



# Update from EMS Officers' Workshop

**SEMS Management Group meeting  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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# Overview



- 1) MPA Management Project
- 2) IPENS - Site Improvement Plans and Theme Plans
- 3) Natural England's Conservation Advice update
- 4) Marine Conservation Zones update
- 5) Possible Solent and Dorset Coast SPA – informal dialogue

Questions???

# 1) MPA Management Project



## **Aim: to identify future governance structures for MPA management in England**

- National governance and local management coordination for both management activities and reporting.

Need for the project as there is currently:

- No national coordination and no one lead authority.
- Uncertainty around future EMS management scheme funding (national funding ends December 2014).
- No process to enable national reporting of a 'well managed' network (a government commitment by 2016).
- Varying degrees of local/international co-ordination and effectiveness of existing management partnerships
- Current partnerships only cover some EMS and there are no similar structures for MCZs at present.

# 1) MPA Management Project



MPA working group set up (Defra, MMO, NE, EA, LGA, IFCA, JNCC and EMS officer representative):

- October 2013 – Recommendations to the Defra MPA Network Board agreed:
  - Establish a national governance group
  - Project to carry out site audit process to identify management coordination and develop options
- May/June 2014 – National Steering Group established and site audit work commenced.
- June 2014 – August 2014 – request for feedback on:
  - National governance structures
  - Site audit process and QA of site information
- Defra MPA Network Board meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014.

# 1) MPA Management Project – feedback request



- a) Recommendation for **national governance structure** = continuation of National Steering Group (supported by coordinator post) for:
- Provision of consistent guidance for planning and reporting on MPA management;
  - Monitoring of establishment, delivery, and review of MPA management;
  - Provision of guidance on site management;
  - Provision of strategic resource planning for site level coordination;
  - Identification of lead co-ordination at a site level;
  - Identification of cross-cutting risks and issues;
  - Co-ordination of national reporting.

# 1) MPA Management Project – feedback request



- b) The process for determining requirements for site level coordination (**site audit process**):
- Site complexity – number of management authorities and the number and type of issues that require management.
  - Risk assessment – risk of site features not achieving their conservation objectives.
  - Grouping of sites and options for coordination.
- c) Site complexity **QA of initial results** of the site audit process:
- Solent EMS = **High** (More than 15 authorities and more than 10 issues, including recreational disturbance).
  - Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC = **Medium** (Between 8 - 15 authorities and between 5 - 10 issues).

## 2) IPENS – Site Improvement Plans



- Overall **framework** for taking forward Natura 2000 management which partners are committed to delivering
- **Site Improvement Plan** for each Natura 2000 site which identifies:
  - issues** affecting the condition of site
  - actions** required to address them
  - how much it will **cost** and where the money could come from
  - key **stakeholders** who need to take action
- **Theme Plans** to address issues affecting multiple sites
- Find new solutions where no suitable mechanisms currently exist

Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS)  
Planning for the Future

Site Improvement Plan  
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England as part of the Improver sites (IPENS). This work has been financially supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Community. The plan provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Na outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. It does not cover issues where ren ongoing management activities which are required for maintenance.

The SIP consists of three parts: a Summary table, which sets out the priority Issues and Measures; a detailed Actions what, when and how much it will cost; and a set of tables containing contextual information and links.

The SIPs are based on Natural England's current evidence and knowledge, and are live, and not legal documents; th our evidence/knowledge and as Actions get underway. The information in the SIP will be used to update England's Framework (PAF).

The SIPs are not formal consultation documents, but if you have any comments about the SIP or would like more in IPENS.LIFEProject@naturalengland.org.uk or contact Natural England's Responsible Officer for the site via our eng enquires@naturalengland.org.uk

This Site Improvement Plan covers the Natura 2000 site(s)

Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

UK0017073

## 2) IPENS – Theme Plans



High level plans which identify large scale solutions across multiple sites necessary for the management of the Natura 2000 network:

- Invasive non-native species and deer
- Grazing
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Species management
- Hydrological functioning
- Diffuse water pollution
- Lake restoration
- River restoration
- Atmospheric nitrogen deposition
- Inappropriate coastal management
- Recreation and disturbance
- Climate change



### Recreation and disturbance

Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites  
Theme Workshop Note

#### Introduction

Recreation and disturbance is one of the top ten pressures and threats affecting Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) interest features in England (2013 Article 17 data for England), and is particularly relevant to marine and coastal sites and sites. Hence it has been identified as a priority for the IPENS project to address.

A technical workshop was held on 27 August 2013, attended by five experts from Natural England and four representatives of other relevant organisations.

The workshop focused on prioritisation of the recreational activities that are issues for Natura 2000 sites, looked at cumulative impacts on sites, and explored new mechanisms to deal with this problem. The information gathered by the workshop will be used to shape the content of the IPENS Theme Plan.

The Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) has hosted a series of workshops with key stakeholders in order to gather views and ideas on how to resolve some of the issues affecting Natura 2000 sites. The views in this note are those of the workshop participants and do not necessarily represent those of Natural England or the Environment Agency.

A technical workshop was held on 5 Sep eight experts from Natural England and c

The workshop attendees discussed the delivery mechanisms for diffuse pollution for Natura 2000 sites (such as Diffuse Water Pollution Plans, New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS), Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF), and WFD etc.) the barriers to implementation of solutions on the ground and how these might be resolved.



[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000)

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## 2) IPENS – Links to other plans



- Integrated with River Basin Management Plans
- Existing EMS management plans:
  - SIP is not superceding or undermining management scheme
  - A mechanism to help coordinate and deliver management scheme
  - SIP can identify existing plans as a mechanism to deliver actions
  - Can indicate what actions should be incorporated in existing plans when they are updated
- More information:
  - ❖ Webpages: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000>
  - ❖ IPENS mailbox: [IPENSLIFEProject@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:IPENSLIFEProject@naturalengland.org.uk)
  - ❖ [Louisa.Knights@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Louisa.Knights@naturalengland.org.uk) (Marine Lead)

# 3) Conservation Advice



## Updating our Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites to meet Government requirements

Five sections:

- Site overview and feature descriptions;
- Conservation Objectives – clear targets;
- Advice on Operations – linked to activities;
- Condition information – updated as assessments completed;
- Feature maps.

Out of scope:

- Favourable condition tables - how condition will be monitored and assessed;
- Vulnerability assessments - Responsibility of management authorities (with advice and support from Natural England).

Natural England Standard  
Conservation Objectives for  
European Sites in England  
Strategic Standard



1:0 About this standard

### Summary

This strategic standard sets out Natural England's general approach to setting, managing and improving its advice on conservation objectives for European sites in England.

This further develops an proposed outline approach to improving the content of conservation objectives for terrestrial and marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) set out by Natural England with Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), as recommended by the Habitats and Wild Bird Directives Implementation Review ('the HWBDIR') published in March 2012.

This standard will apply to English European Sites on land and water and to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within English territorial waters.

The standard sets out an approach based on ten key principles. Natural England will be clearer on the meaning and purpose of European Site Conservation Objectives and will ensure that - over time - they also reflect any strategic objectives and priorities which may emerge for the national European Site network. In the more immediate term, we will supplement the European Site Conservation Objectives with more objective and quantified advice to enable more effective application by those who use them. Delivery of these improvements will be prioritised based on the risks and issues associated with each site.

European Site Conservation Objectives will be developed using a consistent and transparent approach based on the best available information about each site and its qualifying features. We will strive to ensure that European Site Conservation Objectives will be as accessible as possible and can be clearly understood, and will check this, and

# 3) Conservation Advice



## Timeline for Solent sites:

- Solent Maritime SAC – March 2015
- Portsmouth Harbour SPA – March 2015
- Solent & Southampton Water SPA – December 2016
- Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA – December 2016

- New designated site information system
- Updating all feature maps
- Reviewing all sensitivity assessments
- Standardising conservation objectives
- Each site will have a page on GOV.UK



### European Site Conservation Objectives for The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0017075

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change:

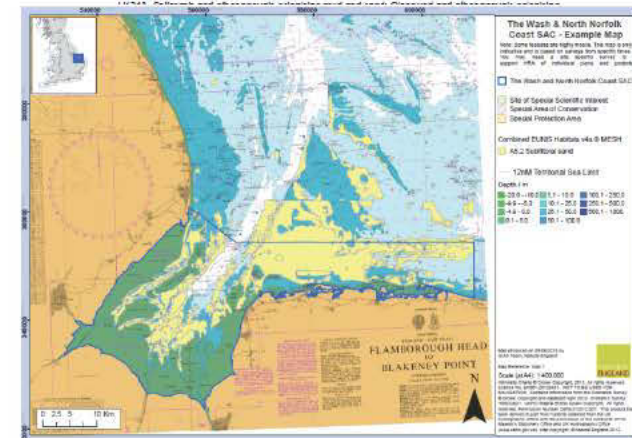
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- > The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- > The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- > The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- > The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- > The populations of qualifying species, and
- > The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Supplementary Advice document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

#### Qualifying Features:

- H110: Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water at the time; Subtidal sandbanks
- H140: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- H150: Coastal lagoons
- H160: Large shallow inlets and bays
- H170: Reefs

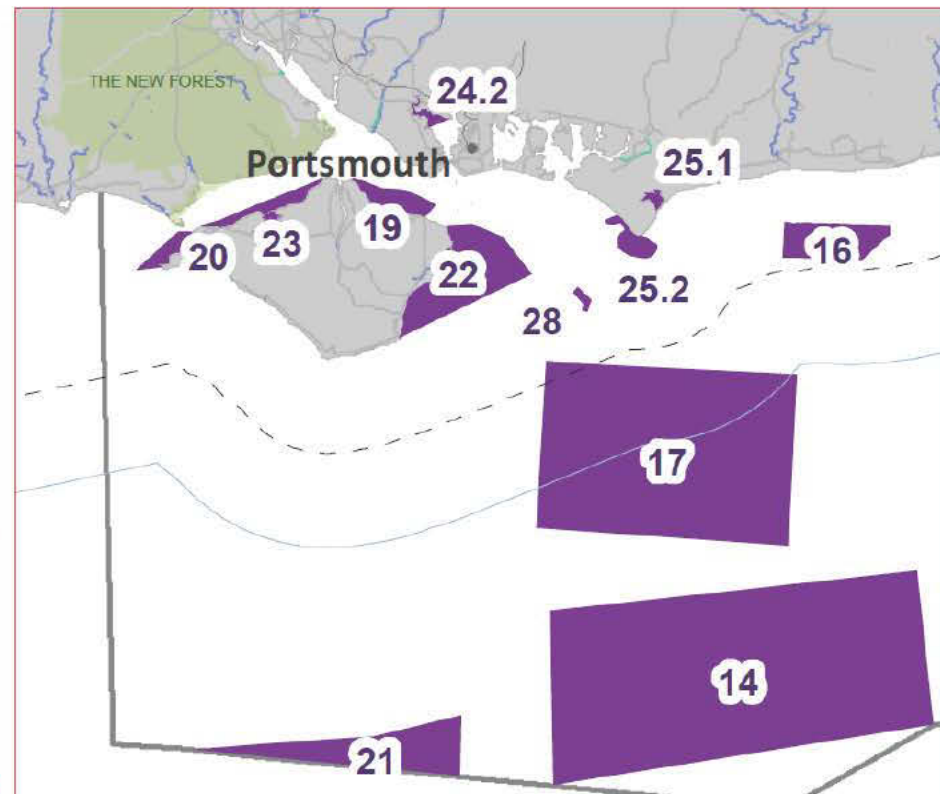
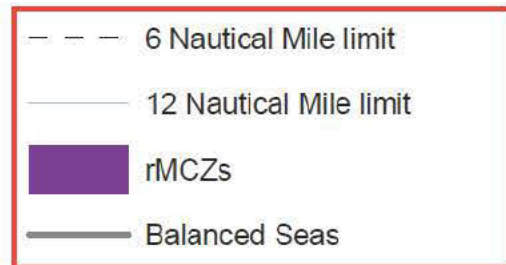


## 4) Marine Conservation Zones



Candidate Tranche 2 (T2) rMCZs in the Solent area:

- 17 – Offshore Overfalls
- 19 – Norris to Ryde
- 20 - The Needles
- 22 - Bembridge
- 23 – Yarmouth to Cowes
- 28 – Utopia



## 4) Marine Conservation Zones



### Timeline:

- August 2014 – Natural England and JNCC provided advice to Defra on the presence and extent of the features and vulnerability assessment for 37 candidate T2 sites.
- September to December 2014 Defra recommendations to ministers on sites suitable for inclusion in the T2 consultation.
- January to March 2015 - Defra public consultation on T2 sites (will include NE & JNCC published advice on features and Defra Impact Assessment on management scenarios.
- By December 2015 – designation of T2 sites.
- Remaining regional project rMCZs will be considered in Tranche 3.



## 5) Solent & Dorset Coast possible SPA



*“A possible new SPA within the Solent and around the Dorset coast for three Tern species - Common, Sandwich and Little Tern.”*

- Review required under UK Government obligations to the EU Birds Directive.
- To protect the foraging habitat of breeding terns - to support the existing designated SPA populations.
- Landward boundary at MLW where it abuts an existing SPA with tern features (no overlap) or at MHW elsewhere to ensure protection in the intertidal area (e.g. Portsmouth Harbour).
- Seaward boundary set using a composite of various foraging ranges of Tern species away from existing colonies within the area.



## 5) Solent & Dorset Coast possible SPA



### Timeline:

- Informal dialogue started 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 – seeking input on initial site recommendations from stakeholders on:
  - Any additional bird data to inform recommendations
  - Information on activities in the area to inform impact assessment
- Early 2015 – Natural England formal advice to Defra.
- Late 2015 – Ministerial approval to start formal public consultation.
- Early 2016 – Final recommendations to Defra
- December 2016 – Decision on the site's classification
- More information is available:
  - Stephen Treby [Solent.MarineSPA@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Solent.MarineSPA@naturalengland.org.uk)
  - [Factsheet on Natural England website](#)



# Questions?







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