

AA.E1F BALTIC PHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL CHARACTERIZED BY EPIBENTHIC CHORDATES

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of shell gravel. Epibenthic chordates cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is shell gravel. Appears mostly in high energy exposure areas.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Ciona intestinalis

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Southern part of Baltic Sea

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Increase in atmospheric CO₂ (Ocean acidification)

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.6 Shell gravel bottoms

2.6.2 Sublittoral photic zone

HELCOM 2007:

Shell gravel bottoms

- habitat under threat and/or in decline in all areas of occurrence: The Southern Baltic Proper, The Gulf of Gdansk, Bay of Mecklenburg, Kiel Bay, Little Belt, Great Belt, The Sound, Kattegat

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.113 : Baltic shell gravel bottoms in the infralittoral photic zone