

AA.A1C4 Baltic photic rock and boulders dominated by kelp

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 kelp constitutes at least 50 % of the biovolume.

Physical environment

Salinity range: >11 psu; Exposure range: all, more common in exposed areas; Depth range: photic zone usually from about 2 to 10 meters

Substrate is rock and/or boulders. Depth is typically from 2 to 10 meters, also deeper in areas with clear water. Appears in all wave exposure classes.

Characteristic species

Saccharina latissima, *Laminaria digitata*

Quality descriptors

Lower limit of vegetation, amount of epiphytic algae

Geographic range

Kattegat, the Sound and Belt Sea

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