



## **Expanded Ranges and New Habitat for Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.): Early Lessons from a Nascent Marine Citizen Science Programme**

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iSeahorse is a citizen science conservation initiative designed to gather information on seahorse distribution and ecology and to promote species and marine conservation through engagement with the global public. Since its launch in 2013, iSeahorse has accumulated over 2000 individual seahorse observations, has documented 38 out of 41 species currently recognized, and has grown to over 450 users and counting. After over three full years of outreach and data collection through the program, we conducted a preliminary analysis to assess data quality and to explore new information about seahorse biology and citizen science in the marine realm. These analyses reveal different habitat types documented for certain species and sightings data has expanded the ranges of several species by hundreds, and in some cases thousands of kilometers. Data collected from iSeahorse provide much needed information for IUCN Red List assessments, and will help inform planning for species conservation. We are now engaging with the iSeahorse community to implement repetitive monitoring to determine population trends and threats. iSeahorse's ultimate goal is to empower contributing citizens to take action in response to changes they detect.