

The meeting was held via Zoom

## **Meeting Notes**

**Chair – Jason Scott, River Hamble Harbour Master**

**Secretariat – Kate Ansell, Solent Forum**

*Please note all meeting presentations and papers are uploaded to:  
<http://solentems.org.uk/sems/AMR/>.*

### **Attendees**

Anna	Parry	Bird Aware Solent
Tom	Day	Chichester DC
Peter	Hughes	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Richard	Austin	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Paul	Howe	Eastleigh BC
Jackie	Mellan	Environment Agency
Gill	Glover	Havant BC
Grace	Booth	Isle of Wight Council
Sue	Hawley	Isle of Wight Estuaries
Billy	Johnson	Langstone Harbour Board
Louise	MacCallum	Langstone Harbour Board
Jessica	Taylor	Natural England
Daniel	Young	Portsmouth CC
Ben	McInnes	Portsmouth International Port
David	Barter	QHM
Jason	Scott	River Hamble Harbour Authority (Chair)
Alison	Fowler	River Hamble Harbour Authority
Karen	McHugh	Solent Forum
Kate	Ansell	Solent Forum (Secretariat)
Patrick	Cooper	Southern IFCA
Nick	Rogers	Sussex IFCA
Jenny	Abery	Test Valley BC

### **Chair's Introduction**

The Chair welcomed all to this first online meeting of the SEMS Management Group, particularly first time attendees. He also thanked Solent Forum staff for hosting the meeting, and Jess Taylor from Natural England for her input into the Annual Management Report's evaluation section on activity impacts.

## Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The Group agreed the minutes of the Annual Management Group, 2019.

The first matter arising was the name change to **Solent Marine Sites**. This is proposed to avoid confusion post BREXIT and increase the flexibility of SEMS to incorporate other MPA sites if needed, such as the Solent's designated MCZs. The acronym SEMS will remain, and the logo will be retained and adapted. An online poll was held and there was a majority verdict to agree the name change.

The second matter arising was to raise awareness that the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA was designated in January 2020. Relevant Authorities are asked to include, in their annual survey return, any concerns they have on activities impacting on the terns for which this site has been designated - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/solent-and-dorset-coast-potential-special-protection-area-comment-on-proposals>.

The final matter arising was the impact of Covid-19 on the level of recreation throughout summer 2020. To capture people's views, an additional form will be sent out with the 2021 Annual Survey to record and share people's experiences.

## Annual Management Report (AMR), 2020

The group agreed the content of the Annual Management Report, the comments made at the meeting are listed below, these will be incorporated into the Annual Management Report where relevant and the action sections will be updated.

1. Importance of harbours maintaining their oil spill exercise work.
2. Southern IFCA value the partnership working of the Solent Intertidal Mudflat Group – anyone else who would like to be involved please email the Forum office – [solentforum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:solentforum@hants.gov.uk). Langstone Harbour Board would like to be involved. The value of the mudflat group will be building the evidence base for potential future management measures.
3. Southern IFCA are developing information on roles and responsibilities for shellfish gathering which they will disseminate.
4. Chichester Harbour Conservancy are concerned about how data on shellfish collection is used for management. Sussex IFCA replied that they are looking at bringing in additional management with partners, so please continue to feed evidence of impacts to them which they will collate to build the evidence base.
5. Southern IFCA are reviewing their seagrass byelaws which may alter management.
6. Bird Aware Solent asked that the dates for their five year monitoring be moved to 2022, as the winter 2021 monitoring will not be a typical year due to COVID-19.
7. Bird Aware Solent Rangers have been recording data on drones seen in the winter months. A gap was identified for lack of data in the summer months, this will be passed on as an action to NEG to evaluate.
8. Authorities are concerned about the use of paddleboards disturbing birds and seals, these craft have a large physical presence and can access sensitive sites throughout the day. It is hard to monitor or manage them outside of patrol hours. NEG was asked to research the evidence base on the impacts from this activity. This information can then be used by Harbour Authorities to educate users/manage further.
9. The national Coastal Partnership Network is bidding for funding for a 'Wild Recreation Guide' this will help to ensure nationally consistent messaging on recreation.
10. A concern was raised about wildfowling and whether the government may look to revise their approach to this activity. Natural England will explore this and report back.

11. Portsmouth CC raised the consultation of the Southsea Seafront Masterplan - <https://southseacoastalscheme.org.uk/seafront-masterplan/>

12. Priority actions that the Management Group would like to focus on are:

- The continued population of the Clean Solent Shores and Seas resource hub
- Progress the Solent Mudflat and Disturbance group to address issues causing impacts on mudflats and potential for partnership working
- Potential of disturbance from drones in the summer months
- Research the evidence base of impacts from paddle boarding and disseminate

### **Relevant Authority Feedback**

Please remember to report any staff changes to the SEMS Office.

Any research and reports can be fed to the SEMS Office throughout the year in addition to the Annual Survey. Please also continue to report any impacts noted on designated sites from activities throughout the year.

### **Meeting Format**

An online poll was held to discover what type of meeting was preferred in 2021. The majority voted that they were happy for the meeting to be held online or in person. The online platform most preferred was Zoom. Everyone in the meeting reported that they could successfully access the meeting documents.

### **Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **23 September 2021**.

### **Apologies**

Paul	Linwood	Southern Water Services
Lindsay	McCulloch	Southampton CC
Richard	Smith	Winchester CC
Sue	Simmonite	ABP
Nicola	Craig	Wightlink
Lisa	Malter	Eastleigh BC
Nick	Hey	Wightlink Ferries
Adam	Lewis	Beaulieu Harbour