



## **REVIEW OF THE NORTH EAST FISHERIES REGENERATION INITIATIVE**

**on behalf of the North East Fisheries Regeneration Partnership**

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**Research Report**

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## **1 Introducing the Study**

This report contributes to the work of the North East Fisheries Regeneration Partnership by providing a review of progress with actions funded under the Fisheries Regeneration Initiative (FRI) of 2001. The Centre for Rural Economy at the University of Newcastle<sup>1</sup> were approached to conduct a scoping study which would examine how projects under the FRI had been developed and delivered, with a view to identifying key issues about resources, delivery and management.

The research and preparation of the report were conducted during a short three week time period between late September and mid-October 2003. The research design comprised three main elements:

- The gathering and secondary analysis of baseline information on the FRI, including contact with sub regional partnerships and county councils to ascertain the nature and number of FRI projects to which funding was allocated;
- Interviews with individual project managers from FRI initiatives;
- Analysis of interviews and preparation of a short report.

It was decided to adopt a broad approach for the study in order to obtain an overview of the suite of FRI projects. In the event the researchers experienced significant challenges in locating information on the initiative both within the region - where the availability and quality of information varied between sub-regions and projects - and nationally, where responsibility for the initiative and its evaluation appear to have fallen

between three Government departments (DEFRA, DTI and ODPM). The research utilised a snowball approach, whereby initial contacts are used to identify further avenues of exploration.

The analysis of resources, delivery and management was undertaken using semi-structured interviews with project managers from individual projects based on a short interview pro-forma. The interviews aimed to address a number of issues including, *inter alia*, the role of the projects, funding structure, partners, project outcomes, impressions of strengths and weaknesses of projects and the FRI initiative and developments since the FRI. In the event interviews with the managers of 13 projects were conducted. 5 FRI project contacts were unavailable for interview during the study period. Further discussions took place with individuals with an insight into FRI and fisheries development activities, including contacts in the Sub-Regional Partnerships, Northumberland County Council, DEFRA, DTI, South West RDA and the South East RDA (which takes a lead role for the RDAs on fisheries). A full list of contacts involved in the research is presented in Annexe 1.

The study's main focus was upon projects directly funded through the Fisheries Regeneration Initiative (FRI). It was considered that this would provide a good entry point into fisheries development activity in the region. Though the primary focus is upon the FRI, the report also alludes to other fisheries development actions in the region, for example those undertaken through the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance.

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The report begins with a broad overview of the fisheries development context in the North East. This is followed by a review of the FRI and its implementation at national level. The report then presents an overview of the research findings considering the implementation and outcomes of the FRI in the region. The report concludes by raising some key issues posed by the study for the Fisheries Regeneration Partnership.

## 2 The North East Fisheries Development Context

The backdrop of fisheries development in the North East is influenced heavily by regional, national and international drivers and patterns of change. The social consequences of CFP reform and ongoing structural adjustment of the industry are placing increasing onus on the development prospects and needs of the sector and those households, businesses and localities dependent on it and on the appropriate role and response of development agencies.

Main features of the overarching development context include<sup>2</sup>:

- ongoing and long term decline in employment in fishing (down 36% between 1996 and 2002 in England and Wales) and in terms of numbers of fishing vessels (over 10m fleet down 32% over the same period)<sup>3</sup>;
- expectations regarding further declines in fishing employment and vessels in light of forthcoming European Council decisions on TACs, effort limitations and stock recovery plans and the persistently poor economic state of key fisheries; the European Commission's upper estimate of job losses due to forthcoming recovery measures amounts to 28,000 EU jobs<sup>4</sup>; even very optimistic stock and economic scenarios predict a reduction of the UK whitefish fleet of 22% by 2013 (pessimistic 50%)<sup>5</sup>;

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<sup>2</sup> Based on DEFRA/SERAD/NAWD (2003) and Seafish Industry Authority (2001).

<sup>3</sup> Two further vessel decommissioning rounds took place in 2001/2002 and 2003: £6m English decommissioning 2001; £5m English decommissioning 2003 focusing on North Sea and West of Scotland cod fisheries.

<sup>4</sup> Commission of the European Communities (2002)

<sup>5</sup> PM Strategy Unit (2003)

- declining earnings and profitability of key fleet segments, particularly within the whitefish sector, with decreasing returns to crew, skippers and owners (albeit suggestions of improving performance in the nephrops, creel/potting and under 10 m sectors);
- shortages of available crew and difficulties of recruitment of young people into the industry - even in areas of relatively high unemployment - due to declining earnings and unattractive work conditions;
- rationalisation and concentration of the processing industry; a declining primary processing sector and increasing dependence on overland / imported supplies.

These trends have been echoed within the north east:

- between 1993 and 1996, 66 vessels were decommissioned in the north east, a 33% reduction in its fleet and the highest figure in England;
- vessel numbers have declined progressively since, with a reduction in the over 10m fleet from 159 vessels in 1994 to 76 in 2002 (down 52%), notwithstanding the further decommissioning scheme in 2003<sup>6</sup>; Figure 1 shows the home port distribution of the 333 registered vessels that were based in the north east in 2002, together with the number of reductions of over 10m vessels since 1996;
- numbers of fishers declined from 944 in 1995 to 623 in 2002, a decrease of 34% (Figure 2); the Figure suggest that declines and dips in regular fishers have been partially reflected by increases in part-time fishing activity

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<sup>6</sup> 6 offers from a total of 22 have been offered to north east vessels owners, with 15 more in reserve (*Fishing News*, 17 October 2003).

- tonnage and value of landings into the regions ports have declined markedly with decreasing quotas and stocks, characterised in particular by a decreasing dependence on cod and increasing reliance on nephrops and shellfish within the catch profile (Figure 3 and Tables 1 and 2).

*Figure 1: Number of vessels in the North East by home port, June 2002*

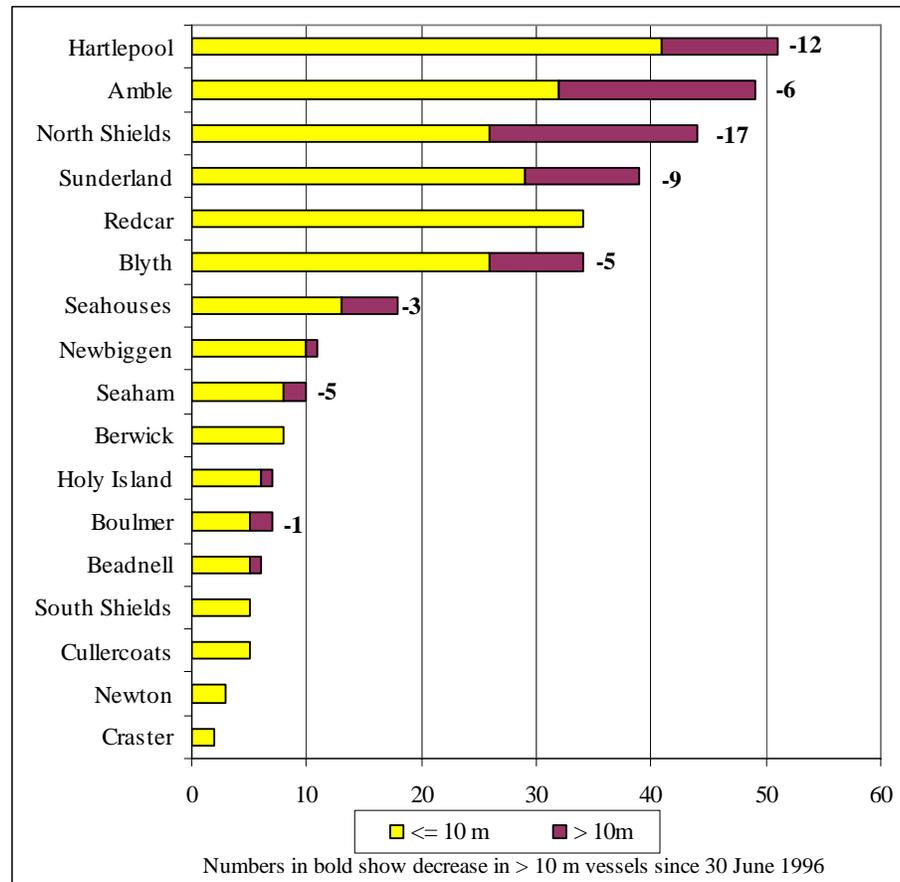
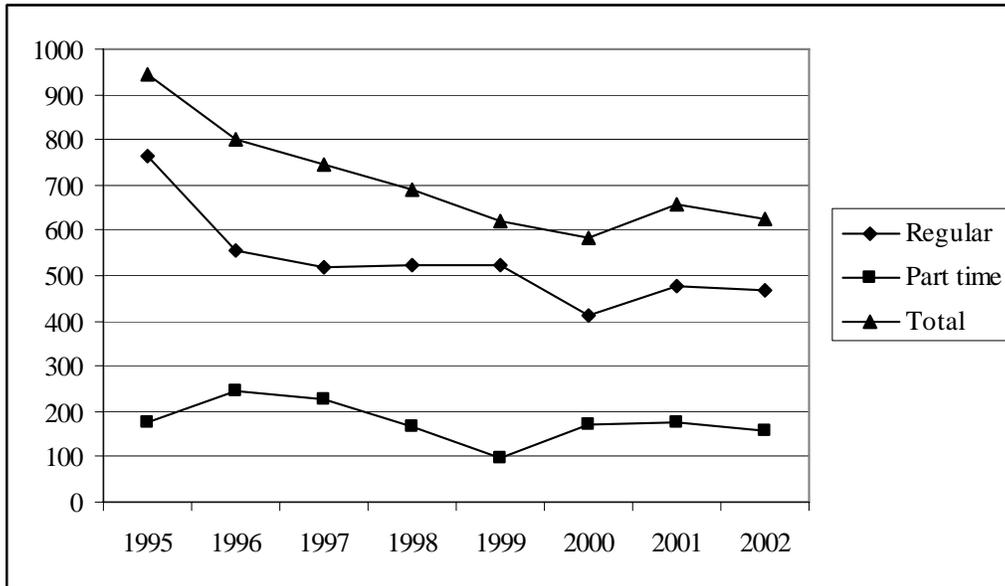
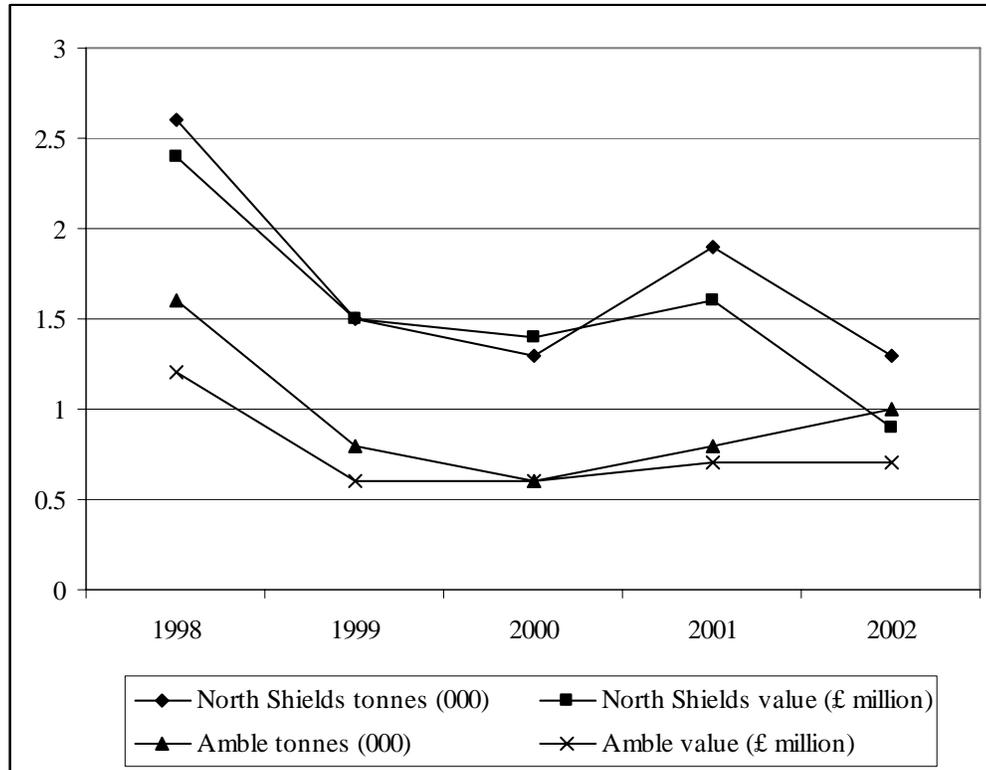


Figure 2: Number of fishermen in the North East 1995-2002



Source: DEFRA Fisheries Statistics

Figure 3: Landings by UK vessels into North Shields and Amble, 1998-2002



Source: DEFRA Fisheries Statistics

Table 1: Landings in 2002 by UK vessels

	Demersal		of which cod		Pelagic		Shellfish		Total		Top 4 species by value
	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	
<b>North Shields</b>	1297	938000	207 (10%)	219000 (9%)	-	-	842	1540000	2139	2478000	nephrops, haddock, cod, whiting
<b>Amble</b>	977	692000	94 (7%)	96000 (6%)	-	-	436	823000	1414	1516000	nephrops, haddock, lobster, whiting
<b>Hartlepool</b>	412	404000	83 (6%)	92000 (7%)	1	-	1043	849000	1456	1253000	scallops, nephrops, haddock, cod
<b>Blyth</b>	763	530000	76 (7%)	78000 (6%)	1	-	386	710000	1149	1241000	nephrops, haddock, cod, whiting
<b>Seahouses*</b>	83	77348	22	25359	0	0	394	792733	477	870081	lobster, crabs, nephrops, cod
<b>Beadnell, Craster and Boulmer*</b>	-	22	-	22	0	0	99	201305	99	201327	lobster, crabs, cod
<b>Sunderland*</b>	72	86587	34	37807	2	445	47	98163	121	185195	nephrops, cod, lobster, turbot
<b>Berwick, Holy Island and North Sunderland*</b>	2	2655	-	136	0	0	76	175855	78	178510	lobster, crabs, haddock, lemon sole
<b>Seaham*</b>	3	5004	0	0	0	0	16	25018	19	30022	crabs, nephrops, lobster

\*data for 2001; Source: DEFRA Fisheries Statistics

Table 2: Landings in 1996 by UK vessels

	Demersal		of which cod		Pelagic		Shellfish		Total		Top 4 species by value
	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	Tonnes	£	
<b>North Shields</b>	2508	2223000	1036 (30%)	999000 (26%)	4	2000	1066	1592000	3578	3817000	nephrops, cod, haddock, lemon sole
<b>Amble</b>	764	572000	157 (12%)	124000 (8%)	-	-	575	1056000	1340	1629000	nephrops, lobsters, cod, haddock
<b>Hartlepool</b>	793	1096000	252 (21%)	253000 (16%)	27	5000	358	496000	1178	1596000	nephrops, cod, plaice, sole
<b>Blyth</b>	1324	1024000	380 (11%)	372000 (20%)	1601	183000	453	689000	3379	1896000	nephrops, cod, haddock, herring

Source: DEFRA Fisheries Statistics

There are few places in the UK where the fishing industry forms the fundamental foundation for economic and social development (i.e. the classic fisheries dependent region), and the north east region is no exception. In most localities fishing is part of a pluri-active local economy, where the industry may represent a relatively small but nevertheless important part of the local economic profile. In urban settings in particular, geographical dependency may only be visible at the localised level of a particular ward, neighbourhood or street. In other places dependency is an issue about individual households and an occupational group rather than a geographical community *per se*. The analysis of local fisheries dependence, and associated vulnerabilities and development prospects, requires an exploration of the local fisheries sector in its local social and economic context. Such an analysis is typically complicated by a lack of local data and given the common separation of landing and port statistics from fishers place of residence. Furthermore, narrow economic based interpretations of dependency can easily underestimate the broader socio-cultural significance of the industry to localities and the potential economic development opportunities it may represent.

Levels of fisheries dependency are changing within the north east as in other regions. Of the 23 fisheries dependent areas (FDAs)<sup>7</sup> identified in the late 1990s, 5 were in the north east (Amble, Blyth, Hartlepool, North Shields and Sunderland) (SAC and University of Portsmouth, 1999). North Shields, as part of the Tyneside conurbation, was the largest of all FDAs in terms of overall population size. North east FDAs were characterised in the national overview by their relatively high unemployment and social deprivation rates, as well as the combined importance of the fish catching and processing

sectors (there were 1197 processing FTEs in the North East in 1996<sup>8</sup>, highlighting the importance of the sector to the region's fishing industry). Levels of dependency had however declined significantly since the previous major study carried out at the beginning of the 1990s, in the main given declines in fishing employment. Fishing employment as a percentage of total jobs in Amble, for example, declined from 2.5% in 1990 to 1.1% in 1996 (Table 3). By 2001, fishing employment in the north east accounted for 0.06% of employment, the highest percentage of any English region (DEFRA/SERAD/NAWD, 2003).

*Table 3: Levels of fisheries dependency in the north east, 1996\**

	Fisheries and fish processing % GDP	PT and FT fishers	PT and FT processing employment	% employment <sup>9</sup>	% change in fishing FTEs 90-96	% change in processing FTEs 90-96
Amble	2 (£4.4 million)	162	180	2.3	-24	951
Blyth	0.2 (£2.2 million)	58	0	0.1	-48	-100
Hartlepool	0.2 (£1.8 million)	159	0	0.5	-21	-100
North Shields	0.1 (£8.6 million)	147	598	0.2	-46	3.8
Sunderland	0 (£1 million)	74	80	0.1	-58	157

Based on SAC and University of Portsmouth (1999)

\* - table does not account for multipliers relating to local economic linkages and effects beyond catching and processing businesses / employment

<sup>7</sup> Based on Travel to Work Areas.

<sup>8</sup> In 2003 number of FTEs in the processing sector were 159 in Northumberland, 638 in Tyne and Wear and 218 in Cleveland (DEFRA/SERAD/NAWD, 2003).

<sup>9</sup> The figures compare to 21% for Fraserburgh, 12% for Peterhead, 4% for Grimsby, 1.2% for Brixham.

Regional Development Agencies and their partners (such as Business Links, Learning and Skills Councils, Job Centre Plus and local authorities) have been attributed a core role in offering advice, facilitating transition and mediating the consequences of restructuring processes in fishing communities (see Annexe 2 for Ministerial statement)<sup>10</sup>. RDAs in particular have been charged with co-ordinating a response in areas affected by stock recovery measures (see Annexe 3). The role of local and regional development actors is particularly crucial given that the UK has so far chosen not to programme specific socio-economic measures under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance<sup>11</sup>. Instead attention is drawn to the availability and role of generic support and social security services in dealing with the socio-economic ‘fall out’ of restructuring. Fishers themselves have been encouraged to approach local Learning and Skills Councils, Regional Development Agencies and the Small Business Service for help and support.

The Fisheries Regeneration Initiative represented an important step change in explicitly focussing the attention, responsibility and targeted support of generic development organisations upon the fisheries sector. FRI formed a core component of a renewed emphasis on the full range of generic (i.e. non-fisheries specific) funding streams available and complementary to fisheries

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<sup>10</sup> A similar role has been attributed to Enterprise Networks in Scotland, who are drawing up action plans and response teams for fisheries regeneration.

<sup>11</sup> Socio-economic measures under FIFG include part financing of early retirement schemes, compensatory payments to fishers having stopped activities on a permanent basis and compensatory payments to help fishers retrain or diversify. The European Commission has been encouraging Member States to review their FIFG programming in relation to such measures in light of low uptake generally and given the potential for reprogramming created through mid-term reforms to FIFG in 2003/4. The opportunity presented by new European Commission measures to cushion the social consequences of restructuring (including modifications to FIFG measures and extra cash for vessel decommissioning for those hit by stock recovery plans) is limited in light of UK's approach to socio-economic measures under FIFG and issues arising from the Fontainebleau agreement. The UK's position is also in part recognition of the labour shortages within the industry and the often low unemployment context within many fisheries dependent areas (DEFRA/SERAD/NAWD, 2003). Measures to support the retraining of fishers to help them reconvert to economic activities outside the catching sector were extended by CFP reform to support the diversification

restructuring and coastal development, including ERDF and ESF Structural Funds within Objective 2 and 3 areas, the England Rural Development Programme (EAGGF Guarantee), Community Initiatives (such as Leader +) as well as generic regional development and employment support (including Single Programme, Market Towns Initiative, Regional Selective Assistance and general skills and Employment Service initiatives). ERDF, in particular, is considered a key source in supporting the diversification of locations into non-fishing activity (through support for general infrastructure, investment, development and environment projects) and port development<sup>12</sup>.

The region can also apply for EU fisheries grants under the *Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance*<sup>13</sup> which aims to encourage a balance between fishing effort and resources on the one hand, while offering support for the enhancement of the sector's structures and competitiveness. 125.5 million euro has been allocated to the UK for 2000-2006 outside Objective 1 areas. FIFG grants comprise joint national/EU aid and are available across the North East region (inside and outside Objective 2 regions) and cover various measures, including:

- adjustment of fishing effort
- vessel modernisation (improving product quality, adopting sustainable catching methods)
- protection and development of aquatic resources
- improvement of fishing port facilities
- processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products

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of activities which allowed fishers to continue fishing on a part-time basis. This option has not been adopted within the UK.

<sup>12</sup> An exploration of the full range of funding streams available and relevant to the North East fisheries sector and fishing communities, including their uptake, outcomes and synergies, was beyond the scope of the study. In practice, reflecting its direct economic significance within the region, fisheries have a fairly low profile within the North East Objective 2 programme. Nevertheless, fisheries restructuring and the social and economic conversion of fisheries areas, are incorporated within the eligibility criteria for designation and funding. £460 million is available to the north east under Objective 2 for 2000-2006.

- fish promotion
- projects by members of the trade such as training and producers' organisation projects
- innovative measures such as studies, pilot projects and demonstration trials

Fisheries Grants in the UK are not available for socio-economic measures, vessel construction / purchase, the buying of fishing quotas, aquaculture or non-fisheries activities, such as diversification into tourism, fish retailing or support for ancillary industries. Given that FIFG does not directly support the diversification of fisheries communities, this places particular emphasis on other funding streams, such as the FRI, in encouraging broader fishing community regeneration.

Fisheries development actors clearly face a number of difficult challenges in facilitating the economic and social development of the fisheries sector and fishing communities and in clarifying their own role in this process. To a large extent this task is made more acute by the uncertain and unstable resource situation, management context and time scale for recovery, which make planning for the sector very challenging<sup>14</sup>. The fisheries sector, moreover, poses specific development challenges. The sector, for example, is characterised by relatively immobile capital and labour resources. Unlike

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<sup>13</sup> FIFG programming has recently been evaluated as part of the mid-term review process within the UK.

<sup>14</sup> The strategic industry review by the PM strategy unit, together with the package of CFP reforms, may well serve to introduce a longer term perspective against which to consider future development prospects. The PM strategy unit project aims "To develop a long-term strategy for the sustainable future of the UK marine fishing industry. The strategy should be based on the need for sustainable management of marine resources and ecosystems, and take account of the diverse and changing circumstances of fishing and related industries, and the social and economic development of communities which depend on fishing activity. The strategy should provide a guide for policy development by the various fisheries departments, for the UK's approach to EU and international negotiations and for planning by the catching industry and associated sectors." (PM Strategy Unit, 2003). A central issue concerns establishing an appropriate structural balance within the sector that can offer an 'appropriate level' of profitability (through fleet rationalisation, price premiums and concentration of quota entitlements) while also enabling healthy employment levels, coastal fisheries and fishing communities.

farmers, fishers are restricted in terms of the alternative purposes to which they can deploy their capital asset (a fishing vessel), and their skills are typically less recognised by, or transferable to, other occupations. For those fishers leaving the industry, transition is associated with specific challenges surrounding their adaptation to new work routines on land and in dealing with the loss of their fishing identity and way of life; it is common for fishers leaving the industry to favour marine related occupations, but these avenues may not always be available. Furthermore, there are many sensitive issues of balance to be mediated and considered in light of the local development context and broader sector development trends and strategies. Fisheries regeneration packages typically comprise a combination of approaches, and a balancing of measures:

- between facilitating the transition of individuals away from fisheries (the enabling of alternative career choices and opportunities or supporting those who have already left) and supporting those remaining within the industry to ride out the current crisis and consolidate their competitiveness and sustainability<sup>15</sup>;
- between focusing on fish catching as opposed to fish processing or indeed ancillary support activities; and
- between emphasising fisher specific initiatives, as opposed to approaches focusing on broader port or community development and diversification<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> Contentiously, different approaches have been undertaken by SERAD and DEFRA. DEFRA has emphasised the permanent withdrawal of vessels through decommissioning and has chosen so far not to support temporary tie ups. SERAD is implementing an interim relief (transition aid) scheme to support fishers for loss of fishing days during emergency recovery measures.

<sup>16</sup> This balance becomes crucial in influencing the success of conservation policies intended to reduce fishing effort. The industry have argued that in the absence of direct fisher targeted support initiatives for example in the form of transition aid or compensation, fishers, faced with having to meet ongoing costs, will tend to redirect their effort onto other stocks and fishing methods, thus hindering efforts to develop sustainable fisheries.

### **3 The Fisheries Regeneration Initiative: National Perspective**

The Fisheries Regeneration Initiative (FRI), was announced on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2001 by the Regeneration Minister Hilary Armstrong of the then Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, with the aim to:

*“help fishing communities develop plans for their areas and make their case to Regional Development Agencies and other sources of funding, and more effectively access assistance from existing programmes”*

(DETR, 2001a)

The main emphasis of the FRI, therefore, was on increasing capacity in fishing communities, in order to help them work up regeneration strategies and enable them to access existing funds more effectively, and on encouraging retraining and rejuvenation at fishing ports (DETR, 2001b). The scheme involved the ring-fencing of £5.5m within the Regional Development Agencies' (RDAs) budget for 2001/2002. It formed part of a wider £22.5m package of aid for the English fishing industry that also included £6m for industry restructuring (mainly decommissioning), and £11m of grants under FIFG for increasing the value and quality of the catch and encouraging environmentally friendly fishing practices (MAFF, 2001). The FRI operated as a one-off sub-programme - in addition to other forms of assistance open to fishing communities - in recognition of the particular problems facing these communities at the time (DETR, 2001b).

Regional funds were calculated on the basis of the relative size of the demersal fishing industry in each area. The 32 ports with the largest demersal catches were each to be allocated £120,000, with the remainder distributed in proportion to the weight of the catches at the relevant ports

(Hansard, 2001). This resulted in the distribution by region shown in Table 4, with the South West RDA receiving the largest allocation of £1.68m.

*Table 4: National FRI funds by region*

<b>Regional Development Agency</b>	<b>'Allocation' (£m)</b>
South West Development Agency	1.68
Yorkshire Forward	1.3
South East England Development Agency	1.19
One NorthEast	0.6
East England Development Agency	0.39
North West Development Agency	0.34
Total	5.5

Source: DETR, 2001b

The DETR were intentionally non-prescriptive about the FRI, allowing the RDAs to decide how to direct the funding most effectively. All fishing ports within the regions were potentially eligible for assistance, and the FRI Guidance Notes from the DETR contain only suggestions for appropriate projects. These include the funding of studies or strategy development to assist existing local partnerships to access funds more effectively; the development of new partnerships; publicity of existing funds; and the direct funding of community regeneration projects. All projects had to be approved with regard to the RDAs' Regional Strategies and managed in accordance with existing SRB requirements (DETR, 2001b). The FRI had a wide focus, in the sense that it was targeted at regenerating 'hard pressed' communities or localities affected by fisheries restructuring processes as opposed to concentrating specifically on the industry or fishing populations (Hansard 2001).

Responsibility for the FRI has since been passed from the DETR to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), however there appears to have

been no clear national review of how the funds were spent or as to their impact on regeneration processes. A review of *proposed* actions under the FRI was collated in early 2002 and a summary is presented in Table 5. In the end the scope of many projects appears to have been substantially altered from the original proposals. There remains a marked need for a national review of actions undertaken under the FRI, in order to gauge lessons and good practice for future regeneration activities.

Table 5 categorises the initiatives and projects under some broad regeneration headings. The table demonstrates that fisheries regeneration activity can potentially embrace a diversity of approaches and methods. It is possible to group these and other activities into two main categories depending on whether they have a sector specific or generic focus:

*Sector development and competitiveness*

- vessel modernisation, relating for example to quality initiatives or ‘sustainable fishing’ measures
- development of processing and marketing (facilities, branding, products, markets etc.)
- scrapping policies and early retirement schemes
- provision of fishing/processing advice and skills development
- development or diversification of fishing opportunities and supplies (for example development of new fisheries )
- securing fishing opportunities, such as quota and resource ring fencing measures
- resource enhancement and management activities
- temporary support strategies, such as ‘tie up’ compensation and ‘transition aid’
- recruitment and retention of young people in industry
- improving living and work/safety conditions
- development of fishing/processing associations and collective actions
- provision of industry finance / funding, such as loans for technologies, ‘work wear’, storage or new business developments
- improving fishing port landing and handling facilities/infrastructures
- encouraging fish chain cooperation and integration

- developing and utilising fishing tourism, culture and heritage
- facilitating re-employment (enskillment, retraining and support) into marine related or non-marine related occupations, or supporting the development new businesses

*Generic local development*

- research into development needs and opportunities
- infrastructure and harbour development
- tourism and leisure development (including marinas and leisure)
- wider social and economic development, emphasising diversification
- community development and capacity building

Table 5: Proposed actions under the FRI by region

Region	Key actors	Sector specific focus										Mixed	Generic focus			
		Vessel modernisation (quality /sustainability initiatives)	Development of processing / marketing (facilities, branding, Fishing/processing advice and skills	Fishing port landing and handling facilities/infrastructures	Development of fishing/processing associations	Development of fishing opportunities, supplies (new	Recruitment and retention of young people in industry	Industry finance / funding (e.g, loans for technologies, 'work wear'	Fisheries tourism and heritage	Advice and skills for re-employment (marine or other occupations)	Research into development needs / opportunities (industry / location focus)		Tourism and leisure development (inc. marinas and leisure)	Other generic harbour developments and infrastructure	Community development and capacity building	Generic social and economic development (housing, labour
North east	Local councils Sub-reg part' ships Devel. trusts		X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X	
North west	Devel. company Borough Council Fish Forum		X	X					X	X		X	X	X		
Yorkshire & Humberside	Humber Forum Borough Council	X	X	X	X		X		X			X		X	X	
East	District Councils Borough Councils		X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
South east	Unspecified		X	X		X										
South west	Unspecified															

Source: Based on Keeble (2002)

The summary of proposed actions illustrates the diverse approaches taken by individual RDAs, and the variety and range of projects submitted. In Yorkshire and Humberside, Yorkshire Forward proposed to combine a further £50,000 with the £1.3m allocated under the FRI, to fund projects developed by the Humber Forum and Scarborough Borough Council. These projects were mainly focussed on the fishing sector, falling into two main themes: fishing industry infrastructure development, and the development of new market and product opportunities. Projects included new ice-making facilities at Grimsby Fish Dock, support for a Fisheries Training Centre at Whitby and the redevelopment of Scarborough's West Pier.

In contrast, the East of England RDA emphasised sector marketing and branding projects (interestingly these were tied into broader regional branding initiatives) as well as more generic community capacity building and development in localities traditionally involved in the fishing industry. FRI funding, for example, supported a number of community development officers in Lowestoft. One of the officers, focusing on welfare issues, aimed to help the community and those working within the fishing industry by offering (soft and hard) advice, guidance and support for those experiencing difficulties. A recruitment and training officer was also funded to offer assistance with training and retention issues and to offer advice for those wishing to pursue alternative employment paths.

Two other RDAs were contacted directly during the research to gain further context for the study of FRI in the north east, the south west (SWRDA) and south east (SEEDA) RDAs. SWRDA were originally asked to make £1.68m available to the FRI from within their budget, the largest proportion of the £5.5m allocated nationally. An already restricted budget and existing focus of SRB funds on projects in fishing communities, coupled with problems

posed by the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, meant it was problematic to reallocate funding. Instead the RDA continued to work on generic community development programmes operating in fishing communities, which included targeting the young and unemployed in Newlyn, infrastructure development in Brixham, and physical regeneration in Plymouth. SWRDA also focused on the development of their Market and Coastal Towns Initiative aimed at encouraging capacity building and strategic planning in smaller ports.

SEEDA had also already committed its budget to SRB projects, many of which were operating in the fishing ports of the region. The RDA considered it couldn't offer a value for money programme within the short timescale of the FRI's 2001-2002 lifespan. Instead the FRI budget was used for existing SRB projects, and the RDA looked to contribute part of its allocated £1.19m to fishing community projects in the following year 2002/3. This work included the funding of a part-time officer to develop fishing industry representation and strategy in Shoreham, a business plan for a SRB-funded fish processing plant in Rye, and a programme of smaller projects to support the fishing industry and community in Hastings.

From Table 5 it is seen that most of the regions appear to have focused on the development of processing and marketing activities, fishing business advice and skills, and research and feasibility studies into local development and industry needs. A second tier of measures, utilised by three of the RDAs, emphasised harbour development activities and infrastructures, fisheries tourism and culture projects, community development, and the provision or sourcing of industry finance. A third tier of activities, adopted by up to two RDAs, included the development of fishing port facilities, generic tourism (though this could very well be a focus of the generic social, economic and

community projects of other RDAs), vessel modernisation, the development of new fisheries, and the reemployment of fishers outside of the industry.

The initiatives that were funded under the FRI therefore represented a diverse mix of sector focused and generic local development approaches. Clearly both categories of initiative are somewhat interdependent. On the one hand the industry and fishing households will benefit from a healthy regional context in terms of alternative income opportunities (for part time fishers and fisher household members), supporting institutions and infrastructures and in providing opportunities for those exiting the industry. On the other hand a healthy and competitive sector and fishing community will contribute to a region's economic activity and its cultural and social foundations.

#### 4. The Fisheries Regeneration Initiative in the North East

##### *Development and delivery of the FRI*

In the north east the FRI was delivered through a range of studies and projects that focussed on both sector and generic development activity. The Regional Development Agency One NorthEast (ONE) set aside their £600,000 share of the FRI fund for allocation within the intended 2001/2 period of the FRI initiative, and this was then divided amongst the region's four Sub Regional Partnership (SRP) areas, depending on the number of people directly employed in the fishing industry. The distribution is illustrated in Table 6 which shows that Northumberland and Tees Valley received the largest shares of the FRI allocation. In all 19 projects were funded across the region (see Table 7).

*Table 6: FRI in the north east by sub-region*

<b>Sub-region</b>	<b>Total allocation (£)</b>	<b>Grant awarded (£)</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>
Northumberland	214,000	230,619	9
Tyne and Wear	168,000	165,282	7 <sup>(*)</sup>
County Durham	27,000	27,000	1
Tees Valley	191,000	190,475	2
Total	600,000	613,376	19

*Source: ONE, no date*

<sup>(\*)</sup> This includes the Fish Filleting School project proposed in the Tyne and Wear FRI bid, which was ultimately funded by the LSC (but still viewed by North Tyneside Council as part of the FRI 'package').

The FRI operated differently in each sub region, but in general terms the lead delivery organisation, either a Sub Regional Partnership or local council, submitted to ONE for approval a programme of projects which was aimed at

meeting local needs. At the time of the FRI, the SRPs were still relatively new, and so in all cases local councils played a central role as the established deliverers of regeneration programmes. Each project had to demonstrate need, viability and fit with the regional economic and development strategies.

The lead agencies and some of the project managers identified the short time frame in which funding had to be allocated and spent as being particularly problematic in the delivery of the FRI. This pressure led to difficulties, for example, in the identification of projects, which were overcome in part by either using existing networks of local contacts or through proposing projects developed in the main by council officials. The timing of the scheme added to the perception of several commentators that the FRI was in part politically motivated rather than a strategically planned initiative. According to one interviewee, *“It was a bit of a knee-jerk reaction to what was a long-term issue”*<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> At a national level the Initiative was criticised by some in much stronger terms as a *“travesty of mismanagement, confusion and rushed bids”* (Hansard, 2001).

Table 7: Profile of FRI projects

<i>Project</i>	<i>Main Delivery Agent</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>FRI Funding</i>
<b>NORTHUMBERLAND</b>			
Business Support for Northumberland Fishing Communities	Business Link Northumberland	Strengthening and diversifying fishing businesses through targeted support and advice on IT and marketing, skills such as first aid and net mending to increase quality, and increasing access to possible sources of financial support	£57,750 (100% FRI)
Holy Island Harbour Feasibility Study	Holy Island Development Trust	Study to assess the physical structure of harbour and seabed, and potential for diversification of use	£53,306 (100% FRI)
Craster Harbour Regeneration Study	Craster Development Trust	Study to assess the physical structure of harbour and its potential contribution to the community through other uses, such as tourism	£29,581 (100% FRI)
Seahouses Visitor Centre Study	North Sunderland and Seahouses Development Trust	Study to assess feasibility of establishing a multi-purpose visitor centre, with heritage, retail, harbour storage and Youth Hostel, covering Seahouses and North Northumberland coast	£24,827 (+£650 public match, +£180 private match)
Qualifications for Fishermen	Anglo Scottish Seafish Industry GTA	Provision of training to allow fishermen to take small passenger vessels to sea, as an alternative income until the fishing industry 'picks up', or on a seasonal basis	£21,890 (+£4,327 public match from Seafish)
Seahouses Community Resource Centre	North Sunderland and Seahouses Development Trust	Developmental work to allow the purchase of the Trust's premises for a mutli-purpose visitors centre	£12,752 (100% FRI)

Beadnell Village Community Partnership	Beadnell Community	Development of community partnership and village plan	£10,875 (100% FRI)
Holy Island Community Development Officer	Holy Island Development Trust	Funding for the employment of a community development officer to assist the initiatives of the Development Trust	£10,825 (+£3,556 public match)
Newbiggin by the Sea Heritage Centre	Newbiggin by the Sea Heritage Association	Improvements to Heritage Centre and production of a heritage display on the fishing industry and general heritage	£8,813 (+£3,500 public match from Wansbeck Community Chest, +£8,797 private match)
<b>TYNE AND WEAR</b>			
Fish Quay Feasibility Study, North Shields	North Tyneside Council	Market assessment for need and management study for processing park	£63,631 (100% FRI)
Marketing Project, North Shields	North Tyneside Council	Support for fishing businesses for website design and online sales	£44,410 (100% FRI)
Smokehouse and Vita House Feasibility study, North Shields	North Tyneside Council	Study to assess potential uses for derelict former processing buildings	£30,429 (100% FRI)
Fishing Business Grant, North Shields	North Tyneside Council	SME business grants to improve productivity and sustain jobs, max 40% grant	£8,649 (100% FRI)
North Sea Fisheries Feasibility Study, Sunderland	Sunderland Council	Assessing Sunderland's future as a fishing port in context of international problems in industry	£8,537 (100% FRI)
FRI Administration	North Tyneside Council	Administration of the FRI initiative	£8,400 (100% FRI)
Environmental Project, North Shields	North Tyneside Council	Waste water management programme to improve environmental standards and reduce SMEs' water rates	£1,225 (100% FRI)
Fish Filleting Training School, North Shields	North Tyneside Council	Training centre to improve skills base in industry and create jobs for local unemployed	£0 FRI (£140,745 LSC and Northern

			Rock)
<b>COUNTY DURHAM</b>			
Seaham One Stop Shop	Easington District Council and Northern Training Trust	To encourage people from Seaham's fishing families to access job search services and IT training, to gain employment and to mediate loss of fishing income	£27,000 (100% FRI)
<b>TEES VALLEY</b>			
Crustacean Stock Exploitation Study (Velvet Crabs)	Hartlepool Borough Council	To determine the potential for developing velvet crab fisheries to create a sustainable fishing industry for the north east	£137,475 (match funding unknown)
High Class Quality Fish Restaurant Study, Hartlepool	Hartlepool Borough Council	To assess the feasibility of developing a first class fish restaurant in Hartlepool, to boost demand for and encourage diversification of the local catch	£53,000 (match funding unknown)

Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP) delivered Northumberland's FRI allocation of £214,000 in conjunction with staff from Northumberland County Council (NCC) who were recognised as having advantageous experience and knowledge of the local fishing industry and communities. The NCC played a proactive role in generating FRI proposals and projects. Potential recipients, such as community development trusts and training organisations, were invited to a meeting to discuss possible projects, and application forms were developed to suit the needs of these organisations. NCC and the NSP subsequently ran a workshop to assist project managers in completing the application forms, which were then assessed by a panel from these two lead organisations to establish the sub region's bid to ONE. All 12 of the projects proposed were included in this bid, with 3 of them eventually held in reserve to ensure full allocation of FRI funds.

The projects in Northumberland's bid were themed around three key issues: business training and support, harbour diversification feasibility studies, and capacity building and community support. Grants for example, ranging in size from £8,000 to £60,000, were allocated to Business Link and Seafish for business support and training, Craster and Holy Island Development Trusts for harbour regeneration studies, and Beadnell's community group for development of a community partnership and village plan. In appraising the bid, ONE flagged up the way in which the projects addressed the individual needs of communities, whilst maintaining linkages with broader regeneration strategies (ONE, 2001). All 9 of the main projects were delivered in accordance with the original proposal, with only a few changes in emphasis during the FRI period (the Newbiggin-by-the-Sea project, for example, downplayed capacity building and placed greater emphasis on fishing heritage).

The majority of projects in Northumberland appear to have been grassroots initiatives that were identified and developed by community groups and Development Trusts. This process was greatly supported by the work of particular staff at the NCC and NSP, who spent time identifying and encouraging potential applicants and tailoring the application process to suit their needs. The facilitation of proposals was greatly appreciated by individual project managers and served to contribute to the capacity building intentions of the FRI. Facilitation was also seen as crucial in overcoming the tight time constraints presented by the initiative. The use of an existing local network of contacts within Northumberland allowed a variety of smaller projects that would be of benefit to several communities to be developed, rather than using the funding for one large project.

In Tyne and Wear North Tyneside Council (NTC) were designated as the lead agent to deliver the £168,000 for the sub region. They issued a call for bids, to which only Sunderland Council responded, with a proposal for a feasibility study for Sunderland's position in the global fishing industry. NTC, therefore, itself developed a set of projects to address what it identified as being the two key issues facing the local industry: the need to diversify and increase competitiveness in catching, and the need for substantial capital investment in processing. Their projects included feasibility work for a Fish Quay processing park, marketing and IT support for fishing businesses, and a scheme to encourage more environmentally friendly and economic use of water by fish processors. In line with their established SRB processes, all bids were assessed independently by North Tyneside Challenge, before a completed proposal was put to ONE. All 6 of the projects in the original bid were perceived as justifiable, and all were approved (ONE, 2001).

As the FRI progressed, the projects proposed in the North Shields' cluster changed considerably, illustrating a certain degree of flexibility within the initiative. During the development of the Fish Filleting School bid, for example, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) approached NTC, suggesting that it would be a more appropriate organisation to fund the project. As a result, the FRI funds originally allocated to the school were redistributed to other projects. Furthermore, despite their development in consultation with the fishing industry, some of the other schemes were not as successful as originally hoped, leading to further redistribution of funds. There was very little interest, for example, in the scheme aimed at encouraging environmentally friendly and economically efficient water use by fish processing firms, and so the scheme was scrapped and the funds diverted. As well as alterations to proposed projects, the NTC also developed a new project to make use of the reallocated FRI money. This

was the Smokehouse and Vita House feasibility study to explore the diversification potential of former fish processing sheds on council owned land, with a view to using them for cultural, retail and workshop space. In some respects the council felt that it had been allocated too much of the FRI fund in relation to the levels of demand for the schemes it had developed. However, in terms of the projects it could fund and the way in which it was delivered, FRI was flexible enough to accommodate these issues. A further issue identified by NTC was their need for funding for capital projects, which were not eligible under the FRI.

In County Durham, where £27,000 was allocated through the FRI, Easington District Council, in conjunction with the former Northern Training Trust, acted as the lead organisations. Two projects focussed on the community of Seaham were proposed to ONE, a feasibility study exploring the potential for the North Dock and a training initiative targeted at fishermen and their families to be operated through the Northern Training Trust centre in the town. ONE recognised the latter bid's consistency with regional and local economic strategies through its focus on the improvement of employment prospects of local people affected by the decline in the coal and fishing industries (ONE, 2001). In the end only the training initiative was approved, which received the £27,000 allocated to the sub region.

In Tees Valley, Redcar and Cleveland District Council and Hartlepool Borough Council were the lead organisations for FRI activity. Their proposal for the £191,000 allocation was for two feasibility studies, one to assess the potential for developing the velvet crab fishery for the local industry, and the other to assess the viability of a new high class fish restaurant in Hartlepool. ONE identified the bid as consistent with regional and sub regional economic strategies to develop the workforce and maximise

the impact of the fishing industry, and as beneficial to the ongoing tourism developments within Hartlepool (ONE, 2001). Both studies have been completed, and are currently being utilised by the lead organisations to access funding to move the projects on to their next stages of development.

### *Industry involvement in the FRI*

The fishing industry itself appears to have had varied levels of involvement in the design and implementation of the FRI and its projects across the sub-regions (albeit this was not specifically highlighted as being necessary within the original DETR guidance on the FRI). Some interviewees during the research placed particular emphasis on the importance of industry participation within delivery. For example, although most of the projects for Tyne and Wear were managed by NTC, they were developed through informal consultation with local fish catching and processing businesses, and industry training organisations. The involvement of the fishing industry in this way was reliant on the existing strong working relationships between the council and individuals from the industry, and suited the short timeframe of the FRI. According to the council, this consultation process enabled projects to be developed that would target the specific needs of local businesses, and was perceived as a factor improving the quality of the sub regional bid as a whole. To some extent, the emphasis in the Tyne and Wear delivery on industry participation is to be expected, as local fishing enterprises were themselves the primary beneficiaries of many of the projects, either directly through business support, or indirectly through the feasibility study for the Fish Quay. More broadly within the north east, the fishing industry was typically consulted within many of the feasibility studies that were undertaken.

Individuals from sector-specific training organisations, such as Seafish, were also involved with the FRI through the development and delivery of projects, including the pleasure craft training programme in Northumberland and the fish filleting school in North Shields. The FRI Initiative appears to have facilitated closer working relationships between sector specific and generic training and support organisations. For example, Business Link Northumberland and Seafish worked closely together during the FRI, co-ordinating their approach to training so as to avoid duplication and offer the most appropriate service (Sharman, 2002). Under the FRI initiative Business Link was considered to have ‘broken new ground’ in developing its relationship and credibility with, and tailoring its service for, fishing businesses. Particular emphasis was placed on the efforts of BL to base its services on systematic consultation with fishermen’s organisations (associations in Blyth, Boulmer, Amble, Boat, Holy Island, Seahouses and Newbiggen) and individuals from the industry (Sharman, 2002).

Within the more generic community development projects under FRI, the role of the fishing industry appears to have been less prominent. Many of these projects were delivered by Development Trusts, who were the dynamic agents in instigating and implementing the projects. In some cases projects were considered by interviewees to have taken place alongside a local fishing industry that was not keen on development or change, that was sceptical of the potential benefits of regeneration actions, or that was less integrated generally within the wider community. Reflecting their broader focus, these projects were not driven by the fishing industry, but by the needs of the community as a whole, of which the fishing sector is only a part. Several of the initiatives aimed to either assess the direct contribution of fishing to the local economy, which was often relatively small, or to consider ways in which fishing or harbours could make more of an impact or

play a greater role, such as through tourism. Such developments can sometimes sit quite uncomfortably with individuals from the industry. One project manager commented, for example, that there were concerns working harbours would be “*turned into theme parks*”. However, tourism related industry development was commonly identified as essential for the vitality of several of the communities along the north east coast. Such an approach was considered to require the presence of an active fishing industry to maintain and develop the locations’ tourism appeal, although it was less certain as to what scale of industry was necessary for this.

### *Monitoring*

In several respects the monitoring of the FRI, through the existing SRB processes, worked well with the needs of the project managers. In Tyne and Wear, 6-weekly meetings were held with the FRI board, which included representatives from ONE, North Tyneside Challenge, NTC and the fishing industry. These allowed the two main project workers from NTC to raise any difficulties and to gain approval for any alterations or redistribution of funds. In Northumberland project managers were required to produce interim reports and have a financial audit at the end of the project. This was not problematic even for the smallest community groups that received FRI funding, particularly as the NSP made them fully aware of what was required of them.

The use of the SRB monitoring system has meant that there are spreadsheets of spending and outputs available for analysis for two of the sub regions. However, information beyond this level, and for the other two sub regions in the north east, appears to be less readily available.

### *Scope of FRI projects in the north east*

The FRI projects in the north east were wide ranging in scope. As for the other regions in the UK the north east pursued a diverse mix of projects dealing with sector competitiveness / development and more generic regional development initiatives. In broad terms the north east FRI projects can be grouped under four main overlapping categories:

- Business support and training;
- Sector specific developments;
- Feasibility studies for harbour diversification; and
- Community capacity building.

Business support and training initiatives were based around three main strategies, offering support to enable individuals to: (i) earn their income from outside the fishing industry; (ii) diversify their income to work both within and out with the industry; or (iii) improve their income from fishing, for example through quality and value added activities. Seaham's One Stop Shop is the only project that falls into the first category, with its emphasis on offering job-seeking support and training for fishermen and their families to help them find alternative employment. The generic support that was on offer included access to specialist advisors and job searching facilities, and training through the local college. The project in part reflects the local context, where the Northern Training Trust had been active for several years before the FRI, working to enable 'hard to reach' groups, such as former miners, get back into work. The impact of the pit closures is still felt to be the most important issue in this area, and so outweighs any impacts of the decline in fishing. As such the FRI was used to target fishermen, but within existing systems of support.

The business support offered in Northumberland through Seafish was specifically aimed at enabling fishermen to earn a living from non-fishing marine based activities, either seasonally, or until industry prospects picked up again when they would return to fishing. This not only allowed fishermen to continue working at sea, which clearly forms a large part of their identity, but also supported those tourism developments along the coast based on fishing heritage and coastal leisure activities.

Tyne and Wear's business support package, and many aspects of the Business Link for Northumberland's work, focussed on maintaining and strengthening businesses to stay within the fishing sector. The support offered to fishing businesses in North Shields included sector-specific support, such as the training up of fish filleters to improve the local labour supply, but also generic business support, including marketing, website design and grants for purchase of machinery. Similarly, Northumberland Business Link offered access to industry-specific courses on health and safety at sea and hygiene for fish handlers, alongside generic promotion, accountancy and IT training.

The majority of the Tyne and Wear FRI projects had a sector-specific emphasis oriented towards the need to improve quality, value added and develop niche markets in both fish catching and processing, with a view to establishing effective supply relationships with supermarkets. This emphasis was considered to reflect the way in which the industry and its future are understood in the North Shields area. With a high number of processing businesses, the needs of the industry were perceived to relate to levels of investment in processing facilities and in the attention paid to the quality of products.

The third main group of projects funded by the FRI include the array of feasibility and diversification studies focussed on harbours and other fishing structures. Generally, these studies aimed to explore the contribution fishing made to the local economy in its own right, and to see if further contributions could be made through the industry's integration in tourism, culture or speciality food developments. For communities such as Holy Island and Craster, the studies also explored the physical structure of the harbours to assess the need for repairs and their suitability for further development.

The final group of FRI projects covers the work done, particularly in communities along the Northumberland coast, to build capacity in local organisations, which was central to the original purposes of FRI. This took a variety of forms. In Holy Island it involved funding a Development Officer to further the work of the Development Trust. In Beadnell and Seahouses temporary support was provided for specific projects, including the purchase of property and the development of a village plan.

### *Outputs and Outcomes of FRI*

In terms of specific quantitative outputs, in the main the FRI projects appear to have achieved their targets. As can be seen in Table 8 below, 16 studies were carried out, more than 100 FTE jobs were safeguarded, over 100 businesses were advised, and activities were undertaken in more than 10 communities along the north east coast. The majority of projects achieved their projected outputs, and where they were not reaching targets, such as in the environmental project for Tyne and Wear, the funds were redirected.

Table 8: Outcomes and outputs of FRI in the north east

Projects	Outputs and Outcomes	Developments Since FRI
<b>Northumberland</b>		
Business Support for Northumberland Fishing Communities	98 FTE jobs safeguarded, 88-115 businesses advised, 5 studies for participating businesses on diversification and added value  Encouraged co-operative working between generic and sector specific organisations; flagged up the economic importance of fishing to coastal communities and the importance of offering tailored support to fishing enterprises	N/A
Holy Island Harbour Feasibility Study	1 study, 2 community groups supported, 3 community consultations  Increased awareness and enthusiasm of need to develop within the community	Trust just beginning to explore possibilities and funding for acting upon some of study's conclusions
Craster Harbour Regeneration Study	1 study, 1 community group supported, 2 community consultations  Made community aware of role of harbour, encouraging public discussion over its future	Trust just beginning to explore possibilities and funding for acting upon some of study's conclusions
Seahouses Visitor Centre Study	1 study, 1 community consultation, 2 community groups supported	Study being used as part of bids to funding bodies to secure the £2.9m needed for the centre

Qualifications for Fishermen	<p>15 people trained obtaining qualifications, 19 training weeks, 4 people trained obtaining permanent jobs, several are now combining passenger trips with fishing on a seasonal basis</p> <p>Brought fishermen into contact with support and development agencies, making them more aware of the support that is out there</p>	Course still available, but at full cost to the individual
Seahouses Community Resource Centre	<p>1 study, 1 community consultation, 1 community group support, 1.1 FTE job safeguarded</p>	Premises have been bought and are now in use
Beadnell Village Community Partnership	<p>1 study, 1 community group supported, 16 capacity building initiatives, 25 individuals involved in voluntary work, website</p> <p>Brought community together on one project, and established the groundwork for the community partnership</p>	Community Partnership not yet formalised, but smaller community groups working on a range of projects
Holy Island Community Development Officer	<p>1.2 FTE jobs safeguarded, 3 community groups supported, 2 capacity building initiatives</p> <p>Created enthusiasm within small community groups</p>	Secured further funding for the post until July 2003 from Northern Rock and NSP, however there is now no further funding for the post
Newbiggin by the Sea Heritage Centre	<p>Improvements to 1 building and facilities, 1 study, 1 community initiative</p> <p>Raised civic pride and made community aware of its heritage</p>	Heritage centre opened 2002 and receiving c.4000 visitors each year

<b>Tyne and Wear</b>		
Fish Quay Feasibility Study	2-3 studies  Findings of studies also used in support of and assessing business grants under the FRI	Studies used to access funds totalling £7.5m from Single Programme, ERDF, Private Sector and English Heritage to develop Fish Quay
Marketing Project	1FTE job safeguarded, 19 businesses advised, 7 promotional campaigns	Ceased at end of FRI
Smokehouse and Vita House Feasibility study	1 study	Study used to access funds totalling £1.4m, from Single Programme and ERDF to begin work this December
Fishing Business Grant	27 FTE jobs safeguarded, 10 businesses advised  Enhanced council-business relations	Ceased at the end of FRI
North Sea Fisheries Feasibility Study	1 study	N/A
FRI Administration	Enabled running of FRI in area	Ceased at the end of FRI
Environmental Project	Take up of this scheme was so low that NTC redirected the rest of the £17k allocated to this project into other FRI projects	Ceased before end of FRI due to lack of take up
Fish Filleting Training School	Scheme originally proposed under FRI, LSC felt it more appropriate that they fund it, FRI money reallocated among FRI projects  First 5 trainees all got jobs locally, 3 more groups of 5 have been through since	Funding taken over by LSC

<b>County Durham</b>		
Seaham One Stop Shop	N/A	After some financial issues, One Stop Shop now run by Easington Action Team 4 Jobs, not specifically aimed at fishermen, but targeting all from Seaham with tailored services
<b>Tees Valley</b>		
Crustacean Stock Exploitation Study (Velvet Crabs)	Study illustrating the potential for Velvet Crab exploitation	Application submitted through EU Interreg programme to fund next phase- setting up of pre-transportation storage area for crabs
Hartlepool Fish Restaurant Feasibility Study	Study highlighting the potential for the Fish Restaurant	Application for capital expenditure for restaurant incorporated into TV Partnership's Single Programme delivery plan

FRI has also led to the development and elaboration of various plans of action for fisheries regeneration, locally and sub-regionally. The FRI project undertaken by Business Link Northumberland is a particularly significant example in that it attempted to take an overview of fisheries development opportunities within the county as a whole. The initiative involved a wide range of activities and operated with close links to other projects in the sub-region. Alongside the provision of and sign-posting to both generic and sector specific advice and training, the project included the commissioning of five studies to help determine and develop future directions for the local industry. These studies explored opportunities for diversification and adding value through: a Habitat Survey, to enable local fishermen to harvest in a more sustainable way; a supply chain and marketing opportunity analysis for velvet crabs in Spain; an assessment of the potential for premium branding of wild salmon and sea-trout; and an Environmental Impact Assessment to

investigate mussel-farming, for which the FRI also funded a study to provide data. The Northumberland project led to a series of county wide recommendations. These included the need to further consider the identification of new species and markets to gain added value and protect stocks, the need for targeted business and financial support services, and the need to explore the possibility for enhancing the links between fishing communities along the Northumberland coast to promote cultural and economic development (Sharman, 2002). Several of these recommendations were identified by other FRI Project Managers during the current research as ongoing development priorities for the area (for full list of recommendations see Table 9).

*Table 9: Recommendations of BL Northumberland*

- Encouragement of increased co-operation among the County's fishermen, particularly in the areas of conservation of stocks, marketing, maintaining quality and adding value to their catches
- Identification of new markets and novel species, to reduce pressure on traditionally-fished stocks
- Provision of business and financial support services targeted specifically to the needs of micro-business in coastal and rural Northumberland
- Availability of "soft-loan" or loan guarantee arrangements for fishing businesses, which are not currently provided either by small business services or DEFRA
- Full consideration of the interests and needs of fishing-related businesses when planning for development and regeneration of harbour areas and coastal communities
- Support for proper scientific investigation of the environmental case for and against phasing out of drift-netting for salmon along the Northumberland coast
- Development and promotion of a quality, branded image for Northumberland's fish and shell-fish products, associated with the County's cultural strategy
- Inclusion of sea fish and shell fish in regional and sub-regional schemes to promote locally produced food and drink
- Investigating the potential for locally-situated enterprises processing pre-prepared and pre-cooked fish and shell-fish products, using locally-sourced ingredients
- Enhancing links between the fishing communities on the Northumberland coast, to promote cultural and economic development

The outcomes of the FRI might also be considered in relation to its broader qualitative objectives. As introduced earlier, one of the central aims of the initiative was to build capacity. Though 'capacity' can be difficult to assess given its quite intangible nature, it can be considered at different levels. *Institutional* capacity building, for example, appears to have occurred during the FRI. The initiative allowed development actors to support the fishing industry and develop fisheries-focused regeneration strategies. Furthermore, some of the feasibility studies undertaken within FRI projects led to the development of successful bids to other sources of funding (see Table 8).

Training and advice under various FRI projects is likely to have increased the capacity of *individuals* and *firms*, in terms of their reserves of social, human and economic capital. The projects are likely to have supported business robustness and the potential of individuals to find work, though more in-depth research would be needed to establish the full extent of this.

Capacity building appears to have taken place as a result of FRI at the *community* level, where community partnerships - many relatively young at the time of the initiative - have been supported in terms of their structural capacity and in the production of village plans and other developmental work. There is evidence that projects and feasibility studies developed at the local level have brought communities together, generated a sense of local responsibility and encouraged discussion of future needs. The FRI also appears to have encouraged more co-operative working between organisations within the region and locally, and to have raised the awareness of people in the industry and fishing communities of support organisations and funds that are available to help them.

Since the end of the formal lifespan of FRI the subsequent development of activities appears to have been rather mixed. Some of the success stories include the use of FRI feasibility studies to secure further funding. This includes in North Shields the Fish Quay Processing Park and the Smokehouse and Vita House redevelopment projects. Hartlepool and Seahouses are also currently using their respective studies to apply for further funding. However, to date, other studies appear to have been less effectively utilised to their full potential. Holy Island and Craster Development Trusts, for example, are only just beginning to explore the recommendations raised in their respective regeneration studies and the possibilities for further action. Ongoing issues concerning organisational capacity may be partly responsible for this. There are also sensitive issues to be negotiated within the communities in trying to achieve constructive discussion and agreement around the conclusions of studies, something that would possibly be supported by further capacity building work and facilitation.

Other projects and initiatives were established for a specific time period when funds were available, and appear to have ceased fully after the FRI. This is the case in relation to the suite of business support and training projects that were funded.

## **5 Other Fisheries Development Activity in the North East**

Projects under the FRI represented a significant proportion of fishing community related development activity within the region. An analysis of the FRI, however, does not provide a complete picture of such regeneration activity. FRI was positioned alongside a wide range of alternative funding streams of relevance to the fishing industry (though not necessarily specifically directed at it) and the region's coastal communities, but which were outside the specific scope of the present study.

One question concerns the extent to which FRI activity provided synergistic benefits with other funding streams and activities within the region, either through the leverage of additional money or through integrated project developments. Due to the short timeframe of the FRI, it appears that the majority of projects were not able to find, or did not seek, match funding and so were 100% funded by the initiative. Some project deliverers were able to draw in additional funds from their own organisation. Others drew on local charitable trusts, such as Newbiggin by the Sea's use of the Wansbeck Community Chest. It is also the case that FRI served to pump prime some studies that led to larger funding bids subsequent to the conclusion of the initiative.

What is clear is that an analysis of the FRI does not capture all development activity within the region or locally. One local initiative for example, that did not receive FRI funding, was a project by the Amble Development Trust<sup>18</sup>. The project was a feasibility study to assess the physical structure and developmental opportunities for Amble harbour. This project was funded by the NSP through the SRB fund and led to a series of recommendations and

options that are now being discussed by the Trust and Harbour commission. Funding sources currently being considered to take actions forward include the Single Programme and LEADER Plus. Previous work by the Development Trust, including a study to assess the market potential for Dabs, had been funded through the ERDF and PESCA. The Development Trust envisage food and drink and fishing tourism to be key themes in the future development plans for Amble, and as presenting possible options for local fishermen who are increasingly beginning to approach the Trust for support.

The Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance has also been a significant source of fisheries specific funding within the region. Uptake of grants in the north east in the previous programming period of FIG (1994-99) was heavily focused on the scrapping of vessels and was relatively low across other measures (Table 10). Thus the north east received only 1% of non-decommissioning related fisheries grants between 1994 and 1999.

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<sup>18</sup> This was originally submitted to the FRI but held in reserve by the NSP.

Table 10: Assistance under FIFG 1994-1999

<i>Area of Assistance</i>	No. of projects: Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	Total grant (euro): Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	Total no of grants in UK	Total grant in UK (euro)
Scrapping of vessels	55	3,920,000	539	67,730,000
Modernisation of fleet	6	40,000	591	15,350,000
Aquaculture	0	0	101	13,780,000
Protected marine areas	0	0	0	0
Fishing port facilities	1	20,000	44	7,710,000
Processing and marketing	3	170,000	203	37,630,000
Promotion	0	0	15	6,340,000
Total	65	4,150,000	1,493	148,530,000

The data are cumulative up to 31 December 2000 (some assistance will have continued up until the end of 2001); Source: <http://europe.eu.int/comm/fisheries/structures>

The mid-term review of the 2000-2006 programming period highlights some significant though variable uptake of FIFG in the north east in respect to the range of available measures (Table 11), some not dissimilar in focus to projects funded under the FRI. Notable successes highlighted in the mid-term review include two lobster v notching schemes led by the region's Sea Fisheries Committees (North Eastern and Northumberland). The schemes are funded by the SFCs (local council) together with private sector leverage (fishing industry and Corporate Business). The NE SFC scheme includes a voluntary contribution from the Bridlington and Flamborough Fishermen's Association (but no other associations on the Durham and Yorkshire coast).

The mid-term review also highlights some key issues affecting uptake of FIFG which may be of concern within the region and hints at some possible future issues or trajectories of programming which could present new opportunities and challenges.

*Table 11: North east uptake of FIFG 2000-2006 (mid-term position)*

<b>Measure</b>	<b>North east awards</b>	<b>English awards</b>	<b>Comments on English implementation</b>
<b>Decommissioning</b>	4 vessels decommissioned under 2001/2 scheme from 12 applications	32 vessels decommissioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• main reasons for applying were to take retirement (or to take it earlier), to rationalise the number of vessels or to downsize</li> <li>• potential danger of re-investment in under 10m or nephrops fleet</li> <li>• 2003 scheme now in operation</li> <li>• probable ongoing commitment to this measure</li> </ul>
<b>Vessel modernisation</b> (quality and sustainable catching methods)	6 awards in Northumberland, 1 in Tyne and Wear	11 awards in total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• undersubscribed generally due to poor economic state of industry and low rate of public funding</li> <li>• low uptake in relation to sustainability and quality enhancement</li> <li>• low uptake among smaller vessels</li> </ul>
<b>Processing and marketing</b> (e.g processing fish landed locally; product development; quality assurance; value added etc)	No awards under measure (are processors accessing alternative sources?)	21 awards in all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• uptake below expectations, in part due to concerns over raw material supply</li> <li>• potential problem of displacement effects to SMEs</li> <li>• lack of awareness among smaller processors</li> </ul>
<b>Port development</b> (e.g. markets; electronic selling systems; handling and storage; ice facilities; safety etc.)	No awards (market improvements being considered in North Shields)	7 awards in all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measure unsubscribed, due to uncertainty and declining profits in industry and decreasing port revenues</li> <li>• small ports particularly vulnerable to fisheries restructuring, but may be less aware of support</li> <li>• ports opting for non-fisheries related diversification go via ERDF</li> </ul>

<b>Aquaculture</b>	<b>Not programmed in England</b>		
<b>Protection and development of aquatic resources</b>	Interest from NE SFC	No interest or awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measure requires support of public authority</li> </ul>
<b>Promotion and Operations by Members of the Trade</b>	2 lobster v notching schemes awarded	8 awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aimed at sustainability, safety and economic viability</li> <li>• focused on collective organisations</li> <li>• no producers' organisations have taken advantage of funding due to internal financial constraints</li> <li>• fishermen's federations identified as being in good position to access funds</li> </ul>
<b>Innovative measures</b> (e.g. pilot projects, demonstration)	No awards	4 awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low uptake, in part due to desire to protect ideas</li> </ul>
<b>Future programme level issues - issues for mid-term re-programming</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suggestion that decommissioning should be more closely related to other conservation measures and that alternatives be explored in light of already significant fleet reductions in the 1990s</li> <li>• possibility of funds for network development in lead up to Regional Advisory Committees</li> <li>• suggestion of need to revisit measures concerning early retirement and retraining</li> <li>• growing emphasis on measures related to environmental and ecosystem benefits</li> <li>• need for industry to address leverage challenge</li> <li>• need to revisit arguments for compensation to fishers for sustainable catching methods or temporary cessation of fishing</li> <li>• proposed grant rate increases for modernisation grants</li> <li>• proposed increased budget for Operations by Members of the Trade, but decreased for modernisation, port facilities and innovative measures</li> <li>• proposed appointment of FIFG facilitators to increase uptake</li> </ul>			

Source: Based on DEFRA/SERAD/NAWD (2003)

The north east was also successful in bidding for the PESCA Community Initiative (1995-1999), with £1,447,000 allocated to the region (concentrated around Amble, Blyth, Hartlepool, North Shields and Sunderland). The PESCA initiative, which drew together FIFG, ERDF and ESF Structural Funds, aimed to provide locally initiated opportunities to help the industry through transition and in particular supported the re-conversion of fisheries labour/enterprises and diversification of fisheries dependent areas. Funding under the initiative has tended to support the maintenance of existing fishing employment rather than re-employment within or outside of the industry

(e.g. into tourism ventures) (Coffey, 2000). The north east PESCA programme was delivered through the three measures (i) diversification and infrastructure, (ii) maintenance of jobs in fishing and the creation of jobs outside fishing, and (iii) investment projects within the fisheries sector (Table 12). Under the first measure, grants of up to 50% of project costs were allocated to Councils, local Development Trusts and other development organisations for 12 projects including harbour feasibility studies, tourism strategy development and SME support. This measure represented the largest share of the fund, with £512,244 allocated to these projects. Under the second measure, £128,051 was allocated across 8 projects managed by sector-specific and generic training organisations. These projects were 45% funded through PESCA and included a training needs analysis, alongside support and training for individuals both within and outside the fishing industry. The final measure under PESCA allocated £70,945 between 13 individual fishing and processing businesses as 25-30% grants towards the purchase of machinery or development of physical infrastructure. As can be seen, several of the projects, particularly under the first two measures, are similar to those executed under the FRI.

Table 12: North east PESCA programme

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Funds Allocated</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Projects</b>
1- Diversification and infrastructure (ERDF)	£512,244	Local Dev. Trusts and orgs., councils	12- incl. harbour feasibility studies for generic and industry development, tourism strategy development, physical regeneration
2- Maintenance of jobs in fishing and creation of jobs outside fishing (ESF)	£128,051	Training orgs., both sector-specific and generic	8- incl. training needs analysis, health and safety training for fishermen, assistance for the unemployed
3- Investment projects within the fisheries sector (FIFG)	£70,945	Individual fishing and processing firms	13- incl. purchase of machinery, dev. of processing capabilities, creation of workspace

## 6 Conclusions and Issues for the Fisheries Partnership

A number of issues have been highlighted by the study with particular respect to the implementation of the fisheries regeneration initiative:

- The initiative appears to have been quite flexible in nature and to have sensitively reflected the local and sub-regional development contexts in the north east, as seen by the diversity of approaches adopted within the region. In particular, the FRI has further demonstrated the value of local Development Trusts as proactive delivery agents for local development, and in encouraging locally driven initiatives based on existing capacities, ambitions and potentials. There was evidence that the existing experience and awareness of the fishing industry among specific individuals within local councils proved crucial in sourcing and generating projects under the FRI.
- There appears, however, to have been an evaluation and information deficit across the FRI initiative nationally as well as within the region, albeit the availability of information also appeared to be somewhat variable between sub-regions. This weakness has meant that it has been hard to establish an overall assessment of the outcomes of FRI.
- With notable exceptions, the involvement of the industry in the design and implementation of FRI projects (and the initiative as a whole) has been fairly undeveloped or *ad hoc*, and particularly so with respect to generic development activity. In part this was due to the scope of the FRI initiative, which was not necessarily directly targeted at the industry itself, as well as the time pressures placed on allocating and spending the FRI funds. Where industry involvement has been stronger

it has been based on existing networks and connections between individuals from local councils and the fishing industry, or on systematic consultation with fishermen's organisations and associations. Achieving a meaningful and balanced participation (or 'buy in') of the industry within generic regeneration initiatives undoubtedly presents many challenges and issues given the traditional separation of the sector from generic development activity, but this remains a key issue for the Fisheries Regeneration Partnership, in generating initiatives that are sensitive to or which serve to uphold fishing cultures and values, and in enabling or capitalising on the industry's role and contribution within local regeneration.

- The FRI funded a comprehensive package of regeneration activity and studies, spanning a broad range of development approaches and foci. For selected projects there has been some positive follow up activity and developments, which suggests the initiative was successful in building capacity and in helping activities to get off the ground. Other projects and developments initiated by the FRI appear to have faltered following the conclusion of the initiative, with several feasibility studies and action plans still to be implemented. There was some evidence that community groups felt themselves to be unaware of the availability of further funding opportunities, or felt they did not exist, that would allow them to build on the FRI. Some see themselves as lacking sufficient capacity to secure this funding or to take forward actions, with the development of productive community discussion and decision making sometimes problematic. Other initiatives were time specific and ceased after FRI's formal lifespan, including the suite of fisheries tailored business support and training activities.

- Attention was drawn by several participants in the study to current development needs within the region, now two years on from the original FRI initiative. Reflecting the issues arising in developing projects after the FRI, those involved with community development projects identified the availability of accessible funding as a priority to enable them to continue the developmental projects they are beginning to plan. There may also be the need for some level of facilitation of this developmental work, to ease and encourage the processes of community decision making. A particular emphasis was given to the ongoing need for generic (but tailored) business support and advice for fishers, their households and fishing businesses (beginning for the latter at basic levels, to remedy problems of outdated business management systems which can hinder efficiency and future support options). Sector-specific training needs were also identified in relation to achieving greater added value through increased quality, branding and improved marketing. It is probable, in light of further restructuring and downsizing of the industry, that increasing emphasis will need to be placed more generally on the learning and skills needs of fishers exiting the industry. Such a focus on re-conversion has traditionally been less common and popular with the industry and within packages of regeneration activity.
- The lessons to be gained from the typology of FRI funded business support and training initiatives (in particular the Northumberland Business Link initiative) are likely to prove crucial for the region as a whole, and further attention is needed in drawing upon the experience. Many fishers will be unfamiliar with the role and services of generic support providers given their traditionally separate economic and social status. Likewise, providers will be less acquainted with dealing with fishers and the issues facing the industry. As increasing emphasis is

placed on the role of generic local and regional development organisations in dealing with fisheries restructuring issues, it will be important to consider ways in which support providers generally may need to tailor their services for fishing businesses and households (in terms of their targeting, integration, timing, location, content and use of intermediaries).

Regional development actors face a challenge in attempting to respond to and integrate, at the regional level, the range of policies and funding streams impacting upon the sector including fisheries, social welfare, learning and skills, economic development and environmental policies, to ensure a holistic and integrated approach to the development of fisheries communities. The task is made harder given that many decisions on fisheries policy and management are carried out beyond the region and with little recourse to their regional social and economic effects (which have traditionally been externalised by fisheries policy). In part this challenge demands concerted attention to the potential synergies, uptake and co-ordination of the various funding streams available within the region (ERDF, ESF, FIGG, Single Programme) with respect to fisheries restructuring and efforts to influence the nature and programming of these funds.

This scoping study has not attempted to provide a comprehensive review of the fishing industry in the north east region and its development needs and opportunities. Nevertheless, the research suggests that there would be significant value in such an analysis, in providing a basis against which to prioritise and consider future opportunities and to explore more specific avenues of development (such as quality and value added initiatives, market opportunities, fishing tourism and heritage developments etc.). Areas for further research and scoping could include:

- A review of the context, structure, dynamics, drivers and development prospects of the industry in the region. This would include an analysis of the levels, nature and context of fisheries dependency (including critical local and sector vulnerabilities) and the status, linkages and contribution of the industry in local economies. It would be important for such a review to embrace the ancillary, processing and catching sectors - and the interdependencies between them - together with an assessment of the broader role and potential of the industry in the development of the social and cultural capital of the region (as both a loci of local community identity and possible tourism resource).
- An analysis of the social and economic impacts on the sector and region of CFP reforms, current and future cod recovery measures and forthcoming decisions of the December 2003 European Council. This analysis would include consideration of the implications for the region of regional advisory councils, stock recovery plans, and multi-annual stock management measures. The severity of employment losses in the north east as a result of recovery measures (quota reductions; technical measures; effort limitations etc.) remains uncertain and will depend on the nature and scope of resource management plans and the subsequent distribution of fishing opportunities between fisheries sector segments and regions. In particular, it will be important to consider the implications for the region of the outcomes and recommendations of the Cabinet Office review of the industry and its future development, scenarios and prospects. The review is due to be published in December 2003.

- A review of the social impacts of restructuring on fisher households (including crew, skippers and vessel owners) and the social organisation of fishing. Current restructuring processes are likely to be generating significant social and economic pressures, but the extent and nature of these remain unclear, together with the nature of appropriate intervention and support responses. Across Europe fishing communities are undergoing social changes and an increasing blurring of their socio-spatial boundaries (Symes, 2000). Research is needed to consider and learn from the ways by which fisher households and communities in the north east are being affected and how they are attempting to negotiate the pressures. Key issues for consideration would include processes of change and impacts upon: income profiles; living standards; household organisation; coping responses; role of women: social networks and cohesion; affects on fisher identity and self-esteem; processes of 'socialisation' and inter-generational continuity; impacts on crew-skipper relations and deckhand composition; processes of knowledge transfer; and the role of support agencies and community development organisations.
- An exploration of the barriers, prospects and opportunities for alternative employment for fisher households (either in absorbing labour displaced from the industry or in enabling the continuation of fishing by strengthening household incomes). This would include an analysis of the labour market context and issues presented for employment transitions within the region's diverse local economies and ports. A particular focus should be on fishermen who have exited the industry over the last 10 yrs, in order to learn from their transition experiences and to consider the implications for support providers. There is a specific need to explore the unknown consequences and

experiences of the paths of fishers who have decommissioned their vessels (and the experiences of crew) and the processes by which they have either re-entered or exited the fishing industry or other marine occupations.

- An analysis of fisher aspirations, business responses/decisions and plans within the region. Such an analysis could extend to the economic, educational and lifestyle ambitions of potential new recruits to the industry and the barriers they face. It could also explore the demand and need for skills (for re-employment) and business advice within the industry and the ways in which this might best be tailored and delivered.

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## **Annexe 1: List of Interviewees**

Peter Coe	District of Easington Council
Alf Dower	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Heritage Centre
Carole Field	Beadnell Village Community Partnership
Michael Gibbs	Craster Development Trust
Rob Hatt	Head of Community Regeneration South West RDA
Ray Hedly	DEFRA Fish London
Ed Henderson	former Northern Training Trust
Rod Henderson	DEFRA North Shields
Jeremy Herring	Area Regeneration Team South East England RDA
Paul Johnson	Hartlepool Borough Council
David Milburn	Amble Development Trust
Dennis Osborne	Anglo-Scottish Seafish GTA
Rene Richardson	Holy Island Development Trust
Alan Robson	Northumberland County Council
Heather Smith	Northumberland Strategic Partnership
Kate Welsh	Easington Action Team 4 Jobs
Graham Young	North Tyneside Council

## **Annexe 2**

### ***Fishing Communities Get Regeneration Boost***

#### **DETR News Release 211**

4 April 2001

#### **FISHING COMMUNITIES GET REGENERATION BOOST**

- and Tessa Jowell announces employment measures

Details of a regeneration initiative worth #5.5m, part of a #22.5m package of measures to benefit fishing communities in England, were announced today by Regeneration Minister Hilary Armstrong.

All English fishing ports are eligible to bid for the money, being set aside from Regional Development Agencies' budgets - to help ports work up regeneration strategies and get assistance from existing regeneration programmes more easily.

Some of the money can be used to help tourism, including reopening coastal paths.

In reply to a Parliamentary Question from David Watts MP (St Helens North), Regeneration Minister Hilary Armstrong said:

"Fishing communities in England, in common with other areas of the country, are eligible to apply for funding under a wide range of current government and European Union initiatives. These can be split broadly into three categories:-

- initiatives specific to coastal and rural communities – examples include grant schemes administered by MAFF, and the European Union LEADER programme;

- assistance for those leaving the industry with reskilling and re-employment. DfEE administers a number of services and programmes through the Employment Service, including Work-Based Learning for Adults; the RDAs administer the Skills Development Fund, which is focused on local projects developed in response to specific need; and the new Learning & Skills Councils are working on Workforce Development Plans, again geared to local labour market requirements;

- regeneration initiatives - such as Regional Selective Assistance, Enterprise Grants, European Structural Funds and the RDAs' Single Regeneration Budget."

"These schemes are already providing considerable assistance. Nevertheless, I also appreciate that fishing communities have suffered particularly badly in recent times, due to declining fish stocks and other pressures, and that they have a strong case for further assistance."

"I have therefore asked the Regional Development Agencies to set aside #5.5million from their budget to go towards a new programme of assistance for fishing communities. The programme will aim to help local partnerships to devise strategies for regenerating affected areas. It will be designed specifically to help fishing communities develop plans for their areas and make their case to Regional Development Agencies and other sources of funding, and more effectively access assistance from existing programmes."

"It will be possible for some of this money to be used to help tourism, including reopening coastal paths."

"This new initiative forms part of a wider Government package of assistance to fishing communities. Earlier this week, MAFF announced that they are making available #6 million for additional assistance in England to assist restructuring in the fishing industry. They will be consulting with the industry about the precise form the assistance should take. MAFF also announced that they are launching a fisheries structural fund grants scheme (FIFG) for England; they have already committed #6 million to this EU scheme over the coming three years. This is in addition to a separate #5m fund for fisheries in Cornwall."

"The total value of the MAFF and DETR packages is #22.5 million."

Employment Minister Tessa Jowell announced measures to help those leaving the fishing industry. She said:

"The Employment Service will use every opportunity to assist those made unemployed to return to work as quickly as possible. This will be a flexible service, tailored to the needs of the particular community. The type of service will depend on what is appropriate in each instance. All aspects of job search, training, access to vacancies, help with job applications and a fast track benefit service, maybe through On-site Jobshops, can be used. Open days and Job Fairs may also be an option."

"ES staff will be available to offer intelligence on the local labour market and to match people to current vacancies. There is also access to over 350,000 vacancies on the website [www.employmentservice.gov.uk](http://www.employmentservice.gov.uk) and to a national telephone job hunting service Employment Service Direct (0845 60 60 234)."

"Additional help through the Job Transition Service will be offered in areas where large scale redundancies occur and where unemployment is already high. It will not only help those people directly affected but also people from communities which are dependent upon the fishing industry."

"The Job Transition Service is a new programme and key to the way in which this Government is tackling large scale redundancies. The Job Transition Service builds on existing ES support to provide the extra help needed to move people rapidly back into work. In particular, it works with employers to identify skills shortages and match people without jobs to jobs without people."

"The DfEE and the Employment Service will work closely with other departments and agencies to tackle the issue of job losses in the fisheries industry and the community as a whole. The approach will be practical and efficient, responding to local needs."

#### NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. RDAs will have a total allocation of #1.45 billion for 2001/02 - a #250m (21%) increase on the previous financial year.
2. See also MAFF Press Notice 119/01 of 2 April 2001.

## **Annexe 3**

### **The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Written ministerial statement on English Financial Package for Fisheries**

#### **Mrs Beckett**

At the meeting of the Council of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers in December a number of important decisions were taken on fisheries measures to help restore depleted stocks. Necessarily they include real new constraints on fishing and the Government recognises that they may impact on some coastal fisheries communities. We have already promised to respond with financial assistance which will address the needs, and promote sustainability, both in the fishing industry and local communities, and I am now able to set this out in more detail.

We propose to provide grants to help vessel owners who wish to do so, to leave the industry by decommissioning their boats. An SI will be laid before Parliament for approval. The intention is to remove 15-20% of the English fleet's fishing effort on cod in the North Sea and West of Scotland, in order to bring the fleet capacity better into line with fishing opportunities. Similar schemes are proposed by the Scottish Executive and in Northern Ireland. Decommissioning of this scale in the UK fleet will secure the 15 day per month allowance for fishing in the new interim EU scheme for limiting time at sea. Detailed rules for targeting the scheme and for assessing applications for grant will be developed in discussion with the English catching industry shortly. A tendering process is expected to apply and the cost in England is likely to reach £5m.

The EU decided in December that to improve control of fisheries the requirement to install satellite tracking equipment on vessels should be extended to 15-24 metre boats. To help fishermen Defra will provide £400,000 over two years to allow 40% grant to be paid towards the cost of the terminals and their installation.

There will also be help for fishing-dependent communities. Regional Development Agencies, which have responsibility for economic development and regeneration in England, are already engaged, in strong local partnerships, targeted on the economic development of coastal communities.

It is important that fishermen have access to the help that is provided by local Business Links, Learning and Skills Councils and JobCentre Plus. I have therefore asked the RDAs, working with and coordinating the activity of these partnerships, to urgently ensure that arrangements are in place to

ensure the effective delivery of assistance and guidance for local fishing communities particularly affected, taking full account of the recent decisions and their impact on those communities.

RDAs and other agencies have substantial resources to address their economic and social responsibilities. However, where necessary, Defra will provide additional resources for facilitation to ensure that the services which are most needed are identified, in those fishing communities which are dependent on the fish stocks of the North Sea and West of Scotland.

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations has emphasised the importance of strengthening the involvement of the fishing industry in the assessment of stocks, in close partnership with our scientists. We warmly welcome their approach, which will help to ensure a fuller appreciation of the state of and prospects for fish stocks . We will provide additional funds for this purpose and will consult them on how this initiative might best be taken forward.

An additional £1m will be provided to finance both the facilitation arrangements described above and industry involvement with the scientists, as well as providing the potential for other priority initiatives in recognition of the English industry's transitional problems.

See also: [News release 32/03](#)