



## 1. Introduction

## **SOLENT WATERFRONT STRATEGY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report is the principal output of a commission from SEEDA to Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd (“Adams Hendry”), Atkins and Marina Projects Ltd (“MPL”) to produce a strategy for marine industries in and around the Solent.
- 1.2 In the report, we use the term ‘marine industries’ to describe activities, not necessarily industrial in the traditional sense, that require a coastal location or depend on, or are linked in a significant way to those that do. When we refer to ‘the Solent’ we mean the land and water between, and including, Chichester Harbour in the east and Hurst Spit in the west, also including the northern shore of the Isle of Wight. As the influences of marine industry are not confined to the coast, we have not set a fixed inland boundary.

#### **The Consultant Team and the Steering Group**

- 1.3 Atkins have taken the lead in recording and analysing the existing and future economic significance of the marine industry within the Solent waterfront. MPL have provided guidance on the leisure marine sector. Adams Hendry have dealt with planning policy, carried out the face-to-face interviews and brought together and edited the report.
- 1.4 The consultant team was commissioned in April 2007. The work has been overseen by a Steering Group whose membership has wide ranging experience of marine industries and policy making. A list of the members of the Steering Group is attached as Appendix 1. The consultant team met with the Steering Group regularly to share initial findings, discuss progress generally and receive guidance. The consultant team gratefully acknowledge the Group’s advice. However, the consultant team take responsibility for the views, analysis and conclusions presented in this report.

#### **Our approach**

- 1.5 As our brief requires, we have combined fact-finding and consultation with analysis, leading to conclusions and recommendations. Fact-finding tasks included a review of existing literature, a study of existing policies that apply to marine industries, and the identification and recording of key strategic sites for marine industries. A telephone survey of marine industries was undertaken to which 480 companies responded. The consultant team are grateful to those who helped in this way. The telephone survey was supplemented by 23 face-to-face interviews with representatives of a range of marine industries, local authorities and government agencies. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of those we met, which have enabled us to obtain a clear view of the contribution that marine industries make to the Solent’s economy, their prospects, and the challenges they face.
- 1.6 Two events for marine industries were held during the study. An introductory presentation at Southampton Football Club’s St Mary’s Stadium on 27 April 2007, to which there was a general invitation to marine industries. This event

was attended by over 50 delegates. Some 30 invited representatives of the industry attended a participatory workshop at the Portsmouth Marriott Hotel on 5 July 2007 to discuss the potential global economic, environmental and land use changes (or future scenarios) that could arise over the next 10 – 20 years and to assess the future economic implications for the marine industry. Notes summarising the proceedings are included as Appendix 4.