

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

SAN TEODORO BATANGAS ISRA

Asia Region

SUMMARY

San Teodoro Batangas is located in the Verde Island Passage in the central Philippines. The area is a strait that separates the islands of Luzon and Mindoro. The area is very shallow and is characterised by mangrove forests, sandy beaches, seagrass beds, and coral reefs. It sits within the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion 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

PHILIPPINES

0-25 metres

0.17 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

San Teodoro Batangas is located in the Verde Island Passage in the central Philippines. The area is situated in a strait that separates the islands of Luzon and Mindoro, connecting the South China Sea with Tayabas Bay and the Sibuyan Sea beyond. The area is very shallow and is characterised by mangrove forests, sandy beaches, seagrass beds, and coral reefs. The Verde Island Passage reportedly has the highest concentration of marine shorefishes per unit area in the Indo-Malay-Philippines archipelago (Carpenter & Springer 2005).

This area sits within the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (CBD 2024).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthopelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 25 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

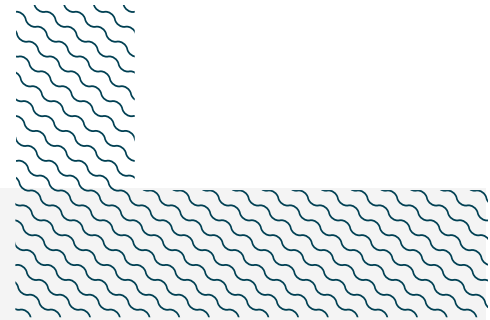
CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

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

SUB-CRITERION C1 - REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

San Teodoro Batangas is an important reproductive area for one shark species.

Young-of-the-year Blacktip Reef Sharks are regularly and predictably observed each year within the area (A Varona pers. obs. 2023). Individuals, visually estimated to be ~60 cm total length (TL), in groups of 12-20 individuals have been seen daily during the boreal winter season between November and February since 2015 (A Varona pers. obs. 2024). Size-at-birth of the species is 30-52 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021).



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This factsheet has undergone review by the ISRA Independent Review Panel prior to its publication.

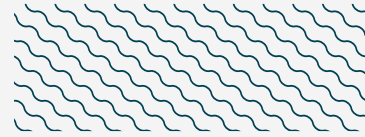
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Suggested citation

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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	VU	0-75	X		X							



REFERENCES

Carpenter KE, Springer VG. 2005. The center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity: the Philippine Islands. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 72: 467–480. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10641-004-3154-4>

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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>