



Research and Policy Team Plan

April 2023 to March 2024



SECTION 1: Introduction

The Research and Policy Team Plan (RPT Plan) sets out the priorities for the team for the period April 2023 to March 2024, feeding directly from the Horizon Goals identified in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2024.

In order to deliver the RPT Plan and fulfil Southern IFCA's function as a competent regulator for the marine environment, we recognise the need to align our work to a strategic direction. With many competing and evolving objectives, it is important that we maintain a considered overview in our delivery. This proactive way of working, with the recognition of the need to maintain a capacity for reactive and emerging work and oncoming challenges, will provide a template for the RPT and our stakeholders moving through 2023 and beyond.

1.1 Research & Policy Team Function

The Southern IFCA Research and Policy Team (RPT) are tasked to facilitate the delivery of the Authority's legislative duties, and in doing so, seek to improve the sustainability of marine fisheries and the marine environment, whilst supporting local communities who are reliant upon these resources.

The RPT conduct research and gather evidence and information in order to provide a sound evidence base to underpin the decision-making processes of the Authority. This ensures that the Authority fulfils its functions as described under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹ (MaCAA), ensuring successful and sustainable governance of the inshore marine environment, through the delivery of IFCA High Level Objectives via IFCA Success Criteria, and through meeting its duties as a competent authority under relevant legislation for protected areas (Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019² and The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981³). In addition, the approach of the RPT aligns with the eight fisheries objectives under the Fisheries Act 2020⁴, Defra's delivery of the Fisheries Act and the delivery of the Environment Improvement Plan 2023⁵.

Working under the Chief Officer, the RPT is led by a Deputy Chief Officer who oversees the work of three Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers and a Project Officer. There is the potential for additional roles within this team to be filled during the 2023-24 year, details of the RPT structure are provided in the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2024. The RPT are further supported by the Business Services Team and work closely with the Compliance and Enforcement Team.



Further details regarding the RPT and their work can be found at

<https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/district-fisheries-research>.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573>






³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/22/contents/enacted>

⁵ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108888/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf)

1.2 RPT Core Functions

There are 5 functions delivered by the RPT, three of which form the team’s core functions (shaded blue):

RPT Functions	
Developing Fisheries Management Interventions	
Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions	
Monitoring Inshore Fisheries	
Projects and Emerging Work	
Engagement	

Underpinning all of the work undertaken by the RPT is a data management and analysis capability and Geographic Information System (GIS) expertise. GIS enables Southern IFCA to visualize, analyse and interpret data spatially in order to better understand trends and relationships. Both the data management and GIS expertise within the RPT provide a valuable resource which is used by Southern IFCA to underpin fisheries management interventions, monitoring and engagement. For engagement we can facilitate greater stakeholder participation and understanding through the use of visual aids to represent fishing activity data, location of sensitive habitats and designated sites and to demonstrate outcomes of surveys which relate directly to fisher’s daily activities.

Building these skills within the RPT remains an ongoing focus through each of the RPT functions and specific staff development. This will allow the RPT to continue to build its capability in the research field through the undertaking of complex surveys and data collection as well as increasing the level at which that data can be analysed providing stronger evidence to support management decisions.



1.2.1 Developing Fisheries Management Interventions

Developing fisheries management interventions involves the identification of an issue, emerging evidence, or another factor which indicates that management intervention may be required to meet the duties of the Authority set down by overarching legislative drivers.

The IFCA has the ability to develop both statutory and non-statutory management interventions and has developed a Fisheries Management Interventions Process Document (developed 2019, updated 2021) to clarify the stages of complex fisheries and MPA management development and to promote consistency and transparency in the approach taken.

This document seeks to complement Statutory Guidance provided by Defra which sets out best practice for making byelaws. Section 155 of the MaCAA describes how IFCAs have the power to make byelaws:

- (1) *For the purposes of performing the duty imposed by section 153 or the duty imposed by section 154, the authority for an IFC District may make byelaws for that District.*
- (2) *Byelaws made under this section must be observed within the District for which they are made.*
- (3) *A byelaw made under this section does not have effect until it is confirmed by the Secretary of State.*
- (4) *The Secretary of State may confirm a byelaw without modification or with such modifications as are agreed to by the IFC authority that made the byelaw.*
- (5) *Before confirming a byelaw, the Secretary of State may cause a local inquiry to be held.*

IFCAs are responsible for producing byelaws within their Districts, which includes such part of the English inshore region lying six nautical miles from baselines. Byelaws must be compatible with and cannot be less stringent or inconsistent with National or Community legislation.

When delivering this function, IFCA's must have regard to the best practice guidance provided by Defra. This guidance outlines best practice for the delivery and implementation of byelaws which must be based on sound evidence, follow particular decision-making routes and ensure undertaking of appropriate stakeholder consultations. The Fisheries Management Interventions and Process Document breaks this process down into five clear and distinct stages as illustrated in the Process Map in Figure 1. This map also demonstrates the roles and responsibilities of the Authority and its sub-committees in the decision-making process. This Process Map is not intended to be a binding document, rather it seeks to provide a useful tool to give context for the delivery of complex management relevant to the Southern IFCA Authority.

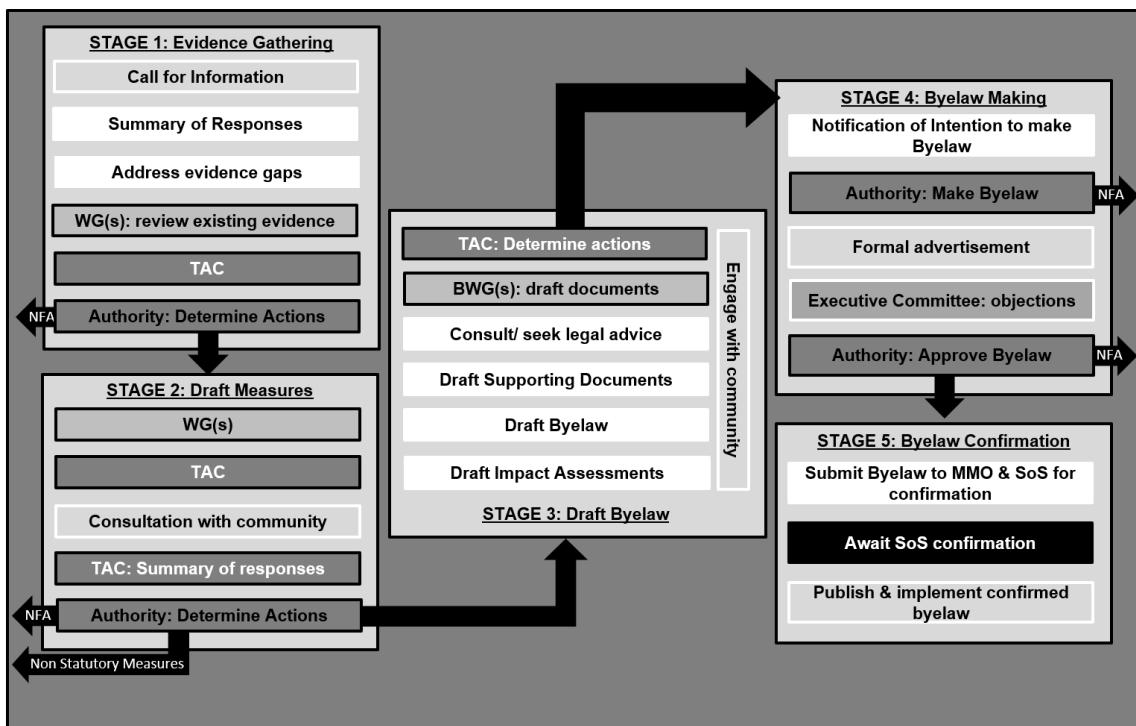


Figure 1: The Process Map from the Fisheries Management Interventions and Process Document



1.2.2 Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions

Following the implementation of a management intervention within the District, Southern IFCA are committed to reviewing the performance of statutory and non-statutory measures to ensure that inshore fisheries management is underpinned by the latest and best available evidence in order to achieve sustainable fisheries management.

The trigger for a review and the associated process by which a management intervention is reviewed may fall under one of three categories:

- Review of a byelaw as stipulated in the specific byelaw or under Defra byelaw making guidance
- Review of permit conditions under a permit byelaw
- Review via a Management Plan (including Monitoring and Control Plans and Management Intentions Documents)

In considering the best available evidence to inform a review this may be sourced from a number of different areas including, but not limited to, the following:

- Any available scientific and survey data
- Any statutory advice given by Natural England
- Any updates to habitat and/or designated feature location and condition
- Any updates to fishing activity data (e.g., spatial, temporal, gear type) including the emergence of a new fishery
- Any environmental assessment, e.g., Habitats Regulations Assessment, Marine Conservation Zone Assessment or SSSI Assessment
- Any Impact Assessment
- Any feedback sought through a consultation with stakeholders

1.2.2.1 Reviews under Management Plans

Management Plans (including Monitoring and Control Plans and Management Intentions Documents) are designed to analyse the current situation within a particular fishery and identify objectives to help that fishery develop sustainably. Timelines and milestones for monitoring the effectiveness of current management can be set within these documents, along with an outline of evidence sources that may feed into this monitoring and a system for the collation of best available evidence for the fishery to inform any reviews, including identifying where further evidence gathering may need to be undertaken. For more established fisheries, the plan may set out a framework for feedback and a process for the Authority to follow to ensure that the objectives of the fishery continue to be met.

Fisheries Management Plans

With the development of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) under the Fisheries Act 2020 there are likely to be other pathways for review developed going forward. Each individual FMP will be valid for 6 years before review and it is anticipated that, within the FMP there will be a program of work set out to achieve management objectives and gather evidence. At the time of publishing the RPT Plan for 2023-24 the frontrunner FMPs have not yet been ratified and therefore the link between the FMP outputs and the work of the Southern IFCA cannot yet be fully explored. The publication of the frontrunner FMPs is anticipated in late 2023 to early 2024 at which point, the Southern IFCA will be able to understand where separate management pathways may emerge to meet the objectives of each FMP and therefore allow for consideration of any required reviews of fisheries management interventions in line with those FMP outputs.

1.2.2.2 Byelaw Reviews

IFCA byelaw making guidance states that IFCAs should continually monitor the effectiveness of their byelaws. When they are no longer effective, they should be repealed or modified. Section 158 of MaCAA makes provision for byelaws to cease to have an effect after a specified period (i.e., a “sunset clause”). Where possible, and in line with best practice, IFCA byelaws seek to include either a sunset clause or a specified review point within the provisions of the byelaw.

Reviews of byelaws will follow the Byelaw Making Process outlined in Figure 1 as set out in the Southern IFCA Fisheries Management Interventions Process Document. Currently some Southern IFCA byelaws will also have associated Management Plans (see S1.2.2.1) which provide additional detail on review timelines and evidential considerations. It is the intention of the Southern IFCA to identify where Management Plans may be required for any new management interventions and through the review of existing management interventions, to align this process across workstreams and provide further clarity to stakeholders of any review process.

1.2.2.3 Permit Condition Reviews

A Permit Byelaw provides a mechanism under which the introduction of specific measures can be introduced via permit conditions in accordance with the procedure set out in the Permit Byelaw and supporting documents.

This offers a flexible approach to managing fishing activities, enabling the Authority to adapt more easily to new and improved evidence. Reviews of permit conditions are carried out in consultation with permit holders and any interested parties and considers the current best available evidence base, examples of evidence sources are given in S1.2.2.

A guide process for undertaking a Permit Condition Review is outlined in Figure 2. This process map is not intended to be binding, rather it seeks to provide a useful guide upon which Permit Condition Reviews can be delivered.

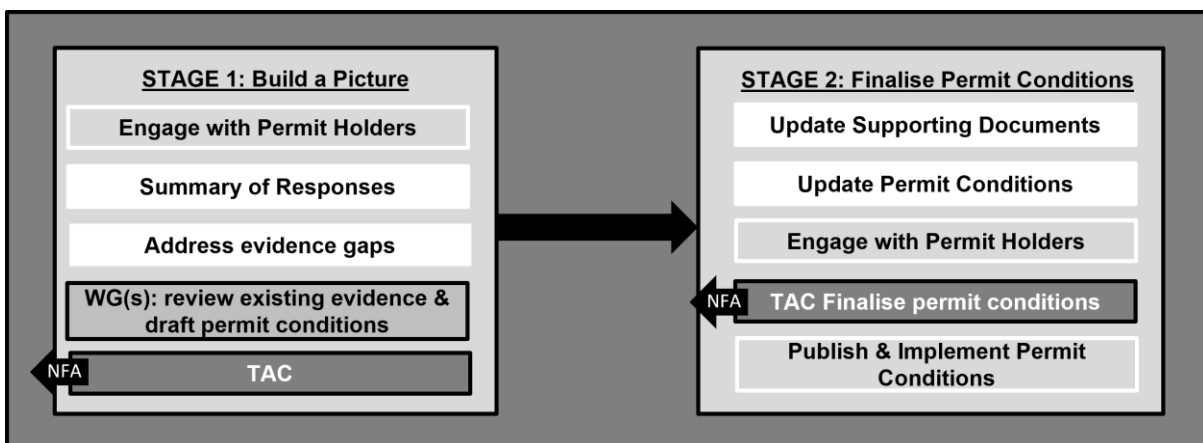


Figure 2: Permit Condition Review Process Map



1.2.3 Monitoring Inshore Fisheries

The RPT conduct stock assessments and surveys in order to contribute to the IFCA's understanding of the marine environment and fisheries resources therein. This data is used to complement and provide a sound evidence base to aid the Authority in its decision-making process to achieve successful and sustainable management, whilst protecting the marine environment.

Surveys and stock assessments are either completed on an annual basis to support existing management within the District, or may be undertaken on a more ad hoc basis in order to support a particular evidence need. As much as possible Southern IFCA seek to work with partners to help facilitate the undertaking of these surveys, for example the small fish sampling program in defined harbours and estuaries across the District works with local fishers, conservation groups, harbour bodies, landowners and academic institutions.

1.2.3.1 Data Collection

Where additional evidence needs are identified to support future management decisions, the RPT will explore available opportunities for gathering this data, utilizing the ability to work with partners. The Authority continues to actively strengthen its relationship with local academic institutions to identify opportunities for integrated research and publication, particularly in assisting with providing additional technical expertise for example in improving understanding of shellfish and fish biology. This type of developed understanding will directly inform management decisions such as suitable Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) and aligning fishing opportunities to avoid key periods such as spawning seasons that are defined for local stocks.

1.2.3.2 Marine Assets

To facilitate the delivery of our monitoring program, Southern IFCA seek to work with local fishermen through the chartering of fishing vessels. This not only enables the Authority to utilise local industry knowledge but also provides an important opportunity for stakeholders to play a key part in the collection of evidence for their fisheries, aiming to improve understanding of related management.

The Authority also has access to a range of specialist survey equipment including fishing dredges, towed and remotely operated underwater video cameras, a side-scan sonar and sediment grabs. The Authority also has the ability to work with local and national research institutions to facilitate the use of additional survey equipment where necessary.

Southern IFCA has three Fisheries Protection Vessels located across the District. These vessels have a secondary role to assist in the delivery of the RPT monitoring programme with their main focus aligned with the role of the Compliance and Enforcement Team.



Section 3.0 of the Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy for 2023-24 outlines more detail on the Authority's operational assets.



1.2.4 Projects and Emerging Work

Periodically the Authority may be asked to be involved in external projects for example projects developed through national funding streams. A consideration of the Authority's involvement in these types of projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis with proposals reviewed in line with the IFCA's Vision, High Level Objectives and Success Criteria as well as Horizon Goals identified through the Annual Plan and resourcing requirements.



1.2.5 Engagement

The Authority's Communication Plan⁶ sets out how Southern IFCA will approach communication and aspects of engagement with the community and stakeholders. It aims to ensure that people understand how, as an organisation, the IFCA plans to engage with others to help in making the right decisions for delivering the IFCA Vision.

Engagement through the RPT is crucial to the delivery of all other team Functions. Engagement is delivered through attendance at local, regional and national meetings/open days/information events, participation in fisher led forums, carrying out consultations on management interventions and facilitating the communication of information from other regulatory bodies and government agencies. Engagement is also achieved through cross-team collaboration with the Compliance & Enforcement team to utilise land and sea patrols as opportunities to engage with stakeholders. The Authority also has electronic assets which are utilised for engagement including the Southern IFCA website and social media feeds on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Appropriate, timely and informed engagement is vital to the delivery of all Southern IFCA workstreams and across the whole team opportunities for engagement are continually identified and explored.

The RPT has a presence at the following meetings:

- Crab & Lobster and King Scallop Fisheries Improvement Projects
- Dorset Catchment Partnership – Fisheries Sub-Group
- Fleet Management Group
- Fleet Study Group
- Hamble Estuary Partnership
- IFCA National Technical Advisory Group
- Langstone Harbour Committee
- Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve
- Poole and District Sea Angling Association
- Poole Harbour Steering Group
- Poole Harbour Study Group
- REACH Network
- Southern IFCA Conservation Group
- Southern IFCA Recreational Angling Sector Group
- Regional Fisheries Groups VII d and VII e, f, g
- SAGB Mollusc and Crustacean Committees
- Solent Seascapes Project
- Solent Forum
- Solent Seagrass Network
- SWAN Aquaculture Network
- Whelk Working Group



Section 5.0 of the Compliance & Enforcement Team Strategy for 2023-24 outlines specific engagement through the C&E Team

⁶ [Communication-Plan-2019-10-23-112412.pdf \(toolkitfiles.co.uk\)](https://www.toolkitfiles.co.uk/Communication-Plan-2019-10-23-112412.pdf)

1.3 RPT Horizon Goals and Delivery Priorities

This section provides detail on the Horizon Goals identified for the RPT in Section 3 of the Southern IFCA Annual Strategic Plan April 2023 to March 2024, translating those Goals into clear, outcome-focused Delivery Priorities. Where possible, these Delivery Priorities have been broken down into 3-month phases to provide transparency in timelines. The graphic below is used to demonstrate how each Delivery Priority aligns with the following:

- Delivery of IFCA High Level Objectives via IFCA Success Criteria
- The eight Fisheries Objectives (Fisheries Act 2020)
- The delivery of the Environment Improvement Plan 2023 (Environment Act 2021)
- Supporting Defra’s delivery of the Fisheries Act
- The UK Net Zero Strategy, via identification and instigation of changes in operations, in order to minimise and reduce emissions

This graphic has been used across the Annual Strategic Plan, the RPT Plan and the Compliance & Enforcement Plan to demonstrate this alignment across all Authority workstreams.

IFCA Success Criteria	No.	Fisheries Objectives	
IFCAs are recognised and heard, balancing the economic needs of the fishery whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders.	1	Sustainability 1	
IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime.	2	Precautionary 2	
IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts.	3	Ecosystem 3	
IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional.	4	Scientific Evidence 4	
IFCAs make the use of evidence to deliver their objectives	5	Bycatch 5	
		Equal Access 6	
		National Benefit 7	
		Climate Change 8	
UK Net Zero Strategy			
Supporting Defra in delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives	FMPs	MPAs	Marine Consents
Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023			
Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 70% of designated features in MPAs to be in favourable condition by 2042 with the remainder in recovering condition, with a new interim target of 48% of designated features to be in favourable condition by 31 January 2028. To achieve interim target: management measures to be in place across all MPAs by 2024. • Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme delivery (via FMPs, Marine Plans and Marine Consents). • Achieving Net Zero via harnessing of blue carbon habitats (saltmarsh and seagrass). • Implementation of VMS and Catch App across the inshore fleet 			
Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop FMPs as ways of managing fisheries more sustainably. 			
Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage & engagement with the natural environment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider marine heritage in marine plans 			

The following sections outline the Delivery Priorities for the RPT for 2023-24 under each Horizon Goal including timelines. For each workstream the relevant icons are used to indicate alignment with Core Principles as outlined on the previous page and the RPT Core Functions of Developing Fisheries Management Interventions and Reviewing Fisheries Management Interventions. The Monitoring Inshore Fisheries Core Function is explored in S1.3.1 and the Projects and Emerging Work Function in S1.3.2. It is recognised that the Engagement function of the RPT runs across all workstreams (S1.2.5).

MPA Management Review



For context, the term 'MPA' is used to refer to sites within the National Site Network (SACs and SPAs) and Marine Conservation Zones.

The MPA Management Review Delivery Priority:

- 1) To introduce management measures for T3 MCZs and additional features for T1&T2 MCZs ensuring that the Conservation Objectives of any feature within an MCZ are furthered.
- 2) Incorporate an update to existing management within district-wide National Site Network Sites based on the best available spatial evidence of feature presence/extent, as provided by NE, to ensure that there is no damage, disturbance or adverse impact caused by fishing activity on the features subject to protection.
- 3) Incorporate a scheduled review of the existing Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw and the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016, as well as consideration of relevant legacy byelaws, where the existing management footprint falls within MPAs.

Scope:

In order to meet the Government target of having management measures in place across all MPAs by 2024 there is a need to identify priority workstreams and adopt a phased approach to the delivery of two of these. The three priority workstreams identified are:

- Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review
- Shore Gathering Review
- Black Bream Management

Both the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review (BTFG) and the Shore Gathering (SG) Review require a phased approach due to the resources required to meet the 2024 Government target. A phased approach will also allow for the consideration of wider sensitive habitat management which fall outside of MPAs. In staging the approach, Phase 2 will benefit from the inclusion of outcomes from ongoing research programmes and projects, currently underway in the District, to include those which are specifically focused on areas which may provide habitat restoration potential, ecosystem services, blue carbon habitats and Natural Capital benefits. Research in these areas will contribute vital information to help the IFCA to contribute to wider conservation targets and understand how the wider management of sensitive habitats can help contribute to meeting the objectives of the

Fisheries Act 2020, particularly objectives 1, 3 and 8. In addition, during Phase 2, and in order to deliver IFCA's core duties under MaCAA, extensive consultation across the district's communities will be required to capture site specific information regarding the social and economic benefits of fishing, coupled with the need to protect the marine environment. It is likely that this will require risk-based modelling to ensure that any subsequent management fulfils those core duties.

The phased approach is split into two, Phase 1 and Phase 2, outlined below:

Phase 1:

To consider feature based management interventions for MPAs: sites designated under the National Site Network (Special Areas of Conservation [SACs], Special Protection Areas [SPAs] and Marine Conservation Zones [MCZs])

The IFCA Core Functions under both the MaCAA (2009) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 set out the IFCA's duties to seek to ensure that the Conservation Objectives of any feature within an MCZ in the District are furthered and ensure that fishing activity does not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife and habitats for which an SAC or SPA is protected respectively. In line with these Core Functions, Phase 1 will consider management for features which exist within any MCZ and which exist within or adjacent to any SAC/SPA. For the purpose of Phase 1 'adjacent' means a feature (to include any buffer) which extends across the boundary of the designated site, to ensure that the integrity of that part of the feature which exists within the boundary of the site is not affected by activity occurring over that same feature where it extends outside the boundary of the site. For MCZs, S154 of the MaCAA states that an IFCA's performance in meeting the duty to further Conservation Objectives should not be affected by anything listed in the general IFCA duties under S153 of the MaCAA, which include social or economic considerations. Likewise, for SACs and SPAs, the overarching legislation does not provide for the consideration of social or economic factors/impacts when making management decisions which are required to ensure that the duty of no adverse effect is met.

The Authority will aim to develop a set of principles for Phase 1, both for the BTFG and SG workstreams, in order to guide and maintain consistency in decision making which will ensure that any subsequent management is applied equally and with full transparency across the Southern IFCA District, where applicable.

Phase 2:




To consider district wide management interventions for sensitive habitats



Following the completion of Phase 1 for BTFG and SG it is the intention of the Authority to commence Phase 2 of these reviews. Phase 2 would consider features which exist adjacent to an MCZ boundary (i.e. any part of a feature which extends across the boundary of an MCZ) as well as any sensitive habitats and species (yet to be defined, pending the scope of Phase 2 reviews) across the district, both inside and outside National Site Network Sites and MCZs. This would include consideration of features within Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are not also designated under overlapping MPAs, where IFCA duties under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) required the Authority to take 'reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions' to further conservation objectives for features within these sites.

There will also be consideration under Phase 2 of any additional factors identified through the Phase 1 process for each respective review, for example consideration of existing closed areas where these don't align with Phase 1 principles but require extensive consultation and evidence gathering on use by different fishing sectors and gear types, associated social and economic data and environmental benefits to inform any decisions on management for these areas in line with the IFCA Core Duties.

Under this Phase, social and economic factors/impacts can be considered alongside the need for protection of the marine environment, operating under the IFCA duties outlined under S153 of the MaCAA, namely balancing the protection of the marine environment with a sustainable fishing industry, balancing the needs of different persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources and ensuring sustainable fishing and continued sustainable development. In addition, Phase 2 will allow for the consideration of outcomes of currently ongoing restoration projects for specified habitats and consideration of how the IFCA can align with the Government's Vision of protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030 ("30x30").

On the commencement of Phase 2 workstreams, principles guiding the scope of the review will be determined, as well as anticipated timelines for the progression of each workstream, which will be fully developed by the Authority including identifying opportunities for evidence gathering and stakeholder participation.

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
Priority Workstreams												
Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review – Phase 1 	Stage 3: Draft Byelaw	Stage 3: Recommendation to move to Stage 4	Stage 4: Make Byelaw	Formal Consultation		Stage 4: Approve Byelaw	Stage 5					
Shore Gathering Review – Phase 1 	Stage 2: Draft Measures Compiling evidence to inform Phase 1 and indicate potential draft measures					WG	Stage 2: Draft Measures report	Stage 2: Determine Actions		Stage 3: Recommendation to move to Stage 4	Stage 4: Make Byelaw	
Black Bream Management 	Stage 1: Evidence Gathering			Stage 1: Review Evidence	Stage 1: Determine Actions	WG	Stage 2: Draft Measures	Stage 2: Determine Actions		Stage 3: Recommendation to move to Stage 4	Stage 4: Make Byelaw	

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
Phase 2 Sensitive Habitats Review												
Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review – Phase 2 								Stage 1: Evidence Gathering following completion of Stage 5 in Phase 1			Progress Stage 1 WG	
Shore Gathering Review – Phase 2 												To commence in 2024-25

There are additional workstreams which are related to management interventions within MPAs. Whilst the progression of these workstreams is not linked to the achievement of the Government Targets underpinning the Horizon Goal of the MPA Management Review it is important to maintain ongoing reviews of current legislation to ensure that management interventions remain sustainable and appropriate and, in the case of the issuing of leases under the Poole Fishery Order 2015 to allow for business security and continuity. In addition, ensuring that fishing activity continues to be managed sustainably in MPAs contributes the achievement of the Fisheries Objectives and wider environmental targets.

Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw

Coverage: The Solent

The Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw (SDPB) is a single coherent management tool developed in order to govern fishing activities within the Solent bivalve fisheries allowing for adaptive and flexible management that is underpinned and directed by the best available evidence. The SDPB was implemented in November 2021 and regulates the harvesting of bivalves in the Solent through the issue of annual permits. Category A permits are issued for activities relating to all bivalves excluding native oysters with the option for Category B permits to regulate the fishing for native oysters. To date no Category B permits have been issued due to insufficient stock levels. The Management Intentions document for the fishery sets out how evidence collected through Southern IFCA monitoring informs management decisions. Details on the monitoring in relation to this fishery can be found in S1.3.2.

In 2022 additional permit conditions were introduced under Cat A permits relevant to the Solent scallop fishery.

In 2023-24 there is a need to review all relevant supporting documentation for this fishery to ensure that the Management Intentions document and the Access Policy remain fit for purpose. Any changes to these documents will be considered via permit holder consultation prior to any changes being introduced.

In addition, the Authority are committed to improving their knowledge of the impacts of various methods of fishing and, over time, additional evidence may be developed to better inform management. During 2023-24 the Authority will be resuming a workstream identified in the 2022-23 Strategy to explore the potential re-introduction of a pump-scoop fishery in the Solent. The first stage in this process will be to identify where this activity has the potential to overlap with any MPAs in the Solent and to undertake the required assessments to help inform discussions on this potential re-introduction. The Southern IFCA will also continue to work with Defra on this matter as the re-introduction of a pump-scoop fishery would require the revocation of Statutory Instrument No. 2696 The Solent European Marine Site (Prohibition of Method of Dredging) Order 2004.

Wrasse Fishery

Coverage: West of IFCA District including Studland to Portland SAC

The development of a live wrasse fishery in the District, focused around a handline and pot/trap fishery in the west of the District, led to the requirement for an HRA to assess the activity where it overlaps with the Studland to Portland SAC. As part of the mitigation to ensure that the fishery does not have an adverse effect on the features of the SAC, both Wrasse Fishery Guidance and a Monitoring and Control Plan were implemented.

The Wrasse Fishery Guidance introduced precautionary management measures, by way of a code of conduct. The code includes spatial management and seasonal restrictions (to minimise fishing impacts during the spawning season). Maximum sizes are also applied

The Monitoring and Control Plan describes a set of 'Triggers for Assessment'. If trigger points are reached, then an Assessment Feedback Process is given in the M&CP which outlines steps for the Authority to take to review the management of the fishery. During the 2022 fishing season, it was identified that trigger point 1 relating to the number of wrasse landed had been reached. As per the Assessment Feedback Process, the HRA was re-assessed and concluded that, at this time based on the best available evidence, further management intervention was not required and the fishery would be monitored for a further year in 2023. It was recognised through this process that additional evidence on wrasse populations is likely to be forthcoming in 2023 with the completion of a PhD project which has been looking at wrasse populations across the south and southwest. Recognising that the best available evidence database is therefore likely to be updated during 2023, Southern IFCA will continue to monitor the wrasse fishery as per the M&CP during the 2023 fishing season and review the available evidence at the end of the season to determine if any changes to management are required for 2024.

An annual report is produced on the fishery, reporting on analysis of data provided by fishers during the season on the number of fish caught and fishing effort. This report is provided to the Authority annually at the February TAC meeting.

Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 – Issuing of leases for the period 2025-2030

Coverage: Poole Harbour

Southern IFCA manage aquaculture activity within a defined area of Poole Harbour under The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 ('the Order'). This is the largest Several Order in the UK. In accordance with Section (1) of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967, the Order confers on Southern IFCA the right of a several fishery for the cultivation of shellfish of any kind for a period of twenty years from the 1st July 2015.

Under Section (3) of the Order, the Authority must manage the aquaculture in Poole Harbour in line with the Management Plan entitled Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 Management Plan ('Management Plan'). Under Section (4) of the Order, the Authority are required to undertake an annual review of the Management Plan. If, during this review any significant changes are made to the Management Plan, then the Authority must notify, in writing, any interested parties of any proposed changes at least four weeks before the date of its annual publication (1st July). The Authority must, prior to publication of the updated Management Plan, take account of any representations it receives in writing from any interested party on the proposed changes. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant changes required to the Management Plan for 2023-24.

The Southern IFCA issues leases under the Order which are valid for a period of five years. The current leases are for 2020-2025 with the next lease period being 2025-2030. In order to ensure that the issuing of the 2025-2030 leases can be delivered in line with the expiry of the existing leases on 1st July 2025 and thus help ensure business security and continuity, there is a need to commence the process of developing the new leases during Q3 of 2023-24. This process will involve a review of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the issuing of leases considering potential impacts to the designated features of the Poole Harbour SPA, engagement with lease holders to understand their intentions for the next lease period and to provide them with notice of the required documentation including a Business Plan and Biosecurity Plan. This work will then continue through the 2024-25 year.

Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Fishery





Coverage: Poole Harbour



The Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw (PHDPB), which was introduced in 2015, regulates dredging for shellfish in Poole Harbour. Under the PHDPB, the Authority issues a restricted number of permits annually, with accompanying conditions, which include catch restrictions and reporting, restrictions on gear construction and use, the species that can be harvested and spatial and temporal restrictions.

The fishery operates within the boundary of the Poole Harbour SPA, SSSI and Ramsar Site. For the SPA designation, Southern IFCA currently undertake an annual HRA prior to the issuing of permits. The purpose of the HRA is to determine whether fishing activity is likely to have an adverse

impact on the features of the protected site and demonstrate how this is mitigated by the provisions in the PHDPB. During the 2023-24 year, it is the intention that the RPT will consider the introduction of a Monitoring and Control Plan for this fishery to complement management and introduce efficiencies in this area of work. This will be subject to the achievement of priority workstreams for MPA management and therefore, at this time, the timetable for this area of work is based on the existing annual HRA model.

In addition, the fishery is certified under the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Standard as a sustainable fishery. In Q3 of 2022 the fishery underwent a reduced re-assessment as the current certification period (granted in 2018) ends in September 2023. The process of re-certification will continue through Q1-Q2 of 2023, however the majority of the work required to assess the fishery has been completed. The fishery qualified for a reduced re-assessment as the two conditions placed on the fishery at the time of the original certification have been addressed in full before the end of the current certification period. Following on from the re-assessment, the fishery will continue to undergo an annual audit to ensure that the standard of the MSC certification continues to be met.

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
Additional Workstreams relating to MPAs												
Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw 	Review supporting documents	Consultation with permit holders	Confirm updated documents		Permits for 2023-24 issued							
Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw Permit Condition Review – Pump Scoop 		Stage 1: Build a Picture To include undertaking relevant MPA assessments			Report on Stage 1 Consider next steps based on Stage 1 report	Communication with industry						
Wrasse Fishery 				Collation of fishery data, communication with fishers and buyers, monitoring in relation to M&C Plan for fishery and review of any newly emerging evidence for the fishery or the species <i>(Link to Compliance & Enforcement Plan, 'Compliance with Wrasse Fishery Guidance', S6.0)</i>						2023 Wrasse Fishery Report Consider requirement for review		
Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 Annual Review of Management Plan 	Review management plan	2023-24 Management Plan										Begin review of management plan for 2024-25

Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 Issuing of leases for 2025-2030 							Workstream to commence in autumn 2023 with a review of evidence base underpinning management decisions and start drafting updated HRA for 2025-2030 leases				
Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Fishery 						Anticipated re-certification of MSC			Drafting HRA for 2024-25 issuing of permits	HRA for 2024-25 issuing of permits	

MCRS Review

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Coverage: District Wide

Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) is a management tool used at a national and regional level to help achieve sustainable fisheries. The measure prevents sea fisheries resources below a certain size from being removed from the fishery, the aim is for the MCRS to align with a size related to the size at sexual maturity to promote sustainable stocks.

Under the Southern IFCA Five-Year Legislative Forecast the Authority committed to begin to review MCRS for key species in the District between 2021 and 2023. During 2020-2021 an extensive literature review was undertaken based upon size at sexual maturity for species subject to commercial and/or recreational fisheries in the District. Available data was gathered on the size at which 50% of a population reach sexual maturity, a parameter known as L_{50} . This measure is often used as a baseline for MCRS as it aims to achieve sustainable exploitation by allowing individuals to reproduce at least once before being removed from the fishery. In addition, evidence was gathered on reproductive biology, life history and the social/economic value of each species. In addition to the literature review, Species Profiles were created for 25 species, these are available on the Southern IFCA website ([Key Species : Southern IFCA \(southern-ifca.gov.uk\)](https://southern-ifca.gov.uk)).

This initial literature review identified gaps in understanding resulting in the initiation of two primary research projects:

Grey mullet species – working with Plymouth University to investigate the size at sexual maturity in the Southern IFCA District for the three species of grey mullet; thin-lipped grey mullet (*Liza ramada*), thick-lipped grey mullet (*Chelon labrosus*) and golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata*). [The research was completed in 2022 and the results of the final reports are anticipated in 2023.](#)

Common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) – working with the University of Southampton to analyse samples collected by fishers from across the Southern IFCA District investigating size at sexual maturity. [This project is ongoing with details provided in S1.3.2.](#)

The workstream progressed to Stage 2 in August 2021, however due to a short hiatus introduced as a result of resource pressures this workstream was paused until 2022. In the third quarter of the 2022-23 year the workstream was resumed with the Authority invited to consider if changes to MCRS were required to species under five categories:

- Flat Fish
- Round Fish
- Skates and Rays
- Bivalves and Gastropods
- Crustaceans
- Additional Species

It was determined that due to the pause in the workstream there was a need to ensure that best available evidence was still being used to inform management decisions. Therefore, through Q3 and Q4 of the 2022-23 year additional evidence sources were explored and additional evidence added to the species evidence bases where required.

MCRS Byelaw


In 2021, separate to the review of MCRS, external factors at a national and EU level necessitated that Southern IFCA develop an MCRS byelaw. This byelaw came into force at the end of 2021 and incorporates the majority of minimum sizes from other IFCA byelaws (where MCRS was the only provision contained within the byelaw) and applies both these and national minimum sizes to all fishery participants (recreational and commercial) and at all points in the supply chain. The review of MCRS will therefore consider updates to this byelaw as well as considering any MCRS which sit within other Southern IFCA byelaws.

Program of work for 2023-24:

Taking account of priority workstreams under the MPA Management Review Horizon Goal there is a need to re-frame the MCRS review to ensure that the workstream can continue to progress and Members have the opportunity to consider the updated evidence base as the current best available evidence in decision making.

An initial list of 10 priority species will be identified based on considerations of the economic value of different species to both the commercial and recreational sector. Species which are currently or are to be subject to Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) will be identified along with associated timelines for the delivery of relevant FMPs. It is likely that MCRS as a management measure will be explored through the FMP process, Southern IFCA will align with the FMP process and adapt as required over the course of the MCRS review.

Once the initial list of 10 species has been identified Members will be invited to consider the evidence on the ecology, biology, social and economic value from the best available evidence gathered and recommend whether a change in MCRS is required through a Working Group process. The aim will be to consult on the recommended management measures with the stakeholder community and then repeat the process with a second list of 10 species, continuing with a staggered review and consultation approach with an updated draft of the MCRS byelaw developed following the completion of this staggered review. The final timeline for the completion of this review will be dependent on external factors including the FMP process.

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
MCRS Review 		Priority species ID 1	WG 1 Consultation 1	Priority species ID 2	WG 2 Consultation 2	Consideration of timeline for progression in line with external factors						

Supporting Defra's Delivery of Fisheries Act Objectives



The Fisheries Act 2020 was introduced to make provisions relating to fisheries, fishing, aquaculture and marine conservation following the departure of the UK from Europe. The Act creates a legal commitment to sustainable fishing and supporting future generations of fishers whilst allowing the marine environment to thrive. The Act sets out the eight Fisheries Objectives, developed to underpin this commitment, and sets down the requirement for a Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) and Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). Under the JFS, IFCAs are required to have regard to the Fisheries Act 2020, the JFS and FMPs when undertaking relevant functions.

There are three programs of work under this Horizon Goal which will support the delivery of the Fisheries Act Objectives by Defra:

Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)

FMPs are designed to help deliver the ambition for sustainable fisheries. The JFS proposes 43 FMPs which will either be developed by a single fisheries policy authority for its own waters (i.e., Defra for English waters) or will be developed jointly by 2 or more fisheries policy authorities (i.e., devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). Not all of the 43 proposed FMPs will have relevance to all IFCA Districts as each plan is spatially defined.

FMPs are designed as evidence-based actions plans that are developed in collaboration with the fishing sector and other stakeholders. The purpose of the FMP is to deliver sustainable fisheries for current and future generations. Each FMP specifies the stock, type of fishing and geographic area covered. Goals for the fishery will be defined along with any actions required to achieve those goals, with those actions having the potential to draw on existing tools, require new regulations or technical measures or use non-statutory routes such as research plans, voluntary agreements, and codes of conduct. Indicators to be used for monitoring the effectiveness of the delivery of the plan will also be set out.



For more information on FMPs including the process for their delivery and links to the JFS and full list of 43 proposed plans please visit [Fisheries management plans - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/fisheries-management-plans)

For the Southern IFCA, there are 6 frontrunner FMPs currently under development which relate to the District:

- Bass
- Channel Non-Quota Demersal Stocks
- King Scallop
- Crab and Lobster
- Whelk
- Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish

Each of these FMPs is overseen by a delivery partner, for example Seafish for the shellfish FMPs, Policy Lab for the Bass FMP, the MMO for the Channel Non-Quota Demersal Stocks FMP and Defra for the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish. The aim of the frontrunner FMPs is to pilot different ways of preparing the plans in partnership with industry groups and other stakeholders. Lessons learnt from these projects will shape Defra’s future FMP work.

In Q4 of 2022-23 Southern IFCA received funding to support a Project Officer role to deliver work related to FMPs. Working with the DCO and, where required, the wider team, the PO will:

- Support the planning/preparation phase of the FMPs
- Support the publication phase of the FMPs including reviewing and evaluating the draft plans
- Log requests and feedback concerns

The Authority will be provided with information relevant to this process through the quarterly Authority meetings, this cannot be timetabled as the development and delivery of FMPs is still being explored at a national level however updates will be provided in a timely manner.

Fisheries Management Plans	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM		TAC	AM
Support planning/preparation phase	Likely to be ongoing throughout the year, as frontrunner FMPs move into publication phases other FMPs will start to be developed											
Support publication phase			Anticipated that Formal Consultation on FMPs that have completed the planning/prep phase will occur in early Summer			Proposed timeline for initial publication of plans subject to summer Formal Consultation				As above, following the publication of frontrunner FMPs this will become an ongoing process in line with timelines for future FMPs		
Log requests and feedback concerns	Ongoing – Southern IFCA maintain an internal database of information relating to FMPs including logging all requests for information, feedback of concerns, attendance at engagement events and the sharing of information with stakeholders											

(*Note timelines for the FMP process have been taken from the JFS, as this process develops this may be subject to change)

The MPA Programme

The MPA Programme is explored fully in the **MPA Management Review Horizon Goal**. The aim to conclude the implementation of all appropriate management measures for MPAs by 2024 will contribute to the delivery of the Fisheries Objectives.

Southern IFCA are currently awaiting funding which will allow for the recruitment of a Project Officer to support existing resources in the delivery of this work programme.

Marine Consents

There are four strands to this work programme:

- To engage with the Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme via scenario testing, stakeholder engagement and data & evidence (work to look at the impacts of co-location relating to fishing, aquaculture, marine licences and MPAs)
- To contribute to the development of 2nd generation Marine Plans, via data and evidence, stakeholder engagement and policy development – the 2nd generation of the South Marine Plan is timetabled for delivery in July 2024
- To contribute to the delivery of an Aquaculture and Mariculture Strategy
- To contribute to the delivery of an Angling Strategy

Southern IFCA are currently awaiting funding which will allow for the recruitment of a Project Officer to support existing resources in the delivery of this work programme. Timelines for the delivery of this work programme will be developed in line with funding availability and the development of national timelines for the delivery of the associated programmes and strategies.



1.3.1 Monitoring Inshore Fisheries

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This section details the monitoring program for 2023-24. In addition to helping to meet IFCA Success Criteria, certain surveys which the Southern IFCA undertakes will also provide evidence that could be used to help inform the development of Fisheries Management Plans and help contribute to data collection under any Research and Evidence Plans developed for those FMPs. Where Southern IFCA surveys are carried out for species which are subject to one of the 6 frontrunner FMPs that apply to the Southern IFCA District this is indicated using the appropriate symbol from the graphic in S1.3. Opportunities for engagement are explored through all monitoring activities.






The Whelk Population & Data Collection surveys and Solent Scallop Spawning Survey are the only surveys where sea fisheries resources were removed from the marine environment. In all other cases data is collected at the time at which samples are obtained, following which samples are returned to the sea from the area in which they were removed.











Symbol denotes chartering of local fishing vessel or survey work carried out with fisher collaboration



Symbol denotes partnership working with academic institutions, partner organisations

Survey	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Time Series Data	Outcomes
Whelk Population Survey  	Spring	Common whelk	Solent, Poole Bay, Weymouth Bay, Lyme Bay	To obtain whelk samples from fishers and collect data on size frequency and Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)	First survey spring 2023	1) To improve evidence base for whelk data specific to SIFCA District 2) To inform management under the anticipated Pot Fishing Byelaw 3) Data to be made available for use by Whelk FMP
Whelk Data Collection   	Samples collected 2021 and 2022	Common whelk	Poole Bay, Weymouth Bay, Lyme Regis	Samples of common whelk were obtained from fishers to obtain information on size at sexual maturity with analysis work carried out by University of Southampton.	Samples collected across 2021 and 2022	1) To inform the MCRS review 2) To inform management under the anticipated Pot Fishing Byelaw 3) Report anticipated by summer 2023 4) Data to be made available for use by Whelk FMP

Poole Bivalve Survey 	Apr	Manila clam, Common cockle, American Hard- Shelled clam, other bivalves	Poole Harbour	To obtain bivalve samples from 27 shellfish beds in Poole Harbour and collect data on size frequency and CPUE which can be related to fishery catch and effort data	2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 ⁷ 2021 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To contribute to time-series dataset 2) To inform management under the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit fishery 3) To support the MSC certification
Solent Bivalve Survey  	Mar Oct	Manila clam, Common cockle, American Hard- Shelled clam, other bivalves	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas 4-6	To obtain bivalve samples from three management areas (Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour, Langstone Harbour) and collect data on size frequency and CPUE which can be related to fishery catch and effort data	2017 ⁸ 2018 2019 2020 – spring only ⁹ 2021 – autumn only ¹⁰ 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To build an initial 5-year baseline of CPUE data 2) To contribute to time-series dataset 3) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions
Solent Scallop Survey  	Apr Sept	King scallop	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas	To obtain samples of King scallops to improve understanding of the population in the Solent through collecting data on size frequency and CPUE	2021 – July survey ¹¹ 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions 2) Data to be made available for use by the King Scallop FMP
Solent Scallop Spawning Survey   	Samples collected 2022	King scallop	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas	Samples of King scallop were obtained from permitted fishers to obtain information on spawning season with analysis work carried out by University of Southampton	2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat A Permit Conditions 2) Data to be made available for use by the King Scallop FMP 3) Data to be made available for relevant consultations on scallop management 4) Report anticipated by summer 2023



⁷ Note that dates with a strikethrough indicate where surveying could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

⁸ 2017 survey was for autumn in Southampton water only.

⁹ Autumn 2020 survey could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

¹⁰ Spring 2021 survey could not take place due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

¹¹ The first Solent Scallop Survey was carried out in the summer of 2021 as a trial and to test the methodology, twice yearly sampling commenced from 2022




Solent Oyster Survey 	Aug	Native oyster	Solent Dredge Permit Management Areas	<p>To obtain samples of native oysters and collect data on size frequency and CPUE</p> <p>Aim post-2022 is to move to sampling every other year – currently exploring opportunities for collaboration with Solent Seascapes project to continue annual sampling</p>	2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To inform management under the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Cat B Permit Conditions 2) To inform understandings of native oyster stocks in the Solent
Juvenile Fish Surveys 	Jun Oct	Estuarine fish species	The Fleet, Christchurch Harbour, Yarmouth, River Hamble	<p>To obtain samples of juvenile fish from estuaries across the District identified as having Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)¹² present and collect data on species presence, abundance and size frequency</p>	2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 ¹³ 2021 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To inform management under the anticipated Net Fishing Byelaw, specific to EFH 2) To promote engagement with the wider stakeholder community 3) To contribute to a time-series dataset to highlight the importance of estuaries to certain species 4) Data to be made available for use by relevant FMPs

¹² In this case, the use of the term 'Essential Fish Habitat' refers to the term as used in the Net Fishing Byelaw package

¹³ Spring survey unable to take place and autumn survey partially achieved due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The following table outlines additional monitoring activities undertaken by the RPT which are separate from the survey program of work. These activities are either ongoing or anticipated upon the delivery of management interventions which are currently with the Marine Management Organisation/Defra, in this case (highlighted in grey) a specific timeline cannot be provided for these monitoring activities and at the time of publishing this Plan it is not known if these monitoring activities will be required during the 2023-24 year covered by the Plan.

Analysis of data under these activities is carried out by the RPT, however these monitoring activities sit across all teams within the Southern IFCA for the obtaining and collation of the data (Business Services Team) and ensuring compliance with data submission as required by related management measures (Compliance & Enforcement Team).






Monitoring Activity	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Time Series Data	Outcomes
 Wrasse Fishery Data Collection	Jul – Dec	Wrasse species	West of District	To obtain catch data from fishers on a voluntary basis on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Count data of wrasse landed Fishing location Fishing effort 	2018 2019 2020 2021 2022	1) To inform management of the live wrasse fishery 2) To inform monitoring under the M&C Plan 3) Report compiled annually for delivery to TAC Meeting following fishery closure
 Permit Data Collection	Throughout relevant permit seasons	Bivalves – Poole and the Solent Crustaceans and Gastropods – District wide recreational pot fishery Salmonids – Net Fishing Byelaw permit areas	Dependent on specific permit	To analyse data provided by permit holders in respective permitted fisheries and to build time-series datasets which can be used to relate fisher-dependent data to stock survey data.	<u>Poole</u> 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 <u>Solent</u> 2021 2022	1) To inform management under respective permit byelaws
 Net Fishing Observer Program	Jun – Sept Following implementation of anticipated Net Fishing Byelaw (NFB)	Species caught using net fishing	Southampton Water and Christchurch Harbour	To carry out observer trips for 5% of total estimated net fishing trips with 50% of these trips able to be achieved by Southern IFCA with assistance from the Environment Agency (EA) required to achieve 100% of the target	Program to be implemented following implementation of NFB	1) To inform management of net fishing under the anticipated NFB





1.3.2 Projects and Emerging Work



This section details any additional Projects which the Southern IFCA is involved with working with external partners or to be delivered to support workstreams in addition to evidence gathered through the Monitoring Programme (S1.3.1). Where projects are not yet active they are highlighted in grey. For these projects a specific timeline cannot be provided as the commencement date will be subject to external factors such as the implementation of a management measure which is currently with the MMO/Defra or external funding. Therefore, at the time of publishing this Plan it is not known if these projects will commence during the 2023-24 year.

Project	Time of Year	Species	Area	Aim	Southern IFCA Role	Anticipated Outcomes
Angling for Sustainability Lead: University of Plymouth Funded: Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) scheme   	Two-year project, Jan 23 - 25	Black Bream Elasmobranchs	Dorset coast Solent	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 establishing a network of acoustic receivers and tagging target species	In-kind contribution of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 days to help with maintenance of acoustic receivers • To provide advice and input as fisheries managers • To facilitate liaison between the project and stakeholders through established Stakeholder Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide data on seasonal and daily movement for black bream and elasmobranchs • To inform conservation advice for these species • To inform relevant FMPs • To inform future management of EFH¹⁴
University of Portsmouth FISP Bid  	Awaiting results of funding bid	Fish species	Solent	Working with the angling community and utilising competitions for data collection on targeted species	In-kind contribution providing advice and input as fisheries managers	TBC following results of funding bid

¹⁴ The term EFH (Essential Fish Habitat) in this case is aligned with the text provided directly by the project lead

<p>University of Plymouth FISP Bid</p> <p>Partners: IFM, AIFCA, AT, BASS and NMC</p> 	<p>Awaiting results of funding bid</p>	<p>Fish species</p>	<p>Juvenile fish survey sites</p> <p>(and other sites outside the SIFCA District)</p>	<p>To apply novel camera technology to support public participation in approaches to gather critical data on how fishes use coastal and estuarine habitats at their earliest juvenile stage</p>	<p>In-kind contribution providing access to Juvenile Fish Surveys and providing advice and input as fisheries managers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide data to fill important knowledge gaps about the essential habitats required by populations of fished species • To support policy decisions and management action • To be a vehicle for the fishing industry, scientists and managers to work together
<p>Drift Net Fishery Research Project</p> 	<p>To be determined following implementation of anticipated Net Fishing Byelaw (NFB)</p>	<p>Species caught using a drift net</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>In the Process, Tools and Intentions Document which accompanies the anticipated NFB, Southern IFCA are committed to undertaking a Research Project in order to improve understandings of potential interactions between the use of drift nets and salmonids in a non-targeted fishery</p>	<p>Project owners</p>	<p>To inform management of net fishing under the anticipated NFB</p>



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 April 2023