

# AA.E3 BALTIC PHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL CHARACTERIZED BY MACROSCOPIC INFAUNAL BIOTIC STRUCTURES

## AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of shell gravel; macroscopic infauna present, no macrovegetation or epibenthic macrofauna. Only for biotopes occurring in Kattegat and the most southern parts of the Baltic Sea

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: up to 5 psu; Exposure range: moderate to high; Depth range: photic zone

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Due to the large variety of interstitial space, inhabited by very specialized fauna, for example *Amphioxus* spp. (HELCOM 1998)

## MAPPING ADVISE (HABITAT DELINEATION, IDENTIFICATION, SIMILAR TYPES)

Photic zone areas consisting of dead mollusc shells or shell fragments. Macroscopic infauna present, no macrovegetation or epibenthic macrofauna.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Kattegat and the most southern parts of the Baltic Sea

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.6 Shell gravel bottoms

## 2.6.2 Sublittoral photic zone

### **HELCOM 2007:**

Shell gravel bottoms

- habitat under threat and/or in decline in all areas of occurrence: The Southern Baltic Proper, The Gulf of Gdansk, Bay of Mecklenburg, Kiel Bay, Little Belt, Great Belt, The Sound, Kattegat

### **EUNIS 2012:**

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.113 : Baltic shell gravel bottoms in the infralittoral photic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2288>