

AB.J3N Baltic aphotic sand characterized by infaunal crustacea

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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 macrofauna is not present. Biomass of infaunal crustacea dominates and is the highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/insect larvae.

Physical environment

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

Characteristic species

Monoporeia affinis

Quality descriptors

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

Geographic range

Whole Baltic Sea

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>