

Coastal and marine: 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 coastal and marine native fauna is getting worse.

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 174 taxa, across six groups, that are considered to be coastal and marine native fauna. Marine fishes are not included in this assessment. Notable taxa include southern right whale, bottlenose dolphin, little penguin and Australian sea lion.

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

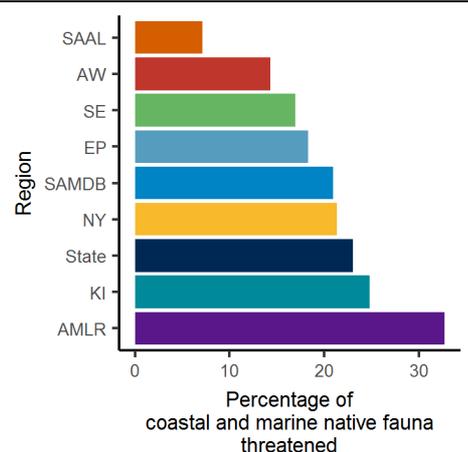
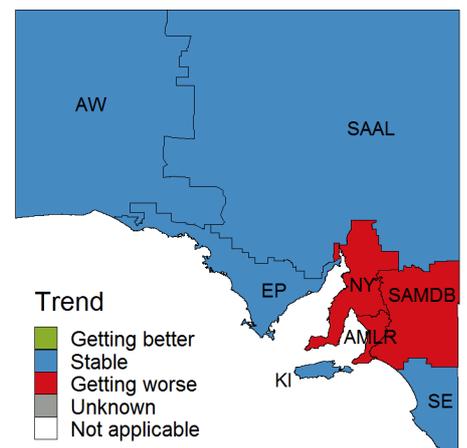
The fair reliability score for this assessment is due to the data being relatively aged, limited in scope and availability, and largely based on expert opinion.

Condition

The percentage of coastal and marine 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 23% of coastal and marine native fauna is threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 33% in AMLR (fair), 14% in AW (fair), 18% in EP (fair), 25% in KI (fair), 21% in NY (fair), 7% in SAAL (fair), 21% in SAMDB (fair) and 17% in SE (fair) (bottom figure).

Populations of coastal and marine native fauna are getting worse in parts of the state with the highest population and development



Why are coastal and marine native fauna important?

South Australia's coastal and marine native fauna, including southern right whale and Australian sea lion, are iconic. Their conservation is central to the maintenance of natural heritage.

Collectively, coastal and marine native fauna help people connect with nature, providing mental and physical health benefits, as well as attracting people to visit South Australia.

What are the pressures?

Pressures on coastal and marine native fauna include 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 protects coastal and marine native fauna and their habitats from inappropriate development, damage and clearing.

Implementation of the Adelaide 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.

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



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