

AA.A1C Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by perennial algae

Author

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Textual description

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of rock, boulders or stones of more than 63 mm in diameter. Perennial attached algae cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups.

Physical environment

Salinity range: all; Exposure range: all, more common in exposed areas; Depth range: photic zone usually down from about 0.5 meters

Characteristic species

Fucus spp., *Furcellaria lumbricalis*, *Coccotylus truncatus*, *Deleseria sanguinea*, *Polysiphonia spp.*, *Cladophora rupestris*, *Sphacelaria spp.*

Mapping advise (habitat delineation, identification, similar types)

In areas of low salinity, the dominating species can be plants with their roots between and their canopy spreading over the boulders. Mapping should take place during the months when the vegetation is fully developed.

Quality descriptors

Lower limit of vegetation, especially *Fucus spp.* where applicable; amount of epiphytic algae

Geographic range

Whole Baltic Sea

Anthropogenic threats

Eutrophication

Correspondence with other classification systems

HELCOM 1998:

2.1 Rocky bottoms

2.1.1 Soft rock

2.1.1.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.1.1.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophytevegetation

2.1.2 Solid rock (bedrock)

2.1.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.1.2.2.1 Level bottoms dominated by macrophytevegetation

2.2 Stony bottoms

2.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.2.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophyte

vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A3.4 : Baltic exposed infralittoral rock

A3.5 : Baltic moderately exposed infralittoral rock

A3.6 : Baltic sheltered infralittoral rock