

# AB.J1E1 BALTIC APHOTIC SAND DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic 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. Epibenthic bivalves cover at least 10 % of the seabed, and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic bivalves, Mytilidae constitutes at least 50 % of the biomass.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is sand. Appears in moderate to high energy exposure areas. Salinity must be at least 5.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Mytilus spp.*, *Hediste diversicolor*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## 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>