AB.E2T BALTIC APHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL CHARACTERIZED BY SPARSE EPIBENTHIC MACROCOMMUNTIY

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of shell gravel. Sessile/semi-sessile epibenthic fauna is present but covers less than 10% of the seabed.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is shell gravel. Depth below approximately 20 m. Appears mostly in high energy exposure areas.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Southern part of Baltic Sea

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Increase in atmospheric CO_2 (Ocean acidification)

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.6 Shell gravel bottoms

2.6.1 Aphotic 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

A5.115 Baltic shell gravel bottoms of the aphotic zone