

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

PASA BEACH ISRA

New Zealand & Pacific Islands Region

SUMMARY

Pasa Beach is located in Ahnd Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia. The area is situated in the lagoon waters on the inside of the atoll and stretches the length of Pasa Island. It is a shallow area, characterised by sheltered waters with a sandy substrate. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **reproductive areas** (Blacktip Reef Shark *Carcharhinus melanopterus*).

CRITERIA

Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C1 - Reproductive Areas

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

0-10 metres

0.21 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Pasa Beach is located in Ahnd Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia. Ahnd Atoll is situated southwest of the capital of Pohnpei and the area is situated within the lagoon waters on the inside of the atoll and stretches the length of Pasa Island. Although the atoll has steep bathymetry (Rowley et al. 2019), the area is shallow, characterised by sheltered waters with a sandy substrate. Ahnd Atoll has a high diversity of Indo-Pacific fish species and has been established as Pohnpei's most important marine Area of Biodiversity Significance (George et al. 2008).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and pelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 10 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

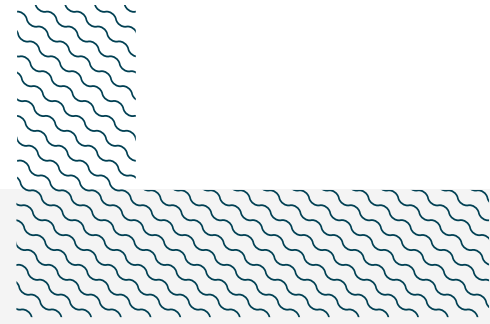
CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

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 Blacktip Reef Shark (Simpfendorfer et al. 2020).

SUB-CRITERION C1 - REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Pasa Beach is an important reproductive area for one shark species.

Between 2013-2024, neonate and young-of-the-year (YOY) Blacktip Reef Sharks were regularly observed during beach walks in the area (J Hartup pers. obs. 2024). Surveys were mostly conducted during the boreal summer months (May-September), when Blacktip Reef Sharks were observed in the shallow waters off the beach during every visit to this area. Based on visual estimations, the average size of the sharks was ~30 cm total length (TL). Approximately 5-10 sharks were seen during each visit. Size-at-birth for this species is 30-52 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021), indicating that observations are likely to be neonate or YOY individuals. Only 1-2 surveys are conducted in the area per year owing to the remote location, however, sharks were observed on all 25 surveys during the study period. Citizen science reports from tourism operators confirm the predictable aggregation of young Blacktip Reef Sharks year-round in the area (V Hawley pers. comm. 2024). Beach walk surveys have been conducted in multiple areas around Ahnd Atoll and neonate or YOY Blacktip Reef Sharks are not seen outside of the area (J Hartup pers. obs. 2024), highlighting the importance of this area for the early life stages of this species.



Acknowledgments

Julie Hartup (Micronesian Conservation Coalition; Manta Trust) 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.

This project was funded by the Shark Conservation Fund, a philanthropic collaborative pooling expertise and resources to meet the threats facing the world's sharks and rays. The Shark Conservation Fund is a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

Suggested citation

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. 2024. Pasa Beach 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	
SHARKS													
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	Blacktip Reef Shark	VU	0-100	X		X							

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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