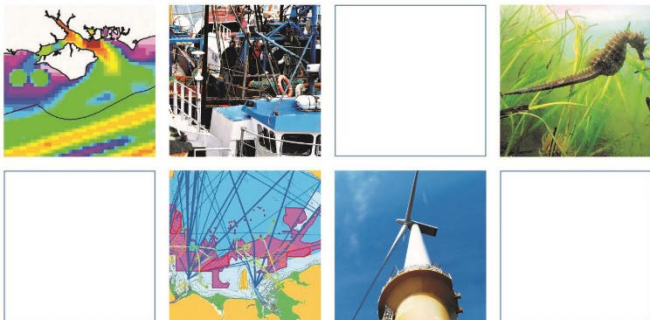


Solent Forum, 15 March 2017

Evidence and Management of Marine Recreational Activities

Caroline Roberts



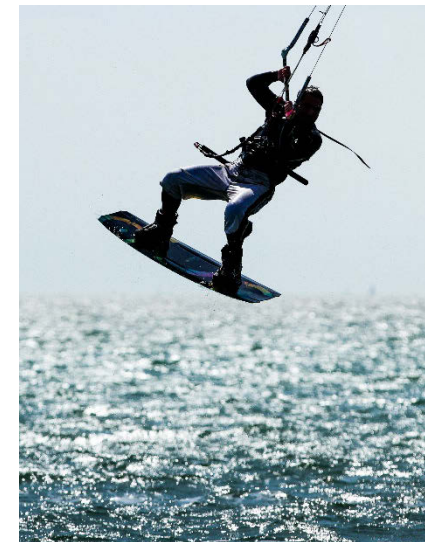
- ❑ Natural England and Marine Management Organisation study (within MPA Management National Steering Group workplan)
- ❑ Building on existing information
 - ❑ Pressures arising from recreational activities
 - ❑ Sensitivity of features (habitats and mobile species)
 - ❑ NE Conservation Advice and Advice on Operations
 - ❑ Sites where activities potentially an issue (IPENS)
- ❑ Objectives
 - ❑ Update and collate the evidence base of impacts
 - ❑ Review the effectiveness of management measures
 - ❑ Recommendations to develop national best practice messaging

Approach

- ❑ Literature review
- ❑ General Call for Evidence
- ❑ Consultation
 - ❑ Regulators and conservation advisors
 - ❑ National Governing Bodies
 - ❑ Other stakeholders (Relevant Authorities, NGOs)
- ❑ Activities included:
 - ❑ Kitesurfing, windsurfing
 - ❑ Surfing
 - ❑ Coaststeering
 - ❑ Diving/snorkeling
 - ❑ Drones
 - ❑ General Beach Leisure
 - ❑ Hovercraft
 - ❑ Land vehicles
 - ❑ Light aircraft
 - ❑ Motorised watercraft
 - ❑ Non-motorised watercraft
 - ❑ Personal watercraft
 - ❑ Wildlife watching



Credit: Andrew Pearson

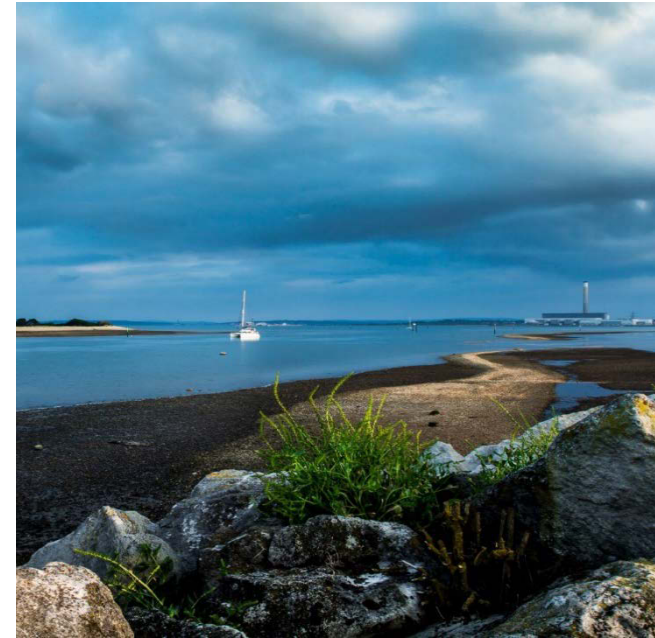


Credit: Steve Bond

- ❑ 84 stakeholders contacted, 31 interviews:
 - ❑ Activity participation rates and hotspots
 - ❑ Activities of concern
 - ❑ Impacts of activities
 - ❑ Management measures and data/opinion on effect
 - ❑ Best practice messaging – promotion, influence
- ❑ Output - Management Toolkit
 - ❑ Roles and responsibilities for management
 - ❑ Range of management measures
 - ❑ Case studies – approach, success factors, issues
 - ❑ New initiatives

Management of Recreational Activities

- ❑ Voluntary – majority of measures:
 - ❑ Codes of conduct
 - ❑ RYA, Wildlife Trust, SNH
 - ❑ Signage buoys, toolkits, guides, app
 - ❑ Zoning (launch, use areas)
 - ❑ Based on sensitivity mapping
 - ❑ Wardens (education, enforcement)
- ❑ Statutory:
 - ❑ Zoning (launch, use, high speed areas)
 - ❑ Licensing/permit systems (relevant authorities)



Credit: Steve Bond

Success Factors and Issues for Management

- Key success factors:
 - Partnership working (buy-in; self-policing)
 - Positive messaging (no 'finger wagging')
 - Face-to-face messaging (explain rationale)
 - Tool that can be used (waterproof guides, app)
 - Information that can be customised to local area/issues
- Key issues:
 - Resources to promote and/or enforce measures
 - Growth of shore and sea-based leisure (cumulative impacts)
 - Changing activity 'landscape' (up and coming issues)
 - Activities with no Governing Bodies or which undertaken outside of clubs (harder to reach)

Best Practice Messaging

- ❑ Half of National Bodies had best practice messaging
- ❑ Focus on minimising environmental impacts variable
- ❑ Effectiveness of best practice messaging:
 - ❑ Relates to dissemination, uptake and adherence
 - ❑ Assess based on Environmental Management System
 - ❑ Base on best available evidence of pressures and impacts and on measures that can be taken to minimise impacts
 - ❑ Effective dissemination in readily accessible appropriate formats
 - ❑ System of monitoring in place to assess uptake, use and effectiveness
 - ❑ Information used to review and update best practice messaging

Next Steps

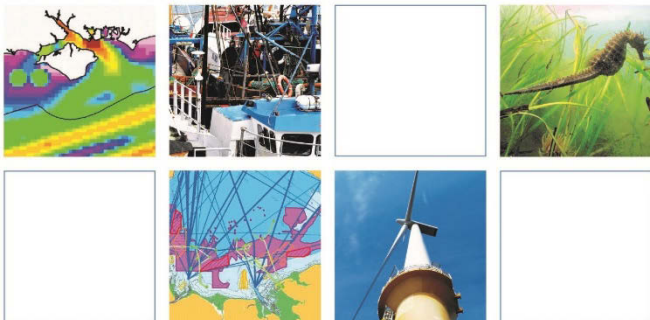
- ❑ Final outputs to be delivered end March 2017
- ❑ Management Toolkit, Information Notes and Recommendations Report will be made publically available
- ❑ Next steps: Follow up with National Bodies to discuss options for promoting messages – through MPA Management National Steering Group



Credit: Steve Bond

Thank you for your attention

Caroline Roberts
croberts@abpmer
+44(0) 2380 711857



Significance of Impacts (1)

- Assessment – generic (not site-specific) based on:
 - Updated evidence base of impacts
 - Overlap of activity and feature group (habitats, fish, marine mammals, birds) – expert judgement
 - Sensitivity range of feature

- Expert judgement - likelihood of:
 - Observable/measurable effect on feature group
 - Significant impact on Conservation Objectives
 - Significant impact where ‘good practice’ management of activity implemented

Significance of Impacts (2)

- Ratings
 - Low: possible effect on feature; unlikely to compromise CO
 - Medium: effect on the feature; potentially compromise CO
 - High: effect on the feature group; almost certainly compromise CO

- Site-specific factors to be considered:
 - Spatial extent of overlap of activity/pressure and feature
 - Frequency of disturbance e.g. rare, intermittent, constant
 - Severity/intensity of disturbance
 - Sensitivity of specific features, sensitive behaviours/times;
 - Level of habituation
 - Cumulative and in-combination effects