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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	< VULNERABLE >	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)  
[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org)

## Species of the Day: Lined Seahorse

The **Lined Seahorse**, *Hippocampus erectus*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is the most commonly recognised species of seahorse, and can be found from Nova Scotia, Canada, along the east coast of North America and down to Brazil, as well as throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

Over the past several decades, the Lined Seahorse has come under extreme pressure from harvesting and loss of habitat. Every year, thousands of individuals are caught and sold in the aquarium trade and are increasingly being exported to China as traditional medicine. This species is also threatened by habitat destruction and by-catch in shrimp trawlers. As a result, it is estimated that the Lined Seahorse population has declined by at least 30% in the past 10 years.

*Hippocampus erectus* and other species in the genus *Hippocampus* have been listed under Appendix II of CITES since 2002, and there is strong monitoring of their harvest in the United States. Unfortunately, however, there is still widespread destruction and harvesting of this species.



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The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership: IUCN (including the Species Survival Commission), BirdLife International, Conservation International, NatureServe and Zoological Society of London.