

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.

*\*The references included in this document are made exclusively for academic/scientific purposes and do not have any implications with regard to the recognition of the territorial sovereignty or the legal status of a State, territory, area or its authorities, when relevant. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.*

## BURDWOOD BANK NORTH SLOPE ISRA

### South American Atlantic Region

## SUMMARY

Burdwood Bank North Slope is located on the northwest slope off Burdwood Bank, in the waters of Argentina and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The habitat is characterised by substrates covered with sponges, stony corals, and bryozoans. The area is influenced by the Antarctic Circumpolar Drift that flows around the Burdwood Bank northwest slope and leads to high primary productivity. Within this area there are: **reproductive areas** (Southern Thorny Skate *Amblyraja doellojuradoi*).

## CRITERIA

### Sub-criterion C1 – Reproductive Areas

— —  
**ARGENTINA,  
FALKLAND  
ISLANDS  
(MALVINAS)\***

— —  
**200–650 metres**

— —  
**418.4 km<sup>2</sup>**  
— —



## DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Burdwood Bank North Slope is located on the northwest slope off Burdwood Bank, Argentina and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Burdwood Bank is bordered to the north by the Malvinas Trough, which separates it from the Malvinas Plateau and extends eastward (Guerrero et al. 1999). The habitat is characterised by substrates covered with sponges, stony coral, and bryozoans (Schejter & Bremec 2019). The area is influenced by the Antarctic Circumpolar Drift that flows around the Burdwood Bank northwest slope providing nutrients for high primary productivity (Schejter & Bremec 2019).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and subsurface and is delineated from 200–650 m based on the bathymetry in the area.

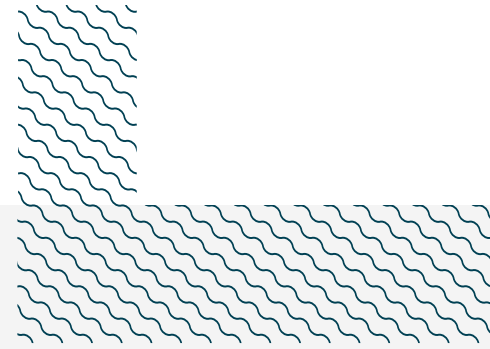
## ISRA CRITERIA

### SUB-CRITERION C1 – REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Burdwood Bank North Slope is an important reproductive area for one ray species.

High densities of Southern Thorny Skate egg cases are regularly found in the area (Matusevich et al. 2023). Between 2016–2018, four research cruises conducted bottom trawl surveys on the southern portion of the southwest Atlantic at depths of 33–785 m (Matusevich et al. 2023). Sampling employed a small bottom trawl net (50 mm mesh in the wings, and 20 mm in the cod end; horizontal opening 6 m) with trawling durations of 5–20 minutes at speeds of 1.5–5 knots, resulting in a total of 110 fishing hauls. Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; individuals/km<sup>2</sup>) for Southern Thorny Skate egg cases was calculated based on the area swept by survey trawls (Alverson & Pereyra 1969) expressed as egg cases per km<sup>2</sup> (egg cases/km<sup>2</sup>). After taxonomic identification, the number of egg cases per haul for each species captured was recorded (Matusevich et al. 2023).

Between 2016–2018, Southern Thorny Skate egg cases were collected in 4.6% (n = 5) of the hauls. The density of Southern Thorny Skate egg cases ranged between 296–4,322 egg cases/km<sup>2</sup> and were only found in the area and surrounding parts of the north slope of Burdwood Bank. However, the highest egg cases density (4,322 egg cases /km<sup>2</sup>) haul was only captured in this area, between 209–642 m depth (Matusevich et al. 2023). This was the highest value observed for any species during these surveys across the southern portion of the southwest Atlantic (Matusevich et al. 2023).



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This factsheet has undergone review by the ISRA Independent Review Panel prior to its publication.

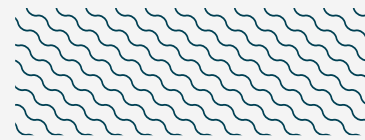
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## Suggested citation

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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>Amblyraja doellojuradoi</i>	Southern Thorny Skate	LC	50–1,000			X						



## REFERENCES

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**Matusevich F, Vazquez DM, Gabbanelli V, Diaz de Astorla JM, Mabragaña E. 2023.** Chondrichthyans from the southern tip of South America with emphasis on the marine protected area Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank: exploring egg nursery grounds. *Polar Biology* 46: 357-372. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00300-023-03128-6>

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