



Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Horizons Summer Report 2022



National Marine Park Horizons Project - Summer Report 2022

The National Marine Park has engaged with over **162,000** people and connected with over **2.3 million** people!

At all of our events during our busy summer of activities we asked people for their thoughts on the National Marine Park - what they enjoyed and how they would like to see the Park develop.

In this stage of the project, we can test and trial ways to make the NMP even better and ensure more people enjoy the fantastic blue spaces around Plymouth, your ideas are essential!

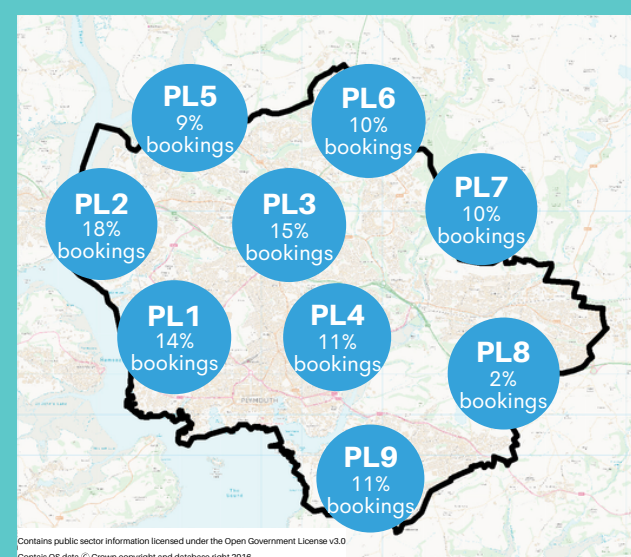


The Big Blue Splash was a celebration of Plymouth Sound with over 30 providers offering a chance explore and discover activities in the area for free, from charcoal drawings to sailing and SUP Yoga

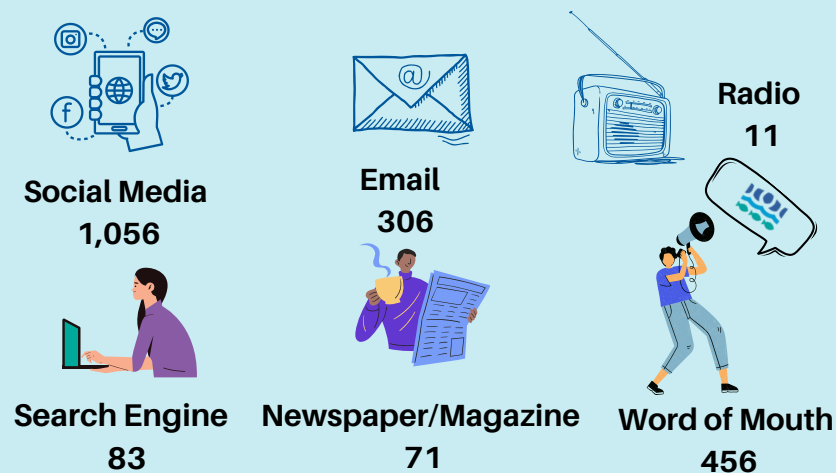
Half the tickets were offered to the wider public and the other half were offered to community groups, but people could also turn up on the day.

74% people tried an activity for the first time in this free event!

Bookings by postcode



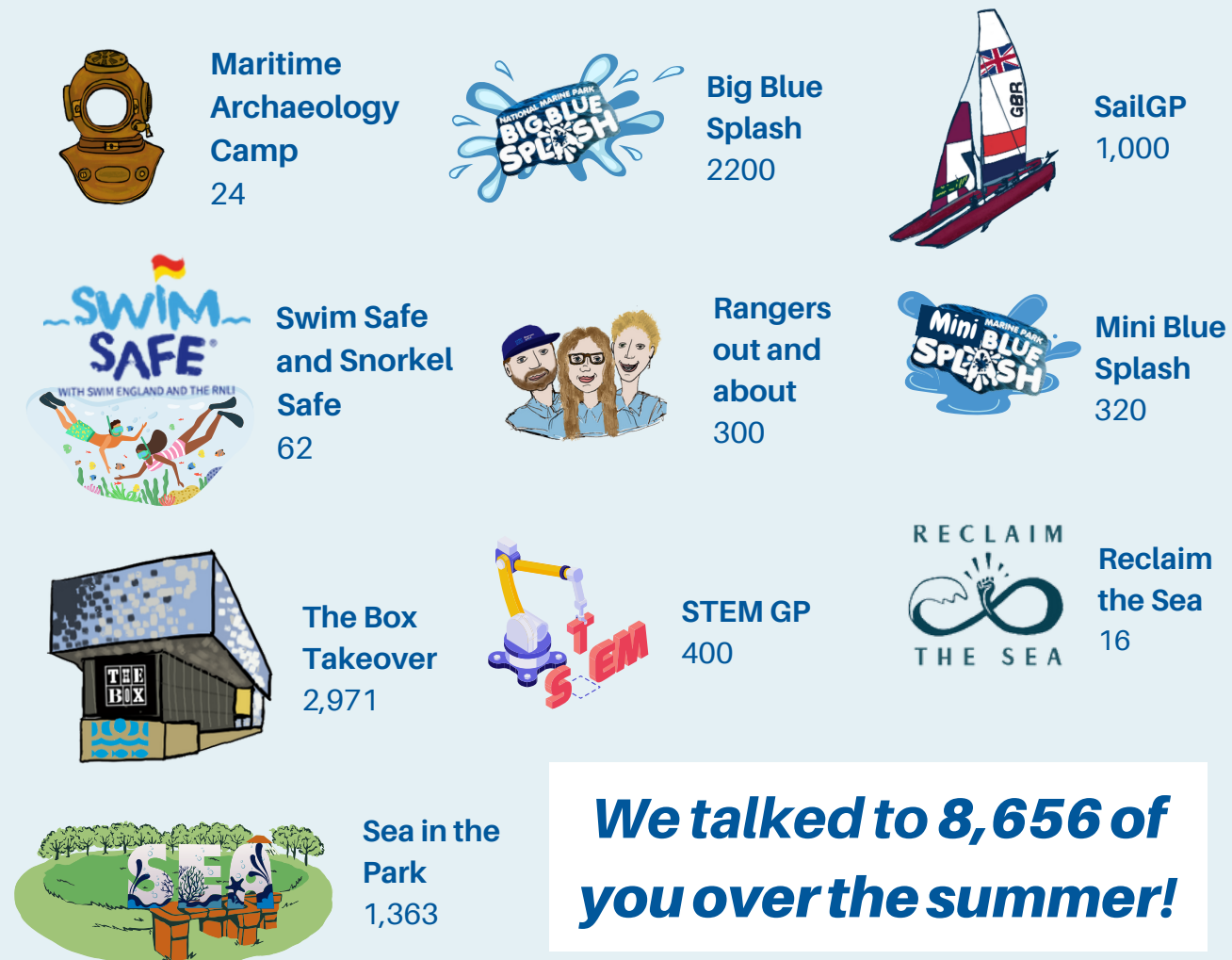
How people heard about the Big Blue Splash



Other 104

Billboard adverts, Brittany Ferries, Community groups, Friends and Family, Posters, Schools, Tourist Information Centre, Work and Website.

Where we spoke to you



We talked to 8,656 of you over the summer!

Great British Sail Grand Prix

30,000 estimated spectators across the land and water.

51m views of SailGP in Plymouth on TikTok

2 mentions an hour for the National Marine Park on Sky Sports throughout the live broadcast (25 million subscribers)

1,137 young people directly involved in the Inspire programme, including 225 children and adults with additional needs

Over 350 students took part in the two-day STEM GP event at Tinside Lido

150 young people will be gaining sailing qualifications as part of the Legacy programme

6 organisations took part in the Blue/Green village with around 1,000 people actively taking part and providing feedback for the NMP/Horizons.

600 free tickets for community groups including looked-after children

What we learnt

It has been great working with our partners and talking to you to see how new ideas and different types of events have worked.

What you told us that you enjoyed the most:

- **Trying new things** - from SUP Yoga to charcoal art workshops.
- **Feeling good and sleeping well** after spending time by the NMP.
- That the events were free and the **NMP is free and open for all**.
- Making **new memories**.
- The **feeling of freedom** yet being **connected to nature**.

You also told us your top 5 barriers to getting involved with the NMP:

- Knowing **where to go**, the different venues and what is on offer **there and when**.
- The **cost** of getting to the NMP, whether bus, ferry, walk or car.
- The lack of **access to kit** such as wetsuits, snorkels, buoyancy aids etc. to borrow rather than buy.
- **Fear of the unknown** - trying new things, putting a wetsuit on, feeling silly, not having the correct equipment, sharks in the water, not being able to swim, want to do if they got into trouble in the water, lack of lifeguards.
- **Wanting to enjoy the NMP** but not in an active, getting wet way, and feeling **there is no dry option**.

So, what now?

- This is the **Park in the Sea and belongs to you all**; we are taking your feedback and co-creating an autumn/winter programme of activities and events.
- We will also be **curating an activity plan for the project for the next 5 years** based on your feedback. It will be full of exciting, calm, wet, dry, accessible events that will enable as many people as possible to get involved.
- The feedback will **inform the physical changes** we will make to our gateways to enable more people to access the NMP.
- We are creating a **digital gateway** bringing the Park to life through technology, allowing you to see the treasures of the Sound without getting wet.
- More details to follow of how you can help!



"I came to a session in the Lido with my community group, I enjoyed the activity so I was invited to do my school work experience with the company doing the activity. I now want to do my apprenticeship with them"

Year 10 student from Stonehouse



"My daughter has SEND, she went rockpooling and I got to sit on the beach, quietly, with a rare hot cup of tea, and watch her. I felt so relaxed. I was able to breathe. She slept so well that night; none of the usual bedtime battles. We both felt refreshed ready for the next day."

Mum from Plympton



"I was only volunteering for one day, but I have had a lot of fun, I asked to volunteer again. I am learning about Plymouth by volunteering for the NMP."

New resident to Prince Rock



"We had the best time. My children were able to do something they've never done before. It was amazing!"

Dad from Efford



"We have come to every session each week and it is really lovely to have free workshops for children where they can learn and have fun. We are loving them. Thank you."

Carer from Lipson

