

Blue lines indicate the area meeting the ISRA Criteria; dashed lines indicate the suggested buffer for use in the development of appropriate place-based conservation measures

LÁTRA END MORaine ISRA

Polar Waters Region

SUMMARY

Látra End Moraine is situated off the west coast of Iceland, between the Látra Bank and Denmark Strait. This area is characterised by sand, silt, and clay substrates. This shelf is influenced by the warm and saline Irminger Current, which has strong seasonal variation in the inflow of Atlantic Water. Within this area there are: **reproductive areas** (Black Dogfish *Centroscyllium fabricii*).

CRITERIA

Sub-criterion C1 - Reproductive Areas

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| — | — |
| ICELAND | — |
| — | — |
| 180–2,550 metres | — |
| — | — |
| 179.3 km² | — |
| — | — |





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Látra End Moraine is located ~400 km off the west coast of Iceland. It is situated between Iceland and Greenland, east of Denmark Strait and west of Látra Bank (Syvitski et al. 1999). It overlaps with the longest shelf moraine on the Icelandic Shelf which is the best-preserved frontal moraine found outside a trough (Spagnolo & Clark 2009). The sediment is a mixture of sand, silt, and clay (Ostmann et al. 2014).

The area is influenced by the Irminger Current which is a warm and saline component of the Atlantic Water inflow in the Nordic Sea (Logemann & Harms 2006; Oskarsson et al. 2009; Zhao et al. 2018). There is seasonal variation in the Atlantic Water transport, with a minimum in the late boreal spring and a maximum in summer (Zhao et al. 2018).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and pelagic and subsurface and is delineated from 180 m to 2,550 m based on the depth range of Qualifying Species.

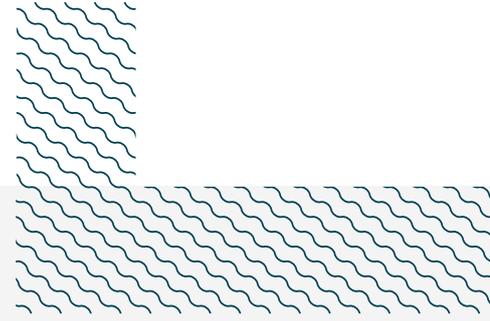
ISRA CRITERIA

SUB-CRITERION C1 – REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Látra End Moraine is an important reproductive area for one shark species.

Icelandic groundfish demersal trawl surveys were undertaken between 2010–2025 around the coast of Iceland (ICES unpubl. data. 2026). Surveys were undertaken across International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) statistical area 27.5.a (covering large proportions of the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone). Clusters of Black Dogfish at early life-stages were caught in distinct areas, suggesting the most suitable habitats for sustaining these animals therein are fragmented in Iceland.

Between 2010–2025, a total of 809 Black Dogfish were recorded in this area. Of these, 34 (4.2%) were classed as neonates/young-of-the-year (YOY) measuring less than or equal to 25 cm total length (TL) (ICES unpubl. data. 2026). The species has a size-at-birth of 15–20 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021). Neonates/YOY were recorded in 2010 (n = 2), 2013 (n = 1), 2014 (n = 1), 2016 (n = 9), 2019 (n = 3), 2020 (n = 2), 2021 (n = 5), 2022 (n = 2), 2023 (n = 4), 2024 (n = 2), and 2025 (n = 3). The majority were caught in October (n = 32), with the other two neonate/YOY individuals being caught in September (ICES unpubl. data. 2026). Although the sample size is relatively small (likely due to fishing gear selectivity), this area hosts 65% of the 52 neonate/YOY Black Dogfish recorded in the broader moraine area, and 28% of the 121 neonate/YOY Black Dogfish recorded across all respective surveys in Iceland (of the 10,488 individuals of all life-stages recorded across the entire survey area; ICES unpubl. data. 2026). This also represents the highest cluster of captures of this species and life-stage from these surveys across Iceland.



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QUALIFYING SPECIES

| Scientific Name | Common Name | IUCN Red List Category | Global Depth Range (m) | ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | A | B | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | C5 | D1 |
| SHARKS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i> | Black Dogfish | LC | 180-2,250 | | | X | | | | | |

SUPPORTING SPECIES

| Scientific Name | Common Name | IUCN Red List Category |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| SHARKS | | |
| <i>Apristurus laurussonii</i> | Iceland Catshark | LC |
| <i>Centrophorus squamosus</i> | Leafscale Gulper Shark | EN |
| <i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i> | Portuguese Dogfish | NT |
| <i>Centroselachus crepidater</i> | Longnose Velvet Dogfish | NT |
| <i>Etmopterus princeps</i> | Great Lanternshark | LC |
| <i>Galeus murinus</i> | Mouse Catshark | LC |
| RAYS | | |
| <i>Amblyraja hyperborea</i> | Arctic Skate | LC |
| <i>Rajella fyllae</i> | Round Skate | LC |
| CHIMAERAS | | |
| <i>Chimaera monstrosa</i> | Rabbitfish | VU |
| <i>Rhinochimaera atlantica</i> | Atlantic Longnose Chimaera | LC |

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories are available by searching species names at www.iucnredlist.org Abbreviations refer to: CR, Critically Endangered; EN, Endangered; VU, Vulnerable; NT, Near Threatened; LC, Least Concern; DD, Data Deficient.





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