

# The North Thames FLAG helps fishermen access £53,547 of funding



## EVENTS

### THAMES SKILLS ACADEMY

Thames Skills Academy: Navigating a career on the River Thames. 8th March from 9am at Trinity House, EC3N 4DH.  
Email: [events@thamesacademy.london](mailto:events@thamesacademy.london)

#### Upcoming meetings

##### **NTFLAG Board**

Friday 23rd March  
1-4pm

Friday 18th May  
1-3pm

##### **Working Groups**

Culture and Heritage  
27th Feb 2-4pm

(all above at Leigh  
Community Centre,  
Elm Road)

##### **Stakeholder consultation events**

See side 2 for details

***These dates may be subject to change, please check the website for updates.***

### The North Thames FLAG has helped local fishermen to access £53,547 of funding from the European Maritime Fisheries Fund

Over £35,000 of EMFF has been allocated to shore-based facilities, such as storage and improvements to existing infrastructure. The remaining £18,547 for supporting aquaculture, processing and marketing projects and developments.

#### **There is still EMFF funding available for :**

- \* Health & Safety improvements on fishing vessels
- \* Improving the added value or quality of fish caught
- \* Replacement of fishing gear
- \* Shore based improvements—fishing ports, landing sites
- \* Replacing engines for licensed fishing vessels
- ⇒ Private businesses can receive up to 50% funding for the above items, 30% for vessel engines
- ⇒ There may be funding for other areas in the future

Our Fisheries Animator Anna Patel is here to help with queries and applications, contact [Anna@culturalengine.org.uk](mailto:Anna@culturalengine.org.uk).

#### **A note from the North Thames FLAG Chairman Andrew Rattley**



With a productive first year and funding granted for the MSC accreditation for the Thames Estuary Cockles, it is clear that the FLAG will create a lasting impression on the fishing industry for many years to come. The NTFLAG Board is very much in tune with the needs of the local fishing and cockling industries, including thinking about future generations. We would like to welcome two new board members who bring a wealth of experience with them, Mr Jonathan Sedgewick and Mr Matty Smith. I also thank all of our existing board members for their continued input and for giving their time so willingly. Thank you also to the Thames Estuary Partnership and Cultural Engine for their tireless work and sincere help to all the local fishermen, in securing funding from the EMFF core funding scheme.

## NTFLAG Funded Projects

*In addition to assisting fishermen in accessing the Core EMFF funds, the North Thames FLAG has priorities and funding of its own to spend specifically on projects that align with the following priorities;*

1. Leigh Quay Infrastructure
2. Environmental Monitoring of the Estuary
3. Promotion and Marketing
4. New Training and Education
5. Culture & Heritage

### **We Want Your Views for the Leigh-on-Sea infrastructure feasibility and options study**

The traditional and active fishing port of Leigh-on-Sea is the last of its kind within the Thames Estuary and has been an active fishing community for centuries, shaping how the community has developed. However, in recent times the fishing industry has come under increasing pressures, in part due to the silting up of Leigh Creek which restricts vessel access. Therefore, it is important to establish sustainable solutions for long-term access to the port. The FLAG have developed a priority project to identify cost effective solutions to improve long-term sustainable access to Leigh port for all vessels. The Council is working with consultants Mott MacDonald to undertake the study. The consultation period begun on February 26<sup>th</sup> and will run until 23<sup>rd</sup> April of this year. Within these eight weeks there are a variety of ways to get involved with your view on the future of the port.

Two open consultation events will be held in Old Leigh - **Leigh Heritage Centre** (13A High St SS9 2EN)

**16th March 10am-5pm, 22nd March 2-9pm**

For more information, email: [anna@culturalengine.org.uk](mailto:anna@culturalengine.org.uk)



### **Free Training for those joining the fishing industry**

Leigh fishermen are crying out for young people to train! We will be recruiting school leavers from May/June this year. You will go through a selection process to make sure this is the occupation for you. To find out more about the opportunities contact Thames Estuary Partnership Director, Pat Fitzsimons on [p.fitzsimons@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.fitzsimons@ucl.ac.uk)

### **We're on the web!**

**Website:** [www.thamesestuarypartnership.org/ntflag/](http://www.thamesestuarypartnership.org/ntflag/)

**Flickr:** [www.flickr.com/people/156698604@N04/](http://www.flickr.com/people/156698604@N04/)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/NT\\_FLAG](http://www.twitter.com/NT_FLAG)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/NorthThamesFLAG/](http://www.facebook.com/NorthThamesFLAG/)



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