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- Cover* Illegal exploitation of resources is a cause of environmental degradation, and the effectiveness of conservation initiatives such as marine protected areas relies on compliance with regulations. A case study of how enforcement could be optimized at Cocos Island National Park, Costa Rica, an offshore protected area and Ramsar and World Heritage Site rich in marine life (including the Endangered scalloped hammerhead shark, illustrated), revealed that illegal fishing was concentrated on a seamount at particular times of the year. The predictability of illegal fishing in space and time will facilitate efficient distribution of patrol effort and establishment of adequate governance and policy. For further details, see pp. 18–26. (Photograph © Jeff Rotman/NaturePL)