

# AB.E1 BALTIC APHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL CHARACTERIZED BY MACROSCOPIC EPIBENTHIC BIOTIC STRUCTURES

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of shell gravel. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is  $\geq 10\%$ .

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is shell gravel. Appears mostly in high energy exposure areas.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Mytilus* spp., *Modiolus modiolus*, *Ciona intestinalis*, Balanidae, Bryozoa

## MAPPING ADVISE (HABITAT DELINEATION, IDENTIFICATION, SIMILAR TYPES)

Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is  $\geq 10\%$ .

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Southern part of Baltic Sea, the Sound, Kattegat

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Ocean acidification)

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.6 Shell gravel bottoms

2.6.1 Aphotic zone

### HELCOM 2007:

Shell gravel bottoms

- habitat under threat and/or in decline in all areas of occurrence: The Southern Baltic Proper, The Gulf of Gdansk, Bay of Mecklenburg, Kiel Bay, Little Belt, Great Belt, The Sound, Kattegat

**EUNIS 2012:**

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity