

Wednesday 11 November 2020

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Juvenile Red handfish hatched and raised from eggs at IMAS, CSIRO and [Seahorse World](#) have been released back into the wild to help the species avoid extinction.

This week, 42 Red handfish were released, likely doubling the size of one of the remaining populations.

IMAS/CSIRO lead researcher Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith said raising juveniles in captivity is a conservation strategy known as 'head-starting'.

"Raising the Red handfish juveniles in captivity is designed to improve their chances of surviving to maturity by protecting them while they are young and extremely vulnerable," Dr Stuart-Smith said.

"Habitat degradation is a key issue for the remaining populations - with impacts from multiple sources - one of which is overgrazing of seaweed (which red handfish live under) by urchins.

"While the juvenile handfish grew in the safety of aquariums, IMAS worked with the Tasmanian CommonB26.138h90.000008871 0 595.32 841.92 reW\*nBT/F4 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1

