

# **AB.J1E Baltic aphotic sand characterized by epibenthic bivalves**

## **Author**

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

## **Textual description**

Balticaphotic 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. Sessile/semi-sessile epibenthic bivalve cover at least 10 % of the seabed.

## **Physical environment**

Substrate is sand. Depth below approximately 30 m. Appears in high energy exposure areas.

## **Characteristic species**

*Mytilus spp.*

## **Quality descriptors**

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## **Geographic range**

Whole Baltic Sea

## **Correspondence with other classification systems**

### **HELCOM 1998:**

2.5Sandy bottoms

2.5.1Aphotic 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>