

# AA.I1 BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY MACROSCOPIC EPIBENTHIC BIOTIC STRUCTURES

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone 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 macroscopic vegetation or sessile macroscopic epifauna is ≥10 %.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: all; Exposure range: moderate; Depth range: photic zone

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Zostera marina*, *Zannichellia* spp., *Tolypella nidifica*, *Fucus* spp., *Furcellaria lumbricalis*, *Mytilus* spp., *Hediste diversicolor*

## MAPPING ADVISE (HABITAT DELINEATION, IDENTIFICATION, SIMILAR TYPES)

Photic zone areas with coarse sediment such as gravel. Sediment must contain less than 20 % of silt, clay or mud, and at least 30 % of grain size 2–63 mm. Coverage of vegetation is at least 10 %.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Decreased light penetration depth and increased sedimentation caused by eutrophication

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.4.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophyte vegetation

**EUNIS 2012:**

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/5678>