



Scientific name	<i>Ruppia maritima/cirrhosa</i> lagoon community
Common name	Beaked/Spiral Tasselweed lagoon community
Community code	SW1A

Vegetation

This is typically a submerged community dominated by *Ruppia maritima* or *Ruppia cirrhosa*. There are no other constant or frequent vascular species and only a limited number of infrequent associates. These are comprised mainly of other aquatic species, particularly *Potamogeton pectinatus*, *Zostera marina* and *Zannichellia palustris*, or of emergent species, mainly *Phragmites australis*, *Bolboschoenus maritimus* and *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*. These swamp plants, however, offer only sparse cover. Charophytes (*Chara* species and *Lamprothamnium papulosum*) are occasionally found in this community.

Ecology

This is predominantly a community of lagoons and coastal saline lakes. *Ruppia*-dominated vegetation has also been observed in salt pans and on coastal mudflats, but little data have yet been collected to describe this aspect of the community.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

Similar communities

This is a very distinct community which should not cause too much confusion. There are some similarities with the FW2F *Potamogeton pectinatus* – *Myriophyllum spicatum* aquatic community, but in that assemblage *Ruppia* is infrequent and *Potamogeton* species tend to dominate. On mudflats (e.g. at Bull Island, Dublin) *Ruppia* expanses may merge into SM1A *Salicornia* agg. saltmarsh.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	135
Transitional:	1
Total:	136

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	2
1986-2000:	116
1971-1985:	18
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	136

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	1
1986-2000:	26
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	29

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

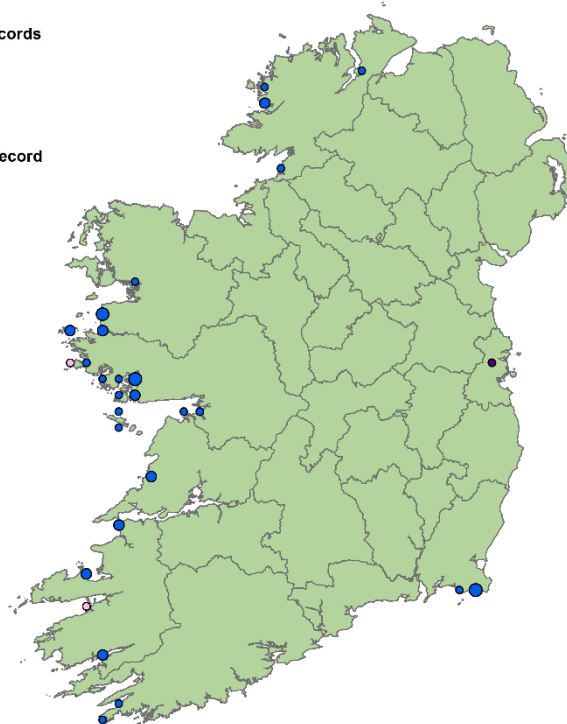
2001-2015:	1
1986-2000:	26
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 127)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Ruppia maritima/cirrhosa</i>	V	3-(5)-10			
<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	I	2-(3)-7			
<i>Zostera marina</i>	I	3-(4)-7			
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	I	3-(4)-5			
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	I	2-(3)-4			
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	I	4-(4)-5			
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	I	2-(3)-3			
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Carex rostrata</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	I	4-(4)-4			
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	I	4-(4)-4			
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Zostera angustifolia</i>	I	3-(3)-3			

Affinities

GHI: CW1 Lagoons and saline lakes
 ZM: RUP-01A Ruppion maritimae Br.-Bl. Ex Westhoff in Bennema et al. 1943
 EUNIS: A5.5341 Middle European *Ruppia* and *Zannichellia* communities
 NVC: A21 *Ranunculus baudotii* community (15.1%) (but see also SM2 *Ruppia maritima* salt-marsh community)
 Annex I:1150 Lagoons*

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.8 Reaction: 7.9 Wetness: 11.0 Fertility: 6.1 Salinity: 3.9

Conservation value

Most examples of this community occur in water bodies that qualify as EU HD Annex I priority habitat 1150 Lagoons*.

Management

This community is typically unmanaged but is threatened by impacts which affect lagoons, including drainage for purposes of agricultural reclamation, natural siltation and eutrophication.

Key references

Hatch, P. (1996) A survey of the vegetation of Irish coastal lagoons. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin.
 Roden, C.M. (1998) A survey of the flora and vegetation of sixteen Irish coastal lagoons. Part three of 1998 lagoon survey. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin.

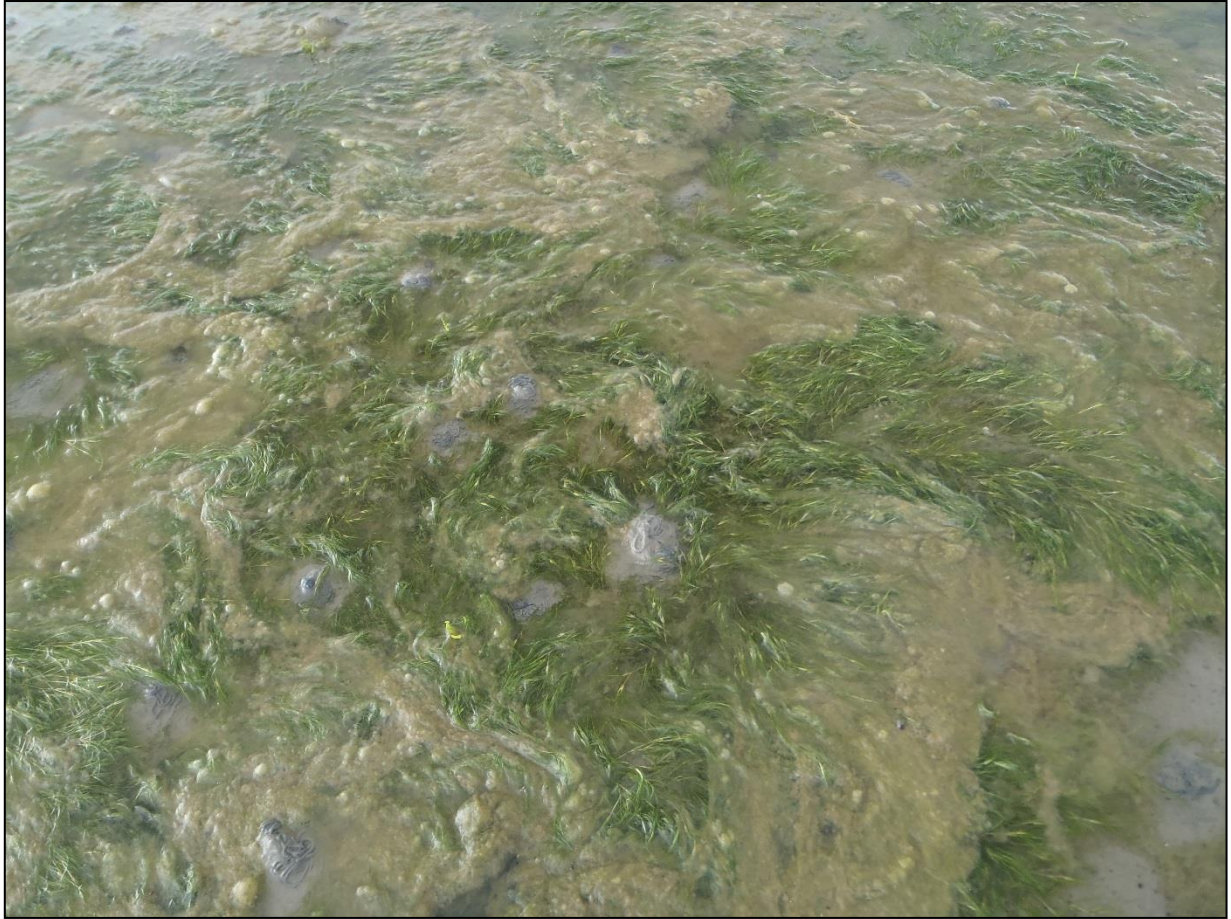


Photo 1. Mudflat vegetation ascribable to SW1A *Ruppia maritima/cirrrosa* lagoon community, North Bull Island, Dublin
(P. Perrin, August 2017)