

# Update for SEMS Management Group Meeting – 17th September 2025

Jessica Taylor  
Natural England - Marine and Coastal Senior Officer



# Update to SEMS AMR – Summary Paragraph



- Five activities identified using formal condition assessment process as there being evidence to demonstrate that they are impacting on at least one feature, in at least one location within SEMS sites. These include:
  - General beach recreation
  - land recreation (including dog walking)
  - recreation (non motorised watercraft)
  - Operation of some Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management schemes (excluding those where compensation is in place, e.g. Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme)
  - Mooring and anchoring

## HOWEVER:

- Other activities have the potential to impact on SEMS but more specific information may be required, e.g. littering and removal of litter, and recreation (powerboating or sailing with an engine).
- Some activities are going through process of management being established and therefore should be allowed to complete, e.g. fishing (shore-based activities)
- Limitations:
  - Based on attributes assessed in condition assessment only
  - Lack of evidence for some activities
  - Lack of reporting of illegal activity may be masking impact
- **Please provide evidence of impacts to Natural England, Solent Forum and other bodies**



# Conservation Advice and Condition Assessment



- Conservation Advice
  - Update to The Needles MCZ
- Condition Assessment – expected timeline
  - Published since last SEMS MG Meeting
    - Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA
  - To be published soon
    - River Itchen SAC – migratory salmon
  - In progress and expected to publish Spring 2026:
    - Solent and Southampton Water SPA
    - The Needles MCZ (except species features)\*
    - Update to Solent Maritime SAC
  - Expected to commence April 2026 (dependent on resources)
    - The Needles MCZ – species features\*
    - Solent and Dorset Coast SPA



*\* National team producing guidance on how to undertake MCZ species (e.g. native oyster, stalked jellyfish) features condition assessment*

# Current Priorities – Monitoring and Funding



- Surveys commissioned this year
  - Subtidal survey of The Needles MCZ
  - ROV trial to map maerl within Bembridge MCZ
  - Extent, distribution and condition of *Padina pavonica* within Bembridge and The Needles MCZs
  - Mapping lost fishing gear in intertidal / shallow subtidal environment
- Publications in progress for several projects
- Species Recovery Programme
  - Next round due to launch soon
  - Guided by Threatened Species Recovery Actions. See: [Threatened Species Recovery Actions 2025 baseline - JP065](#)
  - Please contact [SRP@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:SRP@naturalengland.org.uk) with any questions

