

AA.A1S BALTIC PHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS CHARACTERIZED BY ANNUAL 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. Annual algae cover at least 10 % of the seabed, while all other epibenthic biotic structures cover less than 10 %.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: All; Exposure range: all, more common in exposed areas; Depth range: photic zone – usually in the most shallow part.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Cladophora glomerata, *Ceramium tenuicorne*, *Pilayella littoralis*, *Ulva* spp. *Dictyosiphon* spp.

MAPPING ADVISE (HABITAT DELINEATION, IDENTIFICATION, SIMILAR TYPES)

Mapping should take place during the months when the vegetation is fully developed. Annual algae can live as epiphytes (e.g. *Pilayella/Ectocarpus* on *Fucus* spp.). In the BSEUNIS classification epiphytes are considered to be quality descriptors, not habitat forming. Thus this biotope only occurs when annual algae dominate the substrate and not when they grow on perennial biotic structures.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.1 Rocky bottoms

2.1.1 Soft rock

2.1.1.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.1.1.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophytevegetation

2.1.2 Solid rock (bedrock)

2.1.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.1.2.2.1 Level bottoms dominated by macrophytevegetation

2.2 Stony bottoms

2.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.2.2.2 Level 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