

Gippsland Vegetation Types: Ecological Vegetation Types (EVC's)

EVC description derived from Davies et.al (2001) Ecological Vegetation Class Mapping at 1:25 000 in Gippsland.

EVC 9 Coastal Saltmarsh

Restricted to flats on low energy coastlines subject to the influence of daily inundation and exposure to salt water and poor drainage. It is most extensively developed immediately inland from the major ocean beaches in the Gippsland Lakes area but is also common along the South Gippsland coast where numerous islands as well as Wilsons Promontory provide topographic protection from the prevailing south and south-westerly storms. Coastal Saltmarsh ranges from a low succulent herbland to shrubland to rushland and sedgeland.

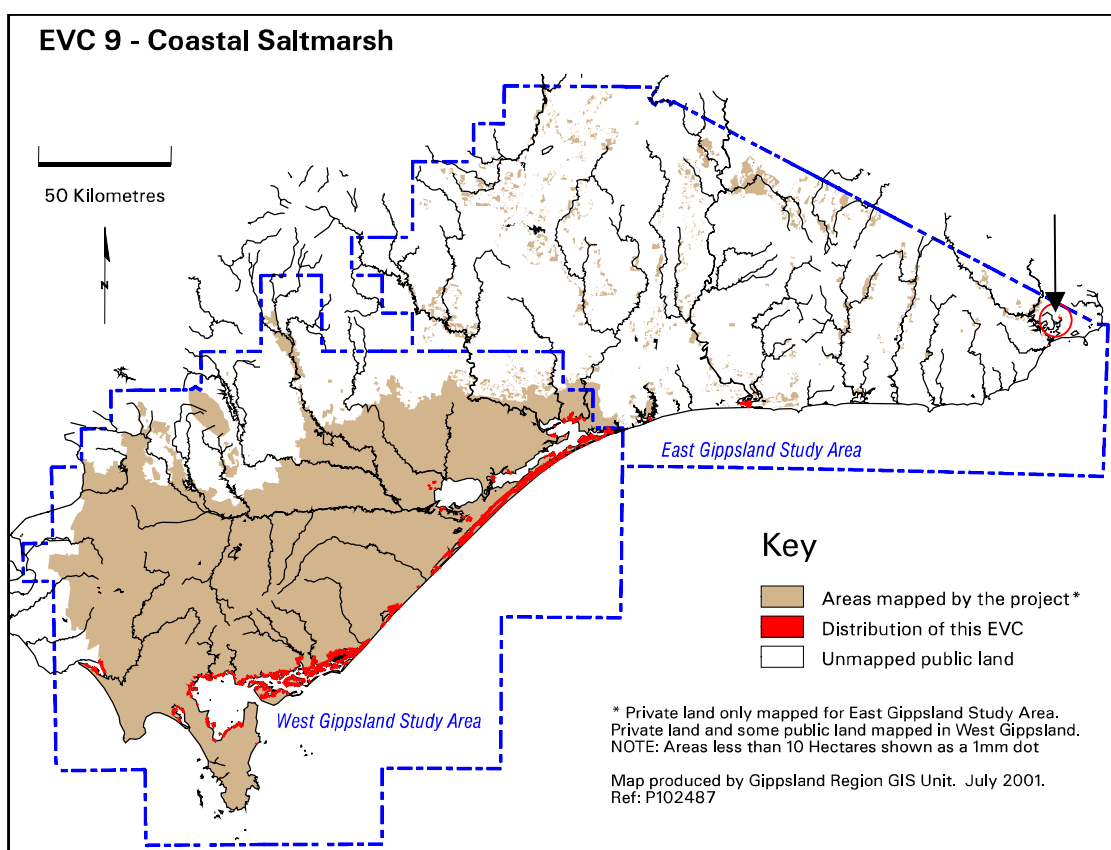


Coastal Saltmarsh, Lake Reeve causeway, Longford. Photo: John Davies 1996.



Coastal Saltmarsh on Rescue Island, Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Reserve, South Gippsland. Photo: John Davies 1998.

Elevation (metres above sea level)	Sea level
Average rainfall p.a. (mm)	550-900
Topography	Low energy coastal flats
Geology	Quaternary deposits
Soils	Soils highly variable ranging from sand to silt to clay, shell fragments often abundant. Occasional shallow surface peat horizons
Related/adjacent EVCs/FCs	Estuarine Wetland, Mangrove Shrubland, Swamp Scrub
Present land use	Nature conservation, recreation
Present distribution	Gippsland Lakes area and inlets of the South and East Gippsland coastline
Examples of sites/quadrats/lists	Anderson Inlet, Venus Bay (U23492), Mitchell River silt jetty near Paynesville (U23013)
Total Area(ha)/ Number of polygons	8,306/488



Vegetation: structure/floristics:

Coastal Saltmarsh comprises several zones. The lowest and most frequently inundated zones are dominated by Beaded Glasswort *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*. The next most landward zone is herbs represented by Salt-grass *Distichlis distichophylla*, Creeping Brookweed *Samolus repens*, Shiny Swamp-mat *Selliera radicans*, Rounded Noon-flower *Disphyma crassifolium* spp *clavellatum*, Southern Sea-heath *Frankenia pauciflora* subsp. *pauciflora*, Creeping Monkey Flower *Mimulus repens*, Sea Celery *Apium prostratum* and Streaked Arrow-grass *Triglochin striata*. Sea Rush *Juncus kraussii* subsp. *australiensis* and Chaffy Saw-sedge *Gahnia filum* dominate the most landward zone.

Gippsland species list including species frequency and fidelity.

- Fidelity:** Rating of faithfulness of a species to an EVC or Floristic Community. Highest fidelity rating indicated by an “F” ie species only recorded in respective group.
- % Frequency:** Percentage occurrence of a species/taxa in an EVC or Floristic Community – **NB. Species highlighted in red are the most frequent and important.**
- * = weed ie: non native.
- Rarity categories from NRE’s Flora Information System (FIS).

EVC 9: COASTAL SALTMARSH

Lifeform	Scientific Name	Common Name	% Fr	F
Herbs	<i>Epilobium billardierianum</i>	Variable Willow-herb	42	11
	<i>Senecio glomeratus</i>	Annual Fireweed	31	8
	<i>Mimulus repens</i>	Creeping Monkey-flower	28	41
	<i>Triglochin striatum</i>	Streaked Arrow-grass	28	22
	<i>Lilaeopsis polyantha</i>	Australian Lilaeopsis	25	18
	<i>Leptinella reptans</i>	Creeping Cotula	22	11
	<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	Angled Lobelia	22	5
	<i>Brachyscome graminea</i>	Grass Daisy	17	197
	<i>Epilobium billardierianum</i> <i>ssp. billardierianum</i>	Robust Willow-herb	17	98
	<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i>	Variable Groundsel	17	1
	Halophytes	<i>Selliera radicans</i>	Shiny Swamp-mat	81
<i>Samolus repens</i>		Creeping Brookweed	78	31
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>		Beaded Glasswort	58	29
<i>Apium prostratum</i> ssp. <i>prostratum</i>		Sea Celery	42	31
<i>Disphyma crassifolium</i> ssp. <i>clavellatum</i>		Rounded Noon-flower	36	16
<i>Pratia irrigua</i>		Salt Pratia	28	328
Sedges	<i>Isolepis nodosa</i>	Knobby Club-sedge	47	3
	<i>Gahnia filum</i>	Chaffy Saw-sedge	42	55
	<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	Nodding Club-sedge	33	65
Rushes	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Common Spike-sedge	22	13
	<i>Juncus kraussii</i>	Sea Rush	69	37
Cord-rush	<i>Juncus revolutus</i>	Creeping Rush	17	F
	<i>Apodasmia brownii</i>	Coarse Twine-rush	25	15
Grasses	<i>Agrostis avenacea</i>	Common Blown Grass	33	5
	<i>Poa</i> sp.	Tussock Grass	31	0.6
	<i>Agrostis billardieri</i>	Coast Blown Grass	19	38
	<i>Austrostipa stipoides</i>	Prickly Spear-grass	17	28
Weeds	* <i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck’s-horn Plantain	50	15
	* <i>Sonchus asper</i>	Rough Sow-thistle	39	7
	* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Sow-thistle	39	3
	* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	36	2
	* <i>Aster subulatus</i>	Aster-weed	31	33
	* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	31	1
	* <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Water Buttons	25	18
	* <i>Spergularia media</i>	Coast Sand-spurrey	17	F
	* <i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Creeping Saltbush	17	197
	* <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Annual Beard-grass	17	39
	* <i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i>	Hairy Hawkbit	17	2
* <i>Centaureum tenuiflorum</i>	Branched Centaury	17	1	