

AB.E2 BALTIC APHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL CHARACTERIZED BY SPARSE 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 0-10%.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is shell gravel. Depth is typically 2-10 meters. 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 0-10%.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Southern part of Baltic Sea, the Sound, Kattegat

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Increase in atmospheric CO₂ (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

A5.115 Baltic shell gravel bottoms of the aphotic zone