

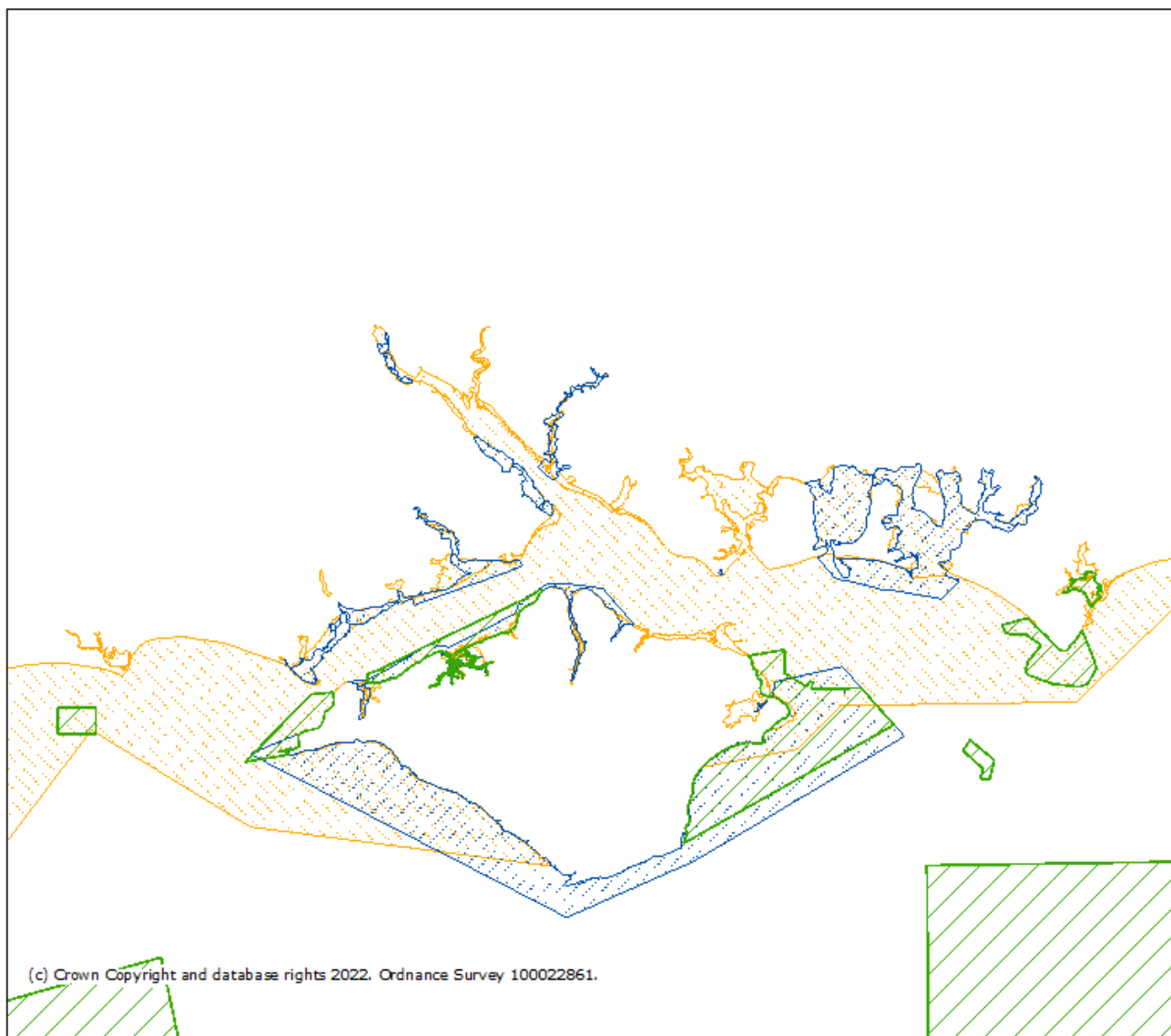
**Welcome to the
SEMS Management Group**

Annual Meeting

21 September 2022


SEMS Staff

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





Legend


Marine Conservation Zones (England)

 Designated


Special Areas of Conservation (Marine Components GB)


 Candidate

 Designated

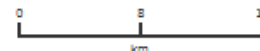
 Possible

Special Protection Areas (Marine Components GB)

 Classified

 Potential

Projection = OSGB36
 xmin = 366500
 ymin = 50040
 xmax = 536700
 ymax = 152400



Map produced by MAGIC on 18 August, 2022.
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Annual Management Scheme Timeline

March/April

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

May/June

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

August

Draft AMR circulated to MG and stakeholder group

September

Annual MG meeting agrees the AMR and its actions

Spring/Autumn

NEG meets to discuss and progress strategic actions

SEMS MG Actions 2021 Update

- **Action: Clarify who manages activities when not in a statutory harbour authority area:**

MMO Response:

MMO is responsible for the assessment and managing marine non-licensable activities (where necessary) within marine protected areas for the purposes of furthering the conservation objectives of the site. This applies regardless of whether the MPA is within harbour authority jurisdiction. Where the MPA is within harbour authority jurisdiction, MMO would liaise with the relevant harbour authority with regards to management. MMO recognise that existing measures may be in place by harbour authorities and would want to avoid regulatory duplication.

RA Activity Duty and Responsibility Table

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

SEMS Activity Duty/Responsibility Guide

Jul-21

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

Activity is duty/responsibility

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

Activity unlikely to be duty/responsibility

Annual Management Report 2022

Presentation of Key Findings

Kate Ansell

Annual Management Report Format

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

SEMS Management Scheme Activities (Non-Licensable)

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

Headline Findings of Annual Survey 2022

1. 30 out of 31 Relevant Authorities responded to the Annual Survey.
2. Increases in activity recorded for non-motorised watercraft (table 2 in ASR). Most other activities 'no change' recorded.
3. Activities highlighted by multiple respondents potentially *impacting* on SEMS sites included: **coastal walking (incl walking with dogs), litter, the use of motorised and non-motorised recreational watercraft (esp. paddleboards).**
4. Trend data (2019 to 2022) shows that it is **non-motorised watercraft** that is seeing year on year increases across the Solent (paddlesports).
5. For activities where we are seeing 'no change' this does not mean that they are not having an impact as the baseline levels could still be causing damage. Point 3 above shows that there are concerns about 5 activities even though only 1 of those (non motorised watercraft) recorded an increase.

SEMS Draft Report Comments

- Recreational anglers queried that their activity needs separating from commercial fishing – asked IFCA advice and section rewritten to clarify.
- Report is brilliant. Really helpful to have reporting in a concise and useful format.
- Efficiently collates a wide range of responses, readable, succinct and has clarity.
- Concern raised about the impact of micro/nano plastics on sites.

Marine Conservation Zones

Designated MCZs included in the SEMS Annual Survey from 2020:

- The Needles
- Yarmouth to Cowes
- Bembridge

- The MMO's marine non-licensable activity (NLA) management approach is being developed. Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone is the first site where management has been introduced for mooring and anchoring.

- Southern IFCA have undertaken MCZ assessments of fishing activities for Yarmouth to Cowes and Bembridge MCZs. The assessments found that Bottom Towed Gears pose a risk to some features in the sites. Following these findings they will be developing additional management and updating old management for bottom towed fishing gear throughout the MCZs and SEMS.

- Following designation, Natural England started a baseline monitoring programme across all Marine Protected Areas. The inshore benthic marine survey of The Needles MCZ has been completed.

SEMS MG Generic Actions (p.47)

1. SEMS MG members should use the AMR and the activity pages on the SEMS website as a reference resource to help shape relevant plans and policies or management measures. See: http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS_Activities/.
2. SEMS MG members to feed information on non-licensable activities to the SEMS office throughout the year (sems@hants.gov.uk).
3. SEMS MG members to use the duty and responsibility table to guide what activity sections they need to complete in the SEMS Annual Survey. Be aware these activities apply in general day to day work too.
4. Trend data for activity change is showing that activities in the Solent are generally increasing or there is no change. For those activities where Relevant Authorities, particularly Natural England, are concerned about impacts on designated sites, we need to evaluate if and how we can get those activities to decrease; focusing on sites that are especially sensitive. It is proposed to look at this in more detail in the 2023 when we have five years of trend data. In 2023 we will also have data from the Bird Aware Solent five year review.
5. The Natural Environment Group will be leading on a Solent Bird Sensitivity and Activity Mapping project (commencing 2022).

Section 6.0 in the AMR report (p.48) provides a summary of all actions.

Next Steps

1. Approve the content of the Annual Management Report 2022
 2. Discuss and agree/prioritise actions – section 6.0 of the AMR 2022 (p.48)
 3. Suggestions for future improvements in process or format
-
4. Please inform SEMS Officer of changes to staff and who should be on the SEMS mailing list
 5. Make suggestions as to additional people to be included on the strategic stakeholder group (list at: <http://solentems.org.uk/sems/ssg/>)
 6. Feed relevant evidence and reports to the SEMS Officer throughout the year and keep on file material for the Annual Survey

Date of Next Meeting

20 September 2023

Via MS Teams

Natural Environment Group Update

SEMS Annual Meeting

21 September 2022

NEG Roles

- **Jess Taylor – Natural England, Chair**
- **Karen McHugh – Natural Environment Group (NEG) Officer**
- **Biannual meetings November and April**
- **Delivers SEMS strategic actions**

Solent Bird Sensitivity and Activity Mapping (SBS project)

Hope to have funding of C. £30k. Begin Autumn 2022. **KEY PROJECT**

Three main elements: Digital mapping of bird sensitivity; digital mapping of key non-licensable activities; and Setting out potential Management Options

Will set criteria for bird sensitive areas and understand issues of displacement

Will use current dataset, and point out any significant gaps. Will inc. Solent Mudflat Disturbance Project

Will be lead to an evidence based Management Strategy

Work withing Blue Marine Foundation Solent Seascapes Project, setting up a voluntary management plan

Impacts of Paddlesports in the Solent (IMP Solent)

Develop the evidence base on the impacts of paddleboarding on the Solent's designated habitats and species, in particular birds, as explore suitable management options, using Chichester Harbour as a case study.

Actions:

1. List current national and local evidence (DONE)
2. Agree proposed new evidence and case study approach. (ONGOING)
3. How link the evidence to Solent's designated habitats and species
4. Detail who could collect evidence and training and procedure
5. Outline management tools with pros and cons

Current status: Chichester Harbour Conservancy piloting a 2 year monitoring project of incidence and effects of Paddlesports. Surveys began in October 2021 and will continue for at least two years. Next report on results are expected in Spring 2023. Will include in SBS Project

Clean Solent Shores and Seas (CSSS)

Sectoral Directories (green is complete)

- [Litter](#)
- [Microplastics](#)
- [Nutrient enrichment \(Diffuse and Point Source\)](#)
- [Polluting contaminants](#)
- [Oil pollution](#)
- [Non-Native Species](#)
- [Hydrographic and hydromorphological changes](#)
- [Acidification](#)

Topic Directories

- [Species and Habitats](#)
- [Amenity and Public Health](#)
- [Boating](#)
- [Ports and Industry](#)
- [Farming](#)
- [Fisheries and Aquaculture](#)
- [Governance and Management](#)

Solent Plastics Pollution hub

- Web resources and a Facebook page to share information on litter picking and wider plastics and litter issues around the Solent.
- Helps to address the litter issues raised in the SEMS AMR.
- We have produced a media pack, an A4 infographic, and project QR codes. Please let us know if you can help to share more widely or you can print off the infographic to go out in public areas, e.g. your reception.

Resources

facebook.com/solentpphub/

solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/Solent_Plastics_Hub

Questions?