



FLAG Factsheet: Vindeälven

Leaderområde Vindeälven

Country: Sweden

Region: North

Area: Catchment area of river Vindelälven and lower part of river Umeälven

Code: SE202

Operational: 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods

AREA

Description of the area and its main challenges

The FLAG is located along one of Sweden's four national rivers famous for salmon and trout fishing, both by professional fishermen and recreational anglers. The Vindel river system is one of the best protected Swedish rivers. Fishing in the area (especially for trout and salmon) is regulated in different ways by national rules.

The Stornorrfor power station, which poses an obstacle to the salmon run, is one of the FLAG's key challenges. Coastal commercial fisheries also find the marketing of their products at regional level very challenging, because this small-scale northern fishery is not well known and other commercial fisheries have a bad reputation in Sweden due to overfishing and contamination. Entrepreneurs who work with fishing tourism also face difficulties reaching out to a larger market.

Population: 95 875

Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]: 7.2

Surface area [km²]: 13 300

Protected areas: The Vindel river

Total employment in fisheries: approx. 18 FTE

1. **Fishing:** approx. 13 FTE
2. **Aquaculture:** 0
3. **Processing:** approx. 5 FTE

Women employment in fisheries: approx. 4 FTE

STRATEGY

Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The FLAG considers coastal commercial fishing and angling tourism as two equal sectors capable of developing and operating side by side. The goal is for both activities to provide new employment opportunities. The FLAG's strategy intends to achieve this by promoting a strengthened fish resource and by improving its management and availability for users.

By the year 2020 the FLAG partners plan to have a strong and well-managed resource, more jobs in the coastal commercial fishing and additional companies working with fishing tourism. They also aim for fishing in the river Vindelälven to become more popular among anglers and the focus on environmental measures contributing to national environmental and water legislation to be maintained.

To develop an inclusive fishing industry, the FLAG intends to involve more young people and women in the process. Special actions are envisaged for this objective.

Importance of the following objectives for your strategy

Objective	Priority (1 is low, 5 is very high)	% of the budget allocated to them in the strategy
Adding value, creating jobs, and promoting innovation along the fisheries chain	2	15
Supporting diversification	3	20
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	4	25
Promoting social wellbeing and cultural heritage	4	25
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	2	15

Budget information

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020: €1 498 335.77

EMFF: €749 167.89

Member State co-financing: €749 167.89

Source of co-financing: local level (Umeå, Vännäs, Vindelns, Lycksele, Sorsele and Arjeplogs municipalities, County Administrative Board of Västerbotten)

Multi-funding: No

Project examples and ideas

1. Reintroduce seatrout in restored tributaries to the Vindel river
2. Planning how to manage salmon and the trout in the catchment area (including the involvement of young people and women in the process)
3. MSC Certify fishing for salmon at the coast
4. Getting more entrepreneurs (including young men and women) into the sports fishing sector

Calls for projects

The projects can be presented and selected on an ongoing basis

<http://www.fiskeomradevindalalven.se/>

Thematic expertise and cooperation

The FLAG is small and has a limited budget, so no cooperation projects are planned. The possibility of getting involved in cooperation will be considered at a later stage.

PARTNERSHIP

Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Fiskeområde Vindelälven

FLAG members

The FLAG partnership is composed of the municipalities of Umeå, Vännäs, Vindelns, Lycksele, Sorsele and Arjeplogs, County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), the Vindeälven Biosphere Reserve (Biosfärsområde Vindeälven), Ume-vindeälvens fiskeråd, Sportfiskeentreprenörerna and Vattenfall

Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board: 9

% of public actors (on the decision-making body): 44

Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly: 21

% of fisheries actors (in the partnership): 33

% of environmental actors (in the partnership):10

% of other private / NGO sector actors (in the partnership):24

Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE]: 2

Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

This is a mono-fund FLAG financed only by EMFF. When preparing the strategy, the FLAG had discussions with three other areas that were also in the process of developing a strategy and shared some parts of the FLAG territory. In the finalisation process of the four strategies, it was agreed that Leader Vindelälven alone would apply for EMFF funding as this area has the best potential to develop the fisheries sector.

Two of the other areas, Skellefteå Älvdal and Leader Lappland 2020 had their strategies approved, the third area (Leader UR) did not but it still goes on with its Leader work with other sources of funding.

Today, the four organisations are working closely together, especially on tourism development as fishing is a main attraction of the region.

Contact information

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Language information

Native language: Swedish

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English		X	