

# AA.I1B4 BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY CHARALES

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of coarse sediment. Coarse sediment has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and the proportion of gravel and pebbles (grain size 2–63 mm) exceeds 30% of the combined gravel and sand fraction . Submerged rooted plants cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Of the submerged rooted plants, Charales constitutes at least 50 % of the biovolume.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: <6 psu; Exposure range: Sheltered to moderately exposed; Depth range: photic zone from about 0.2 to 7 meters.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Chara aspera*, *Chara baltica* *Tolypella nidifica*, *Chara horrida*

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.4.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophyte vegetation

### EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.5 Sublittoral macrophyte-dominated sediment

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/1733>