

Scientific name	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> – <i>Juncus gerardii</i> saltmarsh
Common name	Creeping Bent – Saltmarsh Rush saltmarsh
Community code	SM6D

Vegetation

Juncus gerardii tends to dominate this saltmarsh community, and is accompanied as a constant by *Glaux maritima* and *Agrostis stolonifera*. *Plantago maritima*, *Triglochin maritimum* and *Festuca rubra* are all frequent species, while *Aster tripolium*, *Armeria maritima* and *Leontodon autumnalis* occasionally grow within this community. The *Juncus* can sometimes lodge to form distinctive fan-shaped patterns in the marsh.

Ecology

This is an upper marsh community that is infrequently inundated. Conditions are base-rich.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

Similar communities

Juncus gerardii is also a prominent plant within the quite similar community SM2B *Festuca rubra* – *Juncus gerardii* saltmarsh, but there *Festuca rubra* is both more frequent and more abundant, while *Agrostis stolonifera* is somewhat less so.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	227
Transitional:	8
Total:	235

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	141
1986-2000:	37
1971-1985:	47
Pre-1971:	9
Total:	234

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	55
1986-2000:	10
1971-1985:	17
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	84

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

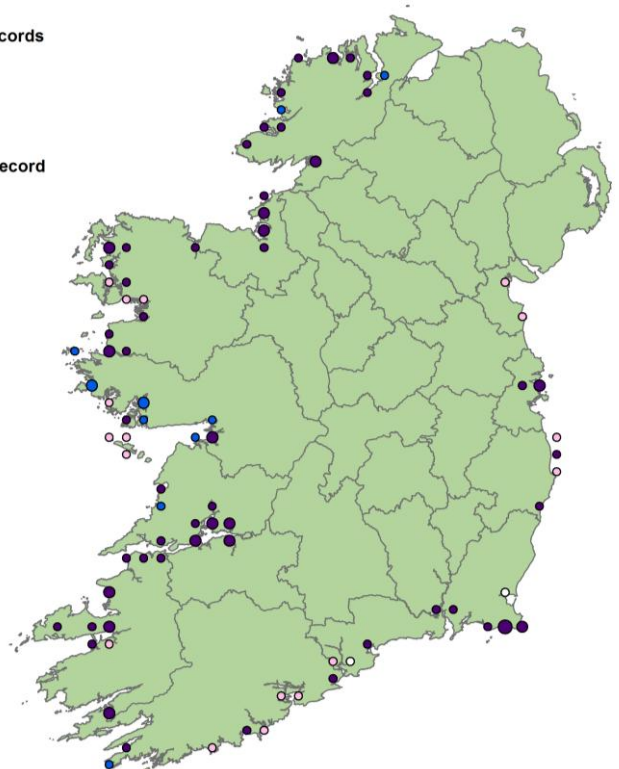
2001-2015:	55
1986-2000:	14
1971-1985:	31
Pre-1971:	7

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 219)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Juncus gerardii</i>	V	3-(7)-9	<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	V	2-(3)-8	<i>Spergularia media</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	IV	1-(4)-8	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Plantago maritima</i>	III	2-(3)-7	<i>Triglochin palustre</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>	III	1-(3)-7	<i>Spartina agg.</i>	I	2-(3)-4
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	III	2-(3)-6	<i>Plantago major</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Aster tripolium</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	II	2-(3)-8	<i>Apium graveolens</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	II	2-(3)-4	<i>Limonium humile</i>	I	2-(3)-4
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	I	2-(3)-5	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	I	2-(3)-4
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	I	2-(3)-7	<i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>	I	3-(5)-6
<i>Carex extensa</i>	I	2-(3)-6	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	3-(3)-8
<i>Puccinellia maritima</i>	I	2-(3)-7	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Juncus maritimus</i>	I	1-(3)-6	<i>Spergularia marina</i>	I	3-(3)-4
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	I	2-(3)-7	<i>Salicornia agg.</i>	I	3-(3)-4
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	I	2-(3)-7	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	I	2-(3)-4	<i>Carex viridula</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Blysmus rufus</i>	I	2-(5)-7	<i>Isolepis setacea</i>	I	3-(3)-5
<i>Carex distans</i>	I	3-(3)-5	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	I	2-(3)-6	<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>	I	2-(3)-3

Affinities

GHI: CM2 Upper salt marsh
 ZM: Armerion maritimae
 EUNIS: A2.5311 Atlantic *Juncus gerardii* saltmeadows
 NVC: SM16 *Festuca rubra* salt-marsh community (70.2%)
 Annex I:1330 Atlantic salt meadows

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.9 Reaction: 6.9 Wetness: 6.9 Fertility: 5.6 Salinity: 3.0

Conservation value

Almost all examples of this vegetation qualify as EU Annex I habitat 1330 Atlantic salt meadows. It is typically a species-poor community (species/4 m² = 7.5, n = 111), but supports several specialist species.

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



Photo 1. Plot recording in SM6D *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Juncus gerardii* saltmarsh, Argideen Estuary, Timoleague, Cork
(M. Penk, July 2016)