

**SOLENT EUROPEAN  
MARINE SITES**

**DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT**

**JANUARY 2005**

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The SEMS Management Scheme states that ‘As part of the monitoring process, where they have relevant information to report, each relevant authority will be expected to report back to the Management Group on their implementation of the scheme.’ To do this relevant authorities (RAs) have completed a proforma detailing progress (where appropriate) with the SEMS Management Scheme. The report summarises this information.

The report details: progress in implementation as and when appropriate; progress on the management considerations; changes in management affecting the key risk area activities; new activities which are taking place and any additional issues such as changes in the intensity or geographical extent of current activities.

The report is expected to help the Management Group respond to the results of ENs condition monitoring and to determine whether Topic Groups are required to consider issues in more detail.

### 2.0 CHANGES TO THE CONDITION OF THE FEATURES OF INTEREST IN THE SITE

The majority of the relevant authorities in the Solent completed the proformas and none with the exception of Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners and English Nature noted any changes in the condition of the site features.

Within Yarmouth Harbour the condition of Norton Spit has changed from ‘unfavourable declining’ to ‘unfavourable improving’. This is due to management measures which have been introduced to raise awareness of the site’s unique features and to allow regeneration of Marram Grass in areas prone to damage by trampling.

English Nature assessed 10 SSSI units (Sub-units of SSSIs) within the SEMS during the 2004 calendar year, the condition of one of these units (Ryde Sands sea front) had changed since the last assessment, from favourable to unfavourable recovering. Pump scoop fishing for cockles was found to be damaging the supporting habitats (intertidal mudflats and sandflats, specifically *Zostera* beds) of Solent and Southampton Water SPA at Ryde Sands in August. This fishery ceased within the site in October following the introduction of a ministerial stop order. Although there was some deterioration in condition in August further damage has been prevented and the condition assessment for this unit is now considered to be unfavourable recovering.

In addition a large amount of information with the ability to inform EN’s assessment of feature condition has become available during 2004 as a result of investigations carried out during the Environment Agency’s review of consents process. English Nature is currently in the process of reviewing this information in order to feed into the reporting on the condition of SAC / SPA features to Europe via JNCC in 2005/6. Of particular note is information regarding the extent and distribution of green algal mats especially within the harbours, as well as site specific information regarding the density of green algae which may impact upon benthic invertebrates. It is likely that current assessment of the condition of some areas of intertidal mudflats and sandflats may change once this review is complete.

### 3.0 NEW ACTIVITIES (NOT COVERED IN THE MANAGEMENT SCHEME) NOW OCCURRING

There are a number of new activities now occurring in the SEMS area.

- Cockle pump scoop dredging - due to the market demand for cockles in 2004, areas within SEMS have been exploited. These areas have been identified as Hill Head and Ryde Sands. The method used to remove the cockles (A pump scoop dredge) was thought to be causing damage to the eelgrass (*Zostera; species*) off Ryde Sands. As a result DEFRA introduced the Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004 which came into force on 21 October 2004 to prevent the use of pump scoop dredgers removing shellfish within SPA's of the SEMS. The fishery continues off Hillhead outside of the SEMS.
- Land yachting - land yachting has been reported on flat land at Port Solent, Portsmouth City Council are planning to erect signs to discourage the activity.
- Managed realignment (strictly a plan or project) - has occurred at a small site on the Isle of Wight near Gurnard and in Chichester Harbour.
- Private hovercraft use - English Nature is aware that some limited use of a private hovercraft occurred on Ryde Sands in 2004.
- Jet boards - these are now being used within the site, especially within the estuary of the River Itchen.
- Mobile boat scrubbers - the use of these is becoming more prevalent within the Solent.
- Water injection dredging - this is being used more frequently within the site including in the Medina, off Fawley, Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone. At present this has no specific consenting mechanism in place.

### 4.0 PROGRESS WITH MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS ( December 2004)

#### 4.1 KEY RISK ACTIVITIES

The Management Scheme, through the assessment of the activity inventories, identified activities which were seen as 'key risk'. The progress with management of these activities by the relevant authorities is detailed below. Information is given on new and additional management or monitoring effort and assumes that current management and monitoring measures as detailed in the Management Scheme are ongoing. Further details on key areas at risk from the activities detailed below are available in appendix 2 of the Management Scheme document.

##### 4.1.1 Access

###### (a) Land and water access

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of access in key risk areas;*
- *Relevant authorities to continue to enforce current management measures.*
- Beaulieu River Management – management is as before with changes needed to allow disabled access to the path from Beaulieu to Bucklers Hard being investigated.
- Bembridge Harbour Improvements Company (BHIC) – a management plan for harbour usage, land usage and environmental considerations is being prepared at present. BHIC continues to control and monitor access to harbour particularly in respect of excess speed of boats and unauthorised use of slipways.
- Chichester District Council – continued provision of some car parking and public boat slipways.

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- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – there may be possible conflict between some Rights of Way and SPA features.
- Eastleigh Borough Council – informal monitoring is being done by rangers service on council owned land re the impacts of activities on key risk areas.
- EN are involved in the open access discussions and made suggestions on areas that shouldn't be included. EN also advised and commented on the new Chichester Harbour AONB management plan which covers access.
- Hampshire County Council (HCC) - most of the areas relevant to HCC within the SEMS are also SSSI and therefore covered by the SSSI management framework i.e. where 'potential damaging operations' (PDO) occur English Nature (EN) are consulted. HCC is not aware of any significant changes to the way it manages its sites, and continues to enforce any current management measures as and where necessary.
- Havant Borough Council (HBC) – an inventory of access points has been created and maintained. Where HBC has a landowner interest, these are inspected on a regular basis and any issues will be raised with other RAs as appropriate.
- Portsmouth City Council - polices NL1 and NL2 (Development at Tipner) of City Plan Review deleted and replaced by new NL1 in Proposed Modifications. Development area at NL1 now reduced and open space of NL2 (part of site closest to harbour) not allocated. Coastal path at Tipner allocated at NL6 (now NL5), is no longer proposed all around the site, to reduce the impact on winter birds.
- West Sussex County Council (WSCC) – Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses this and other access issues.
- WSCC has produced a policy for dealing with footpaths/rights of way at risk from erosion and flooding.

### (b) Airborne sports

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of airborne sports in key risk areas.*
- Eastleigh Borough Council – informal monitoring is done by the rangers service on council owned land on the impacts of activities on key risk areas.
- EN - some effects of airborne sports within Chichester Harbour are monitored and reported to the RSPB, the information is also provided to EN.
- EN is aware of possible formation of a kite-surfing club on the Isle of Wight, EN has indicated its willingness to be involved in any discussions regarding a voluntary local code of conduct for the club.
- Hampshire County Council - most of the areas relevant to HCC within the SEMS are also SSSI and therefore covered by the SSSI management framework i.e. where 'potential damaging operations' (PDO) occur EN are consulted. HCC is not aware of any significant changes to the way it manages its sites, and continues to enforce any current management measures as and where necessary.
- Havant Borough Council – kite-surfing is increasing along Hayling beach frontage and this is being monitored by HBC site staff for impact, liaising with other RAs as necessary.
- West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses this and other access issues.

### (c) Angling

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of angling in key risk areas.*
- Eastleigh Borough Council – informal monitoring done by rangers service on council owned land on the impacts of activities on key risk areas.
- Hampshire County Council - most of the areas relevant to HCC within the SEMS are also SSSI and therefore covered by the SSSI management framework i.e. where PDOs occur

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EN are consulted. HCC is not aware of any significant changes to the way it manages its sites, and continues to enforce any current management measures as and where necessary.

- Southern Sea Fisheries Committee – regular inspections have been made on anglers within the SEMS area with no impacts detected.
- West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses this and other access issues.

### **(d) Educational/scientific study and research**

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of educational and scientific study in key risk areas.*
- BHIC - staff keep abreast of the information which is available.
- Eastleigh Borough Council – informal monitoring being done by rangers service on council owned land on the impacts of activities on key risk areas.
- Hampshire County Council - most of the areas relevant to HCC within the SEMS are also SSSI and therefore covered by the SSSI management framework i.e. where PDOs occur EN are consulted. HCC is not aware of any significant changes to the way it manages its sites, and continues to enforce any current management measures as and where necessary.
- Havant Borough Council - visiting institutions are made aware of site restrictions where necessary, however this is mostly dealt with by Harbour Authorities.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners – there are some concerns about access to study gull eggs and their collection.
- River Hamble Harbour Authority – RHHA has set up a student fund and there is more involvement and therefore control over and knowledge of student activity on the river.
- West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses this and other access issues.

### **(e) Land-based recreation**

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of land based recreation in key risk areas;*
- *Relevant authorities to continue to enforce current management measures.*
- Eastleigh Borough Council – informal monitoring being done by rangers service on council owned land on the impacts of activities on key risk areas
- BHIC - boat clubs and boatyards monitored but the BHIC have control over a limited amount of land.
- Hampshire County Council - most of the areas relevant to HCC within the SEMS are also SSSI and therefore covered by the SSSI management framework i.e. where PDOs occur EN are consulted. HCC is not aware of any significant changes to the way it manages its sites, and continues to enforce any current management measures as and where necessary.
- Portsmouth City Council - land yachting has been reported on flat land at Port Solent, PCC are planning to erect signs to discourage the activity.
- Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners – management measures on Norton Spit have been enforced and developed. Regeneration, survey, monitoring and awareness raising is underway.
- West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses this and other access issues.

### **Summary**

Most of the activities are being managed by current management measures with a number of new plans being drafted and policies being implemented. With regard to the new activity of land yachting Portsmouth City Council are aware of this and are acting to discourage the activity by erecting signs. Kite-surfing has been increasing along Hayling Island and on the Isle of Wight. Havant Borough Council are monitoring for impact on the site and a code of

conduct is being discussed for the Isle of Wight. Some RAs are also carrying out informal monitoring on the impacts of activities on the site.

### 4.1.2 Bait Collection

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Voluntary code of conduct leaflet produced and circulated;*
  - *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of bait collection in key risk areas;*
  - *Monitor success of the code of conduct and review if necessary.*
- RHHA – have been distributing copies of the code with their byelaws as well as to bait diggers encountered by patrols.
  - Southern Sea Fisheries Committee – fisheries officers have been asking bait diggers to backfill holes with some success.
  - West Sussex County Council – the Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is likely to cover the issue of bait digging and the impact on the site.

### Summary

The bait digging code of conduct was produced by the bait digging topic group and has been distributed to tackle shops, visitor centres etc and circulated by numerous organisations. The Solent Forum are currently coordinating projects, on behalf of the management group, which are looking at the success of the code, these are due to report in June.

### 4.1.2 Commercial Shipping

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Harbour Authorities to continue to enforce current management and safety measures;*
  - *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of commercial shipping in key risk areas.*
- Associated British Ports (ABP) – current management measures are being enforced according to statutory duties and requirements.
  - Wightlink - has adopted a change to navigation in Wootton Creek whereby, as a precautionary measure, it will no longer operate over the designated intertidal foreshore past and to the west of No 7 channel marker. This was adopted in November 2003 and subsequently agreed with EN as an appropriate precautionary measure.
  - EN is in the process of working on a study specification to identify if the rate of future coastal change in Wootton Creek differs significantly from the future erosion trends on the open coastline in that area of the north east coast. EN is consulting RAs and stakeholders.

### Summary

Current management measures are being enforced and where necessary changes have been adopted according to the precautionary principle.

### 4.1.3 Dredging

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Wait for further guidance before determining whether any further assessment is required in relation to dredging issues.*
- ABP – current management measures are being enforced according to statutory duties and requirements. ABP is awaiting the results of the Maintenance Dredging Protocol pilot study with interest and will reassess any further measures to be taken in due course.
  - Beaulieu River Management – waiting for confirmation of the Maintenance Dredging Protocol for dredging applications.

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- BHIC - awaiting the results of the Maintenance Dredging Protocol for future dredging requirements
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – beneficial disposal trial and research programme has been completed, the report is available. EN were consulted and the project was assessed against the Habitats Directive.
- Cowes Harbour Commissioners – Cowes acted as pilot area for the Maintenance Dredging Protocol and developed a baseline document for maintenance dredging in the Medina. Also are working with the Isle of Wight Estuaries Partnership, ABPmer and the Medina Valley Centre to develop a sustainable dredging plan. This will incorporate actions arising from a study into the alternative use of dredged material in the Medina (2003).
- EN – are involved in the ongoing trial of Maintenance Dredging Protocol in the Medina.
- Langstone Harbour Board – there was a successful low pressure water injection dredge in Eastney Lake.
- QHM – a maintenance dredge within the harbour took place in October/November 2004.
- RHHA - awaiting the results of the Maintenance Dredging Protocol for future dredging requirements
- Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners – working with EN and the Isle of Wight Estuaries Project to develop a sustainable dredging plan.

### Summary

The Maintenance Dredging Protocol has still not been published. In the interim the Isle of Wight estuaries are developing a sustainable dredging strategy and Chichester Harbour and Langstone Harbour have looked at the possibility of using other more sustainable dredging methods.

#### 4.1.4 Fishing

##### (a) Fishing

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of fishing in key risk areas;*
- *RA to continue to enforce current management measures.*

Chichester Harbour Conservancy – fish survey (second stage) completed.

Southern Sea Fisheries Committee – all areas are monitored for possible impacts, stocks and movements of fish are monitored through inspections.

##### (b) Shellfisheries

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of shellfisheries in key risk areas;*
  - *RA to continue to enforce current management measures.*
- Eastleigh Borough Council – occasional commercial collection of cockles noted at Hamble point, low impact.
  - English Nature - EN became aware of evidence of damage to *Zostera* beds on Ryde Sands resulting from the use of ‘pump-scoop’ gear to dredge for cockles. After consultation with IOWC and Southern SFC English Nature requested a ministerial stop order from Defra as this was considered to be the most practical and efficient way to prevent further damage. As a result Defra introduced the Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004 which came into force on 21 October 2004 to prevent the use of pump scoop dredgers removing shellfish within SPA’s of the SEMS. The order is likely to remain in force until such time that the potential impacts of the fishery can be fully assessed.
  - River Hamble Harbour Authority – have reset oyster dredging limits in the River.



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- Southern Sea Fisheries Committee - monitor and act on information received on possible impacts in key risk areas. Shellfish are monitored and fishing seasons are opened and closed accordingly.
- Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee – 2005 will see the end of the existing Emsworth Channel Regulating Order.

### Summary

The Sea Fisheries Committees continue to monitor fishing and shell fishing activity. The increase in the collection of cockles in the Solent EMS by the pump scoop dredging method lead to Defra introducing the Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004 to prevent the use of pump scoop dredgers removing shellfish within SPAs of the SEMS.

### 4.1.5 Water Based Recreation

#### (a) Anchoring

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of anchoring in key risk areas;*
  - *RA to continue to enforce current management measures.*
- West Sussex County Council – the Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses the management considerations for this issue.

#### (b) Boat repair and maintenance

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of boat repair and maintenance in key risk areas;*
  - *The EA are in the process of considering setting up a research project in order to monitor the effects of wash down facilities in order to determine the percentage contribution to the background levels of both copper and also Irgarol within the Solent.*
- River Hamble Harbour Authority – Boat Scrubber facility has been installed on the River Hamble in August 2004.

#### (c) Moorings (new)

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of new moorings in key risk areas.*
- Havant Borough Council – local plan revision identifies areas available, these are controlled by the Harbour Authority.
  - Langstone Harbour Board – moorings have been used in mitigation.
  - River Hamble Harbour Authority – have been working with borough council on mooring restriction zones, potential for adaptation in new planning frameworks.
  - RHHA - Strategic Principles have been published to guide (mooring) development on the River Hamble.

#### (d) Moorings (ongoing management)

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of ongoing moorings in key risk areas;*
  - *Harbour Authorities to continue to enforce current management measures.*
- Eastleigh Borough Council – pontoon extension at Port Hamble Marina retrospectively approved, EN assessed no significant effects.
  - RHHA - Strategic Principles have been published to guide (mooring) development on the River Hamble.

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- West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses the management considerations for this issue.

### **(e) Navigation**

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of navigation in key risk areas;*
  - *Harbour Authorities to continue enforcement of existing speed limits for boats.*
- RHHA – introduced 6 knots speed limit for the River in July 2003.
  - Wightlink - has adopted a change to navigation in Wooton Creek whereby as a precautionary measure it will no longer operate over the designated intertidal foreshore past and to the west of No 7 channel marker. This was adopted in November 2003 and subsequently agreed with EN as an appropriate precautionary measure.
  - West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses the management considerations for this issue.

### **(f) Other water sports**

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of other water sports in key risk areas;*
  - *RA to continue to enforce current management measures.*
- Beaulieu River Management – a canoeing/kayaking company has moved to Bucklers Hard, the activity is slightly increased over spring/summer but is closely managed and there is no perceived increase in the impact.
  - West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses the management considerations for this issue.

### **(g) Recreational boating (power)**

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of recreational power boating in key risk areas;*
  - *RA to continue to enforce current management measures such as existing speed limits.*
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – no change in policy but vessel use and movement survey carried out.
  - RHHA – introduction of 6 knots speed limit for the River Hamble in July 2003.
  - West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses the management considerations for this issue.

### **(h) Recreational boating (sail)**

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of recreational sailing in key risk areas;*
  - *RA to continue to enforce current management measures such as existing speed limits.*
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – no change in policy but vessel use and movement survey carried out.
  - RHHA – introduction of 6 knots speed limit for the River Hamble in July 2003.
  - West Sussex County Council – a Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy is being developed by WSCC which addresses the management considerations for this issue.

### **(i) Slipway cleaning and maintenance**

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of slipway cleaning and maintenance in key risk areas.*
- Havant Borough Council – seawater quality sampling carried out by Environment Health this will pick up any issues regarding chemicals in use.

### Summary

Water based recreational activities continue to be monitored and managed by the RAs. The River Hamble Harbour Authority have produced Strategic Principles to guide mooring development in the river and WSCC are producing a management strategy for Pagham nature reserve which will cover all aspects of water based recreation.

## 4.2 PLANS AND PROJECTS

Specific procedures are in place through the Habitats Regulations for considering the impact of new plans and projects on European Marine Sites. Plans and projects were included in the Management Scheme to show that all types of human use had been considered by the Management Group. For completeness of this report these activities, their management considerations and any progress or change in the activity or management of the activity is detailed below.

### 4.2.1 Aggregate Dredging

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for aggregate extraction are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts of both the dredging and associated shipping movements.*
- BHIC is having in depth discussions with EN, EA and local authority over future aggregate dredging at the entrance to Bembridge Harbour.

### 4.2.2 Coastal Development

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any strategies, initiatives, project and plans are developed and implemented in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations;*
- *Ensure that the Habitats Regulations are taken fully into account in the preparation of development plans and the assessment of planning applications.*
- Chichester District Council (CDC) – consult with EN over planning applications affecting Chichester Harbour.
- CDC - sustainability appraisal of the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) will ensure that the Habitats Regulations are taken fully into account.
- Eastleigh Borough Council – development applications screened and commented upon as necessary. New local plan policies prepared in line with Habitats Regulations requirements.
- EN - the Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy is currently being revised this includes the East Head frontage at the mouth of Chichester Harbour. EN is on the steering group.
- Gosport Borough Council (GBC) - Gosport Borough Local Plan Review (Revised Deposit) produced in June 2004 included a revised Policy R/OS9 relating to SPAs, cSAC and Ramsar Sites. The updated wording accords with English Nature's requirements and consequently their initial objection has been withdrawn.

- GBC - an 'Appropriate Assessment' is undertaken for planning proposals that have the potential to affect the Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar Sites.
- GBC - there is currently a planning application at the Priddy's Hard Heritage Area which will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment.
- Hampshire County Council (HCC) – there is an ongoing statutory requirement to consider plans and projects within local plans etc.
- HCC - appropriate guidance regarding Habitats Regulations requirements is included in responses to consultations on planning applications where potential impacts upon internationally designated sites are present.
- Portsmouth City Council – discussions are being held with regard to a wharf extension at Kendall's Aggregate Wharf. EIA scoping report has been undertaken and EN are involved in discussions.

### 4.2.3 Construction/alteration of slipways

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for new slipways are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts on the features of interest.*
- Portsmouth City Council – consideration is being given to enlarging the public slipway on the Langstone Channel adjacent to Southsea Sea Angling premises. This will improve control by Langstone Harbour Master over leisure activities.

### 4.2.4 Discharges (Industrial and Domestic)

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for new discharge consent are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities;*
- *Ensure that the EA review all current discharge consents with regard to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.*
- ABP is reviewing its surface water drainage issues (SWD) on a corporate level, this includes an assessment of SWD discharges within ABP Southampton.
- BHIC is having discussions with EN and EA over discharges into harbour.

### 4.2.5 Freshwater Abstraction

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any new fresh water abstraction proposals are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities.*

### 4.2.6 Holiday Camps

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for new holiday camps are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts on the features of interest.*

### 4.2.7 Houseboats

Management Considerations:

- *Review any future applications for houseboats in view of the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.*
- Eastleigh Borough Council – development applications screened and commented upon as necessary.

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- English Nature – there have been preliminary discussions with BHIC, IOWC and EA regarding possible proposals to increase the number of houseboats within Bembridge Harbour and to provide sewage treatment for existing boats.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - have decided formally that moored boats should not be used as permanent accommodation (though not a problem).
- QHM – no additional licences for houseboats granted.

### **4.2.8 Land reclamation**

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for land reclamation are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts on the features.*

### **4.2.9 MOD and other Aircraft**

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that the airspace needs of all users are met as equitably as possible and that there is no disturbance to the SEMS.*

### **4.2.10 Oil and Gas Exploration**

Management Considerations:

- *In the absence of any particular issue at present, there is simply a need to keep a watching brief on future proposals.*

### **4.2.11 Pipeline Construction**

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for pipeline construction are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts on the features of interest.*

- EN – there have been preliminary discussions with consultants acting on behalf of Southern Water regarding a new pipeline to supply potable water to the Isle of Wight.

### **4.2.12 Seawater Abstraction**

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any new sea water abstraction proposals are properly assessed by the competent authorities.*

## **4.3 ACTIVITIES WITH SYSTEMS IN PLACE TO ENSURE THEY ARE MANAGED IN LINE WITH THE HABITATS REGULATIONS**

Stage 4, the activity inventory, of the Management Scheme process identified activities which have ‘systems in place to manage the activity in line with the habitats regulations’. These are listed below with the management considerations and any progress or changes as identified by the RAs. Again only new information is detailed, ongoing management as described in the Management Scheme is assumed to be continuing.

### **4.3.1 Agricultural run-off**

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that EA and EN take account of the requirements of the Habitats Regulations when reviewing consents.*
- BHIC – agricultural run-off needs to be monitored in Yar valley particularly for soil run off into the harbour.

- EN - water quality has been assessed as part of the EAs Appropriate Assessment for the Solent maritime cSAC and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA. But this doesn't directly address agricultural run off which is normally diffuse pollution and doesn't have a specific discharge consent

### 4.3.2 Barrage/sluiice operation

Management Considerations:

- *All RAs to ensure that they take into account the requirements of the Habitats Regulation in the operation of any barrage/sluiices within their control.*

### 4.3.3 Beach cleaning

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that LAs carry out beach cleaning activities with due regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.*
- Beaulieu River Management – the Countryside Education Trust carried out a beach clean along Park Shore under a national scheme and hope to continue to do this on an annual basis.
- Chichester District Council – this activity only occurs outside SPA/SAC area at present. Watching brief in case any volunteer Beach Wardens in SPA/SAC area come forwards through 'Nature Coast' project
- Eastleigh Borough Council – low frequency manual cleaning of man-made material only.
- RHHA – Warsash Residents Association have started a monthly (if possible) beach clean in Warsash area.

### 4.3.4 Coastal Protection

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for coastal protection and maintenance are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts on the features of interest;*
- *Ensure that the next round of SMPs take full account of the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.*
- BHIC - report being prepared for groyne repairs etc to Durrer Beach.
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – the issue of East Head is under consideration by all statutory authorities.
- Fareham Borough Council – minor repairs undertaken to seawalls following consultation with EN.
- Portsmouth City Council – Portsea Island Coastal Defence study (Halcrow) to be completed shortly. The study produces options for coastal defence improvements for consultation with the appropriate bodies.
- WSCC - the Selsey Peninsula Review is currently being developed looking at coastal protection/flood defence options for the area. This replaces the previous Pagham to East Head Strategy.
- WSCC - options for the future management of East Head (spit within Chichester Harbour) are being looked at via a working group of all relevant authorities to ensure that they are sustainable.
- WSCC - the South Downs Shoreline Management Plan (Selsey Bill – Beachy Head) is being reviewed and goes out to public consultation in January 2005 setting out long term policy options for coastal defence. English Nature has been represented on the steering group throughout its development to ensure the requirements of the Habitats Regulations are addressed.

### 4.3.5 Egg Harvesting

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for new licenses are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts on the features of interests.*

### 4.3.6 Flood Defence

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any proposals for flood defence and maintenance are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts on the features of interest;*
  - *Ensure that the next round of SMPs take full account of the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.*
- EN - were consulted by the EA on their annual flood defence maintenance program. Where there are private defences EN have in most cases been consulted through the development control process.
  - Portsmouth City Council – Portsea Island Coastal Defence study (Halcrow) to be completed shortly. The study produces options for coastal defence improvements for consultation with the appropriate bodies.
  - WSCC - the Selsey Peninsula Review is currently being developed looking at coastal protection/flood defence options for the area. This replaces the previous Pagham to East Head Strategy.
  - WSCC - options for the future management of East Head (spit within Chichester Harbour) are being looked at via a working group of all relevant authorities to ensure that they are sustainable.
  - WSCC - the South Downs Shoreline Management Plan (Selsey Bill – Beachy Head) is being reviewed and goes out to public consultation in January 2005 setting out long term policy options for coastal defence. English Nature has been represented on the Steering Group throughout its development to ensure the requirements of the Habitats Regulations are addressed.

### 4.3.7 Grazing

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that ENs SSSI consenting procedure and Site Management Statements take into account the possible impacts of grazing.*
- EN - Site Management Scheme for grazing of saltmarsh in Fishbourne channel was produced and the impacts on interest features were assessed during the development of the scheme.

### 4.3.8 Oil spill and oil spill clean up

Management Considerations:

- *EN to provide relevant information about site features to the Standing Environment Group (SEG) to ensure that the contingency plans take into account the Habitats Regulations;*
  - *MCA project to update the Atlas of Nature Conservation Sites in Great Britain Sensitive to Coastal Pollution with information about EMS.*
- The SEG produced an Environmental Plan in October 2004 following consultation with EN and other bodies

### 4.3.9 Outfall maintenance and replacement

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that outfall maintenance and construction takes into account the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.*

### 4.3.10 Wildfowling

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that any future licences for wildfowling are properly assessed by the appropriate competent authorities, addressing the potential impacts on the features.*
  
- EN - in 2004, EN agreed a site management statement regarding wildfowling in Langstone Harbour, with the Langstone and District Wildfowling and Conservation Association.
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – new licence agreed.
- West Sussex County Council – this activity is likely to be addressed in the new Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy.