

Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong, *Orectolobus parvimaculatus*

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 Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong is a small bodied species only recently described. It is endemic to southwestern Australian waters. It is only a minor bycatch component of commercial fisheries and is often discarded with post-release survival likely to be high. Further research is needed on its occurrence, abundance and biology. Currently, there is no evidence to suspect population decline. Therefore, the Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong is endemic to waters of southwestern Australia. Its known distribution extends from Shark Bay to Mandurah in Western Australia (Last and Stevens 2009).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong. It was first described in 2008 and is encountered much less frequently than other similar wobbegong species (Last and Chidlow 2008).

Fisheries

There are no identified major threats for the Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong. It is only a minor bycatch component of demersal gillnet and longline fisheries where it is often released alive due to its small size (Chidlow et al. 2007). Commercial harvest of Wobbegongs in Western Australia has remained low and stable over time, showing no evidence of decline (Braccini et al. 2014). Recreational fisheries also retain Wobbegong species with the Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong likely to be a minor component of total catch (Ryan et al. 2013).

Habitat and biology

The Dwarf Spotted Wobbegong is found in continental shelf waters occurring at depths of 9-135 m. Its maximum size is at least 94 cm total length (TL) (Last and Chidlow 2008). Little else is known on the biology of the species.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: at least 94 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: 71 cm TL Females: 88 cm TL

Link to IUCN Page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/161651/0>

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

References

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