

AA.I1B BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY SUBMERGED ROOTED PLANTS

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. Submerged rooted plants, including plants with rhizoids (i.e. Charales) cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Stuckenia pectinata, *Zannichellia spp.*, *Zostera marina*, Charales

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

A5.5 Sublittoral macrophyte-dominated sediment

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/1733>