



Solent European Marine Sites

Annual Survey Report, 2019

Solent Forum
June 2019



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1. Introduction

This document is the SEMS Annual Survey Report, (ASR) which presents the findings from the SEMS annual online survey that took place in Spring 2019. It is prepared by the Solent Forum in its role as the SEMS Secretariat. The purpose of this annual survey is to:

- Monitor changes in coastal activities that take place within SEMS sites.
- Identify those activities that are having an impact on the features of the sites.
- Provide the background evidence for the SEMS Annual Management Report.

The responses recorded in this report were made by the Solent's Relevant Authorities (RAs) and have been set out verbatim. Analysis of the responses takes place in the SEMS Annual Management Report; this report also sets out subsequent management measures and actions for discussion at the SEMS Annual Management Group meeting.

The activities surveyed reflect the activity categories found in Natural England's Conservation Advice packages for Marine Protected Areas. This enables us to directly cross refer the survey results to the impacts of activities as published in this Advice. The Conservation Advice packages can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conservation-advice-packages-for-marine-protected-areas>.

Locations and details on the Solent European Marine Sites can be found on Natural England's Designated Sites System at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>. The sites can be viewed spatially on Defra's MAGIC map at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>.

Past survey results and copies of the SEMS Annual Management Report can be accessed at <http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/>.

2. Survey Respondents

Of the 32 RAs who were invited to respond to the 2019 SEMS monitoring survey, 29 responded. Table 1 shows a list of respondents. Table 2 identifies the types of RAs which responded. None of the RAs which responded notified any change to their coastal and marine management responsibilities since the last survey in 2018.

Table 1. Relevant Authorities who responded to the 2019 monitoring survey

Organisation who completed the Survey, 2019	
Associated British Ports (ABP)	Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
Beaulieu River Management (BRM)	New Forest District Council (NFDC)
Chichester District Council (CDC)	New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)
Cowes Harbour Commissioners (CoHC)	Portsmouth City Council (PCC)
Chichester Harbour Conservancy (ChiHC)	Queen's Harbour Master (Portsmouth) (QHM)
Environment Agency (EA)	River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA)
Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC)	Southampton City Council (SCC)
Fareham Borough Council (FBC)	Southern IFCA (SoIFCA)
Gosport Borough Council (GBC)	Southern Water (SW)
Havant Borough Council (HBC)	Sussex IFCA (SxIFCA)
Isle of Wight Council (IoWC)	Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)
Langstone Harbour Board (LHB)	West Sussex County Council (WSCC)
Lymington Harbour Commissioners (LHC)	Wightlink (WL)
Natural England (NE)	Winchester City Council (WCC)
	Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners (YHC)
Organisations who did not respond	
Hampshire County Council	
Portsmouth International Port	
Trinity House Lighthouse Service	

Table 2. The types of Relevant Authority who responded to the 2019 survey

(some authorities are of more than one type)

Authority Type	Number
Government Authority	4
Harbour Authority	8
IFCA	2
Local Authority	12

Other	1
Private Company	2

3. Activity Summary

Section 3 summarises the response data on the activity questions from the 2019 survey. Respondents were questioned on seventeen different types of 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. Grazing
6. Land recreation - Other
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

3.1 Jurisdiction of Activities in the Solent

Table 3 illustrates how many relevant authorities (RA) recorded that an activity takes place within their jurisdiction.

Table 3. The number of RAs who reported that an activity was within their jurisdiction

Activity	Percentage of RAs with jurisdiction for each activity	Total Responses
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	61%	17
Boat repair and maintenance	43%	12
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	50%	14
Fishing (shore-based activities)	50%	14
Grazing	4%	1
Land recreation - Other	61%	17
Land recreation - Dog walking	54%	15
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	57%	16
Littering and removal of litter	61%	17
Mooring and anchoring	46%	13
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	50%	14
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	43%	12
Recreation - light aircraft	32%	9
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	61%	17
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	46%	13
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	46%	13
Wildfowling	18%	5
Source: SEMS Annual Survey, 2019		

3.2 Summary of Changes Recorded in Activity Levels

Respondents were asked whether, since the last survey, an activity had increased, decreased, had no change or they had no data. Table 4 summarises the data. The mode value has been highlighted in green.

Table 4. Summary of reported changes in activity levels

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	0	1	14	3	18
Boat repair and maintenance	1	0	5	7	13
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	1	5	5	6	17
Fishing (shore-based activities)	3	0	8	7	18
Grazing	0	0	0	1	1
Land recreation - Other	2	0	10	7	19
Land recreation - Dog walking	1	0	8	7	16
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	1	0	8	7	16
Littering and removal of litter	0	1	12	5	18
Mooring and anchoring	2	3	6	3	14
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	0	0	10	4	14
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	1	1	10	1	13
Recreation - light aircraft	4	0	3	4	11
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	5	1	5	6	17
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	2	1	6	6	15

Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	1	0	10	2	13
Wildfowling	0	0	3	3	6
Source: SEMS Annual Survey, 2019					

3.3 Summary of Identified Impacts

Respondents were asked whether they thought an activity has an impact on the Solent European Marine Sites. Table 5 summarises the data. The mode value has been highlighted in green. The final column identifies those relevant authorities who answered that they thought the activity was having an impact.

Table 5. Summary of activity impact

Activity	Yes	No	Total	Organisations who responded yes to an impact
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	2	15	17	NE, ChiHC
Boat repair and maintenance	2	11	13	NE, ChiHC
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	2	14	16	SxIFCA, ChiHC
Fishing (shore-based activities)	6	11	17	LHB, NE, SxIFCA, ChiHC, FBC, SCC
Grazing	0	1	1	
Land recreation - Other	3	14	17	EBC, FBC, SCC
Land recreation - Dog walking	7	7	14	LHB, WSCC, EBC, ChiHC, CDC, FBC, GBC
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	6	9	15	LHB, EBC, ChiHC, CDC, FBC, GBC
Littering and removal of litter	9	9	18	PCC, NE, LHC, IOWC, EBC, ChiHC, GBC, SW, SCC
Mooring and anchoring	2	12	14	NE, ChiHC
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	1	13	14	NE
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	0	13	13	
Recreation - light aircraft	4	7	11	NE, EBC, ChiHC, NFDC
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	5	12	17	IOWC, EBC, ChiHC, FBC, NFDC
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	1	11	12	ChiHC
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	1	12	13	NE
Wildfowling	1	4	5	ChiHC
Source: SEMS Annual Survey, 2019				

4. Individual Activity Responses

Section 4 presents the individual relevant authority comments for each activity; the comments are presented verbatim. The comments where people have responded that they think an activity is having an impact have been placed at the top.

4.1. Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up				
<i>Activity includes accidental discharges and/or emissions from all types of vessels, including exhaust fumes, waste water, sewerage, oils, lubricants and chemicals, including oil spill and clean-up.</i>				
Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey				
Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	1	13	3	18
Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?				
Yes		No		Total Responses
2		15		17
Relevant Authority Comments:				
<p>Respondent: NE Eutrophication Solent wide but problem is likely to be worse where there are large number of boats in sheltered areas. Clean Solent shores and seas /Solent Forum web pages have the potential to help by signposting to awareness campaigns.</p>				
<p>Respondent: ChiHC Discharges from vessels not monitored but water quality is likely impacted within harbour waters.</p>				
<p>Respondent: LHC Comment: Marginal down from 2 to 1 recorded incidents. One minor recorded pollution incident in 2018 (light diesel spill) - source not identified.</p>				
<p>Respondent: CoHC Although reported incident numbers have fallen, we can never stop all accidental spillages. All reported incidents are investigated and action taken if required.</p>				
<p>Respondent: WL No reported incidents from Wightlink fleet.</p>				
<p>Respondent: IoWC Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.</p>				

Respondent: MMO

MMO are responsible for the approval of oil spill treatment products. We have not approved the use within SEMS.

Respondent: ABP

ABP Southampton has published Discharge Standards for vessels, unchanged in 2018. MARNIS records show zero accidental vessel discharges in 2018. Slight anecdotal improvement in vessel engine emissions due to transition to alternative fuels such as LNG.

Respondent: NFDC

Very little. Palm oil recovered in the past (not in last 12 months). NFDC employ specialist contractor to remove chemical containers and oil drums etc. One call out in last year Keyhaven, one cup of petrol (not in last 12 months) (oil spill kit available).

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.2. Boat repair and maintenance

Activity includes vessel maintenance and repair on land or afloat, including hull cleaning. Please also consider the vessels, machinery and vehicles associated with this activity.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	0	5	7	13

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
2	11	13

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: NE

Potential spread of INNS. NE report on INNS will be disseminated when completed.

Respondent: ChiHC

Probably likely impacts of anti-fouling operations.

Respondent: LHC

Operations are conducted at responsibly managed private boatyards outside of designated sites.

Respondent: CoHC

Slight increase in numbers of boats coming ashore to our boat yard for maintenance/repair.

Respondent: NFDC

NFDC permits non-commercial hull cleaning with brushes and pressure washes to de-weed small craft.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.3. Fishing (including shellfisheries)

Activity includes anchored nets or lines, electrofishing, traps, pelagic fishing (or fishing activities that do not interact with sea bed), hydraulic dredges, dredges, demersal trawl, demersal seines, diving and sea angling.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	5	5	6	17

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
2	14	16

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: SxIFCA

Oyster dredging occurs on the subtidal sediments of Chichester Harbour; these sediments are features of the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), as well as supporting features for the Chichester and Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA). Disturbance is caused by the dredges being towed across the ground, resulting in a ploughing effect on the ground. As well as the removal of the target species, there is also an impact to nontarget species, such as sessile and slow growing species. Over time, the ecology of the substrate can be altered by this relatively destructive method of fishing. However, Sussex IFCA has conducted an Appropriate Assessment and it was concluded that the current limited extent of activity is not damaging to the designated features. The level of activity has decreased dramatically over the past 3 years. The oyster beds were not opened in 2018 due to the benchmark threshold Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) not being reached when the pre-season stock assessment was undertaken, as laid out in the Sussex IFCA oyster permit byelaw. This is in comparison to the previous year, which saw 10 vessels land a total of 5.8 tonnes of oyster over 3 days, further decreased from the 2016 figure of 28.5 tonnes landed over 9 days. The data on the fishing activity levels is collected by Sussex IFCA by direct observation, therefore there is a high level of confidence in this information.

Oyster dredging activity takes place in two channels within the Chichester Harbour, Emsworth and Thorney Channels. Although the Food Standards Agency declassified Thorney channel before the 2017 season began, so no fishing took place there. As stated, there was no oyster dredging activity within the harbour in 2018.

The oyster season opens on November 1st each year, between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday. This is regulated by IFCA officers aboard the Fisheries Patrol Vessel Watchful. The oyster beds are open each day until a threshold catch per unit of effort (CPUE) is reached. Calculations are made at the end of each day based on how many boats are fishing, how much they are catching and how long they are spending fishing. Once this value has been reached, the beds are closed.

The implementation of the Oyster Permit Byelaw has undoubtedly had an impact in the use of the fishery. The relatively small window of opportunity to exploit the oyster beds, and the close regulation of activity mean that year-round fishing cannot occur. The management methods have been put in place to maintain the fishery to enable its continued use, however in recent years, as

well as fewer fishers applying for permits and actively fishing the ground, there have been reports from the fleet that tingle, a snail that drills through oyster shell, has caused a depletion to the stock, amongst other factors.

The Oyster Permit Byelaw, introduced in 2015 by Sussex IFCA, provides responsive adaptive management for oyster fisheries and supports the development of sustainable fisheries through catch restrictions, gear configuration through permit conditions. The Oyster season starts on November 1st and is closely monitored with catch per unit effort calculations made at the end of each day during the season. This allows the Authority to close the oyster beds once a threshold has been reached to prevent stocks being fished out. As well as limiting the amount of time the beds are open for fishing, the oyster permit byelaw also includes restrictions on the fishing gear itself. The size, weight and type of dredge are specified within the byelaw and the gear is checked by IFCOs before the start of the season. Fishers are not allowed to use their gear if these specifications are not met. This is done to reduce the impact on the fishery and the footprint left by the fishing gear itself.

Respondent: ChiHC

Anecdotal increase in shellfish collection. Oyster fishery not opened this year on water quality/health grounds. Impacts of recreational fishing not monitored.

Respondent: BRM

Less commercial fishing in the river. Commercial is more tightly controlled by the Harbour Authority.

Respondent: CoHC

Cowes regulation in place to restrict net fishing (not a known issue).

Respondent: SolFCA

Relating to Shellfish dredge fisheries: In November 2017 the Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw and the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear byelaw 2016 were introduced. The Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw, in order to ensure the fishing activity was compatible with the conservation objectives of the site, introduced an 8 month closed season, being first implemented between the 1st of March to the 31st of October 2018. This reduction in period when the activity could occur has led to a reduction in fishing activity. This is indicated by landings data for the ports within the Solent (provided as supplementary document 1 – MMO landings data – shellfish dredging Solent, which provides the commercial landings for certain species into the Solent, particularly those targeted by shellfish dredges).

In relation to the oyster fishery, a significant reduction has been observed as a result of low stock levels and prohibitions on harvesting. This year only Ryde middle and Portsmouth Harbour were open for oyster dredging, however issues with shellfish classification and limited markets led to very low catches during November and December, where catches would typically be highest.

Considering the clam and cockle fishery, the landings indicate a significant drop in catches from last year, with cockles reducing from 6 tonnes to 0.3 tonnes and clams (described in the landings data as other shellfish) reducing from 70.27 tonnes to 28.7 tonnes. It is not considered that the reduction describes a collapse in stocks, but represents the implementation of a closed season for the first time. These values are significantly lower than those observed pre 2016 where shellfish

dredging was highlighted as a risk to the SEMs. The above figures are supported by fishery officer observations which indicate a drop in activity on an annual basis as a result of the new legislation.

Other fishing activity - The same level of scrutiny has not been applied to other activities, but through DEFRA's revised approach process, Southern IFCA have assessed all fishing activities within the Solent. Bottom Towed Fishing gear and Shellfish Dredge Fishing were flagged as having the potential for adverse effect and were managed through the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016 and Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw. Other fishing activities were deemed to have no adverse effect at their current levels. Anecdotally a number of fishing vessels that traditionally targeted the Solent have left the local fishing fleet. Further legislation, current restrictions on bass fishing and reduction in the locally available whelk stocks has further reduced activity within the Solent. Other fishing activities have remained at a similar level. (medium confidence - anecdotal). The above only refers to the area within the Southern IFCA district.

Policy drivers have influenced management in the Solent, with DEFRA's revised approach to fishing activity requiring measures in place to ensure fishing is compatible with the conservation objectives of EMS. A reduction of fishing opportunities in the inshore due to poor stock levels, greater protection of MPAs or other emergency measures (bass) have led to a general reduction in the fishing fleet.

Respondent: LHB

Commercial fishing vessel activity has declined during the past year with 8 individual vessels sighted working in the harbour for a combined total of 51 fishing days (compared to 18 vessels fishing a total of 178 days last year). Fishing methods recorded.

Decrease in commercial fishing activity can be attributed to SolIFCA byelaws which have closed grounds in the harbour spatially as well as placing seasonal restrictions on certain fishing activity. Additionally, the SolIFCA utilised the "temporary closure of shellfish beds" byelaw to prohibit fishing for oysters within Langstone Harbour during 2018 due to stock depletion. LHB do not collect data upon recreational fisheries within Langstone Harbour.

Respondent: NFDC

Operation has reduced in size. Shellfish dredging in Beaulieu River - licenced in permitted section of Beaulieu river. NFDC assist CEFAS with processing plant.

NFDC do not allow bait digging on NFDC land. Provided it is carried out from a small rowing boat, a fisherman can deploy a small size of net in Keyhaven River. Anecdotally, it has been observed that illegal fish traps (netting, meshes) been put across cut bridge (Saltgrass Lane, Hurst Spit). NFDC assist CEFAS as necessary. NFDC only involvement once food is being prepared for consumption etc.

Respondent: NE

Introduction of Solent Dredge byelaw should manage this fishery to ensure no impact from SEMs.

Respondent: QHM

QHM only police if unsafe to navigation.

Respondent: CDC

Our only interaction is food safety checks of shellfisheries.

Respondent: SCC

A number of boats were observed dredging for shellfish off Weston Point. The boats were operating beyond the edge of the inter-tidal mudflats. The presence of the boats was reported to Port Health as this is a closed shellfishery.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.4. Fishing (shore based activities)

Activity includes crab tiling, bait digging, shellfish collection (including seed mussel) e.g. by hand (with or without digging apparatus), rake or through the use of 'tiles'. Also includes rod and line angling, the setting of pots and nets from the shore and the use of vehicles or vessels to access the shoreline.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
3	0	8	7	18

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
6	11	17

Relevant Authority Comments:**Respondent: LHB**

Visual inspection to the mudflats at Southmoor, show large amounts of very obvious damage to the intertidal zone caused by bait digging and associated trampling. The presence of multiple diggers on the mud also inevitably causes disturbance to wildlife such as wildfowl and waders. This takes place Year -round, daily, at low water. High levels of bait digging have occurred in this area for several years. The area has easy access to the foreshore close to a free car park, just off the major road network. Bait is seemingly being collected in commercial quantities.

Any management measures put into place need to be VERY CAREFULLY considered. While this activity is clearly causing damage and disturbance south of Southmoor, prohibition may cause the participants to be displaced to other areas of the harbour (or wider Solent) where greater disturbance to wintering bird assemblages as well as disturbance to breeding seabirds might occur. Displacing participants at greater environmental cost to the SEMS should be avoided at all costs. Nonetheless, intensively gathering bait in commercial quantities on a daily basis from a highly designated MPA is an undeniably damaging activity which needs to be addressed.

Respondent: SCC

Groups of people were observed removing several sackfuls of shellfish on a number of occasions. The quantity removed suggests this may be commercial activity. Intensive digging of the inter-tidal mud at Weston Shore. A number of occasions in autumn 2018 and winter 2019. Damage to the mudflats through turning over of mud to extract shellfish. Disturbance to birds feeding on the inter-tidal area. Reported to Southern IFCA as this is a closed shellfishery.

Respondent: NE

Potential impact through bird disturbance and impacts on bird prey availability throughout the Solent. Main time of concern winter, the cause being baitdigging. SNCO put in place in Fareham but ineffective due to difficulty in distinguishing between commercial and recreational digging. Still awaiting national position but in the meantime consider best way forth for management would be through managing.

Respondent: SxIFCA

Bait collection and hand gathering: When digging for clams, tools are used to physically rake through the sediment. The impact of this on a small scale is negligible, although diggers can leave scars on the mudflats that are visible for several tidal cycles. Hand gathering for worms is similar in that tools are used to turn the sediment over and dig down in to the mud leaving holes/scars in the sediment, although it is common practice for bait diggers to fill the holes they make to minimise the visual impact they have. As well as a visual impact, bait digging/hand gathering can release toxins in to the water column. This happens when anoxic sediment is unsettled. However, the levels at which these activities currently take place within the harbour, the disturbance to sediment composition is minimal/negligible. The main concerns around hand gathering/bait collection is the potential impact to the seagrass beds within the harbour, there are four known beds that are protected under the SAC. The digging/hand gathering might cause an impact on internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 species, and migratory bird species, which are qualifying features of the Chichester and Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area. Sussex IFCA has a byelaw in place which prohibits all fishing activities over seagrass beds.

Bait collection and hand gathering: Can occur on any intertidal area within the harbour, the main areas where bait collection/hand gathering are reported to occur are; Nutbourne channel, Printhead, Thorney island, Bosham, Dell quay and Chidham. Diggers can work an area for several hours depending on the tides, so the total extent of the activity at any one time is hard to accurately determine. The areas of concern would be any hand gathering/bait digging activity that is taking place near or within the protected seagrass beds in East head, Oar Rythe in Emsworth channel, and Crake bed in Thorney channel.

Bait collection and hand gathering: year round at any low tide. Gatherers will generally follow the tide out and back in whilst working the shore.

Bait collection and Hand gathering: In 2015/16 sites within the harbour were designated by the Food Standards Agency and CEFAS for harvesting of clams and cockles.

Respondent: ChiHC

Anecdotal increase in shellfish collection at low water particularly at Nutbourne marshes, and commercial bait-digging in Chichester channel/dell quay. Commercial collection of shellfish (cockles and clams), sometimes daily by several individuals. Various locations including Nutbourne and Bosham. District council, NE and IFCA are informed/aware of ongoing issue. Not apparently able to act to prevent activities continuing.

Respondent: CDC

Increased anecdotal reports of shore based line fishing around Fishbourne.

Respondent: RHHA

Impact on SEMS remains unknown, and although no change in last 12 months, bait digging still remains elevated and RHHA continues its provision of information and liaison with SIFCA and police.

Respondent: WL

Angling is permitted from Ryde Pier.

Respondent: LHC

Very limited rod and line angling due to limited access. No bait digging etc.

Respondent: IoWC

Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.

Respondent: CDC

Increased anecdotal reports of shore-based line fishing around Fishbourne.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.5. Grazing

Activity includes grazing on saltmarsh or intertidal areas.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	0	0	1	1

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
0	1	1

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: NFNPA

Application for development at Fawley Waterside would see grazing reintroduced to intertidal south of the power station if approved.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.6. Land recreation - other

Activity includes other coastal land recreation and leisure activities such as educational or scientific studies, horse riding on the beach, fireworks displays, swimming, rock pooling, surfing and non-motorised land craft (e.g. sand yachting, kite bugging).

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
2	0	10	7	19

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
3	14	17

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: EBC

EBC owns a relatively small area of land at the foreshore (Hamble Common). It may be possible to limit activities which disturb birds.

Respondent: FBC

Increase in kite surfers, causing Bird Disturbance at all coastal locations in the Borough to some degree. All year round but more significant over the winter period due to the presence of important and protect overwintering bird species. Disturbance causing birds to stop feeding and fly away. Bird Aware Solent takes financial contributions from new residential development within 5.6km of the designated sites towards a suit a mitigations measures including the employment of 7 wildlife rangers (5 full time) in addition to effective advertising and educational campaigns aimed at installing behavioural changes amongst recreational users, see appendix C of the Bird Aware Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy for full breakdown of mitigation proposals.

Respondent: SCC

People sit in parked cars in the car and feed the birds actively and incidentally through discarding of food waste - fish and chip wrappers. Happens at Weston Shore, car park at eastern end, all year round. The number of carrion crows has increased and according to local bird watchers they are disturbing or even attacking waterbirds trying to use the inter-tidal area. Water bird numbers are now very low.

Respondent: PCC

No additional land activities that the Council is aware of.

Respondent: NE

An increase in land recreation as a result of increase housing could lead to increased disturbance/trampling effects but it is hoped this pressure is being addressed by management through Solent Bird Aware.

Respondent: NFNPA

No byelaw powers or enforcement ability. No direct function although facilitate partnership on Recreation Management in the Park. That process was subject to public consultation in summer 2018 - most responses centered on terrestrial New Forest, if required we could check if marine/estuarine environment was mentioned.

Respondent: IoWC

Impacts associated with planned housing growth is evidenced to be having an impact but is being mitigated. Evidence through the SRMP work showed that recreational pressure on the SPA is causing disturbance to birds. The Isle of Wight Council, in collaboration with Solent Bird Aware (formerly known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.7. Land recreation – Dog walking

Activity includes recreational participation with dogs, including the use of dogs in wildfowling.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	0	8	7	16

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
7	7	14

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: LHB

LHB does not actively monitor this activity, but dog walkers are frequently observed on the intertidal zone. This activity could cause disturbance to wildlife in particular SPA bird species. This takes place daily Harbour-wide and is due to increased human population in the region (approximately 1 in 4 households have a dog in the UK). LHB do not manage this activity, however the Bird Aware project was created to minimise disturbance to SPA birds caused by this and other activities.

Respondent: WSCC

Dogs disturbing feeding and roosting waders and wildfowl. Intensity not known and impacts likely to depend on other factors such as weather conditions with greater impact during severe weather at West Wittering & Fishbourne Creek. Timing not known but witnessed on a number of occasions. Dogs off leads running across the intertidal mudflats and even swimming in the water.

Respondent: EBC

EBC owns a relatively small area of land at the foreshore (Hamble Common). It may be possible to provide more screening or notices re dogs on leads.

Respondent: CDC

Visual disturbance of overwintering birds from pre-existing levels of recreational use remains elevated to a level that is probably impact on overwintering birds. Across those parts of Chichester Harbour with public access to the upper shore. During the winter when birds are present. The topography of the harbour, combined with the high levels of access and the historically elevated levels of use from development before Bird Aware Solent. Bird Aware Solent is designed to prevent future further increases in disturbance, not to address the impacts of the pre-existing high levels. Nevertheless, the work including the site specific improvement work, will address this issue to some extent. Some form of assessment of the impact of historical development and options for addressing this issue will be needed at some point in the near future in order to achieve recovery of bird population.

Respondent: FBC

Dogs off lead can cause disturbance to important and protected overwintering bird populations as well as important and protected wading bird species. This has been shown to have a significant impact and has prompted a suit of mitigation measures organised and implemented by the Birds Aware Solent partnership. The issue exists along all coastal areas where there is dog and people access to the shore. In some areas, the disturbance is more prevalent due to larger concentrations of bird populations and/or the more popular areas for dog walking.

The greatest impacts are in winter period when overwintering birds are present and trying to feed and is reflected in the employment of 7 rangers over the winter period by Bird Aware Solent. However, it is recognised that the problem of bird disturbance is all year round to some degree which is why even in the summer there are at least 5 rangers still employment by Bird Aware to mitigate the disturbance issue.

Dogs chasing birds who are feeding in the intertidal zone, which causes disruption to their feeding. Additionally, dogs can disturb ground nesting birds.

Bird Aware Solent takes financial contributions from new residential development within 5.6km of the designated sites towards a suit a mitigations measures including the employment of 7 wildlife rangers (5 full time) in addition to effective advertising and educational campaigns aimed at installing behavioural changes amongst recreational users, see appendix C of the Bird Aware Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy for full breakdown of mitigation proposals.

The Council does have the ability to install Dogs Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPOs) which allows authorised Council Officers to Issue fixed penalty notices, direct people to put their dogs on leads if they are causing a nuisance and issue on the spot fines to owners whose dogs are off lead in several sensitive areas one such area is Salterns Road Beach.

Respondent: GBC

Entire SPA. Year round, but impact greater during the over-wintering period. GBC is a member of SRMP and continues to collect contributions as per the SRMP Strategy.

Respondent: NE

An increase in dog walking as a result of increase housing could lead to increased disturbance/trampling effects but it is hoped this pressure is being addressed by management through Solent Bird Aware.

Respondent: NFNPA

See land recreation (walking) comment above in terms of wider work. In addition, the Authority has workstreams seeking to engage with dog owners and encouraging responsible dog walking on the terrestrial and coastal area of the Park. The Authority hosts a Ranger with specific duties to work on dog disturbance on terrestrial New Forest SPA habitat, however the post is actually funded and managed through the NFDC planning mitigation package. Anecdotal reports of disturbance events continue to be received despite the good work of Bird Aware and other staff. However, no evidence/data to understand the pressure is currently collected by us or available to us.

Respondent: IoWC

Impacts associated with planned housing growth is evidenced to be having an impact but is being mitigated. Evidence through the SRMP work showed that recreational pressure on the SPA is causing disturbance to birds. The Isle of Wight Council, in collaboration with Solent Bird Aware (formerly known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures.

Respondent: PCC

Recreational impacts are monitored by Bird Aware. No major new development completed in proximity to the SEMS in then monitoring period.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.8. Land recreation – Walking (other than dog walking)

Activity includes walking on upper shore or intertidal zone (other than dog walking).

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	0	8	7	16

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
6	9	15

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: LHB

LHB does not actively monitor this activity, but walkers are frequently observed on the intertidal zone. This activity could cause damage to fragile habitats through trampling, as well as disturbance to wildlife including SPA bird species. It takes place daily Harbour-wide due to increasing human population in the region. LHB do not manage this activity, however the Bird Aware project was created to minimise disturbance to SPA birds caused by this and other activities.

Respondent: EBC

EBC owns a relatively small area of land at the foreshore (Hamble Common). It may be possible to provide more screening.

Respondent: CDC

Visual disturbance of overwintering birds from pre-existing levels of recreational use remains elevated to a level that is probably impact on overwintering birds. Across those parts of Chichester Harbour with public access to the upper shore. During the winter when birds are present (October to March). The topography of the harbour, combined with the high levels of access and the historically elevated levels of use from development before the Bird Aware Solent project began. Bird Aware Solent is designed to prevent future further increases in disturbance, not to address the impacts of the pre-existing high levels. Nevertheless, the work, including the site specific improvement work, will address this issue to some extent.

Respondent: FBC

Disturbance to important and protected overwintering bird populations as well as important and protected wading bird species. This has been shown to have a significant impact and has prompted a suit of mitigation measures organised and implemented by the Birds Aware Solent partnership. All coastal locations in the Borough to some degree. All year round but more significant over the winter period due to the presence of important and protect overwintering bird species. Disturbance causing birds to stop feeding and fly away. Bird Aware Solent takes financial contributions from new residential development within 5.6km of the designated sites towards a suit a mitigations measures including the employment of 7 wildlife rangers (5 full time) in addition to effective advertising and educational campaigns aimed at installing behavioural changes amongst recreational users. See appendix C of the Bird Aware Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy for full breakdown of mitigation proposals. The Council is not responsible for the management of any Public Rights of Way.

Respondent: GBC

Entire SPA. Year round, but impact greater during the over-wintering period. GBC is a member of SRMP and continues to collect contributions as per the SRMP Strategy.

Respondent: PCC

Recreational impacts are monitored by Bird Aware. No major new development completed in proximity to the SEMS in then monitoring period.

Respondent: NE

Increase in walking from increased housing near sensitive sites could lead to increased disturbance/trampling effects but it is hoped this pressure is being addressed by management through Solent Bird Aware.

Respondent: NFNPA

The Authority will be the 'Access Authority' for the Coastal Path if it gains approval from Sec of State. It would then have some jurisdiction under that process. Otherwise, while the Authority is facilitating schemes to manage recreation and has a statutory purpose to promote enjoyment of the Park, it has no specific controls over rights of way or coastal access, these may rest more with the Highway Authority (HCC) or other parties.

Respondent: IoWC

Impacts associated with planned housing growth is evidenced to be having an impact but is being mitigated. Evidence through the SRMP work showed that recreational pressure on the SPA is causing disturbance to birds. The Isle of Wight Council, in collaboration with Solent Bird Aware (formerly known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.9. Littering and removal of litter

This activity includes discharges from land, water or air, from all types of vessels, of particulate or solid wastes e.g. plastics, microplastics and other flotsam and jetsam (accidental vessel discharges are a separate category). The toxicity and damage caused by littering materials should be considered as should the cleanup of toxic debris. Please includes information on any strandline clearance and beach clean up.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	1	12	5	18

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
9	9	18

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: PCC

Direct (dumping of items) and indirect (rubbish transported by wind or tides) littering of coastal areas is notable, particularly in more isolated locations along the Portsmouth coastline - Langstone Harbour, Portsmouth Harbour and Solent. Direct (dumping of items) and indirect (rubbish transported by wind or tides) littering plus boating/ fishing related items (fishing wire etc). Council patrol officers can issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for littering. These are personal observations from the groups I'm involved with outside of my role. I'm not aware of whether there has been an increase in reported coastal fly tipping.

Respondent: NE

Smothering of habitats, mortality of species and blocking of sewers leading to raw sewage overflows. Clean Solent Seas and Shores web page will be invaluable in signposting to awareness raising campaigns.

Respondent: LHC

Plastic waste on the foreshore cannot be good for the site or its wildlife. Predominantly on the eastern foreshore between low and high water mark, on all tides. Litter from floating in to the harbour from the sea. Periodic cleanups through volunteers. Difficult to access parts of foreshore.

Respondent: IoWC

Nationally it is recognised that marine litter, and particularly plastics entering the system, is a huge issue. Therefore, this response is based on the assumption that littering within SEMS remains elevated. Without data and monitoring the confidence level is low.

Respondent: ChiHC

Litter picks carried out at various locations, by several organisation around the harbour. Impacts unknown, but volume of litter collected is significant.

Respondent: GBC

Litter continues to be an issue, particularly plastic waste as is well documented nationally. Without data the confidence level is low. Affects entire SPA. All year round, although anecdotally greater littering in the summer months at the coast (low confidence), caused by littering and poor disposal of single use plastics. Continued litter collection by the Council and enforcement of those caught littering. Local groups have been seen undertaking community litter picks at some of the Borough's beaches.

Respondent: SW

Some Southern Water discharges to Controlled Waters include a condition in their Environmental Permit that in the event of an intermittent discharge the company needs to clean up any visible sewage debris that could have been released as part of the discharge. This is not a requirement for all Southern Water discharges. This takes place near to the discharge point and action is taken as soon as practicable following a discharge event to remove visible sewage related debris (including any plastics). We are encouraging our Customers to not flush sanitary items.

Respondent: SCC

Release of particles of plastic into the marine environment which could get into the food chain and smothering of habitat along the foreshore. Weston Shore and the River Itchen all year round. Litter from the public, waterfront businesses, boats and shipping. Regular beach cleans undertaken.

Respondent: NFDC

NFDC streetscene operatives' empty bins and clear rubbish from beaches. Currently there is no monitoring or sampling of coastal litter or volume of litter removed from beaches. However, number of hours spent doing the work is no change as same number of staff doing work, no increase in demand. April 2018, small amount of mercury found on beach at Calshot and removed from beach by fire brigade (hazmat). NFDC support in logistics for litter picks (it is not known how many of these are undertaken but could be increasing?).

Respondent: BRM

Provision of more facilities.

Respondent: LHB

Litter including cotton bud sticks and nurdles (derived from storm water discharges), fishing litter, food wrappings, plastic bottles and many other types are encountered in large quantities harbour-wide.

Respondent: CoHC

Very small amounts of floating debris in the harbour and patrol officers recover what they can.

Respondent: NFNPA

Technically the Park Authority has no jurisdiction, however it is active in promoting litter messaging and coordinating litter picks within Park. Through engagement with local communities and community litter picks we have anecdotal evidence of more litter being reported, possibly more a sign of the public being aware of marine plastic issues than actual expansion of prevalence. Hurst Spit has been the subject of several community picks and there seem to be particular hot spots of microplastics as well as larger litter. Palm/paraffin oil deposits also regularly found on Hurst Spit. Lepe has also been subject of quite a few community picks which have revealed quantities of nurdles and larger items from recreational use. However, HCC Lepe Country Park are concerned that advertising picks and findings gives a negative impression of the Country Park so messaging is having to be very careful. Picks have also tried to use canoes and paddle boards in conjunction with Surfers Against Sewage and NFNPA are trying to help coordinate groups and aid communication as there are now many national and local groups active. A colleague has highlighted that one issue that has arisen is that NFDC are struggling to keep up with requests for picking up and disposing of bagged items from community picks due to resource issues. Campaigns for '2 minute litter picks' are leading to requests for drop off sites in business premises but there are complications with business waste.

Respondent: CDC

Micro-pollutants may be having an impact, but this requires more investigation.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.10. Mooring and anchoring

Activity includes the operational use of berths, moorings and anchorages including the presence of these structures and the vessels using them. Includes consideration of impacts from vessels when berthing/berthed, mooring/moored, anchoring/anchored. Also includes impacts from anchors and impacts of boat when at anchor or mooring. There is a particular risk of damage from anchoring in seagrass beds.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
2	3	6	3	14

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
2	12	14

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: NE

Concern about moorings and anchoring in sensitive habitats, e.g. damaging Eelgrass beds. NE is seeking to reduce the footprint of any infrastructure in a sensitive habitat to improve the resilience of the marine habitats. NE involved in Bid - LIFE ReMEDIES project due to commence in sept 2019 should hear in July if successful. Involves Restoration, Monitoring, Engagement and Protection.

Respondent: ChiHC

Anchoring off east head in areas of saltmarsh, intertidal mud and seagrass is particularly prevalent in mid-summer and likely impacts the seabed in that area. Vessels moored on upper reaches of channels take up room/remove tidal mud habitat available for feeding birds.

Respondent: BRM

Less people anchoring in the lower reaches of the river.

Respondent: CoHC

Slight decrease in the numbers of visiting craft/residents craft.

Respondent: LHB

The number of moorings occupied increased by 2% in 2018 compared with 2017. Despite the small increase in occupied moorings during 2018, mooring occupancy is generally in decline in Langstone Harbour.

Respondent: WL

A new, larger ship means fewer sailings as no fourth boat on the Fishbourne route. Wightlink's anchor practice/test are carried out, outside of any SEMS.

Respondent: YHC

No increase in moorings or anchoring outside the harbour.

Respondent: LHC

Additional visitors due to prolonged hot summer.

Respondent: NFNPA

Only involvement would be planning consent for moorings if above MLW. Current scheme for amendment to moorings in the Beaulieu Estuary is a plan/project and subject to relevant assessments and input from NE and ourselves.

Respondent: CDC

Our activity is almost completely outside the European site on the open coast.

Respondent: MMO

152 moored recreational vessels were sighted in the past 12 months. The previous 12 months it was 0 but no inspections were carried out within the SEMS during previous year so I am unable to tell if this is an increase in activity that would impact site.

Respondent: NFDC

1. No additional moorings added in past 12-months. 2. No identified areas of seagrass at Keyhaven. 3. Anchoring are only permitted in the pool near entrance only where there is no chain or ground tackle.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.11. Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes

Activity includes maintenance and operation of all port/harbour infrastructure including quay walls, jetties, slipways, navigation markers, coastal defence structures etc. Includes consideration of vessels/machinery/vehicles associated with activity. Also include the day-to-day operational use of these structures, lights, buoys, posts, towers, transit marks, supply of fuel/bunkering operations onshore /offshore, etc.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	0	10	4	14

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
1	13	14

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: NE

NE stated that this activity is having an impact, but not additional comments were provided.

Respondent: CoHC

Run by IOW Council/Southern Water.

Respondent: YHC

This would be within the area of our jurisdiction but not our area of management responsibility.

Respondent: PCC

The Council managed this issue in partnership with the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP). The ESCP would monitor these activities through its Coastal Monitoring Programme.

Respondent: NFNPA

New schemes for Lymington and Hurst area being worked up by EA and NFDC.

Respondent: EBC

EBC has a small stretch of shoreline which it is responsible for managing. Coastal erosion has been a problem and restoration took place but not in the past year. It is likely to become an issue again in the future.

Respondent: FBC

The Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership undertake coastal flood and erosion management schemes.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.12. Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)

Activity includes maintenance and operation of all port/harbour infrastructure including quay walls, jetties, slipways, navigation markers, coastal defence structures etc. Includes consideration of vessels/machinery/vehicles associated with activity. Also include the day-to-day operational use of these structures, lights, buoys, posts, towers, transit marks, supply of fuel/bunkering operations onshore /offshore, etc.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	1	10	1	13

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
0	13	13

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: WL

A new, larger vessel means fewer trips and no 4th boat on the Fishbourne route.

Respondent: YHC

Restoration of Yarmouth Pier which involved replacement of timber piles and associated structure. All within the original footprint of the pier which was built in 1876.

Respondent: NE

Loss of intertidal habitats from coastal squeeze. East Solent Coastal partnership are identifying potential managed realignment sites.

Respondent: GBC

Ongoing management of Alver Valley Outfall by Environment Agency.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.13. Recreation – light aircraft

Activity includes all types of craft used for recreation in the air e.g. small planes and helicopters, microlights, paramotors, hang gliding, parascending (on beach), parasailing (by boat), drones and model aircraft.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
4	0	3	4	11

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
4	7	11

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: NFDC

Helicopters landing in a sensitive bird feeding and breeding site. Noise of UAVs cause people to complain, actual impact on sites, not known. Area known as North Point, Hurst Spit shingle recurve 600m due north of Hurst Castle. Helicopter: Noted on 5th April 2019, has been observed by others in the past. No management measures undertaken as landing on private land. This is included as an observation but unknown to us it may be a completely permitted activity.

Respondent: NE

Ongoing work in NE to improve understanding of potential impacts.

Respondent: EBC

EBC owns a relatively small area of land at the foreshore (Hamble Common). It may be possible to limit activities which disturb birds.

Respondent: ChiHC

Para motors: bird disturbance is sporadic, mainly during summer months. Anecdotal increase in drones, impacts unknown.

Respondent: RHHA

RHHA has received four third party requests for commercial drone flights. RHHA is using the guidance document, and liaising with NE on individual cases. NE is still establishing its position with regard to specific conditions required in relation to flight height, duration, distance from SPA birds. An NE officer has undertaken a watching brief in one case.

Respondent: ABP

Increase in drone requests and drone sightings. ABP has a strict policy on the use of drones within Southampton Port limits. A procedure is in place to assess requests. Authorisation will only be given to those with substantiated commercial need and from a compliant and licenced operator.

Respondent: CoHC

More requests for drone flights.

Respondent: NFNPA

No evidence or data - although can report paragliders seen occasionally in the Lymington town area from our office.

Respondent: CDC

We do not have systematic data on drone use, but have not had reports of their use in ways that could impact the Harbour.

Respondent: LHC

Limited drone use - all with prior consent.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.14. Recreation – non-motorised watercraft

Activity includes windsurfing, kite surfing, kayaks, canoes, row boats, punts, paddle boards, dinghies and sailing boats. Includes all related participation such as launching and recovery (shore access and trailers) and any land based practice. Please include information on events and competitions.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
5	1	5	6	17

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
5	12	17

Relevant Authority Comments

Respondent: ChiHC

Increase in harbour dues received for paddle boards and kayaks, but some of this change possibly due to increased efforts to collect dues from those users. Kayaks/paddle-boarders cause disturbance to bird roosts by getting too close to islands/spits/saltmarshes at high tide.

Respondent: IoWC

As recreational pressures increase it is likely that these activities are increasing too. However, data on the levels and frequency is not collected. Anecdotally, it is known that local organisations implement codes of conduct at the coast.

Respondent: NFDC

NFDC manages Keyhaven Quay, river and use of slipway. Increase of kayaks, paddle boards, kite surfing etc. Identified by increased number of slipway launches. The available access of small craft (kayaks SUP's) means disturbance in smaller creek areas, particularly at Keyhaven and surrounding area. This is an annual summer increase. The cause is the popularity of the activity

(younger people, day visitors). Accessibility and ease of use of kit etc. We have shared information on notice boards and with Yacht club with guidance to paddle boarders to use main arterial routes and not to paddle around tern nesting areas, and for boat users to reduce speed and keep wash to a minimum when entering Hawkers Lake. Jet skis are not permitted to launch.

Observation is that sailing appears to be in decline (traditional sailors are older and less young people are taking it up) which appears to be slowly reducing the number of yachts, etc.

Respondent: LHC

Additional movements related to prolonged hot summer. Windsurfing/kite surfing is prohibited. Other activities are in line with past experience.

Respondent: PCC

No additional activities in the inter-tidal area that the Council are aware of.

Respondent: NE

An increase in non motorised watercraft as a result of increase housing could lead to increased disturbance/trampling effects but it is hoped this pressure is being addressed by management through Solent Bird Aware.

Respondent: NFNPA

Not aware of any issues but no proactive collection by us of any information due to limited role.

Respondent: MMO

Sighting of sailing boat reported in the past year.

Respondent: BRM

Increase in paddleboarding.

Respondent: CoHC

Slight decrease in the number of leisure yacht /craft.

Respondent: LHB

Whilst many of the craft listed above are not liable to harbour dues and therefore LHB does not hold data on their numbers, no perceivable increase has been noted. A number of sailing clubs around the harbour hold regular regattas, and there are also annual races around Hayling Island for windsurfers and kayaks.

Respondent: YHC

Slight increase in paddleboards due to local sailing club accommodating paddleboard company which takes children out on the estuary. Activity mainly takes place in the summer and not in large numbers. We will monitor this activity and talk to the club about environmental sensitivities.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.15. Recreation – powerboating or sailing with an engine

Activity includes any motorised boat activity, such as Personal Watercraft (PWC), hovercraft, powerboating and water-skiing. Includes launching and recovery of craft e.g. slipway or beach/shore launching and participation i.e. when activity is underway or making way. Please consider other novel uses of power boats such as flyboarding. The impacts of different craft will vary and should be considered on a case by case basis e.g. sailing boats with low power engines moving at slow speeds are less likely to have an impact.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
2	1	6	6	15

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
1	11	12

Relevant Authority Comments

Respondent: ChiHC

Difficult to judge impact or lack of impact. Harbour dues remain stable for motorised vessels.

Respondent: CoHC

Slight decrease in the numbers of leisure vessel/craft.

Respondent: LHB

The number of jetski permits and waterski licences purchased during 2018 increased slightly compared with 2017. The number of harbour dues (required by all vessels using the harbour) decreased however, so overall motorised boating activities remained stable.

Respondent: YHC

General increase in boat numbers into the harbour this year. These are mainly yachts (motor and sail) and some ribs. These are accommodated by the harbour infrastructure and unlikely to cause additional impact. Harbour is set up to receive these vessels with all safety, navigational and environmental measures in place.

Respondent: LHC

Additional movements related to prolonged hot summer. PWC, Hovercraft, and water skiing are banned activities.

Respondent: NE

An increase in powerboating as a result of increase housing could lead to increased disturbance/trampling effects but it is hoped this pressure is being addressed by management through Solent Bird Aware.

Respondent: MMO

10 motor boats recorded in the past 12 months. The previous 12 months it was 0 but no inspections were carried out within the SEMS during previous year, so I am unable to tell if this is an increase in activity that would impact site.

Respondent: NFDC

NFDC manages Keyhaven River and use of the slipway. Change in usage - marked increase in paddle boards, decline in yachts visiting and launching (river not as full). Motor boats, small motor boats, sports fishing slight decline as population getting older yachts, middle aged activity and younger not taking to sport. People buying cheap paddle boards or smaller hand powered craft rather than large vessels.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.16. Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance

Activity includes the ongoing maintenance, such as washing down, clearing of mud or sediment, algal growth or similar of a slipway or jetty.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	0	10	2	13

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
1	12	13

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: NE

NE reported that this activity is having an impact, but no additional comments were provided.

Respondent: BRM

Use of environmentally friendly products to help clean.

Respondent: CoHC

Run by IOW Council.

Respondent: RHHA

RHHA continues to remove algal mats that build up and obstruct a slipway. Evidence and costs of this were supplied to NE and EA during the last 12 months, and helped add to the evidence base leading to a successful funding bid for additional planting of cover crop upstream to help reduce nutrient levels released.

Respondent: IoWC

Additional point of access to marine environment. Refer to details on Marine License Applications.

Respondent: NE

Potential impact through spread of INNS. NE to update on outcomes of INNS research report when finalised.

Respondent: LHC

Use power washer to clean using river water.

Respondent: SCC

This is a small scale, occasional activity.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.17. Wildfowling

Activity includes the use of firearms to shoot wild fowl. This category does not take into account the use of dogs during these activities, please use 'Land recreation - dog walking' for any dog related activity.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2019 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	0	3	3	6

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
1	4	5

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: ChiHC

Wildfowling causes disturbance to roosting birds and removes important feeding areas when shooting is going on.

Respondent: NE

Sustainable wildfowling and potential disturbance impacts managed through NE consent.

Respondent: LHC

Properly controlled and licensed.

Respondent: NFDC

NFDC issues a licence to wildfowling, but the use of dogs is not included in licence. Not aware of any increased effect. Any effect it has is the same effect it has had in the past.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019

4.18 Additional Comments on Activities

The following additional comments were received on activities.

IoWC - On 2nd April Natural England granted a license for White-Tailed Sea Eagle reintroduction on the Isle of Wight.

NFDC - A degree of the information given is anecdotal and observation only as the council does not have official monitoring records.

WCC - As a small part of the Hamble lies within our administrative boundaries, there may be responsibilities relating to public access to footpaths and the river itself. If there is anything, it would either fall under our responsibilities as a land owner (although it may mostly be private land), or owner of any local footpaths, or from any sport or recreational activities on/adjacent to the Hamble that WCC may provide. Fairthorne Manor run activities including kayaking on the Hamble.

5. Activities Resulting from Plans and Projects

Respondents were asked whether plans or project within SEMS may lead to any changes to activity levels, or impacts over the last 12 months. Table 6 presents the findings.

Table 6. Activity change or impacts arising from plans and projects.

Respondent	Details
BRM	No
CoHC	No
LHB	The "England Coastal Path" (a provision of the MCAA 2009, being led by NE) remains an uncertainty around Langstone Harbour and much of the SEMS. While most of the site already has in place a coastal path, the new proposals continue to include "spreading room" depicted on Ordnance Survey maps, which may encourage walkers onto the intertidal zone where wildlife disturbance and habitat trampling are likely to occur.
YHC	There was a decrease in angling from Yarmouth Pier for February - August as it was closed to the public. The pier is a very popular angling location.
EA	No
TVBC	No
WL	Victoria of Wight, the new hybrid ferry is quieter than other vessels. As she has a greater capacity, the same number of passengers can be carried as last year, but on fewer sailings.
NE	Increased housing. Concerns around increased recreational pressure and additional nutrients. Solent Bird Aware managing increased recreational pressure and plans to address nutrients through an Integrated Water Management Strategy.
LHC	No
NFNPA	No consented schemes in that time (other schemes in discussion). Impacts of intensification of use at Lepe Country Park uncertain and would benefit from improved monitoring -so could be useful case study.
WSCC	No
IOWC	The Isle of Wight Council have commented on the following Marine License Applications which have been identified as having a potential impact on SEMS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLA/2018/00537 Medina Park Footbridge replacement • MLA/2018/00447 Application for mooring a houseboat • MLA/2018/00182 B160 Newport Quay deck replacement • MLA/2018/2018/00350 Simulated oil spill spraying operations from an aircraft • MLA/2018/00285 East Cowes lay-by berth • MLA/2018/00311 Mudlark pontoon and piles, Wootton Creek • MLA/2018/00181 St Helens Mill Dam, footbridge replacements (B320 and B321)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLA/2018/00094 Replacement pontoon and linkspan bridge, The Folly <p>Environment Agency are leading on the Monktonmead flood alleviation scheme in Ryde. Works include removal of existing long sea outfall from Ryde Sands leading to a reduction in development footprint within European site. The scheme will be complete Spring 2019.</p>
EBC	Ongoing new housing development within the Borough which has potentially increased visitor numbers to the coast.
CDC	Impacts of new development on nutrient levels in the Harbour has become a pressing issue in the wake of the "Dutch Colleges" case. This is an issue for the Local Plan review, but it may have an impact on land management and farming practices more generally in the future.
FBC	Not that I am aware.
GBC	The Borough Council is currently reviewing the Local Plan which will cover the period to 2036. Over the current plan period (2011-2029) the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (adopted October 2015) makes provision for 3,060 dwellings, an annual requirement of 170 dwellings. The Borough Council has currently been meeting its identified need of 3,060 net additional dwellings for the plan period. Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) and the introduction of the standard method for assessing local housing need means the emerging Local Plan, which is due to be published for pre-submission consultation in late 2019, will be required to meet a capped requirement of 238 dwellings per annum.
SW	Southern Water is delivering a major upgrade to our treatment works at Woolston that discharges to Southampton Water. As a result of this upgrade there will be a reduction in the concentration of both Total Nitrogen and bacteria concentrations in the final effluent released from this wastewater treatment works. This upgrade is being completed in May 2019.
Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2019	

6. Monitoring

Table 7 records the monitoring being undertaken by respondents in the SEMs sites.

Table 7. Relevant Authority monitoring within SEMs

Respondent	Details
BRM	Monitoring of the saltmarshes due to a dredge that has taken place. Data will be held by MMO, Natural England and Harbour Office.
SoIFCA	Southern IFCA Annual Oyster Survey - 2014-18, undertaken in July/August (ongoing); Seine net fish monitoring surveys (Yarmouth, Keyhaven and Newtown Harbour) undertaken since 2016 in June and October ongoing; Southampton Water, Langstone and Portsmouth Harbour Bivalve survey (new for 2017/18) - undertaken in March and October ongoing; Activity monitoring of all fishing activities (vessel and shore based) through the sightings collection whilst officers are on duty. All of the above are based on Southern IFCA SOPs. Data held by SoIFCA.
CoHC	Monitoring of turbidity levels with Cowes Harbour – ongoing. Recorded on bespoke software. Data held by Cowes Harbour Commission.
LHB	LHB monitors numerous water and shore based activities in the SEMs. In addition, LHB monitors a variety of wildlife interests. All this monitoring work is on-going and further details are available upon request. Coordinating with SoIFCA, RSPB, UoP, CHC.
EA	Ongoing monitoring of bathing waters and shellfish waters. Ongoing environmental monitoring of chemical and biological elements in transitional and coastal waters for EU Water Framework Directive; biological elements include saltmarsh, seagrass, opportunistic macroalgae, phytoplankton, benthic invertebrates and estuarine fish (excluding coastal fish). Monitoring includes recording for invasive non-native species. Data held by Marine Team, Analysis & Reporting teams, Fisheries and Biodiversity teams. Records for invasive non-native species are held on an external national website. Coordinating with Natural England, Harbour Authorities, Local Authorities, Cefas, IFCA's and Wildlife Trusts.
RHHA	Ongoing monitoring of bait digging activities in the Hamble estuary, as previously reported, comprising patrol officer sightings and reports from members of the public. Not all incidents are captured, but all data held is supplied to SIFCA. Data held by RHHA and SIFCA. 2. RHHA is supporting the Hamble-based monitoring of the research into the reintroduction of native oyster. Data is held by Blue Marine Foundation and Portsmouth University. Coordinating with SoIFCA, Blue Marine Foundation and Portsmouth University.

WL	Part of the planning permission for development of the Fishbourne terminal and operation of Victoria of Wight, includes monitoring of ferry speeds and the vertipool species. First report due in July 2019. AIS data held within Excel for ferry speeds. Data held by Wightlink (safety, health & environment department). Coordinating with ABPmer.
NE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intertidal Phase 1 and 2 surveys of New Forest coast (focus on Hurst to Calshot) 2. Intertidal Phase 1 and 2 surveys of Kings Quay Shore, IOW 3. Mapping of intertidal seagrass beds both on foot and through use of drone technology with a focus on Chichester and Langstone Harbours 4. Trial project to use remote sensing techniques to identify different macrophytes 5. Year 2 of EMFF funded project to map INNS in Solent.
LHC	Periodic monitoring effects of ongoing beneficial use of dredged sediment. Consultants reports produced in accordance with MMO licence conditions. Data held by LHC. Coordinating with BUDS project.
MMO	<p>Each year we produce MPA reports that compare activity levels to decide if management within the site is required or still appropriate. Data held by MMO. Coordinating with local IFCA.</p> <p>MMO have been researching the impact of recreational activities on MPAs, especially inshore sites. The final results are not yet available.</p>
FBC	Bird Aware monitor and report back on cases of recreational disturbance and instances where recreational disturbance has been prevented. Reports on the monitoring is done on a season by season basis at present with the most important monitoring period the winter season. Bird aware also commission car park and visitor surveys which feed into the monitoring package and inform necessary tweaks to mitigation. Bird Aware Solent Rangers will have a monitoring template. Data held by Bird Aware. Unsure of coordination, ask Bird Aware Solent for information.
GBC	Ongoing monitoring through Bird Aware Solent and the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership. Data held by Bird Aware and GBC. Coordinating with Bird Aware Solent and Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership.
YHC	Will continue to monitor extent of saltmarsh in the Western Yar but this is more likely to be affected by natural change rather than activities in that area.
NFNPA	Staff involved in community litter picks do record the amount of litter recovered and number of participants.
CDC	Only through Bird Aware Solent.

Table 8. Awareness of any other new monitoring of activities or their impacts

Respondent	Details
CoHC	No
LHB	No
YHC	No
RHHA	No
TVBC	No.
LHC	See above
IOWC	No
CDC	Only through Bird Aware Solent
FBC	Not aware
GBC	N/A
SW	No
SCC	No

7. Other issues

Respondents were asked whether there were any further issues they would like to raise. Their responses are recorded in Table 9.

Table 9. Other issues raised in the survey

Respondent	Other Issues
LHB	N/A
IOWC	None
MMO	MMO have been researching the impact of recreational activities on MPAs. This will allow us to review management, especially inshore sites. The final results are not yet available.
FBC	N/A
NFDC	Hurst Tracer Study

-end-