

# AA.J3L4 BALTIC PHOTIC SAND DOMINATED BY SAND GAPER (*MYA ARENARIA*)

## 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. 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, *Mya arenaria* constitutes at least 50 % of the biomass.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is sand.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Mya arenaria*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Known from German waters in the Baltic Sea

## 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>