

AA.J1B2 BALTIC PHOTIC SAND DOMINATED BY *ZANNICHELLIA SPP.* AND/OR *RUPPIA SPP.* AND/OR *ZOSTERA NOLTII*

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of sand. Sand has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and the proportion of sand (grain size 0.063–2 mm) exceeds 70% of the combined gravel and sand fraction. Submerged rooted plants, including plants with rhizoids (i.e. Charales) cover at least 10 % of the seabed, and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the submerged rooted plants, *Zannichellia spp.* and/or *Ruppia spp.* and/or *Zostera noltii* constitute at least 50 % of the biovolume.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: <6 psu; Exposure range: sheltered to moderate; Depth range: from 0.2 to about 4 meters

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Zannichellia spp., *Ruppia spp.*, *Zostera noltii*

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Decreased light penetration depth and increased sedimentation caused by eutrophication

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.5 Sandy bottoms

2.5.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.5.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.5 Sublittoral macrophyte-dominated sediment

A5.53 Sublittoral seagrass beds

A5.534 : [Ruppia] and [Zannichellia] communities

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/509>