

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Najas flexilis</i> aquatic community
<b>Common name</b>	Slender Naiad aquatic community
<b>Community code</b>	FW1D

### Vegetation

*Najas flexilis* is the key species of this simple aquatic community. Frequently there will be some presence of *Potamogeton berchtoldii*, with its narrow linear leaves, and occasionally some *Potamogeton perfoliatus*. Stoneworts are frequent companions to *Najas* and species may include *Chara aspera*, *Chara globularis*, *Chara virgata*, *Nitella confervacea*, *Nitella flexilis* or *Nitella translucens*.

### Ecology

This is a submerged community of shallow to deep lake beds in the far west of Ireland. Water conditions are typically circumneutral with low nutrient levels.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

### Similar communities

Surveying for *Najas* usually requires snorkelling or scuba-diving. Once the presence of the species has been confirmed, however, identifying this assemblage is straightforward as the species is not typically present in any other community.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	38
Transitional:	1
Total:	39

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	32
1986-2000:	7
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	39

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

2001-2020:	18
1986-2000:	4
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	22

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

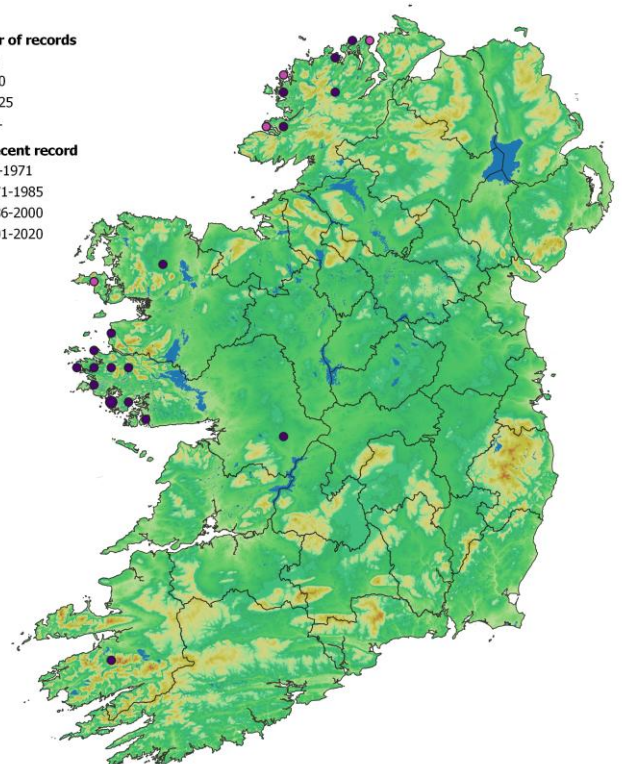
2001-2020:	18
1986-2000:	4
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

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



### Synoptic table (n = 38)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	V	2-(3)-9			
<i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i>	III	2-(3)-5			
<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	II	2-(3)-7			
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	I	2-(3)-8			
<i>Callitriche hermaphroditica</i>	I	2-(2)-8			
<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	I	2-(2)-3			
<i>Elatine hexandra</i>	I	2-(3)-3			
<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i>	I	3-(3)-5			
<i>Sparganium angustifolium</i>	I	2-(3)-7			
<i>Callitriche hamulata</i>	I	2-(3)-5			
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	I	3-(5)-9			
<i>Apium inundatum</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	I	3-(3)-3			

#### Affinities

GHI: FL2 Acid oligotrophic lakes / FL4 Mesotrophic lakes

ZM: NBO1D Potamogetonion graminei Westhoff et Den Held 1969

EUNIS: C1.13 Rooted submerged vegetation of oligotrophic waterbodies / C1.23 Rooted submerged vegetation of mesotrophic waterbodies

NVC: A23 *Isoetes lacustris/setacea* community (19.9%), but also A13 *Potamogeton perfoliatus-Myriophyllum alterniflorum* community (19.6%)

Annex I:3130 Mixed *Najas flexilis* lake habitat

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.1 Reaction: 6.3 Wetness: 11.5 Fertility: 4.1 Salinity: 0.7

#### Conservation value

Examples of this community represent the recently redefined EU HD Annex I habitat 3130 Mixed *Najas* habitat. *Najas flexilis* is also listed in EU HD Annex II and is listed on the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015. Species diversity is low (species/1 m<sup>2</sup> = 3.0, n = 34).

#### Management

The main threats to this habitat come from impacts on water quality from forestry, agriculture, peat extraction and effluent.

#### Key references

Roden, C. (2004) The distribution of *Najas flexilis* in Ireland 2002-2004. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

Roden, C. (1999) A survey of coastal lakes in counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Donegal. (unpublished). The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.

**Synopsis version:** V1.1

**Synopsis date:** March 2025

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

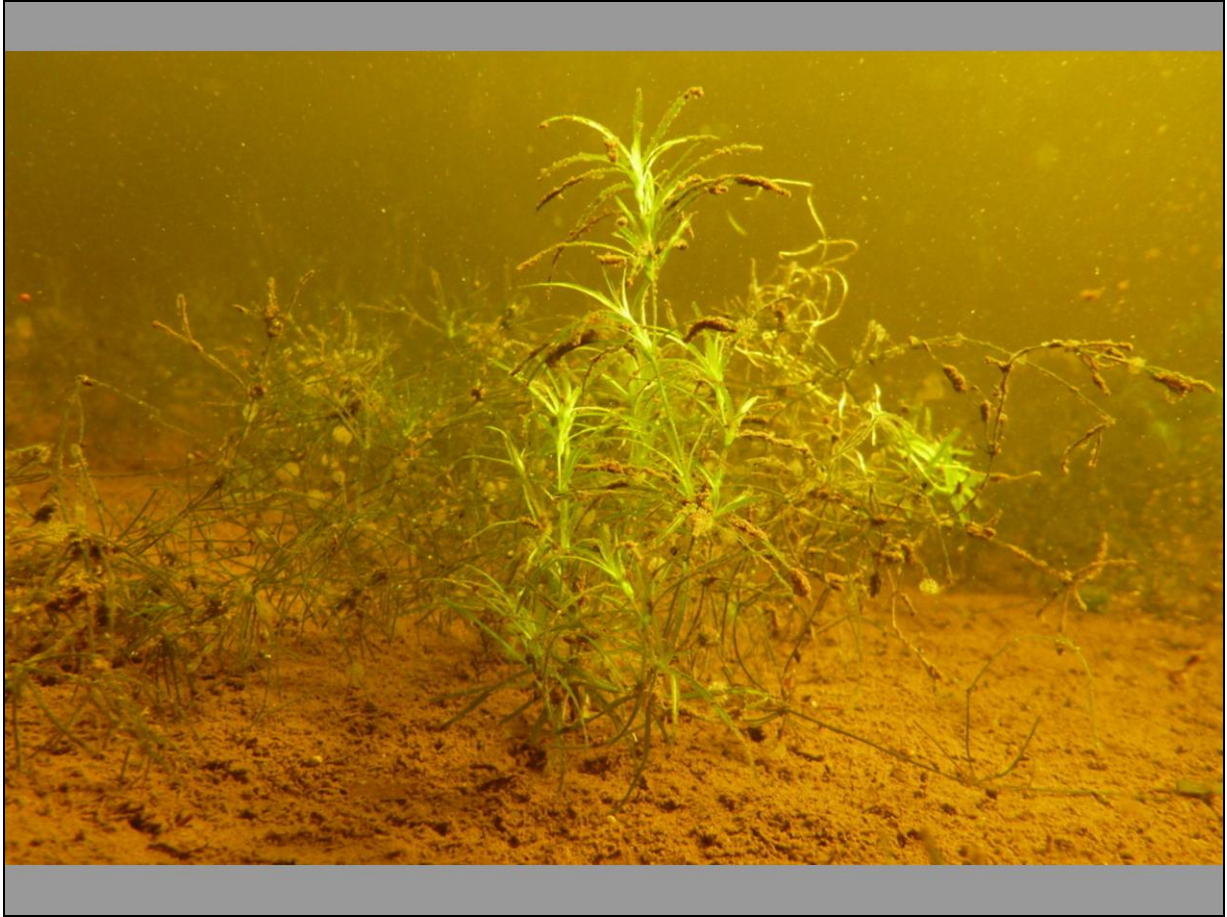


Photo 1. FW1D *Najas flexilis* aquatic community, Lough Leane, Killarney, Kerry (C. Roden, August 2013)

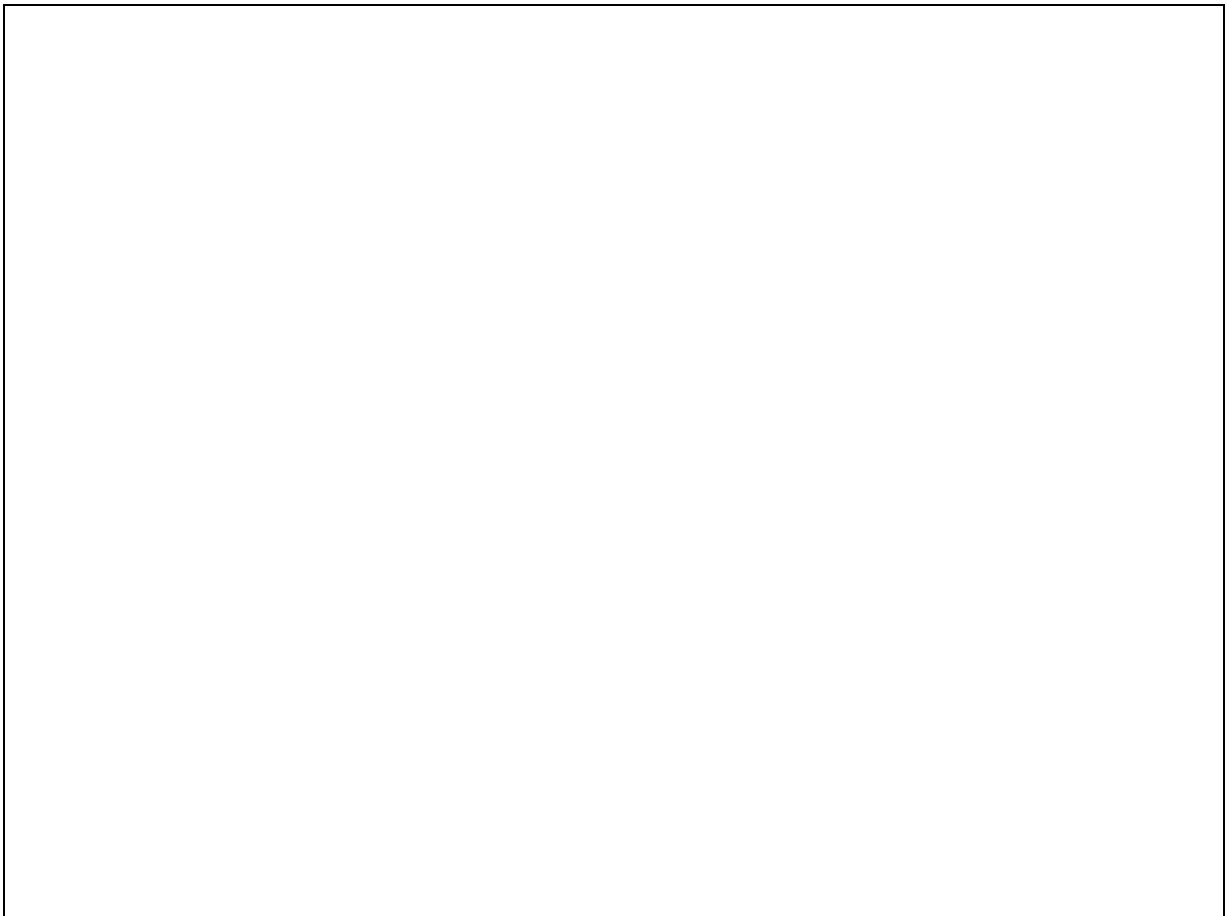


Photo required