

*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*

## SIR BU NAIR ISRA

### Western Indian Ocean Region

#### SUMMARY

Sir Bu Nair is a remote island in the southern Arabian/Persian Gulf (hereafter 'Gulf'), United Arab Emirates. This area is subject to localised upwelling events and has large colonies of acroporid corals alongside sandy and hard substrates. This area sits within the Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area, a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site), and is recognised as an Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **reproductive areas** (Blacktip Reef Shark *Carcharhinus melanopterus*).

#### CRITERIA

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

— —  
**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**  
 — —

— —  
**0-30 metres**  
 — —

— —  
**97.84 km<sup>2</sup>**  
 — —





## DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Sir Bu Nair is an offshore island in the southeastern Gulf in United Arab Emirates (UAE) waters. Waters around this island undergo local small-scale upwelling events in summer, which can keep temperatures lower than what is observed in the coastal waters of the UAE (Cavalcante et al. 2020).

The area is surrounded by coral reef habitats, mainly branching corals, in shallow waters, with coral colonies being more predominant in adjacent slopes to 15-20 m depth (Mateos-Molina et al. 2020). Reefs in Sir Bu Nair have extensive tabular colonies of acroporid corals interspersed with densely spaced coral composed mainly of *Porites* spp; Bejarano et al. 2022).

This area sits within the Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area, a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site), and is recognised as an Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area.

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthopelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 30 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

## ISRA CRITERIA

### CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

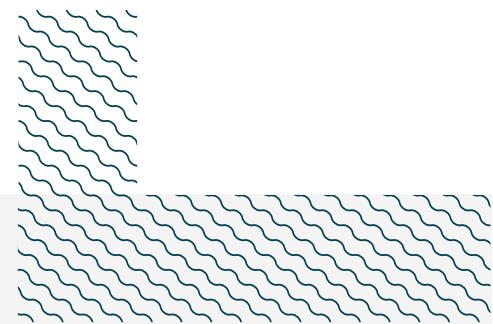
The one Qualifying Species within the area is considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The Blacktip Reef Shark is assessed as Vulnerable (Simpfendorfer et al. 2020).

### SUB-CRITERION C<sub>1</sub> – REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Sir Bu Nair is an important reproductive area for one shark species.

Blacktip Reef Sharks regularly and predictably occur year-round around the island (Jabado et al. 2021; RW Jabado pers. comms. 2023). Since 2008, neonates and/or young-of-the-year have been observed yearly along the coastline during routine monitoring by researchers or police staff and rangers stationed on the island (RW Jabado pers. comm. 2023). Informal interviews with local police staff and rangers on the island have confirmed, that each boreal spring, solitary individuals, or aggregations of up to 4-5 small Blacktip Reef Sharks of <50 cm total length (TL) can be seen in shallow rocky or sandy coastal locations around the island at depth of <2 m. The estimated size-at-birth for Blacktip Reef Shark is 30-50 cm TL (Chin et al. 2013) and size-at-maturity of both males and females is 90-134 cm TL (Compagno 1984; Last & Stevens 2009). The recurring nature of the observations despite regular staff and ranger turnaround suggests that these sightings are not isolated incidents. Further, in a study using Baited Remote Underwater Video Surveys deployed around the island, Blacktip Reef Sharks (n = 6) recorded were within the estimated size range for juveniles (50-100 cm TL; Jabado et al. 2021).





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## **Suggested citation**

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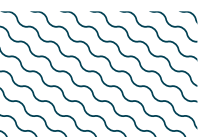
## QUALIFYING SPECIES

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

## SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
<b>RAYS</b>		
<i>Aetobatus ocellatus</i>	Spotted Eagle Ray	EN
<i>Glaucostegus halavi</i>	Halavi Guitarfish	CR
<i>Himantura leoparda</i>	Leopard Whipray	EN
<i>Himantura uarnak</i>	Reticulate Whipray	VU
<i>Pastinachus sephen</i>	Cowtail Ray	NT
<i>Rhinoptera javanica</i>	Javan Cownose Ray	EN
<i>Torpedo sinuspersici</i>	Gulf Torpedo	DD

*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.*





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