

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

MARJAN ISRA

Western Indian Ocean Region

SUMMARY

Marjan is a small area on the eastern side of Kish Island, located in Persian Gulf waters of Hormozgan Province, Iran. The area encompasses very shallow inshore waters and includes coral reefs, sandy substrates, and sandy beaches. Within the area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Blacktip Reef Shark *Carcharhinus melanopterus*).

CRITERIA

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

—	—
IRAN	—
—	—
0-10 metres	—
—	—
1.60 km²	—
—	—





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Marjan is a small area on the eastern side of Kish Island which lies in the Iranian Persian Gulf in Hormozgan Province. The area encompasses very shallow inshore lagoon waters and includes coral reefs, sandy substrates, and sandy beaches.

Most living corals around Kish Island occur in the eastern and southeastern parts of the island, including in the area (Bargahi et al. 2020). The coral community includes colonial corals such as *Porites*, *Platygyra*, and *Acropora* species (Bargahi et al. 2020). Waters of the Persian Gulf experience extreme conditions including high salinity (45 ppt) and variable sea surface temperatures, ranging ~11°C in winter to ~36°C in summer (Sheppard et al. 2010; Bargahi et al. 2020).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthopelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 10 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

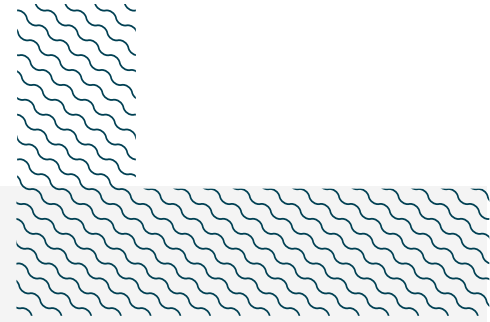
CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

The one Qualifying Species within the area is considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The Blacktip Reef Shark is assessed as Vulnerable (Simpfendorfer et al. 2020).

SUB-CRITERION C5 - UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

Marjan is an important area for undefined aggregations of one shark species.

Each year from March to April, Blacktip Reef Sharks aggregate in groups of up to >30 individuals in depths as shallow as <1 m depth on the eastern coast of Kish Island. These aggregations have been observed annually since 2013 (HR Bargahi & M Mohammadi pers. obs. 2013–2023). Individuals are estimated to be ~70–80 cm total length (TL) which equates to an age of 1–2 years (Chin et al. 2013). Blacktip Reef Shark size-at-birth is 33–52 cm TL and size-at-maturity is 91–100 cm TL for males and 96–112 cm TL for females (Ebert et al. 2021). Therefore, these aggregations represent juveniles and are not considered to be for reproduction. Further information is required to understand the function of these aggregations.



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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	D2
SHARKS												
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	Blacktip Reef Shark	VU	0-75	X						X		



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