

AB.A1G3 BALTIC APHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS DOMINATED BY STONE CORALS (SCLERACTINIDA)

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the aphotic zone with at least 90 % coverage of rock, boulders or stones of more than 63 mm in diameter. Epibenthic cnidarians cover at least 10% of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic cnidarians, stone corals constitute at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is rock and/or boulders.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Caryophyllia smithii

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Kattegat

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.1 Rocky bottoms

2.1.1 Soft rock

2.1.1.1 Aphotic zone

2.1.2 Solid rock

2.1.2.1 Aphotic zone

2.2 Stony bottoms

2.2.1 Aphotic zone