

AA.J1B7 BALTIC PHOTIC SAND DOMINATED BY COMMON EELGRASS (*ZOSTERA MARINA*)

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of sand. Sand has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and the proportion of sand (grain size 0.063–2 mm) exceeds 70% 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. Out of the submerged rooted plants, common eelgrass constitutes at least 50 % of the biovolume.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: >6 psu; Exposure range: moderate to exposed; Depth range: from 1 to about 8 meters

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Zostera marina

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Decreased light penetration depth and increased sedimentation caused by eutrophication

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.5 Sandy bottoms

2.5.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.5.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophyte vegetation

HELCOM 2007:

Seagrass beds

- habitat under threat and/or in decline in all areas of occurrence

The Bothnian Sea, Åland Sea, Archipelago Sea, Gulf of Finland, Gulf of Riga, The Northern Baltic Proper, Western Gotland Basin, Eastern Gotland Sea, The Southern Baltic Proper, The Gulf of Gdansk, Bay of Mecklenburg, Kiel Bay, Little Belt, Great Belt, The Sound, Kattegat

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.5 Sublittoral macrophyte-dominated sediment

A5.54 Angiosperm communities in reduced salinity

A5.545 [*Zostera*] beds in reduced salinity infralittoral sediments

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/5611>

OSPAR list of threatened biotopes:

Zostera beds

Habitat occurs in the OSPAR Region II (including Kattegat) and is listed threatened and/or in decline in this region