

AA.I3L11 BALTIC PHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY MULTIPLE INFAUNAL POLYCHAETE SPECIES INCLUDING *OPHELIA SPP.*

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

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 . Biomass of infaunal bivalves dominates and is highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae. *Ophelia* spp. and *Travisia forbesi* constitute ≥10 %of the infaunal macrocommunity biomass when disregarding the biomass of bivalves.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is sand.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Ophelia spp, *Tanaissus* spp, *Streptosyllis* spp.us

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE

Kiel bight to Darss sill

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

HELCOM 2007:

Gravel bottoms with Ophelia species

- habitat under threat and/or in decline in all areas of occurrence

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

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

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2576>