

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

EMILY SHIPWRECK ISRA

New Zealand & Pacific Islands Region

SUMMARY

Emily Shipwreck is located on the northwestern side of Saipan Island in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a self-governing commonwealth in association with the United States of America. The area is characterised by a World War II airplane wreck, scattered coral reefs, and sandy substrates. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **resting areas** (Whitetip Reef Shark *Triaenodon obesus*).

CRITERIA

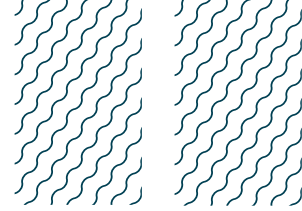
Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C3 - Resting Areas

**NORTHERN
 MARIANA
 ISLANDS**

0-10 metres

0.12 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Emily Shipwreck is located on the northwestern side of Saipan Island in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a self-governing commonwealth in association with the United States of America. Saipan is the largest of the 14 islands of the Northern Mariana Islands. The mean cover of live hard corals is higher on the west coast of Saipan than in other areas around this island (Brainard et al. 2012). This pattern is likely a result of greater habitat availability for reef development and shelter from wave energy (Brainard et al. 2012). This area is characterised by scattered coral reefs and sandy substrates (The Marianas 2024; FishGuyz 2024). This area was named after a World War II airplane wreck.

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthopelagic and is delineated from surface waters (0 m) to 10 m based on the bathymetry of the area and species distribution in this area.

ISRA CRITERIA

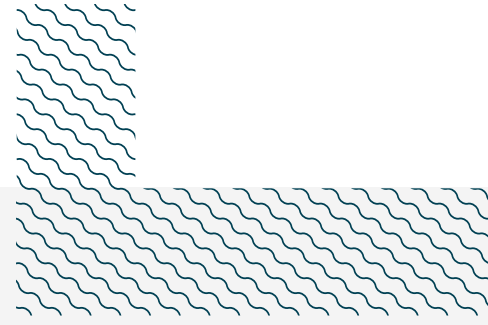
CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

One Qualifying Species considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species regularly occurs in the area. This is the Vulnerable Whitetip Reef Shark (Simpfendorfer et al. 2020).

SUB-CRITERION C₃ - RESTING AREAS

Emily Shipwreck is an important resting area for one shark species.

This area is a well-known dive site recognised for the regular and predictable observations of Whitetip Reef Sharks by recreational divers at Saipan Island. Sharks usually rest in aggregations of up to four individuals (The Marianas 2024). From 2015-2024, divers have observed Whitetip Reef Shark aggregations year-round during nearly all of their three weekly visits (J Wolfe pers. obs. 2013-2024). Typically, Whitetip Reef Sharks (2-4 individuals) are observed resting under corals or the shipwreck on the sandy substrate (J Wolfe pers. obs. 2013-2024).



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Jay Wolfe (Axe Murderer Tours), Mina Hatayama (James Cook University), Vanessa Bettcher Brito (IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group - ISRA Project), and Adriana Gonzalez Pestana (IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group - ISRA Project) contributed and consolidated information included in this factsheet. We thank all participants of the 2024 ISRA Region 10 - New Zealand and Pacific Islands workshop for their contributions to this process.

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Suggested citation

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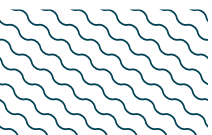
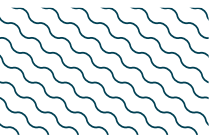
QUALIFYING SPECIES

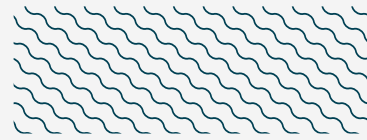
Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met									
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	
SHARKS													
<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	Whitetip Reef Shark	VU	0-330	X					X				

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
RAYS		
<i>Aetobatus ocellatus</i>	Spotted Eagle Ray	EN

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.





REFERENCES

Brainard RE, Asher J, Blyth-Skyrme V, Coccagna EF, Dennis K, Donovan MK, Gove JM, Kenyon J, Looney EE, Miller JE, et al. 2012. Coral reef ecosystem monitoring report of the Mariana Archipelago: 2003–2007. Honolulu: NOAA Fisheries.

FishGuyz. 2024. Dive Sites. Available at: <https://www.fishguyzscuba.com/dive-sites.html> Accessed September 2024.

The Marianas. 2024. Dive Spots. Available at: <https://www.mymarianas.com/dive-spots/> Accessed September 2024.

Simpfendorfer C, Yuneni RR, Tanay D, Seyha L, Haque AB, Bineesh KK, Dharmadi, Bin Ali A, Gautama DA, Maung A, et al. 2020. *Triaenodon obesus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2020: e.T39384A173436715. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-3.RLTS.T39384A173436715.en>