

## Cobbler Wobbegong, *Sutorectus tentaculatus*

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

### Summary

The Cobbler Wobbegong is a small bodied species endemic to waters of southern and southwest Australia. It is a minor bycatch of commercial fisheries, however due to its small size it is rarely retained and likely has high post-release survival rates.



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Further research on the distribution, biology, ecology, and population structure of the Cobbler Wobbegong is required however, no evidence of population decline exists. Therefore, the Cobbler Wobbegong is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) (Kyne et al. 2021) and Sustainable (SAFS).

### Distribution

The Cobbler Wobbegong is found from Adelaide (South Australia) to the Houtman Abrolhos (Western Australia) (Last and Stevens 2009).

### Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Cobbler Wobbegong. It appears to be most common in southwest Western Australia.

### Fisheries

The Cobbler Wobbegong is a minor component of bycatch in Western Australian commercial fisheries, constituting 0.9% of total elasmobranch bycatch in gillnets (Jones et al. 2010). In Western Australia fisheries, the total catch of all species of wobbegongs is about 40 tonnes per year between 1999–2014 did not show any signs of decline (Braccini et al. 2014). In South Australia, it is caught as bycatch in trawl fisheries but the catch is minimal and it is not retained (Currie et al. 2009). Post-release survival is thought to be high. Although the Cobbler Wobbegong occurs within the western extent of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, the species is not or only rarely caught by this fishery (Walker and Gason 2007).

## Habitat and biology

The Cobbler Wobbegong is found on rocky reef and weedy habitats and occurs to depths of at least 35 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Its maximum size is at least 92 cm total length (TL). Both sexes mature at 60–65 cm TL (Last and Stevens 2009). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 92 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: 60–65 cm TL

**CAAB Code:** 37 013012

**Link to IUCN Page:** <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41864/68646166>

**Link to page at Shark References:** <http://shark-references.com/species/view/Sutorectus-tentaculatus>

### References

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- 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. and Stevens, J.D. 2009. *Sharks and Rays of Australia*. Second Edition. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.
- Walker, T.I. and Gason, A.S. 2007. *Shark and other chondrichthyan byproduct and bycatch estimation in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery*. Final report to Fisheries and Research Development Corporation Project No. 2001/007. July 2007. vi + 182 pp. Primary Industries Research Victoria, Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia.