

# AA.A1E1 BALTIC PHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

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

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is rock and/or boulders. Depth is typically from 5 to 20 meters. Appears in all wave exposure classes. Salinity must be at least 5 psu.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Mytilus spp.* and *Modiolus modiolus*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Amount of sediment and epiphytic annual algae. Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Baltic Sea up to the Quark in the North.

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.1.1.2.1 Sublittoral level soft rock bottoms with little or no macrophyte vegetation

2.1.2.2.1 Sublittoral level stony bottoms with little or no macrophyte vegetation

### EUNIS 2012:

A3.4 : Baltic exposed infralittoral rock

A3.5 : Baltic moderately exposed infralittoral rock

A3.6 : Baltic sheltered infralittoral rock

**OSPAR list of threatened biotopes:**

*Modiolus modiolus* beds

- Habitat occurs in the OSPAR Region II (including Kattegat) and is listed threatened and/or declining in this region