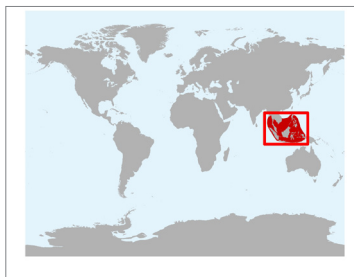




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Tiger Tail Seahorse

The **Tiger Tail Seahorse**, *Hippocampus comes*, is classified as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This elegant fish is known from the central and southern regions of the Philippines, and westward through Viet Nam, Singapore, Malaysia and northern Indonesia to the Andaman Islands (India).

The Tiger Tail Seahorse is fished heavily for use in the aquarium trade and as 'traditional medicine'. Individuals are extracted from their habitats of coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves, through the use of nets and more harmful methods such as dynamite and cyanide poisoning. It is estimated that populations have diminished by almost 50%, and in some areas in the Philippines by as much as 85%. Their slow movement and limited larval dispersal make this species very vulnerable to localized exterminations.

The Tiger Tail Seahorse is listed on CITES Appendix II, which makes it an offense to trade this species internationally without a permit. However, this has done little to deter collection in its native range. Ongoing research and local protective initiatives from foundations such as Project Seahorse® are needed in order to prevent the loss of this graceful species.

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