

Fact Sheet

SPINY SEAHORSE

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Seahorses are fish and a very unusual fish they are indeed. They do not swim like traditional fish and they do not have scales but they are unique in having a prehensile tail to hold on in the strongest of storms and can change colour like a Chameleon. Below are some amazing facts about Spiny Seahorses.



www.theseahorsetrust.org

DISTRIBUTION (UK)



PROTECTION STATUS

In the UK

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) schedule 5, section 9

CITES

Under CITES they are listed as Appendix II and are listed as Data Deficient

BASIC FACTS ABOUT SPINY SEAHORSES

Name	The Latin name for Seahorses is <i>Hippocampus</i> which means <i>Hippo</i> = horse and <i>campe</i> meaning, caterpillar or monster
Diet	They have voracious appetites and eat a wide variety of crustacea such as small shrimp and crabs.
Population	All around the UK, as high as the Shetland Isles, through the Bay of Biscay and into the Mediterranean
Reproduction	Amazingly it is the male that gets pregnant and gives birth; so why is he still the male? Well he still has testes and the female still has ovaries and produces the eggs

FAST FACTS

Size	Normally up to 16 or 18cms but the largest one ever found was 34 cm in Poole Harbour in Dorset
Lifespan	They are quite long lived for a small fish, up to 12 years
Colour	Just like a Chameleon they can change colour to suit their mood and the habitat they live in