



Solent Marine Sites
Annual Survey Report, 2021

Solent Forum
June 2021



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1. Introduction

This document is the SEMS Annual Survey Report, (ASR) which presents the findings from the SEMS annual online survey that took place in Spring 2021. It is prepared by the Solent Forum in its role as the SEMS Secretariat. The purpose of this annual survey is to:

- Monitor changes in 17 coastal activities that take place within SEMS sites.
- Identify those activities that are having an impact on the features of the sites.
- Gather background evidence for the SEMS Annual Management Report.

The responses recorded in this report were made by the Solent's Relevant Authorities (RAs) and have been set out verbatim. Analysis of the responses takes place in the SEMS Annual Management Report; this report also sets out subsequent management measures and actions for discussion at the SEMS Annual Management Group meeting.

The activities surveyed reflect the activity categories found in Natural England's Conservation Advice packages for Marine Protected Areas. This enables us to directly cross refer the survey results to the impacts of activities as published in this Advice. The Conservation Advice packages can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conservation-advice-packages-for-marine-protected-areas>.

Locations and details on the Solent Marine Sites can be found on Natural England's Designated Sites System at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>. The sites can be viewed spatially on Defra's MAGIC map at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>.

The past Annual Survey Reports can be accessed at <http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/>.

2. Survey Respondents

All the 31 RAs who were invited to complete the 2021 SEMS survey responded. Table 1 shows a list of respondents. Table 2 identifies the types of RAs which responded. None of the RAs which responded notified any change to their coastal and marine management responsibilities since the last survey in 2020.

Table 1. Relevant Authorities who responded to the 2021 monitoring survey

Organisations who completed the Survey, 2021	
Associated British Ports (ABP)	Natural England (NE)
Beaulieu River Management (BRM)	New Forest District Council (NFDC)
Chichester District Council (CDC)	New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)
Chichester Harbour Conservancy (ChHC)	Portsmouth City Council (PCC)
Cowes Harbour Commissioners (CoHC)	Portsmouth International Port (PIP)
Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC)	Queen's Harbour Master (Portsmouth) (QHM)
Environment Agency (EA)	River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA)
Fareham Borough Council (FBC)	Southampton City Council (SCC)
Gosport Borough Council (GBC)	Southern IFCA (SoIFCA)
Hampshire County Council	Southern Water (SW)
Havant Borough Council (HBC)	Sussex IFCA (SxIFCA)
Isle of Wight Council (IoWC)	Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)
Langstone Harbour Board (LHB)	West Sussex County Council (WSCC)
Lymington Harbour Commissioners (LHC)	Wightlink Ferries (WL)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Winchester City Council (WCC)
	Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners (YHC)

Table 2. The types of Relevant Authority who responded to the 2021 Survey

Authority Type	Number
Government Authority	4
Harbour Authority	9
IFCA	2
Local Authority	13
Other	1 (National Park)
Private Company	2

3. Activity Summary

Section 3 summarises the survey response data on the activities. Respondents were questioned on seventeen different types of activity.

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
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. Recreation - light aircraft
14. Recreation - non-motorised watercraft
15. Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine
16. Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance
17. Wildfowling

3.1 Jurisdiction of Activities in the Solent

Table 3 illustrates how many relevant authorities (RA) recorded that an activity takes place within their jurisdiction.

Table 3. The number of RAs who reported that an activity was within their jurisdiction

Activity	Percentage of SEMS MG Relevant Authorities with jurisdiction for each activity	Response
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	55%	17
Boat Repair and Maintenance	52%	16
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	52%	16
Fishing (shore-based activities)	61%	19
General Beach Recreation	52%	16
Grazing and Foraging	16%	5
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	58%	18
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	58%	18
Littering and removal of litter	74%	23
Mooring and Anchoring	48%	15
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	58%	18
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	55%	17
Recreation - light aircraft	26%	8
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	68%	21
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	55%	17
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	55%	17
Wildfowling	23%	7

3.2 Summary of Changes Recorded in Activity Levels

Respondents were asked whether, since the last survey, an activity had increased, decreased, had no change or they had no data. Table 4 summarises the data. The mode value of the responses has been highlighted in green.

Table 4. Summary of reported changes in activity levels from 2020 to 2021

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions	1	0	15	2	18
Boat Repair and Maintenance	0	2	12	2	16
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	0	3	8	7	18
Fishing (shore-based activities)	4	1	4	10	19
General Beach Recreation	7	0	4	5	16
Grazing and Foraging	3	0	1	1	5
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	12	0	3	4	19
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	12	0	2	5	19
Littering and removal of litter	8	1	9	5	23
Mooring and Anchoring	2	3	8	2	15
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	5	0	8	5	18
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	0	1	13	3	17
Recreation - light aircraft	1	1	4	2	8
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	13	1	1	6	21
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	5	3	4	5	17
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	1	0	15	1	17
Wildfowling	0	0	5	2	7
Source: SEMS Annual Survey 2021					

Table 5. Trend data for activity change

Table 5 shows the mode response for activity change for a time series; currently we have data for three years.

Activity	2021	2020	2019
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions	NC	NC	NC
Boat repair and maintenance	NC	NC	NC
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	NC	NC	D/NC
Fishing (shore-based activities)	DK	NC	NC
Grazing and foraging	I	NC	N/a
General beach recreation	I	NC	NC
Land recreation - Dog walking	I	NC	NC
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	I	NC	NC
Littering and removal of litter	NC	NC	NC
Mooring and anchoring	NC	NC	NC
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	NC	NC	NC
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	NC	NC	NC
Recreation - light aircraft	NC	I	NC
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	I	NC	I/NC
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	I/DK	NC	NC
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	NC	NC	NC
Wildfowling	NC	NC	NC
Key: I = increase, D = decrease, NC = No change, DK = Don't Know			
Source: SEMS Annual Surveys, 2021, 2020 and 2019			

3.3 Summary of Identified Impacts

Respondents were asked whether they thought an activity has an impact on the Solent Marine Sites. Table 6 summarises the data. The mode value has been highlighted in green. The final column identifies those relevant authorities who answered that they thought the activity was having an impact; the organisation abbreviations are set out in full in Table 1.

Table 6. Summary of activity impact

Activity	Yes	No	Total Responses	Org Names (where 'Yes' to impact)
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions	3	15	18	ChHC, PIP, HCC
Boat Repair and Maintenance	1	15	16	ChHC
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	6	12	18	ChHC, EA, EBC, PIP, ABP, HCC
Fishing (shore-based activities)	6	13	19	ChHC, LHB, SxIFCA, EBC, HCC, SCC
General Beach Recreation	6	10	16	ChHC, LHB, EBC, NE, MMO, HCC
Grazing and Foraging	2	3	5	ChHC, MMO
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	13	6	19	ChHC, LHB, BRM, EBC, WSCC, NE, CDC, MMO, IOWC, GBC, FBC, HCC, WCC
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	11	8	19	ChHC, LHB, EBC, NE, CDC, MMO, IOWC, GBC, FBC, HCC, WCC
Littering and removal of litter	11	12	23	ChHC, LHC, LHB, EA, EBC, MMO, IOWC, SW, ABP, WCC, SCC
Mooring and Anchoring	2	13	15	ChHC, NE
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	4	14	18	ChHC, EA, EBC, MMO
Operation of ports and harbours	2	15	17	ChHC, PIP
Recreation - light aircraft	1	7	8	EBC
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	11	10	21	ChHC, LHB, BRM, EBC, NE, MMO, QHM, NFDC, RHHA, HCC, WCC
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	6	11	17	ChHC, LHB, EBC, MMO, PIP, QHM
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	0	17	17	
Wildfowling	2	5	7	ChHC, LHB

Source: Solent Marine Sites Annual Survey, 2021

4. Individual Activity Responses

Section 4 presents the individual relevant authority comments for each activity; the comments are presented verbatim.

4.1 Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up				
<i>Activity includes accidental discharges and/or emissions from all types of vessels, including exhaust fumes, waste water, sewerage, oils, lubricants and chemicals, including oil spill and clean-up.</i>				
Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey				
Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	0	15	2	18
Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?				
Yes		No		Total Responses
3		15		18
Relevant Authority Comments:				
<p>Respondent: PIP Camber Dock, Portsmouth, one incident. Minimal impact on shellfish and fish/birds (light oil spill). Increased management presence in Camber, police attended to look for polluters, took bilge samples from all fishing vessels.</p> <p>Respondent: W No spills.</p> <p>Respondent: EA We are not aware of any significant spills or discharges of unregulated substances to the marine environment - the Harbour Authorities or large industries may notify the EA if this was the case. The MCA and relevant authorities would lead a clean up operation for pollution arising from the sea.</p> <p>Respondent: MMO No change, nothing observed that is out of the ordinary in the past year.</p> <p>Respondent: ABP All spills are reported to VTS. Management and contingency plans in place to deal with any incidents.</p> <p>Respondent: NFDC We have not been made aware of any incidents of accidental discharge of oils, lubricants or chemicals over the past 12 months.</p>				
Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021				

4.2 Boat repair and maintenance

Activity includes vessel maintenance and repair on land or afloat, including hull cleaning. Please also consider the vessels, machinery and vehicles associated with this activity.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	2	12	2	16

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
1	15	16

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: CoHC

Less activity in the boatyards due to the lockdown.

Respondent: ABP

Decrease in hull cleaning activity. We see that hull cleaning can contribute to lower fuel economy/emissions. However, hull cleaning processes vary in efficacy, so we look very carefully at all applications - we currently only permit ECOSubsea to operate at port berths.

Respondent: BRM

We have installed a wash down area that collects and filters the water.

Respondent: CDC

Only involved in this via planning applications, which are subject to plans and programmes HRA.

Respondent: MMO

No change, nothing observed that is out of the ordinary in the past year.

Respondent: W

Wightlink's Lymington Ferries were being maintained while tied up and the route suspended, no hull cleaning occurs there.

Respondent: NE

As in previous years concerns this activity could be helping to increase spread of INNS.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.3 Fishing (including shellfisheries)

Activity includes anchored nets or lines, electrofishing, traps, pelagic fishing (or fishing activities that do not interact with sea bed), hydraulic dredges, dredges, demersal trawl, demersal seines, diving and sea angling.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	3	8	7	18

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
6	12	18

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: PiP

The closure of restaurants due to COVID has reduced fishing activity. Less fishing would arguably have a positive effect on local fish stocks and mudbanks etc. Activity takes place in harbour and fishing grounds of eastern Solent. Daylight hours and seasonal. Trawling and net fishing reduced. We only have authority over the area where the fishing fleet moor, and not fish. Expect fishing levels to re-balance as COVID abates.

Respondent: SolFCA

Commercial Fishing activity within the site has generally been observed by officers to decrease in comparison to the previous year. This is somewhat linked to the COVID19 pandemic limiting markets and sales opportunities. Vessels with access to local markets typically continued fishing, but in some cases this was still reduced. As lockdowns and government guidance varied, activity levels were typically be adapted or in some cases reduced. Fishing activities over the features of the site, including the dredge fisheries in Southampton Water, Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours were observed to be reduced this year. Many vessels typically targeting these fisheries instead focused on a small-scale scallop fishery to the north-east of the Isle of Wight, within the Solent but not within the bounds of the Solent EMS. The Temporary Closure of Shellfish beds byelaw was once again implemented due to the determination of the Southern IFCA committee that the shellfish beds in the Solent (Excluding Chichester managed by Sussex IFCA) were severely depleted. As a result, no fishing for native oysters was permitted during the typical season (November to February inclusive). Details of that closures can be found here:

<https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/25364/sitedata/files/Solent-Temp-Closure-1920.pdf>

Vessel based angling at times saw increases and decreases in activity. This was typically related to the state of lockdown restrictions and relevant guidance related to recreational activity.

Commercial fishing activity is subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment. Those determined to potentially have an adverse effect, requiring a detailed assessment included trawling and shellfish dredging. Details of those assessments can be found here: <https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/solent-dredge-permit>. These assessments, particularly focused on bottom towed fishing gear helped developed relevant management regimes within the Solent in the form of the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016 and the Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw 2016. These ensure that bottom towed fishing gear activities are compatible with the features of the site by creating a management regime including permanent protection for those features highly sensitive to the activity and a closed season and curfew for dredge fishing over other features ensuring

adequate recovery time. Details on these byelaws can be found here: <https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/bottom-towed-gears-regulations>. In November 2021, The Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw 2016 will be revoked and replaced by the Solent Dredge Permitting Byelaw, further improving the IFCA's ability to provide a cohesive management regime for dredge fisheries, whilst still ensuring the habitat protections afforded by the Solent Dredge Fishing Byelaw 2016 are met. Southern IFCA is undertaking a spatial management review of fishing activities which will consider bottom towed fishing activities against the sensitive features of the marine protected areas in the Southern IFCA district. This is primarily focused on newly designated tranche 3 MCZs, but an assessment of the current protection afforded EMS will be undertaken as well.

Respondent: SxIFCA

As a result of the oyster beds remaining closed to dredging in the past year, there has been no activity taking place. The Environmental Health department continue to sample specific beds throughout the year, outside of this there is no activity. Any increases in sea angling activity levels have not been reported to us. We continue to monitor fishing activity on routine patrols in the harbour.

Respondent: LHB

All commercial fishing vessels operating in Langstone Harbour are recorded when sighted, including (where possible) the type of fishing activity they are undertaking.

Respondent: MMO

No increase in vessels being licenced in the area, so same impacts that were always happening before with the same fishermen being interacted with. The fishing rates are pretty level as the fishers have continued to be able to go out to sea throughout the lockdowns. MMO enforcement officers monitor fisheries along the English coastlines assessing catch, quotas and logbooks.

Respondent: Environment Agency

There are on-going concerns in relation to migratory salmonids and netting (though this links strongly to the freshwater designations, the activity occurs within these areas). The only fishery which the EA regulate in this area is the Beaulieu Seine net - now regulated under byelaw rather than net limitation order. The other relevant activity is the fyke net fishery for European Eel which operates within designated sites. All other aspects of fishing are regulated by Southern IFCA, of which we have a member on their committee. There has been an increase in intertidal seagrass in Portsmouth Harbour, probably linked to the bylaw stopping shellfish dredging there.

Respondent: Natural England

SIFCA byelaws in place.

Respondent: EBC

Netting around the entrance to the Hamble, not sure direct take of stock without sufficient baseline information to determine sustainability or knock on effects on other SEMS features.

Respondent: CoHC

Fewer vessels but low numbers anyway, not noticed any change but activity not monitored.

Respondent: CDC

We only have a role in monitoring shellfisheries for human health.

Respondent: QHM

QHM work/liases with SolFCA who regularly conduct patrols in the DPP. If static gear is laid in areas where it is prohibited, or has an impact of the safety of navigation, QHM and SolFCA often come together to address.

Respondent: ABP

We don't maintain data on this activity.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.4 Fishing (shore based activities)

Activity includes crab tiling, bait digging, shellfish collection (including seed mussel) e.g. by hand (with or without digging apparatus), rake or through the use of 'tiles'. Also includes rod and line angling, the setting of pots and nets from the shore and the use of vehicles or vessels to access the shoreline.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
4	1	4	10	19

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
6	13	19

Relevant Authority Comments:**Respondent: ChHC**

Anecdotal information that there has been an increase due to COVID.

Respondent: LHB

It is likely that recreational fishing increased in Langstone Harbour during the last year, as it was one of few activities the public were allowed to do when COVID restrictions were first lifted. Bait digging at large scale continued throughout the year at Southmoor, causing very obvious damage to the mudflats and likely causing increased disturbance to wildfowl and waders feeding and roosting in the area.

Respondent: W

Rod and Line fishing continued at Ryde Pier.

Respondent: SxIFCA

Bird disturbance, sediment disturbance, potential impacts on target species and impacts on food availability for protected bird species. Largely focused around Nutbourne & Prinstead Channels which feed into Thorney channel; Emsworth channel; Thorney Island; Pilsey island which is accessed either by sea or by land; Chichester Marina and Chidham, all accessible from several locations by land or boat. Other known hand gathering locations are Dell quay, Northney marina, Copperas Point, Westlands, Birdham pool, and Longmere point. Year round activity, over spring tides especially but has been reported to us on a daily basis over summer months.

Diggers/collectors accessing the intertidal areas by both land and boat. Looking to introduce

management in the autumn of 2021, pending consultations and further evidence collection. Following the completion of an HRA on the activity, Sussex IFCA are in the process of collecting and collating information on all bait collection and hand gathering activity district-wide, including Chichester Harbour. Patrol effort in the area has increased in attempt to identify regular visitors to the harbour that are suspected to be working on a commercial scale. A decision will be made later in the year with regards to management of bait collection and hand gathering, whether it be district-wide, or site specific. Options are currently being drafted and when there are any decisions being made that will impact the site, the relevant bodies will be notified and given the opportunity to provide comment.

Respondent: EA

Of these activities only rod and line angling falls within the EA's jurisdiction - and this is only partially with EA responsibility for salmonids - sea angling for marine species falls within Southern IFCA's jurisdiction as do the other activities listed. It is unlikely that rod and line angling has a significant impact on the SEMS sites, though there are potential concerns of a low level of impact, in relation to the removal of species, accidentally discarded fishing gear in terms of plastic pollution, and disturbance from anglers visiting coastal locations.

Respondent: EBC

Recreational angling and commercial bait digging mainly EBC coast and Hamble unsure of specifics direct disturbance, damage to intertidal habitats (trampling), potential for over exploitation by commercial bait digging.

Respondent: YHC

Increased activity due to pandemic.

Respondent: CoHC

Slight decrease based on fewer people angling from the usual places around the harbour. Levels of activity low anyway.

Respondent: NE

It is hoped that the research through the Solent Mudflat Disturbance Group and TEMITH outputs will help to fill the evidence gap.

Respondent: MMO

Difficult to track and find people doing this as when reports are in, they are gone by the time a responder can attend. Recreational anglers increase, most likely due to opportunities in lockdown.

Respondent: IOWC

Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.

Respondent: SoIFCA

From the start of the period, hand gathering in key areas was observed to increase. This was particularly targeted around areas such as the Hamble, Hill Head and parts of Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours. Individuals or groups were observed to be collecting manila clams, cockles and pacific oysters. These activities were typically focused around the larger tides and periods of good weather in the late spring and summer. Officers worked regularly in these areas educating gatherers regarding relevant legislation particularly in relation to the Southern IFCA 'Fishing for Cockles' byelaw and the 'Prohibition of gathering (sea fisheries resources) in seagrass beds' byelaw. These can be found here: <https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/diving-handgathering->

[regulations](#). Officers also worked closely with partner agencies, particularly local authorities in relation food hygiene concerns as well as working the GLAA (Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority) where concerns were aligned with their remit. Shore based angling activities were observed to increase and decreases throughout the year. Typically focused at key spots. This was related to the state of lockdown restrictions and relevant guidance related to recreational activity. Consideration is required as to the impact this is having on the EMS including habitat types, level and intensity. More investigation, through the mud disturbance working group may be appropriate. Southern IFCA, as part of its review of spatial management, will be reviewing the 'Prohibition of gathering (sea fisheries resources) in seagrass beds' byelaw to ensure it is providing adequate protection to the most sensitive features of the site.

Respondent: RHHA

Impact of bait digging on SEMS unknown so cannot conclude 'yes'. Bait digging still remains elevated on the Hamble and RHHA continues its provision of information and liaison with SIFCA and the police.

Respondent: HCC

Trampling of intertidal area and digging up of mudflats by bait diggers. Various locations throughout the Hampshire coastline. Low tide for bait digging. The presence of people on the intertidal causes birds to lose the ability to feed in that area while there is human presence. The physical disturbance of the intertidal by bait diggers may also decrease food supply.

Respondent: SCC

Damage to the inter-tidal area as a consequence of potentially commercial collection of shellfish at Weston Shore. Can be several times a month. Turning over of mud to find shellfish - oysters. Reported incidents to the Police, IFCA and Port Health. This has been going on for several years and no action has been taken against the people collecting the shellfish as far as I am aware.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.5 General beach recreation

Activity includes other coastal land recreation and leisure activities such as educational or scientific studies, horse riding on the beach, fireworks displays, swimming, rock pooling, surfing and non-motorised land craft (e.g. sand yachting, kite bugging).

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
7	0	4	5	16

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
6	10	16

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: ChHC

It appears there has been a widespread increase in range of activities due to COVID restrictions.

Respondent: LHB

When COVID restrictions were first eased there were few recreational opportunities available to the public, and we saw much greater numbers of people on beaches than any other year. Increased pressure on fragile habitats such as saltmarsh from trampling, increased disturbance to designated bird species, increased littering.

Respondent: EBC

Probably due to the pandemic the intensity of these "static" activities vary at different locations presumably dependent on visitor facilities available. All along our stretch of coast particularly weekends and school holidays. Leads to disturbance and litter. We have jurisdiction where we are the landowner (we own a small stretch of the coastline -easternmost stretch) or where planning permission or other EBC consents are required.

Respondent: CoHC

Although beach recreation does not fall within Cowes HC jurisdiction there has been an increase in swimming in the harbour (for example off Trinity Landing). This has been in places not suitable for swimming due to safety issues.

Respondent: NE

Impacts include bird disturbance, littering and trampling across most of the Solent. Likely a result of Covid-19 pandemic and therefore it is hoped that this was an unusual year and the work undertaken by Bird Aware will help to address these issues.

Respondent: CDC

Our main beach areas are outside the Harbour SPA/SAC (although now within the new Coastal SPA).

Respondent: MMO

Increase in this activity, especially in the warmer months and at periods where lockdown measures have been less restricted. For example, more ball sports, surfers etc. More bird

disturbance, less social distancing and more litter. Surfers tend to be very aware of littering and looking after the beaches.

Respondent: IOWC

Anecdotally it is reported that recreational activity at local wildlife sites has increased. This is because lockdowns associated with COVID-19 have meant that travel and recreational activity is restricted. Further, national evidence shows that dog ownership has significantly increased during lockdown. It is assumed that activity at the coast has increased too.

Respondent: NFDC

Not been a typical year - part of the year saw less activities but in others more concentrated and intensive.

Respondent: FBC

The Council maintain in parts along the coastline within the Borough the carparks (including public toilets), street furniture and empty the waste bins provided. It is understood that there are no other beach restrictions in place other than no dogs on beaches at set times of the year for some beaches only. However, the Council intends to soon introduce car parking charges which may have an effect on the use and visits to the coast. Bird Aware Solent will be the best placed organisation to give information on any changes to the amount of this activity taking place and the level of impact that it is having on the SEMS.

Respondent: HCC

A lack of opportunity to travel abroad or participate in indoor activities has resulted in an increase in beach and coastal recreation. There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour including littering, beach fires, irresponsible BBQ use, destruction of signage/property. There has also been an increase in the occurrence of wild swimming. Across the Hampshire coastline with an increase of people in traditionally quiet areas. Most pronounced on fair weather days, weekends and holidays.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.6 Grazing and Foraging

Activity includes grazing on saltmarsh or intertidal areas.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
3	0	1	1	5

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
2	3	5

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: ChHC

ChHC has regular reports of people hand-gathering shellfish in various parts of the harbour, including foraging oysters around Pilsey island. The large scale (commercial gathering) of clams and cockles continues to occur on Fishbourne channel, Nutbourne channel and Bosham channel, and on Pilsey sands. Often daily. These activities are frequently reported to Chichester DC and Sussex IFCA.

Respondent: NE

Apparent increase in wild foraging for samphire on saltmarsh has the potential to cause problems as a result of trampling but more evidence is likely needed.

Respondent: MMO

Increased with more amblers on the beach front, more interest in rock pools etc. Maybe a small one impact with local biodiversity and seaweeds, though it is hard to track and measure this and no license is required for recreational foraging. Mostly people who don't know what they can and can't consume. Increase in shellfish collection.

Respondent: NFNPA

Land Advice Team may provide advice on farmer and landowners on grazing management and habitat management. To the best of my knowledge no intertidal areas or SEMS sites have been covered by such advice this year.

Respondent: PCC

There is no grazing on coastal habitat within Portsmouth. Foraging for personal use on public land doesn't require permission and is therefore not monitored.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.7 Land recreation – Dog walking

Activity includes recreational participation with dogs, including the use of dogs in wildfowling.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
12	0	3	4	19

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
13	6	19

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: ChHC

Much anecdotal information about increase in people and dogs on harbour side paths leading to wildlife disturbance, especially shoreline birds.

Respondent: LHB

When COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, but many people remained on furlough, we noticed an increased amount of dog walking activity. Increased disturbance to SPA bird species by dogs not kept under close control. Harbour-wide, all the time. People with limited recreational options and more time to go out walking with their dogs. Bird Aware Solent project was created to mitigate the impacts of increased coastal visits by humans (due to an increased human population) in the Solent.

Respondent: BRM

Increase in visitor numbers in the New Forest due to Covid Restrictions (staycation) dogs off leads and running over salt marshes/SSSI areas around the river. Scaring nesting birds on the River Path and Gull Island, April to October saw the main increase. More visitors to the New Forest and not educated with regards to the damage caused. Undertook signage and more education on website plus roped off certain areas.

Respondent: EBC

No qualitative data for our area but this is likely to have gone up, reflecting the wider national picture which saw a large increase in dog ownership (now approx. 12 million, up from 9 million) activity more likely in daylight hours. Direct disturbance from free roaming dogs is the major problem plus fouling. There are some (old) interpretation boards at Hamble Common I believe; to me this issue is a major problem (free roaming dog disturbance) and given national trends in ownership it is highly likely to carry on getting worse. Does education work? More stick, less carrot?

Respondent: YHC

Increased activity due to pandemic.

Respondent: WSCC

Dogs off leads disturbing feeding and roosting waders and wildfowl, running across intertidal mudflats and even swimming in the water. Intensity not known and impacts likely to depend on other factors such as weather conditions. Chichester Harbour generally, but notably West

Wittering and Fishbourne Creek.

Respondent: NE

Impacts include, bird disturbance, littering and trampling across most of the Solent. Likely a result of Covid-19 pandemic and therefore it is hoped that this was an unusual year and the work undertaken by Bird Aware will once again continue to address this issue.

Respondent: CDC

Same as comments above for walking but activity less variable than walking generally, as dog owners have had to walk dogs through all phases of lock down.

Respondent: MMO

An increase in people buying dogs throughout lockdown has most likely been the reason that more excrement bags have been discarded on coastal pathways and in bushes due to this rise in dog walking activity. We haven't noticed any management measures, but this will impact the general cleanliness of protected coastal sites.

Respondent: IOWC

Anecdotally it is reported that recreational activity at local wildlife sites has increased. This is because lockdowns associated with COVID-19 have meant that travel and recreational activity is restricted. Further, national evidence shows that dog ownership has significantly increased during lockdown. It is assumed that activity at the coast has increased too. Evidence through the SRMP work showed that recreational pressure on the SPA is causing disturbance to birds. The Isle of Wight Council, in collaboration with Solent Bird Aware (formerly known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures, or any new pressures envisaged this year.

Respondent: PIP

More people walking due to lockdown rules.

Respondent: NFNPA

Strictly speaking we have not 'jurisdiction' directly as we are not the Highway Authority. We are however an Access Authority and once coastal access goes through, have been identified as the managing body for the local area. We are involved in projects that relate to walking access such as large development schemes and associated access management. Also producing a Recreation Management strategy for the Park area, particularly concentrating on core Crownland areas currently but with strategic objectives relevant to the SMES sites. We also engage with the New Forest Dog Owners Group (NFDOG) and operate a project officer on behalf of NFDC that seeks to engage with dog owners to provide advice on best practice dog ownership and walk-in that respects wildlife sensitivities on terrestrial habitats - and who also liaises with Bird Aware rangers. New Forest seemed to experience more walking, dog walking and marine sports during the last year. Likely to impact on nesting birds in some places? E.g., Calshot spit, Beaulieu estuary. Fortunately, Lymington-Keyhaven reserve managed by HCC has clear paths via the sea wall and so people probably tend to be deterred from accessing sensitive areas compared to places like Chichester harbour for example. North Solent NNR suffered, and we had a report from the Manager there that recreational activities impacted adversely on sites.

Respondent: GBC

The coastline of the Solent and Southampton Water is popular with dog walkers given the urbanised nature of the Borough. Western/southern coastline of the Borough, all year round. Investment into the Alver Valley Country Park which acts as a SANG to deflect pressure away from the coastline. Part of Bird Aware Solent.

Respondent: NFDC

Disturbance from dogs off the lead. The main issues raised for disturbance i.e., dogs off lead in my role have related to the New Forest Natura 2000 sites rather than the Solent coast.

Respondent: FBC

Recreational Disturbance of important over wintering bird populations. Experienced to some degree at all coastal paths around the borough. There are increased concentrations for walker in areas such as around Portchester coastline (castle and Cams/Wicor) and Hill Head (all along this coastal stretch) and Warsash (the footpath along bunny meadows in the Hamble is well used). Year round recreation, disturbance likely to be significant over winter. Predominantly dogs disturbing important overwintering bird species from feeding etc. Disturbance is not a new impact and is now being mitigated through the Bird Aware Solent mitigation partnership work. New residential development within 5.6km of the Solent SPAs pay a contribution towards the Bird Aware Solent mitigation project which is tackling the impact of disturbance from recreation. Bird Aware Solent monitor the impact and the effectiveness of mitigation on behalf of the Council.

Respondent: RHHA

Some increases in recreational use of river bank footpaths observed in response to lifting of pandemic restrictions.

Respondent: HCC

National statistics have shown there has been an increase in dog ownership and therefore increased numbers of dogs on the coast. No puppy/dog training classes have been available for almost a year. Often there is little to no knowledge of wildlife disturbance issues or the countryside code from new dog walkers. Additionally, with more dogs, many of which are off lead, there will be a greater incidence of flushing of birds. Occurs on the Hampshire coastline, all the time. Wildlife such as birds and seals perceive dogs as predators and are therefore more reactive to a dog's presence than that of a person. Social media campaign about parts of the Countryside Code aimed at dog walking. HCC is investigating the use of dog fields across Hampshire with the aim of reducing pressure on the coast/SEMS sites.

Respondent: WCC

Anecdotally there has been a rise in dog ownership during the pandemic and as a result more people dog walking around the coast and tidal reaches of the River Hamble. Direct disturbance from free roaming dogs and increased human activity added to issues around dog fouling and failure to pick up after dogs. Wardens and financial contributions so far as the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership are involved. There may be additional recreation pressures on the Solent SPA caused by new developments nearby and WCC contributes to the mitigation strategy in respect of this. The following information is taken from our Annual Monitoring Report 2019: 'WCC is part of the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) contributions are now being collected from relevant developments within a 5.6km radius of the SPA. During the monitoring period 15 applications were received which were required to contribute to the SRMS, 12 were approved and 3 refused. A total of £24,016.62 which is a considerable increase over the £9,434.52 received during the previous monitoring period and could be taken to indicate increased likely disturbance and therefore increase mitigation. The financial contributions received by the Council are transferred to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership in order to implement the mitigation measures set out the Strategy'.

Respondent: SCC

It is difficult to know whether dog walking is having an effect on bird numbers at Weston Shore. There are reports of dogs being encouraged to chase birds on the inter-tidal area and the numbers of over-wintering birds has declined however, there are a number of other factors, such

as an increase in carrion crows and poor water quality, that could be the underlying reasons.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.8 Land recreation – Walking (other than dog walking)

Activity includes walking on upper shore or intertidal zone (other than dog walking).

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
12	0	2	5	19

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
11	8	19

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: ChHC

Much anecdotal evidence of increase due to COVID restrictions, disturbance to shoreline wildlife and trampling of vegetation widespread.

Respondent: LHB

When COVID-19 restrictions were lifted we saw a large increase in people visiting the harbour shoreline, largely because other recreational options remained prohibited. Increased trampling of sensitive habitats, increased disturbance of wildlife (particularly SPA listed birds and seals), increased litter. Harbour-wide, all the time, especially during good weather. Large local human population, many of whom were furloughed, with limited recreational options. Bird Aware Solent project was created to mitigate the impacts of increased coastal visits by humans (due to an increased human population) in the Solent.

Respondent: BRM

Increase in numbers especially in the New Forest, due to Covid Restrictions on the River Path adjacent to the river.

Respondent: EBC

I have no direct qualitative data but in general visitor pressure has increased on coastal sites as a result of the pandemic and potentially other factors. Direct access from car parks onto the intertidal areas plus footpath that runs all along the stretch of EBC coast. Potentially all along the EBC stretch of coast between Netley and Hamble Point and along the western Hamble unsure of impacts, predominantly direct disturbance.

Respondent: YHC

Increased activity due to pandemic.

Respondent: NE

There has also been an increase in mountain biking, especially at North Solent NNR, but increase

across most of the Solent, with notes on mountain biking specifically highlighted within the New Forest. Likely a result of Covid-19 pandemic and therefore it is hoped that this was an unusual year and the work undertaken by Bird Aware will once again continue to address this issue.

Respondent: CDC

The Bird Aware Solent scheme tackles the impact of recent additional development, but the historical legacy development means that the impact of recreational disturbance remains. This year has been mixed, the periods of tight lock down may well have seen reductions, however there have been periods where walking has been one of the few activities available to people. Recreational Disturbance during the winter season, Bird Aware Solent's education activities mean that it will have some impact on the historical legacy level of disturbance impacts even though it is not specifically funded to tackle this.

Respondent: MMO

Less social distancing as more people visited the coast. More trampling of marine environments e.g. interference with rockpool environments.

Respondent: IOWC

Anecdotally it is reported that recreational activity at local wildlife sites has increased. This is because lockdowns associated with COVID-19 have meant that travel and recreational activity is restricted. It is assumed that activity at the coast has increased too. Evidence through the SRMP work showed that recreational pressure on the SPA is causing disturbance to birds. The Isle of Wight Council, in collaboration with Solent Bird Aware (formerly known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures, or any new pressures envisaged this year.

Respondent: PIP

More people walking due to lockdown rules.

Respondent: NFNPA

See comments on dog walking.

Respondent: GBC

Anecdotal from colleagues who reside in Gosport is that there has been a significant increase throughout the pandemic. Potential for increased disturbance although I am unable to provide direct evidence for this or quantify the impact at this time. Potential for disturbance on the Borough's eastern coastline at Portsmouth Harbour. Notable increase in the use of Browdown SSSI and Lee-on-the-Solent throughout the pandemic. The Borough's urbanised nature places increase pressure on the coastline. Part of Bird Aware Solent.

Respondent: FBC

Recreational disturbance of important over wintering bird populations. Experienced to some degree at all coastal paths around the borough. There are increased concentrations of walkers in areas such as around Portchester coastline (castle and Cams/Wicor) and Hill Head (all along this coastal stretch) and Warsash (the footpath along bunny meadows in the Hamble is well used). Year round recreation, disturbance likely to be significant over winter. Predominantly walker (often with dogs) disturbing important overwintering bird species from feeding etc. Disturbance is not a new impact and is now being mitigated through the Bird Aware Solent mitigation partnership work. New residential development within 5.6km of the Solent SPAs pay a contribution towards the Bird Aware Solent mitigation project which is tackling the impact of disturbance from recreation. Bird Aware Solent monitor the impact and the effectiveness of

mitigation on behalf of the Council.

Respondent: RHHA

Some increases in recreational use of river bank footpaths observed in response to lifting of pandemic restrictions.

Respondent: HCC

Bird Aware Rangers have recorded an increase in people walking on the coast. There has been anecdotal evidence of increased human presence on the coast from local residents via email and social media. The closing of some large popular car parks as well as people being mandated to stay local has led to a spill over effect of recreational users into areas that were historically quiet. More visitors with less local knowledge of the area are causing greater recreational disturbance to wildlife including overwintering birds and nesting birds. Trampling and degradation of habitat (saltmarsh, mudflats, reed beds, shingle beaches, etc). Taking place on the Hampshire coastline, all the time. COVID measures have meant that more people are exploring the coast for daily exercise. Social distancing means people often go off the footpath. Number and behaviour of people causing auditory and visual disturbance; birds change their natural behaviour in response to presence of people consequently lose feeding and resting opportunities.

Respondent: WCC

Anecdotally more people have been accessing sites during the pandemic and spending recreation time close to and on the coast. Increased levels of human activity on and close to the sites over longer periods than would normally be expected. Increased direct and indirect disturbance. Potentially all along the stretch of coast between Netley and Hamble Point and along the western Hamble although not all of this area falls within this authorities' jurisdiction. General increase in activity, which is not confined to short periods of time such as bank holiday weekends as it might have been prior to the pandemic. Common sense would say that increased activity would have an impact on the SEMS sites, but I have no actual evidence to support this.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.9 Littering and removal of litter

This activity includes discharges from land, water or air, from all types of vessels, of particulate or solid wastes e.g. plastics, microplastics and other flotsam and jetsam (accidental vessel discharges are a separate category). The toxicity and damage caused by littering materials should be considered as should the cleanup of toxic debris. Please includes information on any strandline clearance and beach clean up.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
8	1	9	5	23

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
11	12	23

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: ChHC

Apparently increased littering due to COVID.

Respondent: LHC

We are seeing an increase in littering linked to disposable face masks. Littering including plastics entering the water must have some impact, but we are not qualified to quantify. We are now seeing disposable facemasks being discarded irresponsibly. Occasional organised litter picks reduced due to pandemic restrictions. LHC are working with Hampshire Wildlife Trust to install a Seabin in the next few weeks.

Respondent: LHB

Far more people visiting the coast due to COVID restrictions being eased and people having limited alternative recreational opportunities inevitably resulted in more littering. Litter can result in entanglement/ingestion by designated species. Microplastics can enter the food chain and pollute designated habitats.

Respondent: BRM

Fortunately, the Beaulieu River does not have an issue with litter.

Respondent: EA

Nurdle pollution (microplastic pollution) has been at a significant scale at Chessel Bay, Itchen Estuary Year in the past, with nurdle hunts are showing more than 1000 nurdles in this area. Impact on SEMS and SSSIs is of concern. Origin is plastic manufacturers – loss of product from sites via drains. Investigation and compliance work has led to investment by companies for pollution prevention management measures, and good practice has been adopted. Some ongoing improvement work is required. The Itchen Nurdle Clean-up project this year will trial innovative technology and monitor its effectiveness.

Respondent: EBC

Litter from visitors to the coast and brought in via wind, watercourses and sea. Intensity

unknown. May be some hot spots - from visitor numbers or physical factors (tides, prevailing wind etc) all year? Littering by visitors, litter in the sea not sure if we do litter picks along coast - likely community groups do.

Respondent: YHC

Increased of litter due to takeaways during pandemic.

Respondent: CoHC

Reports from staff working on the Medina that the water has been clearer and cleaner over the past year.

Respondent: NE

Increased littering due to increased visitor numbers. Possible that this is having an impact, but more information is needed.

Respondent: MMO

More litter has been noticed due to the lockdowns/covid, where more people were wanting to benefit from blue-health on the coast, therefore, going out for more walks to get outside. Plastic pollution which can end up in the ocean and can cause entanglement/consumption of marine organisms. Litter also destroys the seascape for other recreational users of the coastline. Increase from land-based sources as more people out and about, even those who are not local to the coast due to covid as an influx of visitors have come in. Noticed mainly in Portsmouth. Nothing noticeable from marine vessels.

Respondent: IOWC

Nationally it is recognised that marine litter, and particularly plastics entering the system, is a huge issue. Therefore, this response is based on the assumption that littering within SEMS remains elevated. Without data and monitoring the confidence level is low.

Respondent: SW

I do not have actual site specific data, but I am aware marine litter is an issue across the whole of the Solent.

Respondent: NFNPA

No legal controls but our Rangers do undertake community liaison and events around the issues and our Education Team go into schools providing litter assemblies. We've also facilitated community volunteers for litter picking through an 'ambassador' Scheme, I know some coastal residents pick areas such as Hurst Spit.

Respondent: GBC

It is felt that littering has been worse in the last year due to increased recreation associated with the pandemic.

Respondent: ABP

We remove larger pieces of debris from the marine environment.

Respondent: NFDC

Not one of the biggest impacts, but accumulation over time and microplastics is a concern.

Respondent: FBC

The only measures taken to target coastal litter is the installation of some larger capacity bins at

key locations and a few additional bins also installed in the past 12 months to help meet demand.

Respondent: RHHA

Regular litter picks take place along accessible foreshores by established volunteer groups who typically collect food wrappings, plastic bottles, drink cans and fishing litter. Small nurdles are commonly found on the shoreline. RHHA patrols do not routinely collect litter from foreshore areas but do collect items hazardous to vessels within the navigable areas and will attend River Hamble Country Park Jetty when litter is observed.

Respondent: HCC

HCC has responsibility for littering on the coastal sites that it owns such as Lepe Country Park.

Respondent: WCC

Litter from visitors to the coast and brought in via wind, watercourses and sea. Intensity unknown. May be some hot spots - from visitor numbers or physical factors (tides, prevailing wind etc). All year.

Respondent: SCC

Seems to be more litter but also a lot more people who want to collect litter. The strandline and higher shore is covered in plastic nurdles, bottles and other waste materials. River Itchen shoreline, all year round. Poor storage of raw materials by plastics companies based along the river. Waste from ships, boatyards and other river side businesses. Litter discarded by members of the public. Regular litter picks to remove the rubbish. This is a persistent problem with various sources. It will require a variety of actions, including legal action, to secure better standards of waste management by local businesses and residents. It can be challenging stopping people from collecting litter at sensitive times of the year.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.10 Mooring and anchoring

Activity includes the operational use of berths, moorings and anchorages including the presence of these structures and the vessels using them. Includes consideration of impacts from vessels when berthing/berthed, mooring/moored, anchoring/anchored. Also includes impacts from anchors and impacts of boat when at anchor or mooring. There is a particular risk of damage from anchoring in seagrass beds.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
2	3	8	2	15

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
2	13	15

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: ChHC

Very likely negative impact on wildlife and habitats of East Head due to large numbers of boats mooring close to site.

Respondent: LHC

Anchoring is not permitted in the harbour so no change to this. Mooring activity has reduced overall due to the effect of the pandemic restrictions meaning that there were significantly fewer visiting boats, apart from mid July to mid September 2020.

Respondent: LHB

LHB licences all moorings within Langstone Harbour. Anchoring however is not recorded and may have increased during 2020 when boating activity was permitted as COVID restrictions were lifted.

Respondent: BRM

Increase in the number of boat owners.

Respondent: W

Ryde Pier - Catamaran Service suspended for most of Apr 20 to May 21. Fishbourne berth, reduced sailings. Lymington lay by had one or two vessels permanently berthed during suspended services.

Respondent: YHC

Less activity due to pandemic.

Respondent: NE

Abrasion effects on seagrass and other annex 1 habitats. LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project is seeking to address this problem through behaviour change and installation of advanced mooring systems.

Respondent: MMO

The same number of moorings, and people get fined if they do not use the certified ones so nothing to report there from intel from enforcement officers.

Respondent: IOWC

Through Habitat Regulations Assessment, any proposals within the footprint of a designation needs Appropriate Assessment and use of evidence to support it. This means that there can be further certainty that new proposals for structures, replacement or extensions to existing ones will not be having a significant impact on the marine sites.

Respondent: PIP

Leisure use up, but passenger ferries much down. Suggest the reduced commercial traffic offset the leisure.

QHM

Other than Man of War, anchorages and other designated anchorages as charted.

Respondent: GBC

Unable to specifically comment on this activity in any detail. Gosport does have several marinas however I do not have information to determine the impact on SEMS sites.

Respondent: ABP

The port has been continuously open for business during the pandemic.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.11 Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes

Activity includes maintenance and operation of all port/harbour infrastructure including quay walls, jetties, slipways, navigation markers, coastal defence structures etc. Includes consideration of vessels/machinery/vehicles associated with activity. Also include the day-to-day operational use of these structures, lights, buoys, posts, towers, transit marks, supply of fuel/bunkering operations onshore /offshore, etc.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
5	0	8	5	18

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
4	14	18

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: LHB

Coastal Partners continue to construct the Portsea Island coastal defence scheme some of which is taking place in Langstone Harbour.

Respondent: EA

Coastal Squeeze in places where policy is Hold The Line (HTL). Increase in local wave reflection in front of defences where existing policy is HTL. In the past through historic squeeze and in the future with sea level rise from maintaining defence in historic positions. Regional Habitat Compensation Programme is reviewing further sites to compensate for coastal squeeze. Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management De-commissioning of Assets Programme may identify sites to change the asset management. Adaptation to future challenges e.g. sea level rise and climate change, carbon off-setting, and net gain are the key focus of all schemes going forward.

Respondent: EBC

Gradual erosion, which although will not require repair in the near future, will require works to be carried out at some stage.

Respondent: NE

There has been an increase in schemes coming forward, however these generally include measures to mitigate for impacts. Wider consideration will need to be given to how our coasts are allowed to adapt to rising sea levels and whether current SMP policy is appropriate.

Respondent: CDC

Coastal defence scheme within the Harbour SPA are private ones, our activities are on the open coast (now within the Dorset and Solent Coast SPA).

Respondent: MMO

During the quieter periods throughout lockdown, there has been an increase in license applications from local coastal councils to put forward coastal defences. Impacts could include to reduce access temporarily, disturbance and displacement of wildlife, use of resources such as aggregates.

Respondent: PCC

There have been on-going defence works to the North Portsea Island scheme (around the Wharf off Eastern Road) and the Southsea seafront sea defence scheme has commenced.

Respondent: GBC

The Council is a member of Coastal Partners, who deliver schemes within the Borough. Preparatory work is ongoing on several schemes in the Borough which should be constructed in the coming years. Any impacts of the scheme will be monitored by Coastal Partners and the Borough Council.

Respondent: ABP

It was reported to us that there seems to have been some erosion on the eastern shore of Southampton Water near Netley. Reported to HCC as landowner.

Respondent: NFDC

Emergency sea defence works needed to be undertaken at Milford on sea. See link for details. <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/2061/Last-rock-placed-in-urgent-coastal-defences-at-Westover-Milford-on-Sea>.

Respondent: FBC

Coastal Partners deal with matters associated with Coastal Flood Risk and Management.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.12 Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)

Activity includes maintenance and operation of all port/harbour infrastructure including quay walls, jetties, slipways, navigation markers, coastal defence structures etc. Includes consideration of vessels/machinery/vehicles associated with activity. Also include the day-to-day operational use of these structures, lights, buoys, posts, towers, transit marks, supply of fuel/bunkering operations onshore /offshore, etc.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2020 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	1	13	3	17

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
2	15	17

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: LHB

LHB manages maintenance of aids to navigation, landing pontoons and public slipways in Langstone Harbour.

Respondent: W

Fishbourne's Wightlink berth is currently having its fendering renewed. Overnight service suspended when being replaced.

Respondent: PIP

Decrease of passenger vessel trade and fishing vessel trade due to COVID. Less impact on environment of Portsmouth Harbour/Eastern Solent.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.13 Recreation – light aircraft

Activity includes all types of craft used for recreation in the air e.g. small planes and helicopters, microlights, paramotors, hang gliding, parascending (on beach), parasailing (by boat), drones and model aircraft.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	1	4	2	8

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
1	7	8

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: ChHC

Apparently/anecdotally a decrease due to COVID.

Respondent: LHB

LHB monitors drone sightings on an ad-hoc basis.

Respondent: EBC

Not sure of impacts, but drones may have an impact throughout EBC stretch from noise or visual disturbance.

Respondent: MMO

Nothing noticed on patrols from this activity. Nothing to report.

Respondent: NFDC

Drone use has seemingly increased - readily obtainable and popular.

Respondent: RHHA

Whilst true 'jurisdiction' over this issue is not clear as RHHA jurisdiction is below mean high water level, RHHA occasionally receives third party requests for commercial drone flights in relation to flights over our lease holding of river bed and some foreshore areas, or in relation to navigational safety. RHHA is using the guidance document and liaising with NE on individual cases when necessary regarding any specific conditions required in relation to flight height, duration, distance from SPA birds.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.14 Recreation – non-motorised watercraft

Activity includes windsurfing, kite surfing, kayaks, canoes, row boats, punts, paddle boards, dinghies and sailing boats. Includes all related participation such as launching and recovery (shore access and trailers) and any land based practice. Please include information on events and competitions.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
13	1	1	6	21

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
11	10	21

Relevant Authority Comments

Respondent: ChHC

Large increase in SUPS, kayaks etc due to COVID restrictions, led to disturbance to birdlife and hauled out seals around the harbour, good evidence of bird disturbance at Sandy Point, Pilsley, Fowley Island etc. at various times of the year throughout the year (e.g. a Saturday morning in Feb 2021 there were at least 54 people on SUPs and kayaks between Langstone bridge and Emsworth).

Respondent: LHC

We have seen an increase in the use of kayaks, canoes and paddleboards. We have seen a decrease in sail boat activity due to pandemic restrictions for parts of the year. Windsurfing and kite surfing are prohibited in the harbour, so we have seen no change in these activities.

Respondent: LHB

A large increase in kayaking and SUP was noted during 2020, most likely because this activity was permitted when COVID restrictions were eased while many other recreational opportunities were not. Participants from London and further afield were encountered in Langstone Harbour. Additionally, the popularity of these sports together with reduced costs for purchasing such vessels is likely to have driven this change. The shallow draughts of these vessels combined with the ability to launch them from almost anywhere with no training means they allow access to very sensitive sites (such as seabird breeding colonies and seal haul outs) causing great disturbance. Participants may also trample over fragile habitats such as saltmarsh and seagrass during launch and recovery. LHB has introduced harbour dues for these vessels for the 2021 season. The financial cost of the dues is small but allows us a mechanism to pass ecological and anti-disturbance information to this group of harbour users. We will be monitoring the number of harbour dues plaques we sell for this user group.

Respondent: BRM

Hundred percent increase on the number of paddle sports accessing the river other than the provided slipway. Landing on SSSI areas. Increase in the number of river users on the whole river including Gull Island. Takes place in the summer months particularly school holidays and weekends. Booking system for use of slipway to limit numbers. Increased educational awareness and use of roaming wardens during busy periods.

Respondent: EBC

No specific qualitative data but activities like kayaking and paddle boarding have increased everywhere so an increase in impact is likely on our stretch including from launching, direct disturbance, accessing otherwise inaccessible locations. Takes place on River Hamble in particular, during daylight hours leading to direct disturbance, damage to sensitive habitat (especially along the Hamble) by dragging watercraft or landing for picnics/BBQs etc. An increasing problem in my opinion that may not be sufficiently dealt with through codes of conduct.

Respondent: YHC

Increased activity due to pandemic.

Respondent NE:

Impacts include bird disturbance, trampling and damage through the use of inappropriate access routes and littering. Takes place across most of the Solent.

Respondent MMO:

Increase in particularly paddle boarding around the Itchen, Hayling Island, Lee-on-the-Solent and Isle of Wight. Also, a rise in blow-up kayaks. Increased pressure on RLNI and coastguard/rescue services as these people can get swept out in gales when they don't know what they are doing. Easily accessible equipment online and easily purchased. Anyone can access this. Increase due to lockdown and people trying more hobbies. These can go into areas they are not meant to be as no specific training is included, could interrupt navigation routes.

Respondent PIP:

Lockdown has led to an increase in use of watercraft, sometimes with inexperienced persons.

Respondent NFNPA:

No jurisdiction. Role in planning system for any new facilities to support activity e.g. slipways/jetties. Activity does take place in the Park and anecdotal evidence for a rise in paddlesports participation last summer.

Respondent PCC:

PCC haven't granted any new recreational permissions in coastal areas in the last year.

Respondent: QHM

Greater use due to COVID-19 When used by general public in greater numbers - there must be negative impact at Southsea seafront and Stokes Bay to Hill Head throughout the summer period. Simply more people using due to COVID19 restrictions. More waterborne patrols where possible. All local councils are aiming to improve facilities and monitoring.

Respondent: ABP

Decrease in activity due to Covid, I opted for 'no impact' but it is difficult to tell without greater studies. I suspect that any activity can be categorised as having an impact.

Respondent: NFDC

Just a perception, and not substantiated by any data, but noted more individuals participating in this type of sport, notably paddle boarding. Witnessed disturbance first hand at Calshot with the flushing of birds. My impression is there is a growing demand and market for these activities. Paddling into areas of habitat supporting birds.

Respondent: FBC

The Council maintain in parts along the coastline within the Borough the car parks (including public toilets), street furniture and empty the waste bins provided. It is understood that there are no other beach restrictions in place other than no dogs on beaches at set times of the year for some beaches only. However, the Council intends to soon introduce car parking charges which may have an effect on the use and visits to the coast. Bird Aware Solent will be the best placed organisation to give information on any changes to the amount of this activity taking place and the level of impact that it is having on the SEMS.

Respondent: RHHA

Notable increase in recreational use of paddle craft observed in response to lifting of pandemic restrictions during Summer 2020. Increased in total numbers and frequency of use of paddle craft, particularly paddle boards, with associated disturbance of some intertidal areas being used for resting or access/launching. Hamble estuary, particularly Upper Hamble Spring and Summer 2020 in response to lifting of pandemic restrictions and utilising available recreation options, plus ease of purchasing and using a paddle board. RHHA has introduced river signage although this is aimed at reducing risks associated with navigation. Paddle sports disturbance guidance has been reproduced in the harbour guide. Local National Trust warden has recently erected signed requesting no access onto its saltmarsh areas. Increasing awareness of potential for disturbance and promoting use of appropriate access/landing locations will help limit impacts.

Respondent: HCC

Comments for general beach recreation apply here. Additionally, recent availability of cheap water sports equipment sold by discount chain retailers has led to a massive increase of small craft on the coast, and increased popularity of water sports has also led to more remote areas being regularly accessed. When people on small craft enter areas that did not historically host these activities it leads to destruction of sensitive habitat (trampling, erosion) and to disturbance of animals that are not used to the presence of people. Disturbance can happen anywhere but is more pronounced in what historically were quiet areas. Birds that are not accustomed to seeing people and dogs are likely to react in a more severe way and therefore experience a greater impact on life chances. Occurs on the Hampshire coastline particularly weekends, fair weather days coupled with high tide occurrence and windy days for wind sports.

Respondent: WCC

If it has increased then yes it would increase the impact, but I have no data to back this up. Launching, direct disturbance, accessing otherwise inaccessible locations on River Hamble. Daylight hours. Direct disturbance, damage to sensitive habitat (especially along the Hamble) by dragging watercraft or landing for picnics/BBQs etc. We grant planning permission for some uses such as at Fairthorne Manor who run activities including kayaking on the Hamble. We would not have control over general leisure use of non motorised watercraft. It is likely that Fairthorne Manor has been closed during the pandemic so use emanating from there will have decreased. It is possible that general uncontrolled access could have increased but not known.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.15 Recreation – powerboating or sailing with an engine

Activity includes any motorised boat activity, such as Personal Watercraft (PWC), hovercraft, powerboating and water-skiing. Includes launching and recovery of craft e.g. slipway or beach/shore launching and participation i.e. when activity is underway or making way. Please consider other novel uses of power boats such as flyboarding. The impacts of different craft will vary and should be considered on a case by case basis e.g. sailing boats with low power engines moving at slow speeds are less likely to have an impact.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
5	3	4	5	17

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
6	11	17

Relevant Authority Comments

Respondent: LHC

Due to pandemic restrictions, we have seen an overall decrease in these activities over the lockdown periods. There was an increase from mid July 2020 to the end of September 2020.

Respondent: LHB

We sold almost double the number of jet ski permits in 2020 compared with the previous year. In 2020, we sold 402 permits compared with 224 the previous year. Other forms of power boating remained relatively stable. Jet skis are noisy, and have shallow draughts allowing easy access to and disturbance of sensitive sites and species. We have tightened permit conditions for jet skis for this season (permits are now not issued without sight of insurance documentation), and before next season all jet skiers will be required to obtain a recognised qualification before a permit will be issued. The majority of our seasonal patrol team's work involves managing jet skiers. We prosecute numerous participants who infringe harbour byelaws every year.

Respondent: BRM

Slight increase in the number of small day motor boats.

Respondent: EBC

Intensity unknown although may have reduced significantly during pandemic "lockdowns" all along our stretch. Erosion at launch site, pollution from engines, noise/visual disturbance. Jurisdiction where we are the landowner (we own a small stretch of the coastline - easternmost stretch) or where planning permission or other EBC consents are required.

Respondent: YHC

Less activity due to pandemic.

Respondent: CoHC

Believed to have been an increase in boat ownership generally as reports suggest they are hard to get hold of. More motor boats and jet skis around after lockdown, although over the year this probably averaged out and therefore no change.

Respondent: NE

Concerns have been raised more widely by other stakeholders regarding an increase in this activity, specifically jet skis, at various sites across the Solent. However, this trend has not been observed at NE managed North Solent NNR.

Respondent: CDC

We have slipways but not within the Harbour SPA, only the open coast.

Respondent: MMO

Jet skis can cause danger to other recreational users as they go too close to shore and too fast. Can get entangled in fishers' nets e.g. static gear and towed gear. Can also interrupt key navigation routes - highly dangerous around the Solent. MMO can't license these recreational activities, it can only be reported to and regulated by the local Harbour Authority and also can report disturbance to the MCA. Coastguard have a good eye on smaller motor vessels. Only worry really is jet skis as they are not regulated well in some areas and there has been a rise in those using them.

Respondent: PIP

Lockdown increased UK staycations and water use. Increased wash around sensitive areas. Daylight hours, more in weekends and summer wash from craft, visiting wildlife islands etc. Management includes speed limits and police boats presence in the harbour.

Respondent: NFNPA

No jurisdiction. Role in planning system for any new facilities to support activity e.g. slipways/jetties.

Respondent: QHM

Particularly PWC usage - massive increase. When used by general public in greater numbers there must be negative impact. Southsea seafront and Stokes Bay to Hill Head popular throughout the summer period. Simply more people participating due to COVID19 guidance. More waterborne patrols where possible. All local councils being proactive, intention to increase buoyage as necessary.

Respondent: GBC

Unable to specifically comment on this activity in any detail. Gosport does have several marinas however I do not have information to determine the impact on SEMS sites.

Respondent: ABP

Decreased due to Covid as before.

Respondent: NFDC

Ferries Hurst Castle is located at the mouth of the Keyhaven River and is owned by English Heritage and the day to day management is undertaken by Hurst Castle Marine. There is a small fleet of commercial passenger ferries that take visitors back and forth to the castle. As these ferries operate at all states of the tide their usage will have an impact on the riverbed when operated at low water. In addition, Hurst Marine have some larger vessels that are used when the tide permits and as required. Powerboating at Keyhaven is very tidal and vessels use the river at various states of tide, this is more acute on a low water spring. A powerboat making way in low water is likely to dislodge the riverbed and dislodge sediment. A powerboat underway is unlikely to disturb the riverbed unless it goes aground. A yacht due to draft requirement is unlikely to

have any effect or at worst minimal effect when making way. Any effect on the riverbed when underway would only occur should the vessel ground.

Respondent: RHHA

Overall no change, however, was a notable increase in recreational use observed in response to lifting of pandemic restrictions during Summer 2020, following the period of no use during the Spring 2020 lockdown.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.16 Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance

Activity includes the ongoing maintenance, such as washing down, clearing of mud or sediment, algal growth or similar of a slipway or jetty.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
1	0	15	1	17

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
0	17	17

Relevant Authority Comments:

Respondent: CoHC

Ongoing regular 6 monthly cleaning for safety.

Respondent: MMO

Due to quiet periods over lockdown, it was a good opportunity to complete this work with less people around.

Respondent: RHHA

RHHA continues to remove algal mats that build up and obstruct a slipway.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

4.17 Wildfowling

Activity includes the use of firearms to shoot wild fowl. This category does not take into account the use of dogs during these activities, please use 'Land recreation - dog walking' for any dog related activity.

Change in Activity Level reported in 2021 Survey

Increase	Decrease	No Change	Don't Know	Total Responses
0	0	5	2	7

Do you think the Activity is having an impact on the SEMS Site?

Yes	No	Total Responses
2	5	7

Relevant Authority Comments:**Respondent: LHC**

Licensed by Natural England.

Respondent: MMO

Only one group in the area known is the Chichester Wildfowling Association, who comply to very strict time of the year restrictions that they can shoot. Disturbance of birds and trampling of flora are potential impacts.

Source: SEMS Annual Survey Report, 2021

5. Activities Resulting from Plans and Projects

Respondents were asked whether plans or project within designated SEMS sites may lead to any changes to activity levels, or impacts over the last 12 months. Table 7 presents the findings.

Table 7. Activity change or impacts arising from plans and projects

Respondent	Details
BRM	Marina re-development completed which includes increase in occupancy levels.
NE	Possibly due to the Covid pandemic, but there appears to have been a slight drop in the levels of licence applications in the last 12 months, however, those that have come through are generally for larger developments.
MMO	Projects: The licensed dredging at the Nab Tower has been reported by fishermen to have decreased the population of lobsters, potentially by smothering. Fishermen have said when they bring traps up they are often covered in silt. This has not been reported previously to the dredging activity.
IOWC	MMO license and subsequent planning permission granted for restoration of Totland Pier, new restaurant at the pier head, floating pontoon and offsite moorings. HRA concludes no significant impact subject to mitigation.
PIP	Berth 2 extension was finished early 2020, but trade to that berth decreased due COVID.
NFNPA	Local Plans in the Forest have been through Public Examination and been approved by Government. In the New Forest area this includes allocations for significant growth across the whole planning area, and in particular major allocation adjacent SEMS sites. Project yet to be approved. Elsewhere cumulative impact of housing growth is reliant on Bird Aware and nutrient neutrality issues being addressed. To date applicants seek to achieve this by techniques such as water efficiency, wetlands, SUDS - some of these relate to ongoing projects that are still to be approved. Although projects have not been approved or have been subject to enforcement, increasingly it is supporting habitats to SEMS (e.g. brent and wader high tide roost/feeding) that is potentially being impacted. This could be something for SEMS to watch.
PCC	Outputs of nitrogen from residential development (wastewater) into the SEMS: While deterioration of the water environment from

	<p>condition assessments of the SPAs / SACs has been a noted concern previously, this become an immediate issue for Local Planning Authorities following a legal ruling from the Court of European Justice in November 2018. Following advice from Natural England, PCC ceased granting permissions for all residential/overnight stay/tourism development between April and November 2019 while an interim solution was being developed to enable development to be 'nitrate neutral' and ensure no net gain in wastewater output from the PCC area. An Interim Strategy was put in place by the Council on 29th November 2019. While the impact of this on the actual nitrogen levels/ water quality in the Solent (particularly Langstone Harbour for Portsmouth) within the monitoring year is currently unknown, the Council will continue to work together with the other South Hampshire planning authorities, statutory agencies and water companies to solutions to the eutrophication issue in the Solent. Work is currently focusing on agricultural land management to reduce nitrate runoff.</p>
QHM	Work on the Flood defence of Southsea seafront has begun.
GBC	Not in the last 12 months. In the coming 12 months the Borough Council will be consulting on a new Gosport Borough Local Plan which will set out the development strategy to 2038. This may have implications on SEMs sites which are currently being assessed as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal.
ABP	We have undertaken a capital dredge of the container berths to deepen and widen the berths, but this activity was not assessed to impact designated sites by the EA/NE.
FBC	The emerging Fareham Local Plan proposes an increase in housing and employment development within the Borough. However, the impact of this development on SEMS is being considered within the Habitats Regulations Assessment accompanying the Local Plan.

6. Monitoring

Table 8 records the monitoring being undertaken by respondents in SEMs sites.

Table 8. Relevant Authority current and planned monitoring within SEMs

Respondent	Details
LHC	Periodic monitoring of effects of ongoing beneficial use of dredged sediment. Consultant reports produced in accordance with MMO licence conditions.
BRM	Dredging around the marina basin and the impact on the surrounding areas.
EA	<p>Ongoing monitoring of bathing waters and shellfish waters. Ongoing environmental monitoring of chemical and biological elements in transitional and coastal waters for EU Water Framework Directive; biological elements include saltmarsh, seagrass, opportunistic macroalgae, phytoplankton, benthic invertebrates and estuarine fish (excluding coastal fish). Monitoring includes recording for invasive non-native species.</p> <p>Data held by Marine Team, Analysis & Reporting teams, Fisheries and Biodiversity teams. Records for invasive non-native species are held on an external national website.</p> <p>Monitoring is coordinated with Natural England, Harbour Authorities, Local Authorities, Cefas, IFCA's and Wildlife Trusts.</p>
YHC	Saltmarsh monitoring. Data held by YHC Estuaries officer.
CoHC	<p>Sediment/Turbidity monitoring programme ongoing. New weather station recently installed with information on visibility, tidal height and barometric pressure - all available on the website: cowesharbourcommission.co.uk. Annual saltmarsh monitoring in June.</p> <p>Cowes HC hold the data for sediment monitoring and Oceanwise host the servers. IW Estuaries Project has saltmarsh monitoring data.</p> <p>IW Estuaries Project is working with Oceanwise and ABP to provide single point of marine information for Solent. Working with ReMEDIES project on advanced mooring systems which will involve monitoring. We would welcome the opportunity to work with others.</p>
NE	Recreational surveys as part of LIFE ReMEDIES project. Coordinating with HIWWT, RYA, QHM, and IOW Estuaries Officer. Future monitoring proposed for seagrass condition diver surveys and habitat mapping of South Wight Maritime.

MMO	The MMO Marine Conservation Team (MCT) carries out annual reporting on all MPAs in its jurisdiction. Reporting is focused on activity levels and is split by plan area due to the high number of MPAs in the MMO's jurisdiction. Please note, Natural England are responsible for monitoring ecological parameters between 0 and 12 nm. For reporting, MCT work with coastal MMO teams to gather information to establish if activity levels have significantly increased, which may result in assessment or review of management measures if already in place. MCT use coastal questionnaires to collect this information. These questionnaires ask about activity in the MPA over the last 12 months and whether it could be having negative impacts on designated features. We also ask if there are any likely future changes in activities.
SoIFCA	Southern IFCA officers undertake regular monitoring of fishing activities within the Solent. This is undertaken from the shore or by patrol vessel and feeds into the IFCA's sightings database. Sanitised versions of this information is available for certain purposes. We also undertake regular stock surveys within the Solent including the bi-annual Solent Bivalve surveys, the annual Solent native oyster survey and our bi-annual fish monitoring surveys. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, these were not able to take place within the time frame of this survey. Data is collected on a nationally standardised form for collecting sightings.
RHHA	Ongoing monitoring of bait digging activities in the Hamble estuary, as previous years, comprising patrol officer sightings and reports from members of the public. Not all incidents are captured, but all data held is supplied to SoIFCA. Data held by RHHA and SoIFCA.
PIP	We have undertaken a carbon footprint survey and installed air quality monitors around the port. Reactive work on incidents only, the vast majority of Portsmouth waters are under the statutory authority of QHM Portsmouth.
NFNPA	No specific SEMS driven work, however research is underway looking at recreation behaviour on core Park area and this may have relevance to the SEMS sites as a side-benefit.
PCC	The impact of land use change and other nitrate mitigation schemes will have an agreed scheme of monitoring and management in perpetuity agreed with Natural England. The party undertaking the monitoring will also be agreed and secured as part of a legal agreement, and may not be within the authority area as the development proposal it relates to.
EBC	Access Management Assessments at Hamble Common/Westfield Common by Footprint Ecology, part of Bird Aware monitoring.

FBC	Bird Aware Solent conduct monitoring with regards to recreational disturbance from walking and water sports users. Coastal Partners will monitor impacts of coastal flood risk and management initiatives.
WCC	Monitoring is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent/Solent Recreation Mitigation Scheme and reported upon yearly. Winchester City Council is one of the authorities signed up to this scheme.

7. Marine Conservation Zones

Respondents were asked whether they had a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) within their jurisdiction and whether they had any concerns about activities taking place within these sites. Tables 9 and 10 give the responses.

Table 9. Relevant Authorities with a MCZ within their jurisdiction

Response	Count
No	19
Yes	9

Table 10. Relevant Authorities concerns regarding activities within MCZs and monitoring of activities

Respondent	MCZ Related Concerns
MMO	Multiple locations under jurisdiction. The MMO's marine non-licensable activity (NLA) management approach is being developed. Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone is the first site to be assessed by the MMO for NLA impacts. To support development of the approach, the MMO have got an evidence project underway which is collating data on a number of MPAs to build the evidence base. This will be published on the MMO website when complete. There is not currently a confirmed timeline of NLA site assessments going forward. SEMS will be contacted if the MMO commence assessment on any sites in the Solent.
SoIFCA	Southern IFCA is in the process of completing its assessments of fishing activities within Yarmouth to Cowes and Bembridge MCZs. The aim of these assessments is to ensure the conservation objectives of the features are compatible with ongoing fishing activity. Initial assessments of bottom towed fishing gear and hand gathering will feed into the Southern IFCA spatial management review and may lead to further protections afforded to the most sensitive features.

8. Other issues

Respondents were asked whether there were any further issues they would like to raise. Their responses are recorded in Table 12.

Table 11. Other work and issues raised in the Survey

Respondent	Additional information
CoHC	Working on potential for beneficial use of dredged material for the saltmarsh restoration project. No further information available yet.
NFNPA	Coastal erosion at Hurst castle has become a major issue for archaeologists this year. Work and studies ongoing. Similarly work ongoing with EA and NFDC coastal unit on defence options between Keyhaven and Lymington, stakeholder engagement started summer 2020.
SoIFCA	Other surveys are undertaken in the SEMs, including annual oyster stock assessments, clam stock assessments and seine net surveys at sites within the Solent.
RHHA	Water Quality and Boating campaign, led by EA & NE, is focussing on black water discharge from recreational vessels. Actions underway for partners (e.g. harbour authorities, Southern Water, marina groups, RYA, EA) to seek improvements to pump out facilities and ways to encourage behavioural change of recreational sailors.

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