

## Western Wobbegong, *Orectolobus hutchinsi*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
Assessors	Huveneers, C. & McAuley, R.B.		
Report Card Remarks	Minor bycatch with likely high post-release survival		

### 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



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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

**Link to IUCN Page:** <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42717/0>

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

#### References

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