

Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong, *Orectolobus parvimaculatus*

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 Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong is a small bodied species only recently described. It is endemic to southwest Australian waters. It is only a minor bycatch component of commercial fisheries and is often discarded with post-release survival likely to be high. Further research is needed on its

occurrence, abundance, and biology. Currently, there is no evidence to suspect population decline. Therefore, the Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong is endemic to waters of southwest Australia. Its known distribution extends from Shark Bay to Mandurah in Western Australia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong. It was first described in 2008 and is encountered much less frequently than other similar wobbegong species (Last and Chidlow 2008).

Fisheries

There are no identified major threats for the Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong. It is only a minor bycatch component of demersal gillnet and longline fisheries in Western Australia where it is often released alive due to its small size (Chidlow et al. 2007). Commercial harvest of wobbegongs in Western Australia has remained low and stable over time, showing no evidence of decline (Braccini et al. 2014). Recreational fisheries also retain wobbegong species with the Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong likely to be a minor component of total catch (Ryan et al. 2013).

Habitat and biology

The Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong is found in continental shelf waters occurring at depths of 9–135 m. Its maximum size is at least 94 cm total length (TL) (Last and Chidlow 2008). Little else is known on the biology of the species.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 94 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 71 cm TL Females: 88 cm TL

CAAB Code: 37 013022

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161651/68639242>

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

References

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- 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
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