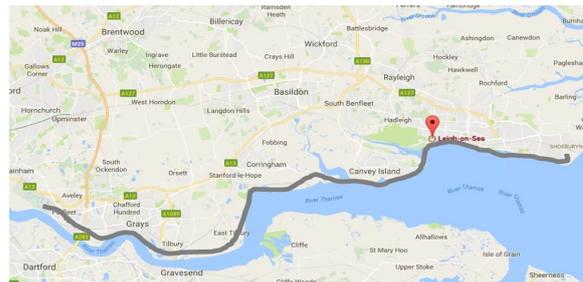


The North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group (NTFLAG) is Launched



An introduction to the NTFLAG

The North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group (NTFLAG) was launched this year and will be running until March 2020. The NTFLAG aims to achieve a sustainable fishing industry through community-led local development focusing on the Leigh-On-Sea Port, although the area stretches between Thurrock and Shoeburyness.



Do you live on or near the Thames?

We Need YOU!

We have developed 5 priority areas, now we need the local community to develop projects to benefit the fishing industry, aligning with a priority below.

EVENTS

Leigh Heritage Day
6th August

Old Leigh Regatta
10th September

Next meetings

NTFLAG Board

September 15th 3-6pm
(Leigh Community Center)

Working Groups

Environmental
August 29th 2-4pm
(LG15, 26 Bedford Way)

Training
September 6th 1-2.45pm (Leigh Community Center)

Marketing
September 6th 3.15-5pm (Leigh Community Center)

Culture and Heritage
September 28th 2-4pm
(Leigh Community Center)

Please note, these dates may be subject to change, check website for updates.

Priority Areas

Leigh Quay Infrastructure

We are planning a feasibility study to find sustainable solutions to the silting of Leigh creek, access to the area and space for the fishing industry on the port.

Environmental Monitoring of the Estuary

We held our first working group in May between fishermen, academics and NGOs. There was a lot of interest for collaborative projects between fishermen and scientists and to use citizen science to collect important data. We plan to start with an overview study of existing data.

Promotion and Marketing

We would like to develop a Thames brand for locally sourced seafood, and to work on promoting sustainability for the local industry and businesses.

New Training and Education

We are looking for a building to create a marine academy which can host all kinds of training and educational programs. We are interested in talking to locals to get information on what kind of training for the industry is most useful.

Culture & Heritage

There is opportunity for crossover with the education pathway here, and we are particularly excited to be looking at opportunities for teaching cooking of local fish and developing a FLAG 'hub'.

Visit To the Cornwall FLAG



In May, the 6 FLAGs in England attended a 2-day workshop in Cornwall to visit the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly FLAG project sites of Newlyn and St Ives. It was a really inspiring trip, sharing project ideas, witnessing successful projects funded by the previous EFF FLAG and learning ways of working with the fishing industry.

Projects included training and mentoring sessions, improvements to harbours and ports and marketing products for fishermen, increasing the value of their products to reach bigger audiences. All FLAGs will be hosting other FLAG staff over the 3 year period so we will keep everybody updated when we will be exhibiting our projects!

Information for the fishing industry

The European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) has grants available for those wishing to improve on the sustainability of their business in maritime and fisheries. Below is a brief guide, including examples of what can be funded, if you would like any more information, and/or help accessing this money, please contact Anna Patel: anna@culturalengine.org.uk, 07710 642127.

Areas to be funded	Examples
<i>Aquaculture</i>	projects developing or introducing on the market new aquaculture species with good market potential, new or substantially improved products, new or improved processes, or new or improved management and organisation systems
<i>Partnerships, information sharing, advisory services, job creation and training</i>	professional training
<i>Marine environment and inland fisheries</i>	Gear replacements if more selective
<i>Fishing vessel energy improvements</i>	Insulation equipment against noise, heat or cold-and equipment to improve ventilation
<i>On board fishing vessel improvements</i>	improving health and safety (e.g. life jackets, fire safety equipment), comfort for crew (e.g. working clothes, shelter)
<i>Shore based facility improvements</i>	Storage (e.g. freezers, storage), processing (e.g. smokeries, worktops)

We're on the web!

Website: <http://thamesestuarypartnership.org/ntflag/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/NT_FLAG

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/people/156698604@N04/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthThamesFLAG/>

Email: ntflag@thamesestuarypartnership.org

