AA.I3 BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY MACROSCOPIC INFAUNAL BIOTIC STRUCTURES

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of coarse sediment. Coarse sediment has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and the proportion of gravel and pebbles (grain size 2–63 mm) exceeds 30 % of the combined gravel and sand fraction. Macroscopic infauna present, no macrovegetation or epibenthic macrofauna.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: all; Exposure range: moderate; Depth range: photic zone

MAPPING ADVISE (HABITAT DELINEATION, IDENTIFICATION, SIMILAR TYPES)

Photic zone areas with coarse sediment such as gravel. Sediment must contain less than 20 % of silt, clay or mud, and at least 30 % of grain size 2–63 mm.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Silting caused by eutrophication, dredging spoil deposition etc.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.4.2.1 Level bottoms with little or no macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.111 : Baltic level gravel bottoms of the infralittoral photic zone with little or no macrophyte vegetation

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