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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	< VULNERABLE >		ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU		EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

## Species of the Day: Sea Clover

**Sea Clover**, *Halophila baillonii*, is a species of seagrass, which are vascular flowering plants that live submerged in the world's oceans. It is to be classified as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ (assessment available shortly). Sea Clover has a severely fragmented distribution in the Caribbean Sea, with recent disappearances from Brazil and the Pacific coast of Costa Rica.

Sea clover is an important food source for the West Indian Manatee, a large sea mammal that is itself endangered, as well as the endangered Green Sea Turtle. It is very sensitive to poor water quality and is threatened by coastal development. Runoff from aquaculture, agriculture and industry are major threats. In Belize, the largest known meadow of Sea Clover is rapidly declining as a result of unregulated tourist development and eutrophication along Placencia Lagoon. In Costa Rica, the only known bed of this seagrass was destroyed by a severe Pacific storm.

There are currently no specific conservation measures for Sea Clover, although it sometimes occurs within marine protected areas. Both protection and monitoring of this ecologically important seagrass species are imperative.

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