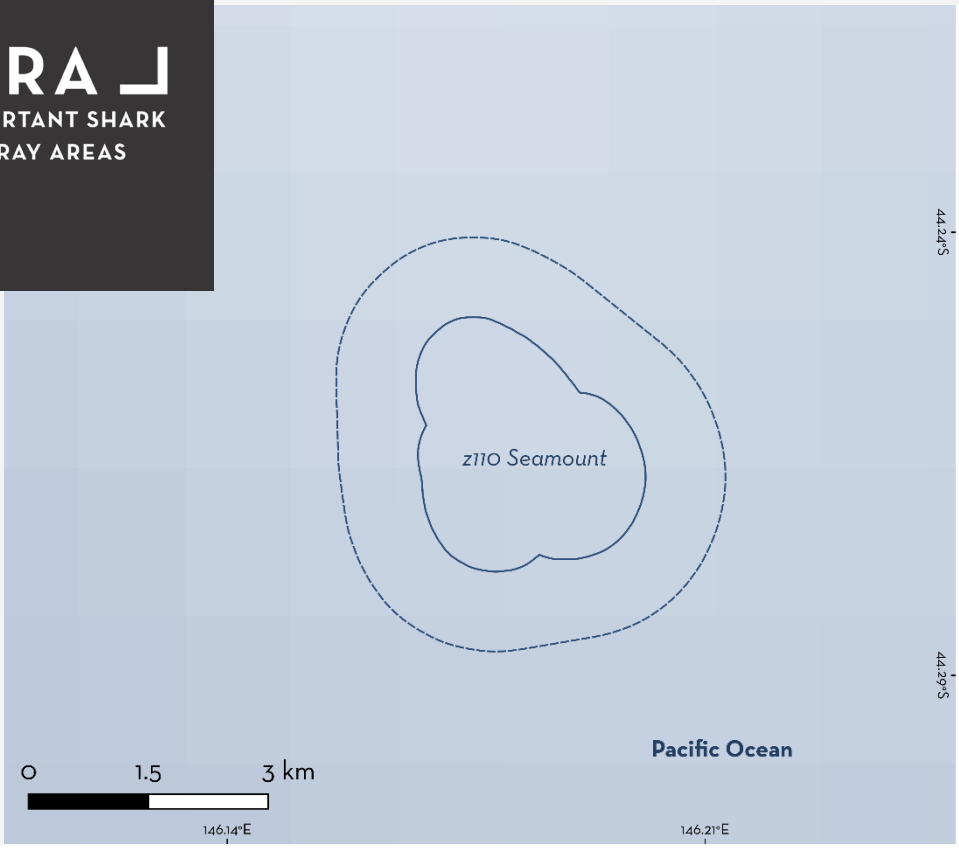
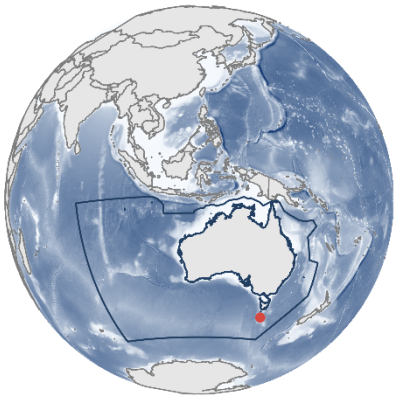
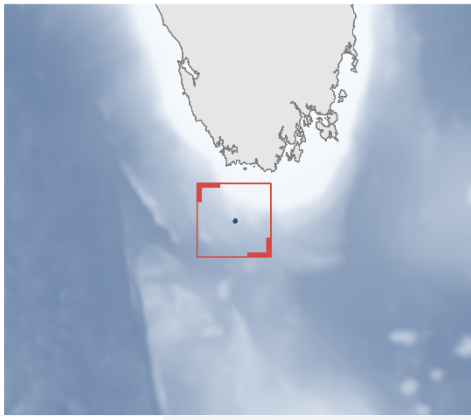
ISRA
IMPORTANT SHARK AND RAY AREAS







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

Z110 SEAMOUNT ISRA

Australia and Southeast Indian Ocean Region

SUMMARY

z110 Seamount is located on the continental slope south of Tasmania, Australia. This deep seamount is characterised by live hard corals, coral rubble, and rocky and sandy substrates. This area overlaps with the Tasman Fracture Marine Park. Within this area there are: **reproductive areas** (Arctic Skate *Amblyraja hyperborea*).

CRITERIA

Sub-criterion C1 – Reproductive Areas

AUSTRALIA

900–1,650 metres

6.81 km²

DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

z110 Seamount is located south of Tasmania, Australia. It is part of a deepsea seamount chain extending along the continental slope off Tasmania and it is characterised by live hard corals (stony coral *Solenosmilia variabilis*) around the top of the seamount and coral rubble, and rocky and sandy substrates around the edge of the seamount (Maguire et al. 2023). Mean annual bottom temperature is ~3.33°C (Maguire et al. 2023).

This area partially overlaps with the Tasman Fracture Marine Park (Parks Australia 2025).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and subsurface and is delineated from 900–1,650 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

ISRA CRITERIA

SUB-CRITERION C1 – REPRODUCTIVE AREAS

z110 Seamount is an important reproductive area for one ray species.

Between November–December 2018, 99 survey transects (2 km in length) using a towed platform with cameras were conducted across seamounts (n = 35) and the continental slope off Tasmania at depths of ~500–1,900 m (Maguire et al. 2023). Stereo-still images were taken every five seconds resulting in 50,928 paired images of which 240 (0.5%) showed skate egg cases. Within the area, 151 images were recorded, of which 39 (25.8%) had egg cases with a maximum of 100 egg cases counted in a single image. z110 Seamount held the largest number of skate egg cases (n = 468) and the highest density (5.47 egg cases/m^2) recorded across all seamounts surveyed, with the majority being associated with the stony coral *Solenosmilia variabilis* (Maguire et al. 2023). Of the 113 egg cases identified at the species level, 37 (32.7%) were recorded in this area and all were identified as from Arctic Skates (Maguire et al. 2023). Records of egg cases in this area included 'recently laid' eggs (n = 63, 45.3%), which are those which have not darkened and had a partially/complete golden colour, and 'aged' egg cases, which are darkened eggs that had been in the substrate long enough to be degraded. Despite only one year of survey data, the presence of both types of egg cases confirms that this area is regularly used by this species to lay eggs (Maguire et al. 2023).

Acknowledgments

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 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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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												
Amblyraja hyperborea	Arctic Skate	LC	140–3,165			X						

REFERENCES

Maguire K, O'Neill H, Althaus F, White W, Williams A. 2023. Seamount coral reefs are egg case nurseries for deep-sea skates. *Journal of Fish Biology* 102: 1455–1469. https://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.15376

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