Eelgrass (Zostera marina) is a flowering plant that occurs worldwide and along the east coast of North America from North Carolina to Labrador. Along the Maine coast it is found primarily in shallow, protected intertidal and subtidal locations.

Zostera beds form an important habitat for shellfish, wildlife and other vertebrate and invertebrate species. The distribution in Maine has been mapped since 1992 on approximately 10 year cycles.

These maps are provided as an overview of known locations of eelgrass beds. The original data was developed for use at 1:24000 scale. This information is not intended as site specific information as is often needed for permit review or detailed scientific studies. The current distribution of eelgrass may differ from mapped distribution as photo-acquisition dates range from 2001 to 2010.

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Eelgrass Per Cent Cover

- GT 0 to 10%
- GT 10 to 40%
- GT 40 to 70%
- GT 70 to 100%

Current GIS data can be obtained from the Maine Office of GIS (MeGIS). For information on maps produced for this project please contact the Maine Department of Marine Resources, (207) 633-9500.