

Inland waters: native fauna

Population trends and percentage threatened

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018



STATEWIDE



Trend
Getting worse



Condition
Fair



Reliability
Fair

Trend

The statewide trend in populations of inland water native fauna is getting worse.

This report card is based on expert assessments of abundance and distribution of 171 taxa, across seven groups, that are considered to be inland water native fauna. Notable taxa include black swan, water rat, Murray cod, southern bell frog and long-necked tortoise.

Population trends are stable in five natural resources management regions (Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges [AMLR], Alinytjara Wilurara [AW], Eyre Peninsula [EP], Kangaroo Island [KI] and South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL]) and getting worse in three regions (Northern and Yorke [NY], South Australian Murray–Darling Basin [SAMDB] and South East [SE]) (top figure).

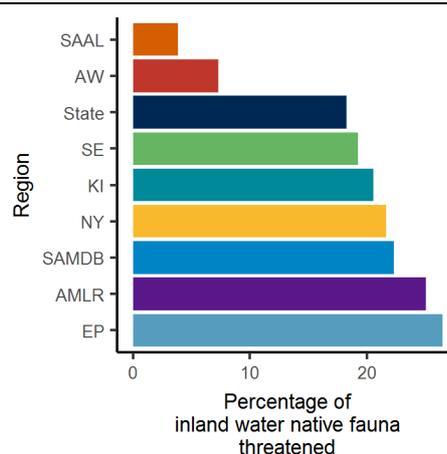
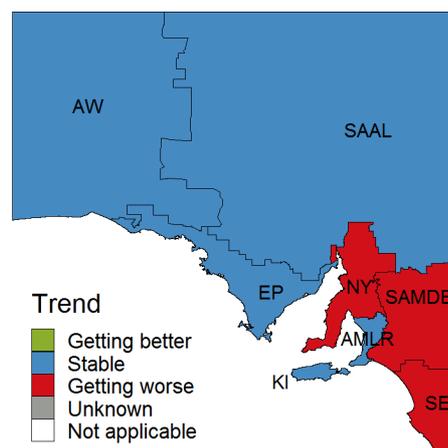
The fair reliability score for this assessment is due to the data being relatively aged, limited in scope and availability, and largely based on expert opinion.

Condition

The percentage of inland water native fauna considered to be threatened statewide is fair when compared with a worldwide benchmark.

Species with a conservation rating of regionally extinct, critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable are considered threatened. An estimated 18% of inland water native fauna are threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 25% in AMLR (fair), 7% in AW (fair), 27% in EP (fair), 21% in KI (fair), 22% in NY (fair), 4% in SAAL (good), 22% in SAMDB (fair) and 19% in SE (fair) (bottom figure).

The statewide trend in populations of inland water native fauna is getting worse because of a range of ongoing pressures



Why is inland water native fauna important?

Inland water native fauna is an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Species such as black swan and Murray cod are iconic, while many species are found nowhere else on Earth. The inland water native fauna improves ecosystem health through predation and support of ecological food webs and provides economic value to fishing industries.

Native fauna is an integral element of how people connect with nature. Landscapes with high species diversity also provide mental and physical health benefits.

What are the pressures?

Inland water native fauna is particularly threatened by changes to water flows and quality. It is also threatened by land clearance, habitat degradation and fragmentation, the introduction of weeds and pest animals, inappropriate fishing and farming practices, and pollution. A changing climate adds to these pressures.

What is being done?

Legislation protects habitat for inland water native fauna by protecting native vegetation and guiding the sustainable management of water resources.

Inland water native fauna is also supported by activities such as: community engagement, restoring more natural patterns of flow and water level, reducing nutrient and sediment run-off, controlling feral animals and weeds, and fencing stream edges.

For further information see: [technical information](#)



This report is a work in progress. As resource monitoring improves, so too will our ability to describe trends in condition. Licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#). © Crown in right of the State of South Australia.



Government of
South Australia