

Coastal and marine: native fauna



Population trends and percentage threatened

SA trend and condition report card 2020

STATEWIDE



Trend
Stable



Condition
Fair



Reliability
Fair

Trend

The statewide trend in populations of coastal and marine native fauna is stable.

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 174 taxa, across four groups, that are considered to be coastal and marine native fauna. Only groups in which more than 80% of the taxa have been assessed were analysed. Notable taxa include southern right whale, bottlenose dolphin, little penguin and Australian sea lion.

Population trends are stable in four regions (Alinytjara Wilurara [AW], Kangaroo Island [KI], South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL] and Limestone Coast [LC]), getting worse in four regions (Hills and Fleurieu [HF], Eyre Peninsula [EP], Northern and Yorke [NY], and Murraylands and Riverland [MR]) and unknown in one region (Green Adelaide [GA]) (top figure).

The reliability score reflects that this assessment is based largely on expert opinion, as well as the relative age, limited scope and availability of the data.

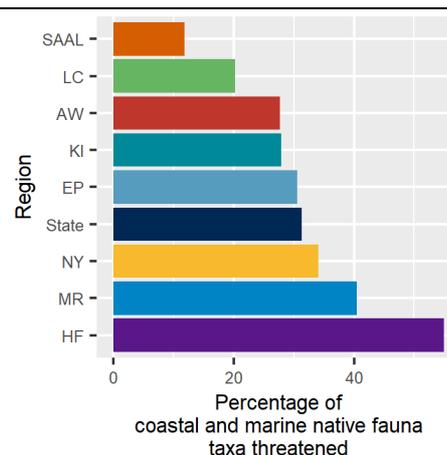
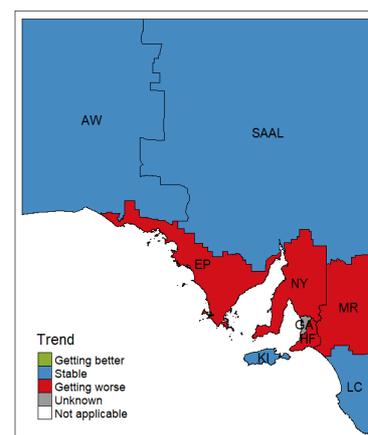
Condition

The percentage of coastal and marine native fauna considered to be threatened is fair when compared with a worldwide benchmark.

Threatened species are those with a conservation rating of regionally extinct, critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable, as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

An estimated 31% of coastal and marine native fauna are threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 55% in HF (poor), 28% in AW (fair), 31% in EP (fair), 28% on KI (fair), 34% in NY (fair), 12% in SAAL (fair), 40% in MR (fair), 20% in LC (fair) and unknown in GA (bottom figure).

The trend in populations of coastal and marine native fauna is getting worse in more developed parts of the state.



Why are coastal and marine native fauna important?

The state's coastal and marine native fauna is an integral part of Indigenous culture, and an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Species such as the southern right whale are iconic, and 85% of southern Australia's marine species occur nowhere else in the world. The state's native fauna is important to marine industries such as commercial fishing. The coastal and marine native fauna helps people connect with nature, providing mental and physical health benefits, and are important for nature-based tourism.

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

What are the pressures?

Coastal and marine native fauna can be adversely affected by 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 provides protection for coastal and marine native fauna, and their habitats, from 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's coastal waters. The commercial fishing industry works with government to minimise effects on coastal and marine native fauna.

Threatened fauna recovery projects can be successful at improving the conservation status of species.



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.



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