

Newsletter

Summer 2018



Highland & Moray
**FISHERIES
LOCAL
ACTION
GROUP**

Hello and welcome to the first Highland & Moray FLAG newsletter. The FLAG has been active for over a year now, and in this time the group have considered 42 Expressions of Interest and recommended 12 projects for approval, **committing over half of the £1,006,000 FLAG budget.** Collectively the projects **will be a total investment of over £1,300,000 in our coastal communities,** which will aim to deliver **20 infrastructure improvements, create 20 jobs and safeguard 15 jobs.** For 6 of our 12 applicants, not only was it their first time receiving European funding but their first time completing a funding application form. We are sure you will agree these are very promising figures and we look forward to seeing the results of the projects once completed. You can find out more about some of the projects supported on page 2.

What is the FLAG ?

Funding has been awarded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to encourage community-led local development and enable localised decision making through Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).

The Highland & Moray FLAG membership is representative of local community and industry interests who will consider applications and decide how funding should be allocated locally. The FLAG aims to support projects that will create jobs and stimulate the local economy in fishing communities. For further details on project eligibility please visit our website.

Got a project idea?

The FLAG has a 2-stage application process, with the FLAG considering an Expression of Interest prior to inviting a full application to be submitted. An Expression of Interest form can be found on our website. A Development Officer is in place to help those wishing to apply to the fund. So don't hesitate to get in touch to discuss your project idea. Contact details:

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The B-word—Brexit

As the FLAG is funded through the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund, there has been questions raised about how Brexit will affect the programme. The Scottish Government have advised that all projects approved up until March 2019 have been guaranteed by the treasury. We will have to hold tight for further news.

For more information and latest news visit our website or follow our twitter page



www.highlandmorayflag.co.uk



@high_morayFLAG



EUROPEAN UNION
European Maritime
and Fisheries Fund



FLAG Funded Projects

Elgin & Lossiemouth Harbour Company - Lossiemouth



Following E&LHC's successful application to the FLAG for their pontoon upgrade project, harbour users are now enjoying additional berthing space at Lossiemouth marina. Funding also contributed towards innovative equipment that will allow the company to dredge areas of the harbour themselves. This will significantly reduce their annual dredging costs as they previously relied on contractors to undertake this work.

Total Project Costs: £343,350 FLAG Funding: £100,000

N58 Scottish Seaweed - Ullapool

With demand for seaweed on the rise we cannot rely on wild harvesting alone to meet this growing market. With this in mind N58 Scottish Seaweed are looking to determine the viability of sustainable seaweed farming on the West Coast of Highland. Beginning in September 2018, should trials be successful this could lead to several jobs being created in Highlands remote rural communities where job opportunities are often limited.

Total Project Costs: £5,776.34 FLAG Funding: £4,332.26

Loch Snizort Shellfish - Skye

Fisherman Angus MacLeod is looking to take his passion for seafood to the next level by opening his own seafood café in Skye this July. The café will allow Angus to add value to his catch by serving his fresh seafood direct to customers. The café will also create 6 jobs and by championing local produce will support other local fishermen and local food producers.



Total Project Costs: £19,986.23 FLAG Funding: £9,993.12

Ockran Oysters - Ullapool

Since starting up in 2015 Ockran Oysters production has increased year on year, however the business has found that the time it takes to manually grade oysters is limiting their growth. With FLAG support the business have invested in a new batch grading machine that will automatically sort the oysters by size and weight, this will allow them to almost double production during busy periods.



Total Project Costs: £24,884.43 FLAG Funding: £12,442.21

Bells Seafood Ltd - Scrabster

The availability of frozen bait has been a problem for creel fishermen in Scrabster. Bells Seafood have applied to the FLAG to install a blast freezer that will allow the fish waste from their small factory to be stored and used by fishermen as bait rather than being transported to landfill at cost. Sometimes problems can have simple solutions!

Total Project Costs: £24,670.00 FLAG Funding: £12,335.00