Western Wobbegong, *Orectolobus hutchinsi*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Card assessment</th>
<th>Sustainable</th>
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<td>IUCN Red List Australian Assessment</td>
<td>Endemic to Australia</td>
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<td>Assessors</td>
<td>Huveneers, C. &amp; McAuley, R.B.</td>
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<td>Report Card Remarks</td>
<td>Minor bycatch with likely high post-release survival</td>
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**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. Likely to be 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) 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 (all species) 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 |
References