

AA.H1B2 BALTIC PHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY *ZANNICHELLIA* SPP. AND/OR *RUPPIA* SPP. AND /OR *ZOSTERA NOLTII*

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic 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). Submerged rooted plants cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Of the submerged rooted plants, *Zannichellia spp.* and/or *Ruppia spp.* constitute at least 50 % of the biovolume

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: low to moderate; Exposure range: low to moderate; Depth range: photic zone from about 0.1 to 4 meters.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Zannichellia palustris, *Ruppia maritime*, *Zostera noltii*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Lower limit of vegetation, amount of epiphytic algae

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.7 Muddy bottoms

2.7.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.7.2.2 Dominated by macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.5 Sublittoral macrophyte-dominated sediment

A5.53 Sublittoral seagrass beds

A5.534 [Ruppia] and [Zannichellia] communities

A5.5343 [Ruppia maritima] in reduced salinity infralittoral muddy sand

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2337>