

Solent Forum Annual Members Survey 2022

26 responses

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

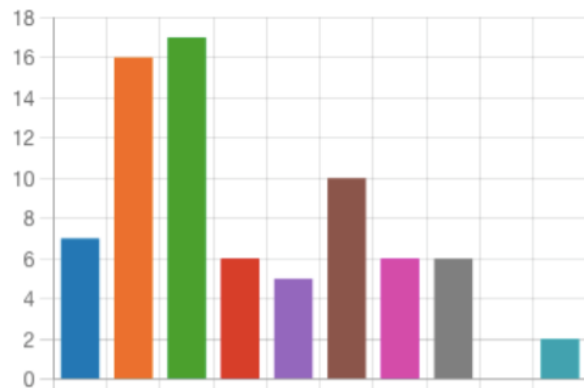
Concerns regarding sewage outfall/stormwater discharges
Recreational Disturbance
Safe use of the water space
Bait collection and hand gathering
The development of the Solent Freeport and generation of new business opportunities
Public Engagement
managing fishing activities in MPAs
Net gain
Impact of nutrient enrichment on coastal habitats
Impact of water quality (nutrients and faecal contamination) on coastal waters
Oyster/saltmarsh/seagrass restoration
Fisheries Management
Nutrients /Nutrient neutrality
Minimising human impacts on the estuary's water quality and habitats.
Pollution
Plastic Pollution
Small scale habitat loss
Water quality
Nitrates
Interaction of coastal nature conservation designations on upstream planning issues i.e. nutrient neutrality and wintering bird disturbance (this would include associated wider initiatives for recreation management as well)
Nutrient Neutrality/Water Quality
Climate change impacts, coastal erosion, water quality and biodiversity loss
Coastal eutrophication results in the growth of green algal mats on intertidal mudflats
Coastal habitat loss across the Solent and need to reverse these historic declines.
nutrients
Heavy modification of coastline and coastal squeeze

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

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

[More Details](#)

- Fisheries and aquaculture 7
- Habitats and species (inc Restor... 16
- Water Quality and catchment m... 17
- Cultural and heritage (including ... 6
- Coastal settlements and transport 5
- Ports, harbours and shipping 10
- Marine industry 6
- Flood and coastal erosion risk m... 6
- Military and defence 0
- Other 2



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

Habitat loss / degradation
Increasing coastal visitors post pandemic
Sustainability
Shellfish harvesting
Sustainability and move towards carbon zero
Shoreline management
Managing sustainable fisheries
Probably marine spatial prioritisation
Challenges of habitat restoration
Degradation of ecological habitats (extent and condition)
Marine licensing
Recreational disturbance
Ensuring even low risk developments benefit biodiversity
Planning and development on the coast
Sewage pollution
Nutrients
Climate change
Flooding
Management of heritage assets in response to sea level rise and climate change impacts (e.g. increased storm events) - includes CEDAR project with Portsmouth Uni
Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion

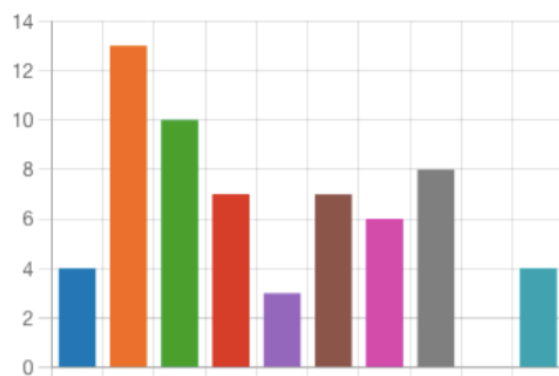
INNS
Uncertainty of funding for habitat restoration
Erosion of infrastructure (footpath and car park) and habitats
Water quality

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

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

[More Details](#)

- Fisheries and aquaculture 4
- Habitats and species (inc Restor... 13
- Water Quality and catchment m... 10
- Cultural and heritage (including ... 7
- Coastal settlements and transport 3
- Ports, harbours and shipping 7
- Marine industry 6
- Flood and coastal erosion risk m... 8
- Military and defence 0
- Other 4



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

Pollution from agricultural sources - excesses in nitrates
Increasing dog ownership/increasing numbers of dogs on beaches post pandemic
Water quality
Lobster and crab declining numbers
Planning consent process in support of a freeport site
Cultural heritage
Management of shore gathering activities
Increasing access v limiting damage
Partnership working - how best to collaborate in terms of co-identification of risks & opportunities, co-design and co-delivery
Water quality
Climate change and sea level rise
Inconsistencies seen through the various planning and consenting processes, and a lack of a Coastal Concordat in many areas of the Solent
Marine conservation
Commercial waterfront
Biodiversity/Internationally important sites

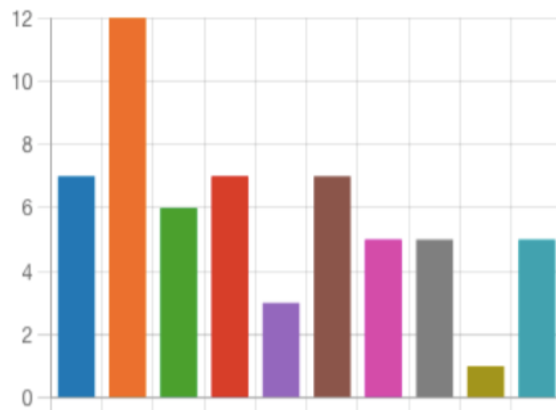
How requirements for biodiversity net gain will roll out for planning decisions at the coast and how this can be best used to secure nature recovery network
International/National Designations
Access to updated evidence
Potential break down of the Solent's network of environmental sites - and impact on birds, etc.
Recreational disturbance re habitats and species
Depleted natural habitats

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

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

[More Details](#)

- Fisheries and aquaculture 7
- Habitats and species (inc Restor... 12
- Water Quality and catchment m... 6
- Cultural and heritage (including ... 7
- Coastal settlements and transport 3
- Ports, harbours and shipping 7
- Marine industry 5
- Flood and coastal erosion risk m... 5
- Military and defence 1
- Other 5



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.

BLUE - Solent Seascapes Project, HIWWT - Seagrass beds, Southern Water - NatCap Research, baseline document, CHaPRoN
Coastal Partners
Links with the Solent Protection Society
Centre for BLUE Governance, University of Portsmouth
SEMS, Solent Oyster Restoration, Recreational Angling Sector Group, Dorset, Hants and IoW Marine Conservation Group
Solent Forum
IW Estuaries is a coastal partnership, so all work is done in partnership. Also working with BLUE Marine and others on the ELP bid, EA on saltmarsh restoration, ARC and Artecology on saltmarsh restoration and coastal biosphere work - the latter also with the AONB and Portsmouth Uni

Harbours (Chichester, Langstone & Pagham) summit - convened by Southern Water but involving multiple stakeholders.
Solent Oyster restoration Project, Solent Seascape Project
CHaPRoN steering group, CHaPRoN shellfish subgroup meetings, Solent Forum, Solent European Marine Site Natural Environment Group, Solent Restoration working group,
Partnership for South Hampshire Water Quality Working Group and Strategic Environmental Planning Officer Steering Group. East Hampshire Catchment Partnership.
Solent Forum, Hamble Estuary Partnership, Coastal Partners Hook Lake Study, Boating Water Quality Group, Blue Marine Foundation (oyster project and Solent seascape), Portsmouth University & Bournemouth University (facilitating locations for various research projects). BUDS, SEMS, with NE re identifying small-scale saltmarsh restoration opportunities.
Coastal defence work with the EA, surface water management with EA & Southern Water, habitat mitigation, Bird Aware
Coastal Partners, MMO, Bird Aware, nitrates, North Solent Shoreline management plan
Catchment Partnership including current Green Recovery Challenge work, EA led Hurst to Lymington Coastal Strategy, Partnership Plan for National Park, SEMS, Bird Aware, would hope to be involved in forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy and LNP work. New Forest Waterside Strategy
Coastal Partners, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Langstone Harbour Board, Bird Aware
FCRM coastal schemes = Hurst to Lymington, River Itchen, IOW schemes (x 5), Farlington Marshes, Thorney Island HCP. Sussex & Southern IFCA Fisheries/Oyster Mgmt Plans. EA/NE/IFCA REACH Plan. CHaPRoN initiative. Solent Seascape project. IOW, Hamble, Langstone Village saltmarsh restoration projects. Solent Oyster restoration project. Solent BUDs. NEG. Catchment Partnerships x 5. Green Halo. Secrets of the Solent project. LEP. LNP. Harbours Summit. PUSH. BUDs/BESE local regulators working group.
Life REMEDIES / RaNTRANS
CHaPRoN, Southern Water Summit and Blue Marine ELP bid are a focus currently.
Solent Forum, SCOPAC and SCG
Coastal issues on agenda of East Hants Catchment Partners and Island Rivers

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

Nutrient reduction programmes, habitat restoration works.
All our work is Partnership working.
Solent area Safety Committee (SASAC).
Sustainability.
Coastal recreation.
Shore gathering activities.
Yes - academia and research, industry.
Not much that we aren't already doing through the estuaries project and the SF. Could increase links with Universities.
Our PR24 Business Plan (2025-2030) with a specific focus on WINEP (Environment Programme) drivers.
Solent Seascape will require working in partnership with all Solent stakeholders.

Always keen to work with partners involving fisheries data collection. Key areas include hand gathering and fishing activities over seagrass habitats.
Combined effort of all partnerships in the Solent to tackle water quality. PFSH Water Quality Working Group and SEPO Steering Group meet every 2 months.
Think we are already in all the partnerships relevant to us.
Always looking to collaborate with any organisations looking at reducing pollution, restoring and making safe habitats or coastal education.
Evolution of coastal communities unlikely to benefit from a hold the line approach.
Greater connection between bodies managing wildlife and recreation sites along coast and also England's coastal path - currently perception is everyone working in silos which may well be due to lack of resources and time for partnership.
Yes as opportunities arise.
There is also some consideration as to whether a strategy is needed from Lymington to Redbridge. The Southampton Coastal Strategy is also looking at being reviewed/ refresh. MMO to join REACH Plan.
Water quality improvement.
Building closer links with landowner and potential funders of habitat creation initiatives.
More holistic Solent-wide approach to addressing issues, e.g. likely change of protected areas from freshwater to saltwater.

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

Solent Seascapes Project Management Plan, further developments in RanTRans work
Code of conduct for wind and kite surfers, code of conduct for paddle sports
RYA South 2022-2023 Regional Plan
Sussex IFCA hand gathering permit byelaw
SMMR work
Southern IFCA Annual Plan
Net gain, environmental targets
Saltmarsh restoration feasibility studies for Western Yar and Medina will be available this year
Nutrient & Faecal contamination source apportionment study of Harbours with University of Brighton (started May 2022); Southern Water WRMP/DWMP & PR24 consultations all planned (influence our strategic & investment plans)
Solent Seascape will include all of the above
We have recently made amendments to our Hand Gathering Byelaw based on feedback from our formal consultation
Fareham Local Plan 2037 is currently at examination with estimated adoption of the Plan in Autumn/Winter 2022
Nutrient neutral mitigation strategy, PFSH Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
CEDAR heritage project linked to European bid by Portsmouth Uni. Green recovery Challenge project Wilder for Water addressing recreation impacts on water quality, New Forest Nature Recovery Strategy, delivery of Partnership Plan
Hayling Sea Defence Strategy
Solent Seascape project

RaNTRANS will be holding a workshop at the University of Portsmouth on the 3-4th November 2022

The Hayling Island FCERM Strategy is ongoing during this timescale

EBC Local Plan 2016-36 has just been adopted - various DM policies apply

Langstone Village saltmarsh restoration feasibility report

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

Very well organised, well informed and easily accessible information

Good for networking and an overview of local issues

Nothing useful to add

Good variety and relevant topics being discussed.

Very good

Good

It seems to be working very well at the moment - Well Done! :-D Like the mix of Teams and in person meetings (and perhaps hybrid ones if they work).

Excellent

The SF are a great organisation, critical to linking those who use the Solent with one another, information sharing, and networking. Great website, really valuable meetings and events.

Sussex IFCA are happy to receive updates from the Solent Forum

Just the right volume and correct level of technical pitch

Happy with organisational arrangements. Monthly newsletter excellent, members meeting good

If there could be a more balanced membership which would likely result in a wider range of areas being considered. Currently very local authority and environment focussed

Very well organised, efficient and well structured

Pleased with current set up and all that you do. Proposals put forward in the Collaborative Agreement work programme. Some topics of interest - blue carbon, benefit stacking, green infrastructure, greening the grey, green urban, green/blue investment

I receive lots of benefits from the newsletters and meetings

It's great to see the workings of the Solent Forum, and I always enjoy events that are arranged. The monthly round up is a really useful resource

Addresses key issues

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

I would prefer the option of hybrid meetings in future, so you can still view them/participate in person or online.

Current arrangements seem to work well, so don't think that there is a need to change.

Members meetings are good. Attendance by Teams/Zoom as an option is a useful backup in case meetings and other commitments preclude attending in person.

All going well and happy with the work of the Solent Forum team.

A suggestion is that we have a research meeting - maybe annually - to look at local research and how it could be Solent.
As above. Like the Members meeting in person as the networking is so important. When they are more process based (eg SF Steering) then Teams is good as it costs a lot to attend and the project doesn't benefit directly from it so sometimes hard to justify. Haven't tried the hybrid ones yet but if they work that would be handy if I can't get there.
Although face to face are good, practically speaking a balance with online meetings & events would be preferred and is still needed. Some 'hot topic' meetings could be useful.
I much prefer in-person meetings. They are far more inspiring, and I feel achieve more than on-line equivalents.
Regular face to face meetings are always useful. I believe a minimum of twice a year is appropriate.
I am happy with the current mix, as I take part in most of these, from the general members meetings and SEMS, to the topic group meetings to the informal Solent Officers' catch up. This is just right in my view, and satisfies needs of different members in different ways whereas a catchall approach would not.
Some topic specific members meetings may be useful. Consider hybrid meetings.
We like in person meetings now we can again and love time to. meet other members.
Revert to a mixture of face to face and online.
Existing arrangement works well.
Personally I feel the Forum ought to embrace the benefits of online working where possible given the urgency of the climate emergency. In addition members will increasingly face budget pressures and travel costs could become a factor. There may be opportunities to reach a wider audience through online webinars/events.
Virtual - more sustainable and better for the environment.
Steering Group - virtual. Mix of virtual/face to face for Members meeting and NEG meetings. I am sure in time the various project leads would as be happy to attend any of the SF meetings to present if it would be useful or of interest.
The special work area presentations are really useful.
It's just nice to be able to hold the meetings in person again.
How we take a more holistic approach - apologies if this is already covered as I've missed a few meetings.

12. Please give the organisation you are representing

Langstone Harbour Board
Bird Aware Solent
RYA South
Sussex IFCA
Solent Gateway Ltd
University of Portsmouth
Southern IFCA
IW Estuaries (Cowes HC, Yarmouth HC, IWC - harbours)
Southern Water
Blue Marine Foundation
Sussex IFCA

Fareham Borough Council
River Hamble Harbour Authority
Solent Protection Society
Final Straw Foundation
Natural England
Isle of Wight Council
Portsmouth City Council
New Forest National Park Authority
Havant Borough Council
Environment Agency
Natural England
Coastal Partners
Eastleigh Borough Council
Environment Agency