

AB.A1J BALTIC APHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS CHARACTERIZED BY EPIBENTHIC SPONGES

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 sponges 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

Ephydatia fluviatilis

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

