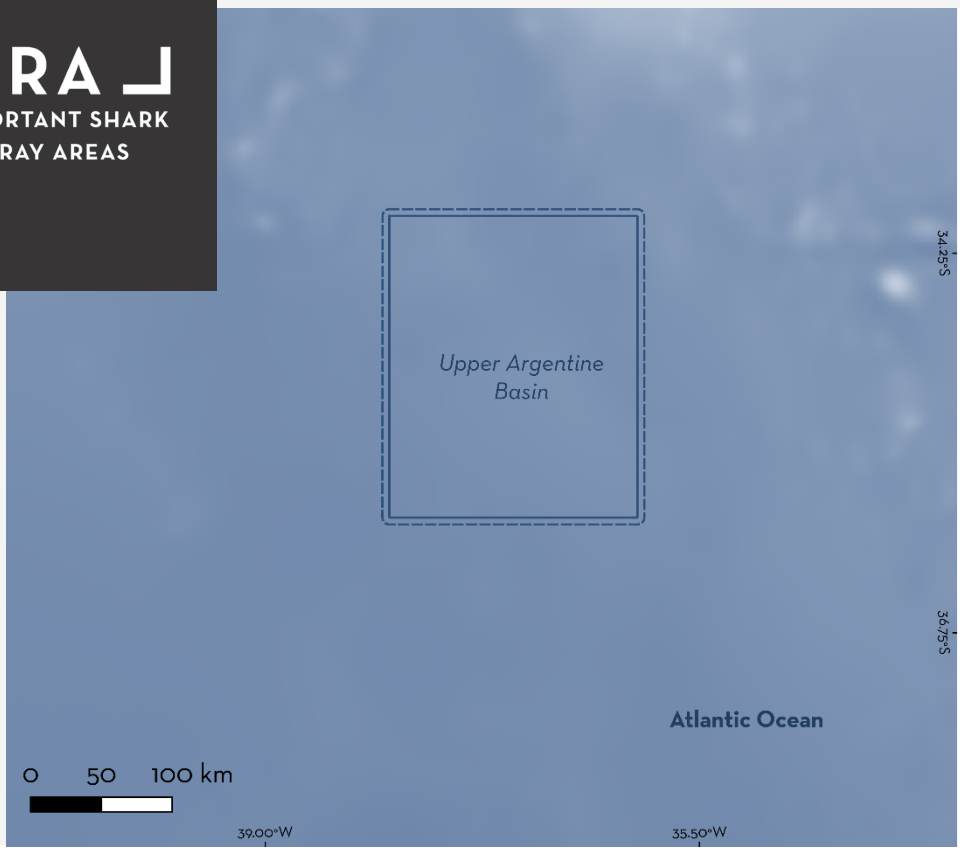
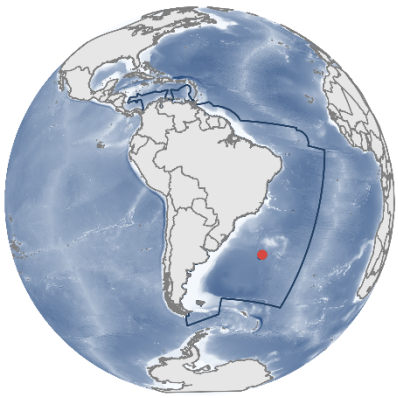
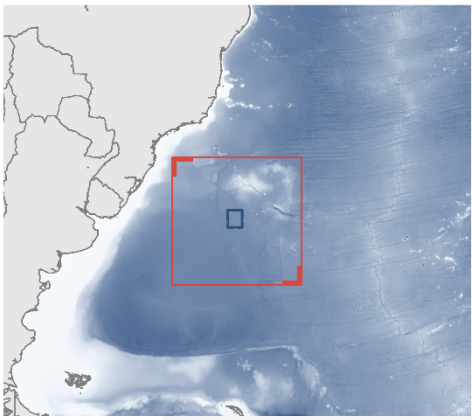
ISRA
IMPORTANT SHARK AND RAY AREAS







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

UPPER ARGENTINE BASIN ISRA

South American Atlantic Region

ABNJ

0–1,888 metres

40,511 km²

SUMMARY

Upper Argentine Basin is located in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJ) of the southwest Atlantic. The area is influenced by the Brazil Current and the Falkland/Malvinas Current which converge creating a high productivity area. The habitat is characterised by pelagic waters. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **reproductive areas** (Shortfin Mako *Isurus oxyrinchus*).

CRITERIA

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

DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Upper Argentine Basin is located in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJ) of the southwest Atlantic. It sits in the northeast side of the Argentine Basin, ~250 km south from the Rio Grande Rise and ~1,400 km east from the coast of Brazil. The area is influenced by the Brazil Current and the Falkland/Malvinas Current (McDonagh & King 2005). The first current is a warm and saline tropical current, and the latter is colder and fresher. Both currents converge producing multiple eddies and create a mixing area with high upwelling and the transport of cold, nutrient-rich waters to the surface (McDonagh & King 2005; Piola & Matano 2019).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is pelagic and is delineated from surface waters (0 m) to a depth of 1,888 m based on the global depth range of the Qualifying Species.

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 Endangered Shortfin Mako (Rigby et al. 2019).

SUB-CRITERION C1 – REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

Upper Argentine Basin is an important reproductive area for one shark species.

Between 1989–2017, incidental catch of 42,979 Shortfin Makos was recorded by fishery observers and scientists from longline fisheries operating across the Atlantic Ocean (Coelho et al. 2018). Sizes of individuals ranged from 60–353 cm fork length, equivalent to ~67–398 cm total length (TL) based on conversion factors (ICCAT 2014; Rosa et al. 2018). Median size distribution was mapped in squares of 2x2° across the whole Atlantic Ocean. Median size in Upper Argentine Basin was between 73–110 cm TL (Coelho et al. 2018). Size-at-birth for the species is 60–70 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021), indicating that the most common life-stages of animals caught in the area were either neonates or young-of-the-year (YOY). While in the Atlantic Ocean the biggest hotspots for Shortfin Mako with the smallest mean size were found in the southeast and north Atlantic, Upper Argentine Basin had a regional importance. This area was one of three areas within the southwest Atlantic with a mean size belonging to neonates/YOY despite a similar number of individuals caught in nearby areas (Coelho et al. 2018).

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Emiliano García-Rodríguez (IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group – ISRA Project) contributed and consolidated information included in this factsheet. We thank all participants of the 2025 ISRA Region 05 – South American Atlantic workshop for their contributions to this process.

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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												
Isurus oxyrinchus	Shortfin Mako	EN	0–1,888	X		X						

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
Lamna nasus	Porbeagle	VU
Prionace glauca	Blue Shark	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.

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