



Amazing Facts about Studland's Seahorses

What seahorses can be found in Studland Bay?

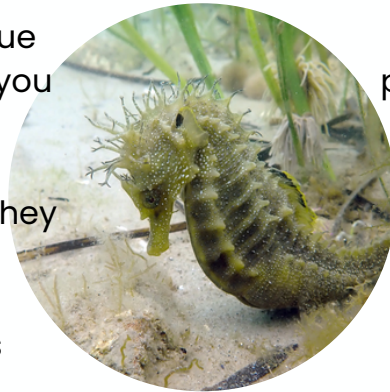
There are two species of seahorse in the UK – the short snouted and the Spiny Seahorse. It is the Spiny seahorse that is a particularly special resident of Studland Bay, as this is the most important place in the UK where it breeds. They shelter in the seagrass for most of the year as it provides shelter and an abundance of food. They retreat to deeper waters during the winter months to shelter from the worst of the storms. The Seahorse Trust's data shows that seahorse sightings at Studland had declined significantly in recent years, until Covid meant that boat activity in the bay suddenly reduced, allowing their numbers to soar.



A seahorse is a **fish**, a true fish, but like none other you will have seen.

The Victorians thought they were insects!

They come in all shapes and sizes – from 1cm to 30cm.

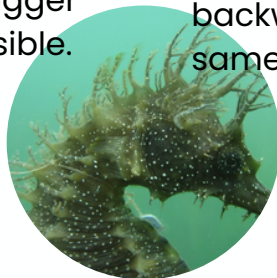


Seahorses have a prehensile **tail** like a monkey's that can hold onto the weeds and other objects that they live amongst.

This whopping 34cm **Spiny Seahorse** was found near Old Harry Rocks! This shows when we can give them the right natural habitat to grow they will – and much bigger than we originally thought possible.

Seahorses have **gills** like an ordinary fish.

Seahorses see in full colour with eyes that can see forwards and backwards at the same time!



Uniquely, it is the **male seahorse** who gets **pregnant** – they are the only males in the animal kingdom to have a true pregnancy and not a surrogacy!

This heavily pregnant male holds onto a narrow **seagrass** stem with his highly flexible tail. Sitting upright he blends in well with his surroundings.

