

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

BONDI ISRA

Australia and Southeast Indian Ocean Region

SUMMARY

Bondi is located in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. The area encompasses two headlands connected across a shallow bay by sandy substrates. The headlands are comprised of rocky overhangs and caves, with large boulders forming gullies. The area is influenced by seasonal fluctuations in the strength of the East Australian Current. Within the area there are: **threatened species** and **resting areas** (Sand Tiger Shark *Carcharias taurus*).

CRITERIA

Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C3 - Resting Areas

— AUSTRALIA —

— 0-25 metres —

— 0.76 km² —





DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Bondi is located in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. The area encompasses two headlands connected across a shallow bay by sandy substrates. The headlands are popular dive sites, known as South Bondi and North Bondi. South Bondi is a shallow (to 15 m depth) rocky region with three overhangs and a cave. The rocks are covered in kelp and algae (S Han-de-Beaux pers. obs. 2025). North Bondi includes deeper areas (to 25 m depth), with large boulders, caves, and rocky overhangs. The habitat is characterised by sandy substrates and large boulders forming gullies.

Bondi is influenced by the East Australian Current, the poleward flowing western boundary current of the South Pacific Gyre (Suthers et al. 2011). The East Australian Current flow is strongest in the austral summer, and the formation of eddies along this coastline also fluctuate seasonally (Ridgway & Hill 2009).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and pelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 25 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 Critically Endangered Sand Tiger Shark (Rigby et al. 2025).

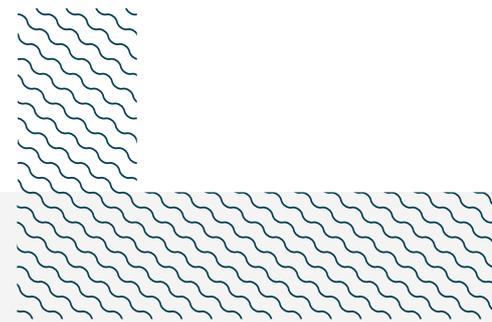
SUB-CRITERION C₃ – RESTING AREAS

Bondi is an important resting area for one shark species.

Between 2008–2025, the citizen science project Spot a Shark collected 251 photographs of Sand Tiger Sharks from SCUBA divers and freedivers in the area (Sharkbook 2025). Bondi offers two main sites for resting sharks, with a topography of overhangs, gullies, and caves providing shelter and protection (S Han-de-Beaux pers. obs. 2025). Dive effort is low in the area, owing to difficult entry and exit conditions to access the sites (S Han-de-Beaux pers. obs. 2025). Between 2012 and 2025, photo submissions were from 62 diving days (average 5.2 surveys per year; Spot a Shark unpubl. data 2025). Most submissions (n = 198) were from the South Bondi part of the area due to its accessibility, however, local ecological knowledge suggests Sand Tiger Sharks form resting aggregations just as regularly in the North Bondi part of the area (n = 34 submissions), just with much lower survey effort (S Han-de-Beaux pers. obs. 2025). Sand Tiger Sharks are observed in a calm resting state of docily navigating gullies and rock formations in the area (S Han-de-Beaux pers. obs. 2025). Hovering and milling are also characteristic behaviours of resting Sand Tiger Sharks and comprise the majority of swimming behaviours observed at other aggregation sites on Australia’s east coast (Smith et al. 2015). When hovering, sharks face into the water current and their tail beats allow them to maintain a stationary position, whereas milling involves slow movements and directional changes generally confined to a particular area within a gutter (Smith et al. 2015).

Sand Tiger Sharks are observed year-round in the area, but there is a seasonal peak in sightings during the winter (June–August). Groups of 3–10 Sand Tiger Sharks are observed on a single dive (average 4.5 individuals; Spot a Shark unpubl. data 2025). Using photo-identification, at least 54 individual Sand Tiger Sharks were identified based on left flank images, with some individuals sighted

over consecutive years between 2017 and 2024 (Spot a Shark unpubl. data 2025). Regular observations of resting Sand Tiger Sharks are also made from drone surveys in the area (Drone Shark App unpubl. data 2025). Repeated use of the area for resting across multiple years highlights the importance of this area for resting for Sand Tiger Sharks undertaking migrations along the east coast of Australia.



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Sarah Han-de-Beaux (Spot a Shark Incorporated) and Asia O Armstrong (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.

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QUALIFYING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category/ EPBC Act	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met									
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	
SHARKS													
<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	Sand Tiger Shark (Grey Nurse Shark)	CR/CR*	0-232	X					X				

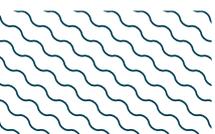
SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
SHARKS		
<i>Brachaelurus waddi</i>	Blind Shark	LC
<i>Heterodontus galeatus</i>	Crested Hornshark	LC
<i>Heterodontus portusjacksoni</i>	Port Jackson Shark	LC
<i>Orectolobus maculatus</i>	Spotted Wobbegong	LC
<i>Orectolobus ornatus</i>	Ornate Wobbegong	LC
RAYS		
<i>Bathytoshia brevicaudata</i>	Smooth Stingray	LC
<i>Myliobatis tenuicaudatus</i>	Southern Eagle Ray	LC
<i>Trygonorrhina fasciata</i>	Eastern Fiddler Ray	LC

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.

Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) categories are available at: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/our-role/approved-lists> Abbreviations refer to: CR, Critically Endangered; EN, Endangered; VU, Vulnerable; CD, Conservation Dependent.

*Status for east coast population.





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