



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

**SEAHORSE AUSTRALIA APPROVAL AS A CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM**

Seahorse Australia has been approved as a Captive Breeding Program that meets Australia's Scientific Authority for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) requirements under section 303FK of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and Regulations 9A.16 and 9A.24 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (EPBC Regulations).

This approval allows Seahorse Australia to apply to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for permits to export the following species for a period of 5 years, until 14 April 2027. This approval is subject to the conditions outlined in **Attachment A** being met.

**Approved species:**

1. *Hippocampus abdominalis*
2. *Hippocampus barbouri*
3. *Hippocampus kuda*
4. *Hippocampus reidi*
5. *Hippocampus whitei*

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rivoli', written over a dotted line.

Delegate of the Minister for the Environment

## **NOTES:**

### **Captive bred specimens**

Approval of this program means that captive bred specimens derived from the program are eligible for commercial export under the EPBC Act. A captive bred specimen is defined as a specimen bred in captivity to F2 generation under controlled conditions from legally sourced parental stock.

### **Variations to approval**

The approval holder is required to seek a variation to the approval if they wish to export specimens from a species, genus or family that is not specifically covered by this approval.

### **Five-yearly review**

This notice covers a period of five years, until 14 April 2027. Before the end of five years your approval will need to be reviewed to establish whether the program is still operational and continues to meet the requirements of the EPBC Act.

### **Commercial export permits**

Every international commercial shipment must be covered by an export permit. Exporters can apply for a permit from the Department's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/commercial>

### **Australian Customs**

Export goods must now be declared to the Australian Border Force on an export declaration. This is in addition to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment export permit. You can read more about Australian Boarder Force export declarations at:

<https://www.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/exporting/how-to-export/export-declaration>

## **Conditions for the approval of Seahorse Australia as a Captive Breeding Program, April 2022.**

The following conditions apply to the approval of Seahorse Australia as a captive breeding program:

1. Operation of Seahorse Australia must be carried out in accordance with relevant State permits.
2. Seahorse Australia must advise the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of any material change to the permit conditions or operating arrangements of the facility that could affect the criteria on which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are based, within three months of that change being made.
3. Cultured or broodstock seahorses must not be returned to the wild.
4. Only second-generation or greater captive-bred and captive reared specimens may be offered for sale.
5. This captive breeding program approval does not provide for collection or export of specimens from the wild.
6. Annual reports will be provided by Seahorse Australia to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment by 31 March each year. These reports must include:
  - a) results of mating and rearing trials and the number of specimens reared or lost through brood mortality, numbers sold, and those held as stock.
  - b) details of number of specimens purchased, when, from whom and evidence of legal source.
  - c) details of the ongoing production of (or capability of producing) offspring to at least the second generation in a controlled environment.
  - d) an overview of methods of husbandry and provision of food and water including diet, nutrient supplements and how these are provided and, as appropriate, produced or derived, and any major changes in the husbandry technique in the preceding 12 months.
  - e) an overview of any results of research into culturing feeds, in particular live marine plankton, and an assessment of the likelihood of this culture replacing current wild harvests, and
  - f) evidence of compliance with state controls in relation to any relevant permit requirements, water quality and discharge standards from the facility.