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



Geographical range

## Species of the Day: Asian Surf Grass

**Asian Surf Grass**, *Phyllospadix japonicus*, is classified as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It lives submerged in the world's oceans, and is found only in the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. Seagrasses are an important coastal habitat that sequester carbon, filter coastal waters, and contribute to ocean productivity.

Although previously widespread, Asian Surf Grass is currently in decline along the coasts of Korea and northern China, with a very limited distribution in Japan. Since the establishment of extensive kelp algal aquaculture, a large proportion of this seagrass species has been permanently removed, sometimes as a result of dynamite fishing in Japan. Shoreline hardening is also a major threat for Asian Surf Grass.

In South Korea, Asian Surf Grass is protected by 'The Marine Ecosystem Conservation and Management Act', and in many areas its distribution falls in marine protected areas. Particularly in Japan and China, this Endangered seagrass species is in need of protection and restoration.

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