Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

(Scheme version: 27_01)

Timing of Expenditure

When an application is submitted, an email is sent to acknowledge receipt of the application. Any expenditure incurred before the email is issued will be ineligible. **Any expenditure incurred *after* the date of this email but *before* a Letter of Offer would be considered eligible in any claim, but such expenditure is entirely at the applicant's risk since an offer of grant aid may not be made.** It is expected that this scheme will be oversubscribed (meaning that the applications received are likely to exceed the budget available), so even applications that are deemed eligible and that exceed the minimum score may not receive funding.

Eligible Expenditure

Each FLAG has developed a Local Development Strategy (LDS) specific to their regional needs. They will consider any investments in capital items and supports that are consistent with their LDS and align with the Scheme Objectives in fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities. The following list provides types of expenditure which may be eligible:

- Job Creation,
- Innovation & Diversification
- Social well-being and cultural heritage
- Added Value
- Lifelong Learning
- Environmental assets and mitigation of climate change,
- Projects consistent with LDSs, Article 30 of the EMFAF and this Scheme
- Expenditure on capital equipment
- Expenditure on capital infrastructure
- Accredited training
- Cooperation activities involving FLAGs*

Projects must be located within 10km of the coast to be eligible for funding. If projects are more than 10km from the coast, the applicant must provide information and/or evidence of a direct link to the FLAG area. The information provided will be used to assess eligibility of the project.

Some FLAG Regions have defined specific conditions around eligible expenditure as follows:

FLAG Region	Notes on eligible expenditure
Northwest	• FLAG Northwest recommends ringfencing one third of its annual budget to be used on Project Applications under €10,000 of EXPENDITURE • Cap on glamping pods/ glamping unit is €15,000 grant aid • Any application for Mobile food operations/Mobile Saunas/Mobile hot tubs which use diesel generators must show that the generator can use HVO
Northeast	• Any application for a project which includes a diesel engine or generator must provide evidence that it can run on HVO

North	• FLAG North has ringfenced 30% of its budget for projects seeking grant aid of up to €10,000 GRANT AID. Should FLAG North not receive applications to the value of 30% of its budget at this level, the remainder will then fund all other project values. • There is a cap on feasibility studies of €20,000 grant aid. In addition, FLAG North will limit the total grant aid allocated to feasibility study projects in their region to €60,000.
West	• Applications for capital items for use in one off events/festivals are capped at €10,000 grant aid. • If the project involves seaweed gathering, the applicant must provide a Seaweed Harvesting Plan. • If the project involves the regular purchase of seaweed from third party suppliers the applicant must provide evidence that this is sustainably harvested/sourced by those suppliers.
Southwest	• Marine or maritime sporting organisations who are not eligible for funding under the Sports Capital Programmes, Community Sport Facilities Fund, may be considered under the FLAG programme. Evidence of non-eligibility to the Sports Capital Programme will need to be provided at application stage. https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-culture-communications-and-sport/services/sports-capital/ • Additionally Sail Training Clubs and Rowing Clubs who apply to FLAG are required to demonstrate a wider outreach and education of maritime/ fisheries/ marine biodiversity. The applicant will be required to provide evidence at application stage of their plan to host two public events in the coming year.
South	• Any sporting organisation who is not eligible for funding under the Sports Capital Programmes, Community Sport Facilities Fund, may be considered under the FLAG programme. Evidence of non-eligibility to the Sports Capital Programme will need to be provided at application stage. https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-culture-communications-and-sport/services/sports-capital/ • A maximum of 20% of South FLAG allocated budget for this call, will be available to blue economy vessel re-engining projects. This is limited to established businesses or vessels which can demonstrate a minimum of 5 years trading activity.

Ineligible Expenditure

Ineligible Expenditure by FLAG Region

Projects not aligned to the objectives of the LDS are not eligible.

Some FLAG Regions have defined specific exclusions, based on their local priorities, as follows.

FLAG Region	Ineligible expenditure
Northwest	• Log cabins, AIRBNB, guesthouses, B&B's, hotels (Glamping and camping accommodation is eligible)
Northeast	• Marine tourism new build vessels
West	• Accommodation projects • Investments by field sports organisations at any level • Playgrounds • Carparks • E-bikes
Southwest	• Marine tourism re-engining • Marine tourism new build vessels (other than where consideration may be given to active commercial fishing vessel owners for diversification projects) • Kayaks • Trailers, other than specific purpose boat trailers or refrigerated trailers • Jet skis • Vans of any type • Saunas
South	• Playgrounds • Outboard engines, for any vessel or organisation • Food trucks • Any applicant who has previously received grant aid for specific capital expenditure items may not receive repeat grant aid for more of those same items. For example (but not limited to) kayaks, food trucks, ribs, lifejackets, wetsuits, etc.

Ineligible Expenditure All Regions

- Any expenditure incurred prior to date of acknowledgement of an application is ineligible.
- Article 13 of the EMFAF Regulation sets out clearly certain measures/costs that are not eligible for funding, therefore this scheme may not provide funding for the following:
    - Operations that increase the fishing capacity of a fishing vessel
    - The acquisition of equipment that increases the ability of a fishing vessel to find fish
    - The construction, acquisition or importation of fishing vessels
    - The transfer or reflagging of fishing vessels to third countries, including through the creation of joint ventures with partners of third countries
    - The temporary or permanent cessation of fishing activities
    - Exploratory fishing
    - The transfer of ownership of a business
    - Direct restocking, except explicitly provided for as a reintroduction measure or other conservation measures in a Union legal act or in the case of experimental restocking
    - The construction of new ports or new auction halls, with the exception of new landing sites

- Market intervention mechanisms aiming to temporarily or permanently withdraw fishery or aquaculture products from the market with a view to reducing supply in order to prevent price decline or to drive prices up
- Investments on board fishing vessels necessary to comply with the requirements under Union law in force at the time of submission of the application for support, including requirements under the Union's obligations in the context of RFMOs
- Investments on board fishing vessels that have carried out fishing activities for less than 60 days in the two calendar years preceding the year of submission of the application for support
- The replacement or modernisation of a main or ancillary engine of a fishing vessel

- In addition, the Managing Authority has further determined that the following costs are also ineligible for funding under this scheme:
  - Projects which are eligible for funding under other schemes implemented under the Seafood Development Programme may not be funded under this scheme
  - Applications by LEADER/Local Development Companies acting on behalf of a third party.
  - Applications where LEADER/Local Development Companies have a beneficial interest or a governing/ managing / operational role.
  - Applications to co fund a project where there is no separation of expenditure item or no stand-alone project.
  - Compensation for loss of income or additional costs
  - Rental of machinery from another establishment
  - Activities considered business operational costs
  - The cost of existing product, stock or raw material used as part of the project
  - Energy, maintenance and operational costs
  - Industry standard costs such e.g. BRC
  - Travel and subsistence costs (except for FLAGs and for capacity building projects).
  - Second hand items
  - Land costs
  - Leasing costs
  - VAT is not eligible for any applicant or Beneficiary to this Scheme, except where explicitly provided for
  - Projects for which any statutory consent is required, where that consent has not been obtained

- These items are ineligible under EMFAF
  - Intangible costs, such as the cost of pre-financing and of arranging loans and interest, administrative costs, patents, invitations to tender etc.
  - Repair and maintenance work.
  - Like-for-like replacement of equipment.
  - Under no circumstances will grant aid be provided to replace any given item grant aided within the previous five years.
  - Any expenditure incurred before the date of acknowledgement of receipt of the grant application is ineligible.
  - Interest on debt, except in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy.
  - Landscaping and other embellishment works, except those specifically required as a condition of planning & recreational equipment costs
  - Vehicles for passenger transport.
  - Vehicles required for market distribution.
  - Materials which are normally written off within a year, including consumables.
  - Office equipment, including desktop computers, laptops and tablets.
  - Consultancy costs not directly related to the planning, preparation and execution of the project including costs of management consultancy