

AA.A1 Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by macroscopic epibenthic biotic structures

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Textual description

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of rock, boulders or stones of more than 63 mm in diameter. At least 10 % coverage of macroscopic vegetation or sessile macroscopic epifauna?

Physical environment

Salinity range: All; Exposure range: all, More common in exposed areas; Depth range: Photic zone - more common in shallow areas.

Characteristic species

Cladophora spp., *Ceramium* spp., *Laminaria* sp., *Fucus* sp., *Furcellaria lumbricalis*, *Polysiphonia fucoides*, *Aegogrophila linnaei*, *Fontinalis* sp. Ascidiaceae, *Electra crustulenta*, *Flustra foliacea*, Balanidae, *Mytilus* spp., *Modiolus modiolus*

Mapping advise (habitat delineation, identification, similar types)

Macroscopic vegetation or sessile macroscopic epifauna cover at least 10 % of the substrata. In areas of low salinity, the dominating species can be plants with their roots between and their canopy spreading over the boulders.

Quality descriptors

Lower limit, amount of epiphytic algae

Geographic range

Whole Baltic Sea

Anthropogenic threats

Eutrophication

Correspondence with other classification systems

HELCOM 1998:

2.1 Rocky bottoms

2.1.1 Soft rock

2.1.1.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.1.1.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophytevegetation

2.1.2 Solid rock (bedrock)

2.1.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.1.2.2.1 Level bottoms dominated by macrophytevegetation

2.2 Stony bottoms

2.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.2.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A3.4 : Baltic exposed infralittoral rock

A3.5 : Baltic moderately exposed infralittoral rock

A3.6 : Baltic sheltered infralittoral rock