

Northern Wobbegong, *Orectolobus wardi*

Report Card assessment	Negligible		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Huveneers, C., Corrigan, S. & Pillans, R.D.		
Australian Assessors	Kyne, P.M., Heupel, M.R., White, W.T. & Simpfendorfer, C.A. (Shark Action Plan)		
Report Card Remarks	Rarely encountered by commercial fisheries.		

Summary

The Northern Wobbegong is a small-bodied wobbegong species from northern Australia. It is part of a species-complex for which taxonomy is not yet resolved. It is rarely encountered by commercial fisheries and therefore, there is no evidence to suggest population decline. Therefore, the Northern Wobbegong is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Negligible (SAFS).



Distribution

The Northern Wobbegong is probably endemic to northern Australia. It is found from Cape York (Queensland) to Coral Bay (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009). It occurs marginally in eastern Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (Kyne et al. 2021).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Northern Wobbegong. It is part of the 'wardi-complex' which is a group of similar wobbegong species whose taxonomy and population structure are yet to be resolved.

Fisheries

The Northern Wobbegong's association with rocky and coral reef habitat prevents it from encountering most commercial fishing gear types in its range. The threat of fishing is therefore minimal throughout its distribution.

Habitat and biology

The Northern Wobbegong is found in often turbid waters associated with coral and rocky reef ledges and caves. It occurs at shallow depths. Maximum size is at least 63 cm total length (TL) but it potentially grows to 100 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 63 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Unknown

CAAB Code: 37 013017

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41839/68639575>

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

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. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.