

# FLAG Factsheet: Orkney Fisheries Local Action Group

Orkney Fisheries Local Action Group

**Country:** Scotland

**Region:** Orkney

**Area:** Orkney

**Code:** UK 204

**Operational:** 2014-2020 programming period

Map - see below (Map based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright).



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## AREA

### Description of the area and its main challenges

Orkney is made up of 70 islands, 18 of which are inhabited. Orkney is both a rural and island community, and economy, in an extremely peripheral location off the North coast of Scotland, which gives rise to a unique mix of opportunities and challenges. The whole of the Orkney Islands' are included in the FLAG area.

Fishing is an integral part of the Orkney economy, and in 2012 the local fleet comprised 142 vessels. The vast majority of Orkney fishing vessels were **creel fishing boats under 10m** in 2012 (65% of fleet), followed by creel fishing vessels  $\geq 10\text{m}$  which comprised 18% of the total fishing fleet. Landings in Orkney are nearly all from locally based boats with **shellfish landings** up the vast majority.

The FLAG will target groups in the **fishing and aquaculture industries**, as well as **fisheries based communities**.

Orkney's challenges include:

population decline; an ageing population; high cost of living and low wages, and distance from the markets and facilities.

The challenges specific to Orkney's fisheries sector are the **distance from boat to market** due to the geographical remoteness and island location, and the associated additional and transport costs with island living. Orkney has **no local fish market**; the nearest one is located on the mainland at Scrabster in Caithness requiring stock to be shipped across the Pentland Firth incurring additional costs and time.

**Population:** 21,530

**Population Density [Inhabitants/ km<sup>2</sup>]:** 22 people per km<sup>2</sup>

**Surface area [km<sup>2</sup>]:** 974 km<sup>2</sup>

**Coastal or inland:** Both – 570 miles of coastline and various lochs

**Protected areas:** Orkney has 61 protected areas most of which involve coastline or inland water – the main areas are protecting features such as sea bird colonies, sea bird breeding sites, marine mammals, maritime cliffs, kelp & seaweed, maerl beds, salt marsh, amongst other things. Examples of these are:

Area	Designation
East Sanday Coast	Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ramsar Site, Special Protection Area (SPA)
Hoy	SSSI, Special Area of Conservation (SAC), SPA, National Scenic Area
Marwick Head	SSSI, SPA
Wyre & Rousay Sounds	Nature Conservation MPA
Waulkmill	SSSI
Loch of Harray	SSSI
Loch of Stenness	SSSI, SAC
Mull Head	Local Nature Reserve
Stromness Heaths & Coast	SSSI, SPA
West Westray	SSSI, SPA

**Total employment in fisheries: 587**

1. **Fishing:** 354
2. **Aquaculture:** 120
3. **Processing:** 113

**Women employment in fisheries:** information not available

## STRATEGY

### Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The Orkney FLAG's overall aim is to increase and strengthen the vitality and sustainability of the fisheries sector and communities.

In order to address the challenges identified, the Orkney FLAG aims to:

- facilitate the diversification and sustainable management of the local fisheries sector
- develop new market opportunities and added value for fish products
- support initiatives for diversification in fisheries-based communities

### 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	5	Strategy does not allocate individual budgets to each objective
Supporting diversification	5	
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	3	
Promoting social well being and cultural heritage	3	
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	4	

### Project examples and ideas

- Support enhancement and diversification of fisheries related assets and products
- Development of fisheries related local research and data collection to improve understanding and management
- Support for skills development, lifelong learning, and bespoke training opportunities
- Encourage diversification within fisheries and aquaculture sectors as well as initiatives to create or enhance small scale fisheries
- Development of initiatives to identify new markets and enhance supply chain integration
- Enhance onshore facilities for the fisheries sector

## Calls for projects

The Orkney FLAG are intending to meet quarterly and there will be a fast track process for projects seeking less than £10,000.

Deadline dates for applications and FLAG assessment meetings will be published on the FLAG website:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/FisheriesLAG/>

## Thematic expertise and cooperation

Orkney is a new FLAG area for 2014-2020 and has only had one meeting to date. Cooperation is not something that has been discussed at this stage, but may be in the future.

**Budget available for cooperation [€]:** Not yet defined

## PARTNERSHIP

### Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

Orkney Islands Council

### Other key actors/organisations in the partnership

Highlands & Islands Enterprise – public – Economic and Community Development  
Orkney Food & Drink Ltd – private company  
Orkney Sustainable Fisheries – fisheries organisation  
Orkney Fisheries Association – fisheries organisation  
Orkney Fishermen's Society – private company  
Sanday Development Trust –private - Economic/Social Development within Isles Communities  
Shapinsay Development Trust – private - Economic/Social Development within Isles Communities  
Visit Scotland – public tourism  
Island of Hoy Development Trust – private - Economic/Social Development within Isles Communities

**% of public actors** (on the decision-making body): **30 %**

**% of fisheries actors:** **30 %**

**% of other (non-fisheries) private / NGO sector actors:** **40%**

**% of environmental actors:** **0%<sup>1</sup>**

**Number of individuals/organisations in partnership/ general assembly:** **10**

**Number of individuals on main decision-making body/ board:** **10**

### Links with LEADER or other CLLD groups:

<b>FLAG territory is the same as (or overlaps with) one or several CLLD territory/territories.</b> FLAG territory overlaps with one LAG territory.	Yes
<b>FLAG shares its legal structure with a Leader LAG/CLLD group.</b> FLAG shares its legal structure with the Orkney LEADER LAG.	Yes
<b>FLAG shares certain (how many?) board members with a Leader LAG/CLLD group.</b>	Yes

<sup>1</sup> This information is independent from the consultation of environmental actors during the elaboration of the local development strategy.

<i>FLAG shares 10 board members with the Orkney LEADER LAG.</i>	
<b>FLAG and LAG have a common local development strategy (with separate sections for EMFF/ EAFRD/ other ESI funds)</b> FLAG and Orkney LEADER LAG share a Local Development Strategy.	Yes
<b>FLAG coordinates its work informally with nearby Leader LAG(s) – how?</b> The Orkney FLAG is a sub-group of the LEADER LAG.	Yes
<b>FLAG has formal cooperation with Leader or other CLLD groups other?</b> FLAG has formal cooperation with the Orkney Leader LAG, as the LAG provides the FLAG with administrative assistance.	No

### Budget information (exchange rate used 0.77838 euro to pound)

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020 [€]: 619 235 (£482 000)

EMFF [€]: 464 426 (£361 500)

Member State co-financing [€]: 154 809 (£120 500)

**Source of co-financing:** National – Scottish Government

**Multi-funding:** Orkney is delivering a joint CLLD LDS between LEADER and EMFF and it is difficult to quantify the level of funding required to deliver the overall strategy. A range of funding sources will be used to help deliver the strategy, with EMFF being just one of these. These could include:

- ERDF/ESF
- EAFRD
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Big Lottery Fund
- Coastal Communities Fund
- Local Schemes

### Contact information

**President/Chair, organization:** Orkney FLAG Chair – Francesca Couperwhite

**FLAG Manager:** Amy Esslemont (LEADER Development Officer)

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**FLAG website:** <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/FisheriesLAG/>

Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE]:

Number of FTE employed for Admin – 0.25 FTE – paid through the LEADER programme

Number of FTE employed for Animation – 0.25 FTE – paid through the LEADER programme.

## Language information

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English			X
French	X		