

# AA.I1E BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY EPIBENTHIC BIVALVES

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic 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. Sessile/semi-sessile bivalves cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is coarse sediment. Appears in high energy exposure areas.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Mytilus* spp.

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### **HELCOM 1998:**

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.4.2.1 Level bottoms with little or no macrophyte vegetation

### **EUNIS 2012:**

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.111 : Baltic level gravel bottoms of the infralittoral photic zone with little or no macrophyte vegetation

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