

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

JALTEPEQUE ISRA

Central and South American Pacific Region

SUMMARY

Jaltepeque is located on the Pacific coast of El Salvador, extending approximately 10 km offshore from the Estero de Jaltepeque, and the mouth of the Rio Lempa. The area includes shallow estuarine areas, the marine portion of the Complejo Jaltepeque Ramsar site, and extends out to marine continental shelf habitat to 20 m depth. Habitats include seasonally flooded mangroves, brackish lagoons, sandy beaches, and sentiment-rich benthos. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **reproductive areas** (Scalloped Hammerhead *Sphyrna lewini*).

CRITERIA

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

—	—
EL SALVADOR	—
—	—
0-20 metres	—
—	—
850.5 km²	—
—	—





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Jaltepeque is located on the Pacific coast of El Salvador to approximately 10 km offshore from the Estero de Jaltepeque, and the mouth of the Rio Lempa. This is the second largest brackish water area and intertidal forested wetland in El Salvador (Ramsar 2021). The site comprises shallow estuarine areas, seasonally flooded mangroves, alluvial forests areas, sandy beaches, and brackish lagoons.

This Important Shark and Ray Area is delineated from surface waters and extends out to marine continental shelf habitat to 20 m depth based on the distribution of neonate catches of the Qualifying Species (Zambrano 2014).

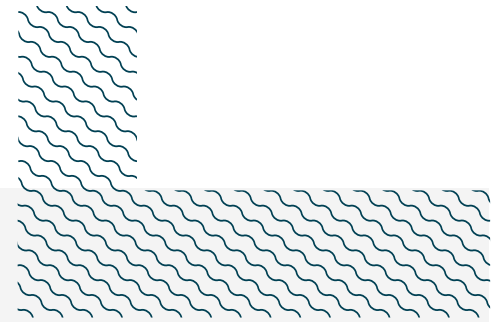
CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

One Qualifying Species considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ regularly occurs in the area. This is the Critically Endangered Scalloped Hammerhead (Rigby et al. 2019).

SUB-CRITERION C₁ - REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Jaltepeque is an important reproductive area for one shark species. High catches of neonate Scalloped Hammerhead up to 10 km off the coast of this area indicate it is important for their young (Canjura 2016). Landings data from San Luis la Herradura and Puerto El Triunfo (located on the northwestern coast and within the Jaltepeque estuary, respectively) recorded 2,934 Scalloped Hammerhead neonates over twelve sampling days during the months of April, May, and June 2010. This was confirmed by the presence of umbilical scars on individuals along with sizes ranging from 42 to 64 cm total length (TL). Concurrent fisher surveys, provide the locations of this high neonate Scalloped Hammerhead catch within the area (Zambrano 2014; Canjura 2016; Oliveros-Ramos et al. 2020). These results mirror those of earlier landing surveys which recorded a catch of 3,592 Scalloped Hammerheads ranging from 44 to 60 cm TL over eight months between April 2009 and January 2010, suggesting regular use of the area (Zambrano 2010). The proximity of these fishing locations to shallow coastal estuarine habitat may indicate strong connectivity to nursery areas (Canjura 2016). High densities of Scalloped Hammerhead neonates are reported to use the shallow water areas adjacent to the mangroves for refuge (Ramsar 2021).





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Mark Priest and Amanda Battle (IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group - ISRA Project) contributed and consolidated information included in this factsheet. We thank all participants of the 2022 ISRA Region 12 - Central and South American Pacific workshop for their contributions to this process.

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Suggested citation

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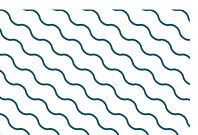
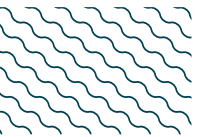
QUALIFYING SPECIES

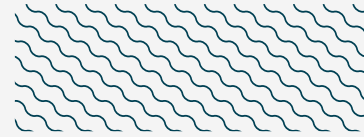
Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met									
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	
SHARKS													
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead	CR	0-1,043	X		X							

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye Thresher	VU
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher	VU
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	VU
<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	Blacktip Shark	VU
<i>Nasolamia velox</i>	Whitenose Shark	EN
<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue Shark	NT
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great Hammerhead	CR
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth Hammerhead	VU
RAYS		
<i>Aetobatus laticeps</i>	Pacific Eagle Ray	VU

IUCN Red List Categories: *CR*, Critically Endangered; *EN*, Endangered; *VU*, Vulnerable; *NT*, Near Threatened; *LC*, Least Concern; *DD*, Data Deficient.





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