

AA.I2W BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY MICROPHYTOBENTHIC ORGANISMS AND GRAZING SNAILS

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic zone bottoms 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. Less than 10 % of the seabed is covered by perennial vegetation or attached epifauna. Microphytobenthic organisms and grazing snails dominates. Grazing snails (e.g. Hydrobiidae, Theodoxus, Bithynia, Radix) constitute 50 % in biomass or volume

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment. Most common in low salinity

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Hydrobiidae, *Theodoxus spp*, *Bithynia spp*, *Radix spp*.

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.4.2.1 Level bottoms with little or no macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.111 : Baltic level gravel bottoms of the infralittoral photic zone with little or no macrophyte vegetation

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