



SOLENT FORUM UPDATE

**Solent Forum Members Meeting
15th March 2017**

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Solent Forum Staff

- Peter Barham – Solent Forum Chair
- Karen McHugh – Solent Forum Manager
- Carolyn Francis – Solent Forum Officer
- Kate Ansell – Solent Forum Officer
- Placement student Liz Inwards – start April 2017

Member Services

CORE

- Next Steering Group meeting will be on 21st June 2017 in Winchester
- The next Solent Forum meeting will be on 11 October 2017 in Portsmouth
- Solent News was sent out in early February 2017, the next edition will be in July 2017
- Student Mike Clark Bursary Awards –
 - call for applications went out in January to university lecturers
 - closing date for applications is 30th April 2017
 - details on Forum website
 - previous applicants invited to present to Forum, two will present at the March Forum meeting
- New website continues to be developed and improved and the Solent Information Database (old name Disc) has had a major overhaul
- Marketing Strategy – new benefits brochure, new website, twitter

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Solent Information Database Record

RECORD DETAIL

Title	Solent Water Quality Awards
Author	Solent Forum
Topic	Bathing Waters
Year of Completion	Annual award
Status	Ongoing.
Region	Solent
Abstract	<p>The Solent Water Quality Award Scheme was launched in 1992 to provide a simple and readily understood indicator of satisfactory water quality at bathing beaches and, where feasible, in recreational waters around the Solent. The scheme supplements the various beach and resort award schemes, including the Blue Flag, which are administered by ENCAMS, and which all deal with many other criteria in addition to water quality. The scheme is administered by the Solent Forum on behalf of the Solent Water Quality Association. All beaches regularly used for bathing, non-designated as well as designated, are eligible for an award under the scheme. Water regularly used for recreational activities involving immersion such as water skiing, boardsailing etc. may also be included where the applying authority can show that the sampling results presented are representative of the whole area for which the application is made.</p>
Access Constraints	View at http://www.solentforum.org/services/SWQA/
Use Constraints	
data holder	Solent Forum

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Sub-Groups

- **SEMS Secretariat** Carolyn Francis
 - Activity categories have changed in line to be compatible with new Conservation Advice packages from Natural England
 - New contractor for online monitoring and reporting system – Geodata
 - Annual online monitoring due to start in April
 - Management Group meeting 20th September 2017 (and annually)
 - SF Officer has regular telecoms with other EMS/NE Officers

- **Natural Environment Group** Kate Ansell
 - Last meeting November 2016. Papers on SEMS website.
 - Call for funding bids for 2017/18 sent out in January 2017
 - Next meeting 27 April 2017. Project budget allocated.
 - Key recurring issues are litter and recreational disturbance. Conservation advice workshop held with NE on 2 March 2017.

- **Water Quality Awards** Karen McHugh
 - 2017 awards announced.

Marine Planning

- MMO are now delivering remaining marine plans concurrently
- Draft south coast plan consultation finished 27 January 2017. Solent Forum gave a generic response on behalf of members. Small team of marine planners now in the South
- Publication of final plan estimated summer 2017
- Solent Forum will be exploring with MMO how Marine Licence Applications can be filtered by the Solent
- MMO expressed interest in working with Coastal Partnerships nationally for: *'Enhancing stakeholder engagement in marine planning'*.

Marine Protected Areas in the Solent

- Natural England presentation at this meeting. Tranche 3 will take place in 2017 with designation in 2018. Potential Solent sites in this tranche include Bembridge, Norris to Ryde and Yarmouth to Cowes. NE running public information meetings during March which the SF has helped to publicise.
- New proposed Solent and Dorset Coast SPA – covers large area of Solent water body which is currently undesignated. Consultation closed on 17 January 2017. Natural England have indicated that the management measures are not expected to change current activities which currently do not impact on the protection of prey plunging for terns. Update: revised area to include new undesignated area at top of Fareham Creek.

Projects

- Beneficial use of Dredgings in Solent (BUDS)
- Horizon Scanning
- Blue Economy Work
- Update of the Forum's online coastal consents guide – Edition 5.
Edition 4 was published in 2012

Solent Forum 25th Anniversary

The Solent Forum is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2017 and we are planning a week of events week beginning 8th May 2017.

Key Solent Forum events:

- ‘Solent Matters: Shaping up for another 25 years’ conference on 10th May to be held at the SPARK conference suite at Southampton Solent University. Now being advertised and bookings taken (capacity 78 and over 50% full)
- Four conference sponsors: Fugro, BMAPA, Southern Water and University of Portsmouth
- Evening meal on board HMS Warrior on Thursday 11th 2017

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BUDS Project

'Bring about beneficial use of dredging within one or more Solent sites, using an incrementally phased approach to scope and cost sediment sourcing and sediment receiver sites, building a system of protocols and guidance **FOUR PHASES – funding for phase 1**

1. Project scoping and partnership building – Solent Forum managed. Work to be conducted by ABPmer

2. Working with stakeholders to develop further phases of work and to develop strategic guidance and protocols – Solent Forum managed

3. Feasibility Study and detailed cost Benefit Analysis – SCG involvement

4. Beneficial use project

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Blue Economy Work

- BUDS
- Overcoming risk identified in Natural England's draft conservation advice on SPA/SAC in Solent
- Barriers and Mitigation to SME access to waterfront sites in the Solent
- Aquaculture group to look at sustainable food source
- Coastal Communities Fund project and team
- Projects from Solent Forum Natural Environment Group

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Horizon Scanning

Annual Horizon Scanning (June). Longer term than Business Plan (actions June 17 onwards)

- Issues and projects on Horizon (25 years) How SF involved
- Hosting of Forum
- Membership structure and Steering Group composition
- Invigorating the Forum
- Solent Forum staffing
- Projects from Solent Forum Natural Environment Group

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