



Highland & Moray FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP

European Maritime & Fisheries Fund



Sarah Lamb

Highland & Moray FLAG co-ordinator

- Promote the FLAG funding programme
- Be the initial point of contact to applicants
- Provide support to applicants
- Co-ordinate quarterly FLAG meetings
- Communicator between applicant and FLAG

Overall aim – make the fund accessible to all

Overview

- The role of the Highland Moray FLAG
- What can the FLAG fund
- Project examples
- How can you apply
- Questions



Fisheries Local Action Group

- Established under the European Fisheries Fund 2010-2014 to initiate a community led response to funding opportunities
- Highland & Moray previously operated as two separate FLAGs
- Successfully delivered 34 projects, a total investment of over £1.2 million



FLAG Funded Projects 2011-2014

- New harbour infrastructure - Pontoons installed at Wick, Kyle Lochalsh, Helmsdale
- Feasibility studies supporting economic diversification at Helmsdale and Staffin
- Fishing heritage interpretation projects at Lybster, Applecross, Gairloch
- Training courses provided in maritime skills and entrepreneurship in Lochinver

FLAG Membership

- Membership includes a diverse range of stakeholders who represent the interests of those within the area
- Must have at least 30% fisheries interest
- Majority must be from private sector
- Selection process open and transparent – publicly advertised, skills audit required
- Members selected on their knowledge and experience

Fisheries interest

- Scottish White Fish Producers Association
- Scottish Association of Shellfish Growers
- Moray Firth Inshore Fishermans Association
- FOA27



Marine interest

- Cullen Sailing School
- Three harbours association
- Moray Firth Partnership



Wider community interest

- HIE - SNH - Visit Scotland - Highland Council
- Moray Council



Fisheries Local Action Group

The role of the FLAG includes:

1. Develop and agree a Local Development Strategy to determine where funding should be directed
2. Raise awareness of funding opportunities in local communities
3. Meet quarterly to consider applications for funding that match the agreed criteria set out within the Local Development Strategy

Local Fisheries Development Strategy

- Considers socio-economic profile of area and contribution of maritime industries to Highland & Moray communities
- SWOT Analysis – Informed by community consultation exercises
- Highlight priorities for the area - select measures to be supported
- Select objectives and outcomes that fit with overall EMFF strategy - job creation, business start up etc.

FLAG Funding Priorities

- **Stronger and more resilient fishing communities**
 - Infrastructure improvements to benefit the fisheries sector
 - Enhance co-operation and innovative ideas from within the fisheries sector
- **A sustained, growing and diversified marine, coastal and aquaculture economy**
 - Adding value to produce, marketing and promotion
 - Developing new skills and employment opportunities
 - Marine tourism
 - Local business initiatives tied to marine environment
- **Improved understanding of marine environment and management of resources**
 - Marine environmental improvements and projects addressing climate change
 - Local research / management / education

Project Examples- Marine Litter

SPAIN - Training course for repair and recovery of plastic containers in the fishing industry

- social enterprise specifically aimed at creating jobs for people with disabilities
- Encourages re-use of plastic in fishing industry
- Reduces waste and marine litter

Marine Protected Areas

FRANCE - Coordinating the role of fishermen in designing a Marine Protected Area

- Project supported the recruitment of a designated fisheries sector coordinator
- Ensured that fishermen are fully integrated into the process of developing a Marine Natural Park (MNP), both in terms of communication and decision-making
- Fishermen more aware of environmental challenges

Fisheries Research

ORKNEY – Shellfish Research Project

- Orkney Sustainable Fisheries employed researcher to develop inshore fisheries management framework
- 2 year post to collect data on the local creel fishery
- Data will be used to to inform future stock management decisions inline with the Scottish
- Inshore Fisheries strategy at a national level

Fisheries Research

ORKNEY - Green Fishery Development Strategist

- Assist in a move to a more sustainable, profitable fisheries sector, with improved management in Orkney
- A set of strategies that will be evidenced and provide a basis for successful adaptation towards greener fishing practices
- Practical research and development and production of selective gear to improve efficiency, reduce unwanted catches and reduce fuel

Applying for funding

- Grants available to sole traders, businesses community groups, public and third sector organisations located within Highland and Moray coastal communities
- Businesses **up to 50% funding**
- Community groups/ public sector are eligible for **up to 100%** depending on the level of community benefit the project will deliver
- Match funding can be private or public source
- Minimum grant - **£2,500**
- Maximum grant - **£100,000** however this may be exceeded should your project demonstrate significant community benefit

So far.....

- FLAG launched in August 2016
- £1,006,000 budget
- 5 full applications have been considered by the FLAG
- Brexit brings some uncertainty but all projects approved up until UK leaves EU are safe
- Can approve project up until 31st March 2019
- Projects to be completed by September 2020

£683,965.79 STILL TO BE COMMITTED

Application Process

1st STAGE

- Submit EOI
- FLAG consider EOI
- Feedback provided to applicant by DO with decision of whether full application is encouraged

2nd STAGE

- Applicant registers project on EMFF application system
- Completes application with support from DO
- FLAG consider application and funding requested



Questions?