

## A5.bb Pontic infralittoral sands and muddy sands with annual algae

### Summary

The habitat is present in the Black Sea on areas of infralittoral sand and muddy sand. It is not present in the Sea of Marmara. The pressures and threats that likely to affect the habitat are eutrophication, coastal development, chemical pollution and siltation. The conservation and management measures which would benefit the habitat include maintaining physical and biological integrity, improving water quality, coastal development controls, pollution event response plans, survey and monitoring programs, public awareness, protection of habitats and species, and designation of MPAs.

### Synthesis

Detailed information on the abundance and extent of this habitat is lacking. Information on the quantity and quality of this habitat including historical or recent trends is unknown. For the purposes of Red List assessment this habitat is considered to be Data Deficient.

Overall Category & Criteria			
EU 28		EU 28+	
Red List Category	Red List Criteria	Red List Category	Red List Criteria
Data Deficient	-	Data Deficient	-

### Sub-habitat types that may require further examination

None

### Habitat Type

#### Code and name

A5.bb Pontic infralittoral sands and muddy sands with annual algae

There are currently no photographs available of this habitat.

#### Habitat description

Infralittoral sands and muddy sands in the Black Sea are typically found in sheltered environments close to the coast. Most commonly these are in deltas, bays, estuaries or lagoons. Due to the low energy environments algal species are able to form stands on the sediment surface. These algal stand are typically characterised by lamina green algae species of the genus *Ulva* and *Cladophora*.

Indicators of quality:

Both biotic and abiotic indicators have been used to describe marine habitat quality. These include; the presence of characteristic species and species sensitive to the pressures the habitat may face, water quality parameters, levels of exposure to particular pressure as well as and more integrated indices which describe habitat structure and function, such as trophic index, or successional stages of development in habitats that have a natural cycle of change over time. There are no commonly agreed indicators of quality for this habitat, although particular parameters may have been set in certain situations e.g. protected features within Natura 2000 sites, where reference values have been determined and applied on a location-specific basis.

Characteristic species:

*Ulva* spp. and *Cladophora* spp.

## Classification

This habitat may be equivalent to, or broader than, or narrower than the habitats or ecosystems in the following typologies.

EUNIS (v1405):

Level 4. A sub-habitat of Shallow Sublittoral/infralittoral sand (A5.2)

Annex 1:

1110 Sandbanks slightly covered by seawater all the time

1160 Large shallow inlets and bays

MAES:

Marine- Marine inlets and transitional waters

MSFD:

Shallow sublittoral sediment (coarse, sand, mud, mixed)

EUSEaMap:

Shallow coarse or mixed sediments

IUCN:

9.5 Subtidal sandy-mud

### Does the habitat type present an outstanding example of typical characteristics of one or more biogeographic regions?

Unknown

#### Justification

There is insufficient knowledge and information on this habitat to state whether it is an outstanding example of this biogeographic region.

## Geographic occurrence and trends

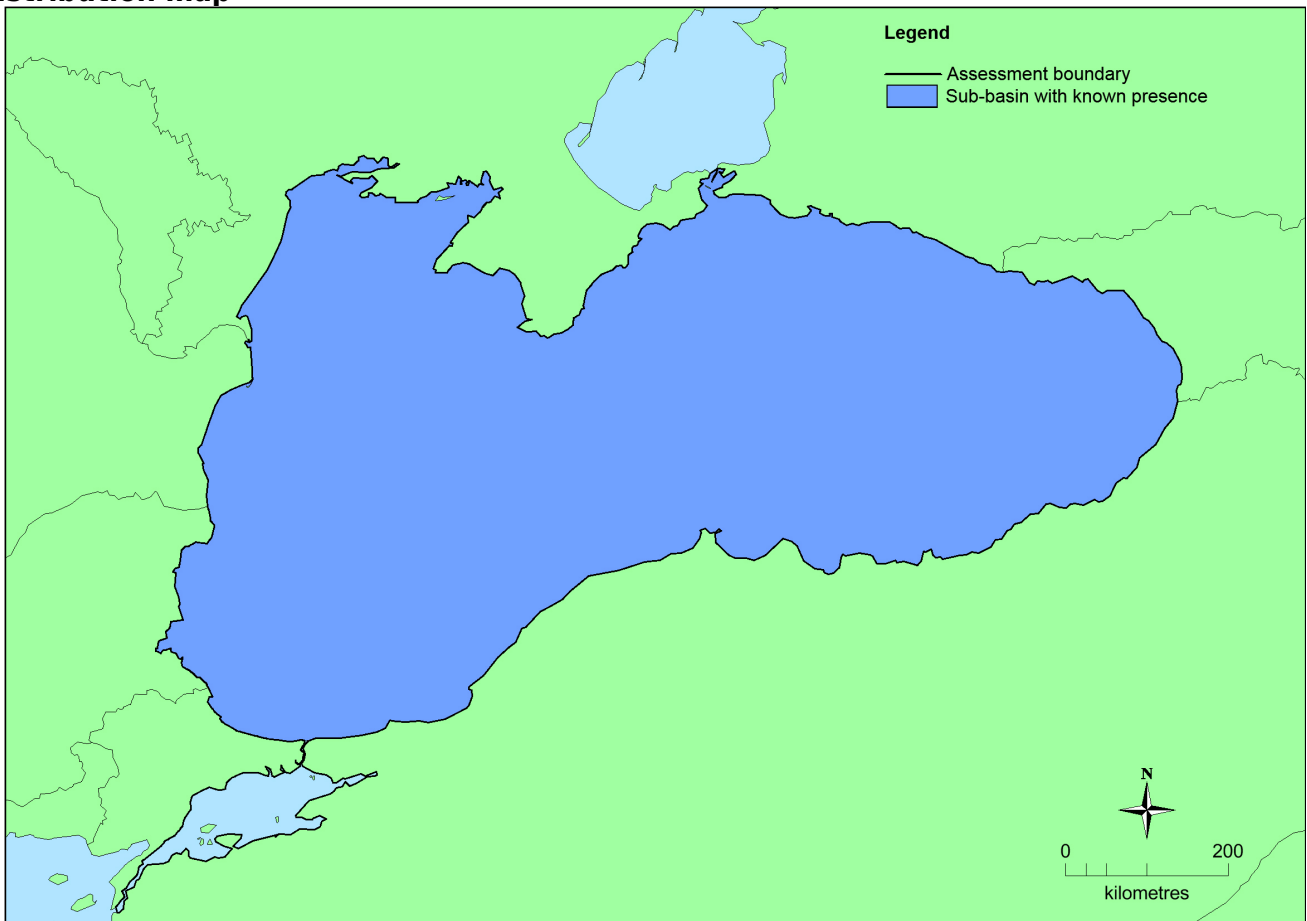
Region	Present or Presence Uncertain	Current area of habitat	Recent trend in quantity (last 50 yrs)	Recent trend in quality (last 50 yrs)
<i>Black Sea</i>	Black Sea: Present	Unknown Km <sup>2</sup>	Unknown	Unknown

## Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy and habitat area

	Extent of Occurrence (EOO)	Area of Occupancy (AOO)	Current estimated Total Area	Comment
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	Extent of Occurrence (EOO)	Area of Occupancy (AOO)	Current estimated Total Area	Comment
EU 28	Unknown Km <sup>2</sup>	Unknown	Unknown Km <sup>2</sup>	The habitat is known to occur in the Black Sea but there is insufficient data to accurately calculate EOO and AOO.
EU 28+	Unknown Km <sup>2</sup>	Unknown	Unknown Km <sup>2</sup>	The habitat is known to occur in the Black Sea but there is insufficient data to accurately calculate EOO and AOO.

### Distribution map



There is insufficient data to produce a map of the distribution of this habitat.

### How much of the current distribution of the habitat type lies within the EU 28?

It is unknown how much of this habitat is hosted by the EU28 in the Black Sea.

### Trends in quantity

There is insufficient data to accurately assess changes in quantity of the habitat

- Average current trend in quantity (extent)  
EU 28: Unknown  
EU 28+: Unknown
- Does the habitat type have a small natural range following regression?  
Unknown

#### Justification

The habitat is known to occur in the Black Sea but there is insufficient data to accurately calculate EOO

and AOO. There is insufficient data to accurately assess whether the habitat has undergone a significant decline (>25% of extent) in the last 50 years.

- Does the habitat have a small natural range by reason of its intrinsically restricted area?

Unknown

#### *Justification*

There is insufficient data and knowledge on this habitat to state whether it has a small natural range by reason of an intrinsically restricted area.

### **Trends in quality**

There is insufficient data to accurately assess changes in quality of the habitat

- Average current trend in quality

EU 28: Unknown

EU 28+: Unknown

### **Pressures and threats**

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Eutrophication as a result of nutrient enrichment (N, P and organic matter) is the most significant historic pressure on the habitat. Reduced light penetration due to eutrophication caused declines in extent and quality of the habitat. Since the 1990s this pressure has reduced due to tighter controls on pollution in the catchment of the Danube and other rivers which enter the north-west Black Sea. Whilst this pressure is now reduced it is still a continuing threat in the current and future periods. This is especially true for non EU countries surrounding the Black Sea which are not bound by the agreements such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The habitat is likely to be sensitive to:

Coastal development including the construction of marinas and slipways, sediment extraction, the widening and dredging of channels, creation of artificial beaches, road developments and sea defences. These activities may alter the hydrological regime which is important for the habitat.

Siltation. This is a current and future threat to the habitat. The resettling of suspended sediment can cause smothering. This inhibits the growth of habitat forming species. Siltation is typically caused by dredging, trawling and other activities which disturb bottom sediments.

Sand extraction. This is a threat of current and future importance. This can lead to habitat destruction. Sand is an important building resource in the Black Sea. Sand extraction is likely to increase alongside development pressures in the region.

Chemical pollution. This is a threat of current and future importance. These can lead to mortality of faunal species. If mortality rate is high this can lead to a reduction in extent. Lower mortality rates will result in a reduction in habitat quality. Chemical pollution may also affect the size and growth rate of individuals.

### **List of pressures and threats**

#### **Urbanisation, residential and commercial development**

Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities

#### **Pollution**

Nutrient enrichment (N, P, organic matter)

Input of contaminants (synthetic substances, non-synthetic substances, radionuclides) - diffuse sources, point sources, acute events

## Natural System modifications

Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions

Removal of sediments (mud...)

Extraction of sea-floor and subsoil minerals (e.g. sand, gravel, rock, oil, gas)

Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits

## Conservation and management

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Conservation and management measures which would benefit this habitat include:

- Measures to maintain physical and biological integrity, including pollution control and regulation
- Improvement of water quality management outside EU member states
- Coastal development controls
- Contingency plans to be followed in the event of a major pollution incident
- Raised public awareness of ecological value and vulnerability

### List of conservation and management needs

#### Measures related to marine habitats

Other marine-related measures

#### Measures related to urban areas, industry, energy and transport

Other measures

### Conservation status

Annex 1-type

1110: MATL U2, MBAL U1, MBLS U1, MMAC U1, MMED U1

1120: MMED U1

1130: MATL U2, MBAL U2, MBLS U1, MMED U2

1150: MATL U1, MBLS U1, MMAC U2, MMED U2

1160: MATL U2, MBAL U2, MBLS U1, MMAC FV, MMED XX

### When severely damaged, does the habitat retain the capacity to recover its typical character and functionality?

There is insufficient data and knowledge of this habitat to assess its capacity to recover

### Effort required

10 years
Unknown

## Red List Assessment

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### Criterion A: Reduction in quantity

Criterion A	A1	A2a	A2b	A3
EU 28	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %

Criterion A	A1	A2a	A2b	A3
EU 28+	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %

There is insufficient data on changes in quantity of this habitat to undertake an assessment using criterion A.

### Criterion B: Restricted geographic distribution

Criterion B	B1				B2				B3
	EOO	a	b	c	AOO	a	b	c	
EU 28	unknown Km <sup>2</sup>	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	unknown	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	unknown
EU 28+	unknown Km <sup>2</sup>	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	unknown	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	unknown

The precise extent of the habitat is unknown. Therefore there is insufficient data to produce EOO and AOO figures.

### Criterion C and D: Reduction in abiotic and/or biotic quality

Criteria C/D	C/D1		C/D2		C/D3	
	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity
EU 28	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %
EU 28+	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %

Criterion C	C1		C2		C3	
	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity
EU 28	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %
EU 28+	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %

Criterion D	D1		D2		D3	
	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity
EU 28	unknown %	unknown%	unknown %	unknown%	unknown %	unknown%
EU 28+	unknown %	unknown%	unknown %	unknown%	unknown %	unknown%

Experts consider there to be insufficient data to conduct an assessment using criteria C/D.

### Criterion E: Quantitative analysis to evaluate risk of habitat collapse

Criterion E	Probability of collapse
EU 28	unknown
EU 28+	unknown

There is no quantitative analysis available to estimate the probability of collapse of this habitat type.

### Overall assessment "Balance sheet" for EU 28 and EU 28+

	A1	A2a	A2b	A3	B1	B2	B3	C/D1	C/D2	C/D3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3	E
EU28	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD

	A1	A2a	A2b	A3	B1	B2	B3	C/D1	C/D2	C/D3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3	E
EU28+	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	-	DD

Overall Category & Criteria			
EU 28		EU 28+	
Red List Category	Red List Criteria	Red List Category	Red List Criteria
Data Deficient	-	Data Deficient	-

### Confidence in the assessment

Low (mainly based on uncertain or indirect information, inferred and suspected data values, and/or limited expert knowledge)

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### Reviewers

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