

# AA.A1J BALTIC PHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS CHARACTERIZED BY EPIBENTHIC SPONGES (PORIFERA)

## 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. Sessile/semi-sessile epibenthic sponges cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: All; Exposure range: all, more common in exposed areas; Depth range: photic zone

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Ephydatia fluviatilis*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## 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

2.1.2 Solid rock (bedrock)

2.1.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.2 Stony bottoms

2.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

**EUNIS 2012:**

A3.4 : Baltic exposed infralittoral rock

A3.5 : Baltic moderately exposed infralittoral rock

A3.6 : Baltic sheltered infralittoral rock