



# ORNATE WOBBERGONG

(*Orectolobus ornatus*)

1. ORNATE WOBBERGONGS ARE NATIVE (ENDEMIC) TO AUSTRALIA AND ARE FOUND ON ROCKY BOTTOMS AND CORAL REEFS.
2. THESE SHARKS HAVE A SOMEWHAT FLATTENED BODY, VERY BROAD HEAD AND ORNATE PATTERNS ON THE BODY, WITH VERY OBVIOUS DARK SADDLES ON THEIR BACK. THEIR AVERAGE LENGTH IS 2.0-2.5 METERS (6.6-8.2 FEET).
3. THEY HAVE 2 NASAL BARBELS AND 5 DERMAL LOBES (SKIN FLAPS) BELOW AND IN FRONT OF THE EYES. THESE ARE OFTEN USED TO LURE PREY CLOSER BEFORE AN AMBUSH ATTACK FROM THIS WELL CAMOUFLAGED PREDATOR.
4. THEY ARE A PRIMARILY NOCTURNAL PREDATOR, FEEDING ON CRUSTACEANS, BONY FISHES, SQUID, RAYS AND EVEN OTHER SHARKS. DURING THE DAY THEY WILL AMBUSH PREY THAT SWIMS CLOSE ENOUGH TO THEM.
5. THEY ARE LISTED AS NEAR THREATENED ON THE IUCN RED LIST AND ARE CAUGHT AS BOTH A TARGETED SPECIES AND AS BYCATCH. THEY ARE COMMONLY CAUGHT IN TRAWLS, BEACH SEINES, TRAPS AND GILLNETS.



**Image: Sander Van Dijk**

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