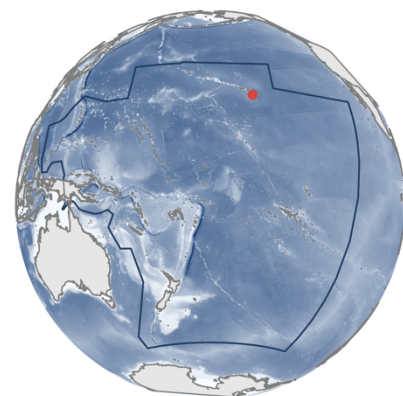
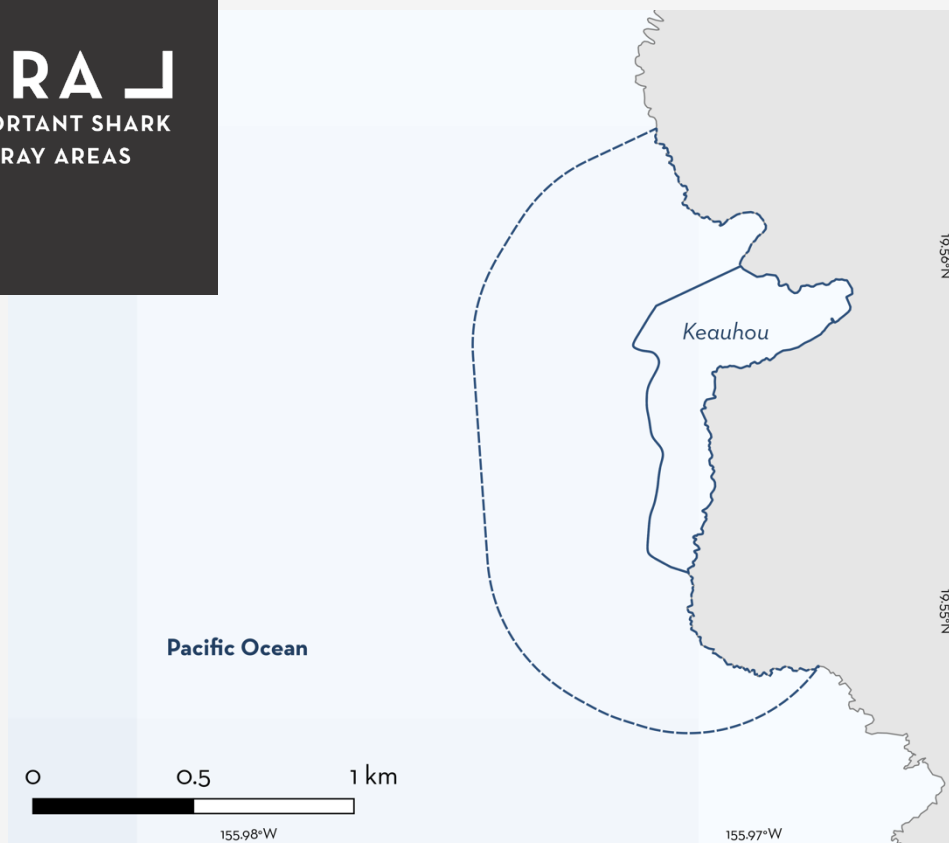




Blue lines indicate the area meeting the ISRA Criteria; dashed lines indicate the suggested buffer for use in the development of appropriate place-based conservation measures

KEAUHOU ISRA

New Zealand & Pacific Islands Region

SUMMARY

Keauhou is situated on the west coast of the Big Island of Hawaii in the United States of America. The area is characterised by sandy substrates and coral reefs, with a coral ridge extending from the south and patchy coral bommies in the northern part of the area. The area is influenced by seasonal swells during the boreal winter months (December-February). Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Reef Manta Ray *Mobula alfredi*).

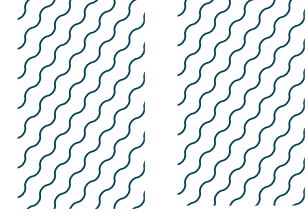
CRITERIA

Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C5 - Undefined Aggregations

HAWAII

0-25 metres

0.24 km²



DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Keauhou is situated on the west coast of the Big Island of Hawaii in the United States of America. Keauhou Bay is a shallow area with a significant drop off to ~150 metres from the shoreline. The middle of the channel is characterised by a long stretch of sand. There are coral reefs on both the north and south sides of the sand channel. The north side of the channel is characterised by dispersed coral bommies while the south side of the channel has a long stretch of reef extending south. In January and February, the area is impacted by south and southwest swells (Stopa et al. 2011).

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

ISRA CRITERIA

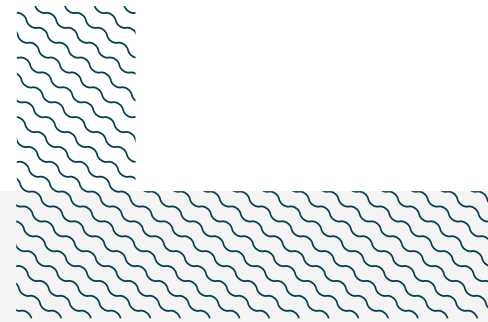
CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

One Qualifying Species considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species regularly occurs in the area. This is the Vulnerable Reef Manta Ray (Marshall et al. 2022).

SUB-CRITERION C5 – UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

Keauhou is an important area for undefined aggregations of one ray species.

Between 1979–2024, recreational divers regularly observed Reef Manta Rays attending a cleaning station in the area (B Masiba pers. obs. 2024). Between 2014–2024, divers and snorkelers visited the area every day and encountered Reef Manta Rays on ~300 days per year. There is no seasonality to the aggregation, however, high swells in January and February can make in-water activities in the area challenging (B Masiba pers. obs. 2024). All observations of Reef Manta Rays in this area are of them attending the cleaning station: the Hawaiian Cleaner wrasse *Labroides phthiophagus* is the most dominant cleaner species in the area (B Masiba pers. obs. 2024). Cleaning station visitation involves small cleaner wrasse tending to client species such as visiting rays (Armstrong et al. 2021). Up to 12 Reef Manta Rays can be encountered together at this cleaning station (average = ~2–3 individuals). Reef Manta Rays are commonly observed in the area at night when floodlights are used to attract zooplankton and create a feeding environment for the rays, however, the area is also an important cleaning area during the day. This area has national importance as it has the highest reported sightings of Reef Manta Rays from around the Big Island of Hawaii (B Masiba pers. obs. 2024).



Acknowledgments

Brooks Masiba (Manta Ray Dives of Hawaii) and Asia O Armstrong (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.

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

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Suggested citation

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. 2024. Keauhou ISRA Factsheet. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.

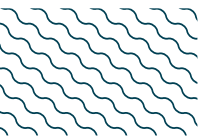
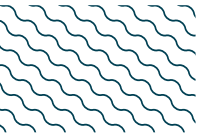
QUALIFYING SPECIES

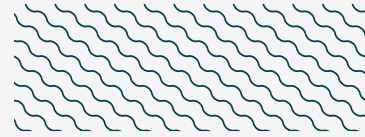
Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met								
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2
RAYS												
Mobula alfredi	Reef Manta Ray	VU	0-711	X						X		

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	Sandbar Shark	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.





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Marshall A, Barreto R, Carlson J, Fernando D, Fordham S, Francis MP, Herman K, Jabado RW, Liu KM, Pacoureaux N, et al. 2022. *Mobula alfredi* (amended version of 2019 assessment). *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2022: e.T195459A214395983. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2022-1.RLTS.T195459A214395983.en>

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