

Scientific name	<i>Zostera marina</i> saline community
Common name	Eelgrass saline community
Community code	SW1B

Vegetation

This simple community consists of beds of the marine angiosperm *Zostera marina*, occasionally accompanied by the growth of *Ruppia marina/cirrhosa*.

Ecology

These beds occur in the subtidal or lower intertidal zone of lagoons and sheltered coastal waters, growing on sand, gravel or sandy mud.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

Similar communities

Zostera marina occurs infrequently in the SW1A *Ruppia maritima/cirrhosa* lagoon community, but there it is usually subordinate to the tasselweed.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	7
Transitional:	0
Total:	7

Number of records (mapped)

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

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	0
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	2

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

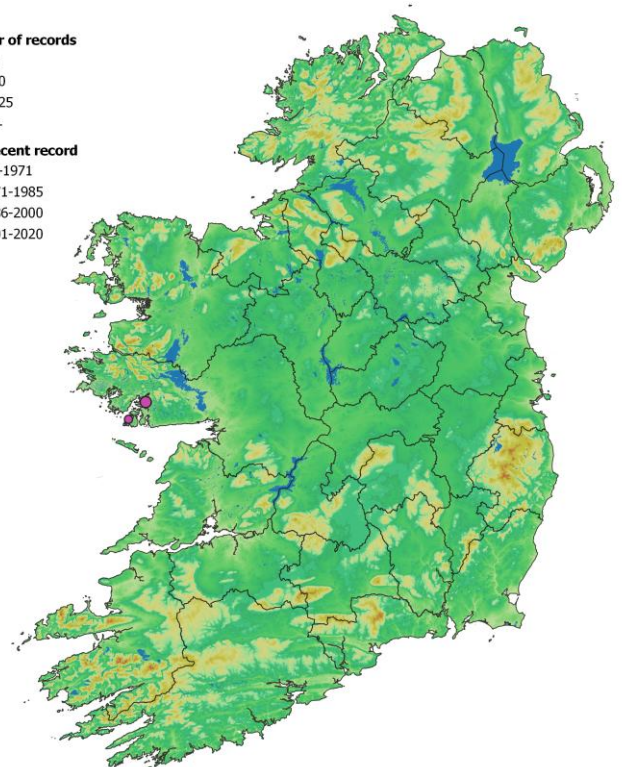
2001-2020:	0
1986-2000:	2
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (*n* = 7)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Zostera marina</i>	V	3-(5)-7			
<i>Ruppia maritima/cirrhusa</i>	II	3-(3)-4			

Affinities

GHI: CW1 Lagoons and saline lakes / LS2 Sand shores / LS3 Muddy sand shores / SS1 Infralittoral gravels and sands
 ZM: MA01A *Zosterion marinae* Br.-Bl. et Tx. ex Pignatti 1953)
 EUNIS: C5.5331 *Zostera marina/angustifolia* beds on lower shore or infralittoral clean or muddy sand
 NVC: A21 *Ranunculus baudotii* community (14.0%), but see also SM1 *Zostera* communities
 Annex I:1140 Tidal mudflats and sandflats / 1150 Lagoons* / 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.2 Reaction: 7.9 Wetness: 11.9 Fertility: 6.0 Salinity: 7.7

Conservation value

Zostera beds are used in Ireland as bioindicators of ecological quality status for purposes of reporting under the Water Framework Directive (see Wilkes et al. 2017). Species/1 m² = 1.2, *n* = 6.

Management

Intertidal *Zostera* beds can be impacted by vehicular traffic, for example that involved in aquaculture. Eutrophication of coastal waters can lead to smothering of beds by opportunistic algal growth.

Key references

Roden, C.M. (1998) A survey of the flora and vegetation of sixteen Irish coastal lagoons. Part three of 1998 lagoon survey. (unpublished). Dúchas, The Heritage Service, Dublin.
 Hatch, P. (1996) A survey of the vegetation of Irish coastal lagoons. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.
 Wilkes, R., Bennion, M., McQuaid, N., Beer, C., McCullough-Annett, G., Colhoun, K., Inger, R., Morrison, L. (2017) Intertidal seagrass in Ireland: Pressures, WFD status and an assessment of trace element contamination in intertidal habitats using *Zostera noltei*. *Ecological Indicators* 82, 117–130.

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin

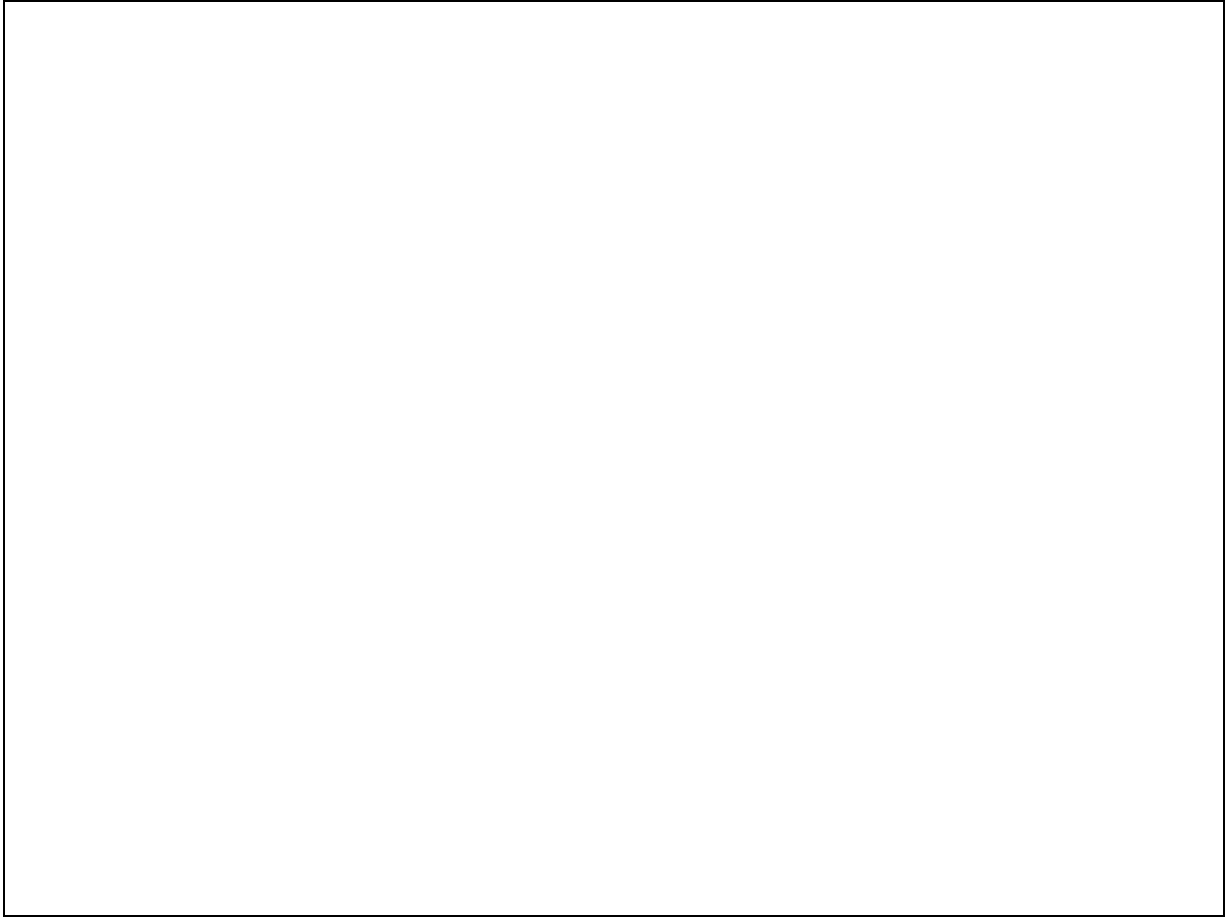


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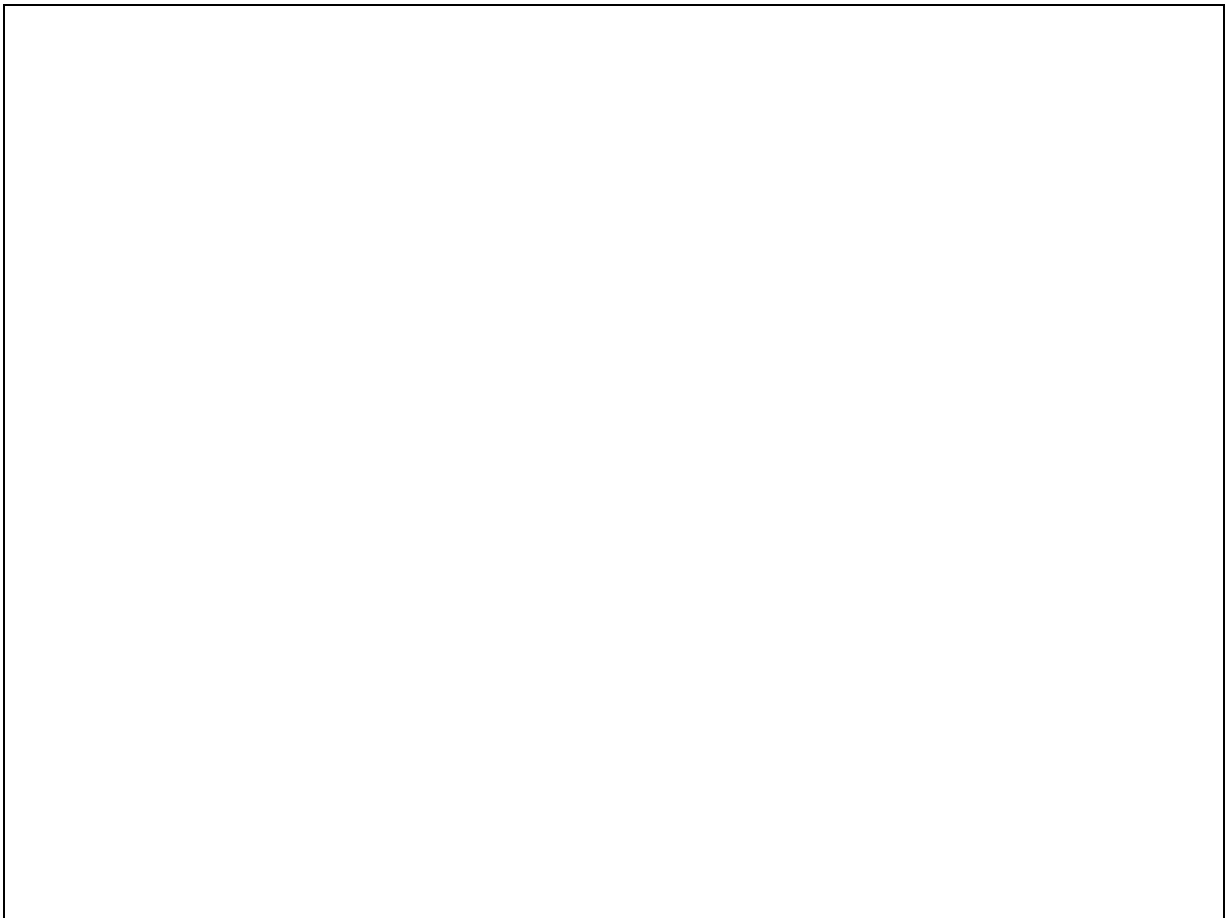


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