

# Saving Mr Mom: The Philippine Seahorse Program

Seahorses are powerful ambassadors for ocean health

[www.projectseahorse.org/psp](http://www.projectseahorse.org/psp)



**>10**

seahorse species,  
from little to large

**7**

seahorse species are known to  
be threatened from fishing  
and habitat damage<sup>1</sup>

**>1.7 million**

caught in unmanaged  
fisheries each year<sup>2</sup>



## Seahorses are incredible and quirky fishes<sup>3</sup>

- Only the males get pregnant - Mr Mom
- They form faithful pairs
- Live in temperate and tropical seas
- Habitats include corals, seagrasses, mangroves and estuaries
- Important predators on bottom-dwelling animals

## Seahorses are vulnerable to human activities<sup>4</sup>

- Millions are captured by non-selective fishing gears, including trawls, seines and gillnets
- Many more are an important source of income for some of the poorest fishers
- Seahorses are traded illegally in the Philippines
- Dried seahorses are used for traditional medicines and curiosities
- Their habitats are damaged and destroyed by fishing gears, coastal development, pollution and climate change



## What threatens seahorses threatens all marine life

- Trawlers drag the ocean floor removing all life in their path, from seahorses to sharks
- Trawlers, seines and gillnets remove tonnes of juvenile fish that should grow into valuable human food
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing devastates the world's ocean
- Illegal wildlife trade is a problem for marine turtles, sharks, rays, eels and more
- Coastal development and other human activities have destroyed 35% of the world's seagrass,<sup>5</sup> 35% of the world's mangroves<sup>6</sup> and as much as 75% of tropical corals<sup>7</sup> – all critical habitats for thriving marine ecosystems



## WE KNOW THE SOLUTIONS FOR SEAHORSES AND THE SEAS

### To save seahorses we must:

- Demand an end to:
  - bottom trawling – the waste of life is atrocious
  - illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries
  - illegal wildlife trade
- Push for more marine protected areas that work effectively
- Learn more about the solutions - contact Chai Apale, Project Leader of Saving Mr Mom: Philippine Seahorse Program at [charity.apale@zsl.org](mailto:charity.apale@zsl.org) and visit [projectseahorse.org/psp](http://projectseahorse.org/psp)

