

AB.J1 Baltic aphotic sand characterized by macroscopic epibenthic biotic structures

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Textual description

Baltic bottoms in the aphotic zone with at least 90 % coverage of sand. Sand has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction ($<63\ \mu\text{m}$), and the proportion of sand (grain size 0.063–2 mm) exceeds 70% of the combined gravel and sand fraction. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is $\geq 10\%$.

Physical environment

Salinity range: all; Exposure range: all; Depth range: aphotic zone

Characteristic species

Mytilus spp.

Mapping advise (habitat delineation, identification, similar types)

Sandy bottoms in the aphotic zone with less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction ($<63\ \mu\text{m}$) and more than 70 % of sand (grain size 0.063–2 mm). Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is $\geq 10\%$.

Geographic range

Whole Baltic Sea

Anthropogenic threats

Sand excavation, silting caused by eutrophication, dredging spoil deposition etc.

Correspondence with other classification systems

HELCOM 1998:

2.5 Sandy bottoms

2.5.1 Aphotic zone

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.2 Sublittoral sand

A5.27 Deep circalittoral sand

A5.273 Baltic sandy bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2620>