

# AA.I30 BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY INFAUNAL ECHINODERMS

## 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. No macrovegetation or epibenthic macrofauna. Biomass of infaunal echinoderms dominates in the group infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Amphiura spp, Ophiura spp, Brissopsis lyrifera, Echinocardium 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/2576>