

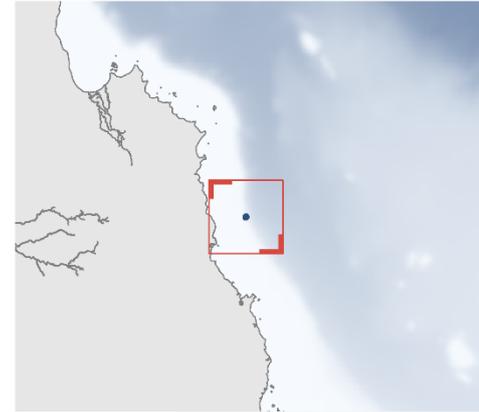
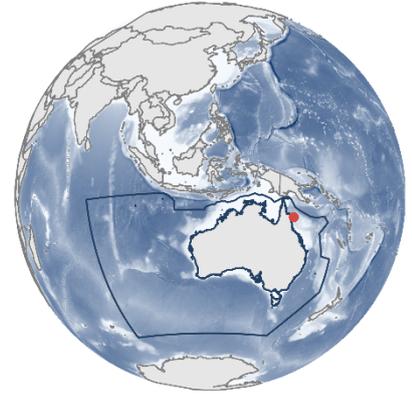
145.80°E

145.83°E

Coral Sea

15.97°S

15.99°S



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

AGINCOURT REEF No. 3 ISRA

Australia and Southeast Indian Ocean Region

SUMMARY

Agincourt Reef No. 3 is located on the Great Barrier Reef, ~40 km off Cape Tribulation, Queensland, Australia. The area is characterised by a reef lagoon on the leeward side of the reef, with rubble substrate and a complex coral community. The area is influenced by severe weather systems and cyclones but is sheltered from wind and wave activity. The area overlaps with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Grey Reef Shark *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*).

CRITERIA

Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C5 - Undefined Aggregations

— AUSTRALIA —

— 0-30 metres —

— 1.65 km² —





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Agincourt Reef No. 3 is located on the Great Barrier Reef, ~40 km off Cape Tribulation, Queensland, Australia. It encompasses the northwestern portion of Agincourt Reef No. 3, located at the southernmost end of the ribbon reefs along the outer edge of Australia's continental shelf. The area is characterised by a reef lagoon on the leeward side of the reef, with rubble substrates and a complex coral community of branching *Acropora* spp., large *Porites* spp., and *Montipora* spp. colonies (Cook et al. 2023).

The area is influenced by severe weather systems and cyclones but is sheltered from wind and wave activity (Cook et al. 2023). During the austral summer monsoon (November–February), productivity is enhanced in the area due to upwelling events on the outer shelf (Wolanski & Hammer 1988).

Agincourt Reef No. 3 overlaps with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – Marine National Park Zone (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN 2025).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and pelagic and is delineated from 0–30 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

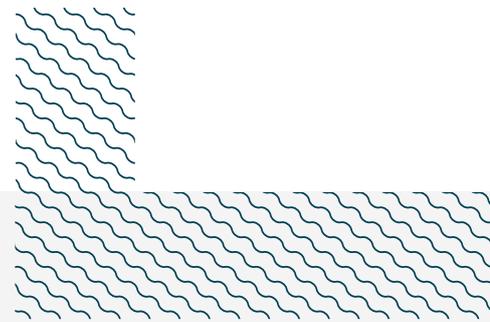
CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

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 Grey Reef Shark (Simpfendorfer et al. 2020).

SUB-CRITERION C5 – UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

Agincourt Reef No. 3 is an important aggregation area for one shark species.

Adult female Grey Reef Sharks aggregate seasonally in the area. Observations were collected by snorkel guides working in the area year-round between 2022–2025, with in-water observations lasting up to two hours daily (H Platt pers. obs. 2025). In 2022, 2024, and 2025, aggregations of up to 10 adults, larger than 150 cm total length (TL), visually estimated, were observed daily during a two-week period in early July each year (H Platt pers. obs. 2025). Size-at-maturity ranges between 120–145 cm TL (Ebert et al. 2021). Seasonal aggregations were typically observed swimming in line formations or semi-tight groups of 4–10 individuals, composed mainly of females, many of which had relatively fresh mating scars on their bodies (H Platt pers. obs. 2025). Additionally, observations of solitary juveniles (~100 cm TL) were common in the area during the same season when aggregations occurred (H Platt pers. obs. 2025). Grey Reef Shark females may display a higher residency and a different habitat use than adult males at certain reefs within the Great Barrier Reef (Espinoza et al. 2015). Further information is required to understand the nature and function of these aggregations.



Acknowledgments

Adrianna Pisarczyk (James Cook University), Heather Platt (Quicksilver Cruises), Fern Trent (Quicksilver Cruises), Jesse Oberholzer (InDepth Video and Photography), and Marta D Palacios (IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group - ISRA Project) contributed and consolidated information included in this factsheet. We thank all participants of the 2025 ISRA Region 08 - Australia and Southeast Indian Ocean workshop for their contributions to this process.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise the continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

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

This project was funded by the Shark Conservation Fund, a philanthropic collaborative pooling expertise and resources to meet the threats facing the world's sharks and rays. The Shark Conservation Fund is a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

Suggested citation

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. 2025. Agincourt Reef No. 3 ISRA Factsheet. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.

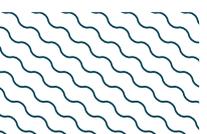
QUALIFYING SPECIES

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>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	Grey Reef Shark	EN	0-280	X							X		

SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	Blacktip Reef Shark	VU
<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	Whitetip Reef Shark	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.





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