

AB.A1G4 BALTIC APHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS DOMINATED BY SOFT CORALS (ALCYONACEA)

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

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, soft corals constitute at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is rock and/or boulders.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Alcyonium digitatum, *Swiftia rosea*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Kattegat and Belt Sea

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