

Table S1. Biological and ecological characteristics of syngnathid species registered for Italian waters with an indication of their conservation status according to the IUCN. NT: Near threatened, DD: Data deficient. AS: Artificial substrates, Cor: Coralligenous, DCBWH: Detritic coarse bottom with holdfasts, MB: Muddy bottom, PB: Phanerogams beds, RBWAC: Rocky bottom with algal coverage, SBWAC: Sandy bottom with algal coverage, SBWH: Sandy bottom without holdfasts.

Species	IUCN status	Habitat type	Environment type	Depth range (m)
<i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i>	NT	AS, Cor, DCBWH, RBWAC, MB, PB, SBWAC, SBWH	marine, brackish	0 - 20
<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>	NT	AS, Cor, DCBWH, PB, RBWAC, SBWH	marine	0 - 60
<i>Nerophis maculatus</i>	DD	PB, RBWAC, SBWAC	Marine	0 - 30
<i>Nerophis ophidion</i>	DD	PB, RBWAC, SBWAC	marine, brackish, freshwater	2 - 15
<i>Syngnathus abaster</i>	DD	MB, PB, SBWAC	marine, brackish, freshwater	0 - 5
<i>Syngnathus abaster</i>	DD	DCBWH, MB, PB, SBWAC, SBWH	marine, brackish	0 - 110, usually up to 15
<i>Syngnathus phlegon</i>	DD	Pelagic; typically, offshore	marine	up to 200
<i>Syngnathus taenionotus</i>	DD	MB, PB, SBWAC	marine, brackish	0-5
<i>Syngnathus tenuirostris</i>	DD	Cor, DCBWH, RBWAC	marine	0 - 25
<i>Syngnathus typhle</i>	DD	PB, RBWAC, SBWAC	marine, brackish	0 - 20