

2014 Regional Snapshot

Is the condition of our subtidal reefs improving?

The marine environment provides valuable resources for regional economies, supporting tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, shipping and mining. Most South Australians live near the coast and many coastal and marine systems are under pressure from human impacts.

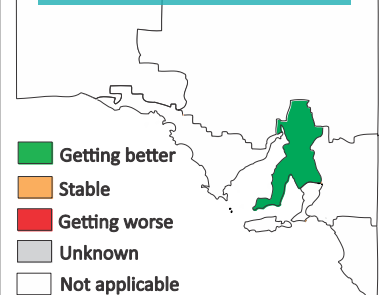
This report card measures the condition of subtidal reefs in the Northern and Yorke NRM region. Reefs are formed from rocky outcrops and provide habitat for invertebrates, algae and fish. Many of these plants and animals are unique to South Australia.

Reefs are threatened by declining water quality due to increases in nutrients, pollutants, sediment loads and turbidity. These are caused by freshwater inputs from stormwater, treated sewage, seepage and agricultural runoff as well as industrial discharges and aquaculture. Physical disturbance, sedimentation, impacts of dredging, introduced marine pests, anchor damage, illegal harvesting and fishing are also threats.

Improvement of reef condition requires management of water quality within catchments, and management of marine pests and physical disturbance.



Trend in the condition of subtidal reefs



State target

Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems

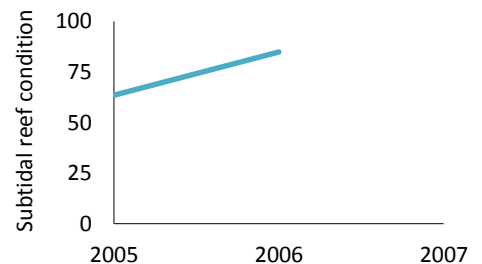
Trend (2005-06)

Getting better

Ongoing efforts will be needed to monitor and protect our subtidal reefs

Studies of subtidal reefs in the Northern and Yorke NRM region indicate that the condition of reefs improved between 2005 and 2006 (graph on right). Most studies of subtidal reef condition have focused on reefs of southern Yorke Peninsula. Information on the condition of subtidal reefs on northern Yorke Peninsula and upper Spencer Gulf is lacking.

The area (extent) of subtidal reefs in Northern and Yorke NRM region is the fourth largest of any region in South Australia.



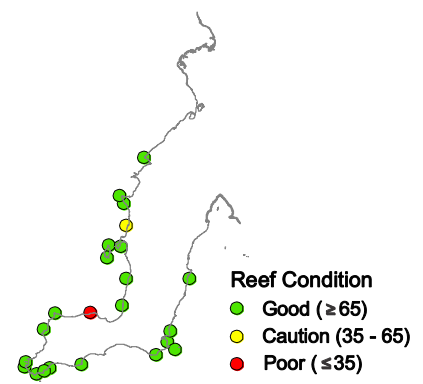
Where we are at (2006)

Good

Subtidal reefs in southern Yorke Peninsula are in good condition

In the Northern and Yorke NRM region, subtidal reefs of southern Yorke Peninsula were in good condition in 2006, with a condition score of 85 out of 100 (100 represents pristine, undisturbed condition) (map on right). Information on the trends in the condition of subtidal reefs in other areas of the region is lacking.

Information collected by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Reef Watch (coordinated by Conservation Council SA) and ReefLife (University of Tasmania) is being assessed for future reporting across South Australia.



Reliability of information



Very good

Further information:

[Technical information for this report](#), [ReefLife survey information](#), [Reef Watch information](#)