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# Solent Marine Sites

## Annual Survey Report, 2023

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Solent Forum  
June 2023



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## 1 Introduction

This document is the Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Annual Survey Report, (ASR) which presents the findings from the SEMS annual online survey that took place in Spring 2023. It is prepared by the Solent Forum in its role as the SEMS Secretariat. The purpose of this survey is to:

- Monitor changes in 17 non-licensable coastal activities that take place within the Solent’s designated sites.
- Identify those activities that are having an impact on the features of the sites.
- Gather background evidence for the SEMS Annual Management Report.

The responses recorded in this report were made by the Solent’s Relevant Authorities (RAs) and have been set out verbatim. Analysis of the responses takes place in the SEMS Annual Management Report; this report also sets out subsequent management measures and actions for discussion at the SEMS Annual Management Group meeting.

The activities surveyed reflect the activity categories used in Natural England’s Conservation Advice packages for Marine Protected Areas. This enables us to cross refer the survey findings to the impacts of activities as published in this Advice. The Conservation Advice packages can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conservation-advice-packages-for-marine-protected-areas>.

Locations and details on the Solent Marine Sites can be found on Natural England’s Designated Sites System at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>. The sites can be viewed spatially on Defra’s MAGIC map at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>.

Past SEMS Annual Survey Reports can be accessed at: <http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/>.

## 2 Survey Respondents

Out of the 31 RAs who were invited to complete the 2023 SEMS survey 28 responded. Table 1 shows a list of respondents. Table 2 identifies the types of RAs which responded. One respondent notified a change to their coastal and marine management responsibilities since the last survey in 2022. Chichester District Council saw their engineering service transferred to Coastal Partners.

**Table 1. Relevant Authorities who completed the 2023 survey**

Beaulieu River Management (BRM)	Natural England (NE)
Chichester District Council (CDC)	New Forest District Council (NFDC)
Chichester Harbour Conservancy (ChHC)	New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)
Cowes Harbour Commissioners (CoHC)	Portsmouth International Port (PIP)
Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC)	King’s Harbour Master (Portsmouth) (KHM)
Environment Agency (EA)	River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA)
Fareham Borough Council (FBC)	Southern IFCA (SoIFCA)
Gosport Borough Council (GBC)	Southern Water (SW)
Hampshire County Council (HCC)	Sussex IFCA (SxIFCA)

Havant Borough Council (HBC)	Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)
Isle of Wight Council (IoWC)	West Sussex County Council (WSCC)
Langstone Harbour Board (LHB)	Wightlink Ferries (WL)
Lymington Harbour Commissioners (LHC)	Winchester City Council (WCC)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners (YHC)
<b>Organisations who did not respond:</b> Associated British Ports (ABP), Portsmouth City Council (PCC), Southampton City Council (SCC)	

**Table 2. The type of Relevant Authority who responded to the Survey**

Authority Type	Count
Government Authority	4
Harbour Authority	9
IFCA	2
Local Authority	11
Other	1
Private Company	1

### 3 Activity Summary

Section 3 summarises the survey response data on individual activities. Respondents were questioned on seventeen different types of activity.

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

### 3.1 Jurisdiction of Activities in the Solent

Table 3 illustrates how many relevant authorities (RA) recorded that a particular activity takes place within their jurisdiction.

<b>Table 3. Activities that fall within the jurisdiction of SEMS Management Group members</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Percentage of SEMS MG Relevant Authorities with jurisdiction for each activity</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up</b>	57%	16
<b>Boat Repair and Maintenance</b>	54%	15
<b>Fishing (including shellfisheries)</b>	50%	14
<b>Fishing (shore-based activities)</b>	71%	20
<b>General Beach Recreation</b>	50%	14
<b>Grazing and Foraging</b>	25%	7
<b>Land Recreation - Dog Walking</b>	61%	17
<b>Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)</b>	61%	17
<b>Littering and removal of litter</b>	68%	19
<b>Mooring and Anchoring</b>	61%	17
<b>Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes</b>	57%	16
<b>Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)</b>	57%	16
<b>Recreation - light aircraft</b>	36%	10
<b>Recreation - non-motorised watercraft</b>	68%	19
<b>Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine</b>	61%	17
<b>Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance</b>	54%	15
<b>Wildfowling</b>	29%	8

### 3.2 Summary of Changes Recorded in Activity Levels

Respondents were asked whether, since the last survey in spring 2021, each activity had increased, decreased, had no change since the previous year or they had no data. Table 4 summarises the data. The mode value of the responses has been highlighted in green.

**Table 4. Summary of reported changes in activity levels from spring 2022 to spring 2023**

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	1	0	14	1	16
Boat Repair and Maintenance	1	0	11	3	15
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	0	0	12	2	14
Fishing (shore-based activities)	2	0	13	5	20
General Beach Recreation	0	1	8	5	14
Grazing and Foraging	0	1	3	4	8
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	1	0	9	7	17
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	0	0	12	6	18
Littering and removal of litter	1	1	12	5	19
Mooring and Anchoring	1	1	12	3	17
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	3	0	10	3	16
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	2	0	14	0	16
Recreation - light aircraft	0	0	7	3	10
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	3	1	10	5	19
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	1	2	11	3	17
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	0	0	14	1	15
Wildfowling	0	0	8	0	8

### 3.3 Activity Impacts on Designated Sites

Respondents were asked whether they thought that the activities surveyed were having an impact on the features of the Solent Marine Sites. Table 5 summarises the data. The mode value of the responses has been highlighted in green, where the results are close these have been highlighted in a paler green.

Table 5. Activities Impacting on Designated Sites				
Activity	Yes	No	Total Responses	Org Names (where Yes)
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up	2	14	16	NFDC, ChHC
Boat Repair and Maintenance	1	14	15	ChHC
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	5	9	14	GBC, SxIFCA, EA, MMO, ChHC
Fishing (shore-based activities)	5	15	20	EBC, SxIFCA, MMO, ChHC, FBC
General Beach Recreation	5	9	14	EBC, NE, HCC, ChHC, FBC
Grazing and Foraging	1	5	6	ChHC
Land Recreation - Dog Walking	14	3	17	EBC, LHB, CDC, IOWC, GBC, WCC, WSCC, NE, NFNPA, HCC, BRM, MMO, ChHC, FBC
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	12	6	18	EBC, LHB, CDC, IOWC, GBC, WCC, NE, NFNPA, HCC, BRM, ChHC, FBC
Littering and removal of litter	11	8	19	LHC, EBC, LHB, IOWC, GBC, WCC, EA, HCC, BRM, ChHC, FBC
Mooring and Anchoring	5	12	17	NE, BRM, MMO, ChHC, FBC
Operation of coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes	7	9	16	LHC, EBC, GBC, EA, NE, MMO, ChHC
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	0	16	16	
Recreation - light aircraft	0	10	10	
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	8	11	19	LHC, EBC, LHB, GBC, NE, BRM, ChHC, FBC
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	8	9	17	EBC, LHB, GBC, NE, MMO, ChHC, PIP, FBC
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	0	15	15	
Wildfowling	1	7	8	ChHC

### 3.4 Annual Trend Data

Table 6 shows the mode response for activity change for a time series; currently we have data for five years.

Table 6. Trend data for activity change					
Activity	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Accidental vessel discharges/emissions	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Boat repair and maintenance	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Fishing (including shellfisheries)	NC	NC	NC	NC	D/NC
Fishing (shore-based activities)	NC	NC	DK	NC	NC
Grazing and foraging	NC	DK	I	NC	N/a
General beach recreation	NC	NC	I	NC	NC
Land recreation - Dog walking	NC	NC	I	NC	NC
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	NC	NC	I	NC	NC
Littering and removal of litter	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Mooring and anchoring	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Operation of FCERM	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Recreation - light aircraft	NC	NC	NC	I	NC
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	NC	I	I	NC	I/NC
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	NC	NC	I/DK	NC	NC
Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Wildfowling	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
<b>Key: I = increase, D = decrease, NC = No change, DK = Don't Know</b> Source: SEMS Annual Surveys: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019					



## 4 Individual Activity Responses

Section 4 presents the individual relevant authority comments for each activity; the comments are presented verbatim. For respondent organisation abbreviations please see Table 1.

### 4.1 Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up

*Activity includes accidental discharges and/or emissions from all types of vessels, including exhaust fumes, wastewater, sewerage, oils, lubricants, and chemicals, including oil spill and clean-up.*

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Accidental vessel discharges/emissions including oil spill and clean-up</b>	1	0	14	1	16

Respondent	Comments
<b>LHB</b>	Langstone Harbour Board are required to operate and update an Oil Spill Contingency Plan and a Waste Management Plan to identify and mitigate these risks.
<b>NFDC</b>	A general comment that if these activities occurred there would be an impact. NFDC only have responsibility under a tier one spill that would impact the shore. The NFDC oil spill response plan will reviewed over the next 12 months.
<b>GBC</b>	We are not aware of any incidents this past year.
<b>EA</b>	We are not aware of any significant spills or discharges of unregulated substances to the marine environment - the Harbour Authorities or large industries may notify the EA if this was the case, and the MCA and relevant authorities would lead a clean-up operation for pollution arising from the sea
<b>RHHA</b>	RHHA installed a sewage pump out station at its Warsash Jetty in May 2022. Numerous sewage spills form land-sources (southern water overflows) reported in the river. Some reported on to EA hotline and Southern Water by members of public.
<b>YHC</b>	Two incidents last year, one oil spill and one accidental bilge pump out. Both incidents dealt with quickly and effectively so impact minimised.
<b>MMO</b>	No incidents this year that we are aware of. Incident in Poole Harbour in March, impact to the Solent unknown.
<b>ChHC</b>	Small scale spills and leaks likely to have a small impact but unknown scale.

### 4.2 Boat Repair and Maintenance

*Activity includes vessel maintenance and repair on land or afloat, including hull cleaning. Please also consider the vessels, machinery and vehicles associated with this activity.*

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Boat Repair and Maintenance</b>	1	0	11	3	15

Respondent	Comments
<b>KHM</b>	NB Only those activities of this nature which are undertaken within the confines of HM Naval Base Portsmouth.

<b>LHB</b>	The Harbour Board encourage the use of RYA/Green Blue environment campaigns to ensure that best practice is followed.
<b>NE</b>	Work is underway to map the increasing numbers of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) present across the Solent.
<b>BRM</b>	Boatyard during the winter has seen a huge demand with more customers requesting storage ashore.
<b>ChHC</b>	Brighton Uni have found GRP particles in harbour likely source from boat maintenance.

### 4.3 Fishing (including shellfisheries)

Activity includes anchored nets or lines, electrofishing, traps, pelagic fishing (or fishing activities that do not interact with seabed), hydraulic dredges, dredges, demersal trawl, demersal seines, diving, and sea angling.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Fishing (including shellfisheries)</b>	0	0	12	2	14

Respondent	Comments
<b>KHM</b>	SIFCA regularly patrol and monitor this activity.
<b>LHC</b>	Limited fishing permitted within harbour limits
<b>EBC</b>	Inshore netting within the Hamble Estuary, the Estuary mouth and Southampton water are all likely to be having negative impacts on SEMS sites and also the interest features of SACs (i.e. salmonids in the Itchen).
<b>LHB</b>	All commercial fishing vessels operating in Langstone Harbour are recorded when sighted, including the type of fishing being undertaken. There was a small and short-lived increase in traffic when the shellfish beds were reclassified, but this was not substantial.
<b>GBC</b>	On the whole, this activity is not considered to have an impact, however there is uncertainty how smaller trawling operations just off the coast affect SEMs sites.
<b>SxIFCA</b>	As a result of the oyster beds remaining closed to dredging in the past year, there has been no oyster dredging activity taking place within Chichester Harbour. There has been no increase in sea angling, netting or potting intensities within Chichester Harbour or the surrounding area over the past year and any impact is very low due to low intensities. We continue to monitor fishing activity on routine patrols in the Sussex IFCA district. Trawling activity remains prohibited within Chichester Harbour under the Sussex IFCA Nearshore Trawling Byelaw.
<b>EA</b>	There are on-going concerns in relation to migratory salmonids and netting (though this links strongly to the freshwater designations, the activity occurs within these areas). The only fishery which the EA regulate in this area is the Beaulieu Seine net - now regulated under byelaw rather than net limitation order. The other relevant activity is the fyke net fishery for European Eel which operates within designated sites. All other aspects of fishing are regulated by Southern IFCA, of which we have a member on their committee. There has been an increase in intertidal seagrass in Portsmouth Harbour, probably linked to the bylaw stopping shellfish dredging there.
<b>SoIFCA</b>	Overall fishing activity remains consistent throughout the Solent, the level of activity in the scallop fishery has settled since the last annual survey with the introduction of measures for the scallop fishery under Category A Permits under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw. Activity in the Solent clam fishery remains lower due to limited access to

	areas as a result of shellfish bed classifications and a preference for engaging in the scallop fishery for those with the appropriate vessels/gear. The scallop fishery still continues to occur primarily outside the SEMS.
<b>CoHC</b>	Only one commercial fishing vessel and it's not monitored.
<b>MMO</b>	Reports by fishermen that crab and lobster have decreased over the past year.
<b>ChHC</b>	Probably likely impacts from netting and angling, through direct removal of species or disturbance to nearby habitats.

#### 4.4 Fishing (shore-based activities)

Activity includes crab tiling, bait digging, shellfish collection (including seed mussel) e.g. by hand (with or without digging apparatus), rake or using 'tiles'. Also includes rod and line angling, the setting of pots and nets from the shore and the use of vehicles or vessels to access the shoreline.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Fishing (shore-based activities)</b>	2	0	13	5	20

Respondent	Comments
<b>LHC</b>	Limited rod and line angling and crabbing. Very limited bait digging at upper harbour limits.
<b>EBC</b>	Probably has increased. Coast from Hamble to Netley is popular with shore anglers. Litter can be a problem plus some (low) potential for direct disturbance from anglers. Bait digging, especially for ragworm, may also be a problem along the Hamble estuary in places
<b>LHB</b>	Activity has decreased substantially over the past 2/3 years. Bait digging is still witnessed, mostly during the summer, but this tends to be individuals or groups of 2/3 across all intertidal areas, rather than focussed on one point. Hand gathering of Pacific Oysters (PO) is witnessed every day during the summer - this is not a concern for us as PO constitute INNS.
<b>CDC</b>	Have seen illegal shell-fishing activities.
<b>IOWC</b>	Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.
<b>SxIFCA</b>	Bird disturbance, sediment disturbance, potential impacts on target species and impacts on food availability for protected bird species. Largely focused around Nutbourne & Prinstead Channels which feed into Thorney channel; Emsworth channel; Thorney Island; Pilsey island which is accessed either by sea or by land; Chichester Marina and Chidham, all accessible from several locations by land or boat. Other known hand gathering locations are Dell quay, Northney marina, Copperas Point, Westlands, Birdham pool, and Longmere point. Year-round activity, over spring tides especially but has been reported to us on a daily basis over summer months. Diggers/collectors accessing the intertidal areas by both land and boat. Sussex IFCA has now sent it's Hand gathering Byelaw to Defra for approval. Intensities of shore-based activities HAVE NOT increased over the past 12 months. We continue to monitor fishing activity on routine patrols in the Sussex IFCA district.
<b>EA</b>	Of these activities only rod and line angling falls within the EA's jurisdiction - and this is only partially with EA responsibility for salmonids - sea angling for marine species falls within Southern IFCA's jurisdiction as do the other activities listed. It is unlikely that rod and line angling has a significant impact on the SEMS sites, though there are potential concerns of a low level of impact, in relation to removal of species, accidentally

	discarded fishing gear in terms of plastic pollution, and disturbance from anglers visiting coastal locations.
<b>RHHA</b>	Hand collection of Pacific oysters by commercial fishermen was observed and reported at Hamble Spit and Hook Spit during summer 2022. Liaison with SIFCA, Southampton Port Health and NE. Also, bait digging remains elevated on the Hamble and RHHA continues its provision of information and liaison with SIFCA and police.
<b>NE</b>	Activity levels have increased across the Solent, including reports of hand gathering (particularly for Pacific oysters) in Southampton Water. Increased activity also observed along coast of Isle of Wight including hand gathering of bivalves. Further work is required to determine whether or not this is impacting SEMS
<b>CoHC</b>	Only small amounts of recreational angling from quay walls etc.
<b>MMO</b>	Digging on protected sites.
<b>ChHC</b>	Hand-gathering and bait-digging removes large volumes of shellfish annually and disturbs mudflat sediment.
<b>FBC</b>	Evidence of small scale (individual) shellfish collection and bait digging occurs along the Fareham coastline. It is unclear what level of impact this has on the SEMS.

#### 4.5 General Beach Recreation

Activity includes other coastal land recreation and leisure activities such as educational or scientific studies, horse riding on the beach, fireworks displays, swimming, rock pooling, surfing, and non-motorised land craft (e.g. sand yachting, kite buggying).

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>General Beach Recreation</b>	0	1	8	5	14

Respondent	Comments
<b>EBC</b>	I'm not sure these activities at present would be too damaging given the nature of the coastline that falls within Eastleigh.
<b>LHB</b>	Less pressure observed on intertidal habitats. Perhaps a result of the Covid-19 pandemic 'ending' - people are more able to travel abroad and less dependent on local recreation spots.
<b>IOWC</b>	Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.
<b>SW</b>	We have launched a conservation grant scheme which includes funding to manage access & recreation to protect site features.
<b>GBC</b>	Officers from Streetscene advise they do not consider this activity to be impacting SEMS sites. There may be some impact in certain sensitive locations such as on the Portsmouth Harbour coast, but we have no evidence to support this.
<b>NE</b>	Activity levels similar to last year but high possibly as a result of an increased number of staycations post covid pandemic particularly around IOW and New Forest coasts which may result in disturbance, damage for trampling and increased plastic pollution / littering.
<b>HCC</b>	The increased footfall on the beach during the peak summer seasons has the expected increase in litter and disruption to wildlife controlled by on site litter picking and limited access to car parking. Also signage to raise awareness around consideration for native wildlife.
<b>YHC</b>	Limited and controlled access within harbour jurisdiction.
<b>ChHC</b>	Walking on sand/mudflats and coastal habitats and resulting in bird disturbance.

<b>FBC</b>	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.
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## 4.6 Grazing and Foraging

Activity includes grazing on saltmarsh or intertidal areas.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Grazing and Foraging</b>	0	1	3	4	8

Respondent	Comments
<b>SoIFCA</b>	The only aspect which may fall within Southern IFCA jurisdiction is seaweed harvesting. A review of seaweed harvesting will form part of the Southern IFCA Shore Gathering Review which is currently underway. This is an activity which has the ability to be managed by multiple authorities which will be considered as part of the review. Until the review has been concluded there are no updates in relation to this activity within the SEMS from Southern IFCA.
<b>YHC</b>	Grazing does not occur within jurisdiction but there may be some low-level foraging by humans.
<b>ChHC</b>	Relative small-scale impacts from gathering of plants from saltmarsh habitats.

## 4.7 Land Recreation - Dog Walking

Activity includes recreational participation with dogs, including the use of dogs in wildfowling.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Land Recreation - Dog Walking</b>	1	0	9	7	17

Respondent	Comments
<b>KHM</b>	Have received no information or contacted from any source on this topic.
<b>EBC</b>	Direct disturbance to birds/other fauna, erosion from dog walkers, fouling. Most sensitive sites are along the Solent foreshore through Hamble Common. There are other areas further up the Hamble where this could still be an issue but probably less so. Probably increasing as the dog population increases.
<b>LHB</b>	Areas of West Hayling are highly susceptible to disturbance to overwintering bird species roosting on intertidal mudflats by dogs not kept under control. Having been out on a number of patrols with Bird Aware Solent, I feel this is kept relatively in check - people are mostly susceptible.
<b>CDC</b>	Continuing impacts from historical levels of development and hence visitor and dog numbers and disturbance. Bird Aware Solent not designed to address this, just to prevent newer development making it worse.
<b>IOWC</b>	Evidence through the SRMP work showed that recreational pressure on the SPA is causing disturbance to birds. The Isle of Wight Council, in collaboration with Solent Bird Aware (also known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures. Results

	from recent monitoring work carried out by Bird Aware shows limited success and therefore review of strategy implementation is ongoing.
<b>SW</b>	We have launched a conservation grant scheme which includes funding to manage access & recreation to protect site features.
<b>GBC</b>	While we have no direct evidence of impact, dog walking is at a very high level around the Borough's coastline as it a popular dog walking destination for people in the Borough and from further afield. The impact is most likely to be more acute on the western and southern coastline of the Borough given the proximity of footpaths to the sea. The prevalence of dog walking is all year round. The Council continues to plan investment into the Alver Valley Country Park which acts as a SANG to deflect pressure from the coast - although work is ongoing the Borough Council has purchased additional formerly private land within the Alver Valley to improve the Country Park as a destination.
<b>WCC</b>	General increase in activity and related disturbance due to increasing numbers of residents accessing the countryside for recreational purposes.
<b>WSCC</b>	Dogs off leads disturbing feeding and roosting waders and wildfowl. Intensity not known and impacts likely to depend on other factors such as weather conditions, Chichester Harbour generally but notably West Wittering & Fishbourne Creek.
<b>NE</b>	Increased number of walkers observed around the IOW, possibly as a result of an increased number of staycations post covid pandemic with indications that this has increased disturbance levels on certain bird features in the area e.g. sanderling populations in decline at Ryde Sand. New Forest coast also remains popular with walkers with the potential for impacts to key wild bird nesting / foraging areas through trampling and disturbance.
<b>NFNPA</b>	No monitoring by us in place to provide evidence so opinion based on incomplete data. Complaints from public in respect of disturbance events at places such as Keyhaven and Lymington marshes would suggest the levels of activity, disregard for guidance and signage and poor control of dogs by some owners is continuing. Liaison with Bird Aware Rangers and NPA rangers occurs, less coverage of coast by our own Rangers due to resource constraints. As with walking, the Authority has no regulatory powers and no relevant land ownership - thus 'jurisdiction' limited to second purpose and the voluntary access management mechanisms noted in first activity.
<b>HCC</b>	The expected erosion and degradation of the coastal areas by footfall. Increased number of dogs will have an impact on the local wildlife. This is mitigated by access guidance and advertising of best countryside practice and tips on considerate dog walking.
<b>BRM</b>	Bird nesting season, we see the most impact and damage. We are witnessing more dogs off leads even though we have signage, regular email communications and educational leaflets
<b>YHC</b>	Generally no impact on the site but there are occasional incidents of dogs off leads disturbing birds.
<b>MMO</b>	Unknown impacts, however, impacts likely caused through not picking up after dogs and leaving litter bags.
<b>ChHC</b>	Walking on sand/mudflats and coastal habitats and resulting bird disturbance
<b>FBC</b>	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.

## 4.8 Land recreation - Walking (not with dogs)

Activity includes walking on upper shore or intertidal zone (other than dog walking).

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Land recreation - Walking (other than dog walking)	0	0	12	6	18

Respondent	Comments
<b>KHM</b>	Have received no information or contacted from any source on this topic.
<b>EBC</b>	There is public access (car parks and foot access) along the foreshore on the Solent Coast and from Hamble Common. There is more limited access further up the Hamble Estuary but still likely to be impacts. There will be an impact although intensity is unknown - disturbance, erosion, littering but again intensity unknown.
<b>LHB</b>	Trampling of sensitive habitats and disturbance to SPA/Ramsar species
<b>CDC</b>	Continuing impacts from historical levels of development and hence visitor numbers and disturbance. Bird Aware Solent not designed to address this, just to prevent newer development making it worse.
<b>IOWC</b>	Evidence through the SRMP work showed that recreational pressure on the SPA is causing disturbance to birds. The Isle of Wight Council, in collaboration with Solent Bird Aware (also known as the SRMP), is working to mitigate increased pressure through new housing development. This does not address existing pressures. Results from recent monitoring work carried out by Bird Aware shows limited success and therefore review of strategy implementation is ongoing.
<b>SW</b>	We have launched a conservation grant scheme which includes funding to manage access and recreation to protect site features.
<b>GBC</b>	No significant changes reported in the last year. However there is a potential for recreational disturbance on the coast, with activity along Gosport Borough's entire coastline high. We have no evidence to directly quantify this impact however taking a precautionary approach we expect this will have some level of impact. The Borough's urbanised nature increases pressure on the coastline. Lee-on-the-Solent attracts people from the wider sub-region. The Council is part of Bird Aware Solent.
<b>WCC</b>	General increase in residents accessing the countryside for recreation.
<b>NE</b>	Increased number of walkers observed around the IOW, possibly as a result of an increased number of staycations post covid pandemic with indications that this has increased disturbance levels on certain bird features in the area e.g. sanderling populations in decline at Ryde Sand. New Forest coast also remains popular with walkers with the potential for impacts to key wild bird nesting / foraging areas through trampling and disturbance.
<b>NFNPA</b>	Due to lack of monitoring/research we have no evidence, however it is apparent that walking activities on vegetated shingle cause erosion of the interest features and potentially contribute to overall disturbance levels (e.g. unit 5 north Solent SSSI at lepe) potential in-combination disturbance effects from with other human activities. The Park Authority does not have regulatory powers as such in relation to walking but is the Access Authority for the coastal path - therefore the answer 'yes' to jurisdiction is heavily caveated. Access does form part of the second purposes of National Parks. The Authority has a Recreation Management Strategy and convenes Access Forum for the area.
<b>HCC</b>	The expected erosion and degradation of the coastal areas by footfall. This is mitigated by access guidance and advertising of best countryside practice



<b>BRM</b>	Occasionally but with improved signage and education it is better than previous years.
<b>ChHC</b>	Walking on sand/mudflats and coastal habitats and resulting in bird disturbance.
<b>FBC</b>	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.

#### 4.9 Littering and Removal of Litter

*This activity includes discharges from land, water or air, from all types of vessels, of particulate or solid wastes e.g. plastics, microplastics and other flotsam and jetsam (accidental vessel discharges are a separate category). The toxicity and damage caused by littering materials should be considered as should the cleanup of toxic debris. Please includes information on any strandline clearance and beach cleanup.*

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Littering and removal of litter</b>	1	1	12	5	19

Respondent	Comments
<b>KHM</b>	Any significant floating danger to navigation reported to KHM will be recovered/removed if/ as practicable.
<b>LHC</b>	We are no longer seeing face masks as part of the litter found.
<b>EBC</b>	Litter from visitors to the coast and brought in via wind, watercourses and sea. Intensity unknown - probably increases in summer. Microplastics may be an issue along the Hamble/Netley foreshore
<b>LHB</b>	Litter can result in the entanglement/ingestion by designated species, whilst microplastics can enter the food chain and pollute designated habitats. Occasional litter from failures at WWTW are observed, with some potentially toxic contraception/feminine hygiene products are often observed on the strandline.
<b>IOWC</b>	Nationally it is recognised that marine litter, and particularly plastics entering the system, is a huge issue. Therefore this response is based on the assumption that littering within SEMS remains elevated. Without data and monitoring the confidence level is low.
<b>SW</b>	We have reported this year to EA on our use of biobeads as part of our wastewater treatment process. We have 5 sites in our region - none of these are within the wider Solent area. Water companies collaborate on a national level on the WINEP Chemical Investigations Programme; this has carried out research on microplastics in the wastewater system. Key findings so far are that the vast majority of microplastics are removed in sludge. This however leads to a need to understand what happens to microplastics in sludge when, for example, it is spread on land. Investigations will continue in AMP8 2025-2030 (including research to look at potential sludge treatment processes to remove microplastics). Southern Water are working with University of Portsmouth to baseline our higher resolution understanding of microplastics in our wastewater systems. This is ongoing, led by our Bluewave Innovation team.
<b>GBC</b>	Littering continues at a high level. In terms of the impact, Streetscene officers advise that measures are taken to mitigate the impact through regular cleaning. Short term issues do occur when there is limited staffing capacity or GBC contractors unable to



	cleanse beaches. However the Borough Council seeks to mitigate the longer-term impact through beach cleaning.
<b>WCC</b>	General littering from increased visitors and impacts on the environment.
<b>EA</b>	Chessel Bay, Itchen Estuary - nurdle pollution from plastic manufacturers losing product from sites via drains/quayside. Microplastic pollution has been at a significant scale in this location in the past, with nurdle hunts are showing more than 1000 nurdles in this area. Impact on SEMS and SSSIs is of concern. Latest survey data not yet available to say if the nurdles are old or new, and what quantities. Southampton University report identifies other micro/macro plastics are of greater quantities. Pollution prevention audits in the past to the plastics industries have resulted in significant investment and improvement to management measures. We have not audited them this year. The Interreg Preventing Plastic Pollution visit worked with a number of key businesses and the University of Southampton to reduce plastic pollution. We are leading a Preventing Plastic Pollution on the Itchen estuary with key partners. A feasibility study and stakeholder analysis report are underway to understand what activities are happening along the estuary, and wider catchment to stop, reduce and clean up legacy pollution. There will be a workshop on the 11 May to develop a partnership project to build on this work.
<b>RHHA</b>	Regular litter picks take place along accessible foreshores by established volunteer groups who typically collect food wrappings, plastic bottles, drink cans and fishing litter. Small nurdels are commonly found on the shoreline. RHHA patrols do not routinely collect litter from foreshore areas but do collect items hazardous to vessels within the navigable areas and will attend River Hamble Country Park Jetty when litter is observed.
<b>NE</b>	Likely due to the increased visitor numbers as per walking, dog walking and general beach recreation activities. Currently no clear evidence/studies to show whether this is impacting the features/sub-features of SEMS.
<b>NFPA</b>	As far as I am aware, the Park Authority does not have regulatory powers. However it undertakes litter picks, supports the community in doing the same (New Forest Ambassador Scheme) and promotes campaigns to reduce littering. Partnership with Freshwater Habitats Trust has delivered particularly useful outputs in the last year.
<b>HCC</b>	Risk to wildlife, introduction of micro plastics into the environment and a general downgrading of aesthetics. Regular litter picks by site staff and external volunteers as well as publicised guidance to take your litter home in line with New Forest practice.
<b>YHC</b>	Levels still fairly low at Yarmouth, regular bin emptying by harbour staff and litter picking carried out. Obviously on a larger scale it may be having an impact on the SEMS sites but not locally.
<b>ChHC</b>	Regular beach cleans are carried out through the harbour by various organisations and volunteer teams.
<b>FBC</b>	Evidence of plastic pollution in particular is widespread. The Council provide bins along the coastline which are regularly emptied.

## 4.10 Mooring and Anchoring

Activity includes the operational use of berths, moorings and anchorages including the presence of these structures and the vessels using them. Includes consideration of impacts from vessels when berthing/berthed, mooring/moored, anchoring/anchored. Also includes impacts from anchors and impacts of boat when at anchor or mooring. There is a particular risk of damage from anchoring in seagrass beds.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Mooring and Anchoring</b>	1	1	12	3	17

Respondent	Comments
<b>LHC</b>	Lymington Harbour experienced a small reduction in the number of visiting boats mooring when compared to 2021. LHC do not permit anchoring.
<b>LHB</b>	Visitors are encouraged to use visitor moorings and designated anchoring spots are available, which we hope will discourage the use of anchoring in unsuitable/sensitive areas.
<b>IOWC</b>	Through Habitat Regulations Assessment, any proposals within the footprint of a designation needs Appropriate Assessment and use of evidence to support it. This means that there can be further certainty that new proposals for structures, replacement or extensions to existing ones will not be having a significant impact on the marine sites. Some schemes are required to include interpretation panels raising awareness to users of the qualities of the marine environment.
<b>GBC</b>	Unable to specifically comment on this activity in any detail. Gosport does have several swinging moorings and bays where anchoring occurs however we don't have evidence to determine the impact on SEMs sites.
<b>RHHA</b>	Very limited anchoring permitted (in small area of Upper Hamble estuary), but over 3000 moorings present in total, the majority of which are fixed piles, but some permanent buoy moorings are present.
<b>NE</b>	Annual summer recreational activity surveys are conducted by HIWWT at five locations across the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and reported as part of the ReMEDIES project. These reports indicate particular anchoring pressure at Osborne Bay and elsewhere along the North coast of the Isle of Wight. The LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project is seeking to address this problem through behaviour change and installation of advanced mooring systems and are in the process of having community conversations to discuss the potential to introduce Voluntary No Anchor Zones to reduce the pressure within seagrass.
<b>BRM</b>	Anchoring in the lower reaches by Needs ore and Gull Island.
<b>MMO</b>	Impacts largely unknown in the Solent area.
<b>ChHC</b>	Likely disturbance to seagrass beds, foraging birds from boating and anchoring.
<b>PIP</b>	Increase in leisure use.
<b>FBC</b>	Existing moorings are likely to be having an impact on SEMS however this is not confirmed. The Council is unaware of any additional applications for moorings within its jurisdiction.

## 4.11 Operation of Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Schemes (FCERM)

Activity includes maintenance and operation of all port/harbour infrastructure including quay walls, jetties, slipways, navigation markers, coastal defence structures etc. Includes consideration of vessels/machinery/vehicles associated with activity. Also include the day-to-day operational use of these structures, lights, buoys, posts, towers, transit marks, supply of fuel/bunkering operations onshore /offshore, etc.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Operation of FCERM schemes	3	0	10	3	16

Respondent	Comments
LHC	Beneficial reuse of dredged sediment at Boiler Marsh is increasing the availability of intertidal habitat due to it being higher in the tidal frame. It is also providing protection to the saltmarsh behind against erosion caused by wind waves/tides.
EBC	Hamble common is being steadily eroded - the rate may be increasing but do not have figures to support that.
LHB	Coastal Partners continue to construct the Portsea Island FCERM project, some of which is being constructed in Langstone Harbour.
CDC	No CDC defences within Chichester Harbour, some involvement with schemes at East Head.
NFDC	NFDC have undertaken maintenance works at Milford on Sea, beach recharge and timber groyne maintenance as well as recycling at Hurst Spit. These works were undertaken with appropriate MMO licencing.
SW	Southern Water has undertaken a resilience review of our assets which includes risks from sea level rise and coastal erosion. This is informing our PR24 business planning however no sites/schemes are included for the wider Solent area.
GBC	There remains a high level of activity at Stokes Bay where two storms washed away beach defences in the past. Approximately 400 tonnes of shingle have been used to mitigate erosion and it was taken from the beach, so it is assumed there is no adverse impact. Other flood defence schemes managed by the Coastal Partners have stalled due to funding, however when implemented these schemes will accord with relevant legislation and be subject to the planning process.
EA	Coastal Squeeze in places where policy is Hold The Line (HTL) Increase in local wave reflection. In front of defences where existing policy is Hold The Line. When - In the past through historic squeeze and in the future with sea level rise. Why - Maintaining defence in historic position. Management Measures: Regional Habitat Compensation Programme is reviewing further sites to compensate for coastal squeeze. Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management - de-commissioning of Assets Programme may identify sites to change the asset management. Adaptation to future challenges e.g. Sea Level Rise and Climate Change, and Carbon off-setting, and Net Gain are the key focus of all schemes going forward.
NE	Number of schemes in the area remain high, however these generally include measures to mitigate for impacts. Wider consideration will need to be given to how our coasts are allowed to adapt to rising sea levels and whether current SMP policy is appropriate as we are losing intertidal habitat through coastal squeeze.

<b>MMO</b>	Increase in coastal defence projects such as in Portsmouth Southsea, North Portsea Island, Isle of Wight.
<b>ChHC</b>	Various. East head sediment recycling occurred and recharge of stakes island during past year.
<b>FBC</b>	Coastal Partners - a partnership of four Local Authorities (including Fareham)- lead on coastal issues such as the operation of coastal flood and erosion management schemes.

#### 4.12 Operation of Ports and Harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)

Activity includes maintenance and operation of all port/harbour infrastructure including quay walls, jetties, slipways, navigation markers, coastal defence structures etc. Includes consideration of vessels/machinery/vehicles associated with activity. Also include the day-to-day operational use of these structures, lights, buoys, posts, towers, transit marks, supply of fuel/bunkering operations onshore /offshore, etc.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Operation of ports and harbours (maintenance of infrastructure)</b>	2	0	14	0	16

Respondent	Comments
<b>LHB</b>	The Harbour Board maintain aids to navigation, landing pontoons and public slipways in Langstone Harbour.
<b>GBC</b>	Borough Council unaware of major activity. There are operations related to the Ministry of Defence (including training at Browdown) but the Borough Council has no active involvement in this activity.
<b>RHHA</b>	Recent re-concreting of RHHA's sea wall involved inclusion of textured concrete plus pools and ledges to encourage biodiversity. Replacement of pointed pile caps with flat top caps to allow birds to roost.
<b>NE</b>	Work is underway to map the increasing numbers of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) present across the Solent.
<b>YHC</b>	Some maintenance carried out to rearrange pontoons for safety. It is important to maintain infrastructure and facilities to ensure deterioration of structures etc and / or safety issues do not affect SEMs. The increase in maintenance of infrastructure is therefore seen as having a positive impact on SEMs.
<b>CoHC</b>	Regular maintenance and inspection of navigational marks.
<b>MMO</b>	More marine licences issued for works in ports/harbours.

#### 4.13 Aerial Recreation (light aircraft, paramotors, drones)

Activity includes all types of craft used for recreation in the air e.g. small planes and helicopters, microlights, paramotors, hang gliding, parascending (on beach), parasailing (by boat), drones and model aircraft.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Recreation - light aircraft</b>	0	0	7	3	10

Respondent	Comments
LHC	We have no powers to control the air space. However if drone flights are requested, we will only consent for the operator to fly the drone from LHC facilities subject to appropriate qualifications, risk assessment (including environmental risk) and compliance with CAA regulations.
EBC	No evidence to suggest that it is having a negative impact.
LHB	LHB monitor light aircraft on an ad-hoc basis, and issue drone pilots with advice on avoiding disturbance to bird species.
GBC	The use of drones and model aircraft falls within the Borough. Solent Airport is within Fareham Borough Council. Gosport Borough does see helicopter movements with the maintenance facility in the northeast of the Borough however this is managed professionally by the operator and the Borough Council has no involvement.
RHHA	In relation to drones - whilst true 'jurisdiction' over this issue is not clear as RHHA jurisdiction is below mean high-water level, RHHA occasionally receives third party requests for commercial drone flights in relation to flights over our lease holding of riverbed and some foreshore areas, or in relation to navigational safety. RHHA is using the guidance document, and liaising with NE on individual cases when necessary, regarding any specific conditions required in relation to flight height, duration, distance from SPA birds.
NE	Increase in use of drones privately and for surveying, however data from Bird Aware suggests this is not impacting features of SEMS.

#### 4.14 Recreation (non-motorised watercraft)

Activity includes windsurfing, kite surfing, kayaks, canoes, row boats, punts, paddle boards, dinghies and sailing boats. Includes all related participation such as launching and recovery (shore access and trailers) and any land-based practice. Please include information on events and competitions.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Recreation - non-motorised watercraft	3	1	10	5	19

Respondent	Comments
KHM	KHM Portsmouth website gives guidance on this matter <a href="https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/khm/portsmouth/using-the-port-for-recreation">https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/khm/portsmouth/using-the-port-for-recreation</a>
LHC	Although windsurfing and kite surfing is prohibited within LHC's jurisdiction, to the east of LHC's jurisdiction in the Pylewell and Tanners Lane foreshore area these two activities do disturb birds.
EBC	We don't monitor this so have no empirical data to support any conclusions, but I suspect this activity is increasing, especially in the Hamble estuary. Impacts from direct disturbance and damage to habitats (especially sensitive saltmarsh) from landing and hauling out and also from launching. Again I think this is a major and growing ecological issue within SEMS.
LHB	Windsurfing has been observed having a detrimental impact on SPA/Ramsar bird species - large flocks observed flushing from roosting locations when windsurfers are nearby. A small increase in kayaking/paddleboarding permits issued, but noticeably less people on the water. The shallow draught of these vessels allows them to be launched from almost anywhere and there's no requirement for users to be trained in sea safety or wildlife awareness. As a result, we witness trampling to sensitive sites

	during launch and recovery. By asking users to pay a small fee for a permit, it gives the Authority a mechanism by which to pass on ecological sensitivity/ anti-disturbance messaging. Windsurfing in Langstone Harbour tends to be restricted to one location - northeast in the vicinity of RSPB islands and Old Oysterbeds LNR.
<b>IOWC</b>	Impacts have not been reported or highlighted.
<b>NFDC</b>	Increase in these activities at Keyhaven.
<b>GBC</b>	Areas of the Borough such as Stokes Bay are a popular destination for this activity with anecdotal evidence of people travelling from other Hampshire districts to Gosport Borough. There is also anecdotal evidence of issues with kayaking in Portsmouth Harbour and people disembarking on sensitive islands. It is understood the HIWWT is investing in signage on these islands to discourage this.
<b>RHHA</b>	Will be promoting the water sports for wildlife campaign and map from Bird Aware this coming season.
<b>NE</b>	Activity levels from non-motorised water sports remain high across the entire Solent. However, new observation at Newtown Harbour is for people to paddle board off the back of overnight moored motorboats potentially resulting in a new early morning disturbance impact on birds in this location. It is unknown if this is happening elsewhere in the Solent. Another new observation is kite surfing activities within/in close proximity to Sanderling nesting areas that may be contributing to disturbance and a decline in numbers at Ryde Sands.
<b>NFNPA</b>	It could be argued that the Authority does have some involvement due to its second purpose and Recreation Management Strategy links. However it has no regulatory powers. We have received complaints from the public about this type of activity causing disturbance and this would strongly suggest the activity is causing localised issues and harm - potentially at sensitive areas and important items of the year. Voluntary initiatives and guidance would therefore seem to either have little impact on the users or perhaps that the initiatives are in their early stages.
<b>BRM</b>	We have seen a slight decline in paddlesport participation since post covid restrictions Landing on SSSI sites and paddling up creeks especially during bird nesting season. Limited use of slipway and educational material including leaflets and maps.
<b>YHC</b>	Another slight increase on the previous year but not at very high levels. YHC is working to ensure that safety and environmental impact information is more widely available. Charging for launching from slipways will be monitored to identify displacement locations within the harbour.
<b>CoHC</b>	Limited around main harbour but may be some further upstream around southern limit of jurisdiction. Not monitored but no reports of any issues.
<b>ChHC</b>	Disturbance to wintering and breeding birds likely in various parts of the harbour.
<b>PIP</b>	Post Covid has led to an increase in use of watercraft, sometimes with inexperienced persons.
<b>FBC</b>	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.

#### 4.15 Recreation (powerboating or sailing with an engine)

Activity includes any motorised boat activity, such as Personal Watercraft (PWC), hovercraft, powerboating and water-skiing. Includes launching and recovery of craft e.g. slipway or beach/shore launching and participation i.e. when activity is underway or making way. Please consider other novel uses of power boats such as flyboarding. The impacts of different craft will vary and should be considered on a case-by-case basis e.g. sailing boats with low power engines moving at slow speeds are less likely to have an impact.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
Recreation - powerboating or sailing with an engine	1	2	11	3	17

Respondent	Comments
KHM	Please see KHM website - <a href="https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/khm/portsmouth/using-the-port-for-recreation">https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/khm/portsmouth/using-the-port-for-recreation</a>
LHC	2021 was an exceptional year for boat activity as Covid restrictions in the UK were eased but travel abroad was still restricted resulting in more staycations. In 2022, despite the very good summer weather, activity levels fell to something closer to pre-pandemic levels.
EBC	Noise pollution, pollution from the craft themselves. Most likely along Solent coast although there are public slipways along the Hamble as well.
LHB	In the last year, less PWC permits have been issued than the year previously. The Harbour Board introduced a requirement for PWC users to hold a marine qualification and have an insurance policy before we would issue them a permit. I think this has brought down the number of overall users in Langstone. The majority of other motorised boat activity has remained relatively stable. PWCs can operate at high speed and produce loud noise, which can be disturbing for marine and bird life. Some users act irresponsibly and intentionally cause disturbance to animals - chasing of birds and scaring seals has been witnessed. Langstone Harbour Board employ a seasonal patrol team who operate from April-October. Much of the patrol's work involves mitigating irresponsible PWC users and the Board have, and continue to, take users to court for infringing of Board byelaws. The Harbour also has a 10-knot speed limit, with the intention of minimising navigational hazards but also mitigating for wildlife disturbance.
GBC	The impact on SEMS sites of this activity is uncertain however it is considered more likely to have an impact than non-motorised watercraft. The Borough has several marinas in Portsmouth Harbour and there have been recent proposals for one of them to expand. Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay are also used for launching craft.
RHHA	Harbour Authority is employing its use of its Special Directions to PWCs who find themselves in inappropriate locations of the estuary, which also reduces their frequency in sensitive areas.
NE	Activity levels from motorised water sports remain high across the entire Solent. However, new observation at Newtown Harbour is for people to paddle board off the back of overnight moored motorboats potentially resulting in a new early morning disturbance impact on birds in this location. It is unknown if this is happening elsewhere in the Solent.
BRM	We are seeing slight decline in visitor numbers. Back to pre-covid times. Still very busy at weekends but less so during the week.



<b>MMO</b>	Disturbance to protected features - disturbance during winter months to wintering birds particularly close to harbours such as Lymington. Greater activity levels in summer months due to better weather.
<b>ChHC</b>	Likely disturbance to seagrass beds, foraging birds from boating.
<b>PIP</b>	Increased wash around sensitive areas of the shoreline. Greater in the summer months in daylight hours. To manage there are speed limits and police boats presence in the harbour.
<b>FBC</b>	Monitoring of activity is undertaken by Bird Aware Solent. The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy which is implemented by Bird Aware Solent provides the management measures to address the impacts of recreational disturbance on the SEMS.

#### 4.16 Slipway and Jetty Cleaning and Maintenance

Activity includes the ongoing maintenance, such as washing down, clearing of mud or sediment, algal growth or similar of a slipway or jetty.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Slipway and jetty cleaning and maintenance</b>	0	0	14	1	15

Respondent	Comments
<b>RHHA</b>	RHHA continues to remove algal mats that build up and obstruct a slipway.
<b>CoHC</b>	Regular maintenance undertaken.

#### 4.17 Wildfowling

Activity includes the use of firearms to shoot wild fowl. This category does not consider the use of dogs during these activities, please use 'Land recreation - dog walking' for any dog related activity.

Activity	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know	Total Responses
<b>Wildfowling</b>	0	0	8	0	8

No additional comments given.



## 5 Other Comments on Activities

**Table 7 other comments on activities**

Respondent	
WCC	Still general increase in residents staying closer to home for recreation as it was post COVID.

## 6 Activities resulting from Plans and Projects

Section 6 looks at whether, over the last 12 months, respondents were aware of any changes to activity levels, or impacts, resulting from plans or projects within SEMs.

**Table 8 Activities resulting from Plans and Projects**

Respondent	Details
KHM	Ongoing - Work on the Flood defence of Southsea sea front.
LHB	LHB have applied for Gov. funding, with the hope that we can expand our commercial customer base. In this respect, I think we will begin to see an increase in boat repairs/maintenance in the coming years.
CDC	Increase in speculative housing planning applications due to an out-of-date Local Plan. Applications for private 'hold the line' coastal defences now likely to fail an Appropriate Assessment due to coastal squeeze (in combination effect).
GBC	No. The Borough Council consulted on its new draft Local Plan (The Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038) from September to December 2021. The Plan sets out a revised development strategy and the locations for new development over the period to 2038. The impacts of this plan have been appraised in a Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitats Regulations Assessment is ongoing. It is expected that a Regulation 19 consultation will be undertaken in early 2024.
NE	ReMEDIES project - works to restore and protect seagrass. Been engaging with locals and recreational users to share potential impacts on seagrass and best practice for activities which will hopefully result in a decrease in anchoring over sensitive habitats.
NFNPA	No planning applications that have significantly directly impacted in last year, however continued cumulative pressure on the supporting network of high tide areas outside of the designations.
YHC	There have been some harbour works that have reconfigured the pontoons within existing areas, but these have been licenced and have not resulted in changes to activity levels or impacts on SEMs.
FBC	The Fareham Local Plan 2037 was adopted by the Council on 5th April 2023. The Local Plan is accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment which concluded no adverse effects on the SEMs as a result of the development within the Local Plan.

## 7 Monitoring

Section 7 looks at what monitoring is currently taking place in the SEMS, potential future monitoring and partnership working.

### Are you undertaking any monitoring of activities or activity impacts in SEMS?

Response	
No	15
Yes	11

Respondent	Details
LHC	Periodic monitoring of effects of ongoing beneficial use of dredged sediment. Data held by LHC/MMO.
SW	In summer 2022 we deployed a continuous water quality monitoring buoy off Hayling Island (working with Uni of Portsmouth). This is a 12-month pilot and data will be publicly available online once calibration is complete. We are also funding a 3-year PhD with Uni of Brighton looking at nutrient and faecal coliform source apportionment within the Three Harbours and their catchments. This includes sampling of Southern Water assets, private discharges and the wider environment - harbours and rivers. The PhD runs to 2025.
SxIFCA	Sussex IFCA continue to undertake sea and land-based patrols throughout the entirety of the Sussex IFCA district.
EA	Ongoing sea defence, fish, water quality and ecological monitoring - no change from last year's survey.
RHHA	Ongoing monitoring of bait digging activities in the Hamble estuary, as previous years, comprising patrol officer sightings and reports from members of the public. Not all incidents are captured, but all data held is supplied to SIFCA. Data held by RHHA and SIFCA.
SoIFCA	Surveys in Solent - Bivalve Survey which looks at mainly Common Cockle, American Hardshell clams and Manilla Clam CPUE. Biannual (Spring/Autumn) King Scallop Survey. Biannual (Spring/Autumn) - Native Oyster survey (June, next 2024) Whelk Survey (annual, Spring) Small Fish Survey, Biannual (June/September) in Yarmouth, River Hamble  Reports of the results are published in our Authority papers and are used to inform the management of these fisheries under the Solent Dredge Permit.
NE	ReMEDIES project undertakes summer recreational activity surveys in five locations - Kings Quay, Yarmouth, Osborne Bay, Langstone Harbour and Bouldnor.
BRM	Ongoing monitoring as part of the dredge licence.
CoHC	Turbidity monitoring programme is ongoing. Meteorological monitoring system in place, some information feeds to the Cowes Harbour Commission website. Annual saltmarsh monitoring. Cowes HC hold the data for sediment monitoring and OceanWise host the servers. IW Estuaries Project has saltmarsh monitoring data.
MMO	Monitoring for fishing activities, marine licence activities and disturbance caused by recreational users.
ChHC	Paddlers survey, carried out by friends of Chichester harbour volunteers. Completed but there is an aspiration to restart.

**Are you coordinating with any other organisation/s on monitoring in the SEMS? If yes, please give details.**

Respondent	Details
LHC	Yes - Solent Forum (BUDS).
SW	Universities of Portsmouth and Brighton; Harbours Technical Working Group.
SxIFCA	Regular liaison with RSPB Pagham Harbour regarding Shore based activities within the SPA/MCZ.
EA	Yes - seagrass monitoring with Natural England. Fish and Shellfish monitoring with IFCA and Local Authority.
RHHA	SIFCA
SoIFCA	Yes - Angling for Sustainability running from the 1st of Jan 2023 to 2025 a partnership between the University of Plymouth (lead), the Professional Boatman's Association, Natural England, the Angling Trust and the Southern IFCA. The aim of the project is for researchers to work with fishing communities in Dorset and the Solent to assess the habitats and movement of species including sharks, skates, rays and black bream. Through doing so the project aims to ensure the sustainability and survival of the region's Charter boat fishing industry by working with the industry and other partners to help fill the evidence gaps needed for effective, informed management. For the Southern IFCA small fish surveys we work with partners including Yarmouth Harbour Authority, Natural England and local academic institutions.
NE	Partners include HIWWT who conduct the surveys.
BRM	Natural England
CoHC	Work with Solent Forum and IW Estuaries Project.
ChHC	Have shared details with other Solent harbours.

**Are you considering monitoring in the SEMS? If yes, please give details.**

Respondent	Details
EBC	Only through Bird Aware Solent via developer contributions.
SxIFCA	Monitoring is already taking place for areas overlapping with Sussex IFCA district.
EA	Seagrass, water quality, macro-algae, shellfish, TraC fish.
NE	Yes, although waiting for budget confirmation.
NFNPA	Unfortunately not but it is arguable that more work should be being undertaken in that regard - however resource constraints are a significant factor.
YHC	Considering a project to monitor INNS using settlement tiles. Also resetting the Western Yar saltmarsh monitoring scheme.
CoHC	There will be monitoring of AMS through ReMEDIES Project and saltmarsh restoration through Solent Seascape Project.

## 8 Marine Conservation Zones

The SEMS Annual Survey monitors what is happening within the Solent MCZs; these sites are not part of the main SEMS Management Scheme as they are designated under different legislation.

Do you have a MCZ within your jurisdiction?	
Response	
No	16
Yes	11

Within this MCZ(s), do you have any concerns about any of the activities covered by the SEMS Survey.	
Respondent	MCZ Related Concerns
KHM	Bembridge no current concerns.
CDC	Pagham Harbour MCZ - outside SEMS area
SxIFCA	Sussex IFCA continue to monitor fishing activities throughout the Sussex IFCA district, including all MCZs.
SoIFCA	Yarmouth to Cowes & Bembridge MCZs. We have undertaken MCZ assessments of fishing activities for these new sites. The assessments found that Bottom Towed Gears pose a risk to some features in the sites. A review of bottom towed fishing gear for District wide MPAs was commenced in 2020 and is currently ongoing, a draft byelaw package is being presented to the Authority in spring 2023 under Phase 1 of this review which focuses on feature-based management within MPAs.
NE	Yes - anchoring and mooring activities, with some locations covered by the ReMEDIES project which undertakes summer recreational activity surveys in five locations - Kings Quay, Yarmouth, Osborne Bay, Langstone Harbour and Bouldnor.
YHC	Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ starts on the eastern edge of jurisdiction so very limited area and no concerns or issues within it at present. No intention to set up any monitoring associated with the MCZ.
CoHC	No concerns about activities yet.
MMO	Majority of commercial fishing vessel activity further from the coast. High numbers of powerboats transit through The Needles MCZ during summer.

## 9 Additional Information

Section 9 looks at responses on any additional information such as research on impacts, additional information on activities or any potential research ideas/opportunities.

Respondent	Additional Information
<b>WL</b>	We continue to work very closely with Portsmouth University.
<b>EA</b>	The Solent Oyster Restoration Project and Solent Seascape project is undertaking research. Solent Sea Defence enhancements, IOW estuaries and saltmarsh.
<b>RHHA</b>	Water Quality and Boating campaign, led by EA & NE, is still ongoing, focussing on black water discharge from recreational vessels. Actions underway for partners (e.g. harbour authorities, Southern Water, marina groups, RYA, EA) to seek improvements to pump out facilities and ways to encourage behavioural change of recreational sailors. RHHA has installed a new pump out.
<b>SoIFCA</b>	Shore gathering requires a phased approach due to the resources required to meet the 2024 Government target. Compile evidence to inform Phase 1 and indicate potential draft measures. A review of shore gathering activity across the Southern IFCA District is also underway. A phased approach is being taken for this review with the first phase looking at feature-based management within MPAs including those in SEMS. Currently the IFCA is compiling evidence for the review and undertaking relevant assessments.
<b>NFNPA</b>	Answers to earlier questions may have changed slightly - in previous years I have stated the Authority has no jurisdiction, however with increasing activity around coastal path and recreation management in other terrestrial areas I've taken the view we do have some organisational commitment. Whether this amounts to full jurisdiction in the strict interpretation of the Habs Regs is a moot point, but fundamentally it's arguable as a National Park we should have a role in management of recreation in a way that meets Park purposes without causes harm to wildlife, landscape and cultural heritage.
<b>ChHC</b>	Various research projects annually undertaken in Chichester harbour.

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