

# AB.I4U1 BALTIC APHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY MEIOFAUNA

## AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

## 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 .No macrocommunity present. Meiofauna constitutes at least 50% of the present biomass.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is coarse sediment. Appears in all wave exposure classes.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Oligochaeta, Ostracoda, Nematoda*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of meiofauna.

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

## 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>