

+

Trawl

★

Trap/Pot

▲

Dredge

■

Net

●

Line

Main Ports & Harbours

No. of IFCA registered vessels

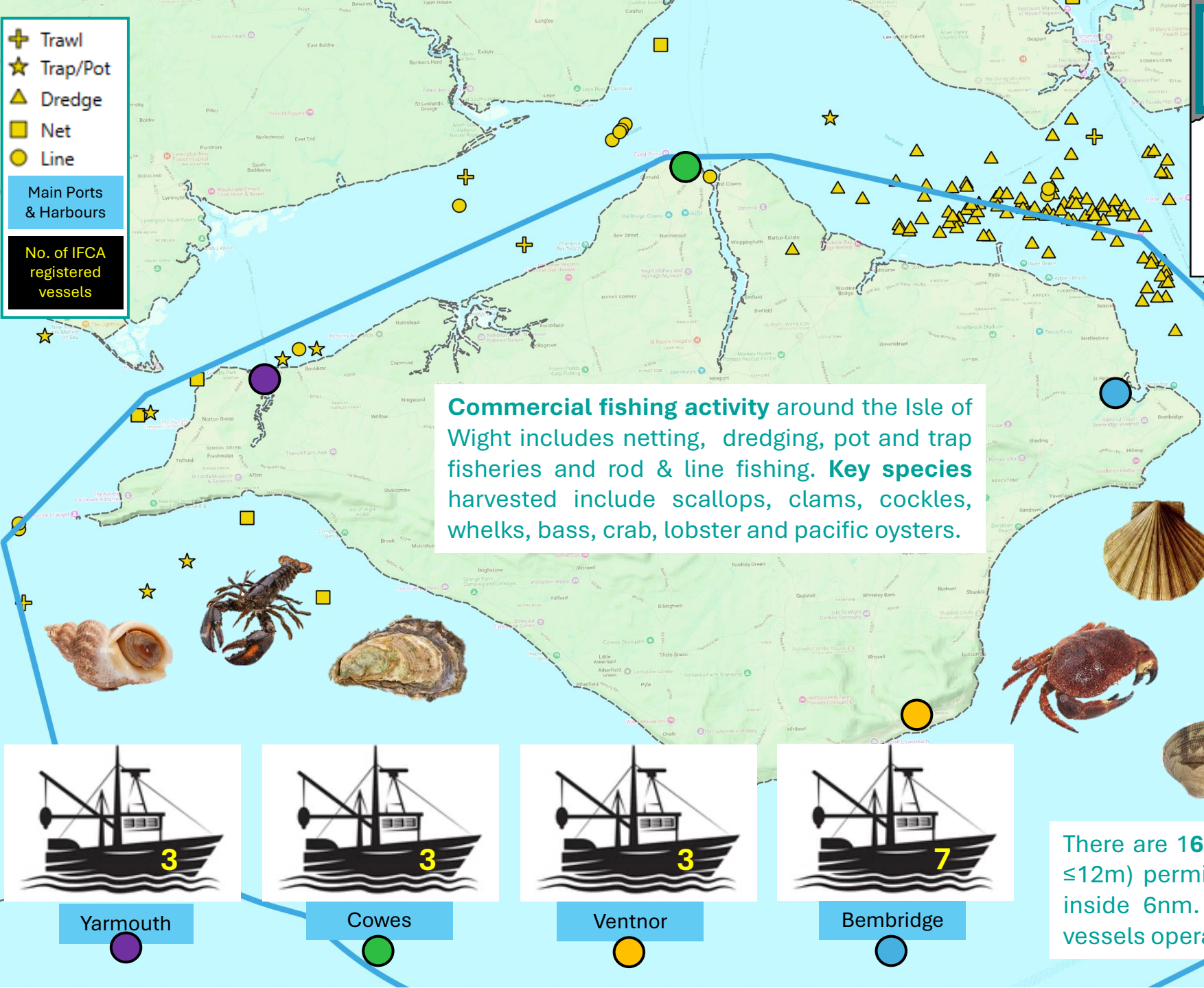
Southern

IFCA

Isle of Wight Council

Fisheries in the Isle of Wight

All data for FY 2024-2025



There is a recreational rod & line community, with the area providing access to nationally important angling hotspots in the Solent, with species of interest including bass.

3

Yarmouth

3

Cowes

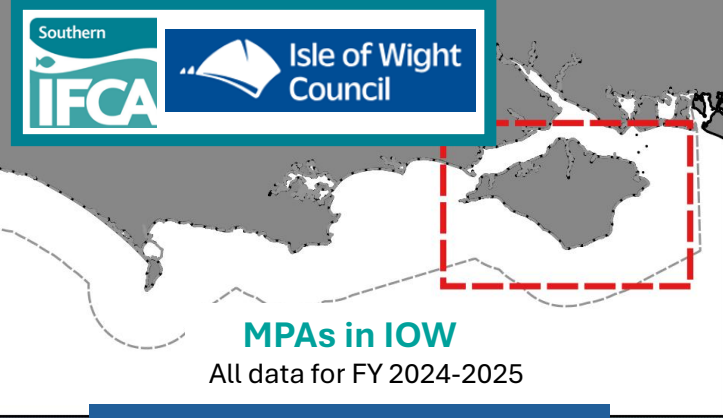
3

Ventnor

7

Bembridge

There are **8 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** which are designated to protect important habitats, species and features. Each MPA may require bespoke feature-based management, relevant to the risk posed by fishing activity.



Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ

Estuarine rocky habitats, rocky reefs, Native oyster, Subtidal mixed sediments (polychaetes, bivalves, star fish, sea urchins, anemones)

Solent Maritime SAC

Atlantic salt meadows, Coastal lagoons, Estuaries, Mud & sandflats (eelgrass, saltmarsh), Sandbanks, Shifting dunes, Spartina swards

Solent & Southampton Water SPA

Non-breeding species: Black-tailed godwit, Dark-bellied brent goose, Ringed plover, Teal
Breeding species: Common tern, Little tern, Mediterranean gull, Roseate tern, Sandwich tern

Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

Coastal lagoons (sand shrimp, starlet sea anemone)

Bembridge MCZ

Maerl beds, Native oyster, Peacock's tail, Seagrass beds, Sea-pen, Short snouted seahorse, Stalked jellyfish

The Needles MCZ

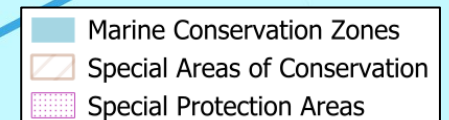
Native oyster, Peacock's tail, Seagrass beds, Stalked jellyfish, Subtidal mixed sediments & rocky reef (nursery area: smelt, bass, sole, pout, mullet)


Solent & Dorset Coast SPA




Breeding species: Common tern, Little tern, Sandwich tern



South Wight Maritime SAC


Reefs (bryozoans, hydroids, sponges), Sea caves, Vegetated sea cliffs



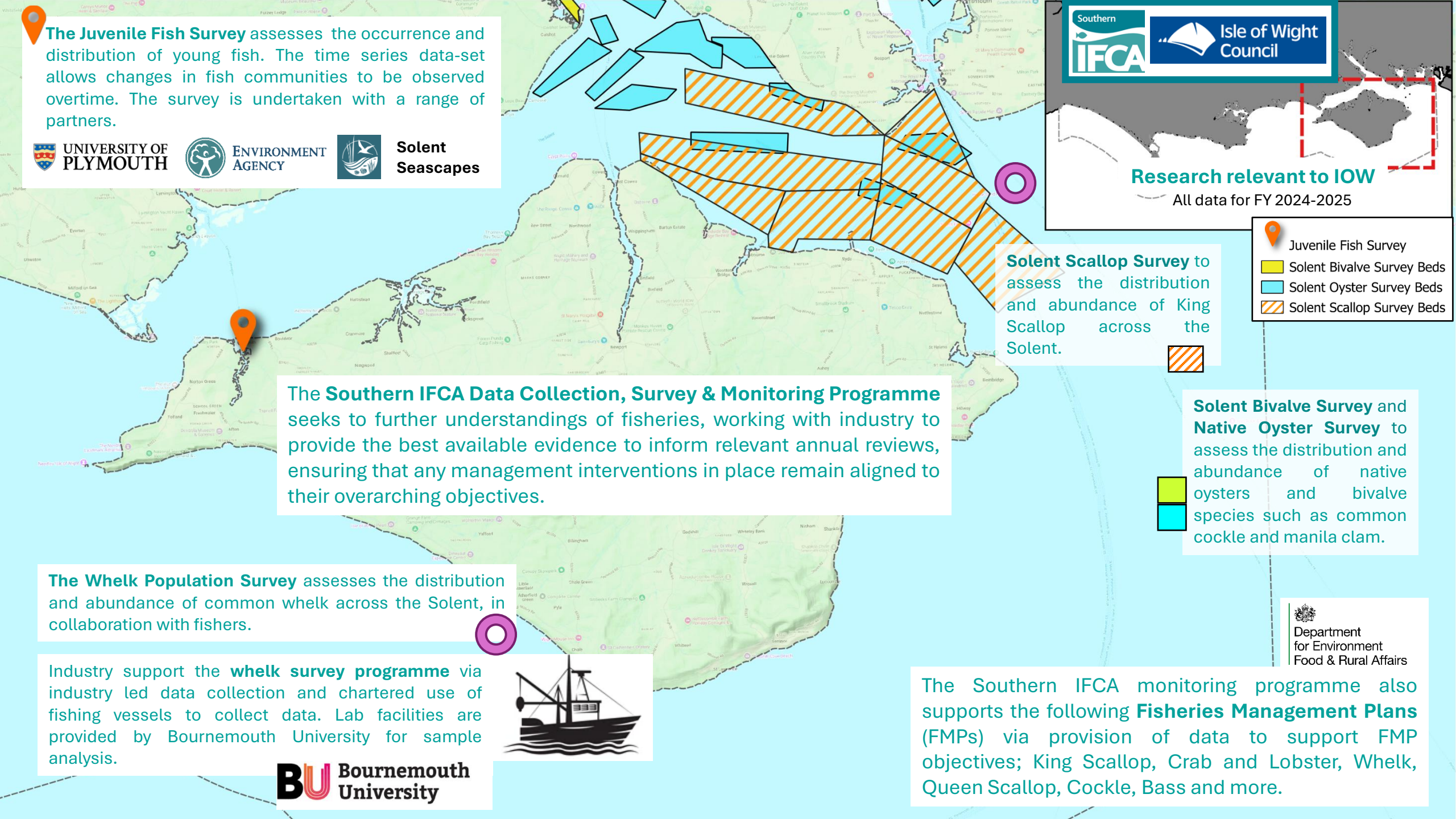
 **The Juvenile Fish Survey** assesses the occurrence and distribution of young fish. The time series data-set allows changes in fish communities to be observed overtime. The survey is undertaken with a range of partners.











Research relevant to IOW
All data for FY 2024-2025





Solent Scallop Survey to assess the distribution and abundance of King Scallop across the Solent.




-  Juvenile Fish Survey
-  Solent Bivalve Survey Beds
-  Solent Oyster Survey Beds
-  Solent Scallop Survey Beds

The Southern IFCA Data Collection, Survey & Monitoring Programme seeks to further understandings of fisheries, working with industry to provide the best available evidence to inform relevant annual reviews, ensuring that any management interventions in place remain aligned to their overarching objectives.

Solent Bivalve Survey and Native Oyster Survey to assess the distribution and abundance of native oysters and bivalve species such as common cockle and manila clam.

The Whelk Population Survey assesses the distribution and abundance of common whelk across the Solent, in collaboration with fishers.



Industry support the **whelk survey programme** via industry led data collection and chartered use of fishing vessels to collect data. Lab facilities are provided by Bournemouth University for sample analysis.



The Southern IFCA monitoring programme also supports the following **Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)** via provision of data to support FMP objectives; King Scallop, Crab and Lobster, Whelk, Queen Scallop, Cockle, Bass and more.





Review: Phase 1

Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 submitted to the MMO & Defra for quality assurance prior to ratification, outcome of the BTFG Review Phase I.



MMO QA Process

Apr 24 to Sept 24
Rounds 2 to 5 of QA with the MMO received and addressed



Submission to Defra

Following QA with the MMO, the byelaw package was submitted to Defra for QA.



Defra QA

Dec 24 to Mar 25
3 rounds of QA completed with Defra



Next stage

Await notification of submission to Minister's Office for ratification



Policy Development relevant to IOW

All data for FY 2024-2025

Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review

- BTFG 2023 Byelaw
- Shore Gathering Byelaw (Proposed Closure Areas):
 - Summer closure
 - Prohibited
- Marine Conservation Zones
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Special Protection Areas

24.3% (184.8km sq.) of the IOW marine environment is protected from Bottom Towed Fishing Gear via the Southern IFCA BTFG Byelaw 2016 Following the pending ratification of the BTFG Byelaw 2023 these protections will increase to **26.4% (200.7km sq.)**

Shore Gathering restrictions will be introduced in **1.2% (9.2km sq.)** of the IOW marine environment via the Shore Gathering Byelaw (following ratification), which is further supported by the Seaweed Harvesting Code.

The Pot Fishing Byelaw will introduce (following ratification) effort management for pot fisheries through the issuing of commercial & recreational permits with permit conditions including pot limitations, escape gap requirements and catch data provision (recreational only).

Collectively this work is helping to meet the **UK Government target of 30% protections by 2030** in the inshore environment.



Previous Work

Pot Fishing Byelaw submitted to MMO & Defra for quality assurance prior to ratification



MMO QA Process

Apr 24 to Mar 25
Rounds 2 & 3 of QA with the MMO received and addressed. Additional information provided on request.

Pot Fishing Review

Shore Gathering Review



Previous Year

Consideration of draft measures as output from the Shore Gathering Review.



Management Development

Draft measures formalised, presented with supporting documents to the Authority, Formal Advice sought from NE.



Byelaws Made

Shore Gathering Byelaw and Fishing for Cockles (Amendment) Byelaw Made by the Authority in Sept. 24. Supported by Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct.



Formal Consultation

On both Byelaws running until 14th November 2024.



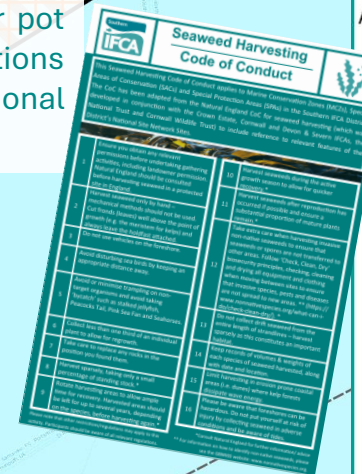
MMO QA

Authority recommended that Byelaws are submitted to the MMO & Defra for quality assurance. Round 1 of MMO QA received.




Next stage

Await any further rounds of QA from MMO or Defra.



CET Targeted Engagement

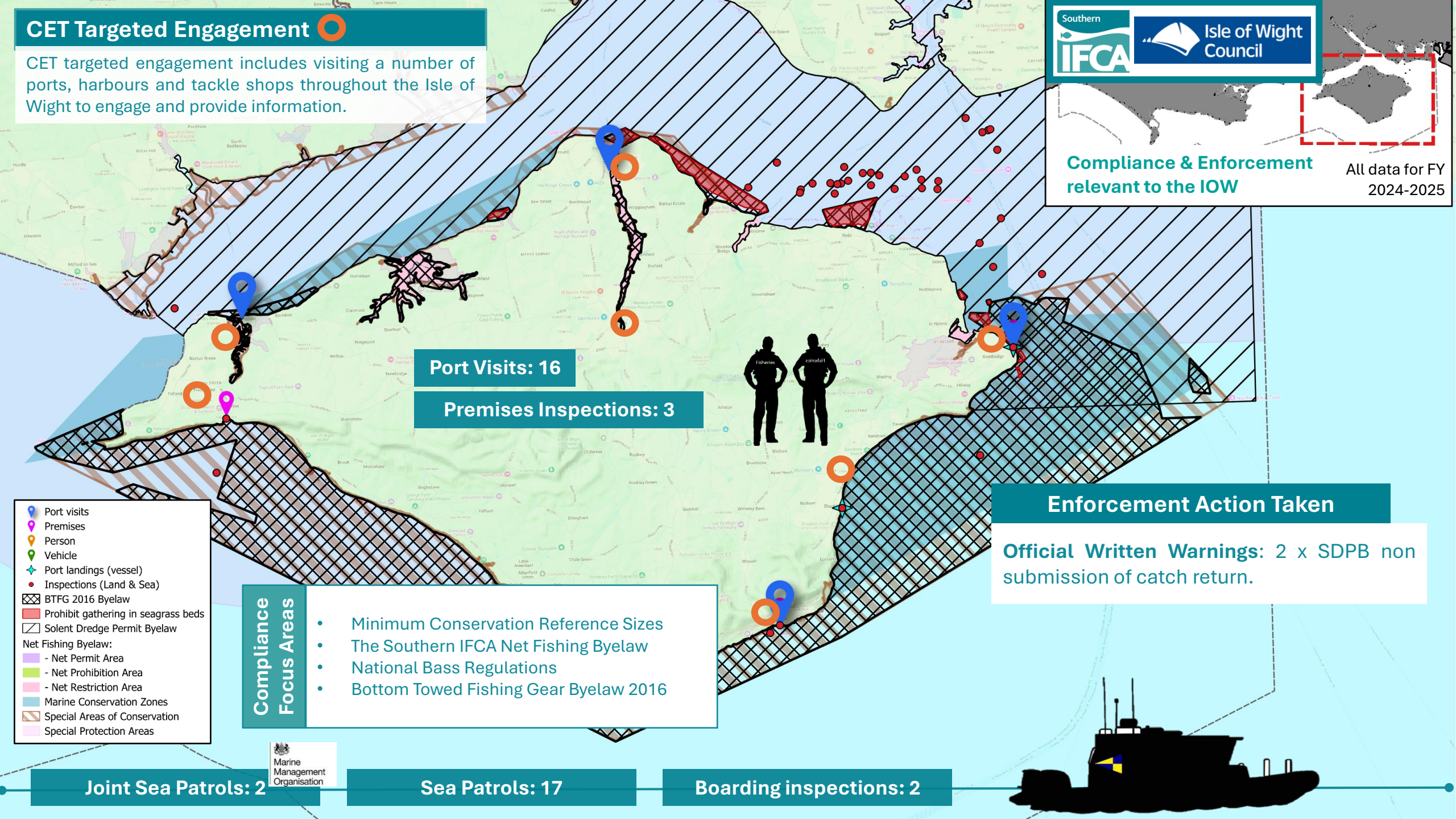
CET targeted engagement includes visiting a number of ports, harbours and tackle shops throughout the Isle of Wight to engage and provide information.





Compliance & Enforcement relevant to the IOW

All data for FY 2024-2025



Port Visits: 16

Premises Inspections: 3

Enforcement Action Taken

Official Written Warnings: 2 x SDPB non submission of catch return.

Compliance Focus Areas

- Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes
- The Southern IFCA Net Fishing Byelaw
- National Bass Regulations
- Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016

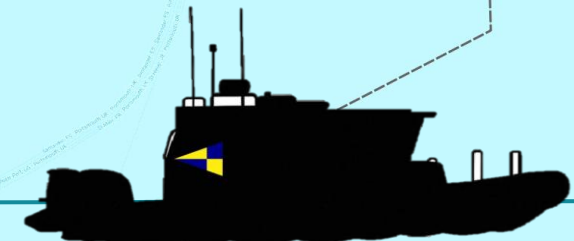
- Port visits
- Premises
- Person
- Vehicle
- Port landings (vessel)
- Inspections (Land & Sea)
- BTFG 2016 Byelaw
- Prohibit gathering in seagrass beds
- Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw
- Net Fishing Byelaw:
 - Net Permit Area
 - Net Prohibition Area
 - Net Restriction Area
- Marine Conservation Zones
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Special Protection Areas

Joint Sea Patrols: 2



Sea Patrols: 17

Boarding inspections: 2





Consultations

Southern IFCA responded to the MMO consultation on proposed measures for scallop fisheries in 7d for 2025.

Engagement relevant to IOW

All data for FY 2024-2025

Solent Scallop Survey Methods with CEFAS and Industry

Solent Seascapes State of Nature Launch

Solent Forum National Environment Group

Solent Seagrass Network

NQS FMP Cuttlefish Roundtable Workshop

Regional Fisheries Group VIId

Solent Forum

SEMS Management Group

Solent Dredge Permit Community Forum

Solent Seascapes Project

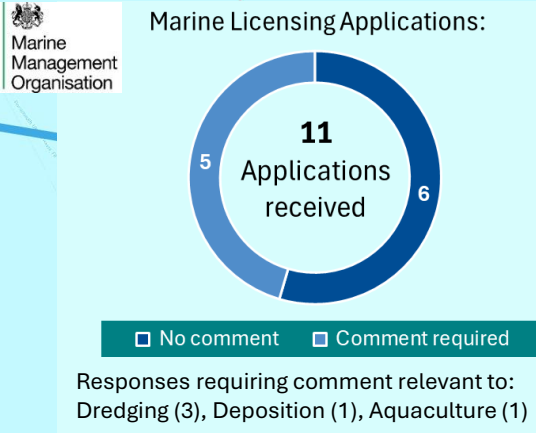
Solent Seascapes State of Nature Launch

Fin Vision Fisheries Industry Science Partnership Project

As project partner, Southern IFCA facilitated exploratory work relating to camera observations of juvenile fish and helped to promote citizen science projects for the angling community, focussing on species ID.

Fisheries Management Plans

Southern IFCA have continued to input to the FMP process through provision of information & engagement opportunities to the community and input to the drafting (T3 & T4) and implementation processes (T1 & T2).



Angling for Sustainability Fisheries Industry Science Partnership Project

Southern IFCA joined the project team for 8 days tagging black seabream and elasmobranch and attended a number of workshops throughout the District.