

# AB.A1E1 BALTIC APHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

## 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. 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 rock and/or boulders. Depth is typically from below 20 meters. Appears in all wave exposure classes. Salinity >5 psu.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Mytilus spp. and Modiolus modiolus*

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Amount of sediment. 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:**

2.1 Rocky bottoms

2.1.1 Soft rock

2.1.1.1 Aphotic zone

2.1.2 Solid rock

2.1.2.1 Aphotic zone

2.2 Stony bottoms

2.2.1 Aphotic zone

**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