

Solent Community Forum

2021-22



Solent Community Forum



1) Regulation overview

2) SIFCA Survey Summary

3) Moving Forwards

Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw 2021-2022

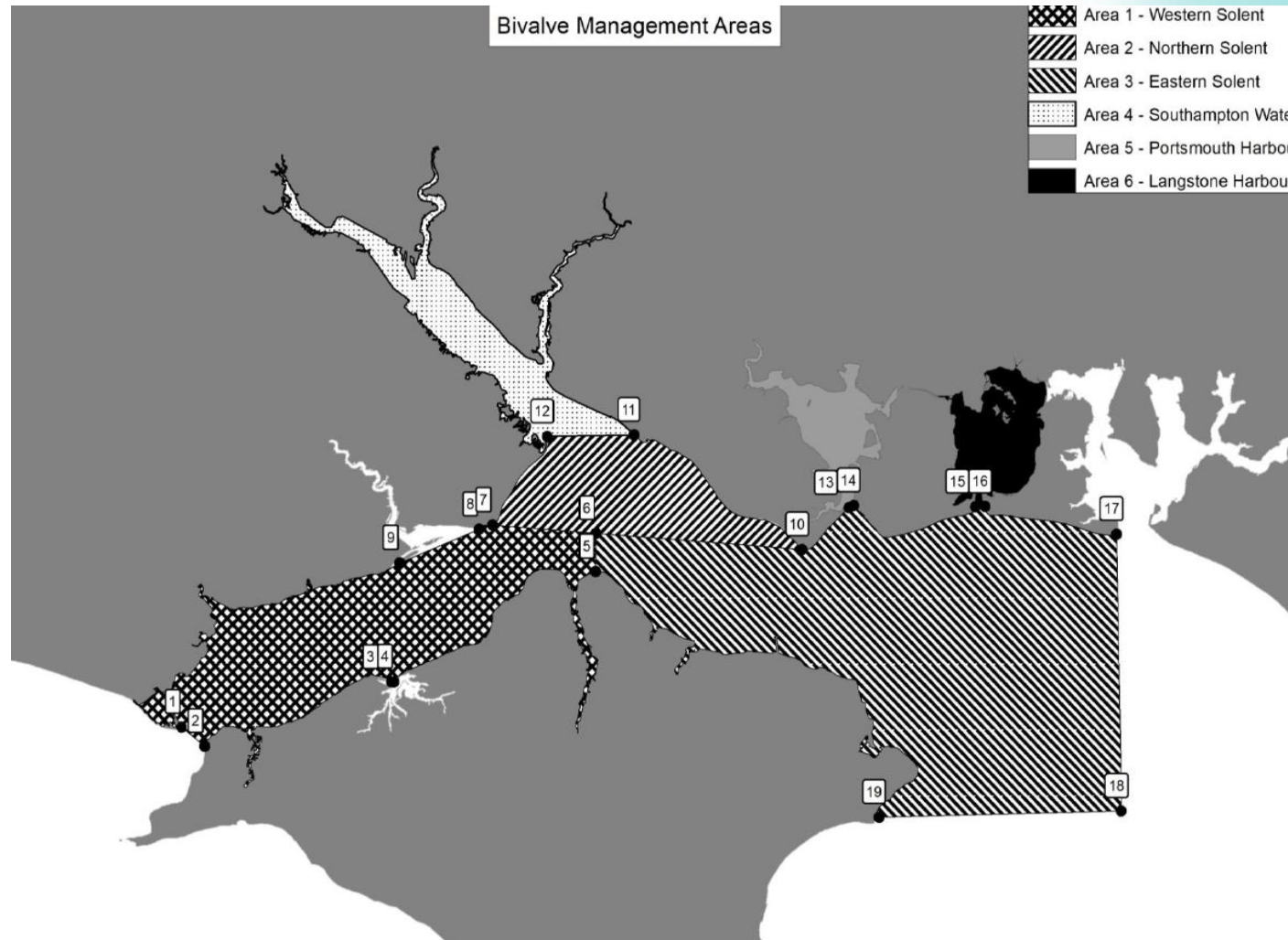
Byelaw commenced on 1st November 2021

Restricts the use of a dredge by fishing vessels within the Solent to those who hold a valid Southern IFCA Solent Dredge Permit or have a Dispensation issued by Southern IFCA.

There were 21 successful applications for a Category A Permit for the 2021-2022 season.



Solent Bivalve Management Areas



SDBP Prohibitions

A person must not:

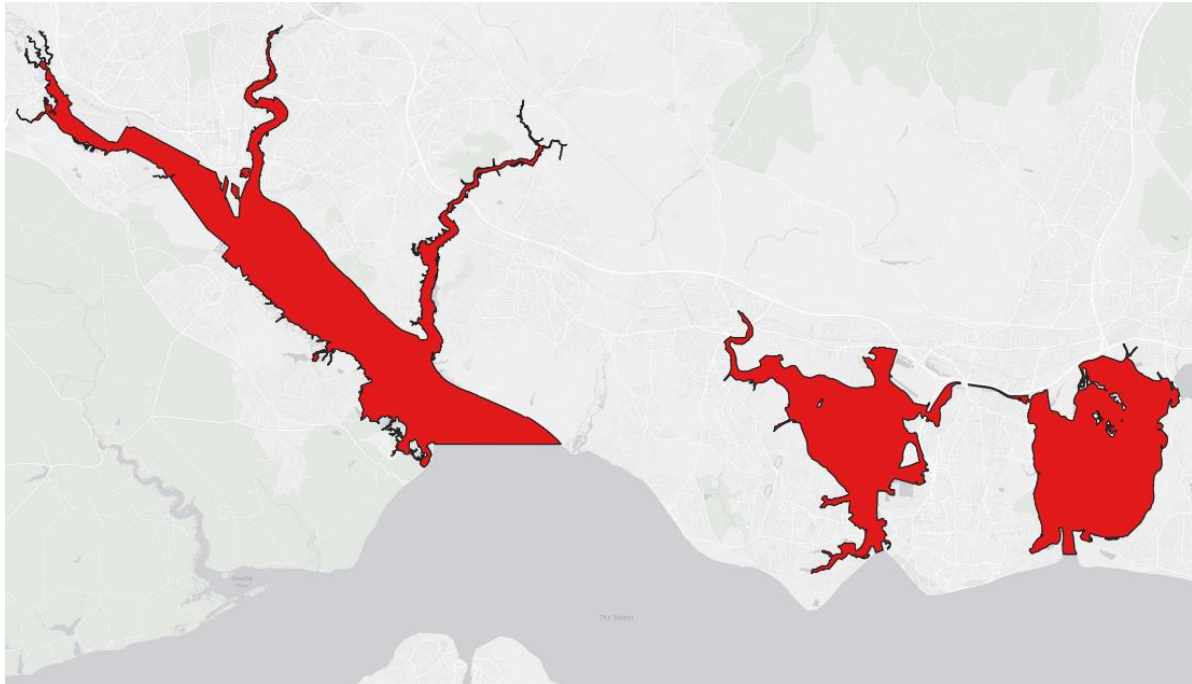
- Use a dredge by means of a Relevant Fishing Vessel in the Solent on any day before 06:00 time or after 18:00.
- A person must not, whilst undertaking fishing operations, remove any cultch or other material which could be used for the reception of spat of any bivalve.
 - If any material which could be used for the reception of spat of any bivalve is lifted while undertaking fishing operations, it must be redeposited immediately.



Category A Permit Conditions

Seasonal measures

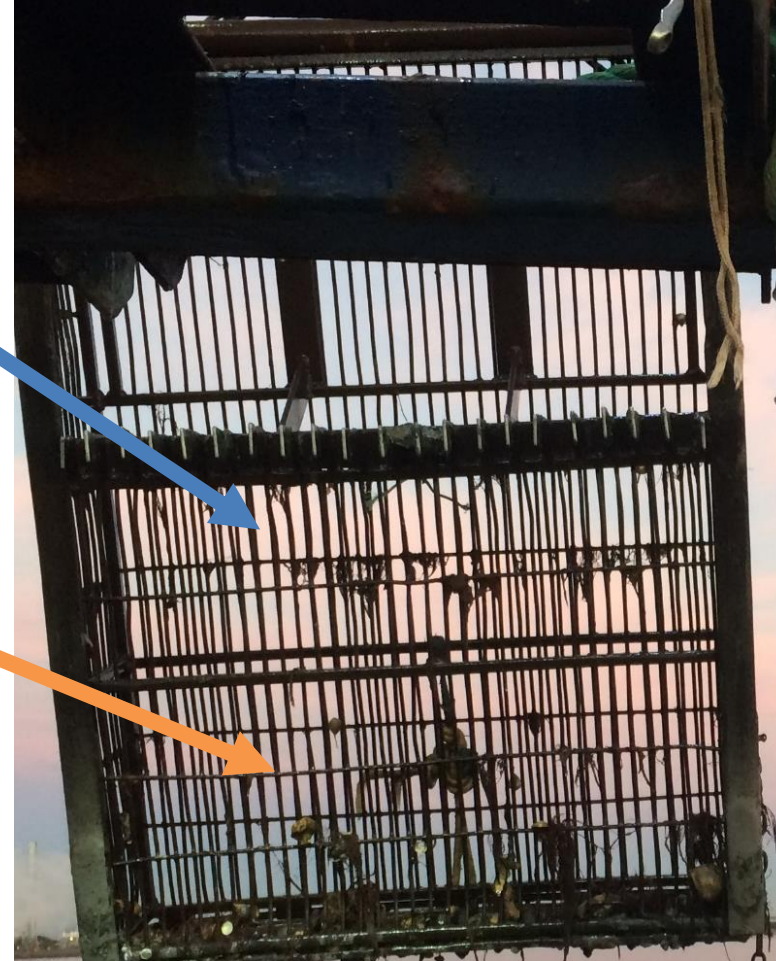
A person must not use a dredge by means of fishing vessel within Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour or Langstone Harbour between 1st March and 31st October (both days inclusive).



Category A Permit Conditions

Gear restrictions (Clams)

- Must be constructed of rigid bars with at least 18 mm spaces between them.
- Any cross pieces used to strengthen the basket must have minimum spaces of 40 mm between them



Category A Permit Conditions

Retention of Oysters

- No Native Oysters can be removed from the fishery.
 - Any Native Oysters caught in the act of fishing must be returned immediately to the sea.
- Pacific Oysters must either be retained onboard and landed or returned immediately to the sea at the location at which they were caught.



Category A Permit Conditions

Catch reporting

- When fishing in the Solent, Permit holders must complete a catch return using a 'Solent Category A Permit Catch Return Form'.
- Completed Catch Return Forms must be submitted every month (hard copy or as an electronic PDF) and received by Southern IFCA no later than the 14th day of the following month.



Category A Permit Conditions

Catch reporting

Name

Vessel

Month

Year

Day	Hours Fished	Species Caught and Quantity	Name(s) of company or individual catch sold	Bivalve Management Area (s) from which catch was taken	Day	Hours Fished	Species Caught and Quantity	Name(s) of company or individual catch sold to	Bivalve Management Area (s) from which catch was taken
<i>Eg.</i>	5.5	<i>CMM-275kg COC-75kg</i>	<i>Mr X</i>	<i>5</i>	16th				
1st					17th				
2nd					18th				
3rd					19th				
12th					28th				
13th					29th				
14th					30th				
15th					31st				

I certify that the information contained in this catch return is correct (please sign).....

Scallop Fishing Byelaw 2019

Time restriction

In the Solent, a person must not fish for or take any scallop from any fishery on any day before 06:00 or after 18:00.

Gear requirements

- All dredges must be fitted with a spring-loaded tooth bar.
- Not have any part of its frame that exceeds 85 cm in width.

Further requirements are specified in the Scallop Order 2012 and SIFCA's Scallop Fishing Byelaw 2019



Minimum Conservation Reference Size - Solent

Manila Clams – 35 mm

American hard-shelled – 63 mm

Cockles – must not pass through a square opening
measuring 23.8 mm along each side

King Scallop – 110 mm

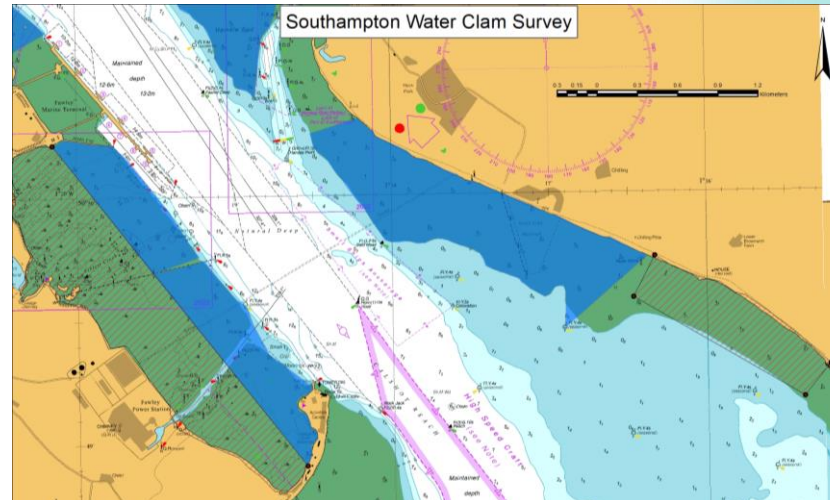
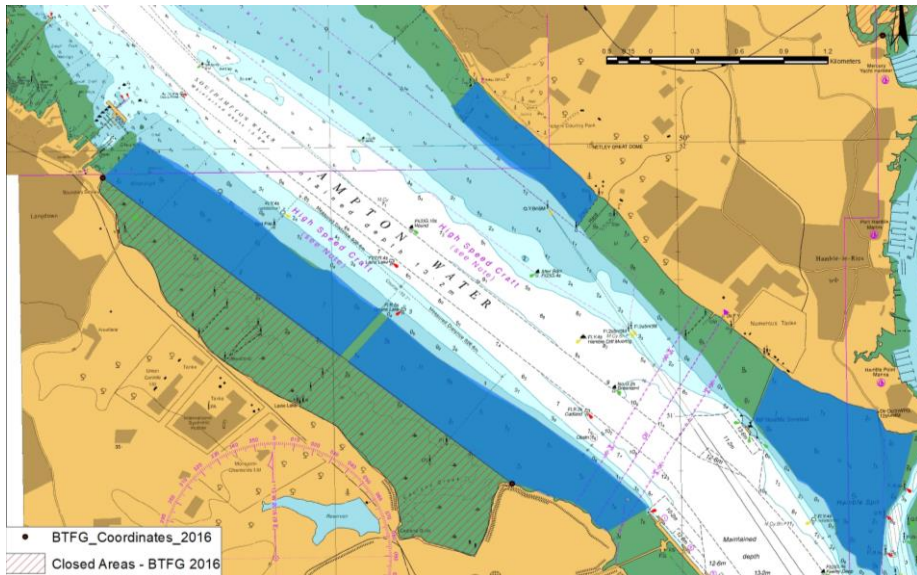
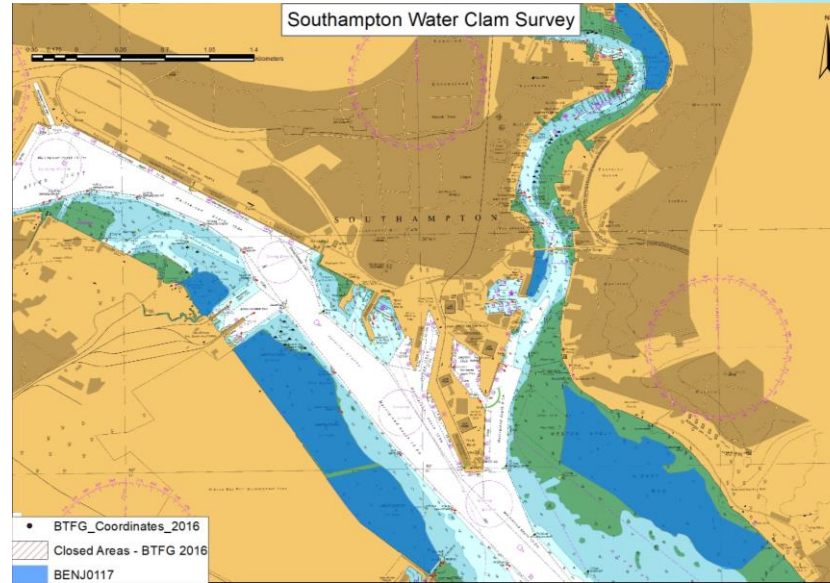


Any questions?

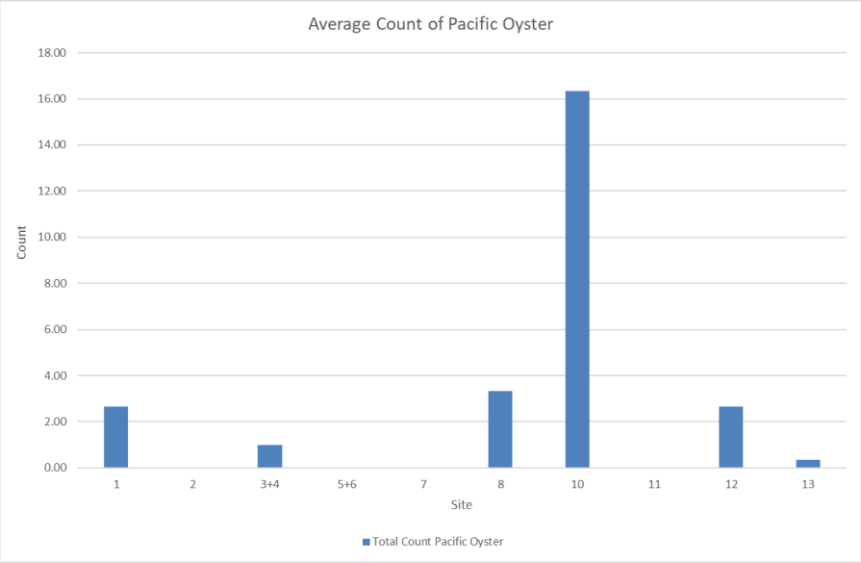
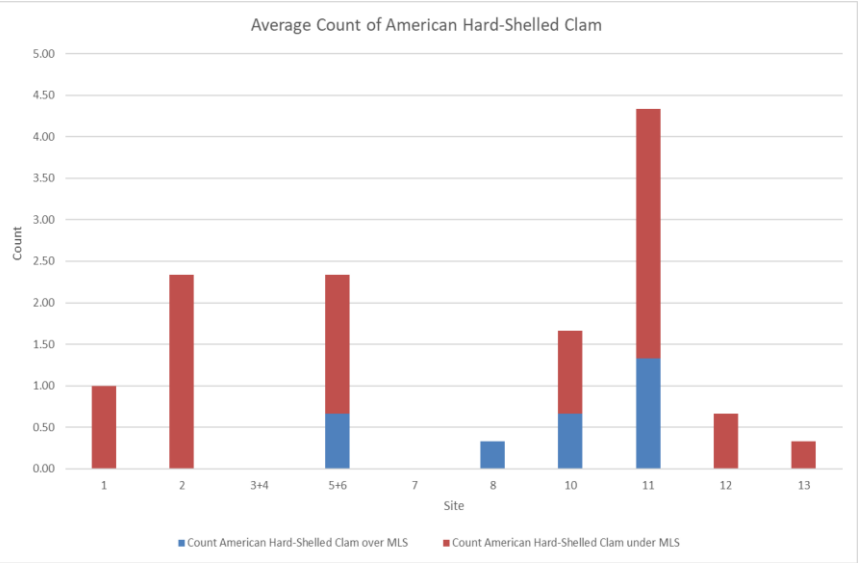
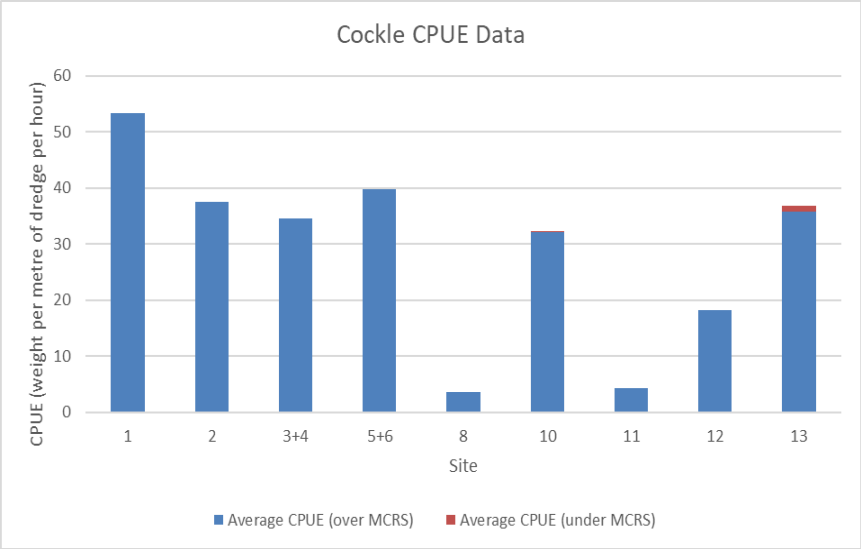
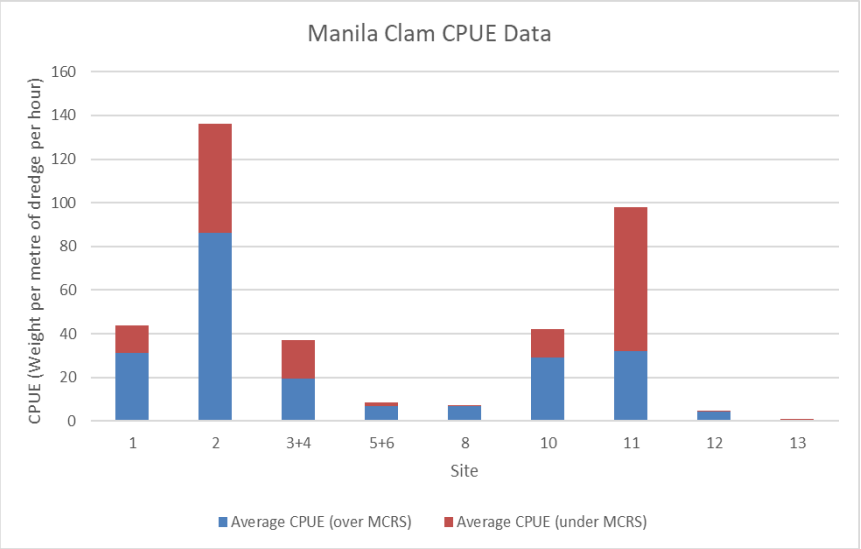


Survey results – Bivalve – Southampton Water

- 9 sites were surveyed during the Autumn 2021 survey
- Survey uses a box clam dredge
- 3 dredges at each site
- All bivalves retained and measured along longest axis, weights of Manila clam and cockle also taken

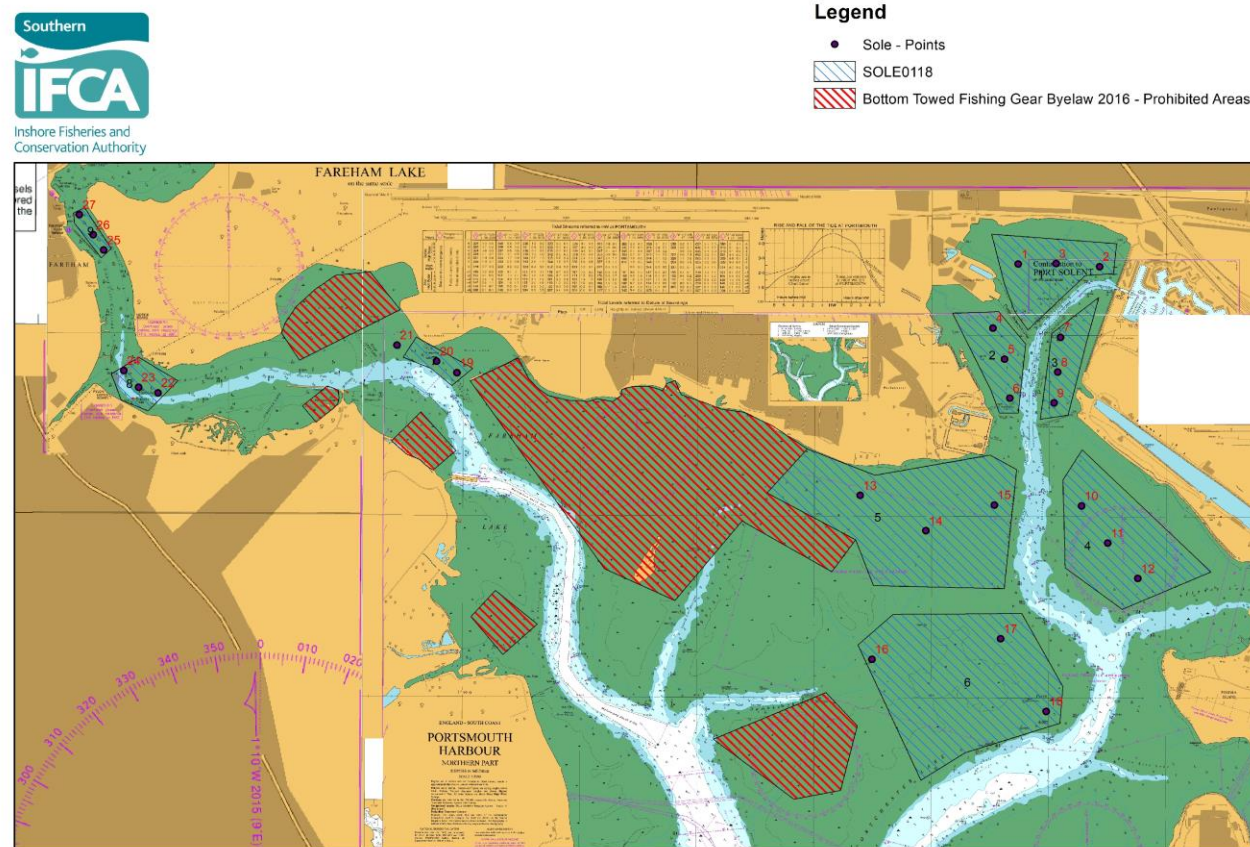


Survey results – Bivalve – Southampton Water

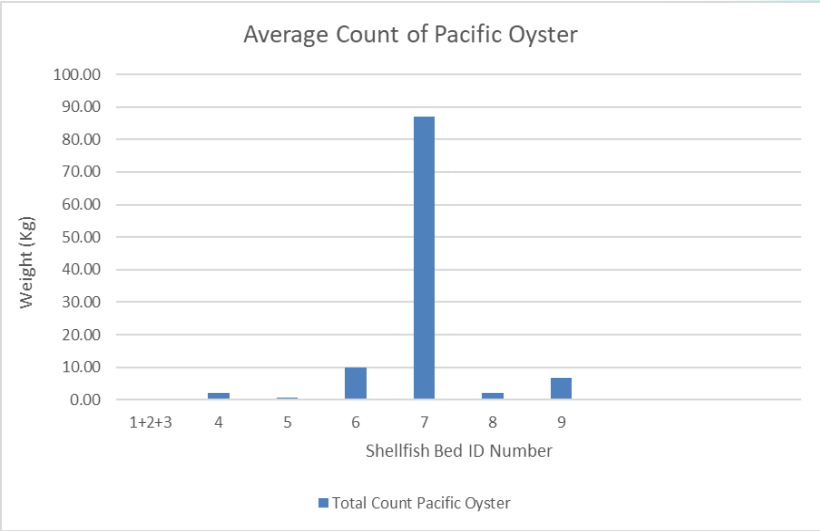
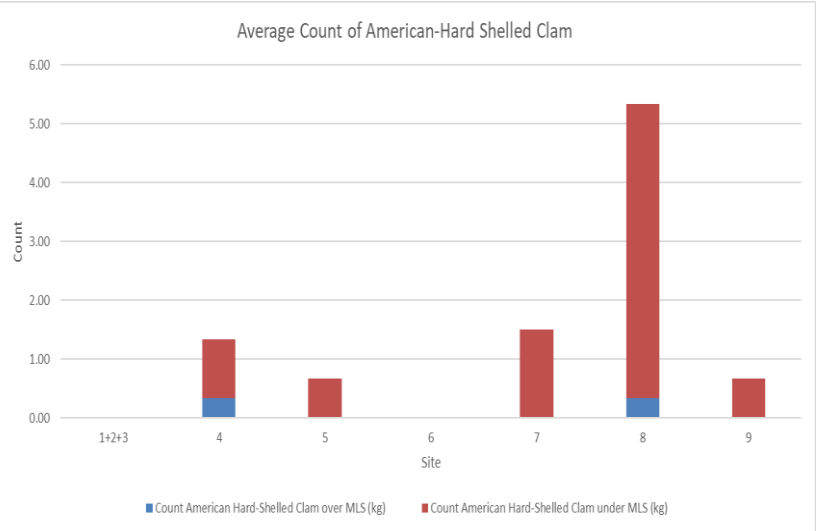
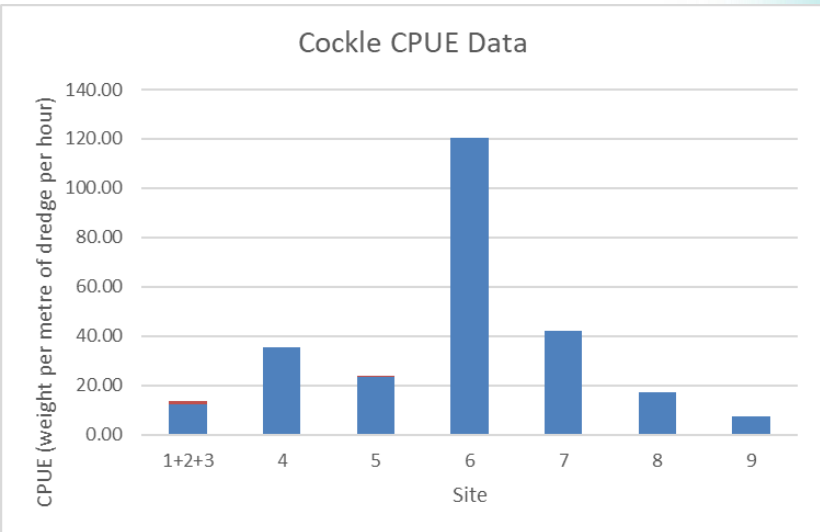
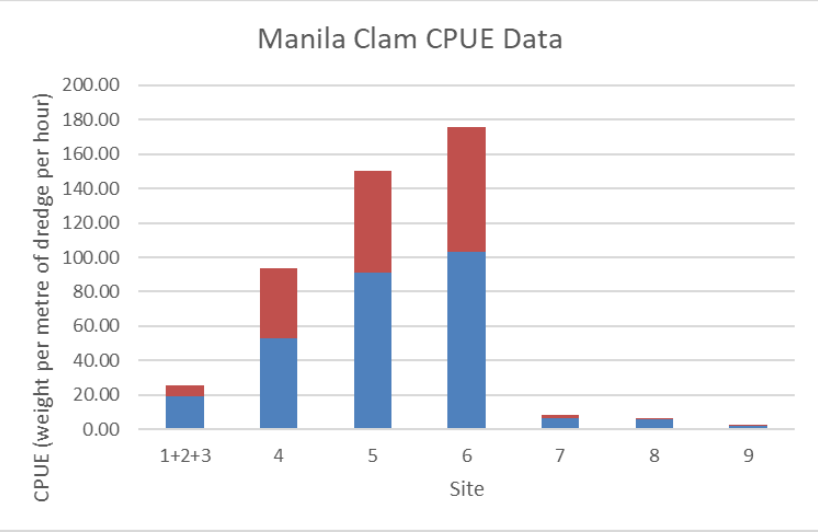


Survey results – Bivalve – Portsmouth Harbour

- 7 sites were surveyed during the Autumn 2021 survey
- Survey method is the same as for Southampton Water

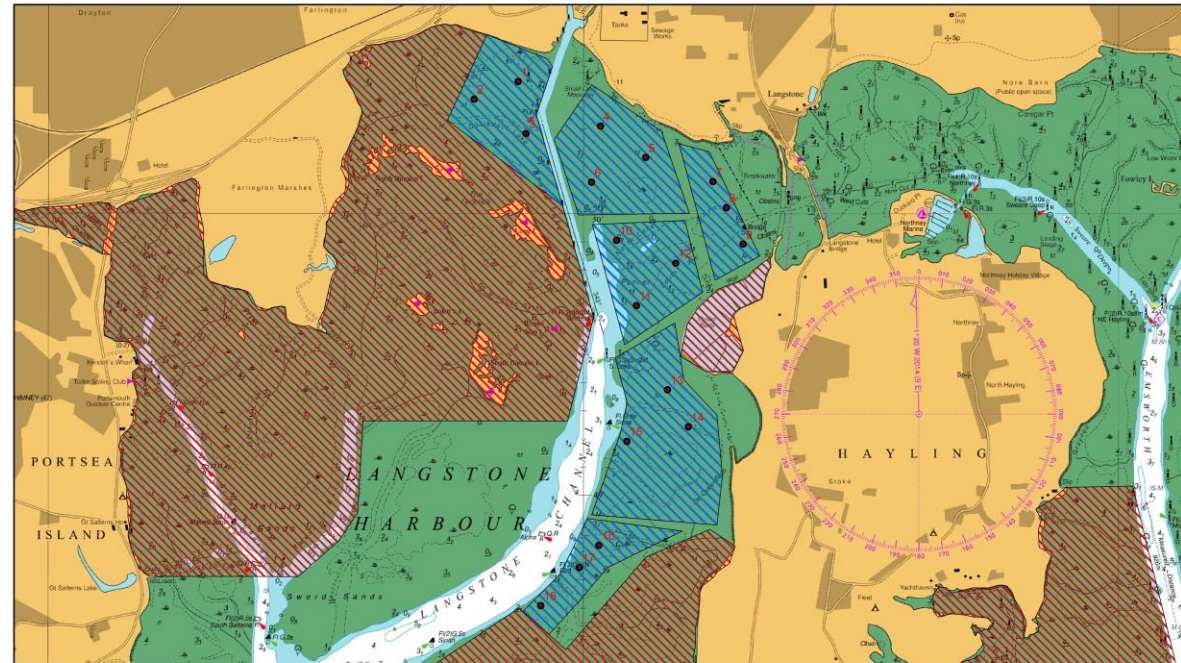


Survey results – Bivalve – Portsmouth Harbour





Survey results – Bivalve – Langstone Harbour

- 6 sites were surveyed during the Autumn 2021 survey
- Survey method is the same as for Southampton Water and Portsmouth Harbour

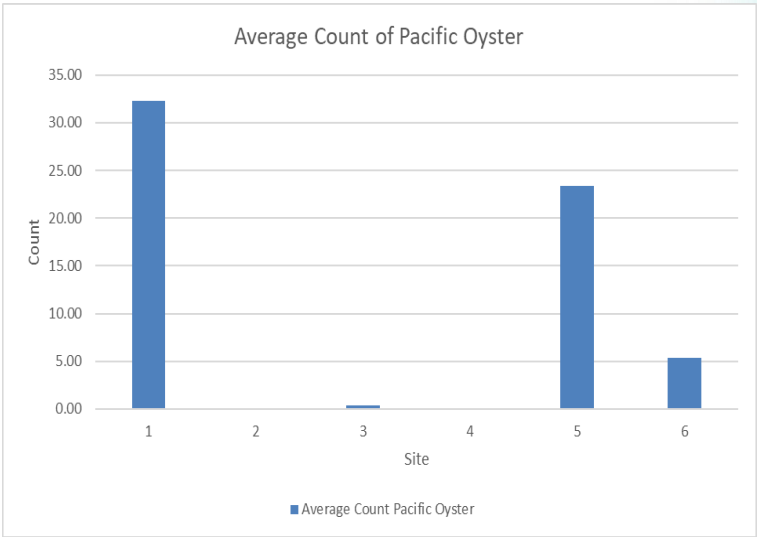
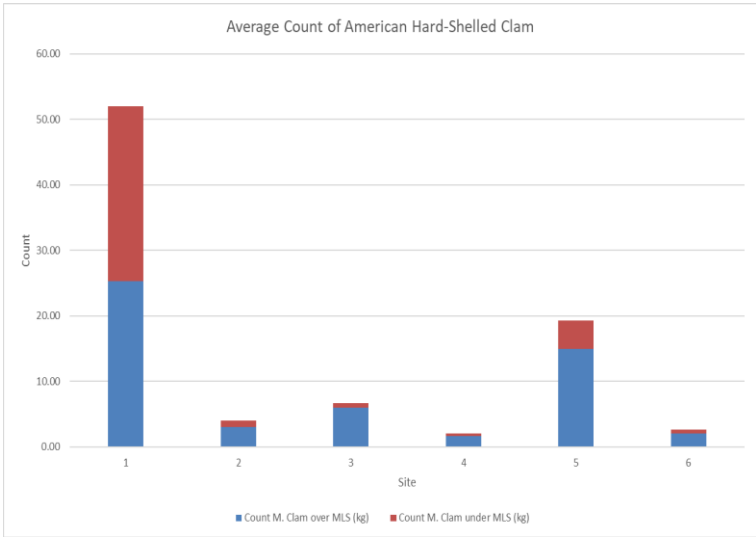
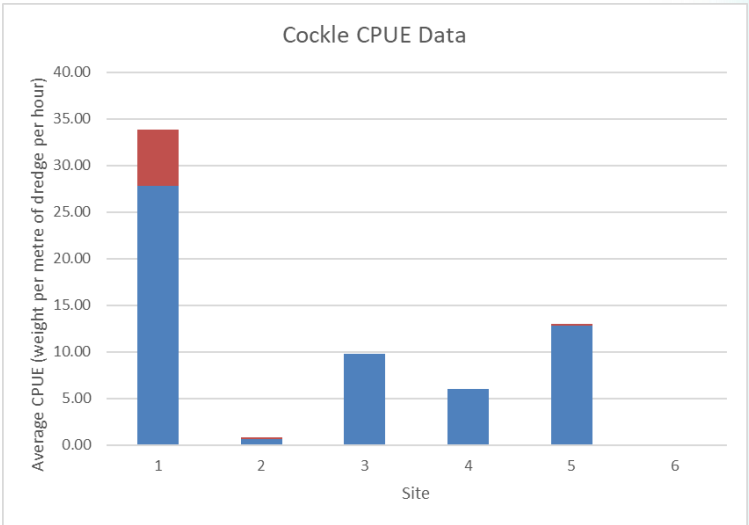
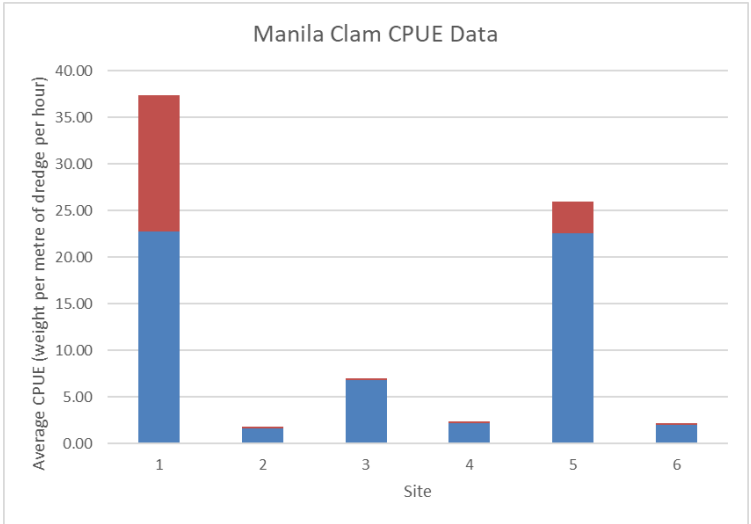


Legend

-  Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016 - Prohibited Areas
-  SAND0118 - Points
-  SAND0118



Survey results – Bivalve – Langstone Harbour



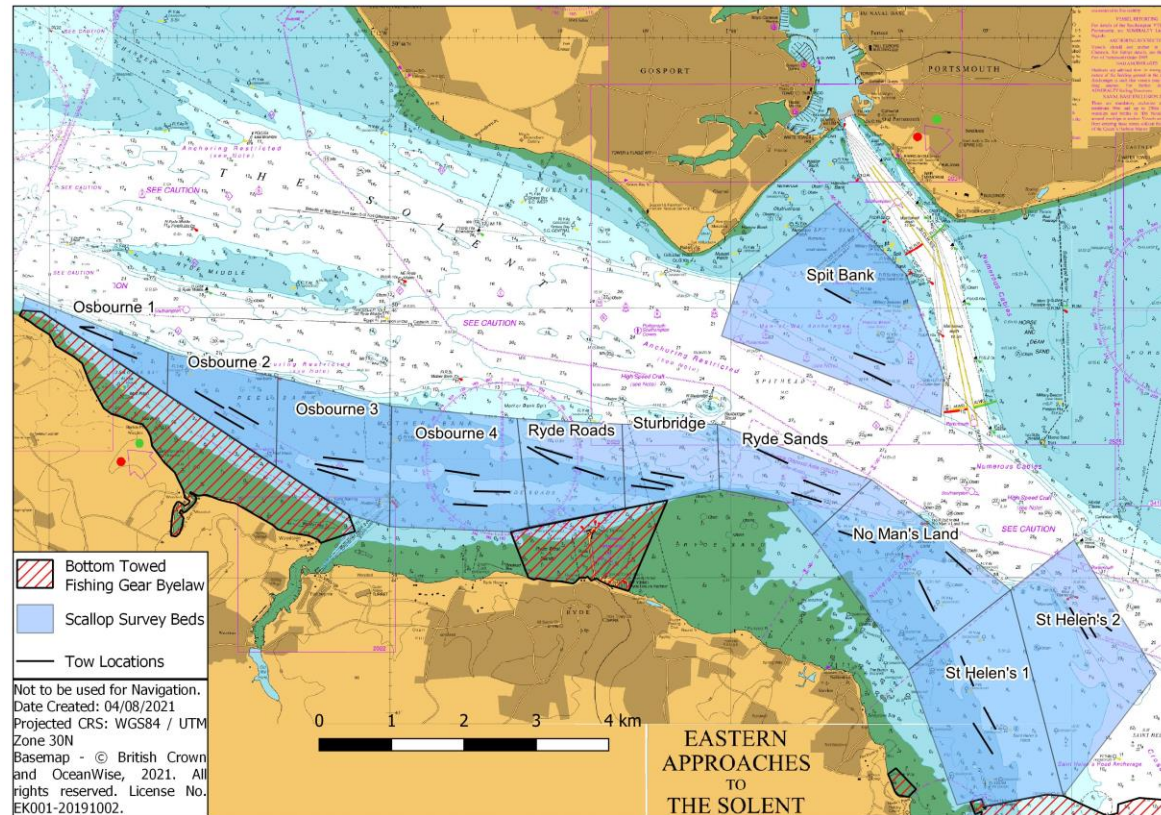
Survey results – Bivalve Survey

- Initial results ahead of the SBCF
- More detailed report to follow
- SDPB management intentions document sets out that:
 - A 5 year baseline is being developed between 2018 and 2022
 - This will provide an understanding of the fishery in order to consider necessary future management

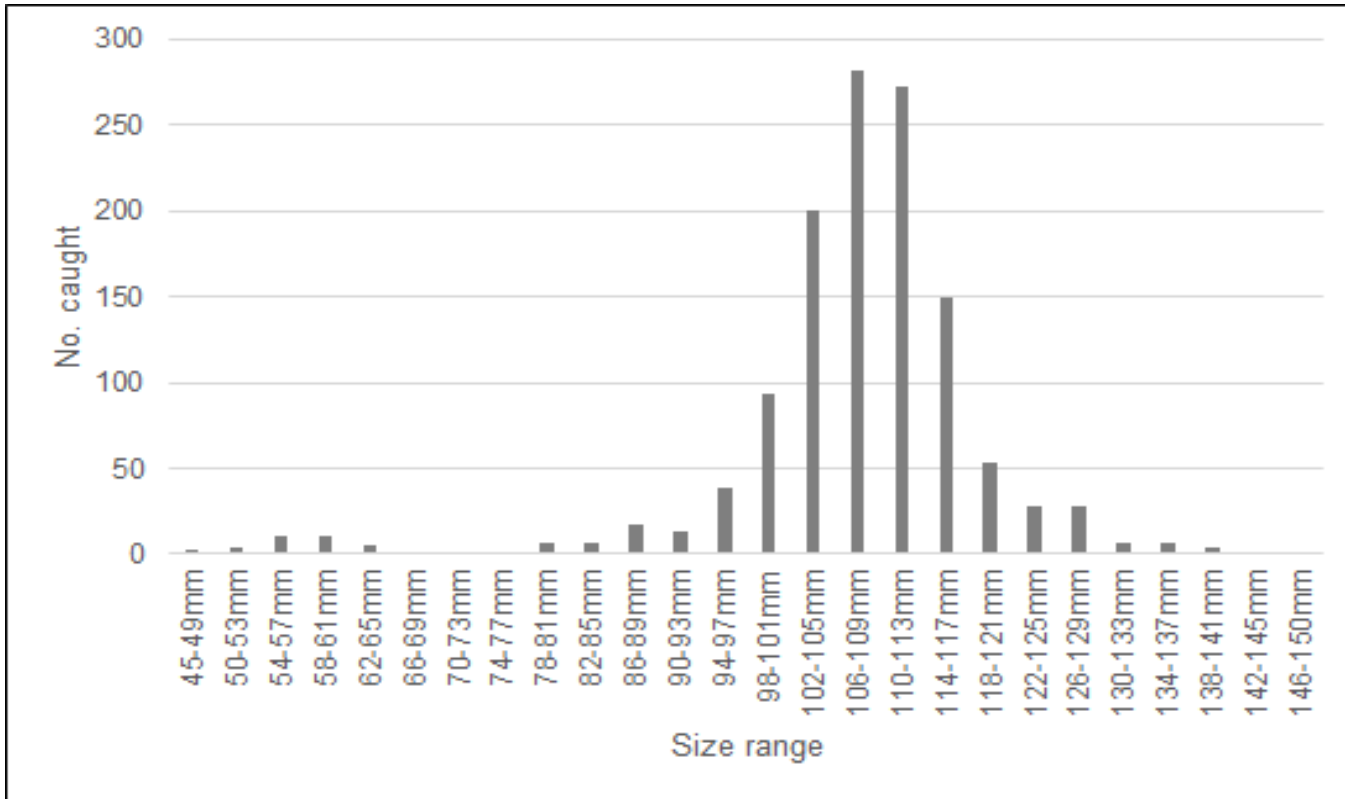


Survey results - Scallop

- 11 sites were surveyed during the Summer 2021 survey
- Survey uses a Scallop Dredge
- 3 dredges at each site
- All Scallop retained and measured along longest axis, weights are also taken

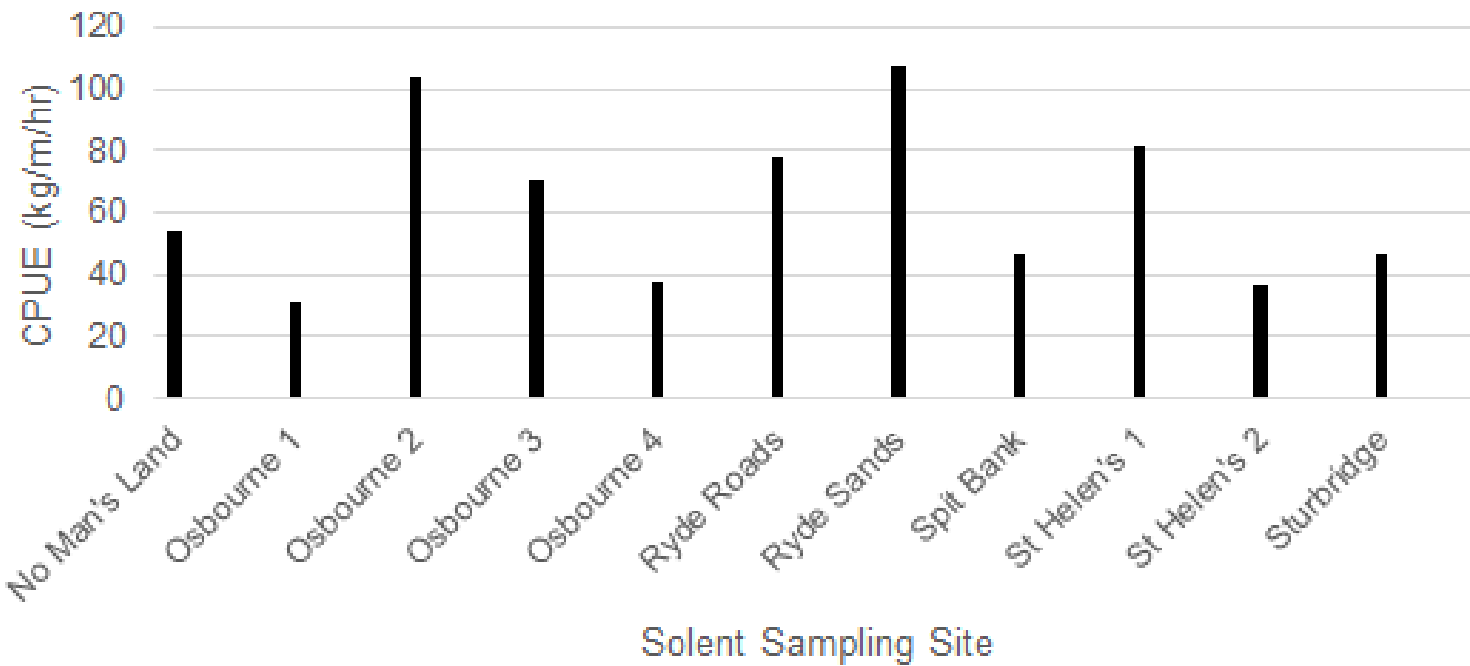


Survey results - Scallop



Survey results - Scallop

Average CPUE at each site



Survey results - Scallop

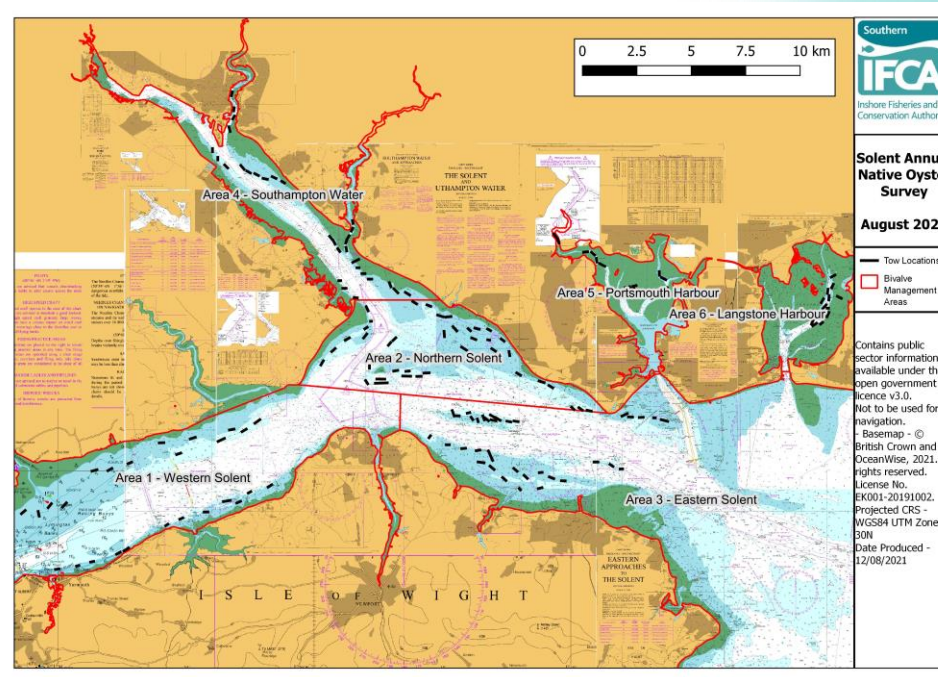
- The survey demonstrates that a range of size scallops exist in Solent across the survey area including those yet to enter the fishery (117mm dropped, indicating that fishing activities may have removed the larger scallops).
- The survey provides a baseline for population structure and catch rates that can be tracked by repeating the survey annually. Site co-ordinates have been retained to ensure consistency and CPUE in particular will provide a useful metric for monitoring trends in scallop populations.
- Scallops were sampled in all bed areas indicating a wide geographic range to the species. It is anticipated that this extends beyond the survey area, and future surveys may track further spread of the species.
- Further work could be undertaken relating to aging scallops and growth rates, which may provide a better understanding of the anticipated recruitment into the fishery. Collaboration with academic or partner organisations may allow for this.



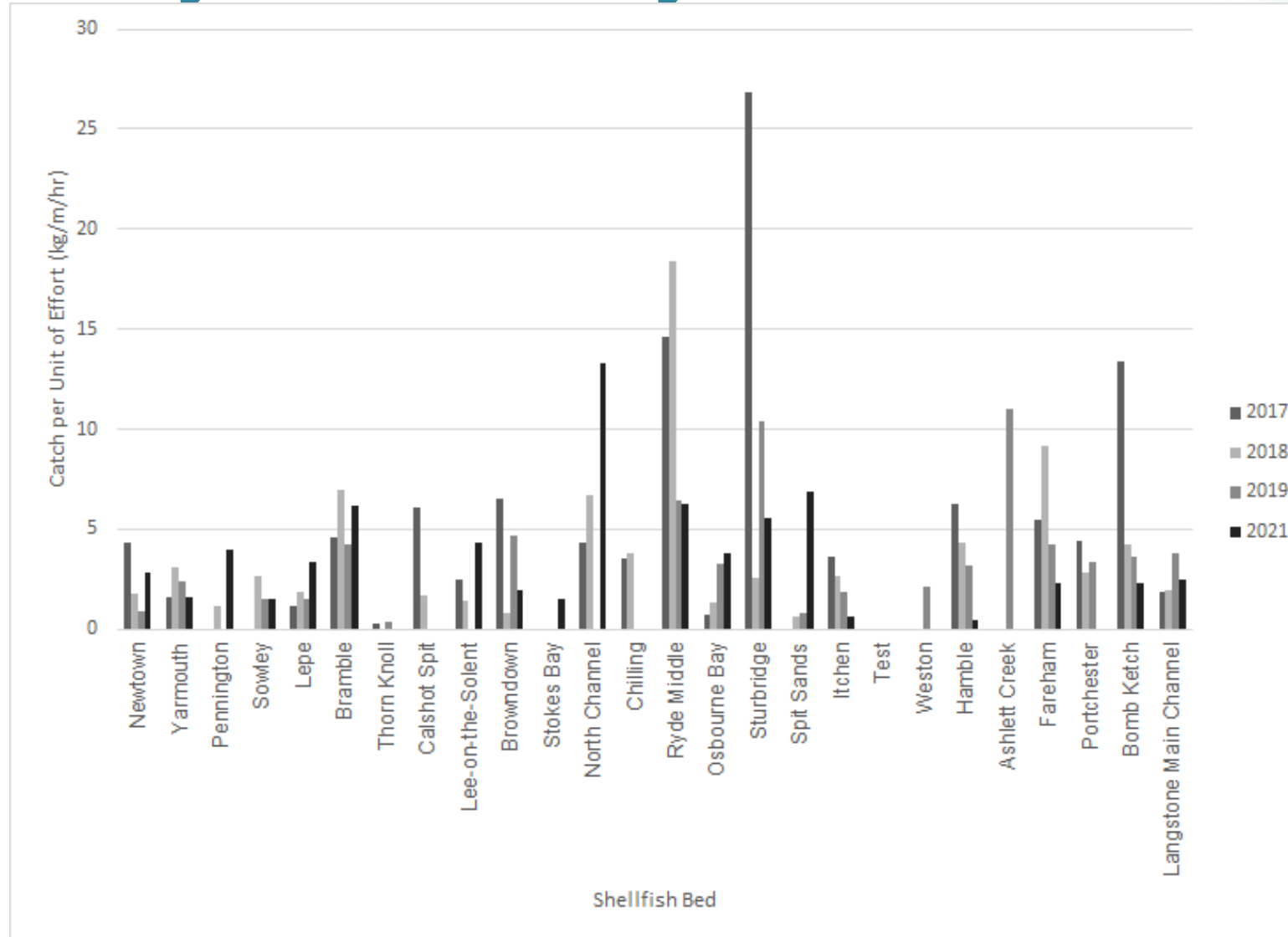
Survey results - Oyster

Annual Oyster Survey

- 5 days across the Solent targeting historic stations and shellfish beds
- 2 minute tows with a ladder dredge
- All oysters are measured, weighed and returned.
- Data is processed to determine a catch per unit of effort (kg/m.hr).
- This feeds into a time series and informs management decisions



Survey results - Oyster



Survey results - Oyster

Area 1 - Western Solent					Area 4 - Southampton Water				
Shellfish Bed	No. Tows	No. Oysters	% > 70mm	Average CPUE	Shellfish Bed	No. Tows	No. Oysters	% > 70mm	Average CPUE
Newtown	7	3	100.00%	2.8	Itchen	5		50.00%	0.6
Yarmouth	5	1	100.00%	1.6	Hythe	3	0	N/A	0
Pennington	3	2	100.00%		Weston	6	5	0.00%	0
Sowley	4	1	100.00%	1.5	Hamble	12	26	7.69%	0.5
Lepe	7	3	100.00%	3.4	Ashlett Creek	3	0	N/A	0
BMA Total	26	10	100%	2.5	BMA Total	29	31	19.35%	0.32
Area 2 - Northern Solent					Area 5 - Portsmouth Harbour				
Shellfish Bed	No. Tows	No. Oysters	% > 70mm	Average CPUE	Shellfish Bed	No. Tows	No. Oysters	% > 70mm	Average CPUE
Bramble	8	6	100.00%	6.2	Fareham	6	9	55.56%	2.3
Thorn Knoll	5	0	N/A	0	Portchester	6	0	0.00%	0
Calshot Spit	3	3	N/A	0	Bomb Ketch	3	2	100.00%	2.3
Lee-on-the-Sol	8	8	100.00%	4.3	BMA Total	15	11	77.78%	1.4
Browndown	3	3	100.00%	2	Area 5 - Langstone Harbour				
Stokes Bay	3	2	50.00%	1.5	Shellfish Bed	No. Tows	No. Oysters	% > 70mm	Average CPUE
North Channel	11	11	100.00%	13.3	Langstone Mai	14	22	40.91%	2.5
Chilling	5	2	0.00%	0	BMA Total	14	22		2.5
BMA Total	46	35	75.00%	3.02					
Area 3 - Eastern Solent									
Shellfish Bed	No. Tows	No. Oysters	% > 70mm	Average CPUE					
Ryde Middle	12	23	0.73913	6.3					
Osbourne Bay	15	7	0.71429	3.8					
Sturbridge	3	8	0.625	5.6					
Spit Sands	4	4	1	6.9					
BMA Total	34	42	76.96%	4.67					



Survey results - Oyster

- CPUE remains low across all Solent beds as indicated by the tables and the figures. A comparison to sites shows little improvement on previous years of oysters within the fishery (over 70mm).
- Limited signs of spat fall were observed in Langstone, Portsmouth and the Hamble with juvenile oysters (still settled) present in these areas.
- Very few oysters were observed likely to enter the fishery in the next few years. Further work will be undertaken on the size class data.
- Majority of oysters sampled were larger, heavier oysters indicating they were not from a recent spatfall and had not recently grown above 70mm.



Survey results – Oyster Management Implications

Guideline thresholds found within the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw – Management Intentions Document:

Area of Relevance	CPUE (kg/m/hour) Threshold	Action
Individual Bed	<15	Closure
	≥15	Consideration of management intervention
BMA	<5	Closure
	≥5	Consideration of management intervention

Based on the survey data:

- No individual bed reached a CPUE above 15 kg/m/hour,
- No management area reached a CPUE greater than 5 kg/m/hour

The Technical Advisory Committee held on the 26th August 2021 agreed:

- No Category B permits would be issued and the native oyster fishery is closed for 2021/22



Any questions?



Access Policy update



- Currently under consultation – Amendment to access policy for Category A permits Years 1-3.
- Consideration to those became reliant on fishery 2019-2021 until the implementation of the Solent Code of Conduct.
- Feedback received in writing and from forum to go to the Southern IFCA Technical Advisory Committee 4th November 2021 for consideration.

Reference Period	January 2019-March 2021 (all days inclusive)
Target species	King scallops (<i>Pecten maximus</i>)
Fishing requirement within reference period	≥20 days fished during any one year in the Solent
Applicable years for entry	Years one to three following byelaw implementation
Application Requirements	Completed application forms to be received between 5th November and 3rd December 2021.

Solent Scallop Code of Conduct



Seasonal closure

Between the 1st April and 31st October 2021, both days inclusive, no vessel should fish for scallops.

Gear specification

Between 1st November 2021 and 31st March 2022, both days inclusive, a person must not use a vessel to operate more than 2 scallop dredges.



Solent Scallop Code of Conduct

Seasonal closure compliance

- Vessels have continued to fish throughout voluntary closes season.
- At least 7 different vessels have fished during the closed season.
- Various reasons for continuing to fish stated by fishers, including:
 - need to maintain a supply of scallops to a buyer
 - a poor fin fish fishery in 2021 leaving limited other options
 - financial hardship
 - concerns that other vessels won't comply so they would be at a disadvantage by not fishing



Scallop management intentions

- Decisions made at Technical Advisory Committees in March and September agreed a review of management on implementation of the byelaw.
- Southern IFCA Technical Advisory Committee to consider effectiveness of the Scallop Code of Conduct 04/11/2021.
- Recommendation to the TAC is:
 - Scallop Code of Conduct not achieving its aims
 - Consider inclusion as permit conditions
 - Start consultation in early November with permit holders and relevant stakeholders on including measures as permit conditions



Any questions?



Any other business

