

The Seahorse Trust

Summer 2020
NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Summer newsletter



Even with the lockdown, we have been very busy tackling the illegal trade on the internet, recording seahorse sightings around the world, liaising with government departments about the conservation of seahorses, and generally trying to protect seahorses around the world in these uncertain times.

Working in partnership, the Illegal trade is now banned on EBay, Amazon, Facebook, Spock, Alibaba and many others and we have finally started dialogue with Etsy to get them to help us stop this trade as well; it's early days but we have great hope for this.

Please enjoy this newsletter and if you want to send us your feedback, send us seahorse sightings or support the trust, through our adoption ad membership scheme, or just make a donation to our work, then please email us on theseahorsetrust@gmail.com

World Seahorse Survey and online database

We have fantastic news, after years of trying to raise the funds to build an online portal for our World Seahorse Database, we have finally been given a grant from the Sealife Centre's.

This grant will allow us to build an online portal, linked to our database. The portal will allow seahorse spotters to report their sightings and up load pictures of their finds into the database.

The Seahorse Trust already runs the biggest seahorse survey database in the world and the longest running. It originally started out as the British Seahorse Survey and now covers at least 34 countries with well over 3,000 sightings on it. This database has helped governments and organisations the world over, to help conserve and preserve seahorses, and we hope the new online portal will allow us to do so much more.

This funding is part of Sealife's commitment to the natural world and is part of a signposting project they are undertaking with a number of conservation organisations. The idea is the public can go to one place to be able to report their wildlife sightings.

[Click on the logo to the right to go to their conservation page](#)



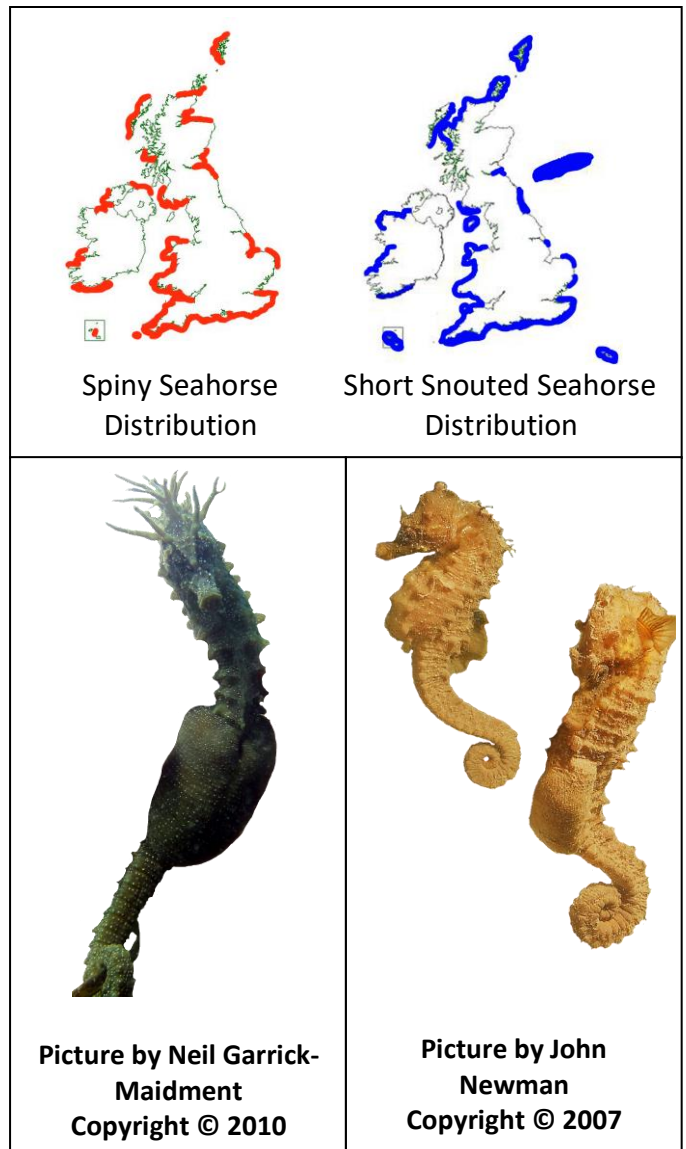
British Seahorse Survey

The British Seahorse Survey is a sub project of our World Seahorse Survey and it is being integrated into the World Seahorse Survey now we are about to have our online portal and interactive map. (see above).

The project was set up in 1994 by trust founder Neil Garrick-Maidment FBNA and is the longest running, largest, and continuous survey of its kind in the world.

Data from the survey has been used to get seahorses in the UK legally protected and to put into place Marine Conservation Zones; especially at Studland Bay, in Dorset, England that was submitted for protection by The Seahorse Trust in 2010. It was finally protected in 2019. Natural England has now published its conservation advice to protect this area and to restore the seahorses and seagrass back to favorable conditions. The Seahorse Trust hopes to be part of the management group for this project.

Both British seahorse species are found around the UK (see maps above) and occupy various habitats.



Roman picture courtesy of Birmingham Museum

The trust has four places of study, 2 in Torbay and 2 in Dorset and we are about to start looking at a third in Torbay very soon, when lockdown has been eased. We conduct our work under license from the [Marine Management Organisation](#) and we have assisted them in shaping the seahorse licenses and their advice for anyone wanting to work with seahorses in the wild. Seahorses have been part of the UK for a very long time and the Romans modeled them out of gold to be put onto sword scabbards. The Pictish tribes of Scotland carved them on to stone statues back in the third and fifth centuries.



Pictish picture from The Art of the Picts by G & I Henderson

STOP THE CURIO TRADE

Illegal trade in seahorses

The illegal trade in seahorses spans the world and so it is a massive problem to undertake but here at the trust, our small but dedicated Illegal Trade Team has done an amazing job in stemming the sale of seahorses on the internet. We work with many organisations such as EBay, Amazon, Facebook, Spock and so many others. In recent dialogue with Etsy we have an assurance from them that any illegal seahorse sales will be taken down as quickly as they humanly can.

We work in partnership with many organisations around the world on this illegal trade issue and our sister organisation in Dublin Ireland is our main partner. Founded by the 'Seahorse man', Kelan Doyle, we have worked with Kealan and his team for many years on this. He has even gone undercover in China to investigate closely what the medicine and curio trades are actually doing. As a direct result of Kealan's work we have discovered that seahorses are under threat of functional extinction in the next 20 to 25 years unless we act and that the figure of seahorses taken from the wild is over 150 million per year. We have to act urgently and this is why we have formed such a close working relationship with the online platforms. If we can get rid of the areas where seahorses are sold, then we can reduce the market to such an extent that it becomes non-viable.

Thanks to Kealan and his team, and most importantly our team here at The Seahorses Trust for all their hard work, don't forget if you see seahorses for sale on the internet then, phone it in, or email us on theseahorsetrust@gmail.com.



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Planet Ocean Volunteers

All of our conservation success is only possible because of people power, our own team of volunteers we call the [Planet Ocean Volunteers](#). These amazing people from all over the world assist us in so many ways and truly help us to 'Work in partnership with nature'. We would like to say a massive thank you to all of you, all around the world, for your invaluable work. Thank you.

The Seahorse
Trust
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News in brief

- We work with police forces around the country to stop the curio trade, especially the Metropolitan [Police Wildlife Crime Unit](#).
- We did an interview for the Kerry White (BBC Radio Devon) show on the 11th of April
- We have lots of educational material on our website during the lockdown, just go to our website at www.theseahorsetrust.org and download our educational packs and outlines to colour in.
- Brian Sims from the [Rotary Club of Bideford](#) kindly nominated us for a donation of £1,000 towards our work. Thank you to them all for their amazing support.
- [Wildflower Favours](#) kindly sent us £305.50 from the sale of wildflower seed packets for weddings and events.
- We were In [Glamour Magazine](#) because of [Beauty Kitchen](#) supporting our work.
- Trust friend Roger in California is having his 'Seahorse Cities' copied around the world, which is great news for seahorses that have lost their homes.

Adopt a Seahorse or become a member

Why not adopt a seahorse or become a member of [The Seahorse Trust](#) and join the fastest growing and biggest seahorse charity in the world to make a difference to our planet.

Find out more at:- <https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/support-us/>

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We could not have done this without the support of these amazing sponsors (and so many others) and importantly you. THANK YOU