

Inland waters: native fauna

Population trends and percentage threatened

SA trend and condition report card 2020



STATEWIDE



Trend
Getting worse



Condition
Fair



Reliability
Good

Trend

The statewide trend in populations of inland water native fauna is getting worse.

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 171 taxa, across five groups, that are considered to be inland water native fauna. Only groups in which more than 80% of the taxa have been assessed were analysed. Notable taxa include black swan, water rat, Murray cod, southern bell frog and long-necked tortoise.

Population trends are stable in five regions (Hills and Fleurieu [HF], Alinytjara Wilurara [AW], Eyre Peninsula [EP], Kangaroo Island [KI] and South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL]), getting worse in three regions (Northern and Yorke [NY], Murraylands and Riverland [MR], and Limestone Coast [LC]) 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.

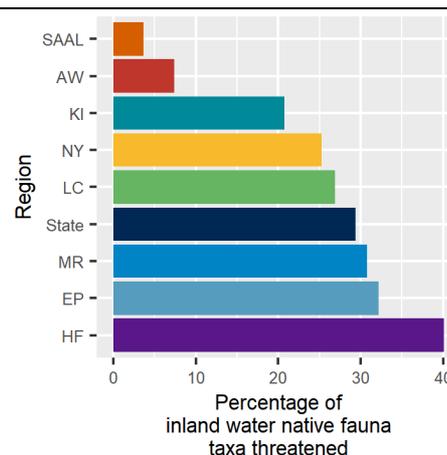
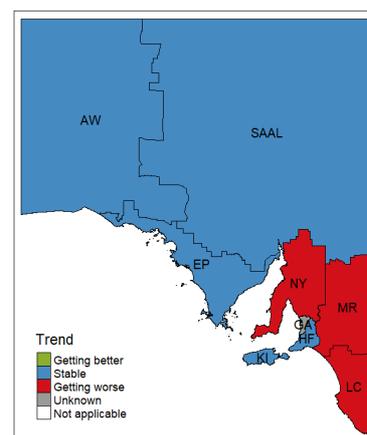
Condition

The percentage of inland water 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 30% of inland water native fauna is threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 40% in HF (fair), 7% in AW (fair), 32% in EP (fair), 21% on KI (fair), 25% in NY (fair), 4% in SAAL (good), 31% in MR (fair), 27% in LC (fair) and unknown in GA (bottom figure).

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Why is inland water native fauna important?

Inland water native fauna is an integral part of Indigenous culture and an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Species such as Murray cod are iconic, while many species are found nowhere else on Earth. The native fauna of inland waters improves ecosystem health through predation and support of ecological food webs. It also provides economic value to fishing industries. Native fauna is an integral element of how people connect with nature. Landscapes with high species diversity also provide mental and physical health benefits.

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

What are the pressures?

Inland water native fauna is adversely affected by changes to water flows and quality, and extent and fragmentation of habitat. Their abundance can also be affected by habitat degradation and fragmentation, the introduction of weeds and pest animals, fishing and farming practices, and pollution. A changing climate adds to these pressures.

What is being done?

Legislation protects habitat for inland water native fauna by protecting native vegetation and guiding the sustainable management of water resources.

Inland water native fauna is also supported by activities such as community engagement, restoring more natural patterns of flow and water level, reducing nutrient and sediment run-off, controlling feral animals and weeds, and fencing stream edges.

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



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