

Established invasive species abundance and distribution



Biodiversity | Coastal and marine

South Australia's environmental trend and condition report cards 2023



PRESSURE

Trend

The trend in the abundance and distribution of established coastal and marine invasive species in South Australia is stable.

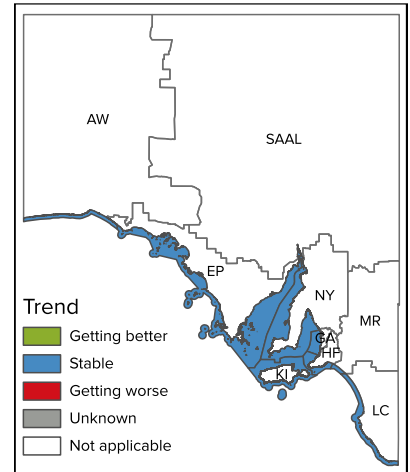
There was limited further spread of established exotic species from 2019–2022. Established aquatic plant species such as *Caulerpa taxifolia* continued to be present in the Port River and Barker Inlet, while *Caulerpa racemosa* remains present in the Port River and Barker Inlet and isolated locations along the metropolitan coast. The established crab species, green shore crab, remains isolated to Gulf St Vincent. Pacific oyster remains established at Port Adelaide, Coffin Bay, Port Lincoln, Yorke Peninsula and Thevenard, and is limited at Kangaroo Island.

Condition

The statewide condition of established coastal and marine invasive species abundance and distribution is rated as good.

Information on the spread of established marine invasive species is based on limited data and relies primarily on public reporting. Based on this reporting, most species have not spread past the localised area they have historically been reported in.

Abundance and distribution of established marine invasive species is stable in South Australia.



Why is managing coastal and marine invasive species important?

Marine invasive species can cause ecological, social and economic harm. Marine pests can affect biodiversity (e.g. compete with native species), damage coastal areas and structures, restrict access to waterways and marine infrastructure, spread disease, and impact human health.

Biosecurity is important to prevent the introduction and spread of pest animals, plants and disease. The impact of invasive marine species can be devastating to our seafood industries and environments.

What are the drivers?

Marine invasive species can disperse beyond their natural range and become established naturally or by human activity, either deliberate or accidental. The primary means of introduction is through biofouling and ballast water. With increasing trade, shipping transport and development, the risk of new incursions is high.

Changes in climate can also alter the distribution and abundance of pests and diseases, and the severity and frequency of outbreaks.

What is being done?

Marine biosecurity is managed through the prevention, control and management of marine pests in South Australia. Activities include industry and community education, monitoring, regulating high-risk species, management of introduction pathways including ballast water and biofouling, enforcing quarantine measures and developing response measures (e.g. eradication or containment) in the event a new marine pest is detected.

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



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