

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

BANDA ISLANDS ISRA

Asia Region

SUMMARY

Banda Islands is located in the Indonesian Banda Sea. The area includes four islands: Hatta, Rhun, Ai, and Suangi Islands and is characterised by the presence of coral reefs and pinnacles near the islands. The area overlaps with the Perairan Kepulauan Banda Key Biodiversity Area. Within the area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Scalloped Hammerhead *Sphyrna lewini*).

CRITERIA

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

— —
INDONESIA

— —
0-650 metres

— —
70.6 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Banda Islands is located in the Banda Sea, in the Maluku province of Indonesia. The area includes four islands: Hatta, Rhun, Ai, and Suanggi Islands (Mukharror & Ibrahim 2022). It is characterised by the presence of coral reefs and pinnacles near the islands and an extended continental shelf.

The Banda Sea is highly influenced by monsoon winds (Moore et al. 2003) The southeast monsoon (June to September) produces lower sea surface temperatures and large-scale upwelling on the eastern side of the sea, where the Banda Islands is located, while the northwest monsoon (December to March) brings higher temperatures and a depression of the thermocline (Moore et al. 2003; Iskandar 2010).

The area overlaps with the Perairan Kepulauan Banda Key Biodiversity Area (KBA 2024).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is pelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 650 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

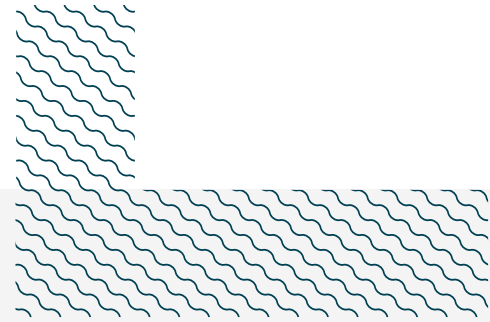
CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

One Qualifying Species within the area is considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Scalloped Hammerhead is assessed as Critically Endangered (Rigby et al. 2019).

SUB-CRITERION C5 - UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

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

In 2015, videos began circulating online revealing aggregations of Scalloped Hammerheads in the Banda Sea, including at Banda Islands (J Hennie pers. obs. 2016). Since then, diving activities started operating in the area to observe these aggregations (AB Sianipar & J Hennie pers. obs. 2023). Aggregations of between 80-200 Scalloped Hammerheads are regularly observed each year at Hatta and Suanggi, while in Rhun and Ai aggregations are composed by 10-35 individuals (AB Sianipar & J Hennie pers. obs. 2023; Guido Weissenfeld - Blue Motion Dive pers. comm. 2024). Smaller aggregations are observed year-round but larger aggregations which diving operators focus on are only seen from mid-September to early December (Guido Weissenfeld - Blue Motion Dive pers. comm. 2024). The presence of these aggregations was confirmed during dives undertaken to explore the behaviour and movement of Scalloped Hammerheads in four islands within the Banda Sea, including Suanggi Island in October 2021 (Mukharror & Ibrahim 2022). In addition, Scalloped Hammerhead aggregations were reported in each of 13 dives around Hatta Island between October 2022 and October 2023 (10-35 individuals), confirming their regular presence in the area (Konservasi Indonesia unpubl. data 2023). More information is needed to understand the nature and function of these aggregations.



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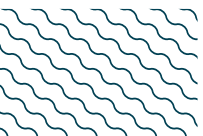
QUALIFYING SPECIES

| 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>Sphyrna lewini</i> | Scalloped Hammerhead | CR | 0-1,043 | X | | | | | | | X | | |

SUPPORTING SPECIES

| Scientific Name | Common Name | IUCN Red List Category |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| SHARKS | | |
| <i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i> | Silvertip Shark | VU |

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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