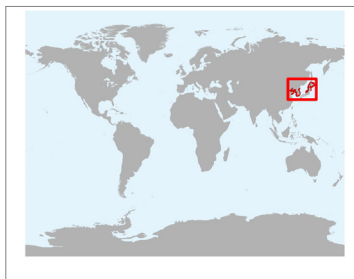




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: *Zostera caespitosa*

Zostera caespitosa is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This seagrass is known from a few locations on the northern coast of China, the Korean Peninsula and in northern Japan. *Zostera caespitosa* has a shallow depth range (2 – 11 metres) as well as a limited and patchy distribution.

Zostera caespitosa has experienced recent declines in many parts of its range. It is sensitive to pollution and to reductions in water quality, which limit light availability. Habitat loss is also a major threat to this species, since within its range in Japan and China there is industrial development in coastal regions, land reclamation, and disturbance by fish trawling and other fishing practices. In China, heavy use of the coastal zone for kelp aquaculture affects this seagrass. In South Korea, coastal eutrophication and land reclamation impact the health of *Zostera caespitosa*.

Very little of the area where this threatened seagrass is found receives any kind of protection. In South Korea, *Zostera caespitosa* is protected by The Marine Ecosystem Conservation and Management Act.

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