

# **Welcome to the SEMS Management Group**

**Annual Meeting (online)**

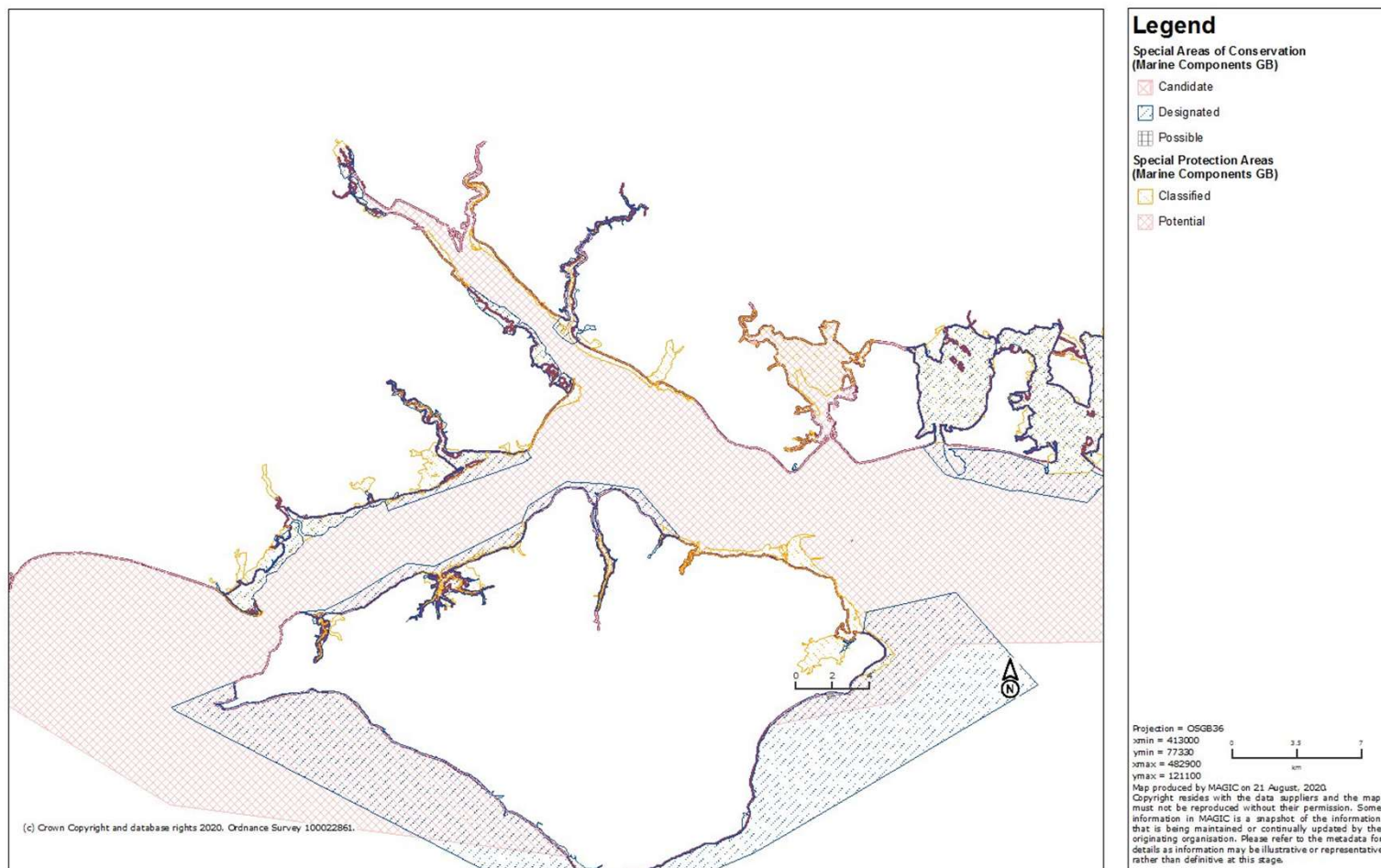
**24 September 2020**

## Meeting House Rules

- Please keep yourself on mute unless you wish to speak
- Use of video is your personal preference
- Open the 'chat' and 'participant' functions in the horizontal toolbar
- In the 'participant' function please rename yourself with your full name if you have a phone number attributed to you, if you can't do this please use the chat function to message the meeting host
- Please use 'raise hand' icon or type in chat if you wish to speak or ask a question. You can also post links for information
- When we break in the meeting please remember to turn off your audio and video

## **SEMS Staff**

- **Jason Scott – Chair, SEMS Management Group**
- **Kate Ansell – SEMS Officer**
- **Karen McHugh – Natural Environment Group (NEG) Officer**



# Designated Species and Habitats



## **Solent Maritime SAC (11,243.12 ha)**

- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- **Estuaries**
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- Coastal lagoons
- Annual vegetation of drift lines
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- **Spartina swards**
- **Atlantic salt meadows**
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('White dunes')
- Desmoulin's whorl snail

## **Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA (5,810.95 ha)**

Bar-tailed godwit, common tern, curlew, dark-bellied Brent goose, dunlin, grey plover, little tern, pintail, red-breasted merganser, redshank, ringed plover, sanderling, sandwich tern, shelduck, shoveler, teal, turnstone, waterbird assemblage, wigeon

# Annual Management Scheme Timeline



## **March/April**

Online annual Survey completed by SEMS Management Group (MG)

## **May/June**

Draft Annual Management Report (AMR) prepared and discussed by officers and chairs of SEMS/NEG

## **August**

Draft AMR circulated to MG and stakeholder group

## **September**

Annual MG meeting agrees the AMR and its actions

## **Spring/Autumn**

NEG meets to discuss and progress strategic actions

## SEMS MG Actions 2019 Update

**Action: All to inform the SEMS Office of any staff changes.**

**Please continue to do this.**

**Action: KA and JT to meet to assess the implications of changes in the drivers for NE condition assessments on SEMS work.**

**This was discussed at the Heads of Group meeting in July 2020, NE have now included terrestrial drivers in their marine advice on operations incl. agriculture, freshwater inputs and forestry. This info has been included on the SEMS website.**

**Action: KM/NEG to progress Clean Solent Shores and Seas (CSSS) and report back to SEMS MG 2020.**

**KM will update in the NEG actions section.**

**Action: NEG to explore if the growth of algal mats around the Solent can be centrally recorded.**

**This information is recorded by the Environment Agency, link to data has been included in the CSSS hubpage on nutrients ([http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member\\_Services/css/Nutrients/](http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/css/Nutrients/)).**

# SEMS Actions 2019 Update



**Action: SA to circulate ABP evidence on seabin use - attached as appx to minutes.**

**This was circulated as an appendix with the SEMS MG 2019 minutes.**

**Action: NEG to discuss and clarify what role it should have with regards to preventing blackwater discharge from recreational boats.**

**NEG and Solent Forum staff have been supporting the EA/NE with their boating and water quality workshops, incl. hosting outputs and will support the forthcoming October 2020 workshop.**

**Action: KA to work with Bird Aware and Local Authorities to review proxy data that can be used in the SEMS annual survey.**

**Bird Aware have provided their winter visitor survey data to SEMS which gives a good overview of recreational visits around various Solent coastal sites.**

**Action: KA to record datasets for future comparison.**

**New table (table 3, p.15) has been included in the SEMS AMR 2020 comparing mode activity change from 2018/19 and 2019/20.**

# SEMS Actions Update

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***Action: KA to record datasets on activity change for future comparison.***

**A new table (3) has been included in the SEMS AMR 2020.**

# SEMS Actions Update

**Action: KA and KM to build links to the Solent Catchment Partnerships and report back to the SEMS Management Group 2020 and at relevant NEG meetings.**

**We have now made contact with Island Rivers, East Hampshire, Test and Itchen and the New Forest Catchment Partnerships. We are on their mailing lists and have reciprocated. We attend meetings when we can to input on Transitional and Coastal Waters.**

# SEMS Draft Report Comments



Crown Estate - *A useful summary report that I enjoyed reviewing*

Environment Agency - *Fantastic job again – great report. Really useful summary of issues and actions being undertaken or needed*

Bird Aware Solent - *Another excellent and comprehensive report - well done*

Portsmouth CC - *Well written, clear and concise report*

RHHA - *it is important to clarify to respondents what is meant by the term 'impact' to ensure consistency/comparability across organisations and across different years, to help aid targeted actions. Propose new action to clarify definition of 'impact' for SEMS Annual Survey recording*

PCC - *Include Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership on the SSG to gain their input on coastal defence activities and other work*

Bird Aware - *Please be aware that due to COVID-19, the winter season 2020/21 will be monitored differently from normal, so this data set will not form part of the overall initial monitoring period*

# Matters Arising: SEMS Name Change



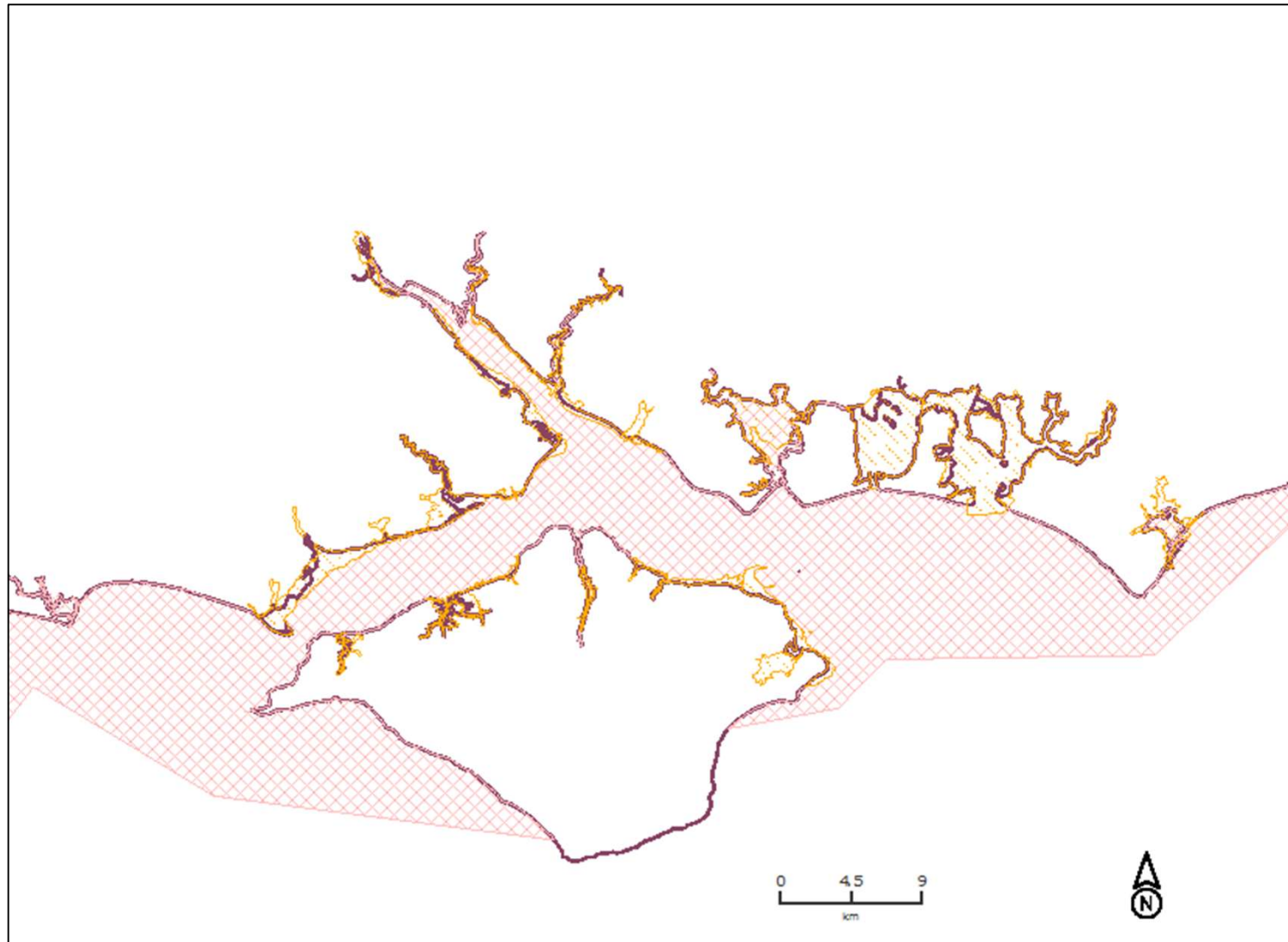
**Proposal:** To change the name of SEMS from Solent European Marine Sites to **Solent Marine Sites**. The acronym 'SEMS' will remain.

**Why?**

- **BREXIT means we have left the European Union, so name change will provide clarity**
- **The Annual Survey is now monitoring Marine Conservation Zones so this name change will allow us the flexibility to cover additional MPA sites in the Solent if agreed by the MG**

**Logo:** We will retain but just adapt to include the name change.

## Matters Arising: Solent and Dorset Coast SPA



# **Annual Management Report 2020**

## **Presentation of Key Findings**

**Kate Ansell**

# AMR Format



- Reviews seventeen activities that take place around the Solent
- Survey asks about changes in activity levels and whether respondents think that an activity is impacting on the designated sites
- Annual Management report evaluates the survey findings and other relevant data collected by the SEMS Officer. Three sections for each activity:
  1. Summary of the survey response
  2. Evaluation and discussion – incl. information on impacts and management measures. NE states if activity having detrimental impact on SEMS sites.
  3. Actions – completed/ongoing/proposed
- Supplementary activity pages mirror the report on the SEMS website at: [http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS\\_Activities/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS_Activities/)

# SEMS Management Scheme Activities

1. Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up
2. Boat repair and maintenance
3. Fishing (including shellfisheries)
4. Fishing (shore-based activities)
5. General beach recreation
6. Grazing and foraging
7. Land recreation - Dog walking
8. Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)
9. Littering and removal of litter
10. Mooring and anchoring
11. Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes
12. Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)
13. Recreation - light aircraft
14. Recreation - non-motorised watercraft
15. Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine
16. Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance
17. Wildfowling

# Key Findings of AMR 2020

- 29 out of 32 Relevant Authorities responded to the Annual Survey
- Mode response answer to change in activity levels was 'no change'
- Increases recorded by some returns for shore-based fishing, dog walking, littering, operation of coastal FCERM schemes, port and harbour maintenance, recreational light aircraft, non-motorised watercraft and slipway/jetty maintenance (table 2)
- Decreases reported in some returns for boat repair and maintenance, fishing, general beach recreation, coastal walking, mooring and anchoring and non-motorised watercraft (table 2)
- Activities highlighted by multiple respondents potentially impacting on SEAMS sites included **shore-based fishing (bait digging), coastal walking with dogs, litter, and the use of recreational watercraft** (table 4)

# Marine Conservation Zones



Included in the Survey for the first time this year:

- The Needles
- Yarmouth to Cowes
- Bembridge

RAs asked whether they had any concerns about activities in these sites and whether they are undertaking any monitoring:

- NE concerned about mooring and anchoring
- Southern IFCA are reviewing fishing activities
- NE undertake vulnerability assessments of MCZs

## Covid-19

- Tale of two halves – lockdown v huge growth in coastal activities post lockdown
- Some respondents mentioned impacts in their Survey result but the Survey took place in the Spring just as lockdown commenced
- Full impacts should be recorded in next year's Survey
- Is there a need to collate and share experiences?

# SEMS Actions



Each action:

- Description of action
- Lead authority and partners
- Progress incl. timescale

Actions that are specific to one authority or a specific location are **individual actions** and are addressed to that authority, e.g. fisheries management to IFCAs.

Actions that come under the jurisdiction of **several authorities** are taken to NEG to be worked on in partnership, e.g. land based recreation.

Section 6.0 in the report is a summary of all actions (p.61).

## Section 2: NEG Action Update

### *Boat repair and maintenance*

**Action (ongoing):** Promote and share best practice with respect to potential environmental impacts of boat repair/maintenance, e.g. disseminate the Green Blue guides. For resources see:

[http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS\\_Activities/Boat\\_repair/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS_Activities/Boat_repair/).

**Lead/Partners:** Harbour authorities, NEG and all others who have this activity in their jurisdiction.

**Action progress:** Kate Fortnam (Green Blue) presented a detailed overview of their initiatives and work on encouraging best practice in the boating industry at the Nov 2018 NEG meeting

([http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural\\_environment\\_group/NEG\\_Meetings/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Meetings/)).

Ben Carroll from MDL Marinas was invited to talk at the NEG Autumn 2019 meeting on their work on best practice in boat maintenance. He has now left. He stated had created a summary document on marine best practice and put on RYA website. Have asked his replacements Alex Beere or Adam Makaruk to fulfill the action – change 2021 action to “invite MDL to a forthcoming meeting and make weblinks to best practice guide”

*Boat repair and maintenance cont.....*

**Action (ongoing):** Promote and share material on invasive non-native species (INNS) relevant to SEMS features.

**Lead/Partners:** NEG and Natural England

**Action progress:** Material on this topic has been and will continue to be added to the SEMS website:

[http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS\\_Activities/Boat\\_repair/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/SEMS_Activities/Boat_repair/).

### *Fishing (shore based activities)*

**Action (2019):** Review and, if required, republish the Solent Bait Collectors Code (<http://www.solentems.org.uk/resources/pdf/BaitCollectCode.pdf>).

**Lead/Partners:** NEG

**Action progress:** Discussed at the Autumn 2019 NEG meeting. A Solent Mudflat Strategy Group has met and agreed strategy will be produced, scheduling work to begin summer 2020 when maps from TEMITH project become available. These maps will show mudflat areas of sensitivity to disturbance. TEMITH is now delayed and maps not expected until early 2021. Progress will be discussed at the next NEG meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Work will be prioritised early 2021.

## *Land Recreation – Dog Walking*

**Action (ongoing):** In 2021, when the 5 year monitoring of the effectiveness of the SRMP is complete, an assessment should be made as to how successful the mitigation strategy has been in reducing the impact of new housing development in the Solent, and whether baseline disturbance from existing housing has sufficiently reduced harm to birds through the promotion of the Bird Aware messaging by third parties (SRMP monitoring 2021).

**Lead and partners:** NEG

**Action Progress:** NEG will keep track of Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) monitoring and continue the liaison and support of the SRMS. The next set of monitoring results are expected summer 2019. This action has been in-place since 2015 and is on-going.

**Future Action:** Post 2021, evaluate whether the SRMS has achieved its objectives and assess whether it has mitigated bird disturbance impacts arising prior to 2010.

## *Land Recreation – Walking other than dog walking*

Please also see actions in dog walking above as these equally apply.

**Action (2019):** NEG to undertake a simple audit of the SEMS relevant authorities to see who has responsibility for rights of way and coastal access. Also, to evaluate what proxy data that is already collected could be used to improve the evidence base to monitor this activity.

**Partners/lead:** NEG

**Action progress:** Undertake once England Coast Path documents all published.  
No progress on this yet schedule 2021

**Action (2019):** NEG to contact the England Coast Path Team and request a statement on how SEMS MG responsibilities may change once the Coast is adopted. At an appropriate time, NEG also to invite a representative from the Coastal Path Team to inform its members of the content and findings of the coast path assessments.

**Partners/lead:** Natural England and NEG

**Action progress:** Undertake once relevant documents have been published.  
Schedule 2021

## *Light Aircraft*

**Action (2018/19):** Consider developing the CoastXplore App so the public can record drone activity.

**Lead/partners:** NEG

**Action Progress:** The NEG officer has been in contact with the App designers to see if this is feasible, it is but at a cost, so full costings are being sought. Once costings have been obtained this will be discussed again at a future NEG meeting. Email send to CoCoast inbox twice asking for costings – no response. A further email has been sent to Newcastle University, where its is believed to CoCoast position has moved.

**Action (2019):** NEG to liaise with Bird Aware Solent about the data collected in the SNAP survey tool and present a summary at the spring 2020 NEG meeting.

**Partners/lead:** NEG and Bird Aware Solent

**Action progress:** Future action for 2020. This is scheduled for November 2020 meeting – AP to give update

## *Littering and Removal of Litter*

**Action (2019/ongoing):** Once the CSSS hub has been developed, SEMS MG members to be aware of the information available and use it in any appropriate existing campaigns, policymaking, communications, events etc.

**Lead/partners:** SEMS MG

**Action progress:** Ongoing. NEG has developed the CSSS information hub. Very good progress has been made in setting up the hub and populating a number of the chapters. The information for Littering and Boating initiatives have now been populated and will be maintained regularly.

[http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member\\_Services/css/](http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/css/)

### *Case Study – Clean Solent Shores and Seas*

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## **Case Study – Clean Solent Shores and Seas (CSSS)**

CSSS is an information hub, set-up by the Solent Forum Natural Environment Group. The hub addresses on-going concerns about littering and its effects on the Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS). SEMS Annual monitoring has shown that littering has been of concern to relevant authorities for many years. NEG was tasked by SEMS in 2018 to address these concerns by sharing information so as to encourage others to reduce littering.

The aim of CSSS is to share any initiatives in the Solent and nationally that seek to address water quality, and in particular littering. The ambition is that the hub addresses far more than just littering and a series of directories have been developed which will be populated over the coming year. The directories on Littering and Boating have been consulted and populated. The CSSS chapters include the following:

## CSSS Case Study cont....

### Sectoral Directories

- Litter
- Microplastics
- Nutrient enrichment (Diffuse and Point Source)
- Polluting contaminants
- Oil pollution
- Non-Native Species
- Hydrographic and hydromorphological changes
- Acidification

### Topic Directories

- Species and Habitats
- Amenity and Public Health
- Boating
- Ports and Industry
- Farming
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Governance and Management

## Next Steps



1. Approve the content of the Annual Management Report 2020
  2. Discuss and agree/prioritise actions – **section 6.0 of the AMR 2020**
  3. Suggestions for future improvements in process or format
- 
4. Please inform SEMS Officer of changes to staff and who should be on the SEMS mailing list
  5. Make suggestions as to additional people to be included on the strategic stakeholder group
  6. Feed relevant evidence and reports to the SEMS Officer throughout the year and keep on file material for the Annual Survey

# Hot Topic Share and Promote



## **Date of Next Meeting**

**September 2021**

**Please **vote** on whether you prefer  
online meeting or to take place in person**