

AA.I1Q2 BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY STABLE AGGREGATIONS OF UNATTACHED *FUCUS SPP.* (TYPICAL FORM)

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

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 . No perennial attached erect group has a coverage ≥ 10%. Stable aggregations of unattached perennial vegetation covers at least 10 %, out of which *Fucus spp.* (dwarf form) constitutes at least 50 % of the biovolume.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: >4.5 psu; Exposure range: sheltered to exposed; Depth range: photic zone from about 0.5 to 5 meters

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Fucus vesiculosus dwarf form (synonym *f.pygmaea*)

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE

Known from Swedish and German coasts

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

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/1733>