

Project Update: December 2017

Since August 2017, we have conducted monthly surveys of 30 tagged Knysna seahorses at two sites in the Knysna estuary (one site located within Thesen Islands Marina on artificial Reno mattress habitat, and the other site located within the main estuary within natural eel grass). Our application to tag additional seahorses have just been approved. This will allow us to increase the number of seahorses tagged at our artificial site (to improve our population estimate), as well as the inclusion of two additional sample sites. Monthly surveys of all four sites will then continue for an estimated 12 months.

The seahorse habitat mapping and monitoring will commence in February 2018, and will form part of an honours degree through Nelson Mandela University. The commencement of this part of the work was delayed, owing to the recruitment of a suitable student, and the procurement of a Trident ROV through OpenROV (production delays). It is envisaged that this project will be complete by December 2018.

The latest newsletter of the Knysna Basin Project, detailing all our research work, can be found here:

<http://knysnabasinproject.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Estuarine-Endeavours-Dec-2017-Final.pdf>



Picture 1: A tagged Knysna seahorse

Picture 2: A pair of Knysna seahorses on the Reno mattress – note the pregnant male.

