

AA.I1B2 BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY *ZANNICHELLIA SPP.* AND/OR *RUPPIA SPP.* AND/OR *ZOSTERA NOLTII*

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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 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.* and/or *Zostera noltii* 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 maritima*, *Zostera noltii*

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea, *Zostera noltii* occurs only in the Belt Sea and Kattegat area.

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

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

A5.53 Sublittoral seagrass beds

A5.534 : [Ruppia] and [Zannichellia] communities

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/509>