

Western Wobbegong, *Orectolobus hutchinsi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Huveneers, C. & McAuley, R.B.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Minor bycatch with likely high post-release survival.		

Summary

The Western Wobbegong is a medium sized wobbegong that is endemic to shallow and continental shelf waters of southwest Australia. It is a minor component of bycatch in some Western Australia fisheries. It is likely to be



Source: CSIRO National Fish Collection. Licence: CC By Attribution.

discarded due to its small size with expected high post-release survival. There is no evidence to suspect a population decline. Therefore, the Western Wobbegong is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

Distribution

The Western Wobbegong is endemic to Australian waters. It is found in southwest Australia from Coral Bay to Groper Bluff in Western Australia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Western Wobbegong.

Fisheries

The Western Wobbegong is taken as bycatch in demersal gillnet and longline fisheries in Western Australia. It constituted 1.4% and 0.9% of total elasmobranch catch from gillnet and longline gear, respectively (Jones et al. 2010). Due to its small size, it is often discarded alive, with post-release survival thought to be high (Chidlow et al. 2007). Recreational anglers are estimated to take 1,000 individual wobbegongs annually (Sumner and Williamson 1999).

Habitat and biology

Western Wobbegongs are associated with reef and sea grass habitats and occurs at depths of 1–106 m (Chidlow et al. 2007). Its maximum size is at least 149 cm total length (TL) (Last et al. 2006). Maximum age is not known.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 149 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 112 cm TL Females: 110 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 013016

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/42717/68638402>

Link to page at Shark References: <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Orectolobus-hutchinsi>

References

- Chidlow, J.A., Simpfendorfer, C.A. and Russ, G.R. 2007. Variable growth band deposition leads to age and growth uncertainty in the western wobbegong shark, *Orectolobus hutchinsi*. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 58: 856–865.
- Jones, A.A., Hall, N.G. and Potter, I.C. 2010. Species compositions of elasmobranchs caught by three different commercial fishing methods off southwestern Australia, and biological data for four abundant bycatch species. *Fishery Bulletin* 108(4): 365–381.
- Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. 2021. *The Action Plan for Australian Sharks and Rays 2021*. National Environmental Science Program, Marine Biodiversity Hub, Hobart
- Last, P.R., Chidlow, J. and Compagno, L.J.V. 2006. A new wobbegong shark, *Orectolobus hutchinsi* n. sp. (Orectolobiformes: Orectolobidae) from southwestern Australia. *Zootaxa* 1239: 3–48.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.
- Sumner, N.R. and Williamson, P.C. 1999. *A 12-month survey of coastal recreational boat fishing between Augusta and Kalbarri on the west coast of Western Australia during 1996–97*. Fisheries Research Report No. 117. Fisheries Western Australia, Perth.