

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

The
Seahorse
Trust



Registered charity no.1086027

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2008

www.theseahorsetrust.co.uk

www.britishseahorsesurvey.org

Major breakthrough for British Seahorses.

The British Seahorse Survey run by The Seahorse Trust had its greatest success this year with the full named protection of both British species the Short Snouted (*Hippocampus hippocampus*) and the Spiny Seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) being protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, schedule 5).



This pair of Short Snouted Seahorses (*Hippocampus hippocampus*) has been studied by coordinator John Newman in Torbay.

John spent many hours in the freezing water to get some fantastic information on this pair, during which the male got pregnant and gave birth 3 times

Picture and copyright John Newman

This beautiful picture of a Spiny Seahorse was taken by Lin Baldock. Lin is a fantastic supporter of Seahorses and has a very keen eye when out spotting for them

Julie and Steve are our Dorset coordinators; they spotted the first Spiny Seahorses in Studland back in 2005 and since then they have been a driving force in the Studland Bay Seahorse project and the trust is very grateful for all their hard work.

Picture and copyright Lin Baldock



This long awaited protection is a direct result of the survey work carried out by the trust and is a testament to all the volunteers who have got out there and found Seahorses and more importantly sent us in their findings. We put the sightings on our database and compiled an indepth report on the findings. This allowed us way back in 2002 to put the two British Seahorses forward for full named protection; which finally came through this year.

Although the protection has caused a bit of a stir with some proposed marine developments and needed clarifying in its early stages we are happy that the British Seahorse Survey has achieved one of its major aims that it was designed to do when we set it up in 1994.



[Studland Seahorse Group](#)

As a result of Julie and Steve's hard work in Dorset we now have a site at Studland Bay where we are studying Seahorses in the wild and in 2009 we are proposing to start a tagging project to identify individual Seahorses. This is the first time this has been done in the British Isles and will allow us to study the Seahorses individually and to learn more about there very secretive life styles.

[Seahorse Working Group](#)

The Seahorse Trust along with others such as the Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Crown Estates, many individuals and Natural England have formed the Seahorse Working Group and the Studland Seahorse Group which have been set up to coordinate the Seahorse legislation around our waters; in particular any projects that are proposed that will affect Seahorses in the wild

Short Snouted Seahorse in from Torbay
photographed by Steve Pope.
Picture and copyright Steve Pope



Thanks to everyone who sent in their sightings and more importantly to the trust coordinators around the British Isles who have helped coordinate dives and information and passed it through us' in particular I would like to mention Julie Hatcher and Steve Trehwella in Dorset and John Newman in Torbay.

Fund raising

Like everyone this year The Seahorse Trust has been hit badly by the credit crunch and we are very grateful for our existing and new supporters who kindly donate by standing order; this allows us to plan ahead for the important work that we do.

If you want to donate to the trust we now have several ways you can do this:

- 🐉 Donate through our website using the Everyclick Donation button on the home page. www.everyclick.com/theseahorsetrust/search
- 🐉 Donate through our website using the forms that can be downloaded on the Support Us page, and then send the forms to us so we can process them.
www.theseahorsetrust.co.uk
- 🐉 Go to the Big Give website and search for The Seahorse Trust
www.thebiggive.org.uk
- 🐉 You can pay money directly into The Seahorse Trust bank account (details on the website)
- 🐉 Or you can send us a cheque and we will pay it into the Trust account
- 🐉 **BUT DON'T FORGET TO GIFT AID IT, THIS ALLOWS US TO CLAIM 25P FOR EVERY POUND YOU DONATE FORM THE GOVERNMENT IF YOU ARE A UK TAXPAYER.**

We would like to say a big thank you to Escot for helping us out this year and for putting up with us.

Website

We have to say a massive thank you to Andy Paton for kindly redesigning and building our fantastic new website. Our old website was getting very tired looking and needed desperately updating and Andy kindly stepped up the mark and got to work, he has done a great job and if anyone needs a new website Andy does design and build websites for a living (when we are not using him free of charge !!) so contact him on his e-mail and I am sure he will do a great job.

andypaton@blueyonder.co.uk

Autumn Watch

The Trust has been luckily enough to have lots of press coverage this year due to its work from Dorset Life Magazine to many radio, television and newspaper articles but the highlight for us was a fantastic spot on Autumn Watch with Patron of the trust Kate Humble.

Kate has been an avid fan of Seahorses for a long time but had never seen British Seahorses in the wild so earlier this year with a film crew tagging along Kate went to Dorset with trust members and we filmed Seahorses for the Autumn Watch programme. We were very lucky to see several Seahorses over the couple of days (thanks to Steve for pointing them out) and our ears are still ringing as Kate screamed in excitement the first time she saw one.

Kate Humble and trust director Neil, filming for Autumn Watch



Trustees and President

The Seahorse Trust is so lucky to have many supporters a great team of trustees and our patrons Kate Humble, Chris Packham, Philippa Forester and trust president and old friend Nick Baker. I would just like to say a big thank you to one and all for there support and guidance



< Nick Baker with a Spiny Seahorse during a survey dive.



Chris Packham during filming >

Many thanks to one and all for your support this year and for helping out on our many projects. Don't forget we still need your help and if you want to sponsor a Seahorse we will be starting a Seahorse sponsoring project in the New Year and any donations (especially gift aided will help us to continue our valuable work with Seahorses and the natural world.

Thank you and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.