

Coastal and marine: biosecurity



Number of incursions

SA trend and condition report card 2020

STATEWIDE



Trend
Stable



Condition
Good



Reliability
Very good

Trend

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

Between 1997 and 2019, three or fewer diseases per year have been detected in finfish or shellfish in the marine waters of the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW), Eyre Peninsula (EP), Northern and Yorke (NY), Green Adelaide (GA), Hills and Fleurieu (HF), Murraylands and Riverland (MR), Kangaroo Island (KI) and Limestone Coast (LC) regions.

Low detections of new diseases have been found in marine mammals, with the most recent being in 2013, which was associated with mortalities of dolphins and Australian sea lion pups.

The invasive algae *Caulerpa taxifolia* is isolated to the Port River and Barker Inlet containment area. Minor incursions in other marinas outside this area have been eradicated.

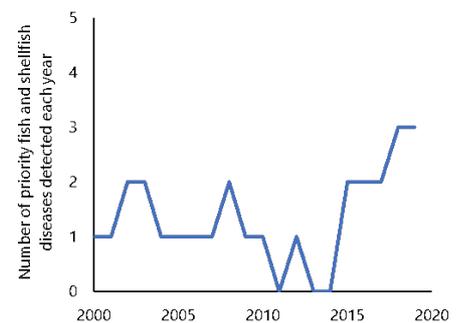
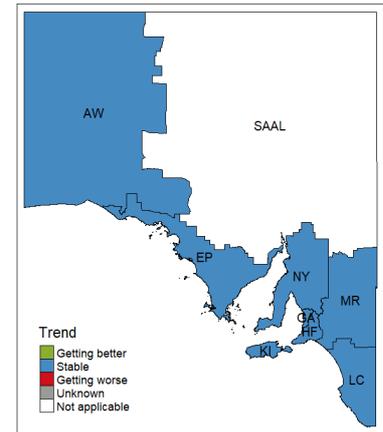
Condition

The condition of marine pests and diseases is rated as good.

Incursions of marine pests and diseases in South Australia are currently controlled and have a low risk of impacting the marine environment and associated industries.

Examples of recent incursions include Pacific oyster mortality syndrome (POMS) and the aggressive Asian paddle crab. POMS was first discovered in the state in feral oysters in the Port River in 2018, and most recently in January 2020. However, commercial oyster-farming areas remain POMS-free. Asian paddle crabs were first detected in 2019. This is an aggressive, non-native species that is not currently established in Australia but has significant potential to do so.

Biosecurity in South Australia's marine environment is stable.



Why is coastal and marine biosecurity important?

Biosecurity is important to prevent the introduction and spread of pest animals, plants and diseases, which can devastate seafood and aquaculture industries, reduce biodiversity and change the ecological structure of natural areas. For example, in 1995 and 1998, an introduced virus killed about 70% of the sardines in South Australia.

What are the pressures?

Pest animals, plants and diseases can disperse beyond their natural range and become established naturally or by human activity, either deliberate or accidental. 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?

The introduction and establishment of new diseases and invasive species is managed through regulating fisheries translocation, enforcing quarantine measures, and ongoing detection and monitoring for high-priority incursions. Response plans for the eradication or containment of detected diseases or invasive species are developed to guide the mitigation of impacts.

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