

Solent Forum Annual Members Survey 2023

This report shows the results of the Solent Forum Member’s Survey 2023. An evaluation of the findings take place in the Solent Forum Horizon Scanning Report.

This year the survey is based on 12 responses.

1. What is the most important coastal/marine issue affecting your current work?

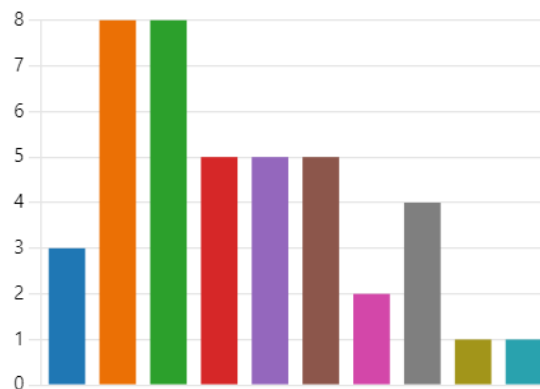
Water quality
Water quality/biodiversity
Water quality/pollution
Water Quality (directly impacts seagrass and oyster bed restoration)
Coastal squeeze and biodiversity loss
Habitat / species decline
Recreational disturbance to designated features
Accessibility for recreational boating
Citizen science
Development
Dealing with the vast number of coastal environmental pressures around our harbours, and in particular, failing coastal defences within Chichester Harbour. Need to develop a holistic plan for the harbour, balancing the needs of communities and the environment.
MPA Management Review, a Minimum Conservation Reference Size Review and Supporting Defra’s Delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives.

2. Which category(ies) does this work area come under, please tick all those that apply:

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[More Details](#)

- Fisheries and aquaculture 3
- Habitats and species (inc Restor... 8
- Water Quality and catchment m... 8
- Cultural and heritage (including ... 5
- Coastal settlements and transport 5
- Ports, harbours and shipping 5
- Marine industry 2
- Flood and coastal erosion risk m... 4
- Military and defence 1
- Other 1



3. What is the second most important coastal/marine issue affecting your current work?

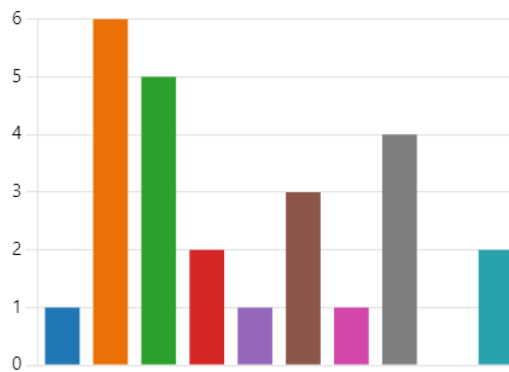
Water quality
Water quality and eutrophication
Pollution
Climate change
Climate change
Ecological decline
Boats
Activities within designated sites
Legislation
Lack of green funding / guidance around stacking benefits and blending funding to deliver multiple outcomes.
Skills. Upskilling our local workforce and attracting younger talent into marine science, technology and engineering fields.

4. Which category(ies) does this work area come under, please tick all those that apply:

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[More Details](#)

- Fisheries and aquaculture 1
- Habitats and species (inc Restor... 6
- Water Quality and catchment m... 5
- Cultural and heritage (including ... 2
- Coastal settlements and transport 1
- Ports, harbours and shipping 3
- Marine industry 1
- Flood and coastal erosion risk m... 4
- Military and defence 0
- Other 2



5. What is the third most important coastal/marine issue affecting your current work?

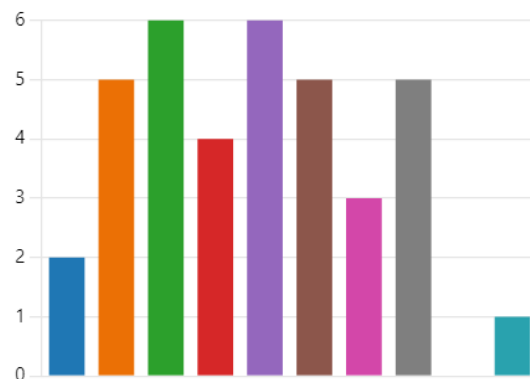
Habitat restoration
Habitat loss
Habitat restoration
Habitat loss including through coastal squeeze
Loss of saltmarsh and other habitats, and difficulties around allowing natural change or promoting restoration initiatives.
Water quality
Coastal pollution, including plastics
Terrestrial planning/ need for housing
Growth and sustainable development
Coastal planning
Shoreside infrastructure/marine-related industry

6. Which category(ies) does this work area come under, please tick all those that apply:

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[More Details](#)

- Fisheries and aquaculture 2
- Habitats and species (inc Restor... 5
- Water Quality and catchment m... 6
- Cultural and heritage (including ... 4
- Coastal settlements and transport 6
- Ports, harbours and shipping 5
- Marine industry 3
- Flood and coastal erosion risk m... 5
- Military and defence 0
- Other 1



7. Please detail any existing coastal and marine partnership working that you are involved with in the Solent. Please provide links to the work if available.

Solent Protection Society; Bembridge Harbour Users Group
Member of the Solent Marine Sites Scheme of Management (SEMS), Solent Oyster Restoration Partnership , British Ports Association and UK Harbour Masters , Solent and Southern Harbour Harbour Masters Association, Hampshire Constabulary Safety Ops (Wavebreaker and Nautical), Southern Water Regional Forum, East Hants Catchment Partnership , Three Harbours Partnership, Langstone FCERM (Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management) WG
CHaPRoN , Solent Seascape , Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum, Hurst to Lymington Strategy , IOW and Portsmouth FECRM schemes, Oyster restoration , LEP's , LNP's , PUSH , SCOPAC , Preventing Plastic Pollution in the River Itchen, IOW & Hamble Estuaries, Isle of Wight (IOW) and Chi Harbour saltmarsh restoration projects, Habitat Creation and Restoration Programme (HCRP)
Solent Seascape
Sea the Value
So many! Solent Seascape project , all the Solent Forum working groups, Hamble Estuary Partnership , greening harbour infrastructure with Bournemouth Uni & Artecology, support Portsmouth Uni in various research projects in the Hamble
Southern Water storm overflow pathfinder projects
Solent Seascape Project , EHCP , CHAPRON , ReMeMaRe , South Coast Marine Conservation Group.
ReMEDIES , Solent Seascape Project , RaNTrans , catchment partnerships, CHaPRoN
Solent Seascape , CHaPRoN , Three Harbours, HCRP.
Solent and Sussex Bay Restoration Network; RESow (Restoration of Seagrass for Ocean Wealth) ReSOW UK ; Seagrass beds work with Natural England and Environment Agency. Development of a new approach for intertidal mapping using SAR and optical satellite data in combination with water levels New project to enhance monitoring of critical coastal habitats National Oceanography Centre (noc.ac.uk) - we are currently working on a validation study using Portsmouth Harbour which involves deployment of a low-cost GPS water level sensor to understanding the difference in the tidal phase across the estuary; Demonstrating the Potential of Low-Cost GPS Units for the Remote Measurement of Tides and Water Levels Using Interferometric Reflectometry in: Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology Volume 37 Issue 10 (2020) (ametsoc.org) - Working with Shanklin Town Council, IoW Council and the EA to have a local beach test site for coastal hazard sensor development; WireWall project (@Wirewall_NOC) / Twitter ; Marine Robotics Innovation Centre: Marine Robotics Innovation Centre NOC Innovations (noc-innovations.com) ; The Solent Regional Group (of the Geological Society): The Geological Society (geolsoc.org.uk)

8. Are there any areas of your work where you would like to develop partnership working with others in the Solent?

None spring to mind.
Closer relationships with academic bodies to help undertake environmental research
Landowners and farmers - support sustainable coastal management and habitat restoration risk and assessing the risk of restoration success
Local authorities/Lead Local Flood Authorities becoming SuDS Approval Bodies, mechanisms, costs and implications.
The Solent Seascape Project (SSP) aims to extend our "umbrella" to include MANY more Solent based organisations and businesses in our work.
recreational disturbance guidance

There are a significant number of new and developing partnerships, so care needs to be taken to avoid duplication of efforts, etc.

Working with the Channel Coastal Observatory <https://coastalmonitoring.org/> to diversify and improve data and information access; Ocean literacy – from schools to the general public Wildlife Trusts (HIWWT); Solent Seascape and Blue Marine Foundation; Upskilling for marine science, engineering and technology careers; Decarbonisation of the marine sector; Water quality sensing technologies; Developing a regional narrative around the foundational importance of marine science to the maritime industry.

9. Please detail any coastal or marine policies, strategies, research projects, plans or events that are likely to be published/launched during 2022/23.

RYA 'Together on Water' - A 5 year strategic plan set against a longer term vision

Sea the value

Isle of Wight Council local plan, known as the Island Planning Strategy

The Solent Seascapes Project (SSP) will likely produce numerous strategies/research outputs/plans/events during this timeframe, details TBC.

Planned research inc. survey of intertidal seagrass beds

We hope to start working on a 'Chichester Harbour Environmental, Adaptation and Investment Strategy this financial year (subject to funding). We are also proposing to begin updating the Solent Dynamic Coast Project Data for the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) region (in line with latest sea level rise) - again subject to funding. We have developed a scope for a Solent Wide Coastal Grazing Marsh Study and will also be working to secure funding for this. The Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy is about to be consulted on with statutory bodies, following earlier public consultation.

We would like to have more engagement with local schools and colleges in the coming year to support our ocean literacy objectives as well as our upskilling ambitions.

10. Please give your thoughts on the Solent Forum's current organisational arrangements, publications and events this year.

Excellent; great work

Brilliant organisation structure, very happy with the regular Solent News updates and find it very helpful keeping track of what's going on in the wider sphere.

NRS and BNG workshops

All excellent

Good

All good, at right level and volume (though I do feel the SF has been handed a challenging and slightly unfair task re Invasive Species)

Would be good to hear more from industry within the sub-region, particularly with regards to existing issues, likely future requirements, and challenges etc.

The Solent Forum is great - great events, great source of information, super staff.

Working brilliantly as always

A good run of events and always provide an excellent summary of what's going on across the Solent (Solent News).

In person meetings are great networking opportunities. So many useful contacts, such a diversity of contacts. We know we need to do a better job of contributing to your monthly newsletter (as well as getting more subscribers from National Oceanography Centre (NOC) staff members). I'd be keen to see the "members area" activated as presumably that would provide a site/digital infrastructure for more rapid engagement and two-way conversations apart from the meetings which only happen twice a year. Having a site where members could ask questions of each other,

share best practice, and chat in a more informal, online setting would be a hugely valuable resource.

We feel that the format of the Solent Forum currently works well.

11. Please can you provide any further details about your preference for Solent Forum meetings, including how these may vary by meeting type: ie: Members Meetings, Other types of meetings

The current mix seems to work well.

Solent Forum meetings should continue to be in person. They're such a brilliant opportunity for networking and building connections with people you may not normally associate with - excellent for partnership development. The variety of content at SF meetings is helpful also - a diverse agenda helps to keep things fresh and stops things becoming a one topic meeting. Also helps to diversify people's understanding of other industries.

Members - face to face, others virtual.

For logistical reasons, a combination of virtual and face to face meetings would work well as it provides more flexibility to be able to attend when meetings are virtual but the occasional face to face allows for networking opportunities and connecting with colleagues.

A blend is good, alternating between online and F2F.

Current mix is right.

Full Forum meetings should be in-person to allow networking, all other meetings should be online enabled to allow maximum attendance and increase efficiencies.

I am 100% an advocate for face to face meetings. I am interested in a broad range of topic content at these meetings, as is currently offered.

Combination of the two depending on topic / requirement for level of interaction.

It might be helpful to have a summary from each of the partnerships that have recently established, and what each is doing and how? I.e. Solent Seascope, Three Harbours, CHaPRoN, and any others. Face to face meetings are better to encourage active participation / networking, but smaller less interactive meetings work well online.

Definitely keen to keep the twice annual meetings face to face, but if the members area could be activated so there were more opportunities for informal and real time engagement that would be tremendous value added.

12. Please give the organisation you are representing

RYA South

Langstone Harbour Board

Environment Agency

University of Portsmouth

University of Portsmouth

River Hamble Harbour Authority

Isle of Wight Council

Blue Marine Foundation

Natural England

Coastal Partners

National Oceanography Centre

Southern IFCA