



South East England  
Biodiversity Forum

**Working for People and Nature**

**Chairman: Steve Gilbert**

**ON THIS TOPIC PLEASE REPLY to:  
SEEBF Marine Sub Group  
Jolyon Chesworth  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
Beechcroft House  
Curdrige  
Hants SO32 2DP**

**Tel: 01489 774445  
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Sue Wells  
Project Manager, Balanced Seas  
Regional MCZ Project for the south-east  
Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE)  
Room Marlowe 65A, Marlowe Building  
University of Kent  
Canterbury  
Kent  
CT2 7NR

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010

Dear Sue,

**South East England Biodiversity Forum recommendation to the Balanced Seas  
Regional Stakeholder Group.**

Please find attached a letter from the South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF) to the Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholder Group. The SEEBF Marine Sub – Group has compiled a list of areas that it believes the evidence suggests are hugely ecologically important in our region. We would like to recommend that these sites be considered by the RSG as Broad Areas of Interest and put forward for recommendation as Marine Conservation Zones.

I would be grateful if you could forward the attached to the RSG for their consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Steve Gilbert  
Chairman

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**Members of the South East England Biodiversity Forum**

Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE), Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority, BTCV, Defra, East Sussex County Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, GOSE, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Isle of Wight Unitary Authority, Kent County Council, Kent Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Oxfordshire County Council, RSPB, South East Biodiversity Action Plan Officers' Group, South East Biological Records Centres, South East Wildlife Trusts, Southampton Unitary Authority, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust, West Berkshire Unitary Authority, West Sussex County Council, Woodland Trust. Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.



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Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholder Group  
C/O Balanced Seas  
Regional MCZ Project for the south east  
Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE)  
Room Marlowe 65A, Marlowe Building  
University of Kent  
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CT2 7NR

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010

Dear Members of the Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholder Group

**South East England Biodiversity Forum recommendation to the Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholder Group.**

The South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF) is a partnership of governmental and non-governmental organisations who work closely together to provide a focus for furthering biodiversity in South East England. Our aims are:

1. To develop and review biodiversity objectives and targets for the region.
2. To champion the delivery of biodiversity objectives and targets within the South East of England.
3. To enable, co-ordinate and service regional biodiversity monitoring, interpretation and reporting for regional bodies.

SEEBF maintains a marine remit with a dedicated Marine Sub-Group to further the above aims within this environment, which it views as an integral and vital component of the wider South East England natural environment. A number of the organisations represented on SEEBF are also represented on the Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholder Group and the Local Groups.

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Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE), Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority, BTCV, Defra, East Sussex County Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, GOSE, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Isle of Wight Unitary Authority, Kent County Council, Kent Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Oxfordshire County Council, RSPB, South East Biodiversity Action Plan Officers' Group, South East Biological Records Centres, South East Wildlife Trusts, Southampton Unitary Authority, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust, West Berkshire Unitary Authority, West Sussex County Council, Woodland Trust. Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

The SEEBF marine sub-group has highlighted a range of sites in inshore waters that are considered to be of key biodiversity importance in the Balanced Seas region. This importance is based on the Ecological Network Guidance for Marine Conservation Zones and the sites contain examples of Habitat and Species Features of Conservation Interest, as well as other habitats and species SEEBF considers important in the region. The list of sites is detailed below and accompanied by their justification for selection, in terms of the habitats and species each sites supports and the available data to evidence this.

The locations of these sites are shown very approximately on the accompanying map of the Balanced Seas area. The site boundaries have not been defined in any detail and should be treated as Broad Areas of Interest.

Some of the sites SEEBF would like to see recommended as Marine Conservation Zones are already identified as Broad Areas of Interest by the Regional Stakeholder Group, and SEEBF welcomes and strongly supports their inclusion. However, some of the sites listed are not yet identified as BAIs. SEEBF would like to all of the sites listed below included as BAIs and would recommend to the Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholder Group that these sites be included in the inshore network of Marine Conservation Zones in the region.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Gilbert  
Chairman  
On behalf of the South East England Biodiversity Forum

**Key Inshore Biodiversity Areas in the Balanced Seas Region for recommendation as Marine Conservation Zones**

| Ref  | Area  | Key Features to justify inclusion                                | Status of features                   | Data to verify features                         |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| A  | Eastern Solent Harbours (Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester)<br><br>(BAI 24.1 & 24.2) | Mantis shrimps   | SE Feature                           | HIWWT   |
|  |   | Intertidal seagrass (both intertidal species of <i>Zostera</i> ) | Habitat FOCI                         | HIWWT Solent Seagrass Inventory                 |
|  |   | Seals  | SE Feature                           | Seals survey                                    |
|  |   | Seabirds   | Nationally important bird foraging   | RSPB  |
|  |   | Seahorses  | Species FOCI                         | Seahorse Trust, HIWWT                           |
|  |   | Nematostella, Gammarus insensibilis                              | Species FOCI                         | Assessment of the Solent Lagoon Resource, 1997  |
| B  | NE IoW<br><br>(BAI 19)  | Subtidal seagrass  | Habitat FOCI                         | HIWWT Solent Seagrass Inventory                 |
|  |   | Mantis Shrimps   | SE Feature                           | HIWWT / Roger Herbert mantis shrimp survey      |
|  |   | Oysters  | FOCI                                 | SFC data (oyster dredging)                      |
|  |   | Alkamaria  | Species FOCI                         | Assessment of the Solent Lagoon Resource, 1997  |
| C  | Bembridge & Culver, IoW<br><br>(BAI 22)   | Intertidal chalk   | Habitat FOCI                         | 2004 SAC biotope mapping                        |
|  |   | Subtidal chalk   | Habitat FOCI                         | SAC report                                      |
|  |   | Subtidal seagrass  | Habitat FOCI                         | HIWWT Solent Seagrass Inventory                 |
|  |   | Seahorse (short snouted)   | Species FOCI                         | Seahorse sightings and Seasearch                |
|  |   | Padina   | Species FOCI<br>Important Plant Area | IoW Natural History Society                     |
|  |   | Nematostella, Alkamaria, Gammarus insensibilis                   | Species FOCI                         | Assessment of the Solent Lagoon Resource, 1997  |
|  |   | Elasmobranchs - further towards Selsey                           | SE Feature                           | EA survey, Ken Collins UK Shark tagging Project |
| Mud with spoon worms & burrowing megafauna | Habitat FOCI (seapen & burrowing megafauna)   | HIWWT Seasearch with georeferenced photos                        |                                      |   |
| D  | Sandown Bay, IoW<br>(BAI 22)  | Ampelisca mats   | SE Feature                           | EMU survey                                      |
| E  | South western IoW<br>Freshwater   | Subtidal Chalk   | Habitat FOCI                         | SAC report<br>Subtidal IoW<br>SAC Multibeam     |
| F  | Needles, Alum Bay<br><br>(BAI 20)   | Subtidal chalk   | Habitat FOCI<br>Your Seas Your Voice | Seasearch                                       |
|  |   | Stalked jellyfish  | Species FOCI                         |   |
|  |   | Seagrass (Colwell and Totland Bay)                               | Habitat FOCI                         | HIWWT Solent Seagrass Inventory                 |
|  |   | Seabirds   | Nationally important bird foraging   | RSPB  |
| G  | Sconce Point to   | Clay exposures   | Habitat FOCI                         | Anecdotal evidence                              |

|   |   |   |                                    |   |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
|   | Bouldner Cliff<br>(BAI 23)  | Subtidal seagrass                                 | Habitat FOCI                       | HIWWT Solent Seagrass Inventory   |
|   |   | Nematostella                                      | Species FOCI                       | Assessment of the Solent Lagoon Resource, 1997  |
|   |   | Seabirds  | Nationally important bird foraging | RSPB  |
| H | Thorness Bay<br>(BAI 23)  | Intertidal under boulder communities.             | Habitat FOCI                       | Georeferenced photo   |
|   |   | Clay exposures                                    | Habitat FOCI                       | Georeferenced photo   |
|   |   | Seabirds  | Nationally important bird foraging | RSPB  |
| I | Overfalls<br>(Mostly in BAI 19)   | Subtidal sand and gravel                          | Habitat FOCI                       | Overfalls Group   |
|   |   | Productivity and biodiversity hotspot             |                                    | Overfalls Group   |
|   |   | Shark and ray populations                         | SE Feature                         | Overfalls Group   |
|   |   | Bass  | SE Feature                         | Overfalls Group   |
| J | Selsey including Bracklesham round to Mulberry harbours and Shelley and Waldrons.<br><br>(Mostly in BAI 25) | Clay  | Habitat FOCI<br>mSNCI              |   |
|   |   | Biodiversity hotspot<br>Esp crustaceans and Algae | mSNCI<br>Important Plant Area      | Seasearch<br>EA data<br>IPA report from Plantlife                                     |
|   |   | Hard rock sandstone                               | SE Feature<br>mSNCI                | Seasearch   |
|   |   | Seal foraging                                     | SE Feature                         | HIWWT Seal survey   |
|   |   | Algal diversity at Mixon                          | Important Plant Area               | IPA report from Plantlife   |
| K | Kingmere Reef to Brighton<br><br>(BAI 15 covers Kingmere)   | Subtidal chalk                                    | Habitat FOCI<br>mSNCI              | Seasearch   |
|   |   | Subtidal sand and gravel                          | Habitat FOCI                       | Seasearch<br>EMU data referenced in national data list<br>CEFAS data for softer areas |
|   |   | Black bream                                       | SE feature<br>SFC Proposed Site    | SFC<br>Seasearch  |
|   |   | Hard rock sandstone                               | SE feature                         | Seasearch<br>SFC  |
| L | Brighton to Eastbourne, The Pound<br><br>(BAI 13.2)   | Subtidal chalk                                    | Habitat FOCI<br>mSNCI              | Seasearch   |
|   |   | Intertidal chalk                                  | Habitat FOCI                       | NE-NHM 2009 intertidal chalk survey<br>older NHM surveys                              |
|   |   | Chalk gullies at Seaford                          | SE Feature                         | Seasearch   |
|   |   | Kittiwake foraging at Seaford                     | Regionally important foraging      | RSPB  |
|   |   | Subtidal sands and gravels                        | Habitat FOCI                       | SeaMap  |
|   |   | Algal diversity at The Pound                      | Important Plant Area               | IPA report from Plantlife<br>Sussex Shoresearch                                       |
| M | Royal Sovereign Shoals and Horse of Willingdon Reef<br><br>(BAI 13.1)                                       | Complex hard rock habitat                         | SE Feature<br>mSNCI                | Seasearch   |
|   |   | Intertidal hard rock                              | SE Feature                         | Shoresearch   |
| N | Rye Harbour   | Seabirds  | Nationally important bird foraging | RSPB  |

|   |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| O | Hythe Bay  | Mud with spoon worms & burrowing megafauna  | Habitat FOCI (seapen & burrowing megafauna) | EA biotope data<br>Kent Seasearch 2010                     |
|   |  | Ampelisca mats  | SE Feature                                  | EA biotope data  |
|   |  | High biomass rich community in sand   |   | EA biotope data  |
|   |  | Seabirds  | Nationally important bird foraging          | RSPB   |
| P | Folkestone, Dover Deal<br>(Chalk reefs in BAI 11.1 & 11.2) | Sandstone ridge and holes and ledges  | SE Feature                                  | Seasearch  |
|   |  | Pentapora colonies  | SE Feature                                  | Seasearch  |
|   |  | Algal diversity and Intertidal hard rock at Copt Point.   | Important Plant Area<br>SE Feature          | IPA report from Plantlife<br>Shoresearch<br>NHM Survey     |
|   |  | Intertidal chalk of varying character (hard white to very soft grey)  | Habitat FOCI                                | Kent Shoresearch.<br>KWT C2010 survey<br>older NHM surveys |
|   |  | Subtidal chalk of varying characters (hard white to very soft grey)   | Habitat FOCI<br>Your Seas Your Voice        | Seasearch<br>Channel Tunnel Survey                         |
|   |  | Stalked jellyfish ( <i>Craterolophus convolvulus</i> )  | SE Feature                                  | KWT C2010 survey   |
|   |  | Sabellaria reefs (including both intertidal on chalk, and subtidal on mud base)   | Habitat FOCI                                | EA<br>Seasearch  |
|   |  | Seahorses   | Species FOCI                                | Seasearch<br>Seahorse sightings                            |
|   |  | Chalk gullies   | SE Feature                                  | Seasearch<br>Channel Tunnel Survey                         |
|   |  | Ray breeding  | SE feature                                  | EA , DHB, SFC,   |
|   |  | Subtidal sand and gravel  | Habitat FOCI                                | Seasearch  |
|   |  | Intertidal Under-boulder communities  | Habitat FOCI                                | KWT C2010 survey   |
|   |  | Blue Mussel Beds  | Habitat FOCI                                |  |
|   |  | Native oyster   | Species FOCI                                |  |
|   |  | Folkestone Warren listed as a Mass Movement GCR site  | Coastal GCR                                 | ENG  |
| Q | Goodwin sands<br>(Partially in BAI 8)                      | Seals   | SE Feature                                  | Jon Bramley data   |
|   |  | Mussel beds   | Habitat FOCI                                | Seasearch<br>SFC   |
|   |  | Sabellaria reefs  | Habitat FOCI                                | Seasearch  |
| R | Thanet offshore Sabellaria and chalk                       | Sabellaria reefs  | Habitat FOCI                                | TOW  |
|   |  | Subtidal chalk exposures  | Habitat FOCI                                | TOW  |
|   |  | Mantis shrimp   | SE Feature                                  | TOW  |
| S | North Thanet<br>(Partially in BAI 7)                       | Intertidal Sabellaria spinulosa reef, Grenham to Beresford.   | Habitat FOCI                                | Willie McKnight survey                                     |
|   |  | Intertidal chalk  | Habitat FOCI                                | SAC reports  |
|   |  | Subtidal chalk  | Habitat FOCI                                | SAC reports  |
|   |  | Algal diversity at Whiteness  | Important Plant Area                        | IPA report from plantlife                                  |
|   |  | Stalked Jellyfish (2 species) <i>Haliclystus auricula</i> at Westgate, and <i>Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis</i> at Fulsam | Species FOCI                                | Shoresearch<br>SAC monitoring                              |
|   | Outcropping London clay                                    | Habitat FOCI  | Shoresearch                                 |  |

|   |  |  |                                    |                                 |
|---|--|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|   |  | Intertidal blue mussel beds on shingle                                   | Habitat FOCI                       | Shoresearch                     |
| T | The Street, and South Swale<br><br>(BAI 10)                | Sabella bed beside Street  | SE Feature                         | Seasearch                       |
|   |  | Algae on consolidated shingle spit                                       | SE Feature                         | Seasearch<br>Shoresearch        |
|   |  | Clay exposures   | Habitat FOCI                       |                                 |
|   |  | Native Oyster  | Species FOCI                       |                                 |
|   |  | Seagrass bed   | Habitat FOCI                       | KWT                             |
|   |  | Mussel beds  | Habitat FOCI                       | NE<br>SFC                       |
|   |  | Seabirds   | Nationally important bird foraging | RSPB                            |
| U | Medway<br><br>(BAI 6)                                      | Seabirds   | Nationally important bird foraging | RSPB                            |
|   |  | Tentacled lagoon worm  | Species FOCI                       | EA                              |
|   |  | Seal foraging  | SE Feature                         | Kent Mammal Group               |
|   |  | Smelt  | Mobile Species FOCI                | EA                              |
|   |  | Seagrass beds  | Habitat FOCI                       |                                 |
|   |  | Triangular Club-rush ( <i>Schoenoplectus triqueter</i> )                 | BAP Species<br>Rare hybrid         | KWT<br>Kent Flora Atlas         |
| V | Isle of Grain north coast<br><br>(BAI 5)                   | Seagrass beds  | Habitat FOCI                       | EA                              |
|   |  | Tentacled lagoon worm  | Species FOCI                       | EA                              |
|   |  | Fish nursery   |                                    | EA                              |
|   |  | Exposed clay   | Habitat FOCI                       | EA                              |
|   |  | Seabirds   | Nationally important bird foraging | RSPB                            |
| W | Thames, Isle of Grain to Teddington<br><br>(BAI 5)         | Smelt  | Mobile Species FOCI                | EA                              |
|   |  | Tentacled lagoon worm  | Species FOCI                       | EA                              |
|   |  | Short-snouted seahorse   | Species FOCI                       | EMU, EA,<br>Seahorse Trust      |
|   |  | Fish nursery   |                                    | EA                              |
|   |  | Algal diversity  | Important Plant Area               | IPA report from<br>Plantlife    |
|   |  | Seabirds   | Nationally important bird foraging | RSPB                            |
| X | Crouch Roach Foulness<br><br>(Partially in BAI 3)          | Native Oysters   | Habitat FOCI                       | SFC CEFAS                       |
|   |  | Fish nursery   |                                    | EA                              |
|   |  | Sabella bed  | SE Feature                         |                                 |
|   |  | Seagrass bed   | Habitat FOCI                       |                                 |
|   |  | Seabird foraging   | Nationally important bird foraging |                                 |
|   |  | Lagoon Sand Shrimp   | Species FOCI                       |                                 |
| Y | Blackwater estuary near Malden Osea island.<br><br>(BAI 3) | Intertidal algal communities on consolidated shingle                     | SE Feature                         | Ian Tittley's Essex Algae paper |
|   |  | <i>Fucus ceranoides</i> on firm substratum at landward end of estuaries. | SE Feature                         | Ian Tittley's Essex Algae paper |
|   |  | <i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i> ecads (approaching mackii)                    | SE Feature                         | Ian Tittley's Essex Algae paper |
|   |  | Native oyster beds   | Habitat FOCI                       | SFC CEFAS,<br>Oystermen         |
|   |  | Fish nursery   |                                    | EA                              |
|   |  | Lagoon Sea Slug  | Species FOCI                       |                                 |
|   |  | Seabirds   | Nationally important foraging      | RSPB                            |
| Z | Harwich & Estuary<br><br>(BAI 2)                           | Intertidal hard rock (cementstone) and algal diversity                   | SE Feature<br>Important Plant Area | Plantlife IPA report            |
|   |  | Native oyster beds   | Habitat FOCI                       |                                 |

|  |  |                     |                                       |      |
|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------|
|  |  | Fish nursery        |                                       | EA   |
|  |  | Starlet sea anemone | Species FOCI                          |      |
|  |  | Seabirds            | Nationally important<br>bird foraging | RSPB |

**Key inshore biodiversity areas  
(boundaries approximate)**

