

# **AB.H4 Baltic aphotic muddy sediment characterized by no macroscopic biotic structures**

## **Author**

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## **Textual description**

Baltic bottoms in the aphotic zone with at least 90 % coverage of muddy sediment. The sediment must contain at least 20 % of mud, silt or clay (grain size less than 63 µm). No macro- epi- or infauna.

## **Physical environment**

Salinity range: All; Exposure range: All; Depth range: Below photic zone - more common in deeper areas.

## **Mapping advise (habitat delineation, identification, similar types)**

Muddy sediment bottoms in the aphotic zone. No macro- epi- or infauna.

## **Geographic range**

Whole Baltic Sea

## **Anthropogenic threats**

Dredging, dredge spoil dumping, poisonous substances

## **Correspondence with other classification systems**

### **HELCOM 1998:**

2.7 Muddy bottoms

2.7.1 Aphotic zone

### **EUNIS 2012:**

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.3 Sublittoral mud

A5.37 Deep circalittoral mud

A5.378 Baltic muddy bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2588>