

Progress Report for NEG November 2021

The following table shows only NEG actions included in the SEMS Annual Management Report 2021 and these actions were set in Autumn 2021 to be worked on until Autumn 2022. They entirely supersede the actions from the previous year. The AMR includes many more actions allocated to others. It incorporates actions allocated to NEG in previous years.

Progress since September - shown in green below

NEG to do - shown in red below

Fishing (shore-based activities)

1. Action (2020/ongoing): Progress the Solent Mudflat Strategy

Lead/Partners: NEG

Action progress: In 2020, NEG established a working group which is developing a strategy to address the impacts on mudflats from recreational activities in designated sites. Please see the information page on the SEMS website for the latest information: [Solentems - Solent Mudflat Disturbance Group](#).

Progress since September

The University of Portsmouth (UoP) continues to build on the original TEMITH data to map the extent of bait collection and hand gathering using Chichester Harbour as a case study. The Chichester Harbour Case Study Report was sent in July 2021 to Sussex IFCA and will be presented at the November NEG meeting by UoP; A discussion will take place on how this work can be rolled out to other Solent sites.

Land recreation - Dog walking

- 1. Action (ongoing):** In 2021, when the 5 year monitoring of the effectiveness of the SRMP is complete, an assessment should be made as to how successful the mitigation strategy has been in reducing the impact of new housing development in the Solent, and whether baseline disturbance from existing housing has sufficiently reduced harm to birds through the promotion of the Bird Aware messaging by third parties (SRMP monitoring 2021). Due to COVID-19, the Bird Aware monitoring for winter season 2020/21 will be different from normal, so this data set will not form part of the overall initial monitoring period. Therefore the 'complete' data set is now not expected to be available until 2022.

Lead and partners: NEG

Action Progress: NEG will keep track of Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) monitoring and continue with their liaising and support.

Future Action: Post 2022, evaluate whether the SRMS has achieved its objectives and assess whether it has mitigated bird disturbance impacts arising prior to 2010.

Progress since September

Not required until 2022

Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)

Please also see actions in dog walking above as these equally apply.

Littering and removal of litter

- 1. Action (Ongoing):** NEG to continue to develop the Cleans Solent Shores and Seas (CSSS) resource hub. SEMS MG members to use the hub to find information to support or coordinate any appropriate existing campaigns, policy making, communications, events etc. See: http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/css/.

Lead/partners: NEG (development) and SEMS MG (to use)

Action progress: Ongoing.

Progress since September

Not required until 2022

Mooring and anchoring

- 1. Action (ongoing):** All to support, promote and share information from the four year LIFE ReMEDIES project. See: [Recreational boating - Save Our Seabed](#).

Lead and partners: SEMS Management Group and NEG

Action Progress: Ongoing.

Progress since September

Natural England (Jess Taylor) presented at October Solent Forum Members Meeting. Different types of sub-tidal moorings are being trialled in Yarmouth and Osbourne Bay. Cowes may also be a future suitable location. Discussions are on-going on systems that could work in intertidal waters. Future updates will be made on SEMS website and Natural England report on this expected late Autumn. All to contact Natural England if they are interested in trialling AMS locations.

ReMEDIES website - Advanced Mooring Systems - [Mooring - Save Our Seabed](#).

Mooring and Anchoring section of SEMS website [Solentems - Mooring and Anchoring](#)

NEG to do Winter 21

Access NE report when it is ready and update SEMS website

Recreation - light aircraft

- 1. Action (ongoing):** NEG to request data annually from Bird Aware Solent on winter drone use and monitor trends. The use of drones in summer months will be revisited if flagged by Relevant Authorities in the SEMS Annual Survey or concerns are raised by NE. The Bird Aware data is summarised in the evaluation and discussion section above (4.13.2).

Partners/lead: NEG.

Progress since September

No actions until March 2023, when ask Bird Aware for winter drone data

2. Action (2021) NEG to evaluate whether summer drone disturbance of birds is an issue and ask for RSPB input on recording summer disturbance.

Partners/lead: NEG.

NEG to do November 21 meeting

Discussion:

This has not been shown as a concern in the Winter when bird disturbance to feeding is most important; only one RA (EBC) mentioned it as a concern at all in SEMS and Bird Aware disturbance data has not shown any significant issues. WeBS Waterbirds in the UK 2020/21 reported on drones and wintering waterbirds and did not show significant concerns.

There is a question on whether there is a need to assess whether drones in the summer may adversely affect birds nesting. Discuss how NEG can gather such evidence? Look at evidence from RSPB (Life on the Edge), Bird Aware – any views from rangers, ReMEDIES (did it come up at the Solent sites surveyed?)

Discuss how this can link with Solent Intertidal Bird Sensitivity Mapping – see below

Recreation - non-motorised watercraft

1. **Action (2020/ongoing):** NEG to research the evidence base for potential impacts on designated sites from the increased use of paddleboarding.

Lead and partners: NEG.

Action progress: This is a priority action for NEG in 2021/22; an [Impacts and Management of Paddleboards in the Solent \(IMP Solent\)](#) project was established after the NEG meeting on 4/11/20. Chichester Harbour will provide the pilot. Please visit [Solentems - Paddleboards in the Solent \(IMP Solent\)](#) for details.

Progress since September

The current focus of work is understanding the incidence of Paddlesports and a methodology has been designed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy for survey work. Surveys began in October 2021 and will continue for at least two years. Interim results are expected in Spring 2022.

Generic Actions

In the 2021 Survey, the data and comments identified generic actions that are cross cutting for all activities.

1. NEG is exploring the use of mapping to identify bird sensitive hotspot areas at risk from recreational activities.

NEG to do November 2021 Meeting

Discussion Paper: Solent Intertidal Bird Sensitivity Mapping