

Dorset and East Devon FLAG

Officer Report
March 2017 – March 2018



Staff

Rhiannon Jones - Coordinator (37 hours a week)
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Core Work

Project Assessment and Eligibility

Assessing eligibility of applications that apply to the FLAG and providing advice and feedback. Liaising with the MMO.



Project Development

Developing projects according to our LDS and projects that help us to meet our targets. We help to develop these projects by connecting projects, networking with relevant sectors, bringing stakeholders together and hosting meetings.

Supporting applicants

Guiding applicants through the application process both to FLAG and the core EMFF programme. We assist with paperwork and ensure that applicants are aware of the requirements of the programme. We also guide applicants through from the application, delivery, claiming process, reporting and wrap up of the projects.

Management and administration

Managing and tracking the applications, managing the finance for the programme, reporting to the board and MMO about progress. Reviewing strategy and targets. Ensuring the programme complies with the regulations and meets audit requirements. Checking project claims and reporting are as scheduled.

Supporting FLAG board and decision meetings

Organising FLAG board meetings, preparing project paperwork for meetings, recording decisions and giving officer updates on work. Submitting the FLAG assessment of projects and tracking the progress of applications once assessed.

Facilitation

Running workshops and meetings to help develop projects and connect stakeholders throughout the supply chain. This included the FLAG launch, the aquaculture workshops and the Litter Free Coast and Sea Ghost Gear workshop.



Conferences

We also attend relevant conferences and events to promote the FLAG, feed in information and to keep up to date with legislation, projects and potential opportunities. Some of the main events attended this year include:

- UK MA FLAG event in Edinburgh
- English FLAG networking events in Hastings and Cornwall

- South West Fishermen’s Council and Fishermen’s associations- various
- Aquaculture Common Issues Group in London
- MMO training events in Newcastle
- European Maritime Day in Poole
- Coastal Futures in London
- Farnet Aquaculture Conference in Germany
- Dorset Seafood Festival in Weymouth
- Food Rocks in Lyme Regis
- Skipper Expo in Bristol (Chair as representative)
- And many more...



Promotion of the FLAG funding

Face to face networking and maintaining an on the ground presence across the area. Promoting ourselves on Twitter (190 followers).

Projects Funded

Man over board Ladder

This health and safety project ensured that at least 50 people across the FLAG area could receive a Fibrelight Cradle that acts as a boarding ladder, scramble net and stretcher in a person over board situation. A local lone working fisherman saw the need for this piece of equipment and could negotiate an excellent price to make this new design more affordable for fishers in the area but funding was still required to enable this project. The cradle can not only save the life in a man over board situation but reduces the risks associated with rescue, like cardiac arrests, by enabling the person to be rolled onto the boat and carried horizontally. The ladder can also be easily rolled and takes up little space on the boat deck which makes it a good use of space for smaller boats. The FLAG funded 80% of this project.



Design and Delivery of Sea Safety Training Course Pilot

This pilot course is to enable aspiring seafarers the opportunity to experience going to sea and working in the industry before completing the full 15-day Seafish approved Introduction to Commercial Fishing course. A local trainer, who has many years’

experience of delivering these courses, identified a gap in the market that could help save time by allowing new entrants to gain enough experience to work on a boat safely for up to 3 months before completing the rest of the course. This will give applicants a deeper understanding of the industry and save the cost of training applicants who may decide the industry is not for them after completing the 15-day course. This FLAG funded 50% of this project.

Fishermen's Huts

Lulworth Cove has had a traditional fishing industry for many years but it is also a very popular tourist spot. The traditional fishing community here are part of the attraction to this scenic destination. Due to the competing demands on space in this rural area there is increasing interaction between visitors and essential fishing gear which is openly stored at the site which can cause health and safety issues. There was no secure storage available for the fishing industry at the cove and, in line with the recent renovations in the cove area, the Lulworth fishing community and the Lulworth Estate wanted to be able to provide a dedicated secure storage area for gear and ensure the health and safety of the public by providing dedicated fishermen's huts. This will also help to ensure that the next generation of fishermen have a storage area for the future. The FLAG funded 50% of the costs to build these huts.



New EPIRB three wishes

This simple but important purchase of equipment was to equip a local fishing boat with an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon which is a location device. They were also able to purchase Personal Locator Beacons to keep track of crew members in a man over board situation. The FLAG funded 80% of the purchase of this equipment.

Deck Hatch Works

This project was to replace two deck hatches on the applicant's boat as the current ones were leaking and had the potential to cause damage to the electrics on the boat but also slowly deteriorate the vessel by water ingress through the damaged hatches. The FLAG could fund this at 80% due to the works being a health and safety improvement.

Lyme Bay Schools Outreach Programme

The FLAG funded the roll out of an existing successful education programme within the FLAG area. This programme educates children about sustainable fishing and the fishing industry to enable them to connect to their natural coastal environment, grow up informed about the local industry and inspire future generations to make sustainable choices. It was first developed for the Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve and has been welcomed in schools. By extending the programme, it is hoped to connect with children from a young age and teach them about the importance of small scale sustainable fishing and choosing sustainable fish. Up to six local fishermen will be employed to go into schools with a trained teacher to give children first-hand experience of the different species and bring the fishing industry to life. The FLAG board will also be able to input into the programme so that a wider range of views can influence the material shown in the FLAG area. The FLAG gave a grant of 43%.



Highlighting Fisheries Career Pathways

A recognised issue across the FLAG area is the lack of new entrants coming into the industry. Dorset Coast Forum wanted to help address this issue by interviewing young people working in different sectors within the industry and creating films to show the different pathways into them. These films will then be shown at launch events and on social media platforms and be an available resource for schools to use to educate teenagers about the variety of career pathways that are accessible to them and what it's really like to work in the industry. These films have been funded at 80%.

Weymouth Harbour Fish Industry Feasibility Study

The Weymouth fishing industry raised concerns over future of the fishing industry in Weymouth Harbour. There have been concerns for a while and these were brought to the fore when plans to develop areas around the harbour were revealed. With increasing competition for space and resource, the fishers wanted to give themselves the best chance to allow the fishing industry to continue and thrive in Weymouth. The Harbour Authority of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council recognised these concerns and wanted to look at what the options were for future facilities and safeguarding areas for the fishing



community. They hired a consultant with extensive experience in the fishing industry and infrastructure projects to assess the different options available in Weymouth Harbour. This piece of work is based around balancing the fishermen's needs of the harbour with the available space and the Harbour Authority requirements to come up with three different options to take forward for the future. This project was funded at 75%.

Axmouth Harbour Quay Improvements

Following a proposal from the East Devon Fishermen's Association, East Devon District Council submitted a project to improve the quayside area in Axmouth. The improvements include tarmacking additional quayside areas to enable them to comply with fish landing regulations and open more room for fishermen to land catch. This will reduce the contamination of catch by dust and grit and enable the fishermen to extend CCTV and lighting along the quayside in future. This project was funded at 63%.

Kimmeridge Boat Project

This lone fisherman working out of Kimmeridge Bay wanted some improvements to his vessel for health and safety reasons such as a new deck and hand rails on his boat. He also wanted a net flaker to reduce strain on his back when hauling nets while at sea and some parts for his trailer to make hauling up easier in bad weather. The FLAG funded 80% of this project.

Crane and Pontoon at the Cobb

There has been an increase in the number of commercial fishing vessels at the Cobb and this has led to increased pressure on berths at the already crowded Cobb. This project to put in a floating pontoon will relieve some of the pressure on berths ensuring that fishermen have berths to use exclusively.

The harbour authority will also replace the existing crane on the end of the Cobb at the Lyme Regis Harbour. The new crane will be electric and the controls will be locked for use only by local fishermen. This project will help fishermen to load and unload safely onto the Cobb because the tidal range is so varied that the current crane is not always practical. The FLAG funded 75% of this project.



Core EMFF applications

The FLAG staff have assisted with 11 core fund applications since we began which has a combined value of £1,279,284.16. These have generally been based around vessel or

equipment improvements for the applicants. The larger applications that we have helped with are summarised below:

Swanage

We have been helping to develop a fisheries infrastructure project with Swanage Town Council and the Swanage Fishermen's Association. The plan is to extend the slipway, install a winch and block system and a small jetty and significantly improve the fishermen's huts with new and improved facilities. This project is expected to go to an EMFF panel in March where it will be assessed and a decision made.

Weymouth

The FLAG staff have been helping Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to develop a project to improve the quayside, fisheries and harbour authority facilities. The project is still under development and the council is working with the Weymouth and Portland Fishermen's and Boatmen Association as it is partly being informed by the Weymouth Fisheries Feasibility Study funded by the FLAG. The project has been submitted for an EMFF panel in March.

Cobb Harbour Piling Project

The FLAG staff have assisted West Dorset District council to develop a project to install a piling at the outer harbour area. This piling will enable the harbour master to leave temporary pontoon in place for much longer periods throughout the year. The outer harbour area at the Cobb is vulnerable to large waves when the wind comes from the East or South East. This can mean that the floating pontoon in the area can break up or become unstable and unfit for use. The installation of the piling will mean a more stable pontoon area that can be used by commercial fishers to land catch, avoiding the risks of having to hold catch at sea or to wait for an available berth in the inner harbour. The FLAG funded 75% of the costs.

Next steps

- Ensuring future applications fit with our Local Development Plan
- Developing the ideas put forward at the aquaculture development workshop including an aquaculture development officer, a virtual hub, encouraging skills and new entrants into the industry and other potential projects
- Developing projects that add value to catch through innovation, branding, improving quality of catch
- Monitoring approved projects and processing claims for projects
- Hosting a 'meet the buyer' event
- Hosting the UK FLAG networking event in September 2018
- Continuing to support applicants
- Continuing to support the board and prepare for decision meetings

