

AA.J3M2 BALTIC PHOTIC SAND DOMINATED BY LUGWORMS (*ARENICOLA MARINA*)

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic zone 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. Biomass of infaunal polychaetes dominates and is highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae. Out of the infaunal polychaetes *Arenicola marina* constitutes at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is sand. Depth is typically from 1 to 5 meters, Appears in from low to high wave exposure. Salinity >10 psu

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Arenicola marina, *Mya arenaria*, *Cerastoderma sp.*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Western 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/25800>