

# **AB.J3P Baltic aphotic sand characterized by infaunal insect larvae**

Author

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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 insect larvae dominates and is 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**

Chironomidae

## **Quality descriptors**

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## **Geographic range**

Whole Baltic Sea

## **Correspondence with other classification systems**

HELCOM 1998:  
2.5 Sandy bottoms

2.5.1Aphotic 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>