

2016 State Report Card

Are our recreational and commercial marine fish stocks being used sustainably?

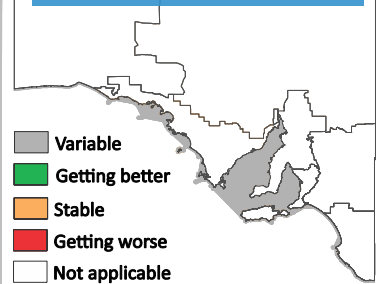
Our fisheries produce premium seafood for local and export markets and feed for our aquaculture industries. Fishing supports employment in the commercial, charter and recreational industries and related businesses and we value fishing for the social, cultural and health benefits it provides.

[Commercial](#) and [recreational](#) fisheries depend on healthy ecosystems. To ensure that wild fish stocks are used sustainably, the government controls the number of fish that can be caught, and manages the impacts of fishing on marine ecosystems. Maintaining our wild fish stocks also relies on management of developments, water quality within catchments and marine pests.

This report card summarises the sustainability of our fish [stocks](#) based on whether they have adequate abundance, recruitment (number of new young fish that enter a stock in a given year) and control of fishing pressure. It should be read alongside other reports on marine [ecosystems](#).



Trends in the sustainability of marine fish stocks



State target

Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (2012–14)

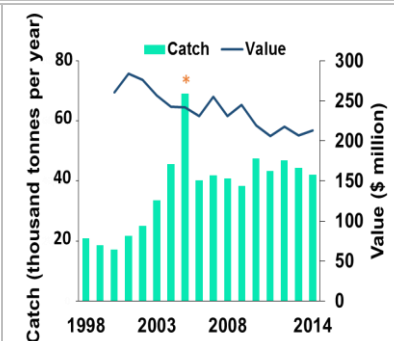
Variable

Trends are getting better for 3 recreational and commercial marine fish stocks, but getting worse for 6 stocks

The [Australian fish stocks reports](#), [PIRSA](#) and [SARDI](#) classify stocks as *sustainable*, *overfished*, or *transitional*. Since 2012, the number of *transitional-depleting* stocks, for which fishing pressure is too high, has increased. *Transitional-depleting* stocks can still be exploited, but catch quotas and size limits for commercial and recreational fisheries require additional management and review.

In 2013–14, commercial fishers caught 42,000 tonnes of seafood, valued at \$213 million (graph on right, which excludes the charter industry). Ninety per cent of both the total catch and value was from rock lobster, greenlip and blacklip abalone, king prawn, sardine and blue swimmer crab.

Over 90 per cent of South Australians live within 50 kilometres of the coast. A [recreational fishing survey](#) conducted by PIRSA indicates that about 1 in 5 South Australians went fishing in 2013–14. Collectively, they fished for about 1 million days and targeted King George whiting, garfish, snapper, Australian herring, Australian salmon, southern calamari and blue swimmer crab. For these species, the recreational catch accounted for 23–58 per cent of the total annual catch.



* In 2005, there was an unusually high catch in the sardine fishery.

Where we are at (2015)

Fair

Out of 41 fish stocks, 19 are *sustainable*, 12 are *transitional*, and 1 is *overfished*

In [2015](#), PIRSA reported that 19 of the 41 stocks were classified as *sustainable* and 12 *transitional-depleting* (table on right).

The 12 stocks that were classified as *transitional-depleting* are being managed to promote their recovery. For example, buy-backs of commercial netting licences and spatial netting closures have been used since 2005 to improve garfish stocks, and a spatial spawning closure for King George whiting will be implemented in May 2017.

Sustainable		Transitional-depleting	Undefined
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian salmon (1 stock) Australian sardine (1 stock) Blacklip abalone (Southern zone) Greenlip abalone (Western zone) Pipi (1 stock) King George whiting (West Coast) Mulloway (Lakes and Coorong) Yelloweye mullet (2 stocks) Southern calamari (1 stock) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue swimmer crab (Gulf St Vincent, Spencer Gulf) Mud cockle (West Coast and Coffin Bay) Snapper (Northern Gulf St Vincent) King prawn (Spencer Gulf, West Coast) Southern rock lobster (Southern and Northern Zone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blacklip abalone (Western & Central zone) Greenlip abalone (Central zone) Southern garfish (Northern Spencer Gulf, Northern Gulf St Vincent) King George whiting (Gulf St Vincent, Spencer Gulf) King prawn (Gulf St Vincent) Snapper (Southern & Northern Spencer Gulf, South East, Southern Gulf St Vincent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue swimmer crab (West Coast) Mulloway (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Snapper (West Coast) Southern garfish (West Coast, Southern Spencer Gulf, Southern Gulf St Vincent, South-East) Greenlip abalone (Southern Zone) Giant crab (1 stock)
		Overfished <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mud cockle (Port River) (Fishery closed since 2011/12) 	

Reliability of information



Excellent for most of our marine fish stocks

Further information: [Technical information for this report card](#), [Archived and recent status of marine fish stocks](#), [Status of SA fisheries report 2012-13](#)

