



Solent Marine Sites

Annual Survey Report, 2022

Solent Forum
June 2022



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1 Introduction

This document is the Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Annual Survey Report, (ASR) which presents the findings from the SEMS annual online survey that took place in Spring 2022. It is prepared by the Solent Forum in its role as the SEMS Secretariat. The purpose of this 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 used in Natural England’s Conservation Advice packages for Marine Protected Areas. This enables us to directly cross refer the survey findings 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>.

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

2 Survey Respondents

Out of the 31 RAs who were invited to complete the 2022 SEMS survey 30 responded. Table 1 shows a list of respondents. Table 2 identifies the types of RAs which responded. One respondent notified a change to their coastal and marine management responsibilities since the last survey in 2021. The Isle of Wight Council is now considering nutrient neutrality in individual planning applications.

Table 1. Relevant Authorities who completed the 2022 survey

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)	Southern IFCA (SoIFCA)
Gosport Borough Council (GBC)	Southern Water (SW)
Hampshire County Council	Sussex IFCA (SxIFCA)
Havant Borough Council (HBC)	Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)
Isle of Wight Council (IoWC)	West Sussex County Council (WSCC)
Langstone Harbour Board (LHB)	Wightlink Ferries (WL)
Lymington Harbour Commissioners (LHC)	Winchester City Council (WCC)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners (YHC)
Organisations who did not respond: Southampton City Council (SCC)	

Table 2. The types of Relevant Authority who responded to the 2022 Survey

Authority Type	Number
Government Authority	4
Harbour Authority	9
IFCA	2
Local Authority	11
Other	2 (water company, National Park Authority)
Private Company	1

3 Activity Summary

Section 3 summarises the survey response data on individual 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 a particular activity takes place within their jurisdiction.

Table 3. Activities that fall within the jurisdiction of SEMS Management Group members		
Activity	Percentage of RAs with jurisdiction for activity	Number
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	57%	17
Boat Repair and Maintenance	50%	15
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	47%	14
Fishing (shore-based activities)	70%	21
General Beach Recreation	50%	15
Grazing and Foraging	17%	5
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	57%	17
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	60%	18
Littering and removal of litter	80%	24
Mooring and Anchoring	57%	17
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	60%	18
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	50%	15
Aerial Recreation (light aircraft, drones)	30%	9
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	63%	19
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	50%	15
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	50%	15
Wildfowling	23%	7

3.2 Summary of Changes Recorded in Activity Levels

Respondents were asked whether, since the last survey in spring 2021, each activity had increased, decreased, had no change since the previous year 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 spring 2021 to spring 2022					
Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	1	0	15	1	17
Boat Repair and Maintenance	2	0	10	3	15
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	1	1	9	4	15
Fishing (shore-based activities)	2	0	13	6	21
General Beach Recreation	0	2	7	6	15
Grazing and Foraging	1	0	1	3	5
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	1	0	9	7	17
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	1	1	9	7	18
Littering and removal of litter	1	1	15	7	24
Mooring and Anchoring	5	0	10	2	17
Operation of FCERM schemes	3	0	8	7	18
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	0	1	14	0	15
Recreation - light aircraft	2	1	3	3	9
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	9	1	4	6	20
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	4	1	6	5	16

Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	0	0	14	1	15
Wildfowling	0	1	6	0	7

3.3 Activity Impacts on Designated Sites

Respondents were asked whether they thought that the activities surveyed were having an impact on the features of the Solent Marine Sites. Table 5 summarises the data. The mode value of the responses has been highlighted in green.

Table 5. Activities Impacting on Designated Sites

Activity	Yes	No	Total Responses	Org Names (where Yes) See table 1 for abbreviations.
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	3	14	17	LHB, ChHC, PIP
Boat Repair and Maintenance	1	14	15	ChHC
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	6	9	15	GBC, EA, EBC, MMO, ChHC, PIP
Fishing (shore-based activities)	7	12	19	LHB, EBC, SxIFCA, MMO, CDC, ChHC, FBC
General Beach Recreation	4	10	14	NE, ChHC, FBC, HCC
Grazing and Foraging	1	2	3	ChHC
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	14	3	17	NE, GBC, LHB, EBC, PCC, IOWC, MMO, CDC, ChHC, NFNPA, BRM, FBC, WSCC, HCC
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	13	5	18	NE, GBC, LHB, EBC, WCC, PCC IOWC CDC ChHC, NFNPA, BRM, FBC, HCC
Littering and removal of litter	14	10	24	LHC, GBC, LHB, ABP, SW, EA, EBC, WCC, PCC, IOWC, ChHC, NFNPA, BRM, FBC
Mooring and Anchoring	5	12	17	NE, LHB, MMO, ChHC, F BC
Operation of FCERM schemes	6	12	18	LHC, ABP, EA, EBC, MMO, ChHC
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	1	14	15	ChHC
Aerial Recreation (light aircraft, drones)	1	8	9	ChHC
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	9	10	19	NE, LHB, EBC, WCC, ChHC, NFNPA, BRM, FBC, HCC
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	8	8	16	GBC, LHB, EBC, WCC, MMO, ChHC, PIP, FBC
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	0	15	15	
Wildfowling	3	4	7	LHB, WCC, ChHC

3.4 Annual Trend Data

Table 6 shows the mode response for activity change for a time series; currently we have data for four years.

Table 6. Trend data for activity change				
Activity	2022	2021	2020	2019
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions	NC	NC	NC	NC
Boat repair and maintenance	NC	NC	NC	NC
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	NC	NC	NC	D/NC
Fishing (shore-based activities)	NC	DK	NC	NC
Grazing and foraging	DK	I	NC	N/a
General beach recreation	NC	I	NC	NC
Land recreation - Dog walking	NC	I	NC	NC
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	NC	I	NC	NC
Littering and removal of litter	NC	NC	NC	NC
Mooring and anchoring	NC	NC	NC	NC
Operation of FCERM	NC	NC	NC	NC
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	NC	NC	NC	NC
Recreation - light aircraft	NC	NC	I	NC
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	I	I	NC	I/NC
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	NC	I/DK	NC	NC
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	NC	NC	NC	NC
Wildfowling	NC	NC	NC	NC
Key: I = increase, D = decrease, NC = No change, DK = Don't Know				
Source: SEMS Annual Surveys: 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019				

4 Individual Activity Responses

Section 4 presents the individual relevant authority comments for each activity; the comments are presented verbatim. For respondent organisation abbreviations please see Table 1.

4.1 Accidental Vessel Discharges/Emissions including Oil Spill and Clean-up

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	1	0	15	1	17

Respondent	Comments
GBC	Not aware of any incidents this year.
LHB	Given our remit, it is not possible to prevent all accidental discharges such as small leaks, but there are measures to investigate if they do occur. Langstone Harbour Board holds an Oil Spill Contingency Plan in the event that a spill is reported and needs attending to. Regular emergency spill exercises are conducted to ensure equipment and staff training is kept up to date. Marine oils are a concern in the harbour as their ability to translocate with ease, thus have the potential to damage fish and seabird populations perhaps before we can respond.
ABP	Any incidents reported to the harbour authority are logged and appropriate response level implemented.
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 were the case, and the MCA and relevant authorities would lead a clean-up operation for pollution arising from the sea.
RHHA	Whilst outside this survey time period, RHHA installed a sewage pump out station at its Warsash Jetty in May 2022.
MMO	None recently or this year that we are aware of
ChHC	Occasional incidents recorded annually.
PIP	Visiting fishing vessels appear to have discharged oily bilge water into Camber Dock, no admission by any vessel. Minimal impact on shellfish and fish/birds (light oil) at Camber Dock. Increased management presence in Camber, police attended to look for polluters, took bilge samples from all fishing vessels.

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Boat Repair and Maintenance	2	0	10	3	15

Respondent	Comments
LHB	Concerns regarding Eastney Lake and maintenance of vessels in a dilapidated state. Occasional maintenance work may include breaking apart fibreglass, releasing glass microfibres into both the marine environment and the atmosphere - a potential contaminant of food webs and physically dangerous to organisms in the form of impaling tissues.
ABP	Difficult to gauge whether this activity is having an impact as it is not monitored. We permit Ecosubsea to operate alongside Port berths, which is a hull cleaning system with very efficient capture rates which removes any potential of non-native species and improves fuel efficiency of commercial vessels.
W	No hull cleaning occurs.
MMO	On Isle of Wight, marine licences in place.
ChHC	Boat maintenance is widespread throughout the harbour, micro plastics and glass fibre particles have been found throughout harbour.
CoHC	The number of boat owners has increased, and as they have started to want to use their boats they are realising the amount of work required to keep them in good order. Additionally, a lot of boat owners who had boats prior to lockdown either left them on pontoons or on blocks and are now working to get them ready for the season.
BRM	Increase in the number of berth holders.

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	1	1	9	4	15

Respondent	Comments
NE	SIFCA byelaws reduced pressures.
LHC	Limited fishing within harbour limits.
GBC	On the whole this activity is not considered to have an impact however there is uncertainty how smaller trawling operations just off the coast affect SEMs sites.
LHB	All commercial fishing vessels that operate within Langstone Harbour Board's jurisdiction are recorded. If possible, the location and type of fishing activity is

	recorded. Langstone Harbour Board operates with Southern IFCA and reports any suspicious or uncertain activity to them, which they will then investigate.
EA	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 byelaw stopping shellfish dredging there.
EBC	Inshore netting within the Hamble Estuary, the estuary mouth and Southampton water are all likely to be having negative impacts on SEMS sites and also the interest features of SACs (i.e. salmonids in the Itchen). Inshore netting is likely to be impacting the ecology of SEMS sites, plus it is likely to be impacting the interest features of SACs such as the Itchen (i.e. salmonids).
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.
SoIFCA	Overall fishing activity remains consistent throughout the Solent with the exception of the Scallop dredge fishery which usually occurs outside the SEMS. Meanwhile activity in the Solent Clam fishery has decreased due to unsuitable classifications so fishers have moved from this to the Scallop fishery.
MMO	Scallops have increased due to price. Pelagic fishing coming in now as is season on mackerel, bream, bass. Whelk in winter time. Cuttlefish soon. IFCA's put in byelaw on scallops - given grounds a chance to recover.
CDC	Enforcement of food hygiene regulations around shell fisheries.
ChHC	Large numbers of anglers use the harbour annually from shore or boat, and some netting persists.
CoHC	No change noticed however the situation is not monitored.
QHM	SIFCA regularly patrol and monitor the DPP regarding this activity.
PIP	Portsmouth Port only have authority over the area where the fishing fleet moor. Expect that fishing will rebalance over time now Covid restrictions have ended.

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 using '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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Fishing (shore-based activities)	2	0	13	6	21

Respondent	Comments
LHC	Limited rod and line angling and crabbing. Very limited bait digging at upper harbour limits outside of SEMS.

LHB	A difficult operation to patrol within LHB remit and resource - no way to ensure best practices, minimum landing sizes and catch species are being observed.
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 removal of species, accidentally discarded fishing gear in terms of plastic pollution, and disturbance from anglers visiting coastal locations.
EBC	Probably has increased? Coast from Hamble to Netley is popular with shore anglers. Litter can be a problem plus some potential for direct disturbance from anglers. Bait digging, especially for ragworm, may also be a problem along the Hamble estuary in places.
SxIFCA	Largely focused around Nutbourne and 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. Sussex IFCA has completed its formal consultation stage of its Hand Gathering Byelaw, and it is currently in the stage of analysing these answers. We aim for this byelaw to introduce management measures relating to shore-based fishing activities within the Chichester Harbour area.
W	Rod and line fishing at Ryde Pier, no change.
IOWC	Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.
RHHA	Impact of bait digging on SEMS unknown so cannot conclude 'yes'. Bait digging still remains elevated on the Hamble and RHHA continues provision of information and liaison with SIFCA and police.
MMO	Bait digging has gone up, shellfish collecting has gone up in Dell quay and in Chichester harbour there are issues. No limit on what they can take as no law. Some are taking and selling on market where it is not fit for human consumption. Organised crime involved digging on Ramsar and other protected sites.
CDC	We have seen an increase in illegal shellfish collection over the past 12 months and are working with the police on enforcement action.
ChHC	Hand gathering and bait digging is widespread and has particular impacts at top of Nutbourne, Bosham and Fishbourne channels.
FBC	Evidence of small scale (individual) shellfish collection and bait digging occurs along the Fareham coastline. It is unclear what level of impact this has on the SEMS.

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).

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
General Beach Recreation	0	2	7	6	15

Respondent	Comments
HBC	Covid restrictions and poor weather conditions factors.
NE	Similar to last year with locals staying closer to home. Seen a rise in holiday makers choosing the Isle of Wight as a staycation destination through the pandemic. Bird disturbance, trampling and plastic pollution/littering. Likely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic that continued into 2021 and the work undertaken by Bird Aware will once again help to address this issue.
GBC	Officers from Streetscene advise they do not consider this activity to be impacting SEMS sites.
EBC	I'm not sure these activities at present would be too damaging given the nature of the coastline that falls within Eastleigh.
IOWC	Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.
MMO	A decrease in those using the beach, most likely due to Covid easing up and people going back to normal routines. Expect usage to increase in summer months.
CDC	Foreshores service operates on the open coast from Witterings to Selsey but not in the SEMS sites.
CoHC	There had been an increase of swimmers within the harbour in areas that are unsafe for swimmers. However recently this has decreased as swimmers have been warned not to swim in the harbour.
NFNPA	Implies the Authority has regulatory powers; however enjoyment and understanding is just one of the two purposes of National Parks and the Authority has limited basis to create and enforce regulations through mechanisms such as bylaws. It does however facilitate a roundtable Access Forum for the area with a range of stakeholders. Partnership work around New Forest Catchment Partnership also relevant. Due to the extent of the diversity of the activities there is no established monitoring framework and no data upon which to base assessment of impact, therefore any input is based on anecdotal feedback as opposed to empirical sources. Sites such as Lepe country park may have data on visitor numbers/car park income etc which may be a proxy. We do not have access to that information ourselves. Most of this type of activity takes place outside core wintering period and is centred on where access is easy such as country parks or where limited parking helps reduce the amount of activity e.g. Tanners Lane.
FBC	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.
HCC	Visitors to the beach remain high. Issues such as littering, BBQs, fires.

4.6 Grazing and Foraging

Activity includes grazing on saltmarsh or intertidal areas.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Grazing and Foraging	1	0	1	3	5

Respondent	Comments
NE	Increase in requests for advice in terms of seaweed foraging. No impacts on SEMS features or sub-features observed.
MMO	Not many grazing points, only in between Hayling and Langstone. Otherwise RSPB reserves - not allowed to do grazing.
ChHC	Pacific oysters apparently being gathered around Pilsey island on Thorney Island.
NFNPA	Whilst working with landowners and partners with regard to habitat management and opportunities for grazing, the Authority has no regulatory role other than planning system (e.g. proposals to link terrestrial grazing to the coast as part of development at Fawley).

4.7 Land Recreation - Dog Walking

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

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	1	0	9	7	17

Respondent	Comments
NE	Wild bird nesting and feeding, trampling and disturbance. Likely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic that continued into 2021 and the work undertaken by Bird Aware will once again continue to address this issue.
GBC	While we have no direct evidence of impact, dog walking is at a very high level around the Borough's coastline as it a popular dog walking destination for people in the Borough and from further afield. The impact is most likely to be more acute on the western and southern coastline of the Borough given the proximity of footpaths to the sea. The prevalence of dog walking is all year round. The Council continues to plan investment into the Alver Valley Country Park which acts as a SANG to deflect pressure from the coast - although no projects have been completed by the Borough Council this year.
LHB	Members of the public frequently let dogs off their leads and aren't kept under close control, which leads to an increased risk of disturbance to SPA bird species. This is a harbour-wide and year-round concern, but activity peaks in the summer as people visit the island to enjoy the warmer weather.
ABP	We do not monitor this activity.
EBC	Direct disturbance to birds/other fauna, erosion from dog walkers, fouling. Most sensitive sites are along the Solent foreshore through Hamble Common. There are other areas further up the Hamble where this could still be an issue but probably

	less so. While I can't say with any certainty that pressure from dog walking has increased in Eastleigh, the likelihood is that it has given that the dog population continues to rise. I believe this to be a major issue facing nature conservation.
PCC	Greater use of coastal path areas since lockdown (anecdotal), particularly during the summer months. Recreational pressure managed by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy.
IOWC	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 (also known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures. Results from monitoring work carried out by Bird Aware is still expected. Awaiting implementation of the England Coastal Path that will assess further impacts from recreational walking.
MMO	Stayed the same, people have discovered the nice areas over Covid and still have their dogs so are going back. Same impact. Still people leaving dog litter bags at Hayling Island, Lymington, Ealing.
CDC	Post pandemic increase in visitors to the coast. Existing impact due to historical level of development predating the introduction of the Bird Aware Solent scheme.
ChHC	Impacts on wintering birds, breeding birds, most impacted site is probably East Head.
NFNPA	Jurisdiction - as for general walking the Authority has regulatory powers, however enjoyment and understanding is just one of the two purposes of National Parks, and the Authority has limited basis to create and enforce regulations through mechanisms such as bylaws. Conclusion of impact based on theoretical evidence from the SEMS and levels of dog walking at sites such as Lepe, Calshot and Lymington marshes. Social media post over year suggests even in locations such as Lymington and Keyhaven marshes, dogs are not under proper control and cause disturbance to the lagoons, HCC and HWT managers may know more. During period there has been a slight decline in canine based work in the Park due to a postholder moving job and delays in recruitment. That role focused on terrestrial sites but has wider benefits for coast. Other communications work has included promotion of Water Code and Catchment Partnership work with bodies such as HCC, it includes dogs on leads and dogs on paths messaging.
BRM	Bird nesting season, we see the most impact and damage.
QHM	No adverse complaints received by us at QHM Portsmouth.
FBC	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent, provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.
WSCC	Dogs off leads disturbing feeding and roosting waders and wildfowl. 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.
HCC	Dog walking remains a very popular activity. Issues as above with general walking with the addition of fouling, chasing of wildlife and livestock.

4.8 Land recreation - Walking (not with dogs)

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

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	1	1	9	7	18

Respondent	Comments
NE	Likely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic that continued into 2021 and the work undertaken by Bird Aware will once again continue to address this issue
GBC	No significant changes reported in the last year. However there is a potential for recreational disturbance on the coast, with activity along Gosport Borough's entire coastline high. We have no evidence to directly quantify this impact, however taking a precautionary approach we expect this will have some level of impact. The Borough's urbanised nature increases pressure on the coastline. Lee-on-the-Solent also attracts people from the wider sub-region. The Council is part of Bird Aware Solent.
LHB	Misinformation can cause disturbance to sensitive habitats and species (including SPA bird species and seals), increased footfall is often linked with increases in litter pollution. This is a harbour-wide concern which peaks between spring and autumn as people visit to enjoy the warmer weather.
ABP	We do not monitor this activity.
EBC	There is public access (car parks and foot access) along the foreshore on the Solent Coast and from Hamble Common. There is more limited access further up the Hamble Estuary but still likely to be impacts. There will be an impact although intensity is unknown - disturbance, erosion, littering but again intensity unknown.
WCC	General increase in activity in the area still impacts of COVID and more people staying close to home. Not able to quantify.
PCC	Greater use of coastal path areas since lockdown (anecdotal), particularly during the summer months. Recreational pressure managed by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy.
IOWC	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 (also known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures. Results from monitoring work carried out by Bird Aware is still expected. Awaiting implementation of the England Coastal Path that will assess further impacts from recreation walking.
MMO	Dropped off due to COVID. Drop in walking, mainly elderly doing the walking.
CDC	Post pandemic increase in visitors to the coast. Existing impact due to historical level of development predating the introduction of the Bird Aware Solent scheme.
ChHC	Disturbance to birds, trampling of saltmarsh in some locations.
NFNPA	Implies the Authority has regulatory powers; however enjoyment and understanding is just one of the two purposes of National Parks and the Authority has limited basis to create and enforce regulations through mechanisms such as bylaws. It is however the Access Authority for England's coastal path and also facilitates a roundtable Access Forum for the area with a range of stakeholders. Currently most Ranger activity is targeted away from the coast to avoid duplication

	with Bird aware, therefore during the period we are not aware of any quantitative or qualitative data on this activity having been gathered through our staff. Walking and access to the coast continues to be a popular pastime even for those without a dog (many visitors being bird watchers/photographers or people wanting to access nature). Access during harsher winter months seems much reduced to other times of the year but there is activity during passage period in autumn and spring. All visual disturbance has theoretical potential to cause impacts to the sites through disturbance to feeding grounds and high tide roost sites. We are not aware of any significant changes to spatial patterns or intensity of walking during the period (although this would be based on anecdotal evidence as no systematic data collection is currently undertaken) - generally the feeling is that visitor levels have reduced from the peak of initial lockdown, however still some peaks during summer months. Rollout of England coastal path is imminent, and signage being developed as per NE's Habs Regs Assessment as a mitigation measure.
BRM	The numbers have stayed the same since covid restrictions. The impact is no different than in 2020 when we had the main increase. Walking and landing on Needs Ore. We have increased educational resources.
QHM	All coastal foreshore areas have considerable footfall regarding this activity.
FBC	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent, provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.
HCC	Bird Aware Rangers have noticed a decrease in visitor numbers; however visitor numbers still remain higher than pre pandemic levels. Greater recreational disturbance to wildlife including overwintering birds and nesting birds. Trampling and degradation of habitat (saltmarsh, mudflats, reed beds, shingle beaches, etc).

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 cleanup.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Littering and removal of litter	1	1	15	7	24

Respondent	Comments
NE	Likely due to the increased visitor numbers as per walking, dog walking and general beach recreation activities. Currently no clear evidence/studies to show whether this is impacting the features/sub-features of SEMS.
LHC	We continued to see a higher level of littering in 2021 due to disposable face masks.
GBC	Littering continues at a high level. In terms of the impact, Streetscene officers advise that measures are taken to mitigate the impact through regular cleaning. Short term issues do occur when there is limited staffing capacity or GBC

	contractors unable to cleanse beaches. However the Borough Council seeks to mitigate the longer term impact through beach cleaning.
LHB	Litter pollution is a major concern for the harbour as we have many sensitive species (including SPA birds and seals). Littering can result in ingestion and entanglement for the harbour's wildlife. Microplastic pollution from degrading materials can easily enter the marine food web and cause deleterious effects on a cellular level by inducing oxidative stress, reducing enzymatic activity and tissue necrosis. Over many years, Eastney foreshore has become heavily littered with beached craft and associated detritus. The vessels littering the foreshore has encouraged throwaway culture whereby litter is left on the shore, often without care or intent to dispose of it. Community groups are keen to undertake litter clear ups around the harbour to tackle this problem. Annual reports show that litter volumes around the harbour have decreased in the past years. Once the vessels at Eastney have either been disposed of, or put back on their moorings, legacy litter can begin to be removed.
ABP	Litter - in its broadest definition - from both land and marine sources is a constant impact. We remove marine litter where it collects in various part of the port on an as required basis. Marine litter has many potential impacts on species and habitats, so it is important to focus on this issue.
SW	Aware of concerns regarding impacts of micro and macro pollutants such as plastics and micro-plastics on the wider Solent. Some of these arise from Southern Water discharges. We are involved in research (national and local) into these emerging impacts/risks but there is currently no driver and therefore no funding to action at this time.
EA	Chessell Bay, Itchen Estuary - nurdle pollution from plastic manufacturers losing product from sites via drains. Microplastic pollution has been at a significant scale in this location in the past, with nurdle hunts are showing more than 1000 nurdles in this area. Impact on SEMS and SSSIs is of concern. Investigation and compliance work has led to investment by companies for pollution prevention management measures, and good practice has been adopted in most cases. Some ongoing improvement work is required. The Itchen Nurdle Clean-up project is ongoing and will continue to use innovative technology and monitor the effectiveness.
EBC	Litter from visitors to the coast and brought in via wind, watercourses and sea. Intensity unknown - probably increases in summer.
WCC	General littering from increased visitors and impacts on the environment.
PCC	Littering is likely to impact on the habitat of the SEMs. This is apparent during the summer months/warmer weather from additional visitors. Cleaning and rubbish collection from coastal areas is managed by the Council but I'm not aware of any data on how much is collected and where from. There are various volunteer groups who carry out coastal litter picks but I'm not aware of whether data from this is recorded, collated or shared.
IOWC	Nationally it is recognised that marine litter, and particularly plastics entering the system, is a huge issue. Therefore this response assumes that littering within SEMS remains elevated. Without data and monitoring the confidence level is low. We support the work of Solent Forum co-ordinating beach cleans and litter picks.
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 we will attend the River Hamble Country Park Jetty when litter is observed.

MMO	A decrease in levels of litter, perhaps people are becoming more aware. A lot less litter in this area.
CoHC	There are groups that publicise litter picking events, and there have been reports from harbour users that the harbour and river are looking cleaner.
NFNPA	Level of jurisdiction arguable and would only fall within the wider enjoyment purpose of National Parks. No regulatory powers. Catchment partnership initiatives likely to cover wider littering issues but no work during the period specifically targeted at coast alone, merely covered in wider work. Authority operates an Ambassador scheme which supports individuals and communities in removing litter. New Forest Ambassador scheme - New Forest Ambassador scheme - New Forest National Park Authority (newforestnpa.gov.uk) .
QHM	If any floating hazard/debris - is a danger to safe navigation then QHM will take appropriate action.
FBC	Evidence of plastic pollution in particular is widespread. The Council provide bins along the coastline which are regularly emptied.
HCC	HCC has responsibility for littering on the coastal sites that it owns such as Lepe Country Park.

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Mooring and Anchoring	5	0	10	2	17

Respondent	Comments
NE	HIWWT produced recreational activity survey report as part of the ReMEDIES project, showing an increase seagrass bed damage and highlighting pressure areas for anchoring and mooring. Seabed habitat damages e.g. abrasion to seagrass beds. LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project is seeking to address this problem through behaviour change and installation of advanced mooring systems, currently looking at introducing Voluntary No Anchor Zones if necessary within high use sites identified in the report, engaging with users to identify reasons for use and considering alternative suitable mooring areas.
LHC	Increase in use of dredged subtidal pontoon berths due to pandemic 'staycation' effect. Anchoring is not permitted in the harbour. The increase in berth use is in a dredged deep water part of the harbour outside of the SEMS.
GBC	Unable to specifically comment on this activity in any detail. Gosport does have several swinging moorings and bays where anchoring occurs however we don't have evidence to determine the impact on SEMs sites.
LHB	LHB licenses all moorings within the harbour. Anchoring is only permitted in Langstone channel but it is not recorded. Moorings within the harbour are abundant, with many not having been licensed for many years. This creates an unnecessary pressure on the seabed habitats in the form of scouring from sinkers.

ABP	Generally speaking, moorings have been in place for decades - long before the designations were created.
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. Some schemes are required to include interpretation panels raising awareness to users of the qualities of the marine environment.
RHHA	Very limited anchoring permitted (in small area of Upper Hamble estuary), but over 3000 moorings present in total, the majority of which are fixed piles, but some permanent buoy moorings are present.
MMO	There have been reports that annual berthings have shot up and many marinas around neighbouring areas to the Solent are at maximum capacity. We are unsure if there are similar capacity issues within the Solent. Certain seagrass sites that are being anchored on e.g. Studland Bay are an issue. Sea patrols are quite far out so difficult to comment on this. The number of moorings/anchoring's go with the seasons. With Studland Bay no anchor zone, most likely there will be a higher pressure on other sites further down the coast.
ChHC	Various - direct damage through anchoring/moorings but also pollution through discharges and boat repairs.
NFNPA	Probably no direct jurisdiction other than planning/plans and project's role. However Catchment Partnership role would include water quality issues which can be related to SEMS impacts via water quality campaigns. No comms activity specifically directed at such uses within this year by previous campaigns via EA and others.
BRM	Increase in the number of craft anchoring. This is mainly due to lack of visitor pontoon/mooring space. Demand on visitor berths, being fully booked weeks ahead plus the marina and swinging moorings fully allocated with annual customers.
PIP	Increase in leisure use.
FBC	Existing moorings are likely to be having an impact on SEMS however this is not confirmed. The Council is unaware of any additional applications for moorings within its jurisdiction.

4.11 Operation of Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Schemes (FCERM)

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Operation of FCERM schemes	3	0	8	7	18

Respondent	Comments
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NE	Applications same if not higher than 2020, possibly due to lifting of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic 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.
LHC	Beneficial reuse of dredged sediment at Boiler Marsh is increasing the availability of intertidal habitat due to it being higher in the tidal frame. It is also providing protection to the saltmarsh behind against erosion caused by wind waves/tides.
GBC	There is a high level of activity at Stokes Bay where two storms washed away beach defences. Approximately 400 tonnes of shingle have been used to mitigate erosion and it was taken from the beach, so it is assumed there is no adverse impact. Other flood defence schemes managed by the Coastal Partners have not begun yet.
LHB	As part of the Portsea Island Flood Management Scheme (Phase 4a - Kendall's Wharf to northern Eastern Road), two slipways were improved and are reopened for use. The first sections of glass flood wall were also installed on the new sea wall.
ABP	The Port's quay wall serve as a considerable quantum of Southampton's flood defences. In addition, the Port needs to take account of flood risk issues to protect critical infrastructure and cargoes. We have recently reviewed the topic and associated risks (internal document only).
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 Hold The Line. Cause in the past through historic squeeze and in the future with sea level rise. Maintaining defence in historic position. Management Measures: 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, and Carbon off-setting, and Net Gain are the key focus of all schemes going forward.
EBC	Hamble common is being steadily eroded - the rate may be increasing but we do not have figures to support that.
PCC	Work has commenced on the Southsea seafront defences in addition to the North Portsea Island scheme. The Coastal defence works have been approved with mitigation schemes.
MMO	An increase in coastal defence initiatives at North Portsea Island and Southsea. Where protection is reclaiming the sea could have an impact on other areas as will end up flooding elsewhere.
ChHC	Recycling of material occurring at East Head.
FBC	Coastal Partners - a partnership of four Local Authorities (including Fareham) - lead on coastal issues such as the operation of coastal flood and erosion management schemes.

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	0	1	14	0	15

Respondent	Comments
LHB	LHB has a statutory duty to maintain navigational aids, pontoons, and public slipways in the harbour. As such, maintenance is ongoing throughout the year.
ABP	We manage all our activities with due regard to the environment reinforced by safe systems of work and risk assessments.
W	200 year old Portsmouth Harbour Pier Terminal is having its supporting steel framework replaced, completing before the IoW festivals. No pile driving or underwater work.
CoHC	Regular maintenance and inspection of navigational marks.

4.13 Aerial Recreation (light aircraft, paramotors, drones)

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Aerial Recreation	2	1	3	3	9

Respondent	Comments
HBC	Paramotor user prosecuted by the CAA working with the local authority. Was launching from HBC land and flying too low to the ground.
NE	There is a perceived gradual increase in use of drones to undertake surveys, monitor projects and for comms purposes. It is difficult to ascertain the in-combination effects of drone use as frequency increases. There appear to be some evidence that adoption of best practice measures should minimise disturbance impacts to SPA birds. However, quantifying and tracking the spatial distribution of drone use is difficult at present.
LHC	We have no powers to control the air space. However if drone flights are requested we will only consent for the operator to fly the drone from LHC

	facilities subject to appropriate qualifications, risk assessment (including environmental risk) and compliance with CAA regulations.
GBC	The use of drones and model aircraft falls within the Borough. Solent Airport is within Fareham Borough Council. Gosport Borough does see helicopter movements with the maintenance facility in the north east of the Borough however this is managed professionally by the operator and the Borough Council is not involved.
LHB	Drone sightings are monitored on an ad-hoc basis. There is some concern that they may cause disturbance to SPA bird species if they're not kept at a suitable distance.
ABP	We have definitely noticed an increase in drone activity.
EBC	I don't think there is enough evidence to be sure whether this is having an impact on SEMS sites in Eastleigh. It would be possible, depending on how popular the activities become.
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.
MMO	Yes more around, especially near small airports. Normally on nice days and so high up that it doesn't cause much disturbance.

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	9	1	4	6	20

Respondent	Comments
YHC	Increase in PWC traffic.
HBC	Increase in paddle boards, kite surfing.
NE	National Trust (and NE) have noted much increase in canoe and paddle board activity at Newtown Harbour - though likely the same as last year. Bird Aware have reported increased use of paddle boards and windsurfing around south east of Hayling Island near Black Point. This includes a new paddle board hire business in the vicinity. Unsure if can be attributable to Covid. The Island is a good staycation destination, so would have been a popular choice for holiday makers, particularly as travel restrictions were lifted many chose to stay within the UK. The increased activity has applied additional disturbance pressure to the Black Point over wintering roost (Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar).
LHC	Greater use of SUP's.

GBC	Streetscene officers advise this activity has increased as there was a decrease during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Areas of the Borough such as Stokes Bay are a popular destination for this activity with anecdotal evidence of people travelling from other Hampshire districts to Gosport Borough. Officers from Streetscene advise they do not consider this activity to be impacting SEMS sites.
LHB	By design, these small craft can be launched from almost anywhere in the harbour and require no training. This results in the ability to access highly sensitive sites such as seal haul out sites, causing untold disturbance. During launch, there is the potential that participants may damage fragile habitats e.g., saltmarsh or seagrass beds. As of 2021, LHB have charged harbour dues for these craft, at a minimal cost. This mechanism of communication allows us to pass on important information to these harbour users regarding ecological safety measures. Our social media tries to raise awareness and encourage safe and responsible practice amongst harbour users.
ABP	Lockdown seems to have resulted in more people undertaking these activities with a noticeable increase in paddleboarding. We don't maintain any records, so this is just a personal opinion. Difficult to say whether this is having an impact on the SEMS sites. As these activities have the potential to cause a disturbance, it could have an impact on species but without any data, we cannot be certain.
EBC	We don't monitor this so have no empirical data to support any conclusions, but I suspect this activity is increasing, especially in the Hamble estuary. Impacts from direct disturbance and damage to habitats (especially sensitive saltmarsh) from landing and hauling out and also from launching. Again I think this is a major and growing ecological issue within SEMS.
WCC	Launching, direct disturbance, accessing otherwise inaccessible locations on the River Hamble. Direct disturbance, damage to sensitive habitat (especially along the Hamble) by dragging watercraft or landing for picnics/BBQs etc.
IOWC	Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.
RHHA	Paddleboard activities increased in 2020/2021 but have not notable changed in the last year. Potential impacts from increased use are being managed by the current installation of education signs by Bird Aware at most public launch/access points throughout the Hamble.
MMO	Not much of an impact unless they interfere with vessels.
ChHC	Large numbers of kayaks and SUP - apparently increasing but no available data yet. Carrying out survey of SUPs and kayaks in 2022.
CoHC	More people wanting to get out in the harbour after the lockdowns and restrictions have eased. Boat ownership has also increased as people look to stay at home rather than holiday abroad.
NFNPA	Jurisdiction limited to purposes that include enjoyment and understanding and is just one of the two purposes of National Parks. The Authority has limited basis to create and enforce regulations through mechanisms such as bylaws. Recreation Management strategy and Access forum main partnership working mechanisms to aid management across whole Park area. Recreation strategy focused on terrestrial Forest areas and does not mention water/coast/watersports. Future iterations of the strategy could therefore be improved to better reflect impact pathways and strategic importance of coastal sites. No empirical monitoring is undertaken, expansion of marinas in recent years to provide better quality experience may indicate more activity, although data from their sources might better reflect the true picture. Anecdotal evidence suggests paddle sports increasingly popular in location such as Calshot and Lymington marshes. The use continues during autumn and spring and therefore is likely to have impacts, as well

	as potentially causing small scale impacts on habitats during busier summer months (e.g. abrasion).
BRM	Landing on SSSI sites and paddling up creeks especially during bird nesting season. Limit the use of slipway and educational material including leaflets and maps.
QHM	QHM has information on its website: Using the port for recreation Royal Navy (mod.uk) .
PIP	Post Covid has led to an increase in use of watercraft, sometimes with inexperienced persons.
FBC	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.
HCC	Use of non-motorised craft remains high and continues to be of concern. 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 were historically 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. New wind sports seem to develop quickly, hydro foils and Winging now popular.

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	4	1	6	5	16

Respondent	Comments
YHC	Increase in large motor boat visits to YHC.
NE	No impacts on the site as a whole however there are some concerns over the speed of jet-ski use at lower tides over sensitive seagrass beds.
LHC	With the pandemic staycation effect, boat owners were making greater use of their boats in 2021.
GBC	The impact on SEMS sites of this activity is uncertain however it is considered more likely to have an impact than non-motorised watercraft. The Borough has several marinas in Portsmouth Harbour and there have been recent proposals for one of them to expand. Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay are also used for launching craft.
LHB	PWC such as jet skis create a lot of noise pollution. The harbour's seal population is accustomed to the hum of city life and vessel traffic, but jet skis are much louder and cause disruption and stress. As the 2022/23 season begins, PWC users are

	required to show proof of a recognised qualification before LHB will issue a permit. Our seasonal patrol team work over the summer months to monitor and, if necessary prosecute, jet skiers who infringe the harbour's byelaws or act recklessly.
ABP	We don't actively monitor activity levels.
EBC	Noise pollution, pollution from the craft themselves. Most likely along Solent coast although there are public slipways along the Hamble as well.
WCC	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.
MMO	Activity will rise up in the summer. With people on the water, there is pollution, waste, disturbance.
CoHC	Boat ownership has increased as the restrictions have been lifted and more people want to enjoy themselves. There has been an increase in the number of jet skis in the harbour, however it is difficult to tell whether they are local or visiting.
NFNPA	Level of jurisdiction arguable and would only fall within the wider enjoyment purpose of National Parks. No regulatory powers. New or changed facilities would be likely to be addressed through plans and projects mechanisms within planning system and licensing. Recreation Management role tends to cover more common recreational activities.
QHM	QHM perhaps all necessary information on its website: Using the port for recreation Royal Navy (mod.uk) .
PIP	Increased UK staycations and associated water use. Increased wash around sensitive areas of the shoreline. Greater in the summer months in daylight hours. To manage there are speed limits and police boats presence in the harbour.
FBC	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.

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.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	0	0	14	1	15

Respondent	Comments
RHHA	RHHA continues to remove algal mats that build up and obstruct a slipway.
CDC	All our slipways are outside the Harbour.
CoHC	Regular ongoing cleaning.
QHM	Only cover those activities of this nature which are undertaken within the confines of HM Naval Base Portsmouth.

4.17 Wildfowling

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

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Wildfowling	0	1	6	0	7

Respondent	Comments
LHB	Concerns regarding noise disturbance in sensitive habitats and the removal of target species. All wildfowling in Langstone Harbour require license approval from Natural England.
MMO	There is only one place where this happens - Chichester.
ChHC	Wildfowling is widespread and thus causes disturbance to wintering birds over a large area.
BRM	Beaulieu Shoots no longer undertaken.

5 Activity Impacts from Plans and Projects

Section 5 looks at whether, over the last 12 months, respondents were aware of any changes to activity levels, or impacts, resulting from plans or projects within SEMS.

Respondent	Details
NE	Remedies project looked at behaviour changes, educational work, hopefully decrease in anchoring over sensitive habitats.
LHC	Yes greater number of visiting boats using new Town Quay pontoon facility constructed in March 2020. This is in part due to the improved facility and in part due to the pandemic 'staycation' effect. Although the pontoon is in a developed part of the harbour outside of SEMS, visiting boats travel through waters that lie within SEMS to access the pontoon.
GBC	The Borough Council consulted on its new draft Local Plan (The Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038) from September to December 2021. The Plan sets out a revised development strategy and the locations for new development over the period to 2038. The impacts of this plan have been appraised in a Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitats Regulations Assessment is ongoing. It is expected that a Regulation 19 consultation will be undertaken in late 2022 (depending on the outcome of the Government's proposed planning reforms).
LHB	The 'England Coastal Path' (a provision of the MCAA 2009, led by Natural England) remains uncertain around Langstone Harbour. Amendments to the proposed route at Eastney peninsula and Kendall's Wharf in accordance with existing public rights of way. Most of the site around the harbour has an existing coastal path (Waterside Walk). Concerns that this new path could encourage walkers onto the intertidal muds, whereby habitat trampling and wildlife disturbance could occur on a dangerous scale.
PCC	Any additional recreational pressure from new dwellings (that require planning permission) should be covered by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy. Development resulting in new overnight stays is still required to be nutrient neutral. While development has been permitted in accordance with the Council Nutrient Neutral Mitigation Strategy (2019) for the last 12 months, an agreement has been signed with the Wildlife Trust to move to a land based mitigation scheme that reduces nitrogen runoff into the Solent through less intensive management of agricultural land. The mitigation site is on the Isle of Wight.
QHM	Ongoing work on the flood defence scheme at Southsea seafront.
PIP	Berth 2 extension was finished early 2020.
FBC	The emerging Fareham Local Plan 2037 is in the process of independent examination. The Plan is accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment which concludes no adverse effects on the SEMS as a result of the development within the emerging Local Plan.

6 Monitoring

Section 6 looks at what monitoring is currently taking place in the SEMS, potential future monitoring and partnership working.

Are you undertaking monitoring in the Solent?	
Response	Count
No	15
Yes	11

Respondent	Details
YHC	Saltmarsh monitoring – ongoing. Data held by YHC Estuaries officer.
LHC	Periodic monitoring of effects of ongoing beneficial use of dredged sediment. Data held by LHC/MMO.
LHB	Langstone Harbour Board monitors a variety of water and shore based activities, as well as wildlife interests. This monitoring work is ongoing and details are available upon request from LHB.
EA	Ongoing sea defence, fish, water quality and ecological monitoring - no change from last year's survey. Information can be found on the Gov.uk website.
WCC	Recreation impacts on the Solent SAC.
SoIFCA	We have ongoing Solent Bivalve Survey and Solent Scallop surveys occurring twice annually. Reports of the results are published in our Authority papers and are used to inform the management of these fisheries under the Solent Dredge Permit. We have standard Excel spreadsheets containing the data and reports for the results.
PCC	Monitoring of the Nutrient Neutral scheme with the Wildlife Trust will need to be monitored as per its legal agreement. This will be carried out by the Isle of Wight Council in this instance. Every six months for the first five years; annually from five to 20 years; every five years from 20 years to the end date (130 years).
RHHA	Ongoing reactive 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 SIFCA. Data held by RHHA and SIFCA.
MMO	Fishing data, marine licence activities.
ChHC	Paddlers survey in conjunction with volunteers from friends of Chichester harbour.
CoHC	Turbidity monitoring programme is ongoing, there are 4 sensors placed around the harbour, with a 5th sensor planned to be installed: no completion date yet. Meteorological monitoring system in place, some information feeds to the Cowes Harbour Commission website. Cowes HC hold the data for sediment monitoring and OceanWise host the servers. IW Estuaries Project has saltmarsh monitoring data.
BRM	Ongoing monitoring as part of the dredge licence. Data held by Harbour Authority and MMO.

Are you coordinating with any other organisation/s on monitoring in the SEMS? If yes, please give details.

Respondent	Details
LHC	Yes - Solent Forum (BUDS).
LHB	Yes - SoIFCA, RSPB, UoP, CHC.
EA	Yes - seagrass monitoring with Natural England. Fish and shellfish monitoring with IFCA and Local Authority.
RHHA	SoIFCA.
ChHC	Solent Forum's Natural Environment Group.
CoHC	IW Estuaries Project. 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. Would welcome the opportunity to work with others. We have been involved with some seagrass regeneration projects.
BRM	Natural England.

Are you considering monitoring in the SEMS?

Respondent	Details
NE	IOW - If SSSI condition assessment crosses over. Direct and anecdotal evidence from WeBS counts. Yes, intertidal surveys Yarmouth-Cowes MCZ. Also, work with EA/NE to do grab work across Solent including benthic and potentially fish samples, gap filling ecosystem service map nationally (including Solent) to design costing tools, can be used for policy and decision making.
CoHC	There is no further monitoring planned in addition to our ongoing projects.
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.

Are you aware of any other new monitoring of activities or their impacts?

Respondent	Details
EA	Chichester Harbour - micro-plastics and sediment movement (Brighton Uni and CHASM). Water quality (Chichester Harbour Conservancy). Oyster reef in Hamble and Langstone (Portsmouth University and Blue Marine).
CoHC	There are lots of projects ongoing, especially as there is a growing awareness and emphasis on conservation and restoration which we would be interested in getting involved with.

7 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

The SEMS Annual Survey monitors what is happening within the Solent MCZs; these sites are not part of the main SEMS Management Scheme as they are designated under different legislation.

Do you have a MCZ within your jurisdiction?	
Response	Count
No	16
Yes	9

Within this MCZ(s), do you have any concerns about any of the activities covered by the SEMS Survey. If yes, do you currently, or intend to in the future, monitor these activities?	
Respondent	MCZ Related Concerns
NE	No.
ABP	No.
SW	No.
SoIFCA	Yarmouth to Cowes & Bembridge MCZs. We have undertaken MCZ assessments of fishing activities for these new sites. The assessments found that Bottom Towed Gears pose a risk to some features in the sites. Following this we will be developing additional management and updating old management for bottom towed fishing gear throughout the MCZs and SEMS.
IOWC	No.
MMO	Not really. Vessel inspections quite far out.
CDC	MCZ is Pagham Harbour which is outside the SEMS area.
CoHC	There are no current concerns.

8 Other Issues

Section 8 looks at responses on any additional information such as research on impacts, additional information on activities or any potential research ideas/opportunities.

Respondent	Additional Information
SW	Southern Water are funding a PhD with Uni of Brighton looking at nutrient and faecal coliform source apportionment - this will involve monitoring to understand sources of nutrient and faecal contamination across three harbours.
EA	The Solent Seascape project is proposing research. Solent sea defence enhancement work by Coastal Partners.
RHHA	Water Quality and Boating campaign, led by EA & NE, is still ongoing, 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. RHHA currently installing a new pump out.
MMO	Would be good to see monitoring of sea bass and scallops and pelagic fish e.g. mackerel - noticing they are smaller than previous years.
CoHC	Seagrass regeneration would be of particular interest as well as further research on sustainable moorings.

-end-