

Ornate Wobbegong, *Orectolobus ornatus*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Endemic to Australia	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Least Concern
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Report Card Remarks	Management has reduced fishing pressure on this wobbegong		

Summary

The Ornate Wobbegong is a medium-bodied common wobbegong species endemic to eastern Australian waters. It is susceptible to fishing pressure because it is site attached to shallow water habitats. In New South Wales (NSW), wobbegong catch declined by more than 50% between 1997-1998 and 2007-2008, after which it stabilised. This led to all three species of wobbegong occurring in NSW, including the Ornate Wobbegong, to be listed as Vulnerable in that state. New NSW management regulations in May 2008 introduced a daily limit of six wobbegongs. As a result, wobbegongs are no longer targeted to the same extent as they used to be in NSW. Therefore, the Ornate Wobbegong is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Ornate Wobbegong is endemic to eastern Australian waters. It is found from Port Douglas, (Queensland) south to Sydney (New South Wales) (Last and Stevens 2009). Records of its occurrence in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Japan are likely misidentifications.

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Ornate Wobbegong. A phylogeographic study showed no subpopulation structure between New South Wales and Queensland (Corrigan 2009).

Fisheries

This species is sensitive to fishing pressure due to strong site fidelity. In NSW, three wobbegong species (Ornate Wobbegong, Spotted Wobbegong and Gulf Wobbegong) are taken in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTL), in the fish and prawn sectors of the Ocean Trawl Fishery, and in the Estuary General Fishery. The majority of commercial wobbegong catches occur in the OTL Fishery. The NSW total catch of wobbegongs declined from about 120 tonnes in 1990-1991 to about seven tonnes in 2008-2009, largely as a result of reductions in effort. Catches have now stabilized at approximately 20 tonnes per year. There is also a daily trip limit on wobbegongs and minimum size limit of 180 cm. It is not targeted in Queensland waters, however, it is recorded as bycatch in prawn trawl fisheries (Kyne et al. 2002).

Habitat and biology

The Ornate Wobbegong is found in inshore and continental shelf waters in bays, reefs and offshore islands (Compagno 2001). It prefers habitat with high topographic complexity and crevice volume and shows site attachment (Carraro and Gladstone 2006). It occurs to depths of at least 100 m (Last and Stevens 2009). Maximum size is at least 120 cm total length (TL) (Huveneers et al. 2006). Maximum age is estimated to be 20 years (Huveneers et al. 2013).

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: estimated 20 years Max size: at least 120 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Both sexes: ~80 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41838/0>

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

References

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