


The Importance of National Conservation Assessments

Have you ever wondered about the importance of national assessments? Read our [UBC Oceans Fisheries Centre Research Report "Identifying national conservation status, legislation and priorities for syngnathid fishes globally"](#)



 Athilia Andrade/Guylian SOTW


Here are some of the highlights from our report. Globally, 40% of the 278 species of syngnathid fishes are either Threatened (CR, EN, VU) or Data Deficient on the [IUCN Red List of Threatened species](#).



 Erik Schlogl/ iNaturalist


Data/information on national conservation assessments is difficult to find. Of the 140+ countries that are known to have syngnathids, we only found information on national assessments for 64 countries. Information is lacking for over 54% of countries.



 Julian Shu/ iNaturalist

Of those 64 countries, only 20% had completed national assessments for syngnathids. In total, we were able to find 98 national conservation assessments for 52 distinct species (16 seahorses, 34 pipefishes and 2 pipehorses).



 Judy Townsend


Only 34% of seahorse species had national conservation assessments, 15% of pipefish species and 18% of pipehorse species. No national conservation assessments for seadragons were found.



 Peter Simpson/ iNaturalist


Focusing on priority species considered globally as Threatened or Near Threatened, our gap analysis revealed that only 13% of countries had assessed syngnathids at the national level.



 Micheal Gallagher/Guylian SOTW

No countries in Africa, the Middle East or North America had any national assessments for the most threatened syngnathid species.



 Pedro Ferreira/Guylian SOTW


Specific regulations to protect syngnathids were found in half of the 64 countries for which we could find information, but were patchy and unpredictable with many prominent gaps.



 Dan Schofield/ iNaturalist

Regulations where they existed covered either all syngnathids, all seahorses or only a few species found within a country's waters. Very few countries had government-led monitoring of syngnathids.



 Rafi Amar/ iNaturalist


What next? Help support IUCN WCC Resolution 95, which calls on state and government agency members to, "by 2022, ensure that the status of syngnathids is assessed and included in national/regional Red Lists as warranted" Learn more [here](#)



 @Rich_Underwater

If you have any information on national conservation status of syngnathids or regulations in your country please contact us and let us know! We appreciate any input you may be able to provide.



 Jane Bowman/ @inaturalist



advancing marine conservation