

Bembridge Harbour Office
The Duver,
St Helens, Isle of Wight
PO33 1YB

Our ref: Bembridge HM
Date: 23rd Feb 2024

To the Harbour Master,

Survey of kelp bed in Bembridge

I am writing to notify you of the Environment Agency's intention to conduct a scientific kelp survey in and around the Bembridge area. This survey will take place on Tuesday 5th March – Friday 8th March 2024. Please see the maps below which display the sampling site locations.

We are contacting the Harbour Master and other relevant parties for the area ahead of the work. If you wish to confirm if we have spoken to a specific party, then please contact us at the email address below.

The aim of our work is to trial different methods to monitor and map out the extent of the kelp bed in the proposed area. The survey will involve approximately 100 camera-drops and echosounder monitoring. Using a camera mounted to a 1m² plastic frame, photographs will be collected of the seabed. This will be followed by echosounder lines over the same area.

The sampling platform will be the 8.5 m survey Environment Agency vessel Solway Shepherd (MMSI 235091049) operated by Briggs Marine and Environmental Services Ltd.

The survey plans have been produced by the Environment Agency using digitised and fully licenced UK Hydrographic Office Admiralty Charts.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Charly Alexander
Marine Monitoring Officer
MarineMonitoring@environment-agency.gov.uk
Environment Agency, Manley House, Kestrel Way, Exeter, EX2 7LQ

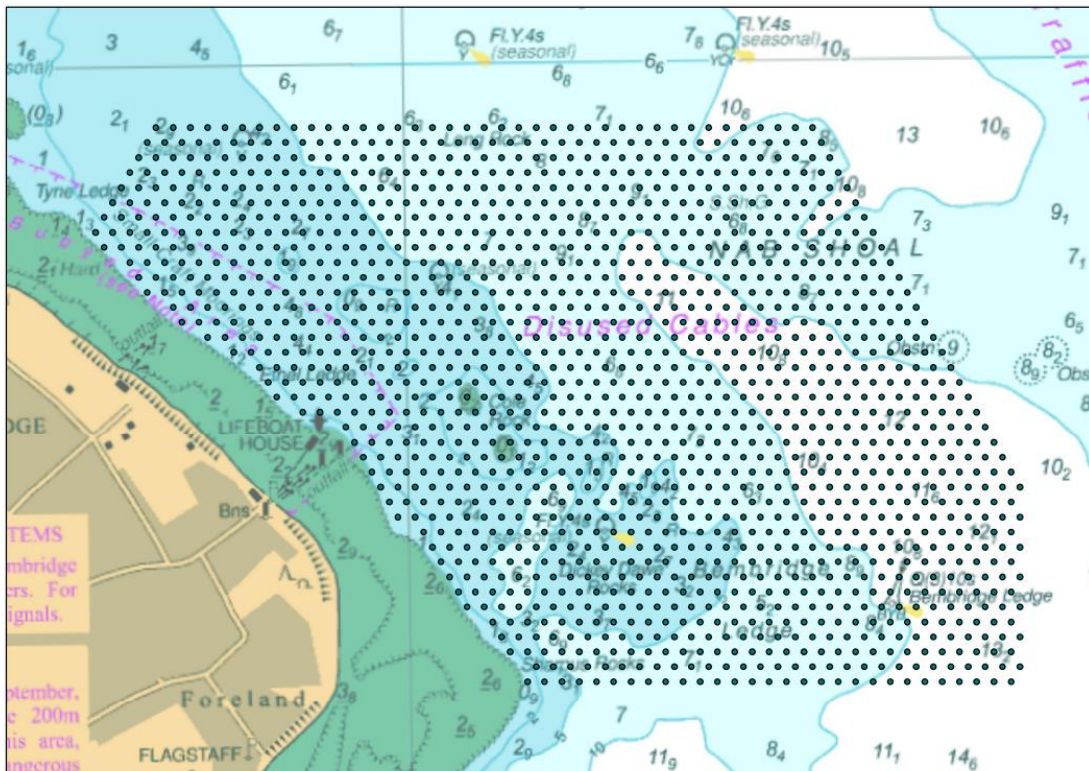


Figure 1: Map of survey points for the Bembridge kelp trial.

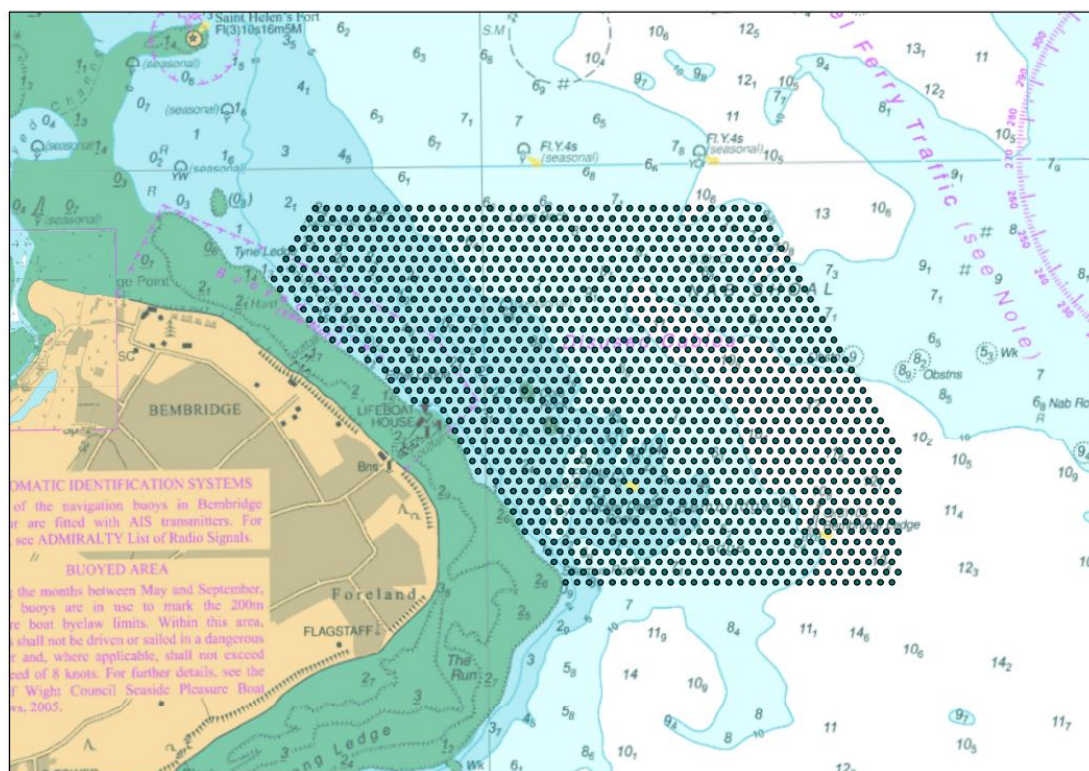


Figure 2: Map to show survey points in wider area.