

AA.A1C3 Baltic photic rock and boulders dominated by perennial foliose red algae

Author

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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. Perennial attached algae covers at least 10 % of the seabed, and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the perennial attached algae, foliose perennial red algal species constitute at least 50 % of the biovolume.

Physical environment

Salinity range: >4 psu; Exposure range: all, more common in exposed areas; Depth range: photic zone usually from about 2 to 10 meters

Characteristic species

Coccotylus spp, *Phyllophora spp*. *Delesseria spp*.

Quality descriptors

Lower limit of vegetation, amount of epiphytic algae

Geographic range

Baltic Sea up to the Archipelago Sea in the north and central Gulf of Finland in the east

Anthropogenic threats

Eutrophication

Correspondence with other classification systems

HELCOM 1998:

2.1.1.2.2 Sublittoral level soft rock bottoms dominated by macrophyte vegetation

2.2.2.2 Sublittoral level stony 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