

Fish stocks



Proportion of stocks sustainable

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018

STATEWIDE



Trend
Stable



Condition
Good



Reliability
Excellent

Trend

The proportion of fish stocks that are classified as sustainable has remained stable at about 76% since 2012.

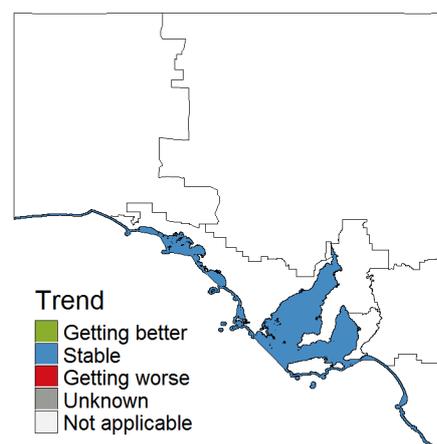
This report compares fish stocks between 2012 and 2018. The proportion of fish stocks classified as sustainable in this period has remained stable (76%, top figure). Three stocks were classified as overfished in 2012 and 2018 (Port River mud cockle and southern garfish in northern Spencer and St Vincent gulfs in 2012; Port River mud cockle, northern Gulf St Vincent southern garfish and Coorong black bream in 2018). Depleting stocks increased from two stocks in 2012 to seven stocks in 2018. The additional stocks considered to be depleting include southern rock lobster, blacklip and greenlip abalone and King George whiting (bottom figure). Depleting stocks are not overfished, but this status provides a trigger for management action to prevent overfishing and these stocks becoming overfished. The status for all South Australian fish stocks will be updated in December 2018 as part of the Status of Australian Fish Stocks Reports. This will include a revised classification framework.

Condition

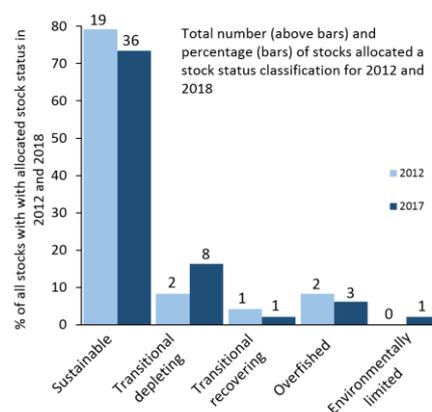
Condition of fish stocks in 2018 is good.

The latest stock assessments indicate that 37 out of 49 fishery stocks are currently sustainable.

There are seven depleting stocks. Two finfish stocks and one mollusc stock are currently overfished. Garfish in the northern Spencer Gulf is assessed as recovering following previously being overfished. Flounder in the Coorong is classified as environmentally limited, where environmental conditions are limiting stock recovery.



In South Australia, 76% of fishery stocks are classified as sustainable; three stocks are overfished



Why are fish stocks important?

Maintaining healthy fisheries is an important part of maintaining healthy marine ecosystems and supporting local industries and communities.

South Australia's fisheries support regional economies, tourism, and commercial and recreational fishers. About one in five South Australians go fishing each year, and in 2014–15, commercial fishers caught 45,000 tonnes of seafood, valued at \$245 million.

What are the pressures?

Natural variations in recruitment, environmental conditions and fishing pressure all affect the status of fish stocks. Improvements in technology are increasing the catch potential for recreational and commercial fishers.

Other pressures include climate change, coastal development and pollution. These pressures can directly impact habitats, such as mangroves and seagrass, that support fish stocks.

What is being done?

The seven fish stocks classified as depleting are being managed to promote their recovery. For example, commercial licence reductions, gear controls, spatial and temporal fishing closures, and reduced recreational limits have been used to improve southern garfish stocks, and an annual spatial spawning closure for King George whiting was implemented in May 2017. Western Zone Abalone fishery licence holders have voluntarily cut their blacklip abalone harvest since 2015.

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



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