

FLAG Factsheet: Dumfries & Galloway

Country: United Kingdom

Region: Scotland

Area: Dumfries & Galloway

Code: UK208

Operational: 2007-2013 period as a FLAG, 2014-2020 programming period as a FLAG/LAG



Hand-gathering shellfish on the Solway: Colin Tennant;



Scallop fishing: Colin Tennant



Netting on the Cree: Colin Tennant;

AREA

Description of the area and its main challenges

The FLAG area is distinguished by its intrinsic remoteness and natural beauty, illustrated by the high number of wildlife and landscape designations along the coast. The FLAG covers approximately 290 miles (467km) of coastline from Cairnryan in the East to Gretna in the West and includes the port at Kirkcudbright which is in the top 20 UK ports by catch value.

King and queen scallops are the main species commercially fished with scallop processing in Kirkcudbright providing significant employment. The local crab and lobster fleet are important to the character and economy of remote towns and villages, while traditional netting for finfish is a significant heritage feature of the coast as well as providing a valuable income for small businesses and local communities.

There is **hand-gathering of species** including periwinkles and razor-clams at locations along the coastline and a native oyster fishery in Loch Ryan. **Artisan smokehouses, nephrops processing**, specialist fish shops and van sales are further features of the region.

Challenges

Contrary to the trend in Scotland as a whole, Dumfries and Galloway's population has not seen an increase in the past 10 years. Significantly, within the FLAG area, the population has seen a steady **decrease** overall in all the settlements with the exception of Annan. This decrease is particularly pronounced in the smaller communities.

Small, remote fishing communities with **poor access to services** and a **low level of public and private sector investment** typify the socio-economic character of the area.

Links between seafood and tourism are under-developed and the **value of sea fisheries to the local economy is poorly understood**. **Concerns about sustainability** and technical issues **of fisheries management** are amongst the significant challenges affecting the scallop, cockle, razor-clam and salmon fishing sectors.

Population: 150,830

Population Density [Inhabitants/ km²]: 23.44

Surface area [/km²]: 6436.4

Coastal or inland: Coastal

Protected areas: European conservation designations apply to the inner Solway Firth which is designated both as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) under European Habitats and Birds directives. This reflects the valuable marine and coastal habitats of the estuary including merse (saltmarsh), mudflats and reefs and the bird populations these habitats support. The inner Solway is also a Ramsar site: a designation recognising wetlands of international importance. Luce Bay and Sands SAC is a European designated site in the outer Solway Firth due to its diverse seabed and dune habitats, while Torrs Warren at the head of the bay carries an SPA designation. The River Bladnoch carries an SAC designation as a result of its importance for Atlantic salmon. The Mull of Galloway is designated as an SAC for its sea cliffs and the flora of its maritime heath and grassland. In addition to these international designations, national designations for wildlife and landscape include 19 coastal Sites of Special Scientific Interest, a coastal National Nature Reserve at Caerlaverock in the inner Solway Firth and 3 National Scenic Areas. In all, around 95% of the coastline of Dumfries and Galloway is designated for its wildlife, habitat and landscape value.

Area	Designation
Solway Firth	Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar site
Luce Bay and Sands	SAC
Torrs Warren	SPA
River Bladnoch	SAC
Mull of Galloway	SAC
Caerlaverock	National Nature Reserve

Total employment in fisheries: 934

1. **Fishing:** 228
2. **Aquaculture:** None
3. **Processing:** 629

Women employment in fisheries: *Figure not available*

STRATEGY

Short summary of the FLAG strategy

The Dumfries & Galloway FLAG's strong links with the Leader LAG and their longstanding experience of Community Led Local Development (CLLD) in the area were identified as important assets, and have been capitalised on in the 2014-2020 programming period by developing a joint Local Development Strategy (LDS) in co-operation with the LEADER Local Action Group (LAG).

The Local Development Strategy has resulted from a comprehensive programme of consultation with all the relevant stakeholders in the area. The overall aim of the FLAG/LAG strategy is to implement support measures that will offer ongoing support to the most vulnerable/fragile communities

In particular, the fisheries section of the LDS will focus on the following themes:

- Sustainable use of the region's land, coast, and marine environments to deliver benefits for people and the environments themselves.
- Development of nature based, marine and coastal tourism
- Development of more resilient, sustainable fisheries/coastal communities; and
- Promoting a greener lifestyle.

Importance of the following objectives for your strategy and indicative allocation

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	40
Supporting diversification	3	15
Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets	3	15
Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage	3	15
Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development	3	15

Project examples and ideas

FLAG has only recently formed and has not yet had a formal meeting to discuss project ideas.

Calls for projects

The FLAG has only recently formed and has not yet set formal guidance on the application process. However, it is expected that the process will be similar to that used by the LEADER applications:

- *Projects can be presented as Expressions of Interest (Eoi) at any time but there will be an Eoi 'soft deadline' prior to a decision-making meeting to allow time to develop applications*
- *Decision-making meetings take place quarterly where applications will be either Approved, Deferred (until the next meeting), or Rejected*

Submit an Expression of Interest here: <http://www.ruralnetwork.scot/funding/leader>

Thematic expertise and cooperation

Areas of interest for co-operation include:

- *sustainable fisheries management and promotion of local seafood*
- *developing synergies between fisheries, seafood, tourism, arts and environment*

Type of cooperation projects foreseen

Inter-territorial (within your Member state): Yes

Transnational: Yes

Sea basin: Yes

Budget available for cooperation [€]: none specified at present, this will become clearer when the membership of the new FLAG has met and is able to give consideration to the issue.

PARTNERSHIP

Lead partner or Responsible Legal Entity

*The FLAG works in co-operation with the LEADER LAG who, under the Local Development Strategy, is partnered with **Dumfries & Galloway Council**, a Local Authority, who acts as the Accountable Body for both LEADER and EMFF.*

Other key actors/organisations in the partnership

Community and Public Sector:

- Nith Catchment Fishery Trust
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Solway Firth Partnership
- West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group

Fisheries Sector:

- Galloway Smokehouse
- Seascope Fisheries Research

% of public actors (on the decision-making body): **10**

% of fisheries actors: **40**

% of other (non-fisheries) private / NGO sector actors: **50**

% of environmental actors: **20**

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:

Which of the following is true for your FLAG? (please reply yes/no and complete or specify any details:	Yes /No
FLAG territory is the same as (or overlaps with) one or several CLLD territory/territories. Dumfries & Galloway LEADER	Yes
FLAG shares its legal structure with a Leader LAG/CLLD group. Dumfries & Galloway LEADER	Yes
FLAG shares certain (how many?) board members with a Leader LAG/CLLD group. Chair of FLAG will be invited to sit on LAG – FLAG Chair not yet nominated	No
FLAG and LAG have a common local development strategy (with separate sections for EMFF/ EAFRD/ other ESI funds) Dumfries & Galloway FLAG and LEADER LAG operate under an integrated Local Development Strategy	Yes
FLAG coordinates its work informally with nearby Leader LAG(s) – how?	No

Dumfries & Galloway FLAG and LEADER LAG operate under an integrated Local Development Strategy	
FLAG has formal cooperation with Leader or other CLLD groups other? Dumfries & Galloway FLAG and LEADER LAG operate under an integrated Local Development Strategy	Yes

Budget information (exchange rate used 0.77838 euro to pound)

Total public budget allocated to the FLAG for 2014-2020 [€]: 745 137 (£580,000)

EMFF [€]:558 853 (£435,000)

Member State co-financing [€]: 186 284 (£145,000)

Source of co-financing: National – Scottish Government

Multi-funding: Yes. Dumfries & Galloway FLAG and LEADER LAG operate under an integrated Local Development Strategy at a high level with separate decision making bodies for EMFF and LEADER. All animation and administration costs are covered by the 'lead fund' EAFRD.

Contact information

President/Chair, organization: Not yet elected

FLAG Manager: Nicola Hill

Email: Nicola.Hill@dumgal.gov.uk

Telephone: 01387 260028

Postal address: LEADER Programme

Kirkbank House

English Street

Dumfries

DG1 2HS

FLAG website: www.dgleader.co.uk

Twitter: @dgleaderteam

Facebook: dgleaderprogramme

Number of contracted staff in FLAG [FTE]: Recruitment has not started as yet, however it is anticipated that 1 FTE Project Officer will support the FLAG with all administration being carried out jointly with, and funded through, LEADER.

Language information

Language	Basic level	Intermediate level	Good level
English			X