



Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Annual Survey Report, 2025

**PREPARED BY THE SOLENT FORUM ON BEHALF OF THE
SEMS MANAGEMENT GROUP**

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1 Introduction

This document is the Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Annual Survey Report, (ASR) which presents the findings from the SEMS annual online survey that took place in Spring 2025. It is prepared by the Solent Forum in its role as the SEMS Secretariat. The purpose of this survey is to:

- Monitor changes in 16 non-licensable marine and coastal activities that take place within the Solent's designated sites.
- Identify activities that are having an impact on the features of the sites.
- Gather 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 mirror the activity categories used in Natural England's [Conservation Advice packages for Marine Protected Areas](#). This enables cross referencing of the survey findings to the impacts of activities as published in this Advice.

Locations and details on the Solent Marine Sites can be found on [Natural England's Designated Sites System](#). The site boundaries can be viewed spatially on [Defra's MAGIC map](#).

Past SEMS Annual Survey Reports can be accessed at:
<http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/>.

2 Survey Respondents

All of the 31 Relevant Authorities who were invited to complete the 2025 SEMS responded. Table 1 shows a list of respondents. Table 2 identifies the types of Relevant Authorities.

| Table 1. SEMS Survey Respondents | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Associated British Ports (ABP) | Natural England (NE) |
| Beaulieu Enterprises (BRM) | New Forest District Council (NFDC) |
| Chichester District Council (CDC) | New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) |
| Chichester Harbour Conservancy (ChHC) | Portsmouth City Council (PCC) |
| Cowes Harbour Commissioners (CoHC) | Portsmouth International Port (PiP) |
| Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) | River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA) |
| Environment Agency (EA) | Southampton City Council (SCC) |
| Fareham Borough Council (FBC) | Southern IFCA (SolFCA) |
| Gosport Borough Council (GBC) | Southern Water (SW) |
| Hampshire County Council (HCC) | Sussex IFCA (SxIFCA) |
| Havant Borough Council (HBC) | Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) |
| Isle of Wight Council (IoWC) | West Sussex County Council (WSCC) |
| KHM Portsmouth (KHM) | Wightlink (WL) |
| Langstone Harbour Board (LHB) | Winchester City Council (WCC) |
| Lymington Harbour Commissioners (LHC) | Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners (YHC) |
| Marine Management Organisation (MMO) | |

Table 2. The type of Relevant Authority who responded to the Survey

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Government Agency | 3 |
| Harbour Authority | 7 |
| IFCA | 2 |
| Local Authority | 13 |
| Other | 2 |
| Private Company | 2 |
| Water Company | 1 |
| National Park | 1 |

3 Activity Summary

Section 3 shows the survey response data for individual activities. Respondents were questioned on sixteen 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. General beach recreation
6. Grazing and foraging
7. Land recreation - Walking (incl. dog walking)
8. Littering and removal of litter
9. Mooring and anchoring
10. Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes
11. Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)
12. Recreation - light aircraft
13. Recreation - non-motorised watercraft
14. Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine
15. Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance
16. Wildfowling

3.1 Activities that fall within the jurisdiction of SEMS Management Group members

Table 3 illustrates how many Relevant Authorities recorded that a particular activity takes place within their jurisdiction.

| Activity | Percentage of Relevant Authorities | Response |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up | 52% | 16 |
| Boat Repair and Maintenance | 42% | 13 |
| Fishing (including shellfisheries) | 52% | 16 |
| Fishing (shore-based activities) | 68% | 21 |
| General Beach Recreation | 58% | 18 |
| Grazing and Foraging | 23% | 7 |
| Land recreation (incl. walking with dogs) | 65% | 20 |
| Littering and removal of litter | 68% | 21 |
| Mooring and Anchoring | 52% | 16 |
| Operation of FCERM schemes | 65% | 20 |
| Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure) | 55% | 17 |
| Recreation - light aircraft | 35% | 11 |
| Recreation - non-motorised watercraft | 61% | 19 |
| Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine | 58% | 18 |
| Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance | 48% | 15 |
| Wildfowling | 23% | 7 |

3.2 Changes Recorded in Activity Levels

Respondents were asked whether, since the last survey in spring 2024, each activity had increased, decreased, had no change or they had no data. Table 4 summarises the data. The mode value has been shaded green.

Table 4. Summary of reported changes in activity levels from spring 2024 to spring 2025

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up | 0 | 0 | 14 | 2 | 16 |
| Boat Repair and Maintenance | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| Fishing (including shellfisheries) | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 16 |
| Fishing (shore-based activities) | 1 | 0 | 11 | 9 | 21 |
| General Beach Recreation | 2 | 0 | 9 | 7 | 18 |
| Grazing and Foraging | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| Land recreation (incl. walking with dogs) | 2 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 20 |
| Littering and removal of litter | 0 | 0 | 12 | 9 | 21 |
| Mooring and Anchoring | 0 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 16 |
| Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes | 5 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 20 |
| Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure) | 2 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 17 |
| Recreation - light aircraft | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 11 |
| Recreation - non-motorised watercraft | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 19 |
| Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine | 0 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 18 |
| Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance | 0 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 15 |
| Wildfowling | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 7 |

3.3 Activity Impacts on Designated Sites

Respondents were asked whether they thought that the activities were having an impact on the features of the Solent Marine Sites. Tables 5a and 5b summarise the data. The mode value in Table 5a has been shaded green.

Table 5a. Activities Impacting on Designated Sites by Total Responses

| Activity | Yes | No | Total Responses | Org Names (where yes) |
|---|-----|----|-----------------|---|
| Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up | 3 | 13 | 16 | LHB, MMO, ChHC |
| Boat Repair and Maintenance | 1 | 12 | 13 | ChHC |
| Fishing (including shellfisheries) | 5 | 11 | 16 | EA, GBC, SxIFCA, HCC ,ChHC |
| Fishing (shore-based activities) | 5 | 16 | 21 | FBC, EBC, SxIFCA, HCC, ChHC |
| General Beach Recreation | 7 | 11 | 18 | FBC, EBC, NE, PCC, MMO, ChHC, IOWC |
| Grazing and Foraging | 1 | 6 | 7 | ChHC |
| Land recreation (incl. walking with dogs) | 13 | 7 | 20 | FBC, LHB, WSCC, GBC, EBC, NFNPA, NE, PCC, CDC, HCC, ChHC, SCC, IOWC |
| Littering and removal of litter | 12 | 9 | 21 | ABP, LHC, FBC, LHB, EA, EBC, PCC, HCC, MMO, ChHC, SCC, IOWC |
| Mooring and Anchoring | 6 | 10 | 16 | FBC, LHB, NE, MMO, ChHC, SCC |
| Operation of coastal FCERM schemes | 11 | 9 | 20 | CoHC, LHC, LHB, EA, GBC ,BRM, NE, PCC, MMO, ChHC ,IOWC |
| Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure) | 1 | 16 | 17 | ChHC |
| Recreation - light aircraft | 1 | 10 | 11 | ChHC |
| Recreation - non-motorised watercraft | 10 | 9 | 19 | LHC, FBC,LHB, GBC ,EBC, NE,HCC, MMO, ChHC, IOWC |
| Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine | 8 | 10 | 18 | FBC, LHB, GBC, EBC, NE, MMO, ChHC, IOWC |
| Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance | 0 | 15 | 15 | |
| Wildfowling | 1 | 6 | 7 | ChHC |

Table 5b. Percentage of respondents stating that an activity is impacting on designated sites

| Activity | Yes | No | Total Responses | Percent Yes |
|---|-----|----|-----------------|-------------|
| Land recreation (incl. walking with dogs) | 13 | 7 | 20 | 65% |
| Littering and removal of litter | 12 | 9 | 21 | 57% |
| Operation of coastal FCERM schemes | 11 | 9 | 20 | 55% |
| Recreation non-motorised watercraft | 10 | 9 | 19 | 53% |
| Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine | 8 | 10 | 18 | 44% |
| General Beach Recreation | 7 | 11 | 18 | 39% |
| Mooring and Anchoring | 6 | 10 | 16 | 38% |
| Fishing (including shellfisheries) | 5 | 11 | 16 | 31% |
| Fishing (shore-based activities) | 5 | 16 | 21 | 24% |
| Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up | 3 | 13 | 16 | 19% |
| Grazing and Foraging | 1 | 6 | 7 | 14% |
| Wildfowling | 1 | 6 | 7 | 14% |
| Recreation - light aircraft | 1 | 10 | 11 | 9% |
| Boat Repair and Maintenance | 1 | 12 | 13 | 8% |
| Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure) | 1 | 16 | 17 | 6% |
| Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance | 0 | 15 | 15 | 0% |

3.4 Annual Trend Data

Table 6 shows the mode response for activity change for a time series; currently we have data for seven years. In 2025 the mode response was 'no change' to all activity levels, except for two activities where the 'don't know' option was equivalent. Please note this does not mean that these activities are not widespread and/or elevated, for example we know that the Solent is heavily used for recreation. The table reflects that respondents did not notice a significant increase or decrease in an activity in their jurisdiction over the year.

Table 6. Trend data for activity change

| Activity | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Accidental vessel discharges/emissions | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC |
| Boat repair and maintenance | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC |

Table 6. Trend data for activity change

| Activity | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Fishing (including shellfisheries) | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | D/NC |
| Fishing (shore-based activities) | NC | NC | NC | NC | DK | NC | NC |
| Grazing and foraging | NC/DK | NC | NC | DK | I | NC | N/a |
| General beach recreation | NC | NC | NC | NC | I | NC | NC |
| Land recreation (incl. walking with dogs) | NC/DK | NC | NC | NC | I | NC | NC |
| Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking) | <i>In 2024 the two categories on walking merged</i> | | NC | NC | I | NC | NC |
| Littering and removal of litter | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC |
| Mooring and anchoring | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC |
| Operation of FCERM | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC |
| Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure) | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC |
| Recreation - light aircraft | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | I | NC |
| Recreation - non-motorised watercraft | NC | NC | NC | I | I | NC | I/NC |
| Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine | NC | NC | NC | NC | I/DK | NC | NC |
| Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC |
| Wildfowling | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC | NC |
| Key: I = increase, D = decrease, NC = No change, DK = Do not Know | | | | | | | |
| Source: SEMS Annual Surveys: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019 | | | | | | | |

4 Individual Activity Responses

Section 4 gives the individual relevant authority comments for each activity; the comments are presented verbatim. For respondent organisation abbreviations please see Table 1.

4.1 Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up

Activity includes accidental discharges and/or emissions from all types of vessels, including exhaust fumes, wastewater, sewerage, oils, lubricants, and chemicals, including oil spill and clean-up.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up | 0 | 0 | 14 | 2 | 16 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|---|
| CoHC | Only one minor spill reported this year - approx. 5L of diesel spilled during a fuel transfer. Dissipated quickly , with no lasting effects. |
| LHB | Wastewater discharges and highway runoff into Langstone Harbour are two of the most significant discharges into Langstone Harbour. In 2024, there was 99 continual days of permitted wastewater discharge into the Harbour, and just under two days of unpermitted discharge. These are often untreated and can release any number of chemicals/toxins into the water. We suspect that there is a lot of urban highways runoff in the north of the harbour from the A27 and Eastern road - no evidence yet. Likely to have an in-combination effect on SEMS. It is not possible to prevent all accidental discharges. Large spills could be catastrophic and would need to be dealt with effectively and to Harbour Authority plans. Langstone Harbour Board are required to operate and update an Oil Spill Contingency Plan and a Waste Management Plan to identify and mitigate these risks. The plan is exercised and tested multiple times a year to ensure efficiency. Any spills that take place are reviewed and operational guidance is updated. |
| EA | We are not aware of any significant accidental discharges/spills of unregulated substances to the environment. Harbour Authorities or large industries would notify the EA and the MCA and other authorities would lead clean up. |
| GBC | We previously reported this fell within our jurisdiction. Having reviewed the SEMS Duty/Responsibility guide we consider this does not fall within our jurisdiction. The Council does have an Emergency Planning role. We are not aware of any incidents this year. |
| BRM | We provide a free pump out service and educate users. |
| CDC | CDC is part of the emergency plan response for a major oil spill. We have not had to implement this plan so far. We are not aware of smaller spills from leisure craft. |
| HBC | Impacts unknown. |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| MMO | Any unintentional discharges or emissions from various vessels pose a serious threat to the ecosystem. It is the responsibility of marinas and port authorities to promptly report such incidents to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). |
| ChHC | Harbour waters are impacted through eutrophication. |

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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Boat Repair and Maintenance | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 13 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|--|
| CoHC | No new yards / facilities have started since the last survey. |
| ABP | Unaware of scale and frequency of activity within the wider SEMS area. |
| LHB | Vessel owners are encouraged to take property to a boatyard for repairs and maintenance, not to conduct it in the harbour. LHB have acquired a telehandler and slipway trailer so can now accommodate this activity in our yard. End of life vessels are a significant point source pollutant of GRP and fibreglass. |
| PIP | Boat repair establishments are located at multiple sites around Portsmouth Harbour. |
| ChHC | Microfibres from GRP boat maintenance have been found in marine organisms within the harbour. |

4.3 Fishing (including shellfisheries)

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

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Fishing (including shellfisheries) | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 16 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|---------------|---|
| SoIFCA | Overall fishing activity remains consistent throughout the Solent, with moderate levels of activity in the scallop fishery and a slight increase in activity targeting the manila clam fishery due to the apparent high productivity of this fishery. The bivalve fisheries within the Solent are managed by conditions for a Category A permit under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw . The scallop fishery continues to occur in beds east of Ryde |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| | <p>and Portsmouth, primarily outside of the SEMS. The links below provide further information on the surveys which Southern IFCA run in the Solent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bivalve Survey, which occurs biannually and looks at Catch Per Unit Effort for Common Cockle, American Hardshell clams, and Manila clams. • The King Scallop survey, which looks at Catch Per Unit Effort across the Solent tri-annually (Solent Dredge Permit). • The Native Oyster survey, which monitors the native oyster population within the Solent and the Harbours every two years (Solent Dredge Permit). • The Small Fish Survey, which gathers data on juvenile fish populations biannually in Yarmouth, the River Hamble, and Christchurch (Net Fisheries). • The Whelk Survey, which gathers information on the population of whelks within the Solent in the Spring of each year (Pot & Trap Fisheries). <p>In 2023, Southern IFCA introduced the Net Fishing Byelaw, which details Net Prohibition Areas (where net fishing is prohibited at all times of year and under any conditions), Net Restriction Areas (where net fishing is subject to seasonal and/or gear restrictions), and Net Permit Areas (where net fishing is managed by permitting named individuals and specific vessels under flexible permit conditions). Further information can be found on the IFCA website relating to the management (Net Fishing) or permitting (Net Fishing Permit) of the net fishery. Within the Solent, there are two Net Restriction Areas (Langstone Harbour & Portsmouth Harbour) and two Net Permit Areas (Southampton Water & River Hamble), and 18 Net Prohibition Areas across the Harbours, Southampton Water, the Solent, and the Isle of Wight. Maps and coordinates for these areas can be found within the Net Fishing Byelaw.</p> <p>During 2023, Southern IFCA undertook a review of bottom towed fishing gear (BTFG) activity in MCZs, SACs and SPAs across the District. The BTFG Byelaw 2023 was submitted to the MMO/Defra for quality assurance and consideration in October 2023, and currently the byelaw is in this QA process. Details on the review can be found on the Southern IFCA website at Ongoing Reviews.</p> |
| CoHC | One commercial fisherman based in Cowes, but fishes outside our area. |
| LHB | No vessel witnessed in Langstone Harbour during winter shellfishing months, as much commercial activity in Southampton Water for clamming. Minimal fishing activity in summer months - one commercial fisher nets in the Harbour during summer. All commercial activity operating in the harbour is recorded when sighted, including fishing type. Decrease in classification of shellfish beds in 2024 likely prevented shellfishing. Activity is so infrequent, and on such a small scale, that it is not deemed to have an impact on the SEMS. Whilst commercial fishing is infrequent in Langstone, there are sometimes reports/sightings of large groups (5-8) fishing from small SIBs, indiscriminately catching and retaining undersize fish. Impacts are unknown due to limited data on when/how often/where this activity occurs - sIFCA are aware. |
| EA | Continued concerns relating to the impact of netting on migratory salmonids (Atlantic salmon and sea trout). This activity occurs in both estuarine and freshwater habitats. The EA regulate the Beaulieu Seine net. This activity is now regulated by a byelaw rather than the previous net limitation order. The |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| | other relevant activity is the fyke net fishery for European eel which operates within designated sites. All other aspects of fishing are regulated by Southern IFCA. |
| GBC | On the whole this activity is not considered to have a significant impact however there is uncertainty how smaller trawling operations just off the coast affect SEMs sites. Further monitoring would be needed to understand the impact. |
| BRM | We don't allow fishing on the river. |
| EBC | Permitted inshore netting at the mouth of the Hamble is likely to have a negative impact on estuarine fish species (e.g. mullet sp.). Levels of Illegal setting of nets in the Hamble is unknown but probably does occur. |
| SW | On going water quality projects including for bathing water quality and shellfisheries. |
| SxIFCA | <p>Bottom-towed gear, including trawling and dredging (both for oysters and scallops) is prohibited in Chichester Harbour. From IFCA sightings data and officer knowledge, angling and netting is known to occur in Chichester Harbour, with low intensity. The Fixed Engines Byelaw is still in place, ruling that no fixed engines (nets), except Fyke nets, between 1st May and 30th September across the entrance of Chichester Harbour from East Head to Sandy Point. Potting has the potential to occur in Chichester Harbour.</p> <p>SxIFCA will be undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in 2025 to evaluate the impact of all fishing activity on the protected features in Chichester Harbour. There are no new plans or projects, but periodically HRAs are completed for the European Marine Sites in our district, to evaluate whether there have been changes in fishing intensity, and if there should be changes in management of sites.</p> |
| HCC | The peak in numbers seen during covid seems to have dropped off. Biggest problem is discarded litter and line left on the seawall. There is a regular problem at Pylewell where groups of anglers spend prolonged periods of time fishing from the cheniers during the bird breeding season. This is likely disturbing species such as Ringed Plover and Oystercatcher which nest on the shingle. They ignore signs and can be quite aggressive if challenged. |
| ChHC | Difficult to assess impacts from angling in summer, but some disturbance to roosting/nesting birds likely. |

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 using '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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Fishing (shore-based activities) | 1 | 0 | 11 | 9 | 21 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|---------------|--|
| SoIFCA | <p>Shore-based fishing activity in the Solent covers a range of activities including rod and line angling and the collection of bivalve species such as Pacific oysters (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>). Levels of activity for these fishing methods remain consistent within the Solent, as do the areas where the activities are occurring (Langstone Harbour, Hayling Island, Hill Head).</p> <p>Southern IFCA currently provides management on shore-based fishing activities through a suite of byelaws that can be viewed on its website (Shore Gathering) that include minimum size requirements, approved shore-gathering practices, and a prohibition on gathering sea fisheries resources in seagrass beds. In addition, Southern IFCA provide guidance and codes of practice for hand gathering of shellfish and bait digging within our district (Shore Gathering).</p> <p>In December 2024 Southern IFCA submitted the Shore Gathering Byelaw and the Fishing for Cockles (Amendment) Byelaw to the MMO/Defra for their QA process. The Shore Gathering Byelaw proposes the introduction of defined year-round prohibited areas, summer closure areas (closed 1st March to 31st August), and winter closure areas (closed 1st November to 31st March), within which shore gathering activities will be prohibited. The shore gathering activities covered by the Byelaw include shellfish hand gathering, mechanical harvesting of shellfish, bait digging, crab tiling, shrimp push-netting, and seaweed harvesting. The Fishing for Cockles Byelaw has been amended to remove provisions relating to prescribed methods of harvesting, equipment specifications for hand picking of cockles and the construction/operation of a dredge in relation to fishing for cockles. The Byelaw maintains existing provisions relating to Minimum Conservation Reference Size for cockles and a closed season, applicable to all harvesting methods except use of a dredge in Poole Harbour.</p> <p>During the review undertaken for these byelaws, a Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct was also written, which will come into effect when the Shore Gathering Byelaw is ratified. Further information is available at Ongoing Reviews: Southern IFCA.</p> |
| CoHC | Small scale, leisure fishermen from shore/pontoons. |
| LHC | Limited rod and line angling and crabbing. Very limited bait digging at upper harbour limits. |
| FBC | Some incidences of small scale (individual) shellfish collection and bait digging occurs along the Fareham coastline. It is unclear what level of impact this has on the SEMS. |
| LHB | Hand gathering common in places - newly introduced SIFCA byelaw may prohibit this in 2025/26. Most gathering activity is for Pacific Oysters - not deemed a concern as INNS. Concerns arise from access to gathering areas i.e. trampling of seagrass beds. |
| EA | The only listed activity under EA jurisdiction is rod and line (but only partially within EA's responsibility for salmonids). Unlikely any significant impacts from rod and line on the SEMS sites apart from low level impacts from discarded fishing gear, disturbance from anglers visiting coastal locations and removal of species. Sea angling and all other activities listed fall within Southern IFCA's jurisdiction. |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| BRM | We don't allow fishing on the river. |
| EBC | Coast from Hamble to Netley is popular with shore anglers. Litter can be a problem plus some (low) potential for direct disturbance from anglers. Bait digging, especially for ragworm, may also be a problem along the Hamble estuary in places. In general shore based fishing is unlikely to be a significant negative factor on SEMs compared to other activities. |
| RHHA | For bait digging, very little observation of bait digging gangs. Individuals still present, but not the large scale we have seen over many years previously. |
| NE | Activity levels have continued to increase across the Solent, particularly hand gathering. There have been Increased reports of hand gathering of bivalves and collection of bait. There have also been reports of push netting in subtidal seagrass at Gurnard Bay. This activity is likely to damage seagrass and species living within such as stalked jellyfish and seahorses, these reports have been referred to Southern IFCA. These reports are not sufficient to prove an increase for this activity and its impact, and more data is required for this activity. |
| SxIFCA | Hand gathering and bait digging is known to occur in intertidal areas year-round at Chichester Harbour. These activities occur daily, but at higher intensity over spring tides in summer months. The Sussex IFCA Hand Gathering Byelaw has been introduced to set rules for bag limits and permits for hand gathering in the district. Further information will be posted on the SxIFCA website in summer 2025. Intensities of shore based activities have increased over the past 12 months. We continue to monitor fishing activity on routine patrols in the district, and we have conducted drone surveys of bait digging in partnership with the Scottish Institute for Marine Science. As mentioned above, shore-based fishing activities will be reviewed along with other fishing method in the Chichester Harbour HRA, which will be completed by SxIFCA in 2025. |
| HCC | Some bait digging offshore from the seawall at Lymington causes minor disturbance but also turns over the substrate which could impact food availability. Some collection of 'sea peat' which is used for keeping ragworm. Bags of material occasionally removed from the near shore salt marshes. |
| SCC | Physical disturbance to mudflat habitat and disturbance of birds feeding on the mudflats. |

4.5 General Beach Recreation

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 buggying).

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| General Beach Recreation | 2 | 0 | 9 | 7 | 18 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|--------------|--|
| FBC | Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent, provides the mitigation measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS. |
| LHB | More popular areas in SEMS than Langstone Harbour for this activity - lots of general beach recreation at Hayling Island and Southsea. Areas of Hayling Island (West Beach sensitive sites for ground nesting birds) are susceptible to high levels of public traffic and dog walking. Nesting area fenced off to protect the area from disturbance. |
| GBC | Officers from Streetscene advise they do not consider this activity to be impacting SEMS sites. There may be some impact in certain sensitive locations such as on the Portsmouth Harbour coast but we have no evidence to support this. |
| EBC | There is public access (car parks and foot access) along the foreshore on the Solent Coast and from Hamble Common. There is more limited access further up the Hamble Estuary but still likely to be impacts. There will be an impact from these activities although intensity is unknown - disturbance, erosion, littering but intensity unknown and therefore significance of impact unknown. |
| SW | On going projects to address water quality - including Three Harbours project and Pathfinder storm overflow reductions programme. |
| NFNPA | It could be argued that the Authority does have some involvement due to its second purpose and Recreation Management Strategy links. However it has no regulatory powers. We have received complaints from the public about this type of activity causing disturbance and this would strongly suggest the activity is causing localised issues and harm - potentially at sensitive areas and important items of the year. Voluntary initiatives and guidance would therefore seem to have little impact on the user behaviours. Mount Lake/Hurst Spit a particular concern re: kite surfing and NE and others have been contacted by local groups such as WINGS who highlight the need for enhanced controls. |
| NE | Observations of trampling of vegetation, disturbance to nesting sites and littering, all of which have the potential to damage sensitive habitats and wildlife. Volunteer wardens at North Solent NNR monitor disturbance to overwintering and breeding birds and managers increase their presence on the reserve to monitor for disturbances caused by the influx of visitors. This involves regular patrols by staff or volunteers to observe visitor behaviour, enforce regulations, and assess any impacts. The LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES recreational activity surveys monitored beach recreation at Yarmouth West, Bouldnor, Osborne Bay, Kings Quay and West Hayling Island between July-September annually from 2021 to 2024 to inform potential management (https://saveourseabed.co.uk/protecting-our-seabed/research/recreational-activity-surveys/) |
| PCC | There is potential impact upon the vegetated shingle habitat at Eastney. |
| YHC | Small area for beach recreation, access is relatively poor except from visitors to the harbour so it is fairly controlled in terms of numbers. |
| HCC | Several small beaches adjacent to the seawall at Lymington. Recreational activities mainly limited to summer months when few species likely to be impacted. |
| MMO | Increased dog walking. Dog walking on beach causing disturbance to resting and breeding birds (Hurst Spit/Keyhaven). |

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|-------------|--|
| ChHC | Impacts at busy sites e.g. East Head. |
| IOWC | Litter - particularly in summer months. 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 (also known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. |

4.6 Grazing and Foraging

Activity includes grazing on saltmarsh or intertidal areas.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Grazing and Foraging | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|---------------|---|
| SoIFCA | The only aspect which may fall within Southern IFCA jurisdiction is seaweed harvesting. Following a review of seaweed harvesting as part of the Southern IFCA Shore Gathering Review finalised in 2024, a Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct was written which will come into effect at the point that the proposed Shore Gathering Byelaw is ratified by the Secretary of State. This is an activity which has the ability to be managed by multiple authorities which was considered as part of the review. |
| NFNPA | Whilst not directly within NPA control/jurisdiction - several local strategies refer to the desirability of linking Forest grazing to the coast. E.g. https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/conservation/protecting-nature/waterside-green-links/ and https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2024/11/ARUP-Waterside-Green-Links-Study.pdf |
| NE | New Forest livestock access the coast at Tanners Lane and the Lymington/Keyhaven reserve is grazed. |
| HCC | All grazing on the nature reserve is inside the sea wall. |
| ChHC | Some disturbance to birdlife from hand gathering shellfish on intertidal mud, particularly on Bosham channel and Thorney channel. |

4.7 Land Recreation – Walking (incl. dogs)

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

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Land recreation (incl. walking with dogs) | 2 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 20 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|---|
| WCC | The level of land recreation remains high due to an increased population and an increase in dog walking since COVID. Monitoring of increased recreational activity takes place through Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy was recently updated to take account of the monitoring of recreational activity. |
| LHC | Dog walking occurs on public footpaths in some parts of the harbour where the seawall abuts the foreshore. |
| FBC | Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent, provides the mitigation measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS. |
| LHB | A decrease in visible land recreation - partially attributed to poor weather? Largely popular activity at Old Oysterbeds and Billy Trail - mostly during summer months, but consistent numbers during winter too. Little takes place on intertidal area - not overly accessible. Much of the coastal paths are well above shoreline and atop defences, with the exception of Billy Trail. Difficult to get an accurate position on increase/decrease of this activity due to the large nature of the harbour. Bird Aware may have footfall data for some regions. Push for 'blue' health and the wellbeing benefits of being in coastal nature spaces continues to drive more people to designated sites. |
| WSCC | Dogs off lead disturbing feeding and roosting waders and wildfowl. Intensity not known and impacts likely to depend on other factors such as weather conditions and time of year. Impacts observed at Fishbourne Creek and West Wittering. |
| GBC | No significant changes to report since last year's survey. The Council considers there continues to be potential for recreational disturbance on the coast, with activity along Gosport Borough's entire coastline at high levels. We have no direct evidence to directly quantify this impact although work is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Borough's urbanised nature and proximity of many residents to the coast, increases pressure on the coastline. Lee-on-the-Solent attracts people from the wider sub-region. While the Borough Council has no direct evidence of impact, dog walking is at a high level around the Borough's coastline as it a popular dog walking destination for people in the Borough and from further afield. The impact is most likely to be more acute on the western and southern coastline of the Borough given the proximity of footpaths to the sea. The prevalence of dog walking is all year round. The Council continues to invest in the Alver Valley Country Park which acts as a SANG to deflect pressure from the coast - although work remains ongoing since 2024 the Borough Council has purchased additional formerly private land within the Alver Valley to improve the Country Park as a destination. Work is ongoing with funds from Bird Aware to create a dog walking park on this land to increase the attractiveness of the Country Park for dog walkers. This has been delayed due to matters of land contamination that need to be addressed. The Council remains an active member of Bird Aware Solent. |
| EBC | Direct disturbance to birds/other fauna, erosion from dog walkers, fouling. Most sensitive sites are along the Solent foreshore through Hamble Common. There are other areas further up the Hamble where this could still be an issue but probably less so (e.g. Manor Farm). While we have no data to support, any general increase in dog population is likely to translate into more impact. |

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| SW | Increase impact of community grants on positive recreational access in specific locations. Our Community Conservation Grant Scheme continued over the past year awarding an additional 5 grants of £10,000 (totalling 16 grants awarded over the 2.5 years the scheme was running). The grants awarded projects that created habitats and improved public access and infrastructure for the local community. |
| NFNPA | The Park Authority does not have regulatory powers as such in relation to walking but is the Access Authority for the coastal path - therefore the answer 'yes' to jurisdiction is heavily caveated. Due to lack of any updated monitoring/research we have no evidence, however it is apparent that walking activities on vegetated shingle cause erosion of the interest features and potentially contribute to overall disturbance levels for other designated interest (e.g. in the past when NE produced unit level assessments, unit 5 North Solent SSSI at lepe). There are also potential in-combination disturbance effects with other human activities. Access does form part of the second purposes of National Parks (promote enjoyment and understanding is interpreted as merely being physical access). The Authority has a Recreation Management Strategy and convenes Access Forum for the area - NE have input to these. Milford on Sea community group (WINGS) have highlight various disturbance events including on-foot recreation and are promoting a sanctuary area on Hurst Spit. A partnership led by Wings and HWT are providing volunteer wardens and protective fencing as well as interpretation. |
| NE | Increased human activity is disrupting natural behaviours of wildlife, causing stress or displacement, particularly for sensitive species that rely on these habitats for breeding, foraging, or resting. Seasonal increase is seen during warmer months, particularly on the Isle of Wight where the population increases significantly. On the Isle of Wight, this has included dog and non-dog walkers causing increasing levels of disturbance in Ryde, particularly around an area known for roosting sanderling, as well as instances noted at Bembridge Point previously. Managers at the North Solent NNR increase their presence on the reserve to monitor for disturbances caused by the influx of visitors. This involves regular patrols by staff or volunteers to observe visitor behaviour, enforce regulations, and assess any impacts on the ecosystem. |
| PCC | Dog Walking has an impact in terms of recreational disturbance, this is mitigated through the Bird Aware project. |
| CDC | Although Mitigation through Bird Aware Solent is effective in limiting increases in this activity, the level remains high due to increased population before the BAS project began and also the increase in dog ownership post Covid. |
| YHC | Recent reports that dog walkers are letting dogs run on the saltmarsh at its southern end. Landowner has asked them to stop and put up some signs but the activity has not stopped and the signs have been stolen / removed. |
| HCC | Dogs off lead regularly recorded in the intertidal zone. Up to 400,000 visitors per year on HCC owned sites Lymington-Keyhaven NR and Hurst Spit. Impacts year round. Signage and new fencing installed on the NR to help mitigate impact. New signage/fencing planned for Hurst Spit to help mitigate impact on breeding waders. |
| ChHC | Regular impacts at busy sites e.g. East Head. |
| SCC | Disturbance to birds feeding on the mudflats at Weston Shore. Rangers talk to dog walkers if they encounter them. |
| IOWC | Dogs on beaches disturb wildlife, particularly wintering birds. Impacts on sanderlings has become noticed on Ryde Sands SSSI over the last few years. |

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| | NE, IoWC, Bird Aware Solent and other organisations are currently working to address this issue via signage and other interventions. Dog walking is restricted seasonally on some beaches via Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) (dog exclusion zones) between 1 May and 30 September - however this does not benefit wintering birds. There will be an opportunity to suggest new PSPOs when they are next reviewed for reinstatement. Impacts of dog faeces that has not been removed completely. |
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4.8 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 cleanup.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Littering and removal of litter | 0 | 0 | 12 | 9 | 21 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|--|
| WCC | Potential litter from visitors to SEMS sites brought in by wind or watercourses. Impact of this is currently unknown. |
| CoHC | No significant reports of litter in the Harbour, but there will always be the odd bit. Our Patrol Officers collect what they see. |
| ABP | Unaware of any discharges from vessels. ABP operates its Port Waste Management Plan for commercial vessels providing waste facilities. River Itchen initiative with EA, SCC, NE, Wessex Rivers Trust and University of Southampton beach cleans. |
| LHC | Plastics and other man made litter washing ashore on the SSSI. LHC operate periodic litter picking to clear up. |
| FBC | Evidence of plastic pollution in particular is widespread. The Council provide bins along the coastline which are regularly emptied. |
| LHB | End of life/abandoned vessels are more commonly being noted as 'marine litter'. Huge effort to remove them from the harbour - approx. 70 vessels removed for cost of £40k in last two years. Most common place for litter to accumulate is Eastney Lake. Suspect a major input of litter into the Harbour is from WWTW and urban runoff. Proximity to motorway and main road onto Portsea Island results in rubbers and plastics discharged into the harbour via runoff. WWTW not required to treat for microplastics and thus large quantities seen in the harbour, evidenced by citizen science/Brighton university collaboration. Many community interest groups, citizen science monitoring, litter picks, beach cleans etc. taking place and raising awareness. This is great, but we need to be addressing the problem at source - i.e. legislative changes for WWTW and behavioural changes for individual littering. |
| EA | Chessell Bay on the Itchen Estuary. Nurdle pollution from plastic manufacturing entering drainage system to estuary. Significant historic nurdle |

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| | pollution and other micro plastics. Other sources of litter include polystyrene pontoons, discarded boats, boat related plastics, general litter and micro plastics from sewage outfalls. Previous pollution prevention audits have resulted in investment and improvement to industry management measures and reduced pollution. The Preventing Plastic Pollution Partnership has been established with 26 partners and working towards implementation of an action plan to improve transitional waters. |
| GBC | Littering continues to be a persistent problem with a high incidence. In terms of the impact, Streetscene officers advise that measures are taken to mitigate the impact through regular cleaning. Short term issues do occur when there is limited staffing capacity or GBC contractors unable to cleanse beaches. However the Borough Council seeks to mitigate the longer term impact through beach cleaning. |
| EBC | Litter from visitors to the coast and brought in via wind, watercourses and sea. Intensity unknown - probably increases in summer. Microplastics may be an issue along the Hamble/Netley foreshore. |
| RHHA | Regular litter picks take place along accessible foreshores by established volunteer groups. |
| NFNPA | As far as I am aware, the Park Authority does not have regulatory powers. However it undertakes litter picks, supports the community in doing the same (New Forest Ambassador Scheme) and promotes campaigns to reduce littering. Partnership with Freshwater Habitats Trust has delivered particularly useful outputs in 2024/25 via Youth and Climate action Fund. |
| NE | A report, commissioned as part of the LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project, to map debris in the intertidal areas of the Solent Maritime SAC has been published. This study found a cumulative 242,953 m ² of the intertidal habitats of Solent Maritime SAC affected by debris and mapped the removability of each item based on the distance from shore and size of the object. This work will be useful to inform any efforts to remove debris in the intertidal. |
| PCC | Windblown litter from the city and roads will enter Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours impacting the environment. |
| HCC | Rubbish regularly washed up along the strandline. Often a problem on the eastern side of Hurst Spit. We organise annual beach cleans with volunteers. One attempt to collect microplastics. |
| MMO | The impact of littering materials on the marine environment is significant, causing toxicity and damage. Unfortunately, there is limited available data to determine whether this issue has worsened or improved over time. However, with the recent attention on microplastics, there is optimism that public awareness will lead to a reduction in litter pollution. |
| ChHC | Microplastics discovered widely on shorelines around the harbour. |
| SCC | Consistently high level of litter ending up on the inter-tidal areas at Chessel Bay LNR. This is largely concentrated on the strandline but can be spread into the adjacent woodland by very high tides. The variety and quantities have been recorded in study undertaken by Malcolm Hudson at UoS. The most obvious litter is plastic nurdles released from plastics manufacturers located along/close to the River Itchen. These are accidental spillages resulting from poor handling of raw materials. The EA has taken some enforcement action but more is needed. A mechanised clean-up of the upper shore was undertaken by Nurdle trialling equipment originally designed for sandy shores but adapted for mud/shingle substrates. (https://nurdle.org.uk/the-great-chessel-bay-clean/). The clean up was effective, but a few days later there |

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| | was another spill of nurdles. The survey work undertaken by UoS showed that the nurdles only formed about 30-40% of the litter. There was also material from boat related activities (fibre glass hulls, chemical containers, rope) with the worst item being cement coated polystyrene pontoons. There was also evidence of domestic litter e.g. crisp packets, bottles, cans, furniture, fridges, bits of motorbikes etc. Plastics breaking down in the environment can't be a positive but we don't have any data on the exact impacts. The SCC Ranger Team run a twice yearly litter pick with the Friends of Chessel Bay. EA take some enforcement action in relation to the licenced plastics companies, however, there are other smaller companies which are not regulated. |
| IOWC | Lots of empty sand bags post-flood events. Marine litter (nets/containers etc), food/drink containers and microplastics most abundant. |

4.9 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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Mooring and Anchoring | 0 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 16 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|------------|---|
| LHC | Although resident boat mooring occupancy has remained unchanged, the number of visiting boats fell by 3.9% on 2023 levels, almost certainly due to the poorer summer weather. LHC does not permit anchoring within its jurisdiction. |
| FBC | Existing moorings are likely to be having an impact on SEMS however this is not confirmed. The Council is unaware of any additional applications for moorings within its jurisdiction. |
| LHB | Licenced moorings have declined for another year running. Still operating the Board directive not to licence any additional tidal moorings, in an attempt to control Eastney Lake and prevent further abandoned/end of life vessels. Further decreases in deepwater mooring licences - shift in customer wants/needs? i.e. vessel becomes too expensive to keep and maintain, OR vessel owner wants access to facilities found in marinas and/or pontoon. Anchoring activity very low in Langstone, due to availability of suitable channel space needed to accommodate commercial activity. Visitors and residents are encouraged to anchor in specific locations to avoid sensitive habitats. Swing moorings create scour on the seabed, as seen in evidence of Remedies project. LHB have invested £20k in procuring and laying advanced mooring systems in 2025/26. AMS will provide fore and aft moorings for vessel owners, reducing the area of scour. |
| GBC | In previous surveys we reported this fell in our jurisdiction. We have changed this as it happens on the coastline around our Borough but is not controlled by |

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| | the Council. We continue to be unable to specifically comment on this activity in any detail. Gosport does have several swinging moorings and bays where anchoring occurs however we don't have evidence to determine the impact on SEMs sites. |
| BRM | More boats going up for sale. |
| RHHA | Very limited anchoring permitted in upper reaches only. Over 3000 moorings present in total, the majority of which are fixed piles, but some permanent buoy moorings are present. |
| NE | Activity levels of anchoring and mooring remain high across the entire Solent. Both anchoring and mooring impact on the seabed through abrasion and scour pressures. Sensitive seabed habitats such as seagrass are particularly vulnerable to this pressure. The LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES recreational activity surveys monitored anchoring and mooring at Yarmouth West, Bouldnor, Osborne Bay, Kings Quay and West Hayling Island between July-September annually from 2021 to inform potential management (https://saveourseabed.co.uk/protecting-our-seabed/research/recreational-activity-surveys/). Interpretation Panels have been installed as part of the project to inform people of the presence and location of seagrass beds and their importance. These are located at Norton Spit, Hayling Island ferry terminal, Lepe Country Park and Cowes. The activity surveys have highlighted Osborne Bay as an area with elevated levels of anchoring in seagrass. This has led to the installation of a Voluntary No Anchor Zone to reduce this pressure, which has resulted in a decrease in the number of boats anchoring inside the seagrass zone. ReMEDIES project also commissioned a report that mapped areas impacted by anchoring and mooring pressure, which revealed a cumulative 242,953 m2 of the intertidal habitats of Solent Maritime SAC affected. This report is available here: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5726694909149184 |
| SCC | Erosion of intertidal mud when boots are sitting on the mud at low tide. Loss of inter-tidal mud as available feeding habitat. This relates to moorings and landing stages along the River Itchen. |

4.10 Operation of Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Schemes (FCERM)

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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Operation of FCERM schemes | 5 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 20 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|------------|----------|
|------------|----------|

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|-------------|---|
| CoHC | A new project to restore a small section of saltmarsh, a positive impact should be achieved if the project is successful. |
| ABP | Monitoring of operational effects not undertaken by ABP. Further supported beneficial use should be encouraged. |
| LHC | Positive Year Round Impact - Beneficial use of dredged sediment at Boiler Marsh is increasing the availability of intertidal habitat due to it being higher in the tidal frame. It is also providing protection to the saltmarsh behind against erosion caused by waves and tides. |
| FBC | Coastal Partners - a partnership of four Local Authorities (including Fareham)- lead on coastal issues such as the operation of coastal flood and erosion management schemes. |
| LHB | Construction and operation of North Portsea Scheme will perpetuate coastal squeeze and prevent the natural progression of intertidal habitats. |
| EA | Coastal Squeeze in places where policy is Hold The Line (HTL) Increase in local wave reflection. In front of defences where existing policy is Hold The Line. When - In the past through historic squeeze and in the future with sea level rise. Why - Maintaining defence in historic position. Management Measures: Regional Habitat Compensation Programme is reviewing further sites to compensate for coastal squeeze. Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management - De-commissioning of Assets Programme may identify sites to change the asset management. Adaptation to future challenges e.g. Sea Level Rise and Climate Change, and Carbon off-setting, and Net Gain are the key focus of all schemes going forward. |
| GBC | The Stokes Bay sea wall defence scheme has now been completed and further information is available online if required: https://coastalpartners.org.uk/project/stokes-bay-seawall-151/ . The Forton flood defence scheme is also now complete and further information is available online: https://coastalpartners.org.uk/project/forton-coastal-defence-scheme . Other schemes at Alverstoke and Seafield currently have funding shortfalls and Coastal Partners is exploring opportunities to fund the schemes. When implemented all schemes will accord with relevant legislation and be subject to the planning process. |
| BRM | Flooding. The very high tide we experienced last April broke the sluice gate at Gins and cause damage to the SSSI. Tidal heights on the increase and old infrastructure has not been designed for these heights. |
| NE | Whilst some of the loss as a result of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes is considered through the RHCP work this does not account for losses from all schemes. Coastal squeeze is currently impacting many parts of the Solent's coastline and further consideration is needed on nature-based solutions and to allowing the coast to adapt. |
| PCC | The City Council is working with Coastal Partners to deliver significant new flood defence works around the City. The presence of the flood defence will cause coastal squeeze, this has been addressed and mitigated through the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan. |
| CDC | Comes under plans and projects as we are the planning authority for new and renewed private defences in the harbour, but CDC do not 'operate' defences in the harbour. |
| PIP | Portsmouth City Council has an ongoing project to install sea defences on Portsea island and the current works are on Southsea Esplanade. Refer to: https://southseacoastalscheme.org.uk/ . |

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| NFDC | Maintenance of Hurst Spit is currently not taking place due to funding and asset requirements. NFDC have undertaken maintenance works at Milford on Sea, beach recharge, rock structure construction and timber groyne maintenance. These works were undertaken with appropriate MMO licencing. |
| HBC | Langstone Scheme not yet under construction so no change. |
| HCC | Operation of sluice through the sea wall at the Lower Pennington Stream has become impossible due to it being blocked by sediment. This has resulted in flooding on part of the reserve impacting the SAC Saline Lagoons. The EA periodically clear the sluice but cannot keep up with the problem. Occasional damage to the seawall has resulted in piecemeal repairs by the EA. No real impact on the SEMS site. |
| MMO | The local government and environmental agencies have been prioritizing the protection of seas and rivers through focused efforts on defence measures. |
| ChHC | Hard sea defences contributing to coastal squeeze in many locations throughout the harbour. |
| IOWC | Natural erosion remains high along the Island coastline due to increased rainfall events etc. Coastline at Fort Victoria and Colwell have experienced landslips this year. Most proposed coastal defence schemes focus on South Wight areas (non-Solent) areas. |

4.11 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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure) | 2 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 17 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|---|
| CoHC | Usual planned maintenance continues. |
| LHB | Statutory duty to maintain pontoons and public slipways and maintenance is undertaken on an ad-hoc basis. Activities are timed as well as possible to avoid sensitive times of year for wildlife. In 2024 LHB had the public slipway refurbished. No bunkering takes place. |
| GBC | Gosport Borough Council unaware of major activity. There is operations related to the Ministry of Defence (including training at Browndown) but the Borough Council has no active involvement in this activity. |
| PCC | The City owns Portsmouth international Port, which is looking to increase the numbers of ships accessing the port. The Port has undertaken |

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| | significant works to reduce the impacts upon Portsmouth Harbour including shore power. |
| PIP | Increased activity relating to the installation of shore power at the port and business as usual repair and maintenance of port infrastructure. |

4.12 Aerial Recreation (light aircraft, paramotors, drones)

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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Recreation - light aircraft | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 11 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|--|
| ABP | Drone activity over port land requires permission. |
| LHC | We have no powers to control the airspace. However if drone flights are requested, we will only permit the operator to fly the drone from LHC facilities subject to appropriate qualifications, risk assessment (including environmental risk) and compliance with CAA regulations. |
| LHB | No direct control of airspace in Langstone Harbour, but we monitor light aircraft on an ad-hoc basis. If drone flights are requested, we will only consent the operator to fly subject to appropriate qualification, RAMS, and CAA compliance, from a navigational perspective and offer advice on disturbance. Activity is so infrequent. |
| GBC | The use of drones and model aircraft falls within the Borough, drones are currently allowed to be flown on public land within Gosport. Although restrictions are in place around Solent Airport at Daedalus and Fleetlands. Solent Airport is within Fareham Borough Council. Gosport Borough does see helicopter movements with the maintenance facility in the northeast of the Borough however this is managed professionally by the operator and the Borough Council has no involvement. |
| EBC | We don't really have any evidence one way or another on this, although anecdotally we know inappropriate use of drones can disturb birds, especially those breeding (e.g. oystercatchers). |
| RHHA | In relation to drones - whilst true 'jurisdiction' over this issue is not clear as RHHA jurisdiction is below mean high water level, RHHA occasionally receives third party requests for commercial drone flights in relation to flights over our lease holding of river bed and some foreshore areas, or in relation to navigational safety. RHHA is using the guidance document, and liaising with NE on individual cases when necessary regarding any specific conditions required in relation to flight height, duration, distance from SPA birds. |
| NE | Continued use of drones privately and for surveying, however data from Bird Aware suggests this is not impacting features of SEMS. |

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| CDC | Goodwood airfield operations are limited by their planning permission from WSCC, these have not increased. Drone use is outside our influence and we have no data on this. |
| HCC | Some use of recreational drones on the Lymington-Keyhaven NR but fairly occasional. Drones do not appear to disturb birds apart from Oystercatchers which seem to hate them. No drones are allowed on HCC land without express permission and a licence. |
| ChHC | Apparent recent increase in para-motoring disturbance to birdlife from helicopters and light aircraft. |
| IOWC | Not aware of any current enforcement/rules put in place by the local authority in relation to drones. |

4.13 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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Recreation - non-motorised watercraft | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 19 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|---|
| CoHC | Paddle boarding / kayak / dinghies are focussed on the southern part of our jurisdiction, with sailing enjoyed throughout our area. No issues reported. |
| LHC | Although windsurfing and kite surfing is prohibited within LHC's jurisdiction, to the east of (and abutting) LHC's jurisdiction in the Pylewell and Tanners Lane foreshore area, these two activities do disturb birds. |
| FBC | Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent, provides the mitigation measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS. |
| LHB | Windsurfing has been observed having a detrimental impact to SPA species at Old Oysterbeds - flushing of roosting birds. Majority of paddlesport activity in main channels and/or off Harbour Office beach (away from sensitive sites). Paddlesports are easily accessible to the public and most aren't aware of the coastal environment (both navigationally and about wildlife/sensitive areas). Their smallness means people can put in pretty much wherever - often prefer quieter launches (usually where sensitive habitats/species are). Paddlesports are required to pay a permit charge - allows us to disseminate educational material about wildlife disturbance. LHB worked with Bird Aware Solent for the watersports with wildlife project, and now use this as our educational information for watersports users. |
| GBC | Areas of the Borough such as Stokes Bay are a popular destination for this activity with anecdotal evidence of people travelling from other Hampshire districts to Gosport Borough. There is also anecdotal evidence of issues with |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| | kayaking in Portsmouth Harbour and people disembarking on sensitive islands however this is not considered to be a significant issue. |
| BRM | Seen a decrease in these activities since the Covid boom. |
| EBC | We don't monitor this so have no empirical data to support any conclusions, but we suspect (and after talking with the River Hamble Harbour Authority) this activity is increasing, especially in the Hamble estuary. Impacts from direct disturbance and damage to habitats (especially sensitive saltmarsh) from landing and hauling out and also from launching. Better information is likely to come from the River Hamble authority. |
| RHHA | RHHA continues to promote the water sports for wildlife campaign and map from Bird Aware, and with associated educative signage installed at public launch/access points throughout estuary. |
| NFNPA | Kayaking and canoeing have been anecdotally mentioned by site managers (e.g. HCC) as having impact as the craft tend to be able to operate close to saltmarsh/mudflat and users may beach the craft. HCC do put out signage around breeding sites to try to manage. |
| NE | Activity levels of non-motorised watercraft remain high across the entire Solent. High volumes of watercraft including paddle boards, kayaks and canoes have been observed across the Solent, and the Isle of Wight in particular has seen reports of disturbance from this activity in Ryde, Newtown Harbour, Thorness Bay and Western Yar. This has potential to disturb both breeding and overwintering birds using the intertidal area. Staff at the North Solent NNR engage in educational outreach efforts to inform visitors about the importance of the reserve for wildlife conservation and the need to minimise disturbance. The LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES recreational activity surveys monitored non-motorised watercraft at Yarmouth West, Bouldnor, Osborne Bay, Kings Quay and West Hayling Island between July-September annually from 2021 to 2024 to inform potential management: https://saveourseabed.co.uk/protecting-our-seabed/research/recreational-activity-surveys/ . Interpretation Panels have been installed as part of the project to inform people of the presence and location of seagrass beds and their importance. These are located at Norton Spit, Hayling Island ferry terminal, Lepe Country Park and Cowes, with further boards being installed at marinas around the Solent. |
| YHC | We have increased the level of information about the environmental impact of paddlesports and will improve signage in 2025. |
| HCC | HCC jurisdiction does not extend offshore but some recreational activities such as Kite Surfing take place from the seawall or adjacent beaches. Paddles boards are increasing in use and have led to some landings on the offshore Saltmarshes where there are breeding birds. Kite surfers are particularly disturbing during the winter months when there are larger numbers of waterbirds around. |
| ChHC | Anecdotal information that this activity has increased, likely impacts at sites such as east head and black point on Hayling island. |
| IOWC | Disturbance of wildlife. Council byelaws restrict speeds to 8 nautical miles per hour in certain zones between April and October, but there is no restriction in the winter months. |

4.14 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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine | 0 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 18 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|--|
| LHC | Taking visiting boat numbers as an indicator for the overall number of boat movements in the harbour, boat movements fell by 3.9% in 2024, most likely due to poor weather. |
| FBC | Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent, provides the mitigation measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS. |
| LHB | PWC, waterski, and slipway permits decreased in 2024/25 year. Powerboating remained at fairly consistent level. Increase in Harbour dues accounting due to efficiency in capturing marina vessels. Some more than others. Waterskis stick to designated zone and powerboats/sailing boats transit the harbour to exit into the Solent. PWCs are more navigable and shallow drafted, allowing them to access shallow parts of the harbour (typically where sensitive habitats and species are present). In order to obtain a PWC permit, users must be able to evidence proof of marine qualification - proof that they are aware of their responsibilities as a mariner (part of this includes their responsibilities to the natural environment). The Harbour Board host a patrol function from April-October. Much of this work involves mitigating irresponsible harbour users. There is an enforceable 10 knot speed limit, primarily for mitigating navigational hazards, but also to minimise disturbance to wildlife. |
| GBC | The impact on SEMS sites of this activity is uncertain however it is considered more likely to have an impact than non-motorised watercraft. The Borough has several marinas in Portsmouth Harbour. Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay are also used for launching craft and can be a popular launching location particularly during the summer months. |
| EBC | Noise pollution, pollution from the craft themselves. Most likely along Solent coast although there are public slipways along the Hamble as well. |
| RHHA | Six knot speed limit in the estuary, plus various other RHHA byelaws help to manage and reduce impacts |
| NE | Activity levels of powerboating and sailing remains high across the entire Solent, the latest recreational surveys undertaken as part of the ReMEDIES project indicate an increase at Bouldnor and Kings Quay for this activity in |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| | comparison with earlier years. The use of small personal watercraft or powerboats allow access close to sensitive habitats that may be otherwise unreachable. As well as this, the wake of these vessels when closer to shore can be detrimental to habitats such as seagrass. The LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES recreational activity surveys monitored motorised watercraft at Yarmouth West, Bouldnor, Osborne Bay, Kings Quay and West Hayling Island between July-September annually from 2021 to 2024 to inform potential management (https://saveourseabed.co.uk/protecting-our-seabed/research/recreational-activity-surveys/). These have indicated Osborne Bay and Yarmouth West to have the highest level of sailing of the sites surveyed. Interpretation panels have been installed as part of the ReMEDIES project to inform people of the presence and location of seagrass beds and their importance. These are located at Norton Spit, Hayling Island ferry terminal, Lepe Country Park and Cowes with further boards being installed at marinas around the Solent. |
| ChHC | Impacts widely to birdlife and likely to seal behaviour and impacts on seabed habitat from anchoring sites off East Head. |
| IOWC | Disturbance of wildlife. Council byelaws restrict speeds to 8 nautical miles per hour in certain zones between April and October, but there is no restriction in the winter months. |

4.15 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.

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance | 0 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 15 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|---|
| CoHC | No new slipways or jetties, so no change to the amount of cleaning / washing off. |
| RHHA | RHHA continues to redistribute algal mats that build up and obstruct a slipway. |

4.16 Wildfowling

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

| Activity | Increased | Decreased | No change | Don't know | Total Responses |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| Wildfowling | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 7 |

| Respondent | Comments |
|-------------|--|
| HCC | All wildfowling takes place offshore. There are two active clubs in the area, one at Keyhaven and the other at Pylewell Shore. |
| ChHC | Disturbance to birdlife from wildfowling difficult to measure but likely some impacts throughout the harbour |

5 Activities resulting from Plans and Projects

Section 5 looks at whether, over the last 12 months, respondents were aware of any changes to activity levels, or impacts, resulting from plans or projects within SEMS.

| Respondent | Details |
|--------------|---|
| WCC | The Council undertakes Habitats Regulations Assessment of new development to ensure that SEMS sites are assessed. Additional recreational pressure from new development is covered by the recent update to the Solent Recreational Mitigation Strategy. Development resulting in new overnight accommodation is still required to be nutrient neutral. In relation to the Solent SPA the Council continues to work with the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) to deliver ongoing solutions for nutrients. |
| CoHC | A new marina is planned to be built off East Cowes. This may introduce a slight increase in leisure traffic and to the maintenance of structures/infrastructure connected with the marina facility. |
| LHC | In collaboration with the Environment Agency, Lymington Harbour Commission has undertaken a trial of a new saltmarsh restoration technique. The trial involved moving previously beneficially placed sediment dredged from the harbour higher up the tidal foreshore to restore poor quality low lying saltmarsh. |
| FBC | None. The Council is unaware of any changes to activity levels, or impacts, resulting from plans or projects within SEMS. The Council continues to work in partnership with organisations such as Bird Aware Solent as well as undertake Habitats Regulations Assessments of new development to ensure that impacts to SEMS are appropriately assessed and that there is adequate mitigation in place if required. |
| LHB | Remedies reducing anchoring pressure within seagrass beds. |
| TVBC | No but for information, Test Valley Borough Council is in the process of preparing its Local Plan with a consultation planned for later this year. The Habitat Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment will give consideration to potential likely significant effects on SEMS designations. This plan remains draft. |
| GBC | No. The Borough Council consulted on its new draft Local Plan (The Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038) from September to December 2021. The Plan sets out a revised development strategy and the locations for new development over the period to 2038. The impacts of this plan have been appraised in a Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitats Regulations Assessment is ongoing. A Regulation 19 consultation will be undertaken however this has been delayed due to a number of matters including a new national planning policy framework and revised housing numbers (released December 2024). It is now expected to be undertaken in early 2026 and will be called the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2040. |
| NFNPA | No - although this probably reflects levels of monitoring. In particular visitor data for the coast is limited despite efforts of bodies such as Bird Aware Solent. |
| NE | The ReMEDIES project has hosted webinars and attended events to engage with recreational users, sharing potential impacts on the seabed from recreational activity and best practice for these activities. The installation of a |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| | Voluntary No Anchor Zone in Osborne Bay in March 2024 has reduced activity of anchoring within seagrass zones, however, increases have been seen across other sites. Monitoring and engagement with locals will be ongoing and feed into future management. The reports are available at: https://saveourseabed.co.uk/protecting-our-seabed/research/ . |
| CDC | Small scale private defences in front of residential properties (coastal squeeze) permitted after HRA, but using compensation from the Solent HCRP. |
| NFDC | Development of the Hurst Spit to Lymington FCERM Strategy. |

6 Monitoring

Section 6 looks at what monitoring is currently taking place in the SEMS, potential future monitoring and partnership working.

| Are you undertaking any monitoring of activities or activity impacts in SEMS? | |
|---|----|
| Response | |
| No | 21 |
| Yes | 10 |

| Respondent | Details |
|---------------|---|
| SoIFCA | <p>Southern IFCA surveys within the Solent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bivalve Survey, which occurs biannually and looks at Catch Per Unit Effort for Common Cockle, American Hardshell clams, and Manila clams (Solent Dredge Permit). This survey took place in March (Spring) and October (Autumn) in 2024. • The King Scallop survey, which looks at Catch Per Unit Effort across the Solent tri-annually (from January 2024) (Solent Dredge Permit). This survey took place in February (Mid-season), April (Spring) and September (Autumn) in 2024. • Native Oyster survey, which monitors the native oyster population within the Solent and the Harbours every two years (Solent Dredge Permit). This survey took place in July of 2024. - • The Small Fish Survey, which gathers data on juvenile fish populations biannually in Yarmouth, the River Hamble, and Christchurch (Net Fisheries). This survey took place in June and September in 2024. • The Whelk Population Survey, which gathers information on the population of whelks within the Solent in the Spring of each year (Pot & Trap Fisheries). Data on the whelk populations within the Solent were collected in June 2024. Results from each survey are held by Southern IFCA. <p>Reports for each of these surveys are provided to the Southern IFCA Authority at relevant meetings and are subsequently published on the Southern IFCA website. The information gathered through our survey programme forms one source of evidence which helps to inform the management of the relevant fishery. Southern IFCA is part of the Angling for Sustainability partnership, which has been running from the 1st January 2023 with the University of Plymouth (lead), the Professional Boatman's Association, Natural England, and the Angling Trust. The aim of the project is for researchers to work with fishing communities in Dorset and the Solent to assess the habitats and movement of species including sharks, skates, rays, and black seabream. Using this approach, the project aims to ensure the sustainability and survival of the region's Charter boat fishing industry by working with the industry and</p> |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| | <p>other partners to help fill the evidence gaps needed for effective, informed management.</p> <p>Within our Small Fish surveys, Southern IFCA has been involved with the Fin Vision Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) project, a collaborative partnership with the University of Plymouth (lead), the Angling Trust, the Institute of Fisheries Management, Bass Anglers, Sportfishing Society, National Mullet Club, and the Association of IFCAs. This project aims to develop and apply a novel camera system and citizen science framework to document and monitor inshore juvenile fish habitats. Members of the project from the University of Plymouth have accompanied officers on surveys within the Solent, deploying underwater cameras within Christchurch Harbour, the Hamble, and Yarmouth Harbour. More information on the FinVision FISP can be found on the University of Plymouth (FinVision - University of Plymouth) or the Angling Trust (FinVision - Angling Trust) webpages.</p> <p>Additionally, for the Small Fish surveys Southern IFCA work with partners including Yarmouth Harbour Authority, Natural England, and local academic institutions. Our shellfish surveys are undertaken in partnership with members of the relevant local fishing fleet.</p> |
| WCC | Monitoring of land recreation takes place through the annual Bird Aware Solent survey. |
| LHC | Long standing ongoing monitoring as part of marine licence conditions for beneficial use schemes. |
| LHB | Solent Seal Monitoring - May to September to cover breeding season. In collaboration with Chichester, Beaulieu, and Newtown volunteers. Small fish surveys - June and September. In collaboration with sIFCA, UoP, Blue, Coastal Partners, HIWWT, and Natural England. |
| EA | Ongoing sea defence and coastal protection projects, fish, water quality and ecological monitoring - no change from last year's survey |
| RHHA | Ongoing monitoring of bait digging activities in the Hamble estuary, as previous years, 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. |
| SW | <p>We continue to fund a PhD with University of Brighton looking at nutrient and faecal coliform source apportionment within the Three Harbours and their catchments. This includes sampling of Southern Water assets, private discharges and the wider environment - harbours and rivers and the development of a source apportionment tool. The PhD has been extended and will now run until February 2026.</p> <p>We have deployed a Water Quality buoy in Langstone Harbour in partnership with RSHydro (https://www.rshydro.co.uk) looking at using Tryptophan as a surrogate for bacteriological water quality and investigating a possible link with algal concentrations by monitoring in situ Chlorophyll.</p> <p>There is an ongoing commitment to the Three Harbours Partnership project and we have recently published our 2024-2028 strategy. We also have a WINEP obligation to deliver an investigation to establish a long-term monitoring and evaluation approach in the harbours, this is to be completed by 30th April 2027.</p> |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| SxIFCA | Sussex IFCA continue to undertake sea and land based patrols, recording sightings, which include gear method, vessel name, and vessel length. These sightings will contribute to the HRA of Chichester Harbour, which will be conducted in 2025. The Authority is in regular communications with Chichester Harbour Conservancy and RSPB Pagham Harbour regarding fishing and hand gathering activities within these sites. Drone surveys have been conducted to quantify the scale of bait digging activity, in partnership with the University of St Andrews. |
| YHC | Assisting with the ReMEDIES summer recreational use surveys (with NE / HIIWT). Assisted with the IFCA annual small fish surveys in June and October. |
| IOWC | All development is monitored in-line with statutory requirements. Any development where significant biodiversity net gain is proposed will be monitored for 30 years, in line with statutory BNG requirements. |

| Are you considering monitoring in the SEMS? If yes, please give details | |
|---|--|
| Respondent | Details |
| FBC | Monitoring of activities is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS. Bird Aware Solent have recently undertaken a review of the strategy, and following approval by partner authorities, a replacement strategy will be in place from 1st April 2025. |
| LHB | Yes - seagrass surveys with UoP for PhD research. |
| SW | On going collaboration with University of Portsmouth/Brighton. |
| NFNPA | Not that I am aware - partners would have the opportunity to scope these as part of Recreation Management Strategy and Park Partnership Plan and I would encourage any organisation involved to ensure their representative is aware of SEMS and highlights any issues. |
| PIP | Yes, as part of the broader ESG monitoring and reporting activities. |
| HBC | Yes. Trying to engage with HBC colleagues to undertake monitoring of activities within our jurisdiction. |
| SxIFCA | Fishing activity monitoring is ongoing. |
| YHC | Restarting the saltmarsh monitoring scheme using drones and aerial photographs. Baseline work completed. Monitoring as part of the Solent Seascape Project underway. |
| MMO | Not currently but we will be engaging with stakeholders in the near future on mNLA activity taking place in Solent SAC. |

| Are you aware of any other new monitoring of activities or their impacts? | |
|---|---|
| Respondent | Details |
| RHHA | Solent Seascape monitoring oyster reef in Hamble. HIIWT will be monitoring sea grass restoration potential. |
| NE | A wide range of monitoring is underway as part of the Solent Seascape Project, details of which can be obtained from Blue Marine Foundation as the lead partner on the project. |
| PIP | Broader ESG reporting will commence in 2025 as part of the PIP ESG Strategy. |
| HCC | Bird Aware Solent are now working during the summer months as well as the winter so may well be gathering data on recreational impacts. |

7 Marine Conservation Zones

The SEMS Annual Survey monitors what is happening within the Solent MCZs; these sites are not part of the main SEMS Management Scheme as they are designated under different legislation.

| Do you have a MCZ within your jurisdiction? | |
|---|----|
| Response | |
| No | 23 |
| Yes | 8 |

| Respondent | MCZ Related Concerns |
|------------|--|
| NE | The Needles MCZ, Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ and Bembridge MCZ all sit within our jurisdiction and at all of these sites, walking, dog walking, beach recreation, non-motorised watercraft and motorised watercraft all occur. |
| CDC | No - Pagham Harbour MCZ so outside the SEMS area, but no current concerns |
| HBC | Yes, but impacts unknown as no monitoring undertaken by HBC. |
| SxIFCA | Sussex IFCA continue to monitor fishing activities throughout the Sussex IFCA district, including all MCZs. |

8 Additional Information

Section 8 looks at responses on any additional information such as research on impacts, additional information on activities or any potential research ideas/opportunities.

| Respondent | Any other information? |
|------------|---|
| SW | <p>We have a WINEP obligation under the NERC Biodiversity Driver to make a water company improve the conservation status and enhancement of biodiversity in the three harbours and their catchments. The scheme priorities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce DIN in surface water flows entering Chichester Harbour, enhance of habitat connectivity enabling improved blue/green infrastructure serving all three designated sites, and support awareness raising and community understanding. The regulatory completion date is March 2030. <p>We are in the beginning stages of developing a landscape recovery project on the Manhood Peninsula in partnership with the Three Harbours Partnership. We are working to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate a shared understanding among stakeholders of key issues, challenges and opportunities • Co-craft landscape recovery themes and focus areas • Support the future resilience of farming, local communities and nature, within the peninsula, in the face of unprecedented environmental change. <p>Our business plans (AMP 8 started on 1st April 2025). Annual reporting documents.</p> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| PIP | The Port is currently finalising its ESG Strategy that will set out near, mid and long term objectives for the port that will contribute to the SEMS reporting cycle. |
| YHC | Looking into options for saltmarsh restoration and will then develop a scheme if appropriate. |
| HCC | Research into the best way of engaging with the Kite Surfing community. |
| SCC | Research by the University of Southampton into microplastic pollution at Chessel Bay which focused on invertebrates but needs to be broadened out to include other species groups. |

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