



Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Shore Gathering Site Specific Evidence Packages

**Supporting Document for the
Shore Gathering Byelaw**

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This document provides site specific evidence for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the Southern IFCA District relevant to the Shore Gathering Review.

Note that information provided on shore gathering activity within each site is based on Southern IFCA sightings data. This data is collected during Southern IFCA patrols and therefore is not a true representation of overall effort for a particular activity as observations will only have been made when a patrol is operating in the relevant area, however the nature of Southern IFCA patrols and the cumulative analysis of data from multiple years allows for an indicative picture of activity occurring within the relevant sites.

Section A: MPAs in the Scope of the Shore Gathering Review

Table 1 displays the National Site Network Sites relevant to the Shore Gathering Review. Site specific evidence for each of these sites is provided in Section 0 – Section 3.

Table 1 MPAs within the Southern IFCA District included in the Shore Gathering Review.

MCZs	SPAs	SACs
Bembridge	Chesil Beach and the Fleet	Chesil and the Fleet
Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges	Chichester and Langstone Harbour	Lyme Bay and Torbay
Purbeck Coast	Poole Harbour	Solent Maritime
Studland Bay	Portsmouth Harbour	South Wight Maritime
The Needles	Solent and Southampton Water	Studland to Portland
Yarmouth to Cowes		

National Site Network Sites which are not included in the Shore Gathering Review are those which are entirely subtidal and therefore are not able to be subject to shore gathering activities.

1.0 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

1.0 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ

1.0.1 Designated Features of the MCZ

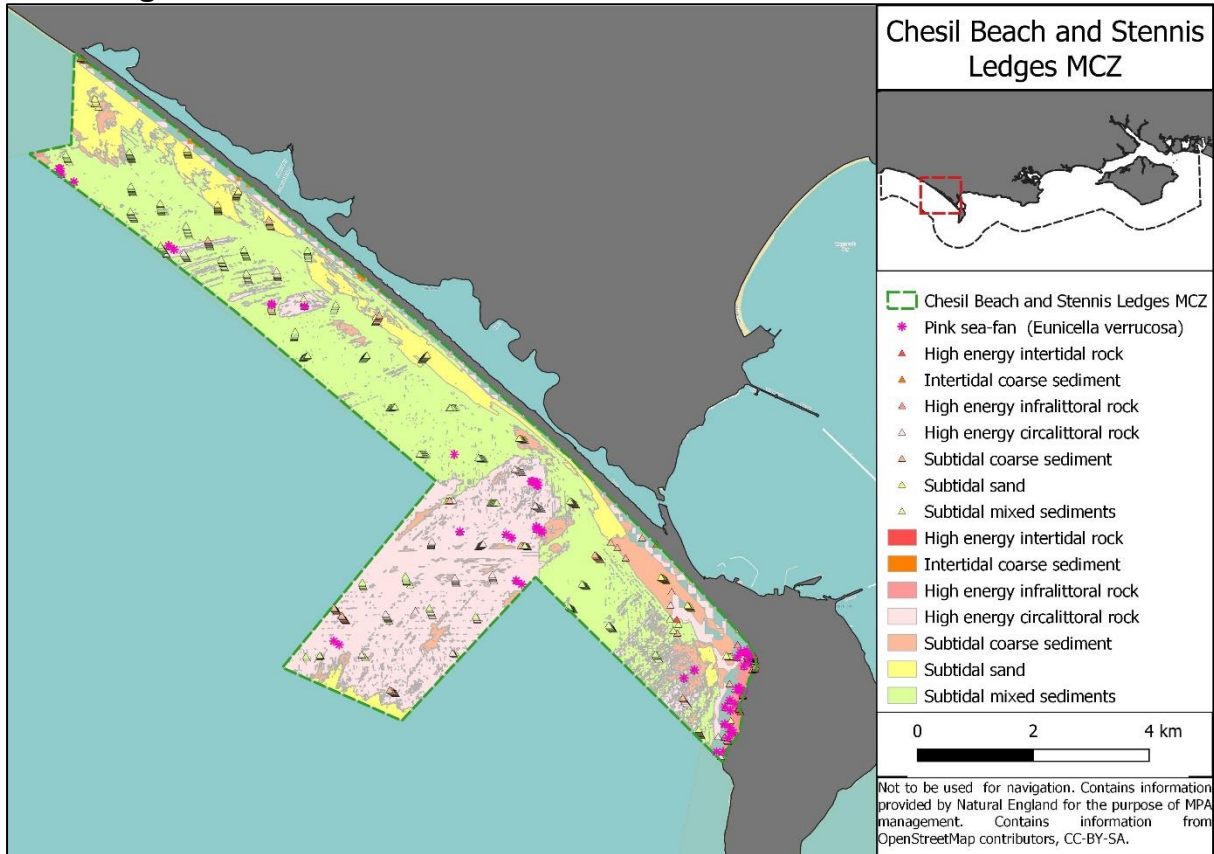


Figure 1 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

The Chesil Beach to Stennis Ledges MCZ covers an area of 37 km² running along the coastline of Chesil Beach. The area covers a variety of rocky and sediment habitats and includes the Pink Sea fan as a designated feature¹. The designated features of the MCZ are displayed in Figure 1 and Table 2.

Table 2 Designated features of the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ.

Designated Features	High-energy circalittoral rock
	High-energy infralittoral rock
	High-energy intertidal rock
	Intertidal coarse sediment
	Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)
	Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)
	Subtidal coarse sediment
	Subtidal mixed sediments
Subtidal sand	

¹ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

1.0.2 Shore Gathering activity in the MCZ – Southern IFCA Sightings Data

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ.

1.0.3 Recorded catches within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ.

1.0.4 Recorded Offences within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there have been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ.

1.1 Purbeck Coast MCZ

1.1.1 Designated Features of the MCZ

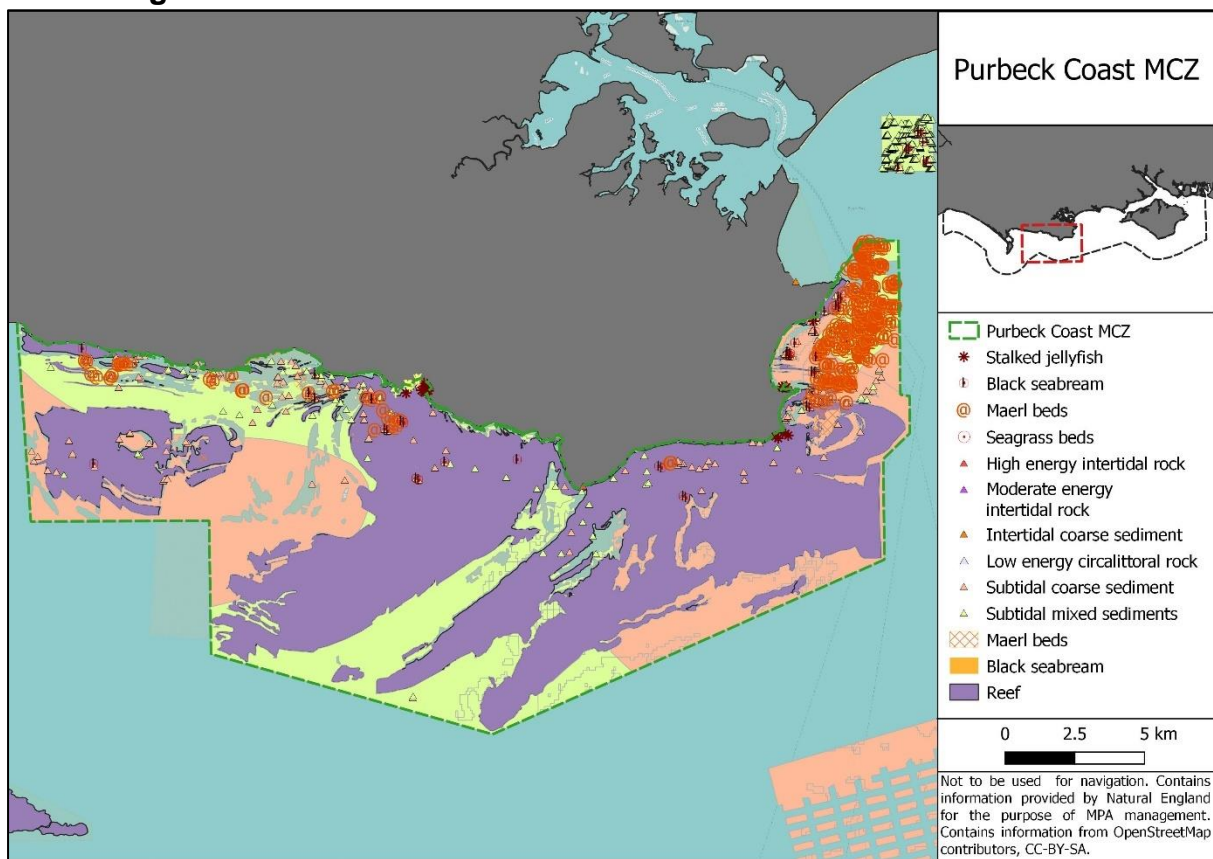


Figure 2 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Purbeck Coast MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

The Purbeck Coast MCZ covers an area of 282 km². The MCZ covers the area of coastline from Ringstead Bay in the West to north of Swanage Bay in the East². The Purbeck Coast MCZ is designated for a range of intertidal and subtidal habitats and species as displayed in Figure 2 and Table 3.

² <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Table 3 Designated features of the Purbeck Coast MCZ

Designated Features	Black Seabream (<i>Spondylisoma cantharus</i>)
	High Energy Intertidal Rock
	Intertidal Coarse Sediment
	Maerl Beds
	Moderate Energy Intertidal rock
	Peacock's tail (<i>Padina Pavocina</i>)
	Stalked Jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus spp</i>)
	Subtidal Coarse Sediment
	Subtidal Mixed Sediments

1.1.2 Shore Gathering activity in the MCZ – Southern IFCA Sightings Data

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in the Purbeck Coast MCZ.

1.1.3 Recorded catches within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in the Purbeck Coast MCZ.

1.1.4 Recorded Offences within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there have been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in Purbeck Coast MCZ.

1.2 Studland Bay MCZ

1.2.1 Designated Features of the MCZ

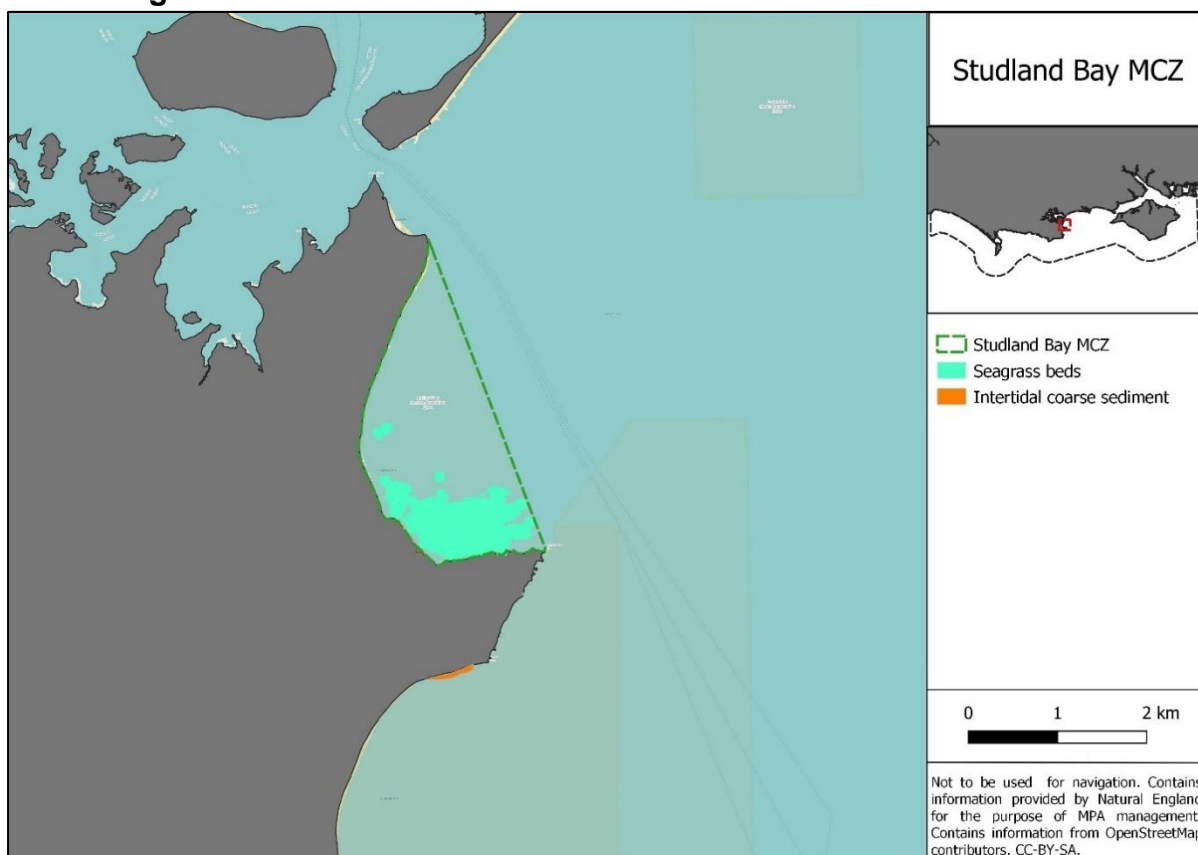


Figure 3 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Studland Bay MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

The Studland Bay MCZ is approximately 4 km² and relatively sheltered from prevailing southwesterly winds by Ballard Down³. The designated features of the Studland Bay MCZ are displayed in Figure 3 and Table 4

Table 4 Designated features of the Studland Bay MCZ

Designated Features	Intertidal coarse sediment
	Long snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i>)
	Seagrass beds
	Subtidal sand

1.2.2 Shore Gathering activity in the MCZ – Southern IFCA Sightings Data

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in the Studland Bay MCZ.

Information provided to Southern IFCA from an MMO call for evidence on non-licensable activities indicated that push-netting for prawns has occurred in this site.

³ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

1.2.3 Recorded catches within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in the Studland Bay MCZ.

1.2.4 Recorded Offences within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there have been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in Studland Bay MCZ.

1.3 The Needles MCZ

1.3.1 Designated Features of the MCZ

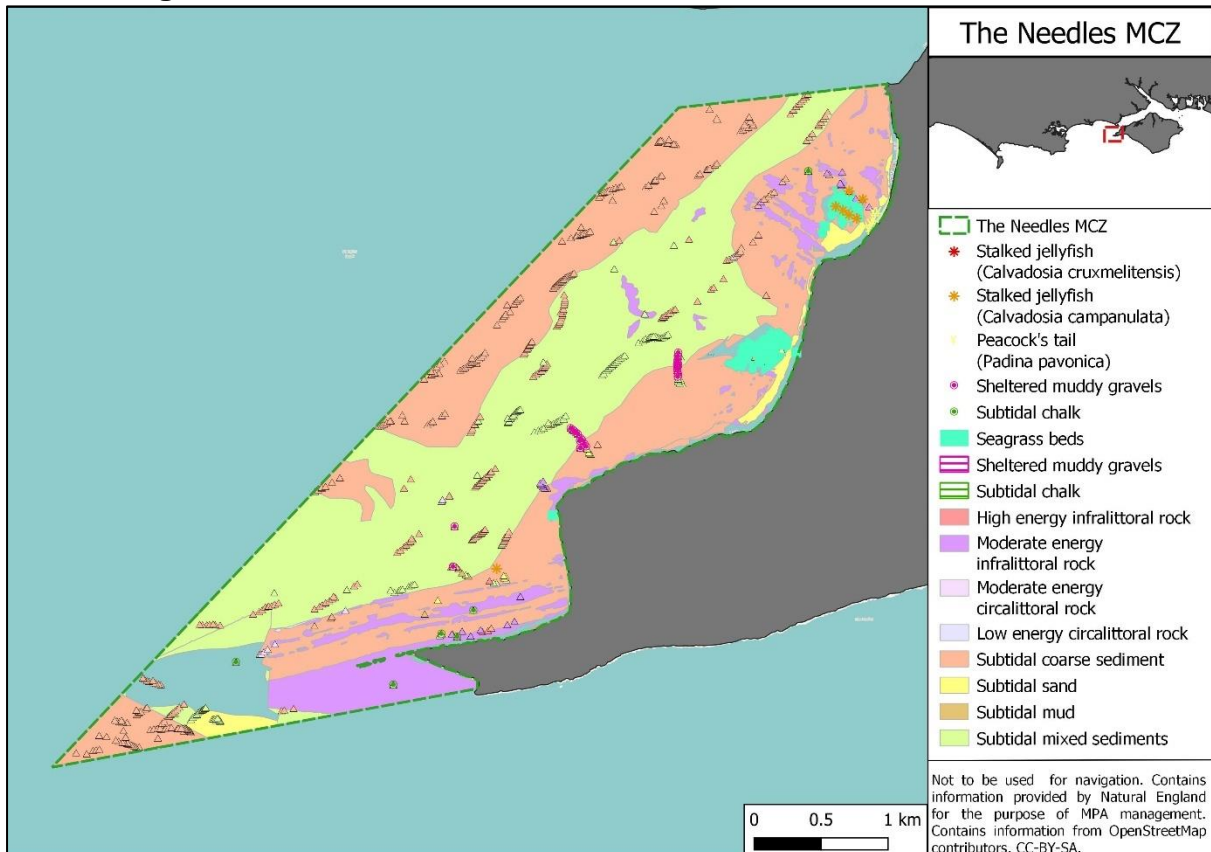


Figure 4 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of The Needles MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

The Needles MCZ is located on the west coast of the Isle of Wight and covers an area of 11 km². The MCZ covers the coastline from Fort Albert down to the Needles Geological feature along the mean high-water mark and extends up to 3 km from the shoreline. The designated features of the MCZ are displayed in Figure 4 and Table 5.

Table 5 Designated features of The Needles MCZ

Designated Features	High Energy Infralittoral Rock
	Moderate Energy Circalittoral Rock
	Moderate Energy Infralittoral Rock
	Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)
	Peacock's tail (<i>Padina Pavocina</i>)
	Seagrass Beds
Sheltered Muddy Gravels	

	Stalked Jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia campanulata</i>)
	Subtidal Chalk
	Subtidal Coarse Sediments
	Subtidal Mixed Sediments
	Subtidal Mud
	Subtidal Sand

1.3.2 Shore Gathering activity in the MCZ – Southern IFCA Sightings Data

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in The Needles MCZ.

1.3.3 Recorded catches within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in The Needles MCZ.

1.3.4 Recorded Offences within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there have been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in The Needles MCZ.

1.4 Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ

1.4.1 Designated Features of the MCZ

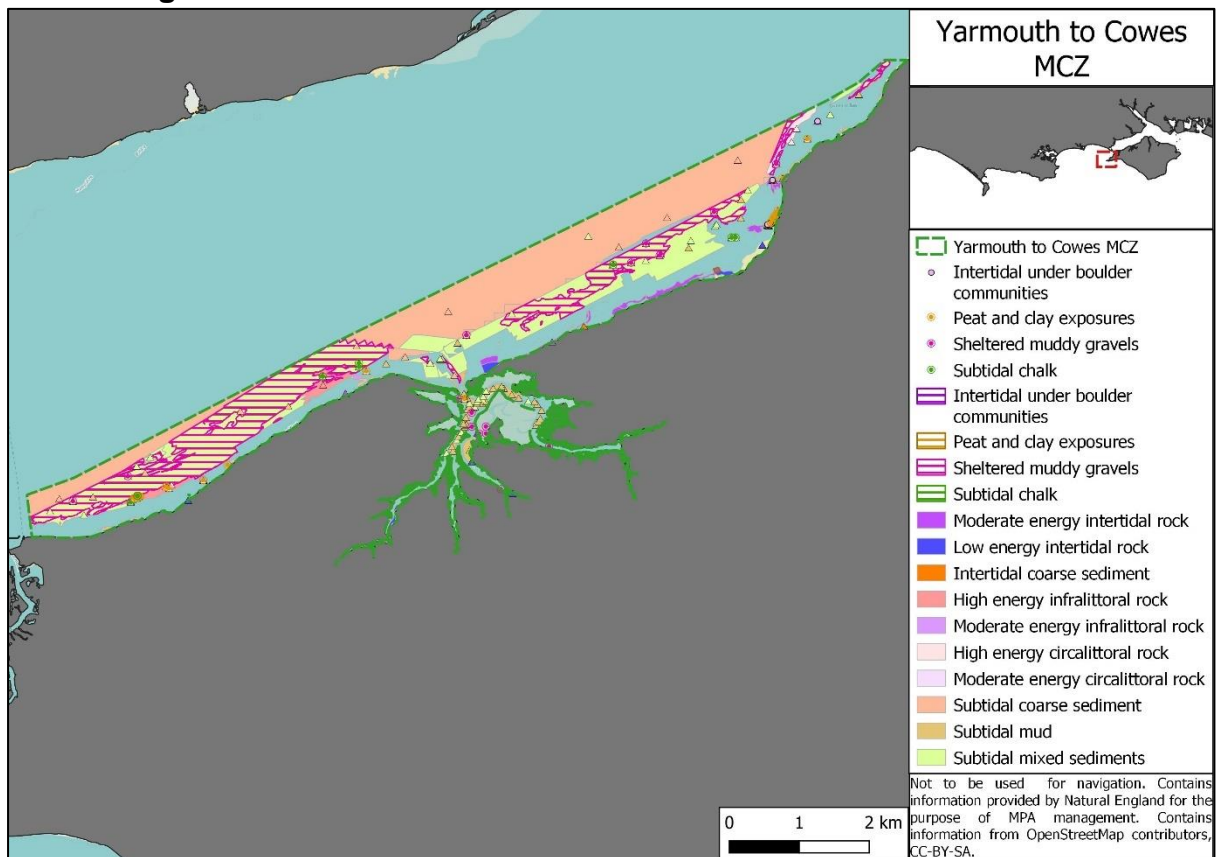


Figure 5 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

The Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ covers 16 km² and stretches from Gurnard in the east, a village west of Cowes, to Yarmouth pier in the West and extends to the edge of the Western Solent deep water channel. The designated features of the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ are displayed in Figure 5 and Table 6.

Table 6 The designated features of the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ.

Designated Features	Bouldnor Cliff geological feature
	Estuarine rocky habitats
	High-Energy Circalittoral Rock
	High-Energy Infralittoral Rock
	Intertidal coarse sediment
	Intertidal under boulder communities
	Littoral chalk communities
	Low-energy intertidal rock
	Moderate Energy Circalittoral Rock
	Moderate Energy Infralittoral Rock
	Moderate energy intertidal rock
	Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea Edulis</i>)
	Peat and Clay Exposures
	Sheltered Muddy Gravels

	Subtidal Chalk
	Subtidal Coarse Sediments
	Subtidal Mixed Sediments
	Subtidal Mud

1.4.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the MCZ

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of twenty-nine prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area. Area 25 is within the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ.

1.4.3 Shore Gathering activity in the MCZ – Southern IFCA Sightings Data

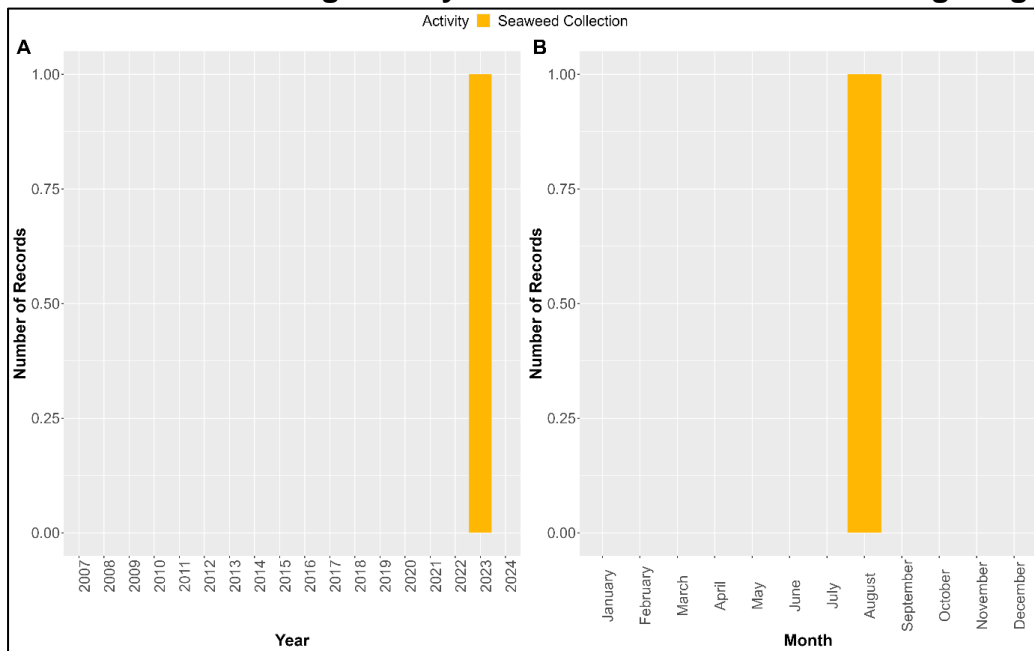


Figure 6 Records of shore gathering activity occurring in the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ.

Figure 6 displays the only recorded occurrence of shore gathering activity in the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ and Figure 7 the spatial distribution. The activity recorded was seaweed gathering and was observed in January 2023.

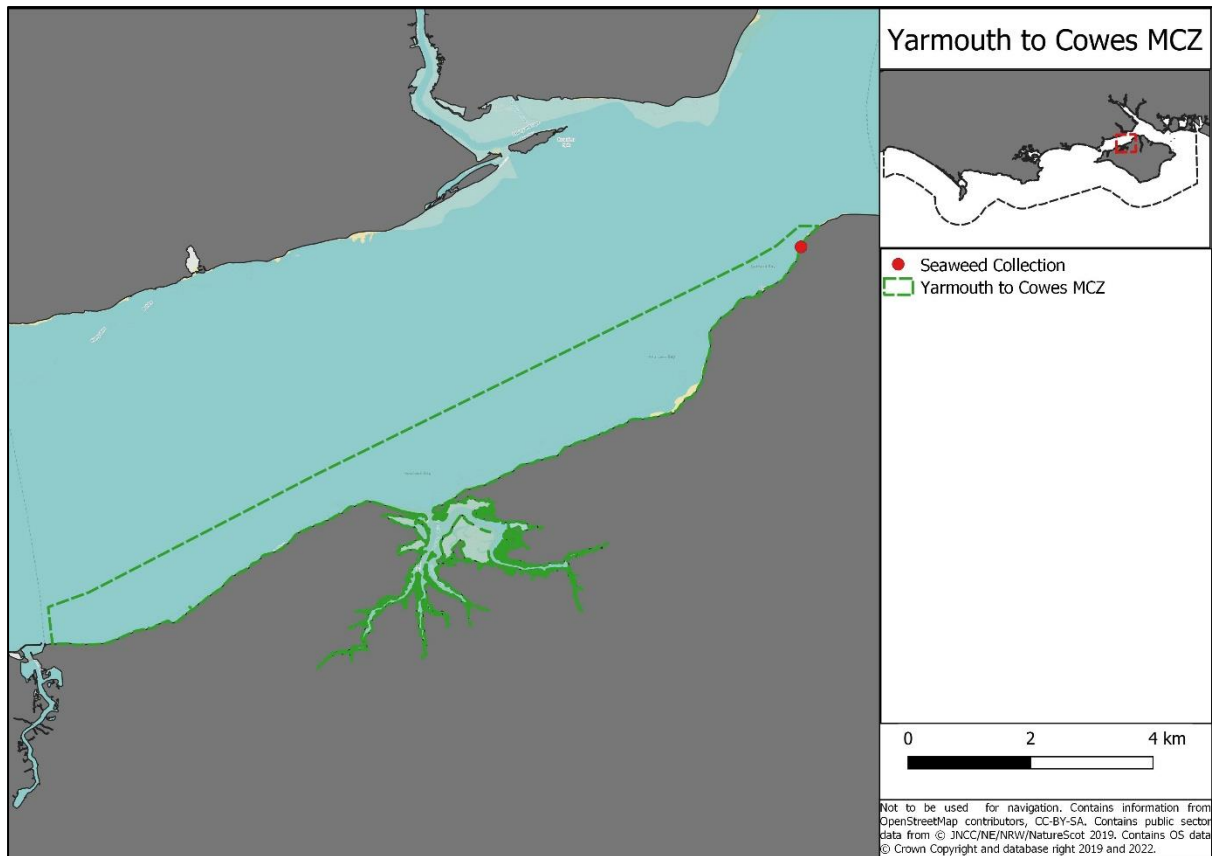


Figure 7 Spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

1.4.4 Recorded catches within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ.

1.4.5 Recorded Offences within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ.

1.5 Bembridge MCZ

1.5.1 Designated Features of the MCZ

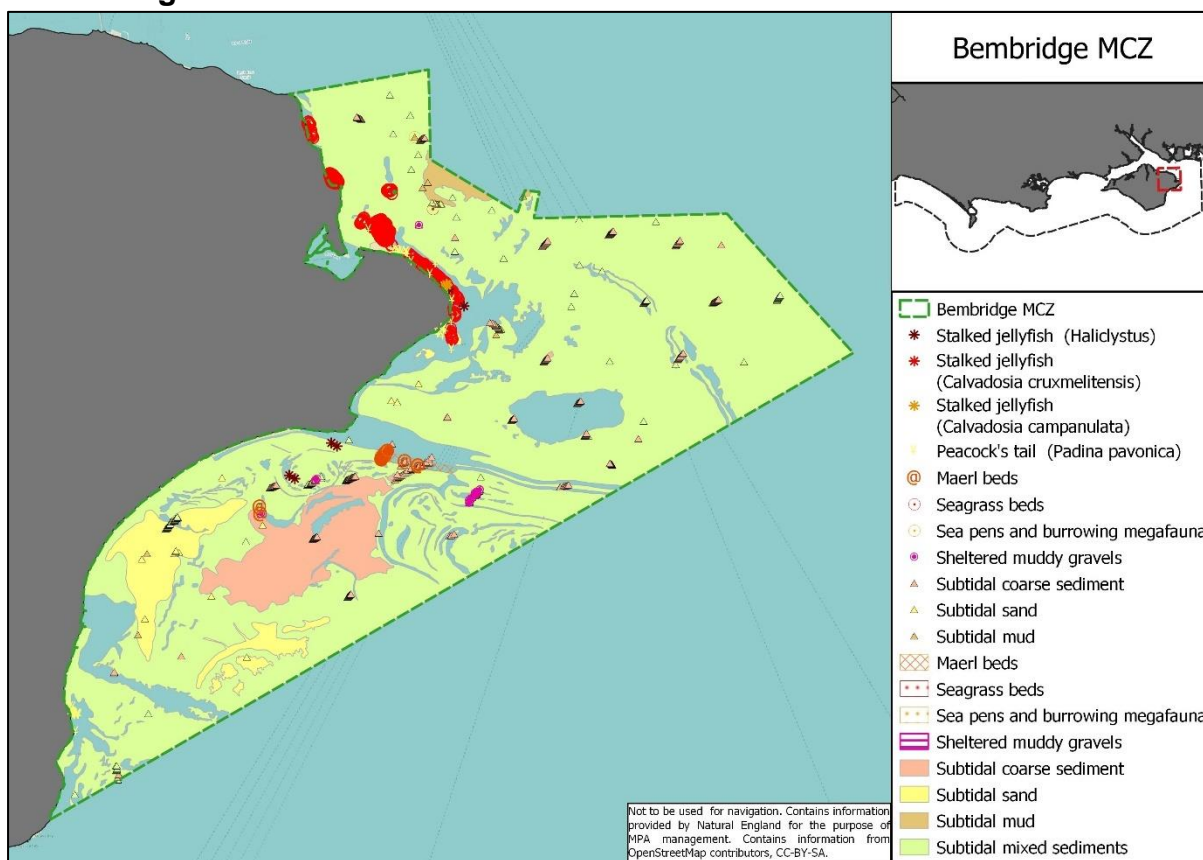


Figure 8 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Bembridge MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

The Bembridge MCZ covers an area of 75 km² and stretches southwards from Nettlestone Point in the North to Ventnor in the South and stretch to the edge of the deep-water channel in the Eastern Solent. The designated features are displayed in Figure 8 and Table 7.

Table 7 The designated features of Bembridge MCZ

Designated Features	Maerl Beds
	Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea Edulis</i>)
	Peacock's tail (<i>Padina Pavocina</i>)
	Seagrass beds
	Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities
	Sheltered Muddy Gravels
	Short Snouted Seahorse (<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>)
	Stalked Jellyfish (<i>Calvadosia campanulata</i>)
	Stalked Jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus spp</i>)
	Subtidal Coarse Sediments
	Subtidal Mixed Sediments
	Subtidal Mud
	Subtidal Sand

1.5.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the MCZ

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of twenty-nine prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area nor be in the prohibited areas with a rake, spade, fork, or similar tool. Areas 17-21 are within the Bembridge MCZ.

1.5.3 Shore Gathering activity in the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in the Bembridge MCZ.

1.5.4 Recorded catches within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in the Bembridge MCZ.

1.5.5 Recorded Offences within the MCZ

As of October 2023, there has been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in the Bembridge MCZ.

2. Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

2.0 Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA

2.0.1 Designated Features of the SPA

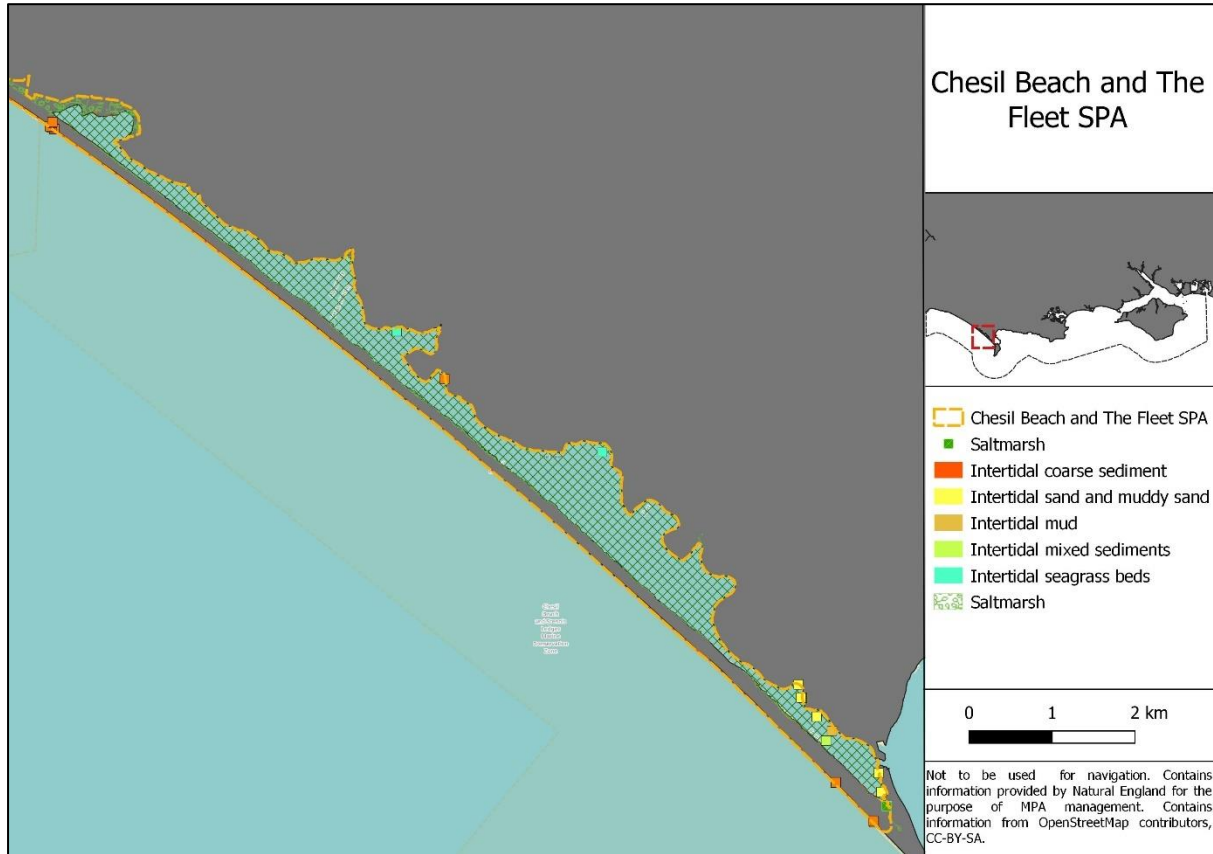


Figure 9 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

The Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA covers an area of 7 km². The Fleet supports the largest diversity of species and habitat of any coastal lagoon in the UK ⁴ and aside from the entrance at the southeastern end, The Fleet is largely sheltered from waves and tidal processes⁵. The qualifying features and their supporting habitats are displayed in Figure 9 and Table 8.

Table 8 Qualifying features and their supporting habitats in the Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA.

Qualifying Features	Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>), Breeding
	Wigeon (<i>Mareca Penelope</i>), Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal Lagoons
	Intertidal Coarse Sediment
	Intertidal Mixed Sediment
	Intertidal Sand and Muddy Sand
	Intertidal Seagrass beds
	Intertidal Mud
	Water Column

⁴ Bamber, R. N. 1997. Assessment of saline lagoons within Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Peterborough: English Nature.

⁵ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

2.0.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the SPA

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of twenty-nine prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area nor be in the prohibited areas with a rake, spade, fork, or similar tool. Areas 29 are within the Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA.

2.0.3 Shore Gathering activity in the SPA

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in the Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA.

Information provided by Natural England indicates that bait digging, cockle raking, and crab tiling have taken place within the site. No information is provided on the specific location or date when this activity was observed.

2.0.4 Recorded catches within the SPA

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in the Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA.

2.0.5 Recorded Offences within the SPA

As of October 2023, there has been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in the Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA.

2.1 Poole Harbour SPA

2.1.1 Designated Features of the SPA

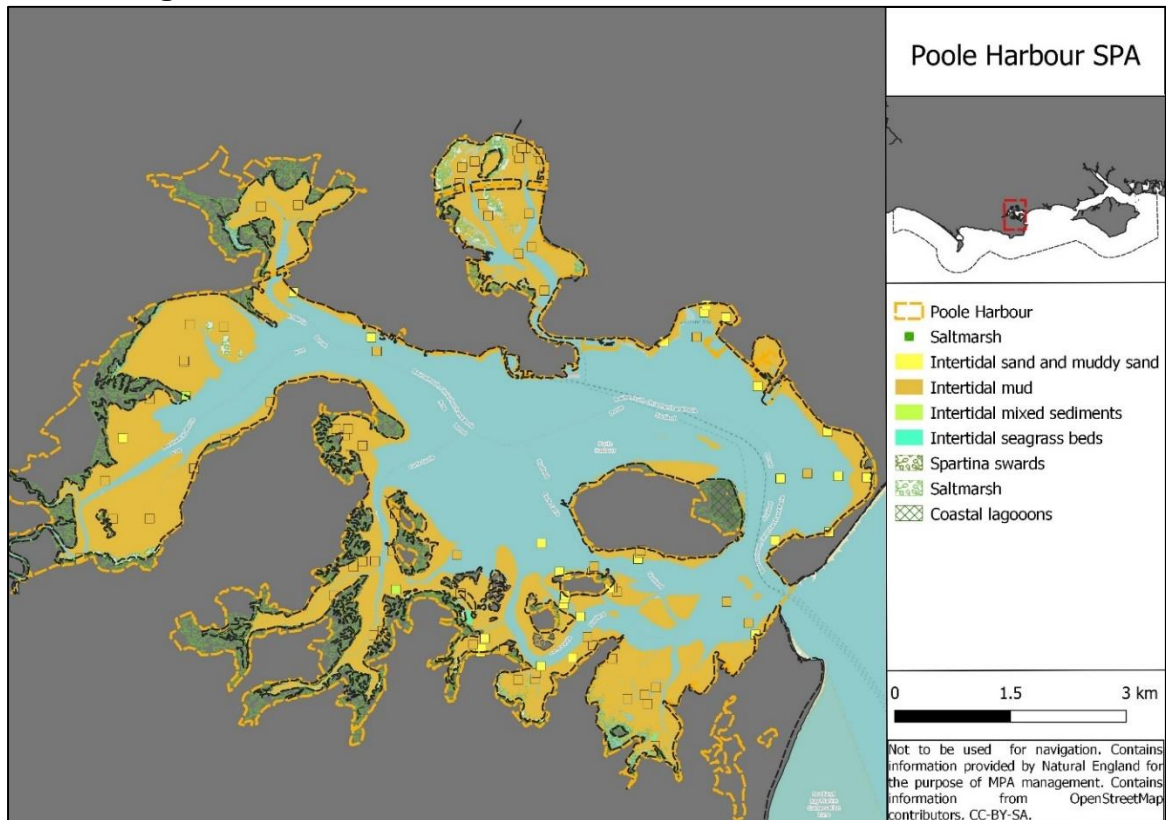


Figure 10 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Poole Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

Poole Harbour SPA comprises of large tidal mudflats, saltmarsh, and seagrass beds. The SPA covers an area of 42 km² and is an important feeding habitat for migratory birds⁶. The qualifying features and their supporting habitats are displayed in Figure 10 and Table 9.

Table 9 Qualifying features and their supporting habitats in the Poole Harbour SPA.

Qualifying Features	Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>), Non-breeding
	Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>), Non-breeding
	Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), Breeding
	Little egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>), Non-breeding
	Mediterranean gull (<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>), Breeding
	Sandwich tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>), Breeding
	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Non-breeding
	Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>), Non-breeding
	Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal lagoon
	coastal reedbed
	freshwater and coastal grazing marsh
	Mediterranean and thermo- Atlantic Halophilous scrubs
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Atlantic salt meadows
Spartina swards	

⁶ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

	Intertidal seagrass beds
	Intertidal mixed sediments
	Intertidal mud
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand
	Water column

2.1.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the SPA

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of twenty-nine prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area nor be in the prohibited areas with a rake, spade, fork, or similar tool. Areas 26-28 are within the Poole Harbour SPA.

Poole Harbour is subject to the Poole Harbour Shellfish Hand Gathering Byelaw. From the 1st of November to 31st March, both days inclusive, a person must not take from a fishery, shellfish of any kind by hand gathering or with the use of a hand tool, in the defined areas within Poole Harbour.

The Poole Harbour Bait Digging Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was produced in partnership with industry, other authorities, NGOs, and other bodies. The agreement sets out a range of voluntary permanent and seasonal spatial closures, in addition to provisions on backfilling holes, avoiding taking green spawning worms, keeping to access paths, avoiding digging around moorings, slipways and sea walls, being aware of the use of torch lights to disturb roosting birds and keeping to all local byelaws and regulations.

2.1.3 Shore Gathering activity in the SPA

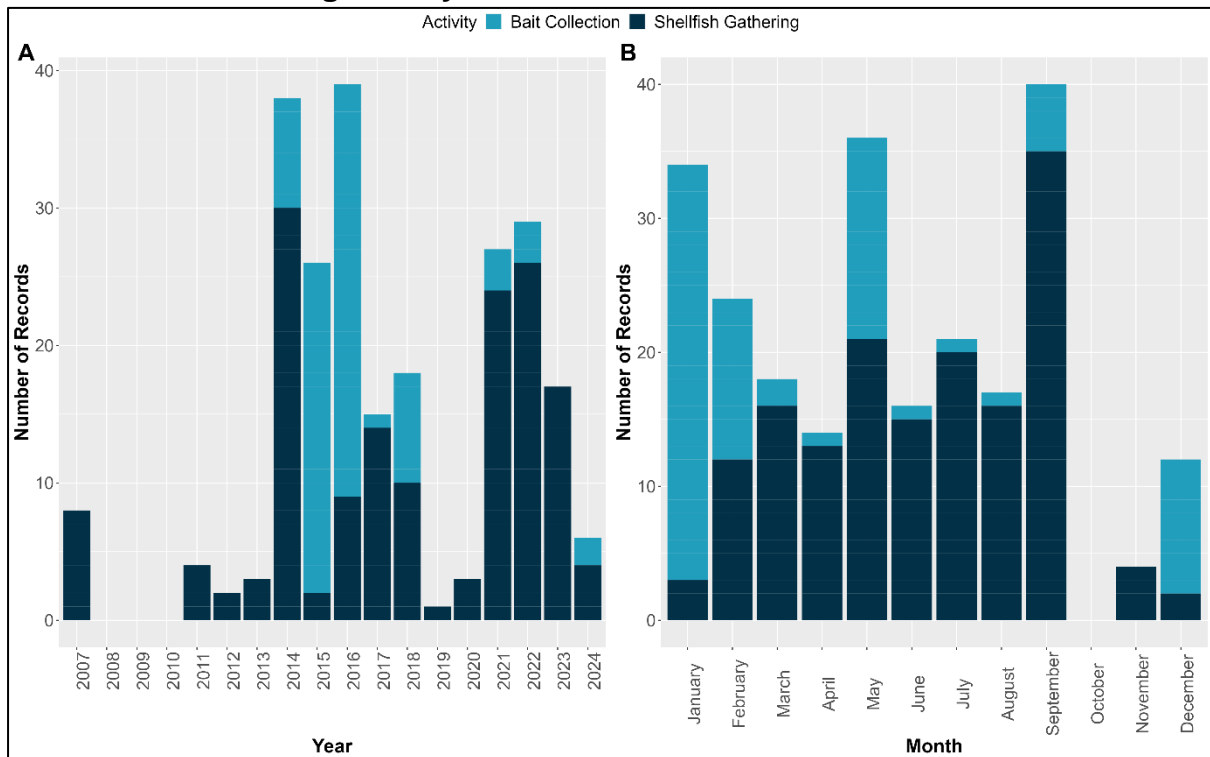


Figure 11 Records of shore gathering activity occurring in the Poole Harbour SPA.

Records of shore gathering activity in the Poole Harbour SPA date back to 2007 and are comprised of bait collection and shellfish gathering and are displayed in Figure 11A. Bait

digging activity appears to peak in 2015 and 2016 with 24 and 30 records respectively. However, this should be viewed with the understand that the data is based on Southern IFCA sightings data. Bait digging appears to mostly occur from December to January (Figure 11B) however this should also be considered in line with the data source.

Shellfish gathering peaked in 2014 with 30 records. Similar but lower levels were observed in 2021 and 2022 with 24 and 26 records respectively. Monthly records remain relatively consistent from February to August with a with between 12 and 20 records. Shellfish gathering peaks in September with a total of 35 records.

Spatial distribution is displayed in Figure 12. High density areas of shellfish gathering include Whitley Lake, Arne Bay, and Rockley Spit (East to West). High density areas of Bait collection include Blue Lagoon and Holes Bay (East to West). Note that some records will represent activity prior to the introduction of existing management measures.

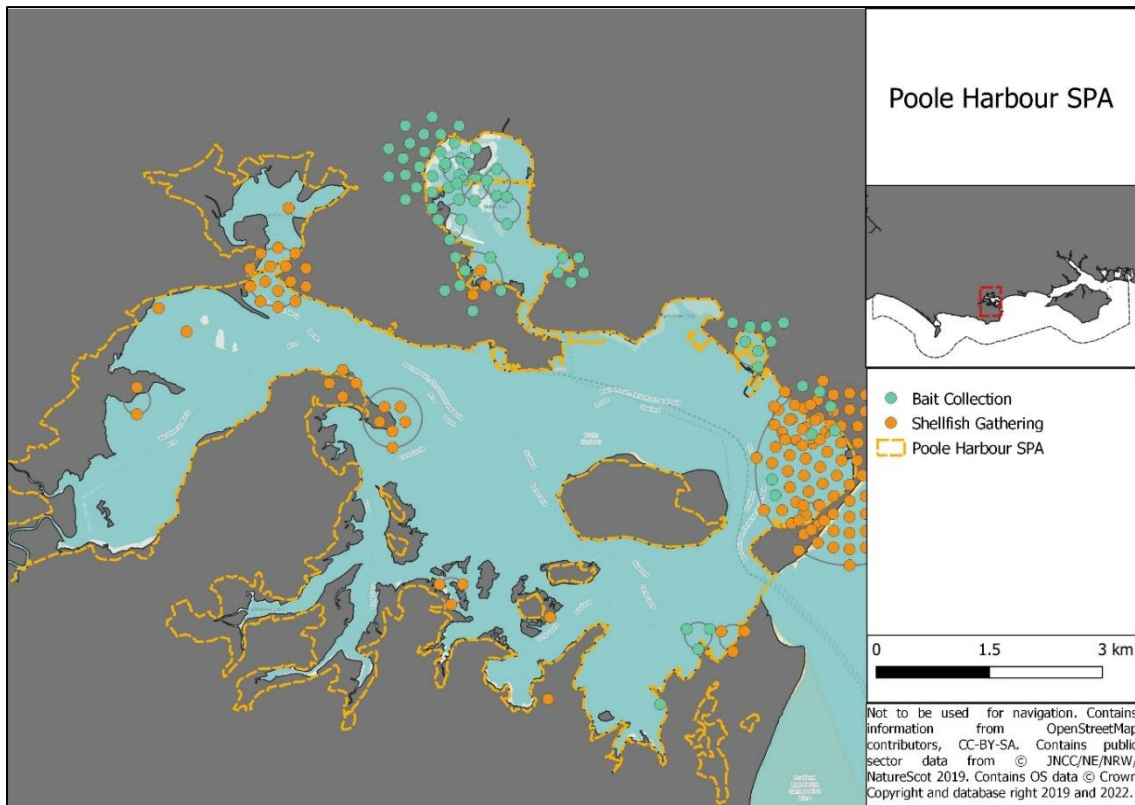


Figure 12 Spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Poole Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line) as of October 2023.

2.1.4 Recorded catches within the SPA

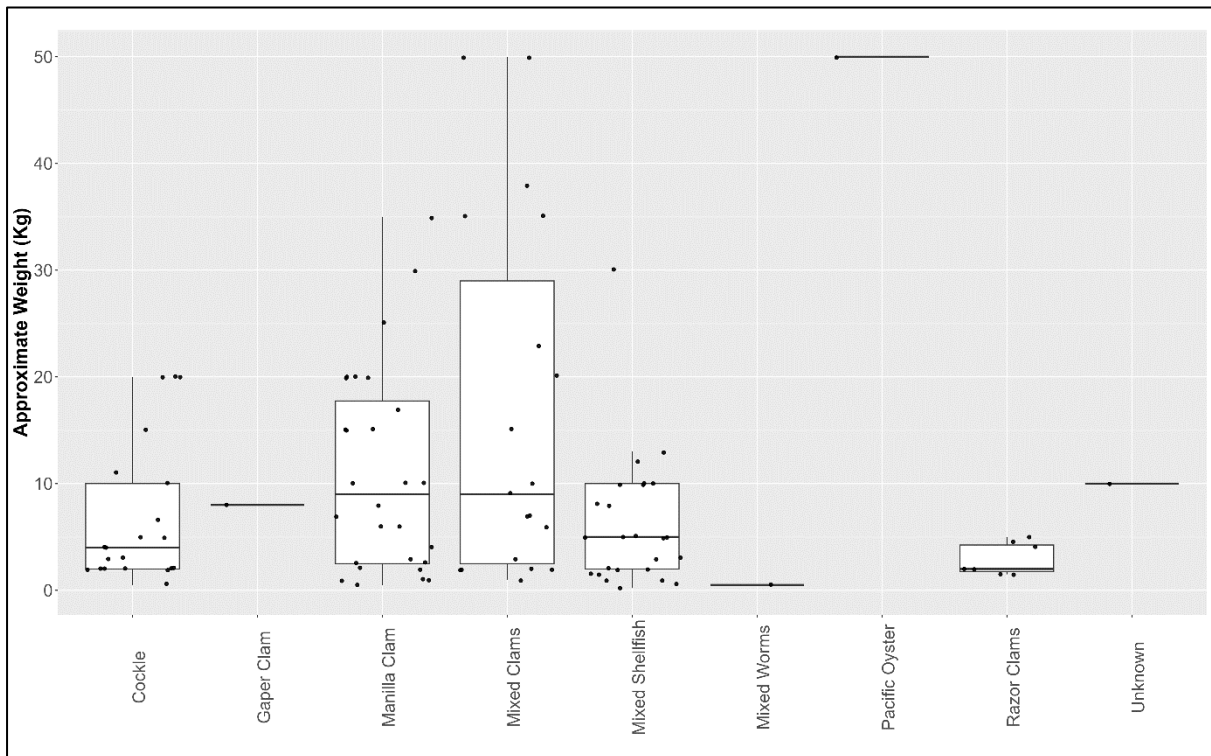


Figure 13 Approximate weight of catch associated with shore gathering activity in the Poole Harbour SPA.

Figure 13 displays the range of weights recorded on Southern IFCA search records of species caught through shore gathering activity (shellfish) in Poole Harbour SPA since 2007. Table 10 displays the mean weight for each species.

Table 10 The mean weight of recorded catches associated with shore gathering activity in the Poole Harbour SPA.

Species	Mean Weight (kg)
Cockle	6.71
Gaper Clam	8.00
Manila Clam	11.01
Mixed Clams	16.68
Mixed Shellfish	6.14
Mixed Worms	0.50
Pacific Oyster	50.00
Razor Clams	2.93
Unknown	10.00

2.1.5 Recorded Offences within the SPA

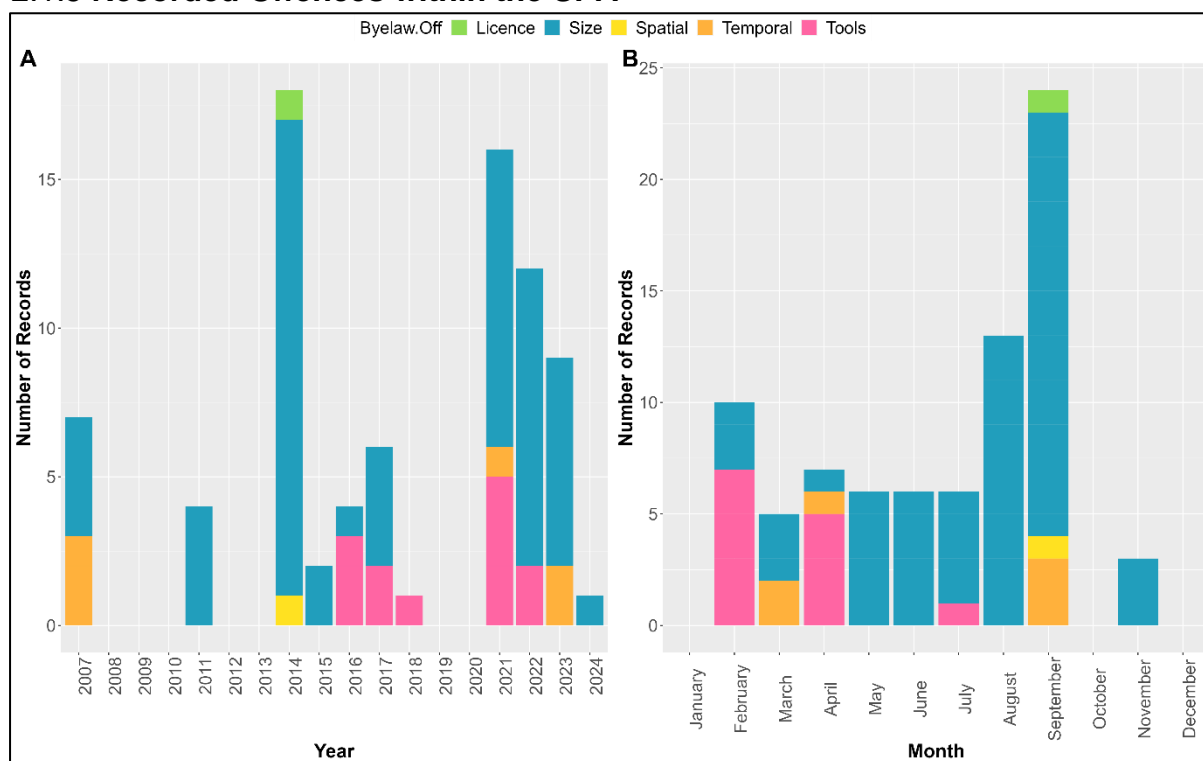


Figure 14 Recorded offences and the theme of infringement in the Poole Harbour SPA.

Figure 14 A and B display the yearly and monthly trends in offences related to shore gathering activity within the Poole Harbour SPA since 2007. Offences peaked in 2014 with 18 records. Similar to the levels of activity discussed in section 2.1.3, offences peak at the end of the summer. In this case it is likely due to targeted patrol work occurring in September 2014.

Infringements relating to undersized species occur most frequently, followed by the use of tools. A summary of current shore gathering related management can be found in Sections 2.1.2 and 5.

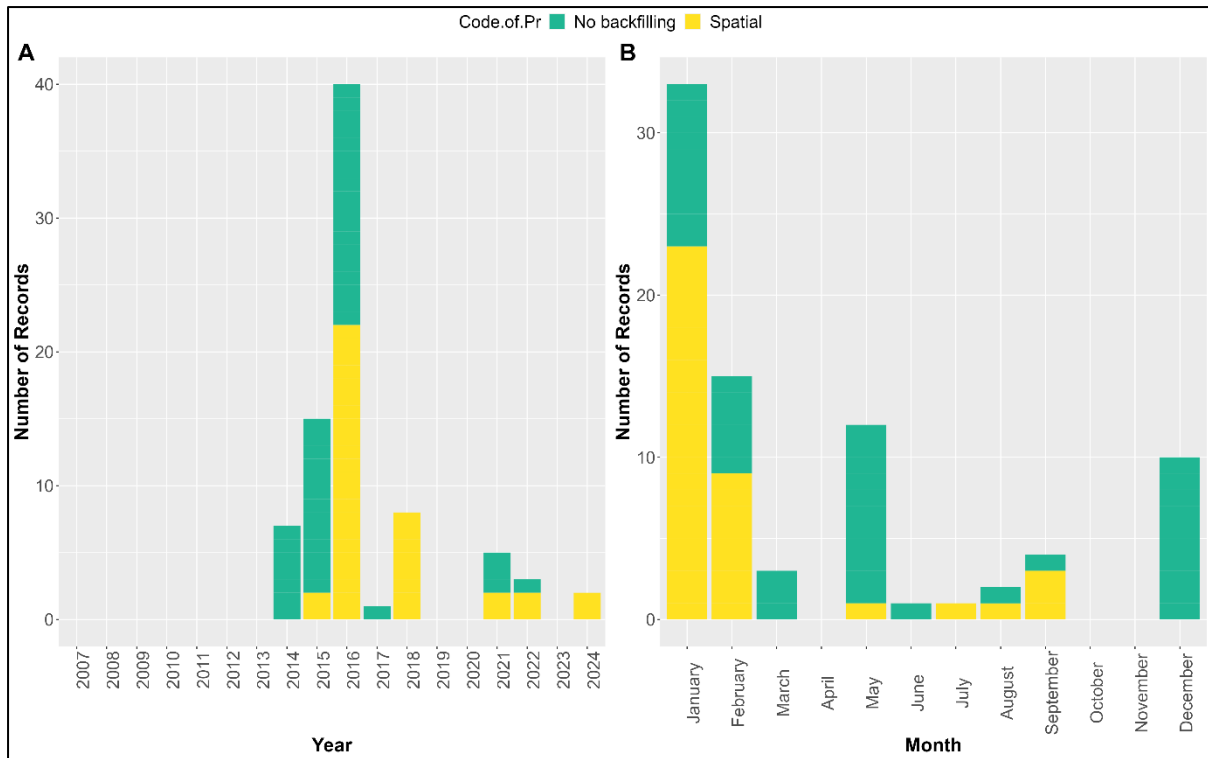


Figure 15 Poole Harbour Bait Memorandum of Agreement infringements by theme

There are 81 recorded infringements of the Pool Harbour MoA recorded in IFCA search and intelligence records. The majority of recorded infringements relate to digging in permanent or seasonal spatial closures and are displayed in Figure 15.

2.2 Solent and Southampton Water SPA

2.2.1 Designated Features of the SPA

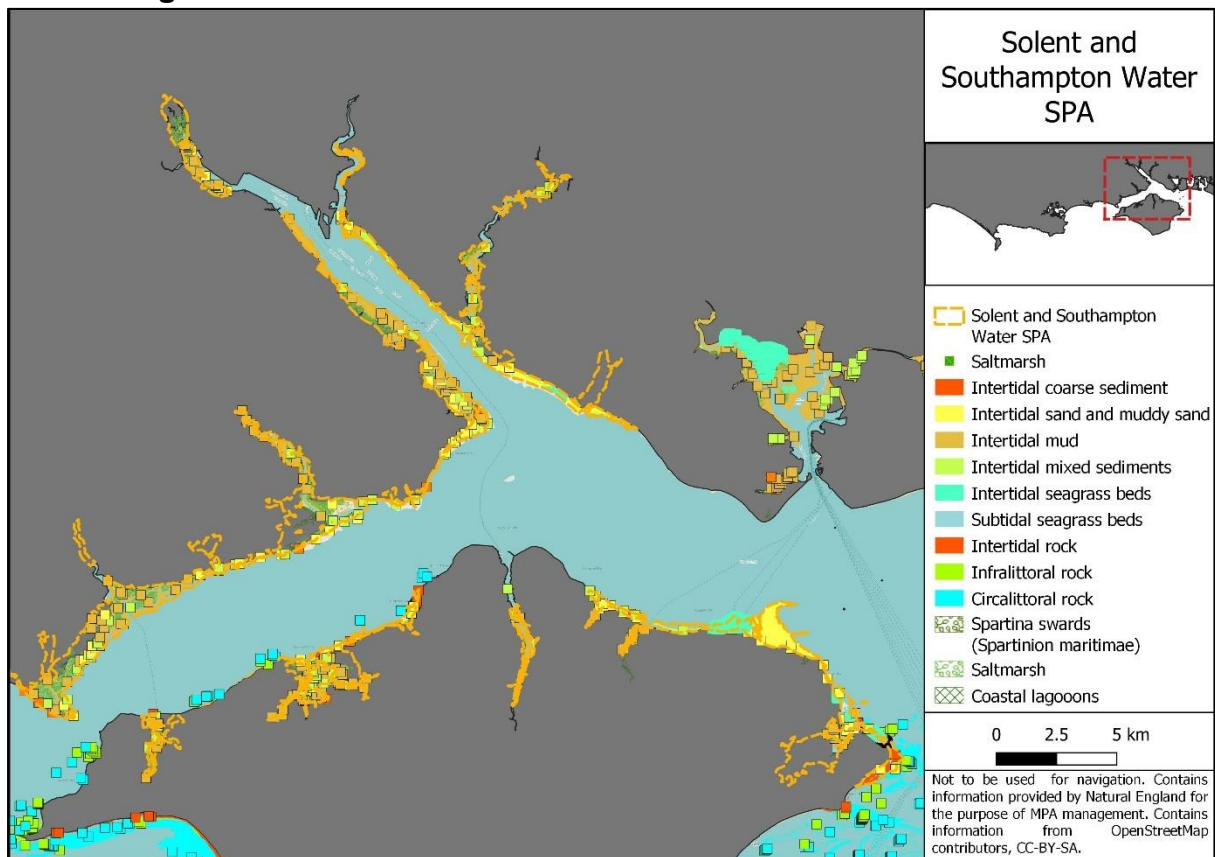


Figure 16 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

The Solent and Southampton Water SPA reaches from Hurst Spit in the West to Hill Head in the East, covering sections of the Hampshire coastline and the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The SPA covers 54 km² of estuarine habitats that support a range of invertebrates and migratory birds⁷. The qualifying features and their supporting habitats are displayed in Figure 16 and Table 11.

Table 11 Qualifying features and their supporting habitats in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA

Qualifying Features	Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>), Non-breeding
	Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), Breeding
	Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), Non-breeding
	Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>), Breeding
	Mediterranean gull (<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>), Breeding
	Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), Non-breeding
	Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>), Breeding
	Sandwich tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>), Breeding
	Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Non-breeding
	Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal Lagoon
	Coastal Reedbed

⁷ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Freshwater And Coastal Grazing Marsh
Salicornia And Other Annuals Colonising Mud And Sand
Atlantic Salt Meadows
Spartina Swards
Intertidal Seagrass Beds
Intertidal Rock
Intertidal Coarse Sediment
Intertidal Mixed Sediments
Intertidal Mud
Intertidal Sand And Muddy Sand
Infralittoral Rock
Subtidal Seagrass Beds
Cirralittoral Rock
Water Column

2.2.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the SPA

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of 29 prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area nor be in the prohibited areas with a rake, spade, fork, or similar tool. Areas 15-23 and area 25 overlap with the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.

2.2.3 Shore Gathering activity in the SPA

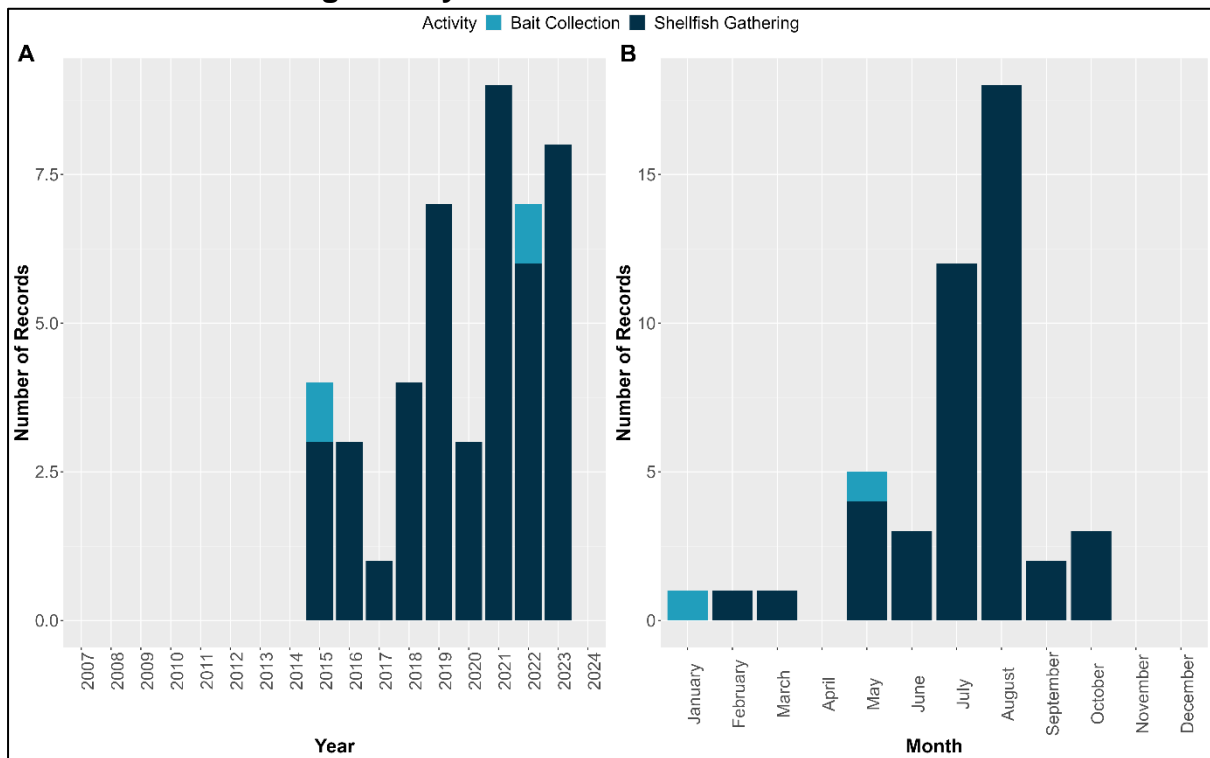


Figure 17 Records of shore gathering activity occurring in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.

Figure 17 displays records of shore gathering activity occurring in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA. Shellfish gathering is the most commonly occurring activity in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA. With Peaks occurring in 2021 and in the months of July and August.

Figure 18 displays the spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA. The area of highest levels of activity is Hill Head.

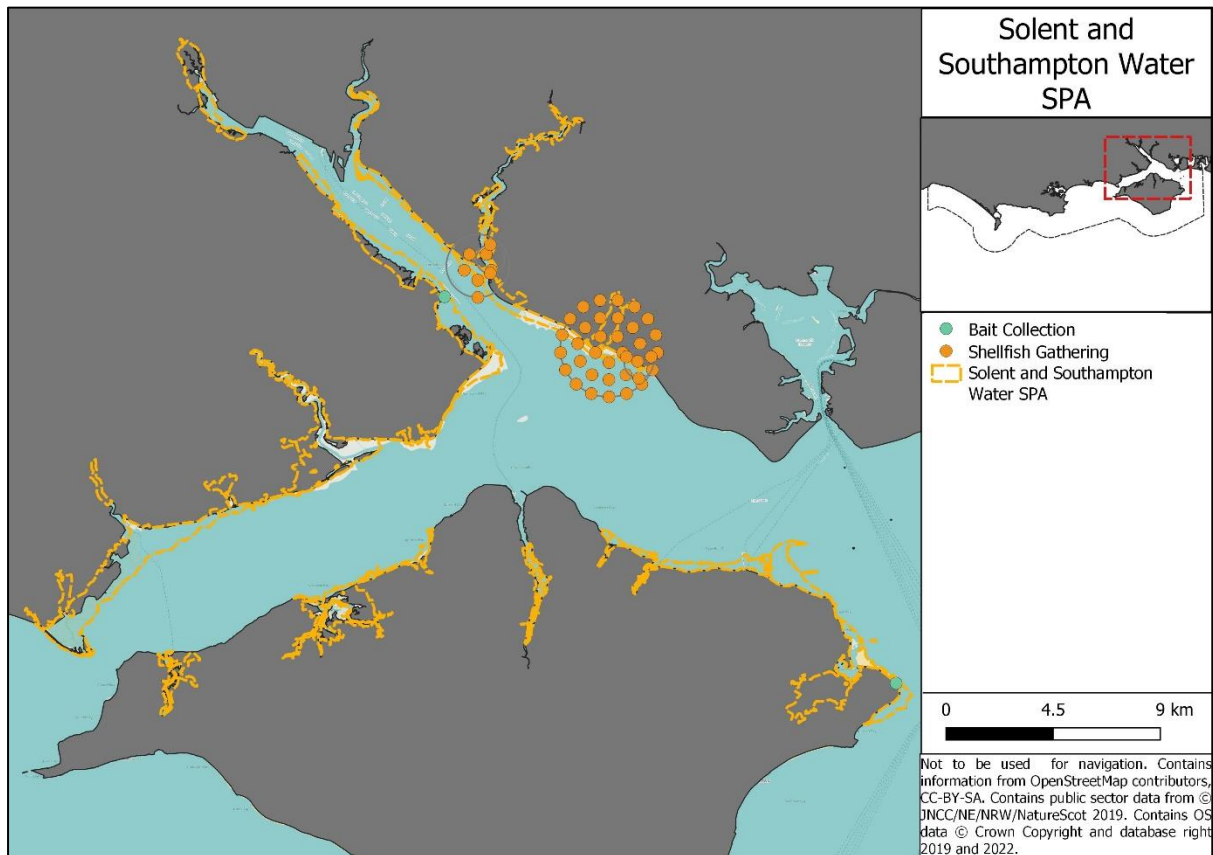


Figure 18 Spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line) as of October 2023.

2.2.4 Recorded catches within the SPA

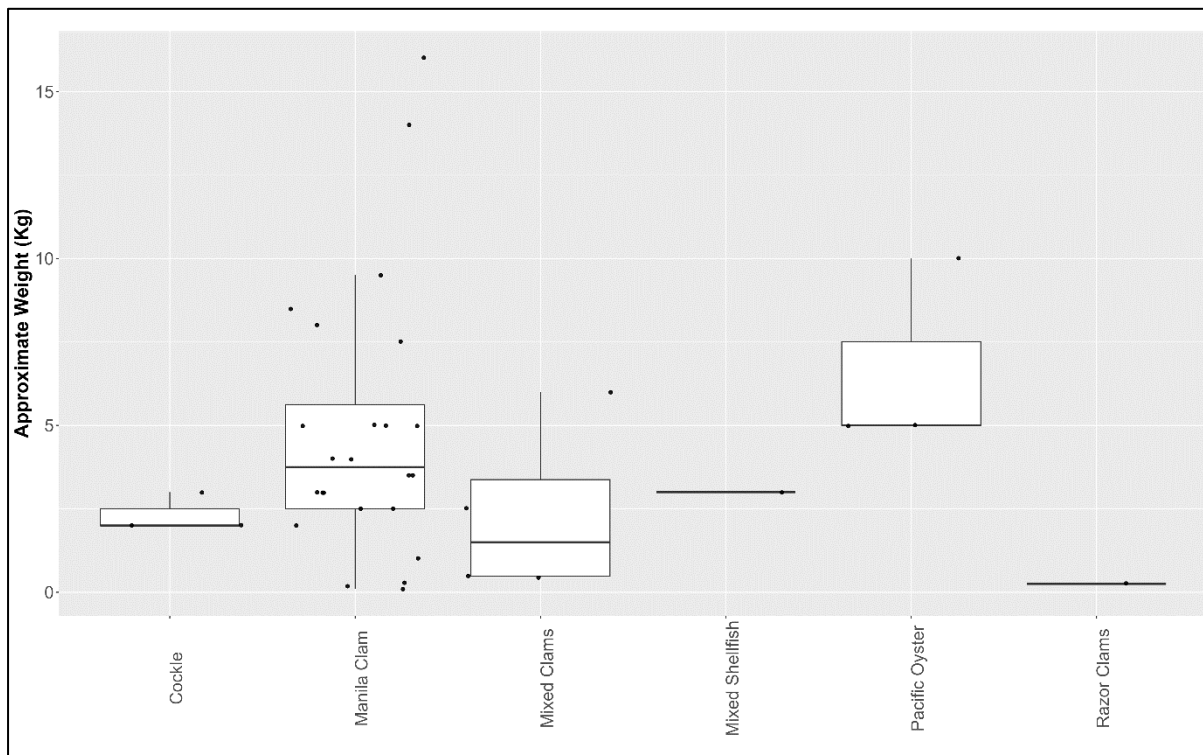


Figure 19 Approximate weight of catch associated with shore gathering activity in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.

Figure 19 displays the range of weights recorded on Southern IFCA search records carried out in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA since 2015. Table 12 displays the mean weight for each species.

Table 12 The mean weight of recorded catches associated with shore gathering activity in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.

Species	Mean Weight (kg)
Cockle	2.33
Manila Clam	4.83
Mixed Clams	2.36
Mixed Shellfish	3.00
Pacific Oyster	6.67
Razor Clams	0.25

2.2.5 Recorded Offences within the SPA

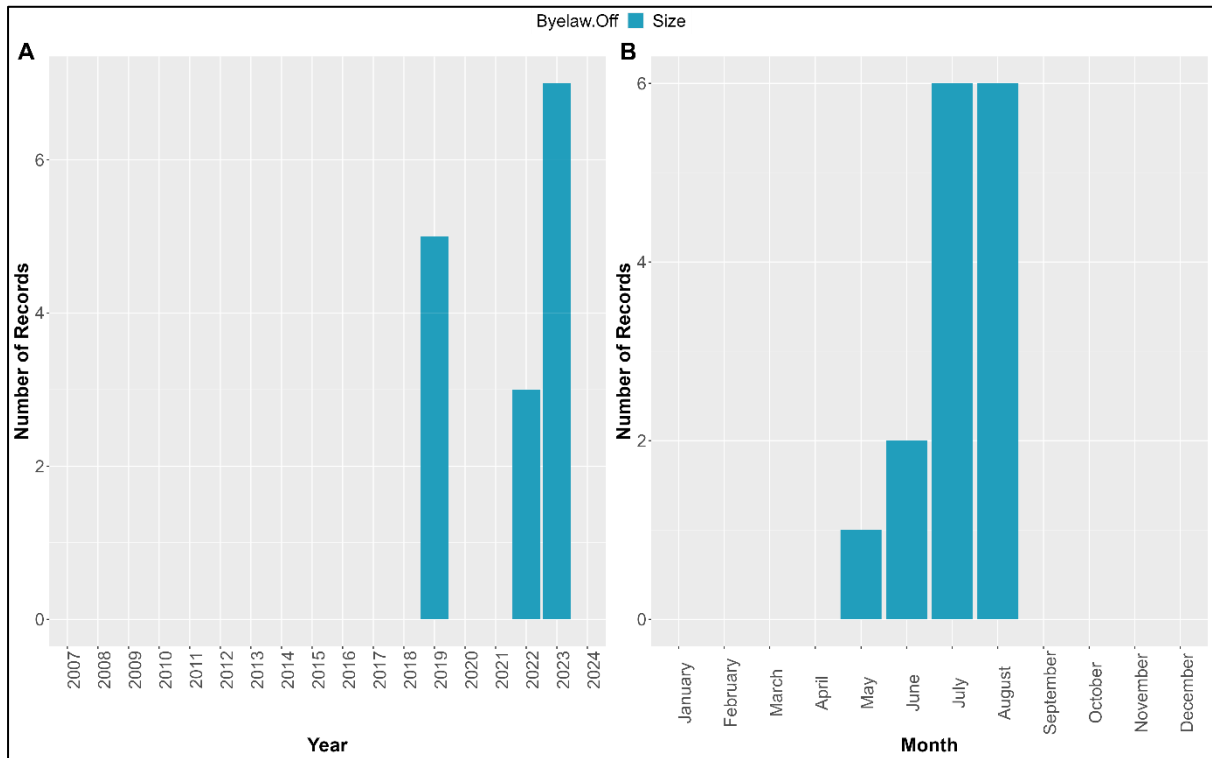


Figure 20 Recorded offences and the theme of infringement in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.

Figure 20 displays recorded offences related to shore gathering activity within the Solent and Southampton Water SPA. All records of offences relating to shore gathering activities in the Solent and Southampton Water SPA have been in relation to Minimum Conservation Reference Size. With the peak number of offences occurring in 2023.

2.3 Portsmouth Harbour SPA

2.3.1 Designated Features of the SPA

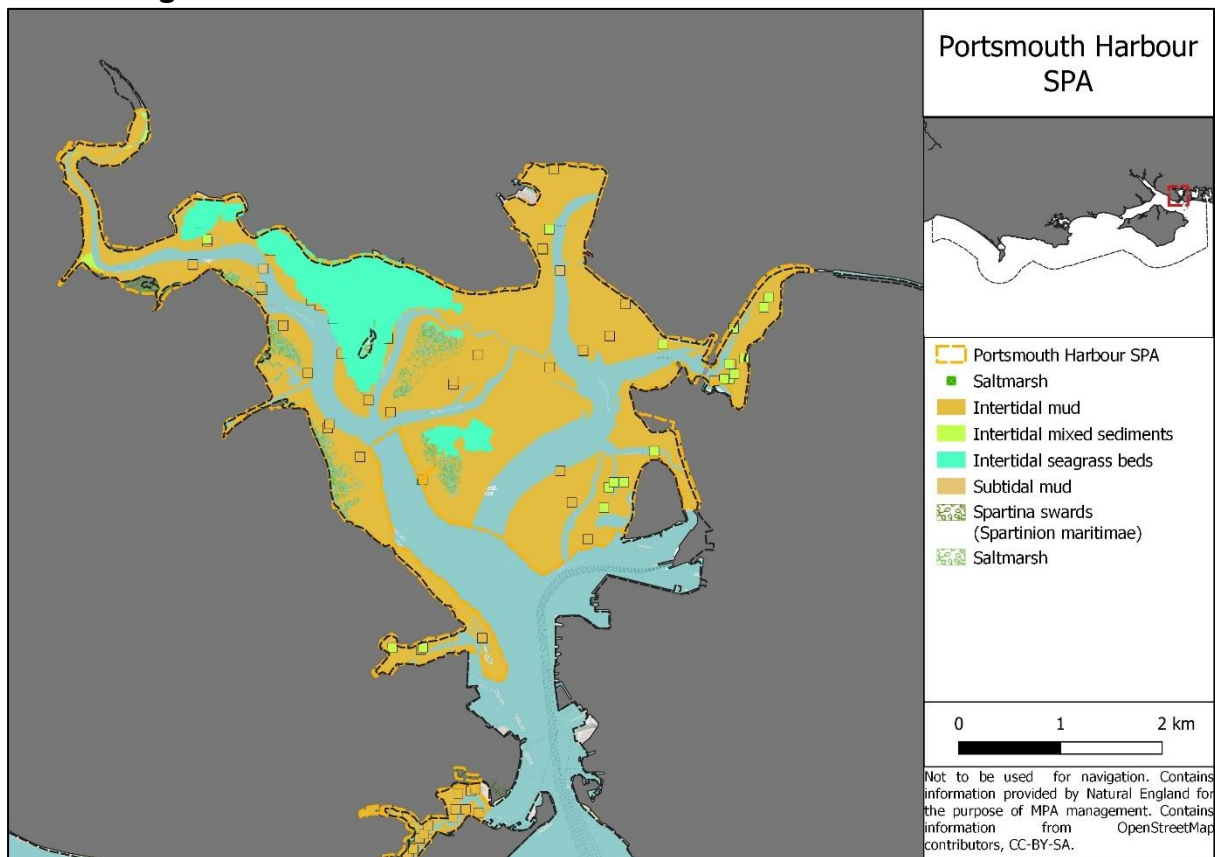


Figure 21 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Portsmouth Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

Portsmouth Harbour is important habitat for large numbers of nationally and internationally important bird species. The SPA covers 13 km² and the qualifying features and their supporting habitats are displayed in Figure 21 and Table 13⁸.

Table 13 The qualifying features and supporting habitats of the Portsmouth Harbour SPA.

Qualifying Features	Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>), Non-breeding
	Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), Non-breeding
	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Non-breeding
	Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>), Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal Lagoon
	Freshwater And Coastal Grazing Marsh
	Salicornia And Other Annuals Colonising Mud And Sand
	Atlantic Salt Meadows
	Spartina Swards
	Intertidal Seagrass Beds
	Intertidal Mixed Sediments
	Intertidal Mud
	Subtidal Mud
Water Column	

⁸ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

2.3.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the SPA

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of 29 prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area nor be in the prohibited areas with a rake, spade, fork, or similar tool. Areas 8-14 are within the Portsmouth Harbour SPA.

2.3.3 Shore Gathering activity in the SPA

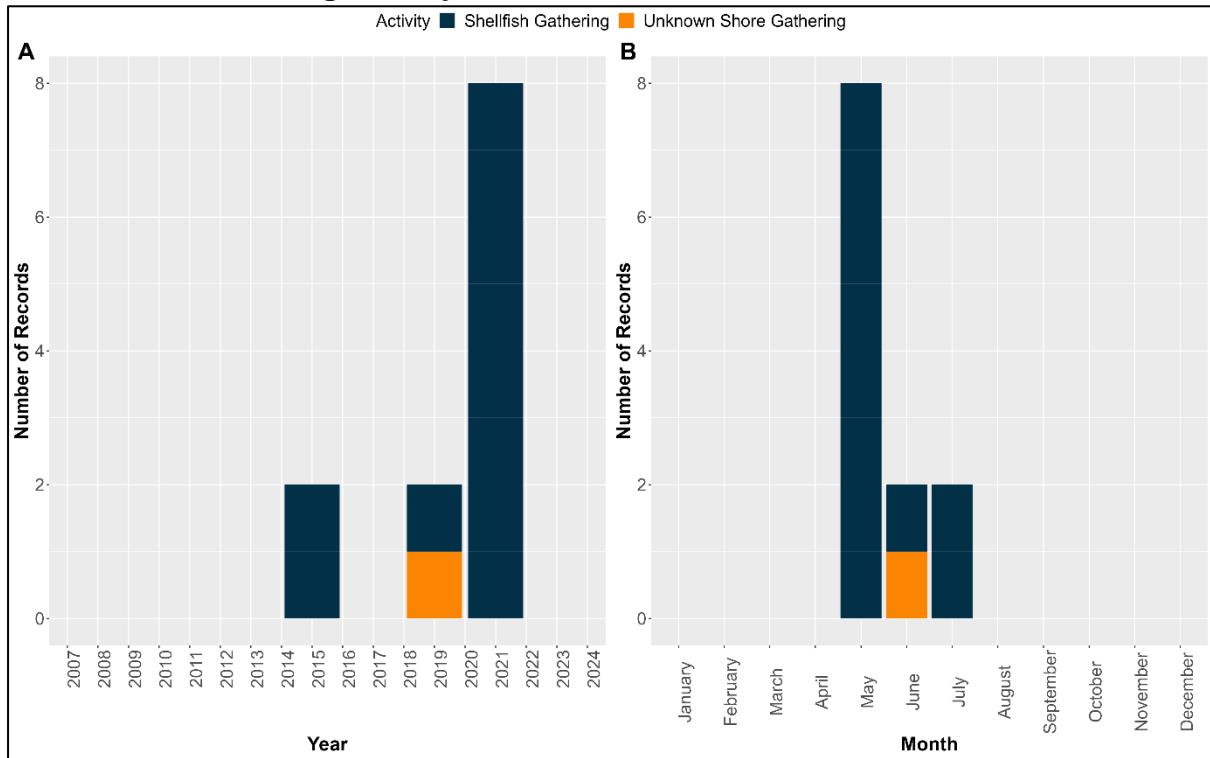


Figure 22 Records of shore gathering activity occurring in the Portsmouth Harbour SPA.

Figure 22 displays annual and monthly trends in shore gathering activity within the Portsmouth Harbour SPA. The majority of shore gathering records indicate shellfish gathering is the most common shore gathering activity occurring in the Portsmouth Harbour SPA.

Figure 23 displays the spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Portsmouth Harbour SPA as of October 2023. The area with the highest density of activity is to the west of Portchester Castle.

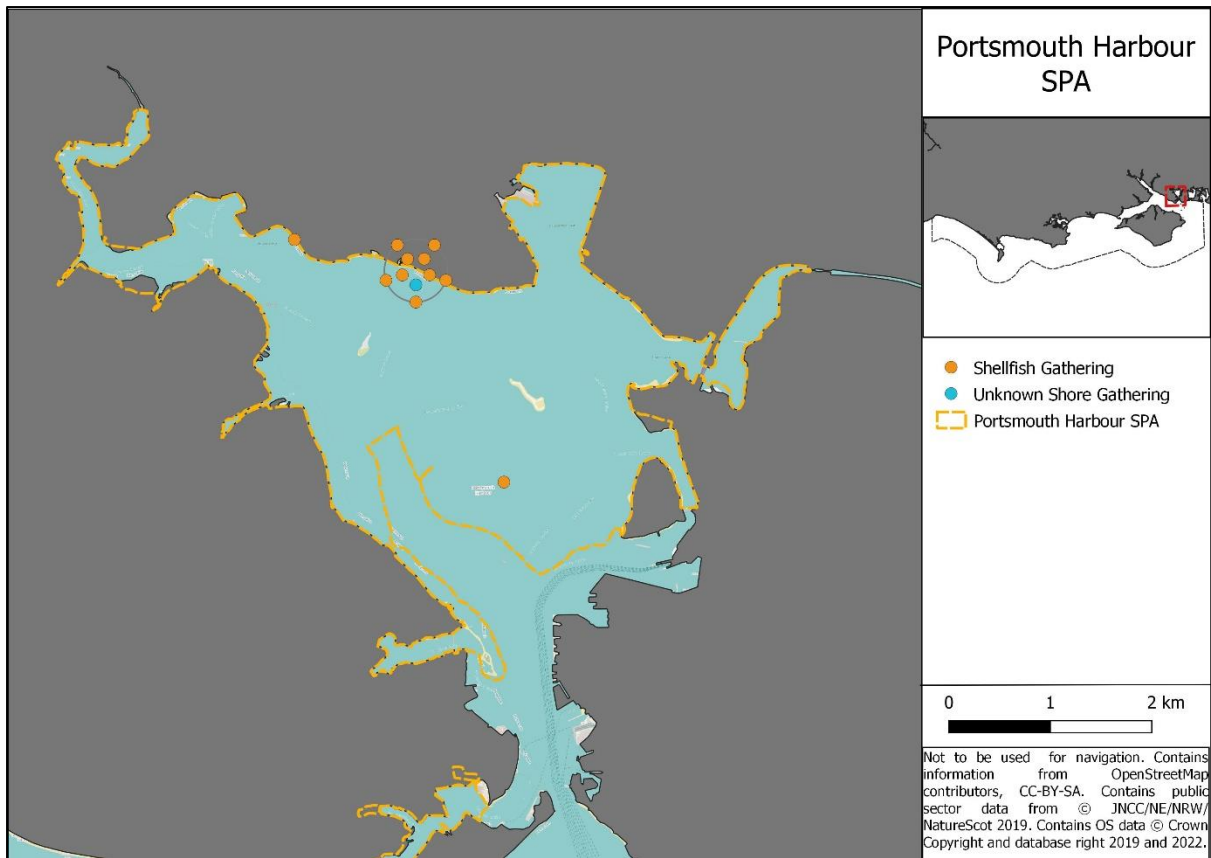


Figure 23 Spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Portsmouth Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line) as of October 2023.

2.3.4 Recorded catches within the SPA

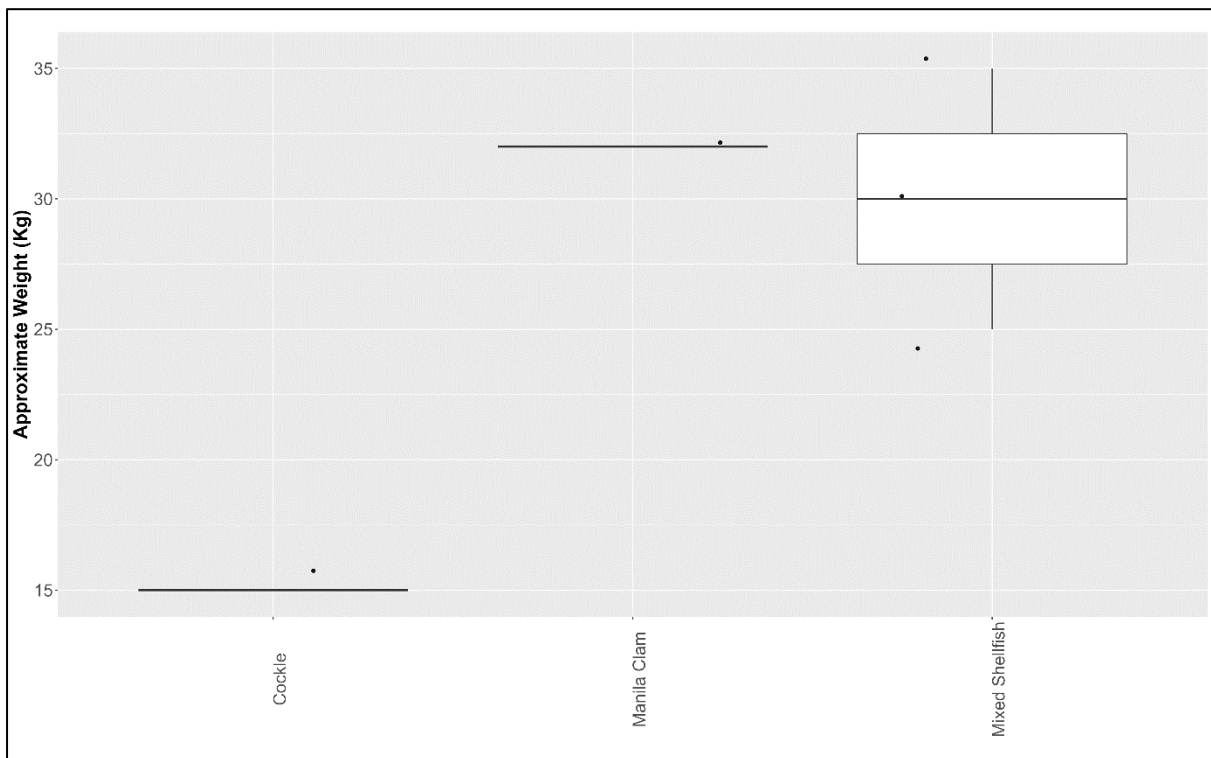


Figure 24 Approximate weight of catch associated with shore gathering activity in the Portsmouth Harbour SPA.

There are limited records on weights of catch from shore gathering activities however the limited records indicate generally higher means than other MPAs. The range of weights and mean weights are displayed in Figure 24 and Table 14 respectively.

Table 14 The mean weight of recorded catches associated with shore gathering activity in the Portsmouth Harbour SPA.

Species	Mean Weight (kg)
Cockle	15.00
Manila Clam	32.00
Mixed Shellfish	30.00

2.3.5 Recorded Offences within the SPA

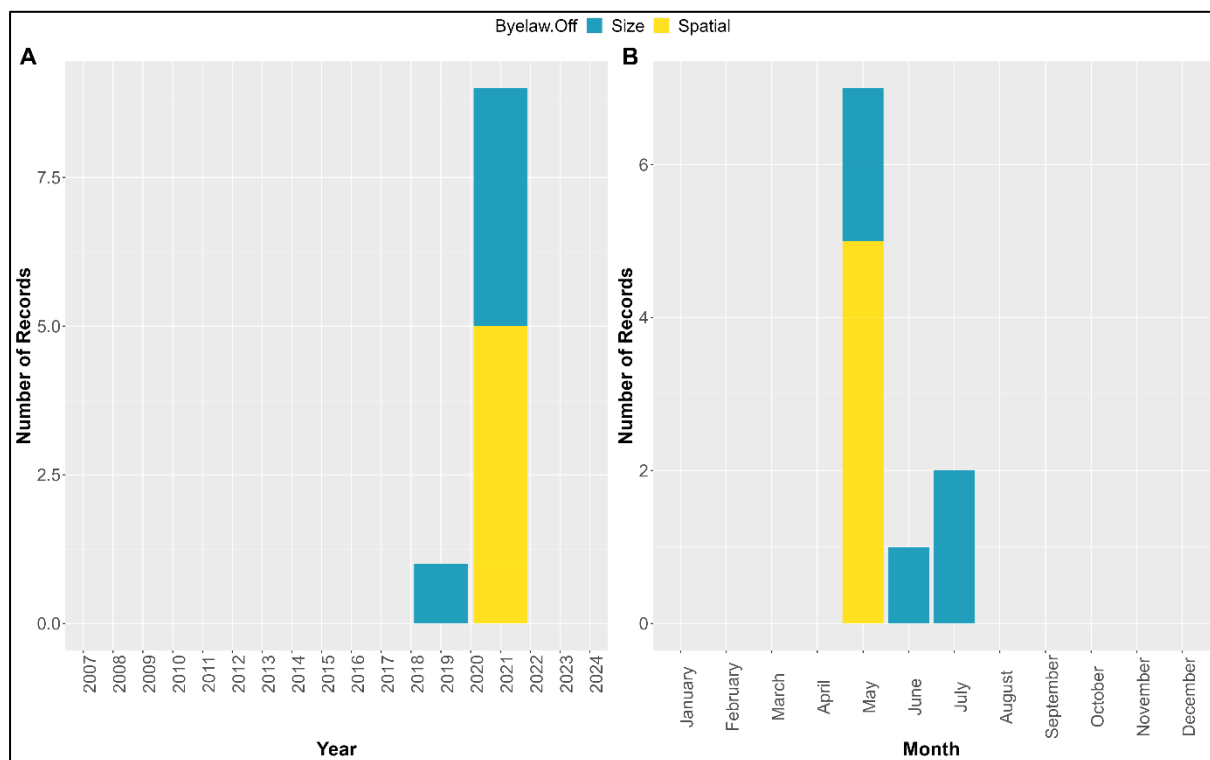


Figure 25 Recorded offences and the theme of infringement in the Portsmouth Harbour SPA.

Figure 25 displays all recorded offences related to shore gathering activity within the Portsmouth Harbour SPA. A peak record of offences occurred in 2021, 5 spatial and 4 MCRS offences. Regulations relating to shore gathering activity in the Portsmouth Harbour SPA are discussed in section 2.3.2 and 5.

2.4 Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA

2.4.1 Designated Features of the SPA

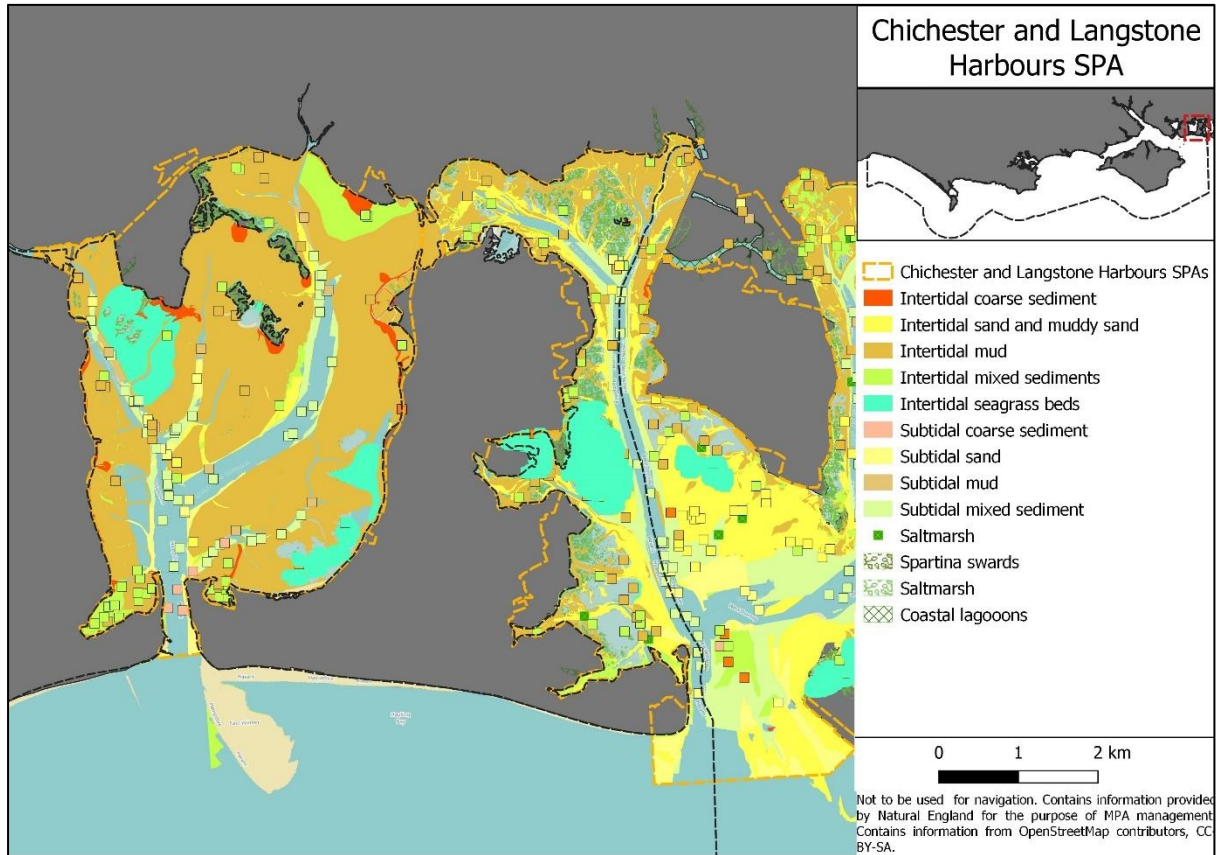


Figure 26 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

Chichester and Langstone Harbour covers two estuary basins with large mudflats and sandflats. The habitats support large numbers of overwintering birds with the SPA covering an area of 58 km². The qualifying features and supporting habitats are displayed in Figure 26 and Table 15.

Table 15 Qualifying habitats and their supporting habitats within Chichester and Langstone SPA.

Qualifying Features	Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), Non-breeding
	Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), Breeding
	Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Non-breeding
	Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), Non-breeding
	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Non-breeding
	Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Non-breeding
	Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>), Breeding
	Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Non-breeding
	Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>), Non-breeding
	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), Non-breeding
	Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), Non-breeding
	Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), Non-breeding
	Sandwich tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>), Breeding
	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Non-breeding
Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>), Non-breeding	

	Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Non-breeding
	Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>), Non-breeding
	Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding
	Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>), Non-breeding
	Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>), Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal Lagoon
	Coastal Reedbed
	Freshwater and Coastal Grazing Marsh
	Salicornia and Other Annuals Colonising Mud and Sand
	Atlantic Salt Meadows
	Spartina Swards
	Intertidal Seagrass Beds
	Intertidal Rock
	Intertidal Coarse Sediment
	Intertidal Mixed Sediments
	Intertidal Mud
	Intertidal Sand and Muddy Sand
	Subtidal Coarse Sediment
	Subtidal Mixed Sediment
	Subtidal Mud
	Subtidal Sand
Water Column	

2.4.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the SPA

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of 29 prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area nor be in the prohibited areas with a rake, spade, fork or similar tool. Areas 1-7 are within the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA.

2.4.3 Shore Gathering activity in the SPA

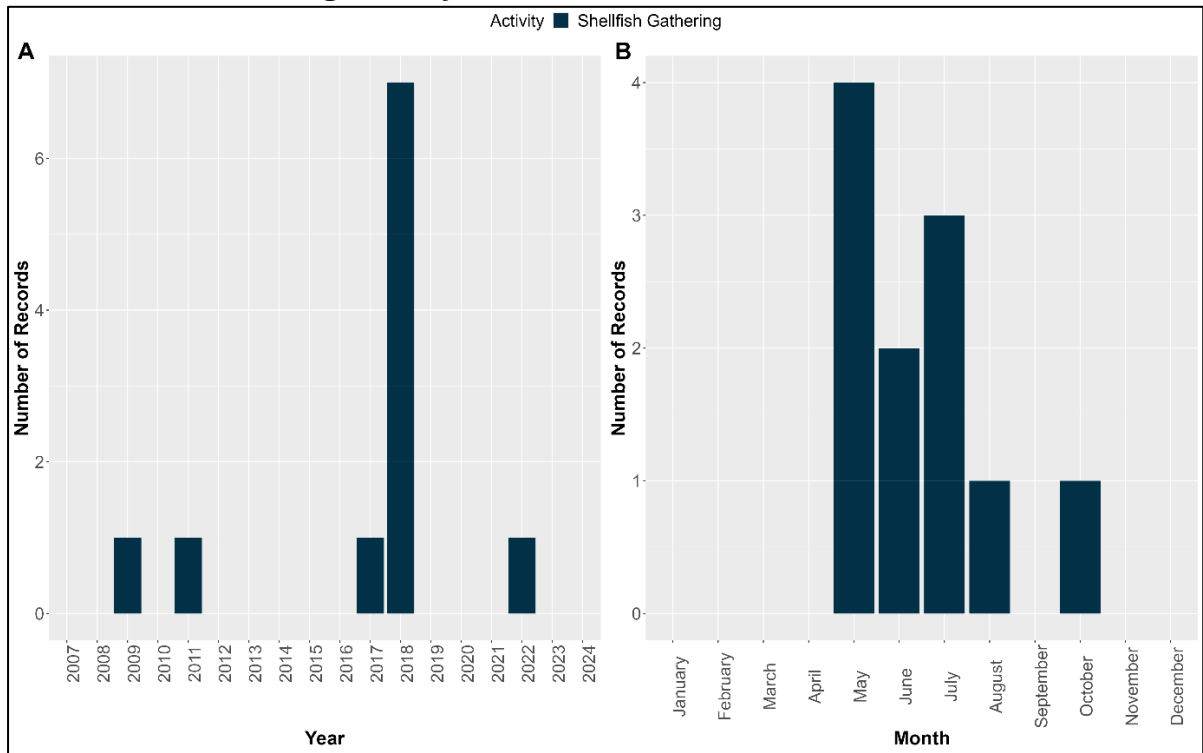


Figure 27 Records of shore gathering activity occurring in the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA.

Figure 27 displays all records of shore gathering activity occurring within the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA. Activity in the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA is limited to shellfish gathering with a peak in 2018 of 6 records.

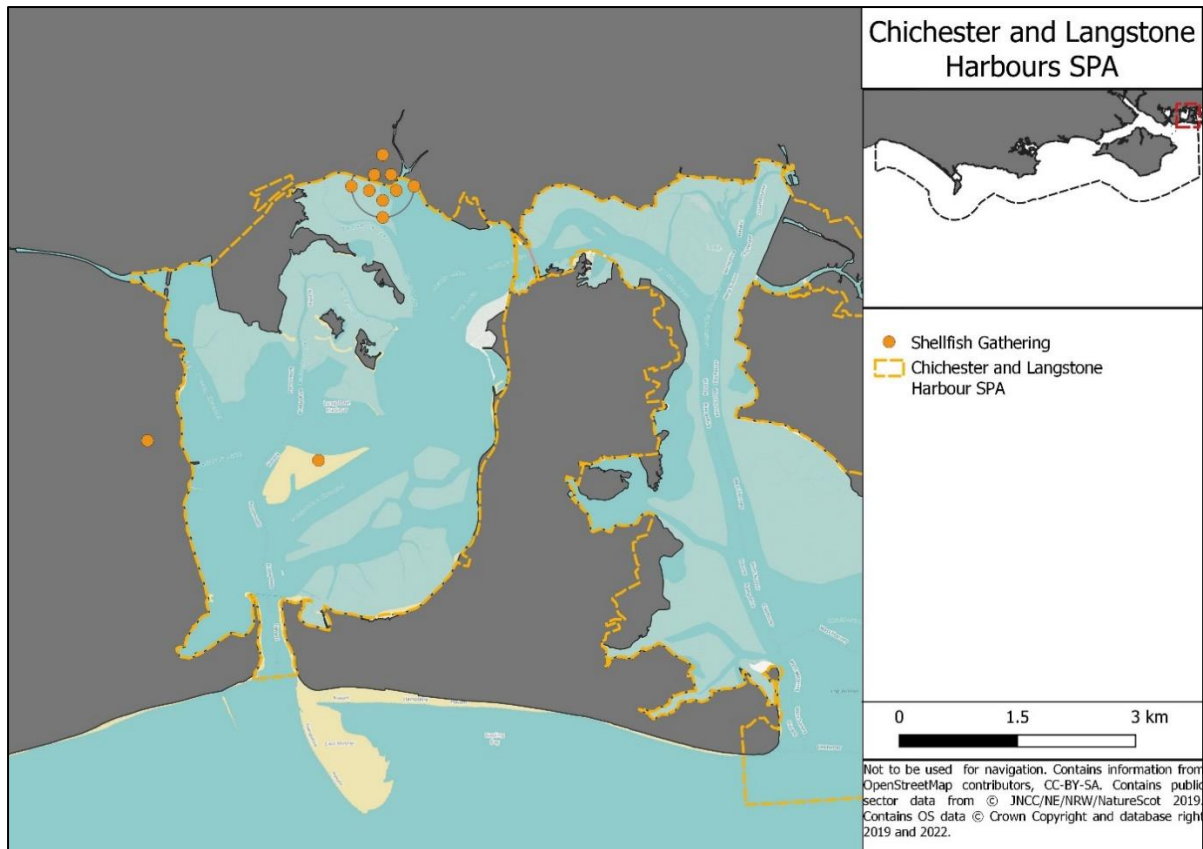


Figure 28 Spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line) as of October 2023.

Figure 28 displays the Spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA. The area with the highest density of activity is between Chaldock Lake and Broadmarsh Coastal Park.

2.4.4 Recorded catches within the SPA

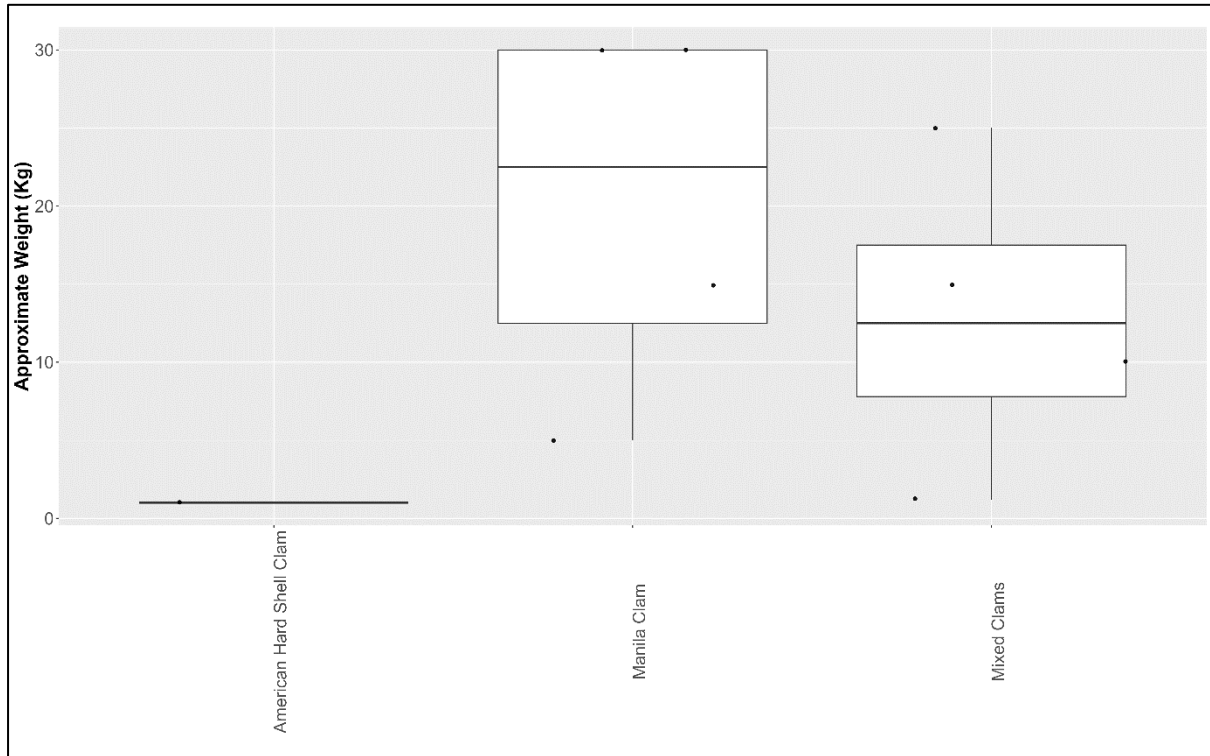


Figure 29 Approximate weight of catch associated with shore gathering activity in the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA.

Figure 29 and Table 16 display a summary of recorded catch weights from shore gathering activity within the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA.

Table 16 The mean weight of recorded catches associated with shore gathering activity in the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA.

Species	Mean Weight (kg)
American Hard-Shell Clam	1.00
Manila Clam	20.00
Mixed Clams	12.80

2.4.5 Recorded Offences within the SPA

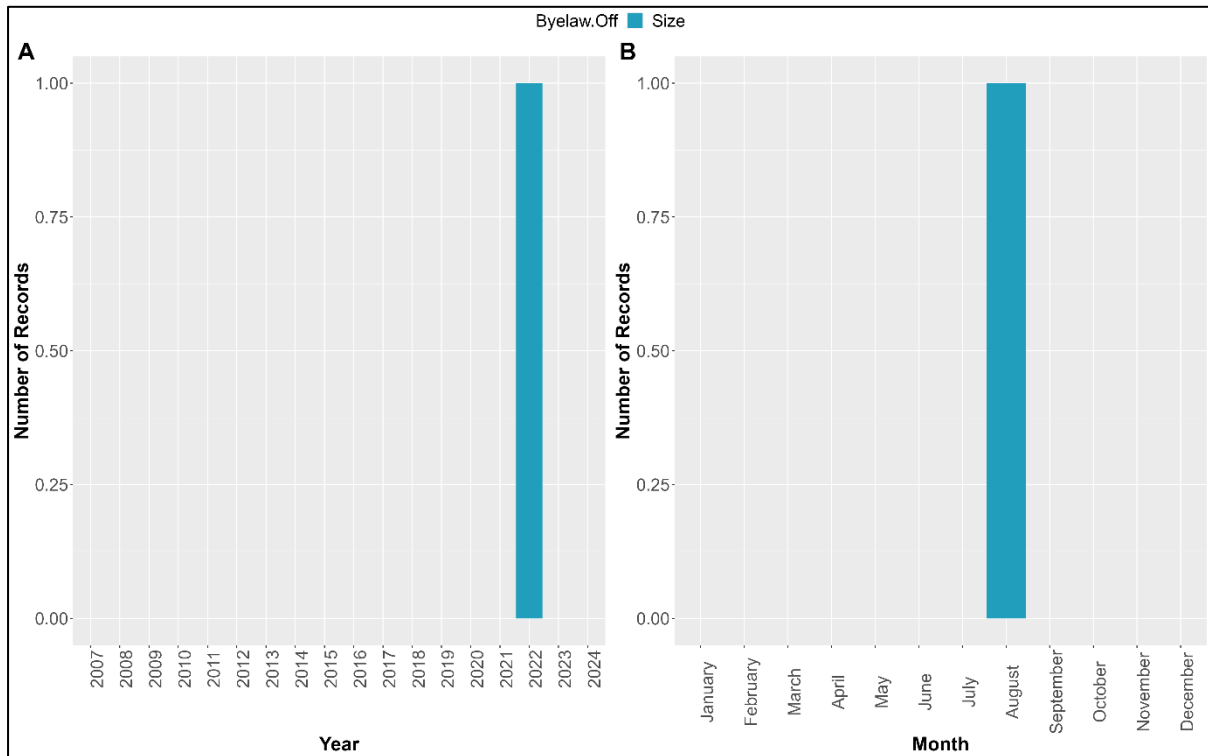


Figure 30 Recorded offences and the theme of infringement in the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA.

There has been only one recorded offence associated with shore gathering activity in the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA. The offence is displayed in Figure 30 and relates to a MCRS infringement.

3. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

3.0 Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC

3.0.1 Qualifying Features of the SAC

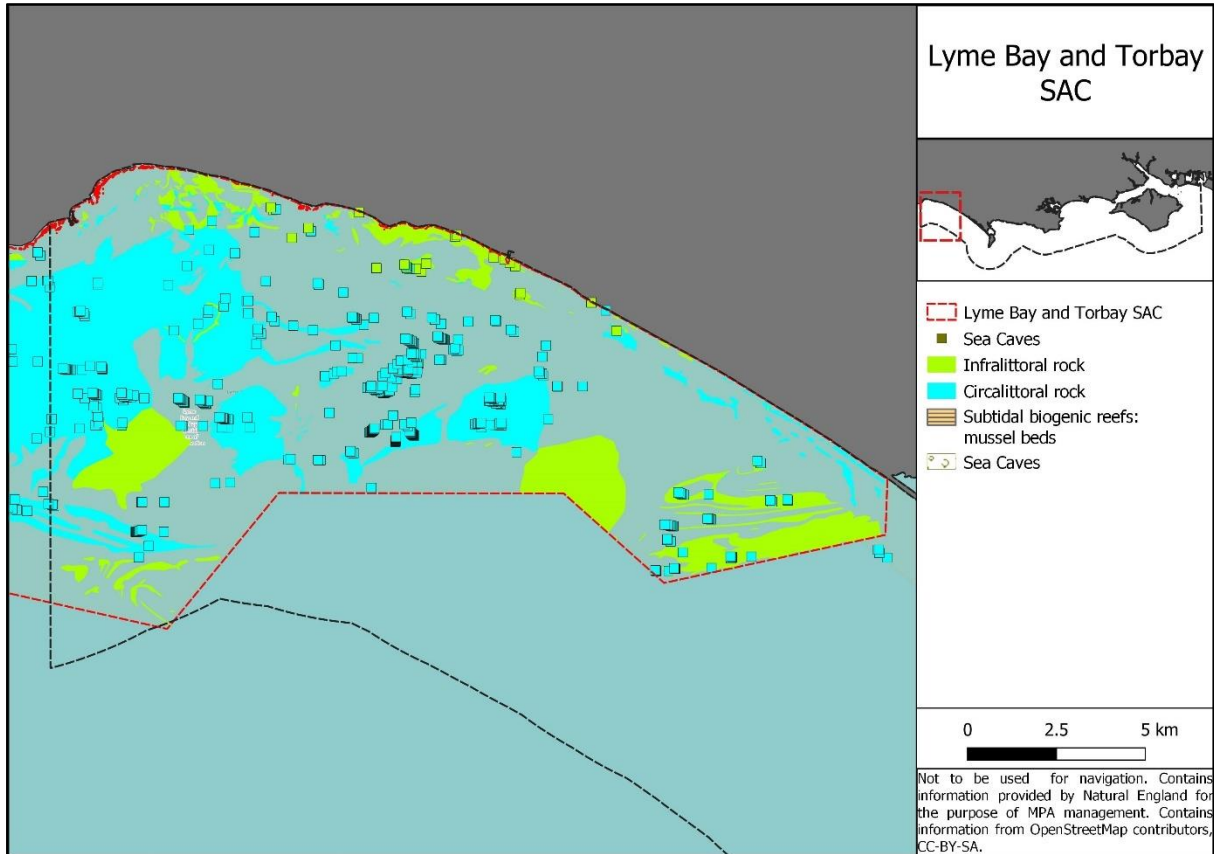


Figure 31 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

The Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC cover an area of 31 km²; the SAC overlays the Devon & Severn and Southern IFCA boundary. The area within the Southern IFCA district encloses the Lyme Bay Reefs⁹. The qualifying features of the SAC are displayed in Figure 31 and Table 17.

Table 17 Qualifying Features of the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC.

Qualifying Features	Reefs
	Submerged or Partially submerged sea caves

3.0.2 Shore Gathering activity in the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC.

⁹ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

3.0.3 Recorded catches within the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC.

3.0.4 Recorded Offences within the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC.

3.1 Chesil and the Fleet SAC

3.1.1 Qualifying Features of the SAC

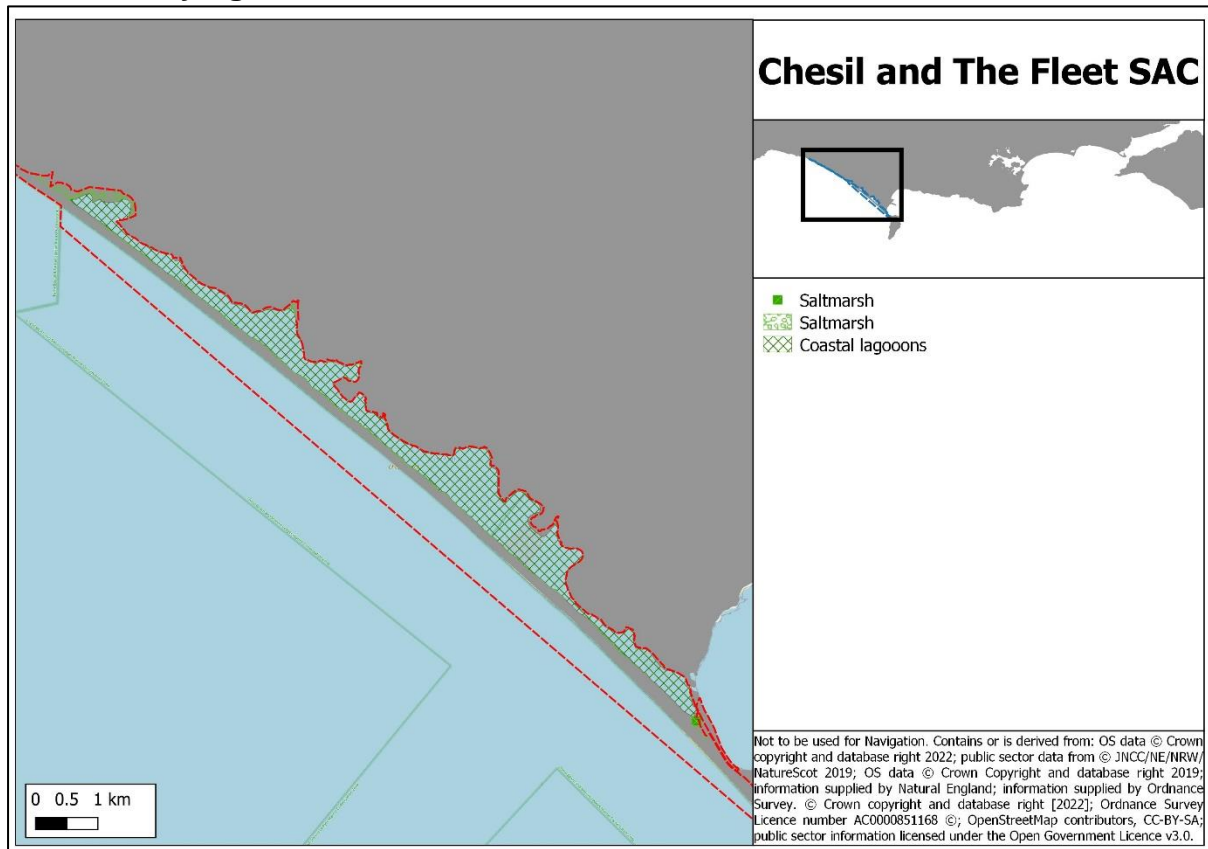


Figure 32 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Chesil and The Fleet SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

The Chesil and the Fleet SAC covers an area of 16 km². The Fleet supports the largest diversity of species and habitat of any coastal lagoon in the UK¹⁰ and aside from the entrance at the southeastern end, The Fleet is largely sheltered from waves and tidal processes¹¹. The qualifying features and their supporting habitats are displayed in Figure 32 and Table 18.

¹⁰ Bamber, R. N. 1997. Assessment of saline lagoons within Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Peterborough: English Nature.

¹¹ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Table 18 The qualifying features of Chesil and the Fleet SAC.

Qualifying Features	Annual vegetation of drift lines
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae)
	Coastal lagoons
	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks

3.1.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the SAC

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of 29 prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area nor be in the prohibited areas with a rake, spade, fork, or similar tool. Areas 29 are within the Chesil and the Fleet SAC.

3.1.3 Shore Gathering activity in the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in the Chesil and The Fleet SAC.

Information provided by Natural England indicates that bait digging, cockle raking, and crab tiling have taken place within the site. No information is provided on the specific location or date when this activity was observed.

3.1.4 Recorded catches within the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the level of catch associated with shore gathering activities occurring in the Chesil and The Fleet SAC.

3.1.5 Recorded Offences within the SAC

As of October 2023, there have been no recorded offences related to shore gathering activities in the Chesil and The Fleet SAC.

3.2 Studland to Portland SAC

3.2.1 Qualifying Features of the SAC

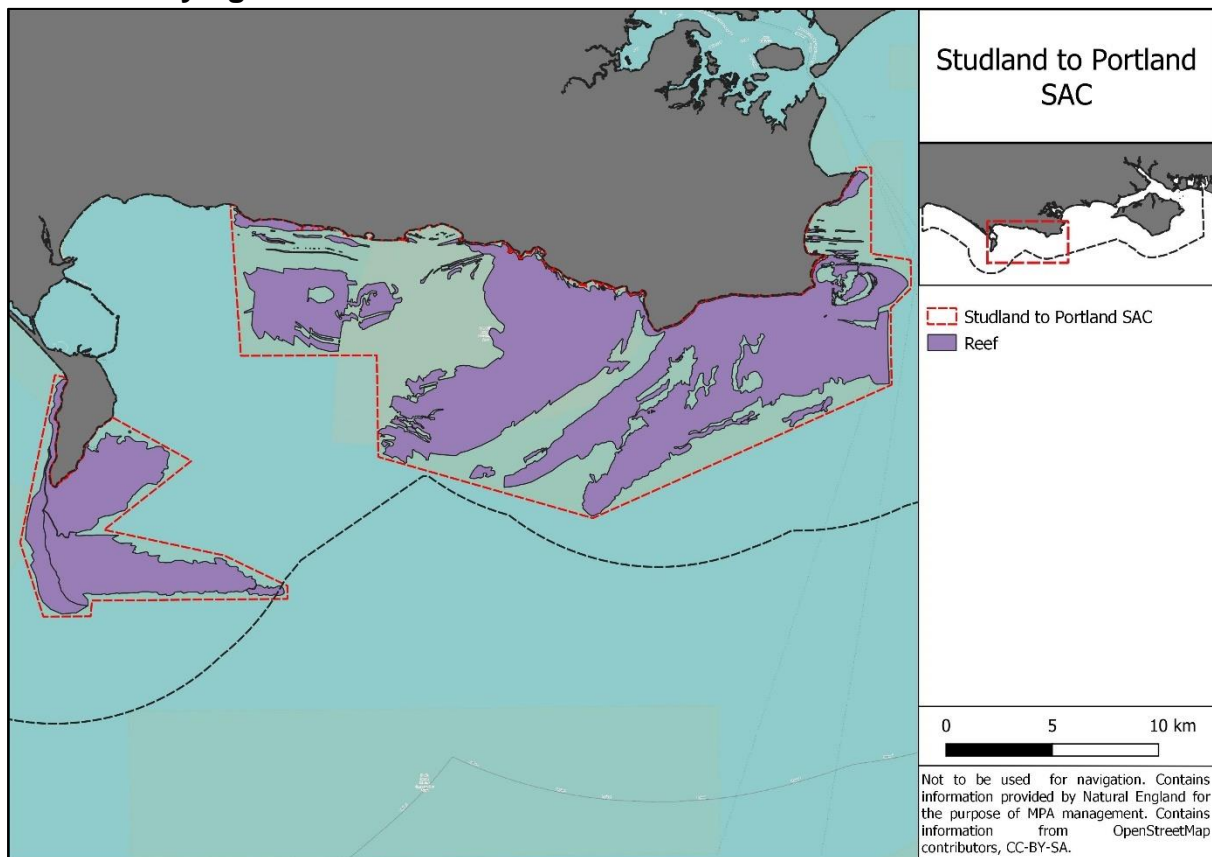


Figure 33 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Studland to Portland SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

The Studland to Portland SAC covers the area from Studland Bay to Ringstead Bay as well as the area covering the Portland Reefs¹². The total area covered by the SAC is 332 km² and the qualifying features are displayed in Figure 33 and Table 19.

Table 19 Qualifying features of the Studland to Portland SAC.

Qualifying Features	Reefs
---------------------	-------

3.2.2 Shore Gathering activity in the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the location of shore gathering activities occurring in the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC.

3.2.3 Recorded catches within the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the catch composition of shore gathering activities occurring in the Studland to Portland SAC.

3.2.4 Recorded Offences within the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no recorded offences linked to shore gathering activities occurring in Studland to Portland SAC.

¹² <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

3.3 Solent Maritime SAC

3.3.1 Qualifying Features of the SAC

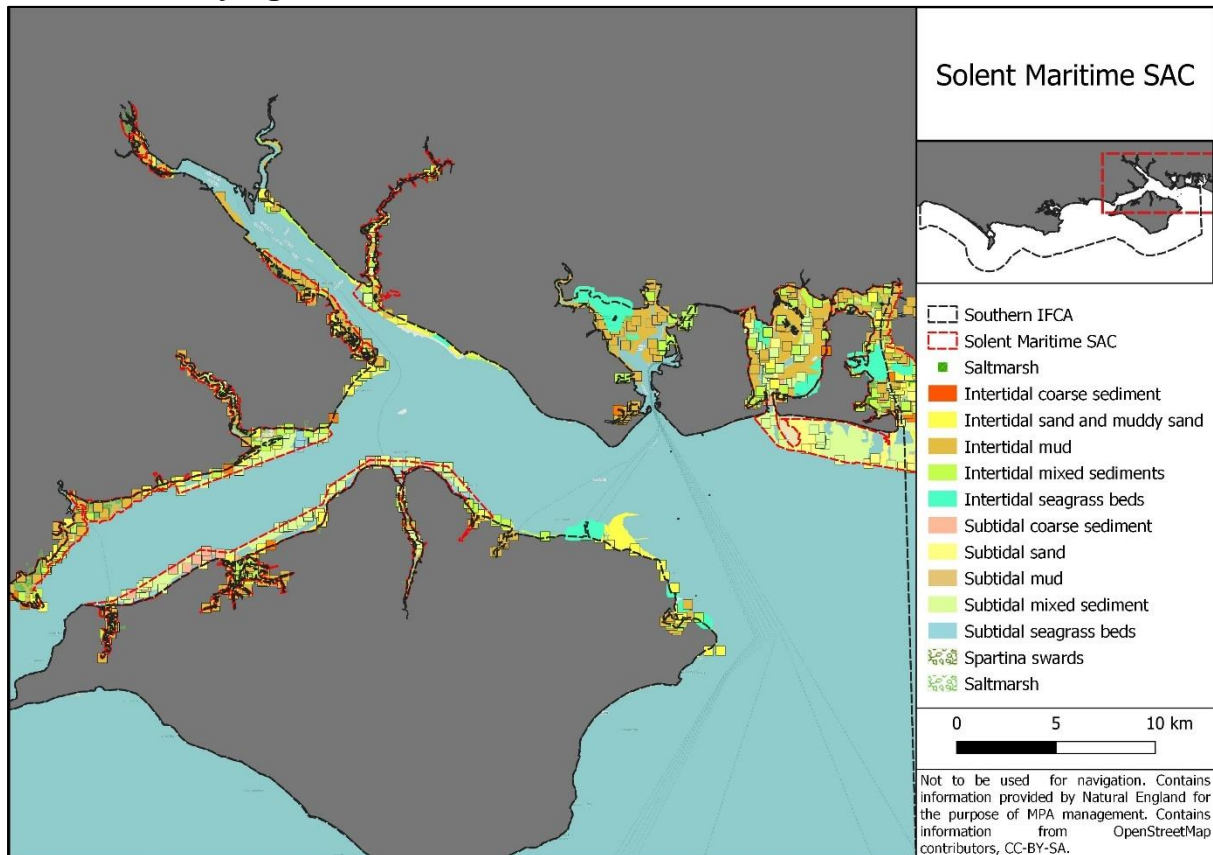


Figure 34 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Solent Maritime SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

The Solent Maritime SAC covers a broad range of estuarine and marine habitats and an area of 113 km²¹³. The qualifying features are displayed in Figure 34 and Table 20.

Table 20 Qualifying features of the Solent Maritime SAC.

Qualifying Features	Annual Vegetation Of Drift Lines
	Atlantic Salt Meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)
	Coastal Lagoons
	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)
	Estuaries
	Mudflats And Sandflats Not Covered By Seawater At Low Tide
	Perennial Vegetation Of Stony Banks
	Salicornia And Other Annuals Colonising Mud And Sand
	Sandbanks Which Are Slightly Covered By Sea Water All The Time

¹³ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

	Shifting Dunes Along The Shoreline With <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (“White Dunes”)
	Spartina Swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)

3.3.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the SAC

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of twenty-nine prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area nor be in the prohibited areas with a rake, spade, fork, or similar tool. Areas 23-25 are within or overlap the Solent Maritime SAC.

3.3.3 Shore Gathering activity in the SAC

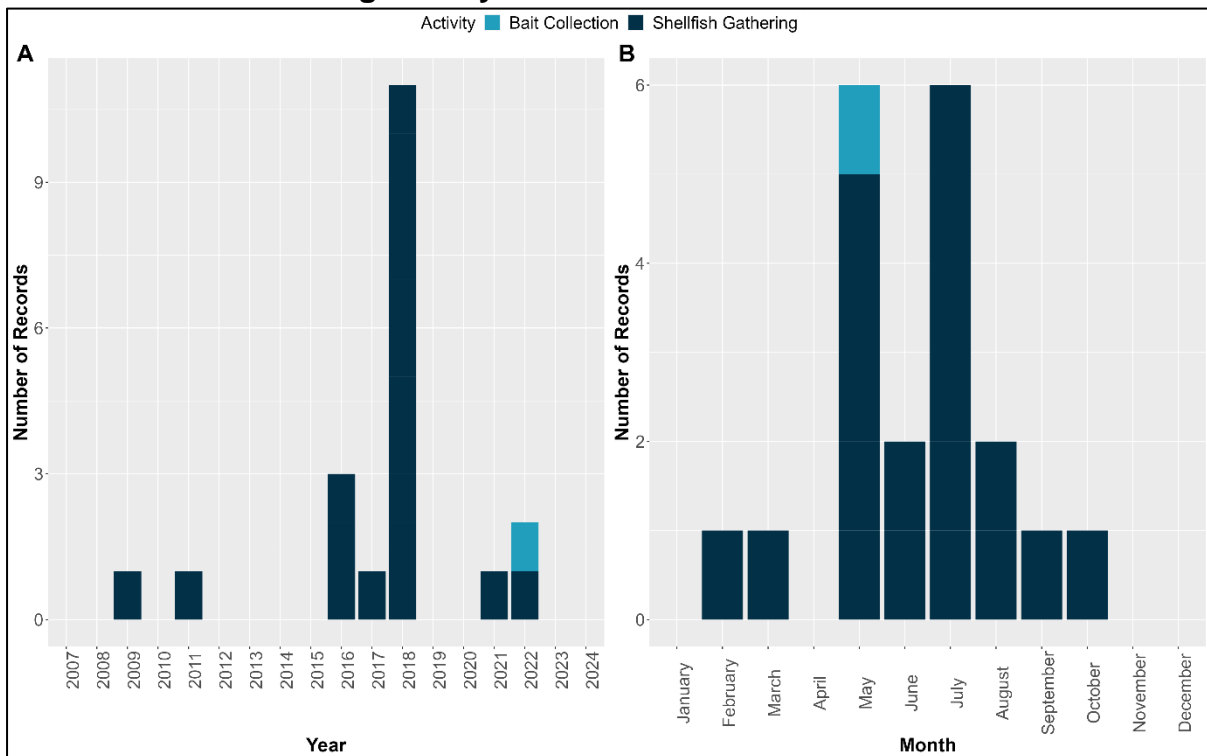


Figure 35 Records of shore gathering activity occurring in the Solent Maritime SAC.

Figure 35 displayed the annual and monthly trends in shore gathering activity. The most popular activity is shellfish gathering with peak in 2018 and the month of July.

Figure 36 displays the spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Solent Maritime SAC as of October 2023. The SAC overlaps with the Solent and Southampton Water SPA as well as the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, therefore the areas with highest density of activity are the same; Hill Head and between Chaldock Lake and Broadmarsh Coastal Park.

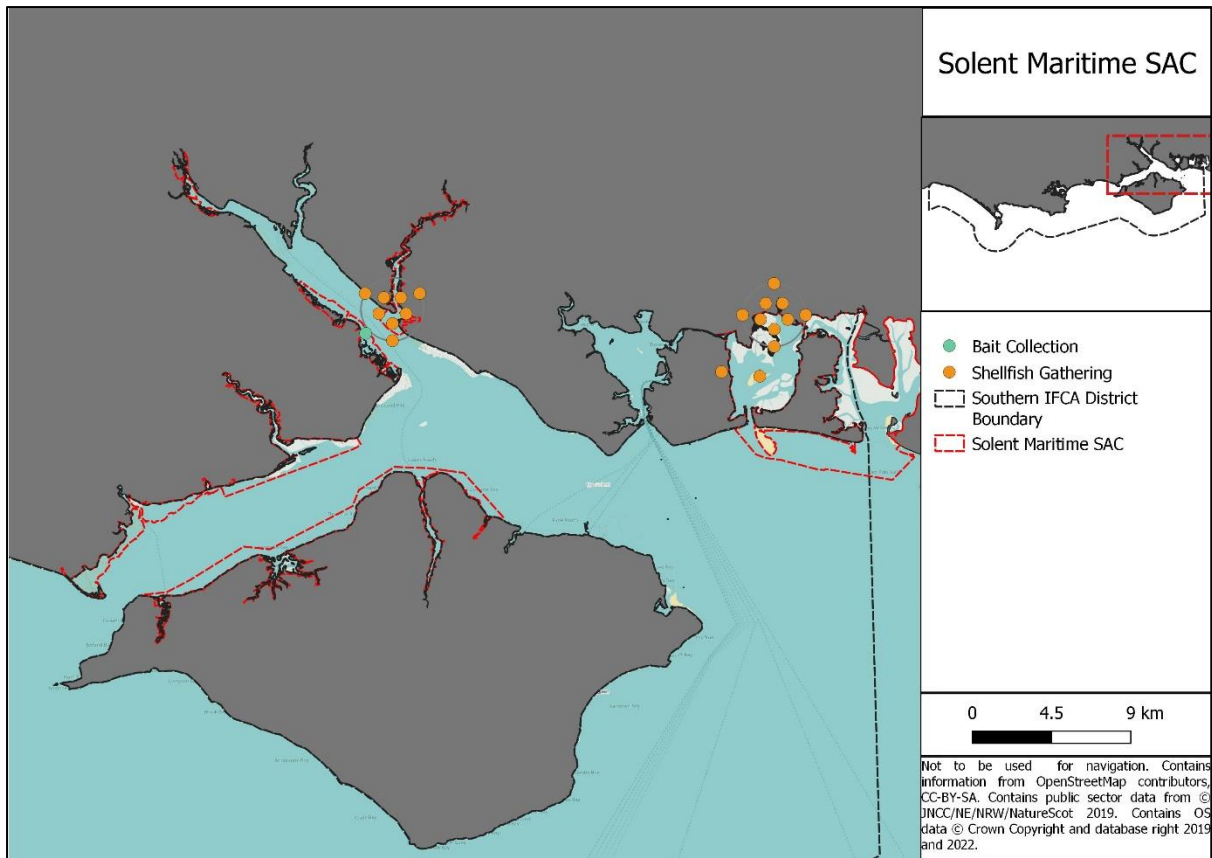


Figure 36 Spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the Solent Maritime SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line) as of October 2023.

3.3.4 Recorded catches within the SAC

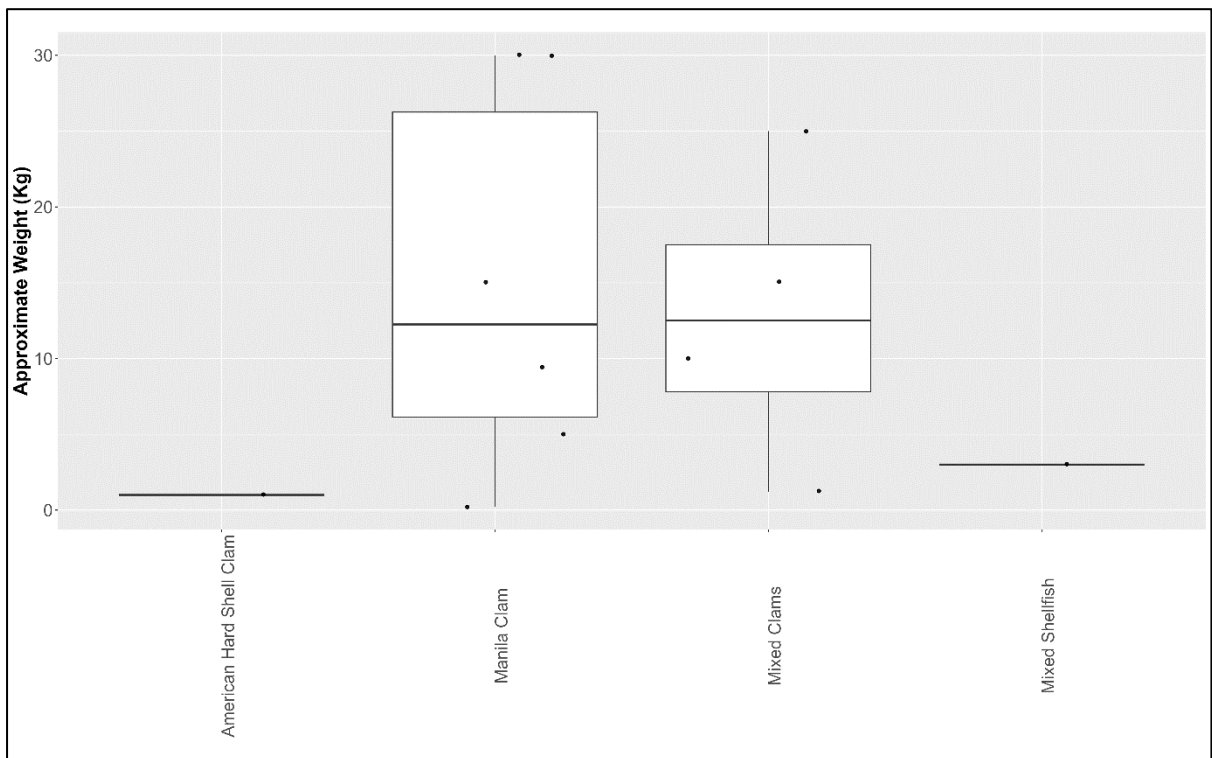


Figure 37 Approximate weight of catch associated with shore gathering activity in the Solent Maritime SAC.

Figure 37 and Table 21 display a summary of catch weights recorded in the Solent Maritime SAC.

Table 21 The mean weight of recorded catches associated with shore gathering activity in the Solent Maritime SAC.

Species	Mean Weight (kg)
American Hard-Shell Clam	1.00
Manila Clam	14.95
Mixed Clams	12.80
Mixed Shellfish	3.00

3.3.5 Recorded Offences within the SAC

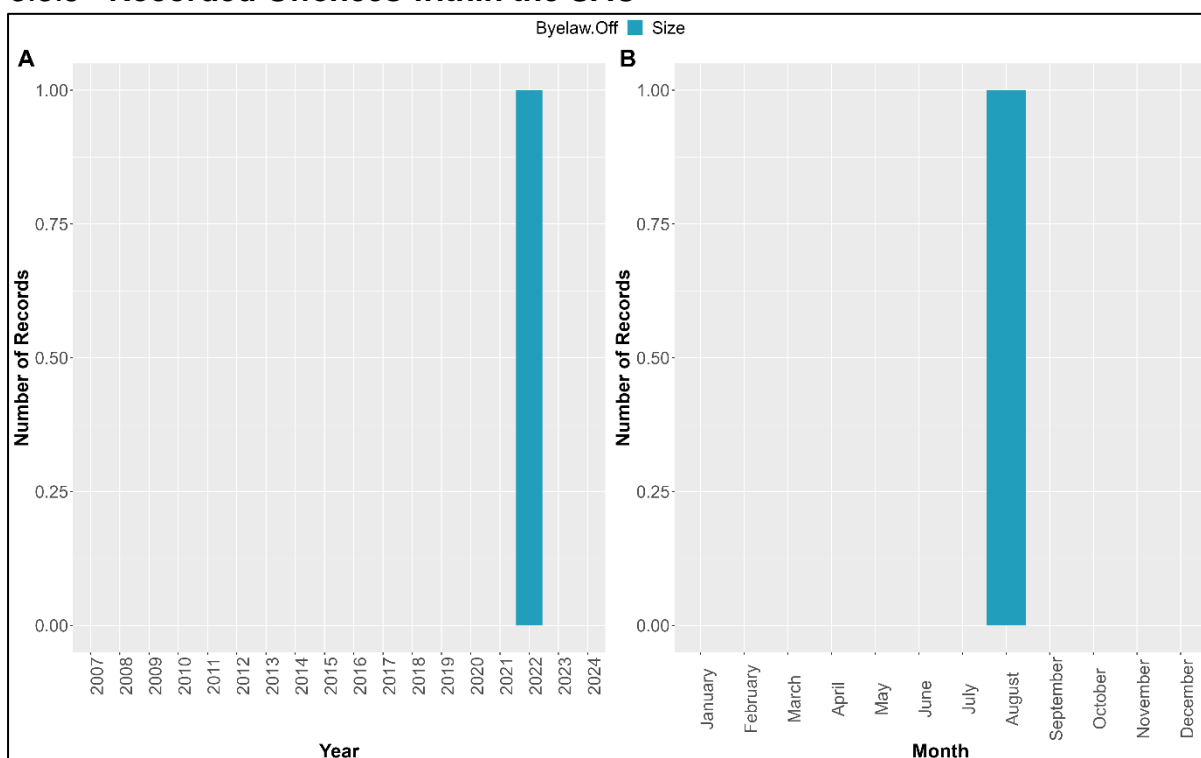


Figure 38 Recorded offences and the theme of infringement in the Solent Maritime SAC.

There has been one recorded offence in the Solent Maritime SAC (Figure 38). This occurred in August 2022 and was a MCRS related infringement related to shore gathering activity.

3.4 South Wight Maritime SAC

3.4.1 Qualifying Features of the SAC

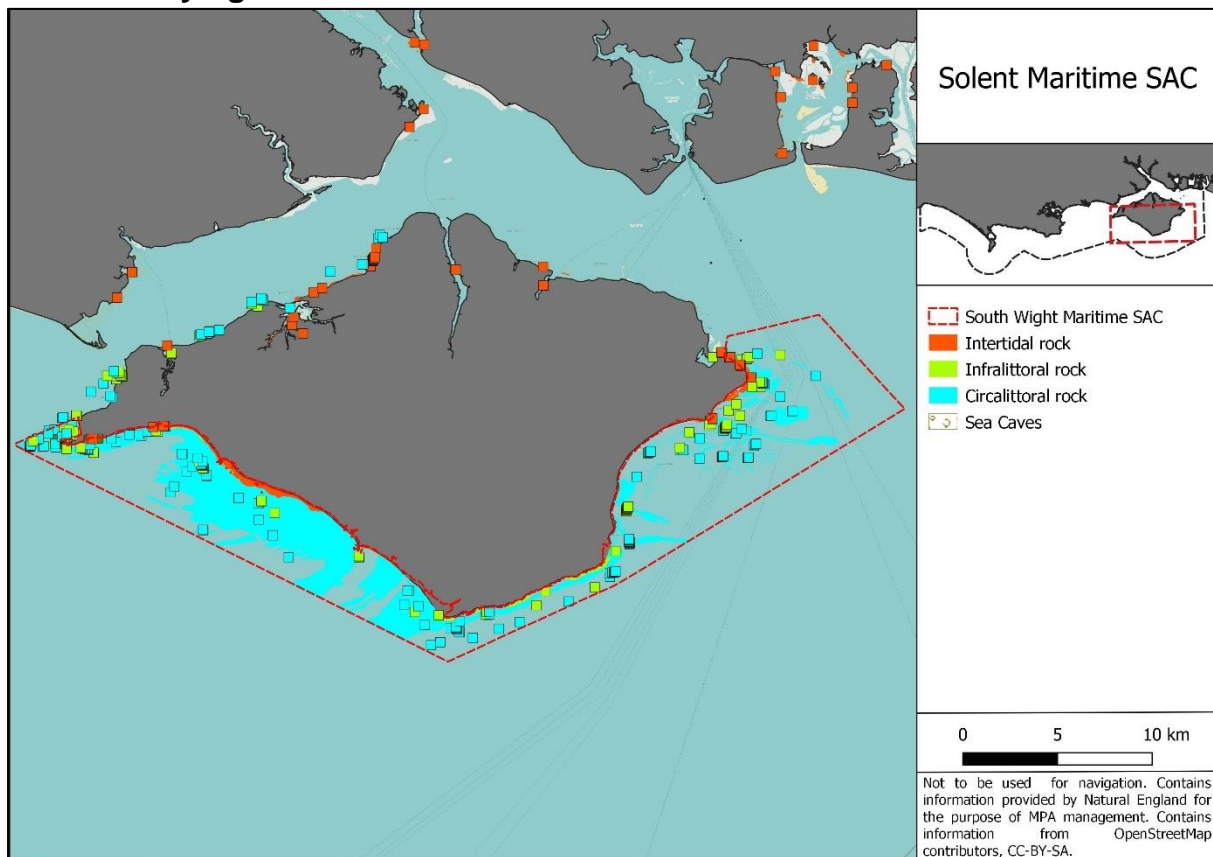


Figure 39 The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the South Wight Maritime SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

The South Wight Maritime SAC covers an area of 199 km², running the full length of the south coast of the Isle of Wight from The Needles to Bembridge. The area covers extensive reef and sea cave systems¹⁴. The qualifying features of the SAC are displayed in Figure 39 and Table 22.

Table 22 Qualifying features of the South Wight Maritime SAC

Qualifying Features	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
	Circalittoral Rock
	Infralittoral Rock
	Intertidal Rock
	Subtidal Stony Reef

3.4.2 Existing Shore Gathering Management Specific to the SAC

The Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw defines a schedule of twenty-nine prohibited areas within the district to protect seagrass beds. No

¹⁴ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

person shall dig for or take sea fisheries resources from any prohibited area. Areas 17-19 are within or overlap the South Wight Maritime SAC.

3.4.3 Shore Gathering activity in the SAC

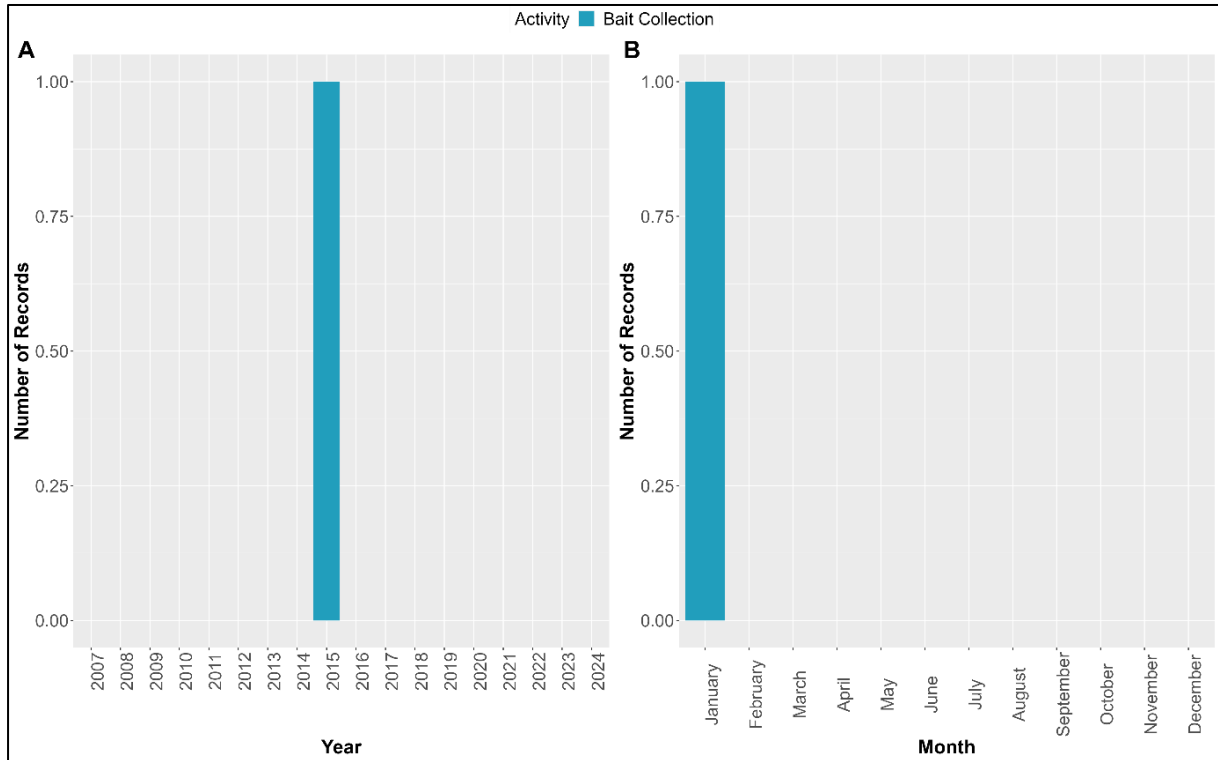


Figure 40 Records of shore gathering activity occurring in the South Wight Maritime SAC.

Figure 40 displays the only recorded occurrence of shore gathering activity in the South Wight Maritime SAC. This was bait digging and occurred in January 2015. Figure 41 displays the location of this activity.

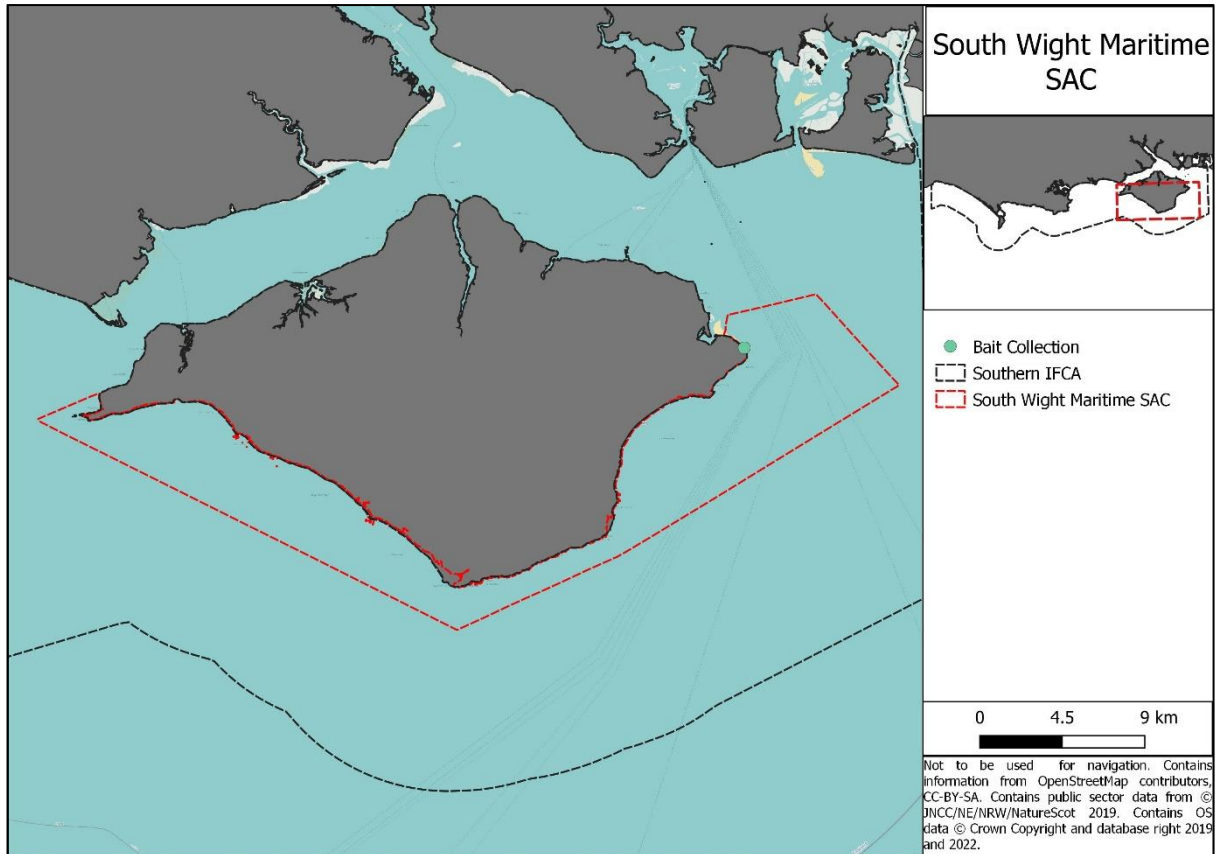


Figure 41 Spatial distribution of all shore gathering activity observed by Southern IFCA in the South Wight Maritime SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line) as of October 2023.

3.4.4 Recorded catches within the SAC

As of October 2023, there has been no evidence available on the level of catch associated with shore gathering activities occurring in the South Wight Maritime SAC.

3.4.5 Recorded Offences within the SAC

As of October 2023, there have been no recorded offences related to shore gathering activities in the South Wight Maritime SAC.

4. Combined MPA Summary of Activity, Catch and Offences

4.0 Shore Gathering activity in all relevant MPAs

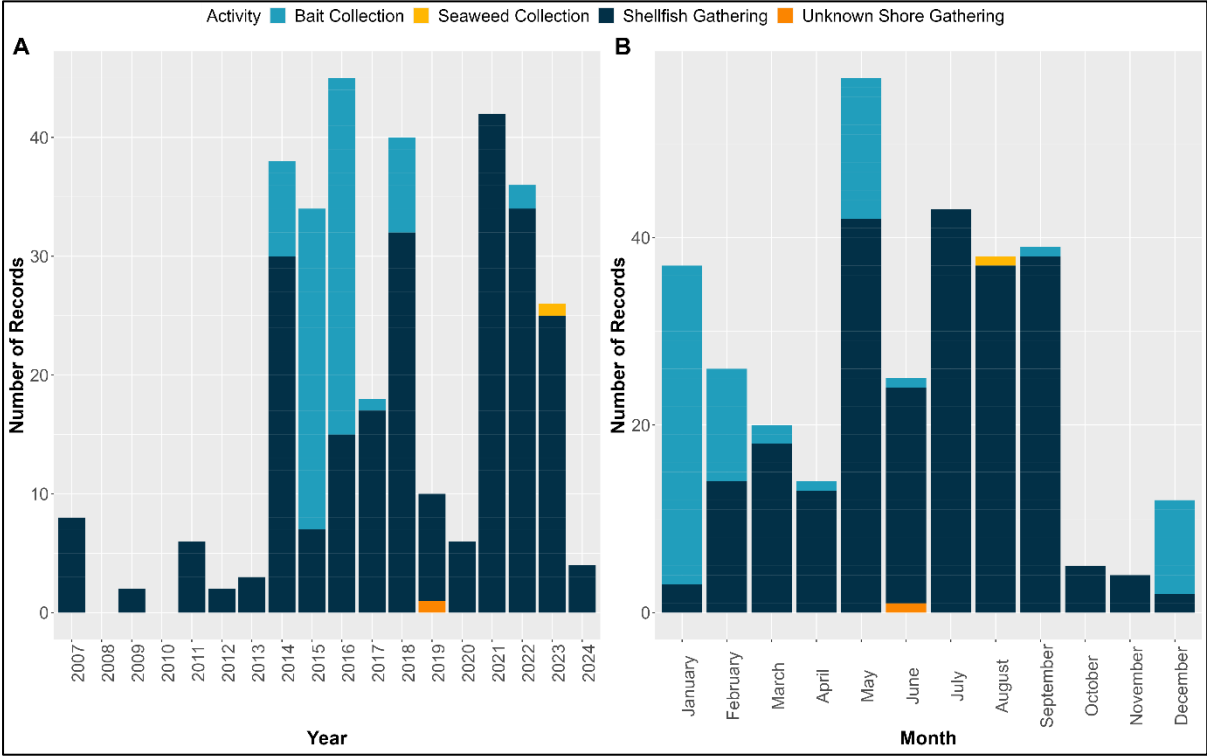


Figure 42 Information on shore gathering activity across the district.

Error! Reference source not found.contains information on all shore gathering activity occurring within National Site Network Sites across the Southern IFCA District. Shore Gathering activity appears to peak in 2016 and 2021, with shellfish gathering being the most popular activity, followed by bait digging. Shore gathering activity most commonly occurs in the summer months from May to September.

4.1 Recorded catches in all relevant MPAs

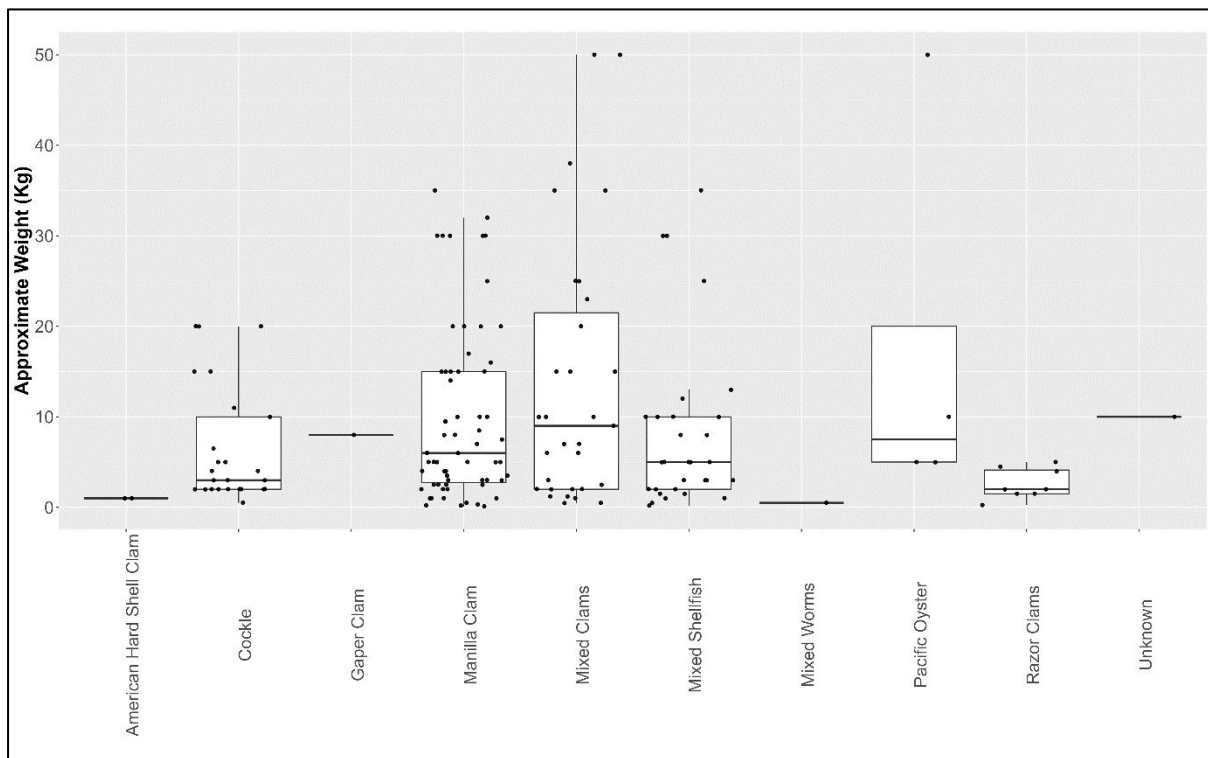


Figure 43 Approximate weight of catch associated with shore gathering activity across all MPAs in the district.

Figure 43 and Table 23 display a summary of catch weights recorded across all MPAs in the district.

Table 23 The mean weight of recorded catches associated with shore gathering activity in the Solent Maritime SAC.

Species	Mean Weight (kg)
American Hard-Shell Clam	1.00
Cockle	6.52
Gaper Clam	8.00
Manilla Clam	9.94
Mixed Clams	13.83
Mixed Shellfish	8.32
Mixed Worms	0.50
Pacific Oyster	17.50
Razor Clams	2.59
Unknown	10.00

4.2 Recorded Offences in all MPAs

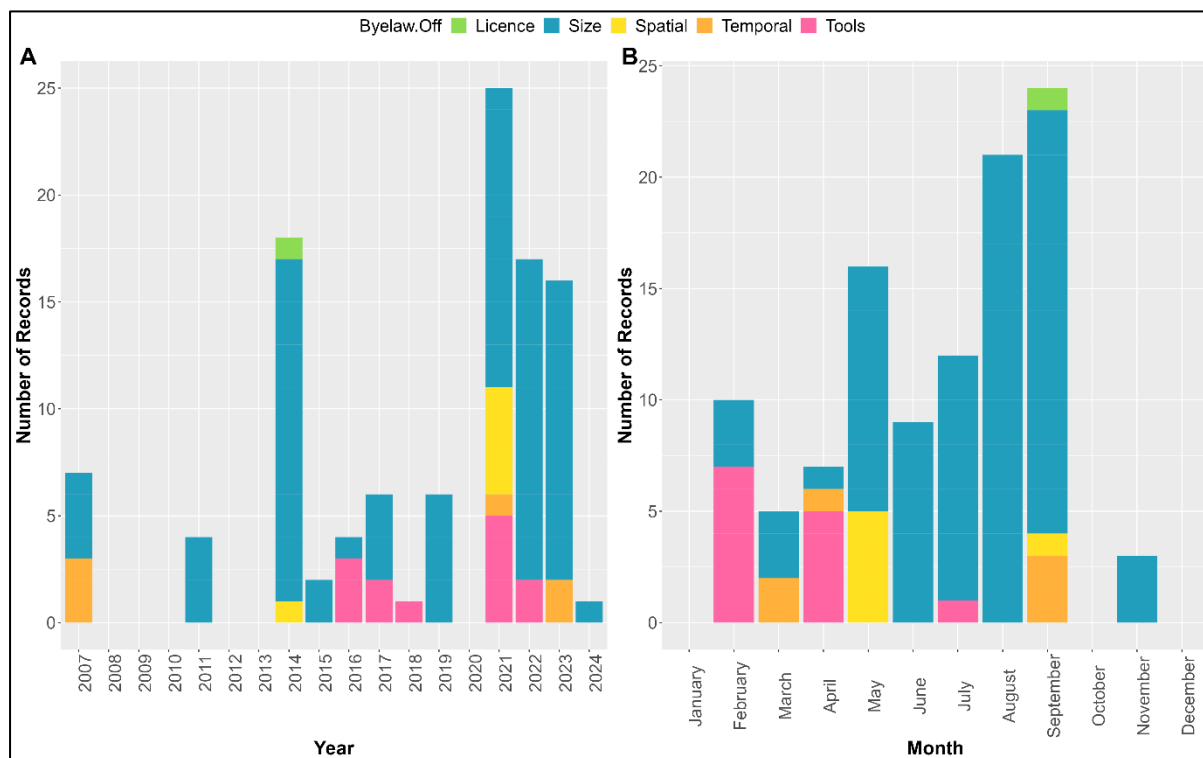


Figure 44 Recorded offences and the theme of infringement across all MPAs in the district.

Figure 44 displays a summary of shore gathering related offences within the district. The most common offences relate to MCRS. Peaks in offences occurred in 2021 increase through the summer months from July to September.

5. District Wide Management Relating to Shore Gathering

Table 24 Current district wide Management relating to Shore Gathering as of October 2023

Byelaw	Description
Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw	<i>A person must not take, retain on board, tranship, land, transport, store, sell, display, or offer for sale from a fishery within the District, any fish or shellfish species specified in the schedules which measure less than the minimum conservation reference size specified in the schedule. Any such fish or shellfish must be returned to the sea immediately.</i>
Periwinkles Byelaw	<i>No person shall take from a fishery any periwinkles between the 15th May and 15th September inclusive. No person shall take periwinkles except by hand picking.</i>
Oysters Close Season Byelaw	<i>No person shall take oysters from a fishery from 1st March to 31st October in any year, both days inclusive. Oyster cultivation exceptions apply. This applies to Native Oysters only.</i>

Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw	<i>Where any shellfish bed is depleted and requires closure to recover, the Committee may establish a temporary shellfish bed closure, wherein no person may take shellfish from the defined shellfish bed</i>
Fishing for Cockles	<i>A person must not take from a fishery a cockle between 1st February and 30th April inclusive. A person must not remove a cockle from a fishery, unless complying with the gear restrictions and minimum size requirements.</i>
Fishing for Oysters, Mussels, and Clams Byelaw	<i>Oysters, Mussels, and Clams may only be fished for by handpicking or dredging.</i>
Scallop Fishing Byelaw 2019	<i>No person may fish for or take any scallop from a fishery before 0700 and after 1900 local time. This does not apply in The Solent, where a person must not fish for or take any scallop from any fishery on any day before 0600 local time or after 1800 local time.</i>
Oysters	<i>No person shall remove an oyster (other than Portuguese or Pacific Oysters) that will pass through a circular ring of 70mm diameter or any cultch for young Oysters to grow on.</i>
Mussels	<i>No person shall remove from a fishery a mussel measuring less than 50mm in length. Mussel cultivation exceptions apply with permission from Southern IFCA.</i>
Redeposit of Shellfish	<i>Any person who takes shellfish from a fishery within the Southern IFCA district where the removal or possession of it is prohibited, should return the shellfish to the fishery, as near as possible to the place it was taken.</i>