

# 2013 State Report Card

## Are South Australia's marine parks effective in protecting marine habitats and species?

The marine environment regulates our climate, supports regional tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture and shipping, and has significant cultural value for Aboriginal people. Marine ecosystems are under increasing pressure from population growth, coastal development, mining exploration, land-based pollution and fishing.

Some of our marine life is found nowhere else on earth. The waters of southern Australia contain more varieties of marine life than the Great Barrier Reef. Our marine parks aim to protect a wide variety of marine species and habitats including:

- Over 720 fish species and 1200 species of marine algae
- 80 per cent of the world's population of Australian sea lions
- The world's smallest live bearing starfish
- The largest known breeding aggregation of giant cuttlefish
- Feeding and breeding grounds for several whale species
- Some of the largest mangrove forests and seagrass meadows in southern Australia
- The Coorong and Murray Mouth estuary, part of an internationally listed wetland of global importance
- Cold water coral assemblages
- Giant kelp forests



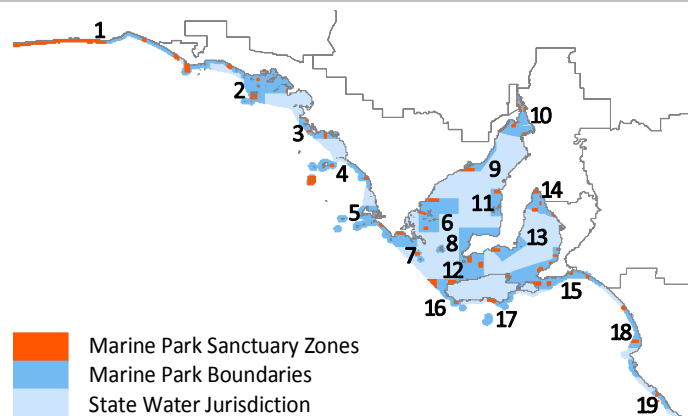
State target

Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems

<b>Trend</b>	Unknown	Trends in the condition of species and habitats will be available in the future
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The network of 19 marine parks was set up to protect 26,655 square kilometres (44 per cent of the State's waters) and 267 square kilometres of coastal land and islands (map on right).

A Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Program has commenced, and will assess trends in the condition of the key ecological, environmental, cultural and socio-economic resources in each marine park. Information from the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Program will be used to assess the effectiveness of the marine park management plans, which aim to protect marine habitats and species.



<b>Where we are at (2013)</b>	Good	The monitoring of our marine parks has commenced
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The parks are divided into multiple-use zones, which provide four levels of protection based on the activities permitted within each zone. Zones are designated as: General Managed Use; Habitat Protection; Sanctuary Zones and Restricted Access Zones. Sanctuary Zones and Restricted Access Zones comprise 6 per cent of State waters.

The marine parks were established in November 2012 and restrictions on activities other than fishing began in March 2013. Fishing restrictions within marine parks take effect in October 2014.

Reliability of information



Excellent

Further information: [Technical information for this report card](#), [Marine parks information](#)

