

**SMMI Special Interest Groups
& upcoming blue/green spaces
projects on the IoW**

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SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR OCEANS

*The **Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute** connects researchers from across the University of Southampton and partners from industry, government, and others.*

*The **SMMI Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** bring together experts working on related topics and solving related problems:*

- *Coastal Communities*
- *Digital Oceans*
- *Maritime Decarbonisation*
- *Nature Based Ocean Solutions*
- *Ocean Justice*
- *Ocean Energy*



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
JOIN THE SMMI COMMUNITY

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Blue / green space research within the SMMI

- ✓ “Improving access to green blue spaces on the Isle of Wight”, workshop held in June at Building 41. **Plans for a similar workshop in 2026.**
- ✓ [“iPACT Webinar: Accessing blues spaces for health and wellbeing – IPACT”](#), 25th November, Prof Ben Wheeler, University of Exeter Medical School.
- ✓ Blue/green space research, some examples:
 - **“Green-blue connections:** understanding the health, wellbeing and community resilience benefits of green and blue space access on the Isle of Wight.” 2025-2026. *Funding confirmed.*
 - **“Building Resilience through Nature-based Solutions:** Validation of a Green-Blue Space Index for Coastal Communities.” *Funding confirmed.*
 - **“Nature Together:** Growing Green/Blue Connections on the Isle of Wight.” 2025-2026. *Not confirmed.*
- ✓ Interest from many different areas of expertise at the University of Southampton – lots of potential collaboration opportunities!

Previous work

- IoW Sea Swimming Survey (2023) with Swim the Wight CIC
 - **Benefits:** mental wellbeing, fitness, being in nature
 - **Accessibility barriers:** infrastructure, low confidence, lack of info
- 'Coastal (In)Securities: Swimming Safely through Blue Heritage on the Isle of Wight' – New Things Fund, Centre for the South (2024)
 - How can sea swimming can be a part of positive change on the IoW?
 - Workshops in 2024 to explore benefits to and barriers of sea swimming
 - Access; youth opportunities; health + wellness; place, community + identity
 - Policy brief: 'By Sea Swimmers, For Sea Swimmers' published 2024
 - **More awareness + evidence; connectivity + communication; ocean literacy**

Isle of Wight Sea
Swimming Survey 2023



'By Sea Swimmers, For
Sea Swimmers' – blog
and policy brief

