

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

ISLE OF PINES ISRA

New Zealand & Pacific Islands Region

SUMMARY

Isle of Pines is located on the northern tip of the Isle of Pines in New Caledonia. The area is characterised by reef walls and a ledge with some sandy areas at 18 m depth. It is influenced by mostly mild currents compared to adjacent areas. The area overlaps with the Bassin des Loyauté Key Biodiversity Area. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **resting areas** (Whitetip Reef Shark *Triaenodon obesus*).

CRITERIA

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

NEW
 CALEDONIA
 0-18 metres
 49.91 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Isle of Pines is located on the northern tip of the Isle of Pines in New Caledonia. The area is characterised by rocky formations which create caves, ledges that offer shelter from currents. It is also characterised by coral reef walls covered with diverse hard and soft corals and a ledge in 18 m depth with rocky, sandy, and muddy substrates (PE Faivre pers. obs. 2024). The area encompasses drift dive sites. It is influenced by tidal currents and underwater visibility is generally very good (PE Faivre pers. obs. 2024).

The area overlaps with the Bassin des Loyauté Key Biodiversity Area (KBA 2024).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and pelagic and is delineated from surface waters (0 m) to 18 m based on the observations of Qualifying Species and the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

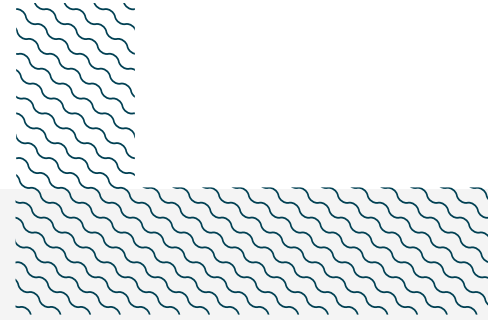
CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

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

Isle of Pines is an important resting area for one shark species

Whitetip Reef Sharks are regularly seen resting in this area (PE Faivre pers. obs. 2024). They are observed on a small ledge at 18 m depth and on sandy substrate between steeper rock formations. An average of 2-5 individuals are observed resting together and reportedly use this area to avoid the high currents that characterise adjacent sites (PE Faivre pers. obs. 2024). This species is observed resting at different sites within this area for shelter from currents – moving from locations with a receding tide during slack tide periods to locations with an incoming tide. In this area, Whitetip Reef Sharks quickly return to the same resting locations after any disturbance. Visually estimated, small Whitetip Reef Sharks (<100 cm total length) are observed resting under coral ledges or in small caves between 10-15 m depth: in the lagoon or on the top of barrier and fringing reefs. This area is frequently (~twice daily) visited by divers, and resting Whitetip Reef Sharks are seen ~80% of the time. Observations are reported year-round, with dives made in 2019 (n = 700), 2020 (n = 650), 2021 (n = 550), 2022 (n = 600), 2023 (n = 700), and 2024 (n = 300). This species is observed outside of the area by recreational divers however, this area has the most regular and predictable sightings and the highest number of resting Whitetip Reef Sharks (PE Faivre pers. obs. 2024).



Acknowledgments

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Suggested citation

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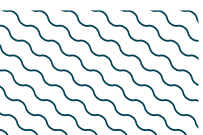
QUALIFYING SPECIES

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					

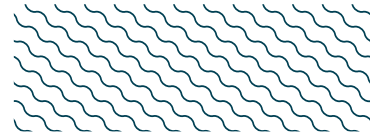
SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	Grey Reef Shark	EN
<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	Bull Shark	VU
<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	Tiger Shark	NT
<i>Nebrius ferrugineus</i>	Tawny Nurse Shark	VU
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark	EN
<i>Stegostoma tigrinum</i>	Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark	EN
RAYS		
<i>Mobula alfredi</i>	Reef Manta Ray	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.



SUPPORTING INFORMATION



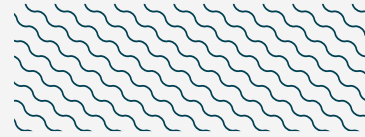
There are additional indications that this area might be important for reproductive purposes and aggregations of other shark and ray species.

This area could be an important reproductive area for Grey Reef Shark. Animals with mating scars aggregate annually in September, and neonate/young-of-the-year individuals are observed between July–October. Further information and evidence is required to determine the importance of this area for reproductive purposes.

This area could also be an important reproductive area for Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark. Mating events have been reported from the area between April–June, however, further information is required to determine the regularity and predictability of this behaviour.

This area could be important for undefined aggregations of Reef Manta Ray, however, further information is required to determine the regularity and predictability of this behaviour.

This area could also be an important aggregation for Tawny Nurse Shark. In this area and adjacent area, the species are observed in groups of up to 15 individuals (average three) once per year between March–April. However, further information is required on the regularity and predictability of this behaviour specifically in this area.



REFERENCES

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). 2024. Key Biodiversity Areas factsheet: Bassin des Loyauté. Available at: <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-3.RLTS.T39384A173436715.en> Accessed November 2024.

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