

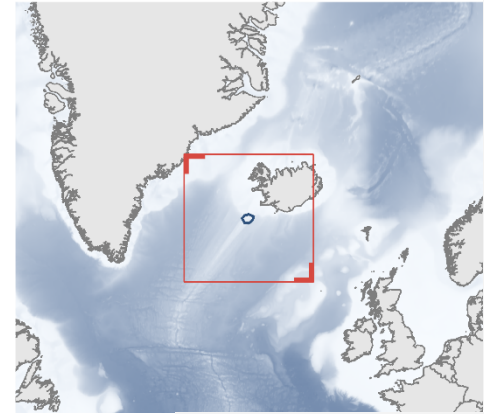
Atlantic Ocean

25.30°W

24.05°W

65.30°N

65.55°N



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

REYKJANES RIDGE ISRA

Polar Waters Region

SUMMARY

Reykjanes Ridge is located off the southern coast of Iceland. The area is situated in the northern part of the ridge, extending within the Reykjanes Peninsula. It is influenced by the Atlantic Water Current, and the warm and saline Irminger Current, which has strong seasonal variation in the inflow of Atlantic Water. Within this area there are: **threatened species** (Velvet Belly Lanternshark *Etmopterus spinax*) and **reproductive areas** (e.g., Longnose Velvet Dogfish *Centroselachus crepidater*).

CRITERIA

Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C1 - Reproductive Areas

ICELAND

110-1,370 metres

3,935 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Reykjanes Ridge is located off the southern coast of Iceland. It is the longest oblique spreading ridge in the world (Höskuldsson et al. 2007). The area includes the northern tip of the ridge, and into Reykjanes Peninsula. It is characterised by numerous volcanic ridges, seamounts, and fault-bounded basins (Höskuldsson et al. 2007).

The area is influenced by the Atlantic Current, and the Irminger Current (Oskarsson et al. 2009). The Irminger Current is a warm and saline (Logemann & Harms 2006) component of the Atlantic Water inflow in the Nordic Sea (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 benthopelagic and subsurface and is delineated from 110 m to 1,370 m based on the depth range of the Qualifying Species in the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

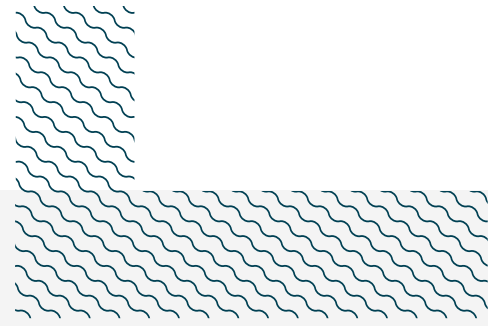
One Qualifying Species considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species regularly occurs in the area. This the Vulnerable Velvet Belly Lanternshark (Finucci et al. 2021).

SUB-CRITERION C1 – REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Reykjanes Ridge is an important reproductive area for two shark species.

Icelandic demersal trawl surveys were undertaken between 1969–2019 around the coast of Iceland in September, October, and November at depths between 109–1,372 m (ICES 2020). Surveys were undertaken across ICES statistical area 27.5.a. Between 2009–2019, 1,885 Longnose Velvet Dogfish were recorded around Iceland: more than half (55.12%; n = 1,039 individuals) were caught in this area. Of these, 61 individuals (5.86%) were determined to be neonates/young-of-the-year (YOY) measuring <36 cm total length (TL) (ICES 2020). The species has an estimated size-at-birth of 28–35 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021).

Between 2018–2021, 2,381 Velvet Belly Lanternshark were collected by the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute during benthic trawl surveys in the spring (March–May) and autumn (September–November) all around Iceland (Mattína et al. 2024). Of these, 136 were determined to be neonates/YOY measuring 12–20 cm TL (K Jakobsitter unpubl. data 2024). In this area, 1,095 individuals were recorded from ten surveys undertaken in this area between 2018–2021. Of these, 114 were determined to be neonates/YOY, which represents 84% of neonates recorded in the MFRI surveys across Iceland. Individuals in this size range were recorded in 2018 (n = 24), 2019 (n = 33), 2020 (n = 37), and 2021 (n = 20). These catches were made in March and October (Mattína et al. 2024). The observations of neonate/YOY animals overlap with the observation of mature females in the final stage of embryo release in warm, southerly waters of Iceland (Mattína et al. 2024).



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QUALIFYING SPECIES

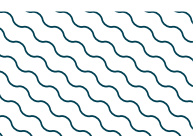
Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met							
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1
SHARKS											
<i>Centroselachus crepidater</i>	Longnose Velvet Dogfish	NT	200-2,080			X					
<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	Velvet Belly Lanternshark	VU	70-2,000	X		X					

SUPPORTING SPECIES



Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Apristurus laurussonii</i>	Iceland Catshark	LC
<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>	Portuguese Dogfish	NT
<i>Centroselachus crepidater</i>	Longnose Velvet Dogfish	NT
<i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i>	Black Dogfish	LC
<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>	Leafscale Gulper Shark	EN
<i>Deania calcea</i>	Birdbeak Dogfish	NT
<i>Etmopterus princeps</i>	Great Lanternshark	LC
<i>Galeus murinus</i>	Mouse Catshark	LC
<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>	Greenland Shark	VU
RAYS		
<i>Rajella fyllae</i>	Round Skate	LC
CHIMAERAS		
<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>	Rabbitfish	VU
<i>Hydrolagus mirabilis</i>	Large-eyed Rabbitfish	LC
<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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