

**V.A.5.N.n.4. ELEOCHARIS FALLAX - ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA TIDAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (A.1474)**

Creeping Spikerush - Beaked Spikerush Tidal Herbaceous Alliance

Physiognomic Class       Herbaceous Vegetation (V.)  
Physiognomic Subclass   Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.)  
Physiognomic Group       Temperate or sub-polar grassland (V.A.5.)  
Physiognomic Subgroup   Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.)  
Formation                 Tidal temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.n.)

**Alliance                   ELEOCHARIS FALLAX – ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA TIDAL  
HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE (V.A.5.N.n.4)**

Eleocharis rostellata - Spartina patens Herbaceous Vegetation

Beaked Spikerush - Saltmeadow Cordgrass Herbaceous Vegetation

[*Oligohaline Tidal Marsh*]

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL:        2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: ESTUARINE

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs adjacent to a tidal creek south of Ridge Island in the Wilderness Area of Fire Island.

***Globally***

This association ranges from the Chesapeake Bay region of the Atlantic coast, extending north to Long Island NY and south to Virginia.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs as a narrow band in the transition zone between high salt marsh and salt shrub vegetation. The substrate is characterized by dark, fibrous peat over sand.

***Globally***

This tidal marsh association occurs on peat or muck substrates. Salinity is 0.5-5 parts per thousand in areas sampled in the Chesapeake Bay and at Fire Island.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> , <i>Spartina patens</i> , <i>Scirpus pungens</i>

***Globally***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> with <i>Spartina patens</i> and/or <i>Scirpus pungens</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Eleocharis rostellata*, *Spartina patens*, *Scirpus pungens*

***Globally***

*Eleocharis rostellata*, *Spartina patens*, *Eleocharis fallax*

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Fire Island National Seashore**

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VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This herbaceous community occurs as a narrow band between high salt marsh and salt shrub vegetation. Herbaceous vegetation forms nearly continuous cover with *Eleocharis rostellata* and *Spartina patens* codominant and *Scirpus pungens* also common. Dowhan and Rozsa note the occurrence of *Samolus parviflorus* and *Aster novi-belgii* as components of oligohaline marshes on Fire Island.

***Globally***

This slightly brackish tidal marsh of the Chesapeake Bay region of the Atlantic coast occurs on peat or muck substrates. It is heavily dominated by *Eleocharis rostellata*, growing in association with *Spartina patens*, *Scirpus pungens*, *Typha angustifolia*, *Distichlis spicata*, *Juncus gerardii*, *Cladium mariscoides*, *Eleocharis fallax*, *Centella erecta*, *Fimbristylis castanea*, and *Galium tinctorium*.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

Need additional data to determine range of expression and geographical range of this type.

***States/Provinces:*** DE:S1, MD:S?, NY:S?, VA:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK: G? (00-04-17)

DATABASE CODE: C EGL006611

MAP UNITS: FIIS plot 3

REFERENCES:

Bowman 2000

Dowhan and Rozsa 1989