

AA.J1Q1 BALTIC PHOTIC SAND DOMINATED BY STABLE AGGREGATIONS OF UNATTACHED FUCUS SPP. (TYPICAL FORM)

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. No perennial attached erect group has a coverage ≥ 10 %. Stable aggregations of unattached perennial vegetation covers at least 10 %, out of which *Fucus spp.* (typical form) constitutes at least 50 % of the biovolume.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: <4.5 psu; Exposure range: sheltered to moderate; Depth range: down to about 5 meters, level bottoms

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Fucus vesiculosus (typical form)

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

density of *Fucus spp.*, amount of epiphytes

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication, anchorage and construction in sheltered bays and lagoons

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

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.5 Sublittoral macrophyte-dominated sediment

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/1733>