

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

SILLON DE TALBERT ISRA

European Atlantic Region

SUMMARY

Sillon de Talbert is located in northern Brittany of France. This coastal area is characterised by rocky and sandy substrates with kelp forests, seagrass, and red algae habitats. It is influenced by two opposing tidal currents and by northwesterly swells. Within this area there are: **undefined aggregations** (Starry Smoothhound *Mustelus asterias*).

CRITERIA

Sub-criterion C5 - Undefined Aggregations

FRANCE

0-35 metres

28.04 km²





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Sillon de Talbert is located in northern Brittany of France. This coastal area centres around a long, thin tongue of sand, pebbles, and shingles that extends into the English Channel (Chanson 2006). Parts of this tongue are usually dry even at high tide. The surrounding shallow waters are characterised by rock, biogenic reef, sand, and coarse sediment substrates, with kelp forests (*Laminaria* spp.) and Common Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in the infralittoral, and red algae in the circalittoral (A Ory pers. obs. 2025). The area is influenced by two converging tidal currents and northwesterly swells (Chanson 2006).

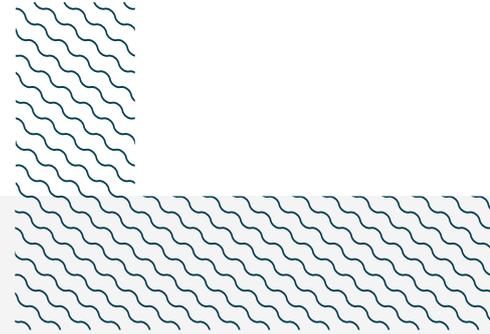
This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and pelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 35 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

SUB-CRITERION C5 - UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

Sillon de Talbert is an important area for undefined aggregations of one shark species.

Large aggregations of Starry Smoothhounds have been recorded in this area (A Ory pers. obs. 2025). In 2018, a 600 m long gillnet deployed in this area captured 438 individuals, as was revealed when the net was exposed during low tide (France 3 Bretagne 2018). The net had been cut, suggesting that it was abandoned on retrieval due to the overwhelming number of sharks captured. All individuals were females, ranging in size from 80-120 cm total length (TL). The size-at-maturity for females is 83-96 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021), indicating that most were mature. In 2022 and 2023, similar aggregations were recorded on three occasions by divers, with dozens of sharks sighted each time (A Ory pers. obs. 2025). All aggregations were recorded in August during the boreal summer. Diver observations suggested that most individuals were adults, based on visual size estimates, and that most were females (A Ory pers. obs. 2025). Few observations are recorded as there is limited diving in the area due to the strong and converging tidal currents and swells. Further information is needed to understand the nature and function of these aggregations.



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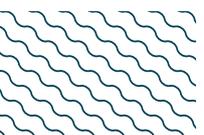
QUALIFYING SPECIES

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>Mustelus asterias</i>	Starry Smoothhound	NT	0-199							X		

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	Smallspotted Catshark	LC
RAYS		
<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>	Common Stingray	VU
<i>Raja brachyura</i>	Blonde Skate	NT
<i>Raja clavata</i>	Thornback Skate	NT
<i>Raja montagui</i>	Spotted Skate	LC
<i>Raja undulata</i>	Undulate Skate	NT

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

Chanson H. 2006. The Sillon de Talbert, Cotes d'Armor, North Brittany, France. *Shore & Beach* 74(3): 26-27.

Ebert DA, Dando M, Fowler S. 2021. *Sharks of the world: A complete guide*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

France 3 Bretagne. 2018. Ramassage de centaines de requins échoués en Bretagne. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZzyTzZiZag> Accessed June 2025.