

**Welcome to the
SEMS Management Group**

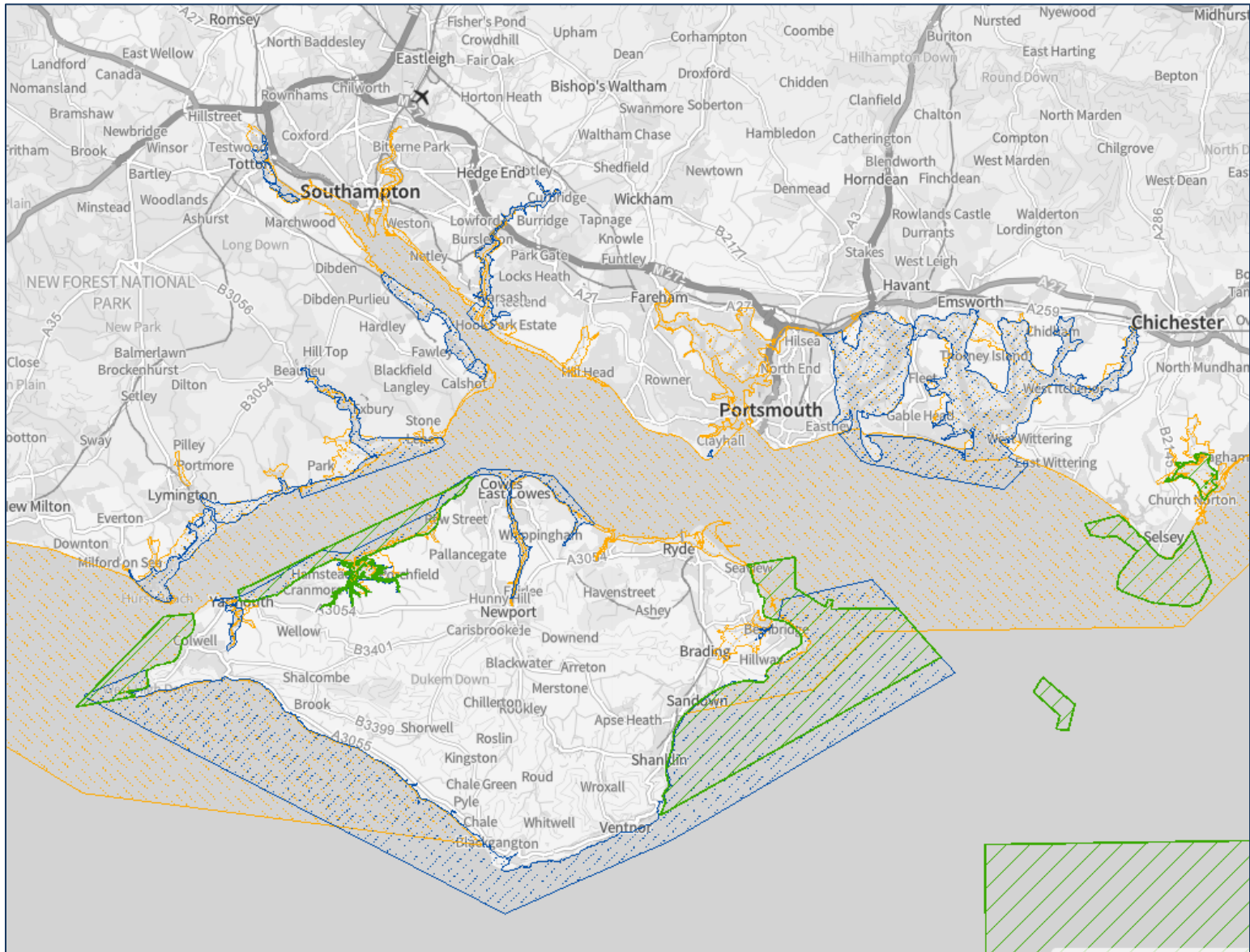
Annual Meeting

20 September 2023

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)**

Solent Marine Protected Areas



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 from 2022 Meeting

- **Action: All to send relevant information, updates or concerns to the SEMS office throughout the year in addition to completing the Annual Survey. All to use SEMS resources to support wider work. All to begin considering how we can manage or reduce those activities that are impacting using existing powers and functions.**
- **Action: All to use the Solent Plastics Pollution hub [media pack](#) to help publicise this initiative. First annual review now available.**
- **Action: All to publicise and use the 101 Police reporting facility to report ASB on the coast and in the marine environment.**
- **Action: All to consider downloading and publicising the [Project Kraken poster](#).**
- **All to please provide any evidence that can be used in the SPA condition assessment process for MPAs to Jessica Taylor once these begin.**

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

HA D Council NE EA Port A

Activity

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 2023

Presentation of Key Findings

Kate Ansell

Annual Management Report Format

- Annual Survey reviews seventeen non-licensable activities that take place around the Solent
- Annual 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 2023

1. 28 out of 31 Relevant Authorities responded to the Annual Survey.
2. Increases in activity recorded at more than one site were for non-motorised watercraft, FCERM, operation of ports and harbours and shore-based fishing. Mode for all activities is 'no change'.
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, general beach recreation and FCERM.**
4. Trend data (2019 to 2023) shows that it is **non-motorised watercraft** that had year on year increases across the Solent, although not in 2023 (paddlesports).
5. For activities where we are seeing 'no change' this does not mean that they are not having an impact, as the current levels could still be causing damage to designated sites.

SEMS Draft AMR Comments

- Bird Aware queried how the SEMS process can be used to address disturbance from marine non licensable activities more effectively.
- Need to ensure that Bird Aware Partner liaise with Bird Aware rangers when completing annual survey returns.
- How do we capture unconsented coastal developments in the Annual Survey to monitor the potential impacts from their operation?

SEMS MG Generic Actions 1 (section 6)

1. SEMS MG members should use this Report and the [activity pages](#) on the SEMS website as a reference resource to help shape relevant plans and policies or management measures for activities in designated sites. SEMS MG members are also encouraged to share these resources more widely and encourage the adoption of best practice by private landowners.
2. SEMS MG members to feed information on activities to the SEMS office throughout the year (sems@hants.gov.uk) to enable the promotion and sharing of good practice throughout the Solent.
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. To also be aware that Relevant Authorities have a responsibility to manage activities under their jurisdiction in the exercising of general duties.

SEMS MG Generic Actions 2 (section 6)

4. Trend data for activity change is showing that activities in the Solent are elevated but stable. 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 reduce or better manage those activities; focusing on sites that are especially sensitive.

5. NEG to assist the Blue Marine led Solent Seascapes Project in identifying how anthropogenic activity pressure can be reduced and managed to help habitat and species restoration and the delivery of a voluntary restoration plan.

6. NEG to continue to collate and share information via the [Clean Solent Shores and Seas webpages](#) on water quality issues in the Solent's designated sites such as contaminants, nutrients and microplastics.

Next Steps

1. Approve the content of the Annual Management Report 2023
2. Discuss and agree generic actions – section 6.0 of the AMR 2023
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
7. Bird Aware partners please liaise with the Bird Aware rangers when completing your annual survey returns

Date of Next Meeting

18 September 2024

Via MS Teams

Natural Environment Group Update

SEMS Annual Meeting

20 September 2023

NEG Roles

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

Solent Seascapes Recovery Plan **KEY PROJECT**

Formerly - Solent Bird Sensitivity and Activity Mapping (SBS) Project

- The Solent Seascapes Project - Seascapes Recovery Plan Working Group (chaired by the Solent Forum) will take forward the SBS project.
- Solent Forum gave £30k funding towards the Seascapes Recovery Plan.
- ABPmer are designing and populating a data portal and preparing a State of Nature Report. The Solent Recovery Plan Working Group will co-design management options with stakeholders.
 - It will set criteria for bird sensitive areas and understand issues of displacement.
 - It will use current datasets and identify significant gaps. Will include Solent Mudflat Disturbance Project; paddlesports and other non-licensable activities.
 - It will lead to an evidence based management strategy.

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, particularly birds, to explore suitable management options, using Chichester Harbour as a case study.’

Current status:

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is monitoring the incidence and effects of Paddlesports. Surveys began in October 2021 and will continue for at least two years. The Conservancy presented and provided year one results at NEG in April 2023 – [presentation](#) on NEG website.

Paddlesports are a non-licensable activity that will be included in the Solent Seascapes Recovery Plan.

Clean Solent Shores and Seas (CSSS)

Sectoral Directories: (green is complete)

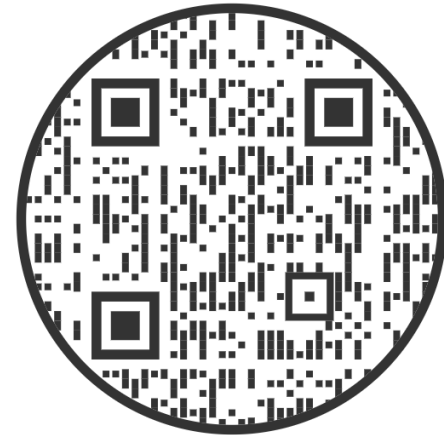
- [Litter](#)
- [Microplastics](#)
- [Nutrient enrichment \(Diffuse and Point Source\)](#)
- [Polluting contaminants](#) **NEXT**
- [Oil pollution](#)
- [Non-Native Species](#) – information provided on the Forum's biosecurity planning pages
- [Hydrographic and hydromorphological changes](#)
- [Acidification](#)

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 coastal and marine litter and wider plastics issues around the Solent.
- Environment Agency PPP that funded this hub has now ended, so we are into legacy status until 2026.
- Helps to address the litter issues raised in the SEMS AMR.
- We have published our first Annual Report for the project.



Resources

facebook.com/solentpphub/

solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/Solent_Plastics_Hub

Questions?