



SPOTTED WOBBERGONG

ORECTOLOBUS MACULATUS

DID YOU KNOW?

Wobbegong's are so flexible they can bite their own tail!

WHERE AT AQWA?

Search the seafloor of our Underwater Tunnel to catch a glimpse of these curious creatures.

SIZE: <300CM

DIET: OCTOPUSES, FISH, CUTTLEFISH AND CRABS.

MAIN PREDATOR: LARGE FISH, MARINE MAMMALS

HABITAT: SAND, ROCKY REEF. SHALLOW WATER TO 100M DEEP

FOUND: ONLY IN AUSTRALIA

BEARDED SHARK

The name wobbegong is thought to be an indigenous Australian word that means "shaggy beard". This perfectly describes the curtain of moveable tassels and sensory barbels that hang from the snout of wobbegong sharks.

The scientific name 'orectolobus' means 'digging lobes', also referring to the fleshy tassels and how they can be used to dig through the sand in search of food.

BOTTOM DWELLER

The 'shaggy beard' helps break up wobbegongs' outline, as does the mottled patterns found all over their flattened bodies. These features create a clever camouflage so wobbegongs can blend into the sea floor where they live and hunt.

DAGGER DANGER

To hunt, wobbegong sharks rely on their camouflage and lay in wait for prey to get too close. They ambush unsuspecting prey at rapid speeds with dagger-like teeth then lock their jaw so wriggling prey can't escape

Wobbegongs are nocturnal, feeding at night and resting in caves, reef ledges and on the seafloor during the day.

WISKERED WONDERS

Barbels help wobbegongs sense prey on the seafloor and can even be used as a lure, drawing curious fish closer!

LOCAL LEGENDS

Six of the twelve known species of wobbegongs can be found here in WA.