

**Welcome to the  
SEMS Management Group**

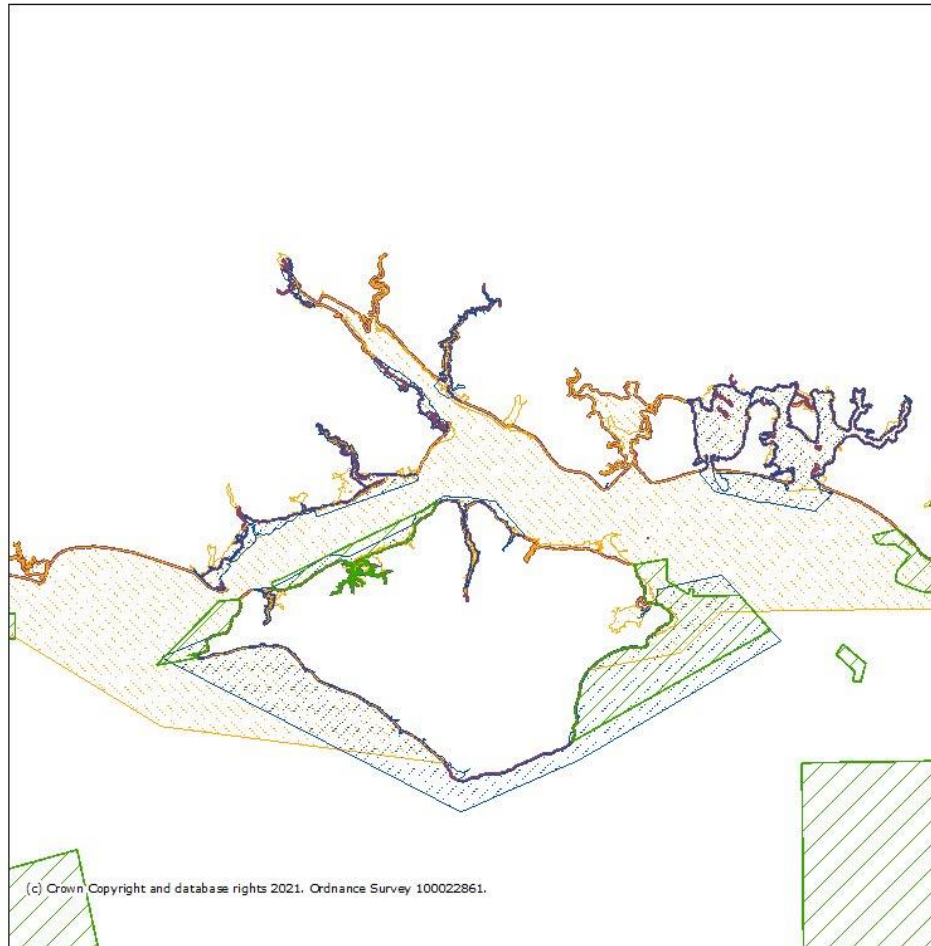
**Annual Meeting**

**23 September 2021**

## **SEMS Staff**

- **Jason Scott – Chair, SEMS Management Group**
- **Kate Ansell – SEMS Officer**
- **Karen McHugh – Natural Environment Group (NEG) Officer**
- **Jess Taylor – Natural England lead**

Map available in section 7.1 of the SEMS AMR



**Legend**

**Marine Conservation Zones (England)**

Designated

**Special Areas of Conservation (Marine Components GB)**

Candidate

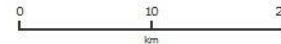
Designated

Possible

**Special Protection Areas (Marine Components GB)**

Classified

Potential



Projection = OSGB36

xmin = 378200

ymin = 54750

xmax = 523600

ymax = 142200

Map produced by MAGiC on 15 July, 2021.

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# Annual Management Scheme Timeline

## **March/April**

Online annual Survey completed by SEMS Management Group (MG). Annual Survey Report published (ASR)

## **May/June**

Draft Annual Management Report (AMR) prepared and discussed by officers and chairs of SEMS/NEG

## **August**

Draft AMR circulated to MG and stakeholder group

## **September**

Annual MG meeting agrees the AMR and its actions

## **Spring/Autumn**

NEG meets to discuss and progress strategic actions

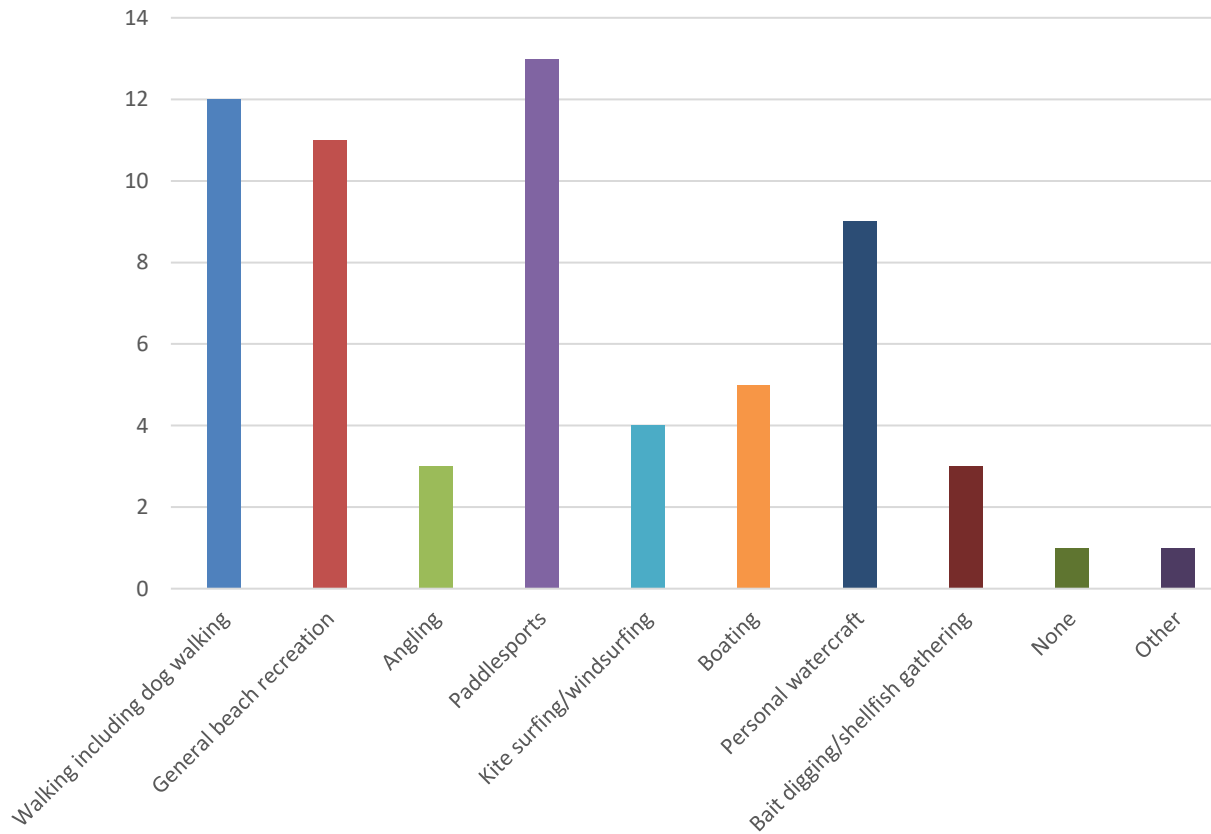
## SEMS MG Actions 2020 Update

- **Action: Rename SEMS to ‘Solent Marine Sites’  
Completed and logo revised.**
- **Action: Raise awareness that the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA is designated. Reminder that Eastern/Western waters of the Solent now designated.  
Designation now included in the SEMS MS process.**
- **Action: Evaluate the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on SEMS Activities  
Survey completed Jan 2021 and published in spring 2021.**

# Covid-19 Restrictions

Snapshot survey of summer 2020 was conducted and published in Spring 2021 on activity levels, impacts and management measures. Uncertainty around restrictions has led to a second 'staycationer summer' for 2021.

Which recreational activities do you think saw a significant increase above normal summer levels?



# RA Activity Duty and Responsibility Table

**New for 2021, purpose is to help guide relevant authorities in the activities for which they may have a duty or responsibility when completing SEMS Survey.**

SEMS Activity Duty/Responsibility Guide

Jul-21

HA      D Council      NE      EA      Port A

Activity

1. Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up					
2. Boat repair and maintenance					
3. Fishing (including shellfisheries)					
4. Fishing (shore based activities)					
5. General Beach Recreation					
6. Grazing and foraging (intertidal)					
7. Land recreation – Dog walking					
8. Land recreation – Walking (other than dog walking)					
9. Littering and removal of litter					
10. Mooring and anchoring					
11. Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes					
12. Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)					
13. Recreation – light aircraft *					
14. Recreation – non-motorised watercraft					
15. Recreation – powerboating or sailing with an engine					
16. Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance					
17. Wildfowling					

Activity is duty/responsibility

Activity likely to be duty/responsibility in certain circumstances, e.g. as landowner, regulator, access control

Activity unlikely to be duty/responsibility

# **Annual Management Report 2021**

## **Presentation of Key Findings**

**Kate Ansell**



# AMR Format

- Reviews seventeen non-licensable activities that take place around the Solent
- Survey asks about **changes in activity levels** and whether respondents think that an activity is **impacting** on the designated sites
- Annual Management report evaluates the survey findings and other relevant data collected by the SEMS Officer. Three sections for each activity:
  1. Summary of the survey response
  2. Evaluation and discussion – incl. information on impacts and management measures. NE states if activity having detrimental impact on SEMS sites.
  3. Actions
- Supplementary activity pages mirror the report on the SEMS website at: [http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS\\_Activities/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS_Activities/)


# SEMS Draft Report Comments

- Another excellent and comprehensive report
- Well written, clear and concise report
- Member of stakeholder group – queried why water quality not a key topic. Explained that SEMS looks at *non-licensable activities*, water quality from those activities will be looked at but not wider water quality issues, e.g. we support the Solent Water Quality and Boating workshops led by the EA/NE

# SEMS Management Scheme Activities (Non-Licensable)

1. Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up
2. Boat repair and maintenance
3. Fishing (including shellfisheries)
4. Fishing (shore-based activities)
5. General beach recreation (change from land recreation other)
6. Grazing and foraging
7. Land recreation - Dog walking
8. Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)
9. Littering and removal of litter
10. Mooring and anchoring
11. Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes
12. Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)
13. Recreation - light aircraft
14. Recreation - non-motorised watercraft
15. Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine
16. Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance
17. Wildfowling

# Key Findings of Annual Survey 2021

1. All 31 Relevant Authorities responded to the Annual Survey. 
2. Increases in activity recorded for walking (incl. dog walking), grazing and foraging, general beach recreation, non-motorised watercraft and motorised watercraft (table 2 in AMR).
3. No change was made value for all other activities (table 2 in AMR).
4. Activities highlighted by multiple respondents potentially *impacting* on SEMS sites included: **coastal walking (incl walking with dogs), litter and the use of non-motorised recreational watercraft (esp. paddleboards).**

# SEMS MG Generic Actions

1. SEMS MG members should use the AMR and the activity pages on the SEMS website as a reference resource to help shape relevant plans and policies or management measures. See: [http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS\\_Activities/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS_Activities/).
2. SEMS MG members to feed information to the SEMS office throughout the year ([sems@hants.gov.uk](mailto:sems@hants.gov.uk)).
3. SEMS MG members to use the duty and responsibility table to guide what activity sections they need to complete in the SEMS Annual Survey.
4. SEMS MG to be aware that the spread of invasive non-native species can occur from any watercraft movement; this may be exacerbated as climate change allows species to extend beyond their current range. Please report any concerns in your SEMS Survey return.
5. Please view Section 5 of the Annual Survey Report for information on how plans and projects relate to activities and designated sites.
6. NEG is exploring the use of mapping to identify bird sensitive hotspot areas at risk from non licensable activities. The Impacts of Paddlesports project is a pilot for this approach.

Section 6.0 in the AMR report provides a summary of all actions.

# Marine Conservation Zones

Designated MCZs included in the Survey from 2020:

- The Needles
- Yarmouth to Cowes
- Bembridge
  
- The MMO's marine non-licensable activity (NLA) management approach is being developed. Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone is the first site to be assessed by the MMO for NLA impacts. To support development of the approach, the MMO have an evidence project underway which is collating data on a number of MPAs. (MMO1136)
  
- Southern IFCA is in the process of completing its assessments of fishing activities within Yarmouth to Cowes and Bembridge MCZs.
  
- Following designation, Natural England started a baseline monitoring programme across all Marine Protected Areas. The inshore benthic marine survey of The Needles MCZ has been completed.

## Next Steps

1. Approve the content of the Annual Management Report 2021
  2. Discuss and agree/prioritise actions – section 6.0 of the AMR 2021
  3. Suggestions for future improvements in process or format
- 
4. Please inform SEMS Officer of changes to staff and who should be on the SEMS mailing list
  5. Make suggestions as to additional people to be included on the strategic stakeholder group (list at: <http://solentems.org.uk/sems/ssg/>)
  6. Feed relevant evidence and reports to the SEMS Officer throughout the year and keep on file material for the Annual Survey

**Date of Next Meeting**

**21 September 2022**

**Southampton or MS Teams**



# NEG Action Updates from 2020

## *Boat repair and maintenance*

**Action (ongoing):** Promote and share material on invasive non-native species (INNS) relevant to SEMS features.

**Lead/Partners:** NEG and Natural England

**Action progress:** Material on this topic has been and will continue to be added to the SEMS website:

[http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS\\_Activities/Boat\\_repair/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS_Activities/Boat_repair/). The

RAPID Life Project is now complete and is available at:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=58>.

**Actions closed for NEG.**

# NEG Action Updates from 2020

## *Fishing (shore-based activities)*

### **Action (2020 and ongoing): Progress the Solent Mudflat Strategy**

**Lead/Partners:** NEG

- NEG Working Group agreed strategy - website [http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural\\_environment\\_group/NEGProjects/SMDG/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEGProjects/SMDG/).
- University of Portsmouth TEMITH provided part of the picture.
- Solent Forum Google MyMaps data shows metadata for the area.
- NE funding for UoP to build on the TEMITH data to map bait collection / hand gathering using Chichester Harbour as a case study. Now awaiting Sussex IFCA response to report to plan next steps.
- Hope to present this at November NEG.
- A list of hotspot areas will be generated using MyMaps dataset and evaluating data with Natural England/IFCA to understand hotspots and if any areas coincide with areas where bird populations may be particularly threatened by limited food supply/disturbance.

# NEG Action Updates from 2020

## *Land recreation - Dog walking and Walking*

**Action (2016 and ongoing):** 5 year monitoring of the effectiveness of the SRMP not expected to be available until 2022.

**Lead and partners:** NEG

**Action Progress:** NEG will keep track of Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) monitoring and continue with their liaising and support.

**Future Action:** Post 2022, evaluate whether the SRMP has achieved its objectives and assess whether it has mitigated bird disturbance impacts arising prior to 2010.

# NEG Action Updates from 2020

## *Littering and removal of litter*

**Action (2016 and ongoing):** NEG to continue to develop the Cleans Solent Shores and Seas (CSSS) resource hub.

[http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member\\_Services/css/](http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/css/).

**Lead/partners:** NEG (development) and SEMS MG (to use)

- The Solent Forum working in partnership with EA to deliver a Solent Plastics Pollution Hub.  
[www.solentforum.org/services/Member\\_Services/Solent Plastics Pollution Hub/](http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/Solent_Plastics_Pollution_Hub/). This will compliment CSSS and provide a legacy for the EA's PPP Project.
- CSSS has completed chapters on litter, microplastics, nutrients and boating. More chapters will be populated soon, the next will be amenity/public health.

# NEG Action Updates from 2020

## *Mooring and anchoring*

**Action (2020 and ongoing):** All to support, promote and share information from the LIFE ReMEDIES project. See:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-recreation-remedies-project>.

**Lead and partners:** SEMS Management Group and NEG

Two types of environmentally friendly moorings known as Advanced Mooring Systems have been installed near Yarmouth Harbour and are being monitored for their effectiveness. The Solent Forum will begin to collate this information under its habitat restoration pages -

[http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member\\_Services/Habitat\\_Restoration/Solent\\_Seagrass\\_Restoration/](http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/Habitat_Restoration/Solent_Seagrass_Restoration/).

# NEG Action Updates from 2020

## *Recreation - light aircraft*

### **Winter Activity**

**Action (2019 and ongoing):** NEG requests data annually from Bird Aware Solent on winter drone use and monitors trends. In 2019/20 the data shows low numbers of drone sightings and no sightings of drones causing disturbance. In 2020/21 the data was affected by Coronavirus so fewer surveys were taken. It showed a similar picture of low sightings.

**Partners/lead:** NEG and Bird Aware Solent

### **Summer Activity**

**Action (2020/21):** NEG discussed, at its April 2021 meeting, the potential mechanisms for recording drone use in the summer months. NEG concluded that drone summer usage was not considered important in this context, as negative impacts of drones on bird health is generally only an issue in the winter.

**Partners/lead:** NEG

**Complete for NEG.**

# NEG Action Updates from 2020

## *Recreation - non-motorised watercraft*

**Action (2020 and ongoing):** NEG to ask Bird Aware Solent to report back on their work on educating recreational watercraft users once information is available.

**Lead and partners:** NEG and Bird Aware Solent.

**Action progress:** Ongoing.

**Action (2020 and ongoing):** NEG to research the evidence base for potential impacts from increased use of paddle boarding.

**Lead and partners:** NEG.

**Action progress:** New for 2020/21.

- New Project called [IMP Solent](#) - To develop evidence base on the impacts of paddlesports on the Solent's designated habitats and species, in particular birds, and explore suitable management options, using Chichester Harbour as a case study.
- [Website](#) provides detail on two meetings held and project brief. Key piece of work is to develop a methodology in Chichester harbour to understand incidence and effects of Paddlesports. Surveys should begin in Autumn 2021. Results expected after two seasons.

Questions?



# Designated Species and Habitats

## **Solent Maritime SAC (11,243.12 ha)**

- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- **Estuaries**
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- Coastal lagoons
- Annual vegetation of drift lines
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- **Spartina swards**
- **Atlantic salt meadows**
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('White dunes')
- Desmoulin's whorl snail

## **Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA (5,810.95 ha)**

Bar-tailed godwit, common tern, curlew, dark-bellied Brent goose, dunlin, grey plover, little tern, pintail, red-breasted merganser, redshank, ringed plover, sanderling, sandwich tern, shelduck, shoveler, teal, turnstone, waterbird assemblage, wigeon