



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

## DAEDALUS REEF ISRA

### Western Indian Ocean Region

#### SUMMARY

Daedalus Reef is an offshore reef platform and seamount found ~90 km off the Red Sea coast of Egypt. The area is characterised by flats and reef walls beside deep and open waters. This area is a marine protectorate. Within this area there are: **threatened species** (e.g., Scalloped Hammerhead *Sphyrna lewini*) and **undefined aggregations** (e.g., Oceanic Whitetip Shark *Carcharhinus longimanus*).

#### CRITERIA

**Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C5 - Undefined Aggregations**

—	—
<b>EGYPT</b>	—
—	—
<b>0-500 metres</b>	—
—	—
<b>45.40 km<sup>2</sup></b>	—
—	—





## DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Daedalus Reef is an isolated reef platform surrounded by deep water, located in the Egyptian Red Sea, ~90 km from the coast. It is characterised by habitats that include shallow flats, reef walls, and open waters (E Bojanowski pers. obs. 2023). The reef walls drop to a depth of 20 m before sloping gently to 40 m. These are dominated by hard and soft corals whereas the slope is sandier with soft corals (Dive Zone 2023). The area is surrounded by open waters to a depth of 500 m. Daedalus Reef is exposed to strong currents, particularly on the western side of the reef (Red Sea Diving 2023a).

Daedalus Reef is a marine protectorate - a preserve of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency.

This Important Shark and Ray Area is pelagic and extends from surface waters (0 m) to 500 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

## ISRA CRITERIA

### CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

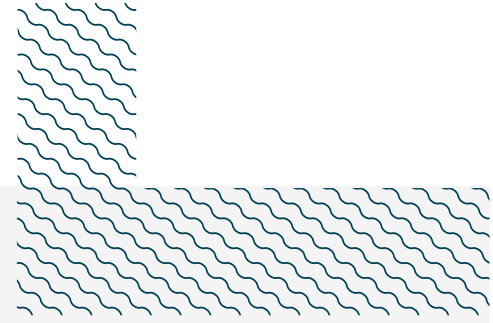
Two Qualifying Species within the area are considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The Oceanic Whitetip Shark and Scalloped Hammerhead are assessed as Critically Endangered (Rigby et al. 2019a, 2019b).

### SUB-CRITERION C5 - UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

Daedalus Reef is an important area for undefined aggregations of two shark species.

Oceanic Whitetip Shark aggregations of up to 23 individuals have been reported around Daedalus Reef based on visual census by divers (E Bojanowski unpubl. data 2023). The mean aggregation size consisted of 3.62 individuals. The high abundance of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks in this area has been documented for more than 15 years (2003-2019) with 330 individuals (185 males, 116 females, and 29 where sex was not determined) identified at Daedalus Reef (E Bojanowski unpubl. data 2023). Oceanic Whitetip Sharks are mainly observed between October and November however, they can be seen in the area as early as May. This is based on 1,080 dives with seasonal differences in effort: high monthly effort from April to November, and low effort from December to March. Further information is required to determine the nature and function of these aggregations.

Scalloped Hammerheads are regularly observed in aggregations of up to 10 individuals around Daedalus Reef. Scalloped Hammerheads have been opportunistically observed by tourists and local tour operators at maximum depths of ~65 metres (E Bojanowski pers. obs. 2023). Scalloped Hammerheads predictably aggregate in this area during the boreal summer (Red Sea Diving 2023b). They are thought to move to deeper waters at night to feed. The predictability of these observations is demonstrated by the regularity and popularity of this dive site; it can be considered one of the few remaining locations in the Red Sea where aggregations of these species can be found (E Bojanowski unpubl. data. 2023). Further information is required to define the nature and function of these aggregations.



---

## **Acknowledgments**

Elke Bojanowski (Red Sea Sharks Trust), Jesse EM Cochran (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology), Eloise B Richardson (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology), Andrew Temple (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology), Michael Berumen (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology), and Ryan Charles (IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group - ISRA Project) contributed and consolidated information included in this factsheet. We thank all participants of the 2023 ISRA Region 7 - Western Indian Ocean workshop for their contributions to this process.

This factsheet has undergone review by the ISRA Independent Review Panel prior to its publication.

This project was funded by the Shark Conservation Fund, a philanthropic collaborative pooling expertise and resources to meet the threats facing the world's sharks and rays. The Shark Conservation Fund is a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

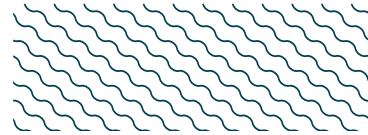
## **Suggested citation**

**IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. 2023.** Daedalus Reef ISRA Factsheet. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.

## QUALIFYING SPECIES

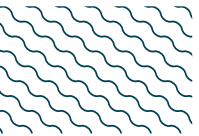
Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met									
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	
<b>SHARKS</b>													
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark	CR	0-1,082	X							X		
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead	CR	0-1,043	X							X		

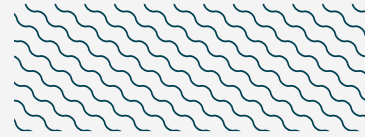
## SUPPORTING SPECIES



Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
<b>SHARKS</b>		
<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic Thresher	VU
<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	Grey Reef Shark	EN
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	VU
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark	EN
<b>RAYS</b>		
<i>Mobula birostris</i>	Oceanic Manta Ray	EN

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





## REFERENCES

**Dive Zone. 2023.** Daedalus Reef dive site. Available at <https://divezone.net/divesite/daedalus-reef> Accessed October 2023.

**Red Sea Diving. 2023a.** Daedalus and Fury Shoals liveaboard trip. Available at <https://www.redsea-diving.com/daedalus-and-fury-shoals-2> Accessed October 2023.

**Red Sea Diving. 2023b.** Marine Park dive sites: Daedalus Reef. Available at <https://www.redsea-diving.com/daedalus-reef/> Accessed October 2023.

**Rigby CL, Barreto R, Carlson J, Fernando D, Fordham S, Francis MP, Herman K, Jabado RW, Liu KM, Marshall A, et al. 2019a.** *Carcharhinus longimanus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2019: e.T39374A2911619. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T39374A2911619.en>

**Rigby CL, Dulvy NK, Barreto R, Carlson J, Fernando D, Fordham S, Francis MP, Herman K, Jabado RW, Liu KM et al. 2019b.** *Sphyrna lewini*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2019: e.T39385A2918526.