

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

TÉNIA ISRA

New Zealand & Pacific Islands Region

SUMMARY

Ténia is located in the barrier reef on the southwestern coast of Grande Terre Island in New Caledonia. It comprises an exposed reef corner and a wide pass in the barrier reef. The habitat is characterised by steep reef walls and the area is influenced by currents. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Grey Reef Shark *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*).

CRITERIA

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

NEW
 CALEDONIA
 0-280 metres
 28.03 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Ténia is located on the southwestern coast of Grande Terre Island in New Caledonia. The area includes a reef corner that is part of the barrier reef and a wide pass in the barrier reef south of Ténia Island. The habitat is characterised by steep coral reef walls and pelagic waters. Ténia is exposed to meso-tides, oceanic swells, and trade winds (Sous et al. 2017). The area is influenced by currents, both on the exposed reef corner and in the pass.

The area overlaps with the Grand Lagon Sud Marin Key Biodiversity Area (KBA 2024).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and pelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 280 m based on the global depth range of the Qualifying Species.

ISRA CRITERIA

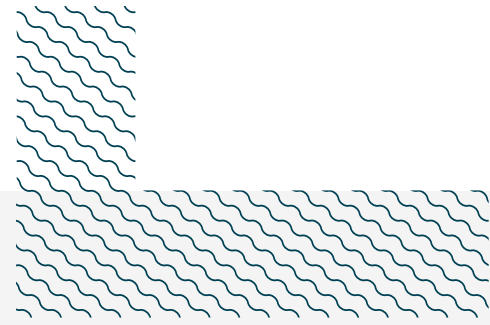
CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

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

SUB-CRITERION C5 – UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

Ténia is an important area for undefined aggregations of one shark species.

Aggregations of Grey Reef Sharks are regularly recorded by recreational divers in this area. Social media posts show that aggregations comprise on average at least ~10-20 individuals with observations reported between 2020-2024. Reports were made from various months (March, n = 4 reports; April, n = 1; May, n = 1; September, n = 1; October, n = 2; November = 1), highlighting the regular occurrence of aggregations, although further information is required to determine if there is a seasonality in their abundance. This area may be important for reproductive purposes, as some individuals are observed with mating scars and there are videos of what appear to be small individuals in an aggregation. Although there is no information on dive effort in the area to examine the frequency of Grey Reef Shark aggregations, it is likely to be high as this site includes one of the few barrier reef channels in the southwestern Grand Terre region. Two other channels ~50 km (Passe de Dumbéa) and ~75 km (Passe de Boulari) southeast of the area also host Grey Reef Shark aggregations, and such channels are generally suitable for the aggregations of this species (Papastamatiou et al. 2021). Further information is required to determine the nature and function of these aggregations.



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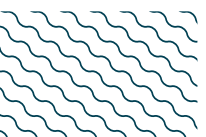
QUALIFYING SPECIES

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>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	Grey Reef Shark	EN	0-280	X							X		

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead	CR
<i>Stegostoma tigrinum</i>	Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark	EN
<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	Whitetip Reef Shark	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.





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Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). 2024. Key Biodiversity Areas factsheet: Grand Lagon Sud Marin. Available at: <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/31330> Accessed October 2024.

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