

AA.E2 BALTIC PHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL CHARACTERIZED BY SPARSE MACROSCOPIC EPIBENTHIC BIOTIC STRUCTURES

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of shell gravel; coverage of macroscopic vegetation or sessile macroscopic epifauna is 0-10 %.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: up to 5 psu; Exposure range: moderate to high; Depth range: photic zone

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Due to the large variety of interstitial space, inhabited by very specialized fauna, for example *Amphioxus* spp. (HELCOM 1998)

MAPPING ADVISE (HABITAT DELINEATION, IDENTIFICATION, SIMILAR TYPES)

Photic zone areas consisting of dead mollusc shells or shell fragments. Coverage of macroscopic vegetation or sessile macroscopic epifauna is 0-10 %.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Up to the Quark in the North and to the 5 psu salinity gradient in the Eastern Gulf of Finland

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

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

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