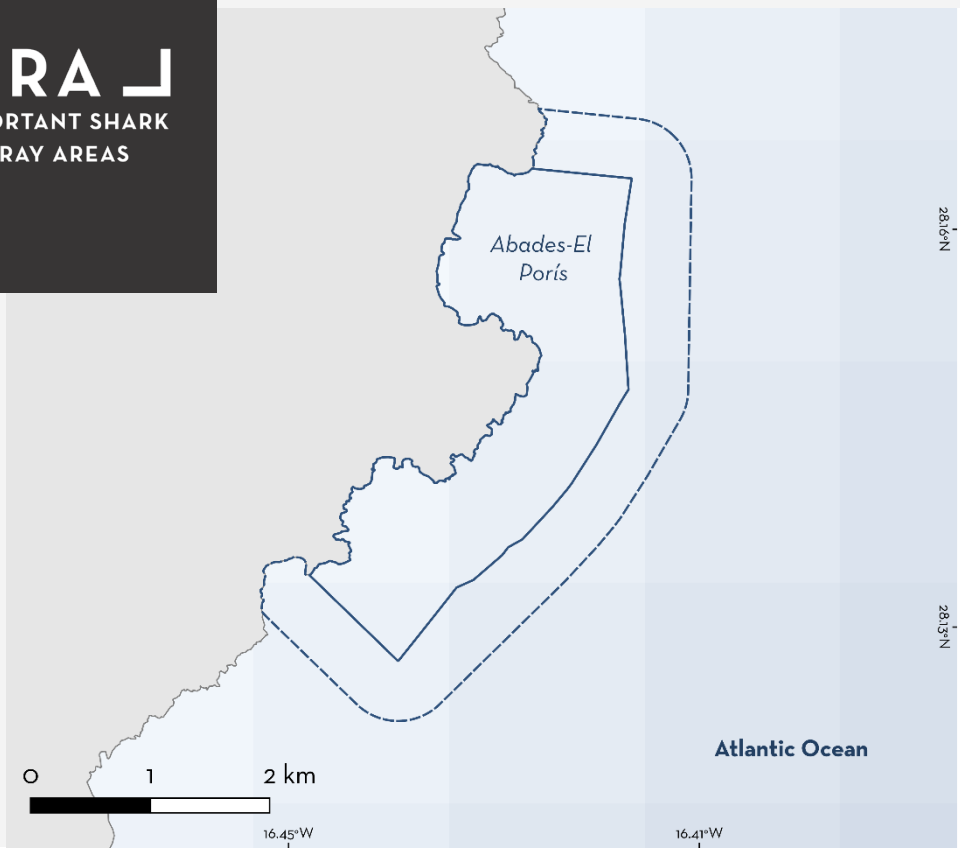
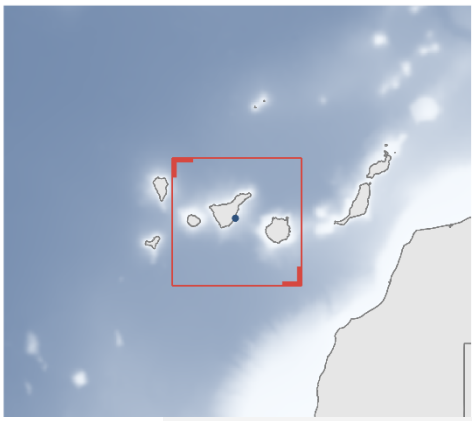
ISRA
IMPORTANT SHARK AND RAY AREAS





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

ABADES-EL PORÍS ISRA

European Atlantic Region

SPAIN

0–150 metres

4.79 km²

SUMMARY

Abades-El Porís is located on the southeast coast of Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, Spain. The area is characterised by extensive sandy substrates, rocky outcrops, volcanic reef structures, and patches of seagrass beds. The area overlaps with the Oceanic Islands and Seamounts of the Canary Region Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area. Within this area there are: **threatened species** (e.g., Angelshark *Squatina squatina*); and **reproductive areas** (e.g., Common Smoothhound *Mustelus mustelus*).

CRITERIA

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

DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Abades-El Porís is located on the southeast coast of Tenerife, in the Canary Islands. The Canary Islands are a Spanish archipelago in the northeast Atlantic, consisting of eight main islands and five islets, situated ~100 km from the northwest African coastline. The area is characterised by a mosaic of static, spatially bound habitats. These include extensive sandy substrates, rocky outcrops, volcanic reef structures, and patches of Slender Seagrass *Cymodocea nodosa* (Martín Solà et al. 2024).

The coastline is exposed to seasonal changes in wave energy and wind-driven circulation, which influence sediment transport and local hydrodynamics. Although the site is not directly influenced by major upwelling centres, seasonal variation in oceanographic conditions may enhance localised productivity, especially during the boreal spring and summer months. Water temperature typically ranges between 18°C and 24°C across the year, with good overall visibility and low turbidity levels (Hernández et al. 2010; Vázquez et al. 2024).

The area overlaps with the Oceanic Islands and Seamounts of the Canary Region Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSA; CBD 2025).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and pelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 150 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

Two Qualifying species considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species regularly occur in the area. These are the Critically Endangered Angelshark (Morey et al. 2019) and the Endangered Common Smoothhound (Jabado et al. 2021).

SUB-CRITERION C1 – REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Abades-El Porís is an important reproductive area for two shark species.

Neonate/young-of-the-year (YOY) Common Smoothhounds have been recorded opportunistically and during underwater visual census (UVC) surveys in the area between 2022–2024 (Condrik unpubl. data 2025). Common Smoothhounds were classified as neonate/YOY as they were visually estimated to measure ~40 cm total length (TL) which overlaps with the reported size-at-birth (34–42 cm TL; Ebert et al. 2021). Size was confirmed with laser photogrammetry during a snorkel survey (Condrik unpubl. data 2025). Aggregations of neonate/YOY consisted of ~20 individuals. This is the only location in Tenerife Island where these life stages have been recorded.

Neonate and YOY Angelsharks have been regularly recorded within the area. This location has also been recognised as a potential nursery area for Angelsharks (Jiménez-Alvarado et al. 2020). Since 2016, the Angel Shark Project has conducted a combination of UVC surveys, tagging, and citizen science data collection in the area. Visual transects and tagging surveys were conducted across the Canary Islands in high suitability areas (Meyers et al. 2017), potential nursery areas (Jiménez-Alvarado et al. 2020), and locations where Angelsharks are commonly observed. Within this area, nine campaigns were conducted between 2016–2023 with each campaign consisting of 1–3 days of surveys per campaign. All individuals recorded (n = 18) measured <40 cm TL (Angel Shark Project unpubl. data 2025). These individuals were classified as neonate/YOY as their size overlaps with the reported size-at-birth (26–30 cm TL; Ebert et al. 2021). Neonate Angelsharks (n = 11; 55% of sightings)

were also recorded by local dive centres between 2020–2024 (Angel Shark Project unpubl. data 2025). Sharks were observed in shallow waters (<10 m), primarily on sandy and mixed substrates. Abades-El Porís is the area with the largest number of neonate/YOY recorded in Tenerife Island (Jiménez-Alvarado et al. 2020).

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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												
Mustelus mustelus	Common Smoothhound	EN	0–800	X		X						
Squatina squatina	Angelshark	CR	0–150	X		X						

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
RAYS		
Aetomylaeus bovinus	Duckbill Eagle Ray	CR
Bathytoshia lata	Brown Stingray	VU
Dasyatis pastinaca	Common Stingray	VU
Gymnura altavela	Spiny Butterfly Ray	EN
Myliobatis aquila	Common Eagle Ray	CR
Rostroraja alba	White Skate	EN
Taeniurops grabatus	Round Fantail Stingray	NT
Torpedo marmorata	Marbled Torpedo Ray	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.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

There are additional indications that the area is important for undefined aggregations of one shark species.

Under the survey program outlined above, six campaigns were conducted at Abades. During these surveys, juvenile and adult aggregations composed of three Angelsharks were recorded (Angel Shark Project unpubl. data 2025). Some of the individuals were tagged and re-sighted across different years showing long-term fidelity to the site. Additionally, diver operators recorded juvenile and adult aggregations of 3–9 Angelsharks on 11 different occasions during 72 dives reported between 2017–2024 (Angel Shark Project unpubl. data 2025). Additional information is needed to confirm the regularity of these aggregations and the importance of the area for this species.

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