

AA.J1S BALTIC PHOTIC SAND CHARACTERIZED BY ANNUAL ALGAE

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

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. Annual algae cover at least 10 %, while all other epibenthic biotic structures cover less than 10 %.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: all; Exposure range: moderate; Depth range: photic zone

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Chorda filum, *Halosiphon tomentosus*

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

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