

AB.I3L11 BALTIC APHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY MULTIPLE INFAUNAL POLYCHAETE SPECIES INCLUDING *OPHELIA SPP.* AND *TRAVISIA FORBESII*

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic zone bottoms 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 . Biomass of infaunal bivalves dominates and is highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae. *Ophelia* spp. and *Travisia forbesii* constitute ≥10 % of the macroinfaunal biomass when disregarding the biomass of bivalves.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Ophelia spp , *Travisia forbesii* , *Tanaissus* spp., *Streptosyllis* spp.

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Kiel bight to Darss sill

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.1 Aphotic zone

HELCOM 2007:

Gravel bottoms with *Ophelia* species

- habitat under threat and/or in decline in all areas of occurrence: 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

A5.114 : Baltic gravel bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2619>