

# State of the Solent Edition 3:

## 8. Safety

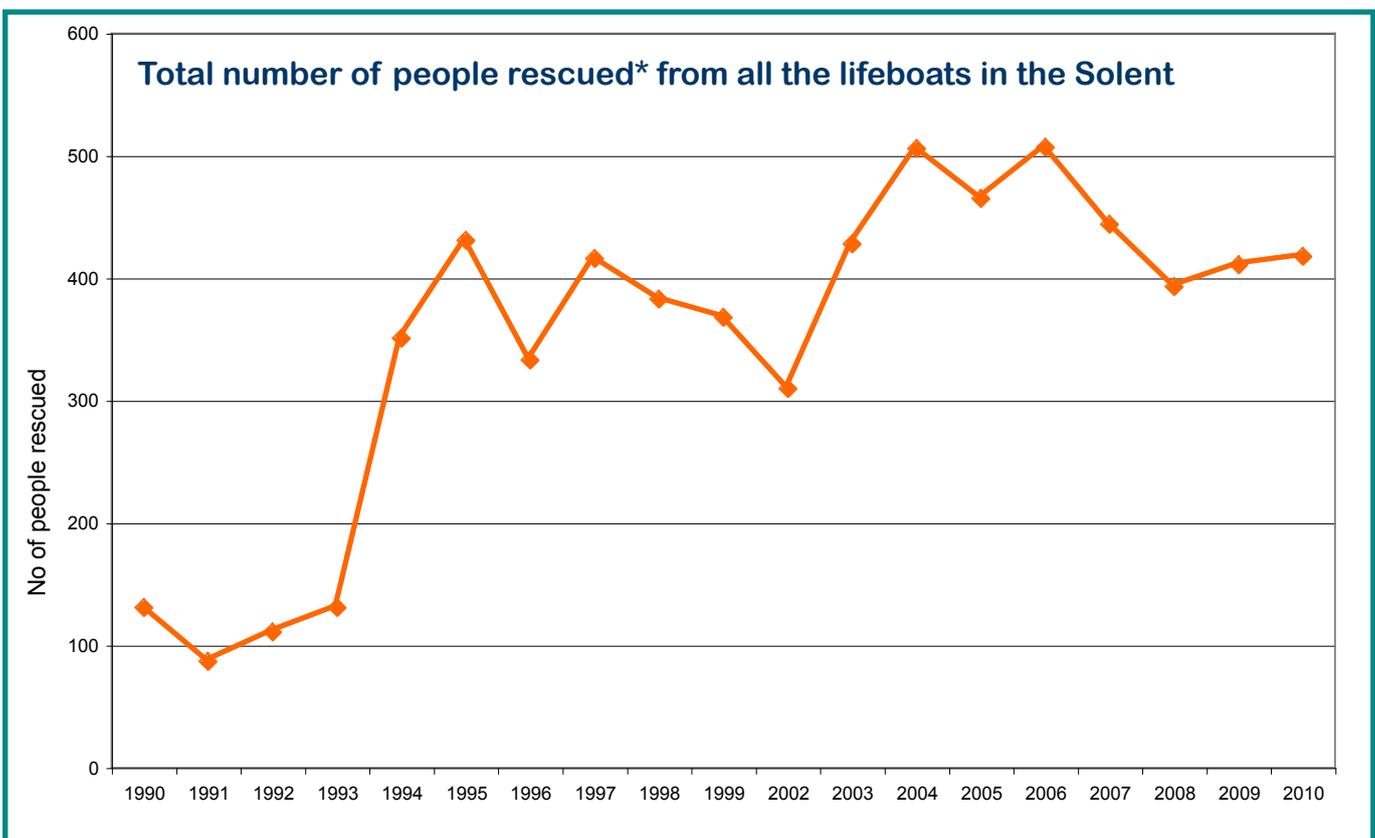


The long term aim in the Forum's Strategic Guidance is 'to ensure that adequate mechanisms to achieve maximum practicable safety within the Solent continue to be maintained'. Ensuring the everyday public safety within the Solent embraces a number of different aspects and falls within the responsibilities of several different organisations. The key areas are:

- Ensuring safety of navigation, this is the responsibility of the harbour authorities.
- Ensuring shipping is safe, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) are responsible for the survey and inspection of commercial shipping.
- Ensuring competence of those afloat, there are currently no statutory requirements for recreational craft.
- Organisation of search and rescue, this is carried out by the coastguard and local lifeboat stations.
- Ensuring safety on beaches and shoreline, this is the responsibility of the local authorities and site owners who have a "duty of care".
- Ensuring the safety of industry, this is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency and local authorities.
- The prevention and detection of crime, this is the responsibility of the police, the MoD police, HM Customs and Excise (anti-smuggling), Environment Agency (anti poaching of migratory fish), and the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities.

The most notable trend with regard to safety within the Solent is the growth in the number of recreational incidents recorded by the coastguard and lifeboats. Figures in the last State of the Solent report showed that the number of incidents attributed to commercial craft have remained stable, whereas those for recreational activity have increased by fifty percent. The largest single cause of incidents is for mechanical failure in motorised craft, although a number of other causes are also significant.

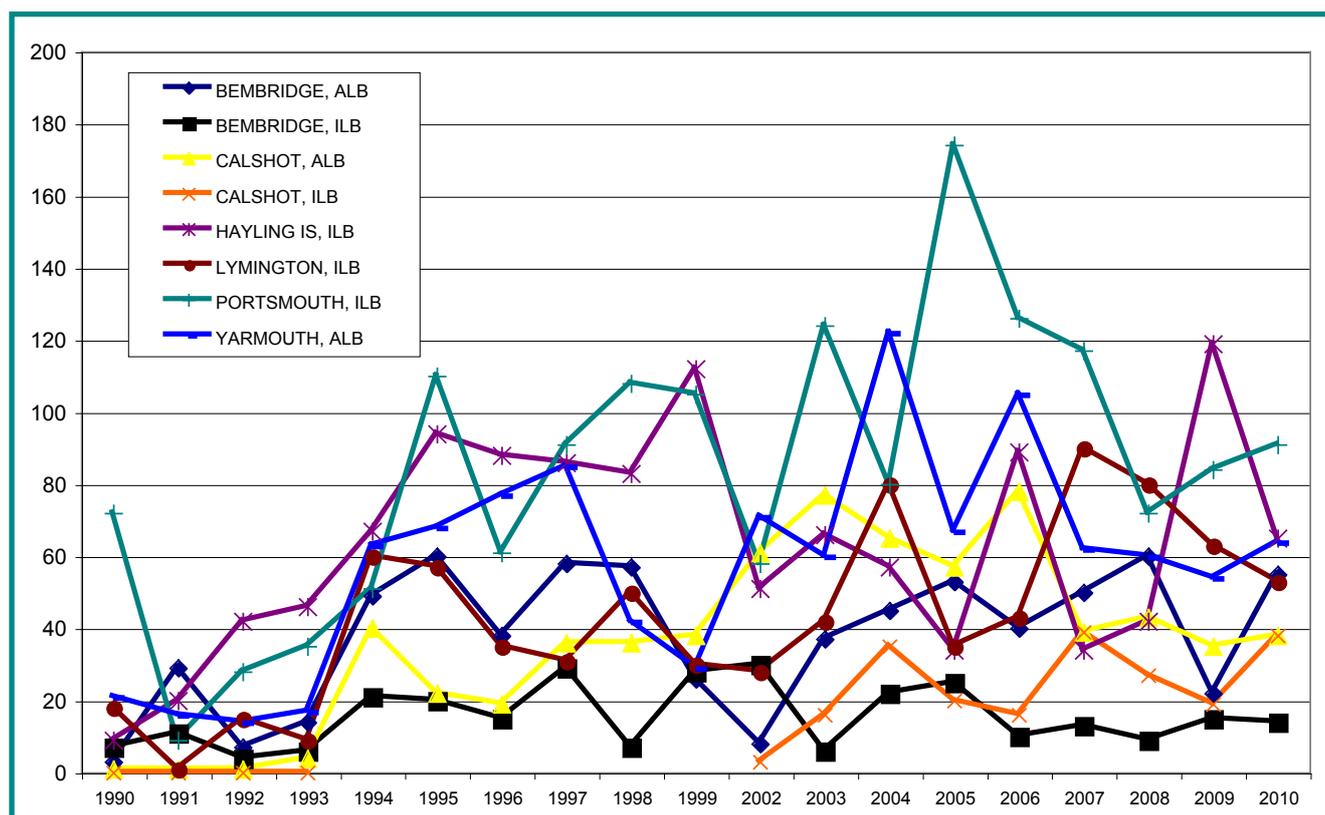
### Indicator 8.1: Health and safety incidents in the Solent



\* Total number of people rescued is made up from the figures of lives saved, people landed and people brought in.

Source: RNLI

## Total number of people rescued\* from the different lifeboats in the Solent



\* Total number of people rescued is made up from the figures of lives saved, people landed and people brought in.

Source: RNLI

### 8.1 Reason for Indicator Selection

This indicator was suggested by the Solent Recreation Survey, 2004 conducted by the Geodata Institute. This survey found that the most notable trend with regard to safety within the Solent is the growth of recreation-related incidents. This indicator measures the number of incidents responded to in the Solent and the number of people rescued as a result.

Downward trends in the data may reflect improvements in training and the numbers going on maritime safety courses in the Solent, thus reducing the number of health and safety incidents as people and their craft are better prepared.

### 8.1 Where Does the Data Come From?

Data is currently collated for the State of the Solent report from the Royal National Life Boat Association (RNLI). Previously data was also used from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). However, there has been a change in a way the MCA collect the data so this dataset is not currently available. It should also be noted that data from the MCA is for the Solent Coastguard, this area is from Beachy Head to Christchurch so covers an area greater than the actual Solent. In the future it is possible that Solent specific data will be available from the MCA and they will be contacted next time the dataset is updated.

### 8.1 What the Indicator Shows

The data shows the total number of people rescued by the inshore and all weather lifeboats stationed in the Solent. The total number of people rescued is made up of the number of lives saved plus people landed and people brought in. The general trend is that there is an increase in the number of people being rescued in the Solent. The graph showing the number of people rescued for all stations shows peaks for certain years, these could be linked to large scale events or good weather. In general all the lifeboats are rescuing substantially more people now than when the data was first collected in 1990.

## 8.1 What are the Implications for Coastal Planning and Management

The greater the number of people who use the Solent's water for recreation the greater the number of recreation related incidents and the more people who may need to be rescued. If the number of recreational and commercial vessels using the Solent is going to increase it is important that capacity for maritime safety is incorporated into future planning and management.