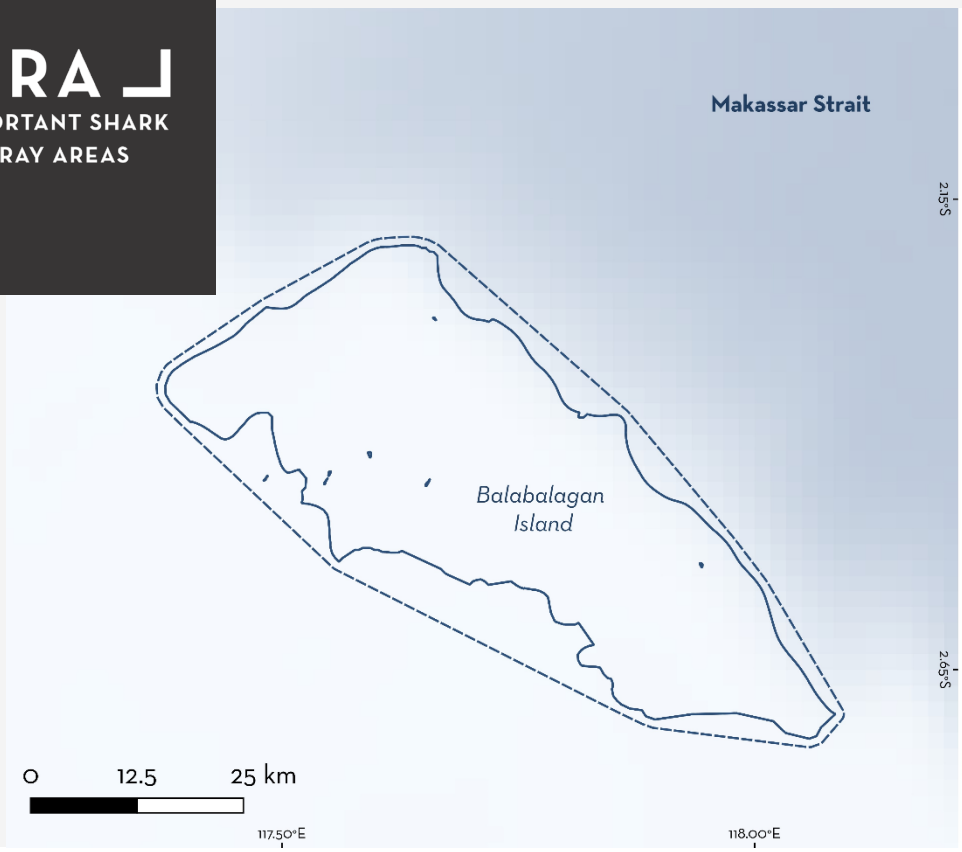
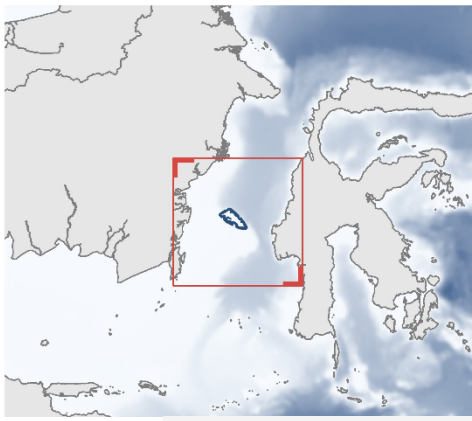
ISRA
IMPORTANT SHARK AND RAY AREAS





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

BALABALAGAN ISLAND ISRA

Asia Region

INDONESIA

0–150 metres

1,812.9 km²

SUMMARY

Balabalagan Island is located in the Makassar Strait, central Indonesia. The area includes the eastern border of the shelf and is characterised by the presence of coral reefs and shallow channels around them. Seasonal upwellings increase the productivity in the area. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **reproductive areas** (Silky Shark *Carcharhinus falciformis*).

CRITERIA

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

DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Balabalagan Island is located in central Indonesia. It sits in the Makassar Strait, between Kalimantan and Sulawesi, and is part of the West Sulawesi province. The area includes the eastern border of the Kalimantan shelf and is characterised by the presence of coral reefs and shallow channels around them.

The Indonesian Throughflow carries North Pacific waters into the area producing strong currents (Gordon et al. 2019). This throughflow along with the southeast monsoon produces seasonal upwellings, especially in August and September, that increase the productivity of the area (Utama et al. 2017). Sea surface temperatures range in average between 24–30°C.

This Important Shark and Ray Area is pelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 150 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

One Qualifying Species within the area is considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Silky Shark is assessed as Vulnerable (Rigby et al. 2021).

SUB-CRITERION C1 – REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Balabalagan Island is an important reproductive area for one shark species.

Between 2016–2019, pregnant female and neonate/young-of-the-year (YOY) Silky Sharks were recorded in opportunistic landing surveys from fisheries operating in the area at depths of 7–150 m (Indonesia Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries [IMMAF] unpubl. data 2020). Between October and November 2016, 24 individuals between 75–80 cm total length (TL) were observed caught in the area. Known size-at-birth for the species is ~56–87 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021) confirming that these individuals were neonates/YOY. In 2017, 13 pregnant females (216–225 cm TL) and 176 neonates/YOY (76–80 cm TL) were recorded in April, September, and November (IMMAF unpubl. data 2020). In 2018, four pregnant females and 42 neonates/YOY (53–60 cm TL) were recorded. In 2019, four pregnant individuals and 36 neonates (43–64 cm TL) were recorded in the area, and in 2023, 89 individuals measuring between 40–280 cm TL were recorded, confirming the regular presence of these life stages and confirming that this is a pupping area for the species.

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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												
Carcharhinus falciformis	Silky Shark	VU	0–1,112	X		X						

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
Carcharhinus obscurus	Dusky Shark	EN
Prionace glauca	Blue Shark	NT
Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped Hammerhead	CR
RAYS		
Mobula mobular	Spinetail Devil Ray	EN
Rhina ancylostomus	Bowmouth Guitarfish	CR
Rhynchobatus australiae	Bottlenose Wedgefish	CR

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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