



# Seahorse

## DID YOU KNOW?

Seahorses are the slowest fish in the ocean. It takes them 2 ½ days to swim 1km!

## At AQWA

Magnify a seahorse in AQWA's creatures up close exhibit.

### Sea monsters

Seahorses are named after their horse shaped heads and necks. Their scientific name *Hippocampus* comes from the greek 'Hippos' meaning horse and 'kamos' meaning sea monster.

### Swimming horses?

Seahorses are fish! Covered in bony plates instead of scales they have a tail that can curl and eyes that can move independently. Seahorses range in size from less than 1cm to about 30cms. The Western Australian seahorse grows to 22cm and has stripes on its snout.

### Seahorses suck!

Seahorses use their long straw-like mouths to suck up small shrimp. They have no teeth and swallow the shrimp whole. Seahorses eat throughout the day as they cannot store food in their stomach for long.

### Aquatic dancers

Seahorses can swim forwards, backwards, upwards and downwards. They have two sets of fins instead of 5, and can beat their fins up to 70 times per second.

### Warm shelter

Seahorses are found in the warmer coastal waters of the world and generally live in shallow water sheltered from rough ocean currents and storms.