



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

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