

Project Update: January 2016

We have completed a summer and winter seahorse survey within the Thesen Islands Marina in 2015. Two habitats were focused on during these surveys: Habitat type 1 – artificial reno mattress and Habitat type 2 – dense macro-algal beds (*Codium tenue*). Seahorse densities within Habitat type 1 were estimated as seahorses per square meter whereas densities within the dense algal beds were estimated as seahorses per kg of algae. The highest densities within Habitat type 1 was found in the western section of the marina. The highest density found on the artificial habitat was 0.64 seahorses/m². Densities within the *Codium tenue* beds were found to be uniform across the marina.

A detailed report on our findings thus far can be found at: <http://www.knysnabasinproject.co.za/images/reports/InterimReportKySSJune2015.pdf>

In October 2015 we commenced with monthly surveys within specific sites as well as at two reference sites within the larger Knysna Estuary. This will allow us to gain a better understanding of the long term population trends of this species.



Seahorses found within the artificial reno mattress habitat.