Waving the FLAG for Anglesey and Gwynedd Fishing Communities

A new project has been established to provide support for coastal communities that have been affected by the decline in fishing activities.

Four FLAG's (Fisheries Local Action Group) have been established in Wales with support from the Welsh and UK Governments, and the European Fisheries Fund. Gwynedd and Anglesey are collaborating to create a single FLAG across both counties which will be delivered by Menter Môn.

The membership of the FLAG is representative of the communities it aims to support. Among the members are fishermen, tourism operators, restaurant owners and members from the economic partnerships in both counties. Their role will be to guide and advise on the activities.

The Chairman, Gwyn Jones of Plas Glyn y Weddw, explained, "The local fishing industry is facing big challenges and our relationship with the sea, and seafood in particular, has diminished over recent years. However North Wales produces some of the best seafood in the world, from lobsters and crab to mussels and oysters, and it is important that we maximise the benefit for the local

economy".

"The FLAG project will engage with coastal communities in an effort to restore the link between the fishing industry and local area. To succeed we will need to work the community as a whole, including tourism operators, restaurants and schools, as well as the fishermen."

Following a consultation process the Anglesey and Gwynedd FLAG has produced a strategy which sets out the aims and objectives. A full copy of the document can be found on the Menter Môn website.

However in very broad terms the Gwynedd and Anglesey FLAG will seek to achieve the following objectives:

• Adding value to fishery products

• Encouraging diversification of economic activity

• Preserving and enhancing the environmental, cultural and social welfare

• Empowering the local fishing communities

For information on the programme in general visit the FARNET website which provides excellent case studies from FLAGs around Europe - https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet/