

# AB.B1E4 BALTIC APHOTIC HARD CLAY DOMINATED BY *ASTARTE SPP*

## AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic bottoms at least 90 % coverage of hard clay. Epibenthic bivalves cover at least 10% of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic bivalves, *Astarte* spp. constitutes at least 50 % of the biomass.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is hard clay. Occur at high energy exposure areas.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Astarte* spp.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Known from German waters in the Baltic Sea

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.3 Hard clay bottoms

2.3.1. Aphotic zone