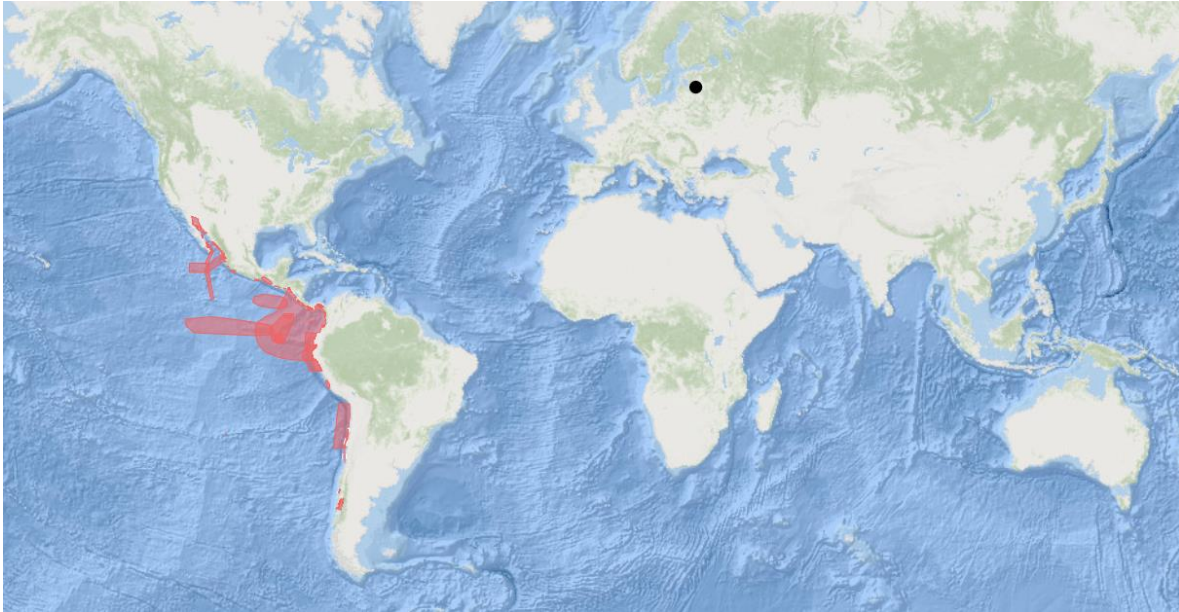


## METADATA DESCRIPTION

# IUCN SSC SSG-IMPORTANT SHARK AND RAY AREAS LAYER

January 2023 Version Release

Map of Layer Extent:



**Description:** The ISRA project is led by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Shark Specialist Group but is a partnership of individuals, institutions, and organizations across the conservation community working together to identify and map the most critical sites for sharks, rays, and chimaeras around the world. The ISRA layers indicates discrete, three-dimensional portions of habitats, important for one or more shark, ray, or chimaera species, that are delineated and have the potential to be managed for conservation. ISRA is a scientifically-based biocentric approach solely focusing on identifying important areas for sharks, rays, and chimaeras. The ISRA database and eAtlas can be used by governments, organisations, or researchers to inform and implement management strategies.

**Citation:** IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. 2022. Dataset of Important Shark and Rays Areas (IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA). Made available under a User License Agreement by the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group and accessible via the ISRA e-atlas. Available at: <https://sharkrayareas.org/e-atlas/> Accessed [Insert month/year].

### Other cited reference(s):

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. 2022. Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA): Guidance document on criteria application. Version 2, January 2023. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. 2023. Report on the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) Region 12 (Central and South American Pacific) Workshop, 02-08 October 2022, Bogotá, Colombia. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.

**Temporal change:** July–January 2023

**Geographical range:** Global, Marine, Freshwater, Estuarine, Coastal, Oceanic

**Supplementary information:** The IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA layers contain information on discrete, three-dimensional portions of habitats, important for one or more shark, ray, or chimaera species. Information described include the name of the area, jurisdiction, qualifying species, depth range, criteria and sub-criteria used, and surface area of the ISRA.

**Purpose of creation:** The IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA layer has been created to be compatible with and support the identification of national, regional, and international area-based management tools and conservation prioritisation areas, and include but are not restricted to, Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (EBSA), Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA), Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA), and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar). ISRAs provide decision-makers and relevant stakeholders with actionable knowledge to support the implementation of area-based shark conservation.

**Creation methodology:** The IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA maintains a GIS dataset of Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) around the world. This dataset is drawn from knowledge provided directly to the IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA project by experts, mainly, in regional workshops, but may also include some data consolidated from third party sources where other information may not have been available. These areas have been assessed by regional experts and were further assessed by a panel of independent reviewers. Where possible the IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA has included a polygon for each ISRA sub-region, which has been independently assessed across separate regional expert identification workshops. Guidance on criteria application for the identification of ISRAs is available at <https://sharkrayareas.org/resources/documents/>

**Datased ID:** iucn\_isra

**E-mail:** [info@sharkrayareas.org](mailto:info@sharkrayareas.org)

**Data lineage:** Note that the map shown in the metadata sheet is using the January 2023 release. The IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA e-Atlas shows the up to date and additional layers (e.g., Areas of Interest [AoI], candidate ISRA [cISRA]) not available for public download (<https://sharkrayareas.org/e-atlas/>).

**Category:** ISRA

**Similar datasets:** Ecological or Biological Significant Area (EBSA), Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA), Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA), Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar).

**Limitations:** The IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA dataset is not necessarily a complete representation of all the important areas that have been identified in a region; the quality of the ISRA process depends on the accessibility of accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date expert information from data and knowledge holders. Regions not currently assessed by the IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA will be

addressed in future regional expert workshops. New information will be assessed on a decadal basis to determine new ISRAs in the region or re-examine existing ISRAs.

**Maintenance frequency:** Data are updated every six to 12 months.

**Main access/use constraint:** IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA Data User Agreement is for the purposes of Scientific Research, Education, or Conservation (Attribution Non-Commercial CC BY-NC). The recipient of the data will provide a full and appropriate acknowledgement and citation in any materials or publications derived in part or in whole from the data, using the citation styles as provided. Please see the IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA Data User Agreement for full terms and conditions of use and supply. Please contact the ISRA Project Leader for further conditions of commercial use [info@sharkrayareas.org](mailto:info@sharkrayareas.org)

**Other access/use constraints:** Access to the IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA Layer is undertaken on a request basis.

**Contact organisation:** IUCN SSC SSG-ISRA

**Organisation type:** Coordinator, Custodian, and Distributor

**Web site:** <https://sharkrayareas.org>

**Coordinator:** Dr. Rima Jabado

**Position:** ISRA Project Leader

**City:** Dubai

**Country:** United Arab Emirates

**Data format(s):** Shapefile (.shp), KML (.kml or .kmz).

**Dataset size (uncompressed):** 1.22 Mb (Shapefile)

**Webpage and/or download:** <https://sharkrayareas.org>

**Version:** Version 1 (January 2023)

**Dataset ID:** iucn\_jsra

**Web map service:** NA

**Reference System:** EPSG 4326 WGS 1984

**West bounding:** -180.0

**East bounding:** 180.0

**South bounding:** -90.0

**North bounding:** 90.0

**Metadata standard:** QGIS, ISO-xml, QMD and UNEP-WCMC Specific Metadata Template