

North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group Summer 2018 Newsletter

Board meetings

Oct 12th 1-3pm
Dec 7th 1-3pm

All meetings are held at the Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, Leigh on Sea.

What is the North Thames FLAG?

The North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group (NTFLAG) was awarded £600,000 by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to spend on community benefitting projects targeted at the fishing industry in the North Thames; between Thurrock and Shoeburyness.

The NTFLAG board meets every two months to discuss project proposals from applicants and allocate funding where appropriate in line with the Local Development Strategy. We are over a year into the programme and we need more applicants to get involved and deliver fishery related projects in the area. If your business or organisation would like funding to deliver a project under each one of the 5 themes (see overleaf) then please contact the team.

Updates

Brexit

The impending EU Exit has led to this round of fisheries funding coming to an end one year early. All project funds are to be allocated by March 2019 and FLAG funded projects will need to be completed and funds claimed by March 2020.

Changes to Health and Safety requirements

It has been confirmed that the MCA are changing what is mandatory for fishing vessels. Depending on the size of your vessel you may now require EPIRBs, Radar reflectors or other equipment. Check

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1871-fcode-of-practice-for-safety-of-small-fishing-vessels>

for the update. Contact Anna if you would like look at accessing funding before they become mandatory and therefore not eligible for funding.

We would like to congratulate Andrew Rattley who was voted in as Chairman of the NTFLAG board for the second year, and to Carole Mulroney for being voted in as Vice Chair.

We are delighted to announce the set up of the Thames Fisherman's Association which will represent the interests of the fishing and cockling industries locally. We would like to thank Andrew and Carole especially for their hard work in coordinating and setting this up and we look forward to any joint projects they would like to apply for under the banner of the new Association!

thamesestuarypartnership.org/ntflag



NT_FLAG



Marine
Management
Organisation



FLAG funded projects - ongoing

MSC Accreditation for Cockles; The cockle industry have started the process of achieving MSC accreditation for Thames Estuary cockles. The cockle industry received 50% funding.

Leigh Port Infrastructure — feasibility study; Southend on Sea Borough Council have commissioned marine engineers to investigate the sustainable options to ensure Leigh Port remains accessible for all boats in the future. The local authority received 75% funding.

Environmental data coordinator; a project to compile existing datasets for the Thames Estuary and advise the future direction for Thames Estuary monitoring. Thames Estuary Partnership received 100% funding.

Spatial Plan for Old Leigh; The first plan for Old Leigh is being developed by Leigh Town Council. This document will consider current and future spatial opportunities and challenges, particularly looking at interactions between different sectors in the Old Town and Two Tree Island and will support future funding for priority projects. Leigh Town Council received 75% funding.

Leigh Fishing Film; The White Bus Company are producing a Leigh fishing film; past, present and future. Footage will include the work on the boats and fishing in the Thames Estuary, reflecting on the key challenges the port faces. The Cultural Engine have received 75% funding with 25% match from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. Production is currently taking place—if you know somebody or something that should feature in the film please let us know.



NTFLAG priorities

1. Leigh Port Infrastructure
2. Environmental Monitoring
3. Marketing and Promotion
4. Training and Skills
5. Culture and Heritage

We are looking for projects that align with the priorities above. The FLAG can provide between 50-75% funding of a total project cost depending on your status as a business. We are especially looking for projects that involve training opportunities for those in the industry or for new entrants joining it. If you have experience in a priority and a project idea, please get in contact with the funding team.

The application is a two-step process, project ideas need to be submitted asap. Please bear in mind whether you can be the applicant and whether you are able to provide match funding for your project. We have over half of the funding remaining to allocate—get in touch asap!

Core EMFF funds

There is funding available for;

- Health & Safety improvements on fishing vessels (see MCA changes over the page)
- Improving the added value or quality of fish caught e.g ice machine
- Replacement of fishing gear
- Shore improvements—fishing ports, landing sites
- Replacing engines for licensed fishing vessels

Private businesses can receive 50-80% funding for most of the items above, engines are at 30%.

The Marketing and Processing funds have been suspended, the MMO may reopen at the end of the year. Check updates on the MMO website.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-emff-apply-for-funding>

Contact: anna@culturalengine.org.uk or 07710 642127