

FLAG SOUTH WEST

Fisheries Local Action Groups
Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta Iascaigh Áitiúla



Supporting Coastal Communities

Fisheries Local Action Group
Local Development Strategy 2024 - 2029



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
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Ireland's
Seafood
Development
Agency

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1. Definition of the Strategy Area

1. Definition of the Strategy Area

1.1 Introduction to FLAG South West

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



Source: RSM

The FLAG South West area comprises the coastal zone of County Limerick and County Kerry, as highlighted by the map in Figure 1 above. A total of 75 District Electoral Divisions, which typically lie 10km from the coastal strip, have been analysed to provide a snapshot of the nature of the region. The FLAG South West area has a total population of 73,719, with 90% of citizens situated in Kerry.

The Kerry Gaeltacht consists of two areas – the western half of Gaeltacht Corca Dhuibhne (Dingle Peninsula) and central and western parts of Iveragh Peninsula (Uíbh Ráthach). The largest settlement in Corca Dhuibhne is Dingle and the largest in Iveragh Peninsula is Ballinskelligs.

Large ports in the area include Dingle Fishery Harbour Centre, Fenit Harbour and Foynes, which support the scale and distribution of fishing and aquaculture dependent businesses along the coast of Kerry and the Shannon estuary. The Shannon Foynes Port Company operates three of its six terminals within the FLAG area, including Tarbert in Kerry, and Foynes and Aughinish in Limerick, as well as Ireland's second largest port facility in the Shannon estuary.

Along the coast there are small fisheries located at piers and harbours targeting brown crab, velvet and green crab, whelk and *Nephrops*, scallop, shrimp and line caught fish, gill netting and trawling.

The seafood industry has a considerable economic impact in the South West region especially in more peripheral areas. Further, there is considerable diversity in the South West FLAG Fishing fleet with under 10m boats mostly potting for lobster crab and shrimp, crayfish and velvet crab with many other day boats targeting pollack with static gill nets.

The Business of Seafood Report of 2022 observed that Dingle Harbour, located in the FLAG region, had the third highest value of landings (€23 million) of all Irish ports, producing 2.7% of the national level of the volume of landings (7,100 tonnes).

In 2022, the South West region of Ireland had a regional aquaculture output of 4,894 tonnes, accounting for 11% of national output, as well as 14% of the sales value (€25.4 million). A considerable proportion of the regions output is from to salmon (1,939 tonnes), oysters in Dingle Bay (1,448 tonnes) and rope grown mussels (970 tonnes). The South West region is also home to 9 seafood processing companies, employing 230 staff.

The region is home to areas of local and international biodiversity significance. Within the FLAG South West area and the Shannon Estuary there are 23 Special Areas of Conservation and 10 Special Protection Areas. Kerry also has eight Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) designated to protect ecologically important habitats and 6 Nature Reserves including the Skelligs.

Marine tourism is a large sector in the region which continues to see growth and investment. There is an estimated 60 boats engaged in marine tourism, including to the Skelligs and Blasket islands, Dingle Harbour boat tours, Light house tours, Dolphin and Whale Watching, angling and shorter fun day or half day trips for families. The regions Licensed Charter fleet are distributed all along the Kerry coast with hotspots in Fenit, Dingle, Cahersiveen and Portmagee/Valentia. Substantial tourism is present along the coast with significant growth in recent years in eco holidays. The many attractions range from angling, eco tours, whale watching, sightseeing, adventure rides, sailing, self-drive boat hire, traditional Naomhog (currach)rowing, canoeing, kayaking, surfing including wind & kite, paddle boarding as well as diving and snorkelling all along the Wild Atlantic Way.

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

With over 8,000 kilometres of coastland and responsibility for one of the largest marine areas in Europe, Ireland's economy, culture, and society are inextricably linked to the sea. The marine environment is a national asset that yields multiple commercial and non-commercial benefits in terms, of, for example, fisheries, aquaculture, seafood, tourism, recreation, renewable energy, cultural heritage, and biodiversity. Forty percent of Ireland's population lives within 5km of the coast, made up of urban, rural and island coastal communities. However, it is those in remote coastal communities which are most dependent on the benefits generated by the marine environment and economy. Ireland's coastline is remarkable and a key enabler of regional development, but also a fragile resource that needs to be carefully managed to sustain its character, environment and biodiversity.

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

Despite the buoyant seafood sector and strong coastal communities and economies, an unprecedented convergence of global and European events threatens its continued development. Covid, Brexit, and more recently the invasion of Ukraine has presented a volatile market for key inputs and exposed the

fragility of the seafood sector to shocks. Furthermore, inflationary pressures are squeezing margins and have the capacity to drive down much needed investment for its development.

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

The volatile operating environment for the industry and the state's responsibility for protecting the marine environment has led to the focus of the Irish EMFAF¹ 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

¹ European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund Programme for Ireland (EMFAF Seafood Development Programme) 2021-2027

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.3 What is FLAG

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

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

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

Operationally, the area covered by this FLAG Local Development Strategy is defined as any location located 10km from the mean high water mark, however enterprises or initiatives located further inland that have a direct impact on the coast may also be supported. The strategy aims to support sustainable coastal communities through actions that are complementary to other supports including, inter alia, the EMFAF and LEADER.

1.4 Where does FLAG fit?

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

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

The key themes to deliver this Priority are:

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

1.5 Key Policies

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

Figure 2 outlines the policies and strategies, which were considered.



1.6 Consideration of Complementary Measures

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

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

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

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

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

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

Economic Development and Job Creation

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

Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

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

Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

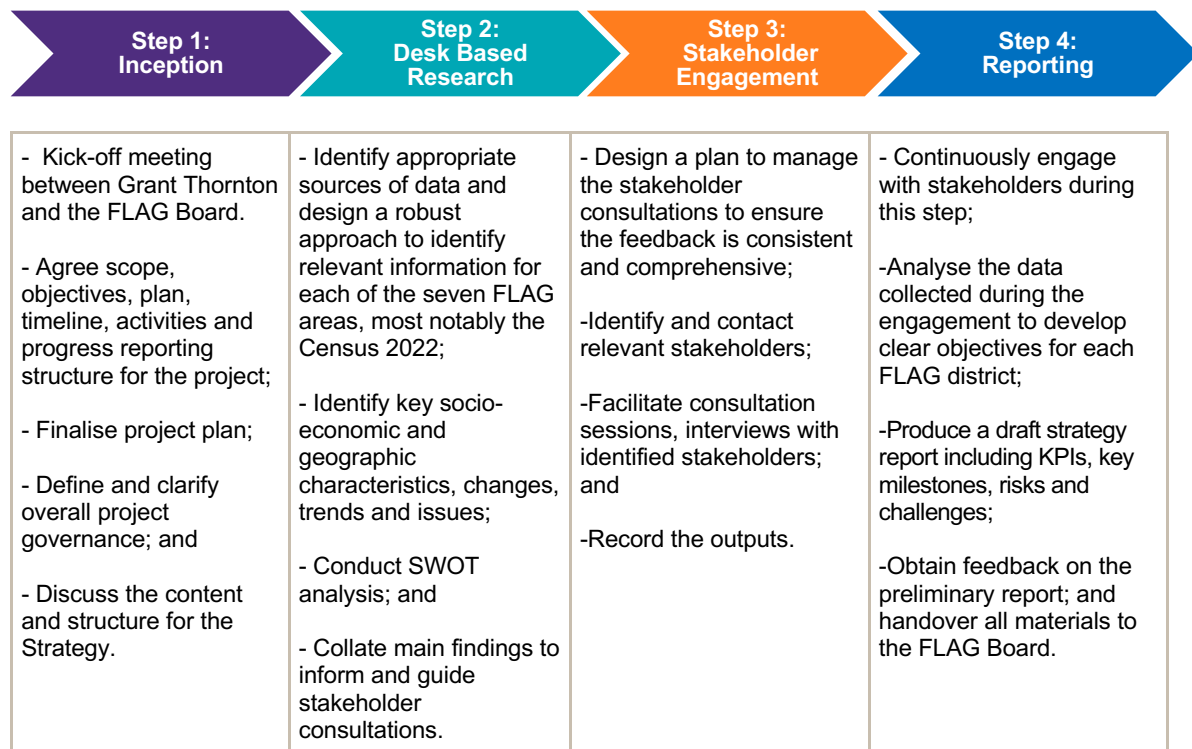
The Commission is determined to make this Europe's "Digital Decade"¹ and recognises that Europe needs to strengthen its digital sovereignty and set standards, rather than following those of others – with a clear focus on data, technology, and infrastructure. All EU funding programmes will reflect this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

1.7 Methodology

To compile the Local Development Strategy report, Grant Thornton prepared a four-phased planning approach to ensure the specific requirements of the FLAG were met. This approach ensured a 'bottom-up' process with input by local people and partners following the principles of **Community Led Local Development**². The methodology is outline below in Figure 3.

² Community Led Local Development (CCLD) is a bottom-up approach to development that encourages local people to be involved in developing responses to the social, environmental and economic challenges.

Figure 3: Methodology Approach



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



2. Analysis of the Development Needs

2. Analysis of the Development Needs

2.1 Introduction

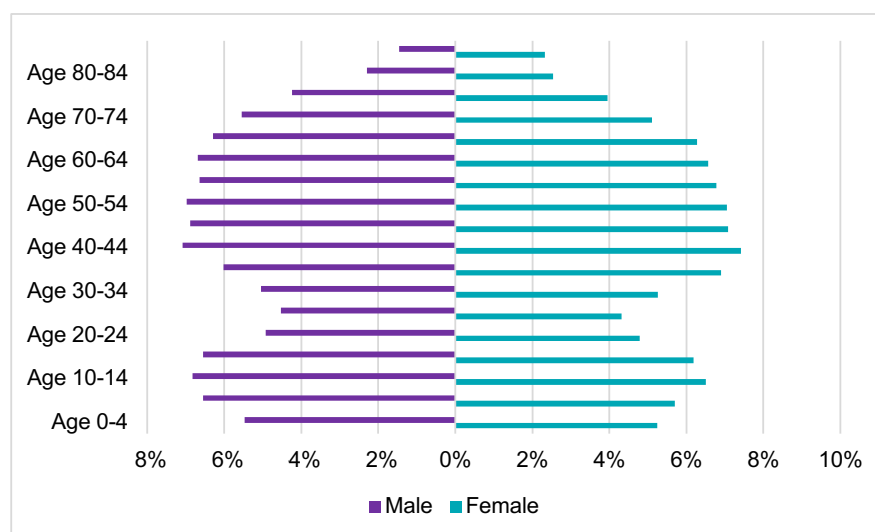
The following sections provide analysis of the development needs of the FLAG area through both qualitative and quantitative data. It has been developed through a combination of desk-based research, survey results and consultation findings.

2.2 Socio-Economic Profile

Population

- Within the FLAG South West area, population has increased to 73,719, an increase of 6.3% since 2016.
- At county level, the population of Limerick increased 7.5% in 2022 to 209,536 and the population of Kerry increased 5.9% to 156,458 in 2022.
- Ireland's population increased 8.1% in 2022 to 5,149,139. The FLAG South West area accounted for 1.4% of Ireland's population in 2022.

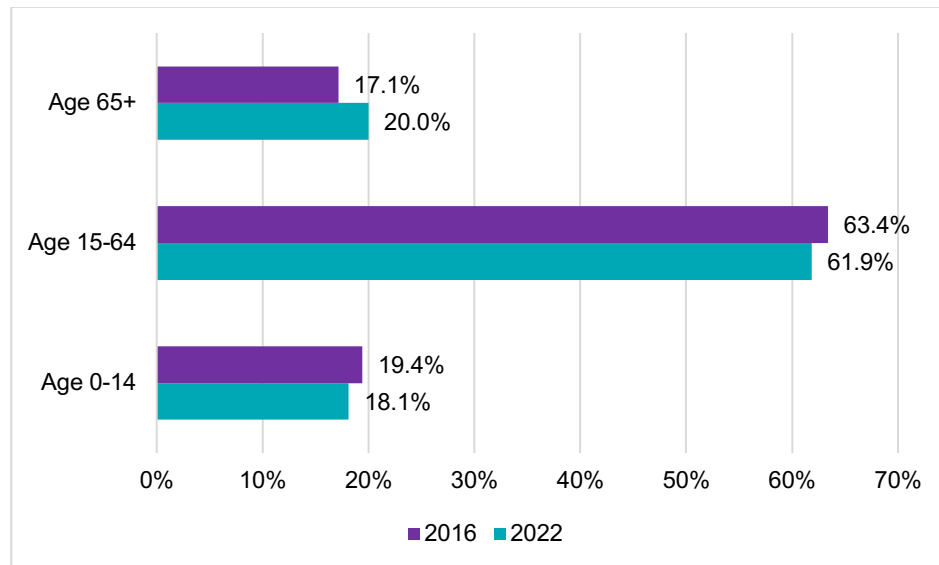
Figure 2: Percentage of Population by Age and Sex in FLAG South West, 2022



Source: CSO

- The FLAG South West area has an almost equal gender split, with 49.3% of males and 50.7% of females residing in the area.

Figure 3: Age Profile, 2022

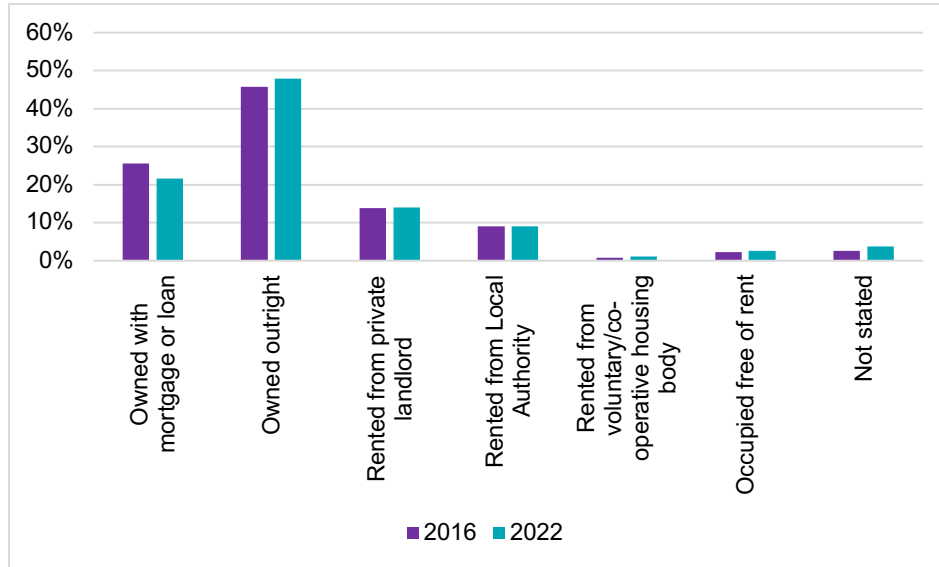


Source: CSO

- There is an older population in FLAG South West area, with 20% of the population aged 65 or over, compared with the other FLAGs and the Irish average of 14.3%. In 2016 17.1% of the FLAG South West area was aged 65 or over highlighting the increasing ageing population in the region.
- The number of persons aged 0-14 declined to 18.1% in 2022. This could indicate potential future strain on resources with an ageing population and the number of young persons declining.
- The proportion of persons residing in the FLAG South West area born in Ireland fell from 83.7% in 2016 to 82.5% in 2022.
- Some 17.5% of people in FLAG South West area were born outside of Ireland. Of this, 7.6% were born in the UK and 1.8% were born in Poland.
- There is a strong sense of cultural awareness with 44.2% of the population able to speak Irish in 2022, however this has dropped from 46.5% in 2016.
- Of the total population of the area, 16,563 (22.5%) of people had a disability of any kind. This compares with 21.5% nationally.

Place

Figure 4: Home Ownership by Type, 2016-2022

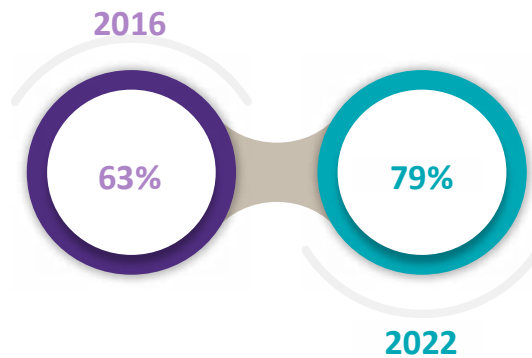


Source: CSO

- In 2022, the proportion of private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan declined to 69.5%, compared to 71.4% in 2016. This was driven by a decline in private households owned with a mortgage/loan which fell 8.4% from 2016. Nationally in 2022 69.5% of private households were owner occupied.
- Almost half (48%) the number of private households were owned outright in 2022.
- One person households account for the largest proportion of households in 2022 (28.3%) followed by married couples with children (26.9%).
- In the Flag South West area 70.4% of permanent dwellings were occupied according to the 2022 Census compared to 68.3% in 2016.
- Of the total permanent dwellings in the area 17.8% were unoccupied holiday homes. This is significantly higher than the national average of 3.2%.
- The number of vacant dwellings decreased to 10.3% of the total, compared to 12.6%
- Of the 75 electoral districts analysed, 60% were classed as having “varying levels of deprivation” and 40% were classed as having “various levels of affluence”.³

³ 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 5: Proportion of Households with Access to Broadband Internet

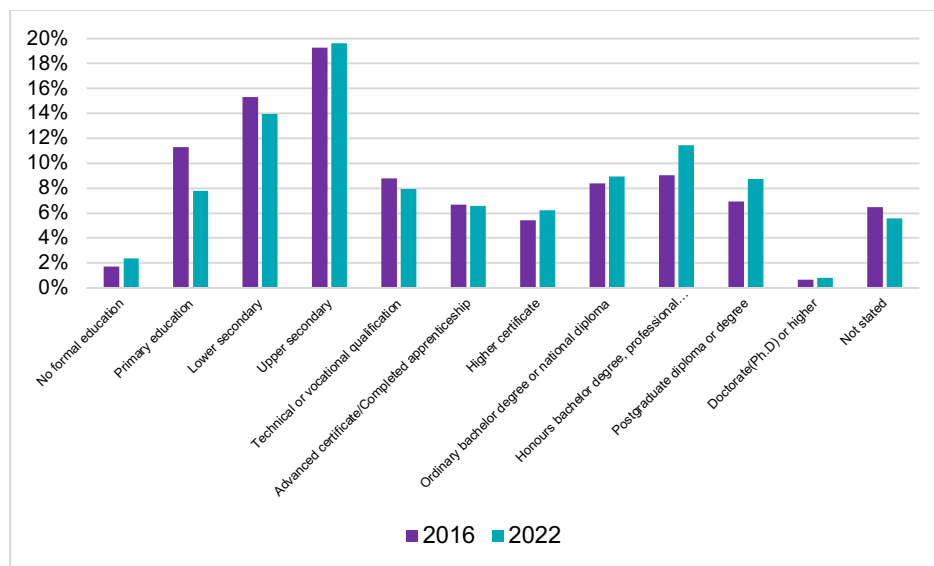


Source: CSO

- The number of households with access to broadband internet has increased 25% since 2016.
- In 2016, 63% of households had access to broadband internet, with this figure growing to 79% in 2022.

Labour market

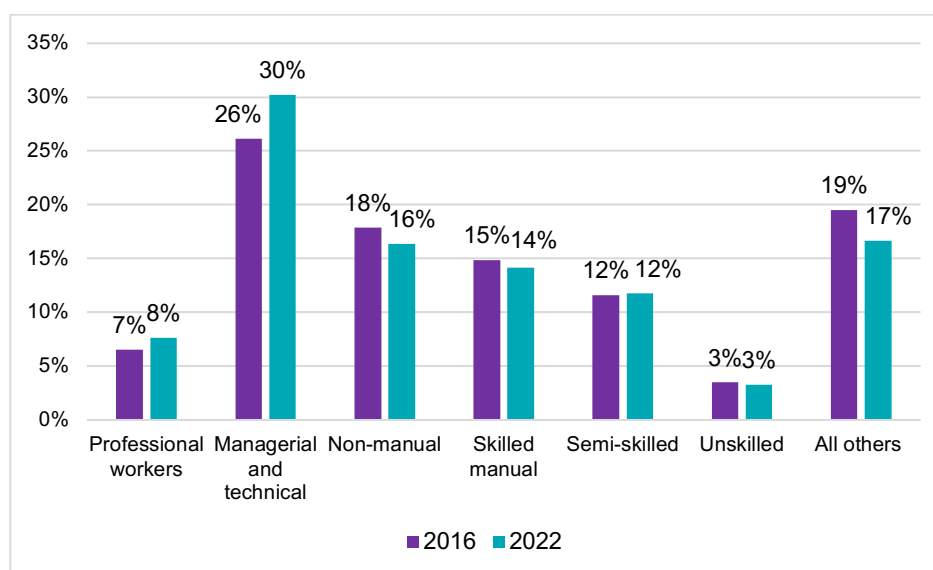
Figure 6: Level of Education as a Percentage of Total Persons Educated, 2016-2022



Source: CSO

- The level of education attainment in the FLAG South West area has been improving over recent years, with 50,715 persons having completed their education in 2022.
- Some 30% of people were educated to degree level or higher in 2022, compared to 25% in 2016.
- Those with an honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by 37%, 35.8% and 36.6% respectively from 2016.
- Of those educated, 7.8% were educated to primary level only, compared to 11.3% in 2016.
- The number of people educated to ordinary degree level increased by 15.2% from 2016.
- Those with no formal education increased from 1.7% in 2016 to 2.4% in 2022.

Figure 7: Socio-Economic Groups by Percentage of Total, 2022



Source: CSO

- Managerial and technical workers account for the largest proportion (30.2%) of the workforce in the FLAG South West area, having increased 22.8% since 2016 from 18,143 workers to 22,279.
- The proportion of the population (aged 15 and over) at work has increased from 50.1% in 2016 to 51.4% in 2022, however it remains below the national average of 56.1%.
- The unemployment rate has declined from 13.5% in 2016 to 9.4% in 2022, sitting above the national average of 8.3%.
- In 2022 male unemployment stood at 9.7%, with female unemployment lower at 9%.
- The proportion of those retired has increased from 18.9% of the population in 2016 to 20.6% in 2022.
- The proportion of the FLAG South West population (5%) who are unable to work due to health problems is higher than the national average (4.6%).
- A quarter of persons at work were employed in the Professional services industry in the FLAG South West area in 2022, a slight increase from the 23.7% in the industry in 2016.
- Employment in the commerce and trade industry accounted for 21.5% of persons at work.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry employed 6.3% of persons at work in 2022, having fallen from 7.6% in 2016.
- An estimated 3.5% of all coastal employment in FLAG South West was in direct seafood employment, with a further 5.7% being in downstream seafood employment.

FLAG South West Seafood Economy

- In the South West area in 2022, the number of landings recorded was 4,441, bringing a total of 8,041 tonnes at a value of €28.9 million.
- A total of 251 vessels were registered in the area in 2022 compared to 267⁴ in 2016.
- In 2022, Dingle Port recorded 7,100 tonnes of landings, accounting for 2.7% of all tonnes landed in Irish Ports, and 4.5% (€23 million) of the total value of landings.
- In 2016, this value was €23m, with a recorded 10,500 tonnes of landings.
- The FLAG South West region had 9 seafood processing companies that employed 230 people in 2022.

⁴ Based on BIM FLAG South West Local Development Strategy 2016

Aquaculture

- The South West area generated €25.4 million of aquaculture sales in 2021, accounting for 14% of the sales value generated across the seven coastal regions.
- The value of aquaculture in the region was €22 million in 2016.
- The area recorded output of 4,894 tonnes, 11% of the coastal regions output.
- In 2021, the area employed 309 persons in aquaculture, 16% of the total employed across the coastal regions and had 59 production units for aquaculture.

Irish Seafood Economy

- The Irish Seafood economy in 2022 contributed an estimated €1.3 billion in GDP, an increase of 4% on 2021. The value of seafood increased 13% to €703 million, aquaculture increased 10% in value to €196 million and the value of seafood landings increased 14%.
- Some €507 million of seafood was landed into Irish ports in 2022, an increase of 14% from 2021. Of this, Irish landings contributed €336 million, accounting for two thirds of output.
- Dublin Bay Prawns was the top landed species by the Irish fleet accounting for 6,200 tonnes with a value of €82million
- The top selling species in 2022 was farmed salmon with €119 million in sales, despite a 3% fall on the previous year. Cod ranked second with €44 million in revenue, a value growth of 5% since 2021.
- The Irish seafood sector is a low carbon-emitting sector, generating less than 2% of the total Irish agri-food greenhouse gas emissions.

Exports

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

Table 1: Top 10 Export Markets for Irish Seafood

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

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

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

Imports

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

Employment












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

Table 2: Breakdown of Direct Employment 2022

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

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

2.3 Summary - Infographic

Marine and Seafood Sector	Demographics	95,059 Total population: +5.4% from 2016	18.9% Aged 65 and over compared to 14.3% nationally	 17.5% of residents born outside of Ireland
	Housing	69.5% Private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan	 17.8% of properties were unoccupied holiday homes	70.4% Permanent dwellings were occupied compared to 68.3% 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 have no formal education
	Labour Market	51.4% residents in employment compared to 50.1% in 2016	 Unemployment rate has declined from 13.5% in 2016 to 9.4% in 2022	20.6% of the population were retired compared to 18.9% in 2016
	Economy	6.3% of labour force employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry	 21.5% employed in the commerce and trade industry.	 Estimated 3.5% of all coastal employment was in direct seafood employment
	Society	 Of the 75 electoral districts analysed, 60% were classed as having "varying levels of deprivation"	 79% of households have access to broadband compared to 63% in 2016	28.3% One person households
	Marine and Seafood Sector	 251 vessels registered in the area	 8,041 tonnes of seafood at a value of €28.9 million	 4,441 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 Limerick and Kerry were a key component of this strategy development and were held to capture key insights and opinions of those with an in-depth knowledge of the FLAG area. These built on the engagement processes undertaken in developing the 2016 strategy. These consultations helped Grant Thornton to form the basis of the strategy by identifying areas of improvement, opportunity or risk to the FLAG area economy. Consultations consisted of in person public meetings, online meetings and a survey.

Public meetings sought to attract attendees from:

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

Dates, times and locations were advertised across local media and trade publications including Kerry's Eye, the Marine Times and The Skipper. FLAG Board members also undertook to share meeting details among their networks.

Public Meetings	
Number of Events	One public meeting and two online meetings
Location of Events	Tralee
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	Tralee

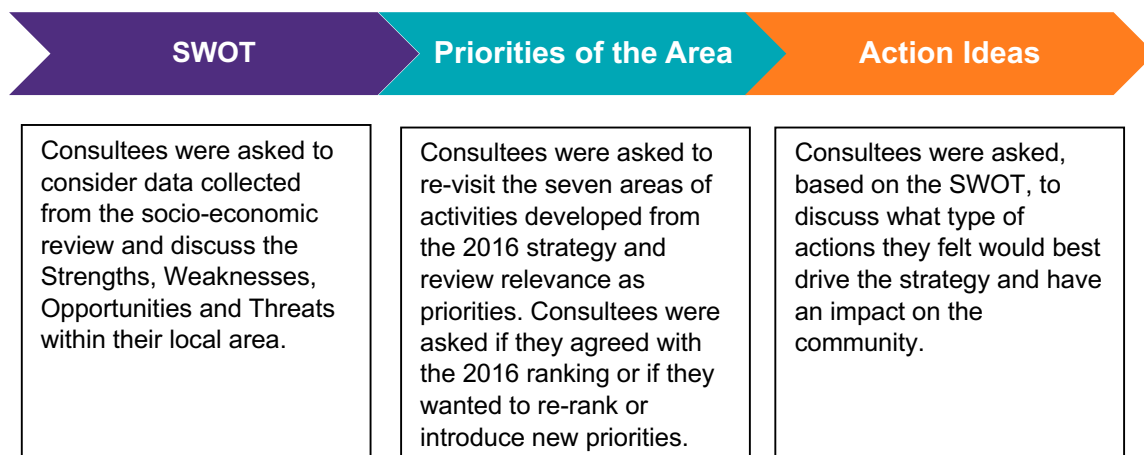
A bespoke email inbox was set up to receive input from interested parties. This FLAG.Strategies@ie.gt.com inbox was communicated at all meetings and across all advertising and attracted 30 responses or inputs from various interested parties.

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 63 participants.

The engagement had 3 main components consisting of a SWOT, ranking of priorities⁵ and action ideas as shown in figure 10 below.

⁵ In 2016, as part of the strategy development, seven areas of activity were developed from the Union Priority 4 of the EMFF Regulation, Article 63 of the Common Provision Regulation and the EMFF OP, and ranked by order of prioritisation. These priorities have been carried through to the 2023 strategy.

Figure 10: Methodology of Consultation



2.5 Feedback from Consultation

2.5.1 SWOT Analysis

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strong cultural awareness in the area, with 44.2% of the population able to speak Irish, accompanied by a strong maritime history and heritage. - Some 30% of the population are educated to degree level or higher. - Strong skills base including vast experience across the region amongst those involved in fishing and aquaculture. - Strongly networked coastal community. - Strong tourism offering. - High level of entrepreneurial activity within communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An ageing population, with 20% of persons aged 65 and over, compared to 14% nationally. - 17.8% of properties are holiday homes and generally unoccupied for large portions of the year. - Proportion of those retired increased from 18.9% of the population in 2016 to 20.6% in 2022. - 24% of the population are still without access to broadband internet. - Lack of knowledge and interest from young people in the area in the marine sector. - Limited access to existing marine / environmental assets. - Seasonality of coastal employment.

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant tourism opportunities related to marine tourism and wildlife and to utilise the scenic landscape and initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way route. - Develop maritime heritage via canoe / kayak trails / Blueways, maritime tourism initiatives and the establishment of walking groups. - Seafood tourism opportunities to build on the areas tourism & fishing strengths. - Maritime and marine upskilling and reskilling to encourage young people to stay in the area and encourage diversification and innovation so they can take advantage of opportunities that will be coming online in various blue economy sectors. - Growth of sports angling in the region. - Exploration of new markets and changes in markets and exports. - Maritime education and upskilling of young people to get them to stay in the area. - Knowledge sharing of fishing experience or instruction with wildlife / biodiversity for the development of an app to record information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proportion of persons aged 0-14 declined to 18.1% 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. - 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. - Threat to supply chain as existing domestic and export markets are full. - Significant threat in balancing competition for water and marine infrastructure use between fishing vessels, tourism and personal use vessel. - Displacement of fishing vessels from ports or pier facilities.

2.5.2 Ranking of Areas of Activity

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

Table 3: A Ranking of Areas of Activity

Areas of Activity	2023 Rank	2016 Rank
Creating and maintaining jobs in coastal areas.	1	1
Promoting innovation in fisheries and aquaculture and supporting diversification inside and outside commercial fisheries.	2	=2
Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas.	3	=5
Adding value to fisheries and aquaculture products.	4	=2
Lifelong learning and attracting young people in fisheries and aquaculture areas.	5	4
Strengthening the role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in local development	6	=5
Promoting the environmental assets of the fisheries and aquaculture areas and mitigation of climate change.	7	7

Table 3 highlights that creating and maintaining jobs in coastal areas was the top priority for the FLAG South West area. Promoting innovation in fisheries and aquaculture and supporting diversification inside and outside commercial fisheries ranked second, followed by promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas.

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 West region. Additionally, the consultations and survey provided community led evidence of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the region, priorities for the FLAG Programme and project ideas.

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



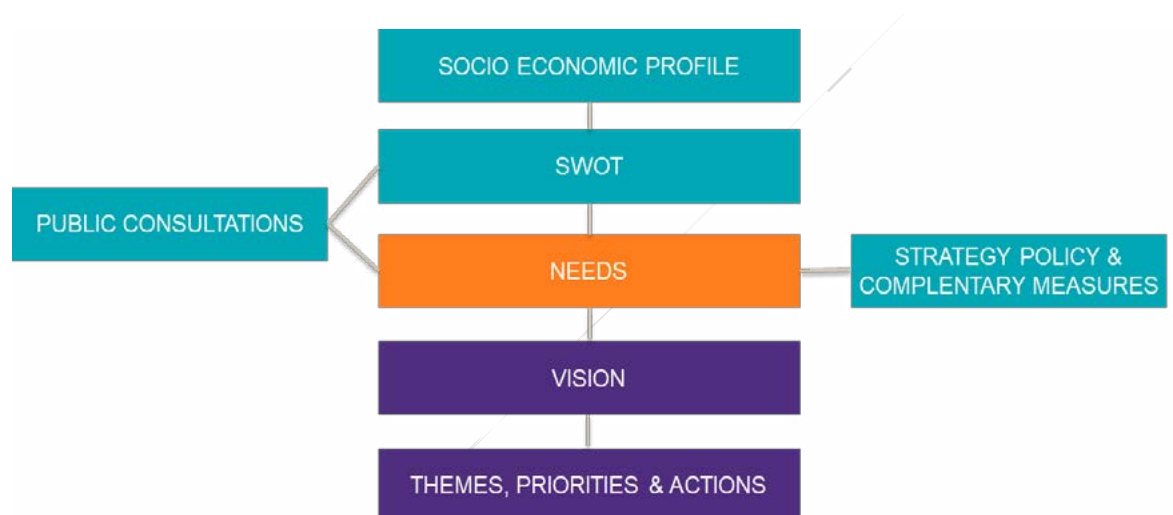
3. Strategy and Objectives

3. Strategy and Objectives

3.1 Introduction

The FLAG South West strategy comprises the Vision and an integrated framework of 6 themes, 7 priorities and 15 actions.

The Intervention Logic has been arrived at as follows:



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

“The FLAG South West will have innovative, sustainable fishing and aquaculture dependent 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

1.	Actions to diversify and enhance the income of individual's 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

1.	Creating and maintaining jobs in coastal areas.
2.	Promoting innovation in fisheries and aquaculture and supporting diversification inside and outside commercial fisheries.
3.	Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas.
4.	Adding value to fisheries and aquaculture products.
5.	Lifelong learning and attracting young people in fisheries and aquaculture areas.
6.	Strengthening the role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in local development
7.	Promoting the environmental assets of the fisheries and aquaculture areas 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 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 enterprises and product development are key to ensure the economy can adapt to the demands of society. Whilst support for the development of new coastal businesses is important, there is also significant need for support for existing businesses. Fishing and aquaculture industries are facing unprecedented challenges including those outside of their controls (legislation, stock issues etc), which threaten the viability of the industries and are increasing the need for innovative ways to further grow the sector. Further, technology is advancing at a faster pace than ever and data is paramount to all technology developments highlighting the importance of data to drive innovations. This objective aims to support coastal businesses through a range of supports to encourage diversification and innovation.

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
1.1	To support new seafood, maritime and marine enterprises and new product development.	Support the development of new products in the blue economy and maritime sector
1.2	To support existing seafood, maritime and marine 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.
1.3	Data collection.	Support for the development of data initiatives and data collection projects to advance innovations such as but not limited to co-operative fisheries projects.
1.4	To support the diversification of catch from underutilised species.	Support to encourage more responsible and sustainable fishing and to support the launch of new artisanal and marine seafood products of underutilised species.

Key theme 2: Actions to develop and promote niche tourism.

Rationale

Tourism is one of the largest growth sectors for the economy of FLAG South West. Regional and national strategies including the Wild Atlantic Way, have created an opportunity for coastal tourism. Further, increases in visitor numbers, coupled with a growing need to protect the coastal environment is driving the urgency for sustainable tourism. Extending the tourist season is also considered a key element for growth and encouraging longer stays within the FLAG area. The development and growth of the sector continues to be a key economic development driver for the area and the support under this objective aims to promote the development of the marine and coastal tourism in the area.

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
2.1	Developing marine, fishing and coastal tourism and water activities.	Support the development of the marine and coastal tourism and water activities offerings and encouraging the development of visitor experiences.
2.2	Improving the visibility, co-ordination and connections of the marine, fishing and coastal tourism industry.	Support the marketing, advertising and branding of the marine and coastal tourism and also to improve the linkages between the tourism based industries (i.e. tour operators, hotels and restaurants) and the fisheries sector raising the awareness and identity of commercial fishing piers and harbours
2.3	Development of out of season marine and coastal community events and festivals.	Support the development (prioritising shoulder season events) of marine festivals and regattas, specifically those promoting and extending the annual tourism season between September – May and those encouraging people to stay in the area for longer than just day trips.

Key theme 3: 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 FLAG South West 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 and fisheries and aquaculture sector and promote it as a viable employment option for people.

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
3.1	To support the future of coastal communities through learning and skills development.	<p>Developing the skills in local coastal communities including training and upskilling. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training courses (excluding those already delivered by existing providers), knowledge exchange, basic skills training, governance and business management. Training supported by the FLAG should complement, not duplicate training already provided by BIM and other providers. - Entry into or upskilling within marine and fisheries sectors <p>Bringing the marine environment to life for young people, promoting the interaction and experience of the marine environment and to support the development of information that encourages young people into marine sector careers. An example of this could be the transition of land scouts to sea scouts.</p> <p>Acknowledge the contribution of fishermen via supports and education, to allow for income diversification utilising their existing skills and knowledge.</p>
3.2	Improving pier and harbour infrastructure for fishing and aquaculture.	To support improvements to facilities to assist with landings, storage facilities and improving access and enhancement of marine infrastructure for multi-sectoral use. This will exclude projects covered by the DAFM Harbours Scheme.
3.3	Development of artisan marine or seafood products.	Develop and encourage artisan seafood or marine production. Build links with artisan seafood or marine producers and the local hospitality sector, encouraging cooperation and promoting the two industries collectively.

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

Rationale for theme

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

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

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

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

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

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
5.1	Develop and grow maritime and coastal heritage.	Support for the development of fishery and maritime heritage groups to contribute to education and knowledge exchange for example through exhibitions, signage, information boards, heritage skills education, recorded stories etc.

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

Rationale for theme

The FLAG South West area has an abundance of wildlife and scenic attractions and significant resource has been used to improve the natural environment sites for visitors, whilst aiming to protect them for future generations. While main environmental measures are deemed to be the responsibility of other supports including those from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), the support under this objective looks at smaller projects in relation to developing and maintaining the physical character and environmental quality of the coast.

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
6.1	Protecting and enhancing the marine environment.	Support the protection and enhancement of the environment in coastal areas including raising awareness of bio-diversity in coastal areas and community based conservation measures in relation to marine coastal environment through local fishing organisations and fishing co-operatives.
6.2	Improving and developing conservation and environmental knowledge.	Support the development of local environmental knowledge through nature trails, wildlife signage, conservation information including education material and programmes and other environmental protections through local fishing organisations and fishing co-operatives.



4. The Fisheries Local Action Group Rules of Procedure

4. The Fisheries Local Action Group Rules of Procedure

4.1 Organisation Details

Element	Detail
Organisation Details	Fisheries Local Action Group South West
Primary Contact Details	Contact Name: Brenda O'Riordan Role: FLAG Coordinator Email: Brenda.Oriordan@bim.ie
Date of FLAG Establishment	
Legal Structure	The Fisheries Local Action Group is the South West Fisheries Local Action Group with Bord Iascaigh Mhara fulfilling the role of Financial Partner and Implementation Partner.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities of the FLAG Board

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

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

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

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

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

- Provision of administrative and animation support for FLAGs
- Verification of beneficiary grant claims
- Ensuring that a clear audit trail exists
- Co-Operation with the Operating Programme level evaluations

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

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

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

4.2.1 FLAG Boards and GDPR

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

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

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

4.2.2 Role of the FLAG Board in funding applications

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

	Step	Description	Carried out by...
1	Animation	Animation and public information campaign, targeted within the areas of need as per the LDS	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.

Name	Pillar	Experience
Kevin Flannery	Private	A long time campaigner on biodiversity and environmental issues and chair of the current SW FLAG.
Joe O'Shea	Private	Part of South Kerry Inshore Fishermen representing Iveragh Fishermans Co op and SW RIFF Member, with over 50 years of fishing experience.
Tomas Hayes	Public	Head of Local Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office, Kerry Council. He has worked for over 20 years in the area of small business development, financial support and training. He has a strong knowledge of the shellfish industry.
Seamus O'Grady	Private	Involved with North West Kerry Shellfish co-op and SW RIFF Member.
Dennis O'Shea	Private	Manager of the Tralee Bay Oyster Co-op for 40 years and a member of IFA Aquaculture.
Steve Casey	Private	Part of Sneem Fishermens Co-op.
Mary Ní Shé	Public	Development Executive with Údarás na Gaeltachta; supporting enterprise development, job creation and preserving/promoting the Irish language in Gaeltacht areas.
William Morrell	Community	A PPN IEN Environmental with vast experience over many years.
Liam O'Connor	Private	Representing Castlemaine Harbour CoOp, Liam has been in the Aquaculture industry for over 25 years.

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-making⁶.

It is recommended that membership of the FLAG should have a maximum of 40% representation from the Statutory bodies/Public Sector⁷ and a minimum of 60% representation from the fishing, seafood, coastal communities sector⁸. The balance of organisational representation will be retained throughout the replacement/ rotation process.

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

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

Representation	Number	Sector	Nominated	Nomination from Representative Organisations
Aquaculture	2	Private	Denis O'Shea	IFA Aquaculture & TOFS
		Private	Liam O'Connor	Wild Oyster/Mussels
Fishing	4	Private	Joe O'Shea	Iveragh Co Op & SW RIFF
		Private	Steven Casey	Sneem Fisherman CoOp
		Private	Seamus O'Grady	North Kerry Shellfish CoOp & SW RIFF
		Private	TBC	1 ISWFPO & IFPO / 1 Other to be derived from co-ops and association within the region
Seafood	1	Private	TBC	Artisanal & Small Producer- Will make an open call to seafood producers in SW Region
PPN/ Community Environmental	1	Community	TBC	PPN- IEN- Irish Environmental Network
Marine Education and Spatial Planning	1	Community	Kevin Flannery	Will contact organisations relevant to this sector in SW FLAG region
PPN Community – Social Inclusion	1	Community	William Morrell	PPN Coastal Communities- Social Inclusion
Blue Economy Tourism-	1	Community	TBC	Will contact organisations relevant to this sector in SW FLAG region
Kerry County Council Coastal Management Department	1	Public	TBC	Kerry Co Council
Local Enterprise Office	1	Public	Tomás Hayes	LEO

⁶ 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"

⁷ 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.

⁸ This can include representatives or individuals within the fishery, aquaculture or processing sectors; as well as representatives from the community and voluntary sector

Údarás na Gaeltachta	1	Public	Mary Ní Shé	Údarás na Gaeltachta
LEADER Implementing Body	1	Public	TBC	SKDP/ NEWKD

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

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

Gender Balance 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 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 years⁹. 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.

⁹ 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.5 Interpretation of the Rules of Procedure

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



5. Appendix

5. Appendix

5.1 Appendix 1 - EMFAF – Programme for Ireland

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

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

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

Mission 1 - A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Seafood Sector

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.2 Appendix 2 – Review of FLAG 2016-2022 Scheme

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

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

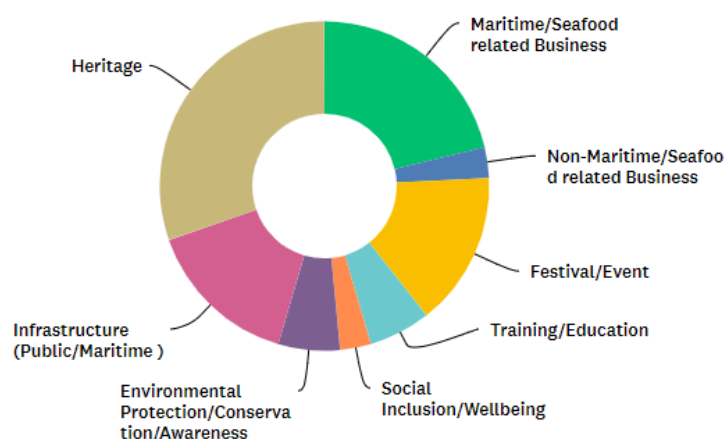
Some items to note when reading these results

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

The results of the scheme for FLAG South West are highlighted below.

FLAG South West Results 2016-2021 Operational Programme under the EMFF:

- **Current Spend:** € 698,070.01
- **Response rate:** Surveys sent 46, Responses received 33, Response rate 70%
- **Project Type Breakdown:**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Maritime/Seafood related Business	21.21%	7
▼ Non-Maritime/Seafood related Business	3.03%	1
▼ Festival/Event	15.15%	5
▼ Training/Education	6.06%	2
▼ Social Inclusion/Wellbeing	3.03%	1
▼ Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness	6.06%	2
▼ Infrastructure (Public/Maritime)	15.15%	5
▼ Heritage	30.30%	10
TOTAL		33

Enterprise Projects

- 7 Maritime or Seafood enterprises and 1 Non-Maritime/Seafood enterprises received support from FLAG South West.
- These enterprises report the creation of 9 new jobs as a result of the funded projects, with 17 existing jobs being maintained
- FLAG Funding resulted in the development of 4 new products
- 6 enterprises report access to new markets due to FLAG funding

Festivals

- 5 Festivals received funding
- FLAG Funding resulted in an additional 1501 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 South West region of €162,000

Training & Education

- 3 projects received funding for Training/Education
- 1 Project funded an Individual to receive Accredited Training
- 2 Projects Funded Groups to receive Accredited Training

Social Inclusion/Wellbeing

- 1 project funded
- Development of socio economic plan for a coastal community
- Positive Impact delivered to rural coastal community of 500

Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness

- 2 Projects Funded
- 3000 Environment education booklets produced and distributed
- 21 Marine Mammal rescues carried out

Infrastructure

- 5 Infrastructure projects funded
- Installation of Hoists at rural Piers
- Deployment of network of sensors to monitor water quality
- Installation of a Pontoon

Heritage

- 10 Heritage Projects supported
- Restoration/Repair of a historical fishing vessel
- Promotion of use of traditional vessels for racing
- Recording of place names

5.3 Appendix 3 – Projects Supported by South West FLAG 2016-2022

Applicant	Project Title	Total Claim	Private Funds	Grant Aid	Grant Aid %	Beneficiary Type (Per FLAG Strategy)	Sub Category
Coiste Forbartha na Sceilge CLG	Reen Pier Development	€43,419.42	€8,683.88	€34,735.54	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Local Infrastructure
Kenmare Tidy Towns	ECOTELLY – Virtual Aquarium, Kenmare Bay Marine Life - Public Art	€7,796.63	€1,559.33	€6,237.30	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Environmental Awareness
Maharees Conservation Association CLG	A Place Name (Logainm) Study of Maharees	€7,835.00	€1,567.00	€6,268.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Heritage
Irish Elasmobranch Group	Irish Sharks and Rays booklet	€840.00	€168.00	€672.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Marine Education Resources
Maharees Conservation Association GLG	Signage to raise the profile of the unique coastal biodiversity of the Maharees	€2,737.73	€547.55	€2,190.18	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Environmental Awareness
Asdee Community Development Association	Development of socioeconomic plan by Asdee Community Development Association	€15,449.99	€3,090.00	€12,359.99	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Local Strategy Development
Irish Coastal Rowing Federation	All Ireland Coastal Rowing Championships 2019	€12,000.00	€2,400.00	€9,600.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	National Water Sport Competition
Glin Development Association	The Oyster Path	€7,492.60	€1,498.52	€5,994.08	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Tourism Infrastructure
Cead Glaoch An Léith Triúigh	Cead GlaochAn Léith Triúigh	€7,695.43	€1,539.09	€6,156.34	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Community Safety Measures
Fenit Development Association	Wild Mind	€6,340.00	€1,268.00	€5,072.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Environmental Awareness
Mol Teic Clg	Dingle Peninsula IoT Live Water quality data	€6,500.00	€1,299.81	€5,200.19	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Environmental Awareness
Irish Whale & Dolphin Group	IWDG Kerry Stranding Unit	€6,422.01	€1,284.41	€5,137.60	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Community Safety Measures
Fenit Development Association	Redevelopment of Fenit Diving Boards	€3,995.00	€799.00	€3,196.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Local Infrastructure

Cromane Community Council	Socio Economic Plan (Printing of Plan)	€3,001.00	€600.20	€2,400.80	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Strategy Development
Cromane Community Council	Defibrillator Training	€500.00	€100.00	€400.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Community Safety Measures
Mol Teic Clg	Dingle Peninsula IoT Live Water quality data	€48,828.57	€9,765.91	€39,062.66	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Environmental Awareness
Maharees Heritage	Promotion of the craft and Naomhógracing in Maharees	€9,800.00	€1,960.00	€7,840.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Heritage
Dingle Peninsula Tourism Alliance	Development of a Blueway Strategy & Action Plan to support coastal villages of the Dingle Peninsula Phase	€29,675.00	€5,935.00	€23,740.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Strategy Development
Comharchumann Forbartha an Leith Triiigh	Sustaining the Fishing Heritage of Cloghane & Brandon	€9,650.00	€1,930.00	€7,720.00	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Heritage
Cromane Community Council	Socio-economic plan development	€9,396.20	€1,879.24	€7,516.96	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Strategy Development
Killorglin Archive Society	Maritime Heritage Preservation Society	€8,287.00	€1,657.80	€6,629.20	80%	Community Groups and Charities Public Good	Heritage
Tralee Oyster Fisheries Society Ltd	Purchase of equipment to enhance native flat oyster stocks through spat collection in Tralee Bay	€165,114.00	€66,045.60	€99,068.40	60%	CO-OP	Marine Infrastructure
Tralee Oyster Fisheries Society Ltd	Socio-economic review of Tralee Bay	€5,500.00	€2,200.00	€3,300.00	60%	CO-OP	Strategy Development
Tralee Oyster Fisheries Society Ltd	Equipment to enhance the quality and value of flat oyster production	€69,100.00	€27,640.00	€41,460.00	60%	Co-op	Adding Value to Seafood
Fenit Development Association	Festival (Hire of Festival Marque)	€4,995.00	€1,719.00	€3,276.00	66%	Festival	Showcase Themed
Ballyheigue Development Association/Summer Fest	Open Water Swimming Amenity from Dromatoor Pier to Ballyheigue Beach along the coast	€4,776.00	€956.00	€3,820.00	80%	Festival	Showcase Themed
Taste Kerry	Kerry Catch of the Month - Seafood Calendar	€4,000.00	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	50%	Festival	Showcase Themed

Killorglin Rowing Club	Rowing Festival	€3,000.00	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	50%	Festival	Showcase Themed
Dingle Food Festival	Festival	€1,700.00	€340.00	€1,360.00	80%	Festival	Showcase Themed
Individual Applicant	Seaweed Knife & Spoon Handle project	€1,789.00	€894.50	€894.50	50%	Marine related Business	Wider Blue Economy Innovation
Mara Beo Teo Dingleworld Aquarium	Marine Educational Outreach programme	€20,047.00	€10,023.50	€10,023.50	50%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
Skellig Michael Cruises Ltd	Eco wildlife boat tours to see Puffin Island, Kerry Cliffs and Transatlantic Cable	€65,000.00	€45,500.00	€19,500.00	30%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium	Interactive and virtual ocean education	€7,500.00	€3,750.00	€3,750.00	50%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
The Star Marina Ltd t/a Star Outdoors	Safety boat and aqua park	€33,200.00	€10,450.00	€14,550.00	44%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
Skellig Michael Cruises Ltd	Eco wildlife boat tours to see Puffin Island, Kerry Cliffs and Transatlantic Cable	€9,007.50	€4,503.75	€4,503.75	50%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
Individual Applicant	Teleporter Renewal	€88,750.00	€44,375.00	€44,375.00	50%	Marine related Business	Local Services
Atlantic Irish Seaweed	Seaweed Knife & Spoon Handle Project	€680.00	€340.00	€340.00	50%	Marine related Business	Wider Blue Economy Innovation
Individual Applicant	To provide independent light/power to work place	€894.31	€447.16	€447.16	50%	Marine related Business	Local Services
Dingle Sea Safari Limited	Upgrading equipment & branding	€1,878.23	€939.12	€939.12	50%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
Kerry Aqua Terra Ltd	Expanding the accessibility & the Marine & Coastal visitor experience from Pormageeto Cahersiveenon the Skellig Coast	€44,900.00	€22,450.00	€22,450.00	50%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
Kerry Aqua Terra Ltd	Expanding the accessibility & the Marine & Coastal visitor experience from Portmagee to Cahersiveen, the Skellig Coast	€44,900.00	€22,450.00	€22,450.00	50%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
Ocean Quest Ltd	Skelligs Go To	€14,500.00	€7,250.00	€7,250.00	50%	Marine related Business	Marine Tourism
Valentia Island Ferries Ltd	Design of New Car Ferry	€44,463.34	€22,231.67	€22,231.67	50%	Marine related Business	Local Services

Individual Applicant	Teleporter purchase to support a mixed fishery operation	€61,500.00	€36,900.00	€24,600.00	40%	Non-Marine, Non-Seafood Business	Local Services
Tralee Rowing Club (Cumann Ráimhaíochta Thrálí)	Tralee Rowing Club	€10,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	50%	Private Community Groups and Charities.	Club/Watersports
Callinafercy Rowing Club	Seine Boat Restoration	€9,779.17	€4,889.58	€4,889.58	50%	Private Community Groups and Charities.	Heritage
Cahersiveen Rowing Club	Project Liberator	€6,088.67	€3,044.34	€3,044.34	50%	Private Community Groups and Charities.	Club/Watersports
Kenmare Rowing and Boat Club	To expand rowing activities for the youth	€10,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	50%	Private Community Groups and Charities.	Club/Watersports
Taste Kerry	Tide2Table Resource Pack to Hospitality Industry	€3,773.85	€1,886.92	€1,886.93	50%	Private Community Groups and Charities.	Adding Value to Seafood
Sneem Rowing Club	Adaptive Rower	€4,400.00	€2,200.00	€2,200.00	50%	Private Community Groups and Charities.	Club/Watersports
Kerry Co. Council/ North West Kerry Shellfish Co-Op	Lifting Derrick at Scraggane Pier	€26,391.00	€5,278.20	€21,112.80	80%	Public bodies e.g. State Agencies or Local Authorities	Marine Infrastructure
Kerry Co. Council/Ballyheigue Inshore Rescue Inshore Fishermen	Lifting Derrick at Dromatoor, Ballheigue	€27,076.00	€0.00	€27,076.00	100%	Public bodies e.g. State agencies or Local Authorities	Marine Infrastructure
Kerry County Council & Skellig Coast Tourism Network	Mobile Observatory for Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve Stage 1	€18,750.00	€3,750.00	€15,000.00	80%	Public bodies e.g. State agencies or Local Authorities	Tourism Infrastructure
Individual Applicant	Improving Fish Quality & Access to Market	€4,024.40	€2,012.00	€2,012.00	50%	Seafood Business	Adding Value to Seafood
Portmagee Seafoods Limited	Lobster Holding Facility	€40,983.00	€20,491.50	€20,491.50	50%	Seafood Business	Adding Value to Seafood
Star Seafoods Fish Sales Limited	Meeting market demands & improving business efficiency by installing enterprise resource planning	€38,293.56	€26,805.49	€11,488.07	30%	Seafood Business	Adding Value to Seafood
Glenbeigh Shellfish Limited	Glenbeigh Shellfish Oyster Tasting Project	€452.89	€226.45	€226.45	50%	Seafood Business	Marine Tourism

Individual Applicant	Purchase of equipment	€3,450.00	€690.00	€2,760.00	80%	SSCF vessels owners	Adding Value to Seafood
Individual Applicant	Bait freezing and storage unit for supply of collective inshore fishing vessels	€22,249.25	€4,449.85	€17,799.40	80%	SSCF vessels owners	Adding Value to Seafood
Individual Applicant	Refrigeration of a vehicle to transport shellfish	€6,500.00	€1,300.00	€5,200.00	80%	SSCF vessels owners	Adding Value to Seafood
Individual Applicant	Training	€1,330.00	€665.00	€665.00	50%	Training	Training



