

AB.M1G4 BALTIC APHOTIC MIXED SUBSTRATE DOMINATED BY SOFT CORALS (ALCYONACEA)

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic zone bottoms with at least 10- 90 % coverage of hard (rock/boulders/stone) and 10-90 % soft substrata (e.g. muddy/coarse sediment/sand). 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 soft or crystalline rock, boulders or stones mixed with mobile substrates such as sand or coarse substrate.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Alcyonium digitatum, *Swiftia rosea*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Kattegat and Belt Sea

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

HELCOM 1998:

2.8 Mixed sediment bottoms

2.8.1 Aphotic zone

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.4 : Sublittoral mixed sediments

A5.41 : Sublittoral mixed sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.412 : Baltic mixed sediment bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2589>