



## See Horses

### What are seahorses?

- Seahorses are a type of fish. They have gills and live in the water.
- Their long snouts help them Hoover up food.

Photo: A seahorse.

## 16 Spiny Seahorses Found in Bay

It is World Oceans Day today. Its aim is to get us to think about how we can look after our blue planet. In the UK, one seahorse species seems to making a recovery.

In Studland Bay, Dorset, **conservationists** have found 16 spiny seahorses. These have been rare in **recent** times.

The Seahorse Trust has been **recording** seahorses in the the bay since 2008. Not a single seahorse had been seen since 2018.

Why are there low numbers of seahorses? Well, anchors of boats usually in the bay can damage the habitats of the seahorses.

The noise of the boats can also scare them away.

Since lockdown, it has been much quieter because there have been fewer boats in the area. This means that there has been less noise to scare the seahorses.

Also, Neil Garrick-Maidment, who studies seahorses, said their **habitat** of "seagrass has started to repair itself."

Among the seahorses found was a pregnant male. Male seahorses have a pouch for carrying

their young. They can carry up to 2000 at one time!

Seahorses are actually a type of fish. There are two types of seahorse found in the UK. The spiny seahorse and the short-snouted seahorse.

Today marks World Oceans Day which has the theme 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'. This is asking people to protect the oceans and the animals that live in them.

They hope to protect one third of the Earth's land and sea by 2030. This could be the start of a real comeback for spiny seahorses' numbers.

### Glossary

<b>conservationists</b>	People who work to protect nature.
<b>recent</b>	Not long ago.
<b>recording</b>	Making a note of.
<b>habitat</b>	The natural environment of a plant or animal.

# Questions

1. How many spiny seahorses were spotted at the bay?

- 12  
 16  
 2008  
 2000

2. What important job does the male seahorse do?

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3. Why do you think conservationists want to keep the bay quiet?

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4. Tick each statement to show whether it is true or false.

	True	False
Seahorses are fish.		
There are 18 species of seahorse in the UK.		
Seahorses are a type of horse.		
Male seahorses carry their young in a pouch.		

5. The name short-snouted seahorse suggests...

- The seahorse is small.  
 Other sea horses have longer snouts.  
 This seahorse has spines.  
 This seahorse is colourful.

6. Summarise the key information in this news story in 20 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. How many spiny seahorses were spotted at the bay?

- 12  
 **16**  
 2008  
 2000

2. What important job does the male seahorse do?

**Male seahorses can be pregnant. They carry their young in a pouch.**

3. Why do you think conservationists want to keep the bay quiet?

**Accept any reasonable answer which refers to seahorses being scared by noise, e.g. I think conservationists want the bay to stay quiet so that seahorses won't be scared to make their homes there.**

4. Tick each statement to show whether it is true or false.

	True	False
Seahorses are fish.	✓	
There are 18 species of seahorse in the UK.		✓
Seahorses are a type of horse.		✓
Male seahorses carry their young in a pouch.	✓	

5. The name short-snouted seahorse suggests...

- The seahorse is small.  
 **Other seahorses have longer snouts.**  
 This seahorse has spines.  
 This seahorse is colourful.

6. Summarise the key information in this news story in 20 words or fewer.

**Accept any reasonable answer which summarises the story in 20 words or fewer, e.g. 16 spiny seahorses have made a comeback in a bay in Dorset because it has been quiet during lockdown.**