

AA.E2T BALTIC PHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL CHARACTERIZED BY SPARSE EPIBENTHIC MACROCOMMUNITY

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

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

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

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