

FLAG Factsheet: North East Scotland FLAG

Country: United Kingdom

Region: North Eastern Scotland (UKM5) and partially Eastern Scotland (UKM3)

Area: The main coastal settlements of Aberdeenshire and Angus.

Code: UK 202

Operational: 2014-2020 programming period



AREA

Description of the area and its main challenges

North East Scotland FLAG (NESFLAG) covers the fisheries communities of the Banffshire, Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and Angus coastlines. Within this area are two **major fishing ports** (Peterhead and Fraserburgh) and a number of smaller centers with a significant fishing industry, as well as several small villages with **fishing heritage**.

The area accounts for **over half of Scotland's fishing catch**, with reliance on white fish, pelagic and nephrops. **Fish processing** is also an important element of the local economy.

There are a great deal of **social and economic challenges** in the area. **Low income** and relatively high **unemployment** are common in many of the main settlements. **Educational attainment is below average** across much of the FLAG area, and there are pockets of areas with very **poor health** statistics.

Population: 102,911

Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]: 51/km²

Surface area [/km²]: North Aberdeenshire, South Aberdeenshire + Angus total = 7,250km²

Coastal or inland: Coastal

Protected areas: 18 (SSSI Cullen to Stake Ness Coast, SSSI Whitehills to Melrose Coast, SSSI Gamrie and Pennan Coast, SSSI Rosehearty to Fraserburgh Coast, SSSI Cairnbulg to St Combs Coast, SSSI Bullers of Buchan Coast, SSSI Collieston to Whinnyfold Coast, SSSI Sands of Forvie and Ythan Estuary, SSSI Garron Point, SSSI Burn of Benholm, SSSI St Cyrus and Kinnaber Links, SSSI Rickle Craig – Scurdie Ness, SSSI Montrose Basin, SPA Troup, Pennan and Lion’s Heads, SPA Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast, SPA Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch, SPA Montrose Basin, SAC Buchan Ness to Collieston, SAC Sands of Forvie, Ramsar Montrose Basin)

Total employment in fisheries: around 7,700

1. **Fishing:** around 1,200
2. **Aquaculture:** none
3. **Processing:** around 6,500 (including Aberdeen City)

Women employment in fisheries: unknown

STRATEGY

Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The FLAG strategy delivers the fisheries elements of three separate multi-fund local development strategies: North Aberdeenshire, South Aberdeenshire and Angus. Each LDS has variations in its priorities and focus, but common themes among them include **improving connections and sense of place**, developing the **economy**, and **co-operation** (both inter-territorial and trans-national). Specific priorities for fishing areas include:

- Facilitating **diversifications** within and outside of the fisheries sector
- Supporting **lifelong learning and job creation** in fisheries areas
- **Adding value**, creating jobs and **promoting innovation** at all stages of the fisheries seafood supply chain

Importance of the following objectives for the strategy of the FLAG

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	4	33%

Supporting diversification	5	67%
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets ¹	0	0
Promoting social well being and cultural heritage ²	0	0
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	0	0

Project examples and ideas

- Traditional boat building workshop
- New leisure marina
- Wi-fi provision for harbour
- Harbour restaurant
- Maritime heritage trail

Calls for projects

Application deadlines are called for three times per year. 2016 deadlines are April, July and October. 2017 dates are still to be confirmed but likely to be every 4 months (e.g. January, May, September). Applications are screened at FLAG meetings around 8 weeks after the deadline.

Deadlines are publicised here: <http://nesflag.org.uk/applications-claims/>

Thematic expertise and cooperation

NESFLAG members offer significant experience of the fishing industry and represent a broad cross section of the major fishing area of the UK. The FLAG is interested in all areas of co-operation, both inter-territorial and transnational. Potential areas of interest could be (but not limited to) **new products, industry innovation, leisure/tourism or traditional skills.**

In addition, the MA has identified a central budget for cooperation projects in Scotland in their OP. At this time no decisions have been made on how this element of the programme will progress although it expected to be available for both inter-territorial and transnational cooperation.

Type of cooperation projects foreseen

Inter-territorial (within your Member state): Yes

Transnational: Yes

Sea basin: Yes

Other:

Budget available for cooperation [€]: 184 614 (£143 700)

¹ Being part of broader local development strategies allow the FLAG to focus on economic aspects, the other priorities being dealt with through other parts of the broader multi fund strategies.

² Ibidem

PARTNERSHIP

Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Aberdeenshire Council (local authority) acts as lead partner and employs FLAG staff.

Other key actors/organisations in the partnership

Community Sector:

Banffshire Partnership

Buchan Development Partnership

Fraserburgh Development Trust

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

Private Sector

Aberdeen Fish Producers Organisation Ltd

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership

Federation of Small Businesses

MacKay Boat Builders

Moray Firth Inshore Fisheries Group

North East Scotland Fishermen's Organisation

Peter & J Johnstone

Peterhead & Fraserburgh Fish Producers Association

Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishing

Scottish Fishermen's Organisation

Seafood Scotland

Scottish Seafood Association

Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd

Public Sector

Aberdeenshire Council

Angus Council

Montrose Port Authority

Scottish Enterprise

Scottish Maritime Academy

Visit Scotland

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

25%

% of fisheries actors:	46%
% of other (non-fisheries) private / NGO sector actors:	29%
% of environmental actors³:	0%
Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly:	24 organisations
Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board:	25 individuals

Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

FLAG territory is the same as (or overlaps with) one or several CLLD territory/territories. The FLAG territory is spread across three CLLD LAGs- North Aberdeenshire, South Aberdeenshire and Angus.	Yes
FLAG shares its legal structure with a Leader LAG/CLLD group. The FLAG works closely with the LEADER LAGs in the area, but is its own distinct group	No
FLAG shares certain (how many?) board members with a Leader LAG/CLLD group. There are 9 organisations which are represented on both the FLAG and other LAGs in the region.	Yes
FLAG and LAG have a common local development strategy (with separate sections for EMFF/ EAFRD/ other ESI funds) The FLAG shares LDSs with North Aberdeenshire, South Aberdeenshire and Angus LAGs	Yes
FLAG coordinates its work informally with nearby Leader LAG(s) – how? FLAG Co-ordinator works as part of the same team as LAG staff.	Yes
FLAG has formal cooperation with Leader or other CLLD groups other? Joint FLAG/LAG meetings are to be proposed. FLAG/LAG Chairs to have regular meetings.	No

Budget information (exchange rate used 0.77838 euro to pound)

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020 [€]: 1 846 142 (£1 437 000)
EMFF [€]: 1 384 606 (£1 077 750)
Member State co-financing [€]: 461 535 (£359 250)

Source of co-financing: Scottish Government (National)

Multi-funding: The FLAG strategy delivers the fisheries elements of three separate multi-fund local development strategies: North Aberdeenshire, South Aberdeenshire and Angus. All animation and administration costs are covered by the 'lead fund' EAFRD.

³ This information is independent from the consultation of environmental actors during the elaboration of the local development strategy

Contact information

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Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE]: 1.6

Language information

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English			X