

# AA.J3L2 BALTIC PHOTIC SAND DOMINATED BY COCKLES (*CERASTODERMA SPP.*)

## AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

## 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. Biomass of infaunal bivalves dominates and is highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae. Out of the infaunal bivalves, *Cerastoderma* spp. constitute at least 50 % of the biomass

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is sand.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Cerastoderma glaucum*, *Cerastoderma edule*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

German inner bights, the Sound

## 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>