

AA.E1F1 BALTIC PHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL DOMINATED BY VASE TUNICATE (*CIONA INTESTINALIS*)

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic bottoms at least 90 % coverage of shell gravel. Epibenthic chordates cover at least 10% of the seabed, and more than other attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic chordates, Vase tunicate (*Ciona intestinalis*) constitutes at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is shell gravel.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Ciona intestinalis

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Known from German waters in the 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 Shell gravel bottoms in 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