

Native fauna: percentage declining



Biodiversity | Coastal and marine

South Australia's environmental trend and condition report cards 2023



STATE

Trend

The percentage of coastal and marine native fauna species declining is stable, but this trend has poor reliability.

This assessment is based on results for 96 of 165 coastal and marine native fauna species. Notable examples include southern right whale, bottlenose dolphin, little penguin and Australian sea lion. This report card includes analyses of unstructured data to try to maximise the number of species able to be assessed. The low reliability score reflects potential biases and limitations of this approach, which was still only able to assess 58.2% of species. Note that this assessment does not include any invertebrates or marine fishes.

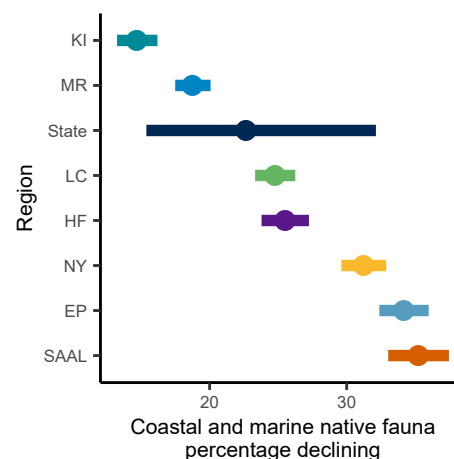
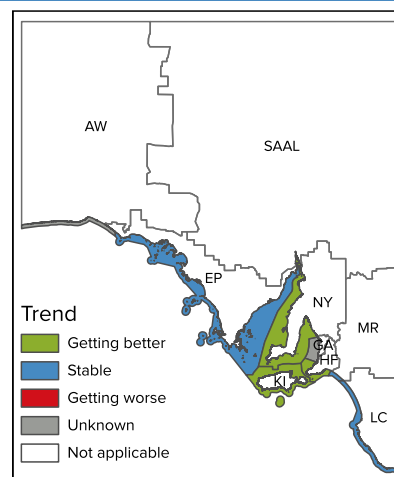
When compared to a 2002 baseline, this 2022 assessment indicates the percentage of species showing a declining trend is getting better in 4 regions (Hills and Fleurieu (HF), Kangaroo Island (KI), Northern and Yorke (NY) and South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL)), stable in 3 regions (Eyre Peninsula (EP), Murraylands and Riverland (MR) and Limestone Coast (LC)) and unknown in 2 regions (Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) and Green Adelaide (GA)) (top figure).

Condition

The estimated percentage of coastal and marine native fauna species declining is 22.6%, however the condition is rated as unknown as there are no agreed benchmarks.

Species were defined as 'declining' if the rate at which they were recorded showed a greater than 90% chance of a reduction, between 2002 and 2022. An estimated 22.6% of coastal and marine native fauna are declining in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 14.7% for KI, 18.7% for MR, 24.8% for LC, 25.5% for HF, 31.2% for NY, 34.2% for EP and 35.2% for SAAL (bottom figure).

The percentage of coastal and marine native fauna species declining is stable, but this trend has poor reliability.



Why are coastal and marine native fauna important?

The state's coastal and marine native fauna is an integral part of First Nations cultures and an important part of South Australia's biodiversity. Species such as the southern right whale are iconic. 85% of southern Australia's marine species occur nowhere else in the world. The state's native fauna is important to marine industries such as commercial fishing. Collectively, coastal and marine native fauna helps people connect with nature, providing mental and physical health benefits, and are important for nature-based tourism.

What are the pressures?

Coastal and marine native fauna can be impacted by inappropriate development, pollution, invasive species, habitat loss and fragmentation, fishing, interaction with commercial fisheries and climate change.

What is being done?

State and national legislation and land use planning measures provide some protection for coastal and marine native fauna, and their habitats, from development, damage and clearing. Implementation of the Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan is improving habitat for coastal and marine native fauna by reducing nutrient and sediment inputs to Adelaide coastal waters. The commercial fishing industry works with government to minimise impacts on coastal and marine native fauna. Threatened species recovery initiatives activities help protect coastal and marine native fauna.

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