

Network Wobbegong, *Orectolobus reticulatus*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Data Deficient (Endemic to Australia)	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Assessors	Corrigan, S. & Huveneers, C.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Only known from four specimens.		

Summary

The Network Wobbegong is a little known, small bodied species that is endemic to northwest Australia. Currently known from only four specimens. It is reef associated and has a patchy and restricted range. Fisheries interactions are thought to



be rare and pose minimal threat. Further information is required on its distribution, occurrence, biology, and population size to allow appropriate assessment of the Network Wobbegong. Therefore, it is assessed as Data Deficient (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and as Negligible (SAFS) due to the very limited interactions it has with fisheries.

Distribution

The Network Wobbegong distribution is endemic to a small region in northwest Australia. Its distribution is only known from four specimens. It has been recorded in the Kimberley region of Western Australia between Louis Island and Long Reef with a single specimen also found in Darwin harbour, Northern Territory (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Network Wobbegong. Only four known specimens have been collected (Last et al. 2008).

Fisheries

Although rarely encountered, it is susceptible to commercial fishing due to its restricted range and suspected small population size. Interactions with commercial fisheries are limited because of its small size, restricted habitat, and the selectivity of fishing gear for larger individuals.

Habitat and biology

Known specimens of the Network Wobbegong were found in shallow, reef associated waters occurring at depths of less than 20 m. Critical habitat is suspected to be caves and ledges on rocky or coral reefs. The maximum size is at least 52 cm total length (TL) from known specimens with a 50 cm TL early adolescent male also recorded (Last et al. 2008). Little else is known on the biology or ecology of the species.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 52 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

CAAB Code: 37 013023

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/195439/68639415>

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

References

- 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., Pogonoski, J.J. and White, W.T. 2008. *Orectolobus reticulatus* sp. nov., a new wobbegong shark (Orectolobiformes: Orectolobidae) from the continental shelf of northwestern Australia. Pp. 39–47. In: P.R. Last, White, W.T. and Pogonoski, J.J (eds), *Descriptions of New Australian Chondrichthyans*, CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research Paper No. 022.
- Last, P.R. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.