

Stakeholder Engagement within Solent Restoration Projects: A Success Story

Solent Forum Hot Topic

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Successes	Challenges	Opportunities	Threats
Recognising the importance of and need for seagrass and SR in the Solent	Solent public knowledge and awareness of seagrass themed issues is still lacking	Willingness to learn, participate and contribute towards Solent SR projects	Funding
A healthy sustainably managed Solent coastal and marine area is achievable 50 years from now (with slight scepticism)	Conflict of opinion regarding the extent of action and response that has taken place to restore Solent coastal and marine habitats	Shared responsibility of Solent SR projects with Government agencies as a figurehead of Solent SR projects	Ecological aspects such as SR R&D and site suitability
Stakeholder engagement in Solent SR projects thus far	Ecological aspects take precedence over socioeconomic factors within SR projects	Shared economic responsibility within Solent SR projects with more Government agency funding streams for Solent SR projects	Anthropogenic impacts
	Policy and legislation bureaucracy processes	Participants acknowledged the need to raise greater public awareness and engagement and proposed veritable approaches to improve the Solent public's general awareness of seagrass.	Nutrient overload leading to algae smothering
		Solent SR project framework needs to be tightened	

Based upon results of both Solent public and stakeholder perspectives analysis

Based upon results of Solent stakeholder perspectives analysis

Key Requirements and Recommendations

Improve public knowledge, awareness and engagement of seagrass restoration in the Solent

Continue to work towards mitigating anthropogenic impacts on seagrass and establishing seagrass protection

Develop a long-term strategy adapted to the Solent area and involve stakeholders and the public from the start of the project

Establish a core set of principles and goals within projects

Improve integration of projects within the wider Solent, specifically seagrass restoration projects

Initiate and maintain regular stakeholder and local community workshops/progress meetings throughout the project

Strengthen focus of seagrass restoration projects in the Solent towards localised socioeconomic aspects

Delegate a government agency as figurehead organisation to lead the project

Increase/develop funding mechanisms directed towards government funding

Continue progress on improving legislation and bureaucracy protocols

Expand the workforce within projects

Further localised seagrass R&D