

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

BOUNTY PLATEAU ISRA

New Zealand & Pacific Islands Region

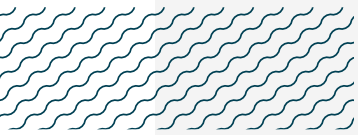
SUMMARY

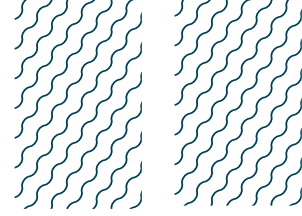
Bounty Plateau is located in southeast New Zealand. The area includes the Bounty Islands, a chain of 13 islands and five islets. It is characterised by an extended shelf near the islands and a steep slope with submarine hills and plains. The area overlaps with the Bounty Islands (nearshore) and Bounty (offshore) Key Biodiversity Areas. Within this area there are: **range-restricted species** (e.g., Rough Skate *Zearaja nasuta*).

CRITERIA

Criterion B - Range Restricted

—	—
NEW ZEALAND	
—	—
50-490 metres	
—	—
13,980 km²	
—	—





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Bounty Plateau is located in southeast New Zealand and sits in the South Pacific Ocean. It is found ~600 km south of the Chatham Islands, ~200 km north of the Antipodes Islands, and ~1,000 km east of New Zealand's South Island. The area includes the Bounty Islands, a chain of 13 islands and five islets (Scott & Turnbull 2019). It is characterised by an extended shelf near the islands and a steep slope with submarine hills and plains. The area is highly influenced by the Subantarctic Front which includes most of the transport of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (Chiswell et al. 2015).

The area overlaps with the Bounty Islands (nearshore) and Bounty (offshore) Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA 2024a, 2024b).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and subsurface and is delineated from 50-490 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

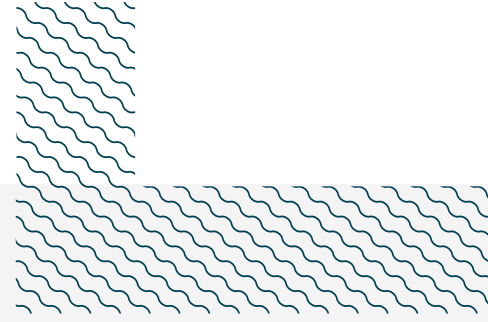
ISRA CRITERIA

CRITERION B - RANGE RESTRICTED

This area holds the regular presence of the Rough Skate and Pale Ghost Shark as range-restricted species. Between 2000-2024, both species were regularly recorded in commercial longline fisheries (and by on-board observers) operating at depths of 79-489 m and generally targeting Ling *Genypterus blacodes* (Francis 2015; B Finucci unpubl. data 2024). Both species are endemic to the New Zealand Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem and only occur in New Zealand waters.

For Rough Skate, catches of 569 t were reported by on-board observers and 328 t were recorded by commercial fisheries between 2001-2024. Rough Skates were recorded all years in the area by commercial fisheries and were reported by observers in 13 (2001-2005, 2008-2010, 2013, 2017, 2020, 2022, 2023) of the 24 years (B Finucci unpubl data 2024). Bounty Plateau represents an area where large catches of this species are captured compared to other areas around New Zealand (Ford et al. 2018; B Finucci pers. obs 2024).

For Pale Ghostshark, catches of 160 t were reported by on-board observers and 118 t were recorded by commercial fisheries between 2001-2024. Pale Ghostsharks were reported in all years in the area (B Finucci unpubl. data 2024). Additionally, between 2008-2013, Bounty Plateau had one of the largest catches reported for the species in bottom longline fisheries across all New Zealand (Francis 2015).



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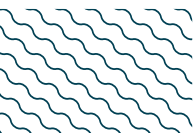
QUALIFYING SPECIES

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
RAYS											
<i>Zearaja nasuta</i>	Rough Skate	LC	17-1,500		X						
CHIMAERAS											
<i>Hydrolagus bemisi</i>	Pale Ghostshark	LC	400-1,100		X						

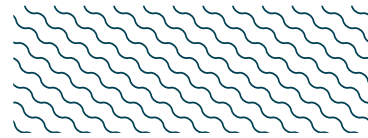
SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Dalatias licha</i>	Kitefin Shark	VU
<i>Etmopterus granulosus</i>	Southern Lanternshark	LC
<i>Oxynotus bruniensis</i>	Prickly Dogfish	NT
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiny Dogfish	VU
RAYS		
<i>Bathyraja shuntovi</i>	Longnose Deepsea Skate	LC
<i>Brochiraja asperula</i>	Smooth Deepsea Skate	DD
<i>Brochiraja leviveneta</i>	Blue Deepsea Skate	DD
<i>Brochiraja spinifera</i>	Prickly Deepsea Skate	DD
<i>Dipturus innominatus</i>	Smooth Skate	LC
CHIMAERAS		
<i>Chimaera lignaria</i>	Giant Chimaera	LC
<i>Harriotta avia</i>	Australasian Narrow-nose Spookfish	LC
<i>Hydrolagus novaezealandiae</i>	Dark Ghostshark	LC

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.

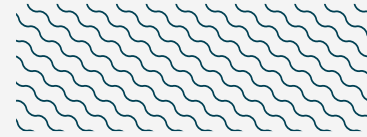


SUPPORTING INFORMATION



There are additional indications that Bounty Plateau is an important area for a range-restricted ray.

Between 2000–2024, Smooth Skate was recorded in catches of commercial fisheries and by on-board observers (B Finucci unpubl data. 2024). This species was caught in half of the years for which data were available. Catches of 113.88 t were reported by commercial fisheries and 84 t were recorded by on-board observers (B Finucci unpubl data 2024). More information is needed to confirm the regularity of the species and the importance of the area.



REFERENCES

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