



Photo by Two Oceans Aquarium



**GET TO KNOW:**

# SOUTH AFRICAN SPECIES



## DOES SIZE MATTER?

The species only  
grows up to 60 -  
70 centimetres!



# PUFFADDER SHYSHARK

*(Haploblepharus edwardsii)*

IUCN Red list: **Endangered** ⚠️

## FUN FACT

Named for its unique behaviour:  
when threatened, it curls into a tight  
ring and covers its eyes with its tail.

Lives on the South coast of South Africa.

Also called “Happy Eddie,” this is a small, bottom-dwelling catshark endemic to South Africa’s temperate coastal waters. Commonly caught by shore anglers and sometimes as a by catch in the inshore trawl fishery, this species is considered endangered.



## DID YOU KNOW

### THAT... ?

They have unique antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

# SEA BAMBOO

*(Ecklonia maxima)*

IUCN Red list: Not listed

## FUN FACT

They are one of the fastest-growing organisms on Earth!

This large brown algae is a type of kelp that can grow up to 10 metres tall, using an air-filled pneumatocyst (like a small balloon) to stay upright in the water. They form kelp forests, habitats for fish and invertebrates, and also help stabilize sediments, reduce wave energy, and absorb CO<sub>2</sub>.



Lives on the West coast of South Africa.



## DID YOU KNOW

### THAT... ?

Male seahorses are able to carry and give birth to their offspring!

# KNYSNA SEAHORSE

*(Hippocampus capensis)*

IUCN Red list: **Endangered** 

## FUN FACT

Can change colour for camouflage and communication.



Lives only in the Kynsna, Swartvlei and Keurbooms estuaries, in the southern Cape of South Africa.



This fascinating species of Seahorse is endemic to South Africa. Living amongst submerged vegetation, they are threatened by habitat degradation.



## DEFENCE MECHANISMS



This species rely on their tough exoskeleton and sharp spines for defence.

# EAST COAST ROCK LOBSTER

*(Panulirus homarus)*

IUCN Red list: Least Concern

## FUN FACT

When threatened, they can “scream”, a behaviour called stridulation, by rubbing their antennae on their exoskeleton.

Lives on the East coast of South Africa.

Although these scalloped spiny lobsters have no claws, they have plenty of character! Belonging to the crustacean family, this species inhabits rocky intertidal and subtidal reefs down to about 20 metres.

They are largely nocturnal scavengers and feed on a variety of invertebrates – especially brown mussels.



## PARTNERS FOR LIFE!

African  
Oystercatchers are  
monogamous and  
pairs for life.



# AFRICAN OYSTERCATCHER

*(Haematopus moquini)*

IUCN Red list: Least Concern

## FUN FACT

The name “Haematopus”, literally means “blood-foot” in Latin.

Lives around the South and East coasts of  
South Africa.

With their black plumage, and bright red feet and beak, the African Oystercatcher is an endemic species of South Africa. This species lives along the shores where it lays its eggs in little depressions in the sand. It feeds on mussels, limpets and red bait.

