

# Coastal and marine: biosecurity



## Number of incursions

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018

STATEWIDE



### Trend

**The trend in the number of incursions of marine diseases and invasive species detected is stable across South Australia.**

Between 1997 and 2017, up to two finfish or shellfish diseases have been detected each year across the marine waters of the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW), Eyre Peninsula (EP), Northern and Yorke (NY), Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR), South Australian Murray–Darling Basin (SAMDB), Kangaroo Island (KI) and South East (SE) natural resources management regions (bottom figure).

There are low detections of new diseases found in marine mammals, with the most recent reports from 2013 associated with mortalities of dolphins and Australian sea lion pups.

The extent of the invasive algal species, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, continues to increase despite management and education efforts.

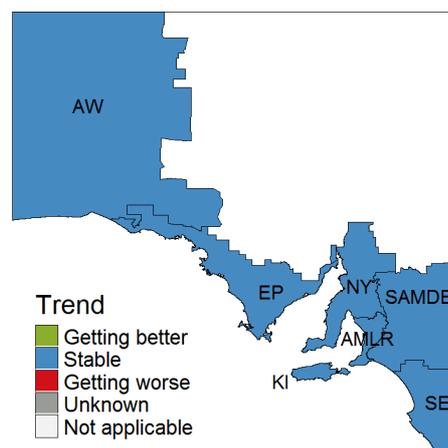
Other marine invasive species have been detected, but there is insufficient information to determine trends.

### Condition

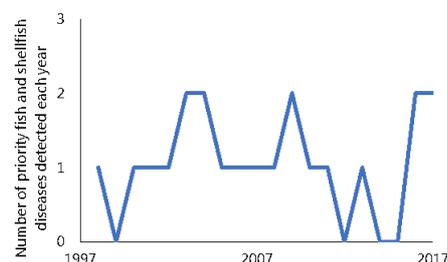
**The condition is rated as good because there were no new incursions of marine diseases and invasive species in 2017.**

Two naturally occurring shellfish diseases were detected in 2017, with limited impacts to South Australia's aquaculture industry.

Ongoing efforts are needed to prevent new incursions and manage existing diseases and invasive species in our coastal and marine environments.



**Biosecurity in South Australia's coastal and marine environment is stable, with no new diseases or invasive species detected in 2017**



### Why is coastal and marine biosecurity important?

Biosecurity is important to prevent the introduction and spread of pest animals, plants and diseases.

Marine invasive species can affect biodiversity, modify and damage aquatic environments, compete with native flora and fauna for food and habitat, and devastate seafood and aquaculture industries. For example, in 1995 and 1998, an introduced virus killed about 70% of the sardines in South Australia.

### What are the pressures?

Pest animals, pest plants and diseases 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 ballast water and on vessel hulls. 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 in several ways, including industry and community education, monitoring, regulating fisheries translocations and the discharge of ballast water, enforcing quarantine measures, and developing response plans to mitigate the impacts of diseases and invasive species.

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



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Government of South Australia