

Langstone Harbour's Summer Wildlife

Summer is an excellent time to see Langstone Harbour's spectacular variety of wildlife. A quiet walk along the waterside paths will reveal a rich variety of delicate plant and insect life. A visit to the Hayling Oysterbeds will give an amazing opportunity to watch a vibrant and noisy breeding colony of gulls and terns. On the water you might be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of one of the harbour's resident seals and are likely to encounter hundreds of Black-headed Gulls forming dense fishing flocks. Find out more about some of Langstone Harbour's Summer Wildlife below, and turn over to see how you can help to keep the harbour special.



Little Tern - *Sterna albifrons*

This is the smallest species of tern, the birds being no bigger than a Starling. They migrate to the UK each summer to breed, having spent the winter months in Africa. They feed on small fish and shrimps, and can often be observed plunge-diving into shallow water to catch them.



Harbour Seal - *Phoca vitulina*

A small colony of these marine mammals use the mud banks in the harbour as a haul out spot to rest. Seals feed on fish, crustaceans and cephalopods, regularly journeying as far afield as the Isle of Wight and Selsey Bill to their regular hunting grounds.



Bass - *Dicentrarchus labrax*

Langstone Harbour is an important nursery ground for these fish as there is plenty of shelter amongst rich Eelgrass beds and lots to eat in the creeks and channels of the harbour. It is illegal to catch Bass within the harbour limits during the summer months, to protect brood stock.



Glasswort - *Salicornia europaea*

This classic saltmarsh plant, with its resemblance to fleshy miniature cactus, can tolerate total tidal immersion in saltwater. The common name derives from the 16th century English practice of using the ashes of this plant to make glass.

Sunshine strolls.....

Nothing beats a walk at the seaside on a sunny day, watching the wonders of nature. Around Langstone Harbour, the nature reserves at **Farlington Marshes**, the **Hayling Oysterbeds**, and **The Kench** are all great places to see animals and plants. Wildlife is particularly vulnerable to disturbance during the summer months, as many animals are busily trying to raise young, while plants are flowering and seeding. By following the simple rules below you can help Langstone Harbour's amazing wildlife:



Helping Langstone Harbour's Wildlife

- **Never approach wildlife too closely - use binoculars to get a better view.**
- **Make sure you stay on footpaths to avoid trampling fragile habitats.**
- **Keep your pets under control.**
- **Never pick wild flowers—leave them for others to enjoy.**
- **Always fish responsibly.**
- **Don't forget to take all of your litter home with you.**

To find out more about the wildlife and habitats of Langstone Harbour please visit:

www.langstoneharbour.org.uk

summer wildlife



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