



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> – <i>Potentilla anserina</i> saltmarsh
<b>Common name</b>	Creeping Bent – Silverweed saltmarsh
<b>Community code</b>	SM6C

### Vegetation

This variable community is typically dominated by a combination of *Potentilla anserina*, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Juncus gerardii*. *Glaux maritima* and *Leontodon autumnalis* are frequently found, while *Trifolium repens* and *Lotus corniculatus* are occasional. Less frequently, one will find species indicative of freshwater conditions such as *Carex nigra* and *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*.

### Ecology

This is a transitional community of the landward fringe of upper saltmarshes and marshes next to lagoons. It is seldom inundated and there is often some freshwater influence making conditions brackish.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

### Similar communities

This community differs from other saltmarsh types in the abundance of *Potentilla anserina*. It has some similarities to GL1B *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Filipendula ulmaria* marsh-grassland and GL2A *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Ranunculus repens* marsh-grassland but those communities are distinctly freshwater in nature and lack the halophytes found in this current assemblage.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	104
Transitional:	6
Total:	110

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	68
1986-2000:	22
1971-1985:	10
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	102

#### Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	3
1986-2000:	7
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	11

#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

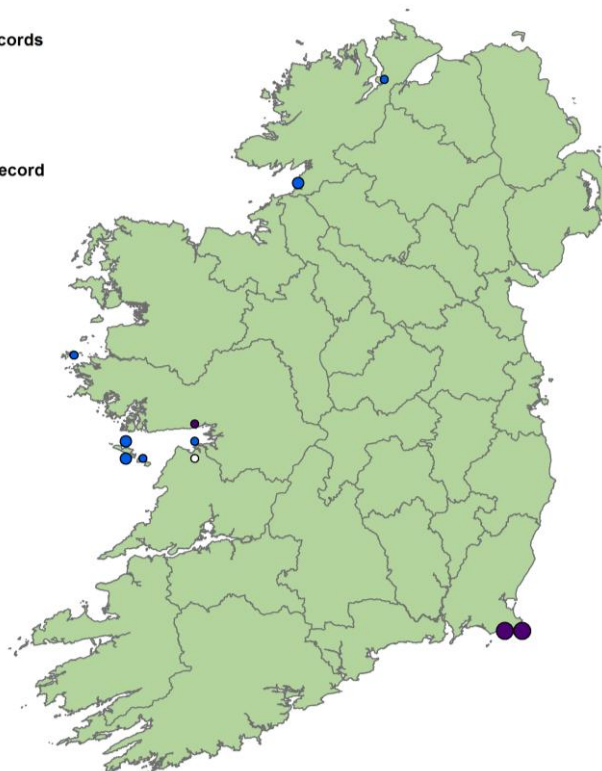
2001-2015:	3
1986-2000:	8
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	1

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

- 2001-2015
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



### Synoptic table (n = 99)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>	I	3-(3)-5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	V	2-(7)-9	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	I	3-(5)-7
<i>Juncus gerardii</i>	IV	2-(5)-8	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	III	2-(3)-8	<i>Plantago major</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	III	1-(3)-5	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	I	1-(4)-5
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Carex otrubae</i>	I	3-(5)-7
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Centaureum pulchellum</i>	I	2-(2)-2	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	I	2-(2)-3	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	I	3-(5)-5
<i>Aster tripolium</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	1-(2)-2
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	I	2-(3)-7	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	I	2-(2)-3	<i>Poa annua</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	I	3-(4)-5	<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Triglochin palustre</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Carex nigra</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>	I	2-(3)-8	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	I	3-(3)-5	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	I	1-(3)-3
<i>Bidens cernua</i>	I	2-(3)-3	<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>	I	2-(3)-3

#### Affinities

GHI: CM2 Upper salt marsh

ZM: Armerion maritimae / Potentillion maritimae

EUNIS: A2.5313 Atlantic *Festuca-rubra-Agrostis stolonifera* swards / A2.531C Atlantic *Potentilla anserina* carpets

NVC: SM20 *Eleocharis uniglumis* salt-marsh community (56.6%) (Also S21d *Scirpus maritima* swamp *Potentilla anserina* sub-community 52.4%)

Annex I: 1330 Atlantic salt meadows

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.6      Reaction: 6.9      Wetness: 6.6      Fertility: 5.8      Salinity: 1.9

#### Conservation value

Examples of this vegetation supporting saltmarsh indicators such as *Juncus gerardii* and *Glaux maritima* should qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 1330 Atlantic salt meadows. It is typically a species-poor community. *Centaureum pulchellum* is a nationally rare species listed on the Floral Protection Order.

#### Management

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

#### Key references

Devaney, F.M. & Perrin, P.M. (2015) Saltmarsh Angiosperm Assessment Tool for Ireland (SMAATIE), EPA Research End of Project Report (2013-W-DS-10), Environmental Protection Agency, Johnstown Castle, Wexford, Ireland.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: December 2016

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin