

**Welcome to the
Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Management
Group**

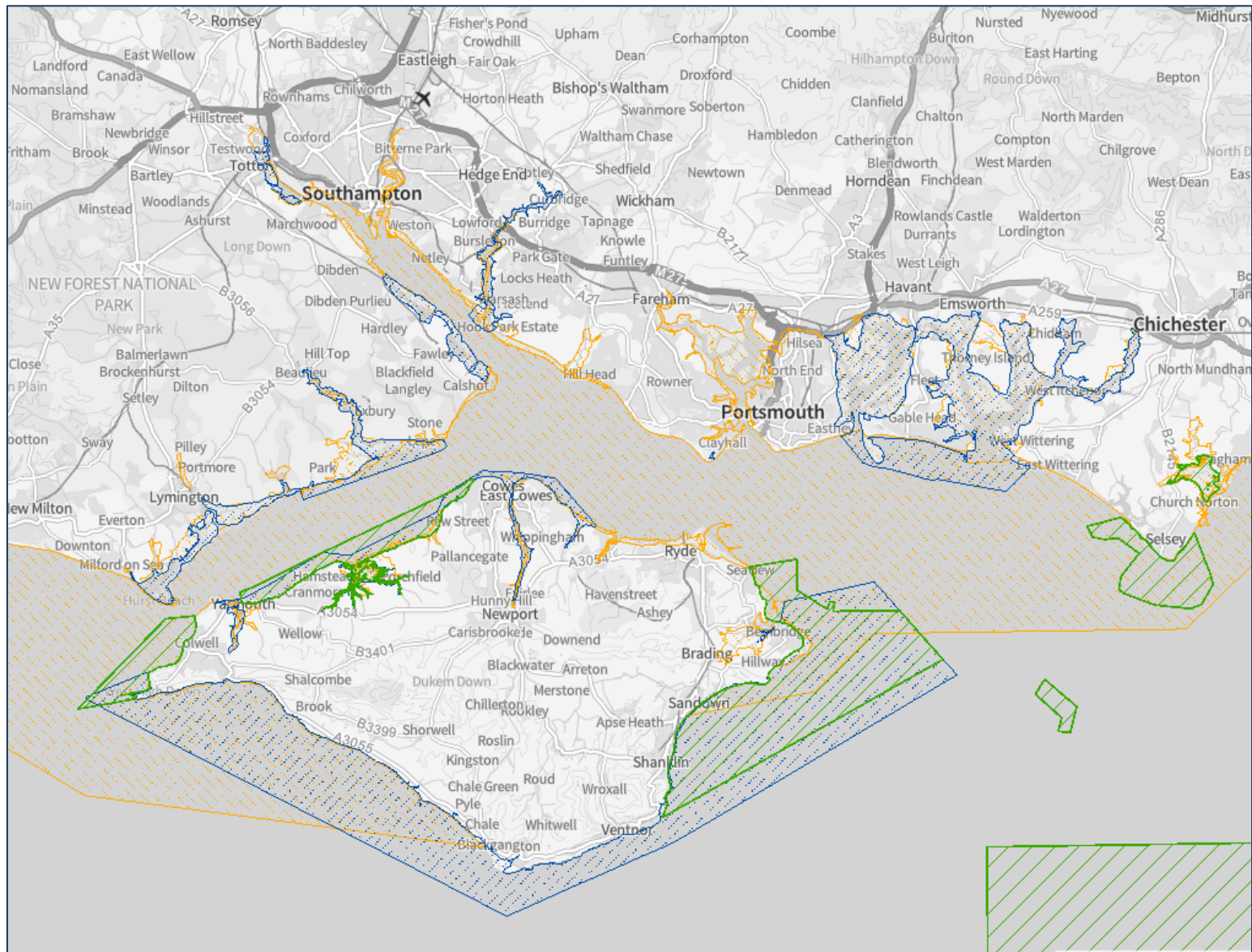
Annual Meeting

17 September 2025

SEMS Roles

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

Solent Marine Protected Areas



Annual Management Scheme Timeline

Feb/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 2024 Meeting

- Action: KA to add generic action attributed to NEG to monitor and report on MMO marine non-licensable activity work. This is being monitored via the Solent Forum's news service and our membership on the national MPA officers working group. MMO contracted APEM Ltd to conduct Solent research and Hurst Spit and Langstone Harbour were identified as areas for potential management (awaiting report).
- Action: KA to draft clear wording to include in the 2025 Survey of how the options 'no change' and 'no data' should be applied. A new table (4b on P.16) has been included in the report that shows those activities recorded 'no data', this will help to focus NEG project spending.
- Action: Natural England to summarise in the Management Report which activities they think are having impacts. A new section (3.9.3) has been added to the Report (thanks to Jess Taylor)

Matters Arising

- The Solent Forum will be changing host by 1 April 2026.
- This will not impact the delivery of the SEMS scheme by the Forum, but you will see administrative changes.
- Invoices for 2026/27 will be sent from the new accountable body – our usual advisory letters sent each November will set out contributions and the amount will not change with the hosting switch.
- The SEMS email address will change, the SEMS website is hosted independently so there will be no change to that or the annual survey. For continuity we will use the info@solentforum.org.
- We will have to reschedule Teams meetings under the new host so please bear with us, the dates will not change.

Annual Management Report 2025

Presentation of Key Findings

Kate Ansell

Annual Management Report Format

- Annual Survey reviews sixteen 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, data for this report is from 2024.
- 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 they think 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 - Walking (including 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. Aerial Recreation
13. Recreation - non-motorised watercraft
14. Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine
15. Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance
16. Wildfowling

Headline Findings of Annual Survey 2025


1. All 31 Relevant Authorities responded to the Annual Survey. 
2. Increases in activity recorded at more than one site were for operation of FCERM and land recreation (walking). Mode for all activities is 'no change'.
3. The activities highlighted by respondents potentially *impacting* on SEMS sites are: coastal walking (mainly with dogs), littering, coastal squeeze (from FCERM works), and non motorised watercraft use (paddlesports).
4. Trend data (2019 to 2024) shows that the mode response to changes in activity levels across the Solent remains as 'no change'.
5. 'No change' does not mean activities are not having an impact, as the current levels could still be causing damage to designated sites. The Solent is a busy place..... (will see in Strava mapping)

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

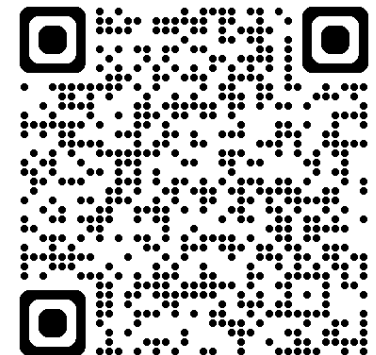
Activity	Yes	No	Total Responses	Percent Yes
Land recreation (incl. walking with dogs)	13	7	20	65%
Littering and removal of litter	12	9	21	57%
Operation of coastal FCERM schemes	11	9	20	55%
Recreation non-motorised watercraft	10	9	19	53%
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	8	10	18	44%
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%

Table 4b. Percentage of respondents that reported 'don't know' to activity changes

Activity	Don't Know	Total Responses	% Don't know
Recreation - light aircraft	5	11	45%
Land recreation (incl. walking with dogs)	9	20	45%
Fishing (shore-based activities)	9	21	43%
Grazing and Foraging	3	7	43%
Littering and removal of litter	9	21	43%
General Beach Recreation	7	18	39%
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	7	19	37%
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	6	18	33%
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	4	16	25%
Mooring and Anchoring	3	16	19%
Boat Repair and Maintenance	2	13	15%
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	3	20	15%
Wildfowling	1	7	14%
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	2	15	13%
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	2	16	13%
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	1	17	6%

Natural Environment Group Update

1. NEG met on 23 April 2025 – heard the following presentations:
 - When is a wading bird not a wading bird? The case of the European Starling – Prof Gordon Watson, University of Portsmouth
 - ‘Portunus’ - Exploring and recording the underwater habitats of Langstone and Chichester Harbours - Alison Mayor, Southsea Sub Aqua Club
 - Water Quality Computer Modelling in The Solent - Dr Tom Scanlon, MTS-CFD Limited
2. Will meet on 19 November 2025 – will discuss SEMS attributed actions
3. One project funded in 2025/6 - Drug accumulation in fish of the Solent to be carried out by the University of Southampton



SEMS Draft AMR Comment

‘The report clearly lays out each activity, it's impacts and management measures supported by data in most areas. Maps showing hotspot activity is also very useful as a visual.’

SEMS MG Generic Actions 1 (section 6)

- SEMS Management Group 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 Management Group members to feed concerns on or new management measures that may have been introduced on non-licensable activities to the SEMS office throughout the year, (sems@hants.gov.uk)
- NEG to prioritise projects for funding to further the evidence base where the Survey response to changes in activity levels and impacts was ‘don’t know’.
- NEG to support the development of the Solent Seascapes project’s Seascape Recovery Plan.
- All to use the [Solent Forum’s Biosecurity plans](#) to help prevent the spread of marine invasives species from activities around the Solent.
- All to report wildlife disturbance from marine non-licensable activities via email to the [MMO](#). The MMO are setting up an online reporting tool to assist with reporting in the future and we will share this once it has launched.

Next Steps

1. Approve the content of the Annual Management Report 2025
2. Agree generic actions – section 6.0 of the AMR 2025
3. Suggestions for future improvements in process or format
4. Please inform SEMS Office 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 Office 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

23 September 2026

Via MS Teams

(Placeholder will be circulated)