

# AB.I1E1 BALTIC APHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic zone bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of coarse sediment. Coarse sediment has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and the proportion of gravel and pebbles (grain size 2–63 mm) exceeds 30% 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 coarse sediment. Appears in high energy exposure areas. Salinity >5.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Mytilus* spp., *Hediste diversicolor*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.1 Aphotic zone

### EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.114 : Baltic gravel bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2619>