

# AB.D BALTIC APHOTIC MAËRL BEDS

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the aphotic zone with at least 90 % coverage of maerl (unattached particles of coralline red algae).

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: High; Exposure range: all; Depth range: aphotic zone

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Lithothamnion* spp. and *Phymatolithon* spp.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Kattegatt; Lilla Middelgrund and Fladen

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Extraction mining, ocean acidification, offshore wind-farms, destructive fishing methods and eutrophication causing increased turbidity

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 2007:

Maerl beds

- habitat under threat and/or in decline in all areas of occurrence: Kattegat

### EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.5 Sublittoral macrophyte-dominated sediment

A5.51 Maerl beds

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/5437>

**OSPAR list of threatened biotopes:**

Maerl beds

- habitat occurs in the OSPAR region II (including Kattegat) but is not listed threatened and/or in decline in this region