

Annual Newsletter of the Solent European Marine Sites  
Issue 2: March 2014

## Welcome

The Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS) newsletter covers local, national and international coastal matters of interest. This edition and previous editions can be viewed on the SEMS web site. If you have any coastal or marine management news or ideas at any level that you would like to include in the next edition please send them to [info@solentems.org.uk](mailto:info@solentems.org.uk).



## Local News

### SEMS Management Scheme

Online monitoring for this year commenced on 3rd February and continues until 11th April 2014. Management Scheme documents and brief details of the monitoring being undertaken by authorities across SEMS can be found on the SEMS publications web page at [www.solentems.org.uk/publications/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/).

### SEMS and the Solent Forum Natural Environment Group (NEG)

The Solent Forum (SF) and the chairs of SEMS and Natural Environment Group (NEG) met on 29th January 2014 to consider a review of NEG, and the funding and relationship between NEG and the Solent European Marine Sites Management Scheme. The SEMS Management Group have been consulted on options for future arrangements.

NEG members asking were also consulted on how useful they find NEG; what is NEG doing well; what is it not doing well and how they believe NEG could improve. They were also asked whether, should funding be constrained, they had any suggestions on how the group can be configured, taking account of how it currently links to SEMS which is a statutory process. The review is taking place now because European Marine Sites are being reviewed nationally, and there may consequently be some changes in the funding of both groups in the next financial year (from April 2014). The SEMS Management Group and Solent Forum Members', including NEG, will be kept informed.

## SEMS Protocol

A protocol has been developed for collecting more detailed evidence for the effect/s of novel activities that have the potential to impact on SEMS. It involves a series of steps to identify previous work, what the issues are, what evidence needs to be collected (e.g. where and when) and by whom, who will collect and collate the evidence, how it will be considered and how decisions will be made on whether adverse effects are occurring. The Protocol is available at [www.solentems.org.uk/publications/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/).

## Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project

The Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP) now provides evidence to Natural England and local planning authorities that new development within 5.6km of the Solent coastline may have an adverse effect on internationally protected birds. This evidence has been endorsed by Natural England and is now widely accepted amongst Solent local planning authorities.

An 'Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy' is now complete (Phase 3), and Phase 4 of the project will see a transition towards the delivery of this strategy. Now the evidence is accepted that avoidance and mitigation is necessary, Natural England expects that local authorities within 5.6km of the Solent coastline begin mitigation as soon as possible, so that proposals for development are not refused by Natural England in the planning process. Stuart Roberts has been appointed as Project Initiation Officer from 10th March for 11 months, working for three days per week, to help with finalising and setting up of the Interim Planning Framework, as well as overseeing the long term planning framework. See [www.solentforum.org/forum/sub\\_groups/Natural\\_Environment\\_Group/Disturbance\\_and\\_Mitigation\\_Project/](http://www.solentforum.org/forum/sub_groups/Natural_Environment_Group/Disturbance_and_Mitigation_Project/).



## Landmark in Management of Inshore Fishing Activity

From January 2014, Southern IFCA has two new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation byelaws in force to protect sensitive reef and seagrass features in internationally important marine areas. The byelaws cover some twenty five percent of the productive coastal waters of Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight, and manage 670km<sup>2</sup> of seabed. A byelaw entitled 'Bottom Towed Fishing Gear' manages trawling and dredging, whilst the 'Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds' byelaw applies to bait collectors and hand gatherers working in seagrass beds. Further information on the byelaws can be found on the Southern IFCA website at [www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/).

## £15m Investment Protects Coastal Waters and the Local Economy

The Environment Agency (EA) have encouraged the water company to invest £15m to make significant improvements in their infrastructure, management and maintenance regime to better protect shellfish and bathing waters in the Portsmouth and Southsea area.

## Current Natural Environment Group Projects addressing issues in SEMS

| Name  | Description  | Lead   |
|---|--|--|
| Site condition monitoring assessments   | Solent Maritime SAC: Sublittoral sediment survey and intertidal cordgrass (cordgrass swards, small cordgrass, Townsend's cordgrass communities). Projects to investigate the effects of paramotors, hovercraft, kayaking and canoeing on Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS).  | Natural England, Graham Horton   |
| Site condition assessments  | Solent European Marine Site (EMS): Intertidal survey of the subtidal sediments of the Solent Maritime SAC and South Wight EMS Rocky Shore Survey.  | Statutory NE work  |
| Evidence gathering for effects of air and waterborne activities across SEMS   | Projects to investigate the effects of paramotors, hovercraft, kayaking and canoeing on Solent European Marine Sites.  | NEG sub-group: Lindsay McCulloch, Graham Horton, Louise MacCallum, Carolyn Francis |
| Co-ordinate results of small fish monitoring surveys across SEMS  | Track the outcomes of the various small fish monitoring surveys and to feed progress back to SEMS. Eleven reports are available from SEMS.   | Environment Agency - Adam Cave   |
| Solent Seagrass project   | Project ongoing to look at the distribution and health of eelgrass habitats around Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. An annual update of the inventory of eelgrass in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Details at <a href="http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/pages/seagrass.html">http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/pages/seagrass.html</a> .   | Amy Marsden (HIWWT)  |
| Seagrass Overnight Foraging Activity  | Output will be a short film to demonstrate the ecological importance of seagrass beds. Due to poor weather conditions during the surveys, it did not generate enough highlights to produce a short film to demonstrate how local seagrass beds are being used by fish populations. Attempts to obtain additional footage through Seasearch dives were unproductive; production of the film will be delayed until 2014 to allow collection of additional footage to compliment BRUV recordings. | Amy Marsden (HIWWT)  |
| Evaluating the effectiveness of SACs and SPAs in the Solent and their future in response to climate change.             | Shannon White started October 2013 on a three year PhD. It is part-funded by the University of Portsmouth but the final year needs support..   | Gordon Watson (UoP)  |
| Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme   | <i>Survey Programme Schedule:</i><br>Although not a core element of the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, the swath bathymetry data covering the coastal zone are being interrelated in many areas around England to produce a suite of marine habitat and substrate maps, which are/will be freely available from the Coastal Channel Observatory (CCO) website. The habitat mapping will be repeated every 5 years.   | Andrew Colenutt (CCO)  |
| Regional Habitat Creation Programme   | Environment Agency programme to bring on-line sufficient habitat to mitigate for the loss of intertidal habitat through coastal squeeze caused by planned coastal defences.  | Nick Reid EA   |
| PhD on Sustainable mudflats and saltmarshes: from systemic understanding to systemically feasible and desirable actions | Access to an abstract of "Intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh conservation and sustainable use in the UK: a review" can be found on the University of Southampton e-prints site, where the review can be purchased.   | Natalie Foster   |

A long standing issue of poor quality water discharges following periods of heavy rainfall were impacting the designated shellfish waters in Langstone Harbour. The EA encouraged Portsmouth City Council, Natural England and English Heritage to work together to overcome the engineering, conservation and heritage challenges associated with this complex improvement programme which will improve water quality. Stormwater flows at Chichester Wastewater Treatment Works will also receive treatment in a £2m scheme reported recently in Solent News.

## Canoe and Kayak Recreational Disturbance Dissertation

The major issue confronting SEMS in their 2012 Delivery Plan was the potential for novel forms of personal waterborne and airborne craft to impact on SEMS. Following the Protocol, the Solent Forum Natural Environment Group were asked to collect evidence, initially by way of a literature review. Students from local universities were offered a small amount towards expenses to incorporate this in their dissertation, and Sarah Méndez from the University of Portsmouth took up this offer and produced a dissertation in September 2013.

The dissertation explores evidence concerning the potential disturbance that canoeing and kayaking may have on bird populations, and identifies appropriate management measures, using Langstone Harbour as a case study. Sarah interviewed user groups and authorities and the results demonstrated that awareness levels are very low, with a great potential to endanger the stability of bird populations’.

Evidence collected confirmed the potential disturbance that paddling activities can have on birds in Langstone Harbour and the need to introduce further mitigation techniques. A set of recommendations was elaborated, providing guidance on the best methods of raising public awareness and engendering support for responsible recreational use of the harbour and bird conservation.

As a result of this dissertation, the SEMS Management Group decided to re-convene some members of the Solent Forum Recreation Group to take forward the recommendations. In addition, a sub-group of NEG are seeking one or more students to collect more evidence on the possible effects of personal hovercraft and paramotors on SEMS.

## Evaluating Management Strategies for Bait Collection

The University of Portsmouth was funded by Natural England and the Crown Estate to undertake a project “Does local marine conservation work? Evaluating management strategies for bait collection in the Solent”. Led by Dr Gordon Watson, the research focused on Fareham Creek in Portsmouth Harbour, Dell Quay in Chichester Harbour and also Pagham Harbour. The extensive report examines sediment characteristics and the associated macrofauna, the extent and effects of bait digging and many other parameters. The use of mobile CCTV systems was also trialled. This report provides the evidence to discuss the success of management methods and to put forward recommendations; it is available by e-mailing [gordon.watson@port.ac.uk](mailto:gordon.watson@port.ac.uk).



## Small Fish Monitoring Surveys across SEMS

The Environment Agency Fish Population Monitoring Reports from 2007-2012 for the Solent and South Downs, including the Isle of Wight, are available from the Solent Forum. A survey monitoring the status of small fish within Chichester and Langstone Harbours takes place annually. Monitoring methods are compliant with Water Framework Directive monitoring and details can be found at [www.langstoneharbour.org.uk/environment-fish-survey.php](http://www.langstoneharbour.org.uk/environment-fish-survey.php).

## Smarter Migratory Fish Protection in the Port of Southampton

The Environment Agency (EA) has worked hard with Associated British Ports and other bodies in Southampton Water to manage the risk to fish populations. Important and protected fish migrate at least twice during their lives through the relatively narrow confines of Southampton Water. The EA used their salmon tracking observations, automatic fish counters and underwater noise data to develop an active real-time way of working with developers. This has reduced the amount of time when they cannot work by an extra two and a half months a year. For more information contact [adrian.fewings@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.fewings@environment-agency.gov.uk).

## Little Terns

'Helping Havant's Little Terns' is an ongoing RSPB project to safeguard the breeding of Little Terns in Langstone Harbour. The project aims to reverse the spate of very poor breeding seasons through a combined set of habitat creation/recreation works and a local varied public engagement programme. Work has also involved shingle recharging of the harbour islands and monitoring. The project was featured on Countryfile in 2013.

## Love Where You Sail

The Green Blue's 'Love Where You Sail' initiative, run last year in partnership with the Environment Agency, undertook an online survey to gauge boaters' views on how and where they discharge blackwater from boats. Running from August to December, the survey generated 667 responses (an unprecedented level of interest) and gave The Green Blue a wide range of interesting views on the topic. For more information visit [www.thegreenblue.org.uk](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk).

## Current Projects Addressing Issues in the SEMS

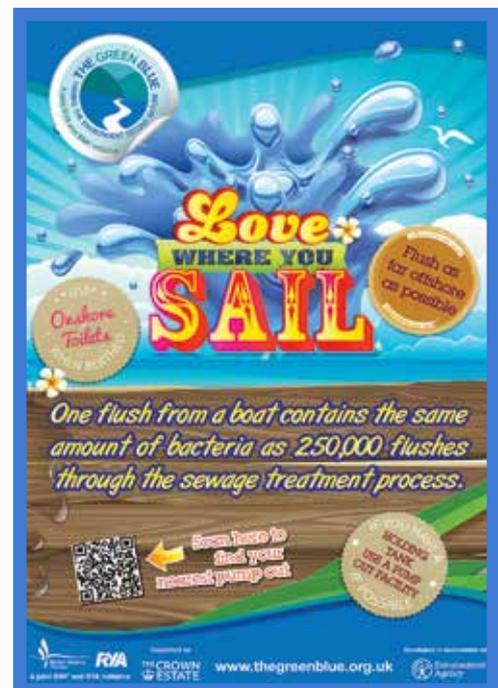
Several local projects are currently underway that are addressing the impact of various activities in the SEMS. These are listed at the end of this update. Details can be found on the Solent Forum's NEG web pages at [www.solentforum.org/forum/sub\\_groups/Natural\\_Environment\\_Group/](http://www.solentforum.org/forum/sub_groups/Natural_Environment_Group/).

## Attitudes of Recreational Boat Users Towards Marine Conservation Zones

Thomas Foster, a Solent Forum Bursary winner from 2013, recently completed his MSc at the University of Portsmouth. In his dissertation 'A critical analysis of the attitudes and perceptions of recreational boaters based in Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone Harbour towards Marine Conservation Zones', Thomas evaluated the attitudes and perceptions of recreational boaters based in Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone Harbour towards Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

His study shows the strong interdependent relationship that recreational boat users have with the natural environment. It also evaluated several management techniques that will probably be required to complement each other.

He concluded that a key to moving the MCZ process forward is an understanding of the values that stakeholders place on marine environments, together with addressing the key issues and recommendations highlighted by the dissertation. The study acknowledged the help of everyone at Langstone Harbour Office and can be obtained from the Solent Forum.



## Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve

The Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve is an active, on-going project which forges links between fishermen, conservationists, regulators and scientists in order to maintain a healthy, productive and sustainable Marine Reserve within the bay. Multiple uses such as fishing are encouraged as long as none are damaging to the seabed or nature conservation. Read more about the Reserve at [www.lymebayreserve.co.uk/](http://www.lymebayreserve.co.uk/).

### Fly Boarding

The Solent Protection Society wish to draw attention to a new form of marine recreational activity which redirects the thrust created by a jetski's engine to levitate the 'flyboarder' on a jet of water. The sport may raise issues of safety or disturbance if it becomes widespread. There are several videos of this activity on the internet.



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## National News

### 37 New Sites to be Considered as Potential Marine Conservation Zone Candidates

On 24 February 2014, Defra announced 37 new sites that are under consideration for the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). These sites, which include several in or near the Solent, will be considered as potential candidates for MCZ designation, with the aim of holding a public consultation in 2015.

During the pre-consultation period, Defra and network bodies will look to engage with stakeholders on a local and national level to refine site specific information. The public consultation in early 2015 will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to comment on the proposals and provide additional evidence for consideration. Designation of sites will take place by the end of 2015.

Details of the announcement and the sites being considered can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zones-february-2014-update>.

The sites being considered for the second tranche do not require assessment until Defra announces which ones will go forward for consultation. More information on the MMO's MCZ assessment process can be found at <http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/documents/guidance/13.pdf>.

### Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Through 2013 Natural England (NE) and others have been working with Defra to seek agreement on the way forward for making decisions around future MPA governance structures, management and funding requirements. The government target of delivering a well-managed network of MPAs by 2016 needs to be achieved in a cost effective way. Although there is a legal requirement for authorities to implement measures to further the conservation objectives of MPAs, this is not currently coordinated nationally and there is no reporting structure to ensure MPAs are being well managed. In addition, there is also inconsistency in management coordination at a site level across the country.

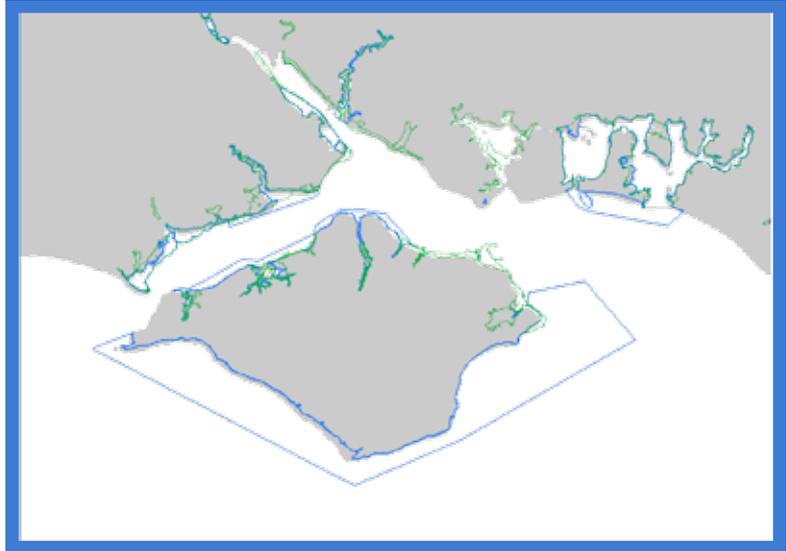
In light of the increasing number of MPAs a project was established to identify the key objectives for future MPA management and how these can be delivered.

## MPAs around the Solent

A working group was set up comprising key representatives of the Marine Management Organisation, NE, Defra, Local Government Association, Environment Agency, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities, Joint Nature Conservation Committee and a European Marine Sites officer was established in August 2013 to propose high level recommendations to the Defra MPA project board.

These recommendations include the following:

- All MPAs will have action plans.
- National coordination, monitoring and reporting will be established through a high level group of key authorities. This group will also provide guidance and strategic resource planning and be supported by a lead project management authority and supporting coordinator post.
- A one size fits all approach to site level MPA management coordination is not practical. A site audit will be carried out to determine site complexity and associated requirement for management coordination e.g. a partnership and project officer. This will form the basis for recommendations and also identify where sites can be managed in combination.
- Determine and secure long term funding options for MPA management coordination.



*Source: JNCC Interactive Map*

These high level recommendations were agreed by the Defra MPA project board in October 2013 and the MPA working group has been tasked to scope out and agree on the implementation process.

Where site management coordination is identified as being required, the process will also look to recommend and provide guidance as to how this coordination will be achieved, for example through an existing management partnership or taken forward by a particular lead authority. Although recommendations for site coordination may be provided nationally, the ultimate decision on management coordination structures will lie with local authorities and require input from stakeholders. However, the detail around how this will be achieved and work in practice is still to be determined and will be a key task of the MPA working group.

Recommended options for site delivery coordination are likely to be similar to present arrangements in SEMS. Discussion on funding has been delayed and a further paper on funding and information to support decisions has been prepared. The SEMS Management Group will be informed when a decision has been made and the outcome is known.

## Improving Natural England's Marine Protected Area Advice

Natural England's MPA Conservation Advice Project is finalising the scope, content and presentation of the advice they will provide. Future advice will be stripped down to key components, with a proforma produced that includes:

- Conservation Objectives
- Central database where mapping data is held
- Information on which features are sensitive to which activities
- Information on site condition which will trigger management action

Read more about the MPA Conservation Advice Project at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/mpa/ems/mpaconservationadvice.aspx>.

## Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS)

The Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS), supported by EU LIFE+, is a new strategic approach by Natural England to managing England's Natura 2000 sites. IPENS will report to Europe to show that action plans are in place for Natura 2000 sites.

This will be the first time that this information will have been drawn together for all of England's Natura 2000 sites. It will enable Natural England, the Environment Agency, and other key partners to plan what, how, where and when they will target their efforts on Natura 2000 sites and areas surrounding them.

By June 2015 the programme will deliver:

- A (non-statutory) Site Improvement Plan (SIP) for each Natura 2000 site.
- Theme Plans to address issues that affect multiple Natura 2000 sites.
- An Overall Programme Plan outlining the future management of Natura 2000 sites in England.
- An easily accessible directory of mechanisms (actions and measures) and funding options to deliver favourable condition on Natura 2000 sites.

SIPS are high level plans and are not intended to identify all the detailed day to day issues. They will be concise and useful with smart targets, and will align well with current action plans. Once issues have been identified, a mechanism to address them can provide the driver for future funding. Actions that are linked to the River Basin Management Plans will be statutory, and the Environment Agency will be obliged to carry them out. IPENS is working to integrate SIPs into the second round of River Basin Management Plans.

The Theme Plans will cover a range of issues including invasive non-native species, diffuse water pollution, coastal squeeze and coastal recreation and disturbance. Development of Theme Plans started in 2013 and will be completed by December 2014.

As key stakeholders, EMS project officers will be involved through local Natural England staff.

The January 2014 IPENS Newsletter can be found at [www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/ipens-newsletter-jan-2014\\_tcm6-37165.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/ipens-newsletter-jan-2014_tcm6-37165.pdf).

## New Agreement will Reduce Red Tape for Coastal Projects and Investments

On 11 November 2013, Natural England welcomed the launch of the Marine and Coastal Concordat which will encourage investment around the coast. The Concordat sets out key principles for coordinating the consenting process for coastal development in England. It will improve and simplify the enforcement of regulation, ending overlaps between regulators, duplication of information requirements, and delays to economically important coastal developments.

## Joint Monitoring Initiative

A report on the 'Potential for joined up marine monitoring and data collection between Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and industry (NECR115)' published in July 2013 by Natural England, looks at ways of reducing the cost of data collection and monitoring in the marine environment.

The project recommends that Natural England builds on existing partnerships with other government bodies and considers forging innovative partnerships with developers operating in the marine environment. The report can be found at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/>.

## 2013 ABPmer Conference: Coastal Habitat Creation – Are We Delivering?

*Habitat Creation in Lymington*

On 20th November 2013, ABPmer, in partnership with event sponsors the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Halcrow, the Solent Protection Society and HR Wallingford, ran their second national conference on Coastal Habitat Creation.

This event brought together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss coastal habitat creation issues, in particular the 'sign off' of compensation schemes for coastal development. The Conference Report can be found at [www.solentprotection.org/wp-content/uploads/event-2013-AWD-report1.pdf](http://www.solentprotection.org/wp-content/uploads/event-2013-AWD-report1.pdf).

ABPmer's Online Managed Realignment Guide (OMReG) is a collection point for coastal habitat creation projects, and presents lessons learned from schemes which have made it through to implementation. The core of OMReG is an interactive database of completed projects which can be searched to find project details. See <http://www.abpmer.net/omreg/>.



## Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Strategic Approach to MPA Management

The MMO have statutory responsibilities for managing MPAs in English waters out to the continental shelf limits, when appropriate, including 75 EMSs in English waters. The MMO's main areas of responsibility relate to licensable marine activities, sea fisheries and otherwise unregulated marine activities (such as recreation).

The MMO have developed a strategic approach to MPA management to help oversee this important work. An MPA strategic management table has been developed that provides a high-level view for all EMSs in English waters. It summarises information about the sites, including some of the statutory nature conservation advice about the impact of human activities upon habitat features in the sites. High risk inshore European marine sites and features and sub-features have been listed and include the seagrass beds in the SEMS and subtidal bedrock reef, subtidal boulder and cobble reef and intertidal and subtidal chalk reef in South Wight Maritime EMS. Read more about the MMO's role in MPA management at [www.marinemanagement.org.uk/protecting/conservation/index.htm](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/protecting/conservation/index.htm).

## MMO Evidence Base

Marine evidence and data required for MMO business are systematically acquired and managed by MMO. Details of their Strategic Evidence Plan, Evidence projects register and Master Data Register can be found at [www.marinemanagement.org.uk/evidence/index.htm](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/evidence/index.htm).

## MMO Marine Pollution Contingency Plan

The MMO's Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (23 December 2013) aims to provide a mechanism to coordinate the MMO's response in major marine pollution incidents. It will also be suitable for use during smaller incidents led by a harbour master or offshore operator.

## MMO Marine Planning Newsletter

Issue 17 (December 2013) of the Marine Management Organisation's Marine Planning News outlines seven new evidence gathering research projects in the South Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas on:

- Spatial trends in aquaculture potential

- Future trends in fishing and aquaculture
- Spatial models of essential fish habitat
- Economic baseline of the South Coast
- Social impacts of fisheries, aquaculture, recreation, tourism and marine protected areas (MPAs) in England
- Spatial trends in shipping activity
- Compilation of spatial data on marine recreation activities: Phase 2

See [www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/news/newsletter17.htm](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/news/newsletter17.htm). Details of the projects can be found at <http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/evidence/register-reports.htm>.

## Marine Reserves Enhance Resilience to Climate Change

A study published in January 2014, led by a University of Southampton scientist, highlights the potential for fish communities in marine reserves to resist climate change impacts better than communities on fished coasts.

The researchers looked at different types of fish community responses to both short- and long-term environmental variability. They found that marine reserves have the potential to build community resilience through mechanisms that promote species and functional stability, and resist colonisation by warm water vagrants. The abstract can be found at <http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/360777/>.

## Voluntary Marine Management Appraisal – RSPB Report

An RSPB Report ‘Investigating the use of voluntary marine management in the protection of UK marine biodiversity’ outlines a range of case studies and feedback from professional experience across the UK.

Although dated 2011 the report is a useful summary of lessons that can be learned from the successes and challenges associated with a range of voluntary management for marine sites. See [www.rspb.org.uk/Images/RSPB\\_Voluntary\\_Marine\\_Management\\_2011\\_tcm9-291744.pdf](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/RSPB_Voluntary_Marine_Management_2011_tcm9-291744.pdf).



## Sea Angling 2012 - A Survey of Recreational Sea Angling Activity and Economic Value in England

Sea Angling 2012, released on 27 November 2013, was established to find out how many people go sea angling in England, how much they catch, how much is released, and the economic and social value of sea angling. It



will help local and national policy makers make balanced, well-informed decisions on sustainable development of all forms of sea fishing. You can read or download the Defra / MMO report at [www.marinemanagement.org.uk/seaangling/finalreport.htm](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/seaangling/finalreport.htm).

## **Defra - Management of Fish Stocks**

Defra's policy and latest news on Reforming and managing marine fisheries for a prosperous fishing industry and a healthy marine environment can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reforming-and-managing-marine-fisheries-for-a-prosperous-fishing-industry-and-a-healthy-marine-environment>.

## **Mobile App Calculates how Construction Noise Affects Birds**

A smartphone app has been released that can measure the impact of construction work on waterbirds in protected areas, and can offer advice on how development projects can affect waterbird behaviour. Researchers from the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS) at the University of Hull, developed the app, building on a study carried out on behalf of the Environment Agency. The data was processed as part of the EU-funded TIDE project. Download the app at the google play store.

## **The British Trust for Ornithology 'BirdTrack' app**

The British Trust for Ornithology 'BirdTrack' app can send information to them about the sites and times that you go birdwatching and the birds you see. Users can record both casual sightings and lists of species, and can also view what species have been seen in their local area, and hotspots up to 50 miles away, over 3, 7 or 14 days. Any counts that are contributed will help to build up a more complete picture of movements, migrations and distributions.

## **Marine Stewardship Fund**

The Crown Estate's Marine Stewardship Fund supports scientific research projects that underpin knowledge of the activities they manage, and community initiatives aimed at improving and enhancing their marine and coastal assets.

There is no formal application process for community project. The Crown Estate focus on initiating projects themselves, however they are also open to direct approaches from individuals and organisations with initial ideas or outline project proposals. All such approaches will be considered in line with the funding priorities and to be eligible for the marine stewardship programme, projects must take place on, or be directly connected with, Crown foreshore and/or seabed, and they must also be furthering good management of these areas.

## **Coastal Communities Fund**

The Coastal Communities Fund aims to encourage the economic development of UK coastal communities by awarding funding to create sustainable economic growth and jobs. The UK Government has recently confirmed that the Coastal Communities Fund programme will be extended by a further year to March 2017. Round three was launched in February 2014, see <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/uk-wide/coastal-communities>.

## **European Fisheries Fund**

The deadline for applying for the European Fisheries Fund in England (EFF) has been extended and it will continue accepting applications until 30 June 2014. The EFF aims to help the fishing industry to become more sustainable and to remain profitable. Around £38 million is available through the scheme in England. A range of measures can be funded, such as harbour and port developments which will benefit fishermen. See [www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/funding/eff.htm](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/funding/eff.htm).

## International News

### Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management

On 12th December 2013 The European Parliament voted to support the Commission's proposal for a Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) – a cornerstone policy of the EU's Blue Growth agenda.

The Parliament gave strong support for the Commission's objective to set out a procedural framework for MSP and ICM that will ensure their implementation throughout Europe. It also confirmed the requirement for Member States to cooperate in the planning of cross-border sea areas.

Parliament retained Integrated Coastal Management in the Directive, however some think it will need statutory underpinning to ensure effective land-sea planning and this is only likely to come through Europe. Read more on Maritime spatial planning at [http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime\\_spatial\\_planning/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime_spatial_planning/index_en.htm).

### PANACHE – Protected Area Network Across the Channel Ecosystem

Sussex IFCA are working, with colleagues, as part of PANACHE, on an Interreg programme which aims to develop a stronger and more coherent approach to the management, monitoring and involvement of stakeholders for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including the ecological coherence of the MPA network in the English Channel. The project will lead the development of a number of innovations and tools that will be applicable across Europe.

The Panache project website has just been launched at [www.panache.eu.com](http://www.panache.eu.com) (some parts of the website are in French), with information pages, documents and maps that may be of interest, as well as summaries of goals, achievements, lists of upcoming events and further information on each of five work packages.

The project partners include the Royal Society For The Protection of Birds, Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Agency and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. PANACHE is linked to the EU VALMER Project; VALMER and PANACHE have complementary objectives that should lead to a better understanding of the Channel marine ecosystem, and to its more sustainable use.

The analysis of ecological coherence is almost completed, several monitoring techniques are being tested (multibeam sonar, towed video etc), examples of best practice of management are being collected and Wildlife Trusts are organizing many citizen science events.

An MPA online database is available on the website where a newsletter can also be downloaded. The analysis of ecological coherence is almost completed and, several monitoring techniques are being tested.

### Economic Benefits of Natura 2000 Network

A 74 page report presents the results of a study to develop a methodological framework for assessing the overall economic value of the benefits provided by the Natura 2000 network. It includes a first assessment of the value of the network and an outlook for future assessments to support the awareness of the economic co-benefits of the Natura 2000 sites and network. Find the report at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/ENV-12-018\\_LR\\_Final1.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/ENV-12-018_LR_Final1.pdf), where the toolkit can also be downloaded.

### Natura 2000 Newsletter

The European Commission publishes 'Natura 2000' twice a year. You can find the latest copies and subscribe to the Natura 2000 newsletter at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/natura2000nl\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/natura2000nl_en.htm).

## Cross-Channel Forum “Promoting Effective Governance of the Channel Ecosystem”

“Promoting Effective Governance of the Channel Ecosystem” is a “capitalisation” project funded through the INTERREG IVa France (Channel) - England programme. It brings together 12 French and British partners and aims to enhance the outputs from a variety of INTERREG IVa Channel programme projects which have addressed specific aspects of the Channel Ecosystem and its management (CAMIS, VALMER, CHARM3, OFELIA, ChanneLis, PANACHE, LiCCo, MARINEXUS, MERIFIC, CRESH, SETARMS).

A Cross-Channel Forum “Promoting Effective Governance of the Channel Ecosystem” will be held in Southampton on 8th April, organised by Devon County Council and the Upper-Normandy Region, in conjunction with Plymouth University, the project lead partner.

The Forum will give delegates the opportunity to:

- Learn about the main outputs of the INTERREG IVa Channel programme projects which have dealt with Channel area governance
- Identify and discuss existing and emerging challenges in marine governance policy and practice;
- Contribute to the development of recommendations for promoting effective governance of the Channel Ecosystem
- Network with other stakeholders interested in the Channel area governance with a view to exchanging ideas and initiating future cooperation projects.
- This event is designed to bring together all the stakeholders involved and/or interested in the governance of the Channel Ecosystem (European, national and local decision-makers, socio-economic sectors representatives, scientific community).

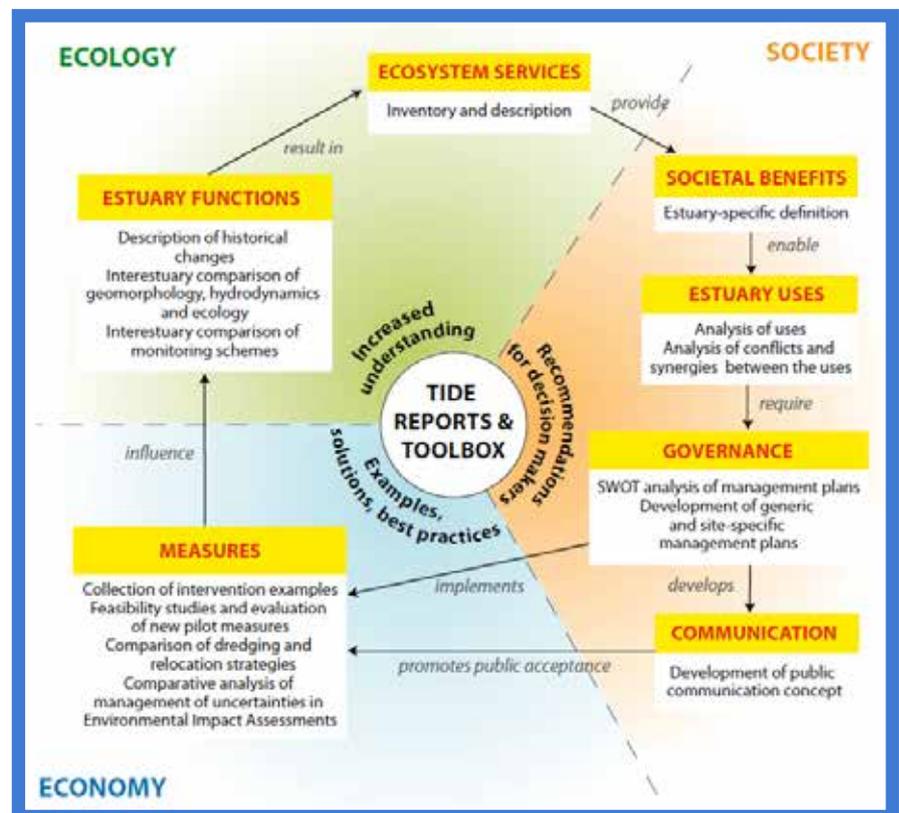
Further details about the agenda and practical information will be soon available on the project website: [www.pegaseas.eu](http://www.pegaseas.eu). Enquiries can be made to [admin@pegaseas.eu](mailto:admin@pegaseas.eu).

## EU TIDE Toolbox

The EU TIDE project (Tidal River Development) offers a selection of tools and recommendations for integrated estuarine management. TIDE has applied the concept of Ecosystem Services as a central element of integrated management. Four estuaries were used because they face similar challenges - the Elbe, Humber, Scheldt and Weser in the North Sea Region. The TIDE Toolbox include measures and methodologies that may serve as good practice for a sustainable estuarine management strategy, templates, decision support systems, reports and links to other estuary science and management projects. See [www.tide-toolbox.eu/](http://www.tide-toolbox.eu/).

The Waterbird Disturbance Toolkit has been designed to provide a process

whereby the level of potential disturbance to waterbirds from a range of construction activities on or adjacent to wetland systems can be assessed. See [www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird\\_disturbance\\_mitigation\\_toolkit/](http://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird_disturbance_mitigation_toolkit/).



The TIDE 10-step approach gives guidance on how to estimate the value of the ecosystem services impacted by a restoration project in an estuary using a set of indicators to help assess the impact on estuarine nature.

## New Common Fisheries Policy

The reformed EU Common Fisheries Policy, repealing previous Fisheries Regulations, has been applied from 1st January 2014. Sustainability is at the heart of the reform; fishing sustainably means fishing at levels that do not endanger the reproduction of stocks and at the same time maximises catches for fishermen. This level is known as the 'maximum sustainable yield' (MSY). Under the new CFP, stocks must be fished at within these levels. The new CFP sets the fishing levels at MSY levels by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020 for all fish stocks.



## Knowledge Base for Integrated Management

The European Environment Agency have published 'Balancing the future of Europe's coasts - knowledge base for integrated management'. The report frames an analytical approach for coastal areas in Europe, and places this in the context of the new socio economic drivers of sustainable growth, and the formation of a new integrated policy framework. This framework builds on an ecosystem based management approach and integrated spatial planning and management. See <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/balancing-the-future-of-europes>.

## Consultations

### Consultation on Marine Strategy Framework Directive: Proposals for UK Marine Monitoring Programmes

Defra and the devolved UK administrations are seeking views on the UK's proposed monitoring programmes to measure progress towards achieving and maintaining Good Environmental Status in their seas by 2020.

The consultation, which takes place from 8th January - 2 April 2014, covers monitoring proposals for each of the eleven Marine Strategy Framework Directive descriptors. These relate to biological diversity, non-indigenous species, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, food webs, human-induced eutrophication, sea floor integrity, hydrographical conditions, contaminants, contaminants in fish and other seafood, marine litter and introduction of energy (including underwater noise). Details can be found at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/msfd-proposals-for-uk-marine-monitoring-programmes>.

## Other Publications

Other publications from Natural England and the JNCC in 2013 include:

- A guide to assessing and managing anthropogenic impact on marine angiosperm habitat. Is 'minimising the footprint' an effective intervention to maximise the recovery of intertidal sediments from disturbance? Phase 1: Literature review.
- Natural England Discretionary Advice Service: Advice for Developers.
- An analysis of methodologies for defining ecosystem services in the marine environment.
- Interactive map of designated sites from MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside).
- Governing Marine Protected Areas - resilience through diversity - <http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~ucfwpej/pdf/GoverningMPAsLeaflet.pdf>.

- River Dredging and Flood Defence - To Dredge or Not to Dredge? Environment Agency powerpoint at <http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/pdfs/notices/dredgingpres.pdf>.
- The Use of Market-Based Instruments for Biodiversity Protection – The Case of Habitat Banking - [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/pdf/eftec\\_habitat\\_technical\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/pdf/eftec_habitat_technical_report.pdf).

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## Members' Web Sites

Send any links to your web pages that you would like included to [sems@hants.gov.uk](mailto:sems@hants.gov.uk).

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## More Information

More information about the Solent European Marine Sites can be found at [www.solentems.org.uk](http://www.solentems.org.uk).

### Contact Us:

SEMS  
c/o The Solent Forum  
Hampshire County Council  
Elizabeth II Court West  
The Castle  
Winchester  
SO23 8UD

Email: [info@solentems.org.uk](mailto:info@solentems.org.uk)

Telephone: 01962 846027 or 01962 845011.