

State of the Solent: Edition 3, June 2011

Introduction

The Solent Forum has published its third edition of the State of the Solent report. This report is being published 10 years after the first edition, and for a number of datasets there are now 20 plus years of information. The report contains a series of indicators which have been selected to measure the 'health' of the Solent. In particular the indicators aim to promote and measure progress towards the sustainable development of the area, in line with the long term aims in the Solent Forum's Strategic Guidance for the Solent.

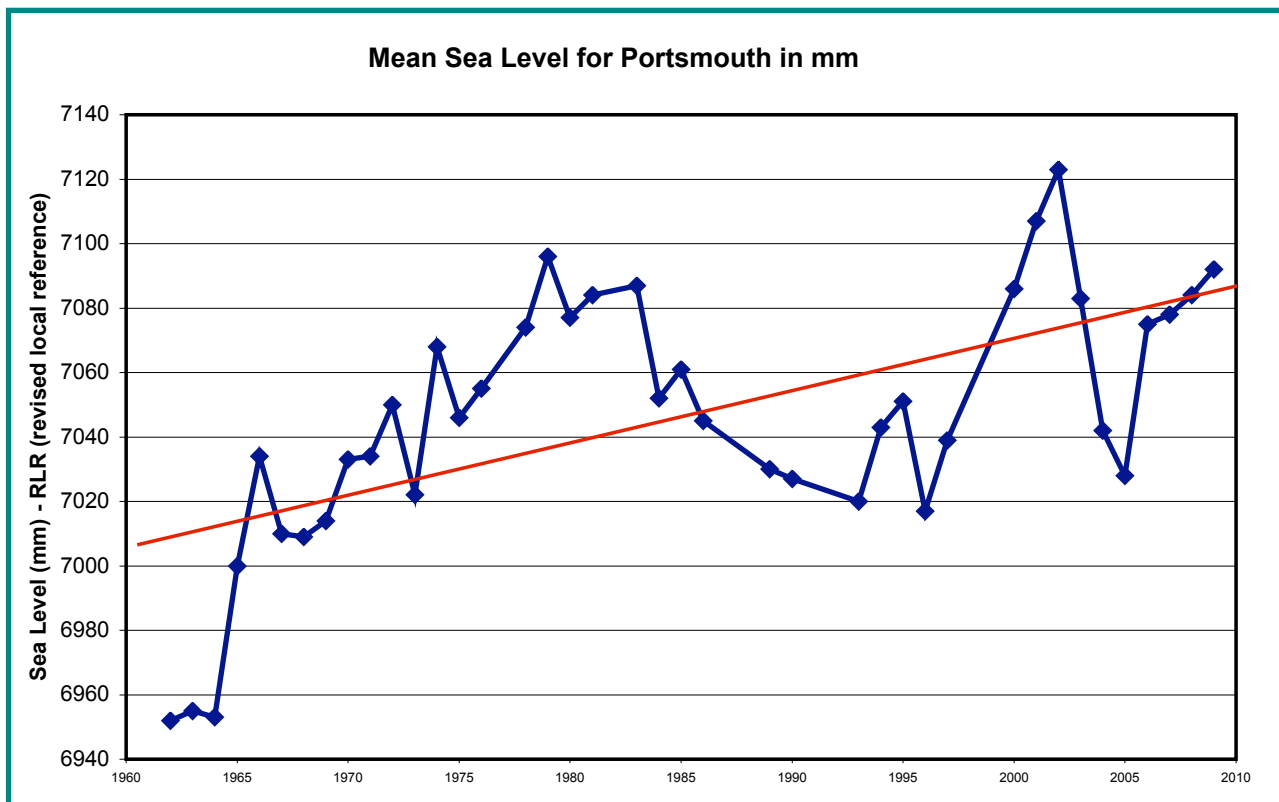
The majority of the indicators are nested with those which are used at the regional, national and European level. In particular with the indicators which have been selected and developed by the EU Working Group on Indicators and Data. This set of European indicators was developed to measure the sustainable development of the coastal zone, linking to Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Indicators are sensitive to changes, measurable, understandable and are a simplification of real situations. As such they can be used to direct actions and management. Indicators require measurement over time to ensure that data is available from which to draw trends and monitoring needs to occur at a frequency where change can be seen.

Topics Covered

- Physical Environment and Climate Change
- Nature Conservation
- Transport, Ports and Shipping
- Environmental Quality
- Marine Industries
- Natural Resources
- Recreation and Tourism
- Safety and Emergency Planning
- Human Settlement, Land Use and Management
- Coastal Risk Management
- Historic Heritage and Maritime Archaeology

Sample Dataset



Source: Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL)

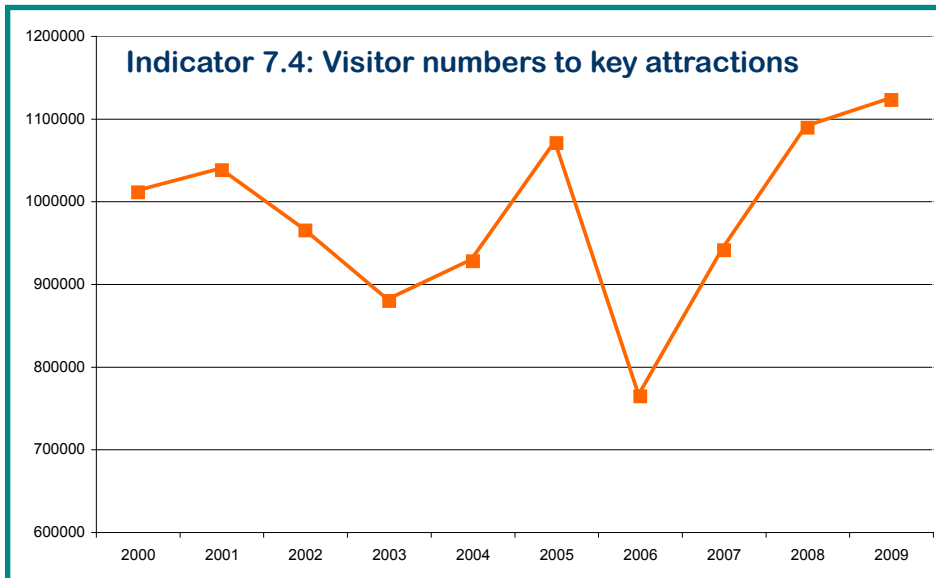
Data Collection Methodology

The data collection methodology has followed on from that used in previous editions of the reports. For this edition only indicators that have been agreed by the Forum's steering group has been collected.

Data is collected from a number of sources and uses established datasets that are collected on a regular basis e.g. WeBS bird count data and fisheries data collected by CEFAS. This reduces the resources needed to maintain the indicator datasets and as most are available online ensures the data is easy to collect.

Once the data has been sourced it is then spilt out for the Solent region. This often involves drilling down into the data or adding a number of datasets

together. Where data is collected on the regional/national/EU scale reference is made to the trends which are shown at these levels and comparison with that found for the Solent made.



Source: Visit England

What the Indicators Show

The indicators were reviewed from past editions to ensure they were still current and relevant and help to measure progress with the associated long term aims from the Forum's Strategic Guidance for the Solent. The indicators are available on the Solent Forum website as PDF sheets. Each indicator sheet includes information on:

- Reasons for using the indicator;
- Information on where the data comes from;
- What the indicators shows (the Forum will not give an opinion on if the trend is good or bad it will just be described);
- What the possible implications are for coastal management relating back to the long term aim in the Strategic Guidance.

This information is designed to help users understand the data and its limitations. Indicators are a simplification of situations and act to highlight issues both good and bad. If an issue is highlighted further work would be needed to explore it in more detail. Future work will include updating the available datasets at regular intervals and investigating how to measure those indicators for which we have no data. It will become the role of the various Solent Forum sub groups to update and monitor the indicators relevant to them.

Further Information

For more information on the State of Solent please visit www.solentforum.org/publications/state_solent/State_of_the_Solent_Edition_3/.

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www.solentforum.org/publications/state_solent/State_of_the_Solent_Edition_3/.