

AA.J1E1 BALTIC PHOTIC SAND DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic zone bottoms 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. Epibenthic bivalves cover at least 10% of the seabed, and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic bivalves, Mytilidae constitute at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is sand. Appears in moderate to high energy exposure areas. Salinity must be at least 5.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Mytilus spp., *Hediste diversicolor*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.5 Sandy bottoms

2.5.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.5.2.1 Level bottoms with little or no macrophyte
vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.2 Sublittoral sand

A5.21 Sublittoral sand in low or reduced salinity

A5.211 Baltic level sandy bottoms of the infralittoral photic zone with little or no macrophyte vegetation

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2580>