

# AB.A1G BALTIC APHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS CHARACTERIZED BY EPIBENTHIC CNIDARIANS

## 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. Sessile/semi-sessile epibenthic cnidarians cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is rock and boulders. Depth is typically 20 meters and deeper.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

hydroids, sea anemones, corals

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

## 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