

## 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](http://www.theseahorsetrust.org)

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#### 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

<b>Name</b>	The Latin name for Seahorses is <i>Hippocampus</i> which means <i>Hippo</i> = horse and <i>campe</i> meaning, caterpillar or monster.
<b>Diet</b>	They have voracious appetites and eat a wide variety of crustacea such as small shrimp and crabs.
<b>Population</b>	All around the UK, as high as the Shetland Isles, through the Bay of Biscay and into the Mediterranean.
<b>Reproduction</b>	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

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