



Natural Environment Group (NEG) Project Bidding Pro Forma

Please complete all sections and read the eligibility criteria and timescale at http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Projects/.

Project Title:	<p>'Portunus' - Exploring and recording the underwater habitats of Langstone and Chichester Harbours.</p> <p>(After the Roman God of Harbours)</p>
Project Sponsor/Lead (and full contact details):	<p>Alison Mayor on behalf of Southsea Sub-Aqua Club, c/o Tudor Sailing Club, Eastern Road, Portsmouth, PO3 5LY. portunus@southseasubaqua.org.uk 07740873255</p>
Full Address that any Purchase Order should be made out to	<p>The Treasurer, Southsea Sub-Aqua Club c/o Tudor Sailing Club, Eastern Road, Portsmouth, PO3 5LY.</p>
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>Background</p> <p>Since first established as a branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) in April of 1954, members of Southsea Sub-Aqua Club (SSAC) have been diving and exploring in the local waters around the Solent.</p> <p>Over the past 70 years many discoveries have been made by our members adding to our knowledge of the underwater environment and maritime history, most notably the finding of the sunken Tudor Warship Mary Rose, though more recently, we have investigated wrecks associated with the WW2 Allied invasion of Normandy.</p> <p>In ancient Roman times, Portunus was the god of keys, doors, livestock, and ports. He may have originally protected the warehouses where grain was stored, but later became associated with ports, perhaps because of folk associations between porta "gate, door" and portus "harbour", the "gateway" to the sea.</p> <p>Beginning in 2024, to mark the Club's 70th anniversary year and having relocated our diving club to the shores of Langstone harbour, we have an opportunity to 'go back to our roots' and revisit local sites with a view to learning more about the marine environment on our doorstep. With the rising awareness and concern about the threats associated with climate change and human activity to the marine environment, project Portunus aims to record and share our observations of the underwater habitat and species that are present with relevant stakeholders and interested parties.</p> <p>We are fortunate to be located near our local harbours of Langstone and Chichester which are recognised for their rich history and as valuable conservation sites.</p>

	<p>Project Portunus is a way that our dive club members can learn more about their local waters and provide valuable information that will aid wider consideration of the anthropogenic threats from pollution and climate change to the underwater ecology. This Citizen Science project will be conducted through a programme of dives in both harbours to be undertaken between April and the end of October 2024, members of Southsea Sub-Aqua Club will survey and record underwater habitats and the marine life observed. In addition, water quality (pH, salinity, visibility etc) will be recorded.</p> <p>Aims</p> <p>The aims of the Portunus project are to gather high quality data from various sites in both Langstone and Chichester harbours that will inform a greater understanding of the underwater habitats and species present and provide a baseline for measuring change.</p> <p>It is expected that various biotope habitats can be found within the harbours which will support a diversity of marine life. Whether it be sand, mud, gravel, or wreckage these habitats can offer a home to plants, fish, crustacean, and many other species of marine life. Some species are key indicators for water quality and climate change and their presence, or not, is of interest to other parties.</p> <p>We therefore intend to share all data and observations with relevant stakeholders and interested parties such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Langstone Harbour Board, • Chichester Harbour Conservancy, • The Marine Conservation Society’s ‘Seasearch’ initiative, • The Seahorse Trust, * • Project Seagrass via ‘Seagrass Spotter’ initiative, • BSAC ‘Project Oyster’ • Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, • Sussex Wildlife Trust, • Manhood Peninsular ‘CHASM’ project, • Channel Coastal Observatory, • Clean Harbour Partnership, • The Friends of Langstone Harbour, • The Friends of Chichester Harbour, • The Solent Forum, • Solent Seascape Project (Blue Marine Foundation, Portsmouth University), • Marine Biological Association, and • Natural England. <p>*To note that Alison Mayor, is an authorised Agent of the Seahorse Trust under the MMO licence to conduct seahorse surveys.</p>
<p>What is the value of the project to the Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS), other designated sites or areas of conservation interest?</p>	<p>Project Portunus will add to the wider knowledge of the underwater habitats and species found in both Chichester and Langstone harbours, highlighting any key species (UKBAP) and non-native species recorded on our dives.</p> <p>Portunus will seek to identify suitable sites for longer term monitoring. We will share information with a multitude of stakeholders and raise awareness of the underwater habitats and species that can be found in the harbours through an outreach and community engagement programme. The</p>

	<p>Portunus data can be fed into management measures for the future.</p> <p>In addition, Portunus provides an opportunity for the diving community to learn new skills that will benefit future survey projects throughout their diving career. Our community engagement will hope to inspire others to value our marine environment and participate in citizen science projects.</p>
<p>Project Outputs:</p>	<p>The survey data gathered from each dive will be submitted by online reporting as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasearch reports https://www.seasearch.org.uk/record • Seahorse sightings https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/conservation/british-seahorse-survey/ • Seagrass sightings https://www.bsac.com/forms/seagrass-survey-form/ • Native Oyster sightings https://www.bsac.com/forms/recordanoyster/ • Cetacean sightings https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/sightings/ • Non-Native Species sightings https://irecord.org.uk/ <p>In addition, an annual report will be produced summarising the data collected and highlighting any unusual observations. The report will also include any points of learning for further phases. Sites identified as suitable for future monitoring will be explored with stakeholders.</p> <p>As well as building relationships with our stakeholder communities we plan to raise awareness and through media coverage (including social media) and outreach programmes with local community groups and schools etc.</p> <p>Portunus is also an opportunity for many of our members to learn about our harbours and the environmental issues facing these habitats and develop new skills and knowledge through training, study, and participation.</p>
<p>Project Timescale and Milestones:</p>	<p>Initial phase (Year 1) beginning April 2024 and completing December 2024 (1st year report). Subsequent years of monitoring (2 to 5 years)</p>
<p>Overall Project Cost (£): <i>Please detail other funding sources secured/sought.</i></p>	<p>Year 1 £2.5K, Subsequent years £1.5K pa.</p> <p>Assistance through grant funding for year 1 is also being sought from Sea Changers. Other stakeholders may also make donations and some fundraising activities will be organised.</p> <p>Southsea Sub-Aqua Club is a volunteer, not for profit organisation. Funding for club assets and activities is through members' subscriptions. Members normally pay for their training costs (instructors give their time for free) and for the cost of SCUBA equipment and diving (gas etc) used when diving with our club. If successful, this grant funding, would help pay for survey equipment (some of which can also be used for engagement activity) and contribution to boat fuel/oil etc. Any shortfall will be shared equally between participants based on the number of dives.</p>

Funding contribution sought from NEG (£): <i>The amount requested should be match funded.</i>	£1,500.00 The project will still go ahead without NEG funding. Divers will be asked to contribute to the cost of diving (mainly boat fuel).
Will the project still go ahead without NEG funding?	The number of dives and community outreach events may need to be scaled back.
Geographical coverage of the project: <i>The project must cover some aspect of the coastal or marine environment of the Solent.</i>	The sublittoral area of Chichester and Langstone Harbours. We are planning dives on various habitats, including: Wrecks/structures/obstructions, Sand / shingle seabed. Mud/silt seabed. Sea grass meadow Oyster reef.
Please list any project partners:	No direct partners but HQ support from the British Sub-Aqua Club. Other stakeholders as mentioned above.
Additional information to support the Bid:	Project Portunus plan including risk assessment attached to this application.

Submission date:

Please email completed forms to solentforum@hants.gov.uk by the last day of February. **Important: If you do not get a receipt for your application, please phone the office.**