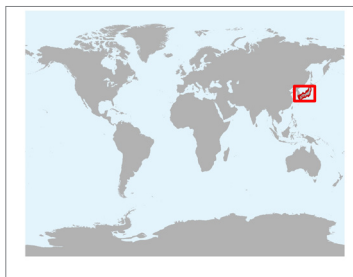




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: *Halophila nipponica*

Halophila nipponica is listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This seagrass is found in a few temperate locations in Japan, and one site in southern South Korea. A small seagrass, just 5 cm tall, *Halophila nipponica* is often found growing on its own, or as an understory to *Zostera marina* or other long-bladed species. The small, rounded leaves of this species provide sediment stabilization and removal of dissolved nutrients.

Halophila nipponica is declining in the industrial and urban areas of its range. Healthy seagrass beds indicate healthy coastal waters, but they are directly threatened by anthropogenic inputs. In Japan, this species is subject to threats from coastal development, land reclamation, water pollution and fisheries trawling. A single population was recently found in South Korea, occupying a large meadow near offshore islands in six metres of water. This recent appearance may be related to increasing seawater temperatures.

There are no known specific conservation measures for *Halophila nipponica*. Research is needed on this species' taxonomy, population trends and threats.

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