

# AA.I1C4 BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY KELP

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the photic zone with at least 90 % coverage of coarse sediment. Coarse sediment has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and the proportion of gravel and pebbles (grain size 2–63 mm) exceeds 30% of the combined gravel and sand fraction . Perennial attached algae cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the perennial attached algae kelp constitute at least 50 % to the biovolume.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: >4.5 psu; Exposure range: Sheltered; Depth range: photic zone from about 2 to 10 meters

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Saccharina latissima*

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Belt Sea, the Sound, (Kattegat)

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Decreased light penetration depth and increased sedimentation caused by eutrophication

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.4.2.2 Level bottoms dominated by macrophyte vegetation

### EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.5 Sublittoral macrophyte-dominated sediment

A5.52 Kelp and seaweed communities on sublittoral sediment

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/598>