

AB.A1 BALTIC APHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS CHARACTERIZED BY MACROSCOPIC EPIBENTHIC BIOTIC STRUCTURES

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the aphotic zone with at least 90 % coverage of rock, boulders or stones of more than 63 mm in diameter. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is $\geq 10\%$.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: all; Exposure range: all; Depth range: below photic zone - more common in the shallow.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Mytilus spp., *Cordylophora caspia*, Hydrozoa, *Amphibalanus improvisus*, Bryozoa, Porifera, Hydrozoa

Areas with at least 90 % coverage of rock, boulders and/or stones of more than 63 mm in diameter within the aphotic zone. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is $\geq 10\%$.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.1 Rocky bottoms

2.1.1 Aphotic zone

2.2 Stony bottoms

2.2.1 Aphotic zone

HABITAT TYPES GENERALLY ASSOCIATED IN THE FIELD

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