

**Welcome to the
SEMS Management Group**

Annual Meeting (online)

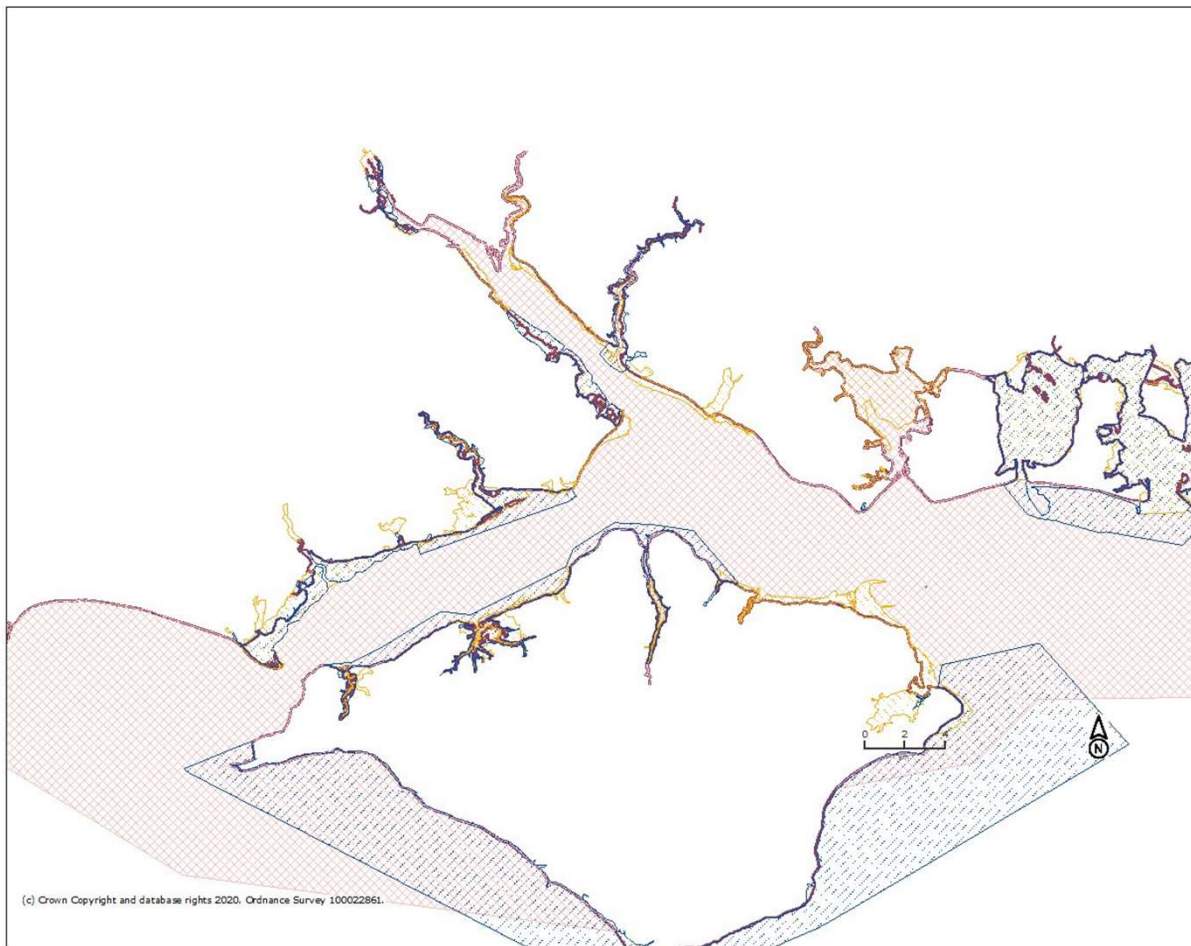
24 September 2020

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
- There will be two online meeting polls, plus one practice (run poll)




SEMS Staff

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





Legend

Special Areas of Conservation (Marine Components GB)

-  Candidate
-  Designated
-  Possible

Special Protection Areas (Marine Components GB)

-  Classified
-  Potential

Projection = OSGB36
 xmin = 413000
 ymin = 77330
 xmax = 482900
 ymax = 121100

Map produced by MAGiC on 21 August, 2020.
 Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGiC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.

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/).

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 2019 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. Action KA and JT to discuss and clarify before next year's Annual Survey is sent out*

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

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.

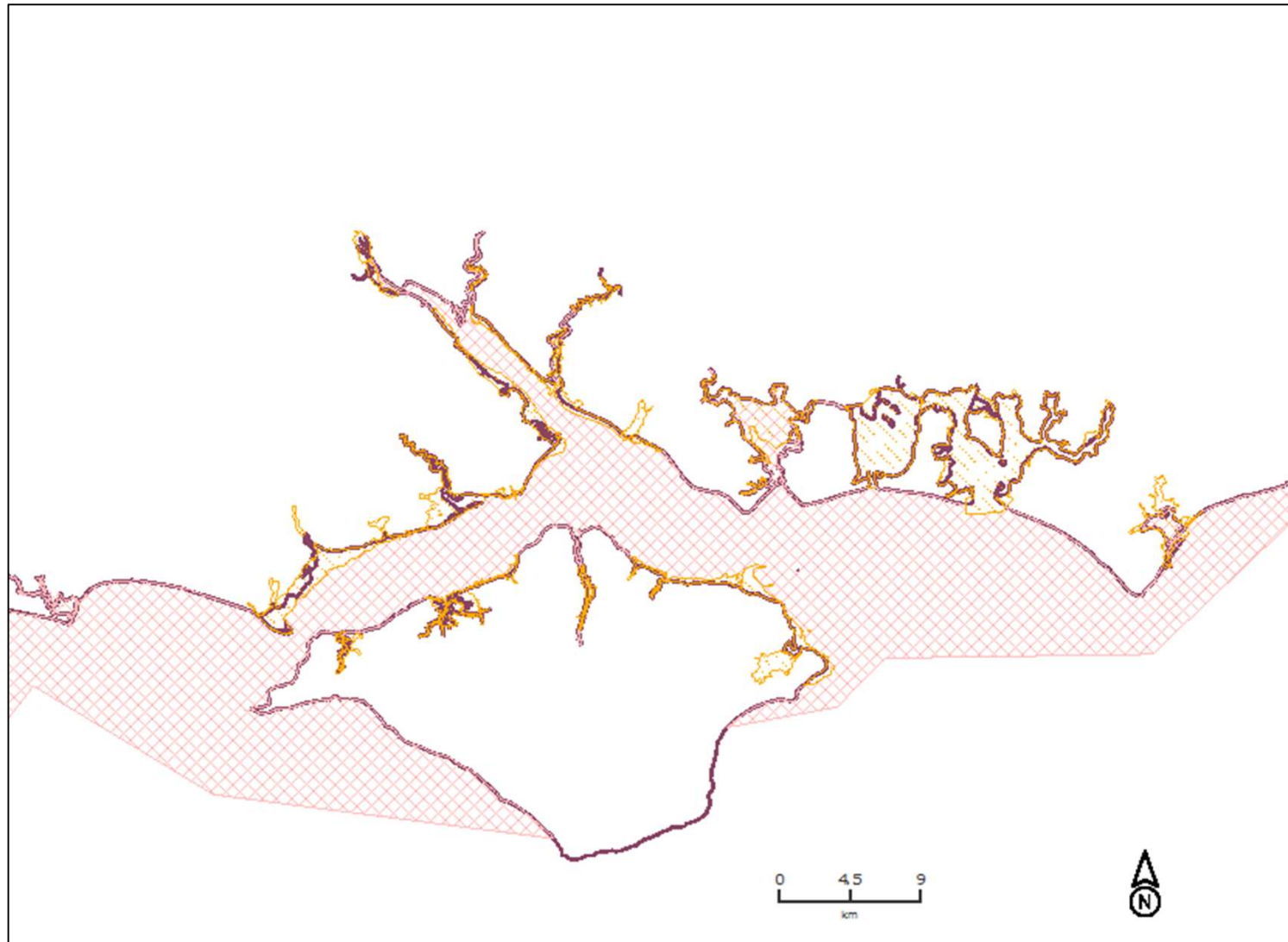
Why?

- **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**

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

Run poll

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/

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 (change from land recreation other)
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 Annual Survey 2020



1. 29 out of 32 Relevant Authorities responded to the Annual Survey
2. Mode response answer to change in activity levels was 'no change'
3. Increases in activity recorded 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 in AMR)
4. Decreases in activity reported for boat repair and maintenance, fishing, general beach recreation, coastal walking, mooring and anchoring and non-motorised watercraft (table 2 in AMR)
5. Activities highlighted by multiple respondents potentially *impacting* on SEMS sites included: **shore-based fishing (bait digging), coastal walking with dogs, litter, and the use of recreational watercraft (small craft accessing sensitive sites and wash/erosion from motor craft)**

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

Covid-19

- Tale of two halves – lockdown v huge growth in coastal activities post lockdown – ‘staycationer overload’ this was national problem
- Some respondents mentioned impacts in their Survey result but the Survey took place in the Spring just as lockdown commenced
- For 2021, proposal is to send out an additional online form with the Survey invite to capture Covid-19 experiences
- Results from ‘Covid-19’ survey will be shared

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 IFCA.

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/.

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/).

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/.

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 4th November. Work will be prioritised early 2021.

There will be a presentation on TEMITH at the Solent Forum meeting on 14 October.

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 in 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: A request has been made to NE for this information and a paper will be submitted to NEG in November 2020.

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. No longer able to contact Co-Coast and it is considered that this action is no longer necessary in light of the drone data that is now recorded by Bird Aware.

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: Data will be collected annually and data has been given to NEG for 2019/20. The data shows low numbers of drone sightings and no sightings of drones causing disturbance. Bird Aware will provide an update at the November 2020 NEG meeting and the data will be put on the SEMS website.

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 sections on Littering and Boating have now been populated and it will be maintained regularly.

http://www.solentforum.org/services/Member_Services/css/

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 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 (list at: <http://solentems.org.uk/sems/ssg/>)
 6. Feed relevant evidence and reports to the SEMS Officer throughout the year and keep on file material for the Annual Survey

Date of Next Meeting

23 September 2021

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