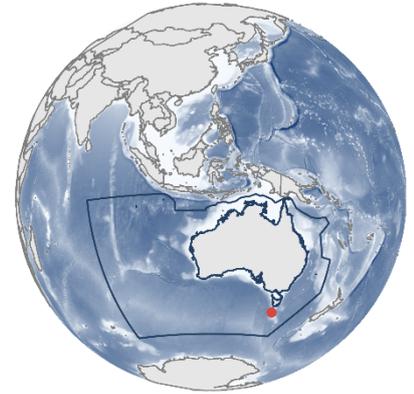


Pacific Ocean



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

## MAATSUYKER ISLANDS ISRA

### Australia and Southeast Indian Ocean Region

#### SUMMARY

Maatsuyker Islands is located off the southern coast of Tasmania, Australia. The area encompasses multiple islands sitting ~35 km from mainland Tasmania. The area is characterised by rocky reefs, sponges, and soft coral. It is influenced by the Zeehan Current, strong winds, and significant swells. The area overlaps with Tasman Fracture Marine Protected Area. Within this area there are: **range-restricted species** (Orange Spotted Carpetshark *Aymbolus rubiginosus*).

#### CRITERIA

**Criterion B - Range Restricted**

— AUSTRALIA —

— 0-150 metres —

— 37.84 km<sup>2</sup> —





## DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Maatsuyker Islands is located off the southern coast of Tasmania, Australia. The area is located around a group of islands sitting ~35 km from mainland Tasmania, which includes Maatsuyker Island, De Witt Island, Mewstone Island, and Round Top Island. It is situated within the Tasman Fracture and upon the continental shelf. The area is characterised by rocky reefs, coarse sand, sponges, and soft coral (NVA 2025).

The area is influenced by the Zeehan Current (Red Map 2025), strong winds, and a lack of shelter. The annual mean sea surface temperature is 11°C (BoM 2025). Significant swells, exceeding 10 m, on top of 6 m seas, influence this area multiple times a year (Wong et al. 2025).

The area overlaps with Tasman Fracture Marine Protected Area (Parks Australia 2025).

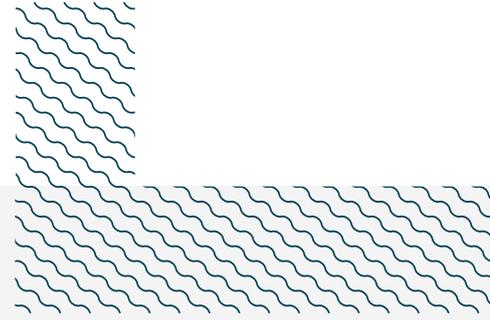
This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 150 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

## ISRA CRITERIA

### CRITERION B – RANGE RESTRICTED

This area holds the regular presence of Orange Spotted Carpetshark as a resident range-restricted species.

Synthesised data from the GlobalArchive and The Fish Collective for Baited Remote Underwater Video System (BRUVS) were extracted after quality control was undertaken using CheckEM (GlobalArchive 2025; The Fish Collective 2025; Gibbons et al. in press). In this area, 51 BRUVS were deployed in April 2015 (n = 3 days of effort) and March 2021 (n = 4 days) (Monk et al. 2016; Perkins et al. 2022; GlobalArchive 2025; The Fish Collective 2025). In 2015, seven Orange Spotted Carpetshark were observed in seven BRUVS surveys between 111-129 m depth. In 2021, 13 animals were observed in 13 BRUVS surveys between 108-126 m depth (Monk et al. 2016; Perkins et al. 2022; GlobalArchive 2025; The Fish Collective 2025). There are only two years of data available since the area is remote and infrequently surveyed. Still, this species has been observed in both years and all months of surveys undertaken in this area. The relative importance of this area is highlighted by the lack of observations from BRUVS deployed off the south coast of Tasmania. This is despite there being similar effort in adjacent areas (46 BRUVS deployments in 8 days across three months in two years). In adjacent areas, Orange Spotted Carpetshark were not observed or were observed in fewer numbers (n = 2 individuals). In other parts of Tasmania, there were no clusters observed via BRUVS across multiple years (Monk et al. 2016; Perkins et al. 2022; GlobalArchive 2025; The Fish Collective 2025). This area has the only known cluster of regular and predictable observations of Orange Spotted Carpetshark in Tasmania, across more than one year (Monk et al. 2016; Perkins et al. 2022; GlobalArchive 2025; The Fish Collective 2025). Orange Spotted Catsharks are restricted to the Southeast Australian Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem.



---

## **Acknowledgments**

Neville Barrett (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies [IMAS], University of Tasmania), Ashlee Bastiaansen (University of Tasmania), and Ryan Charles (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.** Maatsuyker Islands ISRA Factsheet. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.

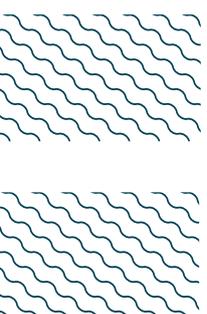
## QUALIFYING SPECIES

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
<b>SHARKS</b>											
<i>Asymbolus rubiginosus</i>	Orange Spotted Carpetshark	LC	25-540		X						

## SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
RAYS		
<i>Urolophus cruciatus</i>	Banded Stingaree	LC

*IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories are available by searching species names at [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) Abbreviations refer to: CR, Critically Endangered; EN, Endangered; VU, Vulnerable; NT, Near Threatened; LC, Least Concern; DD, Data Deficient.*





## REFERENCES

- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM). 2025.** Climate statistics for Australian locations. Available at: [https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw\\_094041\\_All.shtml](https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_094041_All.shtml) Accessed October 2025.
- Gibbons, BA, C Spencer, J Goetze, D McLean, T Bond, J Monk, M Navarro, D Agnello, C Aston, C Huvneers, et al. In press.** CheckEM: an open-source toolkit for standardising, cleaning, and visualising stereo-video fish survey data. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*.
- GlobalArchive. 2025.** GlobalArchive. An online repository of ecological data and science communication. Available at: <https://globalarchive.org/> Accessed December 2025.
- Monk J, Barrett N, Hulls J, James L, Hosack G, Oh E, Martin T, Edwards S, Nau A, Heaney B, et al. 2016.** Seafloor biota, rock lobster and demersal fish assemblages of the Tasman Fracture Commonwealth Marine Reserve Region: Determining the influence of the shelf sanctuary zone on population demographics. A report to the National Environmental Research Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub. Hobart: University of Tasmania.
- Natural Values Atlas (NVA). 2025.** Natural Values Atlas: Authoritative, comprehensive information on Tasmania's natural values. Version 3.12.10. Available at: <https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/> Accessed September 2025.
- Parks Australia. 2025.** Australian Marine Parks. Available at: <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/> Accessed September 2025.
- Perkins N, Monk J, Wong R, Willis S, Bastiaansen A, Barrett N. 2022.** Changes in rock lobster, demersal fish, and sessile benthic organisms in the Tasman Fracture Marine Park: comparisons between 2015 and 2021. Report to the Parks Australia. Hobart: Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania.
- Red Map. 2025.** Ocean currents in Australia. Available at: <https://www.redmap.org.au/article/ocean-currents-in-australia/> Accessed October 2025.
- The Fish Collective. 2025.** The Fish Collective. Available at: <https://thefishcollective.github.io/> Accessed December 2025.
- Wong RH, Monk J, Perkins NR, Barrett NS. 2025.** Geomorphological drivers of benthic community distribution on high energy temperate mesophotic and rariphotic reefs. *Marine Environmental Research* 208: 107078. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2025.107078>