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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	< VULNERABLE >	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Ocean Turf Grass

Ocean Turf Grass, *Halophila beccarii*, is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It lives submerged in the world's oceans, and its distribution is fragmented in southern China, Southeast Asia, India and Madagascar, amongst seaward mangroves and lagoons, in estuaries and on mudflats. Ocean Turf Grass is a food source for marine invertebrates and some fishes, and a habitat for juvenile horseshoe crabs.

Ocean Turf Grass is particularly susceptible to threats, as it has a restricted habitat type in the shallow inter-tidal zone where there is often human activity. The major threats to this seagrass are deforestation of mangroves and the creation of shrimp aquaculture ponds, which eliminate the areas where it thrives, along with coastal development, harbour and jetty construction, sedimentation, sand mining, and destructive fishing methods.

There are currently no specific conservation measures for this species, except when it occurs within marine protected areas. Shoreline protection and reduction in shoreline hardening, along with preservation and restoration of mangroves, will be important to its long-term survival.

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