

**SOLENT EUROPEAN  
MARINE SITES**

**FINAL ANNUAL PROGRESS  
REPORT**

**MAY 2006**

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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 proformas in April 2005 and February 2006 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

As at April 2005:

The relevant authorities in the Solent completed the proformas and none with the exception of Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners, English Nature and the Environment Agency 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 the introduction of management measures 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.

It was also reported by members of the Strategic Stakeholder Group that following the cockle dredging of Ryde Sands the lugworm beds collapsed in September 2004. Pollution is suspected but the beds have subsequently recovered.

A large amount of information with the ability to inform EN’s assessment of feature condition became available during 2004 as a result of investigations carried out during the Environment Agency’s Review of Consents Process. English Nature reviewed 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 was 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 was thought that current

assessment of the condition of some areas of intertidal mudflats and sandflats may change once this review was complete.

The Environment Agency found that evidence within long-term data sets such as the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) reports are invaluable and will need to be given thorough consideration into the future management of the SEMS. The Agency is particularly concerned about areas that are used by the designated bird species but are outside of the designated site. The Agency is concerned that the loss of these habitats will only continue to add pressure to the ecological functioning of the site as a whole.

Example detailing extract from the BTO Alerts Report:

*'Trends have been assessed over the short-, medium-, and long-terms (5, 10 and up to 25 years respectively). Where data has been collected for less than 25 years the maximum number of years of data available are used for calculating long-term Alerts.*

### ***Chichester and Langstone Harbour***

***High Alert:*** Shelduck, Ringed Plover, Knot, Black-tailed Godwit

***Medium Alert:*** Cormorant, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit

#### ***Alerts summary***

*Alerts were triggered for three of the six species for which the Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA is internationally important. The declines of Ringed Plover and, to a lesser extent, Dunlin have tended to mirror regional and national trends. The long-term decline of Black-tailed Godwit at the site has occurred despite rapidly increasing regional and national populations.*

*Alerts were also triggered for six other species for which the site is important.*

### ***Solent and Southampton Water***

***High Alert:*** Ringed Plover

***Medium Alert:*** Shelduck, Grey Plover, Dunlin, Redshank.

#### ***Alerts summary***

*Alerts were triggered for just one of the four species for which the Solent & Southampton Water SPA is internationally important – Ringed Plover. Numbers of this species have fallen sharply in the last decade, triggering High Alerts for each of the three time periods.*

*Medium Alerts were also triggered for various time periods for four other species, for which the site is important.'*

The Agency was also aware (although not the exact quantity) that there are a number of areas that are being affected by coastal squeeze, in particular with the loss of saltmarsh habitat. Exact losses over one year could be calculated from a number of sources. This is one issue that the SEMS Management Group will need to consider in the future.

The Agency completed Appropriate Assessments for all existing consents (permissions and licences) under the Reg. 50 'Review of Consents' of the Habitats Regulations 1994. The method of research dissemination was to be agreed within the Agency and the EA would inform the SEMS Management Group when the information was collated in an appropriate format. Such information will help assess the current condition of the SEMS designation. As stated previously by English Nature 'whilst it is true to say that the SEMS qualified for designation against the background of current use it is also the case that sites were selected on the basis of the special interests that they support, they were not selected on the condition of those interests, or the ability of the sites to continue to support these features in a favourable condition. Indeed at the time of designation the condition of the site was not well understood either by ourselves or other relevant authorities.'

## Solent European Marine Sites

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February 2006:

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

English Nature noted there has been re-unitisation of part of Unit 9 of Portsmouth Harbour SSSI at Fleetlands. Part of the unit is now considered to be in unfavourable condition due to coastal squeeze, previously only unfavourable for bait digging. The great part of unit 9 is not considered to be unfavourable for either reason and is now considered to be favourable.

Portsmouth Harbour SSSI unit 13 has been reassessed from favourable to unfavourable condition due to ammonia leachate from Paulsgrove Landfill site. This is due to an increased understanding of the probable pathways for the leachate as a result of information becoming available through the EA Review of the Consents Process, as opposed to any increase in the amount of leachate reaching the site. This unit is also considered to be unfavourable condition due to nutrient inputs and green algal mat growth.

English Nature is currently awaiting the final report for the Solent Maritime SAC intertidal sediment survey undertaken in 2005. Although the report has yet to be finalised the preliminary interpretation of the data generally indicates that the essential character of the sediment communities remains similar to those described in previous studies. However there is some data which may tentatively suggest a possible decline in the condition of the mudflats within Langstone Harbour, English Nature is currently considering whether to investigate this further before changing the current view of unit / feature condition. Once finalised the report will be made available to interested parties.

English Nature has now collated the information it holds relevant to the condition of the SEMS features so far obtained during the first reporting cycle and is reviewing the information. Relevant information included that flowing from the EA Review of Consents Process. 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. This task will continue at least during the first half of the next financial year 2006/07. This work will feed into the reporting on the condition of SAC / SPA features to Europe via JNCC. English Nature will update the Management Group when they have information to report. It is likely that the current assessment of the condition of some areas of intertidal mudflats and sandflats will change once this review is complete.

Lymington Harbour Commissioners noted that saltmarsh erosion is progressing. This is an ongoing issue currently being looked at by New Forest District Council Coastal Group who will provide details.

Southampton City Council are not aware of any significant impacts overall. Anecdotal accounts that wader numbers are down this season at Weston Shore which may be linked to access disturbance but too early to detect cause/effect if this is a true trend.

Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners noted the condition of Norton Spit is gradually improving. Areas of marram grass have recolonised on trampled paths and eroded holes have also been filled.

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

Yr	Applicable Sector	New Activity	Relevant Management Consideration	Responsibility
2005	Dredging	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.	Wait for further guidance before determining whether any further assessment is required in relation to dredging issues.	All RA with responsibility for activity.
2005	Fishing	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 ( <i>Zostera; species</i> ) off Ryde Sands. As a result DEFRA introduced the Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004 (SI 2696/2004) 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.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of fishing in key risk area RA to continue to enforce current management measures	All RA with responsibility for activity
2005	Land-based recreation	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.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of land-based recreation in key risk area RA to continue to enforce current management measures	All RA with responsibility for activity
2005	Land-based recreation	Private Hovercraft Use - English Nature is aware that some limited use of a private hovercraft occurred on Ryde Sands in 2004. It has also been noted over and close to intertidal mudflats at Weston Shore, Southampton, during the winter period.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of land-based recreation in key risk area RA to continue to enforce current management measures	All RA with responsibility for activity

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<b>Yr</b>	<b>Applicable Sector</b>	<b>New Activity</b>	<b>Relevant Management Consideration</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
2005	Plan or project	Managed realignment (strictly a plan or project) - has occurred at a small site on the Isle of Wight near Gurnard and in Chichester Harbour.	Plan or project management measures	All RAs and CAs with responsibility for activity
2005	Water-based recreation: boat repair and maintenance	Mobile boat scrubbers - the use of these is becoming more prevalent within the Solent.	<p>Keep a watching brief on the impacts of other water sports in key risk area</p> <p>EA setting up research projects in order to monitor the effects of wash down facilities in order to determine the percentage contribution to the background levels of copper and irgarol within the Solent</p>	<p>All RA with responsibility for activity</p> <p>EA</p>
2005	Water-based recreation: other water sports	Jet boards - these are now being used within the site, especially within the estuary of the River Itchen.	<p>Keep a watching brief on the impacts of other water sports in key risk area</p> <p>RA to continue to enforce current management measures</p>	All RA with responsibility for activity

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<b>Yr</b>	<b>Applicable Sector</b>	<b>New Activity</b>	<b>Relevant Management Consideration</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
2006	Access: Educational/ scientific study and research	Education - English Nature is aware of a proposal to undertake educational marine safaris within the SEMS from Cowes using drop down video technology.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of educational and scientific study in key risk areas	All RA with responsibility for activity
2006	Access: Land-based recreation	Model Aircraft - English Nature perceives that there may have been an increase in the flying of model aircraft on the east side of Hayling Island near Gutner.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of land-based recreation in key risk area RA to continue to enforce current management measures	All RA with responsibility for activity
2006	Bait collection	Peat digging – Hampshire County Council is aware of an occasional issue with the digging of ‘Sea Peat’ from the offshore areas between Keyhaven and Pennington. It is thought that it is used as a medium for keeping bait alive. It seems to be a bit of a grey area with regards its legality. The digging does cause some disturbance but probably no more than other activities (baitdigging, wildfowling etc).	Voluntary code of conduct leaflet produced and circulated Keep a watching brief on the impacts of bait collection in key risk areas	All RA with a responsibility for activity.
2006	Fishing: shellfisheries	Mussels – There is a possible proposal to lay mussels on the western side of Langstone Harbour close to Salterns Quay. The exact consenting mechanism has yet to be finally determined however English Nature anticipate that this will be a Plan or Project either through an application for a Several Order or because English Nature consent will be required.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of shellfisheries in key risk areas RA to continue to enforce current management measures	All RA with a responsibility for activity

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<b>Yr</b>	<b>Applicable Sector</b>	<b>New Activity</b>	<b>Relevant Management Consideration</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
2006	Land-based recreation	Private Hover Craft - English Nature is aware that private hover craft have been used within Newtown Creek, Isle of Wight during the sensitive over wintering period.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of land-based recreation in key risk area  RA to continue to enforce current management measures	All RA with responsibility for activity
2006	Water based recreation: Other water sports	Kite surfing – Increase in all activities such as kite surfing, boarding etc at Hill Head.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of land-based recreation in key risk area  RA to continue to enforce current management measures	All RA with responsibility for activity
2006	Water based recreation: Recreational boating (racing)	Competitive Sports - There have been several proposals for competitive sports events within the Beaulieu River – including swimming events for Triathlons, canoe / kayak events and dingy sailing which may be regarded as ‘new’ on the scale and location proposed. English Nature is working with Beaulieu Estate and other parties regarding these matters. Again it is likely that English Nature consent will be required for these organised events with the potential to damage or disturb sensitive areas / species, therefore they would be plan or projects rather than ‘activities’ to be considered through the Management Scheme.	Keep a watching brief on the impacts of recreational sailing in key risk areas  RA to continue to enforce current management measure such as existing speed limits.	All RA with responsibility for activity

### 4.0 PROGRESS WITH MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS (February 2006)

#### 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.*
- Chichester District Council – Continued provision of some car parking and public boat slipways.
  - Eastleigh Borough Council – Informal monitoring by Countryside Service on Council owned land.
  - Hampshire County Council - No known significant impacts from activities. Watching brief carried out as part of everyday management of SSSI/LNR etc. Current management measures enforced where necessary.
  - Portsmouth City Council - Policy NL1 still designates land at Tipner for whole-scale development. Currently no proposals to implement this. (Portsmouth City Local Plan – Proposed Modifications August 2005). Policy NL5 still designates a coastal footpath/cycleway around the site. Currently no proposals to implement this. (Portsmouth City Local Plan – Proposed Modifications August 2005). Policy EC1 – Langstone Harbour Coastal Path. Land allocated for an extension to the Langstone Harbour Coastal Path round Eastney Lake. Formal footpath will reduce the disruption to wintering wildfowl of ramblers. Currently no proposals to implement this. (Portsmouth City Local Plan – Proposed Modifications August 2005).
  - Southampton City Council - Current access policies implemented within legal frameworks. Where legal controls are not possible attempts have been made to manage visitor pressure in longer term – e.g. at Weston Shore providing interest for visitors away from shore.

###### (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 by Countryside Service on Council owned land.

###### (c) Angling

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of angling in key risk areas.*

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- Eastleigh Borough Council – Informal monitoring by Countryside Service on Council owned land.
- Hampshire County Council - No known significant impacts from activities. Watching brief carried out as part of everyday management of SSSI/LNR etc.
- Sussex Sea Fisheries - Activities monitored and inspected if possible. Enforcement of Bass Nursery Regulations for Chichester Harbour.  
Comment: The Sussex Sea Fisheries District Committee manage inshore fisheries and monitor compliance, they enforce Bass Nursery Area legislation where applicable. Fisheries regulation can apply to commercial and recreational fishers.  
General note: The Committee cannot enact legislation to manage fishing (commercial and recreational) on grounds of access, this was highlighted by the Committee in the development of the management scheme. It was decided to include the data set in the access section of the progress report as the data on the location of fishing activity maybe used for monitoring purposes by the relevant authorities.

### **(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.*
- English Nature carried out an appropriate assessment in 2005 in relation to research by a PhD Student into the growth of *Spartina anglica* involving the planting of *Spartina* within the site.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Southampton University have access to marshes to carry out research into effects of egg collection.
- Sussex Sea Fisheries - Recording fishing activity and transfer to GIS as part of ongoing assessment work.

### **(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.*
- Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners - Management measures on Norton Spit continuing. Restoration work carried out with further planned. Survey and monitoring underway.

### **Summary**

April 05: 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.

February 06: Current management measures enforced where necessary and monitoring is carried out as part of everyday management regulations through academic research and ongoing assessment. No significant impacts were noted from access pressures or increases in activities. However, observations were recorded at Weston Shore of a decrease in wader numbers which may possibly be linked to access disturbance but it is too early to establish the cause/effect.

### 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.*
- 
- Eastleigh Borough Council – informal monitoring by Countryside Service on Council owned land.
  - English Nature is aware that in recent months there has been a relatively high level of bait digging activity occurring within Fareham Creek. The police have been involved in seeking to enforce the Nature Conservation Order which applies at this site.
  - Fareham Borough Council – Problems in Fareham Creek, within the SNCO, particularly over the last six months. FBC do not have any powers of enforcement. They have passed residents concerns to the Wildlife Liaison Officer and also direct to the local police. The Bait Digging Code is not being followed.
  - Hampshire County Council - Aware of code, this was distributed via visitor centres etc. No known significant impacts from activities.
  - Lymington Harbour Commissioners - No bait digging in harbour area.
  - RHHA - Bait collection activity has increased on the sites within the River. The number of collectors and the frequency of visits to the sites has increased, as has the intensity of the digging on the individual site. It is believed that all of this activity is commercial. The code is a useful document when educating those collecting bait for private use, but the HA have found it of little use with commercial bait collectors.
  - Southampton City Council - Bait collecting continues within designated sites, particularly at Chessel Bay and Weston Shore.

### Summary

April 05: The Bait Digging Code 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 on the management group, which are looking at the success of the code, these are due to report in June 2005.

February 06: In certain areas the Bait Digging Code has successfully educated those seeking to collect for private use. However, bait digging activity has increased in areas such as Fareham Creek and River Hamble and problems have occurred due to increasing number of commercial collectors. Due to limited powers of enforcement by the local authority the police have been involved at Fareham Creek.

### 4.1.3 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.*
- 
- Trinity House monitors all legislation in relation to Shipping.
  - Wightlink - commercial shipping in Wootton Creek continues to be managed giving appropriate regard to environmental considerations.

### Summary

April 05: Current management measures are being enforced and where necessary changes have been adopted according to the precautionary principle.

February 06: Management measures and monitoring continues to ensure appropriate environmental considerations are taken into account.

### 4.1.4 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.*
- 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 - Acted as pilot area for the Maintenance Dredging Protocol and developed a Baseline Document for Maintenance Dredging in the Medina. Baseline Document signed off and experience of process useful for national implementation. Working with the Isle of Wight Estuaries Partnership, ABPmer and Medina Valley Centre to develop a sustainable dredging plan which may include small scale experiments in foreshore recharge.
- EN involved in trial of Maintenance Dredging Protocol in the Medina.
- Sussex Sea Fisheries - Fed into consultation process regarding proposals for disposal of up to 12,000 cubic metres material/annum at Treloar Hole.
- Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners - Working with English Nature and IoW Estuaries Project to develop more sustainable dredging practices.

### Summary

April 05: The Maintenance Dredging Protocol has 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. A new method of dredging called water injecting dredging has started to be used in areas within the SEMS. At present there is no consenting mechanism in place for this activity.

February 06: The Maintenance Dredging Protocol has still not been published. Research is ongoing into developing more sustainable dredging practices, particularly in the Isle of Wight where small scale experiments in foreshore recharge may take place in full.

### 4.1.5 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.
- Eastleigh Borough Council - Occasions noted of handpicking of shellfish by several individuals at the same time around Hamble Point. Also small fishing boats working in this area at high tide. No enforcement taken, although Countryside Officer tries to dissuade individuals without much luck.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - No observable impacts. No systematic monitoring carried out.
- RHHA - The issue of fishing is now considered a plan or project.
- Southampton City Council - Not aware of any change in pattern or intensity of this activity. No management measures available within foreshore area.
- Southern Sea Fisheries - Regular patrols and checks on fishing activity at sea and onshore throughout the year.
- Sussex Sea Fisheries - Observing catch rates & trends, observable impacts remained relatively consistent. Enforcement activities for entire period and district enforcement records available in annual reports.

#### (b) Shellfisheries

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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.*
  
- English Nature is aware that SSFC carried out an Appropriate Assessment prior to lapsing the closure of the Solent Oyster Fishery in 2005.
- Eastleigh Borough Council – occasional commercial collection of cockles noted at Hamble point, low impact.
- RHHA - Reports from local fishermen of the presence of American Tingle Whelk in the beds in the Solent (including the River Hamble beds).
- Southern Sea Fisheries Committee - An Appropriate Assessment of the Solent Regulated Licenced Oyster Fishery was carried out in September 2005 prior to the fishery opening in November 2005. The oyster fishery opened on 14 November with no restrictions. Regular patrols and checks on fishing activity made throughout the year. One infringement of the SI 2696/2004: The SEMS (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004.
- Sussex Sea Fisheries - Established annual liaison meeting with shellfish fishermen operating within Chichester Harbour. Discussions may flag up issues. Enforcement activities for entire period and district enforcement records available in annual reports. 2005 introduced new regulations restricting scallop fishing further. All observed fishing activity is recorded for GIS assessments.

### Summary

April 05: 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.

February 06: EBC noted handpicking of shellfish around Hamble Point and of small fishing boats working in the area. Although noted as low impact this also included occasional commercial collection of cockles. Elsewhere no observable impacts or changes in patterns and intensity of fishing. The Sea Fisheries Committees continue regular monitoring of fishing activity and in Sussex they have established an annual liaison meeting with shellfish fishermen which may flag up further issues.

### 4.1.6 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.*
  
- Chichester District Council – Continuing to enforce by-laws.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Anchoring not permitted

#### (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.*

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- ABP - Very little boat repair and maintenance now being undertaken within the Port of Southampton Harbour Area. Much reduced since closure of Vospers, Woolston. ABP has also ceased dry-docking activities at the Port of Southampton.
- Eastleigh Borough Council - Countryside Officer at Hamble removes litter eg tins of paint etc washed onto EBC from boatyards.

### (c) Moorings (new)

The management considerations for this activity are:

- *Keep a watching brief on the impacts of new moorings in key risk areas.*
- Gosport Borough Council - Planning permission granted for small extensions to existing mooring areas- Advice from English Nature sought and followed in each case.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Moorings being progressively removed from within the SEMS as they become more exposed. Some additional moorings being provided outside the SEMS in an area already used for mooring.
- Southampton City Council - Not aware of any change in pattern or intensity of this activity. Proposals for new moorings as part of Woolston Riverside/Vospers site regeneration.
- Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners - All new work properly assessed and potential impacts addressed.

### (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.*
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Moorings being progressively removed from within the SEMS as they become more exposed. Some additional moorings being provided outside the SEMS in an area already used for mooring.

### (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.*
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Moorings being progressively removed from within the SEMS as they become more exposed. Some additional moorings being provided outside the SEMS in an area already used for mooring.
- Wightlink - Navigation in Wootton Creek continues to be managed giving appropriate regard to environmental considerations and in accordance with the designated speed limits.

### (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.*
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - PWCs, kite surfing etc not allowed in harbour.
- RHHA - Green Blue project

### (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.*

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- Chichester District Council – only responsible for area outside East Head.
- QHM – No change as yet but there is a new type of Personal Water Craft (PWC) on the market called a Hover Pod. This is a type of jet ski but works like a mini Hovercraft so it would be able to go almost anywhere. None have been seen within QHM's area yet.
- RHHA - Green Blue project.
- Southampton City Council - Water-skiing/power boating normally within main channel & within areas designated by Harbour Authority.

### **(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 District Council – only responsible for the area outside East Head
  - RHHA - Green Blue project.

### **(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.*

Nothing to report.

### **Summary**

April 05: 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. In some areas additional moorings have been developed. There has also been the installation of new Boat Scrubbers and washdown facilities in a number of the harbours in the Solent.

February 06: Moorings are gradually being removed in Lymington Harbour as they become more exposed within areas of SEMS, with additional moorings provided outside the area. New moorings are also proposed at Woolston Riverside in Southampton as part of regeneration project. Issues of navigation and restricted areas require management which takes account of environmental considerations and bylaws and this occurs continuously. EBC noted increasing amounts of litter washed up on shore originating from boatyards.

## **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.*

April 05:

- BHIC is having in-depth discussions with EN, EA and local authority over future aggregate dredging at the entrance to Bembridge Harbour.

February 06:

- EN continues to be actively engaged with BHIC and IOWC considering the future of the dredging operation 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.*

April 05:

- 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.
- The Environment Agency Project to upgrade the Eastoke Defences on Hayling Island are nearly completed. Hayling Island sectoral strategy group are currently working defence options for the rest of Hayling Island. The final designs for the upgrading of the defences for the Selemore/ Megham frontage on Hayling Island are soon to be released by the EA.
- 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 – Planning permission has been granted for the principle of mixed use development on Priddy's Hard Heritage Area with detailed permission given to the residential element (198 dwellings). Conditions have been included (relating to the phasing of construction and clearance work and restricting access to the foreshore) which safeguard the adjacent Portsmouth SPA following detailed discussions with English Nature. This application underwent 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.
- Havant Borough Council – Local plan addresses issues which might arise from new development including locational matters; Habitats Regs are recognised as part of the overall process.
- Isle of Wight Council - Ongoing appraisal of planning applications in respect of Habitats Regulation requirements. Details of extent and features of European Site for part of baseline information informing the preparation of the Island Plan (LDF) core strategy
- 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.

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- Southampton City Council – Integrated coastal plan to be developed with Eastleigh Borough Council in 2005/2006. This will give due regard to the Habitats Regulations.

February 06:

- Chichester District Council – consult with EN over planning applications affecting Chichester Harbour. New European Courts of Justice ruling now means that all Local Development Framework (LDF) document will be subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations (guidance awaited from Government).
- Cowes Harbour Commissioners - Working with IoW Estuaries Project and Cowes Waterfront on modelling of Medina Estuary to allow more informed assessments of cumulative impact of developments.
- Eastleigh Borough Council - Development applications screened and commented upon as necessary. Policies within the Revised Local Plan second deposit draft remain in line with Habitat Regulations.
- EA - The EA have objected to a number of proposals that are not in accordance with the Habitat Regulations.
- Gosport Borough Council - The European Court of Justice ruling on 20 October 2005 on Appropriate Assessments will have implications for all local planning authorities preparing their Local Development Frameworks. Gosport Borough Council will be adopting its Local Plan Review by July 2006 and is currently evidence gathering for its Local Development Framework. Appropriate Assessments are carried out for the relevant planning applications. Consultation with English Nature.
- Hampshire County Council - Ongoing statutory requirement to consider plans and projects within local plans etc.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Plans for harbour protection project under discussion with DEFRA, English Nature, Crown Estate etc.
- Portsmouth City Council - It is presumed discussions are still being held with regard to a wharf extension at Kendall's Aggregate Wharf. EIA scoping report undertaken and EN involved in discussions. Sustainability Appraisal General Scoping Report produced and revised during 2005 which takes in account the coastal habitats around Portsmouth. This has formed the basis of the Specific Scoping reports which relate to the Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents being progressed.
- Southampton City Council - Local Plan adopted March 2006, protected sites policy reflects advice from English Nature.

### 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.*

April 05:

- ABP is reviewing its surface water drainage issues (SWD) on a corporate level, this includes an assessment of SWD discharges within ABP Southampton.
- 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.

February 06:

- EA - The applicant must show that there is no net loss of intertidal and that where possible, further mitigation has been sought. The EA will object to proposals that are not like for like replacement.
- Portsmouth City Council - Current application for the extension and alterations to existing Hovertravel landing pad at Southsea.

### 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.*

April 05:

- 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.
- The EA has completed Appropriate Assessment for all existing consents (permissions and licences) under the Reg. 50 'Review of Consents' of the Habitats Regulations 1994.

February 06:

- EN has been consulted by the EA regarding permissions within / affecting the SEMS sites. EA has consulted EN regarding the Appropriate Assessments for the SEMS sites.

### 4.2.5 Freshwater Abstraction

Management Considerations:

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

April 05:

- The EA has completed Appropriate Assessment for all existing consents (permissions and licences) under the Reg. 50 'Review of Consents' of the Habitats Regulations 1994.

### 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.*

April 05:

- Southampton City Council – no applications for new camps.

### 4.2.7 Houseboats

Management Considerations:

- *Review any future applications for houseboats in view of the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.*

April 05:

- Eastleigh Borough Council – development applications screened and commented upon as necessary.
- 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.
- Isle of Wight Council - discussions with owners and English Nature and Environment Agency re proposals for additional houseboats at Bembridge Harbour.
- 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.
- River Hamble Harbour Authority – this is an ongoing issue on the River with lack of clarity on the issue of houseboats, their replacement, planning permission etc.

February 06:

- Cowes Harbour Commissioners - No applications at present
- English Nature remains in 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.

### 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.*

April 05:

- ABP is reviewing its surface water drainage issues (SWD) on a corporate level, this includes an assessment of SWD discharges within ABP Southampton.
- Southampton City Council – No planning applications including land reclamation have been received during monitoring period.

February 06:

- EA – an objection has been made to an application that included substantial reclaim as it was without Appropriate Assessment and no forms of mitigation, compensation or enhancement were sought.

### 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.*

April 05:

- 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.
- EA - have had preliminary discussions with consultants acting on behalf of Southern Water regarding a new pipeline to supply potable water to the Isle of Wight.
- Southampton City Council – proposal for Southern Water pipeline in Riverside Park northwards. Not thought to be significant in relation to SPA/SEMS site due to distance from site.

February 06:

- Cowes Harbour Commissioners - No proposals at present.
- Southampton City Council - Southern Water pipeline works underway, not thought to be significant for SEMS interest, English Nature party to works.
- Southern Water is currently replacing two cross-Solent water mains, which were installed under the Solent from Lepe to Gurnard in 1980, with new pipes to ensure demand for water on the Island can continue to meet demand over the next 25 years. Construction

will commence during 2006, with completion currently programmed for July 2007. Southern Water is working closely with English Nature, Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, New Forest District Council, Ports Authority and DEFRA to ensure that all possible issues are taken into consideration.

### 4.2.12 Seawater Abstraction

Management Considerations:

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

April 05:

- EA - have completed Appropriate Assessments for all existing consents (permissions and licences) under the Reg. 50 'Review of Consents' of the Habitats Regulations 1994.

## 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.*

April 05:

- 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 EA's 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.
- EA - have completed Appropriate Assessments for all existing consents (permissions and licences) under the Reg. 50 'Review of Consents' of the Habitats Regulations 1994. Agricultural runoff is a form of diffuse pollution, there is no legislative driver to consent run-off.

February 06:

- EN - From April 2006 a dedicated network of expert advisers will be on hand to help farmers tackle the causes of harmful water pollution. This partnership between Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England will help farmers to act. Catchments across England, including the Test and Itchen, identified as priority areas for action, will be targeted under a range of measures aimed at improving farm practices and reducing water pollution from agriculture. Advisers will work on a one to one basis with farmers, as well as leading a series of initiatives including workshops and farm demonstrations to encourage best practice.

### 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.*

April 05:

- 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 forward through ‘Nature Coast’ project
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – Oil spill response plan is in place.
- 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.
- Southampton City Council – any beach cleaning activities have taken account of the requirements or have not been significant in relation to the site.

February 06:

- 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 forward through ‘Nature Coast’ project.
- Southampton City Council - Litter picks carried out without significant impact on SEMS site.

### 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.*

April 05:

- BHIC - report being prepared for groyne repairs etc to Duver Beach.
- Chichester District Council – ongoing consultation with EN and CHC about East Head proposals.
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – the issue of East Head is under consideration by all statutory authorities.
- EA - have consulted EN on their annual flood defence maintenance programme.
- 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.
- Fareham Borough Council – minor repairs undertaken to seawalls following consultation with EN.
- New Forest District Council – work is underway on the South East Regional Strategy and West Solent Coastal Defence Strategy.
- 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.
- Southampton City Council – integrated coastal plan to be developed with Eastleigh Borough Council in 2005/2006. This will give due regard to Habitats Regulations.

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- 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.

### February 06:

- EN continues to be consulted by the appropriate competent authorities around the Solent.
- EN - In June 2005 temporary planning permission was given to Chichester Harbour Conservancy to recycle material from the northern end of East Head to the 'neck' of the sand dune system. It expires in June 2007 and permits 2 recycling operations within this time. It is envisaged that the Selsey Peninsular Strategy will be published by June 2007 and therefore the long term management policy for this area will be known. English Nature continually provides advice to applicants and Competent Authorities / Section 28G bodies in relation to these matters.
- Gosport Borough Council - The Borough Council has submitted a Coastal Defence Strategy Study to DEFRA for the Town area adjacent Portsmouth Harbour for funding. Decision Awaited. Officers are aware of the next round of SMP requirements.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Plans for harbour protection project under discussion with DEFRA, English Nature, Crown Estates etc.
- New Forest District Council - The South East Regional Strategy and West Solent Coast Defence Strategy are in process.
- Portsmouth City Council - Portsea Island Coastal Strategy Study (Halcrow) now completed and with the Government Office for approval. The study produces options of coastal defence improvements for consultation with the appropriate bodies.
- Southampton City Council - Recent application for protection of railway line by Network Rail at St Denys. English Nature party to FEPA application. Present indication that works will not significantly affect SEMS site. A bid made to DEFRA for funding for North Solent SMP, decision awaited. English Nature are being consulted as part of this process.

### 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.*

### February 06:

- EN - Research into the impacts of Egg collecting on the breeding success of black headed gulls and associated species is being undertaken by Southampton University funded by EN. The research is ongoing with the final field season in 2006 and the report due later this year.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - No change.(Licensing by DEFRA with EN consent. LHC merely gives landowner's permission for access.)

### 4.3.6 Flood Defence

#### Management Considerations:

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- *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.*

April 05:

- Chichester District Council – involvement with the SMP round 2 process will ensure that the SMPs take full account 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 went 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. The results of this pilot SMP plus the 2 other pilots will feed into the SMP round 2 guidance being prepared by Defra.

February 06:

- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Plans for harbour protection project under discussion with Coast Protection Authority (NFDC).
- Portsmouth City Council - Portsea Island Coastal Strategy Study (Halcrow) now completed and waiting for approval from the Government Office for approval. The study produces options of coastal defence improvements for consultation with the appropriate bodies.
- Southampton City Council - A bid made to DEFRA for funding for North Solent SMP, decision awaited. English Nature are being consulted as part of this process.

### **4.3.7 Grazing**

Management Considerations:

- *Ensure that EN's SSSI consenting procedure and Site Management Statements take into account the possible impacts of grazing.*

April 05:

- 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;*

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- *MCA project to update the Atlas of Nature Conservation Sites in Great Britain Sensitive to Coastal Pollution with information about EMS.*

April 05:

- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – Oil spill response plan in place.
- The SEG produced an Environmental Plan in October 2004 following consultation with EN and other bodies.

February 06:

- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – Updated oil spill response plan in place.

### 4.3.9 Outfall maintenance and replacement

Management Considerations:

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

April 05:

- EA - have consulted EN on their annual flood defence maintenance programme.

February 06:

- Southern Water undertakes non-intrusive inspections of its marine outfalls. There are currently no plans for any intrusive surveys or work on any marine outfalls within the designated area. There is the possibility of some minor maintenance work on a small number of Isle of Wight foreshore outfalls during 2006-07. Southern Water has no responsibility for discharges from industrial premises direct to the environment.

### 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.*

April 05:

- 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 and lease reviewed.
- West Sussex County Council – this activity is likely to be addressed in the new Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve Management Strategy.

February 06:

- Chichester Harbour Conservancy – new licences issued.
- EN has been consulted by Emsworth District Wildfowling and Conservation Organisation in relation to their new Management Plan for which new consents are being sought for EN. EN is currently undertaking an appropriate assessment in relation to this.
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners - Present procedures subject to English Nature approval – no change. Generally activities are governed by British Association for Shooting and Conservation.

#### 4.4 MONITORING

The following table gives information relating to monitoring being undertaken by the RAs, this may in some cases be helpful to EN's condition monitoring programme. See table 8, in the SEMS Management Scheme for English Nature's condition monitoring programme.

Features of Interest	Monitoring	Progress
General	Solent SPA literature review. Basis for understanding future monitoring requirements	<p>April 2005: EA has completed Appropriate Assessment for all existing consents (permissions and licences) under the Reg. 50 'Review of Consents' of the Habitats Regulations 1994. Method of research dissemination still to be agreed. The EA will inform the SEMS Management Group when the information is collated in an appropriate format.</p> <p>February 2006: EN - Literature review completed.</p> <p>February 2006: English Nature is currently undertaking an initial review of the information it holds relevant to the condition of SEMS features so far obtained during the first reporting cycle. This will include both the information collected on contract to English Nature such as the CASI survey of the SEMS, information collected by the EA through their review of consents and information from other bodies such as the WEBS partners. Due to the large amount of relevant information this task is taking longer than originally envisaged, but EN hope to be in a position to report upon initial findings later this year.</p> <p>Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council have sponsored survey to take place in the forth-coming year. Subtidal information will then be provided in conjunction the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and the Sea Search initiative over the following years.</p>

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Features of Interest	Monitoring	Progress
Estuaries	Water quality data from National Marine Monitoring Programme – arrangements for data transfer required through management scheme	<p>April 2005: Cowes Harbour Commissioners completed the second annual waterbird survey. Much information from monitoring points provided to EN during EA review of consents process. Havant Borough Council - water quality measured regularly along coastline and published by Environmental Health department</p> <p>Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners have a monitoring scheme underway to assess the extent of changes to the Western Yar saltmarsh and intertidal area over the next 5 years.</p> <p>February 2006: Cowes Harbour Commissioners - Work is underway on a sustainable dredging plan which when developed will include elements of monitoring. Working with IoW Estuaries Project and Cowes Waterfront on modelling of Medina Estuary to allow more informed assessments of cumulative impact of developments. Large amount of survey work including bathymetry and bird use will provide valuable baseline data for future monitoring. EN - Much information from these monitoring points provided to EN during EA review of consents process. Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners - Monitoring in second year of 5 year scheme to assess extent of change to Western Yar saltmarsh and intertidal area. Monitoring also taking place on Norton Spit at mouth of estuary.</p>
Annual vegetation of drift lines	Survey of Solent strandline vegetation – a report to Hampshire County Council	February 2006: EN Report completed in 2001
	Flood defence work in relation to shingle banks. Various investigations carried out by local operating authorities.	

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Features of Interest	Monitoring	Progress
Atlantic salt meadows	<p>Complete CASI/LIDAR survey of intertidal habitats within SEMS. This data will directly contribute to all 'extent' attributes in the Solent EMS. Study being undertaken by the National Centre for Environmental Data Surveillance (NCED) and co-ordinated by EN local team and EA.</p>	<p>April 2005: CASI/LIDAR report provided to EN late December 2004, report currently being reviewed internally before production of final report In February 2005. English Nature is discussing with NCED the possibility of examining changes in habitat / feature extent by comparing previous CASI data available for Southampton Water and the Beaulieu with the newly classified data set currently being finalised. February 2006: EN Report completed early 2005.</p>
	<p>South East strategic regional monitoring scoping study. EN are currently investigating possibilities of obtaining monitoring data from the SE strategic monitoring programme. The programme is driven by the shoreline management plan and is focussed towards physical variables.</p>	<p>February 2006: EN are continuing to discuss this possibility with the Channel Coast Observatory and other partners.</p>
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	<p>Complete CASI/LIDAR survey of intertidal habitats within SEMS. This data will directly contribute to all 'extent' attributes in the Solent EMS. Study being undertaken by the National Centre for Environmental Data Surveillance (NCED) and co-ordinated by EN local team and EA.</p>	<p>April 2005: CASI/LIDAR report provided to EN late December 2004, report currently being reviewed internally before production of final report In February 2005. English Nature is discussing with NCED the possibility of examining changes in habitat / feature extent by comparing previous CASI data available for Southampton Water and the Beaulieu with the newly classified data set currently being finalised. February 2006: EN - See progress on CASI survey outlined for Atlantic Salt Meadow.</p>

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Features of Interest	Monitoring	Progress
Cordgrass swards	Complete CASI/LIDAR survey of intertidal habitats within SEMs. This data will directly contribute to all 'extent' attributes in the Solent EMS. Study being undertaken by the National Centre for Environmental Data Surveillance (NCED) and co-ordinated by EN local team and EA.	April 2005: CASI/LIDAR report provided to EN late December 2004, report currently being reviewed internally before production of final report In February 2005. English Nature is discussing with NCED the possibility of examining changes in habitat / feature extent by comparing previous CASI data available for Southampton Water and the Beaulieu with the newly classified data set currently being finalised. February 2006: EN - See progress on CASI survey outlined for Atlantic Salt Meadow.
Intertidal mudflats and sandflats	Complete CASI/LIDAR survey of intertidal habitats within SEMs. This data will directly contribute to all 'extent' attributes in the Solent EMS. Study being undertaken by the National Centre for Environmental Data Surveillance (NCED) and co-ordinated by EN local team and EA.	April 2005: CASI/LIDAR report provided to EN late December 2004, report currently being reviewed internally before production of final report In February 2005. English Nature is discussing with NCED the possibility of examining changes in habitat / feature extent by comparing previous CASI data available for Southampton Water and the Beaulieu with the newly classified data set currently being finalised. February 2006: EN - See progress on CASI survey outlined for Atlantic Salt Meadow.
	Solent EMS (SPA) prey availability study. Focused mainly at SPA monitoring, but will also aid intertidal biotope descriptions for SAC area.	April 2005: English Nature - The prey availability study has been postponed awaiting the outcome of trials of this approach elsewhere around the country. It is likely that surveys of benthic invertebrate communities of intertidal mudflats and sandflats will take place around the SEMs in 2005. February 2006: EN - The prey availability study has been postponed awaiting the outcome of trials of this approach elsewhere around the country. Surveys of benthic invertebrate communities of intertidal mudflats and sandflats took place in 2005, see information provided in change in condition section. Report yet to be finalised.

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Features of Interest	Monitoring	Progress
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time		February 2006: EN - There is a possibility of survey work by English Nature looking at this feature in Summer 2006. If this goes ahead it will tie in with survey work looking at Seagrass proposed by HWT and NOC.
Intertidal reefs (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar)	Bembridge ledges intertidal survey – a phase II biotope survey from Bembridge Point to Whitecliff Bay to provide a baseline of ‘extent’ for intertidal reef features.	April 2005: Field work for this survey completed in October 2004. Final report should be produced by March 2005. February 2006: EN - Final report produced March 2005.

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### 4.4.1. Additional information and monitoring

Year	Organisation	Comment
April 05	Environment Agency	The Agency commissioned two surveys (Autumn and Spring 2004) from the Natural History Museum, to look at the condition of a number of Saline Lagoons within the Solent area. These reports are available on request.
	Cowes Harbour Commissioners	In partnership with Isle of Wight Estuary project have enhanced water side land for use as a high water wader roost site. Ongoing management and monitoring through the partnership.
	Isle of Wight Council	Undertaken survey work including winter bird counts, and benthic sampling in Medina Estuary as part of Cowes Waterfront Initiative baseline information.
	River Hamble Harbour Authority	The M27 road bridge still poses a pollution threat to the River and the interest features of the SEMS.
February 06	ABP	ABP are currently considering a Works Licence application to create a 250 approx berth Marina at the former Husbands Shipyard at Marchwood. ABP has expressed concern that this could lead to navigational safety issues in the deepwater channel approaches to the Western Docks. A suggestion has come forward for the creation of a designated small boat channel running parallel to the main, navigable channel.
	English Nature	EN suggests that there may be serious implications for the demand for activities within and adjacent to the European Marine Site as a consequence of the numbers of new houses proposed around the shores of the Solent and more widely.
	Sussex Sea Fisheries	The Committee are considering development of maintenance dredge disposal within Chichester Harbour. Consultation has been carried out with MCEU, EN & CHC to minimise impact on sub-tidal features and marine systems.
	River Hamble Harbour Authority	RHHA notes that this last period (September 2005 onwards) has seen increased activity of bait diggers in the sites on the River. Their activity has also changed from previous years. The number and frequency of visits to the sites has increased, as has the disturbance to the areas worked. The establishment of the Green Blue project and adds that consideration needs to be given to the issue that Fishing is now considered a plan or project under the Habitat Regulations. (EN to advise?)

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February 06	New Forest District Council	NFDC's Annual Report has been reviewed and the last year's practice considered, and there is no material change to management considerations or to the processes in place. As previously, the form and table are completed on a "by exception basis". However, as the regional strategy on coast protection is still in process, it is referred to in the table.
	Gosport Borough Council	The European Court of Justice ruling on 20 October 2005 on Appropriate Assessments will have implications for all local planning authorities preparing their Local Development Frameworks.

### 5. NOTIFICATIONS OF NEXT UPDATE

This is the second in a series of monitoring and progress reports on the implementation of the SEMS Management Scheme. It was undertaken 18 months into the implementation phase of the Scheme. The information will be updated again in one year (February 2007). These reports will be collected annually and form the basis of the monitoring and review of the SEMS Management Scheme.