

## Young Seahorses Are Born from A Male Seahorse

Written by Administrator

Saturday, 01 August 2009 00:00

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It is impossible for a male to give a birth. But, this is not valid for male sea horse *Hippocampus kuda* that gives birth to young seahorses. Such a unique behavior is merely found on the member of family Syngnathidae such as sea horse, sea dragons, and pipefish. Sea horses, 20 cm long sea creatures are getting rare in their original habitat as they are being hunted to decorate salt water aquarium and to be exported to China, Hongkong, and Taiwan in dried form as a medicine ingredient to cure asthma, skin disease, and also as vitality booster for men.

Since 2008, however, Center for Mariculture Development has been successful in breeding seahorses. Using seahorse parents of the third and fourth generation for spawning, CMD no longer relies on nature. CMD prepares a quiet atmosphere and obscure basin room condition which happen to be one of the keys to cope with successful breeding. Other keys are by maintaining the water to stay clear and regulating the water current. The process of seahorse enlargement in captivity takes 5-6 months. During that time, seahorses are fed with zooplankton and frozen small shrimps.

The activity has been modeled by the society around the center. One of which that has developed is the Pantai Benih Puri Windu Mukti (PBPWM) group in Maja Village, Kalianda Subdistrict, South Lampung. Currently, PBPWM has succeeded in selling breeding result to local market and is probing overseas market. **(Dra Kadek Ari Wahyuni & Tiya Widi Aditya Spi, engineers of Center for Mariculture Development, Lampung)**

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\*\*Sea horses from captivity are more active as they are accustomed to consume frozen food

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\*\*Sea horse *Hippocampus kuda* captivity in Center for Mariculture Development, Lampung

\*\*A male seahorse is able to brood on and give birth to 200-700 young seahorses

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