



MINUTES

Fisheries Local Action Group Meeting – 10am Friday 08 December 2017

Held at: Murray Arms Hotel, Gatehouse of Fleet

Attendees: Alastair McNeill (AM) Chair
Caroline Graham-Brown (CGB)
Harry Harbottle (HH)
June Lochhead (JL)

Sean McGuire (SM)
Pam Taylor (PT)
Jonathan Warren (JW)

Staff: Nicola Hill (NH)
Rowan Lloyd (RL)

Jessie Mason (JM)

Apologies: Grant Course (GC)
Stephen Hardy (SH)

Debbie Parke (DP)
John Tooth (JT)

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

1 Welcome

Alastair McNeill opened the meeting and welcomed all members, he noted the difficult road conditions and thanked all for their perseverance and commitment in attending.

2 Minutes of Meeting of 8 September 2017

Minutes of the meeting from 8 September were read, noting there were no actions. There was one change to the minute on page 2 concerning the funding of the Fisheries project. £2.5k came from both SEPA and SNH. The changes have been made. The minutes were proposed by CGB and seconded by SM.

3 FLAG Project Officer update

RL fed back on previous EOI's:

Garlieston Goes To War: have chosen to apply to the LEADER Communities Fund.

Fish Loch Ken: Marine Scotland concluded that this project did not have sufficient links to the commercial fishing industry to be eligible for EMFF sponsorship

Western Inshore Scallop Group: have resubmitted their EOI with further information regarding their reorganisation.

RL provided an update on the use of Public Funding as Match funding:

Due to an erroring in the wording of the legal document outlining how Marine Scotland will deliver the EMFF program; projects are limited to a 75% EU and 25% National funding split. It was agreed by the FLAG that applicants should be limited to using private funds for match funding.

RL provided an overview of projects funded to date, and future potential projects. Please see slides on the final page of this minute.

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A discussion on lifting the 50% intervention rate cap on potential projects took place. RL updated the meeting, all money must be committed by March 2019 and projects wound up by March 2020. Although it was considered delivery would be difficult in a 12 month period unless it was a capital project.

A vote was requested on whether or not to lift the present limit of 50% funding cap. Other FLAGs have various levels of funding available with Argyll and Ayr up to 80% funding. The group asked if we could go back retrospectively to projects already funded – this would not be possible. It was felt that this would be a very enticing option for projects as it would encourage more to apply. It should be publicised as “funding available up to 100%”. Projects demonstrating a wider benefit would be able to apply for up to 100%. The FLAG agreed to consider ‘community’ in its widest sense.

A show of hands was requested to vote on lifting the 50% intervention cap on funding of potential projects. A unanimous vote of 6 was counted.

The Group asked if the EOI’s to be discussed at the meeting could be considered with the new funding available of up to 100%. This was agreed.

4 EOI’s received

HH advised an interest in the Portpatrick Harbour Benefit Society. He was a member previously and his partner is involved. The Group suggested this was not deemed a conflict at this stage.

- 4.1 Western Inshore Scallop Group: WISG Communication and Representative Collective. AMcN suggested that this should be considered as a cross-FLAG application as there is only one of the eight processing plants in Scotland based in the region, HH agreed with this. There is a problem with projects having to constantly input data, how would this be managed. There seemed to be a “big picture” of what was envisaged, but how would it be delivered. Need much more detail. The project should be considered to be run in parallel with other projects eg SIFIDS. Have any other FLAGs been approached, not at this time as the Applicant advised most members are from D&G, although when looking at the membership this did not seem to be the case.

Much more information is required to clarify what they wish to achieve. Why have they only identified D&G FLAG, should it not be considered as a cooperation project perhaps, even National? Consideration should be given to SIFIDS and linkages of software and data collection. Avoid duplication. What is the percentage breakdown of membership overall, think this is actually more suitable to be considered as a cooperation project.

- 4.2 SIFT: Managing the Solway Firth Fisheries. There seemed to be a number of anomalies in the claims made in the application with regard to research and consultations. No detail has been given in the application. They had spoken to SNH and been advised that they were keen to see regulated fishing in the Solway and their application should be brief but include a good level of detail – this was not done. Following discussions, RL was instructed to provide feedback to the applicant.

SG raised the issue of members of the FLAG who represent a group being able to discuss expressions of interest which have the potential to cause concern for their members with the group they represent – this was agreed.

- 4.3 Steven Stringer: Loch Ryan Leisure. RL read out the following information provided by Marine Scotland: “Our view is that even though this is not a commercial fishing boat there is a realistic chance EU auditors would view it as potentially increasing the fishing effort. Diversification from commercial fishing to sport fishing would be okay or vessel purchase for non-fishing activities (as long as there is a fishing ‘hook’ to the project).”

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4.4 Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society: Portpatrick Harbour quayside resurfacing project. HH advised he had not been involved in the preparation of the EOI, if an application comes to the meeting, he will declare and interest. The quayside at the harbour has been dug up and patched on numerous occasions and its' uneven surface has now become a danger to users. The group were very supportive of this application and suggested utilising the previously agreed lifting of the funding cap. 100% funding should be offered. The project officer was asked to feed this back and ask for an application to be made seeking full funding incorporating all relevant statutory consents. The project should consider incorporating a sympathetic design, with any increase in figures to be circulated to the FLAG for comments.

5. Scoring of full applications

Ferry Fish: Ready 2 Cook Fish (SC02179) – Ferry Fish Ltd is a well established business that has been trading for over 33 years. They have identified a market in “convenient meal solutions” (ready to cook meals). Ferry Fish would like to develop a range of Ready to Cook Fresh Fish meals (fresh fish with a sauce, marinade or rub that is ready to place in the microwave or oven). Funding to buy machinery to package the produce range, have a printing plate set up by a packaging company to allow them to create and purchase branded packaging sleeves, design a website in line with ready to cook fish, have new photographic support and advertising of range. Total eligible funding £6,724.25 required, amount of grant requested £2,521.59 (37.50%). All funding is in place.

There were no negative comments on this application and the group moved to score.

			TOTAL SCORE	32 /33		
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided			
Strategic Fit:						
1. To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>)			0	1	2	3
2. To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>)			0	1	2	3
3. To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>)			0	1	2	3
4. To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>)			0	1	2	3
Eligibility:						
5. Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?			0	1	2	3
6. Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?			0	1	2	3
7. Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?			0	1	2	3

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Competency:				
8. Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?	0	1	2	3
9. Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?	0	1	2	3
10. Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?	0	1	2	3
11. Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?	0	1	2	3
Recommendation for funding:	APPROVE 6	REJECT 0	DEFER 0	
Chair Signature: Alastair McNeill	Council Signature:			

Application group score: 32/33
 Number of Members APPROVING: 6
 Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project.

5.2 Galloway Fisheries Trust: Saving the Sparling (re-score) – The group decided as the only changes to the application was the difference to funding criteria, ie funding could not be made by other public money and the start, end and objectives remain the same that they would honour the scores from the previous scoring sheet. Funding requested £46,331.

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				TOTAL SCORE	31 /33		
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided				
Strategic Fit:							
1. To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>)				0	1	2	3
2. To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>)				0	1	2	3
3. To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>)				0	1	2	3
4. To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>)				0	1	2	3
Eligibility:							
5. Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?				0	1	2	3
6. Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?				0	1	2	3
7. Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?				0	1	2	3
8. <i>“Member States shall apply a maximum intensity of public aid of 50 % of the total eligible expenditure of the operation. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may apply an intensity of public aid between 50 % and 100 % of the total eligible expenditure where: (a) the operation is implemented under Chapter I, II or IV of Title V and fulfils all of the following criteria: (i) it is of collective interest; (ii) it has a collective beneficiary; (iii) it has innovative features, where appropriate, at local level;</i> Article 40 Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes in the				Yes		No	

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framework of sustainable fishing activities					
1. In order to protect and restore marine biodiversity and ecosystems in the framework of sustainable fishing activities, with the participation, where relevant, of fishermen, the EMFF may support the following operations: (i) The participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as the restoration of specific marine and coastal habitats in support of sustainable fish stocks, including their scientific preparation and evaluation.					
Competency:					
9. Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?		0	1	2	3
10. Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?		0	1	2	3
11. Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?		0	1	2	3
12. Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?		0	1	2	3
13.					
Recommendation for funding:	APPROVE 6	REJECT 0	DEFER 0		
Chair Signature: Alastair McNeill	Council Signature:				

With regards to fulfilling the objective of Article 40 it was highlighted that Sparling are a good indicator species for determining the health of the wider fish stalks. Sparling are also preyed upon by commercially fished stalks and their

Application group score: 31/33
Number of Members APPROVING: 6
Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project.

6 Potential strategic projects

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Educational Excursion – a Cold storage unit in Dunbar has been identified as a possible visit for local Fishermen and FLAG members. Is there a willingness from members? There is a Smokehouse/tanks/van all 100% funded by FLAG. Another option is to go to Orkney where all of their money has already been committed to projects.

It was suggested that this could show well run projects and what is possible to achieve from funding. Good basis for stimulating ideas which could feed into future applications. It was thought that Solway Firth Partnership have an excellent working relationship with FLAG and fishermen and be best placed to take forward. The FLAG were supportive of SFP developing this on a demand driven basis on what comes back from fishermen.

Apprenticeship Scheme – recently a UK FLAG networking event introduced 60 apprentices, introducing them to fishing to increase new entries into the industry. There is a smaller number of interested parties currently in the area, would this be of interest as a strategic option? It has been suggested that West Coast Sea products in Kirkcudbright could be interested. SM thought he might know of a couple of people who might do this. There was a small project piloted in Kirkcudbright but required a commitment of both time and money. This could be linked through Employability and Skills Team DGC.

- 7 Update on Cockle Sub Group** – AMcN gave an update to the meeting. There has been a meeting with University of Glasgow lecturer Dr Steven Gillespie who was very interested in working with the FLAG. He spoke to the Head of School to see if the university would lead and a subsequent positive response in this regard was received. It should be noted that Steven is interested in working with the FLAG if the university does not take up a lead role. A further discussion is to be held with Marine Lab to explore alternative methods of research.

- 8 AOCB** – There were no items.

Meeting closed at 12.20pm.

Date and time of next meeting 10.00am on 16 March 2018, venue to be agreed.

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Funds allocated to date:

Stranraer Oyster Festival:	£46,869.20
Improving the accuracy of Atlantic Salmon Conservation Limits in SW Scotland:	£14, 605.73
Saving the Sparling:	£46,331.55
Ready 2 Cook Fish	£3,362.12
Total:	£111,168.60

468K

EOI's in this round:

SIFT:	£200,875.00
WISG:	£102,500.00
Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society:	£12,500.00
Total:	£315,875.00

EOI's in the pipeline:

Nith Catchment Fisheries Trust :	£?
> Fish counter	
Marrbury Smokehouse:	£?
> New product	
Borgue Lobsters	£35,000.00
> Lobster whole sailor	
Council harbour masters	£?
> Davits	
Total:	£?

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