

NEG Projects 2017/18

Please note projects that take place within the Solent European Marine Sites will have priority for funding. The subjects suggested below have been identified as information gaps from the SEMS annual monitoring and Natural England's conservation advice packages published for the Solent.

SEMS Delivery Plan

<http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/>

Bait digging

- Look at techniques for monitoring bait digging and its effects.
- Collect and analyse evidence of bait digging in the Solent to see if it has a damaging affect on the species and habitats in SEMS.
- Propose a sustainable strategic bait collection management regime across the SEMS.

Litter

- Review the impacts of different types of litter on the species and habitats in SEMS.
- Identify hotspots of high litter areas across the Solent, their sources and the reasons behind why they are hotspots.
- Research and evaluate current coastal litter activity management across the Solent and identify best practice from around the UK. Suggest which of this best practice could be adopted in the Solent.

Management

- Evaluate European Marine Sites monitoring schemes around the UK and identify best practice.
- Identify and evaluate how European Marine Sites management schemes around the UK are incorporating MCZs into their work to become Marine Protected Areas management schemes.

NE Conservation Advice - Portsmouth Harbour and Solent Maritime

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-advice-for-special-protection-area-portsmouth-harbour-uk9011051>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-advice-for-special-area-of-conservation-solent-maritime-uk0030059>

- Review the impacts of Hydrocarbon & PAH contamination, litter and synthetic compound contamination on fisheries and/or finfish aquaculture.
- Review the impacts of organic and nutrient enrichment on fisheries and/or finfish aquaculture.
- Assess the impacts from synthetic compound contamination from new development or the maintenance of infrastructure or vessels on SEMS habitats and species (incl. pesticides, antifoulants, pharmaceuticals). Include those priority substances listed in Annex II of Directive 2008/105/EC.
- identify underwater noise and /or vibration sources in the Solent and assess the potential impacts on SEMS habitats and species.