

AA.A1F1 BALTIC PHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS DOMINATED BY SEA SQUIRTS (ASCIDIACEA)

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 chordates cover at least 10%, and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the attached epibenthic chordates, Ascidiacea represent at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is rock and/or boulders.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Ascidiacea: *Dendrodoa grossularia*, *Molgula* spp.

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Kattegat and Belt Sea

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