



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

SNOOPY ISLAND ISRA

Western Indian Ocean Region

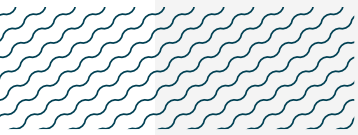
SUMMARY

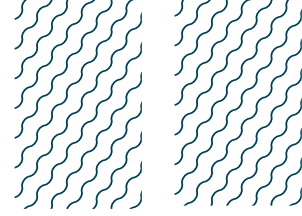
Snoopy Island is located along the coast of the Gulf of Oman in the United Arab Emirates. It is a small rocky outcrop located ~200 m off the coastline with a sandy and rocky seafloor. Snoopy Island lies within the Al Aqah Marine Protected Area. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Blacktip Reef Shark *Carcharhinus melanopterus*).

CRITERIA

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

— —
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
 — —
0-6 metres
 — —
0.02 km²
 — —





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Snoopy Island is located along the coast of the Gulf of Oman in the United Arab Emirates. It is a small rocky island located ~200 m from the coast, with three sections of rising rocks. On the east side of the island, the depth is 2-3 m, and large boulders and brain coral clusters can be found. On the western side, a vertical wall falls to 5-6 m depth with a mix of sandy and rocky substrates (Hellyer & Aspinall 2005).

Snoopy Island lies within the Al Aqah Marine Protected Area.

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthopelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 6 m depth based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

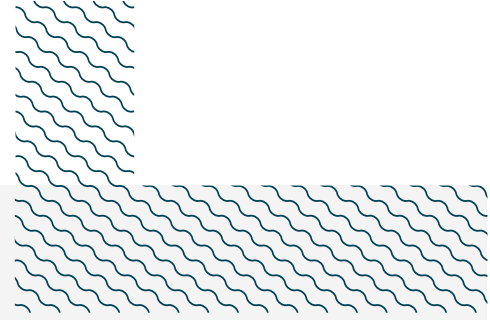
CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

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 Endangered (Rigby et al. 2021).

SUB-CRITERION C5 - UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

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

Blacktip Reef Sharks are regularly and predictably observed aggregating in the area year-round (D Mateos-Molina unpubl. data 2012-2023). Aggregations generally consist of groups of 3-10 individuals ranging in size up to 150 cm total length. These aggregations are seen during daylight hours, with a high frequency of observations by divers (often every day), where the sharks appear to be swimming in circles around the island, remaining over the shallow coral reef habitat. This is the only known regular aggregation of this species across the southern coast of the United Arab Emirates and is a popular dive site (D Mateo-Molina unpubl. data 2023). Further information is required to define the nature and function of these aggregations.



Acknowledgments

Daniel Mateos-Molina (Emirates Nature - WWF) and Théophile L. Mouton (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.

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Suggested citation

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QUALIFYING SPECIES

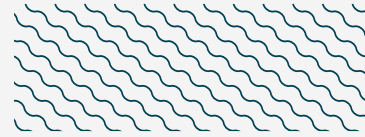
Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met									
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	
SHARKS													
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	Blacktip Reef Shark	O-75	VU	X							X		

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
RAYS		
<i>Gymnura poecilura</i>	Longtail Butterfly Ray	VU
<i>Torpedo sinuspersici</i>	Gulf Torpedo	DD

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.





REFERENCES

Hellyer P, Aspinall S, eds. 2005. *The Emirates: A Natural History. First edition.* Dubai: Trident Press.

Simpfendorfer C, Yuneni RR, Tanay D, Seyha L, Haque AB, Fahmi, Bin Ali A, D, Bineesh KK, Gautama DA, et al. 2020. *Carcharhinus melanopterus.* *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020:* e.T39375A58303674. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-3.RLTS.T39375A58303674.en>