFF Member Former FLAG Member	Fishing	Tony has been a fisherman for many years on trawlers, more recently pot fish in a small punt. He is the Manager of Burtonport Fishermen's Co-op. Tony had been involved in earlier efforts to introduce fisheries management for the inshore sector being involved in the crab species advisory group.
Charles Sweeney	Community	Local Government Community Donegal and Galway island community development co-operatives Donegal County Council	State Agency	Charles has eight years' experience of development of offshore islands having spent the early part of his career managing island community development co-operatives in Donegal and Galway. In his fourteen years to date with Donegal County Council Charles has had a particular role in delivering services in the Gaeltacht and Islands. He has also recently been involved in developing the community elements of the Local Economic & Community Plan, the six year strategic development framework for the county.
Seán ó Gallchóir	Community	Údarás na Gaeltachta	State Agency	Established in 1980, Údarás na Gaeltachta is the regional

		Development Executive with Údarás		authority responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht. The Donegal Gaeltacht encompasses a geographical area of 1,502km2 (population 24,744 (Census 2011)) and stretches from Cill Chártha in the south of the County to the Fánaid Peninsula in the north, covering many of the coastal communities in between. Seán has been a Development Executive with Údarás for twenty five years and has extensive experience of community and business development.
Seamus Bovaird	Private and Community	Foyle Fisherman's Co-op Former chairman for Greencastle Community Centre Board member of Greencastle Maritime Museum	Maritime	Seamus has had a distinguished career as a foreign going master of some of the largest ships in the world. He is a master mariner and has a huge understanding of all things maritime. He worked for some years as the manager of Foyle Fisherman's Co-op after his sea career where he gained an understanding of the issues facing the industry. He is now a community activist and the past chairman for Greencastle Community Centre. He is a board member of Greencastle Maritime Museum.
Joy Harron	Private and Community	Donegal Tourism Ltd.	Public Marine Tourism	Joy has over 16 years' experience in the Tourism Marketing and Development sector, with particular emphasis on digital and communications strategy. Currently specialising in Marine Tourism marketing and development in Donegal. Joy is working on the development and management of several EU and National Funded Tourism Projects on behalf of Donegal Tourism Ltd. Joy is also a CTP (Certified Training Professional) qualified to deliver a wide range of training courses in the tourism sector.

50.

Frank Kelly	Community	FLAG Board Member Project Management: LEADER, the Salmon Hardship Fund, the Rural Recreation Programme and the Walks Programme etc.	Rural Development	Frank has immense experience in CLLD type Initiative implementation and management including the delivery of several Rural Development Programmes including LEADER, the Salmon Hardship Fund, the Rural Recreation Programme and the Walks Programme to mention but a few. The successful delivery of all these projects included strict financial control, timely and accurate reporting, marketing, governance while ensuring compliance with employment and contract law. One of the key tasks associated with the successful delivery was to gain access to and provide animation to local actors and in particular local communities and those most disadvantaged, so as they could in turn participate in the "Bottom-Up Approach" to rural development.
Conor McCourt	Private and Community	Former FLAG member Foyle Fishermen's Co-op	Fishing	Conor began his career in the industry fishing Salmon during summers as a teenager from his home port of Greencastle before progressing to work on trawlers from various ports around the coast. Having returned to college to study engineering, Conor worked in Seagate technology in Derry for 10 years before taking up his position in Foyle Fishermen's Co-op. Conor is currently the Operations manager with Foyle Fishermen's co-op in Greencastle and has overseen the modernisation of the co-op through the introduction new technology and the design and building of a state of the art new auction hall on Greencastle pier. Conor is involved in various sporting organisations within his local community.
Marjorie Uí Chearbhaill	Community	Community development manager for the Tory Island Community	Civic Community Development	Marjorie is from the Gaeltacht Village of Magheroarty, Co. Donegal and she is the Community development manager for the Tory Island

		Development Organisation, Comharchumann Thoraí Teo		Community Development Organisation, Comharchumann Thoraí Teo since 2016. In her previous role Marjorie Worked for 12 years as projects manager for Cló Ceardlann na gCnoc Teo (Visual art & Media workshop & international artist residency facility), managing and securing funding for many projects at local, national and international level.

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 FLAG North scheme are highlighted below.

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

- *Current Spend:* € 1,826,241.82

- *Response rate:* Surveys sent 121, responses 88, response rate 73%

- *Project Type Breakdown:*
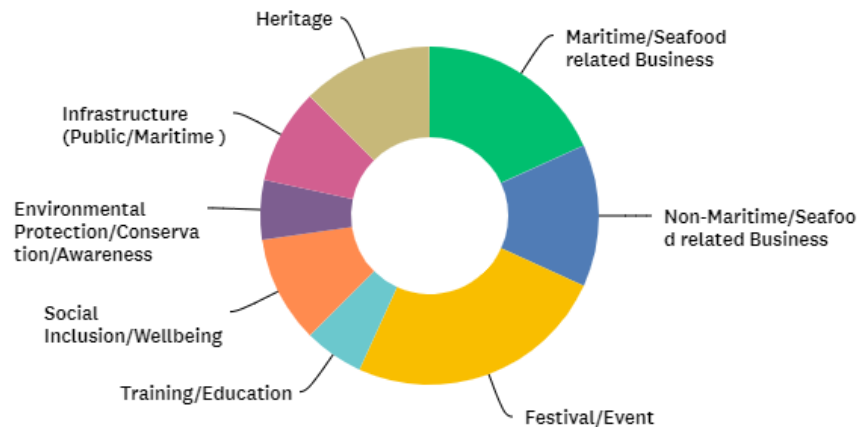
ANNSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Maritime/Seafood related Business	18.18%	16
Non-Maritime/Seafood related Business	13.64%	12
Festival/Event	25.00%	22
Training/Education	5.68%	5
Social Inclusion/Wellbeing	10.23%	9
Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness	5.68%	5
Infrastructure (Public/Maritime)	9.09%	8
Heritage	12.50%	11
TOTAL		88

Enterprise Projects

- 16 Maritime or Seafood enterprises and 12 Non-Maritime/Seafood enterprises received support from FLAG North.
- These enterprises report the creation of 79 new FTE jobs as a result of the funded projects, with 59 existing jobs being maintained
- FLAG Funding resulted in the development of new products for 10 of these enterprises
- 13 enterprises report access to new markets due to FLAG funding

Festivals

- 22 Festivals received funding
- FLAG Funding resulted in an additional 40740 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 North region of €4,399,920

Training & Education

- 5 projects received funding for Training/Education
- All projects were for Groups
- Projects Funded resulting in at least 32 individuals receiving Accredited Training

Social Inclusion/Wellbeing

- 9 projects funded
- Community Garden
- Seaweed baths
- Kayaking sessions
- Community Centre Upgrades
- Marine leisure activity
- AED's and First Aid resources.
- Kitchen doing Community dinners
- Road trailer and defibrillator
- Extended beach access to users of all abilities.

Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness

- 5 Projects Funded
- Installation of LED type lights
- Grass maintenance machinery
- Lough Swilly feasibility study
- River basin Clean up and maintenance
- 2 Beach cleans

Infrastructure

- 8 Infrastructure projects funded
- The Enhancement building and upgrade
- Generator
- Refurbishment and small extension to existing Tea Room
- Pontoon
- Memorial & Harbour Green refurbishment
- Kitchen equipment and small extension to cafe
- creation of extra office space in conjunction with completing a new packaging facility
- Village/Town Enhancement (Flower planters etc.)

Heritage

- 11 Heritage Projects supported
- Exhibition Space Enhancement
- Feasibility study lighthouse
- Inishowen Fishermen in the RND in WW1
- Grass maintenance machinery

- Stage at heritage centre
- Laurentic Legacy Project
- Maritime Heritage Digital Archive
- Restoration of Slipway at Pier
- Stolwijk Monument
- Fort Dunree Water sports Project.

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

Ref	Applicant	Project Title	Grant Aid
201N.6	Ardara Community Centre	Roof repair at Ardara Community Centre	€3,453.74
201N.12	Inishowen Community Media Network (ICMN)	Croi na Farraige/Heart of the Sea - Digital Media Maritime Heritage Project & TV Documentary	€19,600.00
201N.13	Inishowen Maritime Heritage Co	Exhibition space enhancement	€5,656.00
201N.14	Awake Tourism	Stage for Heritage Centre	€8,083.17
201N.24	Carrigart Development Association	Carrigart Development Association Environmental & Tourism Project	€1,644.63
201N.29	Scoil Mhuire Buncrana	Scoil Mhuire Sailing Centre	€8,123.20
201N.36	Inver Community Centre Company Limited by Guarantee	Inver Community Centre - Enhancing an Existing Community Asset	€7,993.02
201N.41	Comharchumann forbartha Ghaoth Dobhair	Athnuachan ar chóras séarachais ag an Chrannóg	€8,960.00
201N.47	Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór CTR	Tourist Information Booklet	€1,593.60
201N.48	Kilcar Kayaks	Kilcar Kayaks	€15,142.72
201N.50	Coiste Halla Paróiste	Energy Renewal Programme	€2,251.20
201N.52	Gola Island Outdoor Education	Launch and retrieval of rescue craft / Transportation of equipment to main pier. (Trailer,Kayaks etc.)	€4,650.00
201N.55	Forbairt Dhún Lúiche	Ionad Pobail Dhún Lúiche & Féile an Earagail	€3,823.83
201N.57	Muileann Coirce Leitir CTR	Siúlóid Abhainn na Timpeallachta (Environmental River Walk)	€35,042.56
201N.61	Donegal Bay Rowing Club	Donegal Bay Rowing Club Safety Boat Upgrade	€10,372.00
201N.69	Glenties Cardiac First Responders	Purchase of Training/Life Saving Equipment	€14,975.68
201N.53	The Ulster Canada Initiative	Laurentic Legacy	€7,252.80
201N.72	Donegal Dragons	Donegal Dragons Safety Boat	€12,346.38
201N.73	Cumann Staire & Seanchais na nOileán	Gola Picnic Area	€3,680.00
201N.83	Niall Mór Community & Enterprise Centre	Essential work	€13,404.58
201N.91	Foresters Community Hall Ltd CLG	Installation of a kitchen	€17,168.00
201N.96	Comharchumann forbartha Ghaoth Dobhair	Plean Gnó do Thogra Turasóireachta ag Teach Mhuiris, Cnoc Fola	€14,400.00
201N.114	LAN Ctr (Lárionad Acmhainní Nádúrtha Cuideachta faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta)	Ag Leathnú Cumais (Added Capacity)	€20,014.40
201N.103	Áislann Chill Chartha	Riverside Cáfe, The Áislann	€20,409.60
191N.32	Narin, Portnoon, Rosbeg Community Cooperative Society Ltd	To incorporate the Dolmen Community Fishery	€8,000.00
191N.40	Comharchumann Thorai Teo	New Library & Training Facility	€3,717.50
191N.17	Scoil Mhuire Buncrana	Scoil Mhuire Sailing Club	€13,162.18

191N.14	Inishowen Maritime Heritage Co.	Fishing boat restoration project	€1,487.54
191N.63	LAN CTR	Cothú Acmhainn an Tí Gloine (Sustaining the Glass House Capacity)	€5,360.00
191N.1	Tír Boghaine Teo	Tír Boghaine Community Garden	€4,012.35
191N.9	Muintearas Teo	Writing a module 'special needs in Irish'	€2,000.00
191N.11	Loughros Point Rowing Club	Development of a Pontoon at St John's Pier Ardara	€27,208.55
191N.14	Inishowen Maritime Heritage Co.	Fishing boat restoration project	€2,429.79
191N.17	Scoil Mhuire Buncrana	Scoil Mhuire Sailing Club	€3,882.98
191N.19	Fort Dunree Military Museum Ltd	Continuation of Fort Dunree Water Sports Project	€19,892.00
191N.37	Malin Head Community Association	Comfort upgrade to Main Hall of Malin Head Community Centre	€3,761.64
191N.34	Comharchumann Thorai Teo	Benches and Bin	€4,892.86
191N.51	18th Donegal Moville Port Sea Scouts	Equipment	€3,908.00
181N.11	Inishowen Community Media Network (ICMN)	Coastal Lives	€2,760.00
171N.7	Inishowen Maritime Heritage Co	Fishermen in the Royal Navy Reserve & Royal Naval Divisions WW1	€1,001.62
181N.8	Foyle Sailability	Training	€4,459.14
191N.63	LAN CTR	Cothú Acmhainn an Tí Gloine (Sustaining the Glass House Capacity)	€6,400.00
181N.23	Greencastle Harbour Users Group	Queensport Pier Car Park	€20,009.77
181N.10	Killybegs Information Centre Ltd	Office Costs	€1,662.89
171N.7	Inishowen Maritime Heritage Co	Fishermen in the Royal Navy Reserve & Royal Naval Divisions WW1	€5,509.53
181N.1	Greencastle Community Development CLG	Maritime Summer Camp	€6,842.56
181N.3	Donegal Dragons	Road Trailer & Defibrillator Purchase	€5,304.00
181N.4	Moville Boat Club (Training Application)	Training	€5,405.00
181N.10	Killybegs Information Centre Ltd	Office Costs	€5,189.00
181N.11	Inishowen Community Media Network (ICMN)	Coastal Lives	€2,160.00
181N.13	Carrigart Development Association	Restoration & Cleaning of Marble Celtic Cross	€3,640.00
181N.16	Pobail Pairtiocht Iar Dheisceart Dhun na nGall	Upgrade of training facilities at Niall Mor Centre	€13,729.60
181N.18	Fort Dunree Military Museum Ltd	Extension of slipway at Fort Dunree Pier	€26,880.00
181N.20	Greencastle Community Development CLG	Marine Training Project	€7,126.40
181N.24	Malin Head Community Association	Malin Head Tourist Information FLAGs	€1,504.82
181N.34	Aislann Chill Chartha CLG	Heritage Exhibition/Museum Centre	€16,390.84

181N.35	LAN Ctr	Aithbheochan - Land Rehabilitation for Community & Biodiversity	€8,172.00
181N.43	Malin Head Community Association	Malin Head active retirement community	€3,802.93
181N.54	Killybegs Community Council	Rejuvenate Killybegs	€3,557.60
171N.1	Coiste Forbartha Phort Arthur	Fanad Lighthouse Interpretative Space	€2,677.48
171N.7	Inishowen Maritime Heritage Co	Fishermen in the Royal Navy Reserve & Royal Naval Divisions WW1	€7,621.68
171N.8	Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór Teo	Feasibility Study potential, Lighthouse on Arainn Mhor Island	€3,240.00
171N.16	Inishowen Development Partnership	National Conference	€7,335.60
171N.18	Comharchumann Thoraí Teo	Tory Island Tidy Islands 2017/2018	€3,744.00
171N.23	Fort Dundee Military Museum Ltd	Watersports project	€19,728.00
171N.25	Forbairt Fhanda	Fanad Lighthouse Interpretative Space	€9,509.38
171N.26	Ulster Canada Initiative	Laurentic Centenary Legacy Project	€5,412.61
171N.30	Greencastle Community Development Co. Ltd	Summer by the Sea, Summer Camp	€6,449.20
171N.35	Stolwyk Memorial Monument Project	Commemoration monument	€16,000.00
171N.36	Kilcar Parish Council Coastal Org	Improvements on coastal walks	€15,744.00
171N.38	Inver Community Centre	Enhancing an existing community asset	€5,600.00
171N2.4	Ardara Community Centre	Loughros Point Rowing Group Project	€3,146.83
171N.29	Malin Head Fishermans Co-operative Society	Holding tank refurbishment & bait storage facility	€49,317.60
191N.23	Malin Head Fishermens Co-op	Resin Floor	€20,076.00
181N.19	Lough Swilly Wild Oyster Society Ltd	Feasibility Study for a Native Oyster Management & Recovery Plan for Lough Swilly	€4,485.00
181N.27	Malin Head Fishermans Co-operative Society	Floor repair and resin coating	€12,203.40
181N.52	Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO)	Feasibility study to examine the use of lighthouse property to diversify from commercial fishing	€14,833.80
201N.25	Malin Head Fishermans Co-operative Society	Floor repair at and resin coating	€17,700.00
201N.32	Malin Head Fishermans Co-operative Society	Floor repair at and resin coating	€4,035.50
201N.7	Ardara Walking Festival	Festival	€2,000.00
201N.16	Greencastle Golf Club	All Ireland Fishermens Golf Seafood Buffet	€2,000.00
201N.44	Comharchumann na nOileán Beag	Féile Ghabhla / Gola Island Festival 2020	€1,065.79
201N.59	Forbairt Dhún Lúiche	Féile an Earagail	€2,000.00
201N.105	Comharchumann Thoraí Teo	Oíche Fhéile Eoin - Tory Island Seafood Festival 2020	€2,000.00
191N.4	Burtonport Festival	Festival	€1,000.00
191N.5	South of the Boarder Festival	South of the Boarder Festival	€1,000.00
191N.8	Summer Lights Festival	Summer Lights Festival	€1,000.00

191N.10	A Taste of Donegal Festival	A Taste of Donegal Food Festival CLG	€1,000.00
191N.6	Johnny Doherty Irish Traditional Music and Dance Festival	Johnny Doherty Irish Traditional Music and Dance Festival	€1,000.00
191N.7	Wild Atlantic Festival	Wild Atlantic Festival	€1,000.00
191N.12	Coiste Forbartha Ghabhla	Feile Ghabhla 2019	€600.00
191N.39	Comharchumann Thorai Teo	Féile Soilse Thorai 2019	€1,000.00
191N.45	Feile Roise Rua	Feile Roise Rua	€1,000.00
191N.46	Dunfanaghy Food Festival	Festival	€1,000.00
191N.59	Greencastle Golf Club	All Ireland Fishermans Golf Championship	€1,000.00
191N.33	Comharchumann Thorai Teo	Oiche Fhéile Eoin - Tory Island Seafood Festival 2019	€1,000.00
191N.35	Forbairt Dhúm Lúiche	Feile an Eragail	€749.80
191N.15	Arranmore Country Fest	Festival	€1,000.00
191N.16	Greencastle Regatta & Festival	Greencastle Regatta & Festival	€1,000.00
191N.53	Seo Taímhaíochta Ghleann Cholm Cille	Seó Taimhaíochta Ghleanncholmcille Mir 2	€1,000.00
191N.56	Lennon Festival	Lennon Festival	€1,000.00
191N.62	Cumann Staire & Seanchais na nOlleán	Blás Ghabhla (Taste of Gola Island)	€1,000.00
191N.64	Killybegs Community Council Ltd	Hooked 2019	€1,000.00
181N.2	Awake Tourism (Festivals)	South of the Boarder Festival	€837.73
181N.6	Burtonport Summer Festival	Festival	€1,000.00
181N.9	Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór	Féile Deireadh Seachtaine 14-16 Meán Fómhair 2018	€960.00
181N.12	Coiste Forbartha Ghabhla	Féile Ghabhla 2018	€722.25
181N.14	A Taste of Donegal Food Festival CLG	Festival	€1,000.00
181N.15	Arranmore County Fest	Festival	€1,000.00
181N.21	Greencastle Regatta & Festival	Greencastle Regatta and Festival	€1,000.00
181N.31	SwellFest Limited	Swell Music and Arts Festival	€1,000.00
181N.33	Greencastle Golf Club	All Ireland Fishermens Golf Seafood Buffet	€1,000.00
181N.38	Dunfanaghy Food Festival Committee of behalf of Donegal Tidy Towns	Festival	€1,000.00
181N.40	Dunkineely Community Ltd (DCL)	Film Screening - Turning Tide in the Life of Man	€450.00
181N.42	Killybegs Community Council	Hooked Maritime Festival	€930.00
181N.47	Wild Atlantic Festival Committee	Wild Atlantic Festival	€987.96
181N.50	Cumann Ramhaíochta Chloich Cheann Fhaola	Féile na gCurach	€858.00
181N.55	SULT	Festival	€1,000.00
171N.2	Moville Boat Club	Foyle Week Festival	€787.83
171N.10	Dunfanaghy Food Festival	Festival	€1,000.00
171N.13	Donegal Bay Rowing Club	Donegal Bay Maritime Festival	€900.00
171N.14	A Taste of Donegal Food Festival CLG	Food Festival	€1,000.00

171N.19	Arranmore Country Fest	Festival	€1,000.00
171N.24	Burtonport Festival	Festival	€1,000.00
171N.32	Greencastle Golf Club	All Irelands Fishermans Golf Festival	€900.00
171N.40	Comharchumann Thoraí Teo	Seafood Festival Troy Islands 2017	€1,000.00
171N.42	Swellfest	Festival	€1,000.00
171N2.1	Coiste Forbartha Ghabhia	Féile Ghabhla 2017	€600.00
171N2.3	Killybegs Community Council	Hooked Maritime Festival	€954.75
201N.10	Seabound Engineering Limited	Seabound, mobile generator and other specialized engineering equipment	€8,330.00
201N.75	JK Engineering	Environmentally Efficient Generator and Plasma	€6,480.00
201N.92	Gola Island Outdoor Education	Safety Boat Outboard Engine	€4,942.05
201N.116	Atlantic Coastal Cruises	Underwater Drone	€2,227.00
191N.13	Seabound Engineering Limited	Upgrade of Engineering equipment	€21,576.00
191N.18	Inish Adventures	Lough Foyle Marine Tourism Development Plan	€27,826.93
191N.21	Greencastle EMS	Marine Electrical System Load Testing Facility	€58,080.00
191N.26	Niall Sweeney	Mobile Welding	€9,200.00
191N.50	Donegal Seaweed Limited	Production Business Development	€6,436.50
181N.25	Wild Strands Limited	Wild Strands	€5,329.80
181N.32	Mick Gillen (Bocondar Properties Limited)	Build Gulladuff Net Yard	€34,532.38
181N.44	Inish Adventures	Lough Swilly Marine Tourism Access Project	€19,623.13
171N.5	Inish Adventures	Folye & Swilly Marine Sports Development Programme	€10,812.59
171N.31	Jaws Watersports	Donegal Wild Atlantic Adventures	€9,000.00
171N.41	PECC Marine	Queensport Net Servicing Project	€52,749.02
201N.15	Hugh Boyle Painter and Decorator	Purchase of a sprayer	€1,920.00
201N.31	Individual Applicant	Improving Local Services	€3,180.00
201N.95	Michael Bonner Engineering	Provision of a Mobile Sand Blasting Unit	€9,800.00
191N.49	Northwest Seaweed Bathhouse & Wellness Retreat		€1,920.00
181N.39	Donegal Food Tours	Donegal Food Tours website build, logo development and branding	€811.11
191N.55	Keith Corcoran	Discovering Donegal's mysteries and legends	€2,926.00
181N.51	Barr's B&B Moville	Glamping at Barr's B&B Moville	€7,280.00
171N.39	Cycle Tory	Purchase bike advertising	€956.08
181N.56	Donegal County Council (Marine Section)	Downings Promenade	€16,854.91
191N.22	Donegal County Council	New Pier Pontoons	€34,112.65
191N.25	Udaras na Gaeltachta	Wheelchair Swing with Enclosure	€19,823.79
191N.27	Udaras na Gaeltachta	Site preparation for future facility	€75,084.52
191N.28	Donegal County Council	Port Arthur Tourism Infrastructure Project	€15,777.16

191N.31	Donegal County Council	Arranmore Accessible Public Conveniences	€20,112.00
171N.3	Donegal County Council	Carrickfinn Beach Wheelchair	€2,435.00
201N.94	Killybegs Catch Ltd. Trading as Shines Seafood	Head office and storage unit refurbishment	€7,292.64
191N.61	Bia Mara an Atlantaigh Fhiáin Teo	Purchase of an automatic price labeller machine	€17,275.00
181N.58	Bia Mara an Atlantaigh Fhiáin Teoranta	Installation of additional blast freezing equipment	€21,810.59
171N.21	Seafood Shack	Street Food Provider	€1,140.00
181N.58	Bia Mara an Atlantaigh Fhiáin Teoranta	Installation of additional blast freezing equipment	€19,827.60
171N.21	Seafood Shack	Street Food Provider	€3,100.00
171N.28	Individual Applicant	Seafood and Marine Enterprise Equipment	€10,501.11
171N.34	Bia Mara An Atlantaigh Fhiáin Teoranta	Installation of equipment	€60,516.93
181N.17	Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór	Equipment	€13,008.64

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