# AB.I1 Baltic aphotic coarse sediment characterized by macroscopic epibenthic biotic structures

## Author

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## Textual description

Baltic aphotic bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of coarse sediment. Coarse sediment has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and the proportion of gravel and pebbles (grain size 2–63 mm) exceeds 30% of the combined gravel and sand fraction. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is ≥10%.

## Physical environment

Salinity range: all; Exposure range: moderate to high; Depth range: aphotic zone

## Characteristic species

*Mytilus* spp, Hydrozoa, *Amphibalanus improvisus*

Mapping advise (habitat delineation, identification, similar types)

Aphotic zone areas with coarse sediment such as gravel. Sediment must contain less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and at least 30 % of grain size 2–63 mm. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is ≥10%.

## Quality descriptors

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## Geographic range

Whole Baltic Sea

## Anthropogenic threats

Soft sediment covering the coarse sediment will decrease the quality.

# Correspondence with other classification systems

**HELCOM 1998:**
2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.1 Aphotic zone

**EUNIS 2012:**

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.114 : Baltic gravel bottoms of the aphotic zone

http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2619