

AA.M1E1-BALTIC PHOTIC MIXED SUBSTRATE DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic bottoms with 10- 90 % coverage of hard (rock/boulders/stone) and 10-90 % soft substrata (e.g. muddy/coarse sediment/sand). Epibenthic bivalves cover at least 10%of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic bivalves, Mytilidae constitute at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is soft or crystalline rock, boulders or stones mixed with mobile substrates such as sand or coarse substrate. Depth is typically from 0 to 20 meters.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Mytilus spp., *Modiolus modiolus*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Baltic Sea up to the Quark in the North

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.8 Mixed sediment bottoms

2.8.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.8.2.1 With little or no macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.4 : Sublittoral mixed sediments

A5.41 : Sublittoral mixed sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.411 : Baltic level mixed sediment bottoms of the infralittoral photic zone with little or no macrophyte vegetation

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2590>

OSPAR list of threatened biotopes:

Modiolus modiolus beds

Habitat occurs in the OSPAR Region II (including Kattegat) and is listed threatened and/or declining in this region