




Commercial fishing activity includes netting, trawling & dredging. Vessels also access the wider Solent to trawl, dredge, long-line and pot/trap. **Key species** harvested include clams, cockles, whelks, bass and mullet.

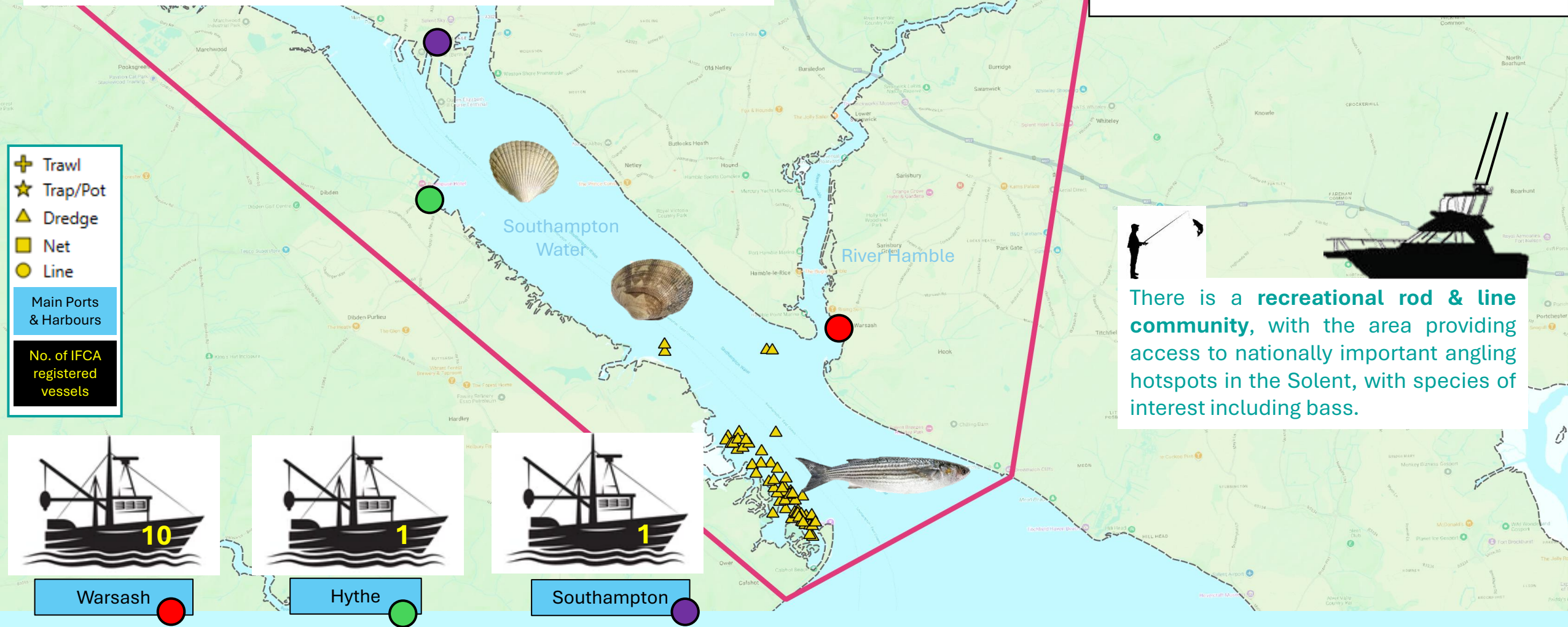
There are **12 registered vessels** (11 x $\leq 10\text{m}$, 1 x $\geq 10\text{m} - \leq 12\text{m}$) permitted by Southern IFCA to commercially fish inside 6nm. A Southern IFCA Byelaw requires that all vessels operating inside 6nm are $\leq 12\text{m}$ in length.





Fisheries in Southampton

All data for FY 2024-2025



There are **4 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.

River Itchen SAC

Atlantic salmon, Brook lamprey, Bullhead, Otter



MPAs in Southampton

All data for FY 2024-2025

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 Maritime SAC

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


Solent & Dorset Coast SPA


Breeding species: Common tern, Little tern, Sandwich tern


 Special Areas of Conservation
 Special Protection Areas


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.




 **Juvenile Fish Survey**

 **Solent Bivalve Survey Beds**

 **Solent Oyster Survey Beds**

 **Solent Bivalve Survey and Native Oyster**

 **Survey to assess the distribution and abundance of native oysters and bivalve species such as common cockle, manila clam and oysters.**


SDPB Data collection via monthly catch returns which are used to analyse changes in stock health overtime. Spatial refinement of data over the most important area for the Scallop fishery was introduced in 2024 in collaboration with Permit Holders.

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 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.



The Southern IFCA monitoring programme also supports the following **Fisheries Management Plans** via provision of data to support FMP objectives; King Scallop, Crab and Lobster, Whelk, Queen Scallop, Cockle 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 & Review relevant to Southampton

All data for FY 2024-2025

Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review

9.8% (3.1km sq.) of the Southampton 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 **18% (5.6km sq.)**



Previous Work

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



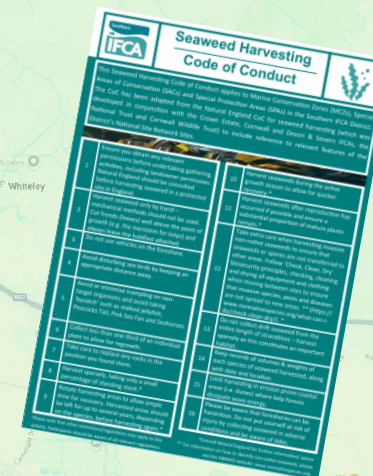
MMO QA Process

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

Pot Fishing Review

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.



Shore restrictions will be introduced in **17% (5.6km sq.)** of the Southampton marine environment via the Shore Gathering Byelaw (following ratification), which is further supported by the Seaweed Harvesting Code.

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.

Net Permit Byelaw Review



Year 1 Review

Year 1 Review of Net Permit Conditions, Permit Fees & Limitations on no. of Permits



Outcomes

Monitoring & Control Plan updated in line with best available evidence on salmonid populations. No changes to permit conditions, fees or no. of permits for Year 2.

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

Port Visits: 19

Person Inspections: 1

Vehicle Inspections: 2



Compliance & Enforcement relevant to
Southampton

All data for FY 2024-2025

Compliance Focus Areas

- Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes
- Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw
- Net Fishing Byelaw
- Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016
- National Bass Regulations

Enforcement Action Taken

Verbal Warnings: 4 x breach of BTFG Byelaw 2016, 2 x breach of MCRS

Official Written Warnings: 1 x breach of BTFG Byelaw 2016

Ongoing Investigation: 3 x breaches of BTFG Byelaw 2016, SDPB Byelaw and Fishing for Cockles Byelaw

- Drone flights
- 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

Sea Patrols: 24

Boarding inspections: 7

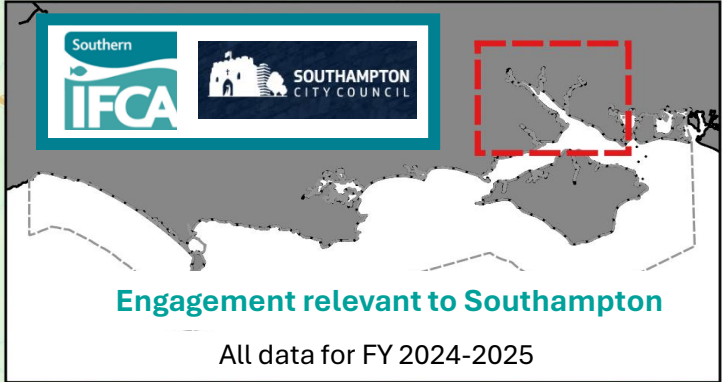
Joint Sea Patrols: 2

Drone flights: 11




Consultations

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





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).


 **Solent Forum National Environment Group**

 **Solent Forum**

 **Solent Dredge Permit Community Forum**

 **Solent Seascapes Project**

 **Hamble Estuary Partnership**

 **Solent Seagrass Network**

 **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.




Solent Seascapes State of Nature Launch

 **SEMS Management Group**

Shore gathering Review Consultation ★

Under the Shore gathering Review, a consultation was undertaken with stakeholders to develop an impact assessment for shore gathering regulations within the District including areas of Southampton Water.

 **Regional Fisheries Group VIId**

 **NQS FMP Cuttlefish Roundtable Workshop**

