## Saddle Up in the Sea

ea horses are actually fish found lingering in sea grass beds, mangroves, and coral reefs. You often see them clinaina onto branches of coral or blades of sea grass by their curled prehensile tail. The sea horse gets its name because its head looks just like a regular horse. Compared to other fish, the sea horse is the slowest swimmer - galloping through the water at 0.01mph. One of the unique features about the sea horse is that the male is in charge of the eggs. The female deposits hundreds of eggs into the male's abdominal pouch where they are fertilized and carried for two to three weeks before hatching. The average size of sea horses ranges in length from about 4 to 30 cm ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 12 inches). When

searching for sea horses, it is difficult to find them because they use their camouflaging colors to blend into their surroundings to escape from hungry skates and rays.



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Graphic: Georgia Sea Grant