

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

SOUTH RINCA ISRA

Asia Region

SUMMARY

South Rinca is located in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. The area encompasses the strait between Rinca Island and Kode Pulau Motang Island. It is characterised by black sand beaches and soft and hard corals. The area is located within the Perairan Komodo - Rinca Key Biodiversity Area and the Komodo National Park. Within this area there are: **range-restricted species** (Balinese Numbfish *Narcine baliensis*).

CRITERIA

Criterion B - Range Restricted

— INDONESIA —

— 15-62 metres —

— 10.57 km² —





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

South Rinca is located in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia (near Komodo and Flores Island). The area encompasses the strait between Rinca Island and Kode Pulau Motang Island. It is characterised by black sand beaches, and soft and hard corals (Starfish 2017).

It is influenced by down currents created from the Indonesian Throughflow which is strongest between June–August (the southeast monsoon period).

This area is located within the Perairan Komodo – Rinca Key Biodiversity Area (KBA 2024) and the Komodo National Park (Protected Planet 2024).

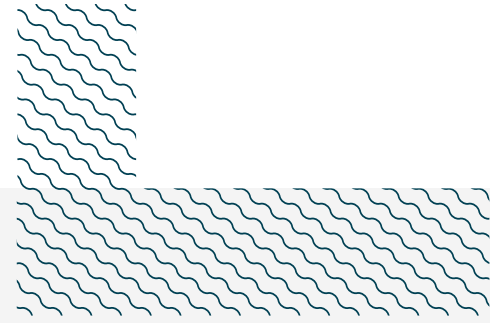
This Important Shark and Ray Area is subsurface and benthopelagic and is delineated from 15 m to 62 m based on the depth range of the Qualifying Species.

ISRA CRITERIA

CRITERION B – RANGE RESTRICTED

This area holds the regular presence of Balinese Numbfish as a resident range-restricted species. This species has been recorded in the area during recreational dive surveys over the last 30 years (MV Erdmann pers. obs. 2023). Contemporary underwater dive surveys regularly record Balinese Numbfish, with records of >30 individuals in one survey. South Rinca is a popular dive site (often referred to as ‘Torpedo Alley’ due to the regular presence of the Balinese Numbfish, which were previously incorrectly identified as torpedo rays), with tourists undertaking night dives to observe them. Balinese Numbfish are found at 15–25 m, partially hidden under the sandy substrate, a few metres apart from each other. Most commonly, 2–3 individuals are observed at the same time, however, there are often 5–10 individuals, and sometimes 10–15 individuals. There is no clearly defined seasonality to these aggregations.

South Rinca holds national and regional importance for Baliense Numbfish given the rarity of sightings and landings data for this species outside the area. It is the only known site in Asia where many individuals are found in close proximity to each other (MV Erdmann pers. obs. 2023). The only other location where Balinese Numbfish are reported with contemporary observations is South Sumbawa, Indonesia. Balinese Numbfish occurs only in the Indonesian Sea Large Marine Ecosystem.



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Mark V Erdmann (Conservation International) and Ryan Charles (IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group - ISRA Project) contributed and consolidated information included in this factsheet. We thank all participants of the 2024 ISRA Region 9 - Asia workshop for their contributions to this process.

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

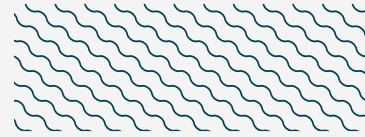
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Suggested citation

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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	
RAYS													
<i>Narcine baliensis</i>	Balinese Numbfish	NT	15-62		X								



REFERENCES

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). 2024. Key Biodiversity Areas factsheet: Perairan Komodo - Rinca. Available at: <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/44954> Accessed March 2024

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Starfish. 2017. Dive sites in Komodo and Rinca. Available at: <https://www.starfish.ch/dive/Komodo.html> Accessed March 2024.