

Marine protected areas



Marine parks network

SA trend and condition report card 2018

STATEWIDE



Trend
Stable



Condition
Good



Reliability
Excellent

Trend

The status of protection of the marine environment is stable. No changes to protection have occurred since marine parks were fully implemented in 2014.

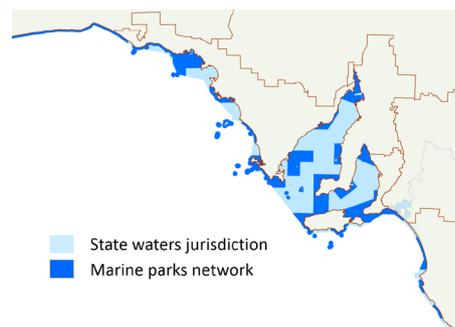
In November 2012, 19 marine parks were established along South Australia's coastline to protect 26,670 square kilometres (44%) of the state's waters, and 267 square kilometres of coastal land and islands (map right).

The marine parks network is made up of multiple-use zones, including general-use zones (13.6% of state waters), habitat protection zones (24.7% of state waters), sanctuary zones (4.9% of state waters) and restricted access zones (1% of state waters). This zoning structure aims to conserve South Australia's marine biodiversity; and provide environmental, economic, recreational and cultural benefits for local communities.

Condition

The protection of the marine environment by marine parks is considered good.

Marine parks are implemented in line with the 19 management plans. Monitoring of a range of sea life, including fish, invertebrates, seagrass and macroalgae in marine parks is under way. Over time, this monitoring will track changes in the abundance, diversity, biomass and population structure of important species within and outside marine parks. Recent findings from South Australia's marine park five-year status report indicate that the marine park network is on track to protect and conserve marine life.



South Australia's marine park protection is stable, with 44% of our waters protected, including 6% highly protected.



Why are marine protected areas important?

South Australia's marine parks network is important for the protection and conservation of our marine life and ecosystems. Marine parks allow for sustainable development and the use of marine resources, and provides opportunities for public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the marine environment.

What are the pressures?

The marine parks network protects marine ecosystems from a range of pressures, including population growth, coastal pollution and development, overfishing, habitat modification, mining exploration, pest species, and climate change.

What is being done?

Restrictions on activities in 83 marine park sanctuary zones have been in place since October 2014. Monitoring for ecological changes is under way, with data inside and outside marine parks being collected.

Marine parks are patrolled to educate the community and ensure compliance, which is critical to the future success of marine parks. In 2016–17, 4,565 patrols were undertaken in marine park sanctuary zones through a combination of shore, boat, aerial and camera patrols.

For further information, see [Technical information](#)



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