

AB.A2T BALTIC APHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS CHARACTERIZED BY SPARSE EPIBENTHIC MACROCOMMUNITY.

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 fauna is present but covers less than 10 % of the seabed.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Mytilus spp., Bryozoa, Balanidae, Bryozoa, Porifera, Hydrozoa

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