

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

TOUHO ISRA

New Zealand & Pacific Islands Region

SUMMARY

Touho is located on the northeast side of the Grande Terre Island of New Caledonia. The area consists of a barrier reef with reef flats and forereefs, and includes the Great Channel of Touho, a pass with strong currents. It is characterised by dead and live coral substrates with sandy patches. The area overlaps with the Îlots de Poindimié Marin Key Biodiversity Area. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Reef Manta Ray *Mobula alfredi*).

CRITERIA

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

NEW
 CALEDONIA
 0-50 metres
 20.75 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Touho is located on the northeast side of the Grande Terre Island of New Caledonia. The area is ~5 km from the coast and consists of a barrier reef with reef flats and forereefs. The area includes the Great Channel of Touho, a pass with strong currents that extends ~10 km. It is characterised by dead and live coral substrates with sandy patches (Pelletier et al. 2020).

The area overlaps with the Îlots de Poindimié 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 50 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

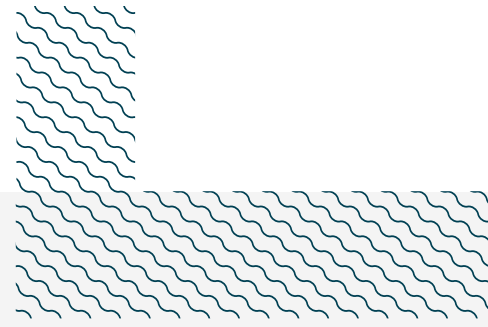
CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

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

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

Reef Manta Rays regularly and predictably use the cleaning station which characterises this area (Lassauce et al. 2024). Between 2017–2020, photographs of Reef Manta Rays were collected from recreational divers, snorkelers, and during diving surveys across 11 sites in New Caledonia (Lassauce et al. 2024). Additionally, photographs from Touho were taken in 150 days of sampling between 2014–2020, with a higher effort (85.3%) concentrated between 2014–2015 (Lassauce et al. 2024). In Touho, 591 sightings (average = 3.9 individuals sighted per day) were recorded from one aggregation site that serves as a cleaning station, in the northern tip of the Great Channel of Touho. Of the total sightings, 72 individuals were identified within the area with 76.4% of them resighted at least once in a period of $1,196 \pm 764$ days (maximum of 4,596 days; Lassauce et al. 2024). This cleaning station is located on the reef flat at 15–20 m depth. Within the area, aggregations of 5–20 individuals are regularly observed (H Lassauce unpubl. data 2024). Juveniles and pregnant females (determined by visual size estimation and the presence of extended abdomen) have also been observed within these aggregations (H Lassauce unpubl. data 2024). However, further information is required to determine whether this area is also important for reproductive purposes.



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Hugo Lassauce (University of the Sunshine Coast) and Emiliano García-Rodríguez (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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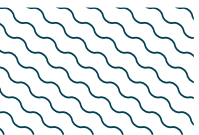
QUALIFYING SPECIES

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
RAYs												
<i>Mobula alfredi</i>	Reef Manta Ray	VU	0-711	X						X		

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i>	Silvertip Shark	VU
<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	Grey Reef Shark	EN
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	Blacktip Reef Shark	VU
<i>Nebrius ferrugineus</i>	Tawny Nurse Shark	VU
<i>Stegostoma tigrinum</i>	Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark	EN
<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	Whitetip Reef Shark	VU
RAYS		
<i>Aetobatus ocellatus</i>	Spotted Eagle Ray	EN
<i>Pateobatis fai</i>	Pink Whipray	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.





REFERENCES

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). 2024. Key Biodiversity Areas factsheet: Îlots de Poindimié Marin. Available at: <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/30998> Accessed October 2024.

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