

AA.A2W BALTIC PHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS CHARACTERIZED BY MICROPHYTOBENTHIC ORGANISMS AND GRAZING SNAILS

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. Less than 10 % of the seabed is covered by perennial vegetation or attached epifauna. Microphytobenthic organisms and snails dominate.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is rock and/or boulders. Appears in all wave exposure classes.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Snails, e.g. *Hydrobia spp.*, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, *Theodoxus fluviatilis*, *Bithynia spp.*, *Radix spp.*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea, most typical in low salinity northern areas of the 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

2.1.1.2.1 Level bottoms with little or no macrophytevegetation

2.1.2 Solid rock (bedrock)

2.1.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.1.2.2.1 Level bottoms with little or no macrophytevegetation

2.2 Stony bottoms

2.2.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.2.2.1 Level 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