

AA.J3M BALTIC PHOTIC SAND CHARACTERIZED BY INFAUNAL POLYCHAETES

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic bottoms 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. No macrovegetation or epibenthic macrofauna. Biomass of infaunal polychaetes dominates in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/insect larvae.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is sand. Appears in high energy exposure areas.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Pygospio elegans, *Marenzelleria* spp., *Hediste diversicolor*, *Ophelia* spp. and *Travisia forbesii*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.5 Sandy bottoms

2.5.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.5.2.1 Level bottoms with little or no macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.2 Sublittoral sand

A5.21 Sublittoral sand in low or reduced salinity

A5.211 Baltic level sandy bottoms of the infralittoral photic zone with little or no macrophyte vegetation

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2580>