



For Immediate Release

Media Information
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SEAHORSES EXHIBITS AT UNDERWATER WORLD SINGAPORE

Underwater World Singapore (UWS) and the Tropical Marine Science Institute (TMSI) of the National University of Singapore jointly present to you seahorse exhibits at UWS.

The collaboration between UWS and the TMSI marks yet another step in UWS' efforts towards public education on conservation of endangered species. Through this exhibition, UWS continues to demonstrate its commitment to marine conservation and environmental awareness.

From May 15, 2004 seahorses will be protected under Appendix II of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Consequently, new regulations will be put in place to control the export and import of all species of seahorses. Their listing under CITES Appendix II will help to regulate this trade so that it is not detrimental to seahorse populations in each of the member countries.

Interestingly seahorses are found in and around Singapore waters. But threats faced by seahorses in the region include the trade for their perceived traditional medicinal values, aquarium uses and as souvenirs. Destruction of coral reef ecosystems, dynamite and cyanide fishing and degradation of the coastal environment also contribute to the depletion of the natural habitats of seahorses.

To this end, the TMSI has initiated a research project for rearing seahorses in order to enhance the local seahorse population in Singapore waters. The project consists of two programmes - hatchery production of seahorse juveniles at the TMSI on St John's Island and releasing them into cages in Singapore coastal waters to identify suitable areas for the propagation of seahorse species.

On display at UWS are two of the seahorse species commonly found in Singapore coastal waters – the Tiger Tail Seahorse (*Hippocampus comes*), Hedgehog Seahorse (*Hippocampus spinosissimus*), seahorse juveniles, and live feeds like algae and brine shrimps. Separate tanks will also showcase the habitats where seahorses live and breed. The Tiger Tail Seahorse is commonly found in coral reef habitats while the Hedgehog Seahorse is usually found in seagrass beds along the coasts.

Detailed information and interesting facts about seahorses can be found in the attached media kit.

For more information, please contact:

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