

FLAG
WEST

Fisheries Local Action Groups
Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta Iascaigh Áitiúla



Supporting Coastal Communities

Fisheries Local Action Group
Local Development Strategy 2024 - 2029



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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



Ireland's
Seafood
Development
Agency

Contents

1. Overview of FLAG	3
1.1 Introduction to FLAG West	3
1.2 Introduction to the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund Programme for Ireland (EMFAF)	4
1.3 What is FLAG	6
1.4 Where does FLAG fit?	7
1.5 Key Policies	7
1.6 Consideration of Complementary Measures	9
1.7 Methodology	10
2. Analysis of the Development Needs	13
2.1 Introduction	13
2.2 Socio-Economic Profile	13
2.3 Summary – Infographic	21
2.4 Overview of Consultation Process	22
2.5 Feedback from Consultation	23
2.5.1 SWOT Analysis	23
2.5.2 Ranking of Areas of Activity	24
2.6 Conclusion	25
3. Strategy and Objectives	27
3.1 Introduction	27
3.2 Themes and Priorities	28
3.3 Actions	29
4. The Fisheries Local Action Group Rules of Procedure	37
4.1 Organisation Details	37
4.2 Roles and Responsibilities of the FLAG Board	37
4.2.1 FLAG Boards and GDPR	38
4.2.2 Role of the FLAG Board in funding applications	39
4.3 FLAG Membership	40
4.4 FLAG Meetings	42
4.5 Interpretation of the Rules of Procedure	43
5. Appendix	45
5.1 Appendix 1 - EMFAF – Programme for Ireland	45
5.2 Appendix 2 – Review of FLAG 2016-2022 Scheme	48
5.3 Appendix 3 – Projects Supported by West FLAG 2016-2022	51



1. Overview of FLAG

1. Overview of FLAG

1.1 Introduction to FLAG West

Figure 1: Map of the FLAG West Area of Operation



Source: RSM

The FLAG West area comprises the coastal zone of Counties Galway and Clare, with the boundary depicted by the line in Figure 1 above. A total of 80 District Electoral Divisions, which typically lie 10km from the coastal strip, have been analysed to provide a snapshot of the nature of the region. This includes 37 Electoral Divisions¹ in County Galway and 43 in County Clare, encompassing a total population of 81,176 in 2022. The FLAG West area has the largest Gaeltacht in the country where the Irish language is spoken on a daily basis. The counties of Galway and Clare had an overall population of 321,261 in 2022, having grown by 7.7% overall since 2016 and individually by 7.8% and 7.7% respectively. The largest electoral division in FLAG West is Clanagh in County Clare with a population of 10,905.

The FLAG West's fishing activity is dispersed along the coast of Galway and Clare with a heavy concentration along the Connemara coast line. The seafood industry is prominent in the area, with 337 vessels registered in 2022. The FLAG West area recorded 3,090 landings¹, bringing a total of 2,520 tonnes of seafood at a value of €22.4 million in 2022. The area also generated €38.4 million of

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.

aquaculture sales in 2021, accounting for 21% of the sales value generated and employing 12% of the industry across the seven coastal regions.

Boats in the area are primarily day boats of less than 10 meters, with main species targeted of lobster, brown crab, velvet crab, spider crab, crayfish, shrimp and scallops. Shellfish farming is mainly concentrated in North Connemara, Killary Harbour, South Galway Bay/North Clare, and in the Shannon estuary. The main species are gigas oysters, mussels and small-scale abalone farming in South Connemara. Salmon farming is concentrated in Killary Harbour, Mannin Bay, Beirteach Boy and Cillchiarain Bay in South Connemara.

There is a developing seaweed industry in FLAG West area with Arramara Teo Ars in Cillchiarain the main direct and indirect employer through processing and harvesting. Other species of seaweed are used in small enterprises located along the coastline concentrating on cosmetics and food products.

Tourism is important to the FLAG West region. Activities include angling, dolphin watching, traditional sailing, trips to offshore islands and trips to Aran Islands, Cliffs of Moher, Inis boffin. The area is also part of the Wild Atlantic Way. The region boasts several heritage sites including The Burren that has achieved UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

Further, the Galway Clare coastal region has substantial areas covered by Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas including Lower Shannon Estuary SAC , Kerry Head Shoal SAC, KilKee Reefs SAC, Gaway Bay Complex SAC, Roundstone BOG SAC, Inis Mór SPA and Illaunonearaun SPA.

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

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

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

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

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

The volatile operating environment for the industry and the state's responsibility for protecting the marine environment has led to the focus of the Irish EMFAF² 2021-2027 programme being crafted to take account of all the challenges that the Irish seafood sector will face over the coming years.

EMFAF at the EU level

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

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

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

EMFAF – Programme for Ireland

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

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

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

The missions are as follows:

Mission 1 - A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Seafood Sector

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.3 What is FLAG

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

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

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

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

1.4 Where does FLAG fit?

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

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

The key themes to deliver this Priority are:

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

1.5 Key Policies

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

Figure 2 outlines the policies and strategies which were considered.



1.6 Consideration of Complementary Measures

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

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

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

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

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

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

Economic Development and Job Creation

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

Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

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

Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

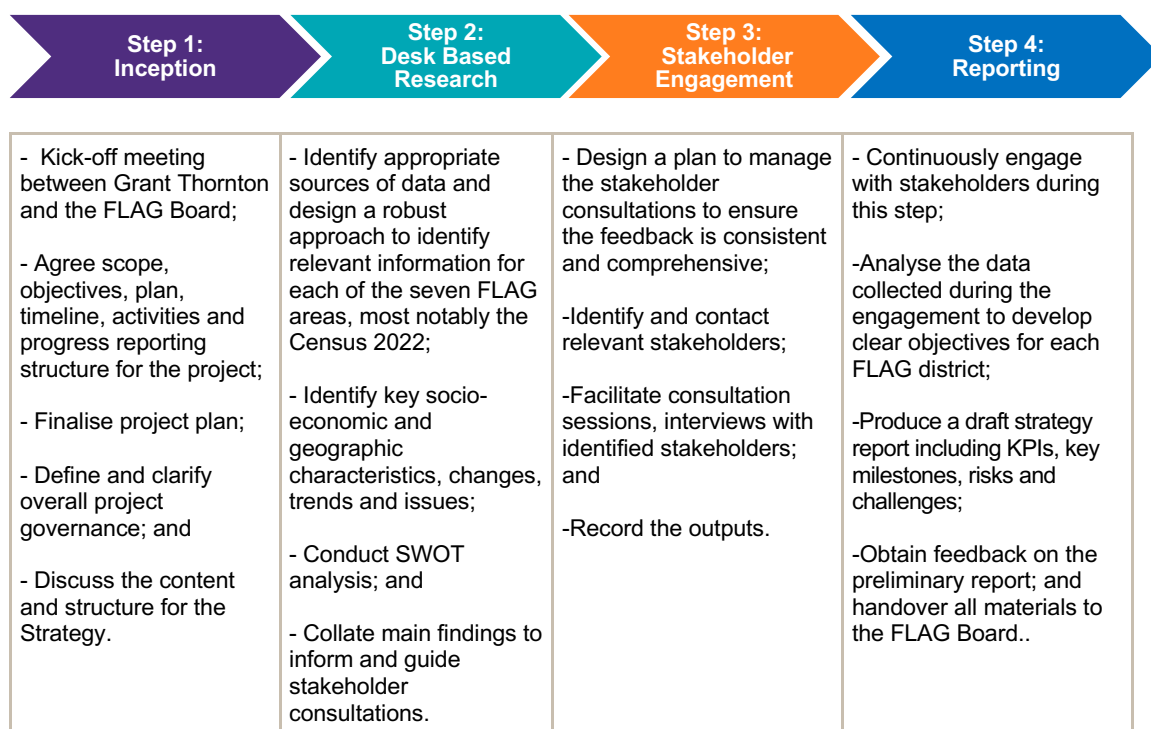
The Commission is determined to make this Europe's "Digital Decade"¹ and recognises that Europe needs to strengthen its digital sovereignty and set standards, rather than following those of others – with a clear focus on data, technology, and infrastructure. All EU funding programmes will reflect this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

1.7 Methodology

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

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

Figure 3: Methodology Approach



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



2. Analysis of the Development Needs

2. Analysis of the Development Needs

2.1 Introduction

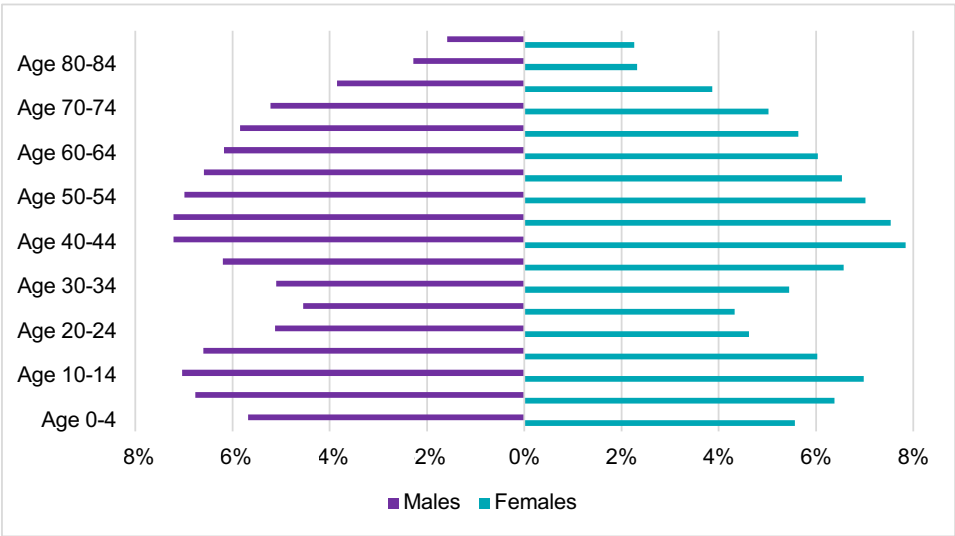
The following sections provide analysis of the development needs of the FLAG area through both qualitative and quantitative data. It has been developed through a combination of desk-based research, survey results and consultation findings.

2.2 Socio-Economic Profile

Population

- The counties of Galway and Clare had an overall population of 321,261 in 2022, consisting of 193,323 persons in County Galway and 127,938 persons in County Clare.
- Within the FLAG West area, the population declined 9% from the previous Census in 2016, to 81,176 in 2022. The area accounts for 1.6% of Ireland's population.
- In 2022, 25.3% of the population of Counties Galway and Clare lived within the FLAG West area, of which 51% were from an Electoral Division in County Galway and 49% from County Clare.

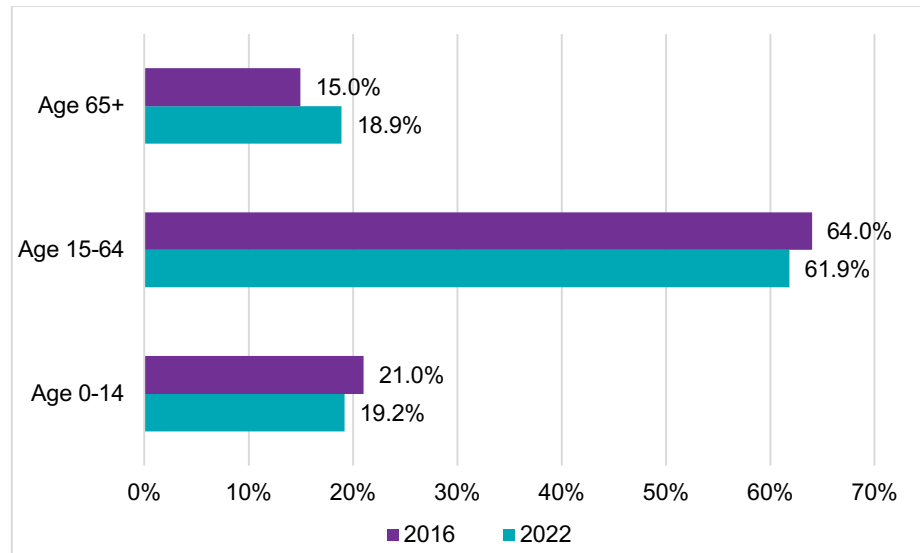
Figure 4: Percentage of Population by Age and Sex in FLAG West, 2022



Source: CSO

- The FLAG West area has an almost equal gender split, with 49% of males and 51% of females residing in the area.

Figure 5: Age Profile, 2022

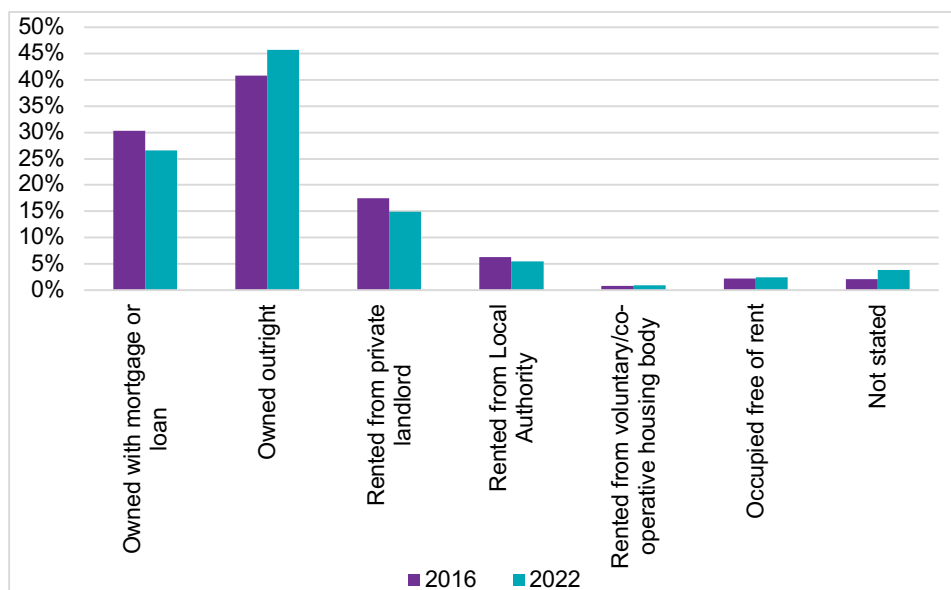


Source: CSO

- There is an older population in FLAG West area, with 18.9% of the population aged 65 or over, compared with the Irish average of 14.3%. In 2016 17.9% of the FLAG West area was aged 65 or over highlighting the increasing ageing population in the region.
- Some 18.2% of people in FLAG West area were born outside of Ireland, of this, 7.5% were born in the UK and 7.8% were born in the EU and Rest of the World.
- Of the total population of the area, 17,215 (21.2%) people had a disability of any kind. This compares with 21.5% nationally.
- There is a strong sense of cultural awareness with 50.9% of the population able to speak Irish in 2022, having declined by 11% since 2016.

Place

Figure 6: Home Ownership by Type, 2016-2022



Source: CSO

- The number of private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan saw a very slight increase from 71.1% in 2016 to 72.3% of the population in 2022. Of this, 46% of the population owned their house outright in 2022 and 27% had a mortgage or a loan.
- The proportion of households rented from a private landlord or rented from local authority saw a significant decline by both 22.5% and 21.3% respectively, from 2016 to 2022.
- The largest proportion of households in the FLAG West area was married couple with children (39.7%), followed by one person households (25.9%).
- In the FLAG West area 73% of permanent dwellings were occupied according to the 2022 Census which was the same in 2016.
- 16% of properties in the FLAG West region are holiday homes, which are unoccupied for a larger portion of the year. This is significantly higher than the national average of 3.2%.
- The number of vacant dwellings has decreased from 11.1% in 2016 to 9.5% in 2022, however it is still higher than the national average of 7.7%.

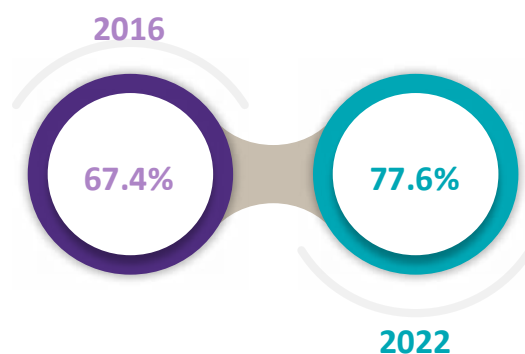
Figure 7: Map of Deprivation Index by Electoral Division, 2022



Source: Pobal HP Deprivation Index, 2022

- Of the FLAG West electoral districts, 62.5% were classed as having “varying levels of deprivation” and 37.5% were classed as having “various levels of affluence”.⁴
- The ED coastal areas tend to have higher levels of deprivation as shown in figure 7.

Figure 8: Proportion of Households with Access to Broadband Internet



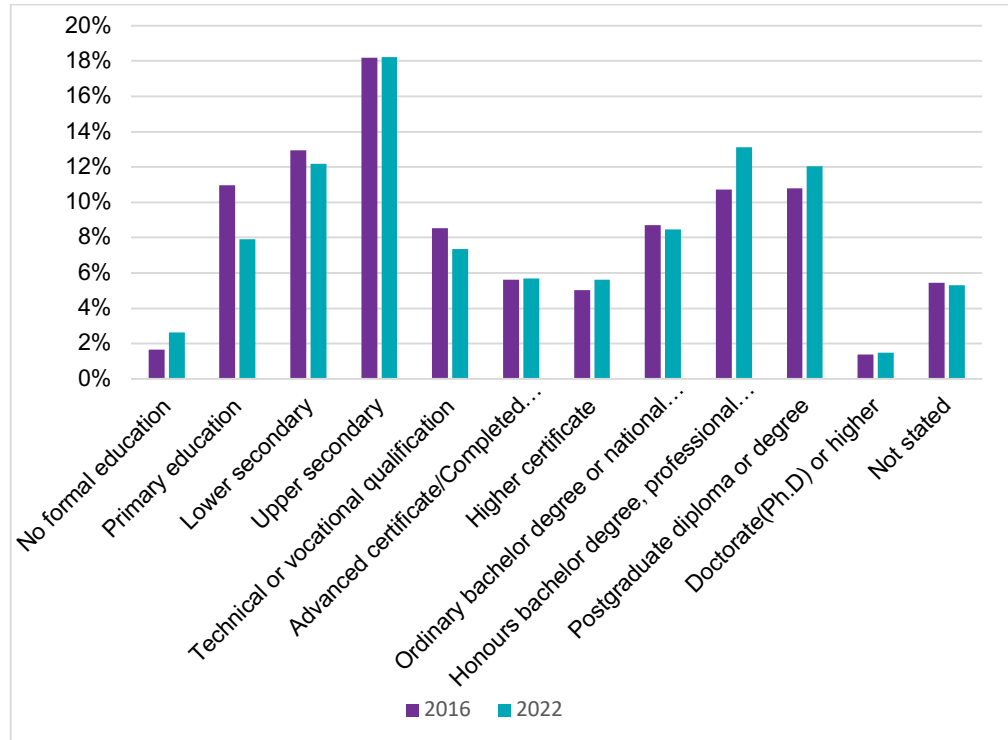
Source: CSO

- The number of households with access to broadband internet has increased 4.3% since 2016.
- In 2016, 67.4% had access to broadband internet, with this figure growing to 77.6% in 2022.

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

Labour market

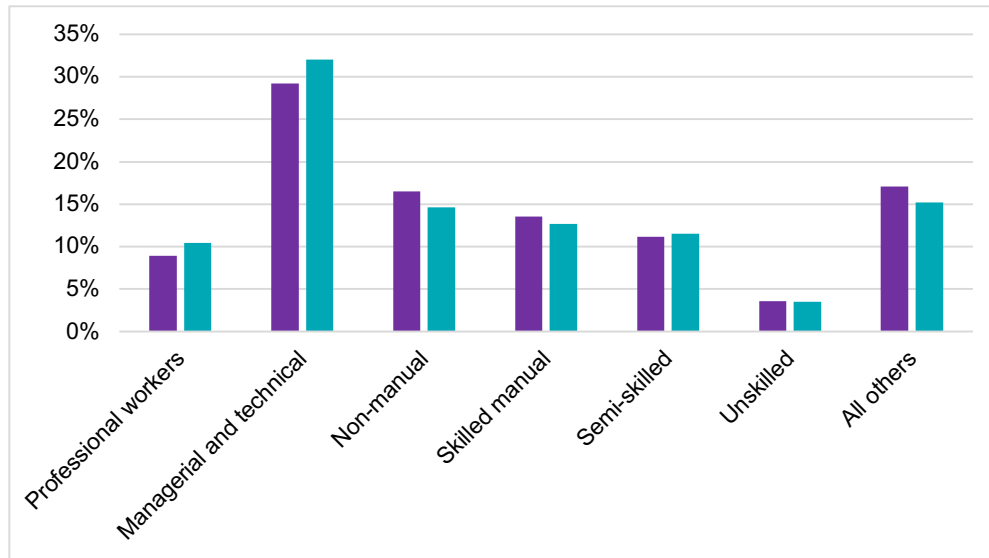
Figure 9: Level of Education as a Percentage of Total Persons Educated, 2016-2022



Source: CSO

- The level of education attainment in the FLAG West area has declined over recent years, with 55,272 persons having completed their education in 2022, compared to 58,682 in 2016.
- Over a third (35%) of persons were educated to degree level or higher in 2022, compared to 32% in 2016.
- Those with an honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by 15.4%, 5% and 1.3% respectively from 2016.
- Of those educated, 7.9% were educated to primary level only, compared to 11% in 2016.
- The number of people educated to ordinary degree level declined by 8.3% from 2016.
- Those with no formal education remained at 2.6% in 2022.

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



Source: CSO

- Managerial and Technical workers had 26,011 workers in 2022, accounting for the largest proportion (32%) of the workforce in the FLAG West area.
- The proportion of the population (aged 15 and over) at work has increased from 42.4% in 2016 to 45.7% in 2022, however it remains below the national average of 56.1%.
- The unemployment rate has declined from 13% in 2016 to 8.4% in 2022, in line with the national average of 8.3%.
- In 2022 male unemployment stood at 9%, with female unemployment lower at 7.8%.
- The proportion of those retired has increased from 16.3% of the population in 2016 to 19.8% in 2022.
- The proportion of the FLAG West population (4.3%) who are unable to work due to health problems, slightly lower than the national average (4.6%).
- A quarter of persons at work (25%) are in Professional Services, followed by the Commerce and Trade industry which accounted for the second largest proportion of workers (18%) in the FLAG West area.
- This was followed by 16% of persons at work in the manufacturing industry.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry employed 4.6% of persons at work in 2022, which is lower than 4.9% in 2016.

FLAG West Seafood Economy

- In 2022 FLAG West recorded 3,090 landings, bringing a total of 2,520 tonnes of seafood at a value of €22.4 million.
- A total of 337 vessels were registered in the area in 2022 compared to 368⁵ in 2016.
- In 2022, Ros an Mhíl Port recorded 2,100 tonnes of landings, accounting for 0.8% of all tonnes landed in Irish Ports, and 4.3% (€22 million) of the total value of landings.
- In 2016, this value was €14m, with a recorded 3,300 tonnes of landings.
- The FLAG West region had 11 seafood processing companies that employed 171 people in 2022.

⁵ Based on BIM FLAG West Local Development Strategy 2016

Aquaculture

- The West FLAG area generated €38.4 million of aquaculture sales in 2021, accounting for 21% of the sales value generated across the seven coastal regions.
- The region generated 5,849 tonnes, 14% of the coastal regions output.
- In 2021 it employed 235 persons in aquaculture, 12% of the total employed across the coastal regions and had 56 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.

Table 1: Top 10 Export Markets for Irish Seafood

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

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

- Volume of exports declined by 13% in 2022 with both reductions in pelagic quotas and rising inflation globally having an adverse effect on demand.

- Irish organic farmed salmon remained the most valuable export species in 2022 for the Irish seafood sector. This is despite a 2% decline in value to €120m, whereas volumes increased by 6%.
- Export volumes of mackerel declined 31% and value declined by 12% in 2022. Export volumes of blue whiting also declined by 20%. Conversely, shrimps, lobsters, mussels and whelks witnessed strong export growth by both volume and value.

Imports

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

Employment












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

Table 2: Breakdown of Direct Employment 2022

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

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

2.3 Summary – Infographic

Marine and Seafood Sector	Demographics	81,176 Total population: -9% from 2016	18.9% Aged 65 and over compared to 14.3% nationally	 18.2% of residents born outside of Ireland
	Housing	71.1% Private households owned outright or with a mortgage/loan	 16% of properties were holiday homes.	73% Permanent dwellings were occupied which was the same in 2016
	Education	 35% of residents aged 15+ educated to degree level or higher	Residents holding honours bachelor degree, postgraduate degree or doctorate increased by 15.4% , 5% and 1.3% respectively	2.6% of residents have no formal education
	Labour Market	45.7% residents in employment compared to 42.4% in 2016	 Unemployment rate has fallen from 13% in 2016 to 8.4% in 2022	19.8% of the population were retired compared to 16.3% in 2016
	Economy	4.6% of labour force employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry	 18% employed in the commerce and trade industry	 12% of all coastal employment in FLAG North West were in aquaculture
	Society	 Of the FLAG West electoral districts, 62.5% were classed as having "varying levels of deprivation"	 77.6% of households have access to broadband compared to 67.4% in 2016	25.9% One person households
		 337 vessels registered in the area	 2,520 tonnes of seafood at a value of €22.4 million	 3,090 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 Clare and Galway 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 Mayo News and Marine Times. FLAG Board members also undertook to share meeting details among their networks.

Public Meetings	
Number of Events	Four public meetings and one online meeting.
Location of Events	Ennis, South Galway, South Connemara and West Connemara.
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	Galway.

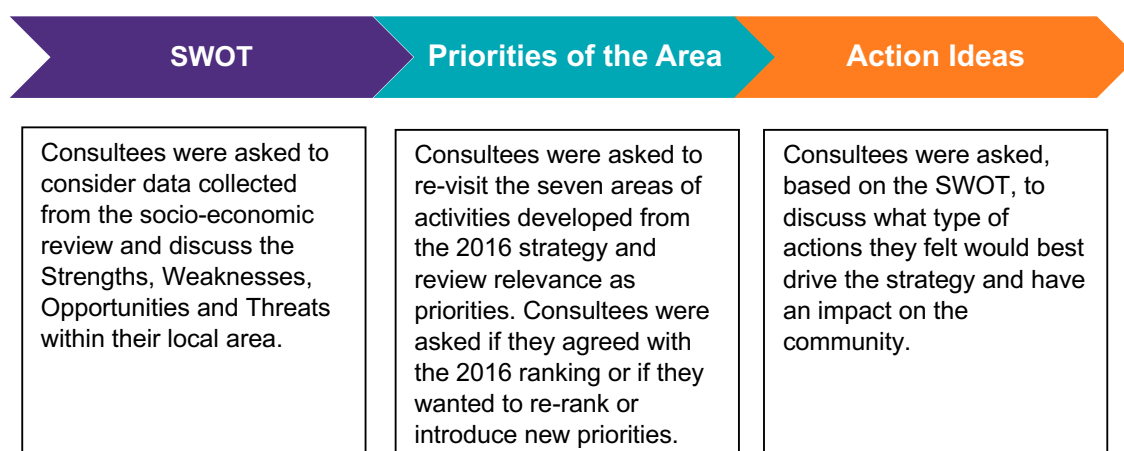
A bespoke email inbox was set up to receive input from interested parties. This FLAG.Strategies@ie.gt.com inbox was communicated at all meetings and across all advertising and attracted 30 responses or inputs from various interested parties.

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 47 participants.

The engagement had 3 main components consisting of a SWOT, ranking of priorities⁶ and action ideas as shown in figure 10 below.

⁶ In 2016, as part of the strategy development, seven areas of activity were developed from the Union Priority 4 of the EMFF Regulation, Article 63 of the Common Provision Regulation and the EMFF OP, and ranked by order of prioritisation. These priorities have been carried through to the 2023 strategy.

Figure 10: Methodology of Consultation



2.5 Feedback from Consultation

2.5.1 SWOT Analysis

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strong cultural awareness in the area, with 51% of the population able to speak Irish, accompanied by a strong maritime history and heritage. - Over a third (35%) of people were educated to degree level or higher in 2022, compared to 26.7% in 2016. - Experience amongst those involved in fishing and aquaculture, with many lifelong skills embedded within the local community. - Well-established research and skills development community within the area e.g. Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology and NUI Galway. - Strong tourism offering including scenic tourism e.g. Cliffs of Moher and Aran Islands and activity-based tourism e.g. boat tours and water sports. - High quality seafood products on the national and international level e.g. Clarinbridge Oyster recognition; recognition of Galway Bay. - Strong community spirit within the area, and people are considered cooperative, active, and entrepreneurial, as well as promoting local produce e.g. the Loophead Food Circle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An ageing population, with 18.9% of persons aged 65 and over, compared to 14% nationally. - 16% of properties are holiday homes and generally unoccupied for large portions of the year. - Proportion of those retired increased from 16.3% of the population in 2016 to 19.8% in 2022. - Lack of knowledge and interest from young people in the area in the marine sector. - Lack of integration and co-operation between tourism providers and fishery interests. - Fishing and tourism seasonality limited. - Some harbours and piers are lacking suitable health and safety requirements or facilities and amenities, and therefore are not suitable for multi-purpose usage. - Lack of clarity and information for tourists and locals regarding information boards on the local area/ local catch or point of interest. - Some 22% of households are still without access to broadband internet.

- Significant tourism opportunities to utilise the scenic landscape and initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way route.
- Seafood tourism opportunities to build on the areas tourism & fishing strengths.
- Grow and expand current festivals within the area, focused upon seafood, the marine, and associated activities.
- The fishing industry in the area is substantial and provides significant employment opportunities, boasting strong infrastructure to support the industry.
- Upskilling and reskilling to encourage young people to stay in the area and encourage diversification and innovation.
- Inland and at sea fisheries resources of value exist as both a recreational outlet for local people and as a highly valuable tourism attraction.

- Proportion of persons aged 0-14 declined to 19.2% in 2022, combined with an ageing population could indicate potential future strain on resources.
- Limited opportunities to encourage young people to stay in the area and attract them to employment opportunities in the marine sector.
- Some small harbours are falling into disrepair, resulting in permanent loss or increasing repair bills.
- Lack of knowledge transfer to ensure the legacy of the area.
- Health and safety regulations if not implemented could negatively affect the sector.
- Environmental threats including global warming, pollution and coastal erosion threaten the physical infrastructure and coastal way of life.
- Coastal communities without diversification may be overexposed to macroeconomic conditions or regulations.
- 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.
- Insufficient protection of inshore/inland waters.
- Planning regulations could constrain aquaculture and provision of housing for young people.

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

Table 3 highlights that creating and maintaining jobs in coastal areas was the top priority for the FLAG West area. Lifelong learning and attracting young people in fisheries and aquaculture areas ranked second, followed by promoting innovation in fisheries and aquaculture and supporting diversification inside and outside commercial fisheries.

2.6 Conclusion

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

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



3. Strategy and Objectives

3. Strategy and Objectives

3.1 Introduction

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

The Intervention Logic has been arrived at as follows:



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

“The FLAG West’s coastal communities of Galway and Clare will have vibrant, sustainable economies building on the area’s environmental and culture strengths.”

3.2 Themes and Priorities

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

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

Table 4: Themes

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

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

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

Table 5: Priorities

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

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

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

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

3.3 Actions

Key theme 1: Actions to diversify and enhance the income of individuals dependant on seafood and the blue economy in the coastal community.

Rationale for theme

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

	Action	Description
1.1	To support the future of coastal communities through learning and skills development.	<p>Developing the skills in local coastal communities including training and upskilling. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training courses (excluding those already delivered by existing providers), knowledge exchange, basic skills training, governance and business management. Training supported by the FLAG should complement, not duplicate training already provided by BIM. - A digital literacy programme to ensure access to services in an increasingly digital age. - Training and support to encourage entry into marine sectors. - Training and support for water safety. - Training and support for heritage skills. <p>Bringing the marine environment to life for young people, promoting the interaction and experience of the marine environment and to support the development of information that encourages young people into marine sector careers. An example of this could be the transition of land scouts to sea scouts.</p> <p>Acknowledge the contribution of fishermen via supports and education, to allow for income diversification utilising their existing skills and knowledge.</p>
1.2	Improving infrastructure to improve marine infrastructure.	To support improvements to infrastructure with small scale interventions to assist with landings, storage facilities and improving access and enhancement of marine infrastructure for multi-sectoral use. This will exclude projects covered by the DAFM Harbours Scheme.
1.3	Improving product quality, appearance and marketing.	Support to improve the appearance, marketing, packaging and traceability of local products, promoting sustainable supply chains and conscious consumerism, which is leading to an increased focus on buying locally and ethically. Further, developing ways to promote and educate around local fish being caught in the area and new ways to sell fish locally.

1.4	Development of artisan food production.	Develop and encourage artisan food production. Build links with artisan food producers and the local hospitality sector, encouraging cooperation and promoting the two industries collectively.
------------	---	---

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

Rationale

To transition towards smarter growth and drive forward the development of coastal communities, new enterprises and product development are key to ensure the economy can adapt to the demands of society. Whilst support for the development of new coastal businesses is important, there is also significant need for support for existing businesses. 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. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	3. Innovation & Diversification	4. Adding Value
5. Social well-being and cultural heritage	6. Environmental assets	7. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities	

	Action	Description
2.1	To support new enterprises and new product development.	Support the development of new enterprises and new products in the blue economy and maritime sector including fisheries, aquaculture and maritime enterprises, micro enterprises through pilot programmes, feasibility studies, improved incubation facilities, market testing and product development and adoption of or use of new technologies.
2.2	To support existing coastal businesses.	Support the development and growth of existing coastal businesses, including those within the blue economy and maritime sector. This could include but isn't limited to support for new equipment or facilities, feasibility studies and business plans.
2.3	Data collection.	Support for the development of data initiatives and data collection projects to advance innovations.
2.4	To support the diversification of catch from underutilised species.	Support to encourage more responsible and sustainable fishing and to support the launch of new seafood products of underutilised species.

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

Rationale

Tourism is one of the largest growth sectors for the economy of Counties Galway and Claire. Regional and national strategies including the Wild Atlantic Way, have created an opportunity for coastal tourism. Further, increases in visitor numbers, coupled with a growing need to protect the coastal environment is driving the urgency for sustainable tourism. Extending the tourist season is also considered a key element for growth, moving away from a focus on day-trippers and encouraging longer stays within the FLAG area. The area can utilise its strengths including its surrounding islands to further expand its tourism offering. 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. Lifelong Learning & Attracting Young People	3. Innovation & Diversification	4. Adding Value
5. Social well-being and cultural heritage	6. Environmental assets	7. Role of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities	

	Action	Description
3.1	Developing marine and coastal tourism in Galway and Claire.	Support the development of the marine and coastal tourism offering and encouraging the development of visitor experiences. This also includes supports specific to promoting and extending the tourism season. Examples could include boat trips and island hopping.
3.2	Improving the visibility, co-ordination and connections of the marine and coastal tourism industry.	Support the marketing, advertising and branding of the marine and coastal tourism and also to improve the linkages between the tourism based industries (i.e. tour operators, hotels and restaurants) and the fisheries sector.
3.3	Development of tourism offering through marine and coastal community events and festivals.	Support the development of tourism offering through seafood festivals and coastal community festivals including those offering activities for children e.g. crab fishing, wildlife drawing. This also includes supports for events and festivals specific to promoting and extending the annual tourism season between September – May.
3.4	To provide support for water based activities.	Support for water based activities, not covered under other schemes, that can promote the development of coastal tourism alongside community participation.

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

	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

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

	Action	Description
5.1	Develop and grow maritime and coastal heritage.	Support for the development of heritage groups to contribute to the growth of heritage attractions for example through exhibitions, events, festivals, signage, information boards, heritage centres, heritage skills education, recorded stories etc.
5.2	To support and improve access to services in coastal areas.	Support for the development and enhancement of existing coastal community assets and services to improve quality of life in the area. Targeted initiatives would address and support community health and well-being projects, isolation, deprivation and coastal activities.

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

Rationale for theme

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

Priorities addressed under this theme

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

	Action	Description
6.1	Protecting and enhancing the marine environment.	Support the protection and enhancement of the environment in coastal areas including supports for the research and development of processes aimed at addressing waste management and climate change.
6.2	Improving and developing conservation and environmental knowledge.	Support the development of local environmental knowledge through nature trails, wildlife signage, conservation information including education material and programmes and other environmental protections.



4. The Fisheries Local Action Group Rules of Procedure

4. The Fisheries Local Action Group Rules of Procedure

4.1 Organisation Details

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

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities of the FLAG Board

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

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

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

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

- Provision of preparatory support to FLAGs
- Information and publicity
- Assessment of eligibility and appropriate grant aid rate of all projects submitted to FLAGs
- Provision of administrative and animation support for FLAGs
- Verification of beneficiary grant claims
- Ensuring that a clear audit trail exists
- Co-Operation with the Operating Programme level evaluations

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

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

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

4.2.1 FLAG Boards and GDPR

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

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

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

4.2.2 Role of the FLAG Board in funding applications

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

Step	Description	Carried out by...
1	Animation and public information campaign, targeted within the areas of need as per the LDS	FLAGs
2	Call for proposals	FLAGs
3	Application Submitted	Applicant
4	Written Acknowledgement	BIM Head Office
5	Completeness Check	BIM Head Office
6	Eligibility Check	FLAG Eligibility Committee (FEC)
7	Environmental Assessment	FEC
8	Preliminary review	FLAG Board
9	Evaluation and scoring	FLAG Board Technical and Investment Sub Committee
10	Project Selection/ Recommendation	FLAG Board
11	BIM Review	BIM Head Office
12	Approval - Grant Offer	BIM Head Office
	Rejection	BIM Head Office

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

Appeals: An applicant may appeal decisions by BIM with respect to project eligibility or grant aid rate or the respective FLAG Board to refuse grant aid. An applicant has two weeks from the date on which

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

4.3 FLAG Membership

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

Name	Pillar
Kieran Coyne	Statutory Bodies
Eamon Ó hEanaigh	Statutory Bodies
Enda Conneely	Communities And Environmental
Ger Concannon	Industry
Frank Flanagan	Industry
Pat Conneely	Industry
Michael O'Malley	Industry
Gerry O'Halloran	Industry
Padraic De Bhaldrath	Communities And Environmental
Luke Aston	Communities And Environmental
Oonagh O'Dwyer	Communities And Environmental
Máirín Uí Choisdeabhla-Seoighe	Statutory Bodies
Cathy Ni Ghoill	Communities And Environmental
Seamus Breathnach (Chair)	Industry

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 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-making⁷.

It is recommended that membership of the FLAG should have a maximum of 40% representation from the Statutory/Public Sector⁸ and a minimum of 60% representation from the fishing, seafood, coastal

^{7 7} 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"

⁸ 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.

communities sector⁹. The balance of organisational representation will be retained throughout the replacement/ rotation process.

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

- **Pillar 1 (Public/Fishing)**
West Clare Lobstermen's Association (Clare)
Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association (Galway Bay)
National Inshore Fishermen's Association (South Connemara)
West RIFF (West/North Connemara)
Irish Shellfish Association
- **Pillar 2 (Community)**
Galway PPN
Clare PPN
Island Co-Ops/CDPs
Gaeltacht Co-Ops
Charter Boats Association
- **Pillar 3 (Local Government, Agencies, Others)**
Údaras na Gaeltachta
Galway/Clare Co. Co
Leader: Comhar na NOiléain,
Forum Connemara
Clare LDC
Local Enterprise Office: Galway Leo
Clare LEO
Atlantic Technical University

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

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

Gender Balance and diversity: Gender is a horizontal priority in EU Programmes. In line with Government Policy, the gender balance on FLAG Boards is to be at least 40% female. During the lifetime of the strategy the FLAG Board will actively try to recruit suitably qualified female volunteers should the gender balance fail to reflect gender balance. To help to achieve this, all nominating bodies (i.e. bodies under each of the membership Pillars) will, in future, be asked to nominate two candidates, one male and one female, to the FLAG Board for any vacant position; in addition, assistance will be sought from respective Public Participation Networks (PPN) in identifying appropriate female candidates for any relevant vacancy on the FLAG. This commitment to gender balance will also apply

⁹ This can include representatives or individuals within the fishery, aquaculture or processing sectors; as well as representatives from the community and voluntary sector

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 years¹⁰. If exceptionally it is decided that a Board member should serve an additional Board term, this requires BIM approval. At an Annual General Meeting of FLAG Boards, one third of the members (normally the longest serving) should resign from the Board. These members will be eligible to be re-appointed to the Board with a proposer, seconder and board agreement, subject to term limits.

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

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

4.4 FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁰ 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.

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

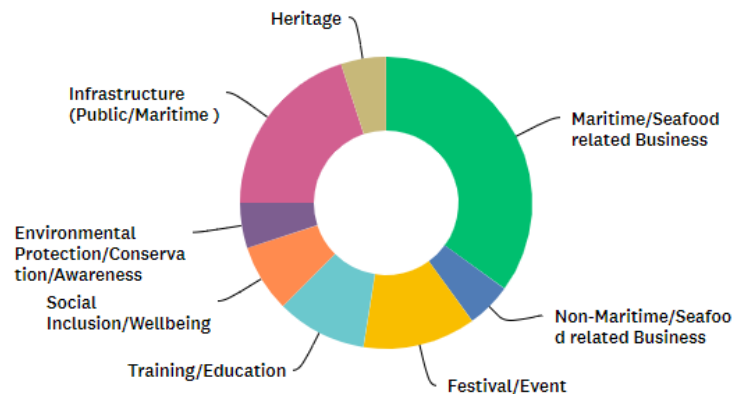
- i. The target audience for this survey are those FLAG Applicants who have completed their project, or those who have completed a project phase, and have drawn down their approved grant
- ii. The response rate to this survey is high but not 100%, therefore the figures provided for Jobs created/maintained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

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

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

(Note, West Survey active at time of writing, Results here are partial only)

- **Current Spend:** € 1,826,241.82
- **Response rate:** Surveys sent 121, responses (to date) 40,
- **Project Type Breakdown:**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Maritime/Seafood related Business	35.00%	14
▼ Non-Maritime/Seafood related Business	5.00%	2
▼ Festival/Event	12.50%	5
▼ Training/Education	10.00%	4
▼ Social Inclusion/Wellbeing	7.50%	3
▼ Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness	5.00%	2
▼ Infrastructure (Public/Maritime)	20.00%	8
▼ Heritage	5.00%	2
TOTAL		40

Enterprise Projects

- 14 Maritime or Seafood enterprises and 2 Non-Maritime/Seafood enterprises received support from FLAG West.
- These enterprises report the creation of 15 new FTE jobs as a result of the funded projects, with 51 existing jobs being maintained
- FLAG Funding resulted in the development of new products for 8 of these enterprises
- 13 enterprises report access to new markets due to FLAG funding

Festivals

- 5 Festivals received funding
- FLAG Funding resulted in an additional 1425 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 West region of €153,900

Training & Education

- 4 projects received funding for Training/Education
- 2 Projects funded Individuals to receive Accredited Training
- 2 Projects Funded Group training resulting in at least 4 individuals receiving Accredited Training

Social Inclusion/Wellbeing

- 3 projects funded
- Equipment to enable students to learn music and participate in a choir
- Wheelchair friendly gardens are wheelchair friendly and inclusive to all.
- Brought the tourism industry in Connemara together to market Gaeltacht

Environmental Protection/Conservation/Awareness

- 2 Projects Funded
- 8 Environmental Trail Posts
- Educational film on litter

Infrastructure

- 8 Infrastructure projects funded
- Creation of a 4 Pond Network - Upgrading of footpath facilities
- Tourism marketing development programme
- Sea walk
- Purchase of a ticket office
- Walking trail for local, national and international visitors
- Scuba diving & Snorkelling equipment

Heritage

- 2 Heritage Projects supported
- Works to improve a building as a Community Arts Centre
- 10 nature and history panels on pier

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

Ref	Applicant	Project Title	Grant Aid
201W.5	Loop Head Tourism Ltd	Development of the tourism product on Loop Head peninsula which will have a positive effect on the local communities	€3,920.00
191W.29	A K Lien Company Limited	Salmon's Wake	€19,027.62
191W.55	Cleggan Tidy Towns Committee	Signage for Cleggan Village	€2,483.20
201W.34	Ionad Suathaireachta na Feamainne	The Seaweed Therapy / Holistic centre	€86,261.24
201W.55	Comharchumann Forbartha Arann	Comharchumann F Arann - Upgrading of seaweed processing facility	€8,240.00
181W.50	Comhar Chuigéal Teo	The Lettermullan Island Seaweed Centre	€61,937.00
191W.17	Kylemore Abbey Music School	Music Project, equipment	€1,819.54
191W.43	The InishLyon Project	Connemara Caledonia Connect	€5,533.60
191W.5	Irish Whale and Dolphin Group	Recording and Studying the population of Shannon Dolphins	€17,600.00
191W.14	Galway Hooker 2020	The restoration of the 'Loveen'	€30,856.31
191W.13	Port of Galway Sea Scouts (24th Galway)	Marine Equipment and Boat Storage Facility	€24,241.00
191W.1	Loophead Tourism Ltd	Tourism	€3,920.00
191W.8	Cuan Beo (A)	Implementing a holistic approach to sustainability in Galway Bay 2019	€22,224.04
191W.8	Cuan Beo (b)	Community Education Programme	€6,888.00
191W.10	Comharchumann Mhic Dara Scuba	Scuba Scoil tumadoireachta/Snorkaila	€3,716.18
191W.13	Port of Galway Sea Scouts (24th Galway)	Marine Equipment and Boat Storage Facility	€3,999.74
191W.17	Kylemore Abbey Music School	Music Project, equipment	€10,199.95
191W.28	Udaras na Gaeltachta	Tourism and Heritage Amenity Signage, Local Brochure & Map and Food Trail Information Leaflet	€15,655.20
191W.21	Dúchas na Sionne	The Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project	€17,218.58
191W.20	Cumann Forbartha Chois Fharraige	Lóchrann Chonamara 2019	€2,424.00
191W.18	Galway City Sailing Club	10 x Topaz Dinghies for Youth Training, Adult Sailing and Schools Team Racing	€30,700.80
191W.22	Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo	Bád Sábhailte, Inneall agus leantóir comh mhaith Seáicéidí Sábhailte	€6,015.12
191W.36	Coiste Cultúir agus Oidhreacht	Comhartha eolais faoi Theampall Bharr an Doire	€602.00
191W.55	Cleggan Tidy Towns Committee	Signage for Cleggan Village	€4,158.40
191W.68	Kinvara Area Visual Arts	Refurbishment of old court house as a community space	€7,190.46
171W.38	Dúchas na Sionna	Shannon Wetland Restoration Project	€7,845.12
171W.13	Cumann Húiciéiri na gaillimhe	Safety at Sea & Navigation Training	€3,839.13
181W.3	Kilkee Enterprise Development Company (KEDCO)	Kilkee Market by the sea	€4,504.88
181W.7	Comhar Caomhán Teo	Scoping exercise for park	€680.00
181W.8	Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin	Éigse Dara Beag	€796.00
181W.12	Clare Local Development Company	Trail Photo Posts	€1,937.69
181W.13	Seol Sionna	Sally O'Keeffe	€4,662.46
181W.16	Doonbeg Community Development Company Limited	Doonbeg Diving Compressor	€4,344.00
181W.17	Bád Tarrthála Charna agus na nOileán CLG	Carna Life Boat Training	€2,554.00

181W.18	Loop Head Tourism Ltd	Development of the tourism product on Loop Head peninsula which will have a positive effect on local community	€3,920.00
181W.19	Connamara Environmental Educational & Cultural Centre (CEECC)	Connamara Sea Week 2018	€4,000.00
181W.26	Doonbeg Community Development Company Limited	Doonbeg Harbour CCTV	€1,770.60
181W.27	West Clare Curragh Build	Equipment & Curragh Building Course	€7,818.00
181W.30	Ionad Cuimhneacháin na Teo	Installation system in the Emigrant Commemorative Centre	€3,905.60
181W.29	Cuan Beo	Implementing a holistic approach to sustainability in Galway Bay	€19,106.13
181W.34	Tidy Towns Letterfrack	Link Letterfrack to the sea	€2,400.00
181W.35	Comhar Chuigéal Teo	Bealach Siúlóidi Leitir Mealláin	€2,309.44
181W.48	Western Yacht Club	Junior Sailing Safety Boat	€4,756.20
181W.52	Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin thar ceann Iontaobhaithe Halla Naomh Eoin	Áis cócaireachta poiblí & seomra léachta	€31,520.98
181W.56	Comhar Chuigéal Teo.	Cuigéal Bay Experience - Tourism Planning	€6,977.60
181W.57	Coiste Pobail Charna - CLUB SPAISTEOIREACHTA IORRAS AITHNEACH	World War 11 EIRE sign restoration	€1,320.00
181W.58	Galway City Sailing Club	Request for RIB to support Sailing, Powerboat & Marine skills training, safety cover for 80 members	€12,000.00
181W.62	Burren Ecotourism Network	Burren Cookery Book	€14,400.00
181W.67	Port of Galway Sea Scouts (24th Galway)	Provision of safety boat	€13,380.00
171W.1	Comhar Chaomhán Teo	Teach an Bháid	€55,536.00
171W.10	SCCUL Enterprises Ltd	The Sanctuary Gardens	€15,758.90
171W.11	Gasóga Mara na Gaeltachta	Safety Boat Project	€8,000.00
171W.12	Cuan Beo	Connecting those who care for and protect Galway Bay Life	€9,168.16
171W.13	Cumann Húiciéiri na gaillimhe	Safety at Sea & Navigation Training	€2,920.00
171W.15	Oireachtas na Gaeilge	Ó Chill Chaoil go Carna	€4,400.00
171W.26	Comharchumann Forbartha Arann	Refurbishment of Building	€26,658.00
171W.31	Comharchumann Mhic Dara Teo	Scubs Scoil tumadoireachta/snorkaila	€20,824.10
171W.34	Loop Head Tourism Ltd	Loop Head Tourism Marketing & Development Plan	€3,840.00
171W.40	Cinn Mhara Community Enterprises Centre	Business Development Programme	€2,480.00
171W.21	Comharchumann Forbartha Arann	Comharchumann F Arann Bia Farraige Arainn Teo	€11,059.00
171W.21	Comharchumann Forbartha Arann	Comharchumann F Arann Bia Farraige Arainn Teo	€28,440.18
191W.65	Connemara Oyster Festival Limited	Connemara Oyster Festival	€1,366.67
191W.3	Connemara Mussel Festival	Connemara Mussel Festival	€2,000.00
191W.40	Bia Bó Finne	Food Festival	€1,695.01
191W.46	Club Leabhar Chois Fharraige	Féile Leabhar Chois Fharraige	€1,040.00
191W.47	Cruinniú na mBád	Cruinniú na mBád (Féile)	€3,080.80
191W.64	Loophead Tourism Ltd	Mid-Summer Festival Nature & Heritage on the Loop Head Peninsula	€1,817.00
191W.71	Clarinbridge Oyster Festival Limited	Oyster Festival	€2,688.80
191W.56	Coiste Féile Traidphicnic	Féile	€2,399.16
181W.33	Cul an Ti	Cultural experience	€683.72

181W.1	Inishbofin Community Services Programme	Inishbofin Arts Festival	€1,000.00
181W.2	Coiste Currachai an Spideal	Féile	€1,000.00
181W.15	Coiste Féile Traidphicnic	Coastal offerings @ féile traidphicnic 2018	€1,000.00
181W.22	Connemara Mussel Festival	Festival	€2,000.00
181W.28	Bia Bofinnie	Festival	€1,959.80
181W.33	Cul an Ti	Cultural experience	€312.00
181W.37	Clare Slow Food Festival 2018	Burren Slow Food Festival 2018	€2,000.00
181W.43	Coiste Feile Mhic Dara	Feile Mhic Dara	€720.00
181W.63	Club Leabhar Chois Fharraige	Festival	€1,120.00
181W.64	Doonbeg Community Development Company Ltd.	Spraoi - By The Sea	€853.20
171W.20	Bia BoFINNE	A Taste of Inishboffin Festival	€963.54
171W.23	Coiste Traidphicnic	Art Installation and workshops	€1,000.00
171W.36	Connemara Mussel Festival	Festival	€480.00
171W.2.2	Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin	Féile Inis Meáin	€879.36
201W.3	Blue Water Fishing	Replacement Engines for Angling Vessel Blue Water	€46,144.00
201W.2	Cruzco Adventure Limited trading as West Coast Aqua Park	West Coast Adventures	€93,366.06
201W.7	Killary Adventure Co.	Upgrade of facilities, new equipment and business development	€50,425.00
191W.7	Abalone Chonamara Teo	Abalone Farm Visitor Centre	€6,875.00
201W.74	Blath na Mara - Aran Islands Seaweed	eCommerce development for new retail product line and tourism & education aspect	€3,774.36
191W.38	Killary Adventure Co.	Adventure Centre - meeting expectations	€25,888.76
191W.37	Irelands Westcoast Seaweeds Limited T/A Island Seaweed	Island Seaweed	€6,301.06
191W.54	Scattery Island Tours	Marketing Campaign	€2,931.30
191W.73	Sea Fever Productions	DEEP ATLANTIC II	€38,462.39
191W.12	Killary Fjord Shellfish Limited	Boathouse upgrading for tourism	€26,271.50
191W.24	Blath na Mara Teo	Establishing company brand, retail product development and refining wholesale production	€7,715.76
191W.37	Irelands Westcoast Seaweeds Limited T/A Island Seaweed	Island Seaweed	€8,460.00
191W.38	Killary Adventure Co.	Adventure Centre - meeting expectations	€25,927.24
191W.53	Individual Applicant	Engine for currach to tow seaweed	€1,987.80
181W.5	Letterfrack Sea Safari	Promotional Brochures & Engine	€7,016.47
181W.6	Killary Adventure Company	Killary Fjord Walking Path	€24,000.00
181W.10	Scattery Island Tours	Promotional/marketing of company	€4,252.88
181W.14	Wild Kitchen	Wild Kitchen Seaweed Experience	€5,000.00
181W.38	Wild Irish Seaweeds Limited	Wild Irish Seaweeds Expansion Project	€27,474.74
181W.51	Blath na Mara	Brand and product development	€2,169.49
181W.53	Wet Mongrel Adventures	Wet Mongrel Adventures	€5,250.64
181W.65	Blue Shark Angling Galway	Re-engining of tourism charter boat Brazen Hussy 2	€21,858.34
171W.14	Blath na Mara	Upgrade/Refurb Seaweed Processing Facility	€8,980.12
171W.7	Spraoimara	Purchase safety boat and kayaks	€4,904.53
171W.5	Artisan House Ltd	A Passion for Oysters	€8,469.00
171W.24	Killary Adventure Co	Killary fjord maritime development	€7,602.28

171W.33	Scattery Island Tours	Purchase cabin and dedicated ticket sales office	€7,535.57
171W.37	Wild Atlantic Way Food Tours	Website, workshop conference	€2,089.54
171W2.3	Irish Seaweed Consultancy Ltd	Workshop ALGET Nordic Committee meeting the Irish Seaweed Industry	€3,002.82
171W2.4	Connemara Seaweed Kitchen	Connemara Seaweed Cuisine	€12,543.98
201W.13	Aster Environmental Consultants Ltd	Wild Atlantic Way APP - exploring nature on the edge	€3,406.80
201W.57	Calluragh House Concerts	Calluragh House Concerts / Workshop Improvements	€3,120.40
181W.32	Celtic Sound	Celtic Sound Cultural Experience	€4,000.00
181W.32	Celtic Sound	Celtic Sound Cultural Experience	€10,000.00
181W.59	Hope It Rains / Báisteach go Deo (a co-production of Ciotóg Teo & Milestone Inventive for Galway 2020)	Turas Chonamara	€30,633.48
171W.9	Purecamping Eco-Campsite/Loop Head Retreat Centre	Event space refurbishment & development	€37,000.40
191W.61	The Big Picture	The Big Picture	€1,935.00
171W.6	Kilkee Sub Aqua Club	New RIB for Kilkee Sub Aqua Club	€26,523.63
171W.17	West of Ireland Offshore Association	Racing Championships 2017, Aran Islands	€7,900.00
201W.42	Údarás na Gaeltachta (Slí Chonamara)	Slí Chonamara	€25,288.13
191W.11	Clare County Council	New Quay Pier Car Park Upgrade	€37,725.76
191W.45	Udaras na Gaeltachta	Gaeltacht Chonamara Theas	€4,720.00
191W.57	Udaras na Gaeltachta	Comharthaíoch a chúir in airde ar 12 gcé i gConamara	€13,234.00
181W.23	Clare County Council	Camino Atlantico de Clare - East End & West End Kilkee	€10,233.54
181W.31	Údarás na Gaeltachta	Bunú an eagraíocht Cósta Gaelach Chonamara	€19,800.00
201W.28	Galway Bay Seafoods Ltd	Galway Docklands Experiences	€1,475.00
201W.9	Misunderstood Heron	Misunderstood Heron Food Truck Experience	€23,890.71
191W.2	Misunderstood Heron	Food Truck Experience	€14,399.31
191W.26	Burren Smokehouse	Heritage Centre - The Story of Irish Salmon	€2,770.90
191W.50	Connemara Smokehouse	Resurfacing and enhancing the car park/visitor entrance area	€49,632.45
191W.59	Galway Bay Seafoods Limited	Galway Bay Seafood & Fishing Maritime Hub	€20,921.27
181W.61	J and S Ocean Products	Upgrading Fish Processing Unit	€4,800.00
171W2.1	O Flaherty Connemara Seafood Chowder	Adding Value to locally sourced seafood	€8,988.00
181W.21	Burren Smokehouse	The Story of Irish Salmon	€20,602.50
181W.36	Connemara Smokehouse	New Website	€872.00
181W.39	Killary Fjord Shellfish	Marine Tourism Project	€9,890.96
181W.49	Shellfish Breeding Technologies	Oyster Grading facility	€17,334.82
171W.18	Flemings Seafood	Fish Skinning Machine	€3,750.00
171W.35	Killary Fjord Shellfish Ltd	Showcase Food Producers	€28,000.00
171W2.5	Burren Smokehouse Limited	Upgrading of Current Facilities	€49,310.00
201W.46	J & S Ocean Products	Upgrading Equipment	€5,968.48
191W.23	Comhar Caomhán Teo	Cumann Iascairi Inis Oírr - Seomra Reoiteáin agus aonaid ghaolmhara (Freezer Room and Refrigeration Unit	€7,800.00

191W.32	Iasc Inis Óir	Equipment for Small Scale Fish Processing Plant	€3,032.36
201W.23	Individual Applicant	Scuba Technician Certificate	€732.50
191W.25	Individual Applicant	National Rigging Certificate	€400.00
171W.16	Individual Applicant	Shipwright Apprenticeship	€6,260.00



