

Widened Eligibility for Fisheries Local Action Groups (Article 63)

Article 63 - Implementation of Community-Led Local Development Strategies

1. Support for the implementation of community-led local development strategies may be granted for the following objectives:
 - a. Adding value, creating jobs, attracting young people and promoting innovation at all stages of the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products.
 - b. Supporting diversification inside or outside commercial fisheries, lifelong learning and job creation in fisheries and aquaculture areas.
 - c. Enhancing and capitalising on the environmental assets of the fisheries and aquaculture areas, including operations to mitigate climate change.
 - d. Promoting social well-being and cultural heritage in fisheries and aquaculture areas, including fisheries, aquaculture and maritime cultural heritage.
 - e. Strengthening the role of fisheries communities in local development and the governance of local fisheries resources and maritime activities.

The rules governing Article 63 have been amended slightly providing more scope for projects which were previously not eligible. The following provides an explanation of what may or may not be permitted under the widened eligibility for FLAGs.

A project which aligns with one of the existing articles supported in England that set of rates should apply; however, where a project does not align but still offers growth or Common Fisheries Policy reform related benefits it can be considered as part of the wider FLAG eligibility.

Projects must have a link to either Economic Growth within fisheries or Common Fisheries Policy reform to be eligible even under the widened eligibility which are the main priorities for the EMFF scheme in England.

Example projects include but are not limited to:

- Schools outreach projects – fishermen visiting schools to talk to children about fishing and eating fish with the intention of encouraging new entrants, and to encourage the sales of seafood through reducing fear and raising awareness.
- Diversification into fisheries related/fisheries service industries such as equipment to allow a fisherman to diversify into marine engine repairs, pot making, boat repairs etc. This applies directly to fishermen diversifying and

does not include private business expanding into fisheries services. Where diversification is being considered you should think about whether it contributes to Economic Growth within fisheries or CFP reform.

- Promotional campaigns where there is a strong link to fisheries e.g. promotional films shown in the FLAG region but where actual numbers might be difficult to quantify as are the outputs. Outlets for the film must be known in advance and must be wide ranging and effective.

The main rules of the scheme still apply including;

- Volunteer time remains ineligible as there is no evidenced costs however staff employed by an organisation can be funded as these can be supported by necessary proof.
- Promotional campaigns cannot directly benefit commercial brands.
- Retail remains ineligible
- No compensation or loss of earnings payments can be made
- Mandatory or statutory activity remains ineligible
- All costs must be evidenced in the usual way e.g. quotes, job descriptions etc.

Projects should still have good quality targets and benefits e.g. how many instances something will happen, how many school children, anticipated audience numbers, locations / FLAG coverage, any financial benefits that can be measured. Projects will still need to demonstrate a clear need for the intended project.

This widened eligibility only applies to FLAG funded projects, if you are recommending / sending projects to the core fund then the core rules apply.

Grant rates will be published soon but are likely to be very similar to the private / public / Fisherman's association rates that already exist.

To assist with the application of this widened eligibility all potential projects and ideas are to be forwarded to Catherine Murphy (MMO) for further advice and guidance.

Applicant type	Grant rates EMFF/National/Other
Public	EMFF 75% Other Public 25%
Private	EMFF 37.5% IB Match 12.5% Private 50%
Fishermen's Associations	EMFF 45% IB Match 15% F.Associations 40%
SSCF	EMFF 60% IB Match 20% Private 20%
3 x questions (collective interest, collective beneficiary, innovative features)	100% funding where questions are met as per whole scheme guidance