

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Juncus maritimus</i> – <i>Plantago maritima</i> saltmarsh
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<b>Common name</b>	Sea Rush – Sea Plantain saltmarsh
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<b>Community code</b>	SM5B
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### Vegetation

In this community, high, spiky tussocks of *Juncus maritimus* dominate and other species tend not to contribute much cover (mean maximum vegetation height = 77.0 cm,  $n = 6$ ). *Plantago maritima*, *Glaux maritima* and *Agrostis stolonifera* are constant species, however. *Armeria maritima* is frequently found growing between the tussocks, as are *Juncus gerardii* and *Aster tripolium*. Occasional plants are *Cochlearia officinalis*, *Festuca rubra*, *Triglochin maritimum* and *Leontodon autumnalis*.

### Ecology

This is an upper marsh community that is infrequently inundated. Conditions are circumneutral (mean pH = 7.1,  $n = 6$ ).

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

### Similar communities

In community SM5A, *Festuca rubra* co-dominates with *Juncus maritimus*. From all other communities, this community vegetation is pretty distinct.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	259
Transitional:	4
Total:	263

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	180
1986-2000:	39
1971-1985:	36
Pre-1971:	7
Total:	262

#### Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	55
1986-2000:	7
1971-1985:	9
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	73

#### Number of hectads (records in each time period)

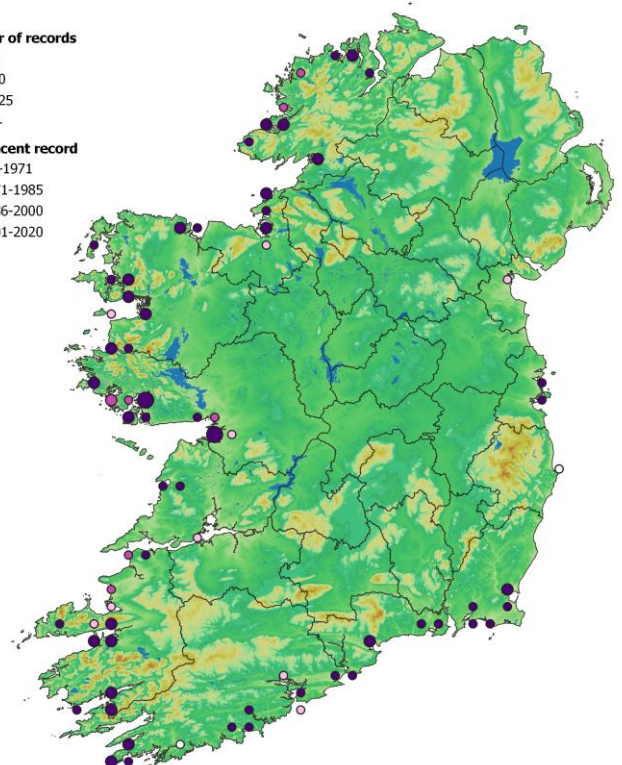
2001-2020:	55
1986-2000:	12
1971-1985:	28
Pre-1971:	5

#### Number of records

- 1-3
- 4-10
- 11-25
- 26+

#### Most recent record

- pre-1971
- 1971-1985
- 1986-2000
- 2001-2020



**Synoptic table (n = 255)**

Species	Frequency		Cover		Species	Frequency		Cover	
	(from I-V)		min	(med) max		(from I-V)		min	(med) max
<i>Juncus maritimus</i>	V		3-(8)	-9	<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>	I		2-(2)	-3
<i>Plantago maritima</i>	IV		2-(3)	-8	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	I		2-(2)	-3
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	IV		1-(3)	-8	<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	I		2-(3)	-5
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	IV		2-(3)	-9	<i>Spartina</i> agg.	I		2-(3)	-5
<i>Aster tripolium</i>	III		+-	(3)-5	<i>Carex distans</i>	I		2-(2)	-3
<i>Juncus gerardii</i>	III		2-(4)	-9	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	I		2-(3)	-5
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	III		2-(3)	-8	<i>Salicornia</i> agg.	I		2-(3)	-3
<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>	II		+-	(3)-8	<i>Carex otrubae</i>	I		2-(2)	-3
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i> agg.	II		+-	(2)-5	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	I		2-(3)	-5
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	II		1-(3)	-5	<i>Suaeda maritima</i>	I		2-(2)	-3
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	II		2-(2)	-5	<i>Atriplex laciniata</i>	I		2-(2)	-3
<i>Puccinellia maritima</i>	I		2-(3)	-7	<i>Blysmus rufus</i>	I		2-(5)	-5
<i>Carex extensa</i>	I		2-(3)	-6	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	I		2-(2)	-3
<i>Limonium humile</i>	I		2-(3)	-7	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I		2-(2)	-2
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	I		2-(2)	-4	<i>Pelvetia canaliculata</i>	I		2-(3)	-3
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	I		2-(3)	-5	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	I		3-(4)	-5
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	I		1-(3)	-8	<i>Spergularia marina</i>	I		2-(2)	-8
<i>Spergularia media</i>	I		1-(2)	-3	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	I		2-(3)	-3
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	I		+-	(2)-3	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	I		2-(3)	-3
<i>Cochlearia anglica</i>	I		2-(3)	-4	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	I		3-(3)	-3

**Affinities**

GHI: CM2 Upper salt marsh

ZM: MF01A Juncion maritimi Br.-Bl. ex Horvatić 1934

EUNIS: A2.531A Atlantic *Juncus maritimus* beds / A2.535 *Juncus maritimus* mid-upper saltmarshes

NVC: SM18a *Juncus maritimus* salt-marsh community *Plantago maritima* sub-community (78.7%)

Annex I:1410 Mediterranean salt meadows

**Proxy environmental data**

Light: 8.0 Reaction: 7.5 Wetness: 7.6 Fertility: 5.1 Salinity: 4.2

**Conservation value**

Almost all examples of this vegetation qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows. It is typically a medium richness saltmarsh community (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 7.1, n = 204) and many of the species that it supports are specialists.

**Management**

The main immediate threat to this saltmarsh community is probably grazing by livestock. Sea-level rises as a result of climate change will have an impact, particularly in areas susceptible to coastal squeeze.

**Key references**

McCorry, M., Ryle, T. (2009) Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. 5 volumes. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

McCorry, M. (2007) Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2006. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

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**Synopsis author(s):** P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. SM5B *Juncus maritimus* – *Plantago maritima* saltmarsh, Argideen Estuary, Timoleague, Cork  
(M. Penk, July 2016)



Photo 2. Plot recording in SM5B *Juncus maritimus* – *Plantago maritima* saltmarsh, Dungarvan Harbour, Ballynacourty,  
Waterford (M. Penk, July 2016)