FLAG
SOUTH

Fisheries Local Action Groups
Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta Iascaigh Áitiúla

Supporting Coastal Communities

Fisheries Local Action Group
Local Development Strategy 2024 - 2029

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1. Overview of FLAG

1.1   Introduction to FLAG South

Figure 1: Map of the FLAG South Area

Source: RSM

The FLAG South area, highlighted in the map in Figure 1 above, comprises the coastal zone of County Cork, as well as inhabited islands including the Gaeltacht area - Oileán Chléire. The FLAG region encompasses a total 72 District Electoral Divisions within 10km of the coastline, with a total population of 120,584, covering 20.6% of County Cork's population.

Cork County demonstrates strong fishing connections with major harbours, including Castletownbere, which is the largest white fish port in Ireland, a National Fisheries Harbour Centre, Cobh, Ballycotton, Kinsale and Union Hall. Castleownbere was one of the largest fishing port in Ireland in 2022, second to Killybegs in the FLAG North region (€129m vs. €135m). Overall, the FLAG South area recorded 10,956 total landings[1], which brought in a total of 37,216 tonnes at a value of €152.5 million in 2022, whilst the aquaculture sector generated a volume of 8,848 tonnes and a sales value of €9.3 million in 2021.An estimated 3.3% of all coastal employment in FLAG South was in direct seafood employment, with a further 6.4% being in downstream seafood employment. On average seafood processing companies in FLAG South employed the largest number of persons per company, across all seven FLAG regions. The area is therefore a key location for the sector with 18 registered seafood processing companies which employed 735 people in 2022.

Fishing and tourism activities occur at a relatively large number of smaller harbours and piers along the coastline. Piers with three or more fishing vessels operating out of the Beara Peninsula include Ardgroom/Cuas, Ballycovane, Garnish, and Adrigole up to Bantry. Along the south coast of Cork, the busiest piers for fishing and recreational activities are Crookhaven, Schull, Cunnamore, Turkhead, Baltimore, Castletownsend, Ring, Oysterhaven, Crosshaven and Knockadoon. Many of these piers service the West Cork islands, many of which are populated year round. These include the islands of Heir, Bere Island, Sherkin, Cape Clear, Whiddy and Garnish Island. The FLAG South region supports a diverse range of fisheries from the demersal, pelagic and shellfish sectors. The primary inshore fisheries in the South FLAG region include pot fisheries for lobster and brown crab all along the Cork

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

coast and islands. The seasonal (August to February) shrimp pot fishery is particularly significant in the south from Kenmare River around into Castletownbere and east to Roaringwater Bay and over to Ballycotton. Spider crab is potted seasonally in some areas. Crayfish are caught mainly by tangle netting. Scallopdredging is carried out in Bere Island Harbour and Bantry Bay, there is also a limited dredge fishery on the south coast in the area of the Stag Rocks and in Roaringwater Bay. Shading/poling harvest of scallop also occurs. There is a *Nephrops* pot fishery in Bantry Bay and Kenmare River and a whelk pot fishery in Roaringwater Bay. Green crab fishery particularly in Roaringwater and Bantry Bays. Inshore trawling occurs along the south coast from Bantry Bay to Youghal targeting *Nephrops* and a mixed Demersal fishery. Hook & line fisheries including trolling and jigging for whitefish all along the coast. The south coast depends heavily on Gillnetting for demersal species such as hake and pollack. There is also a unique Mackerel gillnet fishery around Garnish Island.

Aquaculture, including rope culture mussels is predominant in the southern bays of Roaringwater Bay, Dunmanus Bay, Bantry Bay, Ardgroom and Killmackillogue harbour. Bantry Bay has the largest production of any bay in the country for rope mussels with a tonnage of approx. 6000 Tons which are exported to the fresh markets of Holland and France. There is also a processing plant located in Bantry handling mussels for the domestic and export retail markets. The aquaculture sector employed 232 persons across 48 total production units, accounting for 12% of the total number employed in the industry across the FLAG regions in 2021.

Marine tourism is significant in the area, with an estimated 30 boats engaged in Marine tourism, to locations including Fastnet, Bull Island, Light house tours, Dolphin and Whale Watching angling and shorter fund day or half day trips for families. There is also a strong sea angling sector, with several piers across the County supporting a high level of recreational actives, with areas such as Beara Peninsula including Ardgroom/Cuas, Ballycovane, Garnish, and Ardrigole up to Bantry, Courtmacsherry, Kinsale, Cobh, Ballycotton and Youghal being the most significant.

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

EMFAF at the EU level

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

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

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

EMFAF – Programme for Ireland

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

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

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

The missions are as follows:

Mission 1 - A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Seafood Sector
- Dealing with climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Minimising the impact of fishing/aquaculture activities on the marine environments including implementation of NATURA 2000, MPAs, MSFD and WFD.
- Managing the fisheries/aquaculture resources in a sustainable manner
- Reduction of waste in the marine environment and promoting the circular economy
- Effective control & enforcement
- Enhance knowledge and data to deal with climate change and impacts on marine biodiversity

Mission 2 - An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Seafood Sector, driven by Technology and Talent
- Support innovation in all sectors
- Promote generational renewal and the health and safety of all seafood sector workers
- Support small scale coastal fisheries

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

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

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

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

1.3   What is FLAG?

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

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

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

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

1.4   Where does FLAG fit?

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

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

The key themes to deliver this Priority are:

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

1.5   Key Policies

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

Figure 2 outlines the policies and strategies which were considered.

Figure 2: Key Policies and Strategies

European Green Deal

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

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

A programme running from 2021 – 2027, supporting the EU common fisheries policy, the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance. It provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	Atlantic Maritime Strategy & Action Plan	A Europe Fit for the Digital Age
A comprehensive plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, with the aim to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, guided by specific actions and commitments.	A strategy to support the sustainable development of the blue economy in EU countries bordering the Atlantic. Implemented via the Atlantic action plan to unlock the potential of the blue economy in the Atlantic area while preserving marine ecosystems and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.	The EU's digital strategy, which via digital technology, aims to transform work for people and businesses, while helping achieve its target of a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. This includes strengthening its digital sovereignty, with a clear focus on data, technology, and infrastructure.
Food Wise 2025	**Farm to Fork**	**LEADER**
A strategy setting out how the Irish food sector, including the seafood industry can grow by refining its focus around set objectives, which recognise the importance of processes which are sustainable – economically, socially and environmentally. Food Wise calls out sustainable aquaculture and fishing as a key growth opportunity, noting that the sector will benefit from consumer trends towards healthier food and increased demand for protein.	A 10 year strategy, at the heart of the Green Deal, set out to address the challenges of sustainable food systems, while recognising the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet. The strategy sets out both regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives, with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) as key tools to support a just transition for agriculture and fisheries sectors.	An EU & Irish Government grant aid programme supporting community-led economic, social and environmental development in rural areas. It aims to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in rural areas by supporting a wide range of projects.

National and Local Strategies

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

1.6   Consideration of Complementary Measures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion
- Rural Infrastructure
- Accessible Services
- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Rural Youth

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

In Cork, there is also a strategic emphasis on environmental sustainability, renewables and marine innovation across local strategies. These strategies recognise the potential of the coastal and island communities, in particular to generate tourism and enterprise development. These strategies are being implemented in conjunction with support from other agencies such as BIM, LYIT, Fáilte Ireland, the Local Enterprise Office and Cork County Council.

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

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

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

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

The EU Commission recognises that digital technology is changing people's lives. The EU's digital strategy aims to make this transformation work for people and businesses, while helping to achieve its target of a climate-neutral Europe by 2050.
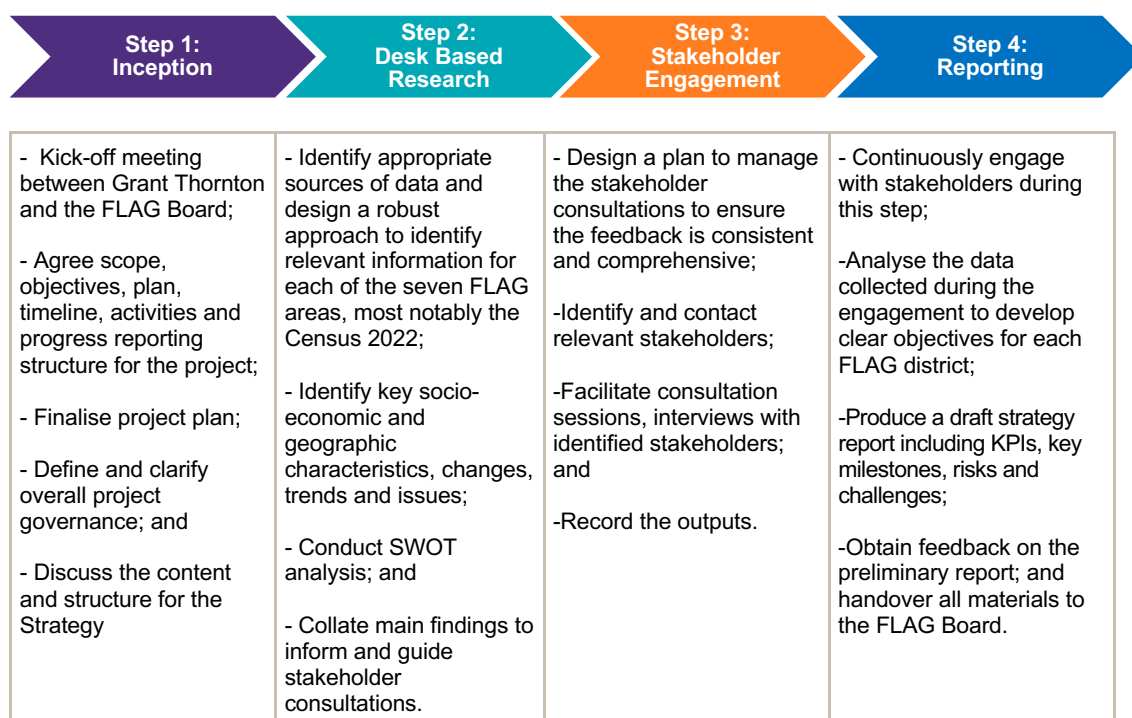
The Commission is determined to make this Europe's "Digital Decade"1 and recognises that Europe needs to strengthen its digital sovereignty and set standards, rather than following those of others – with a clear focus on data, technology, and infrastructure. All EU funding programmes will reflect this digital ambition.

1.7   Methodology

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

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

Figure 3: Methodology Approach

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

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

2. Analysis of the Development Needs

2. Analysis of the Development Needs

2.1   Introduction

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

2.2   Socio-Economic Profile

Population

- The population of Cork reached 584,156 in 2022 accounting for 11.3% of all population across Ireland. Cork over the inter-census period saw notable growth, with the population increasing by 7.6% from the previous Census in 2016.
- Within the FLAG South area, the population increased to 120,584, an increase of 8.5% since 2016.
- Ireland's population increased 8.1% in 2022 to 5,149,139. The FLAG South area accounted for 2.3% of Ireland's population in 2022.
- In 2022, 20.6% of the population of Cork County lived within the FLAG South area, with this being slightly more than the 2016 proportion (20.5%).

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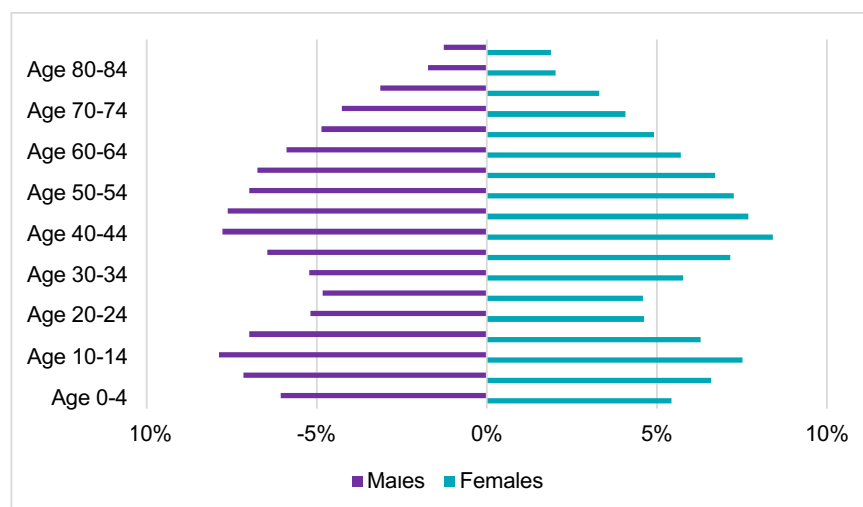
Source: CSO

- The FLAG South area has an almost equal gender split, with 49.4% of males and 50.6% of females residing in the area.

Figure 5: Age Profile, 2022
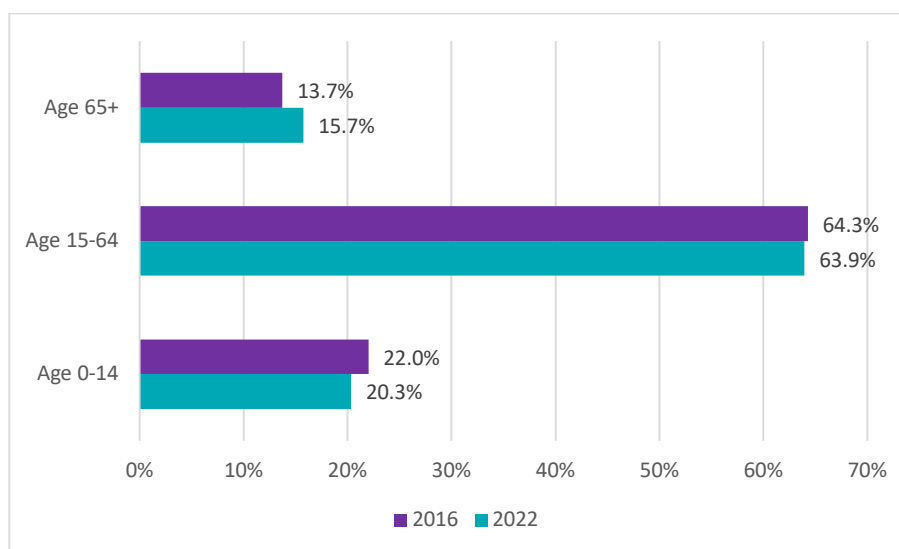
Source: CSO

- There is a slightly older population in FLAG South area, with 15.7% of the population being aged 65 or over, compared to the Irish average of 14.3%. In 2016 only 13.7% of the FLAG South area was aged 65 or over, highlighting the increasing ageing population in the region.
- The number of persons aged 0-14 declined to 20.3%, in 2022, from 22.0% in 2016. This could indicate potential future strain on resources with an ageing population and the number of young persons declining, as well as the potential for a reduced workforce capability.
- Some 17.6% of people in the FLAG South area were born outside of Ireland, compared to 15.7% in 2016. With this potentially highlighting the increase in migration to combat the reducing level of 0-14 and increasing 0-65 population. Of this, 6.6% were born in the UK, 2.1% were born in Poland, 0.5% in Lithuania, 3.7% the rest of the EU28 and 4.7% the rest of the world.
- There is a strong sense of cultural awareness and identity with 43.7% of the population able to speak Irish in 2022, with this being above the national average of 37.7%. This is despite the level of Irish speakers falling from 2016 levels (44.0%).
- Of the total population of the area, 25,523 (21.1%) people had a disability of any kind, with this being below the national average of 21.5%.

Place

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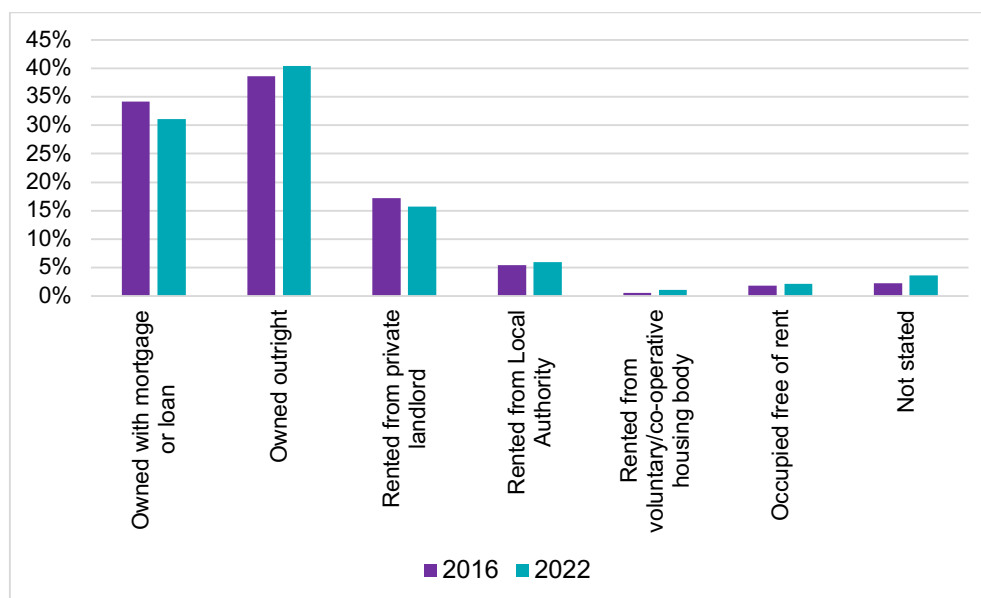
Source: CSO

- In 2022, the number of private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan declined slightly from to 72.7% to 71.5%. This was driven by a decline in private households owned with a mortgage/loan, which fell slightly (0.4%) from 2016 potentially reflecting the mismatch in housing supply/demand experienced nationally. Nationally in 2022, 69.5% of private households were owner occupied.
- 40.5% of the FLAG South Area population owned their house outright in 2022.
- The proportion of households rented from a private landlord or rented from local authority fell by 1 percentage point between 2016 (22.6%) and 2022 (21.6%). With this fall mainly driven by a fall in renters from private landlords, which fell by 1.6 percentage points, a likely reflection of a squeezed housing market with limited options for renters.
- Married couples with children accounted for the largest proportion of households in 2022 (32.2%), followed by one person households (23.5%).
- In the Flag South area 80.9% of permanent dwellings were occupied according to the 2022 Census compared to 76.8% in 2016.
- 10.6% of properties in the FLAG South Area were holiday homes, which are unoccupied for a larger portion of the year. This is significantly higher than the national average of 3.2%.
- The number of vacant dwellings has decreased from 9.2% in 2016 to 6.7% in 2022. This is potentially reflecting the take up of vacant housing to help reduce housing pressures, however while aiding the situation the current housing crisis is still stark both regionally and nationally.
- Of the 72 electoral districts analysed, 15.3% were classed as having "varying levels of deprivation" and 84.7% were classed as having "various levels of affluence".[4]

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

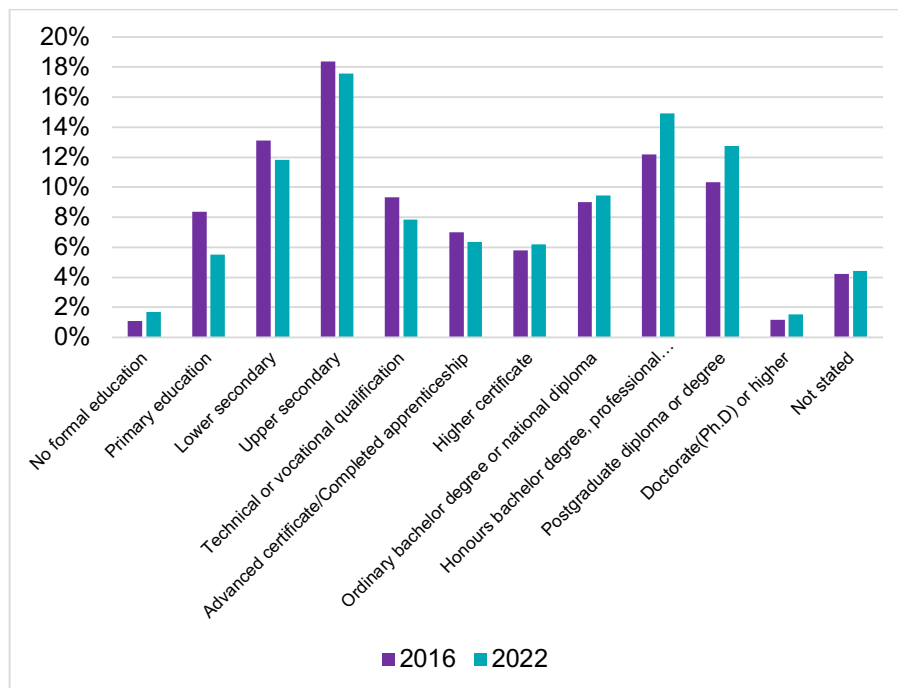**Figure 7: Broadband Internet**

2016

75.1%

80.1%
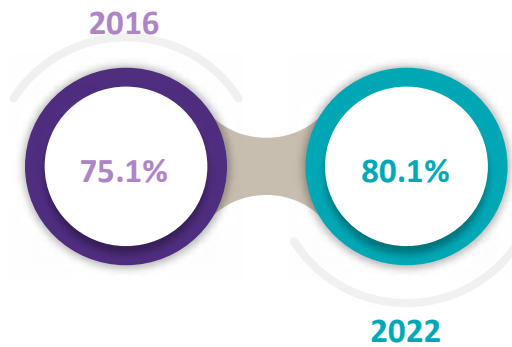
2022

Source: CSO

- The number of household with access to broadband internet increased by 17.1% since 2016.
- In 2016, 75.1% of households had access to broadband internet, with this figure growing to 80.1% in 2022.

Labour market

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

Source: CSO

- The level of education attainment in the FLAG South area has been improving over recent years, with over 80,000 persons having completed their education in 2022.
- Nearly 40% (38.6%) of people were educated to degree level or higher in 2022, compared to 32.7% in 2016.

- Those with an honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by 35.5%, 36.1% and 41.1% respectively from 2016.
- Of those educated, 5.5% were educated to primary level only, compared to 8.4% in 2016.
- The number of people educated to ordinary degree level increased by 15.8% from 2016.
- Those with no formal education remained low at 1.7% in 2022, slightly up on 2016 levels (1.1%).

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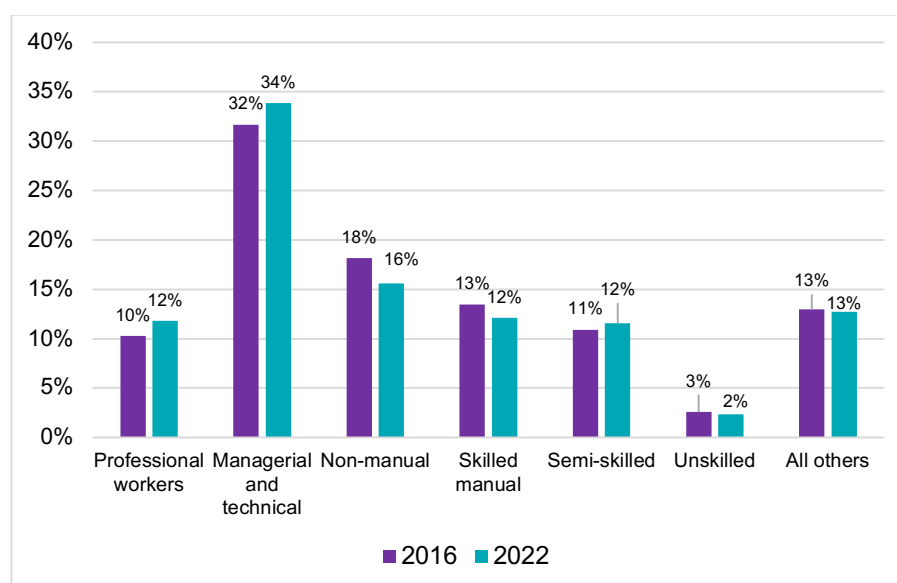
Source: CSO

- Managerial and technical workers were the largest designated employer in the FLAG South area, with 33.8% of people being employed in this area, up from 31.7% in 2016. The Managerial and technical sector in 2022 employed 41,076 people within the FLAG South Area.
- The proportion of the population (aged 15 and over) at work increased from 55.4% in 2016 to 56.9% in 2022, with this being above the national average of 56.1%.
- The proportion of unemployed (aged 15 and over) has declined from 9% in 2016 to 6% in 2022, falling below the national average of 8.3%.
- In 2022, male unemployment stood at 5.9%, with female unemployment higher at 6.1%.
- The proportion of those retired has increased from 15.4% of the population in 2016 to 16.8% in 2022.
- The proportion of the FLAG South population who are unable to work due to health problems stood at 4.1%, with this being lower than the national average (4.6%).
- Professional service workers (23.1%) accounted for the largest proportion of the workforce in the FLAG South area increasing by 14.3% since 2016 growing from 11,124 workers to 12,719.
- Employment in the commerce and trade industry accounted for over a fifth (22.1%) of persons at work.
- The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry employed 3.9% of persons at work in 2022, with this being down on 2016 levels of 5.1%.
- An estimated 3.3% of all coastal employment in FLAG South was in direct seafood employment, with a further 6.4% being in downstream seafood employment.

FLAG South Seafood Economy

- In the South FLAG area, in 2022, the number of landings[5]recorded was 10,956, bringing a total of 37,216 tonnes at a value of €152.5 million. This was the highest value across all FLAG areas.
- A total of 368 vessels were registered in the area in 2022 compared to 411[6] in 2016.
- A total of 30,700 tonnes of landings with a value of €140m were made within the FLAG South Area across Castletownbere and Union Hall. Castleownbere was the second largest fishing port in Ireland in terms of value of landings, with only Killybegs having a larger value of landings (€129m vs. €135m). In 2016, Castletownbere had the greatest value of landings (€111m).
- In 2022, Union Hall Port recorded 1,700 tonnes of landings, accounting for 0.7% of all tonnes landed in Irish Ports, and 2.2% (€11 million) of the total value of landings. In 2016, this value was €9 million, with a recorded 2,400 tonnes of landings.
- The FLAG South area is also a key provider and host of companies, with 18 seafood processing companies registered employing 735 people in 2022.

Aquaculture

- The South FLAG area generated aquaculture sales of €9.3 million in 2021, accounting for 5% of the sales value generated across the seven coastal regions.
- The value of aquaculture in the area was €34m in 2016.
- The area generated the greatest output from aquaculture, with 8,848 tonnes, 21% of the coastal regions output.
- In 2021, the area employed 232 employees in the aquaculture sector, 12% of the total employed across the coastal regions and had 48 total production units for aquaculture.

Irish Seafood Economy

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

Exports

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

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[5] Data is sourced from the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority 2022 Landings Report. https://www.sfpa.ie/Statistics/Annual-statistics/Annual-Statistics/2022-Annual-Statistics. It is recognised that 'landings' only reflects larger vessels, and not those of less than 10m.
[6] Based on BIM FLAG South Local Development Strategy 2016

Table 1: Top 10 Export Markets for Irish Seafood

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

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

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

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

Employment

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

Table 2: Breakdown of Direct Employment 2022

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

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

2.3   Summary – Infographic

Demographics	**120,584** Total population: +8.5% from 2016	**15.7%** Aged 65 and over compared to 14.3% nationally	17.6% of residents born outside of Ireland
Housing	**80.9%** Private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan	10.6% of properties were holiday homes	**80.9%** Permanent dwellings were occupied compared to 76.8% in 2016
Education	38.6% of residents aged 15+ educated to degree level or higher	Residents holding honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by **35.5%**, **36.1%** and **41.1%** respectively	**1.7%** of residents had no formal education
Labour Market	**56.9%** residents in employment compared to 55.4% in 2016	Unemployment rate has fallen from 9% in 2016 to 6% in 2022	**16.8%** of the population were retired compared to 15.4% in 2016
Economy	**3.9%** of labour force employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry	22.1% employed in the commerce and trade industry	Estimated 3.3% of all coastal employment was in direct seafood employment
Society	Of the 72 electoral districts analysed, 15.3% were classed as having "varying levels of deprivation"	80.1% of households have access to broadband compared to 75.1% in 2016	**23.5%** One person households
Marine and Seafood Sector	368 vessels registered in the area	1,196 tonnes of seafood at a value of €6.4 million	2,777 landings in 2022

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

2.4   Overview of Consultation Process

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

Public meetings sought to attract attendees from:

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

Dates, times and locations were advertised across local media and trade publications, including the East Cork Advertiser, Midleton News, Marine Times and The Skipper. FLAG Board members also undertook to share meeting details among their networks.

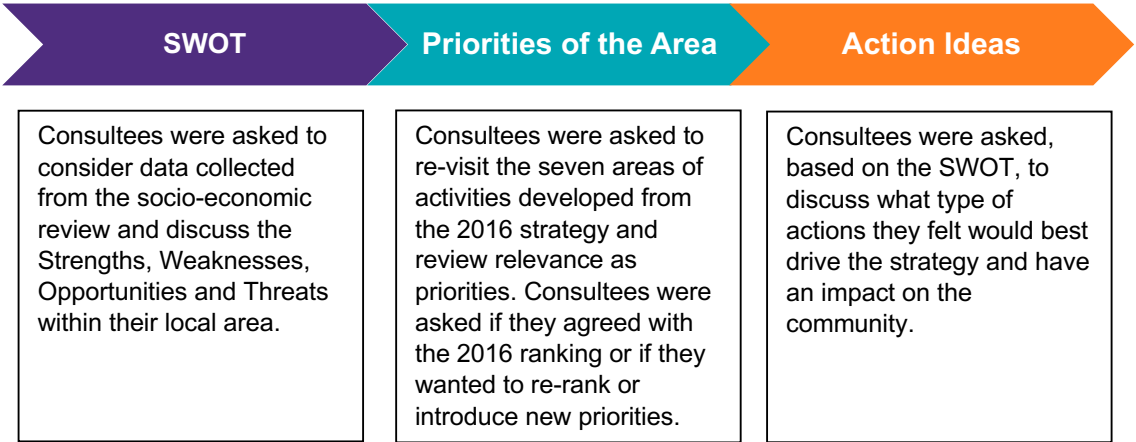| Public Meetings	
Number of Events	Two public meetings and one online meeting
Location of Events	Midleton and Bantry
Representation	Representation from community groups, local authorities, economic and social groups including those engaged in the blue economy.
Board Meetings	
Number of Meetings	Two board meetings as well as continuous engagement throughout the process.
Location of Meetings	Bantry and online

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 42 participants.

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

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

Figure 10: Methodology of Consultation

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

2.5   Feedback from Consultation

2.5.1 SWOT Analysis

Based on a combination of desk research, data analysis, public consultations and a public survey, the following SWOT has been compiled for the FLAG South 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
- Presence of the National Fisheries College of Ireland in Castletownbere, strengthening skills development in fishing, fish farming and seafood processing. - Strong sense of cultural awareness and identity with 44% of the population able to speak Irish. - Significant contributor to the Irish seafood sector by volume and value of landings. - High education attainment with over 38% of the population educated to degree level or higher. - Established marine infrastructure. - Large charter boat and passenger boat fleet in the area.	- An ageing population, with 16% of persons aged 65 and over, compared to 14% nationally. - Proportion of the population that are retired has increased from 15.4% in 2016 to 16.8% in 2022. - Significant portion (10%) of properties are holiday homes and generally unoccupied for large portions of the year. - Wear and tear of marine infrastructure and lack of upgrades. - Courses available at the National Fisheries College are limited.

Opportunities	Threats
- Significant tourism opportunities to utilise the scenic landscape, wildlife and initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way route. - Seafood tourism opportunities to build on the areas tourism and fishing strengths including seafood trails and food tours. - The fishing industry in the area is substantial and provides significant employment opportunities, boasting strong infrastructure to support the industry. - Potential to develop smaller ports in the area. - Upskilling and reskilling to encourage young people to stay in the area and encourage innovation. - Promotion and increase opportunity for water sports including rowing and sailing. - Pier upgrades to add value to landings. - A large supply of raw materials such as seaweed in the region which can open up opportunities for fishermen to diversify.	- Proportion of persons aged 0-14 declined to 20.3% 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 - Inadequate representation within the fishing and aquaculture sector. - Spatial Competition from ORE and MPA's resulting in displacement of localised fishing activity.

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

Table 3 highlights that creating and maintaining jobs in coastal areas was the top priority for the FLAG South area. Adding value to fisheries and aquaculture products ranked second, followed by promoting and supporting innovation and diversification in joint third, with lifelong learning and attracting young people 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 South 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 strategy comprises the Vision and an integrated framework of 6 themes, 7 priorities and 14 actions.

The Intervention Logic has been arrived at as follows:

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

"FLAG South supports sustainable fishing and aquaculture coastal communities initiatives, prioritising Small Scale Coastal Fisheries and supporting blue economy enterprises and tourism."

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

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

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

Table 5

1.	Creating and maintaining jobs in coastal areas
2.	Adding value to fisheries and aquaculture products
=3.	Promoting innovation in fisheries and aquaculture and supporting diversification inside and outside commercial fisheries
=3.	Lifelong learning and attracting young people in fisheries and aquaculture areas
5.	Strengthening the role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities in local development
6.	Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas
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 product development is key to ensure the economy can adapt to the demands of society. Whilst support for the development of new coastal businesses is important, there is also significant need for support for existing businesses. Further, technology is advancing at a faster pace than ever and data is paramount to all technology developments highlighting the importance of data to drive innovations. This objective aims to support coastal businesses through a range of supports to encourage diversification and innovation.

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
1.1	To support new enterprises and new product development.	Support the development of new enterprises and new products in the blue economy and maritime sector including fisheries, aquaculture and maritime enterprises through capital investment or technical support
1.2	To support existing coastal businesses.	Support the development and growth of existing blue economy businesses. This could include but isn't limited to support for new equipment or facilities, through capital investment & technical support.
1.3	Data collection.	Where collaborative actions between fishing cooperatives and fishing organisations can be agreed with academic or scientific institutions for the establishment of a methodology and scientific data collections and recording of environmental marine bio diversity related studies in specific locations with particular regard to fishers being involved in any designated management plans.

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

Rationale for theme

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

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	**Description**
2.1	To support the future of coastal communities through learning and skills development**.**	Developing the skills in local coastal communities including training and upskilling. This could include: - Training courses (excluding those already delivered by existing providers), knowledge exchange, basic skills training, governance and business management. Training supported by the FLAG should complement, not duplicate training already provided by BIM. - Training and support to encourage entry into marine sectors. 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.
2.2	To support small scale marine investments.	To support improvements to assist with landing fresh product and other initiatives. This will exclude projects covered by the DAFM Harbours Scheme.
2.3	Support artisanal marine / seafood product development.	Support existing or start up enterprises in upscaling, or developing new product through capital invest in equipment or processes, not already supported through other schemes.

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

Rationale

Tourism is one of the largest growth sectors for the economy of County Cork. Regional and national strategies including the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East, 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. 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. Adding Value	3. Innovation & Diversification	3. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People
5. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities	6. Social well-being and cultural heritage		7. Environmental assets

	Action	**Description**
3.1	Developing marine and coastal tourism in Cork.	Support the development of the marine and coastal tourism offering and encouraging the development of the visitor experiences.
3.2	Improving the visibility, co-ordination and connections of the marine and coastal tourism industry.	Support for 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.

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

	Action	Description
4.1	To support networking and co-operation between FLAGs and other relevant stakeholders at a regional, national and international level.	Support networking and co-operation within and between FLAGs and other relevant stakeholders at a regional, national and international level. Encourage forms of collaboration across key parties to implement development initiatives, building relationships where all parties collaborate and work collectively to reach a common goal.
4.2	Encourage knowledge sharing and transfer across FLAG boards, 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

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

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
5.1	Develop and grow maritime and coastal heritage.	Support for the development of marine/ maritime heritage groups to contribute to the growth of heritage attractions for example through exhibitions, heritage skill showcases, seafood tours and maritime/ marine traditional craft activities.
5.2	To support coastal maritime , marine or seafood festivals.	Support for seafood festivals, or events, such as maritime or marine regattas, prioritising shoulder season events.

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

Rationale for theme

The beaches, scenery and wildlife across the FLAG South area are some of the finest in Ireland.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. Adding Value	3. Innovation & Diversification	3. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People
5. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities		6. Social well-being and cultural heritage	7. Environmental assets

	Action	Description
6.1	Protecting and enhancing the marine environment.	Support the development of community environmental initiatives.
6.2	Improving and developing conservation and environmental knowledge.	Support the development of local environmental education through nature trails, wildlife signage, conservation information including education material and programmes and other environmental protections.

4. The Fishers 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
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 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 ofBIM, 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.

Member	Pillar	Organisation/ Nominating Body	Area of Interest/ Expertise
Finian O'Sullivan	Aquaculture	IFA - Aquaculture	Finian has an established aquaculture business producing rope mussels in Bantry Bay. Is on the national board of IFA Aquaculture. He is also a local director of Bantry Bay Port Company
Ger Coughlan	Fishing	Cork District & Draft Net Association	Ger is an active member of the Cork District & Draft Net Association whom he represents at the Fishery District Committee hosted by IFI. He has been engaged with research projects with the former SWRFB and has worked to improved quality and markets for their wild salmon.
Sean O Driscol	Fishing	Fishing	A member of ISEFPO and owner of the Clodagh O Fishing Vessel that operates out of Castletownbere. A strong fishing family that also have interests in artisanal seafood added value production and fish sales.
John Walsh	Community	Community Islands	John is active in all aspects of community island life at local national and international level. He brings a vast range of knowledge and experience.
Eileen O Shea	Community	LCDC	Eileen is an active member of the LCDC in West Cork and Bantry, also has extensive experience in tourism in the region.
Suzanne Kearney	Public	LEADER Implementing Body SECAD	A senior member of LEADER for over 20 years has a great range of knowledge and experience to bring to the FLAG Board.
Kevin Curran	Public	Local Enterprise Office	Head of Enterprise for North and West Cork who brings a wide range of experience and expertise to the Board.

Sectoral Representation: The FLAG comprises public and private partners from the defined geographical areas and includes representatives from different sectors of the local economy/ community that reflect the main focus of the strategy and the socio-economic composition of the area through a balanced representation of the main stakeholders, including private sector, public sector and civil society (the pillars) and ensure a significant representation of the fisheries and/or aquaculture sectors. In keeping with Article 31 (2) (b) of the Common Provisions Regulation, it is important that no single interest group controls the decision-making[8].

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

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

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[8] Article 31 (2) (b) of the CPR 2021/1060: "2. The Member State shall ensure that community-led local development is: (b)led by local action groups composed of representatives of public and private local socioeconomic interests, in which no single interest group controls the decision-making"
[9] These are likely to include Údarás na Gaeltachta, County Councils including LEOs, Education and Training Boards, LEADER LAGs, Fáilte Ireland, and Enterprise Ireland, among others deemed as statutory.
[10] This can include representatives or individuals within the fishery, aquaculture or processing sectors; as well as representatives from the community and voluntary sector

Representation	Number	Sector	Nominated
Aquaculture	1	IFA Aquaculture	Finian O Sullivan
Fishing	1	ISEFPO	Sean O Driscoll
Fishing	1	Cork District & Draft Net Association	Ger Coughlan
Fishing	2	Ballycotton Fishermans Association/ Irish SW Lobster Association / South RIFF/ NIFA /	2 new positions to be sought
Blue Economy	1	Irish Charter Vessel Assc/ Irish Adventure Tourism & Other	1 new
Business / Seafood Added Value	1	Seafood Restaurant & Artisnal Seafood food Producers	1 new
PPN/Community Environmental	1	Community	1 new
LCDC	1	Tourism & Community	Eileen O Shea
Community Islands	1	Islands	John Walsh
Cork County Council Coastal Management Unit	1	Public	1 New
Local Enterprise Office	1	Public	Kevin Curran
LEADER Implementing Body	1	Public	Suzanne Kearney
Education & Training	1	UCC/ MTU/NMCI/ ETB	1 new (Rotational 2 years)

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

Total 14 representatives to be on the proposed FLAG Committee.

Number of Members: At any given time, it is expected that overall board membership will not be less than ten and not more than seventeen members, but may evolve to ensure that there is appropriate representation from across the programme area. Where a member resigns or is removed from the board, a nomination will be sought from the relevant Pillar. For clarity, where a FLAG board member is 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 years[11]. If exceptionally it is decided that a Board member should serve an additional Board term, this requires BIM approval. At an Annual General Meeting of FLAG Boards, one third of the members (normally the longest serving) should resign from the Board. These members will be eligible to be re-appointed to the Board with a proposer, seconder and board agreement, subject to term limits.

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

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

4.4   FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

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

Confidentiality: In order to promote objectivity and the exchange of frank and impartial views and comments, it is essential that members respect the confidential nature of the FLAG Board Meetings. Accordingly, members must not report the content of any part of an application or report any detailed discussions to a third party. In particular, members must not attribute any discussion, score or comment 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).

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

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 are highlighted below.

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

- *Current Spend:* € 1,602,463.38

- *Response rate:* Surveys sent 84, responses 62, response rate 74%

- *Project Type Breakdown:*
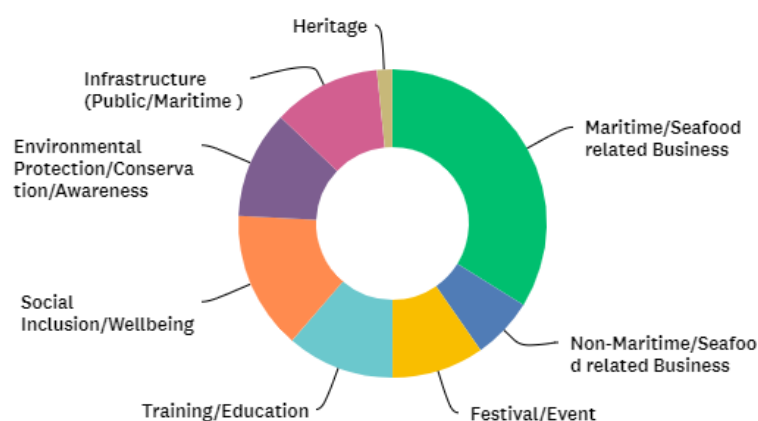
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Maritime/Seafood related Business	33.87%	21
Non-Maritime/Seafood related Business	6.45%	4
Festival/Event	9.68%	6
Training/Education	11.29%	7
Social Inclusion/Wellbeing	14.52%	9
Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness	11.29%	7
Infrastructure (Public/Maritime)	11.29%	7
Heritage	1.61%	1
TOTAL		62

Enterprise Projects

- 21 Maritime or Seafood enterprises and 4 Non-Maritime/Seafood enterprises received support from FLAG South.
- These enterprises report the creation of 43.5 new FTE jobs as a result of the funded projects, with 58 existing jobs being maintained
- FLAG Funding resulted in the development of new products for 12 of these enterprises
- 20 enterprises report access to new markets due to FLAG funding

Festivals

- 6 Festivals received funding
- FLAG Funding resulted in an additional 500 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 region of €54,000

Training & Education

- 7 projects received funding for Training/Education
- 2 Projects funded Individuals to receive Accredited Training
- 5 Projects Funded Group training resulting in at least 32 individuals receiving Accredited Training

Social Inclusion/Wellbeing

- 9 projects funded
- Projects include: Men's Shed activities, Community facilities, access to water and a community Cafe
- Positive Impacts delivered to several rural coastal communities with a combined population of 14,400

Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness

- 7 Projects Funded
- 2 Environment education projects
- 23 Marine Mammal rescues carried out
- New Beach waste collection facility
- Achievement of a Blue Flag

Infrastructure

- 7 Infrastructure projects funded
- Equipment for moving boat
- Boat storage, Client changing area and shelter
- Renovation of old schoolhouse on island for tourism and heritage purposes
- Tourism Service
- Community cooperative shop
- Boatlift 90 ton
- Tiling of mariner's shower facility

Heritage

- 1 Heritage Project supported
- Development of an app to provide tourists with historical information on a monastic site

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

Ref	Project	Project Type	Grant Awarded €
171S.2	Individual	Training	3,552.00
171S.3	Allihies Parish Co-Op Society	Bera Coastal Science Centre	19,886.19
171S.6	Atlantic Catch Ltd	Ice Machine & Web Design	4,319.00
171S.7	Bantry Historical Society	Ellen Hutch Trail	2,000
171S.8	Schull & District Community	Bait Bins on Schull Pier	5,011.20
171S.9	Fish Seafood Deli	New Production Facility in Skibbereen	100,000
171S.12	ECO Adventures	Marine tourism - Kayaking, Windsurfing	15,762.00
171S.15	Courtmacsherry Community Shop	Refurbish Community Shop	11,728.00
171S.16	Individual SSCF	Solar Light Facility on Bere Island	3,593.90
171S.21	Individual	Training	2,907.00
171S.22	Individual	Training and Small Business Start Up	5,515.00
171S.23	Atlantic Sea Kayaking	Marine Tourism-Equipment & Training Room	38,763.00
171S.26	Clean Coasts Ballynamona	Equipment	3,842.00
171S.27	Individual SSCF	Refrigeration of Van	4,600.00
171S3.1	Bantry Inshore Search & Rescue	Training & Safety Equipment	4,094.00
171S3.2	Bantry Rowing Club	Rowing Equipment	7,414.00
171S3.4	Bere Island Outboard Engine	Engine for Island Safety Boat	2,319.00
171S3.5	Castletownbere Rowing Club	Rowing Equipment	11,875
171S3.7	Union Hall Smoked Fish	Processing Equipment	40,000.00
171S3.8	Youghal Cumann Na Daoine	Installation of Industry Standard Kitchen	38,676.00
181S.1	Individual SSCF	Refrigerate & insulate a van to transport fish	4160
181S.2	Whiddy Island Schoolhouse Centre	Whiddy Island Schoolhouse Conversion	51982.37
181S.3	Ballycotton Development Company Limited	Bringing Historical Maps into the Community	4551
181S.4	Individual SSCF	Refrigerated & insulate a van to transport fish	5200
181S.5	Comharchumann Chléire Teoranta	Shower for mariners	4908.8
181S.6	Coláiste Pobail Chléire	Turais Báid Faire Mara Chléire	1747.2
181S.7	The Lagoon Activity Centre	Floating Aqua Park	25000
181S.8	Bantry Rowing Club	Equipment	4024.68
181S.9	Funkytown Adventure Centre	The Secret South	800
181S.11 (a)	Ellen Hutchins General	Ellen Hutchins Festival	3688
181S.11 (b)	Ellen Hutchins Festival	Ellen Hutchins Festival	1993.95
181S.13	Ring Rowing Club	Training Facility (shed)	2848
181S.17	Aghada Sea Scout Group (Scouting Ireland) (Clann Credo	Training Boats	16500

181S.15	Youghal Tidy Towns	Habitat mapping in the community of Youghal	1918.8
181S.19	Travara Shellfish Limited	Added value processing unit for Irish shellfish & fish	25208.25
181S.21	O'Driscoll Fish SSCF	Seafood Food Facility	19920
181S.22	Seven Heads Peninsula Tourism	Courtmacsherry Seafood Festival	1692
181S.23	Cork District & Draft Net Fishermen's Association	Install a new chiller unit at a cold unit	7040
181S.24	Schull Community Harbour development Group	Insulation bins	3604
181S.20	Individual	Training	715
181S.27	Oceans of Discovery	Diving Equipment	1480.6
181S.28	Schull Regatta Community Limited	Schull Regatta	2000
181S.29	Clean Coasts Ballynamona	Beach Clean Equipment	11170.98
181S.30	Roaring Water Marine	Equipment	2018.49
181S.33	Cobh Summer Swing	Festival	1884.68
181S.36	ZT Fish Company Limited	Equipment for added value storage & processing unit	25761.85
181S.38	Castletownbere Rowing Club	Training and safety equipment purchase	4297.07
181S.40	Courtmacsherry Rowing Club Company Limited by Guarantee	Training equipment	4920
181S.41	EIRE BASS	Angling Vessel	10669
181S.43	WASI (Wild Atlantic Seaweed Ireland)	Purchase of equipment to increase production	2252.5
191S.4	Shearwater Wildlife Tours	Promotion of Development of Business	4319
191S.5	Individual Training	Skipper full course, STCW refresher courses and MCA necessary for 200 ton	4000
191S.6	Bantry Bay Port Company DAC	Rubbish Facility for the Containment of Marine Litter	17081
191S.8	Allihies Men's Shed	Restoration of a traditional fishing boat	4000
191S.10	Port Authority Cork County Council	Provision of insulated fish boxes for Local Fishermen (Kinsale Harbour)	4950
191S.11	Glounthaune Tidy Towns	Harpers Island Wetland Centre Promotional Video	3280
191S.12	Knollway Limited	Add Value Refrigerated VAN	3618
191S.14	Schull Regatta Committee Limited	Schull Regatta	2000
191S.15	Ellen Hutchins Festival	Ellen Hutchins Festival	2000
191S.16	Lawrence Cover Marina Limited	Marina Expansion and Wheelchair Access	42750

191S.17	Travara Shellfish Ltd	Investment in added value processing equipment	12380
191S.18	Ellen Hutchins Festival	Ellen Hutchins Heritage Trail Enhancements Project	10976
191S.19	Ring Rowing Club	Rowing machine monitor replacement and bikes	4556
191S.20	Myross Rowing Club Limited	Infrastructure investment for supporting club activities	49252
191S.21	Fish Seafood Deli Ltd	Business expansion	36584
191S.22	East Cork Biodiversity Networking Programme	Coastal habitats and walkways	27956
191S.23	Comharchumann Chléire Teo	Tiling of Mariners facility	5236
191S.24	Courtmacsherry Sea Feast Festival	Courtmacsherry Seafood Feast	2000
191S.25	Union Hall Smoked Fish	Upgrade of premises to facilitate growing demand for Union Hall Products	53000
191S.26	Lonehort Battery Festival	Lonehort Battery Festival	1000
191S.27	Individual Training	Training Application	2175
191S.28	Eyeries Commuity Development Association Ltd	Eyeries Meeting Rooms	65142
191S.29	Courtmacsherry Rowing Club	Maximising the participation of the community and tourists	6648
191S.30	Wild Atlantic Luxury Tours	Wild Atlantic Luxury Tours	1322
191S.31	Colaiste Pobail Chleire	Turais Báid Faire Mara Chléire	2080
191S.34	CCT Heritage Centre Windows	Heritage Centre Windows	1440
191S.35	Catch of The Day	Fish & Chip Trailer	36750
191S.36	Allihies Campsite	Caravan Park Facilities Development	41640
191S.37	Funkytown Adventure Centre	Equipment Purchase	5313
191S.42	Individual Applicant	Mobile Irish Fish Eatery for Festivals	34951.5
191S.43	Comhar na nOilean	Sail Training Islands Youth	6000
191S.44	Individual SSCF	Adding Value to Lobster	16000

191S.45	Goleen Harbour Ltd	Mizen Adventures Kayaking	5541
191S.48	Woodcock Smokery	Smoke School Conversion	17000
191S.49	Paulona Limited	Equipment	15025
191S.50	Beara Tourism	Beara Maritime Book Project	5000
201S.24	Fish Seafood Deli Ltd	Business Expansion	49473.5
201S.6	Dursey Ferry Ltd	Boat Trips & Tour	18167
201S.41	Individual Applicant	Refrigeration and Bait Store	5792.5
201S.37	The Lobster Tail	Seafood Food Trailer	5083.075
201S.27	Ballycotton Seafood	Ballycotton Seafood Retail Unit	61213
201S.35	Myross Rowing Club	Safety Boat & Boat Shed Storage	34728
201S.26	Bantry Bay Boat Hire	Equipment	991
201S.2	Individual Applicant	Equipment	262.8
201S.13	Ballycotton Harbour (Port Authority: Cork County Council)	Provision of insulation fish boxes for local fishermen	4950
201S.4	Individual SSCF	Bait Store & Refrigeration	1731
201S.16	Lawrence Cove Ferries Ltd	Crane Upgrade for Vessel 'An tOileanach'	98500
201S.28	Fish Seafood Deli Ltd	The Fresh Fish Deli	50403
201S.10	Cork County Council	Provision of Sweeper for collection of Net Repair Trimmings, Union Hall, Baltimore & Kinsale	36850
201S.11	Aghada Sea Scout Group (Scouting Ireland)	Safety Boat	19089.6
201S.5	Ring Rowing Club	Purchase Offshore Double Boat	5200
201S.33	Brian Whelton Chair	Courtmacsherry Rowing Club	7988
201S.7	Oceans of Discovery	Diving & marine education onshore dive tank	10031.5
201S.25	Wild Atlantic Glamping	Kayaking equipment	5626
201S.17	Clean Coasts Ballynamona	Equipment	25333.44
201S.36	BISRA Bantry Lifeboat	Vessel Weiderman 1140	17958.4
201S.22	Gecko Adventures	Kayaking and safety equipment	15088
201S.23	Ellen Hutchins Festival	Ellen Hutchins Festival 5 Projects	6336
201S.30	Baltimore Community Council	Croí Na Mara- Lost at Sea Sculpture	15000
FLGC0110 0022 c	Cumann Na Daoine Youghal	Fishing Heritage Information Boards for Youghal	5,401.20
FLGC0110 0025	Schull Regatta	Equipment	6,638.08
FLGC0110 0028 c	Galley Flash RC Danny Hayes	Oars	848.00
FLGC0110 0029 c	Skibbereen RC	Equipment	6,620.00
FLGC0110 0031	Myross RC	Equipment	46,867.72

FLGC0110 0044 c	Clare Heardmen	Seaweed Festival	9,840.00
FLGK0110 0020 c	Retail Fish Trailer ZT Fish	Seafood Fish Retail Unit	8,250.00
FLGK0110 0024	Travara Shellfish	Live Holding Equipment	11,913.72
FLGK0110 0036	Allihies Seafood Ltd	Seaweed Development Project	41,700.00
FLGK0110 0041	Roaring Water Marine	Boat Building Equipment	859.62
FLGK0110 0049	Bantry Bay Boat Hire	Marine leisure & safety equipment	17,062.92
FLGK0110 0029	Roaring Water Sea Vegetables	Seaweed added value processing equipment & facility investment	8,745.25