

# AA.A1E2 BALTIC PHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS DOMINATED BY ZEBRA MUSSEL (*DREISSENA POLYMORPHA*)

## 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. Epibenthic bivalves cover at least 10% of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic bivalves *Dreissena polymorpha* constitutes at least 50 % of the biomass.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is rock and/or boulders. Depth is typically from 2 to 10 meters. Appears in sheltered to moderately exposed areas. Salinity must be less than 5 psu.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Dreissena polymorpha*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Amount of sediment and epiphytic annual algae. Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Estonian west coast and eastern Gulf of Finland

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.1.1.2.1 Sublittoral level soft rock bottoms with little or no macrophyte vegetation

2.1.2.2.1 Sublittoral level stony bottoms with little or no macrophyte vegetation

### EUNIS 2012:

A3.4 : Baltic exposed infralittoral rock

A3.5 : Baltic moderately exposed infralittoral rock

A3.6 : Baltic sheltered infralittoral rock